



I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Thursday 17 October 2024

Time: 5:00pm

**Location: Council Chambers
Cnr Camp & Weddin Streets
GRENFELL NSW 2810**

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting 17 October 2024

**Luke Sheehan
Acting General Manager**

“Weddin Shire Council – working for and with the community”

Council's Mission Statement









COUNCIL CHAMBERS LAYOUT

Minute Secretary				
Director Environmental Services				Cr Michael Neill
Acting Director Infrastructure Services				Cr Chad White
Mayor Cr Paul Best				Cr John Niven
General Manager				Deputy Mayor Cr Colleen Gorman
Director Corporate Services	Cr Wezley Makin	Cr Jan Parlett	Cr Jeanne Montgomery	Cr Simon Rolls

Public Gallery

WSC STRATEGIC DIRECTION

To attain the overarching objective of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), population growth, Council will work together with the Weddin Community to achieve the following strategic objectives, listed in priority order:

No.	Strategic Objective	Key Area
1.	Collaborative wealth building (strong, diverse and resilient local economy)	 Economic
2.	Innovation in service delivery (healthy, safe and educated community)	 Social
3.	Democratic and engaged community supported by efficient internal systems	 Civic Leadership
4.	Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community	 Social
5.	Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments	 Environment
6.	Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently	 Economic

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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 Facebook page. 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

APOLOGIES

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATION

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 August 2024 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held 8 October 2024 be taken as read and **CONFIRMED**.

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**7 PUBLIC FORUM****8 MAYORAL REPORTS/MINUTES****8.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW - GENERAL MEETING 9 AUGUST 2024****File Number:** C2.2.7**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | CMA Communique - 9 August 2024**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Budget:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the Mayoral Minute and attached Country Mayors Association Communique.

The Country Mayors Association of NSW held the General Meeting in Sydney on 9 August 2024 prior to the local government elections. Approximately 120 representatives from Country NSW Councils and associated organisations attended. Weddin Shire Council did not attend and apologies were noted.

A farewell dinner was held for Cr Linda Scott who has been the President of ALGA and previously the President of LGNSW, Cr Scott was a proactive representative for Local Government and will be missed.

The CMA meeting was attended by a number of speakers, including NSW Police who provided an update on youth crime, driving behaviours, domestic violence and the issue of tobacco and vape products coming across our State borders. A frank and open conversation and Q&A session was held.

Housing continues to be the headline issue and ALGA are staging a summit to highlight the innovation in Local Government.

Regional youth and the issues affecting young people was discussed, along with a panel discussion from representatives of the Rural Doctors Network, Service Delivery Operations, Recruitment and Outreach Services. A strong focus on health was delivered by a number of speakers.

A number of Mayors are retiring with an acknowledgement of their service and a special tribute to the outgoing Chairman of Country Mayors Association held.

The next Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 15 November 2024 in Sydney. The NSW Premier, the Hon Chris Minns is confirmed as a guest speaker.

Further information can be obtained in the attached Country Mayors Association of NSW Communique.



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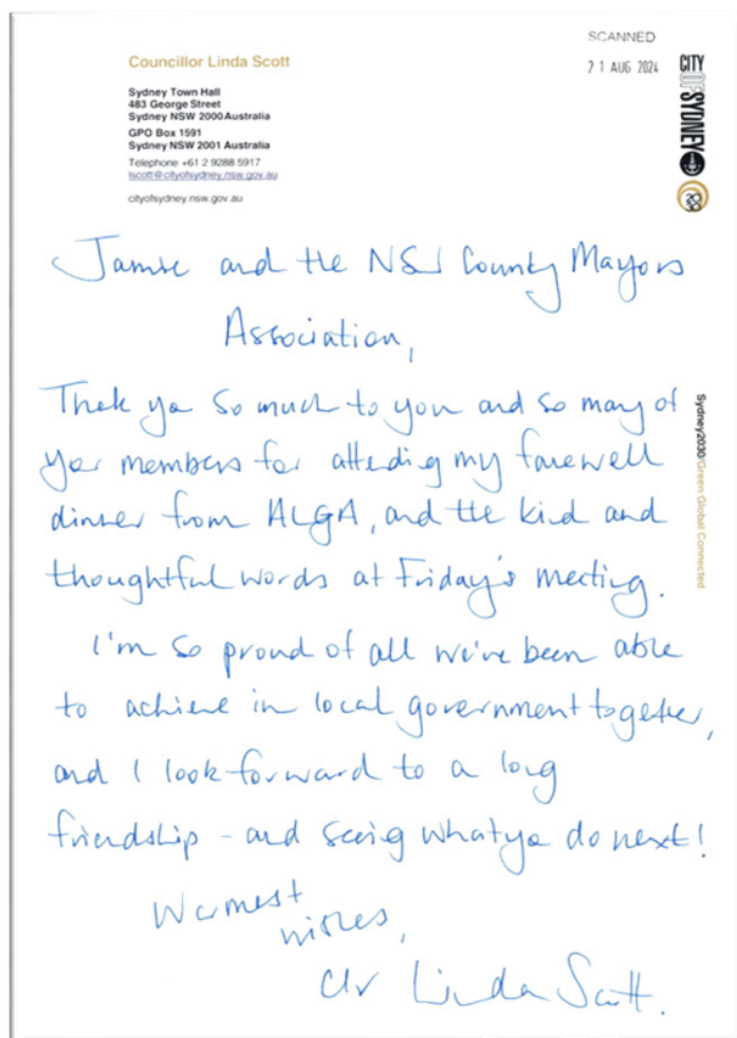
"What we want is nothing more than equity"

COMMUNIQUÉ

Country Mayors Association of NSW – General Meeting 9 August 2024

The Country Mayors Association of NSW held our General Meeting in the Theatre in NSW Parliament House, Sydney on Friday 9 August 2024. We had approximately 120 representatives of Country NSW Councils and associated organisations coming together to focus on the regional Health theme. We were joined by a dozen parliamentarians.

For dinner, the night before, we joined a farewell dinner for Cr. Linda Scott, who has been a proactive representative for Local Government as President of ALGA and previously, President of LGNSW, while also adding her special flair to Sydney City Council. Cr. Scott is stepping down from politics altogether and will serve as Chair of a major superannuation fund. From Local Government Minister the Hon. Ron Hoenig to former NRL star turned actor Ian Roberts, Sky News' Paul Murray to Acting Chairman of the CMA Cr. Rick Firman OAM and LGNSW President Darriea Turley AM, the guest list and ensemble of speakers was as prestigious as it was diverse. It was a send off for Linda that all felt was well-deserved and it was also a great networking occasion for CMA members.



For further information, contact Cr Jamie Chaffey on 0467 402 412

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COMMUNIQUÉ

After a welcome by outgoing CMA Chairman and Gunnedah Shire Mayor Cr. Jamie Chaffey, the first to speak to our members at the meeting was **NSW Police Force Deputy Commissioner Paul Pisanos**. He had requested the opportunity to elaborate on his last appearance at a CMA meeting.



Caption: Esteemed boys in blue...
Inspector Andrew Smith, Cr. Jamie Chaffey and Deputy Commissioner Paul Pisanos.

"I wanted to come back and raise six issues. We spoke about youth crime (serious and violent). Operation Mongoose has not stopped and the Bail Act has been enacted. We are aware of the impact on communities. Western, Northern and Southern regions have seen hundreds of arrests and 50% were on bail. 22C has been used for those over the age of 14. This is reducing recidivism. Community work is important to us but other agencies need to come together for optimal outcomes. Tobacco and vape products are being seized in significant quantities coming across our State borders. Domestic violence is an ongoing focus. Identifying the serious offenders is a challenge we are working on. Impaired driving operations are a focus across the State, with 80% of fatalities occurring on regional roads. Driving behaviour like speeding require constant media and awareness efforts. Cop in Your Town is our recruitment campaign that has been rolled out across NSW regions, with 12 launches that attracted good media. It is designed to capture the attention of locals, tradies, farmers, whoever might be looking for a change. Retention is also a focus, with better pay possibly on the horizon and real support mechanisms. Deputy Commissioner Pisanos was typically open and frank in Q&A."

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Linda Scott was next at the Lectern with an ALGA update.

"If Councils are owed money by Rex Airlines, pleased get that information to ALGA. We want to see the airline continue, so support where practical.

Thank you for coming to our LAGA conference and my farewell.

The headline issue right now is housing. So, we are staging a summit to highlight the innovation in Local Government on the issue.

We are working on an MoU with the Federal Government and we are getting involved with more and more in Parliament."

Linda acknowledged the contributions of retiring mayors.

"We are proud of you Jamie Chaffey and we look forward to seeing you take your Local Government experience to Federal Parliament."



Left: CMA Jamie Chaffey thanking Cr. Linda Scott for her service while introducing her.

Above: Councillors Linda Scott (outgoing ALGA President), Darriea Turley AM (LGNSW President) and Jamie Chaffey (outgoing CMA Chairman).

For further information, contact Cr Jamie Chaffey on 0467 402 412

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Up next was the retiring **Shadow Minister for Regional Health, Trade and Seniors, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC**

"Great politicians come out of Local Government.

It concerns me that we talk about the issues affecting young people but nowhere are we hearing the voice of young people. We need to engage youth and give them a voice. We need advice from the youth about youth issues. We need the Regional Youth Taskforce reinstated and I ask you as an Association to push for that.

She endorsed the new Shadow Minister for Regional Health.

It is important that you try to meet the Minister with your Local Members. It is not OK that you travelled all this way and the Regional Health Minister did not turn up."



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Membership: The NRMA had approached the CMA executive to establish a formal relationship. It was recommended that the NRMA be accepted as an Associate Member of the CMA. This was endorsed by the membership unanimously. The NRMA's Policy Advisor (Transport and Data) was present and made welcome. The NRMA is the first private sector Associate Member of the CMA.

Leeton Shire Mayor Cr Tony Reneker spoke about the no-cost Mayoral Alliance for the Pacific. He encouraged mayors who support the PALM scheme and the much-needed workers it brings to join the Alliance.

Then there was a panel session with the Rural Doctors Network's CEO Dr. Richard Colbran, Manager Service Delivery Operations Kath Hetherington, Recruitment Portfolio Lead Jessica Yuen and Program Manager Outreach Services Amanda Massett



Dr. Richard Colbran: We are a charity that has been around for 35 years. Continuity is important for our organisation and health. We are in all LGAs outside of Sydney. We are the bridge between rural communities and the city

(Government). Most Councils would be aware of our bush bursaries and their support of doctors from our regions.



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Doctors for communities has been the focus for years but we are now looking at health access. You may or may not need a doctor and you certainly need the right doctor.

The panel and the Q&A covered recruitment, retention, innovative approaches to ensure a doctor and practice are the right fit, as well as visa changes allowing migrant doctors to go to the cities. They also covered a \$3mil. funded Collaborative Care Project. It was made clear that the traditional country town doctor, available 24/7, needs to be a thing of the past if doctors are to be attracted to General Practice, let alone regional locations.

The following motions were unanimously supported:

- A) That the Country Mayors Association calls upon the State Government of NSW to reverse its decision not to provide a budget for interagency emergency management training and exercises.
Further, without this interagency training and exercises, Country Mayors of NSW advocate that they are fearful that our Emergency Operations Centers and response to emergencies will be compromised with a potential for lives to be lost.
General Manager of Murrumbidgee Council John Scarce spoke to the motion.
- B) That the Membership support the Deputy Chairman Rick Firman OAM acting as interim Chairman, with the current Chairman Jamie Chaffey stepping down in the September 2024 Local Government elections.
- C) That the Membership endorse the Executive Committee nomination of current Executive Member Russell Webb for the role of Deputy Chairman, in an interim capacity until the AGM.



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Member for Wagga Wagga Dr. Joe McGirr

Dr. Joe spoke of medical workforce issues. "Fly-in, fly-out locums replacing doctors in place is a negative for care in regional communities. The Government's incentive scheme has improved ratios and helped retain health workers in communities, and in NSW.

Workforce is the issue and attraction or recruitment requires health workers to see a promising career, a quality lifestyle in a supportive community in which to live. Councils have a critical role in promoting culture and community.

Primary care is in crisis. The Health Minister has said NSW is short of 1,000 GPs. We have to rethink primary care provision. The old model of getting a GP in a practice and on call to the local hospital 24/7 is a model of the past. We have to ensure other health professionals are working at top of practice; why not have pharmacies prescribing?

We need to think differently about models of care. You are on the coalface and you know better collaboration is needed. There is no more money."

Q: Cr. Monaghan: recruitment might be assisted by increased rural rebates.

A: We need different approaches to the whole package. Rebates are part of it but the work environment and work practices need to be more lifestyle friendly to our doctors.

Q: Cr. John Metcalf (Lachlan Shire): Locums come to regional communities who are unsuited to small



regional communities. We need a hybrid model to achieve health services in smaller towns.

A: A team is important. A well-functioning team is what graduates want.

Q: Cr. Robert Bell Mayor Uralla Shire: My daughter was sponsored to study to be a doctor in Queensland and was bonded to a rural community for a time. Can we learn from that?

A: All options should be considered but we want doctors to want to be there, not gritting their teeth about their work location.

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Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health, Dr. Michael Holland provided a State Government update

Dr. Holland talked about how safe working staffing levels are being rolled out. Ratios in nursing have long been a contention in nursing, as they have attracted nurses to other states. For what the NSW Government considers safe working levels in our hospitals, use this link:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/workforce/Pages/safe-staffing-levels.aspx>

Dr. Holland said Ambulance services are important and we have seen increased funding. \$274mil to upgrade staffing at selected locations.

He said that HECS fee incentives do exist for regional doctors, with \$20,000 for the 1st year and following years, \$10,000.

Dr. Holland discussed a new hospital in Eurobodalla and how accommodation is a concern. \$200mil. is being invested across NSW for essential worker accommodation.

Cowra Council Mayor Cr. Ruth Fagan raised the issue of local health committees not being supported or retained. Dr. Holland said he would report the issue to the Minister.



Forbes Shire Mayor Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM is on the CMA Executive and is a Director of LGNSW (Regional/Rural). She provided a brief update on behalf of LGNSW and the organisation's President Cr. Darriea Turley AM (a Councillor in Broken Hill).

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Mayor Miller emphasized that 20 Oct. is the deadline for LGNSW conference motions. She also reiterated that Cr. Jamie Chaffey and Cr. Scott Ferguson from Blayney Shire will be missed and applauded their contributions.

We then had a concise but thorough update from Michelle Maxwell, Director, Strategy, Governance and Delivery, Regional Health Division – NSW Health



Michelle provided an update of the implementation of recommendations from the Regional Health Inquiry, stating that as at 30 June, 2024 a total of 25 of 34 recommendations had been implemented / followed up on.

Michelle also detailed the current Regional Health MPS strategy framework process. She reiterated that consultation is ongoing and they are keen to receive further input from Councils.

Coolamon Shire Council Mayor Cr. David McCann voiced his community's appreciation that their MPS is to be upgraded but asked for an update on the work.



Michelle said she would look into it.

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COMMUNIQUÉ

Our final speaker was the Founder of 'Heart of the Nation' Greg Page (also founding member of The Wiggles)

Greg Page is best known as the original lead singer and a founding member of the children's band The Wiggles from 1991 to 2006 and then again in 2012. He has also recorded a number of solo albums and published his autobiography.

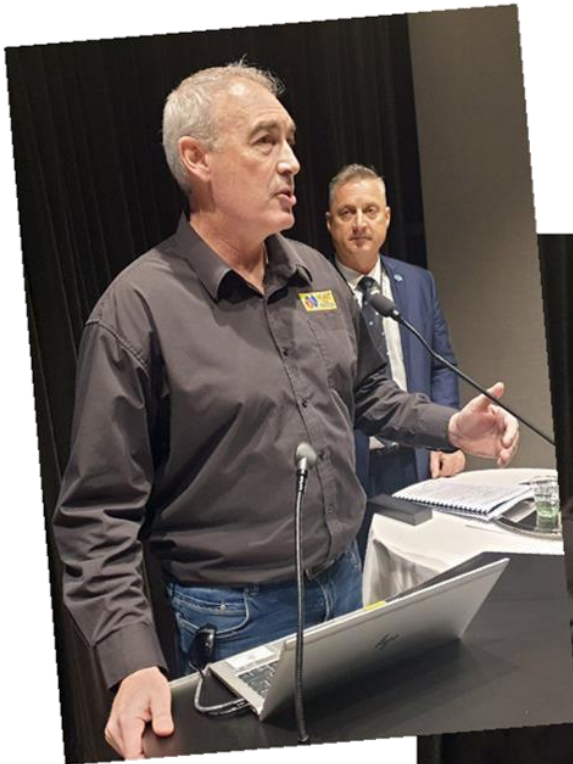
Since suffering a sudden cardiac arrest in 2020 during a Wiggles reunion concert, Greg has become an advocate for community capacity building for immediate response to a sudden cardiac arrest. He founded the charity "Heart of the Nation", which promotes more widespread access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and aims to increase public awareness of defibrillator locations across Australia, as well as encouraging businesses to keep a defibrillator on-site.

Greg gave the examples of Orange and Parkes, where publicly accessible AEDs have been rolled out. He said that the solution to improving the survival rate of sudden cardiac arrest (a shocking 5%) lies

with community capacity to respond.

The specific example of a health initiative and means to make a difference that the presentation provided was appreciated by the members present.

www.heartofthenation.com.au



Outgoing Chairman Cr. Jamie Chaffey did not represent the CMA well with his Wiggle fingers.

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Acting CMA Chairman and Mayor of Temora Shire Cr. Rick Firman OAM took to the lectern to acknowledge the service of retiring mayors present at the meeting, paying special tribute to outgoing Chairman Cr. Jamie Chaffey of Gunnedah Shire and presenting him with a framed caricature of himself.

"Mayor Chaffey has really lifted the professionalism of the Country Mayors Association of NSW. He has been passionate and dedicated in his role. Cr. Chaffey admitted to feeling emotional as he addressed the meeting for the final time and held the portrait that will ensure he does not take himself too seriously. He vowed to hang it in his office when he takes the Federal Seat of Parkes. Retiring mayors present were gifted CMA pens and the CMA Executive members were also recognised.



Cr. Chaffey with his special CMA gifted portrait.

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COMMUNIQUÉ



The retiring Country Mayors present at the end of our meeting who were acknowledged for their service: Mayor Margaret Roles (Hilltops Council), Mayor Pam Kensit (Upper Lachlan Shire Council), Mayor Jamie Chaffey (Gunnedah Shire Council), Mayor John Coulton (Gwydir Shire Council), Mayor Scott Ferguson (Blayney Shire Council & Mayor Ambrose Doolan (Warrumbungle Shire Council).

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Members of the CMA Executive, past Chairman Cr. Ken Keith (Parkes Shire), outgoing Chairman Cr. Jamie Chaffey (Gunnedah Shire), Cr. Phyllis Miller (Forbes Shire), Cr. Craig Davies (Narromine Shire) and Acting Chairman Cr. Rick Firman (Temora Shire)

The next meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 15 November 2024 in the Theatrette, NSW Parliament, Sydney. It will have a Skills and Education theme.

The NSW Premier, the Hon Chris Minns is already locked in as a guest speaker.

Please RSVP by 4 November to assist with morning tea catering.

For further information, contact Cr Jamie Chaffey on 0467 402 412

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9 MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

10 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

10.1 STATE OF OUR SHIRE (END OF TERM) REPORT

File Number:

Author: Arts and Tourism Officer

Authoriser: General Manager

Attachments: 1. The State of Our Shire Report

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

Precis: To provide the new Council the State of our Shire Report.

Budget:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Receive and note The State of our Shire report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the new Weddin Shire Council with the State of Our Shire report, which outlines the key achievements, challenges, and future priorities for the Shire. This report provides an overview of the Council's activities over the last term and serves as a comprehensive guide to inform the strategic planning and governance of the new Council.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Integrated Planning and Reporting Requirements (IP&R), each outgoing council is required to prepare a State of Our Shire (SOOS) report. The SOOS report replaces and combines the former End of Term Report. The Office of Local Government provides the IP&R Handbook which outlines the requirements of the SOOS Report. The SOOS Report is to be presented and endorsed at the second meeting of the newly elected Council.

The Handbook outlines that the SOOS Report will provide information that sets the scene for the new council and may include achievements to date and highlight future work to be undertaken. The report should assist the new council to undertake a review of the CSP, which is an essential component of IP&R cycle.

Council's and the community's progress against the CSP 2027 over this time is analysed in the SOOS.

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Components

The SOOS focuses on how effective Council has been in delivery of its social and environmental requirements and civic leadership over its council term and reports against high level strategies and priorities of the CSP. The report attached provides a tracking progress in accordance with the OLG Handbook.

During the drafting of the SOOS, the former Council were involved in two workshops and provided Council Officers content to assist in fulfilling this obligation. A working draft was tabled at the final meeting of the previous Council on 15 August 2024.

Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Review and SOOS Preparation

The Weddin Shire CSP 2027 identified 41 strategies to address priorities and issues in our community. The CSP is the highest-level plan that a Council prepares. The purpose of the CSP to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. It guides all remaining strategies and plans and must be developed by the Council with, and on, behalf of the community.

The SOOS Report reviews the effectiveness and progress in implementing the CSP by Council, other agencies and departments and the community.

To gauge progress with implementation, data and information for the review was collated in several ways:

- Using data collated through the two community satisfaction surveys (2022 and 2023).
- Consultation with Councillors via two SOOS workshops.
- Further one-on-one engagements with key stakeholders.
- Broader desktop research including statistics and reporting prepared by relevant organisations, departments and agencies.
- Consultation with relevant Council Officers and Executive Team.

The CSP has six key themes which the SOOS Report has analysed and looked at tracking its progress, whether we are moving towards or away from original targets and where the future challenges for our community may lie. The SOOS Report provides commentary on programs and projects undertaken by the various stakeholders of the Weddin Shire CSP 2027 including Council, and their effectiveness in reaching targets as per the goals and strategies laid out.

To support the enhancement of the incoming Council's CSP, the SOOS Report outlines recommendations to improve the current CSP. More importantly it provides a recommendation to the incoming Council to develop a new CSP, noting that rolling the current one forward is not feasible due to its end date of 2027. Given the current CSP has served two terms of Council since 2017 and it has largely remained unchanged in this time, there is the opportunity via the CSP to take stock of our community's current aspirations, priorities and issues and establishing a new CSP that considers the current community's aspirations and future. This in turn influences Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan in Council's service, actions and activities of strategies that are within Council's reach.

It is recommended that the newly elected Council utilise the content of the SOOS Report to open up discussions with the community during the consultation process for the subsequent CSP.

The SOOS Report summarises those unforeseen circumstances (i.e. not mentioned in the current CSP) like the natural disaster declarations which significantly inhibited Council's financial sustainability and infrastructure in this current term. Financial sustainability and infrastructure and asset management will need to be a significant strategic focus of the new Council.

The SOOS Report also highlights the positives achieved in this time.

Commentary from the General Manager

It is with gratitude and thanks to the Council Officers, in particular Avi Maharaj who worked on this document and John Thompson and Da'na Hojlund on the financial resource implications. Thank you to the former Council for your valuable input into the SOOS Report. The end of term reporting outlines the significant challenges ahead for not just our Council but for local government in general. Despite the challenges, we also overcame and delivered a number of key highlights which are captured in this SOOS Report.

In moving forward, the newly elected Council will have a document that provides an excellent baseline of the current state of play. Thank you to the Council for your collaboration and time over this Council term.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The incoming Council will note the SOOS at their second meeting in accordance with the IP&R Handbook and the SOOS must be comprehensive enough to allow for informed community discussion.

The SOOS reports clearly on the key elements of the CSP.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the presentation of the State of Our Shire report. However, the report outlines Council's financial performance and offers insights into the long-term financial planning necessary to meet future challenges.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Consultation with Council Officers and the Executive Team. Two SOOS workshops were carried out with previous term Councillors.

CONCLUSION

The State of Our Shire report presents a thorough review of the Weddin Shire's achievements and progress over the past term, offering the new Council a valuable resource for understanding key issues and opportunities moving forward. The information within this report will assist Councillors in making informed decisions that benefit the Shire and its residents.

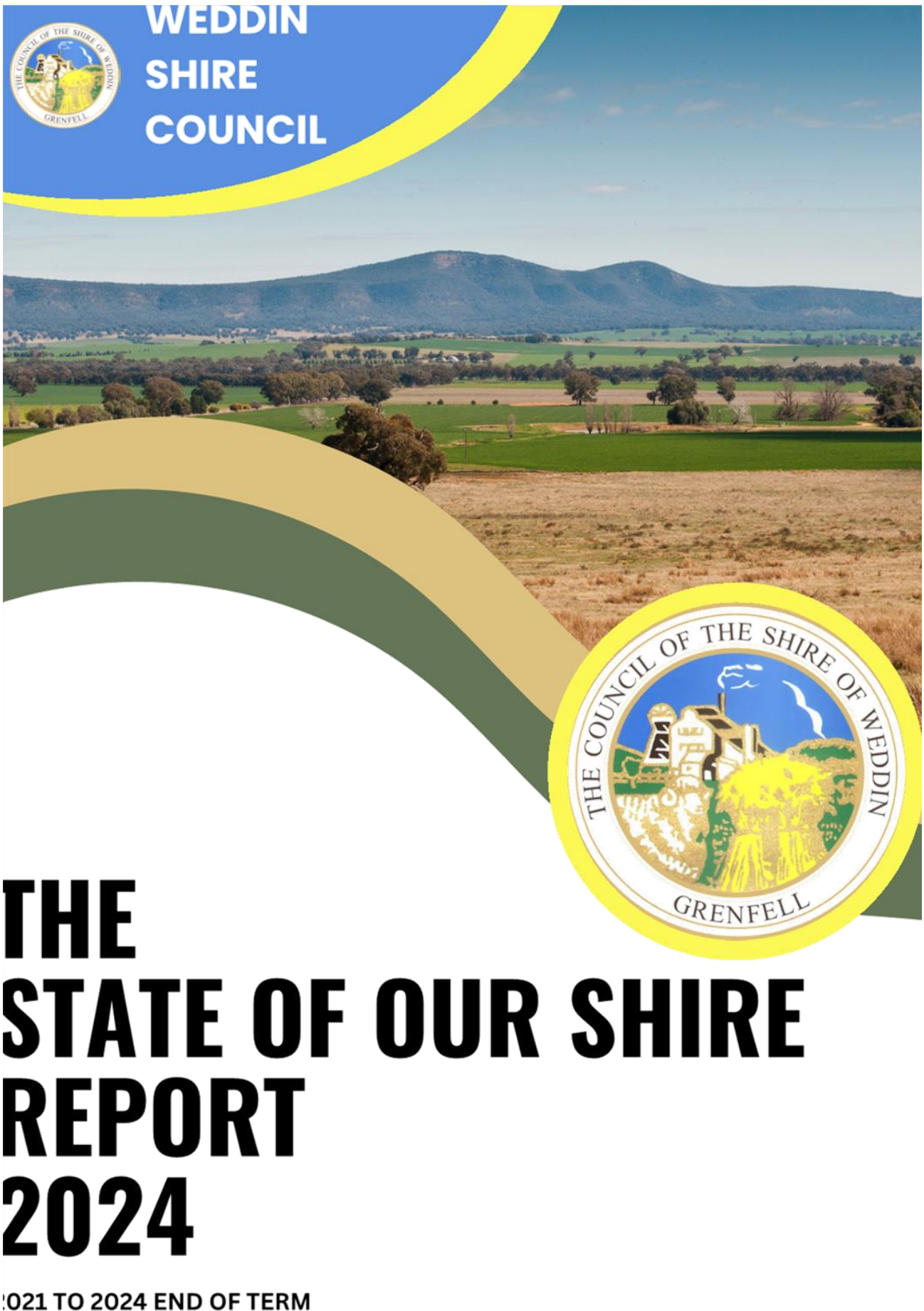




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OVERVIEW OF WEDDIN SHIRE

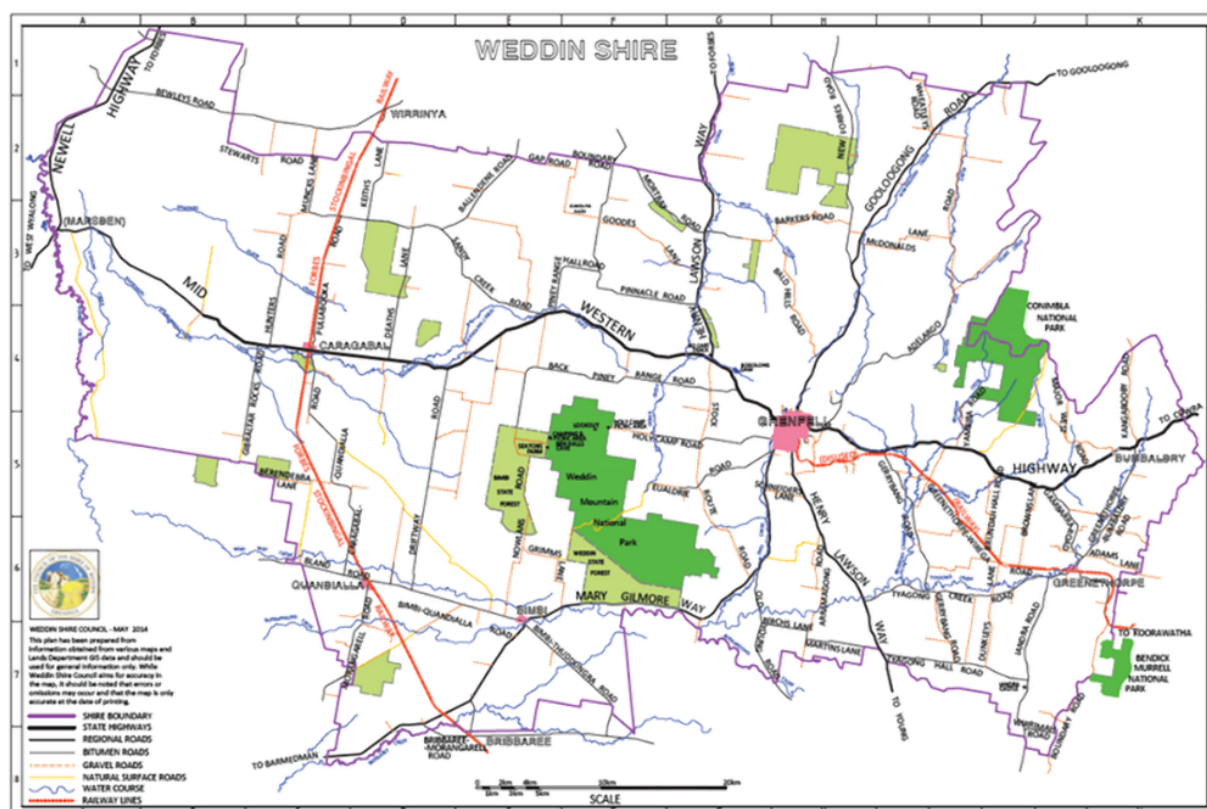
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The Weddin Shire is centred around, and derives its name from, the majestic Weddin Mountains. The name Weddin has its origins in the Wiradjuri word "Weedin", which means "a place to sit, stay or remain," relating to the mountains' status as a place where Indigenous youths underwent a period of ceremonial isolation during the course of their initiation.

The mountain range rises some 400 metres above the surrounding landscape and is of great significance both to the Wiradjuri people and the residents of the local Shire. The Weddin Mountains National Park is the Shire's most prominent tourist attraction, with over 25,000 visitors annually.

Geographically, the Shire is at the crossroads of the major thoroughfares from Sydney to Adelaide and Brisbane to Melbourne. The Shire covers over 3,400 square km; 94% is devoted to dry-land agriculture, 3% to national parks, and 3% to state forests.

The Weddin Shire incorporates the township of Grenfell and villages and rural localities of Bimbi, Caragabal, Greenethorpe, and Quandialla.





MAYOR'S HIGHLIGHTS

A message from Mayor Craig Bembrick

As I reflect on my term as Mayor of Weddin Shire Council, it has been an honour to serve our community and lead the Council through both challenges and achievements. This term has been marked by significant milestones, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished together. One of the key highlights was the successful completion of the Grenfell Main Street Project.

Despite some early setbacks, the project was completed, and the official opening in November 2023 was a moment of great pride for our community. This achievement exemplifies the resilience and dedication that defines Weddin.

Another major step forward was the unanimous decision by Council to appoint our new General Manager, Ms. Noreen Vu, who joined us in July 2022. Under her leadership, we have delivered improved services, strengthened engagement, and built greater connections across the community. It has been a rewarding experience to work closely with Ms. Vu as she helped shape the direction of the Shire during her tenure.

The Henry Lawson Festival of Arts was another highlight, as we reconnected as a community following the difficulties of COVID-19. The 2023 "Light Up the Night" event was a particular standout, with over 2,500 attendees. This event not only celebrated our artistic heritage but also brought our community together in a spirit of unity and pride.

However, the term was not without its challenges. The floods of August and September 2022 caused nearly \$50 million in damage to our road networks. While the recovery process has been ongoing, we continue to work closely with the NSW Government to secure the necessary funding to repair critical infrastructure. This has been a shared challenge for councils across the state, and I am proud of the steps we have taken to advocate for our region.



Through it all, the strength and determination of our community have been remarkable. Together, we have faced natural disasters, a global pandemic, and infrastructure challenges, emerging stronger and more connected.

As I look back on these past years, I am grateful to the Councillors and staff who have worked alongside me in advancing strategic actions for Weddin's future. The collaboration, dedication, and commitment displayed by all has been inspiring and central to our success.

Mayor Craig Bembrick



GENERAL MANAGER'S HIGHLIGHTS

A message from Noreen Vu - General Manager

Over the past term, Weddin Shire has made significant progress across multiple fronts, and it has been an honour to manage the Council through this period of growth and improvement. Our efforts have resulted in several key accomplishments aimed at enhancing both the liveability and identity of our community.

Among the standout achievements is the revitalisation of Grenfell's Main Street, which has not only improved the infrastructure of our town centre but also enhanced its visual appeal. This transformation has brought a renewed energy to the heart of Grenfell, benefitting both local businesses and residents.

We have also made strides in promoting a sense of pride and belonging within the Shire through the installation of "Welcome to Weddin" and village signage. These signs serve as both practical and symbolic gestures, reinforcing the strength of our community identity.

Another key initiative was the inclusion of an Acknowledgement of Service in the Council's business papers, providing meaningful recognition to those who have contributed to the Shire's development. This acknowledgment ensures that the efforts of individuals who have served our community are properly honoured.

In terms of advocacy, we have remained persistent in our efforts to secure critical road funding and address regional health concerns. Our lobbying has focused on ensuring that the necessary support is received to maintain and improve essential infrastructure and services, reflecting our commitment to the well-being of all residents.

Looking ahead, I am dedicated to continuing this momentum, focusing on strategic initiative that will support the future growth and vitality of Weddin Shire. Together, we will ensure that our community remains a vibrant, resilient, and well-supported place to live and work.



Noreen Vu

GENERAL MANAGER

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Back Row (L-R): Cr Phillip Diprose, Cr Stuart McKellar, Cr Warwick Frame, Mayor Craig Bembrick, Cr Glenda Howell, Deputy Mayor Paul Best, Cr Jason Kenar
Front (L-R): Cr Jan Bartlett, Cr Michelle Cook





WEDDIN SHIRE'S HIGHLIGHTS

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Weddin Shire's core functions, as per the 2022 Micromex community engagement survey and its subsequent 2023 Woolcott community satisfaction survey, rated 37 facilities/services in terms of importance and satisfaction. Each of the 37 facilities/services were grouped into service areas as detailed below:

Governance, Leadership & Communication

Consultation with the community
Council provision of information
Environmental and sustainability initiatives
Financial management

Community Support

Disability services
Facilities and services for youth
Support for the Aboriginal community
Support for the multicultural community
Supporting growth of jobs/businesses

Transport & Connectivity

Bike paths
Condition of sealed roads
Condition of unsealed roads
Footpaths
Public transport
Road safety

Planning & Development

Economic development
Long term planning
Management of development/town planning
Protecting heritage values & buildings

Service Delivery & Asset Management

Libraries/library services
Sporting facilities and grounds
Events and festivals
Arts and cultural facilities
Swimming pools/Aquatic centres
Parks & Playgrounds
Community buildings/halls
Sewerage Services

Domestic garbage collection
Domestic Animal Control
Tourism
Community safety
Appearance of the local area
Bushland management
Protecting the natural environment
Storm water drainage/flood management



WEDDIN SHIRE'S HIGHLIGHTS

Community Resilience (CSIRO Survey)

The CSIRO Weddin Shire Resilience Survey of February 2024 was completed by 250 Shire residents and aimed at informing strategies and plans that will improve the community's preparedness and resilience to future droughts and other extreme weather events. The report will provide an evidence base for community planning, including local priorities and proposals for government funding. It will also provide a baseline for assessing the impacts of initiatives that aim to build community resilience. CSIRO had anticipated the report to be provided to Council by the end of June 2024.

Culturally Rich, Vibrant and Inclusive Community

Council introduced a number of touchpoints with our community, including Council Mobile Hubs, improved communications in the Grenfell Record, and social media presence.

Council publicly exhibited documents throughout the year to allow for inclusivity from our community. A job well done by Council's Executive team.

Council has held approximately five Australian Citizenship Ceremonies during their current term in office (December 2021 to September 2024).

Events

Light Up The Night - On Saturday, 18 February 2023, Grenfell came alive with live music and a night sky lit up with 100 drones. Funded through the Reconnection Regional NSW Community Events Program, the event was organised by Council staff and saw over 2,500 attendees. The event hit the aim of the program with over 73% of people coming from within the local government area to reconnect after the pandemic.

The 2022 June Long Weekend saw the Henry Lawson Festival of Arts come to life after the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2023 and 2024 festival saw even larger crowds, with up to 10,000 attendees over the long weekend. Social media analytics showcased organic reaches of over 83,000 persons and a paid reach of over 120,000 with top hits from Sydney, Grenfell, Canberra, Young, and Cowra. The festival brought back the parade in 2023 and 2024.





WEDDIN SHIRE'S HIGHLIGHTS

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Local Economy

The Grenfell Main Street Beautification and Renewal Project was officially opened in November 2023. Successfully grant funded, the project re-set has seen a Main Street project delivered with precision and longevity in mind, creating an open space that would attract visitor numbers to Grenfell, thereby boosting the local economy.

Pets and Animal Control

Keeping Cats Safe at Home desexing and microchipping programs saw its 300th cat desexed and microchipped on 6 June 2023. Launched by RSPCA NSW in June 2022, the Keeping Cats Safe At Home Project has seen remarkable success in Weddin Shire. In partnership with the RSPCA NSW and the Weddin Landcare, the Council offers free desexing and microchipping of cats. Educational outreach began in August 2023, with representatives from the RSPCA, the Weddin Landcare Coordinator and the Weddin Shire Council Ranger, visiting schools to teach students about cat care, desexing, microchipping, and the importance of keeping cats indoors. The project concludes in December 2024 or until allocated funding is exhausted. We hope to continue making significant strides in cat welfare and wildlife protection.

Road Construction and Infrastructure

Major road upgrades in New Forbes Road and Pullabooka Road have been completed. The New Forbes Road included construction to widen the road to a B Double standard, with over \$4.3 million invested. Pullabooka Road saw over \$4.6 million invested to undertake pavement rehabilitation of the existing seal as well as widening the seal from 5m to 7m and renewal of a number of concrete culverts. Greenethorpe to Koorawatha Road commenced construction during this Council term.

Tourism

New Weddin Mountains Region branding was launched with a new website, VIC fit-out, visitor guide, and promotional collateral developed. Grant funding was received to upgrade Grenfell Art Gallery, install EV charger and provide freedom camp areas in villages. Visitors recorded through the Visitor Centre exceeded 21/22 number by over 1,000.





SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT CHALLENGES

Council's infrastructure was significantly impacted by natural disaster declarations in 2022. Despite Council's best efforts to undertake the emergency works, the administration of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements was a detrimental issue (financial and asset management) for the management of Council's road network during this council term. Council suffered close to \$50 million worth of road damages (including the state highways). This did not include the deterioration of the road network following these events due to the administrative burden caused by the State and Federal Governments and Council's inability to repair the roads.

The Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 revealed that our sealed and unsealed road network had one of the biggest gaps between expectations and satisfaction levels, with a high level of importance but a low satisfaction rating received for both. The community also expressed a low satisfaction level with stormwater drainage. Council has invested and will continue to invest in improving stormwater drainage within the Shire.

A number of factors that contribute to the challenges associated with the local road network include:

- the sheer size of our expansive road network relative to the overall size of Council's budget.
- limited external funding opportunities.
- competing Council priorities.
- road user behaviour, particularly after rain events.
- poor soil quality for road building purposes, and
- challenges for Council in securing an appropriately qualified and experienced workforce to deliver the road infrastructure program.

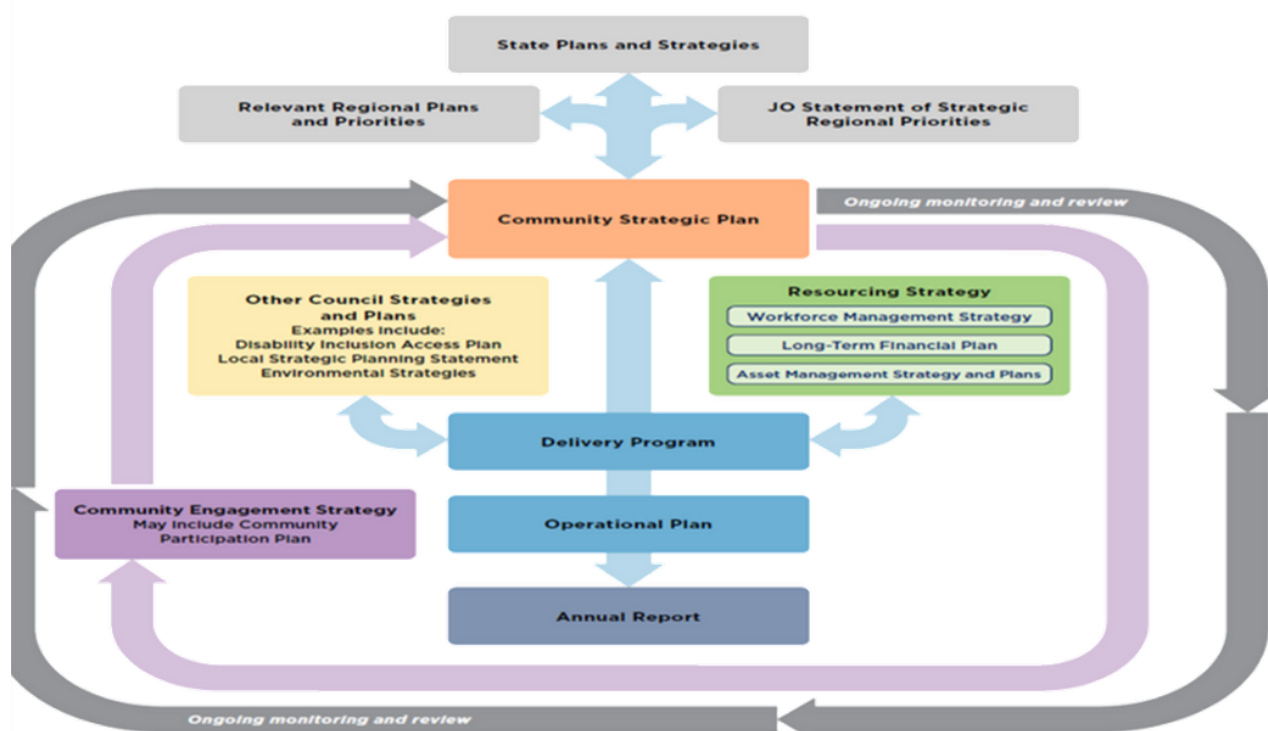


WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL

INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IP&RF) is the New South Wales (NSW) government's perpetual planning cycle, which encourages an inclusive and transparent approach to the development of a sustainable local government area and responsible civic leadership.

Weddin Shire's CSP principal driver is the IP&RF, which is also the community's vision, aspirations, and priorities, leading to a collaborative and progressive approach on how Council, government stakeholders, and the community will plan for Weddin Shire's future. The plan should be a journey of continuous improvement for the Council in partnership with the community.





WEDDIN SHIRE'S COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Weddin Shire's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is a community plan for the local Shire. It identifies Council's values, strengths, challenges, and opportunities for the future as well as any growth opportunities for the Weddin Local Shire area.

Driving the CSP is the Delivery Program (DP), which identifies the principal strategies to be undertaken by Council to implement the outcomes identified in the CSP during Council's four year term in office. The Operational Plan (OP), on the other hand, provides detailed actions and targets to measure the implementation of the DP.

The Weddin Shire's CSP 2027 was developed in 2017 at the commencement of that Council's term. In 2022, a review was undertaken of the CSP, the four year Delivery Program (2022-26), and the annual Operational Plan (2022-23) via a two day workshop and subsequently adopted by the current Council. The process was supported with a community survey undertaken by an independent provider in January 2022.

The workshop drew on the community's view on a wide range of plans summarised in Council's "A Better Community Strategy" (ABCS), aimed at bringing together economic, sport and recreation, cultural, wellness, tourism, and destination management plans to test community priorities.

Below are the principal themes driving Weddin Shire's CSP, which will inform the State of our Shire strategies, shaping Weddin Shire now and in the coming years.

No.	Strategic Objective	Key Theme
1	Collaborative wealth building (strong, diverse and resilient local economy)	Economic
2	Innovation in service delivery (healthy, safe and educated community)	Social
3	Democratic and engaged community supported by efficient internal systems	Civic Leadership
4	Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community	Social
5	Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments	Environmental
6	Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently	Economic



OUR PROCESS

14

Process in Developing Weddin's 'State of Our Shire' Report

In accordance with Integrated Planning and Reporting Requirements (IP&R), each outgoing council is required to prepare a State of Our Shire (SOOS) report. The SOOS report replaces and combines the former End of Term Report. The Office of Local Government provides the IP&R Handbook, which outlines the requirements of the SOOS report. The SOOS report is to be presented and endorsed at the second meeting of the newly elected Council.

The Handbook outlines that the SOOS Report will provide information that sets the scene for the new council and may include achievements to date, and highlight future work to be undertaken. The report should assist the new council to undertake a review of the CSP, which is an essential component of IP&R cycle.

Council has undertaken an analysis of its current CSP and believes there are alternative, effective, and efficient ways to carry out business, provide the required and essential services to our community, to govern, communicate and effectively and efficiently improve on our processes as we move into the future.

The Weddin Shire CSP 2027 identified 41 strategies to address priorities and issues in our community to meet its six themes. The CSP is the highest-level plan that a Council prepares. The purpose of the CSP is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. It guides all remaining strategies and plans and must be developed by the Council with, and on behalf of the community.

The SOOS Report reviews the effectiveness and progress in implementing the CSP by Council, other agencies, and departments and the community.

To gauge progress with implementation, data and information for the review were collated in several ways:

- Using data collected through the two community satisfaction surveys (2022 and 2023).
- Consultation with Councillors via two SOOS workshops.
- Further one-on-one engagements with key stakeholders may still be required by the time the SOOS is presented to the new Council.
- Broader desktop research, including statistics and reporting prepared by relevant organisations, departments and agencies.
- Consultation with relevant Council Officers and Executive Team.

The CSP has six key themes, which the SOOS Report has analysed and looked at tracking its progress, whether we are moving towards or away from original targets, and where the future challenges for our community may lie. The SOOS Report provides commentary on programs and projects undertaken by the various stakeholders of the Weddin Shire CSP 2027, including Council, and their effectiveness in reaching targets as per the goals and strategies laid out.



OUR PROCESS

To support the enhancement of the incoming Council's CSP, the SOOS Report outlines recommendations to improve the current CSP. More importantly, it provides a recommendation to the incoming Council to develop a new CSP, noting that rolling the current one forward is not feasible due to its end date of 2027. Given the current CSP has served two terms of Council since 2017 and it has largely remained unchanged in this time, there is the opportunity via the CSP to take stock of our community's current aspirations, priorities, and issues and establishing a new CSP that considers the current community's aspirations and future. This, in turn, influences Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan in terms of service, actions and activities of strategies that are within Council's reach. From the outset, 41 strategies at the highest strategic document sets up a poor governance framework for implementation due to the large number. This is because the Delivery Program then sets a further 161 strategic actions to show it will implement the 41 strategies.

As a result, at the start of the Council term, the Operational Plan resulted in an adoption of 308 actions. This was due to a shorter period of time for preparation due to the delays in the 2021 Council elections, leading to Council rolling over its document and adding in strategies/strategic actions/actions rather than reviewing. The next Council term should consider a strategic and succinct document noting that broadly speaking that the current CSP had:

- Strategies that were written as goals.
- Operational actions placed in the strategies.
- Over prescribed strategies.





MEASURING PROGRESS

WEDDIN'S 'STATE OF OUR SHIRE' REPORT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) ANALYSIS



During this Council term, the Operational Plan 2022-2023 was also reviewed to reduce the number of actions from 308. The Operational Plan 2024-25 now has 65 actions. The review was a collaborative effort involving Council Officers and elected members to undertake the cull. The need to cull the actions included:

- Volume of action items were beyond resource capability of the organisation.
- Business as usual items dominated the operational Plan.
- Historical action items continually rolled over year-in-year out.
- Action items continued to multiply without restraint or within budget and resource constraints.
- Duplicates. Action items appeared more than once.

It is recommended that the newly elected Council utilise the content of the SOOS Report to open up discussions with the community during the consultation process for the subsequent CSP. The new Council is also advised to consider looking at a strategic framework that sets the aspirations and vision, to facilitate the implementation through Council's other IP&R documents such as the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

This State of Our Shire Report highlights Council's work following the review of the effectiveness and progress of its Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-27.

In order to evaluate the success and progress of the six CSP themes, the CSP strategies have been analysed and summarised, detailing the work done to date or currently in progress. Measuring progress included:

- Baseline information – what we meant?
- Did we achieve our targets? Or did we move away from our targets?
- Future considerations like opportunities and challenges.



THEME 1

Theme 1 – Collaborative Wealth Building (Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy)

CSP 1.1 A strong and progressive agricultural sector is maintained

This is a community aspiration which needs to be supported by Council; hence, it is not a strategy. CSP strategies related to economic development and resilient infrastructure, which support the objective of maintaining a strong and progressive agricultural sector, are in place in the Shire.

CSP 1.2 Weddin Shire tourism potential is maximised

As a strategy, Council has been successful in achieving its tourism potential. This success included the launch of the Visit Weddin and Weddin Mountains Region branding. Council also delivered on new Weddin Entry, and town, and village entry signage. Events brought tourism to the town, including the Henry Lawson Festival of Arts, Caragabal Sheep Races, Greenethorpe Soldier's Memorial Hall Centenary celebrations, and the Quandialla Memorial Hall's mural. Council also successfully delivered Australia's longest drone show, where the night sky was lit up. The event based on social cohesion attracted many tourists to town.

CSP 1.3 Ensure essential infrastructure and services to support business activity are available

This CSP strategy is a delivery program strategic action and not a strategic action. The Delivery Program (DP) actions are prescriptive and business as usual. It is recommended that the future CSP has more strategic actions around essential infrastructure. Noting that essential infrastructure includes health, education and roads infrastructure which this CSP strategy seems to have missed.

CSP 1.4 Existing businesses and new industries are supported and encouraged so as to increase job opportunities

Council continues to have an Economic Development function within its permanent structure. This CSP strategy is written more as a goal. Council should have a standalone economic development theme in its future CSP to continue the Council's role in economic development, including clearly articulating what we can do, what we do is advocacy and what we can do from a strategic point of view.

CSP 1.5 Development Strategy (LEDS) establishes mechanisms to foster partnerships to advance economic activity

Council continues to have an Economic Development function within its permanent structure. The CSP Strategy is written more as a goal. Council is encouraged to have a standalone economic development theme in its future CSP to continue the Council's role in economic development, including clearly articulating what we can do, what we do as advocacy and what we can do from a strategic point of view. Furthermore Council has had strong engagement and partnerships with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional NSW on multiple projects and should continue to do so.



MEASURING PROGRESS THEME 1

Theme 1 – Collaborative Wealth Building (Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy)

CSP 1.6 Weddin Shire is promoted as a place to live, work and invest.

As above, furthermore, this would form part of a goal of an Economic Development Strategy. Council is encouraged to have a standalone economic development theme in its future CSP to continue the Council's role in economic development, including clearly articulating what we can do, what we do as advocacy and what we can do from a strategic point of view. As above, Council has had strong engagement and partnerships with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional NSW on multiple projects and should continue to do so.

CSP 1.7 A proactive environment exists to support responsible mining.

This strategy does not align with Council's strategy and should be removed, as Council is the major quarry manager in the LGA and our quarries are only small pits.





MEASURING PROGRESS THEME 2

1

Theme 2 – Collaborative Wealth Building (Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy)

CSP 2.1 Quality medical facilities are encouraged and appropriate digital and physical facilities are available

This CSP Strategy is not a strategy but a goal; however in looking at the goal, Council has built a quality medical centre. This was done through a grant and special rate variation process that our ratepayers continue to pay for in the Grenfell Main Street. Council continues to be part of the Weddin Interagency and Health Council.

CSP 2.2 Health education is promoted and developed, services are accessible, and people are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their health

This CSP Strategy is not a strategy but a goal; however, in looking at the goal, Council is part of the Weddin Interagency, which helps to promote materials as required. Council also provides a space at the Community Hub for service providers to access. In moving forward, Council should continue to collaborate with the Weddin Interagency and relevant service providers.

CSP 2.3 Community and local transport options are encouraged and available

This CSP Strategy is not a strategy but a goal; however, in looking at the goal, Council owns and maintains the local taxi service as a local transport option. Council should continue to advocate to the State and Federal Governments for better community transport. This topic, covering community and local transport options, could be further covered in the Economic Development Strategy.

CSP 2.4 Adequate aged care services are provided to meet the current and future needs of the community

Weddin Shire has an ageing population. Compared with our councils in the Central West, our ageing population is greater than the others. The future CSP would need to consider strategic planning around the community's needs and how we can work together to advocate and lobby the State and Federal Governments for improvements in these areas.

CSP 2.5 Public health and safety opportunities are maximised in appropriate facilities and through effective integrated programs

Public health and safety have been achieved through a number of initiatives, like Council's collaboration with the Southern Lights project through the CNSWJO, which saw an upgrade in streetlight infrastructure. The BOSCAR data suggests that the Weddin LGA has lower crime rates across the multiple criminal statistics captured. Council successfully delivered the Bimbi Floodplain Management Study. In moving forward, this would be a lower level action that does not belong at a CSP level. Notwithstanding Council resources, a public health and safety department through Environmental Services and a number of compliance and program initiatives are carried out.



MEASURING PROGRESS THEME 2

2

Theme 2 – Collaborative Wealth Building (Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy)

CSP 2.6 Local education institutions are effectively supported with a primary focus on targeted program delivery and fit-for-purpose facilities

Council is aware that the Grenfell Preschool and Day Care is in need of a new facility to support the increasing demand. Council continues to provide support to the Committee on the location of land and has supported their grant applications. In moving forward, this should continue to be a focus of our community to grow our early childhood educational needs.

CSP 2.7 Lifelong learning opportunities are provided with a focus on digital learning supported in fit-for-purpose facilities

Council is implementing its Digital Connectivity Project funding, which includes subsidies for people to access LEO technology. This project will continue into the next council term.





Theme 3 – Democratic and engaged community supported by efficient internal systems

CSP 3.1 Opportunities are provided to develop leadership skills in the community

Council successfully delivered NFP Legal Training through Justice Connect through its Stronger Country Communities Funding. Just like local government areas, volunteer numbers are declining in many of our community organisations, and this will be an issue in to our future.

CSP 3.2 The integrated planning and reporting process is fully implemented

This CSP Strategy is not required as it defeats the purpose of the IP&R Framework.

CSP 3.3 Village progress associations' activities are supported

Council continues to work with progress associations for funding revenue to improve villages, including town and village entry signs, landscaping, and streetscape improvements. Elected members attended two Councillor Roadshows during this Council term to connect with the villages. Council staff implemented the Council Mobile Hub, bringing services out to the villages. The Mayor and Councillors also participated in a number of village activities across the Council term, including Australia Day events and others. Celebrating our connection across the shire will be part of our future.

CSP 3.4 Council provides support to leaders across the Shire

This CSP Strategy is a duplicate of the above; however, acknowledging that the future CSP could consider a governance and leadership theme.



THEME 3

Theme 3 – Democratic and engaged community supported by efficient internal systems

CSP 3.5 All major groups in the community and a broad section of community members have the opportunity to contribute to major decisions

This CSP Strategy is captured in the Council's Local Participation Plan. However, acknowledging that the future CSP could consider a governance and leadership theme. The first step would be to develop the Community Engagement Strategy as part of the IP&R requirements and to develop a meaningful strategy.

CSP 3.6 The community has a good grasp of the role of Council and Councillors as well as how best to raise issues and concerns

This CSP Strategy is captured in the Council's Local Participation Plan. During this Council term, Councillors undertook two Councillor Roadshows. Community engagement and public exhibition opportunities increased with a larger social media and media presence. Council's Mobile Hubs gave our villages an opportunity for face-to-face interactions directly with council officers on council's multiple functions and services. However, acknowledging that the future CSP could consider a governance and leadership theme. The first step would be to develop the Community Engagement Strategy as part of the IP&R requirements and to develop a meaningful strategy.

CSP 3.7 Different avenues of communication are effectively leveraged to engage community in local leadership and Council activities

As above.

CSP 3.8 Position Weddin Shire as a leader in rural digital connectivity

In this current term of Council, the digital connectivity project has commenced, including subsidies to those with LEO technology. In this current term, the Telco Authority reported an upgrade to the Critical Communications (Radio) to 98.97% of population coverage, when compared to less than 80% in the past. Land coverage increased from less than 35% to 85%. In moving forward, Council will be focusing on the second part of its rural digital connectivity project and funding with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

CSP 3.9 Achieve continuous organisational improvement

Continuous improvement is part of the IP&R Framework. This could be incorporated into a future CSP under the governance and leadership theme. Weddin is an organisation that values customer service, with works-in-progress being made with a digital customer response management system. Council also established the new ARIC in its council term, who have met for more than 12 months. The ARIC will develop a work plan to oversee Council's internal audit function.



THEME 4

Theme 4 – Democratic and engaged community supported by efficient internal systems

CSP 4.1 Sporting facilities and events are maintained and developed

Council was successful in grant funding from Stronger Country Communities to improve the Grenfell Rugby Oval with irrigation, which is still a work in progress. As a community, we banded together to support home-grown talent, Clare Hunt, as she represented Australia in the World Cup Soccer. Volunteer decline for our sporting organisations will be an issue into the future.

CSP 4.2 Recreational facilities and events are maintained and developed

Council successfully delivered and acquitted its Drought Community Projects, which saw the delivery of a number of recreational facilities across the local government area. Council was successful in receiving grant funding for an inclusive play space at Taylor Park, which is currently in the procurement stage. Council's recreational facilities continue to be a priority for Council's operational staff, who work on maintaining these areas.

CSP 4.3 Cultural and arts facilities and events are maintained and developed

Council has been successful in achieving this strategy. This included the launch of the Visit Weddin, Weddin Mountains Region branding. Council also delivered on Weddin entry and town and village entry signage. Events brought tourism to town, including the Henry Lawson Festival of Arts, Caragabal Sheep Races, Greenethorpe Soldier's Memorial Hall Centenary celebrations, and the Quandialla Memorial Hall's mural. Council also successfully delivered Australia's longest drone show, where the night sky was lit up in Light Up The Night. The event, based on social cohesion, attracted many tourists to town. The Tourism team were congratulated in Parliament for its success.

CSP 4.4 People from diverse cultures find Weddin a welcoming and accepting place

Council delivered Community Satisfaction Surveys in 2022 and 2023. The 2023 survey found that 96% of those surveyed stated, "my neighbourhood is a friendly place to live". The Weddin Shire welcomed new Australian citizens during this term. The Grenfell Art Gallery continues to have diverse artists exhibiting.

CSP 4.5 Weddin is seen as encouraging a strong sense of community and connectedness

Council successfully delivered the Light Up The Night, which celebrated social cohesion. Our service providers in the community services sector are noticing an increase in demand for their services due to a variety of reasons which places pressure on the service providers. In moving forward, advocacy is required in ensuring our community is resourced and equipped with services, opportunities to connect, and have mental health and wellbeing.



Theme 5 – Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments

CSP 5.1 Environmental regulations and controls in Council's sphere of operations are implemented

Challenges for Council this current term included the closure of the Quandialla and Caragabal Waste Management Facilities at the direction of the EPA. A key focus of the next Council term will need to address this ongoing issue, which includes a number of legacy issues that future generations will need to manage. Environmental regulations are requiring more compliance and competing with Council's resources. An environmental theme should form part of the new CSP.

CSP 5.2 Waste reduction and recycling is encouraged, with a focus on the villages

In addition to the above, Council will need to consider the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) requirements by 2030.

Our community values waste management and recycling but has low satisfaction with these. Although recycling is considered cost prohibitive, there are alternative ways for our community to achieve outcomes in sustainable waste, including reducing household waste generation and landfill rates.

The Weddin community holds environmental monitoring and protection, and weed control as highly important, but they had low satisfaction with these.

CSP 5.3 The community is made aware of sustainable practices

Various sustainable initiatives have been provided by other government agencies and through renewable energy reforms.

Good Environmental Management - Our community values best practice management that promotes nature and is not compromised by new industries and investment.



CSP 5.4 Council operations see an improvement in environmental outcomes

Council's energy usage reduced with the installation of solar panels at key sites like the Council Depot, Grenfell Aquatic Centre, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Council will continue to seek opportunities through grant funding to improve council's operations such as battery installations and other renewable energy options.

CSP 5.5 There is a policy position on renewable energy

Council now has a Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP). In moving forward, Council will be implementing the actions, subject to funding of the REAP.



THEME 5

Theme 5 – Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments

CSP 5.6 There is support for local agricultural industry in adopting sustainable and environmentally-friendly farming practices in the context of climate change.

Council has rolled out the Digital Connectivity Project in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Council is in the process of finalising its Drought Resilience Plan. The community successfully participated in the CSIRO Drought Resilience Survey. The survey data will inform an Integrated Resilience Assessment Report. This report will inform strategies and plans that will improve the community's preparedness and resilience to future droughts and other extreme weather events. The Integrated Resilience Assessment Report will provide an evidence base for community planning, including local priorities and proposals for government funding.

CSP 5.7 The heritage of built areas is preserved

The Weddin LGA continues to celebrate its heritage. Built areas, however, were impacted by the 2023 hailstorm damages, which has altered some of the heritage fabric but not heritage preservation. In moving forward, Council should continue to resource the heritage function, subject to funding.

CSP 5.8 There is an enhancement of broader landscape connectivity (eg pathways) for native fauna and flora

The Weddin LGA is supported by strong volunteer groups like Weddin Landcare and the Weddin Native Nursery. Volunteer decline is an issue moving into the future.





MEASURING PROGRESS THEME 6

Theme 6 – Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

CSP 6.1 Council operations have met reasonable community expectations and agreed service levels

The \$12.3 million Grenfell Wastewater Treatment Plant was opened in 2022, increasing the processing of effluent. Council upgraded its ICT software management system and focused on cyber security, with no data breaches during this council term. Service levels will need to be part of Council's IP&R requirements into the next council term.

CSP 6.2 Council's transport infrastructure is maintained and improved consistent with the Asset Management Plan

Council's infrastructure was significantly impacted by natural disaster declarations in 2022. Despite Council's best efforts to undertake the emergency works, the administration of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements was a detrimental issue for the management of Council's road network during this council term. Council suffered close to \$50 million worth of road damages (including the State Highways). This did not include the deterioration of the road network following these events due to the administrative burden caused by the State and Federal Governments and Council's inability to repair the roads. Council has undertaken many advocacy opportunities to the State and Federal Governments on the matter and, as a result, was part of one of the first councils prioritised for the tripartite funding agreement for upfront payments. It is recommended that tripartite agreements are set up and administered early, reduction in red tape in process, i.e., bureaucracy is cut. The next Council and community must understand the significant impact this had on Council, in terms of resources and morale within the workforce and the community. This will continue into the next Council term.

CSP 6.3 Council's structural assets are maintained and improved consistent with the Asset Management Plan

The CSP Strategy appeared to focus on the Asset Management Plan and did not take into account the natural disasters and rain events. Noting that AGRN1001 occurred from January 2022, the extent and damages continued into the Council term. Taking into consideration the above, disaster risk reduction should be a key focus of the next CSP. Council will enhance Weddin's community's resilience against flooding through the development of the Floodplain Risk Management Study, although there may be a need for considerable review of existing policies and past practices which, could take some time.





MEASURING PROGRESS THEME 6

2

Theme 6 – Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

CSP 6.5 A modern plant fleet is maintained and improved consistent with the Asset Management Plan

Council participated in its first Asset Management Audit for Central NSW Councils. The assessment determined that Council is still in its early stages of Asset Management, and we look forward to progressing this with improved business cases to Council on Asset Management (Plant and Fleet).

CSP 6.6 Classified roads are managed on behalf of Transport for NSW (TfNSW)

Council's State Roads managed under the RMCC were impacted during the Council term by natural disasters. TfNSW undertook consultation on the Newell Highway upgrades, which will see flood mitigation works at the Marsden section, which Council manages. This will alleviate flow on effects, as this section often closes after floods leading to other areas within the LGA being impacted. After 49 days of closures, the damages continue to impact our road networks and into the future Council term.

CSP 6.7 The 'Destination 2036' initiative is supported and Weddin Shire Council engages and influences as Member Council of the Central West region.

Destination Central West was formed and released the DNCW Destination Management Plan 2022-2030. They continue to be a proactive liaison group, assisting our Tourism and Events Team.

CSP 6.8 Liaison and partnership with NSW State and Federal Government departments is positive and productive

Council's advocacy in rural health and roads was heard at both the State and Federal Government levels. Council participated in Country Mayors Association and other such conferences.





IMPROVEMENTS & LEARNINGS

Improvements & Learnings for our Future

Following the analysis of the CSP, we believe that there are improvements and learnings for our future. The SOOS Report opens a discussion with the community on the current state of play and analysis of our CSP, focusing on what we achieved and where we moved away from our goals. This will help to engage with our community during the development of the new CSP.

The new Council is recommended to consider looking at strategic framework that sets the aspirations and visions to allow the implementation through Council's other IP&R documents, like the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

The following provides an overall look at the six themes of the CSP. Improvements and learnings for the future include:

- Background – what we meant
- Current summary analysis
- Moving forward





LEARNINGS

2

Theme 1 – Collaborative Wealth Building (Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy)

Background

The Community Strategic Plan 2017-27 identified the need to prioritise diversification of the local economy including the attraction of new industries. The tourism industry has been identified by Council as holding significant economic diversification opportunities for our local economy and therefore considerable resources have been allocated by Council to develop the tourism industry.

Current

In promoting Weddin as a place to live, work, and invest, the Woolcott Data Survey (in association with the Central NSW Joint Organisation) of September 2023 revealed that around 9 in 10 residents owned their home, through mortgage or outright, and 4 in 10 respondents live with one other person in their household. Three quarters of the residents resided in the Grenfell Township, and around 91% of residents have lived in Weddin for 11 years or more.

Around 98% of the Shire residents rated a 'strong, diverse and resilient local economy' as important/very important. Non-ratepayers and those identifying with a disability rated this theme significantly more important.

The following Council projects/events which are underway for 2024/25:

Projects

- Taylor Park Redevelopment – grant funded
- Upgrade of village showground/sportsground and freedom camping areas – grant funded
- Public Mural – as part of the Light Up the Night New Year's Eve Street Party – grant funded
- Upgrade of Grenfell Art Gallery – grant funded
- Increase product range in Visitor Information Centre

Events

- Henry Lawson Festival of Arts
- 'Light Up the Night' New Year's Eve Street Party
- Grant funded School Holiday Events – Spring and Summer
- Grant funded Australia Day.

Areas that Council is working on to make a difference include:

- Reviewing and improving the local Visitor Information Centre (VIC) to meet accreditation standards.
- Developing regional tourism collaboration: trails; self-drive apps; events 'What's on' promotion.
- Leveraging Weddin's heritage for potential tourism development.
- Building on the success of existing events and encouraging new events.
- Improving the Weddin visitor experience: signage (the new completed Weddin Welcome signage); destination plan; event calendar; product improvement.



LEARNINGS

3

Theme 1 – Collaborative Wealth Building (Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy)

- Actively promoting Grenfell and the surrounding areas as an attractive and interesting location for tourism
- Actively market opportunities for Main Street, street-level business activities taking advantage of recent planning changes

Council has been successful in achieving its tourism potential. This included the launch of the Visit Weddin, Weddin Mountains Region branding and exploring Agri-tourism, which emphasised on diversifying farm income for drought resilience.

Free camping at the Grenfell Railway Station is very successful, with great feedback from the local businesses and is a compliment to the Grenfell Caravan Park. There is a move to formalising free camping, but the land is not currently Council owned.

Council also delivered on the Weddin entry and town and village entry signage, with lighting installations to be installed in the new Council term. Events brought tourism and new and old visitors to town included the Henry Lawson Festival of Arts, Caragabal Sheep Races, Greenethorpe Soldiers' Memorial Hall Centenary celebrations and the Quandialla Memorial Hall's mural. Council also successfully delivered Australia's longest drone show where the night sky was lit up. The event based on social cohesion brought many tourists to town.

The Grenfell Main Street Renewal has been a highlight of a project that was completed to link the essential infrastructure (roads) and services to support the local businesses, at the same time helping to bring more tourists to the Shire.

Council is also looking at reviewing the appropriateness of the locations of Community facilities including Library, Museum, Gallery VIC and internet Centre, to meet existing and future needs of the Shire, with an aim to assist village progress associations with village improvements. This would develop engagement opportunities for Council and Villages.

Council has been active in its engagement and partnerships arrangements with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional NSW in relation to multiple projects; seeking support of the development of locally branded products, seeking opportunities to connect Weddin's farming sector to the business community, to grow the Shire as a strong and progressive agricultural sector. This, in turn, would help bring a steady flow of income into the Shire to help build a resilient local economy.

Council has also been very supportive of the Weddin community during the floods and the during the COVID-19 pandemic.



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

Theme 1 – Collaborative Wealth Building (Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy)

Employment (internally and externally)

To address the employment rate and to support the unemployed population within our community, there is only one employment agency based locally, Sureway Employment and Training, which delivers an array of employment services in training, support, and placement. To support people to secure work in the Weddin Shire, Council continues to provide via its website, local employment agency information and contacts details, and links to positions currently available within Council.

As a major employer in the Weddin Shire, Council advertises all positions locally as well as further afield. Council continues to provide career path opportunities including traineeships, along with training and development plans for each individual employee.

In contrast, and despite our ongoing high unemployment rate, in 2021 one of the biggest challenges now facing our local economy is securing an adequate number of, and appropriately qualified, workforce. This is evidenced by Council's own struggle to fill vacancies at all levels of the organisational structure. Given the potential impact on our local economy, the workforce and skills deficit within the Shire should be given consideration as a target area of the subsequent CSP, as existing employment related strategies within the CSP in their current form may now be too narrowly focused.

The Shire can no longer source an appropriately qualified workforce from within our own community, and businesses and organisations must try to source their workforce from further afield. This challenge is not unique to the Weddin Shire. In April 2021, the Regional Australia Institute estimated that there were 67,500 job vacancies across regional Australia. These vacancies are spread across diverse sectors and are not confined to just one industry or sector





IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

Theme 1 – Collaborative Wealth Building (Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy)

Moving Forward

In a drive to support the local economy, Council, through its rural land strategy, needs to advocate, support, and encourage existing and new businesses to invest in the Shire to increase job opportunities. This is done through fostering business collaboration with exchange forums that stimulate inter-industry connections and development, and the need to review the Local Economic Development Strategy (LEDS).

There is community support for a business case for the inland Rail trail between Koorawatha and Greenethorpe, and it is for the new Council to continue to advocate for the Rail trail as a tourism opportunity. Council also needs to advocate for drought resilience and continue with its bid on non-potable water supply in the Shire.

Future opportunities for mining needs to be revisited to determine if there is an opportunity to sell gravel. At the moment, Council has 76 mines (quarry pits), most of which are inactive, and Council will need to look at a strategic asset and resources management plan in conjunction with the Natural Resources Regulator. This includes how we rehabilitate the sites at closure, which is an issue and an area that has not been funded in a trust for current management to undertake. Council should look at allocating two thirds of the profits from its mine operations to rehabilitate the closed quarry pits.





IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

3



Theme 2 – Innovation in service delivery (Health, safe and educated community)

Background

With an ageing community, Council continues in its efforts to encourage the provision of quality medical facilities; foster/research aged care facility investment; investigate digital health CRC facilities, and retain medical professional skills and expertise within the Shire.

Current

A 'healthy, safe, and educated community' was rated important/very important by 97% of residents (82% committed to top box). Similar results across all demographics.

The recent Primary Health Workforce Snapshot (Rural Doctors Network), which drew a comparison of the Shire with the other LGA's in the Central West in its performance across the domains of:

(a) Health status found that:

- Weddin had a scoring of around 4.2 out of 10, indicating a higher health need, where a higher proportion of the population have had major health issues (from a stroke to a major lung condition such as emphysema)
- Given the higher population of elderly citizens, it is important to engage with local Aged Care Services and consider how Council is able to provide support through initiatives such as mobility access and community transportation.
- This presents the Shire with opportunities to work with the local health stakeholders to undertake targeted community and promotional health initiatives.
- Residents received just under 70% of their GP services locally within the LGA
- The bulk billing rate in the LGA is 92%
- Weddin's LGA is considered rural with a MMS classification. Nationally, the average out of pocket expense for patients living in MMS is around \$48
- The above presents opportunities to support access to GP services by working with health professionals, health stakeholders and the community to further understand barriers and enablers to access the LGA. Notably, the Commonwealth benchmark is 1 Doctor: 1,000 head population. Weddin is 1:1:1,000.
- Non availability of transportation for the elderly population. Council owns and maintains the local taxi service as a local transport option. Council continues to advocate to the State and Federal Governments for better community transport for its elderly citizens.



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

3

Theme 2 – Innovation in service delivery (Health, safe and educated community)

(c) Health workforce attraction and retention found that:

- Factors known to attract and retain Health professionals in rural areas included availability of housing, childcare, employment for partners, and access to recreation facilities.
- While some affordable housing may be found, there is a general shortage of appropriate rental housing
- Weddin LGA provides a financial incentive to help attract a health workforce
- Weddin welcomes events and a concierge service that can play an important role in assisting health professionals and their families with the transitioning to rural areas.
- Schooling is an important consideration for health professionals considering moving rurally. The choice of both public and private primary and secondary school options can support the attraction and retention of a health workforce.
- There are a range of cultural and recreational opportunities which are attractive features and create social connections with the community.

Some population groups, such as over 65 years old, under 5 years old, and those with a disability have more interactions with health services.

The First Nations people face greater health inequities, requiring more interaction with culturally appropriate health services to address these health inequities.

On public health and safety opportunities, Council, through its integrated programs ensures the appropriate facilities are maximised, which include:

- Raising public awareness of responsible pet ownership and animal control
- Facilitate implementation of the 'Keeping Cats Safe at Home' initiative
- Supporting local emergency units to control and limit public health nuisances
- Ensuring all places of public accommodation (including pools) and food premises are properly equipped and maintained
- Investigating opportunities to build community connectedness and reduce isolation of the farming community [Wellness Plan]
- Exploring opportunities to build community capacity in regard to mental health and drug and alcohol issues [Wellness Plan]
- Liaising with Essential Energy to ensure a safe and effective street lighting network is maintained in Grenfell and the villages
- Lobbying for an increase Police presence in the Shire
- Ensuring the Weddin Resilience (Adverse) Event Plan is current and meets the needs of our community



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

3

Theme 2 – Innovation in service delivery (Health, safe and educated community)

Public health and safety has been achieved through a number of initiatives like Council's collaboration with the Southern Lights project through the CNSWJO, which saw an upgrade in streetlight infrastructure. The BOSCAR data suggests that the Weddin LGA has less crime rates across the multiple criminal statistics captured. Council successfully delivered the Bimbi Floodplain Management.

The Woolcott September 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey found that 96% residents strongly agreed that their neighbourhood was a friendly place to live in and around 93% felt safe walking in their local neighbourhood and being a good place to live.

The Woolcott survey of September 2023 indicated that in the last five years, 62% of residents living with a disability felt that Council had performed well in improving disability access to Council facilities.

Moving Forward

Council should continue to advocate for local education institutions being appropriately funded, with a primary focus on targeted program delivery and fit for purpose facilities for the local community. This includes assisting apprentices with their work experience traineeships in the Shire.

Staff housing at the Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) is limited, and advocacy for funding and grants is needed to secure a residential site for the necessary accommodation. NSW Health has approached Council about building housing on their land, offering a valuable opportunity for the new Council to pursue.

There has been a request for a helipad site, and this will continue to be a challenge for Council to work with the NSW Government to fund this opportunity, as it is not achievable in our current operating budgets.

To ensure lifelong learning opportunities are provided with a focus of digital learning (supported by fit for purpose facilities), Council must continue its work towards implementing its Digital Connectivity Project, which will continue on to the next Council term.

To ensure safety and wellbeing for its citizens, Police presence in the community should be in line with the BOSCAR data and appropriate ratios.





IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

3

Theme 3 – Democratic and engaged community supported by efficient internal systems

Background

To develop opportunities and leadership skills in the local community, Council continues to deliver training initiatives through its Stronger Country Communities Funding and other opportunities to improve our volunteering base. Areas of focus include arranging training for community organisations.

Current

A total 80% of residents believe a 'democratic and engaged community' is important/very important for the long term future. Females and households without children placed a significantly greater level of importance on this theme.

Council's Village progress associations' activities are well supported by Council staff and will continue to be supported by Council, increasing more Council presence in each of these villages. A Mobile Hub has been implemented to bring the services to the respective villages. The Mayor and Councillors have visited and have witnessed these activities which notably included the Australia Day events.

All major community groups in the Shire have the opportunity to contribute to the major decisions made by Council. This will be made through the development of a Community Engagement Strategy, which will ensure that all proposals, plans, and policies are publicly exhibited before their formal adoption. The Woolcott survey found that roughly half of the Weddin residents had made contact with Council in the last 12 months (of which 74% were satisfied with this interaction). The major reason for this contact(s) related to roads and infrastructure, with council facilities, building/planning enquiries, garbage and recycling following suit.

The September 2023 Woolcott survey found that 57% of residents were satisfied with the level and type of communication provided by Council. Most residents preferred methods such as email and social media platforms to be the best means of communication between Council and the community. The most popular methods of consultation with Council was through Council's online engagement forums (19%), surveys (17%) and face to face forums (17%). A significantly higher proportion of residents (35%) living out of the Township preferred Surveys.

Approximately half of the residents felt that services provided by Council were either quite good or of very good value for money; however, this was less so amongst those living outside of the Township.

Furthermore, Council will:

- Provide regular publicity through the Council News in the Grenfell Record
- Develop governance and management courses for intending/potential Councillors in line with the OLG guidelines.
- Webcast all Council meetings.
- Develop a Communication Strategy and relevant policy
- Distribute information through appropriate communication networks and will endeavour to improve user experience of Council's website and social media.



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

3

Theme 3 – Democratic and engaged community supported by efficient internal systems

Council, in its current term, through a report from Telco Authority, reported an upgrade to the Critical Communications (Radio) to 98.9% of the Shire's population average, when compared to less than 80% in the past. Land coverage also increased from less than 35% to 85%. This marked improvement shows that Council continues to work towards being a leader in working towards rural digital connectivity. Council is currently proactively advocating for adequate internet access for its residents and are lobbying for black spot funding.

Moving Forward

As is the case in most regional local government areas, volunteer numbers are declining in many of our community organisations. This is an issue for the Shire's future which needs to be addressed, as this is costly for organisations and in turn creates a gap in support of the community.

Council continues on its advocacy mission of organisational improvement and values its customer service commitment. This is evident with the works in progress with the digital customer response management system. There is a plan to undertake a review of Council's service levels and develop action plans to facilitate continuous organisational improvement.

Council is currently proactively advocating for adequate internet access for its residents and are lobbying for black spot funding.

Furthermore, Council's new Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee (ARIC) provides updates to Council of its current audit work plan and will develop its internal Audit processes and recommendations for continuous organisational improvement into the future.





IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

3

Theme 4 – Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community

Background

Weddin is a community that is actively involved in delivering sport and recreational opportunities across our Shire for the young and the young at heart. Community groups across our Shire deliver a vast array of sporting activities including but not limited to:

- Football codes including touch football, rugby league, rugby union and junior soccer
- Athletics
- Cricket
- Golf
- Lawn Bowls
- Netball
- Swimming
- Yoga and meditation.

Current

A 'culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community' was rated as important/very important by 87% of residents. 18-34 year olds rated this significantly higher.

To ensure the sporting facilities and events are maintained and developed, Council has worked on securing a number of grants (Stronger Country Communities Grant to improve the Grenfell Rugby Oval) and liaises with the local sporting organisations to develop an updated Sports and Recreational Facilities Plan. The irrigation works for the Grenfell Rugby Oval is continuing to be completed.

Under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Round 3 funding, Council was able to upgrade the amenities building at the Quandialla Swimming Pool. As a community, we banded together to support home-grown talent, Clare Hunt as she represented Australia in the World Cup Soccer.

Besides sporting facilities, Council manages and maintains its swimming pool and its surrounding parks and reserves in a safe and attractive condition which encourages frequent use by residents and visitors consistent with agreed service levels.

Council successfully delivered and acquitted its Drought Community Projects which saw the delivery of a number of recreational facilities across the local government area. Council's recreational facilities continue to be a priority for Council's operational staff who work on maintaining these areas to:

- Provide opportunities and improve facilities for local youth
- Explore possibility of providing an indoor Community All-Purpose Centre
- Look at developing the Bogolong Dam Precinct for public use
- Collaborate with NPWS to promote and enhance visitor experience of Weddin Mountains.



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

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Theme 4 – Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community.

Council has been successful in achieving the launch of the Visit Weddin and Weddin Mountains Region branding, bringing tourism to town, including the Henry Lawson Festival of Arts, Caragabal Sheep Races, Greenethorpe Soldiers' Memorial Hall Centenary celebrations and the Quandialla Memorial Hall's mural.

Council has successfully achieved in maintaining and developing cultural and arts facilities and events at Weddin. Statistically, 8 in 10 residents attended community events in the last 12 months and less requested spaces included walking trails, playgrounds, the aquatic centre and the library (Woolcott September 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey).

The survey also found that areas that emerged as most important to residents were sporting fields and amenities, playgrounds and the library. Those living out of the Grenfell Township were significantly less likely to rate playgrounds, and community events as important to them (around 63% to 69%).

The art gallery and public toilets, on the other hand, achieved high levels of community satisfaction, compared to their importance rating.

As Council's earlier Community Satisfaction Surveys in 2022 and 2023 proved to be successful especially where 96% indicated that "my neighbourhood is a friendly place to live"), provides an opportunity for Council to:

- Create strategies to increase more people to move into the Shire
- Develop and maintain activities and facilities to support minority groups throughout the Shire.

The Shire residents are very supportive of Council's Vision, as they believe it is good/necessary/important for growth and the Weddin community.

The Weddin Shire is noted to encourage a strong sense of community and connectedness and this was highlighted during the delivery of the Light up the Night event which:

- Celebrated social cohesion
- Encouraged involvement of Council especially at the annual workshops and in community activities.



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

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Theme 4 – Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community

Moving Forward

Council needs to look at ways to advocate for funding arrangements to:

- Support major arts and cultural events
- Provide and support local cultural organisations
- Promote ways to attract and develop new cultural facilities and events in the community to attract more visitors and tourism in the Shire.
- Active Travel Plan
- Develop pathways and trails
- Develop and maintain pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Volunteer decline for our local sporting organisations will be an issue into the future.



Theme 5 – Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments

Background

The Weddin community values and promotes sustainable natural, agricultural and environmental best practice management, and is not compromised by new industries and investment.

Environmental regulations and controls in Council's sphere of operations always remain a challenge, but it is important for Council to:

- Plan and regulate the orderly arrangement and use of land i.e. Town Planning.
- Ensure compliance with environmental regulations.
- Prepare appropriate State of Environment Report.
- Implement sustainability actions as identified in the Regional Environment Sustainability Action Plan (RESAP).
- Identify to minimise sources of pollution in order to preserve and improve the natural environment.
- Make adequate provision for urban stormwater.
- Manage the Shire's Sewerage Scheme.

Current

A total of around 87% believed a 'cared for natural environment, agricultural and built environments' is important/very important for the long term future. Younger residents were significantly more likely to believe so.



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

4

Theme 5 – Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments

There was a large gap between the importance residents placed on the upgrade of the Grenfell Mair Street and their satisfaction with the outcome (40% gap). This was followed by significant gaps reported for the cleanliness of the creeks and waterways (29%) and the protection of natural bushland (6%).

Council's September 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey, undertaken by Woolcott found that 84% of residents rated the cleanliness of creeks and water ways as important, whereas those living outside the Grenfell Township were less likely to rate the protection of natural bushland as important (58%).

The Woolcott survey also highlighted that 76% of residents living outside of the Grenfell Township were not connected to either water or sewer services.

Council's investment into the installation of solar panels within its key sites (Council Depot, Grenfell Aquatic Centre and the Wastewater Treatment Plant) saw a significant reduction in energy usage.

Challenges for Council this current term included the closure of the Quandialla and Caragabal Waste Management Facilities at the direction of the EPA. A key focus of the next Council Term will need to address this ongoing issue that includes a number of legacy issues that future generations will need to manage. Environmental regulations are requiring more compliance and competing with Council's resources.

According to the Woolcott survey, waste management was seen as important, especially general litter control (85%). Of least concern, at around 61%, was the resource recovery centre. Overall, willingness to pay extra for future food and organic waste collection was low (29%) and this was especially the case for those residing outside of the Grenfell Township, with only 12% willing to pay extra for future food and organic waste collection.

Council has rolled out its Digital Connectivity Project, and this will continue into the next Council Term. The current Council has always tried to preserve its heritage built areas. The 2023 hailstorm significantly damaged some of Weddin's heritage fabric, and it is important for Council to promote heritage features within the CBD that will drive the preservation of built heritage in our communities.

Weddin's enhancement of its broader landscape connectivity (its pathways) for native fauna and flora is supported by the local volunteer groups to:

- Support flora and fauna corridor projects
- Review Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

Council's energy usage reduced with the installation of solar panels at key sites like the Council Depot, Grenfell Aquatic Centre, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A review of the operation of the Grenfell Waste Facility has also been completed. Some of the recommendations of the review are in the process of being implemented.



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

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Theme 5 – Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments

Moving Forward

Despite working on these for numerous years, the most important need is for better sewerage services and better quality water services for the Shire.

Council has rolled out its Digital Connectivity Project, and has yet to finalise its Drought Resilience Plan, which will inform Council of strategies and plans that will improve the community's preparedness and resilience to future droughts and other extreme weather events.

Furthermore, Council will need to:

- Maintain political focus on adverse events in regional and rural areas.
- Maintain political focus on drought.
- Maintain political focus on adverse events that impact rural areas.
- Affordable, safe and reliable access to stock feed to protect animals and livestock.

The new Council will need to focus on its waste reduction and recycling and would need to consider the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) requirements by 2030, in order to:

- Continue to review recyclables collection for Grenfell.
- Investigate into the regular waste services (including collections and service reviews) for all villages.

Even though the community is made aware of various sustainable practices by other government agencies (and through renewable energy reforms), Council should promote initiatives to:

- Encourage sustainability and environment projects.
- Encourage local businesses to adopt best practice environmental operations.

Council will enhance our community's resilience against flooding through the development of the Floodplain Risk Management Study, although there may be a need for considerable review of existing policies and past practices, which could take some time.





IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

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Theme 5 – Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments

The NSW Government announcement of the Flood Prone Land Package includes advice to Council on consideration of flooding in land-use planning to ensure greater resilience of our communities against flooding events through better planning. Updates to how we present information to our customers through the Planning Certificates provides an opportunity for Councils to introduce a true risk-based approach into their flood planning controls, that has been curtailed since the introduction of the 2007 Flood Planning Guideline. However, it is recognised that to do this there may be a need for considerable review of existing policies and past practices that could take some time for many Councils.

Our community values waste management and recycling but has low satisfaction with these services. Although recycling is considered cost prohibitive, there are alternative ways for our community to achieve outcomes in sustainable waste management, including reducing household waste generation and landfill rates. An impending review of Council's Waste Management Strategy will support improved waste outcomes for the community.

There is a free EV charging station provided out in front of the community pool, and there is a need for the new Council to advocate more on renewable energy initiatives.

The Net Waste Liaison Officer has visited local schools to provide education on recycling & sustainability, and this will lead in to the Waste to Art project, an initiative which will form part of the new Council's efforts to advocate and to continue on with the strategy – by starting the word through the schools and then moving it gradually to the broader Weddin community.





IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

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Theme 5 – Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments

Even though Council has a Renewable Energy Action Plan, it should:

- Actively consider adoption of renewable energy technology
- Encourage development and property owners to adopt to sustainable technologies
- Continue to work with the CNSWJO
- Advocate with metro Councils to sell electricity produced from Council's solar panels to increase its commercial income capability
- Continue to advocate for solar battery use and look forward to the NEW government battery rebate becoming available by November 2024.

Despite its investment in solar panels within its key sites, Council's initiative should be to:

- Collect and dispose of domestic, commercial and industrial waste to landfill
- Provide ecologically sustainable landfills with minimal adverse environmental impacts
- Carry out a programme of street tree planting and maintenance in order to preserve and enhance the natural environment
- Consider adoption of alternative environmentally-friendly practices, where practicable.

On the heritage and built areas, Council should:

- Apply for Local Government Heritage Grants – \$25,000 available every 2 years
- Continue to offer small heritage grants to community
- Utilise the next installation of the Local Government Heritage Grant to repair the Council Chambers
- Ensure Street awnings on Main Street is completed.
- Review Business Case for Broken Hill as they had a similar heritage project like the one for Weddin.





IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

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Theme 6 – Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

Background

The majority (around 92% of residents) rated a 'well maintained and improving shire assets and services' important/very important. Slight softening of importance ratings as age increases.

The Weddin road network (sealed and unsealed) is an area which our community has low satisfaction levels with, but which they highly value. Council acknowledges this and continues to work on strategies including developing advanced Asset Management Plans and the appointment of a community member roads committee.

Council acknowledges that further development of internal systems and processes, including refining of service levels will ensure that maintenance and renewal of assets is achieved in line with Council's financial means and community expectations. This will require development of an advanced Asset Management Strategy for all of Council's infrastructure assets.

Current

Almost 93% of Weddin residents, through the September 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey, expressed that the condition of the sealed road surfaces was extremely important, as was the provision of street or directional signage. 83% of the survey respondents also voiced that Parking was also an area of high importance.

The local, regional, and state roads damages are close to the \$50 million mark, as this includes the flooding works that Council completed on the State Highway (Newell Highway and the Mid-Western Highway) through the RMCC. Council's Community Satisfaction Data rated 99% sealed roads as important/very important with just, 43% being of at least/somewhat satisfied.

The Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 revealed that our sealed and unsealed road network had one of the biggest gaps between expectations and satisfaction levels, with a high level of importance but low satisfaction rating received for both. The community also expressed a low satisfaction level with storm water drainage. Council has and will continue to invest in improving storm water drainage within the Shire.

The majority of residents (approximately 92%) rated a 'well maintained and improving shire assets and services' important/very important. There is a slight softening of importance ratings as age increases.

A number of factors which contribute to the challenges associated with the local road network, included:

- The sheer size of our expansive road network relative to the overall size of Council's budget.
- Limited external funding opportunities.
- Competing Council priorities.
- Road user behaviour particularly after rain events.
- Poor soil quality for road building purposes and
- Challenges for Council in securing an appropriately qualified and experienced workforce to deliver the road infrastructure program.



Theme 6 – Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

Council faced the challenges of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), a jointly funded program between the Australian Government and state and territory (state) governments, through which the Australian Government provides financial assistance to support state governments with disaster recovery costs. Eligible costs include assistance measures for individuals and families, businesses, primary producers, non-profit organisations and local and state governments. Under these arrangements, state governments determine what assistance measures will be activated, and the areas in which they will be made available.

Council was impacted by a number of natural disaster events. The following declarations were provided to the Shire by the NSW government, incorporating an Australian Government reference number (AGRN):

- AGRN945 – 28 November 2020 onwards (outside of the current term)
- AGRN987 – 9 November 2021 onwards (outside of the current term)
- AGRN1001 – 5 January 2022 onwards
- AGRN1030 – 4 August 2022 onwards
- AGRN1034 – 14 September 2022 onwards

The Shire was hit by consecutive natural disasters, further deteriorating the road network into and out of the Shire and impacting our overall ability to recover. The timing of the flooding events of 2021 and 2022 were very close together, making it virtually impossible to collect data and to undertake emergency works to the standard required of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

This resulted in significant damages across the local, regional and state roads impacting on Council's cash flow. Aside from the nonsensical approval processes and constant disputes with the NSW Government on road damages, as well as months-long delays with approval, Council is expected to fund these works upfront and submit a claim for payment. Some of the final payment claims were received close to 12 months after the works were completed and significantly impacted on Council's restricted and unrestricted funds due to the burden of paying contractors upfront and wearing this liability on our financial statements.

As a result of lobbying by Weddin Shire Council, Council was one of the first SIC Council's in the first part of the TfNSW and Reconstruction Authority Tripartite Agreements to allow an upfront milestone payment, regardless of the approval status of the packages. The purpose was to alleviate the cash flow issues. However, there were significant issues with the negotiations experienced by Weddin Shire Council as well as the other councils due to the delays.



IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

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Theme 6 – Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

Another issue also related to the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF). The funding is made available for priority maintenance works and immediate repairs of potholes on local and regional roads managed by councils. The RERRF allowance of up to 2% of the allocated funds to be used for associated administration and/or management costs of delivering RERRF works places pressure on Council to manage this funding in house. With over \$4.7 million worth of funding, we advocate for the NSW Government to consider the project management costs to run these works and to increase this percentage to the industry standard of 10%. The RERRF also saw the suspension of the REPAIR program, which was a financial loss for Council.

At the time of drafting the CSP, the natural disaster and flooding impacts were not captured in the CSP. Therefore, the Delivery Program actions did not reflect the crisis that was unfolding across our road network.

Upfront Milestone Payments (Tripartite Agreements)

Council was promised a 20% upfront milestone payment at the start of May 2024, with conversations beginning in January 2024; however, in reality, funds were not received until 30 June 2024. Even though Council is appreciative of this upfront Milestone payment, the timing delay will have a major impact on Council. Council will not be in a position to undertake the necessary road reconstruction works until September and October 2024. This is because road construction halts during the winter months due to the climatic conditions impacting on heavy patching programs. The Minister for Regional Roads was contacted with a letter from Council outlining this issue. As a result, Weddin Shire Council was selected as one of the few councils to attend the Minister's first In Motion Natural Disasters – Building Resilience Workshop in July 2024, which allowed the General Manager to table the issues at this forum.

The DRFA process needs to change. It needs to include tripartite agreements upfront to alleviate the road crisis that is occurring across the state.





IMPROVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

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Theme 6 – Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

Moving Forward

In the next 12 months, the council has approximately \$26.8 million of reconstruction works to do by 30 June 2025. Council will need to consider a strategic asset management plan for our infrastructure. The limited ability to undertake preventative maintenance due to the small rate base and minimal capital income will continue to be an ongoing concern for Council.

The next ten years predictions in the roads and infrastructure space includes:

- More red tape with DRFA processes with more natural disaster events predicted. Council needs to advocate reduction in red tape.
- Reduction in grant funding. Although the Roads to Recovery budget has increased for Council it is seen that rural councils versus metro councils, the per km funding in metro councils increased by over 60% versus rural councils of 47% increase. Council needs to lobby the NSW and Federal Governments for equity in the administration of these grants.
- Tightening of grant provisions, e.g. the RERRF has up to 2% project management costs resulting in Council managing this administration burden in house in an already resourced constraint business. Council will need to push back on the cost shifting onto local government.
- As an outcome the CSP should consider disaster risk reduction and resilience and how we can add this into our documents. This is a project we are working on with the CNSWJO.
- The community supports Council spending more money on improving road infrastructure (81%), followed by supporting local businesses (75%), tourism and accommodation in the Shire (62%), youth and community services and facilities (54%) and energy efficiency and efficiency (46%).
- Council continues to explore and maximise external funding opportunities to support renewal of, and upgrades to, our road network.





FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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Weddin Shire Council will face some very real financial challenges over the next four years though to and beyond 2027/2028. Over the next 4 years we are forecasting successive operational deficits and even greater deficits before capital grants.

We have assumed that we will only receive the IPART rate increases.

Council has a Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) which carries out maintenance on the Mid Western Highway (HW06) and Newell Highway (HW17). Although \$8.92M in funding was approved for FY2025, this is an aberration to the normal funding we receive. When we remove the additional flood funding in the 2025 year representation \$8.01M our traditional amount called RMAP funding is more in line with \$650K to \$850K. This funding will also decrease over the next few years. We have included these reduced numbers in our forecasts.

Weddin Shire Council has been actively involved in the repair of flood and disaster recovery from grant funding over the past several years. We expect that the disaster repairs to roads will be completed by June 2025 (however noting that Council is advocating for an extension to this deadline). After that, we expect our road funding to substantially reduce to normal maintenance levels.

Council received Regional Emergency Repair Road Funding (RERRF) from the NSW Government which is expected to run out in 2027 and not be renewed. However despite the good news announcement of the RERRF, this came at the expense of the NSW Government suspending the REPAIR Program during this period of time. The temporary pause means no REPAIR programs until 2027-2028.

We expect to continue to receive the ongoing Regional Road Block Grant Funding. Our Roads to Recovery Funding from the Federal Government will increase over the next 5 year period which is positive for our road repairs and renewal. However the increase in line with metropolitan areas means that rural councils receive less per kilometre. The Regional Road Block Grants is also anticipated to continue.

Financial Assistance Grants (which are untied) are anticipated to incrementally continue to increase which essentially funds our roads, wages and other operational expenditure.

With the Natural Disaster works completed by June 2025, the need for casual workforce to build the roads will decline. This will reduce our cost of staff and we have reflected this in the Forecast 4 year Income Statement however if we reduce staff from current levels (other than the roads effect and use of casual staff to build them) this will continue to be a challenge for us to resource the basic necessities in running a local council whether this is from a governance and risk perspective through to our road crews.

We anticipate the ongoing challenges with the Quandialla and Cargabal waste management facilities to comply with the Environment Planning Authority requirements.) We anticipate that this will need to be partially funded and collected by raising our rural waste charges but also it will need to be funded from other revenues received such as our Financial Assistance Grant.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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We have a big challenge with the cost of our aging plant, fleet and machinery. As such, we will need to fund their replacement, repair or renewal. Our asset maintenance costs have increased significantly over the past few years due to this aging. To avoid these increased maintenance costs we will need to purchase a considerable number of new plant items. We anticipate the essential only plant purchases going forwards could be in excess of \$3.0M and as such these will need to be purchased through a funding model. We would anticipate that our fleet vehicles will likely be outsourced on an operational lease arrangement going forwards.

Plant maintenance and plant renewal programs are currently being developed as part of our Asset Management Strategy which will form part of our Resourcing Strategy which in turn will inform our 10 Year Long Term Financial Plan and our new Community Strategic Plan which will be presented to council for adoption by June 2025. We are also looking at improved cost accounting so that we charge the appropriate amount for use of machinery to compensate for repairs and maintenance.

A more accurate amount will be calculated and put into developing our Long Term Financial Plan for the next round of our integrated planning and reporting framework documents.

Simultaneously, we are preparing our next Workforce Plan. We have assumed that casuals will decline commensurate with a decline in road funding over the next few years. If we do reduce our workforce as a way to improve our margins, we may need to consider the challenge of being able to provide the same level of current services that we currently offer the community or to decrease it. This may not be seen favourably and rightly so by the community.

Another focus area will be our new Wastewater Treatment Plant which we estimate will continue to report future deficits. Currently it is not self-funding its operations. The cost of running this new plant is a lot higher than the previous plant. We may have to increase our Section 64 sewer charges to help support the operational deficits going forwards.

Our swimming pools present a similar challenge where the cost to run these pools by far exceeds the revenue earned from them. We acknowledge the community service obligations in running these facilities for our community and the great benefits they also bring outside of the profit and loss.

We also will need to consider the rehabilitation of the many council quarries that we have which we have not planned for in the past. We are looking at commercially pricing our gravel and crushing it for internal purposes as well as for sale to contractors as a means of additional revenue.

Our new 10 year Long Term Financial Plan will consider the lifetime of our loans, our revenue models and projections, our Workforce Plan and projected employee costings and our Asset Maintenance and Asset Management Plans respectively.

Our cash position is forecast to reduce from \$18 Million as at June 2024 to approximately \$7.5 Million by June 2028. This reduction is because we are effectively funding our operational deficits. Therefore we need to manage these deficits carefully and in a considered way.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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Other considerations will be the sale of council properties or the significant investment required to renovate and rehabilitate these buildings for a commercial market. All of these assets are not part of council core assets (e.g. the Weddin Street Medical Centre, Grenfell Medical Centre and the old Commonwealth Bank building).

We will have ongoing waste and environmental considerations to meet the cost of compliance for the regulatory authorities.

Council's financial sustainability is called into question as we embark on some difficult times ahead. We may well also need to consider investigating applying for a Special rate Variation as an option to meet the long term viability concerns we have raised or other ways and means to generate council business to ensure viability.

Long Term Financial Plan - CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

\$ '000		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	Notes	Actual	Actual	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Income from Continuing Operations							
Revenue:							
Rates & annual charges		4,194	4,466	4,955	5,178	5,411	5,654
User charges & fees		9,626	5,322	10,785	5,206	5,415	5,631
Other revenues		347	181	257	267	278	289
Grants & contributions for operating purposes		12,590	14,499	37,560	26,292	23,663	21,297
Grants & contributions for capital purposes		10,118	2,491	5,985	4,788	4,309	4,438
Interest & investment revenue		280	309	219	250	200	150
Other income		97	147	149	155	161	168
Other Income:							
Net gains from disposal of assets		42	113	336	500	150	100
Net share of interests in joint ventures		376	892	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS		37,670	28,420	60,246	42,637	39,587	37,727
Expenses from Continuing Operations							
Employee benefits & costs		5,462	7,001	6,785	6,615	6,285	5,970
Borrowing costs		186	172	227	392	402	412
Materials & services		12,092	13,889	49,256	33,297	29,435	27,551
Depreciation & amortisation		5,211	5,779	3,612	3,638	3,664	3,691
Impairment		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses		376	389	1,389	939	830	777
Net losses from disposal of assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS		23,327	27,230	61,269	44,881	40,615	38,401
OPERATING RESULT FOR THE YEAR		14,343	1,190	(1,023)	(2,245)	(1,029)	(673)
NET OPERATING RESULT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES							
		4,225	(1,301)	(7,008)	(7,033)	(5,338)	(5,112)
NET OPERATING RESULT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES and EXCLUDING EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS							
		4,225	(1,301)	(7,008)	(7,033)	(5,338)	(5,112)



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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Long Term Financial Plan - CONSOLIDATED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

\$ '000	Notes	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast	2028 Forecast
Assets							
Current Assets:							
Cash & cash equivalents		3,646	11,089	12,488	11,566	8,434	5,582
Investments		2,500	7,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Receivables		1,350	1,122	1,440	1,394	1,439	1,484
Contract Assets		11,258	2,269	4,000	3,500	3,000	2,500
Inventories		225	221	230	239	249	259
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-current assets classified as 'held for sale'		-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		18,979	21,701	23,158	18,699	15,122	11,825
Non-Current Assets:							
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables		79	26	26	26	26	26
Inventories		83	83	86	90	93	97
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		254,614	264,390	268,724	273,090	277,487	281,916
Investments accounted for using the equity method		37,574	40,055	41,657	43,323	45,056	46,859
Intangible assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		292,350	304,554	310,494	316,529	322,663	328,898
TOTAL ASSETS		311,329	326,255	333,652	335,229	337,785	340,722
Liabilities							
Current Liabilities:							
Payables		3,222	3,513	3,654	3,800	3,952	4,110
Borrowings		407	419	421	586	527	475
Contract Liabilities		4,120	3,067	3,190	3,317	3,450	3,588
Employee Benefit Provisions		1,086	1,079	1,117	1,089	1,034	983
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		8,835	8,078	8,381	8,792	8,963	9,155
Non-Current Liabilities:							
Payables		4	6	8	6	4	3
Borrowings		3,675	3,256	2,835	5,249	4,722	4,247
Contract Liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Employee benefit provisions		85	144	149	145	138	131
Provisions		561	534	555	578	601	625
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,325	3,940	3,547	5,978	5,464	5,006
TOTAL LIABILITIES		13,160	12,018	11,928	14,770	14,428	14,161
NET ASSETS		298,169	314,237	321,724	320,459	323,357	326,562
Equity							
Retained earnings		191,089	193,868	197,020	191,390	189,891	188,667
IPP&E Revaluation reserves		107,080	120,369	124,703	129,069	133,466	137,895
Council equity interest		298,169	314,237	321,724	320,459	323,357	326,562
Non-controlling interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EQUITY		298,169	314,237	321,724	320,459	323,357	326,562



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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Long Term Financial Plan - CONSOLIDATED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

\$ '000	Notes	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast	2028 Forecast
Cash Flows from Operating Activities							
Receipts:							
Rates & annual charges		4,110	4,262	4,460	4,660	4,870	5,089
User charges & fees		3,654	11,609	2,498	2,597	2,701	2,809
Investment & interest revenue received		280	309	859	796	637	572
Grants & contributions		7,991	24,926	43,545	31,080	27,972	25,735
Bonds, deposits & retention amounts received		-	111	-	-	-	-
Other		6,035	3,886	231	241	250	260
Payments:							
Employee benefits & costs		(5,346)	(6,943)	(7,375)	(7,191)	(6,831)	(6,490)
Materials & services		(10,120)	(13,734)	(42,246)	(28,558)	(25,246)	(23,630)
Borrowing costs		(142)	(149)	(227)	(392)	(402)	(412)
Bonds, deposits & retention amounts refunded		(17)	-	-	-	-	-
Other		(394)	(2,050)	(1,250)	(845)	(747)	(699)
NET CASH PROVIDED (OR USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES		6,051	14,455	495	2,388	3,204	3,234
Cash Flows from Investing Activities							
Receipts:							
Sale of investment securities (Redemption of TDs)		1,000	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		42	473	336	500	150	100
Deferred debtors receipts		81	48	33	15	18	23
Other investing activity receipts		-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments:							
Purchase of investment securities/property		-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		(13,471)	(2,626)	(4,334)	(4,366)	(4,397)	(4,429)
Deferred debtors & advances made		-	-	-	-	-	-
NET CASH PROVIDED (OR USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(12,348)	(2,105)	(3,965)	(3,851)	(4,229)	(4,306)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities							
Receipts:							
Proceeds from borrowings & advances		-	-	-	3,000	-	-
Payments:							
Repayment of borrowings & advances		(398)	(407)	(419)	(421)	(586)	(527)
Repayment of finance lease liabilities (principal component)		(9)	-	-	-	-	-
NET CASH PROVIDED (OR USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES		(407)	(407)	(419)	2,579	(586)	(527)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS		(6,704)	11,943	(3,890)	1,116	(1,611)	(1,599)
plus: CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS - beginning of year		10,350	3,646	15,589	11,699	12,816	11,205
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS - end of year		3,646	15,589	11,699	12,816	11,205	9,606
Cash and Cash Equivalents - end of year		3,646	15,589	11,699	12,816	11,205	9,606
Investments - end of year		2,500	7,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS & INVESTMENTS - end of year		6,146	22,589	16,699	14,816	13,205	11,606



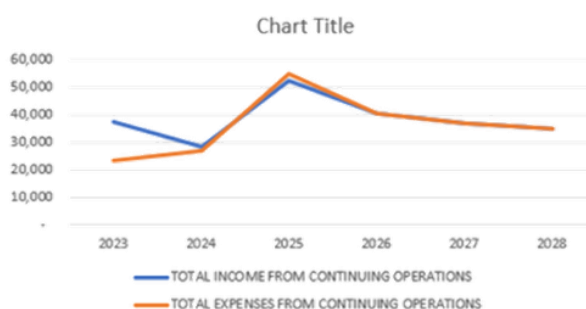
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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Long Term Financial Plan - CONSOLIDATED

FINANCIAL RATIOS

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	Actual	Budget	Proposed	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Operating Performance Ratio <i>This ratio measures Council's ability to contain operating expenditure within operating revenue</i>	15.33%	-5.02%	-18.59%	-14.61%	-12.50%	-13.71%
Benchmark - Greater than 0% <i>(operating revenue excl. capital grants and contributions - operating expenses) / operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions</i>						
Own Source Operating Revenue excl. FAGs <i>This ratio measures the level of Council's usual revenue. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. Council's financial flexibility improves the higher the level of its own source revenue</i>	39.72%	40.22%	16.64%	22.91%	24.75%	26.93%
Benchmark - Greater than 60% <i>operating revenue excl. all grants and contributions / operating revenue incl. all grants and contributions</i>						
Building and Asset Renewal Ratio <i>This ratio indicates the extent to which Council is forecasting to meet its consumption level on assets by renewing or replacing</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Benchmark - Greater than 100% - average over 3 years <i>asset renewals (building and infrastructure) / Depreciation, amortisation and impairment (building and infrastructure)</i>						
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio <i>This ratio shows what proportion the backlog is against total value of infrastructure</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Benchmark - Less than 2% <i>Estimated cost to bring to satisfactory condition / Total (ivdv) of infrastructure, buildings and other structures</i>						
Asset Maintenance Ratio <i>standard</i>	98%	98%	98%	98%	100%	102%
Benchmark - Greater than 100% - average over 3 years <i>Actual asset maintenance / Required asset maintenance</i>						
Debt Service Ratio <i>This ratio measures the ability to service debt including interest, principal, and lease payments</i>	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%
Benchmark - Between 0% and 20% <i>Cost of debt service (interest expense & principal repayments) / Total continuing operating revenue (excl. capital grants & contributions)</i>						
Real Operating Expenditure <i>This ratio shows the operating expenditure per capita</i>	\$6,465	\$7,547	\$15,202	\$11,285	\$10,247	\$9,700
Benchmark - Decrease over time <i>Operating expenditure / Population</i>						
Cash Expense Cover Ratio <i>This ratio indicates the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow</i>	2.66	5.72	2.73	4.11	3.98	3.63
Benchmark - Greater than 3.0 months <i>(current year's cash and cash equivalents / (total expenses - depreciation - interest costs)) * 12</i>						





WEDDIN SHIRE'S FUTURE

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A Plan on a Page

Council and our community have been effective in delivering upon a large proportion of the CSP 2027's goals and strategies, as outlined in the State of Our Shire (SOOS) report. As identified in the SOOS report, there are instances where progress has been moving away from the target or where there are emerging issues. The emerging issues like our natural disaster declarations were a major unforeseen disaster during this reporting period. These should be noted by Council and the community and given consideration as points of discussion with the community during the engagement process for the subsequent Community Strategic Plan.

There is the opportunity to refine the community engagement process as well as the CSP itself, and strong consideration should be given by the incoming Council to opt to develop a new or reviewed CSP which reflects our community's current aspirations, priorities, and issues, as opposed to rolling forward the current CSP, which is now effectively nine years old.

The Shire, moving forward, needs a CSP that is future proof and has goals which are driven by:

- A community that is supported by active, respective Leaders and
- A community that supports active, respected Leaders

Council, therefore, needs to be committed to enhancing governance practices, including engagement of the community in decision making processes through robust engagement processes and strategies, as reflected in its new Community Engagement Strategy.

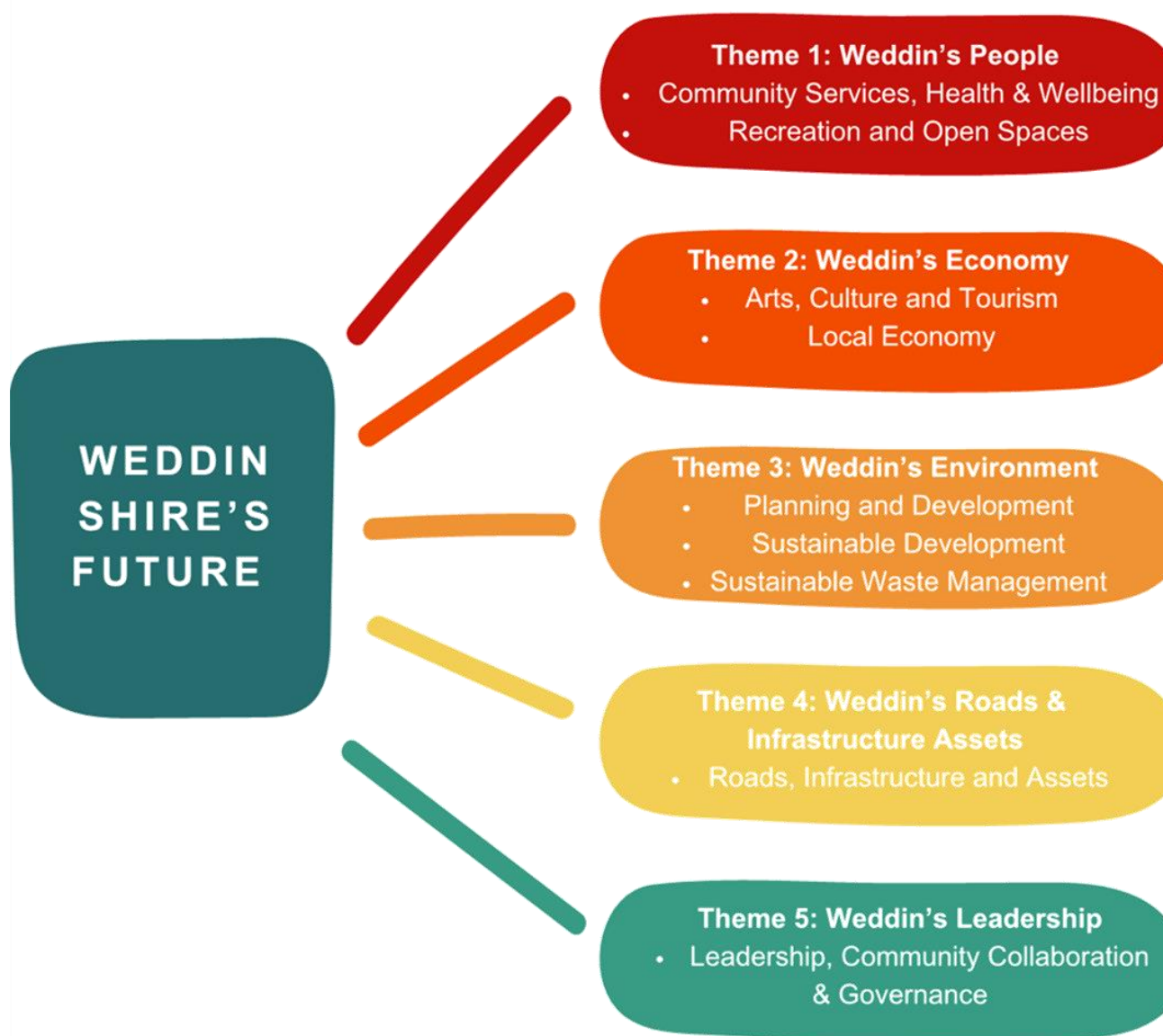
In reviewing the externally conducted Community Satisfaction Surveys with our community and Council's strategic plans, including the Community Strategic Plan 2017 and the delivery plans, the future Council must define its new CSP to deliver the following priorities list in line with the following identified themes, in order to address the required needs of the community. The following provides what a Plan on a Page could look like for the new CSP.

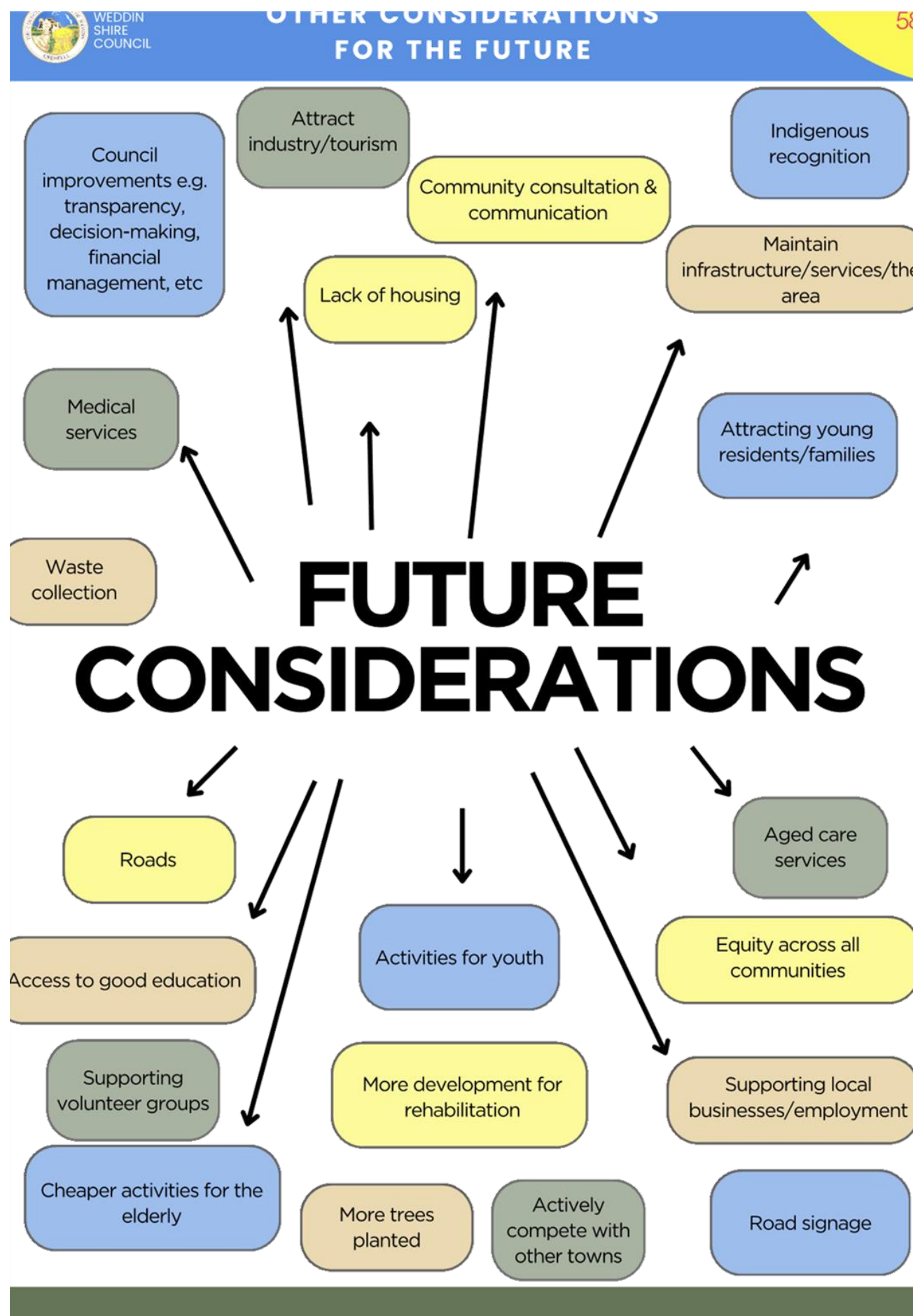


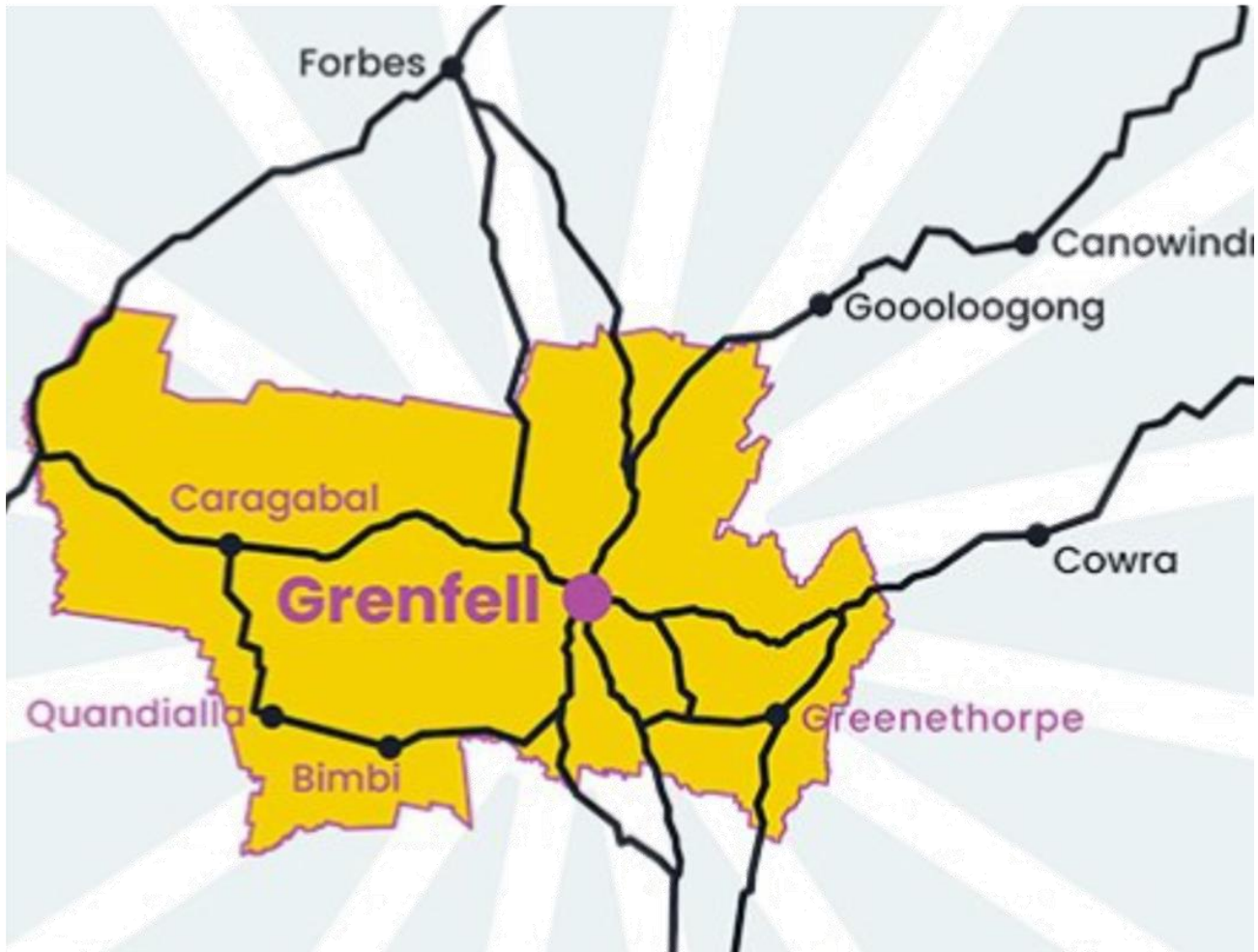


WEDDIN SHIRE'S FUTURE

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WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL

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11 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AND BANKING FACILITIES REPORT

File Number: 11.4
Author: Rates Clerk
Authoriser: Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil
CSP Objective: Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently
Precis: Statement of Bank Balances as at 30/09/2024, restricted cash and banking facilities
Budget: NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the information contained in the Statement of Bank Balances and Banking Facilities Report.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024.

Below is a list of the current bank balances for each account, as at 30 September 2024.

Bank Account	
Westpac	\$ 1,852,348.04
Westpac – Business Cash Reserve	\$100,000.00
Short Term Deposits	
CBA (Table 1)	\$5,000,000
Westpac (Table 2)	\$6,000,000
Total	<u>\$12,952,348.04</u>

Table 1. Summary of bank balances

Table 2 below provides a summary of Term Deposits as at 30 September 2024 showing interest earned and interest rates of current investments.

	Invested Date	Maturity Date	Rate	Invested Amount	Interest earned
Commonwealth Bank	22/08/2024	21/10/2024	4.53	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	19/09/2024	18/11/2024	4.70	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	19/09/2024	18/12/2024	4.82	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	19/09/2024	18/12/2024	4.82	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	19/09/2024	18/12/2024	4.82	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	19/09/2024	18/12/2024	4.82	\$2,000,000	
Total Interest – Year to Date				\$5,000,000	\$79,199.73

Table 2. Summary of term deposits.

Westpac Investments

Council invested new funds with Westpac Banking Corporation to a total of \$6,000,000 on the 18 July 2024. Investment percentage rates were obtained, and currently fixed term interest rates were higher than Council's other financial body where the other fixed term funds are invested. At the time of seeking quotations the existing provider rate was 4.59% for 2 months and 4.70% for 3 months. The details are listed in table 3 below:

	Invested Date	Maturity Date	Rate	Invested Amount	Interest earned
Westpac Bank	18/07/2024	18/01/2025	5.31	\$3,000,000	
Westpac Bank	18/07/2024	18/10/2024	5.18	\$3,000,000	
Total Interest – Year to Date				\$6,000,000	TBA

Table 3. Westpac investments

LESS: EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED BALANCES AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

LESS: INTERNALLY ALLOCATED PROVISIONS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

TOTAL CASH NOT EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED OR INTERNALLY ALLOCATED

OVERDRAFT FACILITY

To date Council has not needed to draw on this facility.

11.2 RATES AND CHARGES COLLECTION - SEPTEMBER 2024

File Number: A3.4.3
Author: Rates Clerk
Authoriser: Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil
CSP Objective: Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently
Precis: September 2024, monthly report on the rates and charges collection.
Budget: NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the information update on rates and charges collection for the month of September 2024

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 September 2024.

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 September 2024.

Rates Collected this month:

	30 September 2024 QTR	30 September 2023 QTR
Rates and Charges Collected (C)	\$ 1,895,939.59	\$ 1,753,354.37
Total	\$ 1,895,939.59	\$ 1,753,354.37

Reconciliation: Rates Charged, Collected and outstanding to be collected:

	2025	2024
Net Rates/Charges in arrears (A)	\$ 474,339.62	\$ 387,037.04
2025 Gross Rates/Charges	\$ 4,818,150.14	\$ 4,524,387.46
Less Pension Concession	(\$ 132,046.67)	(\$ 138,418.78)
Net Amount Levied (B)	\$ 4,686,103.47	\$ 4,385,968.68
Total amount rates incl. arrears (A + B)	\$ 5,160,442.49	\$ 4,773,005.72
Less: Total amount collected (current and arrears) (C)	\$ 1,895,939.59	\$ 1,753,354.37
Add: Rate Accounts in Credit (income in advance)	\$ 133,397.78	\$ 20,600.79
Total rates outstanding	\$ 3,397,900.68	\$ 3,019,651.35

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 is 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 it and is in a position to increase its focus on recovery of these debts. As well Council continues to engage with a Debt Recovery Agency which is currently monitoring 49 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 2,331 printed Annual Rates Notices as well as 309 emailed notices for the 2024/25 financial year.

Council 2023/24 **rates and annual charges outstanding** (includes interest charged as at June 2024 was \$474,339.82 plus the rates in advance of \$133,397.78 = **\$609,737.60** (As a comparison Rates and annual changes receivable was **\$592,000 in the 2024 Financial statements**).

Council finance staff continue to review this regularly and are now in a position to actively work with our ratepayers to collect outstanding debts. It will also continue to proactively engage with external debt collectors.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

This report is a monthly report to Council.

CONCLUSION

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

11.3 ARTS, TOURISM, EVENTS AND GRANT ACTIVITIES FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2024

File Number: C2.6.43
Author: Arts, Tourism & Events Coordinator
Authoriser: Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil
CSP Objective: Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community
Precis: Arts, Tourism, Events and Grant Activities – July to September 2024
Budget: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council the Arts, Tourism, Events and Grants information for the period of 1 July to 30 September 2024.

Statistics

Month	No. of visitors	Sales	Gallery Sales
July	255	Merchandise: \$348.50 Services*: \$230.65	Forbes Art Group - \$2,299.00
August	315	Merchandise: \$624 Services*: \$170.90	Doodie Herman \$1,160.00
September	392	Merchandise: \$568.50 Services*: \$154.30	Kaleidoscope - \$853.72 (exhibition still running)

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

Meetings/Workshops attended

- Sustainable Tourism Toolkit - Train the Trainer Workshop
- AVIC Connect Meeting
- NSW First Experience Development Workshop at Clifton House
- Public art community consultation session
- Live Traffic – One Road training
- FAMIL with Kate from Destination Central West
- Mural RFQ submissions assessment
- Mural concept drop-in session with artists, Daniel Walton & Scott Nagy
- Grant acquittal meetings
- DPI and Regional Development projects update
- Destination Network Central West monthly meeting
- Taylor Park open onsite meeting for potential contractors
- Handover of AV upgrades in Community Hub
- Council village mobile hub day – Caragabal

Weddin Mountains Region Events

- Grenfell Art Gallery Exhibition Installations/Openings
 - Doodie Herman
 - Kaleidoscope

Projects and Grants

Grant	Project	Status
LRCI phase 4	Festoon lighting	Project management: EE have now received the requested level 3 design, awaiting approval for the removal of the redundant lighting poles from EE. Footings have been delivered. Footing excavation work to begin 07/10.
SCCF-r4 – 0650	Village Streetscapes	Project management: Costings established. To be presented to villages
	Tourism Wayfinding Signage	Grant Management: Last sign on Gooloogong Road to be installed, dates to be fixed and solar lighting to be installed.
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: Sod turning event being organised. Playspace to begin early in the new year. Play equipment orders have been placed. Any work that takes place needs to be completed before Christmas event in December and Aus Day events.
	Strengthen villages by enhancing sports / showground facilities and providing freedom camping areas (Caragabal, Quandialla and Greenethorpe)	Project management: Costings established. To be presented to villages
LSCA	Public EV Destination Charger	Project management: Waiting on outcome of stage 2 submission.
Creative Capital	Grenfell Art Gallery Upgrades	Project management: RFQs for building, painting and lighting have closed and to be assessed.
Department of Regional Youth Winter & Spring Holiday Break Program 2024	Winter & Spring school holiday events	Winter component unsuccessful due to funding being exhausted. However, due to being unsuccessful, we are going ahead with a magic show in the October school holidays with a

Grant	Project	Status
		small admission fee to assist in covering costs. Funded from tourism budget. Spring component done – successfully held tie dying and screen printing workshops.
Transport for NSW Open Streets Program	Light Up the Night 2024/2025 Event	Event entertainment confirmed. Mural community consultation held. Mural RFQ publicised with artists engaged. DA Application prepared. Main St alcohol free zone options being explored. Starting EOI for stall holders.
Department of Regional Youth Summer & Autumn Holiday Break Program 2024/25	Summer and Autumn school holiday events	Application submitted.
NSW Seniors Festival Grants Program	Seniors event 2025	Application submitted.

2023/2024 visitweddin.com.au Statistics

- 13K Website visitors
- 122K Website events
- \$1.8K E-commerce revenue
- 72 % of website visitors are from a mobile device
- Top pages by activity (top page is homepage)

Google Search Results

- 578K Google Search Impressions
- 8720 clicks from search results

Top Website Pages by clicks through GOOGLE search only

11.4 TAYLOR PARK PROJECT

File Number:	G2.55.1
Author:	Arts, Tourism & Events Coordinator
Authoriser:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Attachment 1 - Taylor Park Master Plan Final 2. Attachment 2 - Taylor Park - Community Engagement Report
CSP Objective:	Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community
Precis:	To inform Council of the successful application for Funding for stage 2 of Taylor Park redevelopment in line with the endorsed Taylor Park Master Plan.
Budget:	\$629, 797 (ex GST) funded by the Department of Regional NSW through their Stronger Country Community Fund round 5 (SCCFr5) and \$592,318.00 (ex GST) funded by Funding (currently under Embargo). These fund both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Taylor Park Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION**That Council**

1. Note information contained in this report.
2. Refer to Resolution 288/23 where the final Taylor Park Master Plan was endorsed and agree to proceed with stage 2 noting the successful application for funding (embargoed) for stage 2 of the project has been received in order to complete stage 1 and stage 2 of the Taylor Park Master Plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the successful application to funding (source is currently under embargo) for stage 2 of the Taylor Park Master Plan and endorse the full implementation of the Taylor Park Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

Extensive community consultation by an external consultant / industry expert, the 'Touched by Olivia Foundation', was held in early 2023. All schools across Weddin Shire were engaged and community input was also gathered through community engagement sessions and an online survey that was open for over a month. Everyone across the community were advised of these opportunities and invited to attend to provide their input.

Results from this community consultation can be found in Attachment 2: Taylor Park - Community Engagement Report. This report was then used to form the Taylor Park Masterplan.

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Upon engagement of the 'Touched by Olivia Foundation' it became clear that there was more required than just providing an inclusive playground, and that we needed to undertake an approach that looked at the park as a whole. Making sure everyone could safely access

the bathrooms, the street, parking or other park facilities safely. Features in the park, such as the ramps and pathways, no longer meet Australian standards and thus a full park master plan was required to make the whole space fully inclusive and compliant.

It should be noted that the Eastern end of the park will remain the formal end, with minimal works in that end of the park. Works being undertaken in the Eastern end are mainly to the pathways to make sure they comply with Australian Standard, and to offer more accessibility to the facilities from the access points including, the CBD from Weddin Street, churches and parking in Middle Street and the new inclusive playground in the Western end of the park. The round rose garden in front of the toilets will need to be removed to allow for the proper gradient of an accessible pathway. The roses, where possible, will be replanted along the Eastern end where the Weddin Street rose garden is being retained.

A report went to the 19 October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting requesting that Council endorse the draft Taylor Park Master Plan and it be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with the purpose of inviting submissions from the public. Everyone across the community, including councillors at the time, had the opportunity to provide further and final input into the draft master plan on public exhibition.

Four submissions were received, and a report went to the December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting outlining and addressing the submissions received.

Since the December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, staff submitted a successful application for the funding (currently under embargo) meaning the whole of the Taylor Park Master Plan (Stage 1 and Stage 2) can now be implemented.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy or legal implications.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There were questions raised at the December 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council about the budget for the project and how the project went from being an inclusive playground to a full masterplan with works to be completed across the entire park.

The project was originally funded through the SCCFr5 to the value of \$629,797.

Taking into consideration the need to make the play scape and amenities accessible and the feedback received in community consultation with a great desire to access and use the park as a whole, it was evident that the SCCFr5 funding would not be enough to achieve what was needed and what was desired by the community. Therefore, the Taylor Park master plan was done in a way that it could be completed in stages, as funding became available.

Council and the 'Touched by Olivia Foundation' went out with a request for quote (RFQ) for the Masterplan, in which sala4D were engaged to undertake. As part of their scope, and so Council didn't incur a cost variation (to ensure best value for money) consultation was undertaken before (this was the community consultation) and after (this as the public exhibition) the plans were submitted for adoption. What is presented to Council has ensured the best use of these resources and to avoid additional costs to the project.

As stated above, staff were successful with their application to the funding (under embargo), receiving \$592,318.00 for the stage 2 works. Though the full amount requested was not granted, savings can be made now that both stages can be undertaken at the same time.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The 'Touched by Olivia' foundation has been involved from the very beginning, including in pre-design with extensive consultation right across the community. The landscape architects used the feedback from the community consultation, as well as from the 'Touched by Olivia' Foundation to produce the Taylor Park Master Plan.

Council received four (4) submissions relating to the draft Master Plan when it went on public exhibition in October 2023 and a report was presented to Council in December 2023 outlining the submissions and addressing them.

Information about the project, including the Masterplan can be found on Councils website.

CONCLUSION

That Council note stage 2 funding has now been received and endorse the full implementation of the Taylor Park Master Plan.



‘Lizard Lookout’ Taylor Park Masterplan

The concept for the Taylor Park Masterplan playspace is Lizard Lookout. It will be invocative of lizards on timber, getting high to look out over the rest of the park. You’ll need to scurry around the maze to get to the top though, having opportunities for play all along the way!

The design provides different areas for different uses and different users of the park. A fence around the majority of the play space and picnic facilities allows carers to come and feel relaxed, while children can take advantage of the accessible loop path network and the many play elements that connect to it.

There is an active play area with swings and a flying fox, next to the central path, a grass kick-about area under the existing trees; a quieter area including nature play; a toddler space and a youth zone. All these spaces are looked over by the Lizard Lookout with a big accessible slide, so everyone can use it.

Outside of the fenced playspace, the rest of the park will be made more accessible, with paths improved with ramps and handrails. Another big picnic area will be installed and a space for outdoor movies created on the western side of the bandstand.

Universal design principles and the NSW Government, ‘Everyone Can Play’ guidelines have been applied throughout the concept development of the playspace and the activities offered within it.

Space for carers, such as seating, is located around the playspace to ensure quality surveillance and a sense of comfort for all.

The provision of amenity for a wide range of users and carers results in everyone feeling welcome and therefore feeling like Taylor Park, with it’s Lizard Lookout, is a great place to be!

sala4D

Taylor Park, Grenfell, Redevelopment & Playspace - Touched by Olivia

Issue 05.12.23



sala4D

Taylor Park, Grenfell, Redevelopment & Playspace - Touched by Olivia

'Lizard Lookout' Artist's Impression

Issue 05.12.23





sala4D

Taylor Park, Grenfell, Redevelopment & Playspace - Touched by Olivia

'Lizard Lookout' Taylor Park Materplan

NTS @A3 Issue 05.12.23



1 'Giant Pendulum Nest Swing' positioned in a poured softfall path provides accessible play and a landmark attraction for people of all abilities to play together and socialise.



2 Playground fencing with pedestrian gates to keep the play area enclosed and secure for parents and carers.



4 Stacking of sandstone blocks for youth perching and seating from a vantage point.



3 Inclusive swing provides multi-use play and enjoyment.



5 Geometric climbing structure for free, non-prescriptive play.



6 Accessible flying fox which offers dynamic and inclusive play for all play abilities.



7 Percussion play chimes provide sensory and inclusive play.



8 Story poles aligned along the path, painted by a local artist reflecting the Wiradjuri culture and goanna totem.



9 Open lawn areas for informal ball games, running around and picnics.



10 Toddler zone with small sand pit and mound provides quiet play for little people.



11 Ramps to the Lizard Lookout become a fun maze to wheel around.



12 Bright, colourful musical play equipment provides fun for all.



13 Lizard Lookout provides a custom made play element within a sculptural tree trunk, which references the habitat of the Goanna. An internal ramp offers an exciting journey for all to the lookout, a net for lying and looking up to the sky, and a dignity slide down to repeat it again and again! Ladders and other hand-holds provide alternate play routes up the tree trunk.



14 Regular seating around the playspace and park provide comfort for all users.



16 The Aboriginal totem, the goanna, provides local and cultural design inspiration and context.



15 Nets for lounging and looking up to the sky offer an exciting underneath perspective and play experience in the lookout.



17 Planting of ornamental shade trees within grass and garden beds provide important shade and seasonal colour.



18 The bike education course, with an intersection, line marking and signage, offers young riders important safe riding skills.



19 Picnic shelters, accessible picnic tables and BBQs offer opportunity for everyone to stay longer and enjoy the park.



20 Engraving of the goanna into timber elements provides sensory play opportunities



21 Strong use of symbols in signage to assist communication for all.



22 Fiddlestick timber logs integrated within native grass planting.



23 Timber stepper logs used to create a network of play paths through the existing garden beds.



24 Talk tubes set within the garden beds offer sensory and interactive play value.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Livvi's Place at Taylor Park

August 2023



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Project Background

Council has received Stronger Country Community Funding - round 5 to improve the play provision, access and amenity of Taylor Park to create an inclusive playspace and park. The vision is to create a thriving community hub where locals and visitors can rest, recreate, gather and connect.

The Touched By Olivia Foundation is working with Weddin Shire Council to support the delivery of the exciting new inclusive play and recreation space in Taylor Park, referred to as Livvi's Place - Taylor Park. It will offer a unique and inclusive play experience, promoting play for everyone.

Extensive community consultation has taken place via face-to-face meetings and an online survey. Seeking and listening to all voices to gain an understanding of what the park is currently used for, by whom and the future wants and needs. The feedback received will help form the development of a draft

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Why do we need inclusive playspaces?

The Importance of Play

Many children in Australia do not have play opportunity because their local playspace is built without considering what is required for them to be able to play.

Connecting Community

Inclusively designed spaces bring communities together, strengthen family and community bonds, enhance social interactions and promote healthy lifestyle choices.

Access ≠ Inclusion

Inclusion is more than access. It's about feeling welcome, safe, valued and that you belong. It is about being able to participate with choice, value and independence. We challenge and change the way we use, design and build public spaces.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Initial Community Feedback

April/May 2023

Who did we speak to?

- Close to 200 community members including 140 children aged 6-16 years and 45 adults via
 - face to face community consultation
 - one on one sessions with key stakeholders/groups
 - Imagineer workshops at all schools
- 70 responses received through an online survey that ran over 8 weeks.

summary, the local community would like for the park to be activated and inviting for children, teens, families, greater Weddin Shire residents and visitors to enjoy.

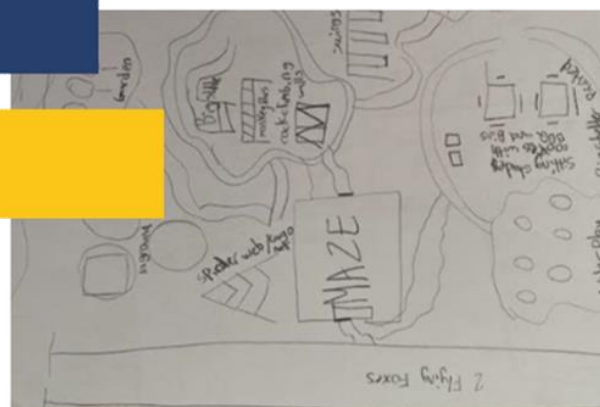
place that is theirs to play, gather, relax, connect, learn and celebrate together.

beautiful, fun and local park for individual and small group use, but then can stretch to accommodate for larger groups, parties and even whole community events.

an intergenerational space, supported with amenity, where everyone is safe, comfortable and able to participate in a connected community lifestyle.

Overwhelmingly, all stakeholders welcome the co-creation of the park to promote ownership and greater use of the space and people coming to town.

What the children said...



What would you like to DO there?

- Have fun!
- Play with others (when we come to town and parents do shopping)
- Relax, gather and chat, with others
- Go with the whole family
- Meet up before and after school
- Learn with kids from other schools
- Have BBQ's
- Have birthdays and parties there
- Be calm and relax
- Connect with nature – water/sand
- Kick a footy/run

How would you like to PLAY there?

- Climb, climb, climb
- Swing, hang, bounce
- Flying fox races
- Adventure / journey
- Imaginative play - tribes/shops/superheros

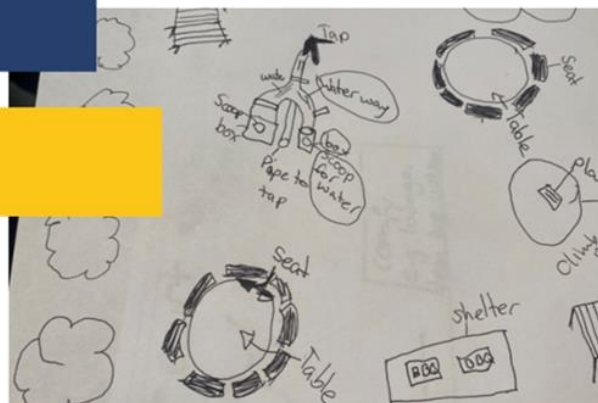
Over 90% of students indicated they wanted a comfortable and fun space they could spend time with others for free play, recreation and family gatherings.

High emphasis on making it beautiful, fresh and

What would you like to HAVE there?

- Equipment we can play together on
- Lots of seating, tables and benches
- More trees, gardens and play spaces under real trees
- Small spaces - caves, tee pees, cubbies
- Sensory/waterplay for when it's hot
- Learning/performance space
- Reading nooks and chessboard tables
- Nature play
- Habitats for animals – butterflies/ birds/ lizards
- Pathways that connect the park and playspace that we can journey around. With smaller spaces from them to gather chat and play in
- A sound space – with pots and spoons, egg-beater, tins joined by string, saucepan lids to clang, all tied to a low wall
- Scented garden – lavender, lemongrass, mint and different texture spikey, soft and mushy
- Bubblers
- Shade, BBQ's, tables and seating

What the teens said...



What would you like to DO there?

- Get together before and after school
- Get food and eat there together
- Hang out together
- Play music
- Study
- Have movie nights
- Go with whole family
- Move - be active - climb/swing/challenge
- Enjoy nature
- Think and relax
- Be in a beautiful space - gardens, art, sculpture
- Be with other people

What would you like to HAVE there?

- Enough seating to fit everyone in - BIG tables/benches
- Relaxed seating under trees – study space
- A bush tucker garden
- Age appropriate spaces and equipment - so we can be active and fit
- A water feature to look at or paddle in
- Flowers and gardens
- An amphitheatre/stage/performance space

How would you like it to look and feel?

- Nice colours and plantings
- Ensure it won't age and get old looking
- Have some privacy from people looking in at you
- Consider First Nations history with some art or sculpture – story poles
- Share our history of the gold rush and Henry Lawson
- Have the atmosphere of a gathering of community
- Sustainability with natural materials

What the adults said...



What would you like to SEE there?

- More shade and shelter from the sun, weather and the street
- Lots of seats and tables with shelter from sun and weather
- Access to water
- BBQs
- Lots of pathways with little break away spaces off them - little pods
- More trees - to be less exposed
- Green space
- Outdoor theatre, performance, events space, amphitheatre style
- NO Bark, its filthy and unsafe
- Use old tractors, tyres etc as play equipment.
- Lots of colours and planting
- Art and sculptures
- Connection to traditional history through art, sculpture and language

Play wise?

- Interesting equipment for group play, children to play together and able to play with adults too
- Equipment adults can fit on and move on
- Bike/trike track and can double as a walking track
- More challenging equipment, progression and graduated risk, to build them up to the skate park playground
- Climbing, swings, bouncing, flying fox
- Nature play – raw space, messy play, mud kitchen with water supply
- Sound makers

What the adults said cont...



What would you like to DO there / future use?

- Play with others - equipment we can play on together
- Relax, gather and chat with others
- Go with whole family (age appropriate spaces)
- Sensory/waterplay for when its hot
- Gather as play groups, youth groups, the schools and small community groups
- Celebrate birthdays and have parties

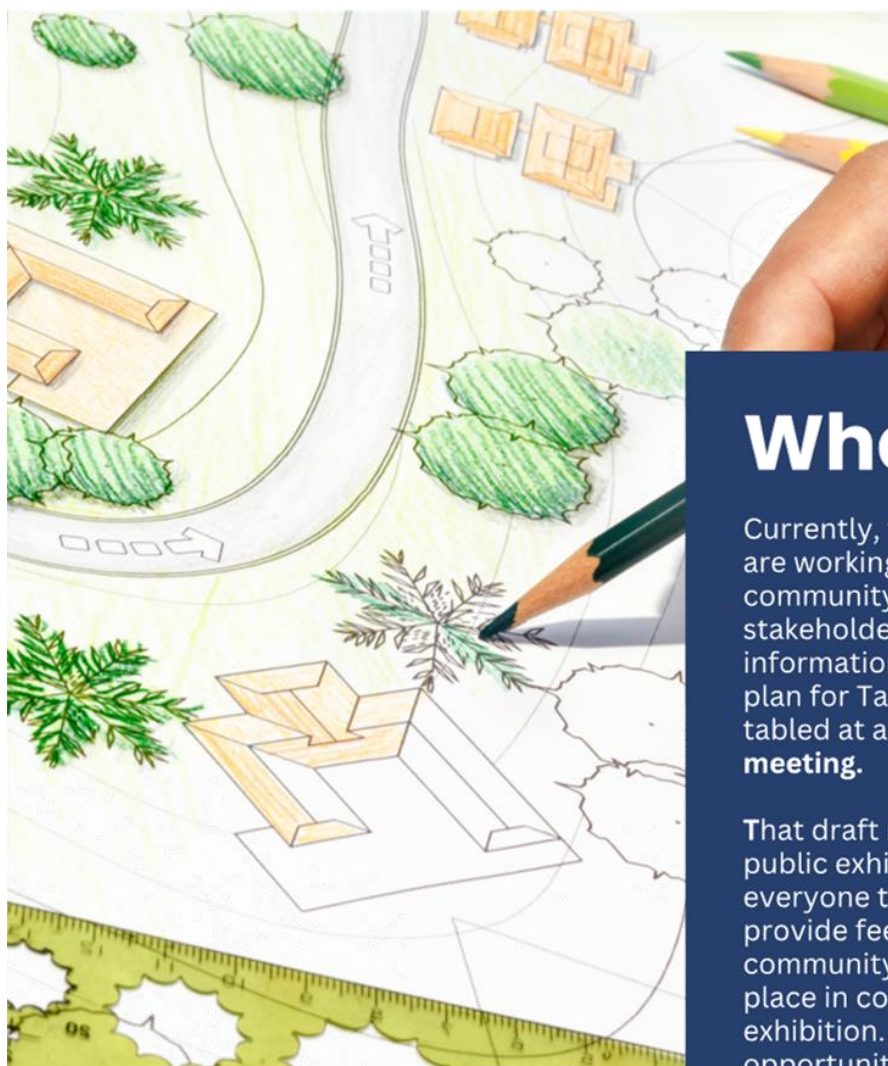
Overall vision for the space?

- An intergenerational space that has spaces and equipment for everyone to enjoy
- A beautiful, functional space that will unite the community and attract visitors to Grenfell
- Ability for it to expand for more large events – NAIDOC/carols/performances
- Great pathways, fencing and shade, BBQ's and tables and play equipment and some green space all within the fence line – a big space with lots to do in there

General Comments and input

- Parking needs to be considered - buses, funerals, school kids pick up. Drop off zone required. Tourist traffic to be considered
- Rotunda is no longer fit for purpose - size, location and ability to use modern AV equipment. Needs to be updated and perhaps even relocated and upgraded as a central focal point for events and increase the use of the park as an event space
- Rosebushes are hazards and dangerous as children running into them
- The skate park is for older children only and is very dangerous for smaller children
- Also poorly laid out for supervision and general use, too spread out

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Whats next?

Currently, the landscape architects are working through all of the community consultation and stakeholder engagement information to form a draft master plan for Taylor Park. This will be tabled at an **upcoming Council meeting**.

That draft master plan will go on public exhibition for 28 days, giving everyone the opportunity to provide feedback. Further community engagement will take place in conjunction with the public exhibition. This will be the last opportunity for changes to be made to the master plan.

All the feedback will be collated and provided to the landscape architects. They will take this information into consideration when pulling together the final master plan.

The final master plan will be presented to council for adoption. Once it has been adopted tenders will start going out for various aspects of the redevelopment.

Should you have any questions about the Taylor Park project please do not hesitate to contact Weddin Shire Council on:

Phone: 02 6343 1212

Email: mail@weddin.nsw.gov.au



11.5 WEDDIN SHIRE CHRISTMAS DISPLAY COMPETITIONS 2024

File Number:	T4.3.1
Author:	Grenfell VIC Arts & Tourism Officer
Authoriser:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	Nil
CSP Objective:	Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community
Precis:	Council traditionally holds an annual Christmas Display Competition
Budget:	\$1,050 from the Corporate Admin Services budget

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Notes the information contained in this report.
2. Approve the annual Grenfell Christmas Display Competition through a donation of \$450 (First prize: \$200; Second prize: \$150; and Third prize: \$100)
3. Support the Christmas Display Competition in the villages of Bimbi, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Quandialla through a donation of \$150 to each village through the progress group or hall committee and for their own administration of the donation.
4. Approve a permanent budget for the Weddin Shire Christmas Display Competitions of \$1,050.00 made up as above in points 1 and 2 of this recommendation.

PURPOSE

To seek Council's agreement to support the Weddin Shire Christmas Display Competitions in Grenfell, and in the villages (Bimbi, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Quandialla). And to create a permanent vote for this annual activity.

BACKGROUND

Council traditionally holds an annual Christmas Display Competition in Grenfell with the prize money of \$450 sourced from Council. The winners will be determined by an 'out of town judge' organised by the Arts, Tourism & Events staff, the judge being another Council Officer within the Central West Joint Organisation. Winners for the Grenfell competition are announced at the Combined Services Club Christmas Carnival in Vaughan Park.

The villages of Bimbi, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Quandialla receive \$150 each for their Christmas Display Competitions donated from Council. Winners and prize money for the villages for the Christmas Display Competition will be determined by the Hall/Progress Committees of the respective villages.

Winners from the Grenfell and village competitions will be included in the Grenfell Record in January.

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

The Weddin Shire Christmas Display Competition is an annual highlight for those who participate and those who tour the shire to look at displays and lights.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The financial amount for Council is the same as last financial year of \$1,050.00. This is funded from the Corporate Admin Services budget. The following amounts are proposed:

- \$150 being donated to each village through their progress group or hall committee for the Christmas Display Competition for the villages of Bimbi, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Quandialla totalling \$600.
- \$450 for the Grenfell Christmas Display Competition (First prize: \$200; Second prize: \$150; and Third prize: \$100).

Council Officers traditionally table a report to the Council each year regarding the Christmas display competition and budget is accommodated at the preparation of each annual budget. Moving forward, a permanent resolution is proposed to allow staff to administer the program without the administration burden of tabling this to council every year. The Council will be informed of the launch of the competition each year.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Following the meeting, the Arts, Tourism & Events staff will write to all village progress groups/hall committees to advise them of the donation.

The Grenfell Christmas Display Competition will be advertised on Council's website, Grenfell Record and social media.

CONCLUSION

The planning for the 2024 Weddin Shire Christmas Display Competitions needs to get underway. It is proposed that all villages of Bimbi, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Quandialla are provided \$150 donation each and \$450 for prize money for the Grenfell Christmas Display Competition all funded from the Corporate Admin Services budget.

The Christmas Display Competition is an annual highlight for those who participate and those who tour the shire to look at displays and lights. And as such it is recommended that an annual permanent budget be established of \$1,050 and administered by the Arts, Events and Tourism team.

11.6 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES IN GRENFELL & VILLAGES 2025

File Number:	C1.5.2
Author:	Arts, Tourism & Events Coordinator
Authoriser:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	Nil
CSP Objective:	Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community
Precis:	Council traditionally presents a number of Australia Day Awards with preparations beginning in October. Council donates to the villages in Weddin Shire towards Australia Day celebrations
Budget:	Australia Day Budget from Community - Events budget

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note:

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

PURPOSE

To provide the Council information on the Australia Day including the events and Awards Ceremony.

BACKGROUND

Council traditionally presents a number of Weddin Shire awards at the annual Australia Day Ceremony in Grenfell. The call for nominations opened in September 2024 and close on Friday 20 December 2024.

The nomination assessment panel consists of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager who will determine the winners to be announced on Australia Day.

The villages in Weddin Shire have also conducted Australia Day Celebration activities with Council donating \$250 each to Greenethorpe, Quandialla, Bimbi and Caragabal through their Hall/Progress Committees.

Like previous years, the Grenfell ceremony will be organised by the Arts, Tourism and Event staff in conjunction with the Australia Day Committee, with the event taking place in Taylor Park and catering provided by the local service clubs.

Council's Arts, Tourism and Event staff have been successful the last two years in their application for funding in the Australia Day Community Events Grant Program, and have applied again for 2025.

Council's Arts, Tourism and Event staff will also once again apply for an Australia Day Ambassador, with the allocated Ambassador announced in December when further details are known.

It is anticipated that the Hall/Progress Committees in each village will again organise their respective village ceremonies and they may also provide some village awards.

Award Categories will remain as per previous years, as outlined below, and that it is for residents who live within the Weddin Local Government area for the following categories:

- Weddin Shire Citizen of the Year
- Weddin Shire Senior Citizen of the Year
- Weddin Shire Community Event/Organisation of the Year
- Weddin Shire Community Achievement Awards (Selection Committee be authorised to award 'Community Achievement Awards' to deserving nominations in any category)
- Weddin Shire Youth Achievement Award – each secondary and primary school in the Shire
- HSC Academic Achievement Award – The Henry Lawson High School

At the October 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council endorsed a Mayoral Minute for a permanent Australia Day vote to also include Pre Australia Day activities with the amount to be determined each financial year. Noting that if staff are successful with the grant application this will not be required.

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

As there are a number of ceremonies across the local government area, it is suggested that closer to Australia Day, Councillors consider sharing the load and attending the ceremonies in Grenfell and the villages.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Australia Day volunteers will be listed on Council's Voluntary Workers list for insurance purposes.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The budget for the 2025 event is \$6,500. The budget has already been endorsed by Council for this purpose.

- \$4,000 pre Australia Day activities (Pre-Australia Day nominee dinner)
- \$1,500 Grenfell Australia Day activities
- \$1,000 village donation (\$250 to each village; Greenethorpe, Quandialla, Caragabal and Bimbi).

Should Council be successful in receiving the Australia Day Community Events Grant Program, costs to Council may be significantly reduced.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Calls for nominations have opened and close on 20 December 2024. This will be advertised in the Grenfell Record, Facebook, Council's website and promoted to the village progress groups and other community organisations.

CONCLUSION

The planning for the 2025 Australia Day Awards Ceremony is underway, with the first organising committee meeting to be held on 19 November 2024.

Nominations for the Weddin Shire award categories have opened and close on 20 December 2024.

Winners will be determined by the nomination assessment panel.

Donations of \$250 will be given to each village of Bimbi, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Quandialla.

The Arts, Tourism & Event staff will be applying for funding from the National Australia Day Council for the Australia Day Community Events Grant Program for Australia Day activities. As well as for an Australia Day Ambassador.

12 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT - OCTOBER 2024

File Number:

Author: Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services

Authoriser: Acting Director of Infrastructure

Attachments: Nil

CSP Objective: Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

Precis: Infrastructure Works Report

Budget: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the information provided on infrastructure works completed in September 2024 and planned works for October 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following information is to update Councillors and the 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 September 2024 and planned works for October 2024.

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	\$1,736,708.30	<p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads Submitted scope of works to TfNSW for approval (last correspondence 27 September 2024) Package 2 Scope includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Unsealed roads (non-priority) o Tree & vegetation clearing <p>Roads included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbots Lane • Adams Lane • Adams Lane North • Adelargo Road • Andersons Road • Arramagong Road • Back Piney Range Road • Bald Hills Road • Beazleys Lane • Bembricks Lane • Berendebba Lane • Bewleys Road • Bimbi St (Caragabal-Quandialla Road) • Bobelar Lane • Campbells Lane • Clay Pit Road • Dixons Lane • Dunkleys Lane • Eualdrie Road • Eves Lane • Gerrybang Road-I • Gerrybang Road-II • Gibraltar Rocks Road • Goodes Lane • Grants Lane • Grimms Lane • Hancock-Flinns Road • Hancock-Williams Road • Hazells Road • Healys Road • Heathcotes Lane • Holy Camp Road • Kangaroooby Road • Major West Road

AGRN Event	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCanns Lane • McDonalds Lane • Melyra Street • Napiers Road • O'Loughlins Lane • Peaks Creek Road • Piney Range Hall Road • Pinnacle Road • Reeves Lane • Sandy Creek Road • South Street • Taylors Road • West Street • Yambira Road
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P3 Priority Patches	\$7,211,868.03	<p>\$7,211,868.03 upper limit is approved by TfNSW for Package 3.</p> <p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads</p> <p>Submitted scope of works to TfNSW for approval (last correspondence 19 September 2024)</p> <p>90% complete</p> <p>Overall Scope includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line marking work on Henry Lawson Way to start mid October 2024 • Driftway Road • Deaths Lane • Henry Lawson Way - Forbes • Morangarell Road • Quandialla Caragabal Road
1034 - 14 September onwards	EPA-RW - P4 - North Patching	\$6,092,819.36	<p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads</p> <p>Council is working with TfNSW on the revised scope of works for Package 4. TfNSW is disputing contractor rates (market rate with no mark up). Other issues were also raised whereby assessors did not look at photos to see straightness test on subgrade issues and other pavement issues. Council has submitted a submission back to TfNSW and awaiting a response. The matter has been corresponded with the Minister for Regional Roads (last correspondence 12 June 2024).</p> <p>Roads included in Package 4 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adelargo Road • Bald Hills Road - East West

AGRN Event	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballendene Road • Bewleys Road • Goodes Lane • Gooloogong Road (MR237) • Hunters Road • Keiths Lane • Mortray Road • Muncks Lane • Piney Range Hall Road • Sandy Creek Road
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P5 - South Patching	\$10,726,397.41	<p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads Submitted scope of works to TfNSW for Package 5 approval (last correspondence 15 May 2024) Scope of works include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Piney Range Road • Berrys Road • Bimbi-Quandialla Road • Bimbi-Thuddungra Road • Bland Road • Edward Square, Greenethorpe • Eualdrie Road • Gambarra Road • Gerrybang Road • Gooloogong Road (R096/MR237) • Greenethorpe-Bumbaldry Road • Greenethorpe-Koorawatha Road • Grenfell Street • Holy Camp Road • landra Road • James Street • Martins Lane • Melyra Street • Murrays Lane • Newton Street • Nowlans Road • Old Forbes Road • Sale Street • Second Street • South Street • Talbot Street • Third Street • Tyagong Creek Road • Wirega-Greenethorpe Road
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P6 - Priority Unsealed	\$1,103,072.01	Scope for Package 6 includes medium and heavy formation grading of unsealed roads.

AGRN Event	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
			85% of work completed (last correspondence 19 August 2024) Roads included are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arramagong Road • Bald Hills Road • Barkers Road East • Barkers Road North • Gannons Lane • Lynchs Road • Maddens Lane • McCanns Lane • Napiers Road • Nealons Lane • Reeves Lane
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P7 - Drain Cleaning	\$1,550,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council providing scope and photos • Submission due date 30 October 2024
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P7 - Sinking Culverts	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council providing scope and photos • Submission due date 30 October 2024

STATE ROADS

- An update of the standard RMCC report will be provided in November 2024, due to the change to bi-monthly reporting.

MAJOR WORKS

Pullabooka Road Drainage and Resurfacing

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

Greenethorpe-Koorawatha Road Rehabilitation

- All works due to be completed by end November 2024.

Nowlans Road Upgrade

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

Arramagong Road Culvert Replacement

- Council is planning to start construction works end of January 2025.

Heathcotes Lane Culvert Replacement

- Council has submitted the project completion report (PCR) to TfNSW and is awaiting the final payment.

Caragabal Shared Pathway

- Council is waiting for ARTC to install the rubber matting on the railway corridor, due December 2024. Once the work is concluded, Council will complete the remaining 20m construction (both sides of the railway corridor).

Grenfell Cemetery Amenities

- Council Engineers have met with the installation contractor and they have told us that the solar powered single Unisex/Disabled Toilet will be fully completed by late October 2024.

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.

Maintenance Grading

- Dodds Lane (incorporating Quondong Road and Lynches Lane) is complete

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 St
- Mowed and whipper snipped Melyra St
- Mowed and whipper snipped Brundah St
- Set sprinklers in Memorial Park
- Repaired sprinkler system in Rotary Park
- Weeded the daisies garden bed in Rygate Square

Town Maintenance

- Mulched all garden beds in Main Street
- Checked and fixed sprinklers in Taylor Park as well as Memorial Park

- Whipper snipped around all islands on the road within the Grenfell town area
- Whipper snipped around guard railing
- 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 September 2024			
BF06280	Isuzu	Service @rego check	both truck @ pump motor
BF01385	Mitsubishi	Service @rego check	both truck @ pump motor
BF04189	Isuzu	Service @rego check	both truck @ pump motor
BF02573	Isuzu	Service @rego check	both truck @ pump motor
BF05863	Isuzu	Service @rego check	both truck @ pump motor
4120	Volvo	Full service	Sent to Sydney for trans replacement warranty
4105	Caterpillar	Full service	4 tyres fitted all filters changed
4102	Caterpillar	Fuel service hose replacement	
3957	Western Star	Suspension	Air bag replacementx4
4113	Multipac	Full service	Repair forward @ reverse shuttle
2083	Nissan	Engine fail	Replace turbo exhaust manifold
3952	Kenworth	All brakes locked up	R14 valves @JS2 valve replacement
3962	Isuzu	Wheel bearing	Replace
4123	Kubota	Light damage	Replace
4125	Kubota	Mower blade replace	
2109	Triton	Steering	Sent to Young for warranty
2100	Toyota	Service @battery	Check all

Plant Report for September 2024			
4095	John Deer	Service @replace front tyre	
4121	140 Grader	Service	500hr service
5292	Sweeper	Bearing	Worn replaced
5288	Slasher	Blade	Replace
5237	Rapid Spray	Remote broken	Replace
5202	Howard	Blades	Replace
4110	Toro	Service	Blade replacement
4116	Toro	Service ride on	Full service
4117	Toro	Service ride on	Full service @blades
3966	Hino	Service	Sent to Wagga for TDI water valves faulty
3965	Iveco	Garbage truck lift arms replaced	
3959	Tri axle	Brakes	Replace boosters
3960	Tri axle	Rear door	Repair hinges
5258	Coolroom	Broken leg stand	Replace
5355	Gravley	Service	Blade replace @service
3229	Delta	Repair lights	Replace broken lights
5300	Husqvarna	Blade replace	
2097	Nissan	Service	Check all driveline
1114	Toyota	Rear damage report	Panel beater noted
3956	Low Loader	Brake	Adjustment
3961	Isuzu	Service	Full service
4106	Back hoe	Service	Grease @service

Council has recently disposed of its obsolete JetPatcher through auction and Council has obtained a replacement rental of an updated similar JetPatcher.

BIOSECURITY

Spray Vehicle Breakdown

Weed spraying did not occur in September, due to the spray vehicle being inoperable for 5 weeks, while parts were sourced. The spray vehicle was repaired in the first week of October.

Priority was changed to inspections and spray planning for October 2024.

ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly report, mapping, BIS uploads, inspections and weeds loaded on Chartis Weeds App, email correspondence, review weed spraying program and plan of action, review relevant budget totals, review/reply Service Requests when received.
Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handing out merchandise to raise weed awareness. Social media campaign has commenced (noted weeds posted in September: sticky nightshade). More to come Spot and Report signs waiting installation
Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed information mapped, synced and uploaded to DPI. Working on inputting data when a drone is used.
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Infrastructure works meeting
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continual drone training/practise EMtrain online modules Local weed identification Snake Awareness Parthenium delineation
Private Property Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal inspections using drone for training Information packages for landholders to receive during inspections or on request Inspections organisation in progress
Roadside Inspections and On-ground Control, if Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous roadside inspections Limited control and environmental conditions allow
Council Owned Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council owned /managed vacant land, Grenfell and village areas.
Travelling Stock Route (TSR) Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forbes Road, Mary Gilmore Way, SH6, SH17, Gooloogong Road & Reserves on non TSR roads
Rail Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pullabooka & Quandialla area. Working on having the rail lines treated and updating relevant contacts and approval process
Other High Risk Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cemetery, silos, camping areas, including National Parks and rest areas.
Sucker Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited sucker spraying, treated on sighting, when conditions allow.

Biological Control

- Ongoing research in Biocontrol for additional tools for use in Priority weed control
- African boxthorn rust release with State Forest in June 2024, will monitor throughout coming months, new release site planned & release will be early October

Other

- Mentoring staff members in Biosecurity.

Chemicals Used for Weed Spraying

The following chemicals were used in September:

- Nil

MAIN STREET UPDATE**Disabled Parking in Main Street**

Disabled parking needs to be completed in front of IGA, and opposite side of road when dry weather allows. We also need to install a disabled bollard at each 'Shared Parking Area'.

CCTV

Technicians from Young Locksmiths are at present making modifications to the wiring of the communication bridges.

The next step in the project is to align the cameras to Council's required areas of coverage, this process is scheduled for completion by Friday, 4 October 2024, once completed, all Main Street cameras will be operable.

Other

Council has received a quotation from a line-marker who can complete all the remaining road markings at the roundabout.

WEDDIN SHIRE ENTRY SIGNS UPDATE**Weddin Shire Road Entry Signs**

- The Contractor who installed the Weddin Shire Entry Signs is due to return in November 2024 to install the sign at Gooloogong Road and change the dates on the signs near Cowra Road and the Grenfell Cemetery from 1869 to 1866.
- The project also includes the installation of solar lights.

13 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 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 August to 31 August 2024 and 1 September to 30 September 2024.

Budget: Nil

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Council Officers under delegated authority, can exercise the power to determine development applications, complying development certificates and construction certificates.

The following provides a list of the development applications, complying development applications and construction certificate applications determined within the Weddin Shire during the months of August and September 2024.

Development Applications Determined by Council

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

August

DA NO.	Applicant	Construction	Value (\$)	Address
21/2024	Mr C Kendall	Relocatable Dwelling	\$317,200	LOT: 15 DP: 1193276 21-23 Star Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
23/2024	Ms MM Ingold	Installation of inground swimming pool	\$56,600	LOT: 2 DP: 1083840 135 Adelargo Road GRENFELL NSW 2810
24/2024	Andy's Design & Drafting	Dwelling Additions (Outdoor Entertainment Area)	\$ 66,300	LOT: 9 DP: 1016394 36 Murrays Lane GRENFELL NSW 2810
25/2024	Mr BM Cartwright	Shed	\$10,000	LOT: 5 DP: 1072519 62 Quondong Road GRENFELL NSW 2810

DA NO.	Applicant	Construction	Value (\$)	Address
26/2024	Mrs MR D'Ombra	Demolish existing house and erection of new dwelling	\$749,800	LOT: 6 SEC: 22 DP: 758473 13 East Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
27/2024	Andy's Design & Drafting	Alterations and additions to dwelling	\$49,200	LOT: 1 DP: 398137 25 Dagmar Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
28/2024	Mrs S Brown	New Shed	\$7,615	LOT: B DP: 306003 14 East Street GRENFELL NSW 2810

September

DA NO.	Applicant	Construction	Value (\$)	Address
29/2024	Mr GJ Rolls	Subdivision (Boundary Adjustment)	\$0	LOT: 167 DP: 132820 2349 Gooloogong Road GRENFELL NSW 2810 & LOT: 112 DP: 787961 454 New Forbes Road GRENFELL NSW 2810
Mod 5/2023	Mr K Lupis	Change the number of proposed allotments from 5 to 3.	\$0	LOT: 72 DP: 1148241 1D North Street GRENFELL NSW 2810

Complying Development Applications

The following complying development certificate applications were approved within the Shire in August and September 2024 by Council or any other Principal Certifiers.

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

Construction Certificates

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

August

CC NO.	Applicant	Construction	Address
18/2024	Mrs JM Dawes	Installation of aboveground swimming pool and barrier	LOT: 1 DP: 724965 72 West Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
23/2024	Ms MM Ingold	Installation of inground swimming pool	LOT: 2 DP: 1083840 135 Adelargo Road GRENFELL NSW 2810

September

CC NO.	Applicant	Construction	Address
Mod 31/2021	Mrs S McLelland	Tourist & Visitor Accommodation (14 Units)	LOT: 100 DP: 1292773 Cross Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
Mod 17/2022	Mr AR Lindsay	2 WC Brick building to a single accessible WC Modular building	LOT: 7369 DP: 1179298 Henry Lawson Way GRENFELL NSW 2810

13.2 WASTE 2 ART COMPETITION**File Number:****Author:** Executive Assistant to the Director Environmental Services**Authoriser:** Director Environmental Services**Attachments:** Nil**CSP Objective:** Innovation in service delivery (healthy, safe and educated community)**Precis:** Council chose to be part of the Waste 2 Art Competition in 2024, with local entrants being awarded.**Budget:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION****That:**

1. Council note the report on the 2024 Waste 2 Art Competition.
2. The Mayor write to each local Waste 2 Art winner congratulating them on their winning artwork.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors and the community of the Waste 2 Art Competition completed during 2024.

BACKGROUND

Waste 2 Art is a community art exhibition and competition open to residents in the NetWaste region. It engages the community and showcases creative works made from reused and recyclable waste materials with a different theme each year. The theme for 2024 was "Packaging".

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

This year Council chose to be part of the competition, commencing with the school categories.

Three (3) of the local schools chose to take part in the local competition. The competition categories offered this year included:

Primary School

- 2 Dimensional
- 3 Dimensional
- Functional – furniture, craftworks & wearable items made from recycled materials

Secondary School

- 2 Dimensional
- 3 Dimensional
- Functional – furniture, craftworks & wearable items made from recycled materials

As part of the implementation of the Waste 2 Art Competition, the NetWaste Environmental Learning Advisor, Bill Tink along with Councils Health and Building Services Officer, Isabel Holmes, conducted workshops at Greenethorpe and Quandialla Public Schools. These workshops were well received by the both the teachers and students.

A local exhibition was held in conjunction with the Henry Lawson Festival at the Community HUB. Judging was undertaken with the following local winners being awarded:

Quandialla Public School

Primary 3D - Kate Johnston "Slimy Snail"

Primary 2D - Jane Johnston "Oakly"

Greenethorpe Public School

Primary 3D - Matilda Wills "Zebra"

The Henry Lawson High School

Functional – Ebony Dowd & Sammy Mitton "Australian Atlena"



Figure 1. Picture of Waste to Art project on display at Henry Lawson Festival.

The winners from the local competition were showcased at the Regional Competition and Exhibition which was hosted by Parkes Shire Council during 10 – 31 August 2024.

This year Jane Johnston with her artwork “Oak” was awarded with 1st Prize in the 3D Primary School section for the region. Jane received a certificate and prize money for her winning artwork.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy or legal implication as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

As part of the local competition, prize money was provided to the winners of each category. This prizemoney was mainly funded from an allocation provided from NetWaste.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

No internal or external consultation was required to be undertaken as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION

Council chose to be part of the Waste 2 Art competition during 2024. Three (3) of the local schools chose to take part in the local competition, with local winners being awarded. Winning entries were entered into the Regional Competition, with one local entrant winning 1st prize in the 3D Primary School Section.

13.3 2024-2025 LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS

File Number:	H2.5.2.22
Author:	Executive Assistant to the Director Environmental Services
Authoriser:	Director Environmental Services
Attachments:	Nil
CSP Objective:	Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments
Precis:	An evaluation of the applications submitted for the 2024-2025 Weddin Shire Local Heritage Grants program has been undertaken and recommendations made for the allocation of available funding.
Budget:	Funding will be sourced from the Local Heritage Grant budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. Council note the report of the Weddin Shire Local Heritage Grant Program.
2. Council authorise the Director Environmental Service to assess the 2024-2025 grant applications in conjunction with Council's Heritage Advisor, and offer any available funding to the projects based on their assessed priority and ability to complete the project within the funding timeframe.

PURPOSE

To evaluate applications submitted for the 2024-2025 Weddin Shire Local Heritage Grants program and allocate available funding to each successful application based on their priority and ability to complete the project within the funding timeframes.

BACKGROUND

Each year Council provides a Local Heritage Grants program for local residents and organisations. This program is jointly funded by Council and Heritage NSW.

Heritage NSW has simplified the Local Government Heritage Grant program to support, promote and realise the values of local heritage. In previous years, Council was required to submit separate funding applications each year for Small Local Grants and for the Local Heritage Advisor Service. Now only one funding application is required to be submitted to Heritage NSW to cover both services.

Council was successful in obtaining a total of \$25,000 (ex. GST) in funding to be delivered between July 2023 and May 2025. Council received half the funding totalling \$12,500 in July 2023, with \$5,500 being allocated to the Weddin Shire Local Heritage Grants program. While this funding does not require matching funding from Council, an additional \$10,000 was allocated in Councils 2023-2024 budget for the program, resulting in a total of \$15,500 being available. The funding for the 2023-2024 financial year was allocated to four (4) projects.

WEDDIN SHIRE LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM

The Weddin Shire Local Heritage Grants program provides funding for the following purposes –

- conservation and maintenance works;
- to meet Building Code Australia upgrades (fire, services, and access) for ongoing and new uses; and
- for heritage items and items in conservation areas as identified in the Weddin Local Environmental Plan 2011.

The Funding is available for projects involving:

- listed heritage items in the 2011 Weddin Local Environmental Plan;
- buildings located within a conservation area in the Local Environmental Plan;
- buildings which are supported by the council's heritage advisor or other heritage specialist as being of heritage significance;
- Structural works that will extend the life of an important building;
- Reconstruction or restoration of the original details of building components such as windows, verandahs and fences;
- Painting in sympathetic colours;
- Repair or replacement of roofing, guttering and drainage; and
- Removal of inappropriate alterations or additions (e.g. verandah infill, aluminium windows).

Applications for the 2024-2025 Weddin Shire Local Heritage Grants program opened on 3 June 2024 and closed on 30 June 2024. A total of five (5) applications were received.

The four (4) approved projects in the 2023-2024 financial year were not completed during that year, therefore the applicable funding was reallocated to these projects during the 2024-2025 year. Additional Council funding was not allocated to the Small Heritage Grants in the 2024-2025 financial year budget. This has resulted in limited funding being available for the Small Heritage Grant program during the 2024-2025 financial year.

EVALUATION OF 2024-2025 FUNDING APPLICATIONS

In accordance with the Local Heritage Fund Guidelines, funding is targeted to projects:

- with sustainable long-term heritage benefits;
- that are for public benefit and enjoyment
- that show innovation and leadership;
- where the project partners have the capacity and commitment to undertake the project;
- that demonstrate funding equity and cost effectiveness;
- that provide a degree of visibility to the public.

Further to the above, funding is allocated taking into account the extent of previous funding, ability to complete the project within an appropriate timeframe, evidence of tradesperson or suppliers quotes, and compliance with relevant legislation.

Successful applicants can only be reimbursed up to a maximum of 50% of the cost of the approved works, in accordance with the approved funding allocation for the project. Successful applicants will only be reimbursed their funding allocation when receipts are submitted on completion of the approved works and a final inspection by Council has been undertaken.

Councils Director Environmental Services and Councils Heritage Advisor have undertaken an evaluation of each application received during the 2024-2025 financial year. Most of the applications require further information, including quotations, in order to meet the funding guidelines.

As there is limited unallocated funding available for these current applications, funding will only be available if any of the projects approved during the 2023-2024 year fail to utilise their allocated funding, and it can be re-distributed to the current applications.

Rather than Council approving funding allocations during the current year, it is proposed that authority be given to the Director Environmental Services to assess the current applications in conjunction with Council's Heritage Advisor and offer any available funding to the projects based on their assessed priority and ability to complete the project within the given funding timeframe.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2024-2025 grant applications will be evaluated in accordance with the Local Heritage Fund Guidelines. All grant allocations will be subject to the requirements of the guidelines.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Small Heritage Grant Program utilises funding from Heritage NSW along with a funding allocation from Council. Council funding was not allocated to the program in the 2024-2025 budget, resulting in limited unallocated funding being available. Therefore, it is proposed that the current applications be assessed and offered any available funding based on their assessed priority and ability to complete the projects within the given funding timeframe. Any funding made available will be in accordance with the constraints of the current budget.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The grant applications were referred to Councils Heritage Advisor for evaluation. This evaluation was completed in conjunction with the Director Environmental Services. Most of the current applications require further information, in order to meet the requirements of the funding guidelines.

CONCLUSION

Council received a total of five (5) applications for the 2024/25 Weddin Shire Local Heritage Grants program. The applications were assessed in accordance with the Local Heritage Fund Guidelines and require further information. Due to limited non-allocated funding being available for the current applications, it is proposed that authority be given to the Director Environmental Services to assess the current applications in conjunction with Council's Heritage Advisor and offer any available funding to the projects based on their assessed priority and ability to complete the project within the funding timeframe.

14 DELEGATE(S) REPORTS

Nil

15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**15.1 COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT | REQUIRING ACTION - MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 14 AUGUST 2024**

File Number: C2.6.22

Author: Executive Assistant to the General Manager

Authoriser: Director Environmental Services

Attachments: 1. ATT 1 | Minutes_Heritage Committee Meeting | 14 August 2024

RECOMMENDATION

Except where otherwise dealt with, the Minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting held 14 August 2024 be noted and adopted as presented.

INFORMATION

The Weddin Shire Heritage Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday 14 August 2024, the Minutes from this meeting are attached for Council to note and adopt.



MINUTES

Heritage Committee Meeting Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Date: Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Time: 4.30PM

**Location: Council Chambers
Cnr Camp & Weddin Streets
GRENFELL NSW 2810**

Order Of Business

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**MINUTES OF WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL
HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CNR CAMP & WEDDIN STREETS, GRENFELL
NSW 2810
ON WEDNESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2024 AT 4.30PM**

1 OPENING

Those in attendance are asked to 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 ATTENDANCE**PRESENT:**

Mr Luke Sheehan (Director Environmental Services/Chair), Cr Phillip Diprose, Cr Glenda Howell, Mr John Hetherington, Mr William Matchett, Mr Andrew Reidy and Mrs Isabel Holmes (Observer)

APOLIGIES:

Mrs Susan Jackson-Stepowski (Heritage Advisor), Mrs Sandra Hughes (Historical Society Representative) and Cr Jason Kenah

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr J Hetherington
Seconded: Mr W Matchett

That the apologies be accepted.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**RECOMMENDATION**

That Minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting held 5 June 2024 be taken as read and **CONFIRMED**.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr J Hetherington
Seconded: Mr A Reidy

That Minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting held 5 June 2024 be taken as read and **CONFIRMED**.

5 MATTERS ARISING**5.1 STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR DIRECTION OF HERITAGE****File Number:** C2.6.22**Author:** Executive Assistant to the Director Environmental Services**Authoriser:** Director Environmental Services**Attachments:** Nil**CSP Objective:** Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community**Precis:** Strategic Plan for Heritage**Budget:** Nil**1. Heritage Promotion**

Mr Sheehan advised there has been no heritage promotion carried out.

2. Heritage Booklet

No further progress has been made on the booklets.

3. Signage – Cobb & Co

Mr Sheehan advised the sign has now been completed and installed. Members were shown photos of the sign.

RESOLVED

Moved: Mr J Hetherington

Seconded: Cr P Diprose

That an article and photos of the Cobb & Co sign be placed onto Council's facebook page, website and local paper.

4. Digitising Information

Mr Sheehan advised that he is still waiting to find out whether the Rates Books will be a part of the archives plan to transfer records.

5. 2024/25 Heritage Grants

Mr Sheehan advised that 5 application for grant funding have been received and will be assessed by the Heritage Advisor and himself.

5.2 GENERAL MATTERS ARISING

File Number: C2.6.22
Author: Executive Assistant to the Director Environmental Services
Authoriser: Director Environmental Services
Attachments: 1. Galvanised Sheeting
CSP Objective: Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community
Precis: General Matters
Budget: Nil

1. Hailstorm Damaged Roofs - Conservation Areas and Heritage Items

Mr Sheehan advised that Council is receiving letters of request and is assessing them individually.

2. Heritage Tourism Co-ordination

Mr Sheehan advised that the letter was noted at the Tourism meeting.

3. Heritage Trades Workshop

Mr Sheehan advised that no further action occurred.

4. Galvanised Sheeting

Mr Sheehan spoke about his report in relation to the galvanised sheeting warranties and Council owned buildings that currently have galvanised roofing.

Galvanised Sheeting

Max. Roof Sheeting Warranty	Galvanised Iron 15 years Z600 coating class only	Zincalume 36 years	Colorbond 45 years
Minimum Base Metal Thickness	0.6BMT	0.42BMT	0.42BMT
Gutters & Downpipes warranty available	No	Yes 12 Years	Yes 20 Years
Wall sheeting warranty available	No	Yes	Yes
Minimum roof pitch	5 Degrees	5 Degrees	5 Degrees
Warranty available for outbuildings	No	Yes	Yes

There is longer lead time for the supply of Z600 galvanised roof sheeting. This is due that it has to be sent from interstate to Sydney and then onto to the supplier location for rolling.

If galvanised roof sheeting is stacked and gets wet, it can quickly develop white rust.

The cost of Z600 galvanised roof sheeting is significantly more expensive than zincalume and colorbond.

The installation cost for Z600 galvanised roof sheeting are more than zincalume and colorbond.

Galvanic corrosion can be an issue depending on other metal components used in roof, guttering etc.

Council buildings with current galvanised roofing include:

- Small building at cemetery
- Hub Building in Main St
- East Street Units
- Weddin Street Office Building
- Museum
- RFS Building
- Weddin Street Doctors Surgery/Residence

Insurer has currently developed Scope of Works for the replacement of galvanised roofs, however given warranty issues, Council does have the ability to change to colorbond or zincalume.

6 CORRESPONDENCE**6.1 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

File Number: CS.6.22
Author: Executive Assistant to the Director Environmental Services
Authoriser: Director Environmental Services
Attachments: Nil
CSP Objective: Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community
Precis: Correspondence Received
Budget: Nil

1. Heritage Advisor – June 2024 Visit report**Noted**

Mr Sheehan spoke about the Broken Hill verandah restoration project and advised that it may be considered in the 2025/26 Council budget.

7 HERITAGE ADVISOR'S REPORT**7.1 HERITAGE ADVISOR'S VERBAL REPORT**

File Number: C2.6.22
Author: Executive Assistant to the Director Environmental Services
Authoriser: Director Environmental Services
Attachments: Nil
CSP Objective: Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community
Precis: Heritage Advisor's Verbal Report
Budget: Nil

No update was provided as Mrs Jackson-Stepowski was absent.

8 NEXT MEETING, 4 December 2024**9 CLOSURE**

The Meeting closed at 5.15pm.

16 CLOSED COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

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

16.1 RFT33/2024 - ROAD SEALING OF GREENETHORPE KOORAWATHA ROAD PROJECT

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

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an overview of the Request for Tender RFT33/2024 – Supply of Sealing Services - Greenethorpe Koorawatha Road Project and obtain a Council resolution to award the tender.

16.2 Tender for the Repair of Hail Damaged Buildings (Scope of Works 1)

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

The purpose of this report is to obtain a Council Resolution on Request for Tender 12/2023 – Repair of Hail Damaged Weddin Shire Council Buildings – Scope of Works 01.

16.3 Tender for Operation of Grenfell Waste Facility

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

The purpose of this report is to obtain a Council Resolution on Request for Tender 30/2024 - The Operation of the Grenfell Waste Facility.

16.4 RFT22/2024 SKID STEER ROAD PLANER WITH BROOM

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

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the evaluation information pertaining to RFT22/2024 and seek a Council Resolution on RFT22/2024.

- 17 RETURN TO OPEN COUNCIL**
- 18 REPORT ON CLOSED COUNCIL**
- 19 CLOSURE**