

Business Paper
Council Meeting
18 February 2025



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Meeting Dates	Time	Meeting	Location
February 2025			
Tuesday, 18	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Tuesday, 25	9.00am	CEMCC	West Wyalong
Tuesday, 25	6.00pm	Council Workshop	Council Chambers
Thursday, 27	6.30pm	Mayoral Reception	Wyalong Hall
March 2025			
Monday, 4	TBA	Newell Highway Taskforce	
Tuesday, 4	6.00pm	Council Workshop	Council Chambers
Tuesday, 18	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Wednesday, 19	10.00am	Bushfire Management Committee	Temora
Wednesday, 19	TBA	Ungarie Advancement Group	Ungarie
Wednesday, 24	9.30am	ARIC	West Wyalong
Friday, 28	9.00am	Country Mayors	Sydney

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

5. PUBLIC FORUM

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 28 January 2025

6.2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 December 2024

6.2 Matters arising from Minutes

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8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

9.1 Lease of Land – 34 Showground Road West Wyalong

Local Government Act 1993 (Section 10A(2))

This matter is considered to be confidential, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

9.2 Sale of Land – 11 and 13 Shamrock Street Wyalong

Local Government Act 1993 (Section 10A(2))

This matter is considered to be confidential, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

9.3 Sale of Land – 2 Shamrock Street Wyalong

Local Government Act 1993 (Section 10A(2))

This matter is considered to be confidential, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Section 1 – Executive Services

7.1 Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions: February 2025



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: February 2025.

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 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. 12/02/25 Council continues to seek written acceptance from all parties.</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
JULY 2024		
Barmedman Community Section 355 Committee 06072024 RESOLVED that Council: a) Disband the Barmedman Community Committee – a Section 355 Committee of Council. b) Endorse the negotiations with the Barmedman Community Centre Incorporated. c) Determine that the Funds remaining within the Barmedman Community Committee account be utilised to undertake improvement works within the village of Barmedman.	Director Corporate & Community Services	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.
AUGUST 2024		
Sealing Central Road – Funding Contribution 13082024 RESOLVED that Council: 1. Accept the contribution of \$100,000 (inc GST) from Graincorp towards the sealing of Boundary Street from the Graincorp exit to Compton Road. 2. That Council fund the remainder of the works from the Roads to Recover allocation in the 2025/2026 financial year.	Director Technical Services	Design work to commence in 2025.
Endorsement of Revised Revenue Policy 2024/25 - Gravel Pit Royalties 14082024 RESOLVED that Council: 1. 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. 2. 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 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	Director Technical Services	On display No submissions received therefor council formally adopted the amended Bland Shire Council Revenue Policy. COMPLETE
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.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Grant Approved and Applicant advised. Payment made. COMPLETE

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
RFT Tender Girral Road Surface Upgrade 17082024 RESOLVED that Council: 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.	Manager Operations	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: VP415577 for the Girral Road Major Upgrade to Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd. COMPLETE
Strengthening Communities Grant Policy 19082024 RESOLVED that Council: 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.	Director Corporate & Community Services	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,
OCTOBER 2024		
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.	Director Corporate & Community Services	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.
Planning Proposal (PP-2023-2372) – Additional Permitted Use – Recreational Facility (Outdoor) at the West Wyalong Airport – 13510 Newell Highway, West Wyalong 22102024 RESOLVED: 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.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	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. 10/01/25 LEP Amendment gazetted COMPLETE

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
Endorsement of Revised Revenue Policy 2024/25 - Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) 23102024 RESOLVED that Council:- 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	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	On display until 18/11/2024. Commentary period concludes 02 December 2024.
NOVEMBER 2024		
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	Director Corporate & Community Services	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
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	Director Corporate & Community Services	Approved amounts included in 24/25 budget. COMPLETE
Australia Day Funding – Village Community Events 06112024 RESOLVED 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	Director Corporate & Community Services	12/02/25 Funding requests to be assessed and approved upon receipt. COMPLETE
Council Meeting and Workshop Dates 2025 07112024 RESOLVED that Council adopt the Council Meeting and Workshop Schedule for 2025 as provided in Attachment A.	Director Corporate & Community Services	

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
Endorsement of the State of the Shire Report 2021-2024 08112024 RESOLVED that: 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.	Director Corporate & Community Services	State of the Shire Report 2021-2024 is available for viewing on Council's website and a copy sent to the OLG. COMPLETE
Adoption Of Social Media Policy 09112024 RESOLVED that: 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.	Director Corporate & Community Services	Social Media Policy is on public exhibition with submissions open until 5pm 17/01/25.
Endorsement of the Bland Shire Code of Conduct 11112024 RESOLVED that Council: 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.	Director Corporate & Community Services	
Endorsement of the Bland Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice 12112024 RESOLVED 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.	Director Corporate & Community Services	

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
Endorsement of the DRAFT Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 13112024 RESOLVED that: 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. 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.	Director Corporate & Community Services	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.
Endorsement of the DRAFT Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy 14112024 RESOLVED that: 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. 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.	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.
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.	Director Corporate & Community Services	Acceptance Form signed and returned to Council. Invoice received and paid. COMPLETE
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	Director Corporate & Community Services	Acceptance Form signed and returned to Council. Invoice received and paid. COMPLETE
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	General Manager	20/11/24 Submission sent to OLG and copy to REROC COMPLETE
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	General Manager	COMPLETE

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
Annual Report 2023/2024 20112024 RESOLVED that: 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.	General Manager	COMPLETE
Retail Energy Tender Small Sites 21112024 RESOLVED that Council: 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. 12/02/25 Due to high electricity spot price over summer, REROC have deferred tender issue to Autumn with anticipation of attracting more competitive pricing. COMPLETE
Wyalong/West Wyalong Floodplain Committee 22112024 RESOLVED that Council: 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 as delegates to the Wyalong/West Wyalong Floodplain Committee.	Director Technical Services	29/11/24 Media issued seeking EOI's from Community representatives. 04/02/25 First meeting of new Committee held. COMPLETE
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.	Director Technical Services	19/12/2024 DA issued. COMPLETE
NOTICES OF MOTION - Chambers and Workshops 25112024 RESOLVED That Councillors seating positions return to the previous arrangements and combinations in a semi-circle.	General Manager	29/11/24 Seating to be repositioned for December Council meeting. COMPLETE

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
DECEMBER 2024		
General Manager's Performance Review Panel 02122024 RESOLVED that Council: 1. confirm the Terms of Reference for the General Manager's 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. Cr Funnell to be the nominated Councillor to sit on the General Manager Performance Review Panel.	General Manager	15/01/.25 GM nominated Cr Lord to panel. Cr Lord accepted. COMPLETE
Australia Day Awards Committee 04122024 RESOLVED 1. That the amended minutes of the Australia Day Awards Committee meeting held on 4 December 2024, be received and noting the removal of the word 'Unanimously' from the resolutions. 2. That the Australia Day Awards Committee recommended recipients of the 2025 Australia Day Awards, be adopted by Council.	General Manager	16/01/25 Amendments made accordingly. COMPLETE
Enterprise Risk Management Policy 07122024 RESOLVED that Council adopts the revised Risk Management Policy.	Director Corporate & Community Services	

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Animal Pound Tender 08122024 RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Acting Director Technical Services</p>	<p>11/02/25 Letter of Award issued, and Contractor engaged. Report to be prepared for March Council meeting.</p>
JANUARY 2025		
<p>Girral Road Project 03012025 RESOLVED 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.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	

7.2 Risk, Work Health and Safety Quarterly Report



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

DP12.4 Review and implement Council's policies and comply WHS and Risk Management Requirements

Author: WHS Officer, Risk and Insurance Officer

Introduction

This report has been prepared to update Council on Risk, Work Health and Safety activities and performance for the quarter ending December 2024.

Financial Implications

There are no identified financial implications currently. All regular insurances have been accounted for in the annual budget process.

Summary

Statewide Mutual

Quarter 4 2024 program:

- The Continuous Improvement Pathway audits (July - October) on Enterprise Risk Management, Swimming pools and footpath management are currently underway. The Statewide Mutual Regional Risk Manager will review action items with key staff in late January.
- Riverina East Regional risk meeting will be held in February in Cootamundra.

Insurance claims

Council continues to work with its insurer on an unresolved insurance claim following a footpath incident. This claim still has not been resolved as the insurer has advised to wait for additional responses.

Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

Council's Statewide Mutual Regional Risk Manager undertook an exercise with staff to test the BCP. This has been finalised and will be presented to MANEX for approval in February.

Enterprise Risk Management Framework

The risk management policy and procedure has been approved by Manex and endorsed by Council.

Aviation Compliance & Risk Management (AVCRM) Software package

Council has activated its AVCRM to manage its aviation compliance and risk management including its drone management and links back to (CASA). This will be reviewed in February.

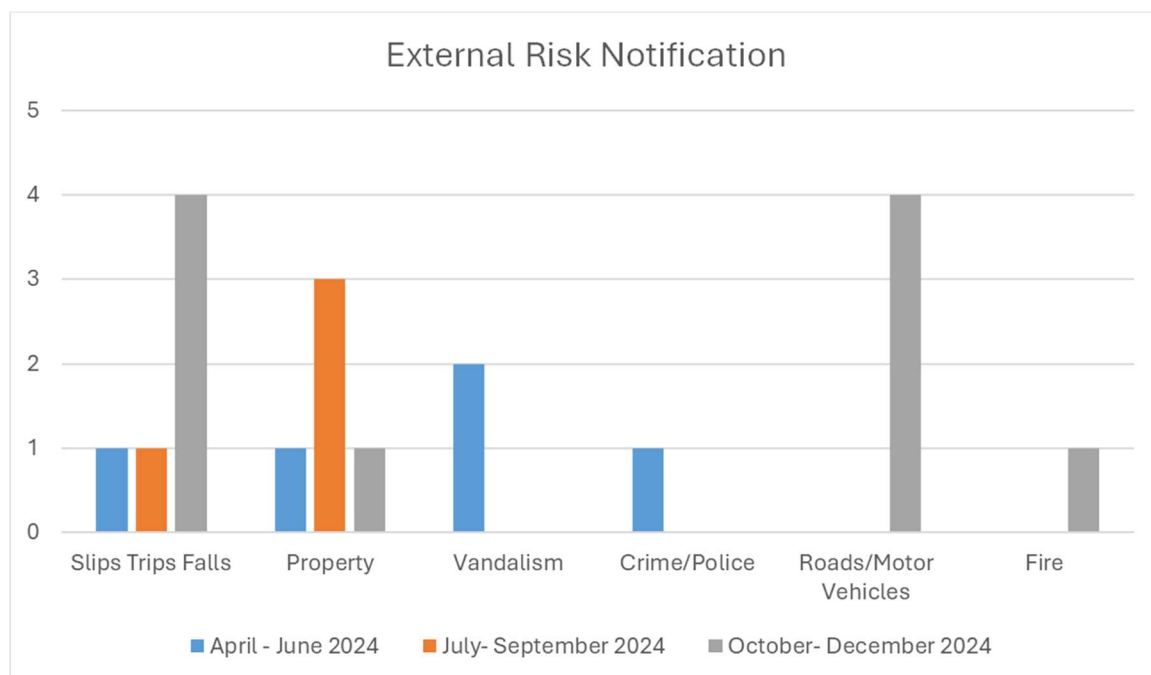
Community Events

Council officers continue to work with representatives from community groups providing support most recently to representative from the Tallimba Vintage Harvest Day held in January.

Incident notifications

External Incident Notifications submitted 1 October 2024 – 31 December 2024

The following graph identifies the number of external incident notifications over the period October – December 2024, and the previous 2 periods also.



Staff have promptly actioned complaints or incidents.

Contractors Database

The database continues to be updated as required and is currently up to date.

StateCover

Member services and claims teams have assessed Bland Shire Council's safety and worker's compensation performance. Based on this assessment Bland Shire Council has been prioritised low risk and will not be required to undergo performance improvement in this cycle. The assessment determines Council's methods for self-audit deliverables throughout the new 3-year cycle.

Workers Compensation Claims – (Directorate, Liability Status and Type)

Date	Directorate	Type	Liability	Status
27/10/2023	Technical Services	Manual handling	Accepted	Finalised
16/09/2024	Technical Services	Manual Handling	Accepted	Ongoing

Work Health and Safety meetings are held quarterly, with a meeting held on 21 November, the next Work Health and Safety Meeting will be held on Thursday 20 February. Actions arising from meetings continue to be addressed and completed.

WHS Wellbeing Initiatives

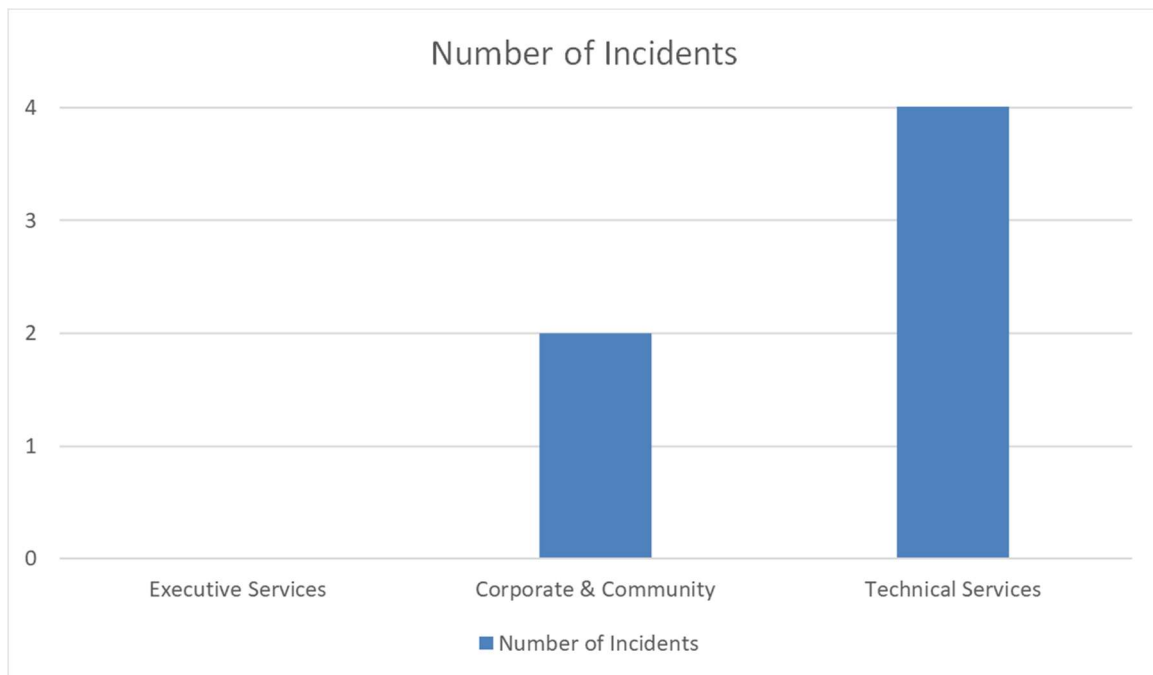
WHS Staff have organised workers to undergo voluntary skin checks at a local clinic endeavouring to identify skin cancer in its early stages.

WHS Incident Notifications

There were no Notifiable Incidents to be reported to Safework NSW in Quarter 4 2024

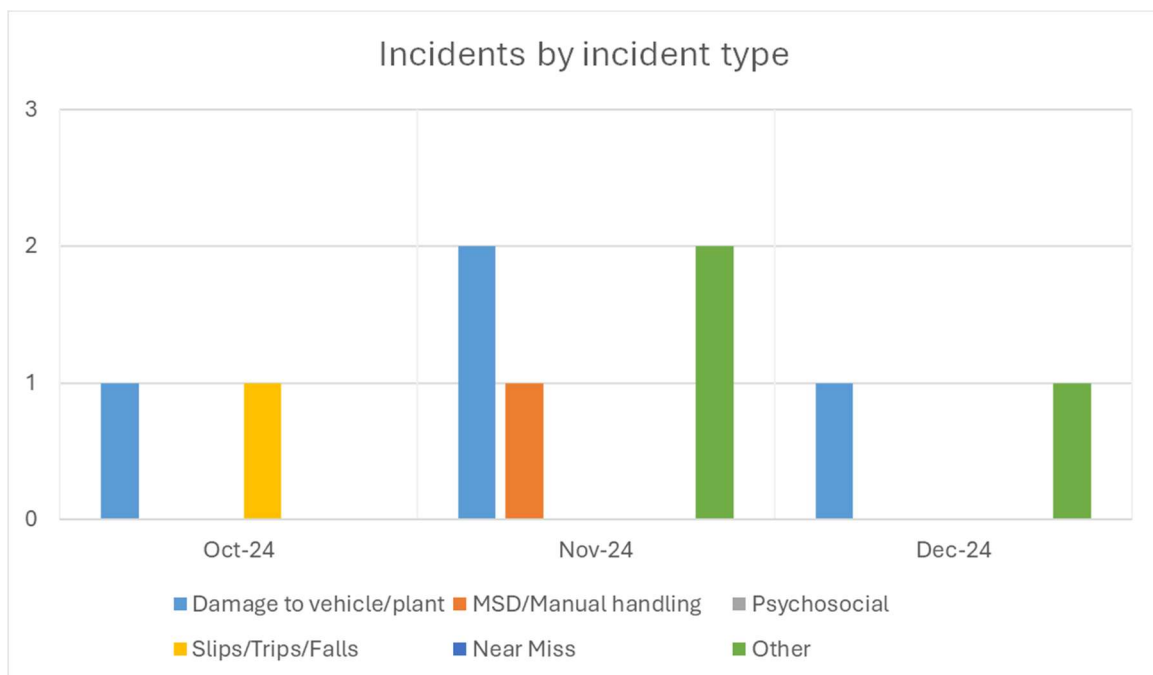
WHS Incident Notifications by Directorate submitted 1 October – 31 December 2024

The following graph identifies the source directorate where WHS incidents occurred over the period October – December 2024.



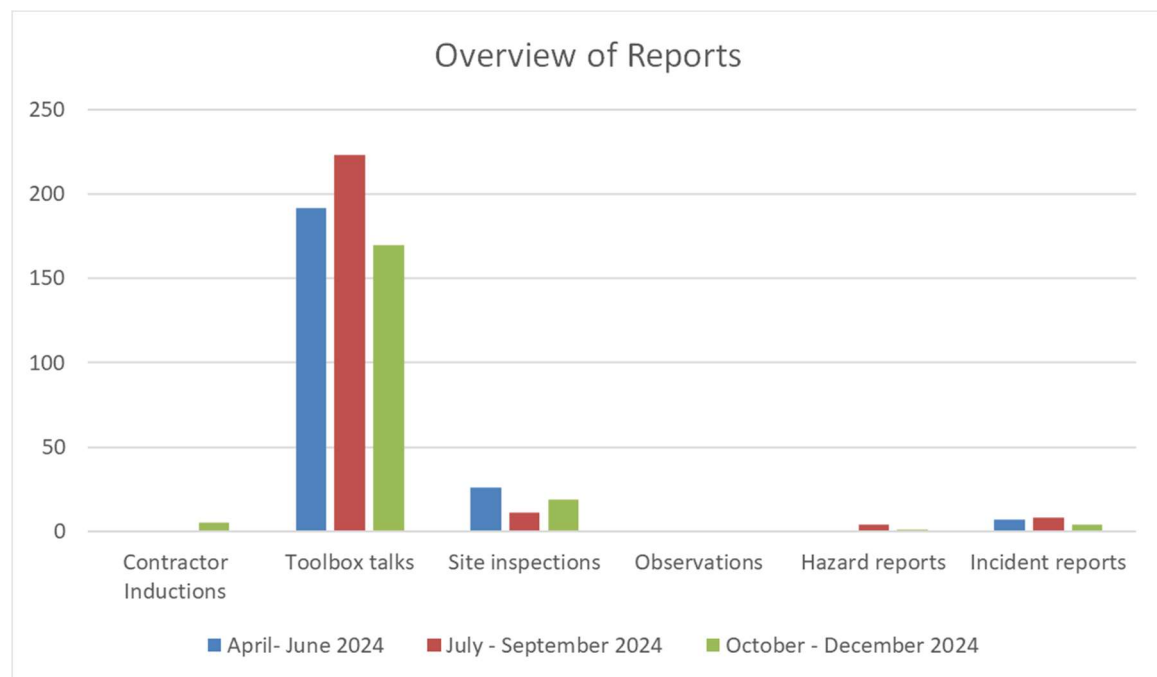
WHS Incident Notifications submitted 1 October – 31 December 2024

The following graph identifies the type of WHS incidents over the period October – December 2024.



Internal WHS Documents 1 October – 31 December 2024

The following graph identifies the number of internally generated WHS documents over the period October – December 2024, and the previous period also.



Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Risk, Work Health and Safety Report for the quarter ending December 2024.

7.3 Hearts of Gold Festival 2025



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

DP3.1 Develop and support a strong sense of community, providing advice and support to community groups

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Councillors will recall the Hearts of Gold Festival 2023 event, which has now become a bi-annual event.

In 2025 the Hearts of Gold (HOG) Festival Committee has joined forces with Evolution Mining (Evolution) which will celebrate 20yrs of mining activity at the Lake Cowal site, to deliver the Hearts of Gold Festival. The event is proposed to be held from 17 to 19 October 2025.

The 2025 festival will see Evolution host a community celebration on 18 October, the Family Fun Night.

Council has had discussions and recently received correspondence (**Attachment 1.**) from Evolution, about the undertaking of the 2025 event.

Evolution are requesting Council determine its position on funding support for the event in order for the organising committee and Evolution to have adequate time to plan and budget for the event.

In 2023 the Hearts of Gold Festival was made up of a variety of events spread over the weekend including:-

- Friday – Family Fun Night
- Saturday – Main Street Markets, Guinness World Record attempt and Golden Gala event (Regal Estate)
- Sunday – Colour Run

In 2025 the preliminary weekend schedule is proposed as follows:-

- Friday – Golden Gala event (Regal Estate)
- Saturday – Main Street Markets and 20Yr celebrations (ie: Family Fun Night)
- Sunday – Evolution Virtual Open Day at Tivoli

Evolution are seeking a Council decision so it can make a joint announcement on the internationally recognised headline act that has been secured for the Saturday night event. The act has a large supporter base and is expected to draw both local interest and tourists to West Wyalong.

The Hearts of Gold Festival Committee and Evolution are seeking Council support for the weekend, in the form of council services (traffic management and facility hire) and as a sponsor.

The most significant change to these services will be at the Main Street Markets which will only result in the closure of side streets (Church and Grenfell Streets) for the immediate block adjoining Main Street. It is not proposed to close Main Street.

The following report provides information on the visitor spend of the 2023 event, the cost of providing services and sponsorship options.

Visitor Spend

Council subscribes (via Destination Riverina Murray NSW (DRNSW)) to CommBank Destination iQ, a data analytics service which provides historic spend data across the tourism category and can be broken down to day of the week allowing a better understanding of visitors and markets.

DRNSW has provided the Destination iQ comparison data for October 2022 and 2023 for visitor and resident spend in the table below.

Period			Visitor Spend			Resident Spend		
			Spend (\$)			Spend (\$)		
Dow	2023	2022	2023	2022	% Increase	2023	2022	% Increase
Sun	1-Oct	2-Oct	82,000	68,000	21%	90,000	97,000	-7%
Mon	2-Oct	3-Oct	81,000	76,000	7%	88,000	78,000	13%
Tue	3-Oct	4-Oct	89,000	77,000	16%	115,000	146,000	-21%
Wed	4-Oct	5-Oct	86,000	82,000	5%	109,000	133,000	-18%
Thu	5-Oct	6-Oct	81,000	53,000	53%	150,000	173,000	-13%
Fri	6-Oct	7-Oct	86,000	65,000	32%	159,000	150,000	6%
Sat	7-Oct	8-Oct	62,000	54,000	15%	123,000	110,000	12%
Sun	8-Oct	9-Oct	69,000	48,000	44%	107,000	101,000	6%
Mon	9-Oct	10-Oct	90,000	72,000	25%	105,000	111,000	-5%
Tue	10-Oct	11-Oct	74,000	61,000	21%	132,000	121,000	9%
Wed	11-Oct	12-Oct	66,000	67,000	-1%	122,000	143,000	-15%
Thu	12-Oct	13-Oct	65,000	56,000	16%	163,000	146,000	12%
Fri	13-Oct	14-Oct	82,000	73,000	12%	150,000	161,000	-7%
Sat	14-Oct	15-Oct	77,000	59,000	31%	140,000	129,000	9%
Sun	15-Oct	16-Oct	64,000	40,000	60%	103,000	101,000	2%
Mon	16-Oct	17-Oct	67,000	55,000	22%	116,000	129,000	-10%
Tue	17-Oct	18-Oct	67,000	84,000	-20%	121,000	139,000	-13%
Wed	18-Oct	19-Oct	68,000	63,000	8%	126,000	130,000	-3%
Thu	19-Oct	20-Oct	64,000	50,000	28%	140,000	155,000	-10%
Fri	20-Oct	21-Oct	71,000	57,000	25%	167,000	161,000	4%
Sat	21-Oct	22-Oct	55,000	42,000	31%	126,000	128,000	-2%
Sun	22-Oct	23-Oct	58,000	39,000	49%	101,000	102,000	-1%
Mon	23-Oct	24-Oct	63,000	39,000	62%	107,000	129,000	-17%
Tue	24-Oct	25-Oct	77,000	55,000	40%	114,000	121,000	-6%
Wed	25-Oct	26-Oct	82,000	41,000	100%	128,000	146,000	-12%
Thu	26-Oct	27-Oct	83,000	59,000	41%	151,000	155,000	-3%
Fri	27-Oct	28-Oct	65,000	62,000	5%	158,000	164,000	-4%
Sat	28-Oct	29-Oct	59,000	48,000	23%	124,000	115,000	8%
Sun	29-Oct	30-Oct	64,000	36,000	78%	100,000	102,000	-2%
Mon	30-Oct	31-Oct	58,000	52,000	12%	120,000	127,000	-6%
Tue	31-Oct	1-Nov	65,000	38,000	71%	121,000	199,000	-39%
Total			\$2,220,000	\$1,771,000	25%	\$3,876,000	\$4,102,000	-6%

From the data it is noted that the HOG 2023 weekend (highlighted) saw an increase in visitor spending of 12% (Friday), 31% (Saturday) and 60% (Sunday) in the Bland Shire, and a change in resident spending of -7% (Friday), 9% (Saturday) and 2% Sunday.

It may be argued that the drop in resident spending on Friday was a direct result of attendance at the Family Fun Night event.

Service Provision

Council officers have reviewed the proposed event, and evaluated the cost of providing the requested services and foregone facility hire charges. These costs are estimated to total \$7,000 and are predominantly made up of staffing costs to provide traffic control services on the Saturday for road closures in Main Street and traffic management surrounding Ron Crowe Oval. It is proposed that this be funded from existing budget provisions with a new job allocation to capture actual costs for future reference.

Sponsorship

Evolution have advised they will be the major sponsor of the 2025 Hearts of Gold Festival and Council has been provided with the Hearts of Gold Festival Sponsorship Packages (**Attachment 2.**).

There are five (5) sponsorship package options available for Council consideration, each offering a varying level of benefit. The packages include:-

- Diamond - \$10,000
- Platinum - \$5,000
- Gold - \$3,000
- Silver - \$1,000
- Bronze - \$500

Councillors have suggested funding the sponsorship from the Strengthening Communities Fund, however with some months remaining within the current funding year this may limit the ability for other groups to seek funding through the program.

Risk Considerations

Prior to the 2023 event, Council staff and representatives of the Festival committee participated in a 7 week online regional event management training program. This program provided skills development and event management resources, tools and templates. The Festival committee is also being supported by Evolution staff who are experienced in promotional event development and delivery.

Following the success of the 2023 event. the Hearts of Gold Committee has become incorporated with the mission to deliver community events into the future.

Traffic Management Plans for Saturday will be prepared by Council and presented to the Local Area Traffic Committee for approval. Implementation of the approved plans will be undertaken by suitably qualified Council officers.

The 2023 event was the largest event in the community calendar for some years, with considerable community support and out of town attendance, Should Council not support the event to an appropriate level it must consider the reputational risk that may be incurred.

Financial Implications

The provision of traffic management services is estimated to cost \$6,000.

Per Councils adopted 2024/25 Revenue Policy hire fees for Ron Crowe Oval and Function Room, Perseverance No.2 and No.3 total \$940.

The provision of services and foregone hire charges can be funded within existing budgetary provisions with a separate job number for future reference.

Should Council consider it appropriate the Diamond Sponsorship Package would cost \$10,000.

The Strengthening Communities Fund currently has an unallocated balance of \$24,068.

Summary

The Hearts of Gold 2023 Festival was delivered over the weekend of 13-15 October 2023 and considered a resounding success, with overwhelming support and engagement from the community and visitors alike. The activities held throughout the weekend attracted numbers that exceeded all expectations.

The 2025 event has been modified and includes considerable support from Evolution.

Councils support is sought in the form of the provision of staff to deliver traffic management services on the Saturday, to forego hire fees for the venue and the provision of sponsorship for the event.

Recommendation:

That Council support the 2025 Hearts of Gold Festival by:-

- taking a Diamond Sponsorship Package for the event, funded through a supplementary vote of \$10,000 through the March quarterly budget review, and,
 - providing traffic management services and venue hire through existing budget allocations.
-

**Evolution Mining (Cowal)
Pty Limited**

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P +61 2 9696 2900
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Level 24
175 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

www.evolutionmining.com.au

4 February 2025

Bland Shire Council
Attention: Grant Barker
6 Shire Street,
West Wyalong, NSW 2671

Dear Grant,

RE: Evolution Mining Cowal 20-Year celebration Partnership Proposal

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Cowal Community Team in January regarding partnering with Evolution Mining on the Cowal Gold Operations 20-Year Celebration.

As discussed, to mark this milestone, Cowal is pleased to host a community celebration on October 18, 2025, as part of the Hearts of Gold Festival, Family Fun Night. A free event, this will be a festival-style occasion held at Ron Crowe oval with entertainment for the whole community including, rides, food vans, giveaways, fireworks, and entertainment.

In addition to the above-mentioned features, Evolution has secured an international headline act, [REDACTED], as the main feature of the event. This will be announced publicly in the coming months but remains confidential at this point. [REDACTED] have a large following and we anticipate that many locals will take the opportunity to see them in their hometown. Additionally, it is expected that this will draw tourists to West Wyalong for the event.

During the meeting it was discussed that we are seeking in-kind support for traffic management, and garbage management, at a cost of approximately \$9,000 - \$11,000, in line with the 2023 Family Fun Night. It was indicated that Bland Shire Council will make a decision on partnering with Evolution to deliver the Festival in July as part of the new Financial Year budgeting process.

I am writing to Council to ask if it is possible to move the decision forward into this Financial Year to ensure that Evolution and Hearts of Gold have adequate time to plan and budget the event. There are several positive outcomes in partnering together on delivering the Family Fun Night, including:

- Showcasing the positive relationship between Bland Shire Council and Evolution Mining.
- Supporting the Hearts of Gold Festival to deliver a successful community event.
- Form part of the upcoming [REDACTED] announcement creating positive news for the Bland Shire.
- Be part of an historic milestone for the Bland Shire.

Evolution Mining would be happy to meet with Councillors to discuss further, at their convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Lynsey Reilly

Lynsey Reilly

Superintendent Community and Indigenous Relations

Sponsorship Packages

The Hearts of Gold Festival (HOG) will return to West Wyalong in 2025. Run over three jam-packed days, the festival will be held from Friday 17 October through to Sunday 19 October.

The Hearts of Gold Festival idea was formed in 2023 and run by 5 local volunteers Holly Brooks, Lashey Cattle, Deanne Blackstock, Lydia Anderson and Anna Bell, and was funded largely through a local government grant plus the support of generous local businesses and Bland Shire Council.

The festival was a huge success. The Friday Night Family Fun Night had 2955 people attend, which is one of the biggest events in history in West Wyalong.

The 2025 festival will feature engaging events for all ages (subject to change)*including:

Date	Event
Friday 17 October 2025	Golden Gala - Regal Estate
Saturday 18 October 8.30am -1.00pm	Markets - Main Street
Saturday 18 October 4.00pm - 1.00pm	Family Fun Night and Evolution Mining CGO 20 Year celebrations - Ron Crowe Oval
Sunday 19 October 10.00am - 2.00pm	Evolution Cowal Virtual Open Day - Tivoli Theatre

An exciting addition to the 2025 Festival is the Evolution Mining Cowal Operations 20-year celebration of mining in the Bland Shire. The HOG Festival has joined forces with Evolution on the Family Fun Night, which will feature loads of entertainment including international headline act [REDACTED]

The Hearts of Gold Committee invite you to consider investing in what is set to be a fantastic event for the Bland Shire, through one of the below sponsorship packages. Your support will ensure we can deliver an exceptional and sustainable festival.

Further information can be obtained through contacting the Hearts of Gold Committee via Email: wwheartsofgold@gmail.com or by Phone: 0416199719.

Kind regards,
Holly Brooks

President
Hearts of Gold committee

Major Sponsorship

Evolution Mining

Diamond: \$10,000 2 packages available

This package gives you:

- 6 x free tickets to Regal Estate Golden Gala
- 10 x free Wristbands for rides on the Family Fun Night
- Your logo on our committee shirts
- Talking opportunity on stage at Family Fun Night
- Business mentions with HoG committee media interviews
- Opportunity for promotional stand at Family Fun Night
- Opportunity to erect business banners / flags at our Family Fun Night
- Social Media advertising
- Business and logo listed as Diamond Sponsor at family Fun Night

Platinum: \$5,000 4 packages available

This package gives you:

- 4 x free tickets to Regal Estate Golden Gala
- 6 x free wristbands for rides on the Family Fun Night
- Your logo on our committee shirts (sleeve)
- Opportunity for promotional stand at Family Fun Night
- Social Media advertising
- Business and logo listed as Platinum sponsor at Family Fun Night

Gold: \$3,000 6 packages available

This package gives you:

- 2 x free tickets to Regal Estate Golden Gala
- 6 x wristbands for rides on the Family Fun Night
- Social Media advertising
- Business listed as Gold Sponsor at Family Fun Night

Silver: \$1,000 unlimited packages available

This package gives you:

- 6 x wristbands for rides on the Family Fun Night
- Social Media Advertising
- Business listed as Silver sponsor at Family Fun Night

Bronze: \$500 unlimited packages available

This package gives you:

- 2 x wristbands for rides on the Family Fun Night
- Social Media advertising
- Business listed as Bronze Sponsor at Family Fun Night

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

7.4 Finance And Investment Report - January 2025



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 JANUARY 2025.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2025

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$6,851,025.41
Business Card	\$27,989.42
	\$6,879,014.83
<i>Invested Funds</i>	
Fixed Deposits	\$81,700,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$3,268,998.73
	\$84,968,998.73
Net Balance	\$91,848,013.56
Percentage of Invested Funds to Net Balance	92.51%

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.1.2025

SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Balance as at 01 January 2025	\$6,221,263.49
Plus Receipts for January 2025	\$2,514,662.23
Less Payments for January 2025	-\$1,884,900.31
CASH BALANCE	\$6,851,025.41

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank

\$ 350,000.00

ACCOUNTS CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY,

That the accounts totalling \$1,884,900.31

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 18th February 2025, 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 **\$1,884,900.31** was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 18th February 2025 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

.....
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

INVESTMENTS

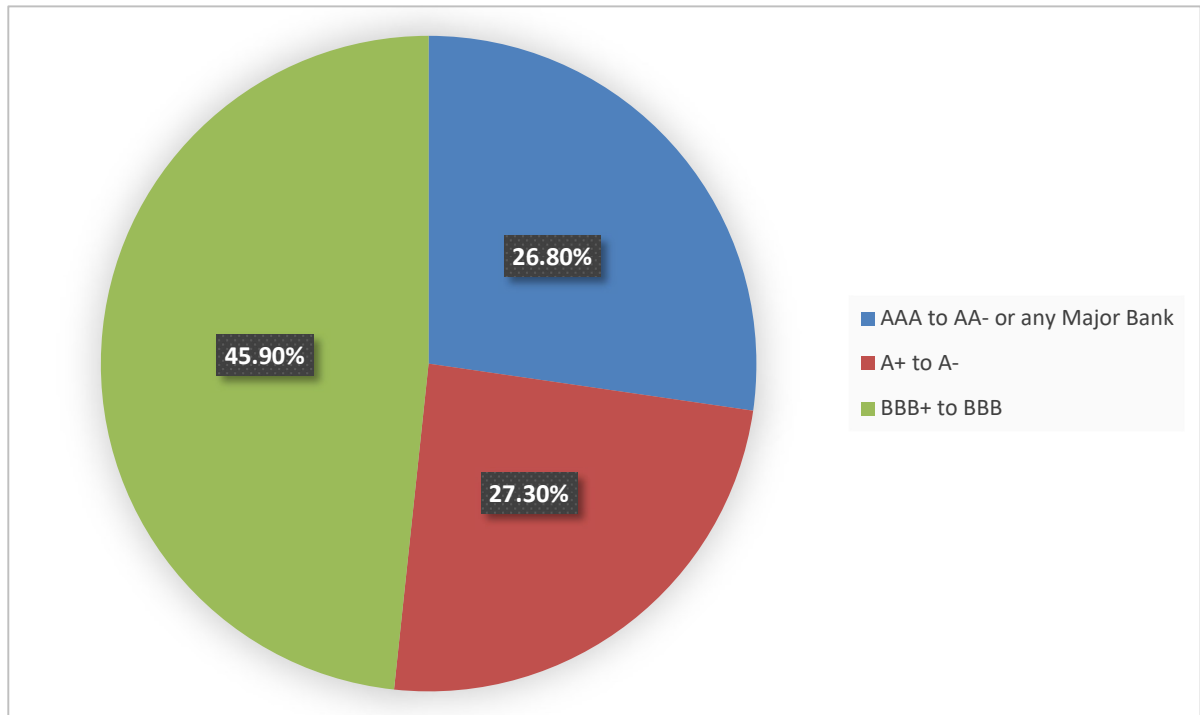
The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 31st January 2025. The funds consist of monies from the Bank Accounts of the Trust Funds, Reserve Accounts, Sewerage Fund and Combined General Account.

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
Defence Bank	BBB+	8/02/2024	6/02/2025	364	5.00%	1,000,000.00
NAB	AA-	15/02/2024	12/02/2025	363	5.15%	1,000,000.00
ING Bank	A	16/02/2024	18/02/2025	368	5.18%	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	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+	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	30/04/2025	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
MyState Bank	BBB+	3/12/2024	3/12/2025	365	5.10%	1,000,000.00
Beyond Bank	BBB+	10/12/2024	10/12/2025	365	5.10%	1,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	18/12/2024	18/06/2025	182	5.20%	1,000,000.00
Defence Bank	BBB+	9/01/2025	8/01/2026	364	4.95%	1,000,000.00

AMP	BBB+	15/01/2025	15/07/2025	181	5.10%	1,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	21/01/2025	21/06/2026	365	4.95%	1,000,000.00
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	30/01/2025	30/09/2025	243	4.86%	2,500,000.00
ANZ Deposit at Call	AA-					50,967.31
CBA Deposit at Call	AA-					3,218,031.42
TOTAL:						84,968,998.73

Long Term Credit Rating	Policy Maximum (%)	Current Holding (%)	Current Holding (\$)
AAA to AA- or any Major Bank	100	26.80	22,768,998.73
A+ to A-	80	27.30	23,200,000.00
BBB+ to BBB	70	45.90	39,000,000.00
BBB- and Unrated	10	-	-
			84,968,998.73



Individual Institution Limit	Rating	Policy Maximum (%)	Current Holding (%)	Current Holding (\$)
AMP	BBB+	25	8.73	\$7,500,000.00
ANZ	AA-	40	0.06	\$50,967.31
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	6.06	\$5,218,031.42
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	18.61	\$15,000,000.00
Judo Bank	BBB	25	3.49	\$3,000,000.00
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
				\$84,968,998.73

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.

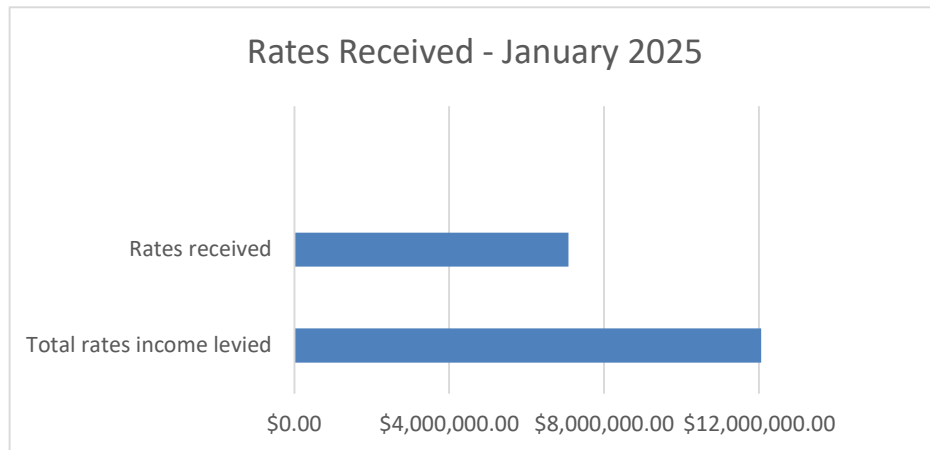
GENERAL MANAGER

RATES REPORT

Below is a summary of outstanding rates

Total rates income levied (2024/25)	\$ 12,058,211.91
Rates received as at 31/1/2025	\$ 7,085,542.36
% of rates received to date	58.76%

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 January 2025
 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 January to 31 January 2025, totalling \$1,884,900.31.
-

7.5 Finance And Investment Report - December 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 DECEMBER 2024.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$6,221,263.49
Business Card	\$30,464.73
	\$6,251,728.22
<i>Invested Funds</i>	
Fixed Deposits	\$82,700,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$3,257,831.81
	\$85,957,831.81
Net Balance	\$92,209,560.03
Percentage of Invested Funds to Net Balance	93.22%

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.12.2024

SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Balance as at 01 December 2024	\$6,978,454.24
<i>Plus Receipts for December 2024</i>	<i>\$3,631,760.02</i>
<i>Less Payments for December 2024</i>	<i>-\$4,388,950.77</i>
CASH BALANCE	\$6,221,263.49

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank

\$ 350,000.00

ACCOUNTS CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY,

That the accounts totalling \$4,388,950.77

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 18th February 2025, 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 **\$4,388,950.77** was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 18th February 2025 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

.....
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

INVESTMENTS

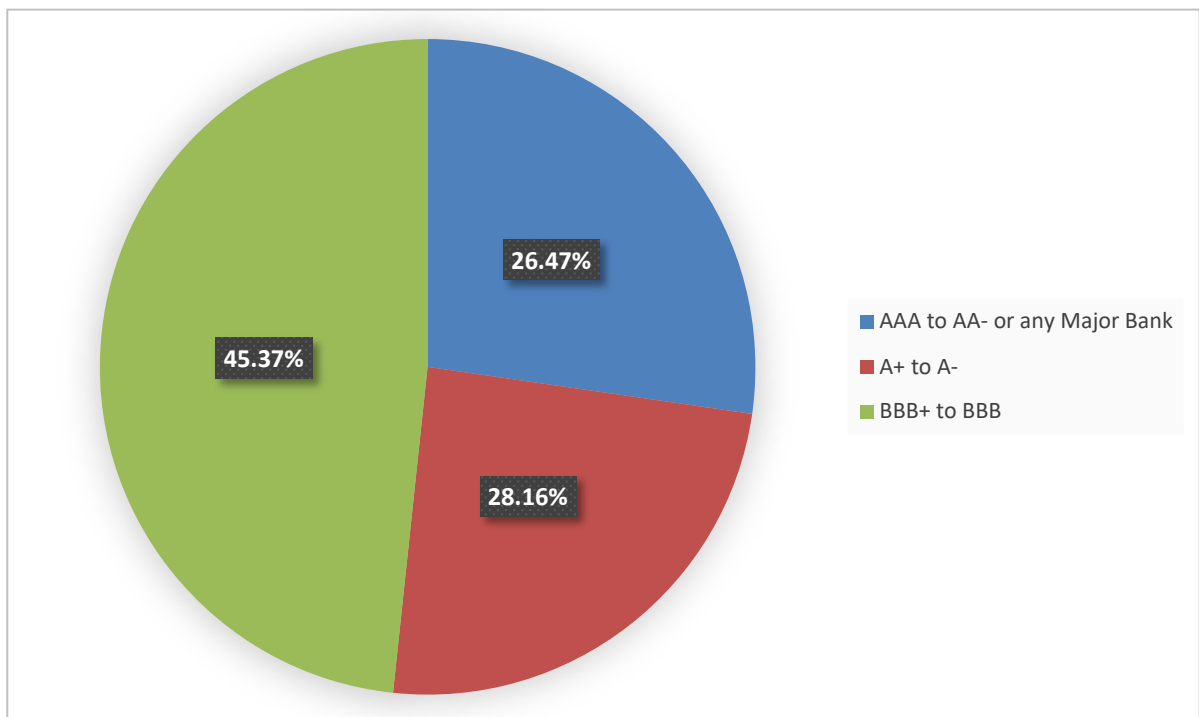
The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 31st December 2024. The funds consist of monies from the Bank Accounts of the Trust Funds, Reserve Accounts, Sewerage Fund and Combined General Account.

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
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	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	30/04/2025	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
MyState Bank	BBB+	3/12/2024	3/12/2025	365	5.10%	1,000,000.00

Beyond Bank	BBB+	10/12/2024	10/12/2025	365	5.10%	1,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	18/12/2024	18/06/2025	182	5.20%	1,000,000.00
ANZ Deposit at Call	AA-					50,967.31
CBA Deposit at Call	AA-					3,206,864.50
TOTAL:						85,957,831.81

Long Term Credit Rating	Policy Maximum (%)	Current Holding (%)	Current Holding (\$)
AAA to AA- or any Major Bank	100	26.47	22,757,831.81
A+ to A-	80	28.16	24,200,000.00
BBB+ to BBB	70	45.37	39,000,000.00
BBB- and Unrated	10	-	-
			85,957,831.81



Individual Institution Limit	Rating	Policy Maximum (%)	Current Holding (%)	Current Holding (\$)
AMP	BBB+	25	8.73	\$7,500,000.00
ANZ	AA-	40	0.06	\$50,967.31
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	6.06	\$5,206,864.50
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	18.61	\$16,000,000.00
Judo Bank	BBB	25	3.49	\$3,000,000.00
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
				\$85,957,831.81

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.

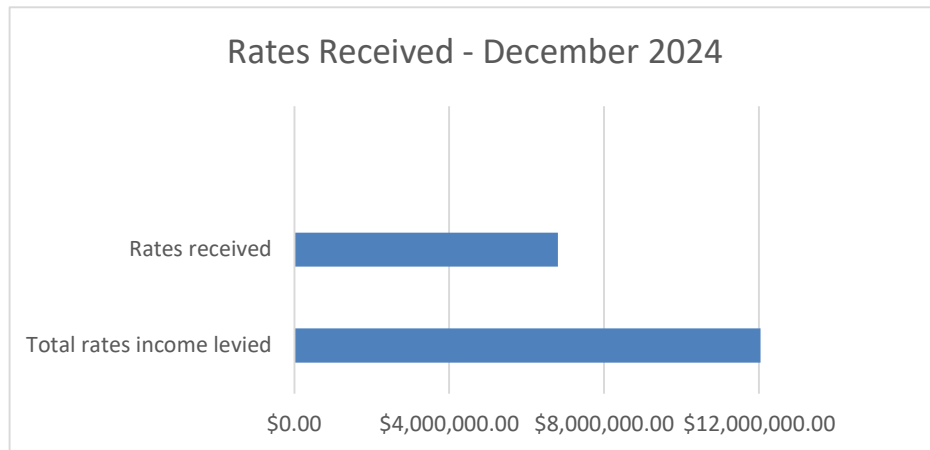
GENERAL MANAGER

RATES REPORT

Below is a summary of outstanding rates

Total rates income levied (2024/25)	\$ 12,039,095.75
Rates received as at 31/12/2024	\$ 6,812,138.52
% of rates received to date	56.58%

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 December 2024
 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 December to 31 December 2024, totalling \$4,388,950.77.
-

7.6 Proposed changes to the Model Code of Meeting Practice



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

DP10.1 Ensure Councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duty.

Author: General Manager

Introduction

This report is to seek endorsement of Council's draft submission to the proposed amendments to the model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Government in NSW. The NSW Office of Local Government released proposed amendments from the Government on 17 December 2024, with submissions due by 28 February 2025.

Risk Considerations

There are risks associated with the proposed changes that are outlined in the draft submission. If the proposed changes are implemented, Bland Shire will be required to amend its existing meeting schedule to meet the new provisions.

Financial Implications

There are no unbudgeted financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report. If the changes are implemented, there may be financial implications associated with meeting the new Model Code of Meeting Practice that will be communicated to Councillors once the detail of the legislation is made available.

Summary

The aims of the proposed changes are outlined in the Consultation Draft as follows:

- promoting transparency, integrity and public participation
- promoting the dignity of the council chamber
- depoliticising the role of the general manager
- simplifying the Model Meeting Code.

A draft submission (**attached**) has been prepared for Council's consideration and is attached to this report. Whilst it is intended that the submission reflect the beliefs and intentions of the Council, it may be that Council wishes to amend the submission. It is noted that the deadline for the submission is 28 February so any resolution of Council to amend the submission would need to include the required detail and delegate authority to the General Manager to finalise the submission with the endorsed changes.

Recommendation:

That Council endorses the draft submission to the NSW Office of Local Government proposed amendments to the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

#Date

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary, Local Government
Office of Local Government
Locked Bag 3015
NOWRA NSW 2541

Dear Mr Whitworth,

RE: Submission to the proposed amendments to the Model Code of Meeting Practice

Bland Shire Council ('**Council**') thanks the Office of Local Government ('**OLG**') for its consultation period on the proposed changes to the Model Code of Meeting Practice. Bland Shire Council strongly believes that it is necessary for an effective relationship between the governing body and staff to have a clear, transparent and concise Code of Meeting Practice. An effective Code of Meeting Practice promotes sound decision-making and builds community trust through efficient and well-managed meetings.

On #DATE, the Council of Bland Shire considered the following submission and endorsed (#MINUTE) the following details to be provided to you for consideration in the review of the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

Council hopes to work constructively to assist with drafting effective provisions for the Model Code and thanks the OLG for reviewing the Council's submission.

Yours sincerely

Grant Baker
General Manager

Introduction

Bland Shire Council is a Large Rural (OLG Group 10) Council covering 8557.7sq/km in the Riverina region. The LGA has a population of 5,547 (2021 census) and is the traditional land of the Wiradjuri People. The local economy has a long history of mining and agriculture, and is a key transport route, being in the north of the Riverina, at the crossroads of the Newell Hwy between Melbourne and Brisbane, the Mid-Western Hwy between Sydney and Adelaide.

General Comments

Council has not experienced the issues with the existing Code of Meeting Practice described in the Minister's foreword to the Consultation draft. Council is supportive of a uniform, clear and simplified Code of Meeting Practice that upholds the dignity of the chamber, promotes transparency and depoliticises the role of the General Manager.

The layout of this submission will respond to each question asked by the OLG in the Consultation Draft.

Question 1: Will the proposed amendments made in the consultation draft of the Model Meeting Code achieve the policy outcomes identified in this paper?

Council views that the proposed amendments will partially achieve the Policy outcomes identified in the paper. Council is **supportive** of the following changes to achieve these goals:

1. Planning Decisions being made with staff recommendations:

Council already complies with this practice. This will achieve the transparency outcomes sought by the OLG.

2. Clarification of apologies and leave of absences:

This will simplify this process in meeting practice.

3. Removal of foreshadowed motions:

This will simplify the rules of debate.

4. Simplifying the definition of an act of disorder:

Council supports simplification of the definition of disorder however the proposed changes to define disorder in accordance with the NSW Legislative Assembly does not adequately provide a definition. NSW Local Councils should not be defined by rules that have not been designed for the context of Local Government. The OLG may draw from the NSW Legislative Assembly in defining disorder but must clearly state a definition and not refer to another rule. Council suggests it would be more effective to base disorder in the Model Code of Meeting Practice section 15.10(d) on clause 3.1 of the Model Code of Conduct.

Council is **not supportive** of the following proposed amendments:

1. Removal of briefing sessions

Bland Shire Council has previously expressed concern regarding these changes in the November submission on the Code of Conduct. Bland Shire submits that well run briefings/workshops are not decision-making forums limiting transparency. Councillors need an environment which enables

information to be shared and explained in a less formal environment and provides opportunity to ask questions and “listen to understand” rather than “listen to respond” that may not be possible in a public forum. Council notes that if Councils are required to adopt this change, it may be likened to preventing ministerial briefings or cabinet meetings to occur without public attendance and the State Government should be leading by example and conducting itself with the same structure.

Alternatively, Council would support opening of workshops to the community and have these workshops conducted in accordance with the limitations in the Act for confidentiality (the Act, section 10A(2)).

It is noted that the policy driver for transparency is supported, however a blanket approach limiting briefing sessions is not the right approach to achieving this objective, as detailed further in this submission. Council believes that if there are Councils that are inappropriately utilising briefing sessions, where discussion on matters outside of public information is available, that these Councils be regulated specifically by the OLG and maintain the existing governance structure of other Councils.

2. Amendments to the role of the General Manager

The changes to the role of the General Manager and Mayor appear to only increase the ability of the Council to politicise the Code of Meeting Practice. For example, the removal of the General Manager to provide advice on Notices of Motion in the business paper limits the ability of the Council to understand the implications of the decision.

Council considers that the General Manager should determine which staff are present at meetings, as this maintains the operational functions being managed by the General Manager and is in accordance with prior improvements in the depoliticisation of staff (e.g. recent amendments to senior staff contracts).

3. Additional power allocated to the Mayor

The ability for the Mayor to expel Councillors or other individuals for acts of disorder risks further politicisation of the Code of Meeting Practice, and the protection of the need for a vote of the Council should be enshrined for all Councils. The further ability for the Mayor to continue to limit that person's attendance at future meetings furthers the risk that weaponisation of Meeting Practice in the sector. Bland Shire Council considers this to be low risk for this Council but is concerned that the changes will not achieve the policy objectives for the broader sector.

4. Changes to remote attendance at Council meetings

Councillors, particularly in rural areas are not full time Councillors, and have a wide range of responsibilities to support families and businesses. The remote attendance provisions have encouraged increased diversity of representation on Council. Council is concerned that the winding back of remote attendance capability will disincentivise members of the community from seeking election to Council and limit the ability of existing Councillors to engage in their role. These changes adversely affect those in the smaller towns in the Bland Shire, and those with caring responsibilities.

The proposed provisions limits the ability of sole traders and professionals in regional areas to manage their responsibilities as a result of the vast distances that are often required to be travelled by

workers in the regions. It is important not to limit the ability for diverse representatives to hold office and perform the duties of a Councillor.

This high threshold for unforeseen caring responsibilities may give rise to disputes and require Councillors to disclose sensitive personal information. It is recommended that the OLG produce additional guidance on what meets the threshold of illness or unforeseen caring responsibilities.

Question 2: Are there any other amendments you would suggest that will achieve these policy outcomes?

Council considers that the existing Model Code is appropriate for Council. Alongside the recent election of the new term of Council, the current Councillors (including 4 new Councillors) have stood for Council on the commitments of the existing meeting structures and schedules.

The proposed changes will require amendments to the meeting schedule and new training to be invested in by Council. Council requests that any proposed changes the meeting practices be implemented with the commencement of the next term of Council. This will allow Council to adequately prepare for and for Councillors to run for Council with the set expectations of meetings.

Question 3: Will the proposed amendments have any unintended consequences?

1. Ineffective provisions relating to limiting briefing sessions

Councillors require the ability to ask questions and receive advice from staff about their options as business papers are not a forum that effectively is able to convey all the options. Should Councillors not be able to do this, there are several issues:

- A. Councillors may resort to seek advice directly from staff, meaning that all Councillors do not receive the same information.
- B. Council Business Papers may exponentially increase in volume, impacting the ability of a Councillor to review the information and impact staff resourcing in preparing the papers.
- C. This amendment does not limit the ability of Councillors to caucus or meet separately, which does not achieve the root causes from the recent ICAC matters.
- D. The Consultation Draft covering notes on page 9 provides that Councillors will still can meet for strategic planning workshops, and while the detail of the legislation is not available, Council notes that the Policy objective to improve transparency may not be achieved if there are loopholes that better resources Councils can exploit to still hold, in effect, briefing sessions.

Council submits that recordings of all workshops and briefing sessions would satisfy the policy intent (see question 4).

2. Practicality of releasing confidential business papers

This amendment creates a requirement for Council to continually monitor all previous business papers, determine whether all the reasons for them being made confidential remain current, consult with the council and then publish them. It is anticipated that this is an impractical approach that Councils, particularly in rural areas that would be unable to complete this without significant resource

reallocation. Council agrees with the policy justification but requests this be amended to practical terms, such as:

As soon as practicable after 30 June each year, Council must review all business papers marked as confidential in the preceding financial year and publish any business papers on their website that no longer meet the requirements of the Local Government Act s 10A(2) reasons for confidentiality.

Before 31 December 2026, Councils must review all prior business papers marked as confidential and publish any business papers on their website that no longer meet the requirements of the Local Government Act s 10A(2) reasons for confidentiality.

3. Public Forums

Council submits that the sector would be best served by retaining the (optional) provisions under section 4 relating to the conduct of public forums or replace them with separate guidelines. The community must have a somewhat uniform experience of Local Government to ensure that there is consistency across the sector.

Question 4: Are there any other amendments the Government should consider?

In order to limit the potential loopholes of strategy sessions running effectively like briefing sessions, Council submits that a more efficient approach is that that briefing sessions will be permitted but must be audio-recorded and notes of workshops be reported to Council.

7.7 Adoption of the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy



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

DP10.1 - Ensure Councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duty

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to submit the amended Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy (**Attachment One**) for adoption by B Council.

Financial Implications

There are no unbudgeted financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Summary

Following the election of a new Council, a number of policies are required to be reviewed and updated. One such policy is the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors policy. This policy has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993, Sections 248-254A* and Clause 403 of the *Local Government Regulation 2021* and the draft was presented to the November meeting of Council for endorsement prior to public exhibition.

Following this public exhibition period, one written submission was received from Cr Brooks. In this submission, Cr Brooks requested an amendment to the policy in relation to the “Care and related expenses” payments. This request suggested a change in the rates for babysitters to \$120 for the first 4 hours, then \$25 per hour for any additional hours there after. This change was made and tracked in the policy documentation.

It should also be noted that in the draft document which was placed on exhibition, in the Provision of Facilities section, there was an error in that there was no change made in relation to the following statement:

Reasonable refreshments associated with Council and Council Committee meetings or Workshops, as well as meetings of the Mayor or Councillors with Parliamentary representatives, visiting dignitaries and other delegations.

This section was not updated following a decision of the former Council to discontinue the provision of such refreshments at Council Workshops following a change to hold the workshops earlier in the day. Since the election of this current Council and a further change that sees the Workshops commence at 6pm, a decision will be required from the Councillors as to whether this particular paragraph should be amended to remove the reference to Workshops or retained as is to allow for the provision of refreshments at workshops for the current Council.

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the amended Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy.

ATTACHMENT ONE**POLICY STATEMENT****PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND
PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO
COUNCILLORS POLICY****AUTHORISATION**

POLICY TYPE: <i>(Council or Operational)</i>	Council
POLICY LOCATION: <i>(eg. Corporate, Engineering, etc.)</i>	Governance & Risk
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: <i>(by position title)</i>	Director Corporate and Community Services
AUTHORISED BY: <i>(GM or Director Title)</i>	
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>	September 2028
REVISION NUMBER:	15
RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	This Policy supports Council's Delivery Program Strategy 10.1 – Ensure Councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duty.

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>
14	17 May 2022	Update to Claim Form	DCCS

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed within 12 months from the date of the Local Government elections in accordance with Section 252 of the Local Government Act 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 of Council and in the spirit of this Policy. Any amendment to the Policy must be by way of a Council Resolution.

1. Purpose:

To ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred, or to be incurred by the Mayor and Councillors, and that the facilities provided to assist the Mayor and Councillors to carry out their civic duties are reasonable.

This policy is made and adopted in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993, Sections 248-254A* and Clause 403 of the *Local Government Regulation 2021*.

2. Scope:

This policy applies to all elected representatives of Bland Shire Council.

3. Outcomes:

To provide for the fair and equitable payment and reimbursement of certain expenses not considered to be included in the annual fees payable to Mayor and Councillors, where such expenses are incurred by the Mayor and Councillors in discharging the functions of civic office. To provide adequate facilities for use by the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge the functions of civic office.

Reporting Requirements

Section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993 and requirements under the Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines, necessitates Council to include details of the Mayoral and Councillor fees, expenses and facilities. The public is entitled to inspect the Council's Policy free of charge, and may obtain a copy on payment of copying charges as set within Council's revenue policy.

PAYMENT OF FEES AND EXPENSES

1. Allowances and Expenses

No allowance other than those expressly contained in this policy are payable to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillors.

Expense Type	Recipient	Detail	Authorisation
Fees payable to Councillors	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	An annual fee is to be paid monthly in arrears. The fee shall be within the range for the Council determined annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. Such payment shall be subject to Section 404 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 and any specific resolution of the Council under Section 254A of the Act. The fee will be effective from 1 July each year.	Council Resolution
Fees payable to the Mayor	Mayor	An annual fee to be paid to the Mayor monthly in arrears. The fee shall be within the range for the	Council Resolution

Expense Type	Recipient	Detail	Authorisation
		Council determined annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. The fee will be effective from 1 July each year.	
Fees payable to the Deputy Mayor	Deputy Mayor	The Deputy Mayor shall be paid a daily pro-rata fee equivalent to the daily Mayoral fee adopted by Council resolution for the periods of time when the Mayor advises they will be prevented by absence, illness or otherwise from acting in, or when the Mayor requests the Deputy to act in the office of Mayor. The amount of the fee so paid to the Deputy Mayor shall be deducted from the Mayor's annual fee.	General Manager or the General Manager's delegate to authorise the claim for expense
Seminars, Conferences and Training	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will arrange and pay for all bookings and reservations associated with Councillors' attendance at approved seminars, conferences and training.	Attendees for multi-day event by way of Council Resolution Mayor or Deputy Mayor and General Manager jointly where the seminar, conference or training is held for one day or less and does not involve an overnight stay. General Manager or the General Manager's delegate to authorise the claim for expenses
Seminars, Conferences and Training	Spouse, partner or accompanying person	If the Mayor or Councillor chooses to take a spouse, partner or accompanying person, any expenses related to the conference or seminar, travel, additional accommodation costs and any personal tours shall be the personal responsibility of the individual Mayor, Councillor or accompanying person	

Commented [GB1]: [Alison Palmer](#) How do these align with the elements in the Detail column?

Commented [GB2R1]: Perhaps numbering or better aligning separate paragraphs?

Commented [AB3R1]: [Grant Baker](#) - does this make more sense?

Expense Type	Recipient	Detail	Authorisation
Committees	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Spouse, partner or accompanying person	Council will arrange and pay for all bookings and reservations associated with Councillors' attendance at a committee meeting of which they are the delegated representative. If the Mayor or Councillor chooses to take a spouse, partner or accompanying person, any expenses related to the attendance at the committee meeting, travel, additional accommodation costs and any personal tours shall be the personal responsibility of the individual Mayor, Councillor or accompanying person	Council resolution to appoint delegates General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the claim for expense
Travel Expenses	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Spouse, partner or accompanying person	Council will cover reasonable travel expenses to allow the Councillor to attend any Council meeting, Advisory Committee Meeting or a Council workshop (as defined in the Code of Meeting Practice). Detail is provided within the Travel Arrangements table. If the Mayor or Councillor chooses to take a spouse, partner or accompanying person, any expenses related to their attendance shall be the personal responsibility of the individual Mayor, Councillor or accompanying person	Council resolution to appoint delegates General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the claim for expense
Care and related Expenses	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will reimburse a Councillor's costs to a maximum of \$80 <u>\$120</u> to cover a four hour engagement of a "baby-sitter" or carer where required for other potential dependents including people with disabilities and the elderly to allow the Councillor to attend any Council meeting, Advisory Committee Meeting or a Council workshop (as	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the claim for expense

Expense Type	Recipient	Detail	Authorisation
		<p>defined in the Code of Meeting Practice).</p> <p>The four hour period shall include the period of 30 minutes prior to and after the conclusion of the meeting or workshop. An additional hourly rate of up to \$45-25 per hour will be paid for meetings and workshops that go beyond the 4 hours engagement period referred to above.</p> <p>Reimbursement claims under this clause must be supported by receipts. In the event that receipts are not available, claimants must provide a Statutory Declaration to support the claim.</p>	
Insurance Expenses and Obligations	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	The Mayor and Councillors will receive the benefit of insurance cover as provided by Council while undertaking civic duties.	<p>Council adoption of this policy</p> <p>General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the claim for expense</p>
Legal Assistance	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	<p>Legal assistance will be provided in the event of an enquiry, investigation or hearing, into the conduct of a Councillor provided the subject of the proceedings arises from the performance in good faith of a function under the Act (with the exception of defamation proceedings) and the Court, Tribunal or investigating body makes a finding substantially in favour of the Councillor.</p> <p>Council, by resolution, may reimburse the Mayor and such Councillor, after the conclusion of the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, for all legal expenses properly and reasonably incurred, given the nature of the enquiry, investigation, hearing or</p>	<p>Council Resolution</p> <p>General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the claim for expense</p>

Expense Type	Recipient	Detail	Authorisation
		<p>proceeding, on a solicitor/client basis.</p> <p>Legal assistance reimbursement will only be provided upon resolution of the Council</p> <p>Any reimbursement for legal proceedings shall be reduced by the amount of any moneys that may be or are recouped by the Mayor or Councillor on any basis</p> <p>The enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding results in a finding in favour of the Mayor or Councillor</p> <p>The amount of such reimbursement is limited to the equivalent of the fees being charged by Council's Solicitors.</p> <p>For all limitations on coverage, refer to the Office of Local government.</p>	
Incidental Expenses	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	<p>Council will reimburse reasonable incidental expenses associated with attending official Council functions, conferences, seminars or training.</p> <p>These expenses include telephone calls and faxes relating to Council business, reasonable lunches, dinners and other meals incurred while travelling (except for alcohol), parking, taxi fares, motorway or bridge tolls or other incidental expense.</p> <p>Councillors must support the expense claim with details of the event or meeting and the receipt or a tax invoice. In the event that receipts are not available, claimants must provide a Statutory Declaration to support the claim.</p>	<p>Council adoption of this policy</p> <p>General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the claim for expense</p>

2. No deduction from Mayoral or Councillor Fees

The payment or reimbursement of expenses and facilities which may be provided under this policy, shall be provided without reduction from the annual fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors.

3. Reimbursement of Expenses

Councillors must submit claims for the reimbursement of expenses within three months of the expense occurring. Councillors must produce appropriate receipts and/or tax invoice for all expenses. In the event that receipts are not available, claimants MUST provide a Statutory Declaration to support the claim. A claim form must be completed.

4. Establishment of Monetary Limits and Standards

Monetary limits or standards of facilities/services where applicable are specified in this policy.

5. Substitute Attendee

By the adoption of this policy, authority is hereby delegated to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and General Manager jointly to nominate and authorise a substitute Councillor to attend any conference in lieu of the Mayor or a nominated and authorised Councillor. Such substitution is only to be made in the event that the nominated and authorised Councillor advises of their inability to attend the event.

6. Payment in Advance

Councillors may request payment in advance for expenses they expect to incur when attending conferences, meetings, seminars or training away from home. A cash advance or use of a pre-paid credit card can be made available, however all expenses must be properly accounted for and reconciled, with receipts, within one month after the expense has been incurred.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES

Councillors should not generally obtain private benefit from the provision of equipment and facilities and payment of expenses. Council acknowledges that incidental use of equipment and facilities may occur from time to time. Such incidental use is not subject to compensatory payment.

Facility	Recipient	Detail	Authorisation
Administrative Support	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will provide the Mayor with shared Executive Assistance and administrative support to assist with the provision of civic duties. Councillors will receive Administration service to facilitate the discharge of civic function.	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Manager's delegate to approve
Telephone Expenses	Mayor	Council will provide the Mayor with a mobile phone for use in order to carry out the Mayoral civic functions and responsibilities. Council will meet the capital, maintenance,	Council adoption of this policy

		and mobile phone plan charges.	
Computer or electronic device	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will provide a tablet to all elected Councillors to assist with the provision of their civic duty. Council will also meet the capital, maintenance and data plan charges associated with the devices.	Council adoption of this policy
Meals and refreshments	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Reasonable refreshments associated with Council and Council Committee meetings or Workshops, as well as meetings of the Mayor or Councillors with Parliamentary representatives, visiting dignitaries and other delegations.	Council adoption of this policy
Councillor Name Badge	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will provide a name badge indicating the wearer's position.	Council adoption of this policy
Email Address	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will provide all Councillors with an email address to be used for all official Council business. The address will conform to council's email standards.	Council adoption of this policy
Mayor Office	Mayor	Council will provide a furnished office in the Council Chambers.	Council adoption of this policy
Professional development	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Councillors are, in accordance with Section 232(g) of the Act and 185 (4) of the Regulations, to undertake relevant professional development to build upon existing skills and knowledge that will assist them to carry out their civic duty. For expenses associated with professional development, refer to payment of Fees and Expenses table and Travel Arrangements table of this policy.	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the expense

7. Acquisition and Return of Equipment and Facilities by Councillors

All equipment provided under this policy shall always remain in the possession of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor during their term of Council, and shall remain the property of the Council and be returned to the Council in good operational order and condition upon ceasing to hold the position of Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

When travelling to complete civic duties, Council will arrange or reimburse Councillors in the following manner.

Facility	Recipient	Detail	Authorisation
Accommodation	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will arrange and pay for accommodation in an appropriate location at an appropriate standard.	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the expense
Air Travel	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will arrange and pay for economy class airfares.	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the expense
Car Hire	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will arrange and pay for a mid-size sedan hire car	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the expense
Kilometres – use of private Vehicle	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	<p>Where a council vehicle is not available and a Councillor utilises their own vehicle, the Councillor may claim a kilometre allowance for use of a private vehicle in travelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To and from the meetings of Council, or the meetings of any Committee of the Council. • Upon inspections, provided such inspections are undertaken in compliance with resolutions of the Council or authorised by the Mayor or General Manager. • To attend conferences, official engagements and functions where the Councillor has been authorised by the Council to do so or is deputising for the Mayor. <p>Kilometre rates for use of a private vehicle under this Policy will be paid at the rate set by the Local Government</p>	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the expense

Facility	Recipient	Detail	Authorisation
		(State) Award, as at the date of travel. Payment is subject to a claim on the prescribed claim form being lodged and made no later than three months after the travel occurred. Claims lodged for travel occurring more than three months before the claim is lodged shall not be paid.	
Rail travel	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will arrange and pay for a first class rail fare (if applicable).	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the expense
Taxi, Public Transport, Parking and Toll Charges	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors	Council will reimburse costs of taxis, public transport, parking and tolls when travelling to and from venues for Council business. If available, Council will provide an Opal Card for public transport travel.	Council adoption of this policy General Manager or the General Managers delegate to authorise the expense

8. Travel

Where travel is by motor vehicle it is preferable that a Council vehicle be utilised when available. Travel by a private vehicle is subject to prior approval jointly by the Mayor and General Manager and will require provision of relevant comprehensive vehicle insurance documentation for the vehicle.

Councillor Payment of Expenses for a Spouse, Partner or Accompanying Person

Council recognises that in the majority of cases it is easier to arrange for travel and accommodation for Councillors and accompanying persons at the same time. If a councillor chooses to bring someone on Council arranged travel, the Councillor must make the appropriate payments to reimburse the costs upon confirmation of arrangements.

4. Definitions:

The Act shall mean the Local Government Act 1993

The Regulation shall mean the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

5. Roles and Responsibilities:

All authorisations under this policy shall be made by resolutions of the Council or jointly by the Mayor, or Deputy Mayor and the General Manager or as stated in the policy.

6. Legislation and Supporting Documents:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government General Regulation 2021
- Office of Local Government Guidelines for payment of expenses and provision of facilities
- Model Code of Conduct
- ICAC publications

7. Attachments:

- 1. Claim Form – Expenses for Councillors**

CLAIM FORM - EXPENSES FOR COUNCILLORS



CLAIMANT DETAILS			
Name:			
Address:			
		State	Postcode

The following expenses are claimed in accordance with Council's policy on the *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors*.

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
-------------	--------

MONTHLY FEE Councillor ☐ Mayor ☐
 Councillor - \$1,126.67
 Mayor - \$2,458.33

TRAVELLING

- Motor Vehicle as per LG State Award 2023

	1/7/24	1/7/25
Int. Combustion Vehicle - 2.5 litres and over	0.95c/km	0.98c/km
Int Combustion Vehicle - Under 2.5 litres	0.81c/km	0.83c/km
Hybrid Vehicle	0.62c/km	0.64c/km
Electric Vehicle	0.43c/km	0.44c/km

- Ordinary Council Meeting:
 - Month _____ Distance Travelled _____ km
- Extra Ordinary Council Meeting:
 - Month _____ Distance Travelled _____ km
- Committee Meeting/s:
 - Meeting _____ Distance Travelled _____ km
 - Meeting _____ Distance Travelled _____ km
 - Meeting _____ Distance Travelled _____ km

REIMBURSEMENT/S

- Other: _____

TOTAL _____ \$ _____

SIGNATURE	
Claimant:	
Date:	

I hereby certify that:

- The computation/s of this account are correct.
- The charges are, so far as I am able to ascertain, fair and reasonable.

General Manager _____

7.8 Adoption of Social Media Policy



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

DP3.1 Develop and support a strong sense of community, providing advice and support to community groups

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

The revised Bland Shire Council's Social Media Policy was recently endorsed by the Council to allow for its public exhibition and comments to be received from the community. This report seeks Council's formal adoption of the policy following this period.

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

The Social Media Policy was reviewed by Council and the document (Attachment One) developed with reference to the Office of Local Government's Model Social Media Policy.

Bland Shire Council recognises that social media provides opportunities for dynamic and interactive two-way communication, which can complement existing communication and further improve information, access and delivery of key services. The Council also recognises a number of benefits to having a healthy and positive social media presence, such as networking, recruitment, promotion and circulating time sensitive information.

The policy was designed to provide a framework for Council, Council staff and Councillors to use social media tools to facilitate collaboration and sharing between Council, employees, ratepayers and external stakeholders.

In accordance with Section 160 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council was required to advertise the policy for feedback from the community which it did from Friday, 22 November 2024 for a period of 28 days.

Following this period and the subsequent time allowed for submissions to be made, there were no submissions recorded by Bland Shire Council.

It is therefore recommended that Council now adopt the document for implementation across the organisation.

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the revised Social Media Policy.



POLICY STATEMENT

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

AUTHORISATION

POLICY TYPE: <i>(Council or Operational)</i>	Council
POLICY LOCATION: <i>(eg. Corporate, Engineering, etc.)</i>	Executive Services
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: <i>(by position title)</i>	Media and Communications Officer
AUTHORISED BY: <i>(GM or Director Title)</i>	General Manager
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>	March 2028
REVISION NUMBER:	3
RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	This Policy supports Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2022-23 under strategy 4.3 and 11.2. Ensuring proper management and use of social media further allows for active engagement with community and promotion of open communication by adopting innovative and accessible communication strategies.

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	20 Nov 2012		
2	21 April 2020		
3	March 2024	New template adopted. Synthesis of the document, whilst adding additional information relating to complaints handling when received via social media, and Councillor and Staff use of social media. Clarification also added on authorised users and scope of document.	Media and Communications Officer

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed within 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 with the approval of the General Manager/Manex.

1. Definitions;

‘Authorised persons’ refers to the General Manager, the Director of Corporate and Community Services or persons that have been given express approval by the General Manager to perform administrative duties on Council social media.

‘Social Media’ refers to internet-based tools for sharing or discussing information. It relates to user-generated information, opinion or other content shared over open digital networks.

Social Media may include (although is not limited to):

- social networking sites (eg: Facebook, Twitter)
- video and photo sharing websites (eg: Flickr, Youtube)
- blogs, including corporate blogs and personal blogs
- Wikipedia and other online collaborations (e.g. wiki’s)
- forums, discussion boards and groups (eg: Google and Yahoo groups)
- podcasting

2. Purpose:

Bland Shire Council recognises that social media provides opportunities for dynamic and interactive two-way communication, which can complement existing communication and further improve information, access and delivery of key services. The Council also recognises a number of benefits to having a healthy and positive social media presence, such as networking, recruitment, promotion and circulating time sensitive information.

This policy is designed to provide a framework for Council, Council staff and Councillors to use social media tools to facilitate collaboration and sharing between Council, employees, ratepayers and external stakeholders.

It is acknowledged that certain risks are associated with social media tools. The intent of this policy is to provide understanding and guidance for the appropriate use of social media platforms and tools for anyone who uses social media on behalf of Bland Shire Council.

3. Scope:

This policy applies to:

- the use of any of Council’s social media forums in an official capacity by an approved social media representative.
- Councillors, employees, contractors, agents and volunteers of Bland Shire Council.
- all activities undertaken on an official Council social media channel or using a social media tool.
- all individuals seeking promotion through the Media and Communications Officer managing any of Council’s social media forums such as:
 - Bland Shire Council Facebook page
 - Visit West Wyalong Facebook page
 - Bland Shire Library Facebook Page
 - Bland Shire Children Services Unit Facebook Page
 - Bland Shire – It Takes a Village Facebook Page
 - Bland Shire Youth Facebook Page
 - Bland Shire Youth Instagram Page
 - Bland Shire Council Facebook Page
 - Bland Shire Council LinkedIn
 - Visit West Wyalong Facebook Page
 - Bland Shire Library Instagram Page

- Bland Shire Children Services Unit Instagram Page
- Bland Shire Council YouTube channel

It is noted that Social Media falls under the 'Media' category of Bland Shire Council's Communication Policy and Procedure, and this document should be read in conjunction with these other documents.

4. Outcomes;

This Policy is designed to inform authorised users, and members of Council, of the appropriate use of social media as a representative of the Bland Shire Council. It outlines measures to protect and enhance the reputation of Council in the use of social media channels and to promote effective, timely and productive community engagement through social media. Effective implementation will result in empowering the community to genuinely participate in community life, and in decisions that affect their lives, whilst minimising miscommunication or mischievous communications.

5. General Matters;

Staff and Councillors, with the exception of the Mayor and General Manager, are prohibited from posting on social media regarding Council related business and operational matters in their capacity as a staff member or Councillor without the written permission of the General Manager.

Council staff and Councillors may post on social media as private individuals on the conditions that their comments are not perceived as representing official Council position or policy. Best practise is to not identify yourself as a staff member, or as a Councillor, to avoid misplaced implications of official authority.

Councillors and Council staff should raise social media occurrences that could result in damage to Council's reputation directly to the General Manager at their earliest convenience, and refrain from commenting or posting on the matter.

6. Roles and Responsibilities;

The Implementation of this Policy applies to authorised persons that administrate and manage Bland Shire Council social media outlets and representatives of Council.

When establishing a social media account on behalf of Council, authorised users must complete the Social Media Account Checklist (Appendix A) and submit to the relevant Director for approval and the General Manager for authorisation.

Account administrators must operate the account in accordance with the objectives outlined in the completed Social Media Account checklist submitted to the General Manager.

Council's social media platforms are administered by authorised persons only. Councillors and staff are responsible for the moderation and administration of their own personal accounts.

Official Council social media Users;

Authorised users will;

- Know and follow record management practices.
 - Council has regulatory and legal obligations to retain certain information as records. Follow the procedures outlined in Council's Records Management Policy.

- Ensure that when using Facebook, all Council accounts must be operated and administered as a “page” rather than a “profile”.
 - Facebook advise that maintaining a personal account or “profile” for anything other than an individual person is a violation of its Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.
- Ensure that all social media accounts administered by Council officers as part of their employment shall remain under the control of Council.
- Provide log in and password details to records as well as the relevant director or supervisor.
 - When a staff member leaves Council, responsibility for administering the relevant account will be transferred to another employee at the discretion of the relevant director or supervisor.
- Ensure that the community are aware of Council policy regarding offensive and inappropriate behaviour.
 - This information will be accessible to the general public on all relevant social media pages and accounts.
- Promptly remove content that is offensive, obscene, defamatory, threatening, harassing, bullying, discriminatory, hateful, racist, sexist, infringes copyright, constitutes a contempt of court, breaches a Court suppression order, or is otherwise unlawful.
- Ban users that breach Council’s Social Media Policy from accessing Council’s social media sites. The authorised user also reserves the right to moderate content from individuals who seek to monopolise and dominate Council’s social media sites for their own purposes.
- In the event that a community member has a complaint regarding content on Council social media, they should be acknowledged, and directed to make a complaint in line with the Complaints Handling Policy.
- In the event that a community member has a query, the query should be directed to the relevant staff member or director for appropriate response.
- All queries or complaints should be recorded in Bland Shire Council’s records management system.

Authorised users will ensure posts;

- Adhere to Council’s code of conduct, policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Behave with caution, courtesy, honesty and respect.
- Comply with relevant laws and regulations.
- Reinforce the integrity, reputation and values of Bland Shire Council.
- Are corrected promptly when they have errors in content, spelling and grammar.

Authorised users will ensure posts do not contain;

- Abusive, profane or sexual language
- Content which is false or misleading
- Confidential information about Council or third parties
- Copyright or Trade mark protected materials
- Discriminatory material in relation to a person or group based on age, colour, creed, disability, family status, gender, nationality, marital status, parental status, political opinion/affiliation, pregnancy or potential pregnancy, race or social origin, religious beliefs/activity, responsibilities, sex or sexual orientation
- Illegal material or materials designed to encourage law breaking
- Materials that could compromise Council, an employee or system safety
- Materials which would breach applicable laws (eg. defamation, privacy, trade practices, financial rules and regulations, fair use, trademarks)
- Material that would offend contemporary standards of taste and decency
- Material that would bring the Council into disrepute.

- Personal details or references to Councillors, Council staff or third parties, which may be inconsistent with Council's Privacy Policy.
- Spam, meaning the distribution of unsolicited bulk electronic messages
- Statements which may be considered to be bullying or harassment

If any doubt prevails regarding applying the provisions of this policy, administrators are required to check with their relevant Director or the General Manager before using social media to communicate.

The General Manager or Director of Corporate and Community Services will exercise authority to amend the site or delete posts if considered detrimental to any party or individual and will advise and discuss these actions with the appropriate site administrator.

Councillors and Mayor;

Councillors should conduct themselves on social media in a way that reflects the values of Council and in adherence with the Model Code of Conduct. Whether intended or not, posts, comments or any other social media activity engaged in a private capacity may reflect on Council and their role as a Councillor.

Councillors may make personal comments on social media platforms, however they must make clear that any views and opinions are their own, and do not reflect that of other Council representatives or Council itself.

The following examples relate to, but are not limited to, what a Councillor must **not** do:

- Speak on Council's behalf;
- Commit Council to any action, pre-empt official Council announcements or post any confidential Council information;
- Direct staff to post content, in line with the Model Code of Conduct;
- Breach the privacy of other Council officials or those that deal with Council;
- Post content that is offensive, humiliating, threatening, or intimidating to other Council officials or those that deal with Council;
- Post content to ridicule, vilify, harass, cyberbully, discriminate against or bring into disrepute the Council, or other Council officials, including Councillors or community members; or
- Post content about Council that may be misleading or deceptive to the community.

Council Staff;

Council staff and Management should conduct themselves on social media in a way that reflects the values of Council and in adherence with the Model Code of Conduct. Whether intended or not, posts, comments or any other social media activity engaged in a private capacity may reflect on Council and their role as a Council employee.

Council Staff may post on their private social media platforms in a personal capacity but must make clear that any views are their own opinions as an individual and not those of Council.

The following are examples of, but are not limited to, what Council staff should and should not do on social media.

Do ...

- Remember everything you say and do is public, and you can be identified as a Council employee.

- Pause before you post – would you be comfortable with this information being shared with your family, friends, work colleagues, media and the broader community, and is the information likely to bring you or Council into disrepute?
- Be mindful of your general conduct obligations under the Model Code of Conduct, including the requirement not to damage Council's reputation.
- Be careful to communicate accurate information.
- Be courteous and respectful of Councillors, other Council staff and members of the community, including respecting people's privacy.
- Report any violations of this policy to the General Manager and/or the Internal Ombudsman.

Do not ...

- Imply that you are speaking on behalf of Council.
- Disclose official, personal, or confidential information that is not publicly available (such as staff, personal information, legal advice, commercial-in-confidence and Model Code of Conduct complaints).
- Post material that is obscene, pornographic, defamatory, threatening, harassing or discriminatory to any individual, group or organisation or may lead to criminal penalty.

7. Legislation and Supporting Documents;

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following legislation:

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA)
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act (NSW) 1998 (PPIPA)

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Bland Shire Council documents:

- Bland Shire Social Media Procedure
- Bland Shire Council's Code of Conduct
- Bland Shire Complaints Handling Policy
- Bland Shire Council's Communications and Engagement Plan
- Bland Shire Council's Communications Policy
- Bland Shire Council's Communications Procedure
- Bland Shire Council employment contracts.
-

Authorised users are required to adhere to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act (NSW) 1998 when posting material on social media.

8. References:

Local Government Association of South Australia – a Social Media Issues Paper for Local Councils

NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development Social Media Policy
State Library of New South Wales

9. Attachments:

Appendix A – Social Media Account Checklist

Appendix A

Social Media Account Checklist

The following checklist is a good place to begin when considering setting up a social media account and determining its purpose.

1. What will our account name be?

- Can we get a name that aligns with our organisation-services?
- Can we get a name that matches other social media accounts we already have?
- All Council social media pages are owned by Bland Shire Council and should be referenced accordingly

2. What email account will it be linked to?

- Can this email be accessed by multiple staff or one person only?
- If it is a corporate account will it block communication from the site?

3. Who can post/publish items to the account?

- Will publishing responsibility be restricted to an individual or team of people?
- How will the messages be controlled, fact checked, spell checked?
- Is it important that any communications have a similar 'voice' or style?
- Will this be officially recognised as part of people's work plans with time allocated to the activity? If so, how much time?

4. What type of content can be published?

- What will the account be used for primarily?
- Will we post images or just text?

5. What type of content will NOT be published?

- Will we post details of events/promotions for organisations outside of Council that we are not a partner with, or attending?
- Will we post details of events/promotions for other areas of Council?
- What about activities/groups that staff are involved with outside of work?
- What is our policy about naming staff members online?
- What do we do with information that may be critical of Council or politically sensitive e.g. new development application?

6. Who is our target audience?

- How will we reach them?
- Why are we doing this?

7. Who/What will we follow/friend or NOT?

- Will we follow official Council accounts from our own Council?
- Will we follow other Councils?
- Will we follow local media?
- Will we follow Councillors?
- Will we follow individual members of staff?
- Will we follow members of the public?
- Will we follow political parties?
- What about local service providers, businesses, emergency services, Government organisations, community groups, lobby groups, clubs etc.?

8. Who/What will we block and why?

- What is our legal/moral obligation here?
- Will we block illegal, offensive, defamatory material? Political/fundraising material?

- Advertising/promotional material?

9. Will we Direct Message followers/friends?

- Will all our communication/posting be public? - Remember many of our followers/friends may be under 18 years of age.

10. How will we track/monitor our postings/communication?

- Will we use a third party product?
 - What will our policy be about deleting posts?
 - Should copies be kept of deleted posts?
 - Do we need to archive posts? How often? How?
-

7.9 Endorsement of the Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035



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

Strategy 10.3 - Ensure the General Manager takes a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and other Council documents

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the highest level of strategic planning undertaken by a council, with all other plans required to support the achievement of the CSP objectives. Bland Shire's new draft CSP document - *Building a Sustainable Community: Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress* - (**Attachment One**) is presented to Council for formal endorsement following a period of exhibition and feedback from the community.

Financial Implications

In accordance with Council's adopted budget, costs associated with the promotion of and engagement on the CSP will be incorporated into operational expenditure through the utilisation of existing communication avenues and platforms.

Summary

Each local government area in New South Wales is required to have a Community Strategic Plan that has been developed and endorsed by the council on behalf of its community and the plan is to identify the main priorities and aspirations for the future of the local government area.

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

While Council has a statutory obligation to prepare the CSP it is not responsible for delivery on all activities and strategies the plan outlines. To support the work in this space, the document includes a list of those organisation with which Bland Shire currently partners to deliver projects and programs to the community.

In recent years, the Bland Shire Community was involved in a number of community engagement processes as well as a community survey undertaken in July and August 2024. Council also undertakes regular Community Forums throughout Bland Shire. The information provided through these events provided insight into the needs of the communities within Bland Shire and helped to formulate the CSP.

Council provided an extended period in which members of the community could comment on the CSP and make suggestions for further inclusions. There were three such submissions received, one from a member of the Bland Shire community, one from two Bland Shire Councillors and a third from a State Government department which provides services within Bland Shire.

Upon reviewing these submissions – which form Attachment Two – it was identified that the specific actions to which they refer would better fit within the next document required which is Council's Delivery Program. Those who provided submissions from within Bland Shire have been advised of this approach to including their suggestions.

As a result, the final Community Strategic Plan is presented for Council's endorsement.

Recommendation:

That Bland Shire Council endorse the *Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 - Building a Sustainable Community: Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress*.

Attachment One

*Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 - Building a Sustainable Community:
Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress*



Building a Sustainable Community:

*Empowering People, Promoting Fairness,
and Achieving Progress*

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN | **2025 TO 2035**

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Developing a plan for our Community's Future

Foreword by the Mayor and General Manager

In our pursuit of a vibrant and thriving community, this strategic plan serves as a roadmap for our collective future. Bland Shire Council is committed to advocating for the needs and aspirations of every resident, facilitating representation that is not just a concept but a reality. With a focus on good governance, this will underpin our actions, fostering an environment of accountability and transparency.

With the insights garnered, Council will harness the knowledge of our residents to inform our decisions, guaranteeing that our actions are founded in fairness and inclusivity.

This plan is designed to create a stable foundation for progress, guiding us toward successful outcomes that benefit all members of our community.

Together, we will take proactive steps to build a strong future—one where every voice is heard, every need is addressed, and every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

Let us embark on this journey with a shared commitment to excellence and the belief that through collaboration, we can achieve remarkable results for our community.

As a Council, we value unity, strong leadership and integrity and undertake the development of this plan for our future with respect and compassion for our community with a view to develop strategies and actions that are economically responsible and ecologically sustainable.

Through open communication we will engage with our community to build on local knowledge and create a future of which we can all be proud.

Our community

In our close-knit community, the strength of our bonds lies in our diversity of our experiences and our shared appreciation for this region. This rich tapestry enhances our collective resilience, allowing us to face challenges with a united front.

Our commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive community creates an environment where everyone feels valued and accepted, regardless of their background.

Volunteerism is at the heart of our community spirit. It brings us together, providing opportunities for individuals to share their skills and passions while contributing to the greater good.

Whether it's through organising local events, supporting neighbourhood initiatives, or lending a helping hand to those in need, our volunteers embody the caring nature that defines us. We take pride in our loyalty to one another, championing a progressive mindset that encourages growth and development.

Our passionate commitment to community means that we actively seek ways to promote acceptance and tolerance, celebrating our differences while working towards a common goal: a thriving community for all.

Together, we can harness our unique perspectives and experiences to create a brighter future. Let us continue to embrace volunteerism, nurture our community spirit, and allow every voice to be heard.

In doing so, we build a foundation of trust and support, paving the way for endless opportunities and a future that supports a resilient, caring community.

Conclusion

Building a Sustainable Community:

Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress

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By implementing these strategies, we can tackle the challenges facing our community, creating a more inclusive, resilient, and thriving environment for all residents. Each initiative will require collaboration, resourcefulness, and a shared commitment to progress, but together we can create meaningful change. These additional strategies enhance our approach to tackling community challenges, promoting inclusivity and resilience. By integrating diverse initiatives, we can create a more robust, interconnected, and thriving community for all residents. These cost-effective strategies can empower residents and organisations to address community challenges creatively and collaboratively. By maximising local resources and fostering a spirit of cooperation, we can make meaningful progress without incurring significant expenses.

Cr Br
MAY



Bland Shire's Councillors – 2024 to 2028



Cr Brian Monaghan
Mayor



Cr Lisa Minogue
Deputy Mayor



Cr Holly Brooks



Cr Malcolm Carnegie



Cr Rodney Crowe



Cr Jill Funnell



Cr Emma Henderson



Cr Tony Lord



Cr Liz McGlynn

IP&R cycle

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Cycle in New South Wales local councils is a structured approach that ensures effective planning, execution, and review of community goals and council operations.

The following is an overview of the IP&R cycle:

1. Community Strategic Plan (CSP): This is the foundational document that articulates the community's long-term vision, goals, and priorities. Developed with significant community engagement, it serves as a guiding framework for the council's actions and policies.
2. Delivery Program: This plan outlines how the council will implement the strategies identified in the CSP over a four-year period. It includes specific projects, activities, and resources required to achieve the community's goals.
3. Operational Plan: This is a more detailed, annual document that breaks down the Delivery Program into specific actions, budget allocations, and performance indicators. It specifies what will be done in the coming year and how it will be funded. The budget is closely aligned with the Operational Plan, detailing the financial resources needed to deliver services and projects. It ensures that funding is allocated in a way that supports the council's strategic priorities.
4. Resourcing Strategy: The Resourcing Strategy is a critical component of the IP&R framework in New South Wales, supporting the effective implementation of the Community Strategic Plan and related documents. It encompasses three key elements:

Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP):

This plan outlines the council's financial strategy over a minimum of ten years. It projects income and expenditure, ensuring that financial resources align with the goals outlined in the CSP. It helps councils plan for sustainable service delivery and infrastructure investment while managing financial risks.

Workforce Management Plan (WMP):

The WMP addresses the human resources needed to achieve the council's objectives. It includes strategies for recruitment, training, staff development, and succession planning. This ensures that the council has the right skills and capabilities in place to deliver services effectively and meet community needs.

Asset Management Plan (AMP):

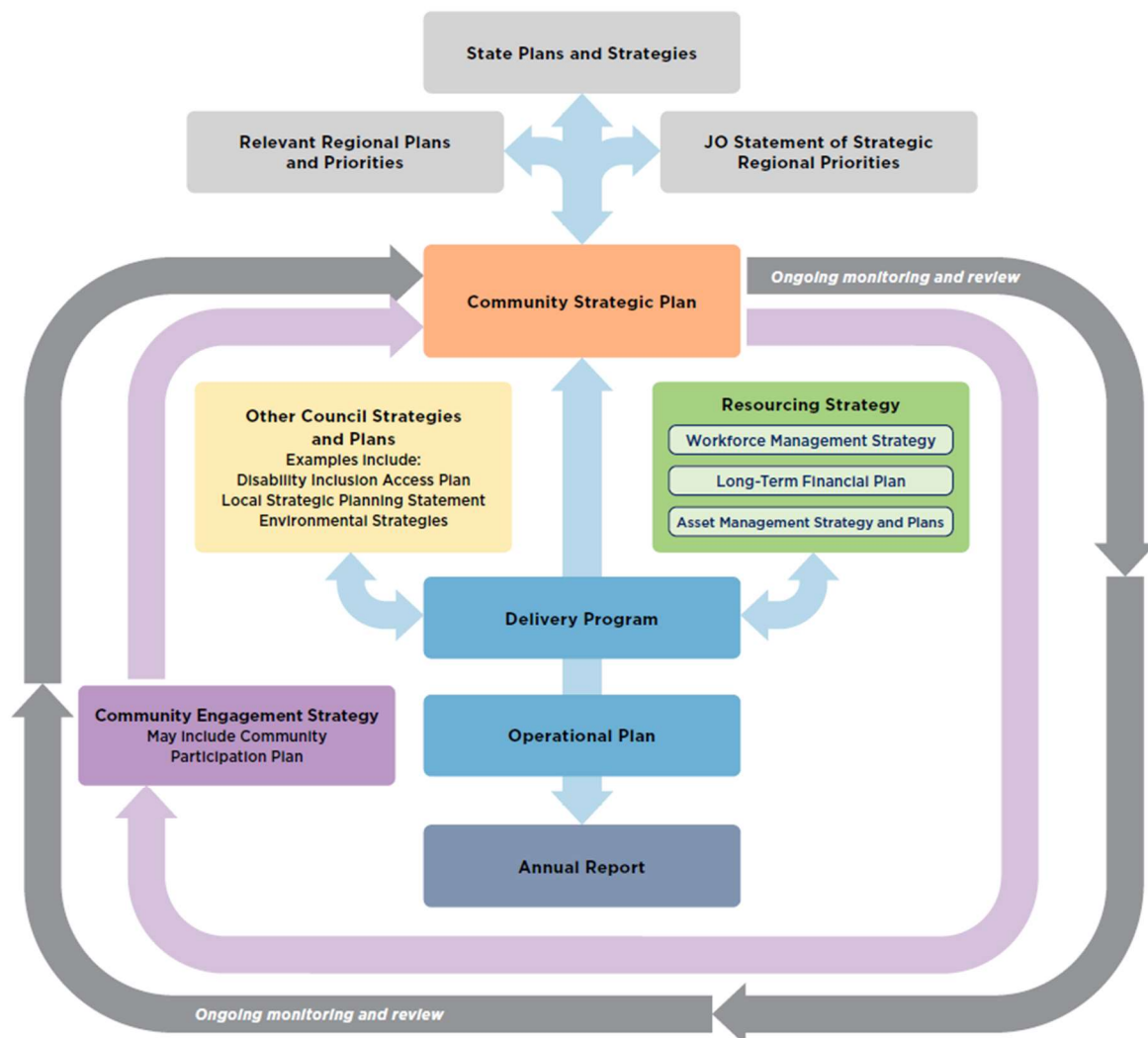
The AMP provides a framework for managing the council's physical assets, such as buildings, roads, parks, and infrastructure. It outlines how these assets will be maintained, renewed, and developed to support service delivery. The plan focuses on sustainability, lifecycle management, and ensuring that asset management aligns with community priorities.

Together, these elements of the Resourcing Strategy ensure that councils can effectively allocate resources—financial, human, and physical—to achieve their strategic objectives and serve the community effectively over the long term.

5. Annual Report: At the end of each financial year, councils produce an annual report that reviews progress against the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. It assesses achievements, challenges, and financial performance, providing transparency and accountability to the community.
6. Review and Adaptation: The IP&R cycle is iterative. Councils regularly review and adjust their plans based on community feedback, performance outcomes, and changing circumstances. This ongoing evaluation helps ensure that strategies remain relevant and effective.

This cyclical process promotes continuous improvement, aligning council actions with community needs while fostering greater transparency and engagement in local governance.

The diagram on the following page demonstrates the interrelationships between each of the documents as well as provides linkages to other plans relevant to delivering services within the local community.



INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING Handbook for Local Councils, September 2021.
Office of Local Government

Purpose and relevance of the CSP

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) in New South Wales is a crucial document for local councils, serving several important purposes within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. Its key functions and relevance include:

1. **Vision and Direction:** The CSP outlines the long-term vision and strategic priorities for the community, reflecting the values, aspirations, and needs of residents. It guides the overall direction of council activities and initiatives.
2. **Community Engagement:** The development of the CSP involves extensive consultation with community members, stakeholders, and local organisations. This ensures that the plan is reflective of the community's input and fosters a sense of ownership among residents.
3. **Integration of Plans:** The CSP integrates various aspects of community development, including economic, social, environmental, and cultural

priorities. It helps ensure that different council plans and services are aligned and work towards common goals.

4. **Resource Allocation:** By identifying priorities, the CSP helps councils make informed decisions about resource allocation, budgeting, and investment in community projects and services.
5. **Accountability and Reporting:** The CSP sets measurable outcomes and indicators, which allows councils to monitor progress and report back to the community. This enhances transparency and accountability in local governance.
6. **Framework for Action:** The CSP serves as a foundation for more detailed operational plans, such as the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, outlining specific actions and initiatives to achieve the community's goals.

Overall, the CSP is essential for fostering sustainable development, enhancing community well-being, and ensuring that local governance is responsive to the needs of the community.

To support this process, several documents, policies and strategies were referenced to help build this Community Strategic Plan as well as several currently being developed. In doing this, Bland Shire intends to incorporate the key findings from studies undertaken in recent years and the related strategies and actions identified to enable the integration of those documents into the overarching CSP. In so doing, it will connect and address the common themes and goals which were identified by the community through the development of those plans

Context – where we are now

Originally proclaimed on the 6 March 1906, the Bland Shire has developed into a vibrant and progressive community located on the northern fringes of the Riverina region.

The Shire's major centre of West Wyalong is centrally located on the junction of the Newell and Mid-Western Highways and within a 160 kilometre radius of Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Forbes, Parkes and Cowra and within 300 kilometres of Canberra – providing an authentic rural lifestyle with the conveniences of the city well within reach.

The Shire offers outstanding parks, gardens, sporting and community facilities, great schools, key medical and business facilities and boasts an outstanding community spirit.

The Bland Shire's history is deeply engrained in agriculture and gold production which continues through to today; recognised as one of the most productive agricultural areas in the state with cereals and sheep being the major producers. The Evolution Cowal Gold Mine commenced construction in 2004 with gold production in 2006 and is expected to continue production for many years in the future.

The Shire is also home to Eucalyptus oil production, which commenced in 1907 and has resulted in the West Wyalong region being one of the major world exporters of Eucalyptus oil in Australia.





In 2006, Pace Farm completed construction of a new rearing, laying and grading facility, one of the most sophisticated egg operations in the southern hemisphere. The villages located within the Bland Shire include Barmedman, Tallimba, Ungarie, Weethalle, Wyalong, Naradhan and Mirrool.

All have unique qualities and an abundance of community pride that is harnessed and fostered to give each village their own character and prosperity.

The community is proud of the facilities and services across the shire, but our greatest asset is our people where new residents are embraced and valued.

Bland Shire today

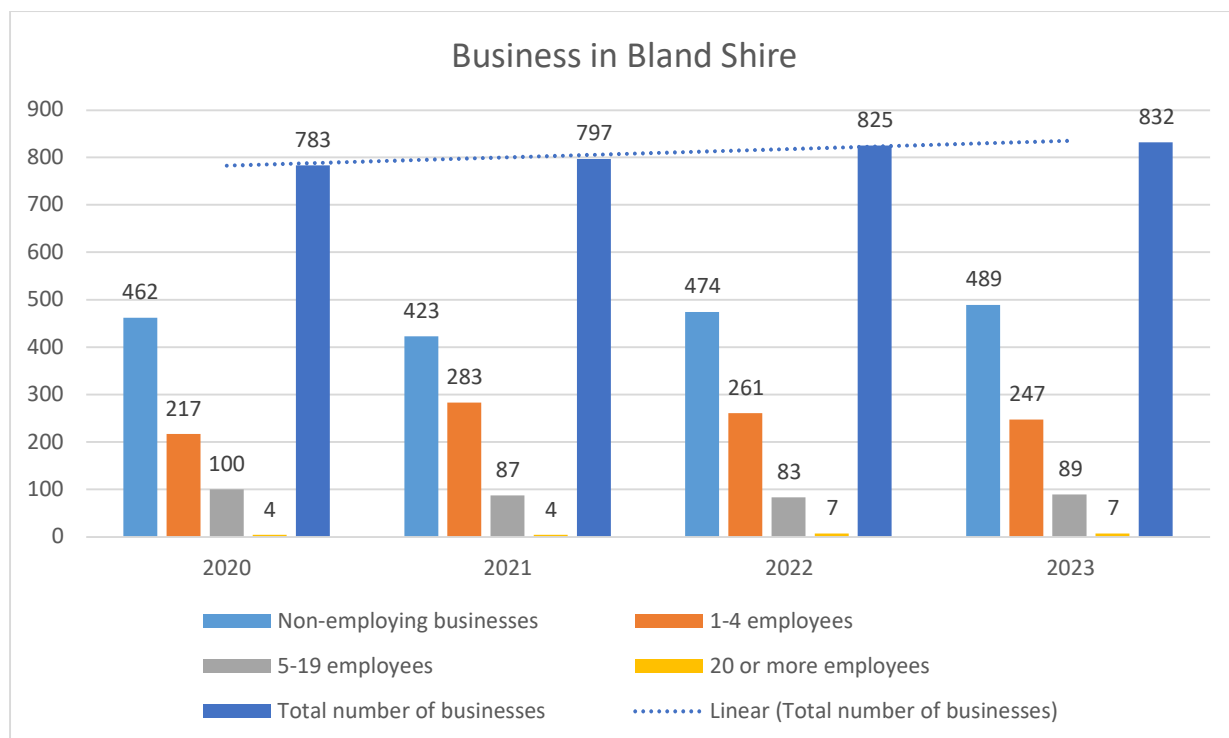
To obtain an understanding of Bland Shire's current community a range of data has been reviewed. Information from the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census, the Regional Wellbeing Survey undertaken by the Health Research Institute at the University of Canberra and more localised surveys such as Community Satisfaction Surveys and bespoke consultations undertaken for and on behalf of Bland Shire Council has helped to formulate the following information.

What the 2021 Census told us:		
	People	5547
	Male	50.30%
	Female	49.70%
	Median age	43
	Families	1443
	Average number of children per family	
	for families with children	2
	for all households	0.7
 	All private dwellings	3090
	Average number of people per household	2.30
	Median weekly household income	\$1,326
	Median monthly mortgage repayments	\$1,083
	Median weekly rent	\$200
	Average number of motor vehicles per dwelling	2.1

Of those people living within the Bland Shire, 18% of people lived in rented accommodation with 73.8% either owning their homes outright or having a mortgage.

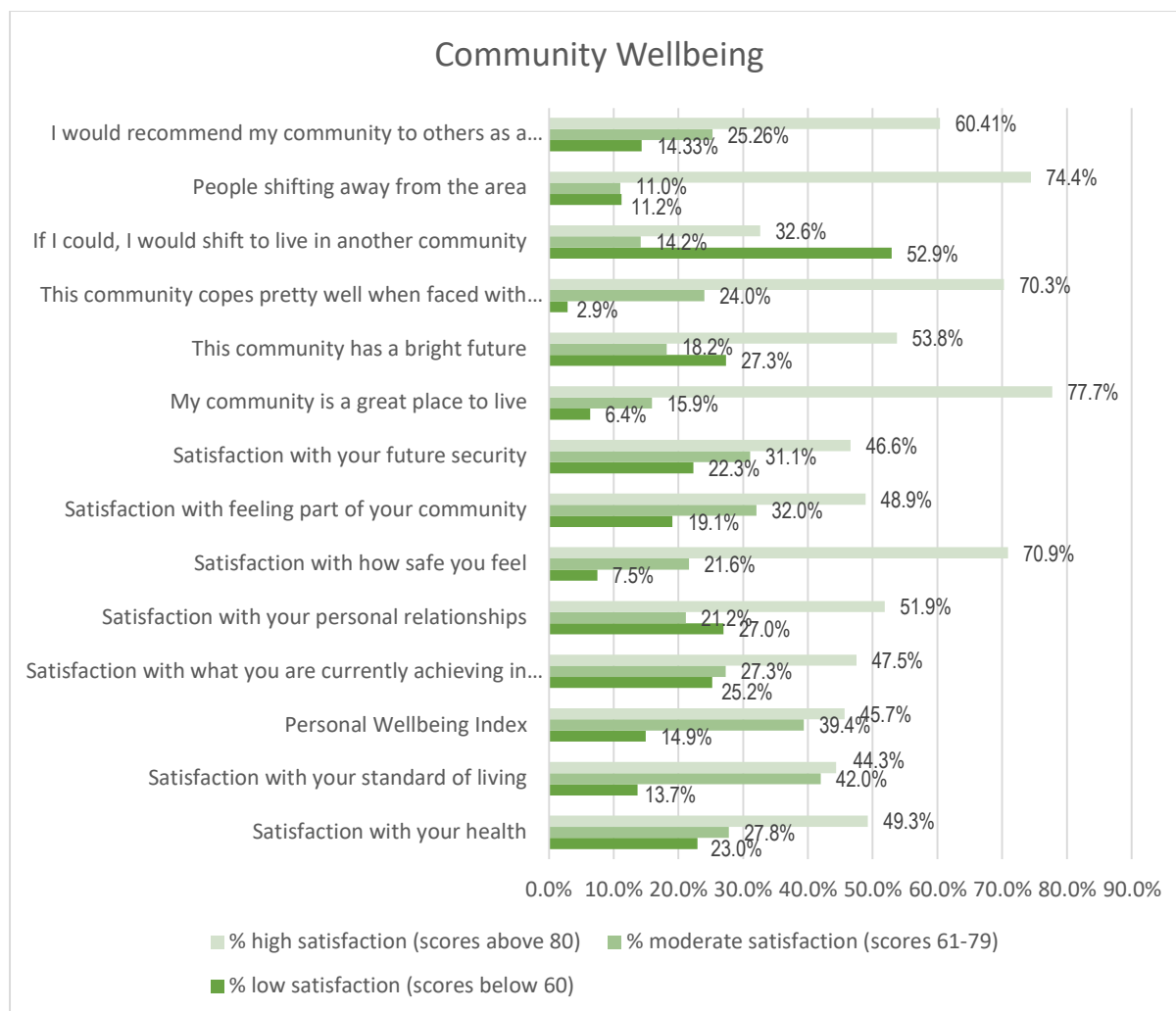
The number of businesses within Bland Shire has increased in the four years to 2023 with the majority of those businesses being sole operators.

Only a handful of local business operations (four in 2020 and 2021 and seven in 2022 and 2023) employ more than 20 staff.



The biggest industry employer within the Shire is the agricultural industry which accounts for more than 28% of the working population. Agriculture from the region produced more than \$500m in total gross value product with more than \$389m of that being in grain. The second largest local employer is mining which provides employment for just over 11% of the population.

A community's sense of wellbeing and belonging are equally as important to their way of life as employment or residential status. The Regional Wellbeing Survey provides some insight into the thinking of the local community. While the following graph provides a snapshot of those wellbeing indicators it is not a definitive picture of the Bland Shire community but more an indication based on the responses of those community members who completed the most recent survey document. Based on this information, the community in general has a reasonable level of satisfaction with where they live, what the future holds and their standard of living.



The Community Satisfaction Survey undertaken by Bland Shire Council in July and August 2024 was designed to measure:

- Satisfaction with the performance of Council
- Satisfaction with Council's responsibilities under the four themes identified in the previous Community Strategic Plan:
 - Our People
 - Our Places
 - Our Leadership
 - Our Prosperity
- Future priorities for the Council
- The liveability of Bland Shire
- Level of contact with Council.

This research indicated that satisfaction levels varied across the community and age groups with researchers stating this was a common trend and reflected a deepening pessimism (since 2020) among Australians in their own personal situation.

Local factors are also impacting residents' perceptions and there is the opportunity to improve satisfaction. The survey identified key opportunities for improvement including supporting local jobs and businesses, road maintenance and the stormwater system. The key highlights for residents were roads, economic development and housing.

However, civic pride remains high with positive perceptions on safety, community and the natural environment. When asked what they value about Bland Shire, the residents referenced:

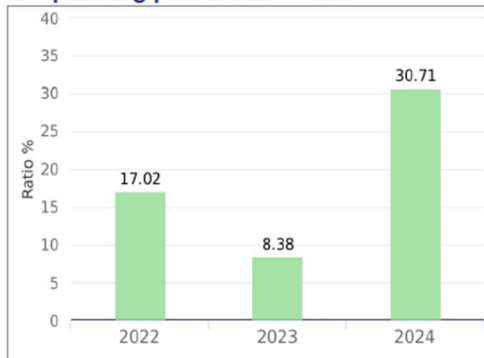
- A supportive community spirit
- Its open environment
- A sense of safety
- A slower pace of life.

Financial measures as at 30 June 2024

The financial benchmarks were developed as a consistent set of core performance measures that can apply to all NSW councils for:

- Accountability to Community
- Reporting/intelligence to State
- Promoting continuous improvement amongst Councils

1. Operating performance ratio



Purpose of operating performance ratio

This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 30.71%

Council's operating performance ratio is well above the industry benchmark. Council must continue to monitor operational performance to maintain this result.

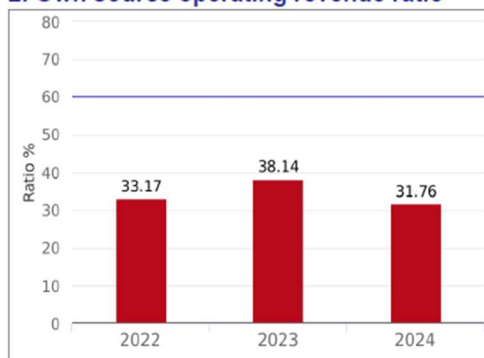
Benchmark: — > 0.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

2. Own source operating revenue ratio



Purpose of own source operating revenue ratio

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 31.76%

Own source revenue is consistent with previous year's results. As with most rural Council's, generating own source revenue continues to be a challenge.

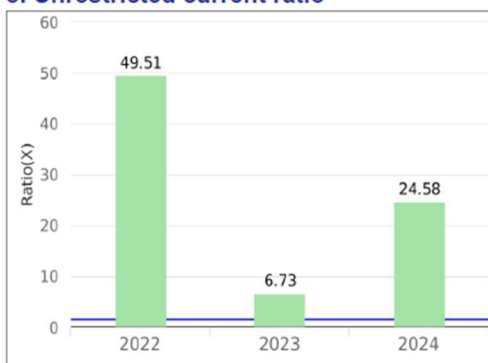
Benchmark: — > 60.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

3. Unrestricted current ratio



Purpose of unrestricted current ratio

To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 24.58x

Council's ratio remains above the benchmark with adequate funds available to satisfy its short-term obligations.

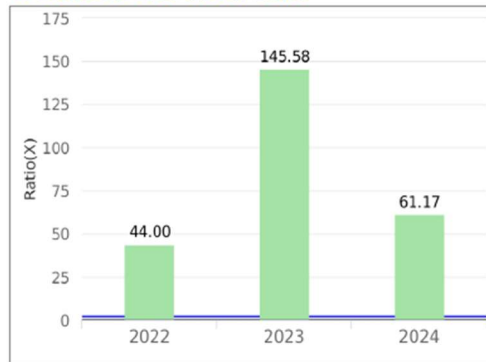
Benchmark: — > 1.50x

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

4. Debt service cover ratio



Benchmark: — > 2.00x

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Purpose of debt service cover ratio

This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments

Commentary on 2023/24 result

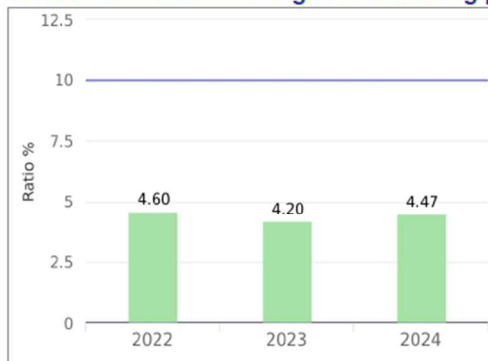
2023/24 ratio 61.17x

Council have one loan, which was for the Holland Park Pool Upgrade, and is in a strong position to meet its loan obligations.

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



Benchmark: — < 10.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Purpose of rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

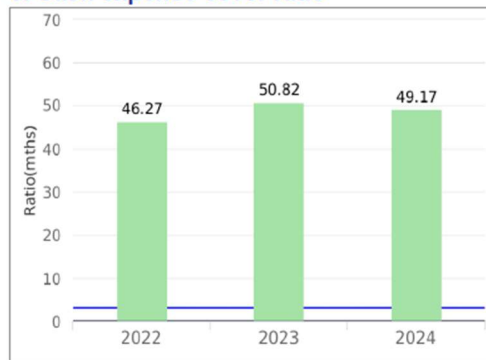
2023/24 ratio 4.47%

Council staff have continued to work with debtors offering an early intervention approach. This effective communication continues to reduce the outstanding rates and annual charges amounts.

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

6. Cash expense cover ratio



Benchmark: — > 3.00months

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Purpose of cash expense cover ratio

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 49.17 months

Efficient financial management practices have enabled Council to operate effectively in meeting its expense obligations.

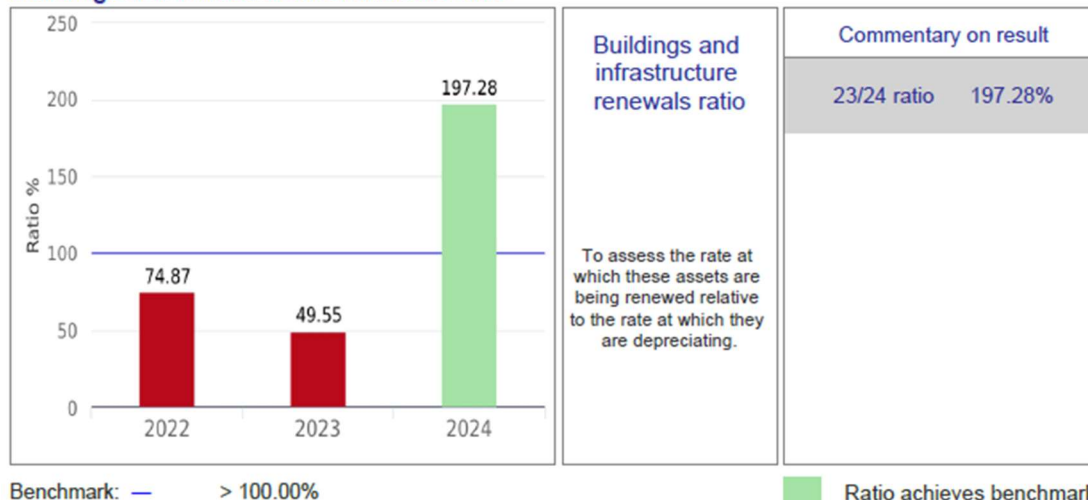
Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

Assets and infrastructure as at 30 June 2024

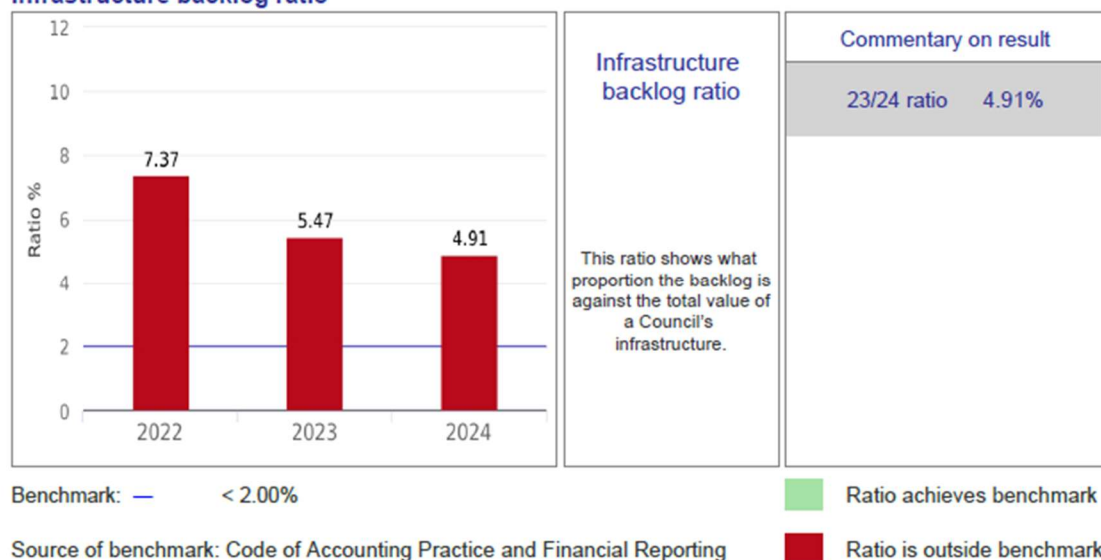
Australian councils managed over \$588.6 billion worth of non-financial assets in 2022-23 with Bland Shire's share of that being approximately \$500 million. Councils should aim to renew assets at a rate equal to or greater than depreciation. Bland Shire's current position in relation to its assets are shown in the following graphs:

Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio

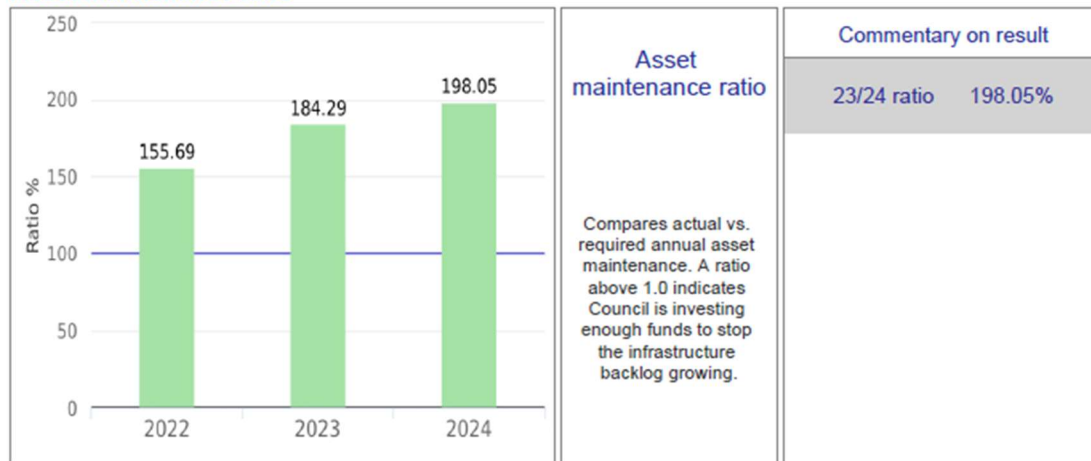


Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Infrastructure backlog ratio



Asset maintenance ratio



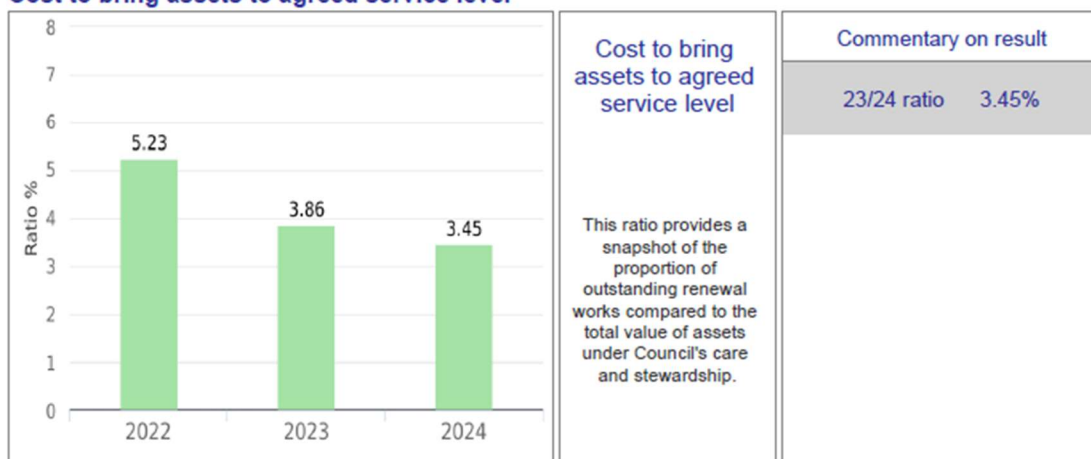
Benchmark: — > 100.00%

Ratio achieves benchmark

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio is outside benchmark

Cost to bring assets to agreed service level



Community Vision Statement – where we want to be

Building a Sustainable Community:

Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress

Key elements

When asked to define the unique elements that made Bland Shire special to those who choose to live and work here, the words used included things such as volunteerism, close knit, community spirit, diversity of income and demographics, welcoming, caring and progressive. For many, the common element was that the Bland Shire was their home.

Place refers to a specific location that holds meaning or significance, often shaped by personal experiences, culture, and context. It can be a physical space, like a city, a home, or a natural environment, but it also encompasses the feelings and memories associated with that location. Place is not just about geography; it's about how a location influences identity, relationships, and experiences, creating a sense of belonging or attachment.

Growth is the process of developing, increasing, or evolving over time. It can refer to physical changes, such as the growth of a plant or a child's development, as well as personal or emotional growth, which involves gaining new insights, skills, or resilience. In a broader sense, growth can apply to communities, organisations, or economies, indicating progress, improvement, or expansion. Ultimately, growth is about change and the journey of becoming, often accompanied by challenges and learning.

People are individual human beings who make up a group or society. Each person is unique, with their own thoughts, feelings, experiences, and identities. People interact with one another, forming relationships, communities, and cultures that shape social dynamics. The term encompasses a wide range of characteristics, including ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, and beliefs, reflecting the diversity of human experiences. Ultimately, people are defined by their capacity for connection, communication, and collaboration within their social contexts.

Family is a group of individuals connected in some way – whether that be by blood, marriage, or strong emotional bonds. Traditionally, it includes parents and children, but it can also encompass extended relatives like grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Beyond biological connections, family can also refer to chosen relationships—friends or communities that provide support, love, and a sense of belonging. Ultimately, family is about the relationships that nurture and sustain us, regardless of how they are formed.

Home is a place where you feel safe, comfortable, and connected. While it can be a structure of any type, its prevailing essence is that it often embodies emotional ties, memories, and a sense of belonging. Home can also represent people—family, friends, or pets—who contribute to that feeling of security and love. Ultimately, it's a personal concept that varies for everyone, shaped by experiences and relationships. For many, the word "home" resonated strongly as it represented more than just a tangible space.

On their own, each of these words – Place, Growth, People, Family, Home – helps to generate concepts of things which matter to our community. With these words and the themes which stem from them, we will develop strategies that will empower people, promote fairness and achieve progress to build a sustainable community.

Building a Sustainable Community:

Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress

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Identified Key Challenges

During the engagement process several challenges for the future of Bland Shire were identified. Among these challenges were: housing affordability and availability, access to health services and emergency health, isolated and ad hoc government funding, centralisation of services to larger communities, need for diversification of industries, limitations on access to training and education, lack of services, lack of cultural activity and connectivity issues with digital services.

Each of these issues will be measured against available data to determine their level of urgency and criticality ahead of individual strategy development. However, to provide an indication of how they can be addressed, an overview and potential actions of each are included as an attachment to this Plan.

Community Engagement

During the two-year period leading up to the development of this Community Strategic Plan, the Bland Shire community was actively engaged in a range of events which sought feedback on matters ranging from development of a Regional Drought Resilience Plan to Wyalong and West Wyalong Main Street Project and a shire-wide Sport and Recreation Plan. In addition to this, Council undertook a Community Satisfaction Survey in July and August which captured responses from approximately 300 residents across the shire to questions relating to Council performance and services.

The content from all these programs has been referenced to shape this draft document along with feedback from Community Forums held on 17 October and 4 November 2024.

As part of these workshops, participants were asked:

- What values should guide our community's development?
- What are the strengths and unique characteristics of our community?
- What are the biggest challenges facing our community today?
- What do you envision for our community in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

On 22 October 2024, a further Councillor only workshop was held at which their vision for the future of Bland Shire was discussed and developed. From this workshop, the community vision was created.

How this vision will be realised will be through strategic objectives formulated around the key words – **Place, Growth, People, Family, Home** – which set the framework for this document. While Council has a lead role in the development of this CSP it is, by no means, the only stakeholder in its effective delivery.

Other partners, including State and Federal governments and their departments, local and regional business operators large and small as well as community organisations, groups and individuals will have a role to play at some point throughout the course of this plan's 10-year life.

Council has multiple roles in the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan. Specific activities Council will undertake to achieve objectives and strategies will be detailed in the Delivery Program (2025-2029) and Operational Plan (2025/2026 and ongoing).

Broadly speaking, Council's role includes being:

- a leader – to plan and provide direction through policy and practices
- a provider – of physical infrastructure and essential services

- a regulator – of development, community health and safety and the environment
- a partner – with community, private and government organisations
- a supporter – and advocate for the community it represents
- a promoter – of the Bland Shire as a place to live, work, visit and invest.

Reporting Our Progress

Performance Measures

The Community Strategic Plan is presented five themes - **Place, Growth, People, Family, Home.**

Each of these themes will have a number of Delivery Targets and Operational Actions including performance measures developed through the four-year Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plans to be achieved.

The progress towards these measures will be reported to the community in line with the election cycle and the End of Term Report.

Monitoring & Reporting

It is important to track and report on our progress in delivering our responsibilities under the Community Strategic Plan over the ten-year period.

Council will report to the community at regular intervals on what has been achieved and the progress towards the performance measures.

All reports will be made available to the community at Council meetings and on Council's website.

Council's management team will internally monitor on a quarterly basis the output and actions as detailed in the four-year Delivery Program and one-year Operational Plan.

The outcomes will be formally reported to Council, the Community and staff on a six-monthly basis.

Whilst some performance measures can be clearly quantified, it does not necessarily mean the Community is aware of, fully appreciates, or is fully satisfied with, the extent of progress made.

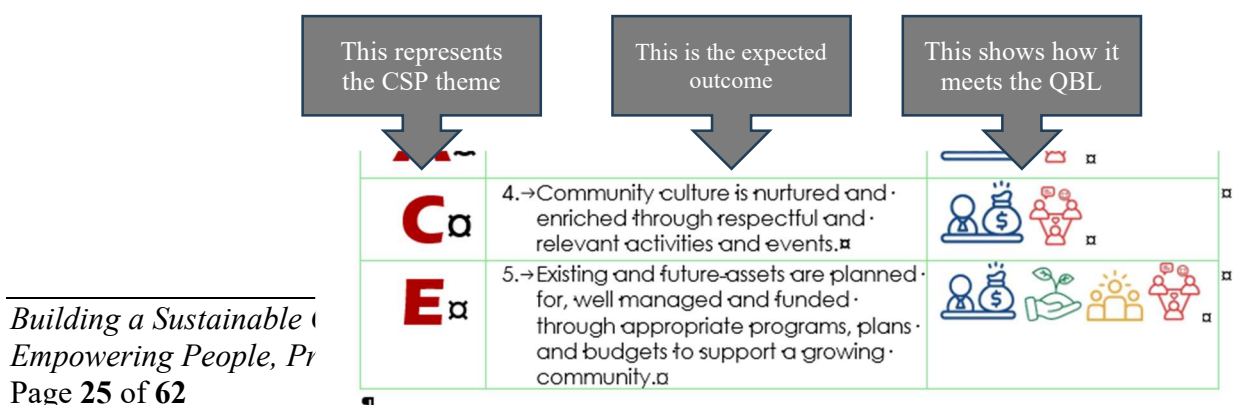
Therefore, there are also qualitative measures included that represent Community responses.

A community satisfaction survey will be undertaken at least once during every term of Council to gauge whether the community is satisfied with progress and where priorities could or should be assigned to particular areas in the future.

How to read this plan

The CSP has been developed through various consultation processes to identify the key themes and potential strategies to assist in building a sustainable community. The document shows how each theme will be addressed and includes reference to not only existing strategies and documents but indicates where there may be a need for such plans to be developed. There also exists within each theme a list of potential partners to achieve the outcomes required to realise the vision identified by the community.

Each of the CSP themes are represented by a differing colour and the Draft was developed to incorporate these various areas of focus. To assist in reading the document, as shown below,



Strategic Objectives – how we will get there?

Achieving the Community Vision of *Building a Sustainable Community: Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress* will require partnerships to be formed with other agencies, community organisations, business operators and individuals. A list of those who may be involved in achieving the community vision is included within the Appendices of this document.

P L A C E
E
G R O W T H
P O
F A M I L Y M
E E

What does the Bland Shire Community look like in 2035?

Public places and facilities are well maintained and easy to access.

Lifestyle is supported through well-maintained built and natural environments.

All visitors and tourists are welcome within our communities.

Community culture is nurtured and enriched through respectful and relevant activities and events.

Existing and future-assets are planned for, well managed and funded through appropriate programs, plans and budgets to support a growing community.

Good Governance is integral to Council's operations and management of community resources.

Resilience is embedded into the community through robust economic planning and quality social programs.

Opportunities are embraced to build on existing and future industries.

Wholistic approaches are taken to consider community issues.

Traditional heritage and local places of importance are valued and maintained.

Honest and open communication enables an informed and engaged community.

Facilitated services meet our community's requirements.

Advocacy and action for local communities is undertaken to address their needs.

Maintained and developed new pathways assist businesses to thrive.

Inclusive activities are available across the shire.

Local and regional stakeholders contribute to Council's planning for the community.

Young and old are valued members of our community.

Participation and volunteering opportunities are welcome and promoted.

Education prospects are provided to improve local learning outcomes.

Our residents are at the forefront of decision-making processes.

Progressive outlook is used to identify and address emerging issues.

Leadership of the community is respectful, transparent and accountable.

Employment prospects exist across diverse industries.

Helping each other is the cornerstone of our community.

Organisations work in partnership to strengthen community health and safety.

Maintaining and improving the environment in which we live, work and play is a key priority.

Empowering our communities to create a sense of wellbeing for all.

How these objectives address the quadruple bottom line





Strategic objectives for the community that address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues identified by the community are commonly referred to as “the quadruple bottom line” (QBL).

In addressing the quadruple bottom line, Community Strategic Plans need to include objectives that relate to the QBL and strategies to achieve these.

In order to monitor progress against these objectives, council will need to gather information about these elements, assess this information, consider relevant issues and suggest responses in order to inform the community’s and the council’s long-term plans.

To assist the community to identify which activities will address this approach, the following visual cues have been developed.

Quadruple Bottom Line Icons

			
Economic	Environment	Leadership	Social

PLACE

P	1. Public places and facilities are well maintained and easy to access.	
L	2. Lifestyle is supported through well-maintained built and natural environments.	
A	3. All visitors and tourists are welcome within our communities.	
C	4. Community culture is nurtured and enriched through respectful and relevant activities and events.	
E	5. Existing and future-assets are planned for, well managed and funded through appropriate programs, plans and budgets to support a growing community.	

Place 1: Public places and facilities are well maintained and easy to access.

Strategy:

- Partner with stakeholders to provide infrastructure and improve access to services and facilities.
- Maintain parks, ovals and recreational facilities to approved standards
- Implement the water efficiency recommendations of the Temora and Bland Shires Drought Resilience Plan.

Partner organisations:

State Government, Federal Government, Temora Shire Council, Sporting Groups, Community representation, Non-Government Organisations (NGO's), Section 355 Committees. Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC), Industry Professionals, Community organisations.

Performance Measure:

Council's asset condition maintained or improved, Maintenance program undertaken, greenspace within Bland Shire is retained and maintained, improved water efficiency and reduction in reliance on potable water.

Place 2 - Lifestyle is supported through well-maintained built and natural environments.

Strategy:

- a) Implement the actions identified within the Bland Housing Strategy.
- b) Implement the vacant housing strategy of the Temora and Bland Shires Drought Resilience Plan.

Partner organisations:

Housing NSW, Private/ Community Housing Providers, Private landowners with assistance from Council, NSW Public Works Advisory, Evolution Mining.

Performance Measure:

Increase in housing stock available for purchases and renters, diversity of housing stock is increased, wait lists for rental accommodation is decreased.

Place 3 - All visitors and tourists are welcome within our communities.

Strategy:

Implement the actions identified within the Riverina Murray Destination Management Plan to promote the Bland Shire.

Partner organisations:

Private landowners with assistance from Council, Evolution Mining, Australian Regional Tourism, Destination NSW, other Destination Networks

Performance Measure:

Increased number of visitors to the region, increased number of accommodation nights, increased number of return visitors.

Place 4 - Community culture is nurtured and enriched through respectful and relevant activities and events.

Strategy:

- a) Provide cultural activities and community programs that foster social development and community wellbeing.
- b) Develop and support a strong sense of community, providing advice and support to community groups
- c) Acknowledgement of cultural days of significance across the Shire.

Partner organisations:

Community groups, Evolution Mining, Community representation, Local Businesses, Section 355 Committees.

Performance Measure:

Increased community participation. Maintained or increased community communication channels, regular and repeat events for and within communities.

Place 5 - Existing and future-assets are planned for, well managed and funded through appropriate programs, plans and budgets to support a growing community.

Strategy:

- a) Develop and implement asset management strategies for existing and future infrastructure.
- b) Identify and plan for new infrastructure to meet the needs of the community.

Partner organisations:

State Government, Federal Government, Community representation, Council's Insurers, REROC, Industry Professionals

Performance Measure:

Existing Council assets maintained or improved, new infrastructure identified and planning progressed

GROWTH

G	1. Good Governance is integral to Council's operations and management of community resources.	
R	2. Resilience is embedded into the community through robust economic planning and quality social programs.	
O	3. Opportunities are embraced to build on existing and future industries.	
W	4. Wholistic approaches are taken to consider community issues.	
T	5. Traditional heritage and local places of importance are valued and maintained.	
H	6. Honest and open communication enables an informed and engaged community.	

Growth 1 Good Governance is integral to Council's operations and management of community resources.

Strategy:

- Timely implementation of Council resolutions.
- The long term financial sustainability of Council is supported through effective and prudent financial and asset management

Partner organisations:

Training organisations such as Local Government NSW, Office of Local Government and Cyber NSW.

Performance Measure:

Increased opportunities for Councillors to connect with the community, compliance with the requirements of the Office of Local Government guidelines and legislation, Services and equipment improved across organisation.

Growth 2 Resilience is embedded into the community through robust economic planning and quality social programs.

Strategy

- Implement the Resilience Project in accordance with the Temora and Bland Shires Drought Resilience Plan.
- Preparation of a Bland Shire Economic Development Strategy.

Partner organisations:

The Resilience Project, Bland Shire Public, Central, Catholic and High Schools, Sporting clubs and community organisations, businesses and Business West Wyalong, Mental health service providers, Office of Regional Youth.

Building a Sustainable Community:

Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress

Performance Measure:

Increased community wellbeing, reduction in school absenteeism, increased participation in community and school activities, increased participation in Youth Space activities, strategy developed to assist growth in economic development within Bland Shire.

Growth 3 Opportunities are embraced to build on existing and future industries.
Strategy

- a) Actively attract businesses and industry to relocate within the Shire
- b) Maintain engagement and communication with the Shire's existing industry including support for diversification and alternate industry or business
- c) Lobby for and work with industry, government and education providers to safeguard access to competitive telecommunication services for Bland Shire residents and businesses

Partner organisations:

State Government, Federal Government, Evolution Mining, Local Business, Regional Development Australia, Industry Professionals, Regional Tourism Organisations, Mining Industry Professionals, Business West Wyalong

Performance Measure:

Increased number of businesses within Bland Shire, increased number of business operators providing employment opportunities, reduced level of unemployment, increased opportunities for employment, increase in non-traditional businesses.

Growth 4 Wholistic approaches are taken to consider community issues.

Strategy:

- a) Encourage village residents to participate in community forums
- b) Provide innovative and accessible communication mechanisms to Shire residents to encourage active participation in Council's future

Partner organisations:

Local media, RERO, State Government, Federal Government, Evolution Mining, Community representation, Local Business, Section 355 Committees, Industry Professionals

Performance Measure:

Improved access to Council's information, increased community participation, Maintain or increase community communication avenues, maintained stakeholder register, increased participation in Council engagement activities, improved outcomes from community satisfaction surveys.

Growth 5 Traditional heritage and local places of importance are valued and maintained.

Strategy

- a) Support and strengthen our indigenous culture and history.
- b) Use planning and heritage policies and controls to protect and improve the unique built environment.
- c) Develop a Shire-wide Museum Strategy.
- d) Develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan for Bland Shire.

Partner organisations

State Government, Federal Government Community organisations, Eastern Riverina Arts, Section 355 Committee's, Local Aboriginal Land Council, Bland Shire Heritage and Museum Advisors.

Performance Measure:

Heritage buildings preserved, improved or maintained, Inspections undertaken and standards maintained or improved, grants processed, policies reviewed, community satisfaction levels maintained or improved, strategies developed, adopted and funding sourced for implementation.

Growth 6 Honest and open communication enables an informed and engaged community.

Strategy

- a) Maintain existing communication channels for consistent messaging and information sharing.
- b) Encourage residents to participate at community forums.
- c) Develop and implement a Communications Strategy for Bland Shire Council.
- d) Develop and maintain a stakeholder register for direct engagement with community.

Partner organisations:

Local media, Evolution Mining, Community, Local Business, Section 355 Committees, Business West Wyalong, Service organisations.

Performance Measure:

Community satisfaction levels maintained or improved, consistent messaging is readily available through online and traditional mediums, increased participation by community in local events and activities, information about Bland Shire Council is readily available via online mediums.

FAMILY

F	1. Facilitated services meet our community's requirements.	
A	2. Advocacy and action for local communities is undertaken to address their needs.	
M	3. Maintained and developed new pathways assist businesses to thrive.	
I	4. Inclusive activities are available across the shire.	
L	5. Local and regional stakeholders contribute to Council's planning for the community.	
Y	6. Young and old are valued members of our community.	

Family 1. Facilitated services meet our community's requirements.**Strategy**

- Provide services to the frail, aged, disabled and their carers
- Provide quality, accredited and affordable education and care services within Bland Shire and surrounds

Partner organisations:

Local Area Health Service, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network, Health and Allied health service providers, Non-Government Organisations (NGO's), Community health, Education providers, State Government, Federal Government, other education and care providers within Bland Shire.

Performance Measure:

Increase in community members who are accessing or satisfied with our education and care services, all statutory requirements met across all services

Family 2 Advocacy and action for local communities is undertaken to address their needs.

Strategy

- a) Maintain active communication with health and allied health providers.
- b) Advocate for and on behalf of the community for improved access to emergency health services.
- c) Participate in and represent the community at regional bodies and organisations.

Partner organisations

REROC, Local Health Area Committee, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network, Riverina Regional Library, State Government, Federal Government.

Performance Measure:

Increase in the knowledge disseminated relating to health and allied health services, increase in the number of Bland Shire residents able to access services, increase in community members who are accessing or satisfied with our education and care services, accreditation of services is achieved and maintained.

Family 3. Maintained and developed new pathways assist businesses to thrive.

Strategy:

- a) Funding sourced for the implementation of a Bland Shire Economic Development Strategy.
- b) The availability of commercial and industrial land, coupled with our geographic location, will be maximised and marketed to boost economic growth.
- c) Promote agricultural practices which are leading edge and efficient.
- d) Liaise with utility providers to guarantee a quality sustainable service to the community.
- e) Advocate with skills training providers to deliver local learning opportunities.

Partner organisations:

Regional Development Australia, NSW Government agencies, TAFE, Business West Wyalong, REROC, Industry professionals, NSW Farmers, Utilities providers.

Performance Measure:

Maintain or improve access to reliable and efficient utilities, maintain or improve availability of industrial land, increased number of skills training options available locally, increased number of skilled workers.

Family 4 Inclusive activities are available across the shire.

Strategy

- a) Develop and support a strong sense of community, providing advice and support to community groups.
- b) Provide cultural activities and community programs that foster social development and community wellbeing.
- c) Support community organisations wishing to apply for funding for events and activities within the Shire.

Partner organisations:

Community members, Non-Government Organisations (NGO's), State Government, Federal Government, Volunteering Australia, Eastern Riverina Arts, Regional Arts NSW, Riverina Regional Library.

Performance Measure:

Number of residents satisfied with range and quality of cultural events, number of events held on a regular basis, increase in the number of workshops and events held and grant applications pursued

Family 5. Local and regional stakeholders contribute to Council's planning for the community.

Strategy

- a) Implement the Temora and Bland Shires Drought Resilience Plan.
- b) Implement the Disaster Risk Reduction guidance from the REROC.
- c) Prepare plans and frameworks for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- d) Improve community awareness and preparedness for natural hazard events including flood, bushfire, drought and storms.
- e) Maintain representation and membership of peak regional bodies, advocacy groups and emergency management networks and committees.

Partner organisations

REROC, Temora Shire Council, State Government, Federal Government, Emergency Service organisations, community organisations.

Performance Measure:

Increased capacity for existing and new businesses to attract skilled workers, thriving businesses who are well supported with have improved capacity to adapt to economic change, improved preparedness for and reduced impact of natural disasters impacting the Bland Shire.

Family 6. Young and old are valued members of our community.

Strategy

- a) Actively engage with youth to build social capital and a sense of belonging.
- b) Development and implementation of a Youth Engagement Strategy.
- c) Develop and implement an Active Aging Strategy.
- d) Establishment of a Youth Advisory Council.
- e) Embed the Child Safe Organisation principles across Bland Shire Council.







Partner organisations –

Local Schools, State Government youth agencies and services, Non-Government Organisations, education providers, Eastern Riverina Arts.

Performance Measure:

Increased youth participation in programs and initiatives, youth input considered in Council decision making.

PEOPLE

P	1. Participation and volunteering opportunities are welcome and promoted.	
E	2. Education prospects are provided to improve local learning outcomes.	
O	3. Our residents are at the forefront of decision-making processes.	
P	4. Progressive outlook is used to identify and address emerging issues.	
L	5. Leadership of the community is respectful, transparent and accountable.	
E	6. Employment prospects exist across diverse industries.	

People 1. Participation and volunteering opportunities are welcome and promoted.

Strategy:

- Regular acknowledgement of activities undertaken by local volunteers.
- Provision of information and support to Council's volunteer committees.
- Develop and implement a Volunteer Recognition program in line with the NSW Volunteering Strategy.

Partner organisations:

Local media, local community organisations, Section 355 Committees, State Government, sporting organisations, community members.

Performance Measure:

Number of committee members involved in Section 355 Committees, number of volunteers involved in community organisations, number of participants in volunteer recognition programs.

People 2 Education prospects are provided to improve local learning outcomes.

Strategy:

- a) Through partnerships with stakeholders foster our education, learning and training industry and increase employment opportunities within the Shire.
- b) Explore opportunities for expansion of further education provision within the Bland Shire.
- c) Provide a range of education opportunities – formal and informal – to expand the knowledge of residents.

Partner organisations –

Education Providers, Training Providers, Business Groups, State Government, Federal Government, Country University Centre

Performance Measure:

Maintain or increase number of community members attending education opportunities, increase in number and diversity of learning opportunities.

People 3. Our residents are at the forefront of decision-making processes.

Strategy:

- a) Implement the Community Engagement Strategy.
- b) Explore options for increased Community Forums across the shire.

Partner organisations:

Community groups, Section 355 committees, local media organisations.

Performance Measure:

Increased number of Community Forums held per annum, increased number of participants attending forums,

People 4. Progressive outlook is used to identify and address emerging issues.

Strategy:

- a) Partner with other local government authorities, State and Federal government agencies to design and deliver services for the community.
- b) Adopt an asset-based approach to community development, building on existing strengths while growing emerging capacity.

Partner organisations:

Other councils, State Government, Federal Government, Non-Government Organisations.

Performance Measure:

Improved access to needed services.

People 5. Leadership of the community is respectful, transparent and accountable.

Strategy:

- a) Councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duty.
- b) Councillor training is provided on a planned and appropriate basis.
- c) Policies and procedures to facilitate effective meeting practice are adopted and implemented.

Partner organisations:

Councillors, Office of Local Government, Local Government NSW, other Councils.

Performance Measure:

Number of learning opportunities provided for Councillors, number of attendees at learning activities, number and type of policies adopted and adhered to by Council.

People 6. Employment prospects exist across diverse industries.

Strategy:

- a) Implement the Human Resource elements of the Temora and Bland Shires Drought Resilience Plan.
- b) Promote employment opportunities beyond Bland Shire to attract potential employees.

Partner organisations:

Local business operators, Service NSW Business Bureau, training services, TAFE NSW, Workforce Australia, Regional Development Australia, REROC, Business West Wyalong, local schools.

Performance Measure:

Number of businesses engaged, reduction in unemployment figures, increase in employment opportunities.

HOME

H	1. Helping each other is the cornerstone of our community.	
O	2. Organisations work in partnership to strengthen community health and safety.	
M	3. Maintaining and improving the environment in which we live, work and play is a key priority.	
E	4. Empowering our communities to create a sense of wellbeing for all.	

Home 1. Helping each other is the cornerstone of our community.

Strategy:

- Promote community activities via Council platforms.
- Provide capacity building programs to enable community groups to become self-sustaining.
- Map existing community groups and areas of involvement.

Partner organisations:

Local community groups, Non-Government organisations, local residents.

Performance Measure:

Number of community groups identified and included in register, number of training activities provided, number of attendees, reduction in reliance on Council for funding support, increased ability to submit successful grant applications to external organisations.

Home 2. Organisations work in partnership to strengthen community health and safety.

Strategy:

- Council's leadership, governance and management facilitate strong partnerships by engaging with State and Federal governments, regional organisations, business and industries.
- Regular consultation with key industry, business and stakeholders is undertaken.

Partner organisations:

REROC, NSW State agencies, Federal Government agencies, Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network, local health practitioners and allied health service providers.

Performance Measure:

Increased communication with key business and stakeholders, Increased opportunities for Councillors to connect with the community

Home 3. Maintaining and improving the environment in which we live, work and play is a key priority.

Strategy

- a) Support a sustainable environment for current and future generations through effective management and planning for the long-term future by ensuring appropriate land is zoned and available to support business and industry growth
- b) Work in partnership with key stakeholders to provide equitable access to Council's road infrastructure, services and facilities
- c) Develop strategies designed to address improvements to Council facilities.
- d) Source funding to implement the actions identified by those strategies.

Partner organisations:

State Government, Federal Government,

Performance Measure:

Increase in accessible infrastructure within the Shire, improved road conditions across the Shire.

Home 4. Empowering our communities to create a sense of wellbeing for all.

Strategy:

- a) Develop and support community partnerships to increase a sense of safety and wellbeing within the community.
- b) Provide opportunities for organisations to share information on activities to benefit the residents of Bland Shire.

Partner organisations:

State Government, Federal Government, REROC, Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network, Health and Allied health service providers, Non-Government Organisations (NGO's), local community organisations

Performance Measure:

Increased number of opportunities to provide information to the community,
number of community-based activities to facilitate information dissemination,
number of agencies involved

Appendices

This list is not exhaustive and other existing documents from Bland Shire Council, other tiers of Government and agencies will be referenced through the development of long-term community strategies.

Bland Shire Council Strategies

Adverse Event Plan
Asset Management Plans
Bland Housing Strategy
Bland Shire Heritage Strategy
Bland Waste Management Strategy
Child Safe Policy
Community Engagement Strategy
Community Strategic Plan
Four Shires Road Safety Action Plan 2021-2025
Disability Inclusion Action Plan
Disaster Risk Reduction Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidance
Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy
Playground Strategy
Regional Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Project
Resourcing Strategy
Stormwater Management Plan
Temora and Bland Shire Councils Drought Resilience Plan

New South Wales Strategies

Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy 2022-2025
Active Transport Strategy
Future Transport Strategy
Making it Happen in the Regions
NSW Ageing Strategy
NSW Asbestos Waste Strategy
NSW Blue Carbon Strategy 2022-2027
NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
NSW Cyber Security Strategy
NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy
NSW Energy Efficiency Action Plan
NSW Government Cyber Security Strategy
NSW Government Data Strategy
NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy
NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan
NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy
NSW State Health Plan
NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020 - 2030
NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041
NSW Water Strategy and Implementation plan
Premier's Priorities
Regional NSW Investment Attraction Strategy 2022 - 2027
TNSW Road Safety Action Plan 2026

Smart Place Strategy and Roadmap- 2022 to 2027
State Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2042
Stronger Primary Industries Strategy

Other related documents

Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW Strategic Plan 2023-2026
Regional Riverina Murray REMPLAN
Riverina Murray Destination Management Plan 2022-2030
Regional Economic Development Strategies



Building a Sustainable Community:
Empowering People, Promoting Fairness,
and Achieving Progress

Attachment Two

Submissions on the *Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 - Building a Sustainable Community: Empowering People, Promoting Fairness, and Achieving Progress*

- Summary of submissions
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District
- Crs Brian Monaghan And Emma Henderson
- Ms Gail Platz

SUBMISSION FROM MURRUMBIDGEE LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Below are some additional objectives and strategies for consideration:

- Include a vision or theme that focuses on a healthy community as a whole
- The built environment supports health (footpaths, streets, crossings, lighting, awnings)
- Community has access to healthy food and food insecurity is addressed (promotion of food banks, available and accessible community gardens, facilitations of community markets in accessible locations)
- Opportunities for physical activity for all of community, including older adults

Other ways you could consider addressing health priorities are:

1. Identifying health issues during community engagement or by using NSW HealthStats and Local Government Area Community Profiles.
2. Including health priorities in the vision and overarching goals of the plan such as 'community health and wellbeing', 'a healthy community', or 'liveable and healthy neighbourhoods'.
3. Including health priorities and outcomes in the strategies and performance measures of the plan.
4. Highlighting other determinants of health, such as the built environment, access to employment, education, and quality and affordable housing explicitly in the plan.

CRS BRIAN MONAGHAN AND EMMA HENDERSON

Additions to Growth 3 strategy as below:

Growth 3 - Opportunities are pursued and embraced to build on existing and future industries, Economic Growth, Visitor Economy and Events.

Submission included a number of actions which follow for information.

- d) Preparation of a Bland Shire Economic Development Strategy.
- e) Employ an **Economic Development, Tourism & Events Coordinator** to lead the development and implementation of various economic initiatives that drive the long-term growth of the Bland Shire.
- f) Formation of an Economic Development, Events and Tourism Committee.
- g) Develop a Tourism Destination Management Plan for West Wyalong and the Bland Shire.
- h) Investigate the development of a standalone Visitor Information Centre for the Bland Shire providing exceptional visitor experiences, bringing economic benefit and growth to the towns and villages.
- i) Revisit the recreational lake proposal for the purpose of increasing the Leisure & Recreational Activities within the Bland Shire supporting the need for a tourist attraction and value to the ability to attract visitors and new residents to the shire.

MS GAIL PLATZ

CSP # 14- Visitors and Tourists are welcomed

DP 14.1- Work with the tourism industry to identify and develop products and services that appeal to visitors of the Shire.

OP 14.1.3- NEW ADDITION

Establish a new self contained Visitor Information centre precinct for Bland Shire.

Submission 1



Murrumbidgee
Local Health District

22/01/2025

Grant Baker General
Manager Bland Shire
Council
council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au

Bland Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2025 to 2035 -Building a Sustainable Community:
Empowering People, Promoting Fairness and Achieving Progress on public exhibition

Dear Mr Baker,

Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) aims to provide safe, consistent, person led healthcare for the people of Murrumbidgee. MLHD covers 125,243 sq-kms consisting of 21 Local Government Areas, from the Snowy Mountains in the east to the northwest plains of Hillston and along the Victorian border.

The MLHD Health Promotion team aims to create supportive environments so healthy choices are easy choices for communities. We work in early childhood centres, schools, health facilities and the community, and partner with organisations including Local Governments.

Community Strategic Planning can integrate Health Promotion in many ways, including providing the opportunity for Local Governments to prioritise health considerations and community wellbeing. Embedding health promoting strategies in your Community Strategic Plan (CSP) can support your community to lead healthier lives and improve overall community wellbeing including social, environmental, economic and civic leadership conditions.

Many Local Governments prioritise health and wellbeing through goals that provide the basis for more detailed health-focused discussion through your suite of cascading plans. These goals support liveability, which creates connected, united, productive communities.

We are providing the following comments and considerations in response to the Bland Shire Council Community Strategic Plan draft document on public exhibition in January 2025.

The Bland Shire Council Community Strategic Plan supports community health through:

- Keeping public spaces and facilities (including parks, ovals and recreational facilities) well maintained and easy to access
- Maintaining active communication with health and allied health professionals
- Providing activities and community programs that foster social development and community wellbeing
- Developing and implementing an Active Ageing Strategy

Below are some additional objectives and strategies for consideration:

- Include a vision or theme that focuses on a healthy community as a whole
- The built environment supports health (footpaths, streets, crossings, lighting, awnings)
- Community has access to healthy food and food insecurity is addressed (promotion of food banks, available and accessible community gardens, facilitations of community markets in accessible locations)

- Opportunities for physical activity for all of community, including older adults

Other ways you could consider addressing health priorities are:

1. Identifying health issues during community engagement or by using NSW HealthStats and Local Government Area Community Profiles.
2. Including health priorities in the vision and overarching goals of the plan such as 'community health and wellbeing', 'a healthy community', or 'liveable and healthy neighbourhoods'.
3. Including health priorities and outcomes in the strategies and performance measures of the plan. See appendices 1 and 2 for more examples.
4. Highlighting other determinants of health, such as the built environment, access to employment, education, and quality and affordable housing explicitly in the plan.

Thank you for considering this information in your CSP review. We are available to offer specific recommendations where relevant.

If you have any questions, you can contact the MLHD Health Promotion Team on mlhd-hp@health.nsw.gov.au.

Kind Regards,

SIGNATURE REDACTED

Alison Nikitas Director
Public Health
Murrumbidgee Local Health District

Appendices

Appendix 1: Supporting resources for Local Government

The below resources aim to improve liveability and health and wellbeing of communities and can complement local strategic planning. These plans can accompany other documents that assist in developing CSPs.

NSW Government Healthy Built Environment Checklist

The Checklist aims to improve the amenity of the built environment for people, places and public spaces. It supports the capacity of health professionals to promote healthy planning as a core component of good design. Access the checklist here:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/urbanhealth/Publications/healthy-built-enviro-check.pdf> Public

Open Space Strategy

The Strategy is a major step to deliver more and better public open space that the community can access, use, enjoy and belong to. It sets out a collaborative, coordinated and evidence-based approach for government agencies to plan, invest and deliver public open space – resulting in more effective and efficient outcomes. Access the strategy here:

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/open-space>

Movement and Place

Movement and Place is a cross-government framework for planning, designing and managing our transport networks to maximise benefits for the people and places they serve. Access the strategy here:

<https://www.movementandplace.nsw.gov.au/>

Heart Foundation's Healthy and Active by Design

The Heart Foundation created the Healthy Active by Design program to highlight how best practice planning and design of our buildings, streets, towns and cities can help get people moving and improve their heart health. Access Healthy and Active by Design here:

<https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/healthy-living/healthy-active-by-design>.

Healthy Streets

Healthy Streets is a human-centred framework for embedding public health in transport, public realm and planning. The 10 Healthy Streets Indicators focus on the human experience needed on all streets, everywhere, for everyone. Access it here: <https://www.healthystreets.com/>

Achieving liveability outcomes for your local community: A 'how to' for councils and community

This 'how to' document provides useful tips and examples to help achieve liveability outcomes through local government strategic planning processes. Access the guide here: [https://irp.cdn-](https://irp.cdn-website.com/541aa469/files/uploaded/Achieving%20liveability%20outcomes%20for%20your%20local%20community%200.pdf)

[website.com/541aa469/files/uploaded/Achieving liveability outcomes for your local community 2020.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/541aa469/files/uploaded/Achieving liveability outcomes for your local community 2020.pdf)

Appendix 2: Examples of Health Promoting Goals and objectives from local Community Strategic Plans

The below examples are from Community Strategic Plans from some of the 21 Local Government Areas in MLHD.

1. Vision and Goals/ strategic direction

- Safe and healthy community
- Health and Wellbeing
- Love the lifestyle
- Thriving and liveable communities
- Where our people are resilient, healthy and safe, living together with a strong sense of community in a vibrant and prosperous economy
- We are a healthy, safe and connected community that respects people and the environment, enjoying active lives in a strong local economy underpinned by quality, accessible

infrastructure, reliable water supplies and strong leadership

2. Objectives

- We promote a healthy lifestyle
- Encourage people to use active transport.
- We have access to health and support services that cater for all our needs
- Our communities are connected and inclusive, supported by services that nurture health, wellbeing and identity.
- Deliver initiatives, facilities and services to advance health and wellbeing priorities
- To live in an inclusive, healthy and tolerant community with a positive attitude toward others
- An inclusive, resilient community with a strong sense of belonging and pride.
- Improve the aesthetic of the City and villages, by developing quality places and improved public realm.
- Pedestrian accessibility improves our connections to the community

3. Activities/strategies

- Promote the use of healthy by design neighbourhoods for all new developments
- Incorporate community gardens into new and existing community centres and spaces.
- Provide all abilities sporting programs and events.
- Maintain and develop an effective transport network (airport, public roads, pathways, pedestrian access and transport corridors)
- Attract a diverse range of art, cultural, recreational and lifestyle events, performances and activities throughout the year
- Create open spaces and urban streetscapes that are vibrant, attractive, accessible, and safe
- Walkable streets, well-planned footpaths and walking tracks connect people and places within our communities

Submission 2

Submission on amendments and additions to the Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035

I would like to expand the strategies for GROWTH on page 34.

Growth 3 - Opportunities are pursued and embraced to build on existing and future industries, Economic Growth, Visitor Economy and Events.

Strategy

- a) Actively attract businesses and industry to relocate within the Shire (ED, T & Events Coordinator Role)
- b) Maintain engagement and communication with the Shire's existing industry including support for diversification and alternate industry or business (ED, T & Events Coordinator Role)
- c) Lobby for and work with industry, government and education providers to safeguard access to competitive telecommunication services for Bland Shire residents and businesses
- d) Preparation of a Bland Shire Economic Development Strategy.
- e) Employ an **Economic Development, Tourism & Events Coordinator** to lead the development and implementation of various economic initiatives that drive the long-term growth of the Bland Shire.
- f) Formation of an Economic Development, Events and Tourism Committee.
- g) Develop a Tourism Destination Management Plan for West Wyalong and the Bland Shire.
- h) Investigate the development of a standalone Visitor Information Centre for the Bland Shire providing exceptional visitor experiences, bringing economic benefit and growth to the towns and villages.
- ii) Revisit the recreational lake proposal for the purpose of increasing the Leisure & Recreational Activities within the Bland Shire supporting the need for a tourist attraction and value to the ability to attract visitors and new residents to the shire.

Partner organisations:

State Government, Federal Government, Evolution Mining, Local Business, Regional Development Australia, **Destination NSW**, Industry Professionals, Regional Tourism Organisations, Mining Industry Professionals, Business West Wyalong

Performance Measure:

Increased number of businesses within Bland Shire, increased number of business operators providing employment opportunities, reduced level of unemployment, increased opportunities

for employment, increase in non-traditional businesses. Increase in the local visitor economy, become a desired destination for tourist, events and recreation.

Submission 3

From: Gail Platz

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 11:00 AM

To: Grant Baker < >

Subject: Visitors Information Precinct

To Mr Grant Baker

Bland Shire Council General Manager,

At council November 2024 Ordinary council meeting, it was endorsed to place the Community Strategic Plan on public display for comment.

I am emailing you to provide comment and consideration for a new addition to this long term strategy.

With reference to:

CSP # 14- Visitors and Tourists are welcomed

DP 14.1- Work with the tourism industry to identify and develop products and services that appeal to visitors of the Shire.

OP 14.1.3- NEW ADDITION

Establish a new self contained Visitor Information centre precinct for Bland Shire.

Responsibility -General Manager

Measure- Funding sort

- Quarterly updates to council

- Precinct Built.

Resourcing- Building new facilities would require the ongoing resourcing of this facility. The reallocation of existing staff would be able to provide service levels as required. As this would be a new facility, I would encourage council to consider solar power for the provision of electricity. As we speak, the NSW Government have a grant titled Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program. The establishment of a visitor information centre meets this grants criteria.

Evolution Mining have partnership grant programs, which could be be very beneficial to our project.

Council also has a strong investment portfolio of over \$80million that a small portion of these funds could be allocated to this project.

WHY YOU/COMMUNITY NEED IT:

1. Location- We are situated on 2 busy Highways, the Newell Highway and the Mid Western Highway of the Bland Shire. This facility will provide service to total tourism offering for:

West Wyalong.

Wyalong

Barmedman

Ungarie

Weethalle

Tallimba

Yalgoogrin

Mirol and Naradhan

2. Tourism needs a one stop shop (showcase what we have to offer eg Eucalyptus Farm, Regal Estate Winery, Glass Gallery

Bike Tours and Tours out to Evolution Mining Lake Cowal LCCC our wonderful quirky Main Street and as per our Visitors guide.

3. We have a History Story to be told and it needs somewhere we can showcase and tell those stories:

1. History of Farming to our District

2 History of Indigenous

3. History of Mining (Our Gold Supplies the Gold to make the Melbourne Cup and now our Silver is making the Australian Tennis Open Trophies (incredible for a small country town)

4. Olympians and Sports people (Neale Daniher winning the 2025 Australian of the Year and the other incredible AFL Daniher, Liam Martin, Andrew Hanlon, Gathercole and the list goes on.)

4. Consolidation of services- Ambassadors for the town.

5. Tourism Stats

6. Bookable Products

7. Relocation Assistance/ Promotions

8. Partnerships with other local Information Centres eg. Forbes, Narrandera, Condoblin ,Parkes , Temora and Wagga Wagga

We are an interesting town with wonderful people that have stories to tell and we need to welcome the outside world in to be able to tell those stories.

I would like to register my interest in speaking at council, when this matter is considered. I can be reached on [REDACTED] or by email (EMAIL REDACTED)

Thankyou for taking the time, reading my email and I hope to hear from you soon.

Regards Gail Platz

7.10 Progress Report On Delivery Program to December 2024.



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

Strategy 10.3 Ensure the General Manager takes a high-level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and other Council documents

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework for NSW Local Government was implemented at Bland Shire Council from 1 July 2012. In accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, Council revised and adopted the Community Strategic Plan and supporting documents in February 2022 following the December 2021 Local Government Elections.

The attached report is the progress report for implementation of the Combined Delivery Program and Operational Plan (**Attachment 1**). It covers the period commencing 1 July 2024 and ending 31 December 2024.

The Delivery Program details the strategies and actions across the operational areas of council that will be undertaken to achieve the community objectives as stated in the Community Strategic Plan. It is designed as the single point of reference for all principal activities undertaken by Council during its term of office.

All plans, projects, activities and funding allocations must be linked to this Program. Supporting the Delivery Program is the annual Operational Plan (2024/2025). It spells out the details of the Program – the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken each year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program. Progress reports are provided to the Council, with respect to the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program on a six-monthly basis.

Summary

The attached Progress Report on the Combined Delivery Program and Operational Plan details the actions, projects, improvements and initiatives that have been undertaken for the six-month period ending 31 December 2024.

Council's actions as detailed in the four-year Delivery Program and one-year Operational Plan continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis. The table following is an indication of overall performance against the 2023/2024 Operational Plan actions as of 31 December 2024.

All actions graph



Action Status legend and numbers:

No update	Completed	Progressing	Not due to start
2	1	116	4

The two items indicated as having no update as of 31 December 2024 were due staff resourcing. While work has been undertaken on the first, there was not an opportunity for those staff to provide a detailed update for inclusion in this report while the second item was not able to progress due to staff absence. A verbal update will be sought and provided to the elected Council on the heavy vehicle applications. Those items are:

- Process heavy vehicle road usage applications.
- Engage with communities on local priorities through community forums and other opportunities and report back on forum outcomes.

There were four action items which were not due to start during the July-December period but are expected to be completed within the coming months. They were:

- Recognise and celebrate volunteers for National Volunteer Week.
- Manage and administer Council's community related grant applications inc: Strengthening Community's Program
- Establish a service review program in accordance with the requirements of the OLG.
- Conduct budget briefing sessions for Councillors.

Of these action items, the last three will coincide with Council's annual budgeting processes and the development of the new Council's Delivery Program.

Financial Implications

Any financial implications for Council have been identified and addressed through Council's Quarterly Budget Review processes. A report addressing this appears elsewhere in this business paper.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the report on the progress of the Delivery Program for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Bland Shire Council Operational Plan 2024/2025



**PROGRESS REPORT 1
ON THE DELIVERY
PROGRAM 2021-2025
& OPERATIONAL PLAN
2023-2024**

Cover Artwork: Mornings, Melodies and Memories artwork. Throughout this program, staff collected handprints from participants, which have been made into a community wide art project. Claire Cummings from Splatter Gallery compiled the handprints into the piece which symbolises that we are all part of the one community

OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Working together



 <p>COMMUNITY <i>Put the community first</i></p>	 <p>TEAM WORK <i>Work together as a committed team</i></p>	 <p>RESPECT <i>Respect & value each other</i></p>	 <p>COMMUNICATION <i>Open & honest communication</i></p>	 <p>INTEGRITY <i>Act with integrity & honesty</i></p>	 <p>SERVICES <i>Continuously improve our services</i></p>	 <p>SAFETY <i>Keep ourselves & others safe</i></p>
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to improve our quality of life

A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE **VALUED**, AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS **RESPECTED**, A FUTURE THAT IS **BRIGHT**, A COMMUNITY THAT IS **PROUD**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Bland Shire Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our communities are located and pays respect to all Elders past, present and emerging.

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OUR JULY TO DECEMBER

Bland Shire Council is a place where people are valued, an environment that is respected, a future that is bright and a community that is proud. Our role as Council is to use our community's vision to guide our plans for the future. In June 2024, Council adopted the Operational Plan and annual budget for the final year of its four-year Delivery Program. This plan was based on the four key outcome areas you told us were most valuable and needed to maintain your quality of life. Those were:

- Our People – a strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community
- Our Places – maintain and improve the Shire's assets and infrastructure
- Our Leadership – a well-run Council acting as the voice of the community
- Our Prosperity – growing our population and jobs.

Take a look at some of the programs and projects we delivered during 2023-2024, each of which are contributing to delivering our Community's vision for the future.

REPORTING OUR PROGRESS



Pictured is the upgraded footpaths installed at Herridge Park in Wyalong.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Community Strategic Plan is presented within four themes: Our People, Our Places, Our Leadership and Our Prosperity.

Each of these themes had a number of Delivery Targets and Operational Actions including performance measures to be achieved. Each of the performance measures feed into a series of key performance indicators.

The progress towards the key performance indicators form this report to the community.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

It is important to track and report on the progress in delivering the Community Strategic Plan over the ten year period. Council will report to the community at regular intervals on what has been achieved and the progress towards the performance measures.

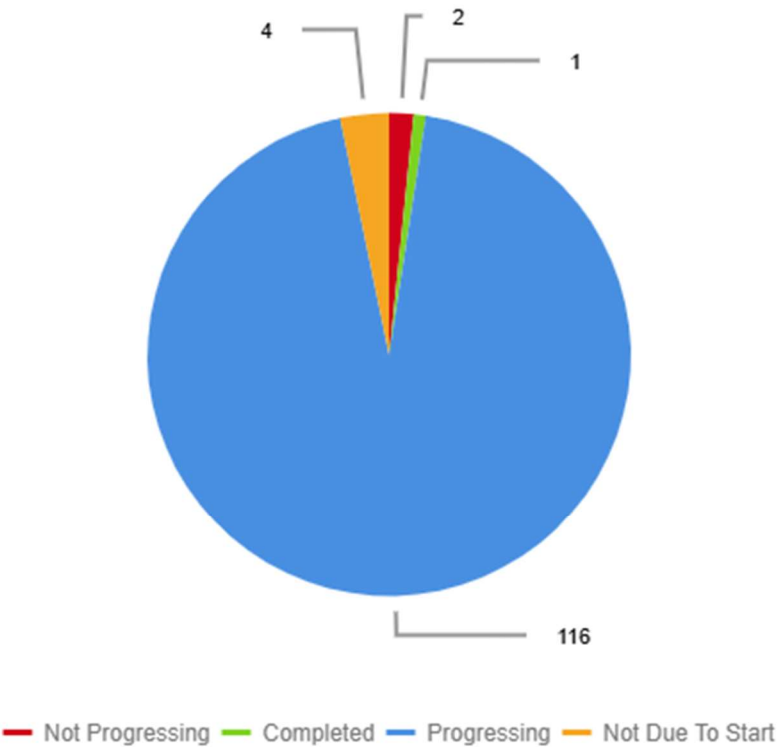
All reports will be made available to the community at Council meetings and on Council's website. Council's management team will internally monitor on a quarterly basis the output and actions as detailed in the four year Delivery Program and one year Operational Plan. The outcomes will be formally reported to Council, the Community and staff on at least, as six monthly basis.

Whilst some performance measures can be clearly quantified, it does not necessarily mean the community is aware of, fully appreciates, or is fully satisfied with, the extent of progress made. Therefore, there are also qualitative measures included that represent community responses and views.

A community satisfaction survey will be undertaken every term of Council to gauge whether the community is satisfied with progress and where priorities could or should be assigned to particular areas in the future. The survey will be undertaken in the final year of the Council term.

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

We have completed the first six months of the 2024/2025 Operational Plan with only 2 actions not having received an update. From 1 July 2024 – 31 December 2024 123 actions were addressed with 1 being completed, four not due to start and the remainder in progress.



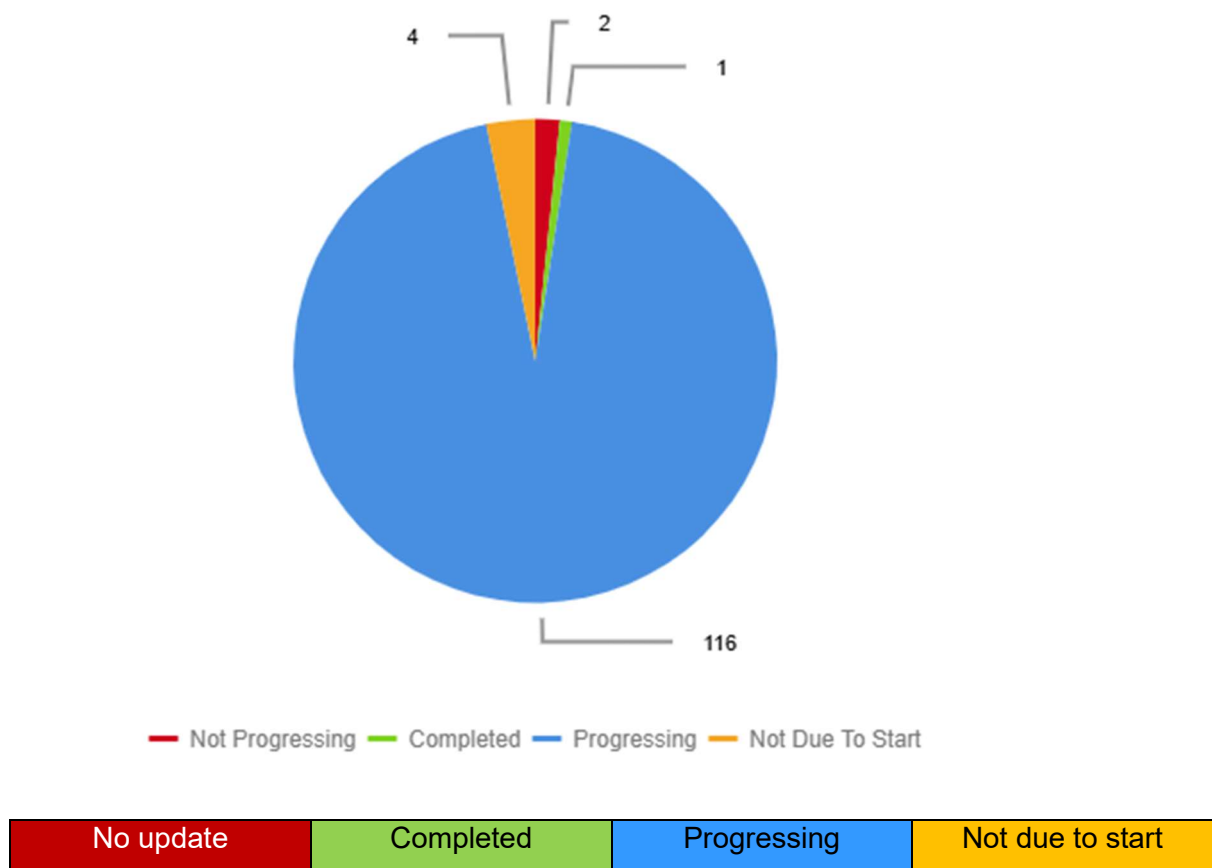
No update	Completed	Progressing	Not due to start
2	1	116	4

OUR PEOPLE -

A STRONG, HEALTHY, CONNECTED AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Health and support services address the needs of the community.
2. Partnerships strengthen community health and safety.
3. Community and culture are nurtured and enriched.
4. Services are accessible for all residents.

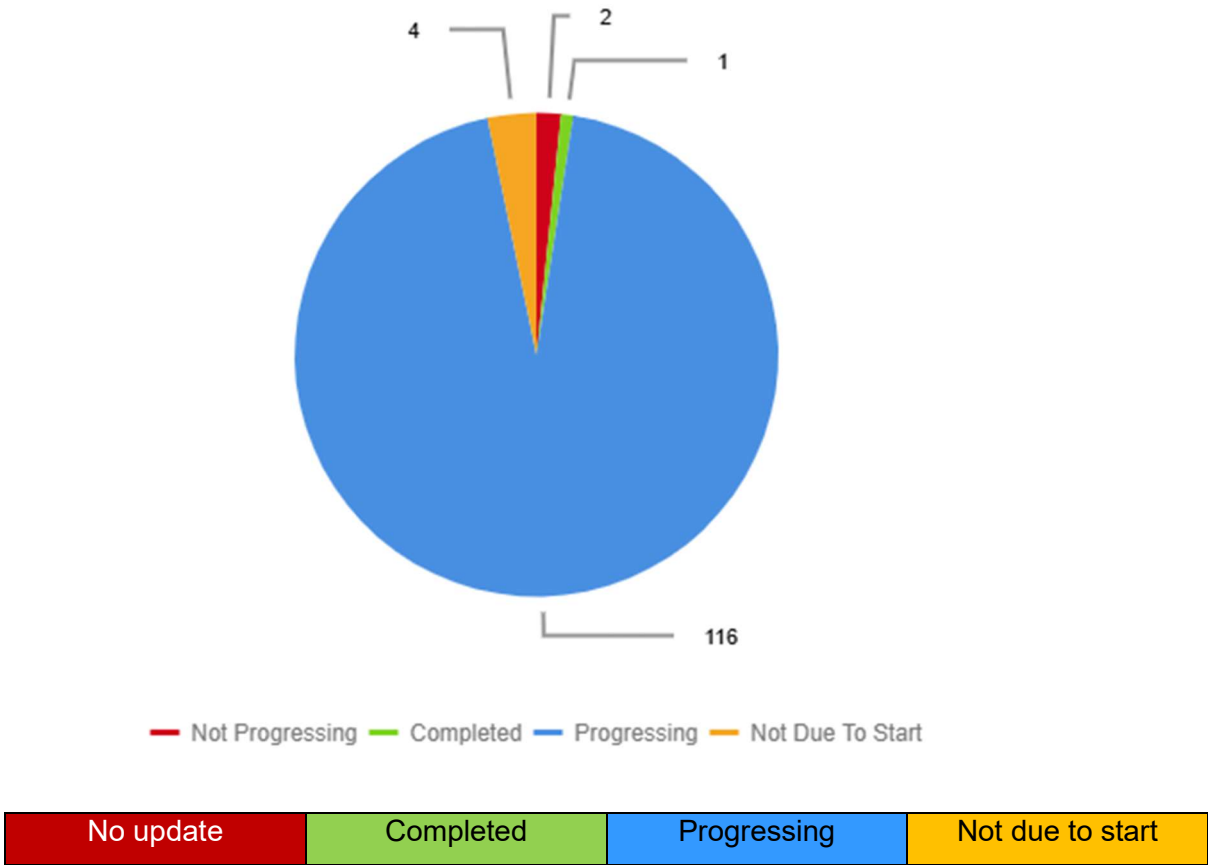


OUR PLACES

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE SHIRE'S ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

OUR OBJECTIVES

- 5. Partner with stakeholders to provide access to infrastructure, services and facilities.
- 6. Waste and recycling are managed through improved efficiencies.
- 7. Manage water and sewerage resources.
- 8. Public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible.
- 9. Council's assets and infrastructure are effectively and efficiently managed..

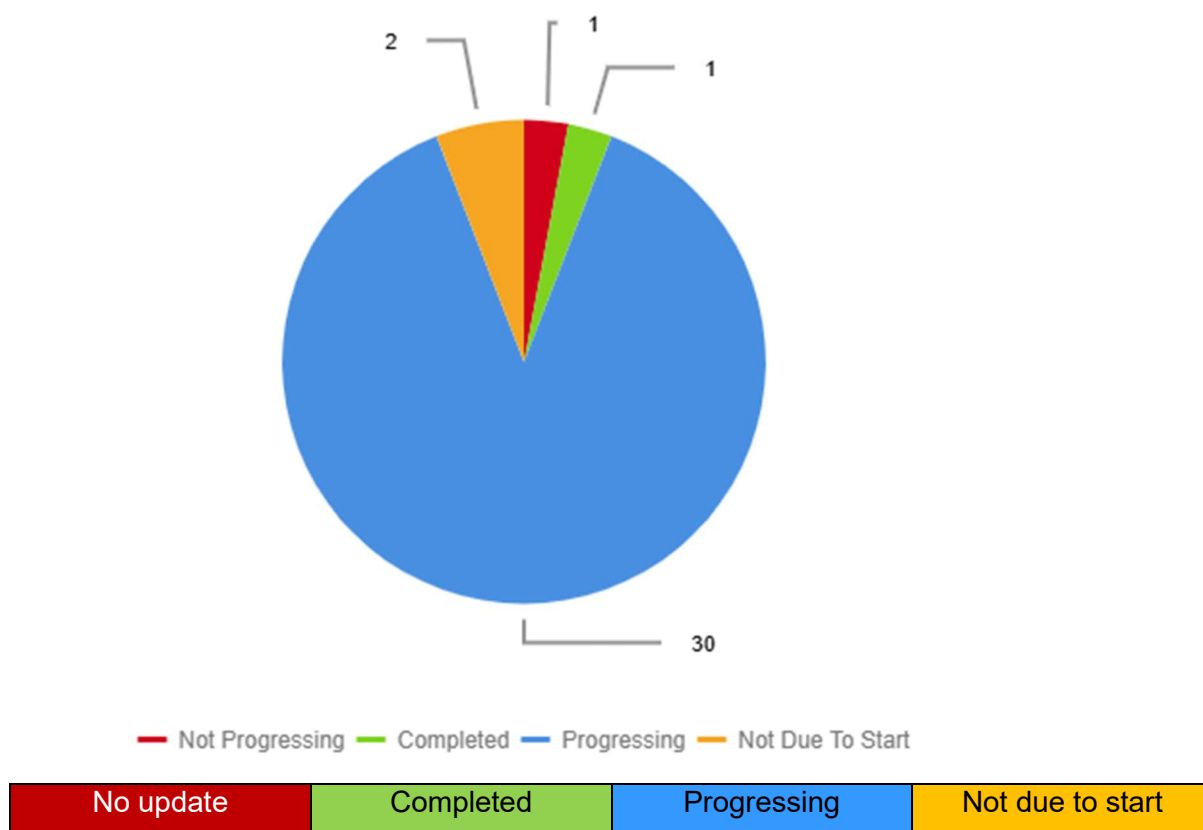


OUR LEADERSHIP

A WELL RUN COUNCIL ACTING AS THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY

OUR OBJECTIVES

- 10. Council's leadership, governance and management facilitate strong partnerships.
- 11. Stakeholders contribute to Council's decision making.
- 12. Lead the community.
- 13. Plans and policies provide open and transparent information.

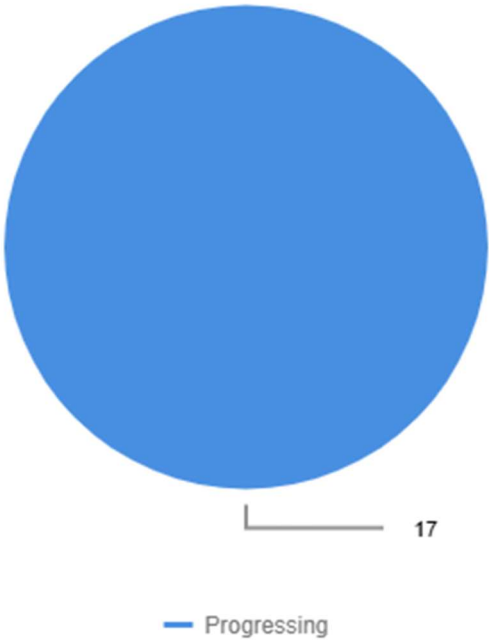


OUR PROSPERITY

GROWING OUR POPULATION
AND JOBS

OUR OBJECTIVES

14. Visitors and tourists are welcomed.
15. Bland Shire is promoted as a place to do business.
16. Resources are used in a sustainable way for the future of Bland Shire.



No update	Completed	Progressing	Not due to start
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HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

This represents the **Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Theme**

This represents the CSP Outcome – or where the community hopes to be in the future

This represents the Council's **Delivery Program Strategy** to achieve the CSP Outcome

• Objective 1 – Our People •

• A strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community •

• 1: Health and support services address community needs •

• 1.1: Maintain active communication with health and allied health providers •

This indicates the **Operational Plan** action to support the Delivery Program Strategy

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
1.1.1a	Advocate for the provision of health services, relevant allied health providers and medical practices within the Shire	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Support for health services, cc promotion of events and activ Murrumbidgee Primary Health Council's interagency network Advisory Committee establish
1.1.2a	Partner with local health services to implement workshops and provide resources to the community	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Community-Ex at Barr Community-Ex ghout

The first two columns are the coding for and specific actions Council will undertake

The third and fourth column indicate the responsible office and the status of the action

This final column provides commentary on the actions Council has undertaken and provides information on any targets and measures achieved

SIX-MONTHLY UPDATE

Objective 1 -: Our People.

A strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community.

1: Health and support services address community needs.

1.1: Maintain active communication with health and allied health providers.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
1.1.1	Advocate for the provision of health services, relevant allied health providers and medical practices within the Shire.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Support for health services continues to be provided by Bland Shire through promotion of events and activities offered by Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network and allied health providers as part of Council's interagency network. Still awaiting further progress of the Local Health Advisory Committee establishment from MLHD.
1.1.2	Partner with local health services to implement workshops and provide resources to the community.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Community Expo held at Barmedman Public School. Plans in place to hold a Community Expo throughout Seniors Festival, March 2025.

1.2: Provide services to the frail, aged, disabled and their carers.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
1.2.1	Review and update the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Work on a new Draft of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan has commenced.
1.2.2	Review existing services in line with service model and government requirements.	Community Care Coordinator	Progressing	Services are reviewed regularly to align with government requirements. Changes made if needed. Work continues on the review of policies and procedures in accordance with the Improvement Log developed during mid 2024.
1.2.3	Develop and implement programs to meet required need.	Community Care Coordinator	Progressing	Several programs have been developed and implemented to meet the required needs of clients. These programs have been developed through client assessments, needs and surveys. Bland Community Care Service continues to provide eight specific services to approximately 100 clients on a monthly basis. Programs provided include social and physical activities such as Gentle Exercise Group, Wednesday Activity Day and Bland Blokes.
1.2.4	Network with service providers to strengthen relationships within community.	Community Care Coordinator	Progressing	Networking has been achieved through attending Interagency Meetings, Community Expos and email various providers to touch base.
1.2.5	Provide services to towns and villages in the Shire.	Community Care Coordinator	Progressing	Bland Community Care provides services to West Wyalong and the smaller villages of Barmedman, Ungarie, Tallimba and Weethalle.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
1.2.6	Undertake regular surveys across all services including seeking and recording client feedback.	Community Care Coordinator	Progressing	Annual surveys are given to all clients for all services. Results are recorded in the Complaints, Compliments and Feedback Register.
1.2.7	Continue to support and provide information to members of the community seeking assistance in accessing services available.	Community Care Coordinator	Progressing	BCCS Staff attend the Community Expo annually to provide information to members of the community. Staff are readily available by phone. or home visit, to provide support and information to members of the community. BBCCS have several brochures informing of services available.

2: Partnerships strengthen community health and safety.

2.1: Develop and support community partnerships to increase a sense of safety and wellbeing within the community.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
2.1.1	Support and promote young driver educational programs.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Free NRMA Driving lessons were provided during the October School Holiday Period, giving L plate drivers the opportunity to drive with an instructor, 1 hour lesson earned them 3 hours in their log books.
2.1.2	Promote Health Awareness and options for training and self-education programs.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	R U OK Day held at West Wyalong High School, promoting resources and where to find help and support when in need.
2.1.3	Provide opportunity, training and governance support to Council's Section 355 Committees.	Risk & Insurance Officer	Progressing	Have been working closely with community groups to ensure smooth delivery of community events including Back to Barmedman event, Weethalle Centenary, Weethalle Show, Mirrool Silo kick. Will organise a meeting with S355 committee members and Damien Connell Statewide Mutual Risk Manager to provide refresher session on risk management.
2.1.4	Undertake inspections in accordance with Food Act 2003 and Public Health Act 2010 inc: food, skin penetration and mortuary premises.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	2 x Mortuary Inspections Completed - Food and Skin Penetration Premises progressing
2.1.5	Implement Council's on site waste management systems inspection program.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Reviewing Councils Onsite Sewage Management Strategy to be implemented prior to inspection program commencing.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
2.1.6	Promote the continued use of online training program for Food Safety.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Bi-annual Food Safety Newsletter has been generated. Next edition to be sent in March. This newsletter includes any updated information and also helpful articles on being food safe.
2.1.7	Provide appropriate support for emergency service operations.	Foreman - Environmental Services	Progressing	Participation in Local Emergency Management Committee is ongoing in role as local coordinator.
2.1.8	Work in partnership with TfNSW on Road Safety Campaigns to implement programs.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Recruitment of Road Safety Officer undertaken in Q2. Offer of employment made but the preferred candidate did not commence. Readvertising to commence in Q3.
2.1.9	Provide up-to-date road safety information for display on Council's website and social media platforms	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Council continues to undertake social media promotion of road safety campaigns whilst recruitment for Road Safety Officer continues.

3: Community and culture are nurtured and enriched.

3.1: Develop and support a strong sense of community, providing advice and support to community groups.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
3.1.1	Manage and administer Council's community related grant applications inc: Strengthening Community's Program	Director Corporate and Community Services	Not Due To Start	Council's Strengthening Community's Program is currently being reviewed and will be presented to the 25 February 2025 workshop for discussion purposes. A further report on the grants program will be presented to a future meeting of Council.
3.1.2	Recognise and celebrate volunteers for National Volunteer Week.	Community Development Officer	Not Due To Start	National Volunteer Week is 19-25 May 2025. Plans to celebrate volunteers within the Bland Shire will be held during NVW 2025.
3.1.3	Facilitate and support groups that build skills and social inclusion including workshops/presentations.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Partnerships made with local businesses and individuals to provide information sessions about different career paths sessions held included local trades, local small business owners, teachers, Council staff, health industry experts.
3.1.4	Identify funding opportunities to achieve community goals and assist community groups with external grant opportunities.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Continuing to work closely with community groups and relevant staff to identify and source funding opportunities for potential projects.

3.2: Provide cultural activities and community programs that foster social development and community wellbeing.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
3.2.1	Continue membership and participation with Eastern Riverina Arts Inc.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	2024-2025 ERA Membership Completed. ERA Executive attended Bland Shire 9 January 2025, distributing information for the Country Arts Support Project (CASP), which empowers creatives with the opportunity to engage with professional development opportunities, strive towards ambitious artistic outcomes and engage with other artists and creatives to complete a collaborative project.
3.2.2	Facilitate visiting artist/exhibition/performance	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Jamie Agius provided live entertainment at the final Mornings, Melodies and Memories session held at Wyalong Hall, Monday 16 December 2024. Plans in place to deliver live entertainment of Seniors Festival in March 2025 and also an 'Open Mic' night for local youth to showcase their talent, in January 2025.

3.3: Support and strengthen our indigenous culture and history.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
3.3.1	Contribute to the positive working relationship with the Local Aboriginal Lands Council.	General Manager	Progressing	LALC have advised they will provide a Welcome to Country at Australia Day celebrations in 2025. This will be the first time a local elder has participated in this way at this event.

3.4: Foster a community learning culture optimising our physical and virtual spaces.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
3.4.1	Continue to promote the library as a community hub by fostering lifelong learning for all ages through the provision of relevant community programs.	Library Services Coordinator	Progressing	<p>Programs include Day Book Club, GOLD Club for Seniors, Tech Savvy Seniors, Knit n Knatter, Lego Club, Storytime, Baby Bounce, Pals of the Pen. Regular adult programs - 199 people, children's programs - 617 people. Library supports schools through work placements, HSC Lock in (23 people) running a reading incentive program and visits. Hosted Ungarie Central student for work placement. Workshops included: Gambling Awareness for Year 11 students (26 people). Dementia Talk (47 people). Christmas Food & Gifts Appeal, Santa's Mailbox and Summer Reading launched in November. Library hosted Kurrajong Lifestyle Choice (14 people). Christmas Craft for Kids (48 people). Christmas Lolly Guessing Competition for junior members. Christmas Hamper Draw for adult members. Home delivery service for the aged (40 deliveries). As of 30 December, Bland had 1708 registered members. Requests: Customer Service – 770, Information – 358, Computer – 341, WiFi - 116. Visitor enquiries by library staff - 259.</p>

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
3.4.2	Library content and services are available to the community in various platforms as per Riverina Regional Library service agreement.	Library Services Coordinator	Progressing	Bland maintains a physical collection comprising of adult fiction, adult non-fiction, adult large print, junior non-fiction, junior fiction, early readers, picture books, youth fiction, HSC Resources, Local Studies, magazines, audiobooks and MP3, adult and junior DVDs, kits eg. Save Power Kit and equipment eg. digital reader. As of 30 December, the library recorded a total of 13,081 items and had issued 3390 items. Regular weeding, part of the library's collection management strategy, ensures that the collection remains fresh, up-to-date, and relevant. Hence Bland currently holds the second youngest collection within RRL. RRL maintain and provide free access to digital platforms ie. e-audiobooks, e-books, and e-magazine. RRL also maintain and provide free access to a range of online information databases. RRL continue to provide a weekly internal delivery service between branch libraries. Deliveries include reserved items, new material, storytime kits, DIY kits, promotional material.
3.4.3	Actively investigate Grant opportunities for the inclusion of an outdoor space for the library.	Library Services Coordinator	Progressing	Grant opportunities have been identified. One quote with plans attached has been received. As per Council's procurement policy, a second quote is being sought.

4: Services are accessible for all residents.

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

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
4.1.1	Facilitate Bland Shire Interagency meetings and networks.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Bland Shire Council hosted an Interagency meeting on Wednesday 13 November 2024. This meeting was held at Barmedman Public School Library and was followed by a mini community expo, inviting Barmedman Community Members into the school to be able to collect valuable information and resources available for different services throughout the Bland Shire. Plans in place to hold a Community Expo in West Wyalong throughout Seniors Festival 2025.
4.1.2	Conduct library school holiday activities.	Library Services Coordinator	Progressing	A library's school holiday program conducted in October featured kite decorating, mosaic pots, decorating birdhouses and making bird feeders, Lego, and Balloonatic Bruce (a family magic show). A very successful program with a total of 176 children and 85 adults attending the events.
4.1.3	Coordinate Youth Week Activities.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Planning in place to deliver Youth Week Activities, April 2025. Youth Week and School holiday activities for April 2025 will include a DJ Workshop and festival to be held at Ron Crowe Oval, NRMA driving lessons, short courses to be confirmed.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
4.1.4	Conduct school holiday activities.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	School Holiday Activities for October 2024 included a Colour Run, supported by PCYC Griffith, KYUP Self defence and empowerment session, a Youth Gym Session at Bullrush Gym West Wyalong, NRMA Driving lessons and also a Gone Fishing Day.
4.1.5	Coordinate Council's Civic functions inc: Citizenship Ceremonies and Australia Day.	Executive Assistant	Progressing	Citizenships ceremonies, Australia Day Mayoral Reception and community events held

4.2: Provide quality and affordable education and care services within the Bland Shire that meets the NSW Department of Education's National Quality Standards to provide social networking opportunities and resource access to the wider community through our ITAV and Toy Library Services.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
4.2.1	Implement and participate with the NSW Department of Education, Assessment and Rating regulations and guidelines.	Children's Services Coordinator	Progressing	Continues for Preschool and MRU. Likely MRU will undergo Assessment and Rating in the coming year.
4.2.2	Conduct an annual survey, allowing community members an opportunity to voice their visions and goals for all Children's Services.	Children's Services Coordinator	Progressing	Surveys undertaken in 2024 as part of the introduction to onsite therapist services (Speech/Occupational) and new software platform OWNA. Consideration is being given to doing an 'exit survey' for families that finish up to gain an indication of their perspectives.
4.2.3	Review, maintain and update all service policies and procedures as required or as per regulation changes/amendments.	Children's Services Coordinator	Progressing	Policy maintenance is undertaken on a rotational basis to maintain currency of documentation.
4.2.4	Involve all educators in the process to implement and maintain self-assessment tools for all services.	Children's Services Coordinator	Progressing	Educators took part in the establishment of a new service philosophy. This will be completed and placed on exhibition in the coming months. With turnover of senior staff, the process was undertaken to appropriately capture the thinking of current staff.
4.2.5	Encourage members from the community and actively engage current members to participate in the Toy Library service allowing access to quality and educational resources.	Children's Services Coordinator	Progressing	Toy Library and ITAV services are continually promoted and the introduction of digital platform allows continual use for members.

4.3: Actively engage with the community and promote open communication.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
4.3.1	Engage and communicate with Shire residents to promote social inclusion and foster lifelong learning in the library.	Library Services Coordinator	Progressing	Services, programs, events, and new collection items are communicated to the wider community online via the Council website, RRL website, RRL newsletter, and social media platforms Facebook and Instagram, mobile library, school and community newsletters, community noticeboards, digital signage, various handouts, and What's Happening published weekly in the Advocate.
4.3.2	Council's website is engaging, up to date and Council programs are promoted.	Media and Communications Officer	Progressing	Council's website is regularly updated to maintain currency and be informative. All Council's events are posted in a timely manner and pages are deactivated when the information is out of date. Council is in the process of updating the website with a new look and easier navigation functions. There will be a major update to the look and layout of the website soon.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
4.3.3	Council's activities are promoted through various media outlets.	Media and Communications Officer	Progressing	Council's activities are promoted daily on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We have a weekly column in the West Wyalong Advocate and a General Managers Note that appears weekly. There has been 9 media releases released this quarter on the following subjects: Opening of Cooida Water Course and West Wyalong Tennis Club House, Mayor and Deputy Mayor Announced, DC3 Dakota Warbird on the Move, Waste Management Services in Bland Shire - What you need to know, 2025 Bland Shire Australia Day award Nominees Announced, 2025 Australia Day Ambassador Announced, 2025 Australia Day Winners, Youth Centre Mural Unveiled and Temora and Bland Council's Secure Major Funding. Introduction meetings with the General Manager and Mayor organised with new Editor at the West Wyalong Advocate.

4.4: Actively engage with youth to build social capital and a sense of belonging.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
4.4.1	Partner with youth and youth service providers (including schools) to deliver programs/initiatives that improve wellbeing and build the capacity of local youth.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Youth Yoga sessions held promoting wellbeing, information distributed for RU OK Day, PRIDE activities held at the West Wyalong High School, promoting awareness and inclusion of all.
4.4.2	Attend regional youth focused meetings.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Community Development Officer and Youth Services Officer attended the 2024 Youth Conference held in Dubbo 31 November 2024. Riverina-Murray Youth Development Officer Network Meeting attended 19 November 2024.
4.4.3	Engage young people through local schools to jointly identify areas of need/improvement and the most effective methods for engaging with youth in the community.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Bland Shire Council's Youth Officer continues to engage with Youth via West Wyalong High School activities and events and also capturing suggestions and ideas as they arise when at the Youth Centre.

Objective 2 -: Our Places.

Maintain and improve the Shire's assets and infrastructure.

5: Partner with stakeholders to provide access to infrastructure, services and facilities.

5.1: Facilitate the delivery of accessible services and infrastructure.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
5.1.1	Promote Access Mobility Map.	Community Development Officer	Progressing	Due to staff resourcing issues, no progress has been made in this area. Preliminary discussions have been held, with the Map to be updated in the third and fourth quarter of this financial year.
5.1.2	Manage and administer Council's Access Incentive Scheme to improve accessibility to local buildings and business premises across the Shire.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Expression of Interest to be developed to engage a suitable consultant.
5.1.3	Develop Council Facility Accessibility Audit Plan	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Will progress to develop the council facility accessibility audit.

5.2: Work with the heavy transport industry and road related organisations to cooperatively improve access to road infrastructure.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
5.2.1	Process heavy vehicle road usage applications.	Assets & Engineering Services Projects Officer	Not Progressing	No report for this period.
5.2.2	Engage with government agencies and other networks which impact road infrastructure and services within the Bland Shire.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Councillor membership to Local Traffic Committee and Newell Hwy Taskforce determined in Q2 following Council elections. Monthly relationship meetings held with Transport for NSW, including Finance and Engineering. Council attends REROC quarterly Infrastructure Group meetings to discuss transport matters, which includes attendance of National Heavy Vehicles Regulator and Transport for NSW. General Manager attended community meeting to discuss heavy vehicle approvals in Q2.

6: Waste and recycling are managed through improved efficiencies.

6.1: Consult with the community and relevant stakeholders regarding waste management options throughout the Shire.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
6.1.1	Investigate, review and monitor viable recycling options in liaison with recycle organisations and other appropriate organisations	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Staff attended REROC Waste Forum meetings in Q1 and Q2. Internal discussions underway to start scoping of a future approach to be included in Delivery Plan.

6.2: Reduce reliance on landfill by increasing resource recovery, waste minimisation and community education.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
6.2.1	Provide waste management operations.	Assets Coordinator	Progressing	2091 tonnes of waste recorded for Q2. This compares with 2013 for the corresponding period the previous year.
6.2.2	Work in partnership with neighbouring Councils and REROC to implement and improve waste programs.	Manager Operations	Progressing	Attend meetings, workshops and work in liaison with REROC, in promoting continuous improvement in waste management.
6.2.3	Increase awareness of recycling and waste reduction options within the Shire through regular information programs.	Manager Operations	Progressing	Promotion of the Community Recycling Centre through Council's socials and via presentation by REROC at Bernadi's Supermarket and the WW Landfill on 14-15 Feb 2025

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
6.2.4	Comply with EPA requirements during operation of the landfill.	Manager Operations	Progressing	All landfill operations are carried out within the terms of Council's Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) and in accordance with EPA requirements.
6.2.5	Monitor littering and illegal dumping.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Council continues to monitor illegal dumping and littering. The DRS team have engaged DUNCAN Auto issue (electronic PIN software) and the Ranger has authorised access to DRIVES so that any incidents or instances of the Ranger witnessing a littering or illegal dump from a vehicle can be quickly and easily investigated and compliance and enforcement action including Clean Up Notices or Penalty Infringement Notices can be issued when appropriate.
6.2.6	Utilising new technology and increasing community participation, provide a container deposit scheme in West Wyalong to increase recycling.	Manager Operations	Progressing	Continued promotion of the CRC programme and investigations into expanding interest and participation in recycling and FOGO programmes, in line with the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials 2030 objectives

7: Manage water and sewerage resources.

7.1: Provide adequate water storage and management for future use within Council's community facilities.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
7.1.1	Waste water system maintained and operated.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Maintenance and compliance testing undertaken in accordance with Council's licensing conditions. Supply maintained for sporting fields and golf course in accordance with agreement.

7.2: Effectively manage and maintain existing stormwater and sewerage infrastructure.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
7.2.1	Undertake Sewerage System Inspections.	Assets Coordinator	Progressing	Four Inspections carried out by BSC sewer staff in accordance with inspection schedule targets.

8: Public places and facilities are accessible and well maintained.

8.1: Users of Council's facilities comply with agreements.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
8.1.1	Maintain regular Contact with User Groups.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Council continues to liaise with various clubs/associations. MOU yet to be developed for Basketball Stadium.

8.2: In collaboration with users provide facilities that are accessible to acceptable standards.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
8.2.1	Work with community and contractors to develop Sport and Recreation masterplan.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Community engagement including online surveys and drop in sessions in Barmedman, West Wyalong and Unagrie completed in Q1. Engagement Findings and Demand Analysis reports provided in Q1 with draft report findings provided in Q2. Further discussion to be held with Councillors in Q3 prior to Public Exhibition and adoption.

8.3: Collaborate with transport providers to facilitate access within the shire and regional centres.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
8.3.1	Lobby Government for increased funding for road maintenance.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	"Australian Government Roads to Recovery allocation notified Q1 for 2024-2029. Council continues to lobby for further funding programs through advocacy via Country Mayors Association. Local Government NSW, REROC and IPWEA NSW & ACT."

8.4: Use planning and heritage policies and controls to protect and improve the unique built environment.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
8.4.1	Review Heritage items currently listed in the Bland Local Environmental Plan and to investigate the inclusion of new heritage items.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Currently have a heritage Advisor. Will seek their advice when undertaking LEP review.
8.4.2	Manage and administer the Heritage Advisory Program.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Currently have a heritage advisor providing heritage advice to council and customers. Have applied for more grant funding to continue this service.

9: Council's assets and infrastructure are effectively and efficiently managed.

9.1: Responsibly manage asset renewal and maintenance for current and future generations.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
9.1.1	Monitor and implement the Annual Capital Works Program.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Roads program for 2024/25 developed and delivery underway. Council staff delivering unsealed roads program, tender undertaken and assessed Q2 for sealed roads program. Tender determined for Girral Road project in Q1 and project delivery underway. Other capital projects in various stages of development or delivery. Acting Director recruited for commencement beginning Q3.
9.1.2	Develop and implement Asset Management Plans for Council assets, eg local sealed road network, stormwater drainage, footpaths etc.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	3 year roads program developed in Q1. Council has engaged new consultant to provide strategic asset management support, technology and asset accounting support, commencing Q2.
9.1.3	Review Technical Services Policies and Strategies.	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Whole of council review of policies currently underway. Directorate policies currently being prioritised and reviewed to identify gaps and areas for consolidation.
9.1.4	Administer Council's plant and fleet by conducting effective light and heavy plant replacement programs.	Workshop & Plant Coordinator	Progressing	Council operates a 10 year plant replacement program that is reviewed and updated annually

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
9.1.5	Council's plant is repaired, maintained and serviced in accordance with maintenance schedule and manufacturer's requirements.	Workshop & Plant Coordinator	Progressing	Council uses the Ausfleet fleet management program, to ensure fleet maintenance is done as per manufactures recommendations. It is also used for storing work history and fleet reports.

9.2: To manage and enhance the pool facilities within the Shire.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
9.2.1	Undertake maintenance and repairs to pool facilities within approved budget in consultation with Contractor and in accordance with the contract.	Manager Operations	Progressing	Regular maintenance and repair of Holland Park and Ungarie facilities are undertaken as per contract and in consultation with the management contractor.

9.3: Maintain street trees.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
9.3.1	Maintain the health of street trees by planting in appropriate locations and removing/replacing unhealthy trees, trees that are damaging infrastructure and trees planted in inappropriate locations.	Manager Operations	Progressing	Street tree management is carried out under a system of programmed inspection; with customer requests for removal or trimming (e.g. crownlifting) undertaken subject to individual, visual assessment

9.4: Maintain parks, ovals and recreational facilities to approved standards.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
9.4.1	Inspect and maintain Council's open spaces and facilities.	Manager Operations	Progressing	Inspection and maintenance of parks and open spaces within the Bland Shire LGA are managed through cyclical and seasonal works programmes, and carried out by Council's Urban Parks and Open Space teams.

9.5: Identify and plan for new infrastructure.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
9.5.1	Develop main Street Revitalisation Plan	Director Technical Services	Progressing	Community engagement workshop and online survey completed in Q1. Engagement and Analysis report with sketch proposals and montages provided in Q2. Councillor presentation to be delivered in early Q3 prior to public exhibition and second round of community engagement.

Objective 3 - : Our Leadership.

A well-run Council acting as the voice of the community.

10: Council's leadership, governance and management facilitate strong partnerships.

10.1: Councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duty.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
10.1.1	Provide Councillors with professional development and resources to carry out their roles.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Councillors elected in September 2024 have commenced their inductions with the following sessions having been undertaken: Executive Presentations, Community Plan and Integrated Planning and Reporting, Finance Overview, Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.
10.1.2	Provide Councillors with information and resources to facilitate their roles as elected representatives.	Executive Assistant	Progressing	Information provided as needed. Councillor Induction sessions being held.

10.2: Councillors are encouraged to take ownership and a strong leadership role.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
10.2.1	Prepare the Annual Report.	Executive Assistant	Completed	Annual Report finalised and presented to November meeting of Council along with Audited Financial Statements.

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

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
10.3.1	Develop timelines and action plans for the ongoing review of the documents.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Ongoing reporting on progress against existing plans continues as per statutory requirements. Bland Shire Council also commenced the development of a new Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the local government area and related IPR documents will be drafted during the third and fourth quarters of the current financial year.
10.3.2	Report to the community and Council on Integrated Planning and Reporting Progress.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	The next cycle of the Integrated Planning and Reporting process commenced with the Community Satisfaction Survey provided data to assist in determining community needs. This information was utilised as part of the Community Engagement Phase and assist in the development of the Draft Community Strategic Plan which was placed on Public Exhibition in November.

10.4: The long-term financial sustainability of Council is supported through effective and prudent financial management

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
10.4.1	Prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements for analysis by Directors within two weeks of end of quarter.	Manager Customer & Financial Services	Progressing	Staff resourcing has delayed the quarterly budget review process for the December quarter, however statutory deadlines will be met with the report included in the February business paper.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
10.4.2	Effectively manage Council's financial procedures, eg investments, payments, processing and debt recovery.	Manager Customer & Financial Services	Progressing	Invested funds are looking solid with stable interest rates locked in. Weekly payment runs occur for timely payment of accounts and debt recovery is effective for both rates and debtors.
10.4.3	Complete financial statements and lodge in accordance with statutory requirements.	Manager Customer & Financial Services	Progressing	Preliminary planning with Council's auditors and the NSW Audit Office has commenced for timely completion of the 2024/25 financial statements.
10.4.4	Review Council's financial performance against the Long Term Financial Plan and report against Office of Local Government Financial Performance Ratios.	Manager Customer & Financial Services	Progressing	Council is implementing a new Long Term Financial Planning system, which will allow frequent reporting and provide up to date scenarios for comparison. This is expected to launch in the 2025/26 financial year.
10.4.5	Conduct budget briefing sessions for Councillors.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Not Due To Start	Bland Shire Council's Budget Briefing Schedule will be held in early March 2025. Councillors were given an overview of Council's financial management as part of the induction process at a workshop held on 5 November, 2024.
10.4.6	Streamline processes to assist in accuracy of annual stocktake.	Workshop & Plant Coordinator	Progressing	The layout of the stores warehouse, is such that it flows more efficiently now. The purchasing officer also conducts mini audits from time to time to ensure compliance
10.4.6	Significant Capital Projects are assessed and reviewed prior to lodgment of funding requests.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Review of project management practices within Bland Shire Council currently underway to better identify risks, cost implications and delivery on projects.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
10.4.7	Prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements for analysis by Directors within two weeks of end of quarter.	Manager Customer & Financial Services	Progressing	Staff resourcing has delayed the quarterly budget review process for the December quarter, however statutory deadlines will be met with the report included in the February business paper.

10.5: Council's workforce is provided with appropriate equipment and resources to meet the needs of Council and the community.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
10.5.1	Maintain and renew network infrastructure hardware and software for effective service delivery.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Council has transitioned to the Technology One Software as a Service platform and is exploring additional options for business improvement ahead of implementation of the C.I. anywhere platform mid-2025.

10.6: Regular consultation with key industry, business and stakeholders is undertaken.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
10.6.1	Engage and advocate with NSW and Australian Government, Regional Organisations, business and industry stakeholders and communities of interest.	General Manager	Progressing	Attendance at:- REROC Aug. Oct. (AGM) and Dec. Board meetings. REROC/RAMJO meeting with Federal Minister McBain. GM Notes provided weekly for publication in West Wyalong Advocate and on Council FB page. Community meetings at Quandialla and Mirrool.

11: Stakeholders contribute to Council's decision making.

11.1: Encourage village residents to participate in community forums.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
11.1.1	Engage with communities on local priorities through community forums and other opportunities and report back on forum outcomes.	Assets & Engineering Services Projects Officer	Not Progressing	Due to staff extended leave, no community forums were held during this reporting period.

11.2: Provide innovative and accessible communication strategies to Shire residents to encourage active participation in Council's future.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
11.2.1	Deliver Council's Community Engagement Strategy.	Media and Communications Officer	Progressing	<p>Total Facebook reach for this quarter is 254.6 K representing 127.1% growth with 1.1 million views. (10/7/2024-31/1/2025)</p> <p>Total Instagram reach is 1.4 K representing 321.9% growth with 27 K views. (10/7/2024-31/1/2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community grant opportunities posted to social media, alongside GrantGuru function on Council website. - Council website updated regularly, weekly if not daily with current events and activities, job advertisements, road condition reports, development notices and Council Meeting documents. - Media releases produced and supplied to news agencies and on our website.. - Branding provided to third parties, branding also taken to Council funded and supported events. - Council logo included on all Council events/programs/workshops. - Distribution of media via Social Media channels, GM Notes, council notices in West Wyalong Advocate. Extensive promotion of Council events and workshops.

11.3: Council communication branded signs and banners are provided to funding recipients.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
11.3.1	Provide Council branded signs and/or banners to funding recipients.	Media and Communications Officer	Progressing	Signage and branding provided as and when appropriate. Council logo included on all signage, advertising and branding.

12: Lead the community.

12.1: Monitor Council services to the community and customers to confirm they are provided in a professional, timely and friendly manner and are responsive to community needs.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
12.1.1	Manage and support responsible companion animal ownership.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Ranger continues to support responsible animal ownership in the Bland LGA.

12.2: Provide sustainable, productive, highly skilled and committed workforce which supports current and future service delivery needs.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
12.2.1	Assist in the management of workforce relations and provision of timely advice on workplace relations matters.	General Manager	Progressing	Interim HR Coordinator undertaken routine meetings with Directors and engaged in weekly Manex meetings. Interim HR Coordinator undertaken development sessions with supervisors and provided support and advice to supervisors as and when required. Ongoing engagement with staff and unions on revised Staff Agreement. Consultative Committee meetings held Aug. Oct. and Dec.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
12.2.2	Implement the Workforce Management Plan.	General Manager	Progressing	Recruitment is an ongoing task in a limited and competitive market. Training continues to be promoted and delivered within budgetary allocations.
12.2.3	Maintain register of delegations and issue authorities to relevant employees.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Changes monitored for review and updating. Staff responsibility and processes being reviewed and to be defined.
12.2.4	Develop, implement and monitor Learning and Development Plan.	General Manager	Progressing	Annual appraisal module implemented with training provided to supervisors for roll out in 2025 annual review period. Annual review process will inform development of Learning and Development Plan.
12.2.5	Promote the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).	General Manager	Progressing	Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is regularly shared through various internal communications channels. Opportunities provided to attend informal outside Council business get togethers. Monthly magazine "Flourish" is distributed in digital form. Quarterly reporting of EAP uptake is provided by service provider.
12.2.6	Maintain and promote the staff service and achievement awards program.	Executive Assistant	Progressing	Monthly service milestones acknowledged and achievement awards presented .

12.3: Develop, implement and monitor HR programs to solidify Council's reputation as an employer of choice.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
12.3.1	Support the implementation and monitoring of the EEO Management Plan.	General Manager	Progressing	Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan supported by Consultative Committee at Oct meeting.
12.3.2	Implement workforce programs ensuring Council remains an employer of choice.	General Manager	Progressing	Council recruitment remains ongoing. Flexible work arrangements are considered to suit business operations and employee request as and when required. Professional development opportunities considered upon application.
12.3.3	Review the Performance and Development Review process..	General Manager	Progressing	Annual appraisal module implemented with training provided to supervisors for roll out in 2025 annual review period. Annual review process will inform development of Learning and Development Plan.

12.4: Review and implement Council policies and comply with WH&S and Risk Management requirements.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
12.4.1	Deliver Bland Shire Council's Work Health and Safety program.	WHS Officer	Progressing	WHS Committee meets as per schedule. Committee meetings are held quarterly. WHS Committee meeting was held on Thursday 21 November 2024

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
12.4.2	Manage Council's Insurance Policies and claims.	Risk & Insurance Officer	Progressing	Have assisted in updating Councils policies including Risk Management Policy and procedure. Also assisted in updating Councils Business Continuity Plan Have also participated in Council's WHS inspections with Council's WHS officer Provide regular reports to MANEX, Council and ARIC
12.4.3	Deliver Council's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Program.	Risk & Insurance Officer	Progressing	Have been working closely with all Council's risk owners to update Council's risk registers. Planned update session to brief staff on the updated Council risk appetites and align risk registers accordingly .

13: Plans and policies provide open and transparent information.

13.1: Promote and advocate improved management of, and access to, information across Council

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
13.1.1	Provide information required in compliance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act and appropriately display on Council's website.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Informal access applications continue to be received for information held by Bland Shire Council. Applications are processed in accordance with Council practice and applicants advised of printing costs associated with this process.

13.2: Develop, implement and promote best practice governance policies and procedures.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
13.2.1	Facilitate the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and Internal Audit function within the organisation as per legislation.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Council continues to effectively work with an internal audit alliance of six Riverina Councils, through a shared service to co-ordinate ARIC and Internal Audit. The ARIC has appointed independent members and chair in 2024 and has met quarterly. The ARIC now has an established workplan in accordance with the Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit. Council will have an attestation in the annual report for 2024/25 outlining compliance with the Guidelines. Internal Audit has completed a review of fleet management, and workers compensation and accounts payable will be completed in early 2025.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
13.2.2	Coordinate the review of Council's policies and procedures.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Progressing	Policy review continues with Manex consolidating and condensing the existing and overdue policies list. A priority list will be developed for action on updating policies and procedures.
13.2.3	Establish a service review program in accordance with the requirements of the OLG.	General Manager	Not Due To Start	No service reviews undertaken in 2024/25 to date.

Objective 4 -: Our Prosperity.

Growing our population and jobs.

14: Visitors and tourists are welcomed.

14.1: Work with the tourism industry to identify and develop products and services that appeal to visitors of the Shire.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
14.1.1	Maintain relationships with NSW and Australian tourism agencies and other regional stakeholders to progress tourism initiatives within the Bland Shire.	Tourism & Administration Officer	Progressing	Attending by-monthly The Riverina meetings. Promoting Bland Shire at The Riverina Meetings and conferences.
14.1.2	Promote tourism and visitation to Bland Shire through quality and accessible Visitor Information Services.	Tourism & Administration Officer	Progressing	Updating brochures, distributing the Bland Bulletin to businesses on a monthly basis. Promoting events and tourism initiatives on Facebook and Instagram weekly and on The Riverina Facebook. Bland Bulletin distributed monthly.

14.2: Attract a diverse range of Visitors to the Shire.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
14.2.1	Investigate technology and or tourism initiatives/attractions to improve the visitor experience within Bland Shire.	Tourism & Administration Officer	Progressing	Introduction of QR codes for visitors to find an attraction easily. Completed the Bland RSL Memorial walk sculptures and plaques. The Bland RSL Memorial Walk will be included in the next edition of the Bland Art Trail.

15: Bland Shire is promoted as a place to do business.

15.1: Encourage and actively seek out businesses and industry to relocate within the Shire.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
15.1.1	Support business and/or industry operators to establish within Bland Shire through programs such as the Business Development Assistance Fund.	General Manager	Progressing	Liaison with residential land developer providing industry connections has been undertaken, with routine catchups to understand progress. No formal requests for Business Assistance during the reporting period.

15.2: Continue ongoing engagement and communication with the Shire's existing industry including support for diversification and alternate industry or business.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
15.2.1	Work with existing businesses and industry groups to improve economic activity within the shire.	General Manager	Progressing	Council has sought to support Business West Wyalong as it has established new Committee during Q2. Limited number of meetings as and when requested held with businesses during Q2.

15.3: Lobby for and work with industry, government and education providers to safeguard access to competitive telecommunication services for Bland Shire residents and businesses.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
15.3.1	Advocate for improved telecommunications access in regional areas of Bland Shire.	General Manager	Progressing	NBNCo Digital Connectivity Plans presented to Councillors and finalised with providers. Mobile Blackspot Program Round 8 to open in early 2025 with sites to be submitted to the Project Noticeboard utilising information from REROC Blackspot mapping.

16: Resources are used in a sustainable way for the future of Bland Shire.

16.1: Support a sustainable environment for current and future generations through effective management and planning for the long term future by ensuring appropriate land is zoned and available to support business and industry growth.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
16.1.1	Update Development Control Plan.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Progress is being made towards updating the Development Control Plan.
16.1.2	Review Local Environmental Plan.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	Work has commenced on EOI/RFQ for consultants to undertake review of BLEP.
16.1.3	Continue to assess all development applications against environmental impact and legislative requirements.	Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Progressing	All new developments are assessed against all matters for considerations as per legislative requirements in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and Regulation, as well as the Bland LEP and DCP.
16.1.4	Update a Biosecurity Control and Management Program in conjunction with the Riverina Strategic Management Plan.	Foreman - Environmental Services	Progressing	The Bland Weed Action Plan was developed as part of the Riverina WAP with implementation commencing.
16.1.5	Develop and deliver a community education and awareness program in relation to weeds management.	Foreman - Environmental Services	Progressing	Weed of the Month Facebook articles continue with direction to Council website for further information.

16.2: Through partnerships with stakeholders foster our education, learning and training industry and increase employment opportunities within the Shire.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
16.2.1	Work with Registered Training Organisations, business and employment agencies to support and provide apprenticeship/traineeship and work experience opportunities at Council.	General Manager	Progressing	Council applied for funding for 17 positions through NSW Office of Local Government Apprentices and Trainees Program. Notified of approval for 2 positions to be recruited in new year. Applications to be prepared for future rounds over coming years, Council currently has 1 Cadet and 4 trainees including school based trainees.

16.3: Promote agricultural practices which are leading edge and efficient.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
16.3.1	Provide a workshop/program targeting the agricultural industry.	Foreman - Environmental Services	Progressing	Biosecurity displays held at West Wyalong Show and Henty Field Day.
16.3.2	Educate the community on benefits of protecting our environment by engaging in annual environmental activities.	Foreman - Environmental Services	Progressing	National Tree Day plantings with School students held at Village Schools.
16.3.3	Develop and deliver a community education and awareness program in relation to Environmental management and sustainability.	Foreman - Environmental Services	Progressing	Biosecurity information on Council website is regularly updated to maintain currency. Council staff also participated in trade display at West Wyalong Show, earning an award for its presentation.

16.4: Liaise with utility providers to guarantee a quality sustainable service to the community.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
16.4.1	Engage and advocate on behalf of the Bland community with relevant stakeholders for reliable and efficient utilities and services.	General Manager	Progressing	Attendance at:- REROC Aug. Oct. (AGM) and Dec. Board meetings. GM approached GWCC for reconsideration of Water Reliability Project funding apportionment. GM remains in contact with GWCC in regard water supply outages

16.5: The availability of commercial and industrial land, coupled with our geographic location, will be maximised and marketed to boost economic growth.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Comments
16.5.1	Identify and act on avenues for improving and promoting the Shire's (commercial) industrial land.	General Manager	Progressing	Central Road Business Park contractual matters being finalised. Electrical infrastructure design approved and construction programmed for Mar. 2025. Draft sales contracts being prepared for Council consideration in Feb. 2025.



**PROGRESS REPORT 1 ON
OPERATIONAL PLAN
2024-2025
(Part of the Bland Shire Council Delivery Program 2021-2025)**

7.11 Budget Review – December 2024 Quarter



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 Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 requires the Council to prepare and consider a Budget Review Statement each quarter, which shows:

- Estimates of income and expenditure
- Appropriate revision of those estimates

The Statement must also include a report indicating changes in estimates for income and expenditure. This is done in consultation with the responsible director or manager of the relevant department.

The Statement must comply with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and be considered by the Council no later than 2 months past the conclusion of the quarter.

The attached financial reports comply with the Council's statutory responsibilities and are presented using the organisational structure approved by the Council.

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement has been prepared on an accrual basis as required.

The Statement includes:

- Budget Review Summary including actuals to date, original budget and revised estimates if applicable and remaining balance.
- Reserves Position

Overall Position

In general terms, the Council has received 59% of projected revenue (calculated on an accrual basis) to the original budget and 42% of projected operating expenditure to the original budget by the end of December 2024.

The balance of Council's cash and investments held was around \$92.2million at the end of the December quarter with \$48.2 million restricted (52%).

At the end of the December quarter, the total budget amendment requests net \$3,784 and will not have a material impact on the current budget deficit.

The following are the results in the Departmental cost centres together with some commentary. An adjustment summary is attached to the review documentation.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

The OGM has produced a result at the end of the first quarter that is within the budget for the directorate. Approved adjustments from the September quarter remain on track.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Corporate and Community Services has produced a result at the end of the first quarter that is within the budget for the directorate. The Community Services area is sitting at 59% of budgeted expenditure for the December quarter, which puts them on track for the remainder of the year.

DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Development and Regulatory Services overall have expended 53% of their budgeted expenditure and 76% of projected revenue has been received. This sees the department on target at the end of the December quarter.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Technical Services has produced a result at the end of the first quarter that is within the budget for the directorate. The recent finalisation of several large tenders should see expenditure for capital works and grant funded projects increase in the March quarter.

Conclusion

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

As Council's Responsible Accounting officer, it is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Bland Shire Council for the quarter ended 31st December 2024 indicates that Council's financial position as at 31st December 2024 is considered satisfactory, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Recommendation:

1. That the Officers Report be received and noted.
 2. That the Council endorses the Statement acknowledging the financial position is considered satisfactory
-

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____

Responsible Accounting Officer, Bland Shire Council

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS - DECEMBER 2024 BUDGET REVIEW

EXECUTIVE	Requested Adjustment		Comments
	Income	Expenditure	
Democracy			
- Sundry Income	-502		NSW Electoral Commission forfeited deposits for 2024 Councillor Elections.
- Travel/Accommodation		4,286	Charter flight for LGNSW Conference
Executive Total	-502	4,286	

TECHNICAL SERVICES			
	Income	Expenditure	
Cemeteries			
- Interment Services Levy	-5,000	5,000	State Government Levy that Council's must collect on its behalf.
Technical Services Total	-5,000	5,000	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	-5,502	9,286	

CAPITAL as at 31 DECEMBER 2024

	BUDGET	Q1 APPROVED ADJUSTMENT	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTUALS	BALANCE REMAINING
EXECUTIVE					
Expenditure					
Tourism	5,000		5,000	5,650	-650
DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY SERVICES					
Expenditure					
Property Maintenance	110,000		110,000	0	110,000
TECHNICAL SERVICES					
Income					
Plant	-160,000		-160,000	0	-160,000
Expenditure					
Plant	1,265,000		1,265,000	1,284,079	-19,079
KG Capital	50,000		50,000	0	50,000
Urban Sealed	160,000		160,000	36,110	123,890
Rural Sealed	450,000		450,000	0	450,000
Rural Unsealed	200,000	30,772	230,772	30,772	200,000
Sporting Ovals	55,000		55,000	0	55,000
Cycle/Walking Paths	150,000		150,000	0	150,000
Pools	15,000		15,000	15,007	-7
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	2,300,000	30,772	2,330,772	1,371,618	959,154

CASH & INVESTMENTS as at 31 DECEMBER 2024

<u>GENERAL FUND - EXTERNAL RESTRICTIONS</u>	
Aged Care Services Reserves	308,652.86
Childrens Services Reserves	1,448,228.27
Roads to Recovery Reserve	647,915.00
WHS Incentive Bonus	21,829.00
Crown Mangement Reserve	100,000.00
Flood Damage Reserve	1,641,975.00
Community Relations - Heritage Walk	8,060.00
Kikoiria Hall	45,968.00
Fixing Local Roads	50,000.00
DECC Funding	16,150.00
Future Towns Project	43,729.00
Trust Deposits	67,335.78
Sec 94 Contributions - Open Space	994.50
Sec 94 Contributions - General Development	468,656.46
Sec 94 Contributions - Stormwater	636.02
Sec 94 Contributions - Bushfire	802.30
Sec 94 Contributions - Car Parking	6,720.00
Sec 94 Contributions - Studies	755.29
Sec 94 Contributions - Roads	13,640.62
<u>Sewer Fund</u>	-
Reticulation Reserve - Internally Restricted Reserv	53,752.00
Sec 64 Contributions (Sewer) - External	125,685.00
Sewer Fund - Externally Restricted Reserve	5,505,795.00
Total Externally Restricted	10,577,280.10
<u>GENERAL FUND - INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS</u>	
Employees Leave Entitlements	1,713,286.61
Plant Purchases	1,830,462.00
Cemetery Reserve	26,598.00
Working Reserve	353,990.63
FAG Grant Reserve - General	7,737,278.31
FAG Grant Reserve - Road Component	5,015,776.69
Economic Development Reserve	2,462,835.48
Grant Match Reserve	663,670.00
Waste Depot Reserve	398,029.00
Gravel Pit Restoration	322,792.44
Community Facilities	2,840,365.93
Loan Repayment Reserve	515,558.00
Council Works	10,000.00
Election Reserve	75,012.00
Employee Assist & Attraction Reserve	36,172.00
Infrastructure Renewal Reserve	1,201,621.00
Heritage	39,201.00
Infrastructure Backlog Reserve	1,000,000.00
Depreciation Reserve	10,000,000.00
Land Development Reserve	582,609.10
Access Grant Reserve	5,000.00
Verandah/ Façade Restoration Reserve	43,675.00
Evolution VPA	718,674.00
Total Internally Restricted	37,592,607.19
Total Restricted - 52%	48,169,887.29
Total Cash & Investments (as at 31 Dec 2024)	92,209,560.03
Unrestricted Cash - 48%	44,039,672.74

CONTRACTS > \$150,000 as at 31 DECEMBER 2024

Contractor	Contract Detail & Purpose	Amount Paid	Commence ment Date	Duration of Contract	Budgeted (Y/N)
Fulton Hogan Industries	Girral Road	301,106.70	1/12/2024	Project only	Y
Lake Cowal Foundation	InHabitat Lake Cowal Project	228,000.00	1/07/2021	Project only	Y
Temora Shire Council	RFS Contribution & M&R	161,976.88	1/07/2024	Annual	Y

CONSULTANCY & LEGAL EXPENSES > \$50,000 as at 31 DECEMBER 2024

Expenses	Details	YTD	Budgeted (Y/N)
		NIL	

EXPENDITURE as at 31 DECEMBER 2024

	BUDGET	Q2 REQUESTED ADJUSTMENTS	Q1 APPROVED ADJUSTMENTS	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTUALS	BALANCE REMAINING
EXECUTIVE						
Governance	803,487			803,487	297,389	506,098
Democracy	331,664	4,286		335,950	97,022	238,928
Land Development	2,355,000			2,355,000	273,785	2,081,215
Economic Development	50,000			50,000	14,388	35,612
Tourism	199,000			199,000	126,522	72,478
Human Resources & WHS	397,031		122,000	275,031	201,531	73,500
Media & Community Relations	176,500		6,000	170,500	38,071	132,429
Executive Total Outcome	4,312,682		128,000	4,188,968	1,048,708	3,140,260
CORPORATE SERVICES						
General Revenue	1,179,917			1,179,917	57,994	1,121,923
Financial Assistance & investments	126,839			126,839	64,209	62,630
Corporate Support	3,801,146		186,000	3,615,146	1,558,879	2,056,267
Corporate Services Total	5,107,902		186,000	4,921,902	1,681,082	3,240,820
COMMUNITY SERVICES						
Aged Care	799,819			799,819	266,899	532,920
Children's Services	1,456,507			1,456,507	1,180,199	276,307
Library	653,043		-61,817	714,860	253,367	461,493
Community Development	300,750		10,000	290,750	190,051	100,699
Community Services Total	3,210,119		-51,817	3,261,936	1,890,517	1,371,418
DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY SERVICES						
Regulatory Services	163,992			163,992	154,760	9,232
Developmental Control	997,351			997,351	537,364	459,987
Environmental Planning	229,000			229,000	35,583	193,417
Health & Environment	4,700			4,700	668	4,032
Property Maintenance	759,042			759,042	419,348	339,694
Development & Regulatory Services †	2,154,085		0	2,154,085	1,147,722	1,006,363
TECHNICAL SERVICES						
Works Administration	4,774,083			4,774,083	1,049,957	3,724,126
Plant Running	3,013,494			3,013,494	1,680,311	1,333,183
Roads, Works & Transport	11,997,277			11,997,277	6,158,911	5,838,367
Public Services	4,680,418	5,000		4,685,418	2,431,979	2,253,439
Pools	481,078			481,078	174,692	306,387
Council Property Maintenance	59,937			59,937	20,431	39,506
Waste management	1,931,361			1,931,361	517,078	1,414,283
Sewerage Disposal Services	2,089,170			2,089,170	603,320	1,485,850
Technical Services Total	29,026,818		0	29,031,818	12,636,679	16,395,139
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	43,811,606		262,183	43,558,709	18,404,708	25,154,001

INCOME as at 31 DECEMBER 2024

	BUDGET	Q2 REQUESTED ADJUSTMENTS	Q1 APPROV ADJUSTMENTS	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTUALS	BALANCE REMAINING
EXECUTIVE						
Governance	-210,484			-210,484	-2,130	-208,354
Democracy	-75,000	-502		-75,502	0	-75,502
Land Development	-2,250,000			-2,250,000	0	-2,250,000
Economic Development	0			0	0	0
Tourism	-5,150			-5,150	0	-5,150
Human Resources & WHS	-25,150			-25,150	-12,928	-12,222
Media & Community Relations	0			0	0	0
Executive Total Outcome	-2,565,784			-2,565,784	-15,058	-2,550,726
CORPORATE SERVICES						
General Revenue	-7,855,942			-7,855,942	-7,860,752	4,810
Financial Assistance & investments	-7,076,839			-7,076,839	-885,074	-6,191,765
Corporate Support	-877,050		-120,000	-757,050	-303,971	-453,079
Corporate Services Total	-15,809,831		-120,000	-15,689,831	-9,049,798	-6,640,033
COMMUNITY SERVICES						
Aged Care	-460,000			-460,000	-214,405	-245,595
Children's Services	-1,430,207			-1,430,207	-1,296,638	-133,569
Library	-98,500		-1,400	-97,100	-80,659	-16,441
Community Development	-79,000		-5,000	-74,000	-62,097	-11,903
Community Services Total	-2,067,707		-6,400	-2,061,307	-1,653,799	-407,508
DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY SERVICES						
Regulatory Services	-9,100			-9,100	-11,848	2,748
Developmental Control	-86,200			-86,200	-84,787	-1,413
Environmental Planning	-10,500			-10,500	-5,249	-5,251
Health & Environment	-4,500			-4,500	-1,596	-2,904
Property Maintenance	-148,271			-148,271	-92,489	-55,782
Development & Regulatory Services Tot	-258,571			-258,571	-195,968	-62,603
TECHNICAL SERVICES						
Works Administration	-1,068,000			-1,068,000	-401,137	-666,863
Plant Running	-4,118,494			-4,118,494	-2,046,809	-2,071,685
Roads, Works & Transport	-9,249,619			-9,249,619	-886,406	-8,363,213
Public Services	-408,700	-5,000		-413,700	-157,684	-256,016
Pools	0			0	0	0
Council Property Maintenance	-131,000			-131,000	-65,000	-66,000
Waste management	-1,931,361			-1,931,361	-1,682,113	-249,248
Sewerage Disposal Services	-2,101,111			-2,101,111	-2,143,824	42,713
Technical Services Total	-19,008,285			-19,013,285	-7,382,972	-11,630,313
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	-39,710,178		-126,400	-39,588,778	-18,297,594	-21,291,184

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS as at 31 DECEMBER 2024

Rates & Annual Charges Coverage Ratio					
	Rates	Waste	Sewer	Total	Ratio
Rates & Annual Charges	-7,860,752.42	-1,682,112.94	-2,143,823.93	-11,686,689.29	29%
Revenue from Continuing Operations				-39,781,528.39	

% Revenue Achieved				59%
Actual Revenue Achieved			-23,621,852.12	
Budgeted Revenue from Continuing Operations			-39,781,528.39	

% Actual Expenditure				42%
Actual Expenditure YTD			18,502,653.70	
Budgeted Expenditure from Continuing Operations			44,168,749.79	

7.12 Seniors Festival 2025



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

DP1 – Ensure health and support services address the needs of the community

Author: Community Development Officer

Seniors Festival 2025

Following the success of Seniors Week 2024, Council staff are currently securing activities to be provided to Bland Shire's Senior Community Members to celebrate the contribution they make to the community. The theme for Seniors Festival 2025 is 'Time to Shine'.

Seniors Festival 2025 will be celebrated from Monday 3 March up-to and including Sunday 16 March 2025.

There is currently \$15,000 allocated in the budget for Seniors Festival activities. The following list of events is currently being worked on, with some items still to be confirmed:

Monday 3 March 2025: Re-launch of Mornings, Melodies and Memories Program, with the first location to be held at Ungarie.

Tuesday 4 March 2025: 'Blokes' trip to Junee to visit the Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory and Junee Roadhouse Railway Museum. This activity will be provided free of charge, with Council supplying transport and entry fees. Lunch is to be paid for by attendees.

Wednesday 5 March 2025: Wednesday Activity Day (WAD) at Community Care, Invitation to West Wyalong High School Senior Hospitality Students to assist with catering and serving morning tea and lunch for participants. This will assist the students with their practical hour component of their HSC studies, giving them the opportunity to plan and prepare the menu for WAD participants.

Friday 7 March 2025: A day at the movies, potentially to be held at the Tivoli Theatre, however if works are still underway, an alternative venue will be sourced. Movie tickets will be free to Senior members of the community and the chosen movie is yet to be confirmed.

Wednesday 12 March 2025: Community Expo to be held at the West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club Auditorium. Service providers throughout the Shire will be on hand providing valuable information to community members on services available and where to seek the appropriate help if required. The expo will be open to the general public from 11am – 2pm with the following service provider confirming their attendance with many of Bland Shire's Interagency Group still to confirm:

- Bland Community Care Service
- Bland Shire Library
- Open Mobility
- Rural Adversity Mental Health Program – MLHD
- West Wyalong Meals on Wheels Inc
- Service NSW
- Relationships Australia
- RFBI West Wyalong

Friday 14 March 2025: Seniors Lunch 2025 will be held at the West Wyalong Sports Club. Once again this event will be offered free of charge to Seniors. Entertainment for the lunch will be Jamie Agius performing a variety of songs and requests will be taken on the day. Council staff will be looking at providing transport from village locations on a needs basis.

2025 Seniors Festival Recognition Award: Council is currently calling for nominations from the public for the 2025 Seniors Week Recognition Award. Nominations close Friday 28 February 2025. This award acknowledges the contribution that individuals have made to the Seniors of the Bland Shire. To be eligible for an award, nominees must be 60 years of age or older and have made a significant contribution to the lives of older people in the Bland Shire. The announcement of the 2025 Seniors Festival Recognition Award will be made at the Seniors Lunch, Friday 14 March 2025.

Road Safety: Community Development Officer to investigate possible programs/organisations that can provide a safety course for Road Safety (Gophers) at the Community Care Car Park. Date to be determined.

Maintenance Day: Community Care Coordinator discussing with potential organisations to provide a maintenance day for Seniors to bring along any assistive equipment (walkers etc.) to be checked for safety and offer a service on equipment if required. Date and venue to be determined.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the report on the “Time to Shine” Seniors Festival 2025 for Bland Shire’s senior community members.

Section 3 – Technical Services

7.13 MA2025/0002 - S4.55(2) Modification of approved DA2022/0022 Electricity Generating Works (Solar Farm) - Alterations to the approved site layout



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

DP16.1 Ensure a sustainable environment for current and future generations through effective management and planning for the long term future by ensuring appropriate land is zoned and available to support business and industry growth.

Author: Planning & Compliance Officer

Introduction

A S4.55(2) modification application has been submitted to Council to modify approved development application, DA2022/0022 - Electricity Generating Works (Solar Farm) at 364 Wargin Road, Wyalong. The modification seeks consent to alter the approved site layout due to a reduced number of solar modules required to be installed for the project, resulting in a reduced overall footprint that the solar farm will cover on site.

The subject site (the site) is known as 364 Wargin Road, Wyalong and comprises of Lot 563 DP753135 with an area of approximately 35ha. The site is located approximately 1 kilometre from the town centre of the village of Wyalong and 3 kilometres from West Wyalong. The proposed altered site layout will not vary the existing approved vehicle access point and road on Wargin Road, Wyalong.

The site is located in the RU1 Primary Production Zone pursuant to the Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011. Development for the purposes of electricity generating works is permissible with development consent in the RU1 Primary Production Zone under State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

Current use of the site is for agriculture, including grazing and cropping. There are no existing buildings on the site. The site is located in an existing agricultural area with a hard rock quarry located approximately 1.4 kilometres south of the site. Located to the north of the site is Large Lot Residential Development.

DA2022/0022 - construction of a new Electricity Generating Works (Solar Farm) was determined by way of approval by the Western Regional Planning Panel (the panel), 03 March 2022.

Whilst the original Development Application was referred to the panel for determination under Schedule 6 Regionally Significant Development, Section 5 Private infrastructure and community facilities over \$5 million of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*, the modification did not trigger a referral back to the panel for determination.

The modification does not propose to change any conditions set or amended by the Panel, it does not propose to vary a development standard, there are no indicated conflicts of interest and it's not contentious as only one (1) submission was received. In this instance, Council is able to exercise delegation to determine this modification.

Under approved DA2022/0022, the footprint of the solar farm site covered an area of 16.7ha with 12,000 solar modules. The approval also included battery storage system, temporary car parking and materials laydown area, security fencing and landscaping.

Due to changes and advances in technology in panels, a reduced number of solar modules and piling is required for the project without reducing the output.

The S4.55(2) modification proposes only 11,232 solar modules resulting in a reduced footprint the solar farm will cover on site, being an area of 10.62ha. The revised layout provides 2 neater rows of solar modules rather than 3, increasing the setback distances from the northern boundary and Duffs Road. Therefore, increasing the buffer zone between the site and adjoining neighbouring boundaries.

Whilst the solar farm has previously been assessed for the context, setting and amenity with approval received under DA2022/0022, it is considered that the reduced footprint (16.17ha to the proposed 10.62ha) and increased setbacks is an improvement, reducing any potential amenity impacts on neighbouring lots.

It should be noted, as it was raised within the 1 submission received, the owner of the subject land sought permission to remove vegetation within the road reserve for the purpose of erecting a new boundary fence along the northern boundary of the site. The approval and clearing was not associated with this approved development.

There is still a significant amount of established vegetation within the road reserve offering screening from the development. Furthermore, landscaping which will provide screening shall be provided as per original conditions of consent.

As there is no proposed change to the approved land use under DA2022/0022 or the general operational details of the approval, it is considered that the modification of the development consent will result in substantially the same development for which the original consent was granted with minimal impact, therefore, the S4.55(2) modification application shall be supported.

Financial Implications

Council has received payment of Modification Application fees totalling \$4,568.00.

Summary

Whilst the original Development Application was referred to the Western Regional Planning Panel for determination, for reason discussed above, the modification did not trigger a referral back to the panel for determination. In this instance, Council is able to exercise delegation to determine this modification.

It is considered that the modification of the development consent will result in substantially the same development for which the original consent was granted with minimal impact, therefore, the S4.55(2) modification application shall be supported.

Recommendation:

That Council approves MA2025/0002 - S4.55(2) Modification of approved Electricity Generating Works (Solar Farm) to alter the approved site layout subject to the following conditions:

Pursuant to Section 4.55 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* notice is hereby given that the amended development consent issued in respect of the abovementioned application and dated the 03 March 2022 has been modified by:

Amendment to Condition A1 Approved Plans and Supporting Documents as detailed below:

A1 Approved Plans and Supporting Documentation

The development must be implemented in accordance with the approved plans, specifications and supporting documentation listed below which have been endorsed by Council's approved stamp, except where amended by conditions of this consent:

Plan/Report Title	Reference No	Revision	Prepared by	Date
General Arrangement Plan	WWL1C-G-2100	3	ITP Renewables	24/08/2021
Solar Farm Site Layout	230280-166-60-100	F	Redmud	26/04/2023
Statement of Environmental Effects	630.031835.00001	V1	SLR Consulting Australia	2/10/2024

CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

PART A: GENERAL

A1 Approved Plans and Supporting Documentation

The development must be implemented in accordance with the approved plans, specifications and supporting documentation listed below which have been endorsed by Council's approved stamp, except where amended by conditions of this consent:

Plan/Report Title	Reference No	Revision	Prepared by	Date
Wyalong 5MW Solar Farm Development Application	WWL1C-G-0100	-	ITP Renewables	-
Location Plan, Site Plan	WWL1C-G-0400	3	ITP Renewables	24/08/2021
General Arrangement Plan Solar Farm Site Layout	WWL1C-G-2100 230280-166-60-100	3 F	ITP Renewables Redmud	24/08/2021 26/04/2023
Site Elevations	WWL1C-G-2200	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
Inverter Footing Details	WWL1C-C-4300	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
BESS Footing Details	WWL1C-C-4310	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
Fencing Details	WWL1C-C-5300	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
Gate Details	WWL1C-C-5301	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021

Access Path Details	WWL1C-C-6300	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
Landscape Details	WWL1C-C-7300	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
Nextracker Array Detail	WWL1C-E-3400	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
Inverter Station Details	WWL1C-E-4300	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
BESS Station Details	WWL1C-E-5300	1	ITP Renewables	23/08/2021
DC-DC Skid Details	WWL1C-E-5310	1	ITP Renewables	24/08/2021
Noise Assessment	Mac180781-18RP1	-	Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd	13/08/2021
Traffic Assessment Report	TX15839.00-01.rpt	3	Triaxial Consulting Ltd	07/08/2021
Water Assessment	18105488-024-Rev0	1	Golder Associates	05/08/2021
Glare and Glint Assessment	-	1	ITP Renewables	25/08/2021
Waste and Decommissioning Assessment	-	1	ITP Development Pty Ltd	20/07/2021
Fire Assessment	-	1	ITP Development Pty Ltd	20/07/2021
Biodiversity Inspection Report	-	-	Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd	12/08/2021
Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment	-	-	Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd	31/08/2021
Statement of Environmental Effects	2620	-	Zenith Town Planning Pty Ltd	3/9/2021
Statement of Environmental Effects	630.031835.00001	V1	SLR Consulting Australia	2/10/2024

In the event of any inconsistency between conditions of this approval and the drawings/documents referred to above, the conditions prevail. In the event of any inconsistency between the approved plans and the supporting documentation, the approved plans prevail.

Reason: To ensure the development proceeds in the manner assessed by Council and all parties are aware of the approved plans and supporting documentation that applies to the development.

A2 Signage

A separate application shall be submitted to Council prior to the erection of any signage unless the proposed signage is 'exempt development' under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* or any other applicable environmental planning instrument.

Reason: To ensure any signage is assessed in accordance with the planning controls.

A3 Compliance with the Building Code of Australia

All building work shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Building Code of Australia. A reference to the *Building Code of Australia* is a reference to that Code as in force on the date the application is made for the relevant construction certificate.

Reason: To ensure the building work complies with the Building Code of Australia.

A4 Lapsing of consent

This consent is limited to a period of 5 years from the date of the Notice of Determination unless the works associated with the development have physically commenced.

Reason: To ensure compliance with Section 4.53 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

A5 Connection to Networks

Prior to the commencement of works, satisfactory arrangements are to be made with Essential Energy with respect to the proposed solar farm and its connection to the network. The applicant is to enter into the required Connection Agreements and any other requirement with Essential Energy for the development, which may include payment of fees, design and environmental assessment for works outside the lease area, and contributions or creation of easements for the electricity supply.

Reason: To ensure works do not commence until appropriate arrangements are in place with the relevant electricity supply authority.

PART B: PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF ANY CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

B1 Construction Certificate

A Construction Certificate is required for the development in accordance with Section 6.7(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

B2 Payment of Security Deposits, Levies and Contributions

The fees listed in the table below must be paid in accordance with the conditions of this consent and Council's adopted Fees and Charges applicable at the time of payment. Payments must be made prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate or prior to the commencement of work (if there is no associated Construction Certificate).

- (a) **Payment of building and construction industry long service levy** - The applicant must pay the long service levy of \$33,370.00 as calculated at the date of this consent to the Long Service Corporation or Council under Section 34 of the Building and Construction Industry *Long Service Payments Act 1986* and provides proof of this payment to the certifier.
- (b) **Public liability insurance** - Prior to the commencement of any works on Council land including a public road, the applicant is to obtain Public Liability Insurance in the minimum amount of \$20 million. This insurance is to note Council's interest

and is to remain current for at least the period from the issue of the Construction Certificate until the issue of a Compliance Certificate/Occupation Certificate for the works. Documentary evidence of the Certificate of Currency is to be provided to Council prior to the issuing of any Construction Certificate for access.

- (c) **Payment of development contributions** – A total monetary contribution of \$95,343.59 is to be paid to Council, pursuant to Section 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, prior to the issue of any Construction Certificate.
- (i) This condition is imposed in accordance with the provisions of Bland Shire Council Section 94A Development Contribution Plan 2011. A copy of the document is available on Council's website at www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au or may be inspected at Council's Administration Building.
 - (ii) The amount of contribution payable under this condition has been calculated at the date of consent. In accordance with the provisions of the Contributions Plan, this amount shall be indexed at time of actual payment in accordance with the Consumer Price Index. Indexation of contributions for payment occurs quarterly. Any party intending to act on this consent should contact Council prior to the date of payment to determine the indexed amount payable.

Reason: To ensure payments are made in accordance with legislative requirements.

B3 Construction Site Management Plan

Prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate, the applicant must submit a Construction Site Management Plan to Council for approval incorporating all mitigation measures as identified in Table 10 of the Statement of Environmental Effects dated 3 September 2021.

Reason: To require details of measures that will protect the public and the surrounding environment during site works and construction.

B4 Other Approvals

The following approvals are required where relevant:

- (a) **Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993** – Any approvals required under Section 68, Parts A to F, including (but not limited to), any use of public property for crane operation, waste management or installation of a moveable dwelling. Applications are to be made to Council a minimum of six (6) weeks prior to the proposed activity being undertaken.

Reason: To ensure all work complies with relevant legislation.

B5 Servicing

In relation to services, the following must be undertaken by the applicant where relevant:

- (a) **Dial before your dig** - the applicant shall contact "Dial Before You Dig on 1100" to obtain a Service Diagram. The sequence number obtained from "Dial Before You Dig" shall be forwarded to the Principal Certifying Authority (PCA) and Council for their records.

Details shall be provided with the Construction Certificate application.

Reason: To ensure work is carried out having regard to existing services and underground infrastructure for safety and efficiency.

B6 Stormwater Management

Stormwater management shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved stormwater plan prepared by Golder Associates dated 5 August 2021.

The development must not result in the diversion of overland surface waters onto adjoining properties and where necessary shall construct appropriate surface drainage systems that connect to Council's stormwater system.

Reason: To ensure stormwater is appropriately managed on the site.

B7 Vehicle Access Requirements

Entry and exit points are to be clearly signposted and visible from both the street and the site at all times. All required works are to be completed in accordance with Council/Transport for NSW standards prior to the commencement of construction works on the site. The access is to be constructed and maintained to an all-weather standard to the satisfaction of Council. Details must be provided on the Construction Certificate plans.

Reason: To ensure safe, practical and legal vehicle access is provided to the site.

B8 Reflection Mitigation Measures

To ensure reflection and glare from the solar panels is minimised, the following shall be implemented:

- (a) Installation of the measures outlined in the Glint and Glare report prepared by ITP Renewables dated 25 August 2021;
- (b) Planting and maintenance of a vegetation screen along the southern and western boundaries of the site to reduce the impact of the solar panels on the adjoining properties/road;
- (c) Installation of an anti-reflective coating on the solar panels. Evidence shall be provided to the Certifying Authority.

Details are to be shown on the Construction Certificate plans.

Reason: To ensure the solar panels do not cause a nuisance, disturbance or hazard to adjoining properties, nearby aircraft and the public using nearby public roads from glint and glare.

B9 Car Parking

All driveways, access ramps, vehicular crossings and car parking spaces shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the current version of Australian Standards, *AS 2890.1-2004: Parking Facilities – Off-street Car Parking* and *AS 2890.2:2018 - Parking facilities Off-street commercial vehicle facilities*. Details are to be provided with the Construction Certificate application.

Reason: To ensure driveways, access ramps, vehicular crossings and car parking complies with the relevant Australian Standards.

B10 Dilapidation report

Before the issue of a Construction Certificate, a suitably qualified engineer must prepare a dilapidation report detailing the structural condition of roads and public land, to the satisfaction of the certifier.

Any damage caused to other properties during construction shall be rectified by the applicant. A copy of the dilapidation survey and an insurance policy that covers the cost of any rectification works shall be submitted to Council prior to the commencement of the demolition works. The insurance cover shall be a minimum of \$10 million.

Reason: To ensure any damage caused by the development is documented prior to works commencing on the site.

B11 Landscape Plan

An amended landscape plan prepared by a landscape architect shall be submitted to the Council for approval incorporating an increase in width of all landscaping screening from 3m to 5m, with the landscaping located on the outer-side of the security fencing and being appropriately protected by stock proof fencing.

B12 Accommodation and Employment Strategy

Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must prepare an Accommodation and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with Council. This strategy must:

- (a) Propose a strategy to ensure there is sufficient accommodation for the workforce associated with the development;
- (b) Consider the cumulative impacts associated with other State and Regionally significant development projects in the area;
- (c) Investigate options for prioritising the employment of local works for the construction and operation of the development, where feasible; and
- (d) Include a program to monitor and review the effectiveness of the strategy over the life of the development, including regular monitoring and review during construction.

Following the approval, the applicant must implement the Accommodation and Employment Strategy.

PART C: PRIOR TO WORKS COMMENCING

C1 Appointment of Principal Certifying Authority

Prior to the commencement of work, the person having the benefit of the development consent and a Construction Certificate shall:

- (e) Appoint a Principal Certifying Authority and notify the Council of the appointment (if Council is not appointed); and
- (f) Notify Council of their intention to commence building work (at least 2 days' notice is required).

Reason: To ensure compliance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

C2 Signs on site

A sign must be erected in a prominent position on any site on which building work or demolition work is being carried out:

- (a) showing the name, address and telephone number of the principal certifier for the work, and
- (b) showing the name of the principal contractor (if any) for any building work and a telephone number on which that person may be contacted outside working hours, and
- (c) stating that unauthorised entry to the work site is prohibited.

Any such sign is to be maintained while the building work or demolition work is being carried out, but must be removed when the work has been completed.

Reason: Prescribed Condition under Clause 98A(2) and (3) of the Regulation.

C3 Tree Protection Measures

Before the commencement of any site or building work, the principal certifier must ensure the measures for tree protection detailed in the Landscape Plan and the Construction Site Management Plan are in place.

Reason: To protect trees which are to be retained prior to work commencing on the site.

C4 Care of Native Fauna Found in Felled Trees

Any uninjured fauna should be relocated to nearby bushland. Any nocturnal fauna should be kept in a suitable cage in a shaded location until dusk, and then released into nearby bushland. If juvenile fauna are discovered in hollows after a tree is felled, they are to be taken into the care of an organisation such as the Native Animal Trust Fund.

Injured fauna should be assessed by the ecologist and euthanised if their injuries are such that the ecologist considers that they are unlikely to survive. If injured fauna are likely to survive, they should be taken to a vet for treatment. After treatment, fauna should be taken to an organisation such as the Native Animal Trust Fund for care until they can be assessed.

Reason: To ensure the development does not adversely impact on biodiversity.

C5 Toilet Facilities during Construction

Toilet facilities must be provided on the work site during construction at the rate of one toilet for every 20 persons or part of 20 persons employed at the work site. Each toilet provided must:

- (a) Be a standard flushing toilet, connected to a public sewer, or
- (b) If connection to a public sewer is not available, to an on-site effluent disposal system approved by the council, or
- (c) A portable toilet.

Reason: To provide appropriate on-site amenities during demolition and construction work.

C6 Implementation of the Construction Site Management Plan and Waste Management Plan

The approved Construction Site Management Plan (incorporating the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan and Construction Traffic Management Plan) and the Waste Management Plan must be implemented and maintained prior to, and during, the construction works on the site until works are completed and all exposed surfaces are landscaped/sealed.

Reason: To ensure measures that will protect the public, and the surrounding environment, during site works and construction are implemented prior to works commencing on the site.

PART D: DURING WORKS

D1 Construction Hours

The hours of demolition and/or building work shall be limited to the following hours:

- (a) Monday to Friday: 7.00 am to 6.00 pm;
- (b) Saturday: 8.00 am to 1.00 pm;
- (c) No Construction on Sundays or Public Holidays.

Unless otherwise approved within the Construction Site Management Plan, construction vehicles, machinery, goods or materials must not be delivered to the site outside the approved hours of site works. Note: Any variation to the hours of work requires Council's approval.

Reason: To ensure the amenity of the area is maintained during construction.

D2 Compliance with Construction Site Management Plan

The requirements of the approved Construction Site Management Plan must be complied with and maintained for the duration of the construction works. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) All practicable measures shall be undertaken to prevent and minimise harm to the environment and the amenity of the area as a result of the construction and operation of the development, particularly from wind-blown dust, debris, noise, erosion and soil management and the like.
- (b) All building materials and equipment must be stored wholly within the site unless an approval to store them elsewhere has been granted.
- (c) During construction, care must be taken to protect Council's infrastructure, including street signs, footpath, kerb, gutter and drainage pits etc.
- (d) Protection measures shall be maintained in a state of good and safe condition throughout the course of demolition.
- (e) The area fronting the site and in the vicinity of the development shall also be made safe for pedestrian and vehicular traffic at all times.

The applicant must ensure a copy of these approved plans is kept on site at all times and

made available to Council officers upon request.

Reason: To ensure the required site management measures are implemented during construction.

D3 Waste Management

While building work, demolition or vegetation removal is being carried out, the principal certifier must be satisfied all waste management is undertaken in accordance with the approved waste management plan. Upon disposal of waste, the applicant is to compile and provide records of the disposal to the Principal Certifier, detailing the following:

- (a) The contact details of the person(s) who removed the waste
- (b) The waste carrier vehicle registration
- (c) The date and time of waste collection
- (d) A description of the waste (type of waste and estimated quantity) and whether the waste is expected to be reused, recycled or go to landfill
- (e) The address of the disposal location(s) where the waste was taken
- (f) The corresponding tip docket/receipt from the site(s) to which the waste is transferred, noting date and time of delivery, description (type and quantity) of waste.

Note: If waste has been removed from the site under an EPA Resource Recovery Order or Exemption, the applicant is to maintain all records in relation to that Order or Exemption and provide the records to the principal certifier and Council.

Reason: To require records to be provided, during construction, documenting that waste is appropriately handled.

D4 Responsibility for Changes to Public Infrastructure

While building work is being carried out, the applicant must pay any costs incurred as a result of the approved removal, relocation or reconstruction of infrastructure or services affected by the required construction works. Council and other service authorities should be contacted for specific requirements prior to commencement of any works.

Reason: To ensure payment of approved changes to public infrastructure.

D5 Discovery of Aboriginal Objects

While excavation, demolition or building work is being carried out, all such works must cease immediately if a relic or Aboriginal object is unexpectedly discovered. The applicant must notify the Heritage Council of NSW in respect of a relic and notify the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Heritage Council of NSW in respect of an Aboriginal object. Building work may recommence at a time confirmed by either the Heritage Council of NSW or the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

In this condition:

- “relic” means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and
- (b) is of State or local heritage significance; and
- “Aboriginal object” means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains.

Reason: To ensure the protection of objects of potential significance during works.

D6 Discovery of Contamination

Should any contaminated, scheduled, hazardous or asbestos material be discovered before or during construction works, the applicant and contractor shall ensure the appropriate regulatory authority is notified and that such material is contained, encapsulated, sealed, handled or otherwise disposed of to the requirements of such Authority.

Reason: To ensure contamination discovered during construction is dealt with as quickly as possible and to protect the health of the community and the environment.

D7 Construction Noise

While building work is being carried out, and where a noise and vibration management plan is approved under this consent as part of the Construction Site Management Plan, the applicant must ensure that any noise generated from the site is controlled in accordance with the requirements of that plan.

Reason: To protect the amenity of the neighbourhood.

D8 Imported Fill

While construction work is being carried out, the principal certifier must be satisfied all soil removed from or imported to the site is managed in accordance with the following requirements:

- (a) All excavated material removed from the site must be classified in accordance with the EPA’s *Waste Classification Guidelines* before it is disposed of at an approved waste management facility and the classification and the volume of material removed must be reported to the principal certifier,
- (b) All fill material imported to the site must be Virgin Excavated Natural Material as defined in Schedule 1 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* or a material identified as being subject to a resource recovery exemption by the NSW EPA.

Reason: To ensure soil removed from the site is appropriately disposed of and soil imported to the site is safe for future occupants.

D9 Critical Stage Inspections

Building work must be inspected on the occasions set out in clause 162A (Critical stage inspections for building work) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*.

Reason: To require approval to proceed with building work following each critical stage inspection and comply with the Regulation.

D10 Tree Protection

While site or building work is being carried out, the applicant must maintain all required tree protection measures in good condition in accordance with the Construction Site Management Plan required under this consent, the relevant requirements of *AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites* and any Arborist's report approved under this consent.

This includes maintaining adequate soil grades and ensuring all machinery, builders refuse, spoil and materials remain outside tree protection zones.

Reason: To protect trees during construction.

D11 Native Vegetation

There must be no removal or disturbance of native vegetation except as authorised by this consent, including canopy trees, understorey and ground cover vegetation without the prior written consent of Council.

Reason: To ensure vegetation is maintained on the site.

D12 Water Pollution

The applicant must ensure that the development does not cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

Reason: To ensure the development does not cause any water pollution during construction.

PART E: PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE

E1 Occupation Certificate

Occupation and operation of the solar farm is not to occur until all work has been completed, all of the conditions of consent have been satisfied and an Occupation Certificate has been issued by the Principal Certifying Authority pursuant to Section 6.10 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

E2 Completion of Public Utility Services

Before the issue of the relevant Occupation Certificate, the principal certifier must ensure any adjustment or augmentation of any public utility services including gas, water, sewer, electricity, street lighting and telecommunications, required as a result of the development, and is completed to the satisfaction of the relevant authority. Before the issue of the Occupation Certificate, the certifier must request written confirmation from the relevant authority that the relevant services have been completed.

Reason: To ensure required changes to public utility services are completed, in accordance with the relevant agency requirements, before occupation.

E3 Completion of all Works

All works must be completed in accordance with the conditions of this consent prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate including, but not limited to, the following

- (a) Car parking areas and vehicle access points;
- (b) Fencing;
- (c) Bushfire Protection Measures and standards as outlined in this consent shall be installed and completed;
- (d) All drainage works required to be undertaken in accordance with this consent shall be completed prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate for the development.

Following any construction or upgrading on site, the applicant must restore the ground cover of the site as soon as practicable, using suitable species and maintain ground cover.

Reason: To ensure adequate arrangements have been made for the development.

E4 Landscaping

All landscaping required by the approved Landscape Plan, including the removal of all noxious weeds, must be completed prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate.

Reason: To ensure there is adequate landscaping undertaken on the site and an adequate visual screening buffer has been established on the site.

E5 Post-Construction Dilapidation Report and Repair of Infrastructure

Before the issue of an Occupation Certificate, a suitably qualified engineer must prepare a post-construction dilapidation report which must include a photographic survey, to the satisfaction of the principal certifier, detailing whether:

- (a) any roads and/or public infrastructure have been damaged as a result of the carrying out of construction works (including damage caused by, but not limited to, delivery vehicles, waste collection, contractors, sub-contractors, concreting vehicles) and if so, it is to be fully repaired to the written satisfaction of Council, and at no cost to Council.

Before the issue of an Occupation Certificate, the Principal Certifier is to provide a copy of the post-construction dilapidation report to Council (where Council is not the principal certifier) and to the relevant adjoining property owner(s).

Reason: To identify damage to adjoining properties resulting from building work on the development site.

E6 Removal of Waste upon Completion

Before the issue of an Occupation Certificate, the Principal Certifier must ensure all refuse, spoil and material unsuitable for use on-site is removed from the site and disposed of in accordance with the approved waste management plan. Written evidence of the removal must be supplied to the satisfaction of the Principal Certifier. Before the issue of a partial Occupation Certificate, the applicant must ensure the temporary storage of any waste is carried out in accordance with the approved Waste Management Plan to the Principal Certifier's satisfaction.

Reason: To ensure waste material is appropriately disposed or satisfactorily stored

PART G: OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS

G1 Decommission Management Plan

A Decommissioning Plan must be provided to Council (or relevant approval authority) generally consistent with the Concept Decommissioning Plan for review and approval no later than 12 months prior to the proposed cessation of operations. The objective of this is to restore the land to its pre-existing state suitable for agricultural use. It must include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Expected timeline for rehabilitation completion;
- (b) Decommissioning of all solar panels, above and below ground infrastructure, inverter stations, fencing and any other structures or infrastructure relating the approved development;
- (c) Programme of site restoration to return the land back to a suitable state for agricultural purposes; and
- (d) Details on waste management and recycling of all materials arising from the development.

Reason: To ensure the decommissioning of the solar farm occurs in an orderly and sustainable manner, that the amenity of the area is maintained while the solar farm is being decommissioned and to ensure the site can be returned to its original condition.

G2 Emergency Management Plan

The approved Emergency Management Plan ('EMP') for the development shall be activated when required throughout the operation of the development and shall be updated if required.

During occupation of the development, the applicant must ensure the site is managed, in accordance with *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* and the NSW Rural Fire Service's document *Standards for Asset Protection Zones*. Any required bushfire protection measures are to be maintained throughout the operation of the solar farm at the site.

Reason: To ensure the protection of human life, the environment and adjoining property in the event of fire or other emergency generated by the development.

G3 Operations Environmental Management Plan

The approved Operations Environmental Management Plan ('OEMP') for the development shall be complied with throughout the operation of the development.

Reason: To ensure the solar farm is operated in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and best practice.

G4 Vehicle Management

The premises shall be operated in accordance with the following vehicle management requirements:

- (a) All loading and unloading of vehicles must be undertaken wholly within the site and all vehicles must enter and leave the site a forward direction.
- (b) Sufficient car parking is to be provided on the site, with no car parking to occur on the public road network in the vicinity of the site.
- (c) The vehicle entry and exit points are to be clearly signposted and visible from both the street and the site at all times and must be maintained in good condition for the life of the development.
- (d) The maximum size truck permitted to access the site is a B-Double vehicle.

Reason: To ensure the operation of the solar farm does not adversely affect the surrounding road network and has adequate car parking provided on the site.

G5 Landscape Screening

The planting associated with the landscape screen as outlined on the approved Landscape Plan must be maintained while the solar farm is in operation at the site. On-going monitoring of the health and performance of the visual plant screen during the life operation of the solar farm must be undertaken, including replacement of plant stock whenever necessary to ensure the screen continues to act as an effective visual buffer.

Following construction, the applicant must restore the ground cover of the site as soon as practicable using suitable species and maintain ground cover.

Reason: To ensure the provision of a landscape screen to reduce the visual impact of the development.

G6 Operation of Plant and Equipment

The Applicant must ensure that all plant and equipment used on the site or in connection with the development is maintained in a proper and efficient condition and operated in a proper and efficient manner.

Reason: To ensure all plant and machinery on the site is in good working order and is operated in a safe manner.

G7 External lighting

Any lighting used on the site in connection with the development is to comply with AS 4282 – *Control of the obtrusive effects of Outdoor lighting*. The applicant must minimise off-site lighting impacts arising from the development and any external lighting is installed as low intensity lighting except where required for safety or emergency purposes.

Reason: To protect the amenity of the surrounding area.

G8 Minimise Harm to the Environment

The applicant must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent and/or minimise any material harm to the environment or to the amenity of the area that may result from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the development, including weed control.

Reason: To minimise harm to the environment.

G9 Visual Impacts

The applicant must:

- a) Minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development, including the potential for any glare or reflection from the solar panels;
- b) Ensure the visual appearance of all ancillary infrastructure (including paint colours) blends in as far as possible with the surrounding landscape; and
- c) Not mount any advertising signs or logos on site, except where this is required for safety purposes.

Reason: To minimise the visual impact of the development.

G10 Storage of Hazardous Materials

The applicant must store and handle all dangerous and hazardous materials on site in accordance with AS 1940-2004: *The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids*. The storage of any dangerous and hazardous materials must be provided in a suitably bunded and impervious area and in such a way as to minimise spills of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons. Clean up any spills must occur as soon as possible.

Reason: To minimise harm to the environment.

G11 Maintenance of Wastewater and Stormwater Treatment Device

During occupation and ongoing use of the building, the applicant must ensure all wastewater and stormwater treatment devices (including drainage systems, sumps and traps, and on-site detention) are regularly maintained, to remain effective and in accordance with any positive covenant (if applicable).

Reason: To protect sewerage and stormwater systems.

G12 Noise Control During Operation

Any noise generated from the operation of the solar farm, including noise from any substation and associated infrastructure, must not be intrusive or constitute offensive noise as defined by the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* at any private residential receiver.

The operation of the solar farm must satisfy the EPA maximum noise criteria pursuant to the EPA's *Noise Policy for Industry (2017)*. If, at any time, these levels are exceeded, operation of the solar farm shall immediately be modified, including suspension of operations if necessary, to ensure compliance.

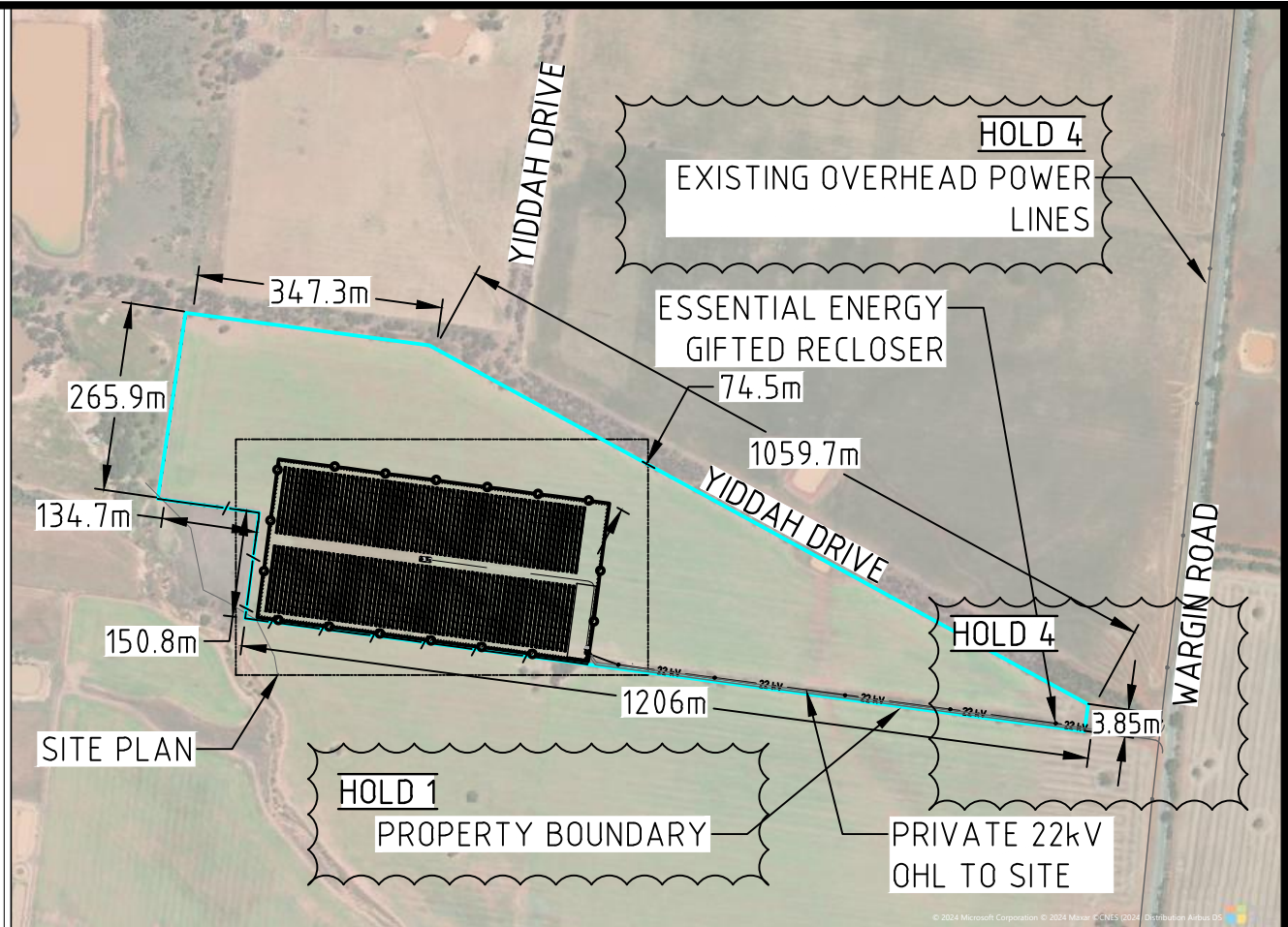
Reason: To protect the amenity of the area while the solar farm is in operation.

G13 Waste Materials

The Applicant must:

- (a) minimise the waste generated by the development;
- (b) classify all waste generated on site in accordance with the NSW EPA *Waste Classification Guidelines, Part 1: Classifying Waste*, November 2014 (or its latest version);
- (c) store and handle all waste on site in accordance with its classification;
- (d) not receive or dispose of any waste on site; and
- (e) remove all waste from the site as soon as practicable, and ensure it is sent to an appropriately licensed waste facility for disposal.

Reason: To protect the environment.



KEY PLAN
SCALE 1:10000

DRAFT UNCONTROLLED
14/05/24

PRELIMINARY

NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION

SITE PLAN
SCALE 1:1000

SITE SPECIFICATIONS				
TOTAL FENCED AREA	10.62	ha	26.2	acre
TOTAL FENCED PERIMETER	1393.0	m		

NEXTRACKER HORIZON TRACKER LEGEND			
MODULE QTY	LENGTH	SITE QTY	TRACKER SYMBOL
78 MODULE (3 STRINGS)	93.6m	144	

PV SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS					
INVERTER MAKE	SUNGROW	-	MOUNTING SYSTEM	NEXTRACKER	-
INVERTER MODEL	SG24.75HV	-	MODULE MAKE	LONGI	-
INVERTER RATING	2475	kVA	MODULE MODEL	LR7-72HGD-610M	-
NUMBER OF INVERTERS	2	-	MODULE CAPACITY	610	W
NUMBER OF STRINGS	432	-	TOTAL MODULES	11232	-
MODULES PER STRING	26	-	DC CAPACITY	6.85	MWp
GENERATION CAPACITY	4.95	MVA	DC/AC (MW)	1.49	-
GENERATION POWER FACTOR	0.93	-	PITCH	6	m
EXPORT LIMIT	HOLD 3	4.60	MW	GROUND COVERAGE RATIO	39.7 %

NOTES:

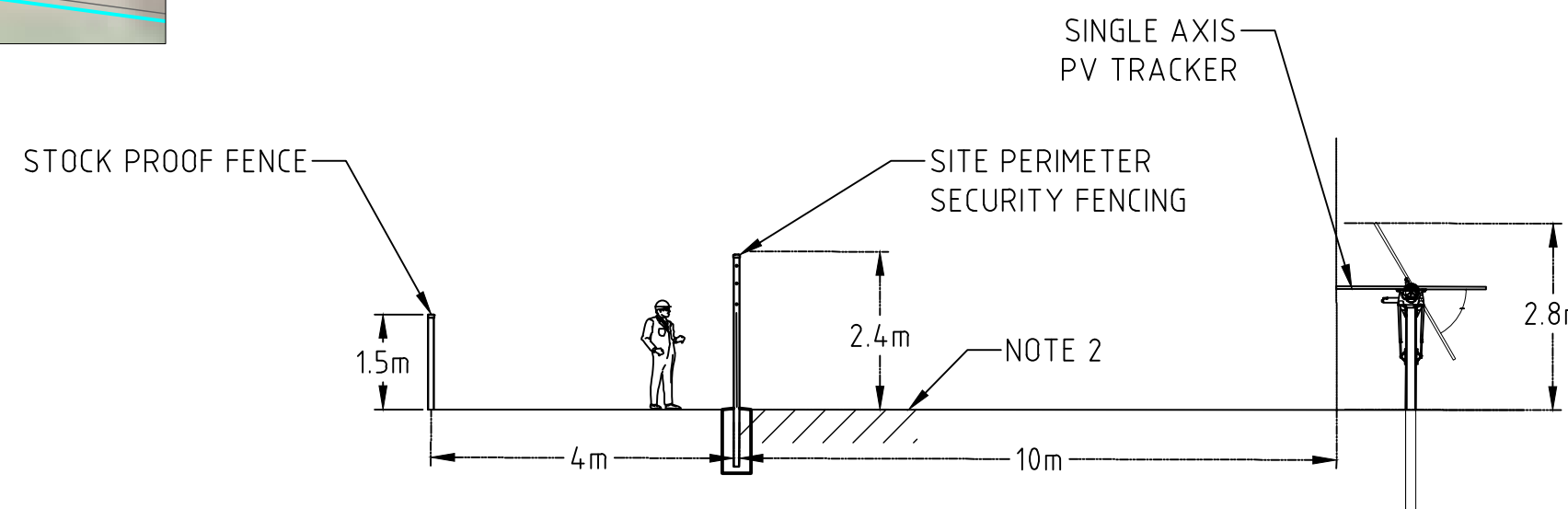
- LOCATION OF PRIVATE UG/OH POLE AND OVERHEAD LINE TO BE CONFIRMED AS PART OF ASP3 DESIGN.
- FIRE BREAK TO BE BARE EARTH, MAINTAINED FREE OF VEGETATION AND OBSTRUCTIONS AT ALL TIMES.

HOLDS

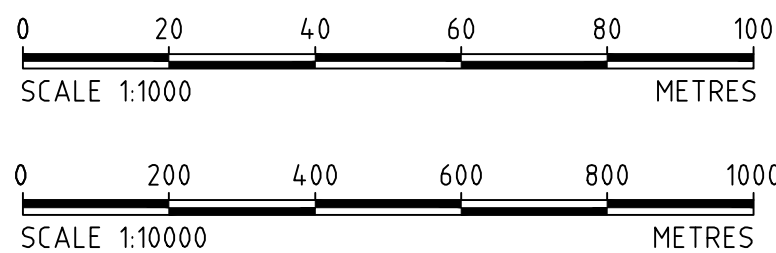
- ALL DIMENSIONS AND LOCATIONS OF PROPERTY BOUNDARIES APPROXIMATE UNTIL DETAILED SURVEY RECEIVED.
- ALL DETAILS OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT TO BE CONFIRMED.
- PV AND NEXTRACKER ARRAY DETAILS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF INVERTER OPERATING POWER FACTOR, DC/AC RATIO AND MPPT DC SYSTEM SIZING CONSIDERATIONS.
- ESSENTIAL ENERGY CONNECTION DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED.
- PRIVATE OVERHEAD LINE DESIGN TO BE CONFIRMED AS PART OF ASP3 DESIGN WORKS BY OTHERS.

LEGEND

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- SECURITY FENCE
- STOCK FENCE
- INDICATIVE LOCATION OF NEW PROPOSED 22kV OVERHEAD LINE
- ACCESS TRACK
- PROPOSED POWER POLE
- 3m FIRE BREAK



DETAIL 1: TYPICAL ASSET PROTECTION ZONE SECTION
SCALE: N.T.S.



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F	10/05/24	JRT	MGD	KPS	ABG	230280	REVISED ISSUE WITH YES COMMENTS		
E	05/04/24	JRT	MGD	KPS	ABG	230280	REVISED ISSUE WITH 610W PANELS		
D	26/07/23	SDC	MGD	JAD	RHL	230280	REVISED FENCE LOCATION		
C	23/05/23	ABR	MGD	JAD	RHL	230280	REVISED WITH ADDITIONAL DC CAPACITY		
B	05/05/23	ABR	MGD	JAD	RHL	230280	REVISED PRELIMINARY ISSUE		
A	27/04/23	ABR	MGD	JAD	RHL	230280	PRELIMINARY ISSUE		
No	DATE	DRN	CHK	ENG	Q.A.	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	TITLE
REVISION							REFERENCE DRAWINGS		

GPA
www.gpaeng.com.au

YES GROUP
RMGE166 - 364 WARGIN ROAD, WYALONG, NSW 2671
4.95MW EXPORT PV SYSTEM
SOLAR FARM SITE LAYOUT

DATE: 26/04/23	DRN: ABR	CHK: MGD	ENG: KPS	Q.A: ABG	SCALE: AS SHOWN
PROJ No 230280	DRG No 230280-166-60-100			REV F	

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT

DA/MA Number:	MA2025/0002 (DA2022/0022)
Address:	364 Wargin Road WYALONG NSW 2671
Legal Description:	Lot 563 DP 753135
Development Description:	S4.55(2) Modification of approved Electricity Generating Works (Solar Farm) – Alterations to the approved site layout

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This S4.55(2) modification application seeks consent to alter the approved site layout of approved development application, DA2022/0022 at 364 Wargin Road, WYALONG. The proposal seeks to modify the approved plans/documentation and conditions under DA2022/0022 to reflect the proposed altered site layout which will result in a reduced area covered by the solar farm.

DA2022/0022 - construction of a new Electricity Generating Works (Solar Farm) was determined approved by the Western Regional Planning Panel (the panel), 03 March 2022.

Whilst the original Development Application was referred to the panel for determination under *Schedule 6 Regionally Significant Development, Section 5 Private infrastructure and community facilities over \$5 million of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*, the modification did not trigger a referral back to the panel for determination. As discussed further throughout, in this instance, Council is able to exercise delegation to determine this modification.

The subject site (the site) is known as 364 Wargin Road, Wyalong and comprises of Lot 563 DP753135 with an area of approximately 35ha. The site is located approximately 1 kilometre from the town centre of the village of Wyalong and 3 kilometres from West Wyalong. It is proposed to construct a vehicle access point and road on Wargin Road, Wyalong which will not vary from the existing approval, DA2022/0022.

The site is located in the RU1 Primary Production Zone pursuant to the Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011. Development for the purposes of electricity generating works is permissible with development consent in the RU1 Primary Production Zone under State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

Current use of the site is for agriculture, including grazing and cropping. There are no existing buildings on the site. The site is located in an existing agricultural area with a hard rock quarry located approximately 1.4 kilometres south of the site. Located to the north` of the site is Large Lot Residential Development.

Under approved DA2022/0022, the footprint of the solar farm site proposed to cover an area of 16.7ha with 12,000 solar modules. Due to changes and advances in technology in panels, reduced modules and piling is required without a reduction in output. Therefore, only 11,232 solar modules are required to get the same output, resulting in a reduced footprint that the solar farm will cover, being an area of 10.62ha. The proposed altered site layout will also increase setback from the northern boundary and Duffs Road, therefore, increasing the buffer zone.

It is considered that the modification of the development consent will result in substantially the same development for which the original consent was granted, however, the reduced footprint of the site area from 16.7 hectares to 10.62 hectares means that the solar farm can generate the same amount of energy while using less space.

PROPERTY DETAILS/HISTORY

	Checked		Comments
File History	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Apart from DA2022/0022 - construction of a new Electricity Generating Works (Solar Farm), determined approved 03/08/2022, a search of council records revealed there have been no applications lodged for the site in the last 15 years. Signed land owners consent has been provided with the application and is consistent with Council's records.
Title Plan	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ownership	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

APPLICATION TYPE

Does this application require referral for decision by Council?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this application an Integrated Development Application?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is this application a Designated Development Application?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is this application for State Significant Development?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is this application submitted by/on behalf of a Public Authority?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is this application a staged Development?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stage Detail:	NIL		
Is this application a section 4.55 amendment?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does this application require concurrence referral?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does this application require courtesy comment?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Department	Date Requested	Date Received	Comments/Issues Raised
Essential Energy	11/11/2024	14/11/2024	Strictly based on the documents submitted, Essential Energy had no comments to make as to potential safety risks arising from the proposed development.

State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

	Applicable	
SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Under DA2022/0022, a biodiversity assessment was undertaken by Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd in accordance with Section 7.3 of the BC Act 2016 to determine the significance of potential impacts of the proposed development on any threatened species or communities which are listed within the Act.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Inspection Report determined that the project required less than 1 hectare clearance of native grass and zero remnant native trees if the vegetation on the roadside is avoided.</p> <p>It should be noted, as it was raised within the 1 submission received, the owner of the subject land sought permission to remove vegetation within the road reserve for the purpose of erecting a new boundary fence along the northern boundary of the site. The approval and clearing was not associated with this approved development.</p> <p>There is still a significant amount of established vegetation within the road reserve offering screening from the development. Furthermore, landscaping which will provide screening shall be provided as per original conditions of consent.</p> <p>The revised site layout is not likely to significantly impact on already assessed biodiversity values under DA2022/0022.</p>		

SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Housing) 2021	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Industry and Employment) 2021	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Planning Systems) 2021	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comment Reference is made to <i>Schedule 6 Regionally significant development (schedule 6)</i> of SEPP (Planning Systems) 2021.</p> <p>The proposed developed is considered Regionally significant development under Schedule 6, Section 5 Private infrastructure and community facilities over \$5 million (Section 5).</p> <p>Under Section 5, development that has a capital investment value of more than \$5 million for the purpose of electricity generating works is considered regionally significant.</p> <p>The original Development Application was referred to the panel for determination under Schedule 6, Section 5 of the SEPP (Planning Systems) 2021. However, with reference to <i>Instruction on Functions Exercisable by Council on Behalf of the Sydney District or Regional Planning Panels – Applications to Modify Development Consents</i>, the modification did not trigger a referral back to the panel for determination.</p> <p>The modification does not propose to change any conditions set or amended by the Panel, it does not propose to vary a development standard, no indicated conflict of interest and it's not contentious (only 1 submission received) – therefore it qualifies for delegation.</p> <p>This was confirmed in email 13/12/2024 by Senior Case Manager Planning Panels, Panels and Housing Delivery, Lillian Charlesworth at Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.</p> <p>In this instance, Council is able to exercise delegation to determine this modification.</p>		
SEPP (Precincts – Central River City) 2021	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Precincts – Eastern Harbour City) 2021	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Precincts – Regional) 2021	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Precincts – Western Parkland City) 2021	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Primary Production) 2021	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comment Reference is made to <i>Chapter 4 Remediation of land, Section 4.6 Contamination and remediation to be considered in determining development application</i>.</p> <p>This planning policy is required to be considered in the processing and determination of development applications. The purpose of this policy is to provide a state wide planning approach to the remediation of land. In particular, this policy aims to promote the remediation of contaminated land for the purposes of reducing the risk of harm to human health or other aspects of the environment.</p> <p>The status of the land was assessed under DA2022/0022. It was considered at the time that the land is not likely to be contaminated and that the land is suitable for the intended use.</p>		

<p>There has been no change in the use of the site since approval of DA2022/0022. Further to that, the proposed S4.55(2) modification of the development consent will result in substantially the same development for which the original consent was granted, with a reduced building footprint and a reduced number of solar modules.</p> <p>Contamination has been considered in determining this application. The requirements of the SEPP are therefore satisfied and no further consideration is necessary.</p>		
SEPP (Resources and Energy) 2021	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Sustainable Buildings) 2022	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comment</p> <p>One of the aims of this SEPP is to facilitate the effective delivery of infrastructure across the State by providing greater flexibility in the location of infrastructure and service facilities.</p> <p>Division 4 Electricity generating works or solar energy systems defines electricity generating works; means a building or place used for the following purposes, but does not include a solar energy system—</p> <p>(a) making or generating electricity, (b) electricity storage.</p> <p>Clause 2.36 Development Permitted with consent</p> <p>Development for the purpose of electricity generating works may be carried out by any person with consent on RU1 Primary Production zoned land.</p> <p>Consideration has also been given to Clause 2.122 Traffic-generating development. The proposed modification is not likely to generate greater than 50 vehicle movements per hour, therefore, does not trigger traffic generating development or a referral to Transport for NSW. No further consideration necessary.</p>		

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN		
The subject land is zoned:	RU1 Primary Production	
Definition from LEP	<i>electricity generating works</i> means a building or place used for the purpose of— (a) making or generating electricity, or (b) electricity storage.	
Permissibility:	Whilst electricity generating works are prohibited within the RU1 Primary Production zone as ‘Any other development not specified in item 2 or 3’ under the Land Use Table of the Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011 (Bland LEP), electricity generating works are permitted with consent under Division 4 of SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 in the RU1 Primary Production zone. Therefore, the development is considered to be permissible with consent.	
Clause		Compliance
Part 4 Principal Development Standards		
4.1	Minimum subdivision lot size	Not Applicable
4.1AA	Minimum subdivision lot size for community title schemes	Not Applicable
4.1A	Minimum subdivision lot size for strata plan schemes in certain rural and environmental zones	Not Applicable
4.2	Rural Subdivision	Not Applicable

4.2A	Erection of dwelling houses on land in certain rural and environmental protection zones	Not Applicable
4.2B	Erection of rural workers’ dwellings	Not Applicable
4.3	Height of buildings	Not adopted
4.4	Floor space ratio	Not adopted
4.5	Calculation of floor space ratio	Not adopted
4.6	Exceptions to development standards	Not Applicable
Comment:	None of the above Principal Development Standards are consider applicable to this proposed S4.55(2) modification. The application does not seek consent for subdivision or the erection of a dwelling, nor do they form part of the scope of works for this application. Height of buildings, floor space ratio and calculation of floor space ratio has not been adopted under Bland LEP; and no proposed variation to development standards.	
Part 5 Miscellaneous Provisions		
5.1	Relevant acquisition authority	Not Applicable
5.2	Classification and reclassification of public land	Not Applicable
5.3	Development near zone boundaries	Not Applicable
5.4	Controls relating to miscellaneous permissible uses	Not Applicable
5.5	Controls relating to secondary dwellings on land in a rural zone	Not adopted
5.6	Architectural roof features	Not adopted
5.7	Development below mean high water mark	Not applicable
5.8	Conversion of fire alarms	Not Applicable
5.9	Dwelling house or secondary dwelling affected by natural disaster	Not adopted
5.9AA	Repealed	Repealed
5.10	Heritage conservation	Not Applicable
5.11	Bushfire hazard reduction	Not Applicable
5.12	Infrastructure development and use of existing buildings of the crown	Not Applicable
5.13	Eco-tourist facilities	Not Applicable
5.14	Siding spring Observatory – maintaining dark sky	Not adopted
5.15	Defence communications facility	Not adopted
5.16	Subdivision of, or dwellings on, land in certain rural, residential or environment protection zones	Not Applicable
5.17	Artificial water bodies in environmentally sensitive areas of operation of irrigation corporations	Not Applicable
5.18	Intensive livestock agriculture	Not Applicable
5.19	Pond-based, tank based and oyster aquaculture	Not Applicable
5.20	Standards that cannot be used to refuse consent—playing and performing music	Not Applicable
5.21	Flood planning	Not Applicable

5.22	Special flood considerations	Not adopted
5.23	Public bushland	Not adopted
5.24	Farm stay accommodation	Not applicable
5.25	Farm gate premises	Not applicable
Comment:	5.10 Heritage Conservation – The subject land is not identified as a heritage item under Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the Bland LEP, nor is it located in a Heritage Conservation area. Heritage item, West Wyalong Showground pavilions comprising Fine Arts Pavilion, Sheep Pavilion, Cattle Pavilion, Poultry Pavilion at By Pass Road, listed under Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the Bland LEP is located 1km Northwest of the subject site. The proposed modification, revised site layout, is considered to have a negligible impact. No further consideration necessary.	
	5.21 Flood planning – The subject land is not identified on the Flood Planning Map. Further to that, the subject land is located outside the study catchment of the recent flood study Council had carried out for the Wyalong & West Wyalong Area. Approved DA2022/0022 included a Water Assessment prepared by Golder Member of WSP, dated 5 August 2021. This assessment determined that the site is not subject to flooding. The proposed modification is considered minor and is not likely to impact on existing conditions. Council has no record indicating the subject land may be impacted by flood. No further consideration necessary.	
Part 6 Additional local provisions		
6.1	Essential services	Complies
6.2	Earthworks	Complies
6.3	Terrestrial biodiversity	Not Applicable
6.4	Riparian land and watercourses	Not Applicable
6.5	Wetlands	Not Applicable
6.6	Groundwater vulnerability	Not Applicable
6.7	Repealed	Repealed
6.8	Airspace operations	Not Applicable
6.9	Location of sex services premises	Not Applicable
Comment:	6.1 Essential service - This proposed S4.55(2) modification is not likely to impact on nor require additional provision than that already approved.	
	6.2 Earthworks – Minor earthworks were approved as part of DA2022/0022 which were considered minor in nature and separate development consent is not warranted. The S4.55 Modification does not propose any additional earthworks to what was already approved.	
	6.3 Terrestrial biodiversity – The land has not been identified as being a ‘sensitive area’ on the Terrestrial Biodiversity Map. A Biodiversity Inspection Report was submitted as part of DA2022/0022 that provides recommendations to minimise risk to threatened species. The revised site layout of this proposed S4.55 (2) modification is considered to have a nenot likely to have a significant effect.	

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

PART 1.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION POLICY		
Is the proposal Advertised Development?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comment The proposed development is not identified as advertised development		
Did the application require Neighbour Notification?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comment This S4.55(2) Modification Application was notified in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan, as per the original Development Application, including same surrounding land owners and notification period of 28 days. The notification included on the NSW Planning Portal, letters to neighbours and on the Council website. Notification period was between 12/11/2024 and 10/12/2024. There was one (1) written submissions received during the notification period.		

PART 9 PRIMARY PRODUCTION		
Site Integration		
PPP1	Adjoining Uses Consideration is given to the nature of adjoining uses so as to obtain optimum amenity and privacy.	Meets Acceptable Solution
PPP2	Prevailing Winds Developments are located and designed to address prevailing winds.	Not Relevant
PPP3	Existing Opportunities Developments are located in order to make best use of existing infrastructure and resources.	Meets Acceptable Solution
PPP4	Natural Hazards The impacts of natural hazards, such as fire, flood and wind storms are reduced.	Not Relevant
Comment Original assessment as part of DA2022/0022 considered the development is proposed to be located in an existing rural area. Adjoining land uses are agricultural and it is not anticipated that the operation of a solar farm in the locality will impact the ability to carry out these activities. The proposed layout changes are considered minor and will have minimal impact on the previous assessment.		
Servicing		
PPP5	Water Water supply capable of servicing the needs of the proposed development in terms of domestic, stock, fire fighting and other needs is available.	Not Relevant
PPP6	Electricity Access to an electricity supply capable of servicing the proposed development.	Meets Acceptable Solution
PPP7	Telecommunications Access to telecommunications capable of servicing the proposed development is available.	Not Relevant
PPP8	Service Corridors	Not Relevant

	The location of proposed service corridors are chosen to minimise the impact on the environment and the agricultural use of the land.	
Comment This proposed S4.55(2) modification application is not likely to impact on nor require additional service than that already approved under DA2022/0022.		
Access		
PPP9	Sight Distance There is adequate sight distance to allow safe manoeuvring to and from the property.	Meets Acceptable Solution
PPP10	All Weather Access There is all weather access provided from the development to the public road.	Meets Acceptable Solution
PPP11	Access in times of flood Access is flood free where possible to allow safe transit during and after periods of heavy rain.	Meets Acceptable Solution
PPP12	Emergency Vehicles Access for emergency vehicles is available in times of fire, flood and other emergencies.	Meets Acceptable Solution
PPP13	Property Identification Property access must clearly identify the property address	Meets Acceptable Solution
Comment Access assessed and approved under DA2022/0004. It considered that the proposed access to the site will provide adequate site distance (>250 metres) to allow vehicles to safely enter and exit the site. The development proposes the construction of an access road to the site of the solar farm off Wargin Road. It is considered that this road will provide suitable access for emergency vehicles. The proposed S4.55(2) Modification does not alter, nor is it likely to impact on the already approved access. No further consideration necessary.		

PLANNING AGREEMENT

Section 4.15(1)(a) (iia) – EP & A Act

Is there a planning agreement in force under section 7.4 of the EP&A Act	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has a Planning Agreement been offered under this development?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PLANNING STRATEGIES/LOCAL POLICY

Is there a Planning Strategy or Local Policy that requires notation?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the applicant submitted any supporting planning assessments?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comment Reference is made to the Riverina-Murray Regional Plan 2041, which Bland LGA is apart of, and the Bland Local Strategic Planning Statement which both support and encourage renewable energy projects & development. The scope of works involved in this proposed S4.55(2) modification are considered minor in nature and do not change the overall function of the existing approved development, DA2022/0022.		

SUBDIVISION

Does this application include subdivision?

Yes ☐

No ☒

Comment

No, the applicant is not seeking consent for, nor does the development include subdivision.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Section 4.15(1)(b) – EP & A Act

	Impact		Comment
Social	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Solar farm projects are considered to have a positive social impact on communities by providing the provision of cleaner energy generation. The approved solar farm supports State and Federal climate change commitments. The S.4.55 modification which proposed to reduce the footprint of the solar farm site and increase the buffer zones along adjoining boundaries can help reduce the potential for disturbance to surrounding communities and environments.
Economic	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	It was raised within the 1 submission received that the proposed solar farm may impact on the value of neighbouring properties. The S.4.55(2) modification which proposed to reduce the footprint of the solar farm site and increase the setbacks and buffer zones along adjoining boundaries can help reduce the potential for disturbance to surrounding communities and environments. Therefore, is considered likely to have a negligible economic impact.
Siting & Configuration	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	This S4.55(2) modification includes the reduced footprint of the site area from 16.7 hectares to 10.62 hectares. The site layout has been reconfigured as the adoption of updated technology allows fewer solar modules to achieve the same output. This also increases the setback from the Northern Boundary and Duffs Road, whilst maintaining the same access points. Due to this, the proposed modification is considered likely to have a negligible impact.
Setbacks	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	S4.55(2) modification includes a reduced footprint of the solar farm site and increased setback from the northern boundary and Duffs Road which enhances the buffer zone between the site and adjoining neighbouring boundaries.
Privacy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S4.55(2) modification includes a reduced footprint of the solar farm site and increase in the buffer zone to adjoining neighbours. Therefore, will help reduce the potential for disturbance to surrounding adjoining neighbours.
Overshadowing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S4.55(2) modification includes a reduced footprint of the solar farm site and increase in the buffer zone to adjoining neighbours. Therefore, no likely impact.

Solar Access	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed modification, revised site layout, is considered likely to have a negligible impact on solar access.
Visual	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed modification, revised site layout, includes a reduced footprint of the solar farm site and increased setback from the northern boundary and Duffs Road which enhances the buffer zone between the site and adjoining neighbouring boundaries. Due to this, the proposed modification is considered likely to have a negligible visual impact.
Amenity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Due to reasons discussed throughout this report, including siting & configuration, increased setbacks, likely negligible impact on visual, noise and air, the proposed revised site layout of this S4.55(2) modification is not considered likely to vary the already assessed impact on amenity within the locality.
Water	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No additional water services or augmentation required as part of this S.4.55(2) modification application.
Air	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A previous assessment on air quality carried out as part of DA2022/0022 concluded that once the solar farm is in operation, there are no activities proposed that would cause adverse air pollution. The construction of the solar farm will not involve extensive earthworks, some pile driving for footing is required during the construction works. The proposed layout changes are minor and will have minimal impact on the previous assessment.
Noise	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Noise Assessment of the impacts of noise emissions was carried out by Muller Acoustic Consulting (MAC) for the original DA2022/0022. The proposed layout changes are minor and will have negligible impact on the acoustic impact at the site.
Land Degradation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no proposed change to the approved land use under DA2022/0022.
Vegetation Loss	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No additional vegetation is proposed to be removed as part of this S4.55 Modification application.
Flora & Fauna	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	It was considered as part of DA2022/0022 that the site was highly disturbed as a result of agricultural activities taking place on the site over many years. The land has not been identified being a 'sensitive area' on the Terrestrial Biodiversity Map. A biodiversity assessment was undertaken by Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd in accordance with Section 7.3 of the BC Act 2016 to determine the significance of potential impacts of the proposed development on any threatened species or communities which are listed within the Act which concludes that the project will not have a significant effect on any threatened species. The revised site layout is likely to have a negligible impact on biodiversity values.
Has a Threatened Species Impact Assessment been prepared?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Does the proposed development required approval under the EPBC Act?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Heritage	Impact		Comment
European	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As part of DA2022/0022, a due diligence assessment was carried out/implemented by way of the process outlined in the <i>Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> . The assessment found no known Aboriginal objects are listed in AHIMS, the site has been disturbed and farmed and does not possess significant landscape features. Existing condition applies under original DA in relation to discovery of artefacts. The revised site layout is likely to have a negligible impact on heritage.
Aboriginal	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the land classified as containing and item of environmental heritage?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is there an impact on a heritage item in the vicinity of the proposal?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comment The subject land is not identified as a heritage item under Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the Bland LEP, nor is it located in a Heritage Conservation area. Heritage item, West Wyalong Showground pavilions comprising Fine Arts Pavilion, Sheep Pavilion, Cattle Pavilion, Poultry Pavilion at By Pass Road, listed under Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the Bland LEP is located 1km Northwest of the subject site. The proposed modification, revised site layout, is considered to have a negligible impact. No further consideration necessary.			
Is this proposal in a heritage conservation area?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is this proposal in an adjoining or in close vicinity to a conservation area?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has a Heritage Impact Statement been prepared for the proposal?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has an Archaeological Survey been prepared for this proposal?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

FLOODING

Section 4.15(1)(b) – EP & A Act

Is this property flood affected?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comment The subject land is not identified on the Flood Planning Map. Further to that, the subject land is located outside the study catchment of the recent flood study Council had carried out for the Wyalong & West Wyalong Area. Therefore, Council has no record indicating the subject land may be impacted by flood. No further consideration necessary.		

BUSHFIRE PRONE LAND

Section 4.15(1)(b) – EP & A Act

Is this property bushfire prone as per the Bushfire Prone Land Map?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
At the time of assessment of DA2022/0022, the subject land was not identified as Bushfire Prone Land on the Bushfire Prone Land Map. However, changes have been made since, which the NSW RFS Commissioner Certified the Bland Shire Council Bush Fire Prone Land Map on the 12 September 2024. The land is currently mapped Bushfire Prone Lane, Vegetation Category 3, on the Bushfire Prone Land Map.		

A Fire Assessment report prepared by ITP Development Pty LTD was submitted with DA2022/0022. The report has recommended a 10-metre APZ around all infrastructure on site, as there are no proposed habitable buildings on site.

Any additional provisions required will be addressed by way of existing condition on DA2022/0022 approval, Emergency Management Plan which requires that:

G2 Emergency Management Plan

The approved Emergency Management Plan ('EMP') for the development shall be activated when required throughout the operation of the development and shall be updated if required.

During occupation of the development, the applicant must ensure the site is managed, in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 and the NSW Rural Fire Service's document Standards for Asset Protection Zones. Any required bushfire protection measures are to be maintained throughout the operation of the solar farm at the site.

Reason: To ensure the protection of human life, the environment and adjoining property in the event of fire or other emergency generated by the development.

CONTAMINATED LAND

Section 4.15(1)(b) – EP & A Act

Has this land been identified as being contaminated land by Council?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does this land require remediation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has a Contaminated Land Site Investigation been completed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is it possible that this land may be contaminated?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is this land in the close vicinity or adjoining a known contaminated site?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

INFRASTRUCTURE

Section 4.15(1)(b) – EP & A Act

Is an engineering assessment required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Has an engineering assessment been completed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Does this proposal have any potential impact on:			
	Impact		Comment
Sewer	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Whilst the subject site is located in a non-sewer serviced area and would require on-site sewerage management to service the site, the proposed S4.55(2) Modification Application does not include any required augmentation to sewer services. No further consideration necessary.
Water	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This S4.55(2) modification is not likely to impact on or augment any water requirements or quality of the already approved DA.

Drainage	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed modification, revised site layout, is considered likely to have a negligible impact on drainage.
Access	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	It is proposed to construct a vehicle access point and road on Wargin Road, Wyalong which will not vary from the existing approval, DA2022/0022. Therefore, the proposed modification, revised site layout, is considered likely to have a negligible impact on access.
Kerb & Gutter	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural land outside Council's urban area. No existing or required Kerb & Gutter.
Upgrade Existing Road	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This S4.55(2) modification does not propose any changes to approved access and traffic under DA2022/0022, therefore, no likely impact on existing road.
Road Network	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) was prepared by Triaxial Consulting and assessed as part of DA2022/0022. The TIA addressed the impacts of carparking, traffic and access at the site which determined the proposed construction of the solar farm will cause no long-term effect to the surrounding road network. The construction of the new access road to the site from an existing approved B-Double route will ensure traffic impacts are minimised during the short construction phase of the project. This S4.55(2) modification does not propose any changes to approved access and traffic under DA2022/0022. Traffic is not likely to increase as part of this proposed modification, therefore, no likely additional impact on the road network.
Existing Easements	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No likely impact.
Electricity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No likely impact.
Telecommunications	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No likely impact.
Pedestrian Access	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No likely impact.
Loading and Unloading	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No likely impact. Land is of a size to accommodate for loading and unloading wholly on-site.
Parking	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No likely impact. Land is of a size to accommodate designated parking on-site.
Energy Consumption	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No likely impact.
Does the development require any new easements?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan been submitted?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT

Is a construction certificate required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is a subdivision works certificate required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Was a construction certificate application submitted with this application?		NO

Has Council been appointed as the Principal Certifying Authority?		Not know at this stage. No CC has been submitted or applied for with Council.
Is an annual Fire Safety Certificate required?	YES	

SECTION 68 ASSESSMENT

Is a Section 68 assessment required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Section 68 assessment been completed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Was a Section 68 application submitted with this application?		NO
Comment: Condition already recognised on Development Consent DA2022/0022. No requirement to modify condition as part of this S4.55 Modification Application.		

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

Does this proposal require any Developer Contributions	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Amount	\$95,343.59	
Comment The above development contributions form part of the already approved conditions of consent od DA2022/0022. This proposed S4.55(2) modification will not vary the already approved amount.		

ADVERTISING SIGNAGE

Does this application include advertising signage?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has an assessment under SEPP 64 been carried out?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comment: This S4.55(2) Modification Application does not include any additional advertising signage.		

NOTIFICATION

Does this application required neighbour notification?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this application advertised development under the EP & A Act?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Was this application notified/advertised as per the provisions of:	DCP	
Was this application notified/advertised for public interest purposes only?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Dates notification undertaken:		
Commenced:	12/11/2024	Finished: 10/12/2024
Were there any written submissions received?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

This S4.55(2) Modification Application was notified as per the original Development Application, including same surrounding land owners and notification period of 28 days.

There was one (1) written submissions received during the notification period.

Issues	Comment
<p>Impact on the character and appearance of the area; Impact on value of neighbouring properties; Impact on the environment; and Direct visual impact.</p>	<p>The approved solar farm was assessed for the context and setting which considered the proposal to be generally consistent with the context of the site, in that the proposed solar farm is appropriate as a result of rural character and amenity of the locality. Surrounding development includes extensive agriculture and extractive industries. The nearest non-project related dwellings to the development were identified as being approximately 860 metres and 1.2 kilometres and were not considered to be significantly impacted. The approved development is located approximately 1 kilometre from the nearest public road and was considered not to be visually prominent in the locality.</p> <p>It was raised within the 1 submission, the owner of the subject land sought permission to remove vegetation within the road reserve for the purpose of erecting a new boundary fence along the northern boundary of the site. The approval and clearing was not associated with this approved development. There is still a significant amount of established vegetation within the road reserve offering screening from the development. Furthermore, landscaping which will provide screening shall be provided as per original conditions of consent. The revised site layout is likely to have a negligible impact on biodiversity values.</p> <p>Whilst the solar farm has previously been assessed for the context, setting and amenity with approval received under DA2022/0022, it is considered that the reduced footprint (16.17ha to the proposed 10.62ha) and increased setbacks is an improvement, reducing any potential amenity impacts on neighbouring lots.</p>

SECTION 88B INSTRUMENT

Does Council require a Section 88b instrument to be prepared?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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PUBLIC INTEREST

Does this proposal have any construction or safety issues?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comment: <p>The public interest is a broad consideration relating to many issues and is not limited to the issues discussed in this report. Taking into account the full range of matters considered as part of the original assessment of DA2022/0022 under Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, it was considered approval of the application is in the public interest. The proposal provides an opportunity for the generation of clean, renewable energy which has been identified as a priority growth sector. The submitted Statement of Environmental Effects with DA2022/0022 considered the environmental impacts of the development and applies environmental management principles to the proposal. Accordingly, it was considered that the proposal is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.</p> <p>The revised site layout proposed as part of this S4.55 Modification is likely to have a negligible impact.</p>		
Are there any public health issues associated with the proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there any other public interest issues?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SITE SUITABILITY

Is the site suitable for the development?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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ASSESSING OFFICER COMMENT

Comment: <p>This S4.55(2) modification application to the approved, but not yet constructed Electricity Generating Works (Solar Farm) proposes to amend the site layout.</p> <p>Due to changes and advances in technology in panels, a reduced number of solar modules and piling is required for the project without reducing the output.</p> <p>The S4.55(2) modification proposes only 11,232 solar modules resulting in a reduced footprint the solar farm will cover on site, being an area of 10.62ha. The revised layout provides 2 neater rows of solar modules rather than 3, increasing the setback distances from the northern boundary and Duffs Road. Therefore, increasing the buffer zone between the site and adjoining neighbouring boundaries.</p> <p>Whilst the solar farm has previously been assessed for the context, setting and amenity with approval received under DA2022/0022, it is considered that the reduced footprint (16.17ha to the proposed 10.62ha) and increased setbacks is an improvement, reducing any potential amenity impacts on neighbouring lots.</p> <p>There is no change to the approved land use or the general operational details of the approval, therefore, the modification is considered substantially the same development. It is considered that the S4.55(2) modification application can be supported.</p>	
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RECOMMENDATION

Approved

Comment:

The proposed S4.55(2) modification application is considered substantially the same development and can be supported. Recommendation be the S4.55(2) modification application be approval subject to the draft modified conditions of consent.

Section 4 – Reports for Information

Recommendation:

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

7.14 - Community Development Update

7.15 - Bland Shire Library Monthly Update

7.16 - Children Services December/January Update

7.17 - Bland Community Care Services Update December 2024 & January 2025

7.18 - Museum Advisory Report December 2024

7.19 - Technical Services Report

7.20 - Development Services Activity Report – January 2025

7.21 - Development Services Activity Report – December 2024

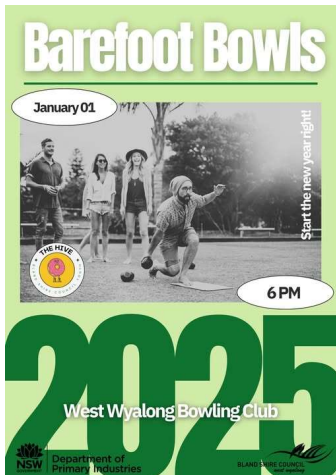
7.14 Community Development Update



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



School Holiday Activities

Bland Shire Council was successful in receiving funding from the NSW Government to support an Event with a Barefoot Bowls evening held at the West Wyalong Bowling Club on Wednesday 1 January 2025. Participants played bowls followed by a BBQ dinner.



Other activities throughout January consisted of:

- Yoga sessions at the Youth Centre, Monday 6 and Monday 20 January
- 3v3 Basketball at the West Wyalong Stadium each Wednesday throughout January
- Escape Room at the Youth Centre, Sunday 12 January
- Table Tennis at the Youth Centre, Monday 13 January
- Dungeons and Dragons at the Youth Centre, Friday 17 January
- Plug and Play at the Royal Hotel, Sunday 19 January
- Emergency Services Afternoon at the Youth Centre, Tuesday 21 January



Australia Day 2025

Council received funding from the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council, which assisted in providing a free community breakfast, catered by the West Wyalong Lions Club, with 320 breakfasts prepared and distributed before the Australia Day Awards Ceremony held at Barnado Park. It is estimated that approximately 360 people were in attendance. Following this, free entry, water slide and inflatable was on offer at Holland Park Pool, West Wyalong, with 455 people making the most of the opportunity and a further 56 people took advantage of free entry and an inflatable at Ungarie Pool from 12pm-5pm the same day.



Positive feedback has been received from the community regarding this year's Australia Day Ambassador, Warwick Nowland. Warwick and his family attended the Mayoral Reception on Saturday 25 January, Australia Day Breakfast and Awards at Barnado Park, West Wyalong and was able to make an appearance at the Ungarie War Memorial Hall for the breakfast and awards ceremony held there, Barmemdan Mineral Pool Celebrations, Barmemdan Yabbie Races and also attended the Community BBQ at Sunshine Park, Mirrool.

Congratulations to the following who received awards at this year's event (pictured clockwise from top left):

- Community Event of the Year: Back to Barmemdan
- Community Service Award: Glenys Haworth
- Young Sportspersons of the Year: Evie Henley and Charlie Sutton
- Sportsperson of the Year: Anne-Maree Carter
- Young Citizen of the Year: Macey Cown
- Citizen of the Year: Marie Seckold



Australia Day Celebrations were also held in Barmedman, Mirrool and Ungarie, with assistance from Bland Shire Council, providing \$500 to each village as a contribution to their events.



Youth Services Officer

Bland Shire Council's Youth Services Officer, Macey Cowen finished her role on 31 January 2025 and is headed off to University. We thank Macey for all her efforts whilst being with Bland Shire Council and wish her all the best for the future. Council has commenced recruitment to fill this role. We are anticipating that the newly appointed Youth Services Officer will commence in February 2025.

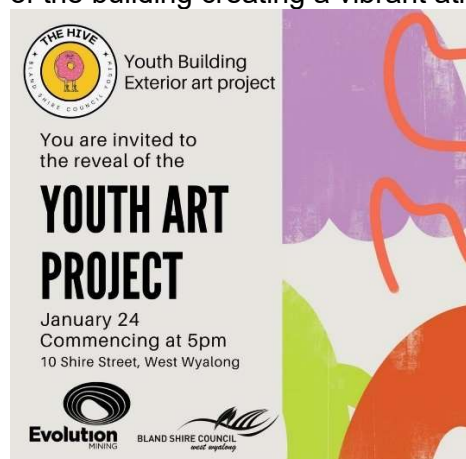
Youth Art Project

On Friday 24 January, Bland Shire Council unveiled the Youth Art Project featuring nine panels of bring coloured art produced by local youth under the guidance of artist Emily Shannon. The exterior art project was made possible by funding provided by Evolution Mining and Council thanks the company for its continued support with this project.

This artwork is completely youth led which reinforces the ownership the youth have for the building. Through this ownership, it is hoped to encourage the youth to continue to use the facility whilst also having a sense of pride of their designs.

Panels were unveiled by artist Emily Shannon, Bland Shire Council's Youth Services Officer, Macey Cowen, Renee Pettit representing Evolution Mining and youth who participated in the creation of the artworks.

Located directly next to Council's main office on Shire Street, the artwork brightens the exterior of the building creating a vibrant atmosphere for young people.



7.15 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



Christmas Activity Book Update

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

Over 100 copies were distributed, **raising in total \$365**. This initiative once again showcased the community's generosity, as many individuals, including visitors, contributed donations.

Pictured left with Bland Shire Council's Coordinator of Library Services is local Country Hope representative, Bernadette Pettit.

Santa's Mailbox Update

Santa's Mailbox, which was available exclusively for Bland Shire Library members and their immediate families, **received a total of 100 letters**, each of which received a personalised response directly from Santa.

Despite a post deadline, several letters were delivered after the cut-off date. However, these letters still received a personalised reply, demonstrating the dedication and commitment of library staff. It should also be noted that a large portion of replies were completed in staff's own time and hand delivered afterhours to ensure that each child received their letter from Santa on time.



Lego Club – Celebrates End of Year



Bland Shire Library's monthly Lego Club for school-age children marked its final session for 2024 with a festive celebration on Wednesday, 4th December. The event saw a great turnout, with around 50 attendees. Participants were given a fun challenge to build a new sleigh for Santa before enjoying some treats and afternoon tea. The session wrapped up with each child receiving a Christmas-themed drink vessel as a gift.

With school resuming the first week of February, Lego Club – which is normally held the first Wednesday of each month – recommenced on Wednesday, 12th February 2025, at 3:30pm.

GOLD Club – Final Session for 2024

Bland Shire Library's GOLD Club for seniors (GOLD an acronym for Growing Old & Living Decisively) celebrated its final session for 2024 with a festive gathering on Monday, 2nd December. Twelve seniors took part in a range of Christmas-themed cognitive activities. The group enjoyed a festive afternoon tea, and each senior was presented with a small token gift from the library staff. GOLD Club – held fortnightly – recommenced on Monday, 20th January 2025, at 2:00pm.



Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices – End of Year Visit

Bland Shire Library hosted an end of year visit from Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices on Thursday 5th December. The clients and their carers (14 in total) were treated to lunch, before partaking in a game of roll-the-dice gift exchange, followed by a Christmas painting activity.

It is anticipated that Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices will continue to visit Bland Shire Library each term in 2025.



Baby Bounce – Friday 6th December

Bland Shire Library's Baby Bounce program for babies aged 0–24 months held its final session of 2024 on Friday, 6th December. The session saw a wonderful turnout, with 13 adults and 18 babies and toddlers joining in the fun. Participants enjoyed a variety of popular action songs and other activities. As a token of appreciation, each baby received a board book. Participants then took the opportunity to have a Christmas photo taken with their baby.

Baby Bounce, which is held fortnightly, excluding school holidays, resumed Friday, 14th February 2025, at 10:30am.

Knit and Knatter – Tuesday 10th December

To celebrate another outstanding year for Bland Shire Library's knitting group, Knit and Knatter members enjoyed an afternoon tea, followed by a fun roll-the-dice gift exchange game that provided plenty of entertainment. The group, which remains dedicated to knitting for charitable causes, also crafted a beautiful hand-knitted Christmas tree for the library. The tree, which served as the centrepiece for the library's Christmas Food and Gifts Appeal, was a standout attraction for both patrons and visitors.

Knit n Knatter resumed in January and continues to meet every second Tuesday from 2:00pm.



After School Christmas Craft

Bland Shire Library hosted an after-school Christmas Craft session for children preschool age and up on Wednesday, 11th December 2024. The session had a capped number of spots, making booking essential and a small fee required. However, due to high demand, the library was able to accommodate a few additional participants, bringing the total to 37 children with 12 adults in attendance. According to all reports – it was a wonderful afternoon for everyone involved. The day wrapped up with children creating Christmas ornaments using paint, stickers, glue, and plenty of glitter, along with lots of treats and smiles all around



Storytime – Visit from Santa

A magical Storytime was held on Thursday, 12th December, with a special visit from Santa to end 2024 on a high. Santa's helpers on the day were volunteer students Gemma Lord and Mae Eyles, both Year 9 students at the West Wyalong High School. The girls assisted Santa in handing out to each child a lolly bag and a Christmas-themed foam dot craft kit.

Storytime, which is held weekly during the school term, resumed Thursday, 13th February 2025, at 10:30am.



Tech Savvy Seniors – Close of Year Program

The final session of Tech Savvy Seniors for 2024 took place on Tuesday morning, 17th December. Participants were treated to a special morning tea, with discussions about future tech needs. In total, Bland Shire Library assisted **338** participants during its Tech Savvy Seniors sessions throughout 2024.

Tech Savvy Seniors – held weekly during the school term from 10:00am to 12 noon – reconvened on Tuesday 4th February 2025.



Ungarie Central School Visit

Bland Shire Library welcomed a visit from the Kinder and Year 1 students at Ungarie Central School on Tuesday, 17th December 2024. The students enjoyed listening to Christmas stories, took part in a Christmas craft activity, and were then given free time to explore the library and try out a range of other activities. At the conclusion, each student received a special Christmas cookie and a bag of Christmas lollies to take away.

Christmas Promotions – Winners

For a bit of festive fun, Bland Shire Library gave junior patrons the opportunity to win a large jar of lollies for Christmas. Children simply had to guess the number of lollies in the jar during each visit to the library. The winner – announced Saturday 16th December 2024 – was Iris Jarrett, 3, who correctly guessed 424 lollies.

Bland Shire Library also gave its adult members the opportunity to win a gourmet hamper from Thom Dick and Harry's just in time for Christmas. Patrons simply had to enter their name on a ticket each time they visited the



2024-25 Summer Reading Challenge

Bland Shire Library's Summer Reading Club 40-Day Challenge got off to an incredible start with over 100 registrations when the program launched in November last year. The incentive-based program, which encouraged participants to read for at least 40 days between December 1 and January 31, will conclude with a presentation and finale party on Wednesday, 19th February, from 3:30pm.

As part of the program, participants had fun selecting lucky dip prizes – an unexpected reward for completing their first five days of reading and again as a reward for achieving thirty days of reading. Participants were also given an exciting Bingo Challenge sheet to complete throughout December and January. This added a lot of fun as children visited the library to search for Ray the Elf and the library's specially painted SRC rocks.

Other challenges included recording themselves reading in a makeshift fort, creating a bookmark, writing a book review, finishing the sentence “I love Bland Shire Library because ...,” re-reading a favourite book, and reading a book by an author they had never explored before.

In addition, a weekly draw was held each Friday during December and January, exclusively for registered SRC members, and a lolly guessing competition with the winner to be announced at the presentation and finale party.

Sponsors for the 2024-25 Summer Reading Challenge include The L & R Group (Holland Park Pool), Bernardi's Group, West Wyalong French Hot Bread, and Evolution Cowal Gold.



Reptiles on the Go – Thursday 9 January

Bland Shire Library hosted a one-hour session of Reptiles on the Go, providing a fun and educational "hands-on" experience for children of all ages. Due to the interactive nature of the live show and to prioritise the well-being of the animals (which included several types of lizards, tortoise, snake, and crocodile), attendance was capped. The event was highly informative and entertaining, with the session fully booked and all funds raised supporting WIRES Riverina.



My Pet Dinosaur – Wednesday 29 January

The one-hour event, presented by Just Dream Productions, showcased life-like dinosaurs that captivated both children and adults. The event featured an informative presentation about dinosaurs, with fossils on display for viewing and touching, interactive time with the dinosaurs, and various other enjoyable activities. Coordinated by Riverina Regional Library, the event had limited availability and was completely booked.

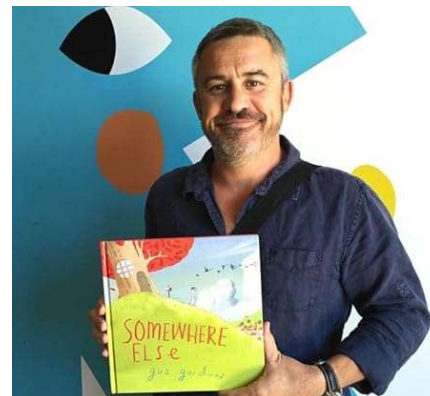


Library Lovers – February 2025

Library Lovers highlights the value of libraries and the joy of reading throughout February. Bland Shire Library organised a range of activities within its regular programs to celebrate Library Lovers. In addition, as part of the fun, the library held a “Blind Date with a Book” event for its adult members, where participants who were willing to take a chance on a mystery book were entered into a draw for a chance to win prizes. In addition, all new members registered during the month of February received a token gift.

Author Visit – Gus Gordon 10 – 14 March 2025

Bland Shire Library is thrilled to welcome author and illustrator Gus Gordon for a five-day residency in March 2025. Gus has illustrated and written over 80 books for children and received multiple awards for his work. During this visit, Gus will engage with all nine schools across the Bland LGA. However, while in previous years the library has been fortunate to secure up to four sessions per day, this time, only three standard sessions per day have been allocated. For this reason, Naradhan Public School students will participate in a combined session at Weethalle Public School.



Coordinator Library Services Honoured

The Coordinator of Library Services for Bland Shire Council was honoured at the West Wyalong High School end-of-year presentation held on Friday 13th December 2024.

Mrs Lange was inducted onto the school's honour board in recognition of her outstanding contribution made to West Wyalong High School. Mrs Lange has been an employee of Bland Shire Council for the past 35 years.

RRL Mobile Library – NBN Information Session

An NBN information session was held during the mobile library's visit to Barmedman on Friday, 31st January 2025. Residents had the opportunity to have a one-on-one discussion and ask questions about NBN's regional upgrade at the NBN information zone set up near the mobile library. Riverina Regional Library will be promoting further events on the mobile library with NBN.

RRL Advisory Committee

The next meeting of the Riverina Regional Library's Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on 26 March 2025.

7.16 Children Services December/January 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

December and January went in a flash. December was spent celebrating the enormous year we had at CSU. Saying goodbye to families that have been on a Preschool journey for the past two years can be hard, but knowing we have prepared the children (as best we can) for their future at school is very rewarding.

Santa visited each of the classes to wish them a Merry Christmas and proved them with a beautiful gift. He listened to everyone's Christmas wish list and answered some very interesting questions. Thanks Santa.



Our wonderful friends at Kurrajong were thanked for all their help and coffee deliveries in 2024. Their visits to CSU have been valuable to staff, children and the Kurrajong community. As a thank you for their weekly visits, our Kurrajong friends were treated to a chocolate gift on the final coffee delivery for 2024. We look forward to doing it all again in 2025.



Educators enjoyed a well-deserved two week break before they returned in January to clean and prepare for the year ahead. Toys were cleaned, walls were washed, mats steamed, furniture painted, and classrooms rearranged for what we hope is a magical year ahead.

Educators got together for a reflection meeting and took a look back at the year that was, we then planned for the year ahead. Educators shared many ideas and made some operational changes to make the year a huge success.

Staffing & Recruitment – A huge congratulations to Braela Bell and Kim Chandler Van-Vliet who both completed their Certificate III in Early Education and Care in December.

An Early Childhood Teacher position was advertised in January, sadly there were no applicants. This will be readvertised in the coming months.

CSU farewelled Educational Leader Ashley Nicholson in December. Ash commenced at CSU over 12 years ago and held various positions, she will be missed and we wish her well for her next journey. Nicketa Lamb was recruited to replace Ash as the Educational Leader. Nicketa commenced at CSU in January and has settled well. We look forward to hearing her ideas and suggestions to further promote our CSU service.

Staff training – Educators participated in First Aid/CPR training and updated their Child Protection training to the newest qualification. Other Educators participated in “Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder training” and Neurodiversity Affirming Approach webinars. Educators completed a Philosophy Update – something that has not been looked at for many years. All Educators contributed and we are excited to display this in the foyer to showcase the reasons why we do what we do.

Family Day Care Closure – December saw the closure of Bland/Temora Family Day Care. In 2025 it would have been the 40th year FDC operated in West Wyalong. This service has been such an asset to the community over these years. Educators were sad to see the closure but also felt the time was right. With the closure of FDC, CSU farewelled one of our long time Educators, Tracey Maybury. Tracey commenced at CSU in 2008 and has been a well-respected colleague and Educator to many children. Tracey’s final role was supporting officer in FDC where she valued individual educators vision and showed continued support to FDC educators, their children and families. CSU will not be the same without her smiling face and friendship.



Bland Preschool – Senior Early Childhood Teacher

In January, staff dedicated time to ensuring that everything was in place for the upcoming preschool term. This included thoroughly cleaning and organizing resources to create a welcoming environment for the children’s return. A comprehensive stock take was conducted, allowing staff to assess inventory levels and replenish supplies where needed. Additionally, staff worked on preparing educational programs tailored to the needs and interests of the children, ensuring a smooth transition into the new term. A reflection meeting was held to review the previous year, allowing staff to discuss areas for improvement and collaborate on new ideas. This meeting also facilitated the development of a new service philosophy, which aligns with the unit’s values and goals, offering clear guidance for future decisions and actions.

To further support staff development, a variety of professional development and training activities were completed. The training also covered best practices and regulatory updates, ensuring that staff are well-prepared to meet the needs of the children. With these efforts, the Bland Shire Children’s Services Unit is well-positioned to begin the new term with a motivated, well-equipped team and a strong foundation for continued success.



The past two months have been a blend of celebration and preparation, with December's events fostering community engagement and January's activities ensuring a seamless start to the new preschool term.

Mobile Resource Unit/Ungarie Preschool – Room Leader

December was an eventful and festive month for our preschool, as we celebrated Christmas and wrapped up the year with a series of fun activities.

Key Highlights

End-of-Year Christmas Party and Graduation:

We hosted a memorable Christmas party and graduation event, bringing together the preschool families and the wider Ungarie community. The celebration featured an afternoon tea, festive activities, and a special visit from Santa Claus. This was a fantastic opportunity to strengthen community ties and celebrate the achievements of our preschoolers.

The event reflected strong community involvement and support, emphasizing the important role our preschool plays within Ungarie.

Enrolment Updates

New Enrolments:

We welcomed two new families into our preschool community this month, increasing our enrolment numbers and setting a positive tone for the upcoming year.

Inquiries for 2025:

There has been significant interest from families about enrolling their children for 2025, which highlights the growing reputation of our preschool. So far 15 children are enrolled for Ungarie Preschool in 2025.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare for 2025, the increased inquiries and enrolments signal a promising year ahead. Our focus will remain on fostering strong community connections, providing high-quality early education, and welcoming new families into our preschool.

December has concluded with a sense of accomplishment and optimism, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead!

It Takes a Village (ITAV) – Service Leader

Playgroups: Tallimba, Ungarie and Children Services playgroup do not operate during January holidays. The first playgroup of the year was scheduled for February 10th at Bland Shire Children Services Unit. Tallimba Public School requested that Tallimba playgroup could be held at their school rather than the Tallimba Hall. The school felt the change of venue would help promote the use of their school.

Toy Library: New items were purchased for Toy Library and added to the rotation of toys. See attached pictures. The Paw Patrol has been popular. Stocktake is conducted during January. Only a few toys were unaccounted for.

Facebook: Bland Shire it Takes a Village: Followers: 316 with 301 likes.

Data Exchange (DEX): As it approaches 30th January all contract requirements have been entered into the Data Exchange. The requirements entail entering client information such as (though not limited to) Toy Library usage into the DEX portal. The Data Exchange portal has two standardised six-monthly periods that cover 1st of January to 30 of June and 1 July to 31st of December. The Data Exchange reflects the two-way part partnership of information sharing between funding agencies and service providers to enable a more efficient way of improving service delivery and understanding overall outcomes being achieved for Bland Shire community members.



7.17 Bland Community Care Services Update December 2024 & January 2025



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

December was a busy month with lots of Christmas celebrations for Bland Community Care Service Groups (as detailed below).

The Bland Community Care Service Office was closed from Friday 20th December 2024 to Monday 6th January 2025. Services were reduced during this period as some clients were away or had family visiting.

Services returned to normal from Monday 6th January 2025, with Groups recommencing the week of the 13th.

Bland Community Care Service Staff have new Uniforms consisting of a scrub top, which is proving much cooler on these hot days.

Service Update

Intakes under Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) have slowed due to the large waitlist and staff restraints. Bland Community Care Services (BCCS) is 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 onboarding new clients where possible. 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.

Staff Training

Wednesday 29th January 2025 - All Bland Community Care Service Staff completed either First Aid or CPR Courses. This is part of Staff Mandatory Training.

Tuesday 21st January – Workshop & Plant Coordinator, Paul Glennon, attended Bland Community Care Service to train the Staff in what needs to be recorded on the Vehicle Inspection Logs.

1 Staff member continues her training in the Certificate III Individual Support.

Group Updates:

Bland Blokes

Bland Blokes continue to meet on a weekly basis each Tuesdays at 9:30am. New members are welcome to attend and join in for Morning Tea and conversation with like-minded people. The Bland Blokes has five regular attendees.

Bland Blokes enjoyed a Christmas Luncheon at Tatts Hotel on Tuesday 17th December.



Wednesday Activity Group

Wednesday Activity Day continues weekly – Wednesdays 10am. Group numbers have been lower than usual throughout December 2024 and January 2025 with a lot of clients away, or had family home, over the Christmas and New Year period. Clients have opted to stay at home in January due to the extreme heat.

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):

DECEMBER 2024 – finishing for the year on 18th December

Wednesday 4th December 2024 – 7 attendees

Wednesday 11th December 2024 – 6 attendees

Wednesday 18th December 2024 – 10 attendees

JANUARY 2025 – returning 15th January 2025

Wednesday 15th January 2025 – 5 attendees

Wednesday 22nd January 2025 – 6 attendees

Wednesday 29th January 2025 – attendees **CANCELLED DUE TO STAFF TRAINING**

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

On Wednesday 4th December WAD clients enjoyed decorating Christmas cookies. Lots of laughs as clients marvelled at their creations.



On Wednesday 11th December, the WAD group attended a Christmas Concert at the Little Wattle Daycare Centre. There was a special guest at the Daycare Centre – an actor from the ABC Playschool Program. Clients enjoyed listening to his stories. One client took her porcelain doll along for the morning – the children asked her lots of questions. Whilst eating lunch back at the Community Care Centre, clients were serenaded by the Wyalong School Choir. The choir sang a variety of Christmas carols.



On Wednesday 18th December, WAD group celebrated Christmas. Clients were entertained by Stan Dodgson who played the organ and the piano accordion. A beautiful Christmas lunch was served to all. After lunch client played Christmas Bingo. Clients were all gifted a Christmas box containing White Christmas and Rocky Road.



On Wednesday 22nd January clients and Staff celebrated Australia Day. Clients played Australian themed trivia, quizzes and a thong throwing game. Australian themed lunch consisted of Meat Pies & Mash and Pavlova. Lamingtons were served for afternoon tea.

Gentle Exercise Group

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. Client numbers have been low this month due to clients opting to stay home in the extreme heat. A Christmas Luncheon for all clients that participate in the Exercise Groups, as well as the facilitators, was held on Thursday 19th December.



7.18 Bland Shire Council Museum Advisor Report December 2024

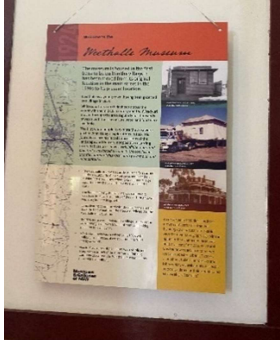


Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected, and inclusive community

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

Author: Museum Advisor

Weethalle Museum - Monday 9 December



It is amazing what a little blocking of spaces will do. Over the last year we have covered the space above the bank entry doors – stopping the hot wind access and lessening draughts in the building. The back door has been replaced with a solid door – no more broken glass! And the ceiling in the middle room has been repaired. All these measures have meant that far less dust has been able to enter the building so much less cleaning and a safer place for the objects. The mMuseum is at the best it has ever looked!

Plus, after all the work Michelle and her team of volunteers have done in the lead up to the Centenary weekend, cleaning and updating displays has made a huge difference to look and feel of the museum. Thank you also must go to Lyall and the volunteers from the Wyalong Museum who have assisted over the year.

Thank you must also go to Museums & Galleries NSW for the Lights On, Doors Open Grant, which supplied the funds for the new interpretation panels. The panels add introductory information on the community of Weethalle and its history, plus a pop of colour, as well as showcasing some of the historic images from the museum collection.

Margot and Michelle were able to catch up with Stephanie Healy – Treasurer for Whistle Stop Arts and Crafts, to discuss future plans for creating some community engagement with the Museum and the Whistle Stop Arts and Crafts. The Museum and the Shop are the only tourism offerings besides the Silo Art and the Brown Machinery Collection in town. The Silos and the Machinery Collection do not provide human engagement with a local though.

Next year we will review and update the Strategic Plan and Collections Policy for the Museum. Thank you for your hard work, Michelle Jolly X

Wyalong Museum



The Wyalong Museum team are never idle! There is a new Christmas display in the kitchen displaying recipes for Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings – yum!

Two new donations of children's nightwear is on display in the Bedroom. Beautifully cleaned, they showcase amazing needle work you rarely anymore.

Diane, Lavinia and I assessed a collection of wonderful dresses from a local woman. The collection included underclothing – petticoats and corset. The dresses are late 50s and 60s. They are cocktail or dance frocks, some off the rack and at least one handmade. The dresses add to the textile collection. They have a good provenance. We are hoping we may be able to source some images of them being worn.

It has been a busy year for the Museum.

- They have launched a local history, continued to produce a great newsletter, provided morning teas for several events, run stalls and changed displays regularly as well as keeping a beautifully clean and well-presented museum.
- The team maintain great collection management with best practiced stored and documented collection, in a small but very well organised storage room.
- The other storage areas continue to be improved through volunteer labour and dedication.
- Schools have exciting visits where volunteer guides provide engaging and informative interaction.
- And the Museum successfully hosted the Southern NSW Heritage Group. This group comprises museum volunteers from all over the Riverina. The group was very impressed with the museum.

Last of all the Museum continues to receive great reviews for visitors. Congratulations to the team at the Wyalong Museum!

Ungarie Museum - Tuesday 10 December



Today we tackled the trophies and the camera collection. Unfortunately, we do not know who donated the cameras. It is certainly an interesting one - containing a selection of Kodak Brownies from the 30s 40s and 50s. Also catalogued was a very early 8mm projector manufactured in France.

As is often the way when Don and Vanessa and Margot are working in the Museum we had a couple of visitors from the local area.

A huge thank you must go to Don and Mary Duncan and Vanessa Williams for coming to work with me every month.

The museum is looking better and better. I look forward to getting more done next year.

To all the museums in the Bland Shire well done for 2024 and enjoy a well-earned break from me!

Next visit will be on 3 & 4 February 2025

7.19 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 Undertaken Jan 2025

Maintenance Wet Grading

Lone Pine Road
Heaton's Lane
Buttenshaw's Lane
Cartwrights Lane
Dalgliesh's Lane
Tait's Lane

Flood Damage Repairs

Sunderland's Lane
Cartwright's Lane
Cottingley's Lane
Sutcliffe's Lane

Sealed Road Patching Works

- Work has been on going on all Regional/Rural sealed Roads (Jet patcher)
- Urban roads in West Wyalong & Wyalong

Gravel Re-sheeting

Sunderland's Lane F/D & RTR
Sutcliffe's Lane F/D & RTR
Cottingley's Lane F/D

Heavy Patching

New program to be released

Re-sealing

New Program to be released

Works Planned March 2025

Flood Damage Repairs

- Charcoal Tank Rd
- Pursehouse Lane
- Lemons Lane
- Heath's Lane

Maintenance Grading/Wet Grade

Bradbury's Lane
Gibbons Lane

Sealed Road Patching Works

On going.

Gravel Re-sheeting

Beattie's Lane

Martens Lane

Mud Hut Rd

Heavy Patching

New Program to be released

Environmental December/January 2024/2025

The Murray River Encephalitis virus was detected in West Wyalong recently by Bland Shire staff's Arbovirus testing program. The program involves mosquito trapping and blood testing of chickens in conjunction with Murrumbidgee Health and is carried out on a weekly basis. It is part of the overall NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito monitoring program, which involves the analysis of blood samples taken from sentinel chicken flocks, and the carriers – mosquitos.

Dust monitoring was carried out at the West Wyalong Airport in conjunction with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water. This National initiative involves the checking of sensitive dust monitoring equipment each month to ensure that accurate data is captured.

Fire hazaRoad reduction mowing was carried out at Ungarie, and West Wyalong, with spray control at Mirrool.

Road Shoulders mown – Mary Gilmore Way, Kildary Road, Alleena Road, Wargin Road, Bellarwi. Road, Williams Crossing Road, Warbilla Road, Greens Lane.

Vegetation control - Staniforths Lane.

Biosecurity - Weeds

"Weed of the Month" is published monthly on the Council's social media page, which gives information on weeds of concern.

Biological Control – Biosecurity staff continue to monitor bio-control release sites of "Cochineal" on Wheel cactus, Pencil cactus and Velvet Tree Pair, with positive results shown of the bio agents spreading throughout each infestation. Two new sites have been selected for release, one at Calleen and one in Ungarie, to take place in early February. A harvest of Cochineal and another agent, "Cactoblastis" was conducted to share with the Narrandera Shire for release.

"Cactoblastis" arrived in the shire and has spread throughout many varied species of cactus. "*Lixus caRoadui*" (OnopoRoadum stem-boring weevil) has arrived also in the shire and is being spread amongst the Scotch Thistle infestations along the Humbug Creek.

High Risk Pathway Weed Inspections –, Mid-Western Highway, West Wyalong-Condobolin Road, Lake Road, Goldfields Way, Quandialla Road., Hillston Road, Rankin Springs Road, Mary Gilmore Way, and the Newell Highway.

The following Biosecurity weeds and other controls were undertaken.

- Blue Heliotrope - Acacia Street (bushland), Ungarie rail Roads, Buddigower Road, Wamboyne Road.

- Spiny Burr Grass - West Wyalong Rail corridor, West Wyalong Show Ground, Abernethys Lane, Nielsons Lane, Kolkilbertoo Road, Sandy Creek Road, Mcdermotts Lane, Gunns Road, South Yalgogrin Road, Sprys Lane, Cottingley Lane, Clear Ridge Road, Lonegans 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.
- Silver Leaf Night Shade - Youngareen Road, Browns Lane, Calleen Lane, Harts Lane, Tallimba Road, Meaghers, West Wyalong Saleyards, Wargin Road, Hollands Lane, Merringreen Road, Dalys Lane.
- Stem Injection of Cactus -, Ungarie area, Hatelys Lane, Womboyne Road, Alleena Road, Bellarwi Road, Wargin Road, 57Nth, Wilga Plains Road.
- St John's Wort -, Youngareen Road, Cattles Lane, Kolkilbertoo Road, Wargin Road, Bellarwi Road, Browns Lane, Calleen Lane.
- African Boxthorn - Browns Lane, Calleen Lane, Bellarwi Road.
- Bathurst Burr - Youngareen Road, Calleen Lane, West Wyalong Saleyards.
- Devils Claw - Gunn Road, Grahams Lane.
- Thorn Apple - Grahams Lane.

Town Weed Spraying - Barmedman, Weethalle, Ungarie, West Wyalong - including footpaths and the green corridor which was sprayed for cat heads and khaki weed.

Weed spraying was undertaken at the West Wyalong Cemetery, Saleyards and Council Depots.

Meat Ant control carried out in West Wyalong.

Photos show Mark Holmes taking blood samples from the Sentinel Chicken flock, part of the Murrumbidgee Arbovirus surveillance program.



The Bio-control agent "Cochineal", which was released by the Biosecurity team in October 2023, as part of a control program for certain "Opuntia" species (Cactus). Result of the Bio-control agents "Cochineal" and "Cactoblastis" working on Velvet Tree Pear (Cactus).



Biosecurity staff member – Kelvin Frame, setting up the Mosquito trapping device as part of the Arbovirus surveillance program.



Villages / Works Undertaken – January & February

Monday's – Weethalle + Tallimba: Clean toilets; Mow and whipper snip town/parks and cemetery; tree trimming; spray drains,

Tuesday's – Ungarie: Mow and whipper snip sporting field; Push mow and whipper-snip park; Mow and whipper-snip town areas; Tree trimming; Spray for weeds; visual Park inspection. Remove the synthetic grass of Ungarie cricket pitch to get ready for cricket season.

Wednesday's – Barmedman: Mow and whipper snip parks and towns Tree trimming visual Park inspection.

Thursday's – Ungarie: Mow and whipper snip sporting field; Push mow and whipper-snip park; Mow and whipper-snip town areas; Tree trimming; Spray for weeds; visual Park inspection.

Mow and whipper snip trim trees at Naradhan (3rd February)

Friday's – Weethalle: Clean toilets; Mow whipper-snip, playground and town entrance.

Park Maintenance

Mow whipper-snip and edge all Parks

Take Christmas tree down

Check irrigation

Park inspection

Weed gardens

Trim trees

Fix water leaks

Spray weeds in park gardens

Mow whipper-snip pre-school

Fix irrigation at toppy museum

Fix fountain at Barnardo Park

Watered trees at McCann park

Hedge the hedge at McCann park

Set up for Australia day and pack

Cemetery Maintenance

Mow whipper snip and edge cemetery

Check graves once dug

Check backfill once back filled

Check irrigation

Back fill graves when they sink

Fix irrigation pipes when they have been hit

Move shelters for funerals

Attached plaques at the cemetery

Sporting Fields Maintenance

Round up rec surrounds
Linemark cricket rec
Linemark touch
Round up Ron Crowe surrounds
Linemark cricket perso
Broadleaf Ron Crowe
Wetting agent
McAlister Oval Linemarking
Cricket redman Oval
Fertilise McAlister Oval
Fertilise Ron Crowe
Wetting agent Ron Crowe
Replace sprinklers Ron Crowe
Broad leaf surrounds Ron Crowe
Mow Redman Oval
Mow McAlister Oval
Mow Ron Crowe
Mow Perseverance Oval for touch
Mow Perseverance cricket
Mow McAlister Oval surrounds
Mow Ron Crowe surrounds
Mow Perseverance Oval surrounds
Mark Perseverance Oval cricket pitch
Mark Redman cricket pitch
Put goal posts up one end of McAlister Oval
Replace sprinklers McAlister Oval
Broadleaf Perseverance Oval touch

Town Maintenance - General

Mow and whipper snip town street
Mow and whipper snip pre school
Spray weeds around town
Put Christmas banner across main street and take it down
Trim street trees
Mow and whipper snip council chambers
Airport inspection (Tuesday & Thursday)
Mow whipper snip rotary park

Street Sweeper

West Wyalong and surrounding streets

Projects underway

Installed solar bollards at RSL memorial walkway
Ordered 2x 365.000 litres water tanks for union storage project (6-8 weeks)
RSL memorial footpath

7.20 Development Services Activity Report – January 2025



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 January 2025:

Application No	Location	Description	Consent Authority	Approval Date
DA2025/0015	6 Wootten Street West Wyalong	Residential Alterations & Additions - Storage Shed	Staff	13/01/2025
DA2025/0027	12399 Newell Highway West Wyalong	Demolition of Existing Dwelling & Construction of New Dwelling (Manufactured Home)	Staff	29/01/2025
DA2025/0030	1 Calleen Street West Wyalong	Industrial - Depot (Storage Shed)	Staff	30/01/2025
CDC2025/0009	79 Yiddah Drive Wyalong	Residential Dwelling (House) + Storage Shed	Staff	20/01/2025

Other applications approved during January 2025:

- Five (5) Local Government Act Applications
- One (1) Occupation Certificates

The following inspections were carried out during January 2025

Type	Number
Swimming Pool Compliance	1
Building	27
On-site Sewer Management	1
Food	2
Public Health – Odour – Unhealthy Premises	1
Protection of the Environment Operations Act – Offensive Noise (Residential)	1
Overgrown & Untidy Blocks	4

Number of enquiries and meetings during January 2025

Type	Number
Building and Planning	24
Compliance	2
Food	1
Swimming Pools	1
Other	6
Meetings	
Pre-Lodgement	11
Planning Portal Integration	1

Environmental Health Update

Councils EHO has been working on better education for the community around food safety. The EHO has developed a quarterly newsletter to send to food shop premises with helpful reminders including how to correctly cool potentially hazardous foods and how to correctly sanitise food preparation surfaces to minimise the risk of food poisoning.

GIS Update

Currently reviewing Councils 'Access to CCTV Footage held by Bland Shire Council' Policy.

Regulatory Activities Update

Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities January 2025

Seizure Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Seized	4	1
Returned to Owner		

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	2	2
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	4	1
Dumped at Pound		
Surrendered		3
Total Animals in Pound	6	6

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	1	
Euthanised		
Rehoused (Rescued)	4	
Sold		
Died at Pound		
Stolen		
Escaped		
Total Animals Leaving Pound	5	
Animals in Pound at end of Month	1	6

7.21 Development Services Activity Report – December 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 Development Applications were approved during December 2024:

Application No	Location	Description	Consent Authority	Approval Date
DA2025/0031	284 Overs Lane, Barellan	Cemetery - Private Burial Site	Staff	03/12/2024
DA2025/0016	11 De Boos Street, Barmedman	Residential Alterations & Additions - Construction Two (2) Storage Sheds	Staff	04/12/2024
DA2025/0019	6 Boltes Road, West Wyalong	Residential Alterations & Additions - Dwelling Extensions and New Storage Shed	Staff	19/12/2024
DA2025/0020	49 Nicholson Lane, Wyalong	Residential Alterations & Additions - Inground Swimming Pool	Staff	19/12/2024

Other applications approved during December 2024:

- 2 x Construction Certificates
- 2 x Local Government Act Applications
- 3 x Occupation Certificates

The following inspections were carried out during December 2024

Type	Number
Swimming Pool Compliance	1
Swimming Pool Public Health	
Building	19
On-site Sewer Management	2
Public Health	
Public Health (Mortuary)	
Compliance	
Food	1
Local Govt (Unhealthy Premises – Pigeon)	5
Overgrown & Untidy Blocks	17

Number of enquiries and meetings during December 2024

Type	Number
Building and Planning	28
Public Health	
Compliance	4
Food	2
UPSS Providers	9
Swimming Pools	
Complaints	
Other	8
Meetings	
Pre-Lodgement	3
Planning Portal Integration	1
Other	

Environmental Health Update

Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand – Understanding & Managing Air Quality
Councils Environmental Health Officer attended online training. Councils are often the first line of engagement with their community and local industries and are tasked with addressing amenity-based air quality issues.

Attending this training will better assist with identifying common air pollutants, understand the health and environmental impacts and implement strategies for the community.

Regulatory Activities Update

Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities December 2024

Seizure Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Seized	3	
Returned to Owner	1	

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	2	2
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	3	
Dumped at Pound	2	
Surrendered	2	3
Total Animals in Pound	9	5

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	1	
Euthanised	1	
Rehoused (Rescued)	5	2
Sold		
Died at Pound		
Stolen		
Escaped		
Total Animals Leaving Pound	7	
Animals in Pound at end of Month	2	1

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
CEMCC	27 November 2024	✓
Newell Highway Taskforce	29 October 2024	✓

Section 355 Committees	Date/s	Minutes Attached
Ungarie Advancement Group	20 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 27 November 2024
Time: 9.00am, Evolution Town Office, West Wyalong.

Attendees:

Independent Chairperson: David Ross (LA)
 Evolution: Greg Coase (GC), Renee Pettit (RP).
 Community Members: Lucy Buttenshaw (LB), Angus Stitt (AS).
 Forbes Shire Council: Cr Brian Mattiske (BM)
 Bland Shire Council: Cr Holly Brooks (HB)
 Lachlan Shire Council: Cr Dennis Brady (DB)

Apologies:

Ally Coe (AC), Nicole Smith (NS), Vicki Swadling (VS),
 Bruce Dent (BD), Kate Dean (KD),

**Attended meeting remotely*

ITEM	ACTION
1. Welcome Independent Chair, DR, opened the meeting at 9.02am. DR welcomed all in attendance and welcomed new meeting attendee HB. HB gave a short introduction and background of role at Evolution.	
2. Declaration of Interest DR advised there were no changes to previous declarations by CEMCC members; as Independent Chair of the CEMCC, appointed by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning, DR receives payment via a Trust established by the Bland Shire Council. BM declared interest around pipeline agreement in place with Evolution. HB declared her role as President of Hearts of Gold Committee.	
3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes. The last meeting of the CEMCC was held 4 Sept at the Forbes Shire Council. The minutes were finalised and sent to the members with the presentation on 24 September 2024. There were three action items from that meeting:	

1	EVN to provide include a slide on EVN's Biodiversity offsetting in next CEMCC meeting. Completed
2	EVN to provide exploration update in March 2025 CEMCC meeting. Ongoing
3	EVN CR team to provide documentation/presentation around assessment of CPP applications. Completed

No other Business Arising from the previous minutes.

Minutes moved by AD. Seconded by BM

4. Correspondence:

- OPC approval process documentation.

5. Reports (See presentation for summary, photographs and monitoring graphs)

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. Including new edition Exploration Map, Sustainability principles, Safety Data & Environmental Incidents.

DR commended Evolution on Sustainability Practices, observing that very few organisations seek to truly integrate sustainability into their practices.

- Depositional Dust, Bore locations, Air Quality Monitoring and Dust Mitigation
- Air Quality:
Further trials have commenced regarding longer term dust mitigation. Dust control medium to be reapplied to NTSF, with wind break control trails to be applied to 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.

Slide 9-12

Slide 11

Slide 13

Slide 14

Slide 15

<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 ○ Biodiversity Offsets and Management ○ Waste Management ○ Open Pit Continuation Project Update: Timeline presented. GC gave a quick broad overview around Biodiversity offsetting. <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. ○ CPP Assessment Overview ○ Share Value Project Overview ○ One complaint received during last quarter: Dust event Resident raised concerns over increased dust over the IWL. Dust Mitigation Management communicated. 	<p>Slide 16</p> <p>Slide 18</p> <p>Slide 19</p> <p>Slide 20-22</p> <p>Slide 23</p>
<p>6. General Business</p> <p>CR – International Mens Day Forbes. Touched on Legacy project support for local hospitals.</p> <p>DR observed that the topic of the mine “leaving a legacy” had come up on several occasions during the meeting. He informed members that meetings in 2025 don’t always have to be the traditional committee-style meeting that they may be used to. Instead, on big picture matters like legacies, he invited members to think about some future meetings could be more workshop in nature to ensure that members and the mine got as much out of the meetings as possible. DR is keen to hear more from members as to what they might like to focus on in 2025.</p>	<p>ACTION 1: DR to contact CEMCC members to discuss desired outcomes or interests for 2025 meetings.</p>
<p>7. Meeting Schedule for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 25 January 2025 - Lake Cowal Conservation Centre 	
<p>8. Meeting Closed – 10.57 am with DR thanking all for their attendance and contribution.</p>	

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	EVN to provide exploration update in February 2025 CEMCC meeting.	ZM
2	Independent Chair to contact CEMCC members to discuss desired outcomes or interests for 2025 meetings	DR



NEWELL HIGHWAY TASKFORCE MEETING

Record of the Meeting held
Tuesday 29 October 2024
Commencing at 11.50am
Following the Sturt Highway Taskforce Meeting
&
Presentation by
Minister for Regional Roads & Transport
The Hon. Jenny Aitchison

Meeting Held at
Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club
& via TEAMS

NEWELL HIGHWAY TASKFORCE COMMITTEE MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2024

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE
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GUESTS

The Hon. Jenny Aitchison, MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, NSW, accompanied by her advisor Wendy Fitzgibbon.

STURT HIGHWAY TASKFORCE ATTENDEES			
Balranald Shire Council	Cr Louie Zaffina	Mayor	On line
	Glenn Carroll	Director Governance, Business & Community Services	On line
	David McKinley	Director Infrastructure & Planning	On line
Hay Shire Council	Cr Carol Oataway	Mayor	In person
	David Webb	General Manager	In person
Narrandera Shire Council	Cr Neville Kschenka	Mayor	In person
	Cr Peter Dawson	NH Taskforce Delegate	In person
Leeton Shire Council	Cr Michael Kidd	Deputy Mayor	Attending
	Silas Darby	Director Operations	Attending
Murray River			
Murrumbidgee Council	Cr Ruth McRae	Mayor	In person
	Cr Robert Black	Deputy Mayor	In person
	John Scarce	General Manager	In person
Wagga Wagga City Council	Cr Dallas Tout	Mayor	In person
	Peter Thompson	General Manager	In person
Wentworth Shire Council	Cr Daniel Linklater	Mayor	On line
TfNSW	Joanne Cheshire	Senior Manager, Community & Place Partner – Riverina Murray	In person
	Cassandra French	Regional Director, South Region	In person
NSW Police	Jason Dunn	District Inspector Murrumbidgee Police District	In person
Deputy Leader of Opposition and Federal Member for Farrer	Lachlan McIntyre Representing Hon Sussan Ley MP		On line
Member for Cootamundra	Margaret Lee representing Hon Steph Cooke MP	Electoral Officer	On line
STURT HIGHWAY TASKFORCE APOLOGIES			
Hon Sussan Ley, MP	Deputy Leader of the Opposition Federal Member for Farrer		Apology
Ms Steph Cooke MP	Member for Cootamundra		Apology
George Cowan	General Manager		Apology
Shane Wilson	Deputy GM Infrastructure, Narrandera Shire		Apology
Jason Clark	Inspector, NSW Police OIC Leeton, Narrandera & Barellan Murrumbidgee Police District		Apology
Anthony Hayes	Transport for NSW		Apology
Jack Boyd	Director of Infrastructure, Murray River		Apology

MEETING OPENED

The NHTF meeting opened by Chairman Councillor Chris Roylance at 11:50am following the Sturt Highway Taskforce meeting and a presentation by The Hon. Jenny Aitchison Minister for Regional Roads and Transport.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Acknowledgement of Country was undertaken at the beginning of the Sturt Highway Taskforce meeting and was not repeated.

Introduction of all members around the room and also attending via Teams.

2. APOLOGIES & ACCEPTANCES

Attending in person	Title/Location
Cr Chris Roylance (NHTF Chair)	Deputy Mayor, Forbes Shire Council
Gary George	Berrigan Shire
Cr Ken McGrath	Parkes Shire Council
Richard Jane	Forbes Shire Council (Director, Engineering) – <i>Meeting Record</i>
Cr Brian Mattiske	Forbes Shire Council
Cr Emma Henderson	Bland Shire Council
Ray Graham	Bland Shire Council (Director, Engineering)
Cr Phillip Toynton	Dubbo Regional Council
Erin Willson	Infrastructure Regional NSW & P.CT
Tracey Cowley	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Nicole Benson	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr Denis Todd	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Holly Davies	TfNSW
Tony Moore	Moree Plains Shire Council
John Morris	Regional NSW High Productivity Road Transport Alliance
Paul Polansky	Snr Manager, Transport Technical Solutions TfNSW

Attending via Teams	Title/Location
Cr Doug Batten	Mayor, Gilgandra Shire Council
Toni Lennane	Parkes Shire Council (Past Minute Secretary)

Apologies	Title/Location
Annie Hanley	Transport for NSW
Anthony Nicolaci	Greater Shepparton City Council
Chris Godfrey	Manager Strategy Water Supply & Sewerage, Dubbo Regional Council

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 30 NOVEMBER 2023

ATTENDEES	
Cr Damien Mahon	Councillor, Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Jess Gough	Councillor, Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Josh Black	Councillor, Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Shibli Chowdhury	Councillor, Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Darrell Tiemens - Mayor	Mayor, Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Mathew Dickerson - Mayor	Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Neville Kschenka - Mayor	Mayor, Narrandera Shire Council
Cr Paul Harmon - Mayor	Mayor, Inverell Shire Council
Cr Richard Ivey	Councillor, Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Ron Campbell - Previous Mayor	Councillor, Narrabri Shire Council
George Cowan	Narrandera Shire Council
Grant Baker - General Manager	General Manager, Bland Shire Council
John Scarce - General Manager	General Manager, Murrumbidgee Shire Council
John Dyer	Director of Engineering, Moree Plains Shire Council
Kent Boyd - General Manager	General Manager, Parkes Shire Council
Lisa Moon	Tourism & Visitor Services Coordinator Parkes Shire
Luke Ryan	Dubbo Regional Council
Mike Cush	ARTC
Murray Wood - CEO	CEO, Dubbo Regional Council
Nicole Benson	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Ray Graham	Bland Shire Council
Richard Jane	Forbes Shire Council
Sarah Rushton	Narrabri Shire Council
Shane Wilson	Narrandera Shire Council
Shoilee Iqbal	Dubbo Regional Council
Stephen Friend	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Peta Betts (was to attend via Teams)	Mayor, Edward River Council
Karina Ewer (was to attend via Teams)	CEO, Berrigan Shire Council
Rod Hannifey (was to attend via Teams)	Heavy Vehicle Driver Representative, Truck Right

That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 November 2023 at Parliament House, Canberra be confirmed as true and accurate.

MOVED: Cr Brian Mattiske
SECONDED:- Cr Ruth McRae OAM
CARRIED

5. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

7. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Chairman Cr Roylance called for any items of General Business.

8.1 Truck Parking Areas

John Morris discussed the appropriate distance between truck rest areas. Twenty kilometres is considered the ideal spacing because the truck drivers try to maximise their logbooks and every half hour, every 20 minutes makes a difference.

What do you call a parking Bay? Is it a full 10 to 20 truck parking Bay? Or is it the blue reflector parking bays, which allows the trucks to pull off on the side of the road safely. And that's predicated by 3 – 2 - 1 green reflectors, so the truck drivers know that when they see a three-reflector guidepost, there's a parking bay ahead and hopefully nobody in it.

There should be one or two major parking spaces in every major town with smaller parking bays twenty kilometres apart between the major parking areas.

The problem is with caravanners taking up space in truck parking areas. Minister Aitcheson responded saying that Transport for NSW had investigated restricting the use of truck rest areas by caravanners, but the view was that caravanners may need to rest also, so hard and fast rules banning the parking of caravans in truck rest areas may not be a safe option. We may need a more bespoke solution that fits the use of the particular network in question.

8.2 Coonabarabran Bypass

Cr Denis Todd asked about the Coonabarabran bypass.

Paul Polanski from TfNSW responded stating that the project is not currently funded but the point at which it will reach its maximum benefit is somewhere between ten and fifteen years into the future.

Minister Aitcheson discussed Strategic Integrated Transport Plans and how they will determine when projects are needed and when they will be funded.

9. PRESENTATION FROM TRANSPORT FOR NSW by Paul Polanski

9.1 Newell Highway Flood Mitigation Works between West Wyalong and Forbes.

A number of flood studies have been completed and the section that goes under first stays under the longest is the section immediately north of Marsden, which is 41 to 53 kilometres north of West Wyalong.

The proposed treatment involves installing small multi-cell box culverts in all the floodways through Marsden, which will allow water to pass under the Highway in a lower flood event and will raise the road level and to build a resilient pavement over the top of it. This will keep the Highway open for longer and more importantly significantly reduce the time that the Highway is closed. The design is not to any specific flood level but is based on the 2016 and 2022 flood events.

The 2022 flood event represented a unique snapshot into what happens to the floodplain when Lake Cowal is full and there's a flood event on top of that. This provided a worst-case scenario because it is quite a significant catchment, there was significant fluctuations in the rainfall Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) levels across the catchment, which varied from a 1 in 5 to 1 in 50 depending on where you were in 2022.

The design will make this section somewhere between a 1 in 10 and a 1 in 20 before the water would go over the road. If the water goes any higher than that, it will flood other parts of the pavement that aren't the flood areas.

It would be a substantial increase in cost to increase the flood immunity any further which won't fit the budget.

The goal is to open the road quicker and have less damage to it.

Building culverts with concrete decking slab over the top and an asphalt wearing service would virtually eliminate the need for repair work after a flood and gives the best bang-for-buck in terms of winning back closure time, which is a key driver of the project.

9.2 Parkes Bypass

The Condobolin Road roundabout, which is a huge roundabout, is expected to be open in November 2024. The roundabout will have a halo structure to encourage more tourism to Parkes.

The Bogan Gate Road T-intersection construction is continuing.

The final girders of the railway bridge were lifted into place in October 2024.

The last traffic switch on to the final section of Hartigan Ave and the extension B which travels under the new rail bridge is expected to be completed in November 2024. The Victoria Street over bridge is expected to start later in November 2024.

The Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) had been completely encapsulated on the project. The project should be open to traffic in mid-2025.

9.3 New Dubbo Bridge

Expected completion date is the end of 2026.

This will be the second high level river crossing in Dubbo over the Macquarie River providing increased reliability for commuter and heavy freight traffic, particularly during flood events and a connection to the northwest industrial precinct in Dubbo.

All 89 pilings are in place, totalling, 600 odd metres, and the girders can now be lifted into place, so the bridge is progressing really well.

A massive amount of earthworks is currently going on the formation.

The benefit for the local community is the project continues to exceed the local spend target and Aboriginal participation targets. 52 local businesses have been engaged on projects. 29% of employees identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Women have been engaged in non-traditional roles on the project, including construction, leadership and project development.

9.4 Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrade between Narrabri and Moree

Sections three and five are now close to completion. Currently working on section two.

This project is expected to be completed in early 2026.

This project includes two new overtaking lanes.

As part of that project, there is a new heavy vehicle rest area being constructed with 18 heavy vehicle parking spaces to accommodate up to 48.5-metre-long vehicles. There are 10 New York caravan parks which are separated from the vehicle parking area. It will have proper toilet facilities. There will be trees planted in the parking area to create a lot of shade in the future when the trees are mature.

9.5 Tycannah Creek Rest Area Upgrade

This project was originally proposed as part of the pavement project which was put on hold by the Federal Infrastructure Review. The twin Tycannah Creek rest area projects from that program were nominated in the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP), which was successful in getting construction funding to deliver the twin rest areas at Tycannah Creek.

The rest areas will be about 16 kilometres south of Moree on the Newell Highway.

There is an existing rest area there now and usage has significantly outgrown the existing rest area. Industry representatives have said "please don't remove our shade trees from Tycannah". The design has been undertaken to make sure that all those trees are retained. The design of the parking has been around the trees because it gets hot and no one wants to try to sleep sleeper cab when it is 40° outside.

It will also have improved amenities, including toilets separated by additional heavy vehicle spaces.

9.6 North Croppa Creek Upgrade

This is a rehabilitation project where three intersections were upgraded, built six kilometres of new road pavement, updated drainage and also included a one metre wide centre line.

The work was due for completion in January 2025, but it has just been completed, finishing earlier than expected.

9.7 Central Western and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan.

The plan is trying to integrate land use community and transport together and have a comprehensive plan, listen to everybody and have it evidence-based, not what someone feels or someone thinks, but rather a clear plan for transport going forward.

9.8 The Federal and State Infrastructure Reviews

A number of projects in west region currently don't have construction funding. This includes the Newell Highway – Oxley Highway intersection upgrade north of Coonabarabran. This project has been designed to prioritise the Newell Highway flow of traffic.

Another project that is not funded is the widening of the Newell Highway through the Pilliga.

The Grade Separated Rail Interface Program has also been reprioritised. There are two prioritised sites being Illabo and Tichborne, which will be proceeding, but the remainder of the program has been put on hold.

The other project in review is the Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrade north of Moree. The Federal Government is commitment to new corridor funding and TfNSW is looking to try and find some matching State funding to at least deliver part of that project.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Cr Chris Roylance requested a letter be sent to the former Newell Highway Taskforce chairman, former Councillor Ken Keith, thanking him for his contribution to the Newell Highway Taskforce.

MOVED: Cr Peter Dawson
 SECONDED.- Cr Ruth McRae OAM
 CARRIED

11. SETTING OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting will be 4 March 2025 – location to be confirmed.

12. MEETING CLOSE

The meeting was declared closed at 12:45pm.

UNGARIE ADVANCEMENT GROUP GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 20th November 2024
held in the Ungarie C.W.A. Rooms

Meeting Opened: 7.10pm

Present: Vanessa Williams, Robyn Sherd-McVey, Rob Anderson, Alvian Tam, Kerry Keatley, Pam Brewer, Nicole Lewis, Liz McGlynn

Apologies: Brony Mason, Omer Tulunay

Copies of Minutes of the Previous Meeting were shared around and read.

Moved that the Minutes be accepted as read: Rob Anderson, 2nd: Robyn Sherd-McVey
Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Discussion:

- No word on Community Forum
- CPA Account interest been transferred and account closed
- Prickly pear is seen to be controlling in spots
- Nicole Lewis mentioned she is still corresponding with council re water issues as Ungarie Grounds Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As at the end of October:

- Advancement Committee: closing balance of \$14509.48
- Historical Society: closing balance of \$6821.56
- Garden Club: closing balance of \$1044.86

Ungarie Community Postal Agency Account now officially closed

CORRESPONDENCE

- Outward Letter to BSC re issues bought up in August meeting as yet no reply or actions seen.
- Omer Tulunay letter re community support and Advancement Group Support

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Ungarie Preloved has made a \$500 donation to Ungarie Historical Society and will be used to purchase stick vacuum for museum
- Need to get Bland Shire Council bank details for if and when we need to pay GST
- Liz McGlynn told us that at last night's council meeting it was passed that villages would receive \$500 towards their Australia Day events, paid on receipts

- **Australia Day 2025** Motioned that we are to run same as 2024 catering, times, awards. Nomination forms to be circulated and close 30 December 2024. The executive to work with nominations once received.
Moved Vanessa Williams Seconded Nicole Lewis
- **Carols in Park** claim date Thursday 19th December has been circulated. Brony will forward letter to council re use of Bing Wallder Park for event and advertise further details shortly. Hall/ P & C to do catering. Rob Anderson happy to play role of Santa. Gifts for children ?? P & C Santa Chair at hall for use
- Reinstate New Resident Welcome Packs - was done in past, Vanessa to look in museum for old version to pass on to Rob/Robyn to design a new one. Business details, social media links for local community groups etc. Bland Shire Council to help with printing of them ? BSC have one online for shire as whole as a PDF.
- Discussed correspondence from Omer Tulunay re Cafe Bottom Pub, a reply letter to be written
- Mentioned that with the limited time and days that bus use the bus stop area maybe see if we can get signage stating hours for bus zone. Rob mentioned he is seeing many travellers with vans on that seem to be looking for area for ease of pulling up to see big footy
- Defib Training raised by Nicole Lewis “Heart of the Nation” provide familiarisation course for Defibs \$500 flat rate plus \$300 travel. Would need to look into venue, date and time. Julie Hughes is Nicole’s contact through email
 - **MOTION that the Ungarie Advancement Group fund a session for the Ungarie Community with date venue and time to be worked out maybe mid February.**
 - **Moved Nicole Lewis Seconded Robyn Sherd McVey**

NEXT MEETING : Annual General Meeting Wednesday 19th February 2025

MEETING CLOSED at 8.30pm