

Business Paper
Council Meeting
17 December 2024



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Meeting Dates	Time	Meeting	Location
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December 2024			
Tuesday 17	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers

January 2025			
Monday 6	8.30am	Council Re-opens	Council
Saturday 25	6:00pm	Australia Day Mayoral Reception	Wyalong Hall
Sunday 26	7.00am	Australia Day Celebrations	Barnado Park

February 2025			
Tuesday 4	6.00pm	Council Workshop	Council Chambers
Tuesday 18	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers

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Council Meeting Agenda

17 December 2024
commencing at 6:30PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. PRESENTAION TO COUNCIL
2. PUBLIC FORUM
3. RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT
4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
5. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE
6. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
 - 7.1 Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 19 November 2024
 - 7.2 Matters arising from Minutes
8. REPORTS FROM STAFF
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9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Section 1 – Executive Services

8.1 General Manager’s Performance Review Panel



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.3 The General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and other Council documents.

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Council’s General Manager (GM), Grant Baker commenced a 5 year contract of employment on 1 August 2022.

Following Local Government elections in September 2024, membership of the GM’s Performance Review Panel has not yet been determined.

Office of Local Government (OLG) Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of General Managers (2022) state that the Panel should consist of:

- The Mayor,
- The Deputy Mayor,
- A councillor nominated by Council, and
- A councillor nominated by the GM.

Council may also consider including an independent observer on the Panel.

Council should delegate the task of performance reviews of the GM to this Panel including discussions about performance, any actions that should be taken and the determination of the new performance agreement. Councillors not involved on the Panel will be provided opportunities to give feedback and input prior to the Panel convening their meetings.

The current Terms of Reference for the panel are provided **(attached)** for consideration and endorsement.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations

In accordance with section 23A of the Local Government Act (1993) the OLG has published Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of the General Manager, in line with the Standard Contract.

These are accessible on the OLG website and have been attached for Council information.
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines-for-the-Appointment-and-Oversight-of-General-Managers.pdf>

Council will engage an independent person with relevant local government skills and experience to act as facilitator for the Panel.

Financial Implications

The cost associated with the GM Performance Review Panel will be the independent facilitator, which is funded through existing budgetary allocations.

Summary

Council is required to have a General Manager's (GM) Performance Review Panel which is a Council Committee, established and delegated to:

- Conduct performance reviews of the GM
- Report the findings and recommendations of those reviews to council
- Develop the performance agreement

Council is required to review the performance of the GM at least once per year. The Panel will meet at least twice per year to discuss the performance of the GM. These meetings will be coordinated by the Mayor. The annual review will be undertaken by the Performance Review Panel and reported back to Council in closed session.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. confirm the Terms of Reference for the General Managers Performance Review Panel.
 2. delegate to this Council Committee the task of conducting Performance Reviews, reporting the findings and recommendations of those reviews to Council.
 3. nominate a Councillor to sit on the General Manager Performance Review Panel.
-

TERMS OF REFERENCE GM's PERFORMANCE REVIEW PANEL

1. Role

The Performance Review Panel's role includes:

- Conducting performance reviews
- Reporting the findings and recommendations of those reviews to council
- Development of the performance agreement.

2. Membership

Membership of the Panel comprises:

- The Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- A councillor nominated by Council, and
- A councillor nominated by the GM.

3. Independent Facilitator

An independent person with relevant local government skills and experience will be invited to act as Facilitator on the Panel as a non-voting member. This person will be selected by the Mayor in consultation with the Panel.

4. Responsibilities

The Panel is responsible for the management of all matters associated with the GM's performance including the conduct of performance reviews.

All Councillors on the Panel should receive training on the undertaking of Performance Reviews, establishment of the Performance Agreement and Oversight of the GM prior to the Panel convening.

The purpose of the Panel is to concentrate on constructive dialogue about the GM's performance against all sections of the current Performance Agreement.

All Councillors not on the Panel can contribute to the process by providing feedback to the Mayor on the GM's performance. All Councillors should be notified of relevant dates in the performance review cycle and be kept advised of the panel's findings and recommendations.

5. Meetings

Meetings will be held at least twice yearly to be arranged by the Mayor. Meeting outcomes and recommendations will be reported to Council in Closed Session.

6. Reference Resource

The Office of Local Government issued a s23A guideline to assist with the recruitment, oversight and performance management of general managers. Guidelines issued under s23A of the Act must be taken into consideration by Councils. The Guideline may be found at the link below:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines-for-the-Appointment-and-Oversight-of-General-Managers.pdf>

8.2 Delegates Report – LGNSW Conference



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.6 Regular consultation with key industry, business and stakeholders is undertaken

Author: General Manager

Introduction

The 2024 Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Conference was held at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre, Tamworth from Sunday 17 November to Tuesday 19 November. The Conference was attended by Mayor Monaghan (voting delegate), Councillors Henderson and Minogue, and the General Manager.

The Conference is the annual policy-making event for NSW Councils and the pre-eminent event on the Local Government calendar where Councillors have the opportunity to come together to share ideas, and debate issues that shape the way we are governed and build connections with Councillors and General Managers from across NSW. This was particularly beneficial for new Councillors following the recent Local Government elections in September.

Information

The Conference was attended by in excess of 900 delegates from across NSW. The highlights of the program were:-

Sunday 17 November

- Professional Development Session for new Councillors
- Panel Session with:
 - Brett Whitworth, Office of Local Government
 - Hon Helen Murrell, SC, ICAC
 - Bola Oyetunji, Auditor General
- Official Opening by Councillor Darriea Turley AM (President LGNSW)
- Key note presentations
 - The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Federal Minister for Regional Development Local Government and Territories (Pre-Recorded)
 - The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, NSW Minister for Local Government
 - Jennifer Aitchison MP, NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
 - Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government
- Welcome Reception

Monday 18 November

- Business Session (consideration of motions) chaired by Councillor Darriea Turley AM (President LGNSW)
- Conference Dinner

Tuesday 19 November

- Key note presentations and Q & A
 - Andy Johnston (LGIU) (Local Government Finance: challenges and opportunities)
 - Arjun Ramacandran and Jonathan Topham (elevenM) (Countering cyber threats - Protecting Your Council and Community)

- Kiersten Fishburn, NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI Work Program and upcoming priorities)
- Key note presentation by Liz Ellis AO (Planning for and expecting success – it doesn't happen by accident)

A feature of the Conference was the announcement of the A R Bluett Memorial Awards which were announced during the conference with the 2024 winners being:-

- Lake Macquarie City Council – Metro/Major Regional category
- Bega Valley Shire Council – Regional/Rural category

The A R Bluett Memorial Award has been awarded annually since 1945 in memory of Albert Robert Bluett. AR Bluett was an outstanding figure in local government, serving as the Secretary and Solicitor to the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW for 30 years and one of the architects of the Local Government Act of 1919.

The Conference included a trade display providing sponsors and other exhibitors an opportunity to promote their organisation or agency and network with delegates during refreshment breaks (teas and lunch).

Recommendation:

That the Delegates Report for the 2024 LGNSW Conference be received and noted.

8.3 Bland Shire Australia Day Awards Committee



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP4.1. Facilitate Council events to build social capital and a sense of belonging within the community

Author: General Manager

Introduction

The Australia Day Awards Committee meeting was held at the Bland Shire Council Chambers on Tuesday 3 December.

As per the Terms of Reference, after structured discussion the committee made a series of recommendations regarding the Australia Day Award recipients for the consideration of Council.

The recommendations are contained within the confidential minutes of the meeting and have been provided under separate cover for Council's consideration.

Arrangements are currently being made for a Mayoral Function on the evening prior to Australia Day, and Council staff are coordinating the Australia Day Breakfast event in conjunction with West Wyalong Lions Club.

Financial Implications

Australia Day Awards are funded from within existing budgetary allocations.

Summary

The Committee has made a series of recommendations regarding the recipients of the 2025 Australia Day Awards for the consideration of Council.

Recommendation:

1. That the minutes of the Australia Day Awards Committee meeting held on 4 December 2024, be received and noted.
 2. That the Australia Day Awards Committee recommended recipients of the 2025 Australia Day Awards, be adopted by Council.
-

8.4 Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions: December 2024



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP13.2 Develop, implement and promote best practice governance policies and procedures

Author: Executive Assistant

Introduction

The General Manager is responsible for ensuring that Council's policies, decisions and priorities are implemented in a timely and efficient manner, consistent with the goals and objectives of Council. The General Manager provides the management oversight in relation to all information progressing from appropriate staff to Council for consideration via the Business Paper.

After a Council meeting, each resolution is allocated to the General Manager or responsible officer to action in accordance with the intent of the Council decision. Directors then provide feedback to the General Manager as to the progress of these resolutions monthly through the Manex meeting.

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

The Monthly Status Report - Council Meeting Actions includes Council Resolutions up to and including the previous Council Meeting. A note in the status section has been completed by the relevant responsible officer with a reason if available.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Monthly Status Report - Council Meeting Actions: December 2024.

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Additional Permitted Use, West Wyalong Airport Planning Proposal - Drag Strip Project 15102023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) endorse the Additional Permitted Use, West Wyalong Airport Planning Proposal for referral to the Department of Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination; 2) delegate the General Manager to make changes to the Planning Proposal if required by the Department of Planning and Environment so long as the objectives of the proposal are achieved; and 3) delegate the General Manager to commence public exhibition of the Planning Proposal if required by the Department of Planning and Environment. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>7/11: Planning Proposal has received a gateway determination from Dept of Planning. Council is working through the next steps 31/7/2024 Planning Proposal currently with Department of Planning – Biodiversity, Conservation and Science for comment. Expected completion end of July. This will enable Exhibition of proposal to both the public and statutory authorities. Planning advice indicates with the successful modification to the LEP through the Planning Proposal, the works can undertaken as exempt development meaning that a Development Application will not be required. This means that Council will need to develop a detailed REF, which is underway. To support the REF noise studies were undertaken as well as the Biodiversity studies. These are completed and will be incorporated into the document along with the Contamination study which was required for the Planning Proposal. In the background, Council staff will commence preparation of tender documentation to go to market enabling construction to begin in early 2025. State of Environmental Effects completed Development Application development underway Matter COMPLETE – Refer to October 2024 (Minute No. 22102024)</p>
MARCH 2024		
<p>Proposed Road Closure – Gordons Lane RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the closure of the public road known as Gordons Lane between Clear Ridge Road and Blands Lane 2. that the closure be subject to all parties along the road agreeing to the closure and funding Council's road closure application fees and all other associated fees including, advertising, survey, legal and land purchasing costs 3. receive a further report to consider any submissions lodged during the notification period to determine the approval for the proposal 4. receive a further report to consider the property valuers report and determination of any sale price. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>Letters sent to adjoining landowners.</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
JULY 2024		
<p>Barmedman Community Section 355 Committee 06072024 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <p>a) Disband the Barmedman Community Committee – a Section 355 Committee of Council.</p> <p>b) Endorse the negotiations with the Barmedman Community Centre Incorporated.</p> <p>c) Determine that the Funds remaining within the Barmedman Community Committee account be utilised to undertake improvement works within the village of Barmedman.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>29/7/24: Committee members advised of Council decision to disband Section 355 Committee. Meeting held with Barmedman Community Centre Inc on maintenance and funding options with Memorandum of Understanding to be finalised for signing.</p>
AUGUST 2024		
<p>Sealing Central Road – Funding Contribution 13082024 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Accept the contribution of \$100,000 (inc GST) from Graincorp towards the sealing of Boundary Street from the Graincorp exit to Compton Road. That Council fund the remainder of the works from the Roads to Recover allocation in the 2025/2026 financial year. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>Design work to commence in 2025.</p>
<p>Endorsement of Revised Revenue Policy 2024/25 - Gravel Pit Royalties 14082024 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Propose an amended royalty payment for gravel pit extraction of \$0.80 per cubic metre within Council's Revenue Policy and place on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing 14 August 2024. Should there be comments received from the community on the proposed amendment to the Bland Shire Council Revenue Policy 2024/25, a further report be prepared and presented to Council Should there be no comment from the community within the 42-day commentary period, Council formally adopt the amendment to the Bland Shire Council Revenue Policy 2024/25 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>On display No submissions received therefor council formally adopted the amended Bland Shire Council Revenue Policy. COMPLETE</p>
<p>Access Incentive Scheme Grant – 194 Main Street, West Wyalong 16082024 RESOLVED that Council approve the Access Incentive Scheme Grant application for Micson Constructions Pty Ltd at 194 Main Street, West Wyalong for \$5,000 to install accessible toilet and ramps to increase accessibility to and within the premises.</p>	<p>Manager Development & Regulatory Services</p>	<p>Grant Approved and Applicant advised. Payment made.</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>RFT Tender Girral Road Surface Upgrade 17082024 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reject current offers based on the significant, additional costs associated with likely variations and additions to scope. 2. Not invite fresh tenders. 3. Pursuant to Clause 178 (3) (e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 enter negotiations with suitable contractors for the Girral Road Surface Upgrade. 4. Authorises the General Manager to award the contract after the completion of the negotiation process. 5. That any extra funds required to complete the project be sourced from a suitable external funding option. 	<p>Manager Operations</p>	<p>Subsequent to the aforementioned negotiations, Council as the Principal has accepted the Tender dated 01 August 2024, subject to negotiated adjustments dated 03 September 2024, and awards the Tender: VP4 15577 for the Girral Road Major Upgrade to Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd.</p>
<p>Strengthening Communities Grant Policy 19082024 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the strengthening community grant policy to include a maximum per annum funding of \$5000 per group. 2. Any in kind support be included in this allocation. 3. Any joint ventures be approved by a majority of Councillors. 4. Any funding greater than that allowed in the strengthening community fund must be included in the approved budget set for the year. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>30/9/24 - Further discussions and review of the policy to be undertaken with new Council to determine a consistent approach to requests for funding.</p>
OCTOBER 2024		
<p>Part Day Public Holiday Application – West Wyalong Show 2025-2026 21102024 RESOLVED that Council make application for a local part day public holiday between the hours of 12noon and 6.00pm for the purpose of the West Wyalong Show on Wednesday 3 September 2025 and Wednesday 2 September 2026 covering the whole of the Bland Shire area.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>Application made to NSW Industrial Relations. Letters sent to the schools & Evolution requesting feedback. Submissions will be received until 5pm 2/12/24 with a summary of those submissions to be sent to NSWIR by 4/12/24.</p>
<p>Planning Proposal (PP-2023-2372) – Additional Permitted Use – Recreational Facility (Outdoor) at the West Wyalong Airport – 13510 Newell Highway, West Wyalong 22102024 RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council authorise the General Manager to proceed to finalise and implement Planning Proposal (PP-2023-2372) for an additional permitted use for recreational facility (outdoor) at West Wyalong Aerodrome, 13510 Newell Highway, West Wyalong, under delegated plan making authority. 2. The Minister be requested to endorse the revised Planning Proposal and determine that further community consultation is not required. 	<p>Manager Development & Regulatory Services</p>	<p>All required documents have been uploaded to the NSW Planning Portal, pending a map. The PP is with the NSW Department of Planning for finalisation.</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Endorsement of Revised Revenue Policy 2024/25 - Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) 23102024 RESOLVED that Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the new charge of \$280 per Underground Petroleum Storage System inspection to be included in Councils Revenue Policy 2024/25 and place it on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing 16 October 2024 2. should there be comments received from the community on the proposed amendment to the Bland Shire Revenue Policy 2024/25, a further report be prepared and presented to Council 3. Should there be no comment from the community within the 42-day commentary period, Council formally adopt the amendment to the Bland Shire Council Revenue Policy 2024/25 	<p>Manager Development & Regulatory Services</p>	<p>On display until 18/11/2024. Commentary period concludes 02 December 2024.</p>
NOVEMBER 2024		
<p>Audit Report – 2023/2024 General Purpose Financial Statements 02112024 RESOLVED that Council adopt the 2023/24 Financial Statements and Auditors Report as submitted to the NSW Office of Local Government</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>2023/24 Financial Statements were on display and open for public comment until 5pm 26/11/24. No submissions were received. The audited statements are available for viewing on Council's website with a hardcopy available at Council's office. COMPLETE</p>
<p>Carry Forward Works 2023/24 05112024 RESOLVED that Council approve the requested budget adjustments, as detailed in the Carry Forward document, for the amount of \$175,643 to be carried forward to the 2024/25 financial period</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>Approved amounts included in 24/25 budget. COMPLETE</p>
<p>Australia Day Funding – Village Community Events 06112024 RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council receive and note the information contained within the Australia Day Funding – Village Community Events report 2. and that each village will receive up to \$500 from the Australia Day funding subject to National Australia Day Council approval and upon receipt of appropriate invoices 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	
<p>Council Meeting and Workshop Dates 2025 07112024 RESOLVED that Council adopt the Council Meeting and Workshop Schedule for 2025 as provided in Attachment A.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Endorsement of the State of the Shire Report 2021-2024 08112024 RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council endorses the State of the Shire Report 2021-2024. 2. the State of the Shire Report 2021-2024 be published on Council's website. 3. the NSW Office of Local Government be advised accordingly. <p>Adoption Of Social Media Policy 09112024 RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council endorses the revised Social Media Policy and places it on public exhibition from Friday 22 November 2024 for a period of 28 days. 2. following the period of exhibition and submission period to allow for written submissions to be made, any suggested amendments to the plan be made and a further report be presented to Council prior to its formal adoption. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p> <p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>State of the Shire Report 2021-2024 is available for viewing on Council's website and a copy sent to the OLG. COMPLETE</p> <p>Social Media Policy is on public exhibition with submissions open until 5pm 17/01/25.</p>
<p>Endorsement of the Bland Shire Code of Conduct 11112024 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the existing Bland Shire Council Code of Conduct 2020 and Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct 2020 until the completion of the Councillor Conduct Framework Review by the Office of Local Government. 2. seek Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified persons to be included on Council's Panel of Conduct Reviewers. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	
<p>Endorsement of the Bland Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice 12112024 RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council endorse the Bland Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice subject to replacing clause 3.9 as: - 'A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted at least eight (8) days by 5pm before the meeting is to be held.' 2. at the completion of the Councillor Conduct Framework review process, and should it be required, a revised Code of Meeting Practice be prepared for further consideration by Council. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	
<p>Endorsement of the DRAFT Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 13112024 RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council endorse the Draft Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 - Building a Sustainable Community: Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress and place it on public exhibition from Friday 22 November 2024 until Friday 31 January 2025 for community comment and feedback. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>Draft Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 is on public exhibition with submissions open until 5pm 31/01/2025. Emails have been sent to Council's stakeholder register.</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>2. following the period of exhibition and submission period to allow for written submissions to be made, any suggested amendments to the plan be made and a further report be presented to Council prior to its formal adoption.</p> <p>Endorsement of the DRAFT Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy 14112024 RESOLVED that:</p> <p>1. Council endorses the DRAFT Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy and places it on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from Friday 20 November 2024 for community comment.</p> <p>2. following the period of exhibition and a minimum period of 14 days following be permitted to allow for written submissions to be made, a further report be presented to Council prior to the formal adoption of the Policy.</p>	Director Corporate & Community Services	Draft Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy is on public exhibition with submissions open until 5pm 17/01/25.
<p>Strengthening Communities Application – Naradhan P&C Association 15112024 RESOLVED that Council approve the application for funding of the Naradhan P&C Association under the Strengthening Communities Fund in the amount of \$1,969.</p>	Director Corporate & Community Services	Acceptance Form signed and returned to Council. Invoice received and paid.
<p>Strengthening Communities Application – West Wyalong Hospital Auxiliary 16112024 RESOLVED that Council approve the application for funding of the West Wyalong Hospital Auxiliary under the Strengthening Communities Fund in the amount of \$968</p>	Director Corporate & Community Services	Acceptance Form signed and returned to Council. Invoice received and paid.
<p>Submission – Councillor Conduct and Meeting Practices 18112024 RESOLVED that Council endorse the draft submission to the NSW Office of Local Government discussion paper on the new framework for the councillor conduct and meeting practices</p>	General Manager	20/11/24 Submission sent to OLG and copy to REROC COMPLETE
<p>Bland Shire Australia Day Awards Committee 19112024 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Australia Day Awards Committee meeting held on 12 November 2024, be received and noted</p>	General Manager	COMPLETE
<p>Annual Report 2023/2024 20112024 RESOLVED that:</p> <p>1 Council receives and notes the Bland Shire Council Annual Report for the year 2023/24. 2 the 2023/24 Bland Shire Council Annual Report be published on Council's website. 3. the NSW Office of Local Government be advised accordingly.</p>	General Manager	COMPLETE

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Retail Energy Tender Small Sites 21112024 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. participates in the joint REROC small sites' electricity tender, 2. acknowledge that there are extenuating circumstances surrounding the procurement of electricity due to the short validity period of offers (approx. 2-3 days) from electricity retailers where anything longer than this is likely to include a price risk component and as such Council should be excused from the tendering requirements under S55(3)(i) of the LG Act for the procurement of electricity for small tariff sites, 3. delegates the authority to accept or reject the recommended retailer to the General Manager. 	General Manager	29/11/24 Advice sent to REROC for tender progress.
<p>Wyalong/West Wyalong Floodplain Committee 22112024 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. determine to appoint a Councillor and their alternate as delegates to the Wyalong/West Wyalong Floodplain Committee. 2. advertise for community representatives for the Wyalong/West Wyalong Floodplain Committee 3. Cr Lord and Cr Carnegie were appointed at delegates to the Wyalong/West Wyalong Floodplain Committee. 	Director Technical Services	29/11/24 Media issued seeking EOI's from Community representatives.
<p>DA2024/0039 – Waste or Resource Management Facility – Addition of Waste Disposal Facility (private ancillary landfill) to existing Resource Recovery Facility (scrap metal recycling facility) 23112024 RESOLVED that Council Approve DA2024/0039 - Waste or Resource Management Facility – Addition of Waste Disposal Facility (private ancillary landfill) to existing Resource Recovery Facility (scrap metal recycling facility) at 68 Mandamah Road, Barmedman subject to Conditions of Consent.</p>	Director Technical Services	
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION - Chambers and Workshops 25112024 RESOLVED That Councillors seating positions return to the previous arrangements and combinations in a semi-circle.</p>	General Manager	29/11/24 Seating to be repositioned for December Council meeting. COMPLETE

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

8.5 Finance And Investment Report For November 2024



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council through effective and prudent financial management.

Author Manager Customer & Financial Services

Introduction

The Finance and Investment Report is provided to Council for information and prepared in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Financial Implications

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES, RATES COLLECTIONS AND INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2024

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$6,978,454.24
Business Card	\$40,000.00
	\$7,018,454.24
<i>Invested Funds</i>	
Fixed Deposits	\$82,700,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$3,245,491.55
	\$85,945,491.55
Net Balance	\$92,963,945.79
Percentage of Invested Funds to Net Balance	92.45%

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 30.11.2024

SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING DECEMBER 17, 2024

Balance as at 01 November 2024	\$5,397,155.22
<i>Plus Receipts for November 2024</i>	<i>\$4,391,627.09</i>
<i>Less Payments for November 2024</i>	<i>-\$2,810,328.07</i>
CASH BALANCE	\$6,978,454.24

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank \$ 350,000.00

ACCOUNTS CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY,
That the accounts totalling \$2,810,328.07

1. Are fully supported by vouchers and invoices and have been fully registered.
2. The responsible officer concerned has certified that the goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered to order and/or that the services for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered according to order.
3. Official orders have been issued for the supply of such goods and services. The goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been checked with the entries in the goods order book.
4. The prices and computations of every account are correct.
5. The prices for the goods supplied or services rendered under the contract or quotation in accordance therewith and in all cases the prices charged are according to order and as far as I am able to ascertain fair and reasonable.
6. The provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993 and Regulations in connection therewith have been complied with.

Further I also certify that the Ledger has been reconciled with the bank statements for the preceding monthly period.

.....
Manager Customer and Financial
Services Responsible Accounting Officer

CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL MANAGER

This accounts summary, a copy of which was submitted to each member of Council on the 17th December 2024, has been checked and is fully supported by vouchers and invoices. These vouchers have been duly certified as to receipt of goods, the rendition of services, to prices and computations, and to costings.

.....
General Manager

CERTIFICATE OF CHAIRMAN OF ORDINARY MEETING

I certify that this accounts summary, covering amounts totalling **\$2,810,328.07** was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 17th December 2024 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

.....
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

INVESTMENTS

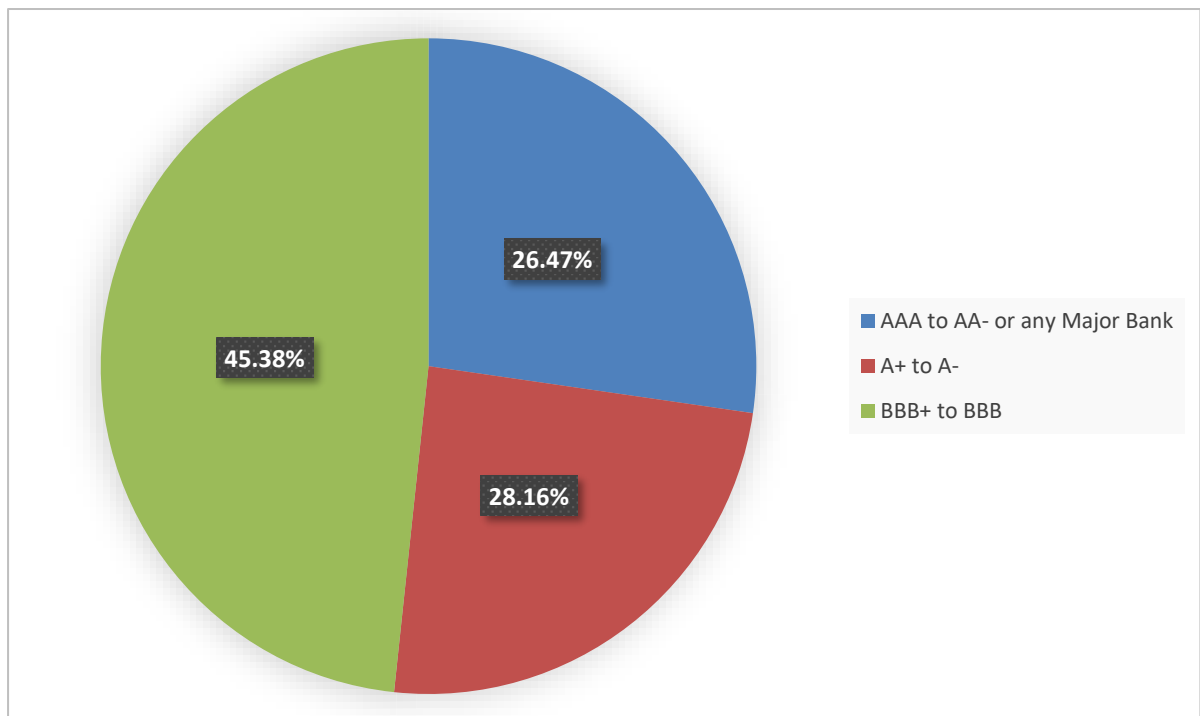
The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 30th November 2024. The funds consist of monies from the Bank Accounts of the Trust Funds, Reserve Accounts, Sewerage Fund and Combined General Account.

INSTITUTION	RATING	DATE	DATE DUE	TERM DAYS	YIELD	INVESTED AMOUNT
Northern Territory Treasury	AA-	30/09/2020	15/12/2025	1902	1.20%	2,000,000.00
MyState Bank	BBB+	20/12/2023	18/12/2024	364	5.15%	1,000,000.00
Judo Bank	BBB	9/01/2024	3/12/2024	329	5.10%	1,000,000.00
Defence Bank	BBB+	10/01/2024	9/01/2025	365	5.10%	1,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	19/01/2024	21/01/2025	368	5.15%	1,000,000.00
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	31/01/2024	30/01/2025	365	5.05%	2,500,000.00
ING Bank	A	1/02/2024	16/01/2025	350	5.13%	1,000,000.00
Defence Bank	BBB+	8/02/2024	6/02/2025	364	5.00%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	16/02/2024	18/02/2025	368	5.18%	1,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	15/02/2024	12/02/2025	363	5.15%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	28/02/2024	26/02/2025	364	5.08%	1,000,000.00
Australian Unity	BBB+	5/03/2024	5/03/2025	365	5.10%	1,000,000.00
Defence Bank	BBB+	6/03/2024	6/03/2025	365	5.10%	1,000,000.00
Defence Bank	BBB+	20/03/2024	20/03/2025	365	5.00%	1,000,000.00
Auswide Bank	BBB+	28/03/2024	26/03/2025	363	5.20%	1,000,000.00

Auswide Bank	BBB+	3/04/2024	2/04/2025	364	5.05%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	10/04/2024	10/04/2025	365	5.09%	1,000,000.00
Bank of QLD	A-	30/04/2024	23/04/2025	358	5.10%	1,000,000.00
Judo Bank	BBB	16/05/2024	14/05/2025	363	5.30%	1,000,000.00
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	22/05/2024	30/04/2025	343	5.17%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	27/05/2024	21/05/2025	359	5.27%	2,000,000.00
MyState Bank	BBB+	29/05/2024	27/05/2025	363	5.25%	1,000,000.00
Auswide Bank	BBB+	13/06/2024	11/06/2025	363	5.30%	1,000,000.00
Defence Bank	BBB+	20/06/2024	18/06/2025	363	5.20%	2,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	26/06/2024	25/06/2025	364	5.25%	2,000,000.00
Beyond Bank	BBB+	26/06/2024	10/12/2025	167	5.20%	1,000,000.00
Beyond Bank	BBB+	26/06/2024	15/04/2025	293	5.20%	1,000,000.00
Judo Bank	BBB	2/07/2024	11/03/2025	252	5.30%	2,000,000.00
Australian Unity	BBB+	5/07/2024	1/05/2025	300	5.30%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	8/07/2024	6/05/2025	302	5.27%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	8/07/2024	2/07/2025	359	5.37%	2,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	8/07/2024	4/06/2025	331	5.30%	1,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	8/07/2024	8/07/2025	365	5.35%	2,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	11/07/2024	13/05/2025	306	5.20%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	17/07/2024	15/07/2025	363	5.33%	1,000,000.00
Police Bank	BBB+	31/07/2024	31/07/2025	365	5.25%	2,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	7/08/2024	5/06/2025	302	5.20%	1,000,000.00
Bank of QLD	A-	8/08/2024	6/02/2025	128	4.95%	1,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	15/08/2024	12/08/2025	362	5.05%	1,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	16/08/2024	15/01/2025	152	5.15%	1,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	21/08/2024	20/02/2025	183	4.90%	2,500,000.00
NAB	AA-	22/08/2024	22/07/2025	334	5.00%	1,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	29/08/2024	19/08/2025	355	4.95%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	5/09/2024	2/09/2025	362	4.93%	1,000,000.00
Bendigo Bank	A-	8/09/2024	8/09/2025	365	4.65%	400,000.00
Bendigo Bank	A-	8/09/2024	8/09/2025	365	4.65%	400,000.00
Bendigo Bank	A-	8/09/2024	8/09/2025	365	4.65%	400,000.00
NAB	AA-	12/09/2024	10/09/2025	363	4.90%	2,000,000.00
Bank of QLD	A-	12/09/2024	20/03/2025	189	4.90%	1,000,000.00
Bank of QLD	A-	17/09/2024	18/03/2025	182	5.00%	2,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	20/09/2024	17/09/2025	362	4.90%	1,000,000.00
Bank of QLD	A-	26/09/2024	25/06/2025	272	4.85%	2,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	3/10/2024	7/04/2025	186	5.05%	1,500,000.00
NAB	AA-	9/10/2024	8/10/2025	364	4.95%	2,000,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	16/10/2024	24/09/2025	343	4.71%	2,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	17/10/2024	15/10/2025	363	5.03%	2,000,000.00
Police Bank	BBB+	24/10/2024	21/10/2025	362	5.00%	2,000,000.00

NAB	AA-	24/10/2024	26/08/2025	306	4.95%	2,000,000.00
Beyond Bank	BBB+	30/10/2024	30/04/2024	182	5.00%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	8/11/2024	4/11/2025	361	5.09%	1,000,000.00
BankVic	BBB+	14/11/2024	15/10/2025	335	5.10%	1,000,000.00
Auswide Bank	BBB+	21/11/2024	20/11/2025	364	5.00%	2,000,000.00
MyState Bank	BBB+	28/11/2024	28/10/2025	334	5.00%	2,000,000.00
ANZ Deposit at Call	AA-					50,964.77
CBA Deposit at Call	AA-					3,194,526.78
TOTAL:						85,945,491.55

Long Term Credit Rating	Policy Maximum (%)	Current Holding (%)	Current Holding (\$)
AAA to AA- or any Major Bank	100	26.47	22,745,491.55
A+ to A-	80	28.16	24,200,000.00
BBB+ to BBB	70	45.38	39,000,000.00
BBB- and Unrated	10	-	-
			85,945,491.55



Individual Institution Limit	Rating	Policy Maximum (%)	Current Holding (%)	Current Holding (\$)
AMP	BBB+	25	7.56	\$6,500,000.00
ANZ	AA-	40	0.06	\$50,964.77
Australian Unity	BBB+	25	2.33	\$2,000,000.00
Auswide Bank	BBB+	25	5.82	\$5,000,000.00
Bank of QLD	A-	30	8.14	\$7,000,000.00
BankVic	BBB+	25	1.16	\$1,000,000.00
Bendigo Bank	A-	30	1.40	\$1,200,000.00
Beyond Bank	BBB+	25	3.49	\$3,000,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	40	6.04	\$5,194,526.78
Defence Bank	BBB+	25	6.98	\$6,000,000.00
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	25	4.07	\$3,500,000.00
ING Bank	A	30	18.62	\$16,000,000.00
Judo Bank	BBB	25	4.65	\$4,000,000.00
MyState Bank	BBB+	25	4.65	\$4,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	40	18.03	\$15,500,000.00
Northern Territory	AA-	40	2.33	\$2,000,000.00
Police Bank	BBB+	25	4.65	\$4,000,000.00
				\$85,945,491.55

I certify that the above investment has been reconciled with Council's General Ledger Accounts.

I certify that the above investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Regulation and Council's Investment Policies.

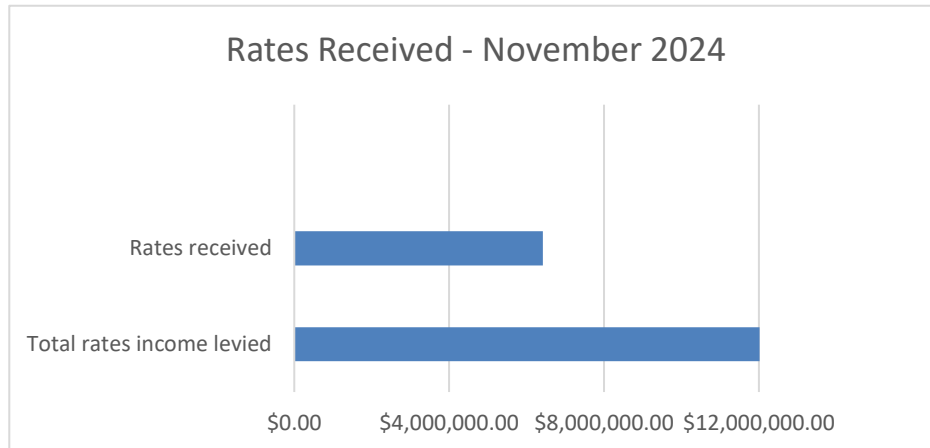
GENERAL MANAGER

RATES REPORT

Below is a summary of outstanding rates

Total rates income levied (2024/25)	\$ 12,018,438.57
Rates received as at 30/11/2024	\$ 6,416,614.79
% of rates received to date	53.38%

The total rates income includes rates in arrears and accumulated interest.



Summary

The information provided within this Finance and Investment Report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 as well as Council's financial management policies and procedures. Further, the financial position of Council is satisfactory and the external investments are held in accordance with section 625 of the Local Government act 1993.

Recommendation:

1. That Council receive and note the information contained within the Finance and Investment Report for the month of November 2024
 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 November to 30 November 2024, totalling \$2,810,328.07
-

8.6 Enterprise Risk Management Policy



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP13.2 Develop, implement and promote best practice governance policies and procedures.

Author: Internal Audit, Governance and Risk Coordinator

The purpose of this report is to seek the endorsement of the updated Enterprise Risk Management Policy. The Risk Management Policy is a critical document that outlines Bland Shire Council's commitment to an integrated approach to managing risk and meets the requirements of the *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit* ('**Guidelines**'). The Guidelines require the principles of the policy to be drawn from the AS ISO 31000:2018 *Risk Management – Guidelines*, which provides a structure for a comprehensive framework for managing risk in a systematic manner.

Council has a long policy history of strong commitments to managing risk across the organisation and the amendments in the Policy are continuous improvement rather than a new mechanism. The previous version of the Risk Management Policy was adopted in July 2021 and the version is updated for this report and contains the following changes:

- Detail on principles and framework elements updated to align closely with the Guidelines.
- Clarification of roles and responsibilities
- Removal of duplication and drafting edits for readability

Councillors received a briefing on Risk Management and an overview of the proposed Policy on 3 December 2024.

Risk Considerations

The Policy presented to Council makes no significant changes to the overall commitment of Council to effectively manage risk, and the amendments have been made to provide for simplified language with graphics to improve understanding.

The Policy was presented to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee ('ARIC') on 3 December 2024 for endorsement and the Committee were supportive of the changes. It is noted that the ARIC will receive ongoing reports for advice on the implementation of the Policy. The ARIC is attended by a Councillor representative and where recommendations are made by the ARIC they will be referred to Council for approval in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Financial Implications

There are no unbudgeted financial implications associated with the adoption of the draft policy. Council's adopted budget contains existing risk management resources that are available to implement the policy.

Recommendation:

That the Council adopts the revised Risk Management Policy.

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

AUTHORISATION

POLICY TYPE: <i>(Council or Operational)</i>	Council
POLICY LOCATION: <i>(eg. Corporate, Engineering, etc.)</i>	Governance and Risk
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: <i>(by position title)</i>	Director Corporate and Community Services
AUTHORISED BY: <i>(GM or Director Title)</i>	Manex
DATE ADOPTED:	#
ADOPTED BY: <i>(Manex or Council)</i>	Council
MINUTE NO: <i>(If required)</i>	
REVIEW DUE DATE: <i>(Four years unless statutorily required sooner)</i>	#
REVISION NUMBER:	2
RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS <i>Include names of former policies that this policy will replace if applicable</i>	AMENDED BY <i>(Where required)</i>
1.0	July 2021		
2.0	November 2024	Updated Policy to include elements of AS3100:2018	

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed within four (4) years from the date of adoption or as required in the event of legislative changes. The Policy may also be changed as a result of other amendment that are to the advantage that Council and in the spirit of this Policy. Any amendment to the Policy must be by way of a Council Resolution.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this Policy is to outline Council’s commitment to an integrated approach to the management of risk. Bland Shire Council is committed to safeguarding the community in accordance with the risk management standard, *AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management – Guidelines*.

Enterprise Risk Management principles and practices will support the achievement of Council’s objectives by helping Council continue to deliver its services, improve decision-making, establish priorities, promote safety, minimise the impact of loss, and support regulatory compliance.

2. Scope:

This policy applies to all areas of Council operations and includes all Councillors, staff, contractors, and volunteers undertaking any function for, or on behalf of, Bland Shire Council.

Council’s Enterprise Risk Management Procedure and Plan identifies requirements for integrating risk across the Council Business and will assign specific operational processes to staff to implement this Policy.

3. Outcomes:

Council is committed to effectively and systematically managing risks to maximise opportunities and limit adverse effects through good corporate governance. Council will promote sound risk management practices, to minimise loss and maximise opportunities to improve service provision, in the Delivery of Council’s strategic goals.

A whole of organisation approach to Enterprise Risk Management is required to effectively and efficiently manage Council’s emerging, potential and current risks. To do this the AS ISO 31000:2018 integrated model is used. This model is composed of Framework attributes that are influenced by a set of Principles, and both of which influence a Risk Management Process.



3.1 Risk Management Principles

Risk Management is not a function or a department. It is the culture, capabilities, and practices that organisations integrate with strategy-setting and apply when they carry out that strategy, with a purpose of managing risk in creating, preserving, and realizing value¹. To do this AS ISO 31000:2018 advocates eight principles that provide guidance on the characteristics of effective and efficient risk management activities. These principles are:



Source: AS ISO 31000: 2018, Risk management – Guidelines

An explanation of each element of the Risk Management Principles is provided at Appendix A.

3.2 Risk Management Framework

The concept of a risk management framework is to facilitate the integration of risk into significant activities and functions of the organisations. The framework does this by encompassing integration, design, implementation, evaluation and improvement elements into its development, all with explicit commitment from the organisation's leadership.

¹ COSO. *Enterprise Risk Management – Integrating with Strategy and Performance*. June 2017. P. 14

The practical application of these elements creates a risk management framework that consists of tangible artefacts such as policies, plans, procedures and risk appetite statements, and behavioural aspects such as organisational culture and understood appetites for taking risk.



Source: AS/NZS ISO 31000 2018: Risk Management – Guidelines

Descriptions of the ISO 31000 risk management framework elements are provided at Appendix B.

4. Risk Management Approach

This section is supplemented by detailed procedures and plans of an operational nature.

4.1 Defining Risk for Bland Shire

Risk is defined as “the effect of uncertainty on objectives” where an effect is a deviation from the expected – either positive (an opportunity) or negative (a threat) ISO 3100 2018

The definition emphasises the need to establish objectives as the basis for risk assessment. Council’s objectives may be expressed in term of:

- Strategic and operational objectives and key performance indicators defined in Council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
- Objectives defined within service unit Business Plans
- Project specific objectives defined within business cases and project plans
- Objectives implicit within Council’s policies

An effect is a deviation from the expected. It can be positive, negative or both, and can address, create or result in opportunities and threats.

Objectives can have different aspects and categories and can be applied at different levels.

4.2 Setting Risk Appetite

Council's risk appetite describes the amount and type of risk that Council is prepared to take in pursuit of its objectives. Risk appetite is about defining what Council does (and does not) want to do, and how it goes about it.

Risk appetite is an articulation of an organisations willingness to take on or accept risk and because it operates at strategic and operational levels. It is an integral part of any risk management capability in order to influence strategies and objectives it should be considered and reviewed during Strategic Planning. Additionally, risk appetite is a key influence in concert with cost/benefit of mitigation considerations, when determining the how Council approaches a matter.

Risk Appetites will be set by Council in a supplementary document to this Policy.

Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Policy set the 'scope, context, criteria' elements of the Risk Management AS ISO 3100:2018.

4.3 Risk Assessments

This process that is made up of three separate processes: risk identification, risk analysis, and risk evaluation. Further detail on the assessment process is detailed within the Procedure and Plan.

A. Risk identification

A process that is used to find, recognise, and describe the risks that could affect the achievement of objectives.

B. Risk analysis

A process is used to understand the nature, sources, and causes of the risks that you have identified and to estimate the level of risk. It is also used to study impacts and on sequences and to examine the controls that exist.

C. Risk evaluation

A process is used to compare risk analysis results with risk criteria to determine whether or not a specified level of risk is acceptable or tolerable.

D. Risk Treatment

Appropriate actions are planned and implemented to adequately deal with the risk.

E. Monitoring and reporting

Council will appropriately monitor, review and report on risks in accordance with the Council's Procedures to provide oversight adequate to the risk.

5. Work Health and Safety

Council is committed to a robust Work Health and Safety (WHS) risk management system to implement the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW). Council has developed its WHS system to manage WHS risks and has a separate policy, procedures and reporting mechanisms. This Policy will assist in the development of WHS management systems but procedurally will be independent.

6. Roles and Responsibilities:

Role	Responsibilities
Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are responsible for the adoption and commitment to Enterprise Risk Management and its policies as well as oversight of Council's risk management framework through the normal course of good governance. Act at all times in a manner consistent with Council values and Council policies, including the requirements of the ERM framework.

Role	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take relevant steps to manage Council's risk exposure WITHIN Council's adopted Risk Appetite.
All staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applying sound risk management practices in accordance with Council's Risk Management Procedure and Plan.
Senior Management Team (MANEX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the development of ERM culture across Council Set priorities for the implementation of ERM framework to maximise value to Council Support the effective implementation and operation of Council's ERM framework Assess and manage strategic risks, including the assessment of emerging risks within Council and the local Government sector to support appropriate action being taken by Council Identify strategic projects having potential to significantly impact on the achievement of Council's strategic objectives
Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide independent assurance, advice and assistance to Council on risk management control, governance and external accountability responsibilities as defined in the Audit Committee Terms of Reference

7. Definitions:

Term	Definition/Comment	Source
Council	Bland Shire Council	
Potential exposure	<p>The total plausible maximum impact on an organisation arising from a risk without regard to controls</p> <p>Comment: Sometimes the term "inherent risk" is used as an alternate to risk exposure.</p>	HB 158 – 2010 Delivering assurance based on ISO 31000-2009 Risk management Principles and Guidelines
Risk category	<p>A class or group of risk events based on their risk consequence</p> <p>Risk categories are used by Council to classify risk events as a basis for risk management including risk reporting and risk management decision making</p>	ISO 31000-2018
Risk owner	<p>A <i>risk owner</i> is a person or entity that has been given the authority to manage a particular risk and is accountable for doing so.</p>	ISO 31000-2018

Term	Definition/Comment	Source
Risk tolerance	<p>A series of limits which, depending on the organisation may either be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the nature of absolute limits, beyond which the organisation does not wish to proceed (i.e. The organisation cannot deal with risks beyond these limits): or In the nature of alarms that alert the organisation to an impending breach of tolerance risks. <p>Risk tolerance can be expressed in terms of absolutes, for example “we will not expose more than x% of our capital to losses in a certain line of business” or “we will not deal with certain types of customers”.</p>	Risk Appetite and Tolerance Guidance paper
Risk Treatment	<p><i>Risk treatment</i> is a risk modification process.</p> <p>It involves selecting and implementing one or more treatment options. Once a treatment has been implemented, it becomes a control, or it modifies existing controls.</p> <p>You have many treatment options. You can avoid the risk, you can reduce the risk, you can remove the source of the risk, you can modify the consequences, you can change the probabilities, you can share the risk with others, you can simply retain the risk, or you can even increase the risk in order to pursue an opportunity.</p>	ISO 31000-2018
Residual Risk	Risk remaining after risk treatment.	ISO 27001

8. Legislation and Supporting Documents:

- Office of Local Government Risk Management and Internal Audit Guidelines
- AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management - Guidelines
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Business Continuity Plan
- Risk Appetite Statement
- Risk Management Procedure
- Risk Management Plan
- Work Health and Safety Policy
- Incident Reporting & Investigation Policy.

9. Attachments:

Appendix A: Risk Management Principles

Appendix B: Risk Management Framework Elements

10. Appendix A – Risk Management Principles

Integrated

To be truly effective the management of risks should be a standardised and integrated component of day-to-day activities in the organisation.

Structured and comprehensive

An effective organisation will have a structured approach in the pursuit of its strategy and strategic objectives. Risk Management should be an integrated component of this structure, which will, if comprehensive, contribute to consistent and comparable results.

Customised

Understand the organisation's operating environment, inside and out. The risk management framework and process are customised and proportionate to the Council's external and internal context related to its objectives.

Inclusive

Multiple relevant perspectives regarding risks and their management are a very effective method of combating the various inherent human biases. Therefore, appropriate and timely involvement of stakeholders enables their knowledge, views and perceptions to be considered. This results in improved awareness and informed risk management.

Dynamic

Risks can emerge, change or disappear as Council's external and internal context changes. Risk management anticipates, detects, acknowledges and responds to those changes and events in an appropriate and timely manner.

Best available information

The inputs to risk management can come from a variety of sources with varying levels of accuracy and relevance, and are based on historical and current information, as well as on anticipation of future outcomes. Effective risk management explicitly takes into account the timeliness, any biases, limitations and uncertainties associated with such information. Additionally, an acknowledgement of information that is not known or complete is necessary.

Human and cultural factors

Human behaviour and culture significantly influence all aspects of risk management at each level and stage. As such awareness of human biases and an understanding of the desired culture is important at all organisational levels. The organisation defines the desired behaviours that characterise its desired culture, not the environment it operates in.

Continual improvement

Risk management is continually improved through learning and experience. Council should pursue this as standard operating procedure.

Appendix B – Risk Management Framework Elements

Leadership and commitment

Council, the General Manager, MANEX and other oversight bodies must have explicit commitment to the integration of risk management into all activities of Council. The Governing Body will be accountable for managing risk and ensuring that the organisation's risk profile is within acceptable limits. Council's various oversight bodies are supporting risk management as a function of the Local Government Industry. The General Manager and MANEX must support the Governing Body to make decisions that are informed and implemented.

Integration

Integrating risk management into Council is a dynamic and iterative process and should be customised to the Council's needs and culture. Risk management should be a part of, and not separate from, the Council, core values, governance, leadership and commitment, strategy, objectives and operations.

Design

This element represents the opportunity for the organisation to embed elements of its culture and core values into the framework and make the framework relevant for all stakeholders. In designing the framework, with a thorough understanding of the organisation's internal and external operating environment (context), the organisation should clearly articulate its commitment to risk management. It can assign responsibilities, roles, authorities and accountabilities, and then make the risk management framework relevant to staff by allocating dedicated or delegated resources to fulfil these responsibilities and establish appropriate communication and consultation protocols.

Implementation

The allocation of appropriate resources is the key element to successful implementation of an effective enterprise risk management function in the organisation. Successful implementation requires the engagement of stakeholders to enable the organisation to explicitly address uncertainty in decision-making and strategy formulation.

Evaluation

Like all other aspects of the organisation the risk management framework should not be developed or exist in isolation. It must be periodically tested against its purpose, implementation, plans, indicators and expected behaviour, to determine whether it remains suitable in its role of supporting the achievement of organisational objectives.

Improvement

A culture of constant vigilance regarding the quality of risk management and the effectiveness of the framework is essential maintain the required flexibility when unexpected changes occur. Such a culture will also embed a continual improvement mindset within the organisation.

8.7 Animal Pound Tender



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.3 The General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and other Council documents.

Author: Manager Customer and Financial Services

Introduction

Council successfully applied for funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) Phase 3 to construct a new animal pound facility in Wyalong.

Subsequent consultation with the RSPCA during project scoping revealed that the allocated budget was insufficient for building a compliant animal facility. Consequently, the project was re-scoped, re-budgeted, and moved to LRCI Phase 4.

The Development Application for the facility has been approved, and the Construction Certificate is currently in progress.

Council approved funding for the Animal Pound project under the LRCI program on 19 September 2023 (**Minute No. 11092023**). Council is now ready to release tender documents for the construction of the facility, with the goal of completing the project by the June 30, 2025 deadline.

Since Council does not meet in January, it is requested that the General Manager be authorised to select a tenderer in January for commencement of work.

Risk Implications

There is a risk that if Council is unable to complete the works by 30 June 2025 that funding may not be provided for the construction of the project. For this reason, delegation to the General Manager to enter into the contract is sought in order to meet this deadline.

Financial Implications

This project is funded under LRCI Phase 4 and the cost of the tender process will be covered under the funding.

Summary

To help Council meet project deadlines, this report requests that the General Manager be delegated the authority to enter into the contract for the Pound Project following tender.

Recommendation:

1. That Council delegates to the General Manager the authority to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer for the construction of the animal pound where the contract value is contained within the funding allocation in the adopted budget and grant funding allocation.
 2. That should the tender process not result in identifying a successful tenderer, that the Council delegates to the General Manager the authority to reject all tender submissions and enter into negotiations with suppliers for completion of the works in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 s 178(3)(e)* as Council must have the works completed prior to the funding deadline.
 3. That Council delegates to the General Manager, subject to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* section 377 and the adopted budget, the authorities of Council to take action required to ensure the delivery of the Pound project within the grant funding timeframe.
 4. That should the General Manager exercise any delegated authority in relation to the construction of the Pound, that a further report be provided to the next Council meeting, outlining the details of the authority exercised.
-

Section 3 – Reports for Information

Recommendation:

That the following reports, provided for information only, be received and noted:

- 8.8 - Community Development Report
 - 8.9 - Youth Services Report
 - 8.10 - Bland Shire Library Monthly Update
 - 8.11 - Children Services November Update
 - 8.12 - Bland Community Care Services Update – November 2024
 - 8.13 - Museum Advisory Report
 - 8.14 - Technical Services Report
 - 8.15 - Development Services Activity Report – November 2024
-

8.8 Community Development Report



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP3- Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life for the residents of the Bland Shire

Author: Community Development Officer

Mornings, Melodies & Memories

This program remains popular with participation numbers remaining steady.

Old Time Rock 'n Roll Band, Jamie and the Shakers are booked to entertain at the last session for the year at Toppo Hall commencing at 11am, with morning tea provided. This session will also be free to Seniors of the Bland Shire, with bookings essential.

Below is a list of locations visited and number of attendees at each session:

Date	Location	Number of participants
4 November	Weethalle	5
11 November	Mirrool	3
18 November	Barmedman	12
25 November	Ungarie	9

Dates and Locations for Mornings, Melodies and Memories for the remainder of the calendar year:

Date	Location
2 December	Weethalle
9 December	Tallimba
12 December	West Wyalong

Mornings, Melodies and Memories Program will be on hold throughout January and February 2025, with the first session for the year scheduled for Monday 3 March, with the following proposed dates for each location:

Date	Location	Date	Location	Date	Location
3 March	Ungarie	21 April	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	9 June	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
10 March	Weethalle	28 April	Barmedman	16 June	Ungarie
17 March	Barmedman	5 May	Tallimba	23 June	Weethalle
24 March	West Wyalong	12 May	Ungarie	30 June	Barmedman
31 March	Mirrool	19 May	Weethalle	7 July	Tallimba
7 April	Ungarie	26 May	Barmedman	14 July	Ungarie
14 April	Weethalle	2 June	Mirrool	21 July	Weethalle



Bland Shire Interagency

Bland Shire hosted an Interagency Meeting at Barmedman Public School on Wednesday 13 November 2024, this meeting was followed by a 'Mini Expo' at the Barmedman Public School Library, inviting the community to attend the Expo and collect information on services available throughout the Bland Shire.



From this meeting, the following actions have been recommended:

1. The Community Development Officer (CDO) to commence discussions with TAFE and/or other training providers to look into providing short courses to outlying villages of the Bland Shire.
2. CDO to investigate the possibility of securing free venues within our village communities to be able to hold Community HUBS on a regular basis.
3. CDO to investigate further with Services Australia about implementation of a 'Preparation for Adulthood' program for youth of the shire to secure assistance with identification, applying for a Tax File Number, applying for a Medicare Card and Information about how to open a bank account.
4. CDO to commence organisation and information distribution amongst the Interagency Group for a Community Services Expo to be held in West Wyalong to coincide with the 2025 Seniors Festival (18-24 March 2025).

FOOD BANK

PLUS FREE pop-up vaccination clinic and health checks thanks to Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network

SUPPLYING FREE FRUIT AND VEGGIES FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

Foodbank NSW/ACT is hosting a food relief pop up in West Wyalong to provide access to fresh, healthy, and nutritious produce for people experiencing food insecurity in our community.

Time
Thursday 28th November 2024
From 9.30am - 1pm

Place
McAlister Oval, 73 Park Street
West Wyalong, NSW 2671

What to bring
Everyone must bring their own reusable bags. There will be no deliveries.

Please do not visit the pop up if you are feeling unwell.

Thank you to the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network for supporting this initiative.

Funded by **phn** Supported By **firstHealth** **BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

Pop up Foodbank

Bland Shire Council supported Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network to provide a safe space for their mobile Pop-up Foodbank which was in West Wyalong on Thursday 28 November 2024, located at McAlister Oval Car Park from 9.30am until 1.00pm. The Foodbank supplied free fruit and veggies for people in need and offered a free pop-up vaccination clinic and health checks.

Holland Park Pool Inflatable

Bland Shire Council provided funding in the 2024/2025 operational budget to purchase a new pool inflatable to be located at Holland Park Pool. This was purchased from aflex with consultation with the current contractor to ensure it was the correct choice for Holland Park Pool. Following discussions with the Holland Park Pool Manager, the inflatable will be unveiled late December for end of school celebrations.

2024 Bland Shire Christmas Lights Map

Advertising has commenced for residents to register their address for inclusion in the 2024 Christmas Lights Map. Registrations Closed Sunday 15 December 2024, with the map scheduled to go live on Wednesday 18 December 2024.

BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
west wyalong

Register Now for the

2024 Christmas Light Map

Registrations close 15 December

WEST WYALONG HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Carols by Candlelight

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024

UHA BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

West Wyalong Hospital Auxiliary Carols by Candlelight

Bland Shire Council's Community Development Officer provided assistance to the West Wyalong Hospital Auxiliary Carols by Candlelight Committee to update the carols booklet for the event scheduled for Sunday 15 December 2024.

Australia Day 2025

Preparations for Australia Day 2025 are underway with Council receiving a grant from the National Australia Day Council enabling Council to provide a free Community Breakfast, catered by the West Wyalong Lions Club from 7am on Sunday 26 January 2025, with the Australia Day Awards Ceremony to follow from 8am.

Bland Shire Council will be providing Australia Day Pool Parties at Holland Park Pool and Ungarie Pool from 12pm-5pm including free entry, free inflatable use at both pools and free waterslide at Holland Park Pool. These events have been made possible by funding provided by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council.

Bland Shire Council has registered to participate in the Australia Day Ambassador Program for 2025, Council is yet to be notified of who our allocated Australia Day Ambassador will be.



8.9 Youth Services Report



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP3- Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life for the residents of the Bland Shire

Author: Youth Services Officer

Bland Shire Youth Centre provided various activities for young people in November. A total of 32 young people passed through the Centre to attend the scheduled activities or to enjoy the space with peers from the same demographic.

Bland Shire Youth Centre hosted a Halloween Eve afternoon, where young people were encouraged to dress up and participate in a spooky rock painting activity. These rocks were then placed around West Wyalong for the youth to collect while trick-or-treating the following evening.



To recognise the Rotary Club for their kind donation of a ping pong table, Bland Shire Youth hosted a ping pong competition to break in the new table. Within the next month, the table will

also be signed with the Rotary logo to recognise the organisation for their amazing donation which has been very popular at the Youth Centre.

The Youth Services Officer and Community Development Officer attended the Youth Actions, Youth Work Conference in Dubbo. The two-day conference covered a variety of topics such as intergenerational connections, youth engagement, and Youth Council development, amongst many others. This conference was very informative and provided vital content about the youth sector to help develop and sustain it.

Bland Shire Youth Centre facilitated activities such as card games, blanket fort making, and our monthly jam session for young musicians or young people who enjoy music. These activities were well received and averaged 8-10 participants per session. Mario Kart Challenges has also been a regular event at the Youth Centre, as young people continue to come back to defend their title as number one. Overall, the Youth Centre continues to sustain regular attendance whilst also obtaining new members regularly



8.10 Bland Shire Library Monthly Update



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP3.4 Foster a community learning culture optimising our physical and virtual spaces.

Author: Library Services Coordinator

Another Successful Christmas Food & Gifts Appeal



Bland Shire Library's Christmas Food and Gifts Appeal, which assists the local St Vincent de Paul Society in providing Christmas hampers and gifts to families in need, received an overwhelming response of donations. Launched in early November, the appeal concluded with all items being collected by the St Vincent de Paul Society during the week ending December 13.

The library extends its heartfelt thanks to the community for their generosity, as well as to the Bland Children's Services Unit and TAFE West Wyalong for serving as additional collection points.

Christmas Activity Book Supports Country Hope



Bland Shire Library produced a Christmas activity book to keep children entertained during the festive season. The booklets were offered for a small gold coin donation, with all proceeds benefiting Country Hope.

Over 100 copies were distributed, raising nearly \$300. This initiative once again showcased the community's generosity, as many individuals, including visitors, contributed donations.

Library Work Placement

Bland Shire Library hosted Ava McCubbin, a Year 9 student at Ungarie Central School, for a five-day work placement from Monday December 2 to Friday December 6. Ava proved a welcome addition to the library team and exceeded all expectations.

Phenomenal Start to Annual Summer Reading Challenge

Bland Shire Library launched its annual Summer Reading Club 40-Day Challenge on Wednesday, November 20. The launch, attended by Lynsey Reilly, Community Superintendent, Evolution Mining, attracted over 100 parents and children with a total of 108 registrations taken. Registrations will continue to be taken up until 5pm, Thursday, December 19.

The free incentive-based reading program for school students aged 5 to 16, which officially commenced on December 1, encourages participants to read for at least 40 days up until January 31, 2025.

No matter what their age or level of reading, participants can read as many or as few books as they like. The emphasis is on days spent reading NOT counting books. This makes the challenge more achievable for all, especially for those lower skilled readers. However, it is recommended that participants read for at least 10 to 20 minutes per day with all entries in their reading log validated by a parent or guardian.

To help participants reach their goal, Bland Shire Library will reward each child for every 10 days that they read, up to 40 days. To receive their reward, participants simply present their reading log at the library and have it stamped or signed by a staff member.

There are additional activities for registered participants to share including a Bingo Challenge – involving 25 fun mini challenges including finding the painted SRC rocks AND Ray the Elf – weekly draws, competitions, and special holiday events. A presentation and finale party to be held in February 2025 will complete the program.

Sponsors for the 2024-25 Summer Reading Challenge include: The L & R Group – Holland Park Pool; West Wyalong French Hot Bread; Bernardi Group; and Evolution Mining.



Santa's Mailbox Overwhelmed



Santa's Mailbox has been collected by the Elves. Letters to Santa were accepted until 5pm on Friday, December 13. Exclusively for Bland Shire Library members and their immediate families, the mailbox received over 50 letters, each of which received a personalised response directly from Santa. Pictured is Iris Jarrett, 2, posting her letter (left) and receiving her reply (right).

Day Book Club Celebrates

The Day Book Club held its final meeting of 2024 on Monday, December 2. The session featured a festive morning tea for members. Additionally, member registrations and book selections for 2025 were discussed in preparation for the upcoming year. Regrettably, several regular book club members were unable to attend the occasion.



December – Extraordinarily Busy

The library finalised its regular programs for 2024 in December and hosted several additional events. Due to the timing of the December Council meeting, a report on these activities will be presented for Councillors' information at the February Council meeting.

8.11 Children Services November Update



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP4.2 Provide quality, accredited and affordable Education and Care Services within Bland Shire and surrounds (Bland Preschool, Family Day Care, Mobile Resource Unit, It Takes a Village and Toy Library services)

Author: Children Services Coordinator

November -we blinked, and it was gone. We spent the month dancing, dancing and dancing in preparation for our upcoming Christmas Concert. Each Preschool class participated in practice sessions at the S & C club as well as the Pre-Kindy classes being treated to a special lunch at the Jade Tea House.

Bland Preschool had a student from Saint Anne's Central School spend a week with us as a work placement and will have another student from Ungarie Central School in December. It is positive to see interest in Early Education as a career. Each fortnight we enjoy the company of students from West Wyalong High School.

Keeping connections in the community strong. The Tues/Wed Bilby class visited Aspire Early Learning Centre for morning tea and a play at the facility. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience. This same class also visited Barmedman Public School. They toured the school grounds, collected chook eggs and appreciated the delicious morning tea with the school students.

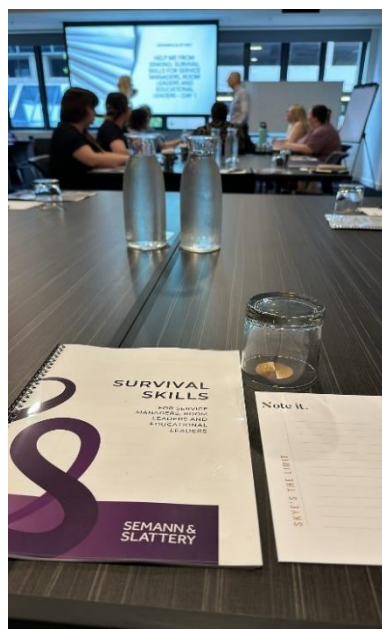


Staffing & Recruitment – Interviews were held for five temporary assistant positions to commence in January 2025. All applicants accepted these positions with the formalities being finalised with HR.

Certificate III trainee position was advertised with two applicants interviewing. Unfortunately, after the interview process, neither candidate displayed the necessary skills to be offered the position.

Ungarie Preschool will have a new School Based Trainee (SBAT) commence in 2025. The student will work each Tuesday at Ungarie whilst continuing school studies and complete the Certificate III in Early Childhood. We are excited to continue this relationship with Ungarie Central School.

Staff Training – The Coordinator and Senior Early Childhood teacher participated in a Leadership conference held by Semann & Slattery. It was amazing and very insightful. The conference name “Help me, I’m drowning” provided great insight into techniques and strategies that can be implemented into a team as well as shining a light on our own leadership practices. Conversations and expectations will be discussed during the 2024 reflection meeting in January 2025. I highly recommend this training provider for any future training ventures.



Bland Preschool – Senior Early Childhood Teacher

In November, our Pre-Kindy children participated in school orientation sessions. This event helped both the children, and their families become familiar with their new school environment, routines, and staff. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to start building relationships and feel comfortable before starting school in 2025.

A small group of children had the opportunity to attend an excursion to "What's Cookin" for a fun morning tea. This event wasn't just about having a treat; it also focused on developing social skills and community connections. The children got to interact with others outside of the preschool, learning the value of good manners, and enjoying a new setting. It was a great experience for the children to explore their local community and enhance their social development.

A key part of our Pre-Kindy program in November was being present with the children and ensuring they felt safe, happy and supported in the "here and now". All children participated in concert rehearsals held within The Services and Citizens Club to provide a chance for children to practice coordination, teamwork, and performance skills, which also built their confidence. The Bilby classes also delighted in having a special lunch in the Jade Tea House, where the children experienced dining out as part of their life skills learning. They were able to practice appropriate table manners, ordering food, and engaging in polite conversation. It was a valuable experience in teaching social expectations and behaviour in public settings, helping them build confidence and independence in a real-world environment. I am delighted to say the children were so well behaved and received many compliments from fellow diners.



Bland/Temora Family Day Care (FDC) – Service Leader

Well, this is our last Business report for Bland/Temora Family Day Care, which will close its doors on 20th December, after serving the West Wyalong and Temora communities for many years.

Our Educators provided fantastic experiences for the children with craft, obstacle courses, and lots of spontaneous play. They also took beautiful Christmas photos of the children to send to families.

Due to the weather the FDC Christmas party/farewell on Saturday 30th November at the Junee Liquorice Factory was postponed until the new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shaz and Trace R for all their support, along with the Educators who I have worked with over the last four years for this fantastic experience. I have loved observing their knowledge of children's development and enthusiasm, while they fostered a sense of safety and love in their homes for all the children.

FDC Enrolments:

Permanent enrolments – 10 children

Casual enrolments – 3 children

It Takes a Village (ITAV) – Service Leader

Playgroups: Tallimba, Ungarie and Children Services playgroup scheduled for November. Tallimba playgroup was unfortunately cancelled to no staff availability. Children Services Unit Playgroup: 15 families/23 children attended. Ungarie playgroup 4 families/9 children attended.

Toy Library: On the final day of this reporting period there were 54 toys on loan. During this reporting period the toy library issued 43 loans. 3 new toys were purchased, all of which have since been borrowed during November.

Attached: link to ITAV FB post regarding new toys

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AWyZuxndN/>

The following link is a Reel that was created by Tayah Glasgow to advertise Bland Shire Toy Library: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/884367253887069>

Facebook: Bland Shire it Takes a Village: Followers: 317.

Material Aid Packs: 15 Christmas Educational packs have been created to give out to families.

8.12 Bland Community Care Services Update - November 2024



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected, and inclusive community

DP1- Ensure health and support services address the needs of the community.

Author Community Care Coordinator

General Update

Preparations are underway for BCCS (Bland Community Care Services) Christmas celebrations. Special Christmas events, and activities, have been scheduled for the December Wednesday Activity Day (WAD). Parties are being planned for all Social Support Groups – Bland Blokes, Exercise Groups and Wednesday Activity Day. Staff have been busily decorating the centre for the festive season.

Service Update

Intakes under Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) have slowed down due to the large waitlist and staff restraints. Bland Community Care Services (BCCS) are currently accepting referrals for Community Packages – Out of Hospital Care (COMPACKS) and Transitional Aged Care Program (TACP) clients. These services are short term (six to twelve weeks) programs that aim to assist patients recovering from a hospital stay.

The My Aged Care portal continues to be closed for Domestic Assistance, Personal Care, Flexible Respite, Social Support, Goods & Equipment and Yard Maintenance. This is due to the large waitlists and staff shortages.

Staff are currently working through the CHSP Yard Maintenance and Social Support Groups waitlists and are slowly onboarding new clients. The service waitlist is continually growing as clients are inquiring about services directly to us rather than through the My Aged Care portal. All clients on the waitlist are aware of the situation.

Group Updates:

Bland Blokes

Bland Blokes continue to meet on a weekly basis – Tuesdays 9:30am. New members are welcome to attend and join in for morning tea and conversations with like-minded people. The Bland Blokes has 5 regular attendees.

Wednesday Activity Group

Wednesday Activity Day continues weekly – Wednesdays 10am. Group numbers remain steady at a regular 8 attendees, one of these attends on a fortnightly basis rather than weekly.

Throughout Wednesday Activity Day participants enjoy a mix of cognitive and physical activities – such as trivia, quizzes, ‘The Price is Right’, hooky, bowls, quoits, magnetic darts, crafts etc – excursions, visiting groups – such as entertainers and school/daycare groups, and themed days – such as Valentines Day, Kings Birthday, Easter etc.

**Attendance (excluding our volunteer):
NOVEMBER**

Wednesday 6th November 2024 – 8 attendees (PM Excursion)

Wednesday 13th November 2024 – 8 attendees (Excursion – all day)

Wednesday 20th November 2024 – 8 attendees

Wednesday 27th November 2024 – 8 attendees (Excursion – for lunch)

Clients are provided with morning/afternoon tea and a “home cooked” meal for lunch. Sweets are also served after the main meal.

On Wednesday 13th November, clients enjoyed an excursion to Weethalle. Here they enjoyed a Devonshire Tea at the Whistlestop Café. Clients had lunch at the Bowling Club and were entertained by Weethalle school children. A great day was had by all.



On Wednesday 27th November, the children from Aspire Daycare Centre visited BCCS (Bland Community Care Centre). The children sang, danced and drew pictures for the clients. After the children left, clients boarded the bus and headed to the Multi Purpose Unit, at the High School, to watch a concert by the Primary school. The bus then headed to the local S & C Club for all to enjoy a Chinese Meal for lunch.



Gentle Exercise Groups

Gentle Exercise Groups are held each Monday 10am & Thursday x 2 groups – 11am & 1.30pm, with participants enjoying the gentle exercise program followed by Morning or Afternoon Tea and chat. The sessions include both seated and standing exercises. Various equipment is used during these sessions such as floor pedals, small hand weights, pilates balls, pilates step and pool noodles. Clients also go for a walk around the courtyard during the session.

8.13 Bland Shire Council Museum Advisor Report



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected, and inclusive community

DP3- Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life for the residents of the Bland Shire

Author: Museum Advisor

Due to the time of year (Harvesting), Michelle was not available for a visit to Weethalle.

Monday 4 November **Wyalong Museum**



Images show the meeting in the court room. Our visitors enjoyed the environment. The meeting was chaired by Mark Christensen from Wagga Historical Society along with Geoff Burch (who was very instrumental in the creation of the Group).

On Monday Wyalong Museum hosted the Riverina Museum community of practice meeting. The group is called the Southern NSW Heritage Group. It began with a meeting in Temora in 2023. This was the fourth meeting.

The volunteers from Wyalong Museum did a fantastic job welcoming museum workers from Lake Cargelligo, Temora, Lockhart, Ardlethan, Kapooka, Griffith, Gundagai and Wagga Wagga.

Sam Leah and Sophie Magnesson from the Museum of the Riverina also attended. The volunteers from Wyalong also catered for the event

There were presentations by Emily Cullen from Museums & Galleries NSW and Tim Kurylowicz ED from East Riverina Arts.

Diane and I provided a discussion on textile conservation and storage, with a well-received hands-on component in the Machinery Shed.

Tuesday 5 November **Ungarie Museum**



In Ungarie we continued with the cataloguing coming across a set of Marcel curling tongs circa 1925, a rare set of hoof trimmers and a John Meagher demijohn covered in wicker. Don and I worked most of the day with several passers by dropping in to visit the museum.

Next visit will be in 2025

Southern NSW Regional Heritage Group Meeting

Date: Monday 4th November 2024

Location: Wyalong – Court House Museum

MINUTES

10:00am – Registrations and grab a cuppa.

10:15am - Welcome, acknowledgement of country. And housekeeping by Diane Redman.

10:30am – Apologies as per attached list.

Mark Christison introduced himself as chairperson for the day and then invited each attendee to introduce themselves. It was particularly pleasing to have four representatives from the Lake Cargelligo Museum in attendance.

With the closure of the printing office at Temora and its relocation, Bill Spiers was able to collect a number of publications that were left over from old print jobs. Bill brought along several boxes of these booklets and invited attendees to help themselves to whatever booklets that they wanted. I grabbed copies of the booklets on Stockinbingal, Pleasant Hills and the Barmedman Public School.

Stephen Ritchie brought along some promotional packages from Kapooka, which were also offered free to those attending.

Our thanks to both Bill and Stephen for sharing and preserving history.

The day's program was ahead of schedule and the group discussed one of the items in General Business, specifically a discussion around whether the mid year [winter] meeting in 2025 should be face to face meeting or a Zoom meeting. Issues included the shorter daylight hours in winter [driving in darkness], and the prevalence of colds, flus and covid in winter months. Some stressed the importance of the face to face meetings and the ability to have personal discussions with other attendees. Possible solutions included shorter hours for the day's agenda, and selection of a central location for meeting [to reduce average travel time for more groups]. The point was made that the quality of the day's agenda was important, not the quantity. There was no firm decision but in time one or more proposals are to be put to the group for a final decision. This will depend on available venues, and a proposed agenda.

11:00am – Session 1: Emily Cullen [Sector Development Development Manager, MGNSW] – Emily's presentation was via ZOOM.

Emily, who has a vast knowledge of and experience in the operation of regional museums, gave a very interesting talk on the topic of "Sustainability of Regional Museums."

At the end of the presentation Emily answered questions from the floor and before leaving the meeting let it be known that she is always happy to provide advice to regional museums. Emily's contact details can be found at the end of these minutes.

A copy of Emily's presentation is attached and features details of websites for additional information.

11:45am - Session 2: Tim Kurylowicz [Executive Director of Eastern Riverina Arts (ERA)] and Brittany Hefren [Communications Officer (ERA)] – Tim gave a talk about funding opportunities for regional museums and explained how Eastern Riverina Arts could work with one or more regional museums to get programs up and running. As a member of the NSW Government's Creative Communities Council Tim has a unique understanding of the opportunities available to regional museums, and, like Emily, Tim is always happy to provide advice to members of regional museums. Tim's contact details are listed at the end of these minutes.

Tim answered questions from the floor after which the meeting broke for lunch.

For a review of the funding program click the following link,
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/create-nsw/arts-and-cultural-funding-program-reform>

12:30pm – Lunch – Our thanks to Diane and the members of the Bland District Historical Society for a great lunch. The group also provided morning and afternoon teas. Attendees had the opportunity to inspect the museum during the break. The museum buildings consist of the original Wyalong Court House and a large shed to the rear. The court house was a great venue for our meeting – lots of character and history.

1:30pm – Session 3: Textiles: Storage and Cataloguing

Speakers:

- Diane Redman
- Sophie Magnusson
- Margot Jolly

Margot Jolly has extensive experience working with volunteer museums, having worked in the museums sector since 1993 - first for the Historic Houses Trust NSW (now Museums of History NSW) and for the last 17 years in the remote and regional sector. Based in Parkes, NSW, Margot travels around the state working with volunteer managed museums on all aspects of management, collections and display. Margot is still a museum consultant and Museum Advisor for several local government areas. Margot is also involved in community based arts projects in Parkes Shire and is a director for ArtsOutwest (currently Chair), the RADO for the central west region. In 2024 Margot was appointed a board member of MGNSW.

Diane Redman is secretary of the Bland District Historical Society and heavily involved in the day to day operation of the Wyalong Court House Museum and brought a regional perspective to discussions.

Sophie Magnusson is an Assistant Collections and Program Officer with the Museum of the Riverina [MoR, Wagga Wagga]. Sophie has recently implemented two very successful exhibitions with the MoR – firstly, "*Marea and the Queen's Purse*," and secondly a virtual exhibition titled "*The Incredible Feminist of Wagga Wagga*." Sophie also has a practical knowledge of the processes for cataloguing and storing textiles.

Margot led an interesting interactive talk between the three speakers and those in attendance, highlighting some of the issues associated with the storage and cataloguing of textiles. At the end of the discussion the group moved to the back shed to inspect the museums textile storage facility and to discuss several objects chosen by our hosts. One of the items was a photo of a soldier with an associated framed set of correspondence, which coincidentally corresponded with some research Karen Wood from the Ardlethan Museum had been doing.

Sophie contacted me after the meeting to provide some additional information regarding the preservation of leather goods, which was as follows,

“I have gone back over my notes regarding caring for leather goods. Kim Morris advised us that under no circumstances are we to put any sort of leather wax or conditioner on our leather items, as this deteriorates over time, and can make the leather surface hard and friable, just a good clean with a cloth, and some TLC with packing - and possibly registration. And this is an article from M&G NSW that will be helpful.”

<https://mgsw.org.au/sector/resources/online-resources/collection-care/preservation-historic-leather-including-saddlery/>

Thanks Sophie.

3:10pm - General Business

There were no matters raised.

3:15pm – Meeting closed.

Our sincere thanks to our hosts – the Bland District Historical Society.



Photo: Talk by Tim Kurylowicz [left] with Geoff Burch [right] – from the judges bench.

Contact Details

Emily Cullen

Sector Development Manager – Museums & Galleries NSW.

Phone: (02) 5663 2336

Email: emilyc@mgnsw.org.au

Tim Kurylowicz

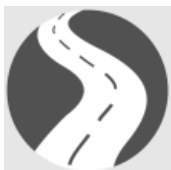
Executive Director – Eastern Riverina Arts

Phone: (02) 6921 6890

Email: exec@easternriverinaarts.org.au

Office Address: 54-58 Johnston St, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650. [by appointment]

8.14 Technical Services Report



Our Places - Maintain & improve the Shire's assets & infrastructure

13. Ensure that public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible

Author: Acting Director – Technical Services

Roads Maintenance Works November 2024

The Roads to Recovery program is ongoing, with construction teams anticipating a new batch of gravel. The availability of adequate gravel supply is crucial to ensure the smooth continuation of the program and to prevent delays in road repair and construction activities. Efforts are being made to secure the necessary storage and maintain progress.

The Flood Damage program is progressing, although some work has been slightly affected by harvest activities and staff unavailability. The efforts are ongoing to manage and minimise any disruptions to the program's overall progress. Flood Damage repair works have been undertaken on Maitland's Lane, Kalms Lane, Kalms Lane South and Nobby's Road.

The Wet Grading program has reached its half-yearly milestone and is currently progressing on Spauls Lane, Worner's Lane, Blands Lane, Jansens Lane, Blunden's Lane, Brace's Lane, Morrisons Lane, Lawrence Lane, Jansens Lane, Mugga Rd and Echo Lane. The program focuses on improving road conditions through wet grading techniques, and work on these lanes is a key part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the local road network.

Sealed Road Patching Works are ongoing across all regional and rural sealed roads, as well as urban roads in West Wyalong and Wyalong.

Gravel re-sheeting is currently in progress on Bodel's Lane, Maitlands Lane, and Wargin Road.

Works Planned December 2024

Flood Damage Repairs:

- Wargin Rd
- Judds Lane
- Sunderlands La
- Sutcliffes Lane
- Cottingley's Lane
- Yiddah Rd.
- Kalms Ln.
- Kalms Lane South.

Maintenance Grading/Wet Grade

- Judds Lane
- Fisher's Lane (Tallimba area)
- Fishers Lane (Off Newell Hwy)

Ongoing sealed road patching works across the Shire and urban areas. These maintenance activities aim to improve road conditions by repairing and patching damaged surfaces, ensuring safer and more reliable travel across these areas.

Gravel Re-sheeting will progress on Wargin Rd, Sutcliffe’s Lane and Sunderland’s Lane. This work is aimed at improving the road surfaces by adding a fresh layer of gravel, enhancing road stability and driving conditions on these routes.

Biosecurity and Weeds

Biosecurity Staff continue mosquito trapping for the Department of Health as well as dust monitoring at the West Wyalong Aerodrome.

Biological Control – Biosecurity Staff continue to monitor release sites for cochineal as a biological control agent for Wheel cactus and Pencil cactus control. Biosecurity Staff secured another site for release of cochineal for Wheel cactus at Calleen and they work closely with property owners to help control the heavy infestation of cactus on private land. Release will happen in the following weeks.

Biosecurity Staff have noticed appearance of:

- *Cactoblastis* in the shire which has spread throughout many different species of cactus.
- *Lixus cardui* (Onopordum stem-boring weevil) has appeared in the shire and spreads amongst the Scotch Thistle - infestations along the Humbug Creek.
- *Lema trivittata*, a generalist which feeds on several Solanaceous species which has been found west of Ungarie in a large patch of Thorn Apple.

Weed of the Month is published monthly on the Council’s social media page.

Biosecurity staff has conducted High Risk Pathway Inspection at Mid-Western Highway, 57Nth, 231, Goldfields Way, Quandialla Road, 368, 371, Mary Gilmore, Newell Highway and spraying of West Wyalong Cemetery.

Biosecurity staff also undertook mowing around Ungarie village area and road shoulders at Bena Road, Kikoira Road, 231, Merringreen Road, Crown Camp Road, Blow Clear Road, Bonehams Lane, Wamboyne Road, Quandialla Road. Moving activity helps weed control and reduce fire risks while supporting biodiversity and ecological health.

Biosecurity staff have undertaken treatment of the following weeds and other biosecurity controls:

Weed or Other Control	Area
<i>Blue Heliotrope</i>	Acacia Street (bushland), Ungarie rail yards, Buddigower Road
<i>Spiny Burr Grass</i>	West Wyalong Rail corridor, West Wyalong Show Ground, Abernethys Lane, Nielsons Lane, Kolkilbertoo Road, Sandy Creek Road, Mcdermotts Lane, Gunns Road, Sth Yalgogrin Road, Sprys Lane, Cottingley’s Lane, Clear Ridge Road, Lonergans Lane, Youngs Lane, Wilsons Lane, Patons Lane, Buttenshaws Lane, Hatelys Lane, Marshmans crossing, McCartens Lane, 371, Lewes Lane, Mangelsdorf’s Lane, Johns Lane, Euratha Road, Andersons Lane.
<i>Silver Leaf Night Shade</i>	Younga Plains Road, Cattles Lane, 57 Nth
<i>Hemlock</i>	Goldenfield Way, Newell Highway

<i>St Johns Wart</i>	57 Nth, Clear Ridge Road, Goodens Lane, Younga Plains Road, Cunningtons Lane, Scotts Lane, Sutcliffes Lane, Golden Hills Road, Ariah Park Road, Mandamah Forest Road, Burrallyang Sandy Creek Road, Hatelys Lane, Ridleys Lane, Mulga Lane, Hilliers Lane, Tallimba Road, Brolga Road, Youngareen Road, Cattles Lane.
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Biological Control – Biosecurity Staff continue to monitor release sites for cochineal as a biological control agent for Wheel cactus, and Pencil cactus control.

Stem Injection of Cactus was undertaken around the Ungarie Village Area.

Spraying has been undertaken around the townships and villages of Barmedman, Weethalle, Ungarie and West Wyalong.

Urban Services

The Urban Services team continues to undertake routine maintenance by focusing on activities such as mowing, whipper snipping, irrigation inspections and repairs, and weeding or spraying, the team contributes significantly to the aesthetics and usability of council-managed sporting fields, parks, and town or village areas. These efforts enhance community enjoyment and maintain environmental standards, fostering well-maintained, vibrant spaces for public use

The Urban Services Village Maintenance Team continues its diligent efforts to maintain the villages of Weethalle, Tallimba, Ungarie, and Barmedman with weekly activities, complemented by a monthly visit to Naradhan. Their work includes mowing and whipper-snipping in parks and sporting fields, ensuring these community spaces remain clean, tidy, and accessible. This regular maintenance demonstrates the team's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors in these areas.

Routine inspections remain a priority at West Wyalong Airport, as well as across parks, playgrounds, and cemeteries. These inspections are vital for ensuring safety, functionality, and cleanliness, demonstrating a proactive approach to maintaining public infrastructure and spaces for the community's benefit.

The Council's Street Sweeper has been actively cleaning the streets of West Wyalong and Wyalong. This regular maintenance helps to keep the streets tidy, improves safety, and enhances the overall appearance of the area for residents and visitors.

Projects

Wyalong/West Wyalong Floodplain Committee

The Council recently advertised and pursued community representatives for the Wyalong/West Wyalong Floodplain Committee and received an encouraging response, with six nominations submitted by members of the public. This strong community interest highlights local engagement and a shared commitment to addressing floodplain management and related issues.

DC3 Refurbishment

Following the resolution of transport challenges, the main body of the DC-3 aircraft has successfully been transported for restoration. This marks a significant step in preserving an important piece of aviation history, with the restoration promising to bring the iconic aircraft back to its former glory.

Projects Underway

Several projects are currently underway to enhance community spaces:

- **Marking out for Solar Light Installation:** Solar lights have been installed at the RSL Memorial and preparations are in progress for installing solar lights at the Rose Garden, improving accessibility and character.
- **Active movement upgrades:** Pathway replacements have been finalised at Herridge Park, and include an extension to take in the Neeld Bust memorial. Work at McCann Park is currently at Request for Quotation stage, with work to commence following the school holidays in a staged approach to minimise disruption.
- **Pram Ramp Installation:** A new pram ramp is being added to the Rose Garden, enhancing accessibility for all visitors.
- **Garden Edging Concreting:** The garden edging at the Reg Rattey site is being concreted, providing durability and a cleaner aesthetic.

These improvements reflect ongoing efforts to create functional, inclusive, and attractive community areas.

8.15 Development Services Activity Report – November 2024



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.2 Ensure Councillors take ownership and a strong leadership role.

Author: Manager of Development & Regulatory Services

Planning and Building Activities Update

The following DA applications were approved during November 2024

Application No	Location	Description	Consent Authority	Approval Date
DA2024/0039	68 Mandamah Road Barmedman	Waste or Resource Management Facility - Addition of Waste Disposal Facility to existing Resource Recovery Facility (Access Trading)	Council	19/11/2024
DA2024/0049	11 Park Street West Wyalong	Residential Alterations & Additions – Dwelling Extensions	Staff	21/11/2024

Other applications approved during November 2024:

- Four (4) Construction Certificates
- Four (4) Local Government Act Applications
- One (1) Complying Development Certificate
- One (1) Occupation Certificate

Inspections carried out during November 2024:

Type	Number
Swimming Pool Compliance	2
Building	48
Food	2
Local Govt (Unhealthy Premises – Pigeon)	6
Overgrown & Untidy Blocks	20

Enquiries & meetings during November 2024:

Type	Number
Building and Planning	38
Public Health	1
Compliance	5
Food	2
Swimming Pools	5
Complaints	1
Other	8
Meetings	
Pre-Lodgement	4
Planning Portal Integration	4
Other	1

Regulatory Activities Update

Dog Attacks – Two

- 1 Dog attacked a sheep, sheep deceased, dog surrendered.
- 1 Dog attacked human, under assessment.

Companion Animals Activities Report November 2024

Seizure Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Seized	3	6
Returned to Owner	1	

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	3	1
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	3	6
Surrendered	2	3
Total Animals in Pound	8	7

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	1	
Euthanised		
Rehoused (Rescued)	3	5
Sold		
Died at Pound		
Stolen		
Escaped		
Total Animals Leaving Pound	4	5
Animals in Pound at end of Month	4	2

Environmental Health Update

NSW Public Health – Public Swimming Pools

Local councils are authorised under the *Public Health Act 2010* to conduct inspections of public swimming pools and spa pools.

The department recently updated the *Public Health Regulations 2022* and within Schedule 1 the new requirements are:

- A pool must be fitted with an automated or a continuous metered disinfectant system.
- A pool must be disinfected with chlorine or bromine.
- The temperature of the water must not exceed 38°C.
- A record must be made, and kept for at least six (6) months, of the results of the testing required under this Schedule.

Councils Environmental Health Officer attended training and will implement an education program to owners/providers of public swimming pools and spa pools regarding the new requirements.

GIS Update

Completion of LEP Maps: the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) maps for the Department of Planning have been completed

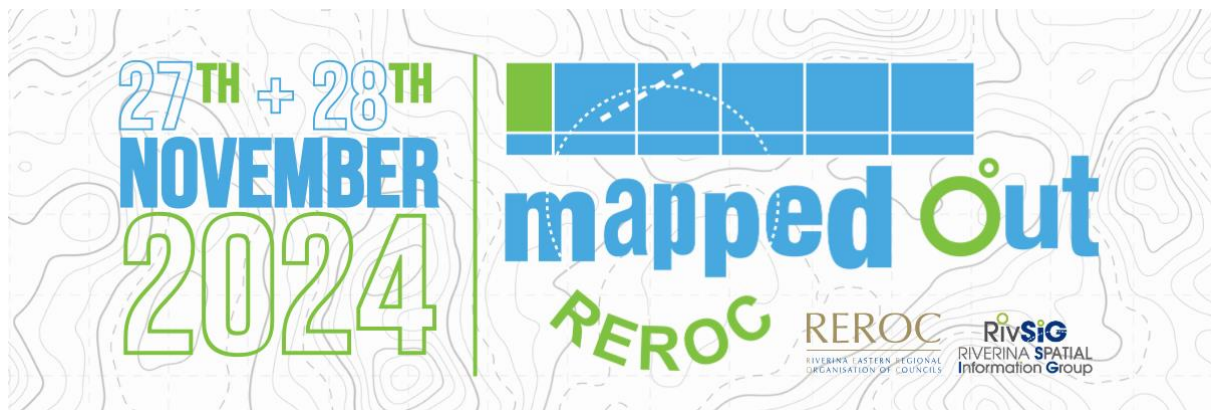
Implementing QR Codes for Council Facilities: investigation of the implementation of QR codes across council facilities for various applications i.e. visitor information, safety checklists on machinery/equipment.

Exploring CCTV AI Solutions: AI-enhanced CCTV systems to monitor and analyse activities at the library and transportation routes affected by heavy vehicle traffic.

Mapped out conference: the GIS officer attended the Annual Mapped Out Conference in Wagga on 27th and 28th of November. The Conference featured speakers from across the country sharing insights on a range of spatial topics. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with other council GIS officers, industry leaders, and explore trade stands showcasing diverse products and services tailored for GIS solutions in councils.

DPI Presentation: The presentation from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) was particularly engaging, especially considering that Bland Shire ranks as the third-largest agricultural producer in the state. It highlighted the region's significant contribution to agriculture.

NGIS Case Study: The NGIS case study demonstrated the use of satellite imagery combined with AI and machine learning. By analysing the RGB reflective index, they showcased how specific plant species could be detected, this is good for precision agriculture and environmental management.



REPORTS OF COMMITTEES



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.6 Regular consultation with key industry, business and stakeholders

Committees	Date/s	Minutes Attached
Cowal Gold Operations Community Environmental Monitoring and Consultative Committee (CEMCC)	4 September 2024	✓
Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee	6 November 2024	✓
Association Of Mining & Energy Related Councils (NSW) Incorporated	14 November 2024	✓
Association Of Mining & Energy Related Councils (NSW) Incorporated	14 November 2024	✓
Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc	15 November 2024	✓

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Committee meeting minutes as presented.

MINUTES OF MEETING
Cowal Gold Operations
Community Environmental Monitoring
and Consultative Committee (CEMCC)

Date: Wednesday 4 Sept 2024
Time: 9.02am, Forbes Shire Council Chambers.

Attendees:

Independent Chairperson: David Ross (LA)
Evolution: Greg Coase (GC), Renee Pettit (RP), Zach Murphy (ZM).
Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation: Ally Coe (AC), Nicole Smith (NS), Vicki Swadling (VS).
Community Members: Lucy Buttenshaw (LB)*, Bruce Dent (BD), Kate Dean (KD)*, Angus Stitt (AS).
Forbes Shire Council: Cr Brian Mattiske (BM)
Bland Shire Council: NA
Lachlan Shire Council: Cr Dennis Brady (DB)

Apologies: Chris Roylance (CR), Cr Elizabeth McGlynn.

**Attended meeting remotely*

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Independent Chair, DR, opened the meeting at 9.02am. DR welcomed all in attendance and welcomed new meeting attendee ZM. ZM gave a short introduction and background of role at Evolution.</p>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interest</p> <p>DR advised there were no changes to previous declarations by CEMCC members, nor to his; Independent Chair of the CEMCC, appointed by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and receives payment via a Trust established by the Bland Shire Council. BM declared interest around pipeline agreement in place with Evolution.</p>	
<p>3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes.</p> <p>The last meeting of the CEMCC was held 12 June at the Wiradjuri Condobolin Centre. The minutes were finalised and sent to the members with the presentation on 3 July 2024. There were two action items from that meeting:</p>	

1	Send Cowal Update digital edition to CEMCC members	
2	CEMCC members to provide DR feedback on chairing style.	
<p>All actions completed.</p> <p>No other Business Arising from the previous minutes.</p> <p>Minutes moved by DB Seconded by GT.</p>		
<p>4. Correspondence:</p> <p>Both GC and RP informed members that Evolution had not had any correspondence of note with relevant government organisations.</p>		
<p>5. Reports (See presentation for summary, photographs and monitoring graphs)</p> <p>GC provided a detailed account of Cowal Gold Operations (CGO's) Environment Department's activities over the last quarter and a status of the underground project along with an update of the OPC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legal Obligations. ○ External ISO14001 Recertification Audit July 2024 – completed zero non-conformances and recertification issued in August ○ Environmental Incidents: All fauna deaths associated with misadventure. ○ Air Quality: Further trials have commenced regarding longer term dust mitigation. Dust control medium to be reapplied NTSF, with wind break control trails to be applied STSF. GC communicated dust mitigation techniques to be utilised. ○ Blasting & Vibration: 9 blasts required further investigation of overpressure, after analysis, results were found to be likely related to localised environmental factors rather than blasting practices. ○ Operational Noise: Attended noise monitoring completed by Spectrum Acoustics from May 2024. No operational noise limits were exceeded at any location. ○ Rainfall: See graph. 		<p>Slide 4</p> <p>Slide 5</p> <p>Slide 6</p> <p>Slide 7</p> <p>Slide 8</p> <p>Slide 10</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface Water & Lake Water: Water level of Lake Cowal has remained steady since October 2023. ○ Groundwater: No complaints. ○ Fauna & Flora ○ Cyanide ○ Open Pit Continuation Project Update: Timeline presented. GC gave a quick broad overview around Biodiversity offsetting. ○ CGO Exploration Update: Geophysical survey completed October 2023 Drilling activities in the South Cowal area were completed. mid-January 2024. Surface geochemical surveying of the Western Corridor area was completed late January 2024 <p>RP provided details of community complaints and the activities and support undertaken by the Cowal Community and External Relations team in the previous quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Relations (Complaints, Sponsorships, Donations, Scholarships & Employee Achievements: One complaint received during last quarter: Resident of the UG accommodation village had entered nearby neighbour's property causing damage. Contractor was disciplined in accordance with policy. Detailed CPP, Cowal Cares & Scholarship program update. Detailed further community engagement & investment. Celebrated EVN employee achievements. 	<p>Action 1: EVN to provide slide on EVN's Biodiversity offsetting at next CEMCC meeting.</p> <p>Action 2: ZM to present exploration update in CEMCC March 2025 meeting.</p> <p>Action 3: CR team to provide documentation/presentation around assessment of CPP applications at next CEMCC meeting.</p>
<p>6. General Business</p> <p>DR gave CEMCC members five minutes to discuss chairing style of the meeting and provide feedback. CEMCC all agreed DR chairing style was warmly welcomed. DR informed CEMCC members to allow 90 minutes for the meeting as there would be a whole-of-committee discussion then on what members wish to get out of our 2025 meetings.</p>	
<p>7. Meeting Schedule for 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wednesday 27th of November Evolution Town Office 	
<p>8. Meeting Closed – 10.14 am with DR thanking all for their attendance and contribution.</p>	

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	EVN to provide include a slide on EVN's Biodiversity offsetting in next CEMCC meeting.	GC
2	EVN to provide exploration update in March 2025 CEMCC meeting.	ZM
3	EVN CR team to provide documentation/presentation around assessment of CPP applications.	RP/LR



RIVERINA REGIONAL LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, 6 November 2024

The meeting of the Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee commenced at 9:30am.

PRESENT

Cr Belinda Bushell	Temora Shire Council
Cr Frances Day	Lockhart Shire Council
Cr Jill Funnell	Bland Shire Council
Cr Pam Halliburton	Junee Shire Council
Cr Julia Ham	Snowy Valleys Council
Cr Michael Kidd	Leeton Shire Council
Cr Kathy Maslin	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr Susan Wearne	Federation Council
Cr Rosalind Wight	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Cr Annette Schilg	Greater Hume Council
Ms Courtney Armstrong	Coolamon Shire Council
Ms Evelyn Arnold	Greater Hume Council
Ms Alison Balind	Bland Shire Council
Ms Allison Dennis	Snowy Valleys Council
Mr Tony Donoghue	Coolamon Shire Council
Ms Michelle Evans	Leeton Shire Council
Ms Penny Howse	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Mr Gavin Rhodes	Lockhart Shire Council
Ms Elizabeth Smith	Temora Shire Council
Ms Merran Socha	Berrigan Shire Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Zac Armistead	Riverina Regional Library
Ms Karen Wendt	Riverina Regional Library

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Riverina Regional Library acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Cr Renee Brooker

Berrigan Shire Council

Cr Holly Brooks

Bland Shire Council

Cr Abb McAlister

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

Resolved

On the motion of Cr Kathy Maslin and Cr Rosalind Wight

That the Apologies of the Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee meeting held on 6 November 2024 be received and accepted.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

REPORTS

RP-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE RIVERINA REGIONAL LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Resolved

On the motion of Mr Tony Donoghue and Ms Alison Balind

That the Committee endorse the minutes of the RRL Advisory Committee meetings held on 27 March 2024 and 19 June 2024 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

At this point of the meeting, Cr Pam Halliburton vacated the chair and handed the meeting to the RRL Manager, Karen Wendt, and Returning Officer, Zac Armistead, to conduct the election of Office Bearers for 2024-2028.

RP-2 ELECTION OF CHAIR, DEPUTY CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Resolved

On the motion of Cr Kathy Maslin and Cr Frances Day

That the Committee:

- a elect a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to the RRL Advisory Committee for 2024-2028**
- b elect four (4) delegates to the RRL Executive Committee for 2024-2028.**

Chairperson

Cr Pam Halliburton nominated by Ms Alison Balind and Cr Kathy Maslin.
Cr Pam Halliburton accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, **Cr Pam Halliburton** was duly elected Chairperson of the Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee for 2024-2028.

Deputy Chairperson

Cr Annette Schilg nominated by Cr Pam Halliburton and Ms Alison Balind.
Cr Annette Schilg accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, **Cr Annette Schilg** was duly elected Deputy Chairperson of the Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee for 2024-2028.

Executive Committee

Cr Belinda Bushell nominated by Cr Pam Halliburton and Cr Kathy Maslin.
Cr Belinda Bushell accepted the nomination.

Cr Rosalind Wight nominated by Ms Alison Balind and Cr Pam Halliburton.
Cr Rosalind Wight accepted the nomination.

Ms Alison Balind nominated by Cr Pam Halliburton and Ms Rosalind Wight.
Ms Alison Balind accepted the nomination.

Mr Tony Donoghue nominated by Cr Pam Halliburton and Ms Alison Balind.
Mr Tony Donoghue accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, **Cr Belinda Bushell, Cr Rosalind Wight, Ms Alison Balind and Mr Tony Donoghue** were duly elected, joining the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson on the Executive Committee of the Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee for 2024-2028.

CARRIED

RP-3 ADMINISTERING COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT

Resolved

On the motion of Cr Belinda Bushell and Cr Annette Schilg

That the Committee:

- a note the budget review for the year ended 30 June 2024**
- b note the budget review for the July-September 2024 quarter**
- c adopt the recommended variations to income and expenditure**
- d endorse the Riverina Regional Library Asset Register as at 30 June 2022**
- e endorse the signing of the 2021/22 Riverina Regional Library Financial Statements pursuant to s413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993.**

RP-3 ADMINISTERING COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT (LATE REPORT)

Resolved

On the motion of Cr Kathy Maslin and Cr Alison Balind

That the Committee:

- f endorse the Riverina Regional Library Asset Register as at 30 June 2023**
- g endorse the signing of the 2022/23 Riverina Regional Library Financial Statements pursuant to s413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993.**

CARRIED

RP-4 RRL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 2025

Resolved

On the motion of Cr Annette Schilg and Mr Tony Donoghue

That the Committee endorse the following meeting dates in Wagga Wagga during 2025:

- Wednesday 26 March**
- Wednesday 22 October**

CARRIED

Ms Allison Dennis entered the meeting at 10:00am.

RP-5 LIBRARY ACTIVITY STATISTICS REPORT

Resolved

On the motion of Ms Alison Balind and Ms Evelyn Arnold

That the Committee note the Library Activity Statistics report.

CARRIED

RP-6 RRL MANAGER REPORT

Resolved

On the motion of Mr Gavin Rhodes and Cr Annette Schilg

That the Committee note the RRL Manager report.

CARRIED

RP-7 TENDER FOR MOBILE LIBRARY TRAILER AND APPLICATION FOR PLIG FUNDING

Resolved

On the motion of Mr Alison Balind and Cr Rosalind Wight

That the Committee:

- a endorse the recommended tenderer for the replacement Mobile Library Trailer**
- b endorse the application for Public Library Infrastructure Grant funding to the amount of \$500,000**
- c endorse the transfer of \$436,437 from the Mobile Library Reserve fund over FY25 and FY26.**

CARRIED

Cr Michael Kidd entered the meeting at 10:30am.

GENERAL BUSINESS

GB-1 Cr Pam Halliburton congratulated the RRL Manager, Karen Wendt, on her appointment to the NSW Public Libraries Association Executive as a Library Manager Member.

GB-2 Cr Annette Schilg raised the topic of engaging with the 13-18 year age group and ways of drawing them into the library. Various suggestions were discussed.

MEETING CLOSE

The Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee rose at 10:40am.

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, REID ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY.

Present in person

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chair)	Orange City Council
Cr Peter Batten	Cabonne Shire Council
Cr Bruce Reynolds, Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker, GM	Blayney Shire Council
Cr Jarrod Marsden, Mayor	Cobar Shire Council
Cr Tony Lord (Executive Committee)	Bland Shire Council
Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy Mayor (Executive Committee)	Broken Hill City Council
Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor	Mid-Western Regional Council
Brad Cam, GM	Mid -Western Regional Council
Cr Benn Banasik	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr Dennis Brady (Executive Committee)	Lachlan Shire Council
Patrick Ruettjes, Director Env & Planning	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr Bob McKay	Warren Shire Council
Gary Woodman	Warren Shire Council
Cr Josh Black, Mayor	Dubbo City Regional Council
Murray Wood, GM	Dubbo City Regional Council
Cr Jasen Ramien, Mayor	Walgett Shire Council
Cr Scott Bailey (Executive Committee)	Walgett Shire Council
Megan Dixon, GM	Walgett Shire Council

Present online

Heather Nicholls, Deputy GM	Cabonne Shire Council
Cr Matthew Deeth, Deputy Mayor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Ron Zwicker, Special Projects Manager	Wollongong City Council
Steve Loane OAM, GM	Forbes Shire Council

In attendance

Cr Steve Ring, Deputy Mayor	Lithgow City Council
Cr Jeff Drayton, Mayor	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Derek Finnegan, GM	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Owen Hasler	Life Member
Di Hasler	Life Member Partner
Martin Rush, Director Policy	FTG
Greg Lamont, Executive Officer	FTG
Ingrid Moores, Project Officer	FTG
Andrew Callow, Intern	FTG

Apologies

Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Kent Boyd, GM	Parkes Shire Council
Cr Neil Westcott, Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr Marg Applebee, Deputy Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Johnathon Edgecombe, Director Infrastructure	Lithgow City Council
Cr Greg Whitely, Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Cr Emma Henderson	Bland Shire Council

1. Welcome by Outgoing Chair.

The outgoing Chair opened the meeting at 2.05pm, welcomed members, observers and guests. Introductions were made of all attendees and a special welcome made to visiting councils, Muswellbrook and Lithgow and Life Member Owen Hasler and wife Di.

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, REID ROOM, SYDNEY PARLIAMENT HOUSE

2. Acknowledgement of Country.

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land that the meeting was held on and paid his respects to the Elders past, present & emerging.

3. Apologies.

AGM 1/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/Cr Lord) That the apologies as per the above list be received and noted.

4. Disclosures of Interest - Nil

5. Adoption of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 8th December 2023 - Attachment. A.

AGM 2/2024 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Brady) that the minutes of the Association's Annual General Meeting held on 8th December 2023, be received and noted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6. Business arising from the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 8th December 2023. Nil.

7. Suspension of Standing Orders – Life Membership, Owen Hasler.

AGM 3/2024 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Lord) that the meeting be suspended at 2.15pm to allow the presentation of life membership to Owen Hasler.

The Chair spoke of Owen Hasler's achievements as former Deputy Chair of the Association and as Mayor/delegate from Gunnedah Shire Council. Chair asked Di Hasler to pin the life membership badge on his lapel and presented the plaque to him. Refer Item 7 in Business paper for Owens' resume.

8. Resumption of Standing Orders

AGM 4/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/Cr Lord) That the meeting be resumed at 2.48pm.

9. Chairperson's 2023-24 Annual Report

AGM 5/2024 Resolved (Cr Lord/Cr Brady) that the Chairperson's 2023-24 Annual Report be received and noted.

10. Executive Officer's 2023-24 Annual Report

AGM 6/2024 Resolved (Cr Batten/Cr Brady) that the Executive Officer's 2023-24 Annual Report be received and noted.

11. Election of Chair, 2 x Deputy Chair's and 3 x Executive Committee for 2024/25.

Suspension of Standing Orders at 2.50pm

AGM 7/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/Cr Duffy) That the meeting be suspended to allow the Returning Officer to conduct the election of the Executive Committee.

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, REID ROOM, SYDNEY PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The Executive Officer as Returning Officer reported that the nominations for the Executive Committee received by the due date equated to the vacancies for Chair and the two Deputy Chair positions plus two Executive Committee positions.

The Executive Officer suggested that another nomination could be made from the floor to fill the vacancy.

AGM 8/2024 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Kennedy) that Cr Jim Hickey be nominated to fill the remaining position on the Executive Committee.

The Returning Officer declared the results of the election as follows:

- Chair – Cr Kevin Duffy (Orange City Council)
- Deputy Chair – Cr Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire Council)
- Deputy Chair – Cr Dennis Brady (Lachlan Shire Council)
- Executive Committee –
 - Cr Scott Bailey (Walgett Shire Council),
 - Cr Tony Lord (Bland Shire Council) and
 - Cr Jim Hickey (Broken Hill City Council)

The Returning Officer and Delegates congratulated the Executive Committee on their appointment's.

Resumption of Standing Orders at 3.05pm

AGM 9/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/Cr Lord) that the Association resume the Annual General Meeting business with Cr Kevin Duffy as Chairperson.

The Chair acknowledged the contribution of former Mayor of Blayney, Scott Ferguson who and Cr Denis Todd from Warrumbungle Shire Council for their contributions and that he would like the record to show that MERC has appreciated their efforts over the years.

12. Financial Statements – 2023 to 2024

Financial statements were presented, questions were asked around the differences between the previous year which was due to the overlap of Executive Officer services contract costs. Members were reassured that there are enough funds to keep the association moving forward to July 2025, when next round of invoices will be submitted.

AGM 10/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/ Cr Hickey)

1. That the Financial Statements for 2023-2024 financial year be adopted with -
 - (i) the inclusion of the names of the Executive Committee in the Statement by Members of the Executive Committee and the Chair to sign them on behalf of the Executive Committee for the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024.
 - (ii) the inclusion of the Chair as the nominated member to sign the Certificate by Members of the Executive Committee.
 - (iii) the inclusion of the Associations' Principal Activities as "an advocacy and policy development entity on behalf of its members"
2. That the Department of Fair Trading, in accordance with the Association Incorporations Act 2009, be notified of (1) in the appropriate form by 31st December 2024.
3. That the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW authorise Greg Lamont and/or Shelley Rodwell, to have access to CBA, Beyond Bank and ATO financial statements and to act on behalf of the Association as required for the presentation of financial reports and taxation matters.

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, REID ROOM, SYDNEY PARLIAMENT HOUSE

13. 2024-2025 Budget

It was noted there were additional costs with transition overlap with the two Executive Officer service providers at the half yearly point and the cost of REIIF for 2023. It is anticipated the marketing of MERC's value proposition membership will increase in 2025/2026.

AGM 11/2024 Resolved (Cr Batten/ Cr Brady) that the 2024-2025 budget as presented be adopted.

14. Member Fees – 2025-26

AGM 12/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/ Cr Hickey)

1. That Clause 16.3 of the Constitution be amended to provide:

16.3 (a) The Annual General Meeting shall determine member fees for the ensuing financial year. Membership fees shall be for the period July 1 to June 30 of each year ~~and be reviewed as per Clause 16.3 to allow increases in accordance with the permissible rate increase each year provided that such fees must not be increased by more than the Core rate peg percentage range set by IPART for the corresponding period.~~

16.3 (b) Notwithstanding 16.3 (a), the Executive Committee may determine a member fee for a new member for the ensuing year (whether the new member joined before or during the ensuing year) in its discretion provided that such fee must not exceed the amount liable to be paid by a member in accordance with 16.3 (a).

2. That the fees for 2025 – 2026 be set at \$9,200 (plus GST).
3. That, following discussions with the Australian Mining Cities Alliance and other relevant special interest groups, the Executive Officer provide the Executive Committee an options report generally in accordance with the recommendations of Three Pillars Advisory.

15. 2024-25 Meeting Dates & Venues

Discussion held around Parliament sitting dates and the importance of having the AGM at these times, with the pros and cons of tying in with other organisations' meetings but ensuring no future clashes where possible to achieve maximum attendance.

AGM 13/2024 Resolved (Cr Kennedy/ Cr Reynolds) That the Association Executive Committee determine the 2025 meeting venues and dates for February, May, August & November 2025, with other organisations meeting and Parliamentary Sitting Dates factored in.

16. General Business Nil

17. Close. The meeting closed at 3:15pm

The minutes (pages 1-4) were confirmed at the Annual General meeting of the Association held on the and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on 14th of November 2024

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Cr Kevin Duffy
Chairperson

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, REID ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY.

Present in person

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chair)	Orange City Council
Cr Peter Batten	Cabonne Shire Council
Cr Bruce Reynolds, Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker, GM	Blayney Shire Council
Cr Jarrod Marsden, Mayor	Cobar Shire Council
Cr Tony Lord (Executive Committee)	Bland Shire Council
Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy Mayor (Executive Committee)	Broken Hill City Council
Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor	Mid-Western Regional Council
Brad Cam, GM	Mid -Western Regional Council
Cr Benn Banasik	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr Dennis Brady (Executive Committee)	Lachlan Shire Council
Patrick Ruettjes, Director Env & Planning	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr Bob McKay	Warren Shire Council
Gary Woodman	Warren Shire Council
Cr Josh Black, Mayor	Dubbo City Regional Council
Murray Wood, GM	Dubbo City Regional Council
Cr Jasen Ramien, Mayor	Walgett Shire Council
Cr Scott Bailey (Executive Committee)	Walgett Shire Council
Megan Dixon, GM	Walgett Shire Council

Present online

Heather Nicholls, Deputy GM	Cabonne Shire Council
Cr Matthew Deeth, Deputy Mayor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Ron Zwicker, Special Projects Manager	Wollongong City Council
Steve Loane OAM, GM	Forbes Shire Council

In attendance

Cr Steve Ring, Deputy Mayor	Lithgow City Council
Cr Jeff Drayton, Mayor	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Derek Finnegan, GM	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Owen Hasler	Life Member
Di Hasler	Life Member Partner
Martin Rush, Director Policy	FTG
Greg Lamont, Executive Officer	FTG
Ingrid Moores, Project Officer	FTG
Andrew Callow, Intern	FTG

Apologies

Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Kent Boyd, GM	Parkes Shire Council
Cr Neil Westcott, Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr Marg Applebee, Deputy Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Johnathon Edgecombe, Director Infrastructure	Lithgow City Council
Cr Greg Whitely, Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Cr Emma Henderson	Bland Shire Council

1. Welcome

The Chair, Cr Kevin Duffy, opened the meeting at 3.20pm then welcomed members and guests.

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, REID ROOM, SYDNEY PARLIAMENT HOUSE

2. Acknowledgement of Country.

The Chair referred to the acknowledgement he gave at the Annual General Meeting.

3. Apologies.

OM 4/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/Cr Lord) That the apologies of Councillors Phyllis Miller OAM, Greg Whitely, Emma Henderson, Neil Westcott, Marg Applebee, Kent Boyd and Jonathon Edgecomb be received and noted.

4. Disclosures of Interest.

Nil

5. Adoption of Minutes

OM 5/2024 Resolved (Cr Hickey/ Cr Kennedy) that the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on 26th March 2024, 6th June 2024, 6th August 2024, 2nd September 2024 and the General meetings on 6th June 2024 and 6th August 2024 be received and noted as a full and accurate record of proceedings.

6. Delegates Reports – Nil

7. Executive Officer's Report – Greg Lamont

The Executive Officer mentioned the progress being made with the presentation of submissions, the ongoing meetings with ministers, senior government staff and alliances on replacement programs for Resources for Regions and Royalties for Rejuvenation, with Policy Officer providing a brief update on potential results, with more detail to come in General Business.

Also outlined was the financial position of the Association being in a sound state with cash on hand as of September 1st 2024, was \$146600.76 with 3 Councils still to pay \$26,400 – Dubbo, Warrumbungle & Upper Lachlan, given invoices only went out in mid - August.

Executive Officer pointed out the delay with the final review report on the REIIF 2024 conference in Dubbo and possible change in location to Orange in 2025 as a joint Orana/Central West RDA and MERC event.

He also mentioned the need for changes to the constitution and a one page reformat of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan to address the issues raised in the Strategic Planning Forum held in Lithgow 9-10th February 2024.

OM 6/2024 Resolved (Cr Reynolds/ Cr Brady) that the Executive Officers Report be received and noted.

8. General Business

(i) Voting Rights

A question was asked about the voting rights of senior Council Staff delegates to MERC as opposed to elected delegates – can they be elected to the Executive Committee and vote if appointed delegates?

Response was that is the correct position. The current Executive Committee for 2024/25 has been elected on this basis from member council's appointed delegates, who are the only

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, REID ROOM, SYDNEY PARLIAMENT HOUSE

ones that can vote, but each member cannot have more than two votes per member.as per the constitution.

Additional member councillors and staff may attend meetings but not vote unless appointed as a delegate from their councils.

(ii) Sub Committees

Discussion was held on the involvement of senior staff from members whereby it was agreed that it would be an imperative for staff delegates and non-delegates to get involved in the operation of subcommittees on mining, VPAs and quarrying for policy development and advocacy in view of their operational knowledge.

OM 7/2024 Resolved (Cr Batten/ Cr Reynolds) Expressions of Interest be circulated to members seeking nominations from delegates and senior staff to be part of the formation of Sub Committees for Mining, VPAs and Quarrying for policy development and advocacy.

(iii) Policy Officer's Report

It was indicated that Minister Sharpe was the sponsor of two bills and may be delayed.

There was some good news on the submission with respect to the Regional Development Act, in that amendments to the Act had incorporated submissions from the Association – particularly with respect to economic transitions management.

It was noted that the review of benefit sharing guidelines with respect to major renewable energy projects was still greatly inadequate and that the methodology for arriving at the figures was still unknown.

It was noted that officers are still compiling a survey of quarrying across NSW regional councils to inform a position paper on future quarrying. It was anticipated that a survey would be distributed early in the new year. The sharing of regulatory resources among councils to improve quarry regulation was suggested. It was noted that there may be considerable value MERC could provide to regional councils in improving the quality of quarrying consents and associated regulatory activity.

Discussion was held on developing a campaign to raise awareness about the benefits of a regional tax on mining activity. The potential impact of a regional tax on the mining industry is discussed. The need for a coordinated approach to advocacy was emphasised and the importance of engaging with the government and industry stakeholders was reiterated.

The conversation moved on to discuss a campaign to recover royalty payments for councils, which have seen a significant shortfall, from \$20 million to nil. The trust fund is now \$400 million, with an additional \$50 million recently added. The discussion includes meetings with various ministers and the Minerals Council, highlighting a \$25 million annual transition fund for coal mining councils, which is insufficient for many. The idea of a collective campaign involving miners, councils, and affected communities is proposed.

OM 8/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/ Cr Lord) that Policy Officer Report be noted and received.

(iv) Australian Mining Cities Alliance (AMCA)

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, REID ROOM, SYDNEY PARLIAMENT HOUSE

A proposal was suggested to approach the Australian Mining Cities Alliance for associate membership to strengthen MERC's advocacy efforts. The benefits of the alliance were explained by Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy Mayor, Broken Hill City Council (who are a member of AMCA) including better access to government officials and support from Minerals Council Australia at the Federal level.

OM 9/2024 Resolved (Cr Reynolds/ Cr Kennedy) that MERC discuss with and explore possible membership options with AMCA for report back to Executive Committee for consideration.

(v) Invitation to Minister for Regional Transport & Roads

A request was made to invite Jenny Aitchison as the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to a future meeting This idea was supported by delegates noting the importance of her portfolio in their discussions and her preparedness to meet.

OM 10/2024 Resolved (Cr Duffy/ Cr Brady) that MERC invite the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to a future meeting.

(vi) Data for Energy Options

A request was also made by the Chair, Cr Kevin Duffy, on the need for accurate costing data for energy sources like solar, batteries and wind power from academics. A suggestion was made to involve the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to gather comprehensive costing data for consideration.

OM 11/2024 Resolved (Cr Brady/Cr Hickey) that the Executive Officer liaise with AEMO on the available data for distribution to delegates.

(vii) Small Claims Title Mines Act Review Process

Cr Scott Bailey raised concerns about the Small Claims Title Mines Act review process in the mining field with the 88 recommendations to Government to address and its impact on local councils. He highlighted the challenges faced by miners and the community due to land use conflicts, administrative issues and requested an endorsement from the organisation to address these issues with the government.

OM 12/2024 Resolved (Cr Bailey/Cr Hickey) that a position paper be prepared to respond to the small claims review recommendations.

8.Close Meeting Closed at 4:10pm.

The minutes (pages 1-4) were confirmed at the General meeting of the Association held on the and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on 14th of November 2024

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**Cr Kevin Duffy
Chairperson**



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

*Chairman: Cr Rick Firman OAM
C/- Temora Shire Council,
PO Box 262, Temora NSW 2666
Email: admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au*

MINUTES

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc was held on **Friday 15 November 2024, in the Theatre, Parliament House, Macquarie Street from 8:20am until 1pm. The meeting had a Skills and Education theme.**

Acting Chairman Cr. Rick Firman OAM extended the official Welcome.

**Guest Speaker;
NSW Opposition Leader & Liberal Leader, the Hon Mark Speakman MP**

Opposition Leader Speakman congratulated recently elected mayors. He described the regional connectedness of the NSW Coalition Opposition.

"Our shadow skills and education ministers are regionally based."

"There's a lot of pain and frustration in the regions. Pressures including difficulties getting skilled staff are a real challenge, as are the accommodation shortages. I was recently in Cowra with Local Member Steph Cooke and the increasing water costs was a pressure on agribusiness there."

"The issue with common planning assumptions (which understate growth projections and thus, funding) was another issue in Cowra and Parkes. There are dramatic reductions in funding. Councils have to repair the roads after floods and we are determined to support them."

"Prefabricated, smaller homes is one of the alternative approaches floated that will help address the housing needs of country NSW."

Introduction of new Mayors, who were presented with CMA pins. There was also acknowledgement of those who were not re-elected and recognition for retiring Executive Board Members. Three former CMA Executive Board members were presented with plaques which acknowledged their service:

Cr. Firman again paid tribute to the work of former CMA Chairman and Mayor of Gunnedah Shire, Mr Jamie Chaffey, who was pleased to take a break from campaigning for the Federal Seat of Parkes to support the CMA. Mr Chaffey encouraged Mayors to make the most of their time as Mayors and highlighted the value of the CMA.

Former CMA Executive Member and Mayor of Narromine Shire Cr. Craig Davies reiterated the importance of the bio-conservation Act issue and the CMA.

Former CMA Executive Member and Mayor of Federation Council, Cr. Patrick Bourke reiterated how he valued the CMA and the relationships from it.

Attendance 150

Cr. Kevin Mack	Mayor	Albury City Council
Frank Zaknich	CEO	Albury City Council
Cr. Todd Redwood	Deputy Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
James Roncon	GM	Armidale Regional Council
Linda Scott	Former President	ALGA
Cr. Robert Taylor	Mayor	Bathurst Regional Council
David Sherley	GM	Bathurst Regional Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader	Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Bega Valley Shire Council
Anthony McMahan	CEO	Bega Valley Shire Council
Mark Griffioen	GM	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Stephen Allan	Mayor	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Julia Cornwell McKean	Mayor	Berrigan Shire Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan	Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Grant Baker	GM	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker	GM	Blayney Shire Council
Cr. Lachlan Ford	Mayor	Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	GM	Bourke Shire Council
Cr. Jim Hickey	Deputy Mayor	Broken Hill City Council
Cr. Sarah Ndiaye	Mayor	Byron Shire Council
Mark Arnold	GM	Byron Shire Council
Cr. Kevin Beatty	Mayor	Cabonne Shire Council
Bradley Byrnes	GM	Cabonne Shire Council
Sharon Houlihan	EO	Canberra Region JO
Greg Hill	GM	Central Darling Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Watton	Mayor	Cessnock City Council
Cr. Ray Smith	Mayor	Clarence Valley Council
Laura Black	GM	Clarence Valley Council
Gary Fry	Secretariat	CMA
Cr. Jarrod Marsden	Mayor	Cobar Shire Council
Cr. Nikki Williams	Mayor	Coffs Harbour City Council
Cr. David McCann	Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council
Tony Donoghue	GM	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Keady	Mayor	Coonamble Shire Council
Paul Gallagher	GM	Coonamble Shire Council
Dirk Wymer	Acting GM	Cowra Shire Council
Cr. Paul Smith	Mayor	Cowra Shire Council
Cr. Josh Black	Mayor	Dubbo Regional Council
Murray Wood	CEO	Dubbo Regional Council
Gareth Curtis	GM	Dungog Shire Council
Cr. Digby Rayward	Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
Gary Arnold	CEO	Edward River Council

Cr. Ashley Hall	Mayor	Edward River Council
Cr. Mathew Hatcher	Mayor	Eurobodalla Shire Council
Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mayor	Federation Council
	Council and past CMA Executive	
Cr. Patrick Bourke	Member	Federation Council
Adrian Butler	GM	Federation Council
Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM	Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Doug Batten	Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Nicholas White	Councillor	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Margot Davis	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Bernard Smith	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. Nina Dillon	Mayor	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Marina Hollands	Acting CEO	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Cr. Ben Hooper	Deputy Mayor	Greater Hume Council
Evelyn Arnold	GM	Greater Hume Council
Cr. Doug Curran	Mayor	Griffith City Council
Brett Stonestreet	GM	Griffith City Council
Cr. Colleen Fuller	Mayor	Gunnedah Shire Council
Eric Groth	GM	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr. Tiffany Galvin	Mayor	Gwydir Shire Council
Max Eastcott	GM	Gwydir Shire Council
	Executive Manager Economic	
Alison McLean	Development & Tourism	Hay Shire Council
Cr. Brian Ingram	Mayor	Hilltops Council
Anothony O'Reilly	GM	Hilltops Council
Cr. Kate Dight	Mayor	Inverell Shire Council
Brett McInnes	GM	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Kinne Ring	Mayor	Kempsey Shire Council
Craig Milburn	GM	Kempsey Shire Council
Stephen Mitchell	Director Corporate and Commercial	Kempsey Shire Council
Cr. Cameron McDonald	Mayor	Kiama Municipal Council
Jane Stroud	CEO	Kiama Municipal Council
Cr. Danielle Mulholland	Mayor	Kyogle Council
Cr. John Medcalf OAM	Mayor	Lachlan Shire Council
Greg Tory	GM	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. George Weston	Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Jackie Kruger	GM	Leeton Shire Council
Cr. Steve Krieg	Mayor	Lismore City Council
John Gibbons	GM	Lismore City Council
Ross Gurney	GM	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Cass Coleman	Mayor	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Ken Cudmore	Mayor	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Gary Murphy	GM	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr. Peter Sharp	Mayor	Lockhart Shire Council
Gavin Rhodes	GM	Lockhart Shire Council
Cr. Claire Pontin	Mayor	MidCoast Council
Cr. Des Kennedy	Mayor	Mid-Western Regional Council
Brad Cam	GM	Mid-Western Regional Council
Cr. Susannah Pearse	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
Kelvin Tytherleigh	GM	Moree Plains Shire Council
Sarah Ryan	Acting CEO	Murray River Council

Cr. John Harvie	Mayor	Murray River Council
Cr. Ruth McRae OAM	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce	GM	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr. Jeff Drayton	Mayor	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Derek Finnigan	GM	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cr Darrell Tiemens	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
Eloise Chaplain	GM	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr. Craig Davies	Councillor and past CMA Executive	Narromine Shire Council
Cr. Ewen Jones	Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Phil Johnston	Director	Narromine Shire Council
Jamie Chaffey	Past CMA Chariman	Nationals Candidate for Parkes
Jonathan Malota	Policy Advisor – Transport & Data	NRMA
Cr. Katie Graham	Deputy Mayor	Oberon Council
Gary Wallace	GM	Oberon Council
Erica Van Den Honert	Executive Director	OLG
Sharne Colefax	Manager, Council Engagement Council Engagement Manager, North Coast and Eastern Sydney	OLG
Anita Gambhir		OLG
Cr. Tony Mileto	Mayor	Orange City Council
Cr. Neil Westcott	Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Marg Applebee	Deputy Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Leah Anderson	Mayor	Port Stephens Council
Cr. Robert Mustow	Mayor	Richmond Valley Council
Vaughan Macdonald	GM	Richmond Valley Council
Cr. Kenrick Winchester	Mayor	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Rebecca Ryan	GM	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Yvonne Lingua	Executive Officer	RAMJO
Julie Briggs	CEO outgoing	REROC
Megan Mulrooney	CEO incoming	REROC
Cr. Robert Mustow	Mayor	Richmond Valley Council
Vaughan Macdonald	GM	Richmond Valley Council
Cr. Chris Homer	Mayor	Shellharbour City Council
Cr. Patricia White	Mayor	Shoalhaven City Council
James Ruprai	Acting GM	Shoalhaven City Council
Cr. Sue Moore	Mayor	Singleton Council
Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr	GM	Singleton Council
Cr. Chris Hanna	Mayor	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Julia Ham	Mayor	Snowy Valleys Council
Paul Bennett	GM	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Rick Firman OAM	Mayor (CMA Acting Chairman)	Temora Shire Council
Melissa Boxall	GM	Temora Shire Council
Cr. Bronwyn Petrie	Mayor	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr. Paul Culhane	Mayor	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Alex Waldron	CEO	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Robert Bell	Mayor	Uralla Shire Council
Toni Averay	GM	Uralla Shire Council
Cr. Eric Noakes	Mayor	Walcha Council
Megan Dixon	GM	Walgett Shire Council
Cr. Jasen Ramien	Mayor	Walgett Shire Council
Gary Woodman	GM	Warren Shire Council

Cr. Greg Whiteley	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Lindsay Mason	Acting GM	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr. Paul Best	Mayor	Weddin Shire Council
Noreen Vu	GM	Weddin Shire Council
Ken Ross	GM	Wentowrth Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mayor	Wentowrth Shire Council
Cr. Jesse Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Lisa Miscamble	GM	Wingecarribee Shire Council

Apologies

Adrian Panuccio	MidCoast Council	GM
Cr. Bob Callow	Junee Shire Council	Mayor
James Davis	Junee Shire Council	GM
Cr. Abb McAlister	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Mayor
Steve McGrath	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Acting GM
Cr. Dallas Tout	Wagga	Mayor
Steve Loane OAM	Forbes Shire Council	GM
Cr. Russell Webb	Tamworth Regional Council	Mayor
Lord Mayor Tania Brown	Wollongong City Council	
Cr. Glen Neill	Bogan Shire Council	Mayor
Cr. Andrew McKibbob	Oberon Mayor	
Cr. Kathryn Rindfleish	Warrumbungle Shire Mayor	
Cr. Sam Coupland	Armidale Regional Council Mayor	
George Cowan	Narrandera Shire	
Cr. Carol Oataway	Hay Shire Mayor	
David Waddell	Orange City Council CEO	
	Central Darling Shire	
Bob Stewart	Administrator	
Phil Hood	Walcha Council GM	
Jay Nankivell	Broken Hill City Council GM	
Steve Pinnuck	Snowy Valleys Council	

Apologies moved by Snowy Monaro Regional Council Mayor Cr. Chris Hanna and seconded by Bellingen Shire Council Mayor Cr. Steve Allan.

Reports

Year in Review **Acting Chairman's Report**

Cr. Firman spoke of the very big year that the CMA has had. Cabonne Mayor Cr. Kevin Beattie moved and Bellingen Mayor Cr. Steve Allan seconded that the report be accepted. Unanimously endorsed.

LGNSW Report

President of LGNSW, Cr. Darriea Turley AM congratulated mayors on their election. "We are a family. LGNSW has a strong MoU with the CMA and we stand together."

Moved by Kyogle Mayor Cr. Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Eurobodalla and Cr. Mathew Hatcher

seconded that the report be accepted. Unanimously endorsed.

ALGA Report

Cr. Darriea Turley AM returned to the lectern as Vice-President of ALGA. Matt Burnett was elected President of ALGA unopposed. Cr. Turley encouraged participation and Ministerial contact at the ALGA conference.

Moved by Forbes Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phillys Miller OAM and Seconded Kyogle Mayor, Cr Dannielle Mulholland. Unanimously endorsed.

Guest Speaker

Minister for Skills, TAFE & Tertiary Education, the Hon. Steve Whan MP

Minister Whan spoke of the linkages between educational institutions, training providers and industry that are being developed. “The Educational Partnerships program is doing that (linking) with Careers advisors in schools.”

“Raising awareness of the options available is important. A NSW Skills Plan will be released later this year.”

“Increased visibility of options at TAFE campuses has been called for, as with increased links between TAFE and communities.

1,300 apprenticeships place for LG was announced by Minister Hoenig and other initiatives are underway.”

“A strong investment in skill development like fee-free courses in VET has been undertaken by the Government. This includes encouraging people to upskill in trade skills. Doing a VET course can be financially far better than a university degree and leaves someone with a lot less debt.”

“Skilled Migration is also important. NSW Government does have State nominated visa programs and we are working with the Australian Government on that. The process of assessing skills can be complicated or slow. School fees will no longer be required certain visa holders and that will make NSW more attractive for skilled migrants.”

“TAFE teachers will be made less casual, more permanent and we’ve seen 500 transition to permanency already.”

Q. Cr. Sarah Ndiaye from Byron Shire: Southern Cross University is cutting the Arts – face to face creative arts is being cut out in our education institutions, including high schools.

A The previous Federal Government introduced policy that increased Arts fees and I will follow up with the Government.

My daughter is a drama teacher, so I am certainly looking into the discussion paper.

Q. Cr. Neville Kschenka (Narrandera Shire Mayor). Doctors from overseas take too long to get their skills assessed.

A. Unfortunately, that is a Federal issue and licensing in the medical sector is very complex.

Q. Cr. Robert Bell (Mayor of Uralla Shire). Speaking from the New England REZ, there is a need for training. There are great opportunities for trades with renewable energy projects. An

electrician gets \$70/hr in town and \$180/hr at a solar farm.

A. Our Skills Plan will hopefully incorporate that. The challenge is that a solar farm construction does not last long enough for an apprenticeship.

Q. Cr. George Weston (Mayor of Leeton Shire). Commented on the difficulty skilled migrants have in traveling to distant TAFE courses.

Q. Armidale Regional Council (Deputy Mayor Todd Redwood) also highlighted the New England REZ challenges.

Q. Cr. Kinny Ring (Mayor of Kempsey Shire Council). What are you doing about key skill shortage areas?

A. We are teaching more nursing in TAFE. RPL is difficult with skilled migrants. It often involves industry bodies, Government and it can be cumbersome. Keep an eye out for the Government's Skills Plan.

Q. Cr. Cass Coleman (Lithgow City Council Mayor), our TAFE students have to travel to Sydney or Orange. We need trade TAFEs and we need to make them more accessible to regional communities.

A. We cannot make all trades available at all campuses but some online components does help. We are looking at how we can reduce travel demands.

Morning tea in the Fountain Court of the NSW Parliament building was a brief respite that was a welcomed chance to relax and network with peers from around the State.

AGM business

Minutes from 2023 AGM – Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick moved and Forbes Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM seconded. Unanimously endorsed.

Correspondence - Forbes Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM moved and Lachlan Shire Council Mayor Cr. John Medcalf OAM seconded. Unanimously endorsed.

Financials

CMA Secretary and Temora Shire GM Melissa Boxall provided a summary, given financials had been supplied.

The financials were moved by Singleton Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Sue Moore, Seconded by Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick. Unanimously endorsed.

Appointment of Returning Officers

RECOMMENDATION: That the Acting CMA Secretary/Public Officer Ms. Melissa Boxall and Secretariat Mr. Gary Fry be appointed as returning officers for the CMA Executive Board elections.

Motion of returning officers – Mayor of Wentworth Shire Council Cr. Daniel Linklater moved the motion and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM seconded. Unanimously endorsed.

That the election be conducted by secret ballot.

Moved Cr. Phyllis Miller, seconded Cr. Sue Moore (Singleton Council).

Election results:

Ms. Boxall announced the following Election results for a two-year term:

Mayor of Temora Shire Council, Cr. Rick Firman OAM was endorsed as Chairman unopposed.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick and Armidale Regional Council Mayor Cr. Sam Coupland contested for the Deputy Chairman Position. Mayor Fitzpatrick won.

From 13 candidates, the following (7) Mayors were elected to the Executive Board of the CMA:

Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM, Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Sam Coupland, Armidale Regional Council
Cr. John Medcalf OAM, Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Sue Moore, Singleton Council
Cr. Josh Black, Dubbo Regional Council
Cr. Russell Webb, Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council

The vote was close across the Board and there were no informal votes.

The following Mayors were unsuccessful:

Cr. Steve Allan, Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Chris Hanna, Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Mathew Hatcher, Eurobodalla Shire Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan, Bland Shire Council
Cr. Danielle Mulholland, Kyogle Council
And Cr. Darrell Tiemens, Narrabri Shire Council

A motion was moved that should a vacancy occur in the Executive it would be filled by the candidate with the 8th highest vote count, with another vacancy occurrence going to 9th place etc. This was moved by Mayor of Bland Shire Council Cr. Brian Monaghan, seconded by Kempsey Shire Mayor Cr. Kinne Ring. Endorsed unanimously.

Forbes Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM and Bland Shire Council Mayor Cr. Brian Monaghan seconded that ballot papers be destroyed. Unanimous.

Orange City Council Mayor Cr. Tony Mileto moved that all elected positions be accepted and Leeton Shire Mayor Cr. George Weston seconded. Endorsed unanimously.

Appointment of Secretariat

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION: That Gary Fry, through Regional Development Australia Inland Northern NSW be re-contracted as CMA Secretariat/Executive Officer for 2025 but that the hours for the role be extended to 30 per week, with annual cost of \$80,000 ex GST for an average of 4 days per week.

Moved – Cr. Sue Moore (Mayor, Singleton Council)

Seconded – Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM (Mayor, Forbes Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

Setting of Annual Membership Fees

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION: That the CMA increase membership fees by 10%, in light of the increasing workload with advocacy to Government Inquiries. This 10% increase would result in the fees for the 2025 calendar year becoming \$1,650 for Councils with a population of 10,000 and over, and Councils with a population of less than 10,000 paying 75% of the full fee, becoming \$1,237.50, which would also be the new fee for not-for-profit Associate Membership, while for-profit Associate Membership would become \$3,300 per year.

Moved – Cr. Phyllis Miller (Mayor Forbes Shire Council)

Seconded – Cr. Chris Hanna (Mayor Snowy Monaro Regional Council)

Carried unanimously.

General Business:

CMA Constitution. Proposed amendments have been supplied.

RECOMMENDATION: That the proposed amendments be endorsed and that the resultant constitution for the CMA be accepted by members as the currently endorsed version (15 November 2024).

Moved – Cr. Danielle Mulholland (Mayor Kyogle Council)

Seconded – Cr. John Medcalf OAM (Mayor Lachlan Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

Membership

RECOMMENDATION: That Coffs Harbour City Council be endorsed as a Member of the Country Mayors Association of NSW.

Moved – Cr. Stephen Allan (Mayor Bellingen Shire Council)

Seconded – Cr. Mathew Hatcher (Mayor Eurobodalla Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) be endorsed as an Associate Member of the Country Mayors Association of NSW.

Moved – Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick (Mayor Bega Valley Shire Council)

Seconded – Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM (Mayor Forbes Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

Setting of Meeting Dates for 2025

RECOMMENDATION: That the meeting dates for 2025 be set to coincide with NSW Parliament sitting dates, as was the case in 2024 – the Friday of the first week of each parliamentary session. [It was stated that these dates would be communicated to members as soon as they are ascertained].

Moved – Cr. Kevin Mack (Mayor Albury City Council)

Seconded – Cr. Chris Hanna (Mayor Snowy Monaro Regional Council)

Carried unanimously.

Signatories.

RECOMMENDATION: That signatories from the former Chairman’s Council [Gunnedah Shire] be removed from the Country Mayors Association account and that the new Chairman and two staff members from their Council be authorised as signatories.

Moved – Cr. Kevin Mack (Mayor Albury City Council)

Seconded – Cr. Steve Krieg (Mayor Lismore City Council)

Carried unanimously.

Hosting Non-Metropolitan Meetings in 2025

Submissions to host a non-metropolitan meeting in 2025 have been received from Orange City Council, Ballina Shire Council and Inverell Shire Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That members vote to determine if there will be one CMA member hosted meeting in 2025 or two. Further, that new CMA Executive Board assess the applications and make the selection/s and choose the optimal date.

That One CMA Regional Meeting be held in 2025.

Moved – Cr. Sue Moore (Mayor Singleton Council)

Seconded – Cr. Phyllis Miller (Mayor Forbes Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

CMA Executive Board to determine

Moved – Cr. Kevin Mack (Mayor Albury City Council)

Seconded – Cr. Steve Krieg (Mayor Lismore City Council)

Carried unanimously.

Member motions.

Mayor of Tenterfield Shire Council Cr. Bronwyn Petrie moved “That the Country Mayors Association writes to the Premier of NSW requesting an urgent ban of importation of turf product into NSW from Queensland and increased border surveillance, and b) requests of the Premiers of NSW and Queensland and the Federal government an urgent improvement in the eradication measures delivered by Biosecurity Queensland and the National Management Group governing the National Fire Ant Eradication Program.”

Seconded - Mayor Stephen Allan (Mayor of Bellingen Shire Council).

Carried unanimously.

Final Guest Speaker

The **Premier, the Hon. Chris Minns MP** was originally scheduled to speak at 9:15am, he requested a change to 12:30pm days before the meeting and had to send an apology halfway through the meeting. He sent **Minister for Regional Roads and Transport, the Hon. Jenny Atchinson MP** as his representative.

Minister Atchinson spoke of the Government’s current priorities, which included housing and essential workers. A focus has been on increased staffing of health professionals and Police with the Academy seeing the largest intake as a result of the introduction of paid study.

Like Minister Whan, she highlighted the \$252 million funding for cadets, apprentices and trainees across all NSW Councils – which will (it is hoped) result in an additional 1300 staff.

Three new TAFE Centres of excellence across NSW was announced.

There was also an announcement of 100 new preschools to be built near schools (with 49 in regional areas) to help improve literacy and numeracy.

Meeting closed at 12:55pm

Cr Rick Firman OAM
Chairman

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