

**Business Paper**  
**Extraordinary Council Meeting**  
**28 January 2025**



# OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



## Affirmation of Office

I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Bland Shire and the Bland Shire Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

# CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

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| Meeting Dates   | Time   | Meeting          | Location         |
|-----------------|--------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>February</b> |        |                  |                  |
| 4 February      | 6pm    | Council Workshop | Council Chambers |
| 18 February     | 6.30pm | Council Meeting  | Council Chambers |
| 25 February     | 6pm    | Council Workshop | Council Chambers |

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# Council Meeting Agenda

28 January 2025  
commencing at 6:30PM

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

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1. RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE
4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

### Section 1 – Executive Services

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| 5.1 | Girral Road Project ..... | 6 |
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## REPORTS FROM STAFF

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### Section 3 – Technical Services

#### 5.1 GIRRAL ROAD PROJECT



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

*DP 9.1 Responsibly manage asset renewal and maintenance for current and future generations*

**Author:** Manager Operations

##### **Introduction**

This report provides Council with an update on the Girral Road project and seeks its determination on the provision of additional funding.

##### **Financial Implications**

Council successfully obtained \$5 million from the NSW Fixing Local Roads Program – Round 4 for the upgrade of Girral Road.

Council's 2024-29 Roads to Recovery Program total allocation from the Australian Government was \$16.3m. The 2024-25 allocation was \$2.4m of which \$1.9m has already been committed to other roads, and the 2025-26 allocation is \$2.9m. Council is able to utilise the remaining \$0.5m (2024-25) and direct \$1.5m from the 2025-26 allocation to this project. This would result in \$1.9m being available for allocation as part of the 2025-26 budgetary process.

In order to fund the outstanding \$1.5m Council can consider two funding sources:-

1. Draw down on two of its internally restricted reserves:-
  - Infrastructure Renewal Reserve - \$1.2m
  - Infrastructure Backlog Reserve - \$1.0m
2. Provide a supplementary vote of \$1.5m within the March quarterly budget review.

As part of the Roads to Recovery funding criteria, Councils are required to provide for Own Source Expenditure (OSE) to ensure they do not become solely reliant upon Australian Government funding. The value of this is based upon a predetermined Australian Government formula and Bland Shire Councils required OSE for 2024-25 is \$2.5m.

At present Council is yet to allocate \$1.6m of OSE, and therefore by providing for a supplementary vote of \$1.5m it will also satisfy the significant proportion of the OSE requirement for 2024-25.

## **Summary**

Council determination is sought in allocating an additional \$3.5 million, in funds, necessary to complete the intended upgrade works for Girral Road.

This follows Technical Services discussions with the Contractor, to best achieve an acceptable outcome for this project. On-site challenges have resulted in major discrepancies between the available project budget and the costs associated with completing the work.

## **Background**

The project relates to a major upgrade of the existing gravel road surface on Girral Road to improve connectivity between West Wyalong / Condobolin Road (Main Road 57 North) and Wamboyne Road.

The Contractor advised Council of perceived discrepancies relating to the design shortly upon taking possession of the site and conducting set-out. Upon highlighting these discrepancies, the contractor has advised of possible solutions going forward. Unfortunately, the costs associated with any of these options are significant. In addition, it has been seen as necessary to conduct a number of studies post contract award to clarify and quantify these assumptions, such as revised survey and geotechnical investigation.

## **Situation**

In order to meet Council's intent and to maximise the amount of work achievable within the existing budget, a modified scope was developed to make use of the existing alignment of the road, meaning minimal adjustment to road geometry, which incorporates a higher degree of in situ construction material. Thus, meeting design objectives while minimising costs.

Unfortunately, these measures, while effective, do not offer the savings needed to complete all works within the \$5m budget. Therefore, there are two courses of action available to Council:

1. Council approve additional funding in the amount of \$3.5m required to complete the project (full length). The costs associated with completing the revised scope of work have been prepared by Councils Technical Services team in consultation with the Contractor. The total project cost estimate for completion being \$8.5 million.
2. The alternative is to complete work up to the amount of the available budget, which is approximately halfway to the natural termination point of Sullivans Lane. This option is affordable. However, Council may find that an expectation to complete the upgrade to the full extent of the road, persists within the community. Additionally, not completing works to the full extent of the road compromises the effectiveness of undertaking the works in the first place, with the risk of increased costs to undertake completion at a later date.

An alternate course of action, not considered viable, would be to cancel the contract and to cease further work. This is seen as the most undesirable option as this would mean that only some initial works have been achieved, with a requirement to make good any partially disturbed areas; whilst paying the Contractor for works undertaken to date, along with the costs associated with termination of a contract. Furthermore, this may negate reimbursement of costs to date through the grant, due to not meeting agreed outcomes and conditions.

Following a review of the scope of works it is determined that completing works for the full length of Girral Rd as opposed to one section (between Wamboyne Road and Sullivans Lane) would be the most appropriate path forward. This would meet the expected traffic requirements relevant to the road's classification and provides the benefits of having an

upgraded and sealed road, completed to a professional standard, with improvements to drainage, and completed within the expected timeframe.

An additional significant benefit is that all works will have been completed in one stage, negating the need to commit to securing additional major funding in the near future, in order to meet community expectations

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**Recommendation:**

That Council approve an additional funding allocation of \$3.5m for the Girral Road project, consisting of \$2m from Council's Roads to Recovery program (\$0.5m - 2024-25 and \$1.5m 2025-26) with a supplementary vote of \$1.5m through the March quarterly budget review.

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