



BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Council Meeting

12 November 2024

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING & CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Guiding Checklist for Councillors, Officers & Community Committees

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council’s objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of Interest?
- Could your possible conflict of interest lead to private gain or loss at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Conflict of Interest is a clash between private interests and public duty. There are two types of conflict: Pecuniary – regulated by the Local Government Act and Department of Local Government and, Non-pecuniary – regulated by Codes of Conduct, ICAC, Ombudsman, Department of Local Government (advice only).

THE TEST FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson’s definition of “corruption” – using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest.

IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS

- 1 Do I have private interest affected by a matter in which I am officially involved?
- 2 Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?
- 3 Do my private interests conflict with my official role?

Whilst seeking advice is generally useful, the ultimate decision rests with the person concerned.

AGENCY ADVICE

Officers of the following agencies are available during office hours to discuss the obligations placed on Councillors, officers and community committee members by various pieces of legislation, regulation and codes.

| Contact | Phone | Email |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Narrandera Shire Council | 02 6959 5510 | council@narrandera.nsw.gov.au |
| Department of Local Government | 02 4428 4100 | olg@olg.nsw.gov.au |
| ICAC Toll free | 02 8281 5999 1800 463 909 | icac@icac.nsw.gov.au |
| NSW Ombudsman Toll Free | 02 8286 1000 1800 451 524 | nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au |

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN THEMES

Section 14 Our Community

- 1.1 To live in an inclusive, healthy and tolerant community with a positive attitude toward others.
- 1.2 Work together to advocate for quality health, education, youth and social services.
- 1.3 To feel connected and safe.

Section 15 Our Environment

- 2.1 To value, care for and protect our natural environment.
- 2.2 Enhance our public spaces to enrich our community.
- 2.3 Maximise greater re-use of resources to increase sustainability within our community

Section 16 Our Economy

- 3.1 Create strong conditions for investment and job creation through quality infrastructure and proactive business support.
- 3.2 Encourage new housing supply to meet the needs of the community.

Section 17 Our Infrastructure

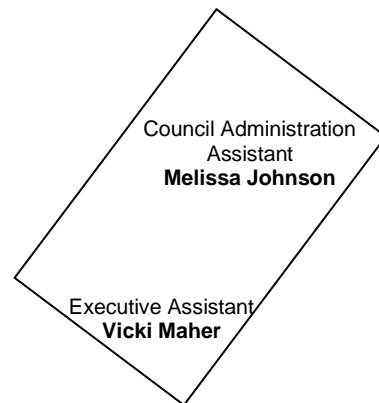
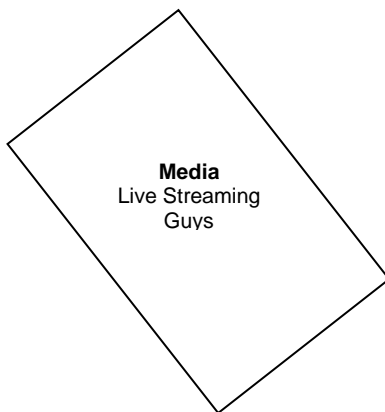
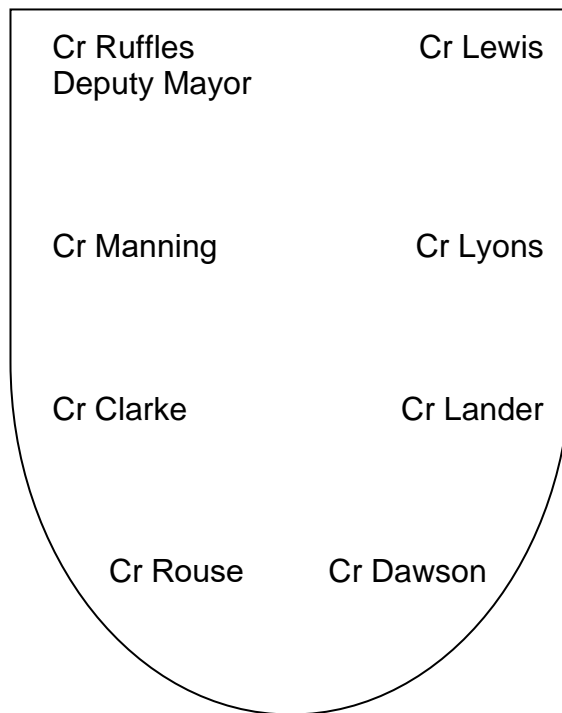
- 4.1 To have an improved and appropriately maintained road network.
- 4.2 Actively investigate opportunities to enhance our potable water quality.
- 4.3 To improve, maintain and value-add to our essential public and recreational infrastructure.

Section 18 Our Leadership

- 5.1 Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.
- 5.2 Promote a community spirit that encourages volunteerism and values effective partnerships.

SEATING

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| General Manager George Cowan | MAYOR Cr Kschenka | Deputy General Manager Infrastructure Shane Wilson | Deputy General Manager Corporate & Community Cian Middleton |
|--|--|---|--|



**Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the Narrandera
Shire Council will be held in the Council Chambers on:
Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 2pm**

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- 1 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
- 2 **HOUSE KEEPING**
- 3 **DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL DONATIONS**
- 4 **REQUEST TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK**
- 5 **PRESENT**

6 **APOLOGIES**

Nil

7 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

8 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Ordinary Council Meeting - 15 October 2024



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

15 October 2024

Unconfirmed

**MINUTES OF NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2024 AT 2PM**

The Mayor declared the Public Forum opened at **1.30pm** and welcomed the Councillors, Staff, Media, Members of the Gallery and those following on the Live Streaming.

2 HOUSE KEEPING

Advice provided of Council's Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Evacuation Plan and location of the Amenities.

PUBLIC FORUM

At 1.30pm, Mayor Kschenka conducted the Citizenship Ceremony for the Arachchi family: Mr (Dr) Ananda, Mrs (Dr) Shasheeka Rajapaksha Mudiyansele, Vinduli and Damindu.

The Mayor declared the Ordinary meeting opened at **2.03pm**.

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

3 DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL DONATIONS

Advice provided to those present of the legislative requirement for Disclosure of Political Donations:

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Section 147 requires a person submitting planning applications or submissions regarding a planning application, to disclose any reportable political donation and/or gifts to any local Councillor or employee of Council. Reportable political donations include those of or above \$1,000. The Disclosure Statement forms are available on Council's website or from the Customer Service Centre and must be lodged in accordance with the Act.

There were no Disclosures of Political Donations received by the Chairperson.

4 REQUEST TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

No requests to join via audio-visual link in October.

5 PRESENT

Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka, Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles, Cr Bob Manning, Cr Jenny Clarke OAM, Cr Cameron Rouse, Cr Peter Dawson, Cr Cameron Lander, Cr Braden Lyons, Cr Tracey Lewis

In Attendance

George Cowan (GM), Shane Wilson (DGMI), Cian Middleton (DGMCC), Melissa Johnson (CAA)

6 APOLOGIES

Nil

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka declared a Pecuniary Interest in Item 14.1 Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Free Zone under the Local Government Act as *Business Group member and supplier of equipment for the spring fair event* and will leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter.

Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles declared a Non-Pecuniary Non-Significant Interest in Item 14.1 Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Free Zone under the Local Government Act and *Attend some spring fair meetings as Spirit FM representative and assisting with an activity at the fair* and will remain in the meeting and take part in discussion and voting on the matter.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**RESOLUTION 24/165**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander
Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 August 2024 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8 October 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD IN THE AGENDA**RESOLUTION 24/166**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander
Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

1. That items 18.4 and 24.1 be brought forward in the Agenda for consideration.

CARRIED

At this point, time being 2.12pm, Mayor introduced the Chair of ARIC, Mr John Batchellor who presented the 2023/24 Annual ARIC findings. Following Mr Batchellor, Josh Porker and Cranos Mayo from RSD Audit together with Council's Auditor; Lawrissa Chan from the Office of the Auditor, presented the findings of Council's 2023/24 Audit.

18.4 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLUTION 24/167

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Chairperson's 2023-24 Annual Report.

CARRIED

24.1 AUDIT REPORT 2023-24 GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESOLUTION 24/168

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Adopts the 2023-24 Financial Statement and Auditors Report as presented and notes the advertisement advising the public that the reports are available for viewing and comment.

CARRIED

9 MAYORAL REPORT

9.1 MAYORAL REPORT - AUGUST / SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2024

RESOLUTION 24/169

Moved: Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Mayoral Report for August, September, and October 2024.

CARRIED

10 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

13 QUESTION WITH NOTICE

Nil

14 OUR COMMUNITY

At 2:40pm, Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka, after earlier declaring an Interest in Item 14.1 vacated the Chambers during discussions and voting on the matter. Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles assume Mayoral Chair

14.1 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONE - EAST AND BOLTON STREETS**RESOLUTION 24/170**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Approves the temporary suspension of the current Alcohol-Free Zone (AFZ) corner of East and Bolton Streets to Wittich Lane on 26 October 2024 between the hours of 4.00pm to 9.00pm.
2. Contains the extent of the AFZ suspension to the external frontage of Narrandera Bakery building corner of East and Bolton Streets, similar to the current outdoor seating area that exists.
3. Directs event organisers and participants to adhere to any direction given by NSW Police in regard to potential unruly behaviour.

CARRIED

At 2:46pm, Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka returned to the meeting and Deputy Mayor vacated the Mayoral Chair.

14.2 REQUEST TO WAIVE SPORTSGROUND FEE - GOLDEN BOOT**RESOLUTION 24/171**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Approves the request from the NSW Police Force to waive the Narrandera Sportsground hire charge of \$1,200 for the 2024 Police Charity Golden Boot Touch Football Carnival to be funded from the Mayor and General Manager donations funds.

CARRIED

15 OUR ENVIRONMENT

Nil

16 OUR ECONOMY

Nil

17 OUR INFRASTRUCTURE**17.1 TRANSFER OF CROWN ROADS TO COUNCIL****RESOLUTION 24/172**

Moved: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

Seconded: Cr Bob Manning

That Council:

1. Resolves to prepare an application to the NSW Department of Industry – Lands and Water requesting transfer of the Crown managed roadways to Council as shown on the attached map, including the following roadways:
 - a) Mundarra Road (southern end) and
 - b) Molly's Lagoon Road (south-western end)

CARRIED

18 OUR LEADERSHIP

18.1 CHANGE OF MEETING DATES - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 24/173

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council endorses:

1. The change of date for the November 2024 Ordinary Council meeting to Tuesday 12 November 2024.
2. The change of date for the December 2024 Ordinary Council meeting to Tuesday 10 December 2024.
3. Advertising the change of meeting dates to the public through the local media outlets and Council's media sites.

CARRIED

18.2 COUNCILLOR DELEGATES TO SECTION 355, ADVISORY AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

RESOLUTION 24/174

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Elects Councillor delegates through the nomination process, and if more nominations are received than available for each delegate position then election is by show of hands:

- a. One Councillor delegate to the Australia Day Committee.

Cr Lyons/ Cr Ruffles [alternate]

- b. One Councillor delegate to the Bettering Barellan Advisory Committee.

Cr Rouse

- c. Two Councillor delegates to the Economic Taskforce Committee.

Cr Lander Cr Ruffles

- d. One Councillor delegate to the Grong Grong Community Advisory Committee.

Cr Dawson

- e. One Councillor delegate to the Koala Regeneration Committee.

Cr Lyons

- f. One Councillor delegate to the Parkside Museum S355 Committee.

Cr Dawson

- g. One Councillor delegate to the Railway Station Facility Advisory Committee.

Cr Manning

- h. One Councillor delegate to the Aboriginal Elders Liaison Group.

Cr Lyons

- i. One Councillor delegate to the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee.

Cr Ruffles

- j. One Councillor delegate to the Domestic Violence Awareness Committee.

Cr Lewis

- k. Two Councillor delegates to the General Manager Performance Review Committee.

Cr Lander Cr Manning

- l. One Councillor delegate to the Lake Talbot Environs Committee.

Cr Ruffles

- m. One Councillor delegate to the Stadium Committee.

Cr Lewis

- n. Two Councillor delegates to the Narrandera Shire Floodplain Risk Management Committee.

Cr Lander Cr Rouse

- o. One Councillor delegate to the Narrandera-Leeton Joint Airport Management Committee.

Cr Clarke

CARRIED

18.3 COUNCILLOR DELEGATES TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

RESOLUTION 24/175

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

- a. Appoints a delegate to the Newell Highway Task Force.

Cr Dawson

- b. Appoints a delegate to the Sturt Highway Task Force.

Cr Dawson

- c. Appoints a delegate to the Western Riverina Community Library Committee.

Cr Lewis

- d. Appoints a delegate, and alternate delegate, to the Murray Darling Association Region 9.

Cr Clarke Cr Lander (alternate)

- e. Appoints a delegate to the Western Regional Planning Committee.

Cr Ruffles

- f. Elects a delegate to Goldenfields Water County Council.

Cr Rouse

CARRIED

Item 18.4 has been considered at another section.

18.5 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT STATISTICS: 1 SEPTEMBER 2023-31 AUGUST 2024

RESOLUTION 24/176

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the Code of Conduct complaint statistics for the reporting year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024; and
2. Submits the statistical return as presented to the Office of Local Government by 31 December 2024.

CARRIED

18.6 INTRODUCING PROJECTURA PTY LTD

RESOLUTION 24/177

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Notes the appointment of Projectura Pty Ltd to facilitate community engagement events and Council organisational events to assist in the development of a new Community Strategic Plan and the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

CARRIED

19 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Nil

20 PROCUREMENT

Nil

21 POLICY

Nil

22 COMMITTEE REPORTS**22.1 ABORIGINAL ELDERS LIAISON - MINUTES - 23 SEPTEMBER 2024****RESOLUTION 24/178**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Braden Lyons

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Aboriginal Elders Liaison held on Monday 23 September 2024.

CARRIED**22.2 AUSTRALIA DAY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 29 AUGUST 2024****RESOLUTION 24/179**

Moved: Cr Peter Dawson

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Australia Day Planning Advisory Committee held on Thursday 29 August 2024.
2. Committee to consult broadly with the community for the preferred site 2025.

CARRIED

22.3 AUSTRALIA DAY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 26 SEPTEMBER 2024**RESOLUTION 24/180**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Peter Dawson

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Australia Day Planning Advisory Committee held on Thursday 26 September 2024.

CARRIED

23 STATUTORY AND COMPULSORY REPORTING – DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORTS**23.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES - AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2024****RESOLUTION 24/181**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Development Services Activities Report for August and September 2024.

CARRIED

24 STATUTORY AND COMPULSORY REPORTING – FINANCIAL / AUDIT REPORTS

Item 24.1 has been considered at another section.

24.2 STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - AUGUST 2024**RESOLUTION 24/182**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Peter Dawson

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained in the Statement of Bank Balances report as of 31 August 2024.

CARRIED

24.3 STATEMENT OF RATES AND RECEIPTS - AUGUST 2024**RESOLUTION 24/183**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained in the Statement of Rates and Receipts report as at 5 September 2024.

CARRIED

24.4 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - AUGUST 2024**RESOLUTION 24/184**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the report indicating Council's Fund Management position.
2. Notes the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer and adopts the report as at 31 August 2024.

CARRIED

25 STATUTORY AND COMPULSORY REPORTING – OTHER REPORTS

25.1 PRESENTATION OF THE DECEMBER 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2024 STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

RESOLUTION 24/185

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander
 Seconded: Cr Bob Manning

That Council:

1. Adopts the statutory State of our Shire Report as presented for the term of the immediate past Council being from December 2021 to September 2024; and
2. Publishes the adopted State of our Shire Report on Council’s website.

CARRIED

25.2 ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS FOR COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS 2023-24 REPORTING YEAR

RESOLUTION 24/186

Moved: Cr Bob Manning
 Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the attached annual Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest returns lodged by both Councillors and designated persons within Narrandera Shire Council for the reporting period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024; and
2. Publishes the documents to the community via Council’s website.

CARRIED

26 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS PAPER REPORTS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 3.23pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 12 November 2024.

.....
GENERAL MANAGER

.....
CHAIRPERSON

Unconfirmed

9 MAYORAL REPORT

9.1 MAYORAL REPORT - OCTOBER NOVEMBER

Document ID: 760970
Author: Mayor
Theme: 5 - Our Leadership
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Mayor Report for October November 2024.

BACKGROUND

Since submitting my last Mayor's Report that was presented to the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 October 2024, I attended the following on behalf of our Council:

Meetings with General Manager: Attended regular Monday, and unscheduled, meetings with the General Manager (GM) George Cowan to discuss various matters. The Deputy Mayor, Cr Sue Ruffles, is also invited to attend the Monday prior to Ordinary Council meetings.

Media Interviews. I have had media interviews with the Daily Advertiser, Narrandera Argus and ABC Riverina Radio over the past reporting period covering recent topics of interest, as well as our local Community Radio, 91.1 Spirit FM monthly segment.

OCTOBER 2024

Tuesday 15: I chaired the monthly Councillors Briefing Session and Ordinary Council meeting. The unconfirmed Minute of the Council meeting is submitted for Council's endorsement.

Later that evening, accompanied by my wife Carmel, and together with all Councillors, Executives, and partners, I enjoy the evening at the Hing Wah Restaurant for the traditional "Start of Term" dinner which also included the "Welcome to NSC" to Council's newly appointed Deputy General Manager Corporate & Community (DGMCC), Mr Cian Middleton.

Wednesday 16: Together with the GM, I joined our regular segment on the local Community Radio, 91.1 Spirit FM, where GM and I advise the listeners on outcomes of agenda items from the Council meeting, as well as providing any updates on current projects. This informative segment is standardly held at 8:30am on Wednesday following the monthly Council meeting.

Thursday 18: Joined a meeting with the General Manager, DGMCC and Council's Community Support Manager for discussion on Health Services.

Saturday 19: The Official Opening of the Wiradjuri Honour Wall in Marie Bashir Park was conducted at 11am and was very well attended. The Wall acknowledges the contribution by Elders, past and present, to the Narrandera community and the achievements in sport, community involvement and Sand Hills residents. War Service is also acknowledged, with stories of aboriginal soldiers from the area inscribed on the wall. The Wall is an inspiration to community members of all ages, as well as current and future generations.

Congratulations to all involved in bringing this important project to fruition and participating in the opening. Cr Lyons chaired proceedings on the day.



Geoffrey Johnson and Cr Braden Lyons assisting ELDER Jennifer Johnson cut the Ribbon to Officially Open the Wiradjuri Wall in Marie Bashir Park

Later that day, my wife Carmel and I, together with GM George Cowan and Mrs Cowan, DGMI Shane Wilson and Bridey Hugo, attended the official opening of the recently completed Barellan toddlers pool, funded by the Federal Government and Narrandera Shire Council. This is a great upgrade for this already popular facility and will serve the Barellan and district community for many years to come. A good number of children were enjoying the pool when we arrived and assisted me in cutting the ceremonial ribbon when I officially opened the pool.



Assisted by some Barellan Children that were attending the event, Mayor Kschenka cuts the Ribbon to Officially Open the New Toddler Pool at the Barellan Swimming Pool Complex.

That evening, A special dinner was held at the Barellan & District War Memorial Club to thank retiring Councillor Kevin Morris, for his 20 years of service to the Council and the community. Kevin was accompanied by partner Louise and together they have contributed a lot to Barellan. As a Councillor, Kevin made a valuable contribution to all aspects of Council business and was also Council's representative to the Board of Golden Fields Water. All speakers spoke highly of the couple and wished them all the best for the future. As well as by myself, Council was represented by GM George Cowan, Deputy Mayor Cr Ruffles, Crs Rouse, Dawson and Lewis, and Community Development Manager Sue Killam.

Saturday 26: I attended the Narrandera Business Group's Spring Fair held in the CBD. The event was very successful and enjoyed by a large crowd of adults and children of all ages. I spoke on behalf of Council during the Official Opening.

Monday 28: Accompanied by my wife Carmel, I joined Cr Peter Dawson, who is the Highways Taskforce committee delegate, and his wife Mini, at the Charles Sturt "Charlies on East" restaurant for dinner with visiting Newell Highway Taskforce delegates from Forbes Shire Council.

Tuesday 29: Attended and welcomed members of the Sturt Highway Taskforce, the Newell Highway Taskforce and TfNSW to the meeting held at the Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club. The Hon. Jenny Aitchison Minister for Regional Transport and Roads was also in attendance.

Key points from the joint meeting:

- **Taskforce Formation:** A new taskforce was established to address upgrades, construction, and safety concerns along the Sturt Highway.
- **Attendees:** Key participants included Minister Jenny Aitchison, Joanne Cheshire from Transport for NSW, and representatives from Dubbo, Forbes, West Wyalong, Leeton, Narrandera, Hay, and other transport organisations.
- **Connectivity Concerns:** Emphasised the importance of connectivity between food-producing areas, particularly at Gillenbah and Irrigation Way.

- **Canal Bridge Issue:** Discussed the need to straighten the Canal Bridge to accommodate larger vehicles.
- **Flood Proofing:** Highlighted the necessity of flood-proofing at Gillenbah to mitigate negative impacts on Narrandera Shire and broader state and interstate transport.
- **Diversion Road Damage:** Raised concerns that closed roads and diversions lead to severe damage on diversion roads, which could be mitigated through flood-proofing initiatives.
- **Congestion Impact:** Noted that other shires and Council areas are also affected by severe congestion due to these issues.
- **Follow-Up Action:** The Minister requested the Mayor to again, formally express these concerns in writing and we will follow up on this soon.

Thursday 31: Together with fellow committee members, I attended the Australia Day Planning committee meeting at the DDH for continued discussion and organisation of the 2025 Australia Day event. Unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting are further presented to Council.

Later that day, together with the DGMI, I attended a meeting with Coleambally Irrigation at Coleambally, for discussions on Water Savings and a Lake Coolah Feasibility Study.

NOVEMBER 2024

Friday 1: I attended a meeting with the Hon. Rose Jackson MLC and Helen Dalton MP at Limone Griffith for discussion on a Lake Coolah Feasibility Study.

I extend my gratitude and thanks to those Councillors who have attended various meetings throughout the past month, either on my behalf, or as elected committee members.

Until next time, Mayor Kschenk

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Mayor Report for October November 2024.

10 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

10.1 CR LYONS - ATTENDANCE AT "NATIVE TITLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT" TRAINING

Document ID: 751834
Author: Councillor
Authoriser: General Manager
Theme: Our Leadership
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the report on my attendance at the "Native Title for Local Government" training seminar.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information following my attendance at the "Native Title for Local Government" training seminar held in Sydney on 11-12 September 2024.

BACKGROUND

The training sessions were designed to:

- Build on participants understanding of Native Title and its relationship with Aboriginal land rights and cultural heritage.
- Familiarise participants with Local Government responsibilities in relation to native title and the importance of building relationships.
- Help participants build native title assessment into their everyday management of Crown land.
- Add to prior training in the production of native title manager advice; and
- Work through future act regime examples that will be regularly encountered by participants.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday 11 September - Native Title for Government

Speakers on the program, plus some key points made, included:

- Vanessa field
- Craig Barnes
- Lands Advisory Services

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Introduction to native title

- Native title and the Crown Land Management Act 2016
- Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- Building native title assessment into project management.

Native Title Manager's advice:

- Excluded land
- Land status; applications, determinations, compulsory acquisitions and Indigenous Land Use agreements
- Native title certificates
- Impacts on native title; and past acts and
- Previous exclusive possession acts.

The Future Acts Regime:

- Routine management of reserves
- Identifying low and nil impact acts
- Authorising leases, licences, and bookings
- Authorising easements; and
- Reserve development where Council is manager.

Thursday 12 September – Native Title for Government

The Future Acts Regime:

- Proposed development by Council of Crown land where Council is not the land manager, including responsibilities under cultural heritage legislation
- Acquiring an interest
 1. (The example considers land within an area subject to native title claim, approved determination of native title, or an Indigenous Land Use Agreement)
- Plans of Management. Area, Generic
- Plans of Management. Area, Generic. Previous Exclusive Possession Acts: Evidencing the existence and extent of a public work.

Theme

5 - Our Leadership

Strategy

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

Action

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Notes the report on my attendance at the “Native Title for Local Government” training seminar.

11 NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

13 QUESTION WITH NOTICE

Nil

14 OUR COMMUNITY

Nil

15 OUR ENVIRONMENT

Nil

16 OUR ECONOMY

16.1 WESTERN RIVERINA DROUGHT RESLIENCE PLAN

Document ID: 764618

Author: Economic Development Manager

Authoriser: General Manager

Theme: Our Environment

Attachments: 1. [Western Riverina Consortium Regional Drought Resilience Plan](#)  

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Western Riverina Consortium Regional Drought Resilience Plan for exhibition purpose.
2. Place the plan on public exhibition for a fourteen (14) day period.
3. Deems the Regional Drought Resilience Plan fit for submission to the NSW Government should no submissions be received from the community at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan and placement on public exhibition.

SUMMARY

The Regional Drought Resilience Plan (RDRP) is a collaboration between Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire Councils, and their communities, working together to advance the region's resilience to the impacts of drought. Stage One is development of a plan and stage two is implementation of the plan, with funding allocated to each stage.

BACKGROUND

The RDRP program is being delivered across Australia and is one of five focus areas of the Federal Government's Future Drought Fund. The NSW RDRP program is also jointly funded by the NSW Government, supporting local governments to work together regionally plan for drought resilience proactively and pragmatically.

The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase understanding of the region's current and future drought resilience, considering the region's unique economic, environmental, and social characteristics.
- Recognise the interdependent nature of the local economy, community health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability through the drought cycle and across business types.
- Understand local signals and drought priorities in the community's voice.

- Combine local knowledge with resilience and risk data and information to make informed decisions.
- Identify actions, pathways and opportunities to improve regional drought resilience, mitigate risks and adapt to change.
- Help the Western Riverina Consortium of councils and regional organisations be in a stronger position to implement strategic actions and support partnerships that drive enhanced drought resilience
- Develop concrete actions to address and mitigate short-term and long-term drought impacts.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES

Theme

5 - Our Leadership

Strategy

2.1 - To value, care for and protect our natural environment.

Action

2.3.2 - Source funding and implement short to medium term actions from the Narrandera Shire Council Climate Action Strategy.

ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Policy

- Nil

Financial

- This project was funded jointly through the Federal Government's Future Drought and NSW Government to the Western Riverina Consortium to deliver a Regional Drought Resilience Plan for this region.

Legal / Statutory

- Nil

Community Engagement / Communication

- Community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken through an online community and business survey, community, industry and government workshops, drop-in sessions, and targeted interviews / discussions with community, industry and services representatives. These activities were promoted via Council's website, media releases, social media, posters, and the community radio.

Human Resources / Industrial Relations (if applicable)

- Implementation is reliant upon appropriate staff resourcing to undertake projects identified within the plan as Council lead.

RISKS

- Identifying which projects are a priority to undertake and how the funds will be allocated to projects which are due for completion November 2025.
- Successful implementation of the plan with rely on the establishment of an active project control group (PCG) that has a wide collection of stakeholder representation.
- Council's available resources to participate in the PCG and deliver projects.
- The amount of projects that identify councils as the main project stakeholder, and the consortium's ability to deliver on those projects.

OPTIONS

1. Endorse the Regional Drought Resilience Plan, place on public exhibition for a fourteen-day period and if no submissions are made, deem the plan fit for submission to the NSW Government.
2. Resolve to not support the Regional Drought Resilience Plan and request additional investigation, consideration or amendment.
3. Resolve to decline the Regional Drought Resilience Plan, which will result in a lapse of contractual agreement as per the NSW Government Grant Deed Executed by Council.

CONCLUSION

The Drought Resilience Plan has been prepared by consultants Meridian Urban Pty Ltd in accordance with the Regional Drought Resistance Plan Grant project requirements, with appropriate community engagement, an assessment of existing resilience, strategy and policy review, and past drought analysis. The draft plan was reviewed by CSIRO and has been updated to reflect the recommendations of CSIRO bring the plan to completion.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Western Riverina Consortium Regional Drought Resilience Plan for exhibition purpose.
2. Place the plan on public exhibition for a fourteen (14) day period.
3. Deems the Regional Drought Resilience Plan fit for submission to the NSW Government should no submissions be received from the community at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan



Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Murrumbidgee Council, and Narrandera Shire Council acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the region’s lands and waters, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

We value the vital involvement of members of the primary production and broader communities of each council area to the formulation of this plan and extend our thanks to those who contributed.



This document was prepared for Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire Councils by Meridian Urban.



This project is supported by Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire Councils, through funding from the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund and NSW Government.

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Glossary

Key terms used throughout this plan are defined below.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ADAPTATION | Adjustment or modification in natural and/or human systems in response to actual or expected shocks and stresses to moderate harm, reduce vulnerability and/or exploit beneficial opportunities. |
| ADAPTIVE CAPACITY | The ability of individuals and groups to adjust and respond to environmental and socio-economic changes. |
| ADAPTIVE GOVERNANCE | Coordinating iterative, flexible, and responsive interactions between systems when designing interventions and for their implementation and evaluation. |
| COPING CAPACITY | Communities that may be constrained in their capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and to prepare for, absorb and recover. |
| DROUGHT | Drought means acute water shortage. Drought is a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use. |
| ECONOMIC RESILIENCE | The ability of the economy to absorb the economic impact of shocks and stressors without changing the economic status or outcomes. |
| ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE | The ability of the natural environment to cope with a diverse range of shocks and stressors while maintaining natural processes and ecosystem services. |
| GOVERNANCE | Governance is the structures and processes by which individuals, groups and agencies in a society share power and make decisions. It can be formally institutionalised, or informal. |
| INTERVENTION OPTIONS | Alternative or complementary actions, projects, programs, policies, initiatives, and investments that are planned to bring about change in the system. |
| LOCAL KNOWLEDGE | Local knowledge and First Nations knowledge incorporates elements of lived experience within a landscape, bearing witness to the operation of systems. It includes aspects of people, landscape, culture – how people interact with surroundings and as part of communities and processes. |
| RESILIENCE | The ability of a system to absorb a disturbance and reorganise to maintain the existing functions, structure, and feedback. Also see general resilience, specified resilience, economic resilience, environmental resilience, and social resilience. |
| RISK | The potential for adverse consequences for human or ecological systems, recognising the diversity of values and objectives associated with such systems. |
| SHOCK | Sudden, short-term events that threaten a city (or region). Examples include major storms, floods, bush fires, heatwaves, disease outbreaks, terrorism, and cyber-attacks. |
| SOCIAL RESILIENCE | The ability of the human society to cope with a diverse range of shocks and stressors while maintaining existing social and community functions. |
| STRESSOR | An event that occurs gradually over a timeframe that causes an adverse effect, e.g. drought. |
| SYSTEMS | The interaction of processes, networks, and inter-dependencies across a complex 'whole'. |
| THEORY OF CHANGE | Refers to theories, causal mechanisms and assumptions that explain how and why outcomes and impacts will be achieved through use, implementation and production of proposed inputs, activities, and outputs. |
| TRENDS | Major global or regional influences that have driven change in the past and are expected to shape change into the future. |
| THRESHOLD | The point at which a change in a level or amount a controlling variable causes a system to shift to a qualitatively different regime. Also referred to as a tipping point. |
| TRANSFORM | The process of radically changing or building a new system with different structure, functions, feedback, and identity. |
| TRIGGER POINT | A pre-agreed situation or event, that when met, activates a management intervention. Trigger points are usually defined in the planning phase. |

Introduction

This Regional Drought Resilience Plan is a collaboration between Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire Councils, and their communities, working together to advance the region’s resilience to the impacts of drought.

Drought is a recurring feature of the Australian landscape. While common experiences exist, the impacts and major pressures through drought varies across geographies, and across communities.

The Western Riverina region is dependent on the land, water and climatic conditions for prosperity. This highlights a need enhance drought resilience opportunities to position the region to respond to and recover from dry times. Sustainable and diverse economies, and connected communities that are responsive to drought signals, are the foundation to reduce vulnerability and mitigate potential impacts.

The Western Riverina is unique in its drought context. Whilst susceptible to periods of drought, the irrigation schemes of the region and regulation of the Murrumbidgee River set it apart from other parts of NSW. Water uncertainty in the region, as opposed to climatic events leading to drought, is a consequence of an interplay of factors. These factors, broadly grouped by climate, policy and operational infrastructure requirements, each have their own challenges but interact in combination across the drought cycle.

Within the region, vulnerabilities from drought are indicated by downward trends in rainfall and soil moisture. Changes in the Snowy Mountains catchment area would also have effect given the flows received from the Alpine region. Across the community, challenges are voiced in the evolution of the complex water policy landscape which places its own pressures on the community. Under this broader context, the region retains a self-driven focus on harnessing co-operative community and economic opportunities. This plans seeks to build on the collective strengths and regional identity of the Western Riverina as a premier food bowl for Australia to take steps now to stem the impacts of future drought on our region.

The Regional Drought Resilience Plan program is one of five focus areas¹ of the Commonwealth Government’s Future Drought Fund. The NSW Regional Drought Resilience Plan program is jointly funded through the Commonwealth Government’s Future Drought Fund and the NSW Government, supporting local governments to work together regionally to plan for drought resilience proactively and pragmatically.

¹ Other focus areas under the Future Drought Fund include farm business resilience, roll-out of the Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool, and better land management practices that support landscape resilience.

Drought resilience

‘will ensure regional Australia can endure deeper, longer droughts, and recover from them sooner. This will help Australia’s agricultural industries maintain national farm income, increase food security, and protect the regional jobs that rely on agriculture during the toughest years. Importantly, it will also increase the resilience of rural and regional communities and improve environmental outcomes’.

(CSIRO, 2022)

Image: Fivebough Wetlands

3

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan Framework

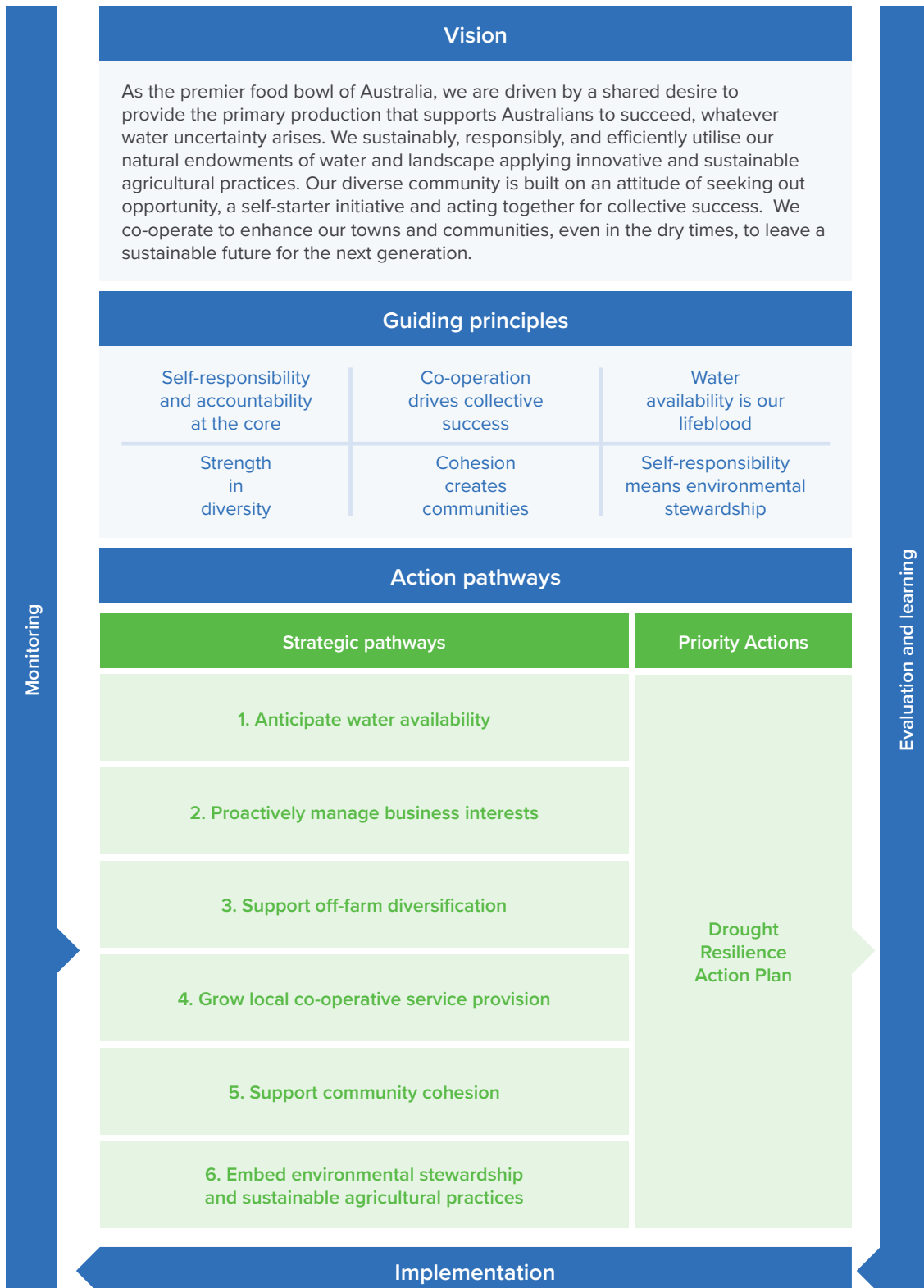


Figure 1 — Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan Framework



Purpose

The Western Riverina RDRP provides direction and options for how the community, business, industry networks, and local governments can adapt to strengthen drought resilience and transform for new opportunities.

The purpose of this plan is to:

- > Increase understanding of the region’s current and future drought resilience, considering the region’s unique economic, environmental and social characteristics
- > Recognise the interdependent nature of the local economy, community wellbeing, and environmental sustainability through the drought cycle and across business types
- > Understand local signals and drought priorities in the community’s voice and create stronger connectedness and greater social capital within communities
- > Inform decisions based on a combination of local knowledge, and risk and resilience information
- > Identify pathways and opportunities to improve regional drought resilience, mitigate risks and adapt to change
- > Help Councils and regional organisations be in a stronger position to implement strategic actions and support partnerships that drive enhanced drought resilience
- > Develop concrete actions to address and mitigate short-term and long-term drought impacts.

For the purposes of this plan, references to regional businesses include farms and agricultural business, contractors, suppliers, industry, retail and commercial services and references to community includes all townships, irrespective of size.

How does the plan help

The Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan combines drought history, climate analysis and local input to form a comprehensive understanding of the impacts of drought and to anticipate and prepare for the next drought cycle.

Whilst the future cannot necessarily be predicted, this plan addresses drought resilience by building in actions across the system where impacts are felt and across the drought cycles where interventions can be most effective. The plan consolidates on the range of existing programs and initiatives. It supports the ongoing collaboration between key actors who support the community through drought cycles.

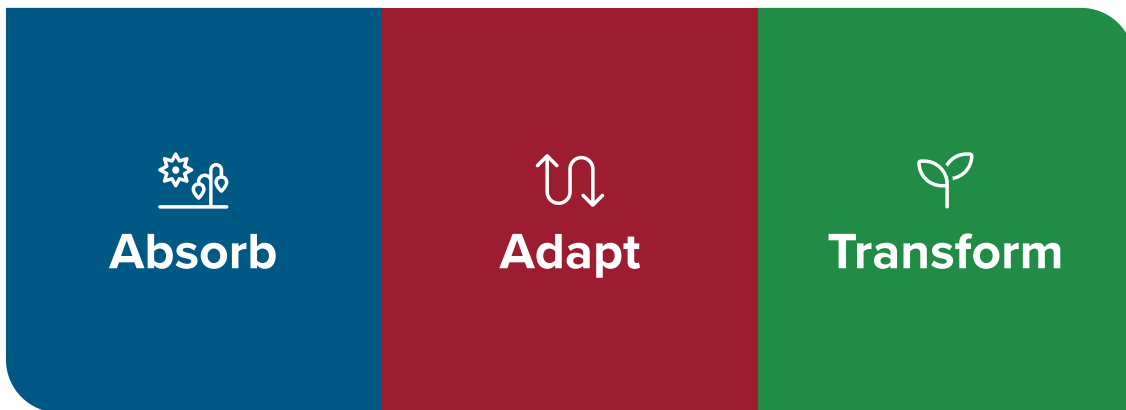
The impacts of drought can be insidious with a slow onset but prolonged effects that reach across the community. It is important we understand the warning signals of drought and retain a focus on continuous preparedness.

How previous impacts of drought have manifested across community networks, local business and the natural environment provides a guidepost for where actions are needed. This plan supports a focus on outcomes through:

- > Prevention of potential impacts
- > Increased preparedness and resilience through recognition of signals
- > What is needed in response
- > What is needed for recovery.

5




This Regional Drought Resilience Plan supports collective and cooperative measures to prepare for drought in the face of changing and uncertain futures. This is done through several intervention approaches:



These areas of absorptive capacity, adaptive capacity and transformational capacity provide a view of the priorities identified by this plan relative to different components of the drought cycle, effort and/or costs associated. Some opportunities are short-term and more immediate, whilst others are more transformative in nature and require long-term effort to generate change.

This concept forms part of a resilience ‘theory of change’ model² which helps us to break down and consider the complex elements of drought resilience and the links across issues. This makes clear both how and why its impacts run so deep. This approach also helps to inform decision-making for enhanced resilience and adaptation as conditions and circumstances change over time.

This plan supports drought resilience in the Western Riverina through approach that will:

-  **Understand and recognise the triggers and impacts**
-  **Build capacity to meet challenges**
-  **Unite in community**
-  **Use regional voices to advance strengths and opportunities**

This Regional Drought Resilience Plan provides the framework for implementation and identifies practical ways the community and businesses of the region can prepare for and respond to drought impacts. Implementation funding is available from longer-term investment under the Commonwealth Government’s Future Drought Fund, as well as other funding and grant assistance opportunities.

Implementation of actions contained in this plan is dependent on funding availability.

² The drought resilience plan integrates the ‘Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach’ (RAPTA) developed by CSIRO which provides a framework to map resilience interventions. For more information on RAPTA, visit <https://research.csiro.au/eap/rapta/>



Image: Visit Griffith

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan



Vision and principles

Vision

As the premier food bowl of Australia, we are driven by a shared desire to provide the primary production that supports Australians to succeed, whatever water uncertainty arises. We sustainably, responsibly, and efficiently utilise our natural endowments of water and landscape applying innovative and sustainable agricultural practices. Our diverse community is built on an attitude of seeking out opportunity, a self-starter initiative and acting together for collective success. We co-operate to enhance our towns and communities, even in the dry times, to leave a sustainable future for the next generation.

Guiding principles



Self-responsibility and accountability at the core

People in this region are frank and honest. We are very good at what we do – whether running the local café or managing a multi-million dollar diversified agri-business portfolio. The sense of responsibility and personal accountability is strong – people need practical and realistic support to keep doing what they do well.



Co-operation drives collective success

Not many parts of Australia work under such successful co-operative approaches like this region. From the irrigation schemes to the mills and even local pubs, the co-operative business structure provides a trust-based way to transform communities by growing services and prosperity in other critical sectors – like aged care, housing, and even retail – so that local services can be retained in-community, owned by community.



Strength in diversity

Farmers in this region know how to build, manage and grow diversified on-farm operations – they have been doing it efficiently for generations. Transferring this culture of diversification into off-farm economic growth that supports manufacturing and value-added employment and prosperity is a clear opportunity.



Water availability is our lifeblood

The region is unique in the way it receives its natural endowment of water – receiving both in-region rainfall and irrigation waters from Australia’s snow country via the Snowy Hydro scheme. This combination of water sources supports arguably Australia’s most critical and diversified irrigated and dryland country. However, uncertainty exists for both sources of water, which create similar drought-like conditions through different causes.



Cohesion creates communities

The region embodies the Australian ideals of mateship. There are tight-knit communities in towns and districts across the region that band together in a crisis to help each other through. It’s a clear and common foundation of what it takes to live successfully and sustainably.






Self-responsibility means environmental stewardship

There is an awareness of the precious nature of resources with which the community is entrusted. There is increasing recognition and practice in environmental restoration, regenerative agriculture, and care for Country that will pay great dividends as efforts increase.

7

Region snapshot

Information sourced from: ABS 2021 Census data, Regional Development Australia, and AgTrack - Agricultural and Land Use Dashboard

| | | |
|--|--|---|
|  <p>Population 47,589</p> |  <p>Population aged 65+ 20.6% <small>(17.7% NSW average)</small></p> |  <p>First Nations population 8.5% <small>(3.4% NSW average)</small></p> |
| <p>REGIONAL ECONOMY* 23,752 jobs (2021) Economy \$3.5b (2020) Local businesses 5,608 (2022)</p> | <p>UNEMPLOYMENT Griffith: 3.0% Leeton: 3.8% Murrumbidgee: 2.9% Narrandera: 5.2%</p> | <p>VOLUNTARY WORK <small>(organisations)</small> 13.2% — 23.2% <small>(13.0% NSW Average)</small></p> |

Largest industries (by employment)

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>GRIFFITH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poultry Processing Wine / Alcoholic Beverage Manufacturing Hospitals | <p>LEETON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Education Meat Processing Grain Mill Product Manufacturing |
| <p>MURRUMBIDGEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Grain Growing Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming Local Government Administration | <p>NARRANDERA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grain growing, and Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle farming Local Government Administration Meat Processing Aged Care Residential Services |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>LARGEST INDUSTRIES <small>(gross value add)</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Manufacturing Health and education Electricity and water supply | <p>PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadacre cropping Fruit and nuts Livestock |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Western Riverina Intermodal Freight Terminal ✓ Griffith Medical Health Precinct ✓ Griffith Regional Airport ✓ Country Universities Centre ✓ Yanco Agricultural institute ✓ TAFE NSW campuses ✓ Narrandera Fisheries Centres | <p>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Murrumbidgee River and tributaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Billabong Creek ✓ Murrumbidgee Valley and Oolambeyan National Parks ✓ Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recreational lakes |
|--|--|

*Values include Carrathool Shire LGA

About the Western Riverina Region

The Western Riverina, as part of the broader Riverina Murray region, is known as Australia's 'food bowl'. It is built around premium agricultural areas, and long-standing agricultural industry strengths linked to secure water and complemented by beneficial climate conditions and versatile soils. The Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan covers the local government areas (LGA) of Griffith City, Murrumbidgee, Leeton Shire and Narrandera Shire.

Griffith is the largest regional city in the Western Riverina and is one of the three regional cities in the broader Riverina Murray region alongside Wagga Wagga and Albury. A number of smaller centres support Griffith in surrounding rural communities. Leeton is the second largest centre in the Western Riverina and Leeton Shire includes the towns of Whitton and Yanco. The shire is a strong driver of the broader regional strengths, in particular through the role it plays in value-add agriculture, including agricultural education and research.

Murrumbidgee Council contains the three townships of Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie. These centres account for over 90 percent of the LGA's population, and reflect strengths through food and fibre production, benefiting from the Murrumbidgee River, Billabong Creek and water supplied from the Murray River.

Narrandera Shire is located at the juncture of the Newell and Sturt Highways, representing a transition from the broad acre agricultural areas to the east to the highly productive Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Narrandera forms the main town and provides a concentration of services, supported by smaller communities in Barellan, Binya, Grong Grong, and a number of rural localities.

Across each LGA the strength in agriculture is linked through connection to water, a highly evolved local industry with value-add processing, and connection

to major markets and major transport infrastructure. Key assets include the Murrumbidgee River, and flows received from the Alpine Region. The Western Riverina is home to the major irrigation schemes of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, Coleambally Irrigation Area, and Murray Irrigation area, alongside other private irrigators. This irrigation network supports many farms and provides some of the nation's most important irrigation areas.

Building on agricultural strengths, educational and research institutes form key assets in the region. This includes the Country Universities Centre, Yanco Agricultural Institute, and TAFE campuses across LGAs, with the largest TAFE campus in the Riverina located at Griffith. These educational facilities and major health facilities anchor services in the region and provide for a mixture of employment options.

The position of the region has influenced its economic development and agricultural strengths, capturing major freight corridors between capital cities, and evolving its own manufacturing and transport hubs. These form the basis of future growth ambitions, with further links to emerging activation precincts across the state.

The northern part of the region (north of Jerilderie) is within the Wiradjuri Nation, the largest territory at the time of European settlement. The Nation encompasses the Central West slopes and plains and extends from Coonabarabran to the north, hugging the Great Dividing Range south towards the Murray River in the south and out to western NSW. The Nation encompasses approximately one fifth of NSW. Wiradjuri people are known as 'people of three rivers', acknowledging the three rivers that are associated with their Country: the Wambuul (Macquarie River), Kalari (Lachlan River) and Murrumbidjeri (Murrumbidgee River).

Figure 2 — Map of the Western Riverina Region and local centres

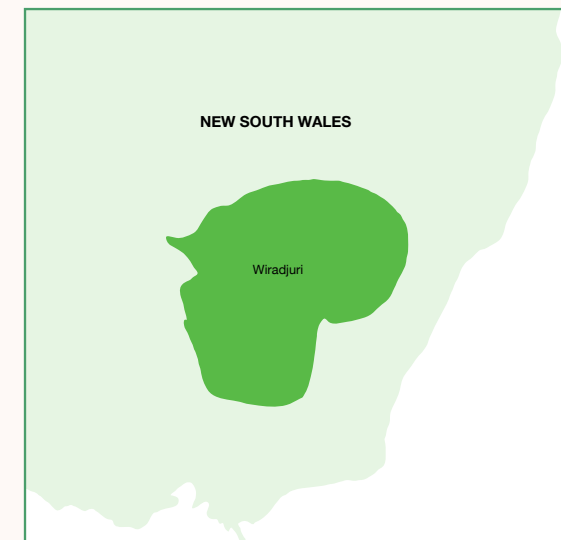


Figure 3 — Approximate extent of the Wiradjuri Nation³

³ Griffith City Council, 2019, Griffith City Council Reconciliation Action Plan December 2019/December 2021, Available at <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-GWK-21-15-76>.

Wiradjuri Nation

The Wiradjuri Nation is the largest traditional owner group in NSW known to have cared for the lands in the regions for at least 60,000 years. Colonisation drastically changed their way of life, leading to dispossession and cultural suppression.

The culture of the Wiradjuri people is closely linked to the land and waterways, and retains a strong belief that if we care for Country, it will care for us. There are several sites of significance to the Wiradjuri people in the area, including the Koonadan Aboriginal Place and the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands. Conservation practices are key to ensuring these sites continue to maintain an ecological balance.

Water has played a critical role in the lives of Aboriginal people, for survival in arid environments and for culture, spiritual connection to land and waters and identity. Water helped in defining language boundaries and ceremonial places, and also underpins many land management practices. Traditional Aboriginal water collection and storage practices have evolved for many centuries and continue into the present.

In collaboration with First Nations/ Aboriginal people, a state-wide Aboriginal Water Strategy is currently under development, building upon consultation over recent year. The plan will identify ways of increasing water rights and ensuring that First Nations people are empowered to contribute to water management and planning decisions.

People and community

The Western Riverina is attracting new agricultural ventures and business operators who are keen to trial innovative approaches. Across the region, the vibrancy of agricultural industry is shining.

At heart of this is a strong community co-operative style of approach to not only business, but community development. A drive to work together, and to share knowledge and benefits, is a key attribute behind some of the region’s most successful economic and community ventures. Strong community identity and a sense of civic duty is foundational in this regard. It also informs the community’s dedication to volunteering activities and organisations. Whilst volunteerism rates are in decline nationally, community dedication at the local-scale across the Western Riverina remains relatively strong.

Sport and recreation plays a major role in the wellbeing of people and communities in the region, displayed through the diverse range of sporting teams and sporting calendar. This goes beyond those that play, but to the broader community as avid spectators and volunteers who contribute to the local teams and the running, maintenance and administration of local venues and facilities. Other social interest groups also add to the vibrant tapestry of community spirit and provide important creative and social connections.

Green spaces, recreational and natural assets are therefore critical to community wellbeing. While maintaining water to these spaces during drought is challenging, it is also essential to underpin community cohesion and mental wellness at a broader scale. There are also significant visitor economy dividends associated with these assets, as well as the region’s colonial heritage and lively arts and culture scene.



Image: Jerilderie Plains

10

Environment

The Western Riverina is part of the wider Riverina Bioregion which has high soil fertility and a generally abundant water supply. These aspects underly its primacy as a premier food-growing region.

The climate of the Riverina Bioregion is dry and semi-arid with hot summers and cool winters, and most rainfall occurring in winter months. Vegetation ranges from river red gums along river channels, to saltbush on the plains. National parks in the region include Murrumbidgee Valley and Oolambeyan National Parks. The region’s natural assets include significant wetlands and swamps such as the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands. These areas provide important habitat for native fish, amphibians, birds, mammals and many other water dependent fauna. These areas are also of cultural heritage significance to the region’s First Nations people.

Since European colonisation there has been substantial modification of the vegetation and landscape through pastoral activities, the use of ground and surface water resources, and the introduction of feral animals to the region including Carp in the river systems.

One of the most profound changes at a landscape scale was the construction and commencement of the Snowy Mountain Scheme (Snowy Scheme). The Snowy Scheme was designed to produce electrical energy. However, one of the key objectives of the Scheme was to mitigate the effects of drought on irrigated agriculture in NSW and Victoria by improving the security of water supply to farmers along the fertile Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

Economy

Collectively, the Western Riverina economy supports approximately 23,752 jobs and its economic value is an estimated \$3.5 billion⁴ per year. The four key strengths of the region are in agriculture, manufacturing, utilities, and health and education

The high-quality agricultural lands support a long-held sector strength with significant value-add opportunities. The sector retains strong links to manufacturing, which also benefits from the linkages to large cities, distribution points of ports and airports, and links to freight and logistics hubs.

Economic assets exist through the major freight routes, freight railway lines, and links to the neighbouring regional city precincts in Albury and Wagga Wagga. The region’s Western Riverina Intermodal Freight Terminal and urban industrial areas also provide economic enablers.

Investment in the region continues with major projects planned and underway. Strengths which support the key industries are its access to water and irrigation systems, proximity to metropolitan markets, extensive road and rail infrastructure and emerging population-serving employment clusters.

| Industry | Employment (2021) | Gross Value Add (2020) |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Agriculture | 3,926 jobs (16.5% share) | \$583m |
| Manufacturing | 3,827 jobs (16.3% share) | \$526m |
| Health and education | 4,405 jobs (18.5% share) | \$390m |
| Electricity and water supply (including renewables) | 382 jobs (1.6% share) | \$144m |

⁴ This includes Carrathool Shire in addition to Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee, and Narrandera Shire

How this plan was prepared

The Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan was prepared through the valued contribution of a broad cross section of community members, stakeholders, local government, government services, community organisations, businesses and local producers. This engagement was supported by an evidence-based resilience assessment for the region.

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p>Resilience Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > research and literature > strategy and policy reviews > regional characteristics > trends and projections for drought impacts; and > drought resilience indicators assessment. |  <p>Stakeholder engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > online community and business surveys > community, industry and government workshops > community drop-in sessions > targeted consultations, interviews and discussions with community, industry and services representatives. |
|---|---|

The narrative, theme and actions within the plan are directed by the conversations across community engagement. The plan builds on existing strategies through the lens of drought resilience which supports development on the identified strategic pathways.



Image: Leeton Chill & Grill Festival

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Strategic alignment – state, regional and local

Looking upwards, the regional drought resilience program provides strategic alignment with international scale goals including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, alongside national-scale strategies and frameworks and state-level strategic instruments. This alignment demonstrates how working locally contributes to broader sustainability and resilience outcomes for NSW and Australia.

Key plans and strategies contributing to this alignment and the preparation of the Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan has included (but is not limited to):

- > Murray-Darling Basin Plan
- > Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041
- > Western Riverina Regional Economic Development Strategy (2023 update)
- > Draft Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategy
- > Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) strategies, plans and papers
- > NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- > NSW Government Department of Primary Industries Drought Hub
- > Department of Regional NSW Drought Signals Dashboard
- > Commonwealth Government’s Drought Resilience Self-Assessment tool
- > Council Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework documents.

A stakeholder-driven approach

The resilience assessment which underpins the RDRP built an understanding of local context and drought impacts around the economic, natural environment and social characteristics of the region. However, impacts are not felt in isolation but rather can compound and cascade. Community consultation was key to understanding how these interactions occur and build.

The engagement process centred on community workshops, drop-in sessions, targeted meetings and discussions, and an online survey to collate experiences, insights and views from a broad cross section of community members. We spoke with growers, livestock graziers, industry and community group representatives, business operators, First

Nations organisations, subject matter specialists, service providers, local and state government agencies, elected representatives and more.

Discussion was had on what was needed into the future to better position the region collectively when the next time a dry period is upon us. This discussion focussed on actions and initiatives that were required in preparation for drought, the needs during drought and then into recovery.

Figure 4 — Engagement workshops held in-region



9 workshops across weeks in July and September 2024

Coleambally / Narrandera
Barellan / Leeton / Griffith

4 drop in sessions

Darlington Point / Jerilderie
Whitton / Griffith

Online survey

Community / Business owners
and operators

72 survey responses

45+ workshop attendees

Engagement observations and insights

Key insights communicated through the stakeholder consultation process and informing the preparation of this plan include:

-  Co-operative community approaches are strong and working well. This sets the region apart from other areas. There is a strong desire to work together for mutual benefit.
-  An improved and shared understanding of how the water market operates is needed.
-  Irrigation has stabilised the local economy over the past 50 years which has limited the impacts of drought on the region to an extent, though it is still felt.
-  To deal with reduced water availability, economic development needs to focus on non-water dependent jobs / industries. Government assistance is needed in diversifying the economy to reduce reliance on contribution from agricultural.
-  Mental health and wellbeing ahead of the next drought should be a key area of focus. Mental health support once drought has set in is welcomed, but it can be too late. Tools to support producers ahead of drought is a clear opportunity, as well as building broader community mental health literacy.
-  The key is to act early when making decisions in the face of drought, which applies to on and off-farm businesses.
-  The efficiency of government processes and systems places unnecessary stress on people. For example, registration of trucks (of which properties / businesses usually have many) which must be done in-person. Issues were also present with previous grant application process and timelines of such availability.
-  Primary producers in the region benefit from opportunities to showcase their property management and production processes. People come from around the world to learn from Western Riverina producers.
-  Townships have good water allocations that provide opportunities for new businesses.
-  The Western Riverina plays a key role in broader food security matters, and as a key exporter for the nation. As key players in this system we want to see what is being planned at higher policy levels.
-  Resilience is driven by efficiencies and strong self-accountability based upon business acumen, efficient management, innovation and sustainability.
-  State and Commonwealth Government services that support drought preparedness should be more actively promoted and marketed.
-  Business and property succession planning is critical.

Messages from the Community

Community views are strong on how the region builds its own resilience and how it contributes to the resilience of Australians more broadly. Key messages from the community, which are central to this plan include:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  <p>Our region was developed purposefully to provide food for Australians – and we take that legacy seriously by developing and innovating world class food production processes</p> |  <p>We are a critical driver of the success of cities and towns of everyday lives of people all over Australia – our resilience drives Australia's resilience</p> |  <p>Trust us to manage our own future, and help us to keep being as efficient as we can be</p> |
|  <p>One size fits all approaches don't work – specialised and targeted support is critical</p> |  <p>We need greater water certainty and availability</p> |  <p>Centralisation of services doesn't meet community need – we need core services in community to support our prosperity</p> |

Regional enablers

To bolster the resilience to the effects of drought, the region's ability to capitalise on its community and economic development opportunities is reliant upon key enabling attributes. Beyond water, these include access to reliable energy networks, digital connectivity and transport infrastructure.

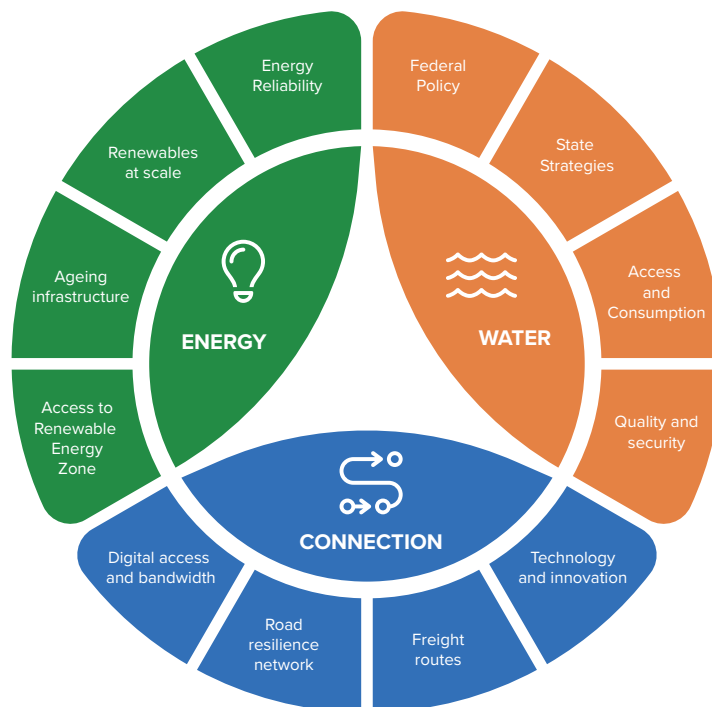


Figure 5 — Regional enabling priorities of the Western Riverina

How our region is impacted by drought

How the Western Riverina region is impacted by drought is closely aligned to its connection with water, which is the ‘lifblood’ of the region.

Natural river systems

This is a unique part of Australia. The region derives the benefit of relatively modest in-region rainfall, but also the bounty of surface water from rain and snow precipitation from far away. The Murrumbidgee is sourced from high in the Australian Alps, winding its way across the south-west slopes of NSW and across the riverine plains to where it meets the Murray River. The Snowy Scheme was originally conceived as an irrigation scheme to draw the snowmelt from the Snowy Mountains west into the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, before it also diversified into hydro-electric power generation.

The Murrumbidgee River connects centres and communities across the region and is the basis for productive agricultural lands, nationally important wetlands, and hydroelectricity further beyond the Western Riverina.

The Murrumbidgee catchment is part of the southern Basin of the Murray-Darling Basin, with this basin flowing into the Murray River. The Murray River system also influences the region, supplying water to south of Billabong Creek. This supports production in and around Jerilderie and the broader Murrumbidgee Council area.

Land uses are diverse across the Murrumbidgee Valley. A high proportion of land is used for dryland grazing and cereal-based cropping. The region supports the production of over 40 percent of NSW grapes and 50 percent of Australia’s rice. Given the diversity of users, and the context to which it sits as part of the broader Murray-Darling Basin system, there are competing interests which provide the backdrop for a range of issues related to regional water planning and policy in the region.

The Snowy Scheme water makes its way through the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) via Blowering Dam and Burrinjuck Dam on the Murrumbidgee River. Blowering Dam stores water that has been released from storages further upstream in the Snowy-Tumut Development Section of the Snowy Scheme. Water releases from Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams are managed by NSW State Water, to provide for town water supply, irrigation and environmental use requirements. On the Murrumbidgee River, as at Gundagai, the Snowy Scheme contributes inflows of around 25 percent during average inflow years, but 60 percent during drought years. Water from the two storage dams flows down to Berembed Weir, a journey taking five days and a further two days to Gogeldrie Weir. From Berembed Weir, water moves into Bundidgerry storage and onto the Narrandera Regulator, which is the start of the system owned and maintained by Murrumbidgee Irrigation.



Image: Griffith Main Canal

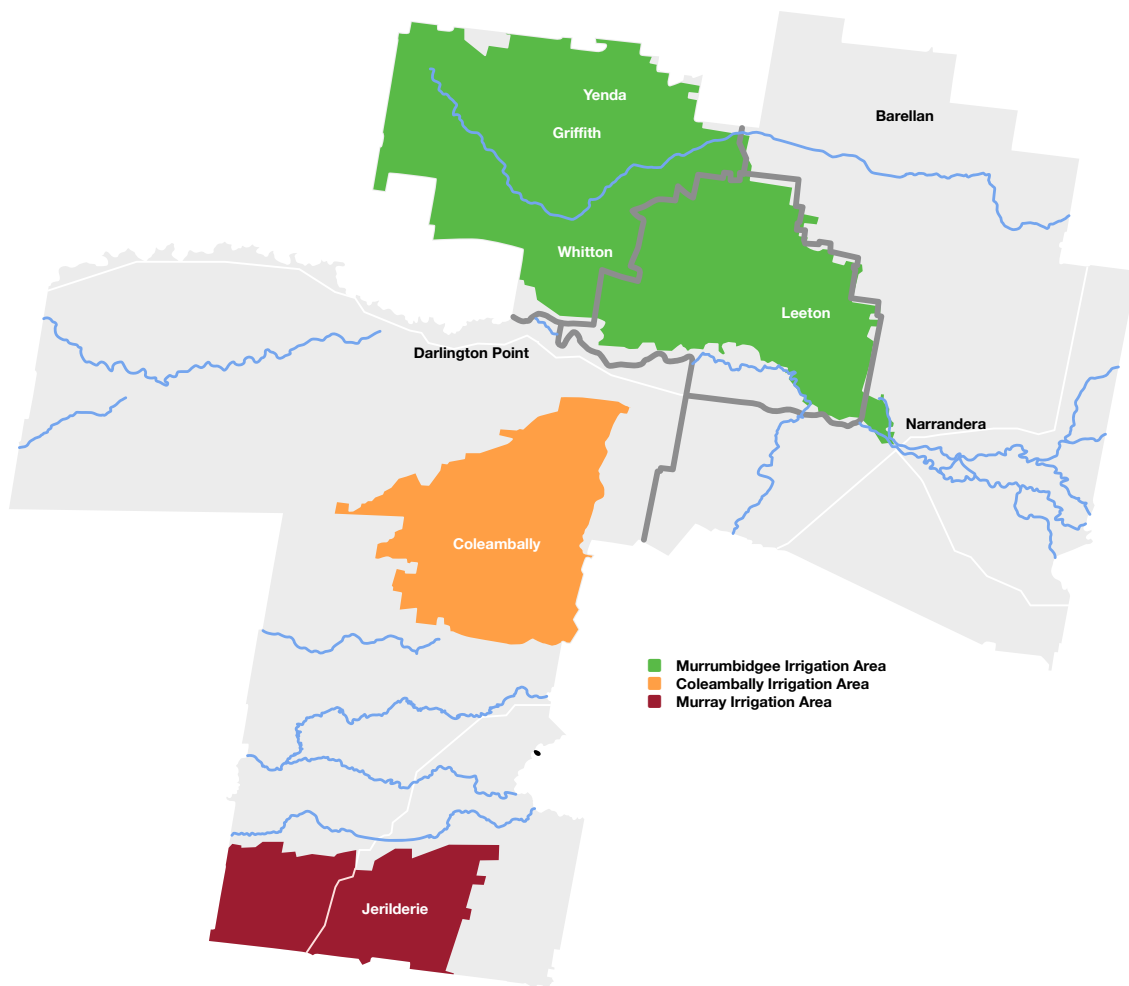
Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Irrigation areas

The Murrumbidgee River acts as the natural delivery course for the major food producing areas of the MIA and the Coleambally Irrigation Area (CIA) via Blowering Dam (on the Tumut River, a tributary to the Murrumbidgee) and Burrinjuck Dams. These irrigation areas provide over one-quarter of all the fruit and vegetable production in NSW and are also one of Australia’s largest exporters of bulk wine. The southern part of the region, south of Jerilderie and Billabong Creek, is serviced by Murray Irrigation which supplies to more than 740,000 hectares of farmland.

This access to water through the establishment of irrigation schemes, and other water sources, has supported the growth and scale of operations in the region both in agribusiness and associated manufacturing. Economic activity in the region, both historically and at present is strongly linked to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme, and the water infrastructure investment that support the modern-day irrigation network.

Figure 6 — Major irrigation areas in the Western Riverina



The region’s different types of ‘drought’

The Bureau of Meteorology notes that drought is a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use. We typically think of drought as the absence of rainfall in a region given most other regions in Australia are predominantly dryland in nature.

‘Water uncertainty’ is a preferred term in the region rather than this traditional rainfall and climate-led view of drought. This uncertainty can come from a range of different mechanisms in this region which may occur singularly or in combination. Engagement highlighted three kinds of ‘water uncertainty’ for the region:

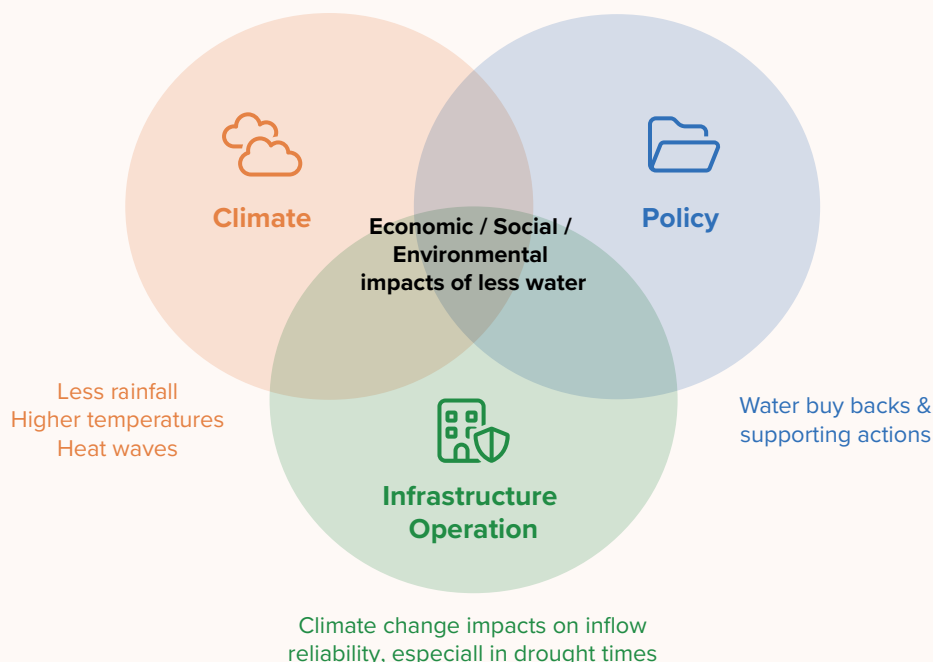
- > ‘Natural’ drought – which is the climate-related drought experienced across Australia, and involves a deficit in the level of rainfall occurring in region.
- > ‘Human-made’ drought – which is the lack of irrigation water due to government policy or out-of-region water availability.

- > Operational constraints influences – which involves the asset-based constraints of scheme maintenance and operation, an more significantly, reliability of supply.

The effects of drought and any resilience initiative need to be aligned with responses to the broader context, including policy drivers and operational implications of changing rainfall patterns in the Snowy Mountains. These may result in less water availability or a reduction in the reliability of water supplies in the region. The interplay of these factors creates uncertainty in the water landscape for this region.

Whilst the irrigation schemes have stabilised local and regional economic activity, water shortage and drought impacts can still be felt across the community. Into the future, the impact of climate change on the Snowy Mountain region is also important to the Western Riverina given the reliance on elevated inflows in drier periods from the Snowy Scheme. This emphasises a need to plan ahead to alleviate potential future impacts.

Reduced Water Availability



Policies / Programs / Actions in response to the various drivers need to be aligned to avoid unintended consequences and implementation gaps.

Figure 7 — Drivers of loss of water availability in the Western Riverina

Drought impacts

Regardless of how drought manifests, whether it is climatic, policy or operationally-related, the impacts are largely still the same. The impacts below were identified through consultation to inform the plan.



Environmental Impacts

- > Loss of topsoil through groundcover loss and wind erosion
- > Increased demand on alluvial ground water
- > Reduced root zone soil moisture
- > Water turbidity
- > Pressure on the wetlands to support a wider variety and quantity of wildlife
- > Low inflows into the water courses and higher evaporation rates impacting the health of flora and fauna
- > Biosecurity and pest and weed outbreaks
- > Vegetation dieback
- > Increased potential for bushfire and grassfire, and dust storms
- > Water and food availability for wildlife



People and Social Impacts

- > Social isolation
- > Increased mental and physical health issues
- > Increased demand on community services
- > Challenges in attracting and retaining workers
- > Youth retention
- > Maintenance of sports and recreational facilities
- > Reduced ability to partake in sporting and recreation activities
- > Household financial distress, and capacity to access local services
- > Population decline and loss of skills
- > Increased need for community group activity with less volunteers available
- > Increased potential for conflict and reduced community cohesion
- > Impacts on culture and cultural practices
- > Infections and illness from water quality



Economic Impacts

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reduction in water allocations > Limited fodder and water availability for livestock > Reduced discretionary spending in townships > Water uncertainty creates loss of confidence in both commercial & residential property market > Reduction in agricultural production, reduced yields > Loss of or reduced farm income, balance sheet impacts and reduced borrowing capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Maintaining cash flow and debt servicing > Loss or reduction in on and off farm employment > Increased fodder and water prices > Changes in farm ownership models > Halting of investment and capital projects on farms and directly associated businesses > Research and innovation can stall > Compounding effects of other natural events such as frosts |
|---|--|

Impacts from external trends

-  Changing water policy environments including water buy backs and allocation changes
-  Housing pressure and availability of land in and around towns impacting housing supply for workers
-  Costs of living and rising costs of farming inputs
-  Demand from overseas markets is driving the need for sustainability and accreditation
-  Changes to government service delivery models which centralise employment to larger centres and results in consequences for awareness of programs and support, and access to services
-  Changes to farm structures, with an increase of corporate farm and the resultant impacts to local community service provision, population and local spend
-  Limited telecommunications and electricity network reliability and coverage.

Cascading impacts of drought

The effects of drought are not isolated, they are interconnected across the social and economic systems in the region and broader pressures on the landscape. Given the significance of agriculture within the regional economy, impacts to the sector have broader flow on effects to downstream industries, supply chains, and the local businesses in town that rely on discretionary spending.

Many existing challenges within a regional area are made harder. Workforce attraction and retention can be an issue through drought. Where workers leave during drought, it can be difficult attracting these workers back which can be both timely and costly to business operations and can impede productivity in the recovery cycle.

As part of the development of this plan, it is essential to consider the relationship between drought impacts and their underlying causes, with a focus on addressing the root causes rather than merely responding to the resulting chain of symptoms. In this regard, the design and implementation of actions can address multiple challenges across the system.



Image: Banna Lane Festival Griffith - Artwork by Reubszz

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Drought history

The impacts of drought can vary based on community, weather conditions, and the prevailing macro influences and trends of the time. Additionally, personal circumstances can vary significantly. Major droughts in Australian history have affected the Western Riverina region, characterised by periods of low rainfall.

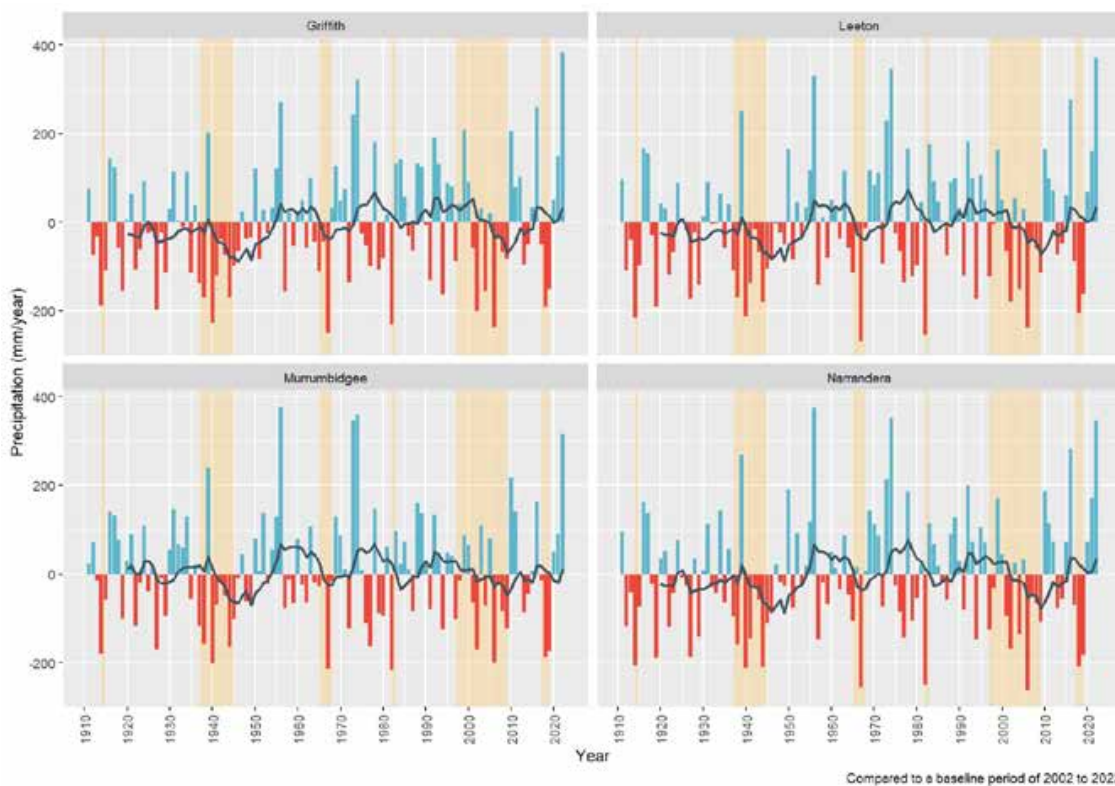
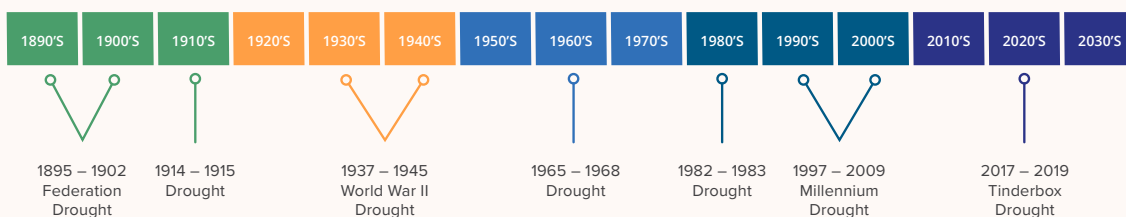


Figure 8 — Yearly mean precipitation anomaly by LGA

*Note that the data does not extend back to the Federation drought of 1890-1902

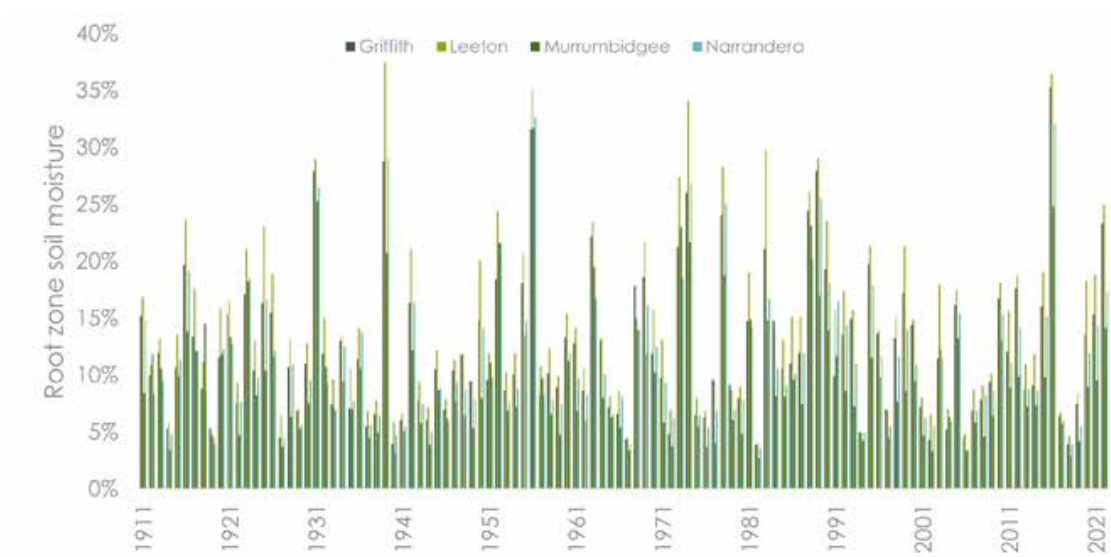


Figure 9 – Soil moisture across LGAs. Major historical droughts align with lower soil moisture levels

The region experiences some years of consistent rainfall, scattered with year-to-year fluctuations. The WWII Drought and Millenium Drought display some of the more protracted periods with notable impacts to soil moisture levels.

A comprehensive synthesis of historic drought climate data specific to the region is included at Appendix A. An analysis of this was undertaken as part of the Resilience Assessment reporting that informs this plan.

A focus on the 2017-2019 drought

During the 2017-2019 period, rainfall for much of Australia, in particular most of the Murray–Darling Basin, was substantially below average. The three years from January 2017 to December 2019 was the driest on record for any 36-month period starting January, when averaged across the Murray-Darling Basin and NSW. Average rainfall for the basin was over 100 millimetres lower than the second driest period (January 1965 to December 1967), and NSW received around 170 millimetres less rainfall than the next driest period, the Federation Drought (1900-1902).

A notable feature of the rainfall deficiencies of these three years is that they were concentrated in the cooler seasons. Both 2018 and 2019 were especially dry. The period was the driest and hottest on record for the basin as a whole. These record warm temperatures exacerbated dry conditions, at times rapidly drying soils in a matter of months. This led to periods in 2017 and 2019 that researchers have termed ‘flash drought’.



Image: Grain storage, Jerilderie

Future drought

The agricultural industry is a significant economic driver for the region. The high-quality agricultural lands support a long-held sector strength with significant value-add in industries of education and manufacturing. Because of this, it is important to consider the projected impact of future climate changes to better plan for potential increased rainfall uncertainty and its impacts of associated water policy.

The further in advance we plan, build awareness and put in place redundancy measures, the more options we will likely have available to address issues down the track.

Future climate scenarios





According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reporting, under all emissions scenarios considered global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century. Increasing temperatures and energy within the climate system are projected to result in widespread changes to weather and climate patterns, including drought and all elements of the water cycle.

The below section presents projections of drought and associated climate conditions which are assessed over two possible future climate scenarios using regional climate model ensembles. Projections are shown across the region using the reference period (1976-2005) and then two timescales 2050 (2036-2065) and 2070 (2056-2085). The IPCC's Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) 4.5 and 8.5 are used. RCP 4.5 models mean global warming of between two to three degrees Celsius and is the most likely future scenario based on current climate commitments. RCP 8.5 is a mean global warming of four degrees Celsius or more. This is considered a worst-case scenario.

Current climate models do not account for global climate tipping points. This means that the effects of tipping points are typically not included in climate projections and impact assessments. Breaching global climate tipping points represents significant risks on top of the changes typically described in climate assessments. The effects of breaching certain tipping points may include abrupt changes to the El Niño Southern Oscillation, rainfall patterns, and rainfall variability that are not represented in climate model projections, on top of the main consequences of more rapid warming and sea-level rise.

While days above 35°C and Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) are not direct indicators of drought, they describe weather conditions that often occur alongside drought or are exacerbated by drought.

Regional drought climate indicators:

-  Generally decreasing trends in annual precipitation across the region, worsening into the far term
-  Reduction in soil moisture levels across all scenarios modelled
-  Increasing temperatures are likely to be the primary driver of increased frequency and severity of evapotranspiration and drought conditions
-  Other climate and weather-driven events like heatwaves and bushfires / grass fire may compound broader impacts from drought events.

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Below projections of these indices use an ensemble of CSIRO’s Electricity Sector Climate Information (ESCI) datasets (days above 35°C and days above an FFDI of 25).⁵

| Griffith City | | 2050 | | 2070 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Variable | Climate model reference period | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 |
| Root soil moisture | 15% [#] | ↓ 0.019 mm [^] | ↓ 0.019 mm [^] | ↓ 0.013 mm [^] | ↓ 0.026 mm [^] |
| Annual total precipitation | 414 mm | ↑ 1 mm | ↓ 7 mm | 0 mm | ↓ 15 mm |
| Days above 35°C | 31 | 49 ↑ ¹⁸ | 55 ↑ ²⁴ | Data unavailable | |
| Days with FFDI above 25 | 53 | 67 ↑ ¹⁴ | 74 ↑ ²¹ | | |

| Leeton | | 2050 | | 2070 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Variable | Climate model reference period | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 |
| Root soil moisture | 16% [#] | ↓ 0.023 mm [^] | ↓ 0.025 mm [^] | ↓ 0.015 mm [^] | ↓ 0.031 mm [^] |
| Annual total precipitation | 422 mm | ↓ 3 mm | ↓ 10 mm | ↓ 9 mm | ↓ 19 mm |
| Days above 35°C | 30 | 47 ↑ ¹⁷ | 53 ↑ ²³ | Data unavailable | |
| Days with FFDI above 25 | 51 | 64 ↑ ¹³ | 71 ↑ ²⁰ | | |

| Murrumbidgee | | 2050 | | 2070 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Variable | Climate model reference period | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 |
| Root soil moisture | 12% [#] | ↓ 0.015 mm [^] | ↓ 0.013 mm [^] | ↓ 0.007 mm [^] | ↓ 0.021 mm [^] |
| Annual total precipitation | 385 mm | ↓ 6 mm | ↓ 3 mm | ↓ 4 mm | ↓ 17 mm |
| Days above 35°C | 30 | 47 ↑ ¹⁷ | 53 ↑ ²³ | Data unavailable | |
| Days with FFDI above 25 | 54 | 68 ↑ ¹⁴ | 74 ↑ ²⁰ | | |

| Narrandera | | 2050 | | 2070 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Variable | Climate model reference period | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 |
| Root soil moisture | 14% [#] | ↓ 0.019 mm [^] | ↓ 0.018 mm [^] | ↓ 0.009 mm [^] | ↓ 0.023 mm [^] |
| Annual total precipitation | 436 mm | ↓ 3 mm | ↓ 9 mm | ↓ 7 mm | ↓ 18 mm |
| Days above 35°C | 30 | 47 ↑ ¹⁷ | 53 ↑ ²³ | Data unavailable | |
| Days with FFDI above 25 | 48 | 62 ↑ ¹⁴ | 68 ↑ ²⁰ | | |

[#] Mean water content as a percentage of capacity.

[^] Change (mm/yr) in relative soil water content of the 1976-2005 reference period’s relative soil water holding capacity.

⁵ CSIRO n.d., ESCI Climate Data, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. Available at: <https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/projects/esci/esci-climate-data/>

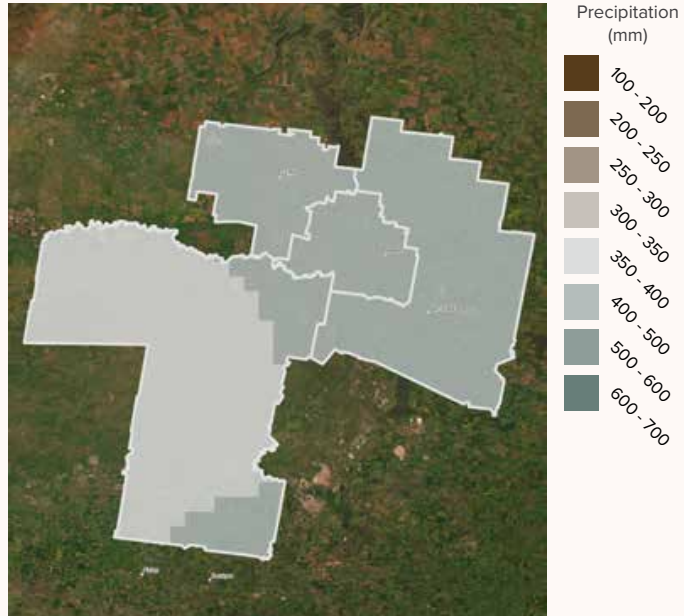
Annual precipitation

Considering the modelled scenarios for precipitation, all see either a minimal change or a reduction in annual total rainfall by 2050. Under the RCP4.5 scenario, this annual reduction lessens in severity in Murrumbidgee and Narrandera by 2070; but, grows in Griffith and Leeton.

Under the RCP8.5 scenario by 2070, the reduction in annual rainfall grows significantly across each LGA over the course of the two decades. This is notable for Murrumbidgee, as it has the lowest rainfall rate in the climate reference period and the most significant reduction from 2050 (-3mm) to 2070 (-17mm) under this scenario (Figure 12).

Figure 12 — Annual precipitation changes across the region.

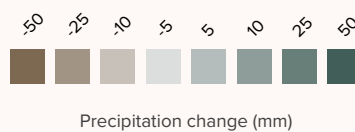
Climate model reference period



2050 (RCP4.5)



2070 (RCP4.5)



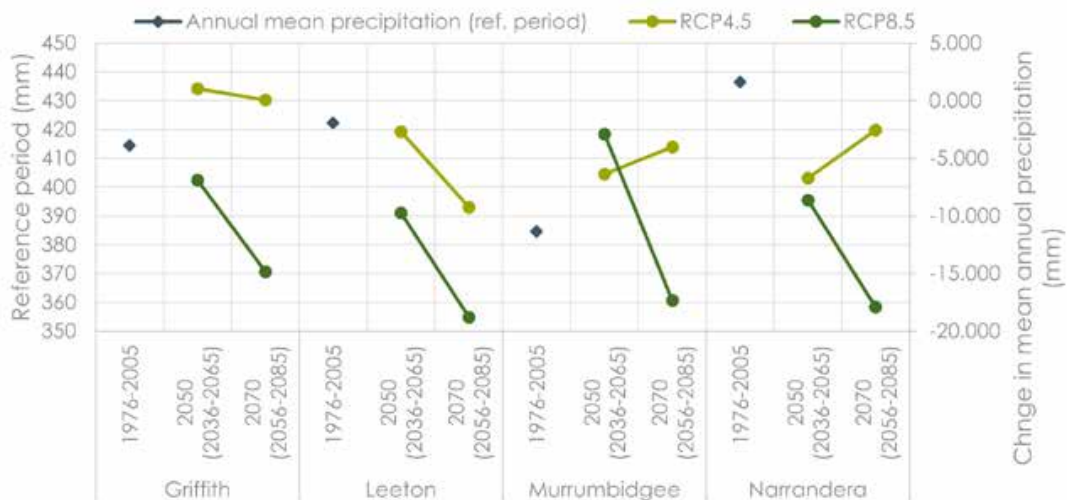
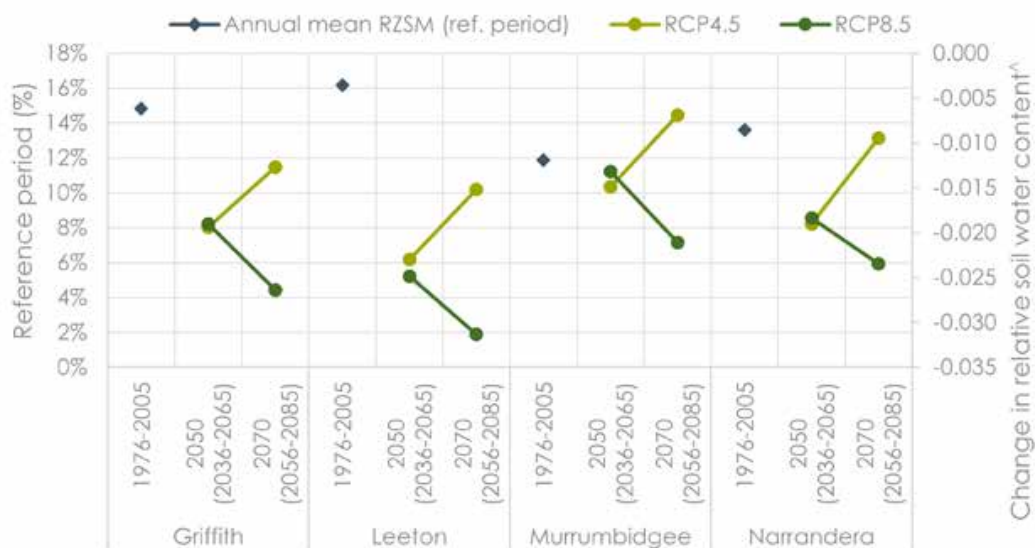


Figure 13 — Annual mean precipitation future climate projections, by LGA

Root zone soil moisture

Root zone soil moisture (RZSM) is presented as a percentage of total capacity during the baseline reference period and as a change of millimetres per year of the climate adjusted scenarios.

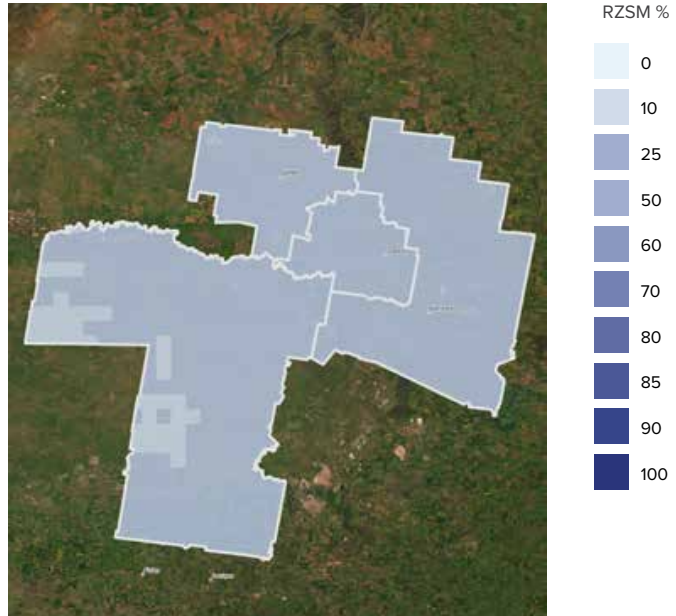


Root zone soil moisture

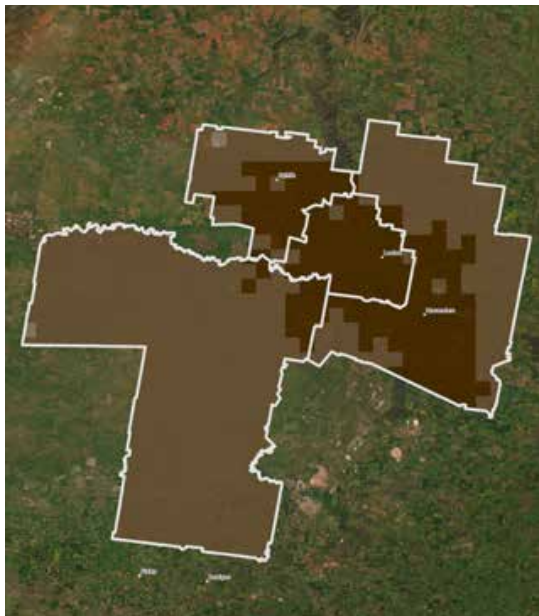
Under all four future scenarios modelled, each is set to see an annual reduction in root zone soil moisture. However, under the RCP4.5 scenarios, the reduction does lessen from 2050 to 2070. Under the RCP8.5 scenarios, the annual reduction increases to 2070 (Figure 14 — Root zone soil moisture future climate projections, by LGA). The reduction, both in 2050 and 2070, is most intense in Griffith and Leeton.

Figure 14 — Root zone soil moisture future climate projections, by LGA

Climate model reference period



2050 (RCP4.5)



2070 (RCP4.5)

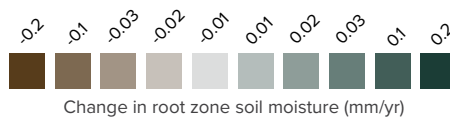
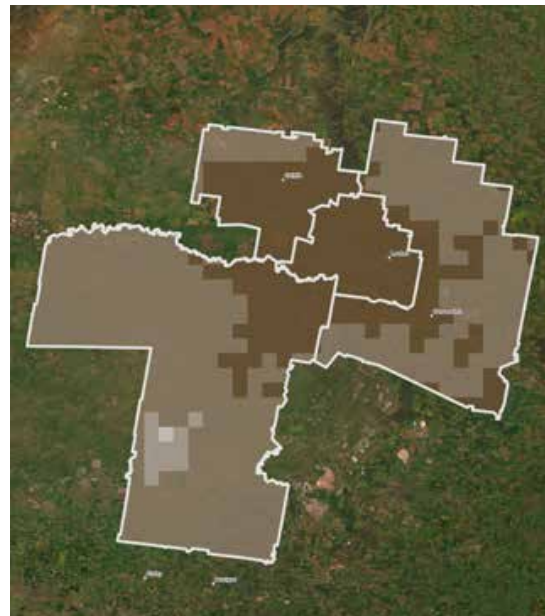


Figure 15 — Annual change in root zone soil moisture

What does the climate data tell us?

The region will continue to be susceptible to the impact of drought which can be protracted events, such as the Millennial drought, or relatively shorter time periods of high intensity.

Climate projections indicate an increase in drought risk, which worsens in the far-term under a higher emissions scenario.

Potential increases in frequency and severity of drought conditions will be largely driven by temperature, evapotranspiration and reduced soil moisture in the Western Riverina region.

Relevance of climate change in the neighbouring Alpine region

In addition to the climate projections for the Western Riverina region, climate change impacts in the Snowy Mountains (Alpine region) must also be considered given the reliance of inflows directed from the Snowy Scheme into the Murrumbidgee catchment. Over time, reduced snowpack, rainfall, changes to landform, erosion and runoff, and increased temperatures in the Snowy Mountains region is likely to have an impact on the Western Riverina.

The water from the Alps which flows through to the Basin and the irrigation schemes is of high significance, supporting ecosystem services of national economic, social and environmental importance. With the water held in high regard now, every gigalitre flowing from the Alps catchment to the Basin is likely to be more important in the future.

Climate projections for the NSW Alpine region indicate continued warming and drying – with winter temperatures increasing by more than 2°C in the far future and spring rainfall projected to decrease by 20 percent in the far future.

Through an increase in temperatures and changes to rainfall patterns, there are subsequent impacts to the quantity of both surface water and groundwater, with some projections showing that, across the Alpine region, there is likely to be a reduction in surface-water run-off in the future.

Climate change threats to the natural condition of the catchments may also impact high quality water delivery from the Alps. This includes water yield, water flow regimes and water quality.

Further investigation is needed to understand how the projected reduction in surface water run-off in the Alpine region, and other influencing processes on water yield and delivery within the Alps, interacts with the run-off generally received through the Murrumbidgee catchment. With the Murrumbidgee and Murray water catchments receiving inflows from the Snowy Scheme under the Snowy Water Licence, future reviews based on building a climate-based understanding will need to be considered.

Clear reliance is evident on the water quantity and quality from the Alpine region to other catchments, importantly the Murrumbidgee catchment, and broader considerations to the contribution it makes to agricultural production and other industries in the Basin.






Image: 'A Country Life' (Brett Collins)

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Trends, stressors and shocks

To support preparedness and planning for drought we must also consider other trends, stressors and acute shocks, beyond the climate, that may amplify drought impacts into the future. These can influence our resilience to different conditions, circumstances and scenarios. It is also important in terms of governance arrangements and strategic priorities to ensure broader actions are cognisant of interaction with drought in our communities.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Water policy and water allocation changes > Cost of farming with rising inputs > The state of the national economy, commodity prices, market volatility and interest rates > Fuel prices and transport costs > Positive impacts of strategic road connectivity on market access > Major project investment decisions, both private and public > Changing farm enterprise ownership models and their scale > Energy access > Transition to renewable energy sources |  <p>People and community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Service availability, particularly health and community services > Workforce shortages, and worker attraction and retention to regions > Demographic shifts in population (ageing population and youth retention) > Housing availability and new dwelling supply > Costs of living pressures and local discretionary spending > Urbanisation and population mobility trends |  <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Widespread invasive species > Feral animal numbers > Land use conflicts, particularly on primary production areas > Loss of riparian habitat > Water management within the Murray-Darling Basin > Water infrastructure projects and funding decisions > Soil erosion > Water licensing arrangements to improve environmental flows > Climate change |
|--|---|--|

Western Riverina in Australia's future drought context

At the national level, a consequence of the most recent drought (2017-2019) was increased pressure on Australia's food security. Grain was imported to feed stock and the nation. Similar imports in 2006-7, 2003-4, and 1994-5 correlate to the worst drought related cropping years in recent decades. Since this event in 2019, Australia's population has grown from 25.5 million to 27.2 million, with continued growth projected. This growth adds to the demand on available water and increases the pressures on food insecurity into the future. Any response to drought, particularly within the productive area of the Western Riverina, fits within the context of a strategic view of national food and water security. This would consider the potential scenarios of water availability, as well as the related potential biosecurity risks. Subsequent revisions of the Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan will monitor the development of a national policy response to this trend, and reflect community views to advocate more on this significant issue.

Our drought resilience

Drought resilience can be considered against three macro indicators, each with their own influencing factors. Considering how this plan can address all these factors ensures we can address all aspects of the system.



Economic resilience

- Continuity
- Employment
- Diversity



Environmental resilience

- Infrastructure and built assets
- Natural processes
- Land management



Social resilience

- Personal wellbeing
- Decision making capacity
- Community wellbeing

A snapshot of vulnerability and resilience to drought

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences' (ABARES) has developed an index that ranks remote, rural or regional agriculturally dependent communities (at the LGA level) according to their potential to be adversely affected by drought.

The result is a snapshot based on drought exposure and drought sensitivity at the farm level (farm sensitivity), the reliance on employment in agricultural production industries (community sensitivity), the adaptive capacity of a LGA to drought based on economic diversity, and a final combination of the potential drought impact.

The data comprises data variables and indicators which have been combined and ranked. Scores are not necessarily representative of the magnitude of impact, rather it positions the sensitivity with respect to other LGAs assessed. There is a strong link to employment in agricultural production, particularly for community sensitivity which may not be representative of broader community sensitivity detailed throughout this plan.

| Community Vulnerability and Resilience to Drought Index (measured from 0 [lowest] to 1 [highest]) | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| LGA | Farm sensitivity | Community sensitivity | Economic diversity | Potential drought impact |
| Griffith City | N/A* | 0.30 | 0.53 | 0.20 |
| Leeton Shire | N/A* | 0.27 | 0.59 | 0.18 |
| Murrumbidgee | 0.76 | 0.58 | 0.16 | 0.90 |
| Narrandera Shire | N/A* | 0.32 | 0.47 | 0.22 |

* Insufficient data for broadacre farm samples in the region

The ABARES CVRDI scores indicate for the region:

- Some evidence of farm-based exposure, which is linked to both exposure to climate variability, and the effects that has on farm outcomes
- A low to moderate level of community dependence on agricultural activity in terms of employment
- Some demonstrated economic diversity highlighted by a strong regional centre offer, service industry and economic output
- A low to higher level of overall potential drought impact, particularly in Murrumbidgee noting it has a particularly strong agriculture sector with high value agriculture commodity output (while potential drought impact measures farm sensitivity and community sensitivity, whether there is lasting loss or harm depends on a community’s adaptive capacity).

While the region is susceptible to future drought impacts, and this is more apparent for Murrumbidgee compared with other LGAs, its economic diversity supports a level of adaptive capacity in some areas of the region. Levels of community connection and social capital, along with diversified economic development opportunities, offer key opportunities to aid immediate as well as long-term drought resilience. Murrumbidgee’s proximity to the regional centres of both Griffith and Albury potentially moderate drought vulnerability scoring through access to employment and services in relative proximity.

The above provides a snapshot of community vulnerability to drought, though a number of limitations are noted. As this plan details, impacts in the Western Riverina extend to broader pressures on water availability, and subsequent impacts to community and economic outputs.



Drought action plan

The drought action plan for Western Riverina incorporates priorities for drought resilience across strategic pathways for action. The action plan provides:

- > Details of specific actions against each pathway
- > The alignment of the action to an implementation pathway
- > Anticipated stakeholders

Timeframes are indicative and are dependent upon opportunities and timing for funding and other variables.

While Council is listed next to a number of actions, this is generally in anticipation of advocating and leading next steps of the action rather than sole responsibility in delivery. Many of these actions are of a scale or fall outside council operations and require funding and resourcing from other levels of government or input from industry.

A program logic approach was used to match the drought resilience needs illuminated by the engagement feedback with pragmatic actions. The degree to which the actions contribute to our movement along the resilience ‘theory of change’ journey is also detailed. This is about whether the actions ‘absorb, adapt or transform’ how we collectively prepare for and grow our resilience to drought effects. This scale also helps us to understand the level of effort and the timeframes associated with each action.

Pathways for change

This drought action plan establishes a framework to guide focus and efforts in response to community needs and community strengths highlighted through engagement. The action plan spans six strategic pathways, reflecting the three systems of drought resilience of community, economic, and environmental characteristics. These strategic pathways are:

-  Anticipate water availability
-  Proactively manage business interests
-  Support off-farm diversification
-  Grow local co-operative service provision
-  Support community cohesion
-  Embed environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices

These pathways can be approached at different scales. This can be by different actors and through a range of mechanisms over time from transformative resilience actions at a large scale to proactive resilience actions by individuals and the more formal or common pathways.

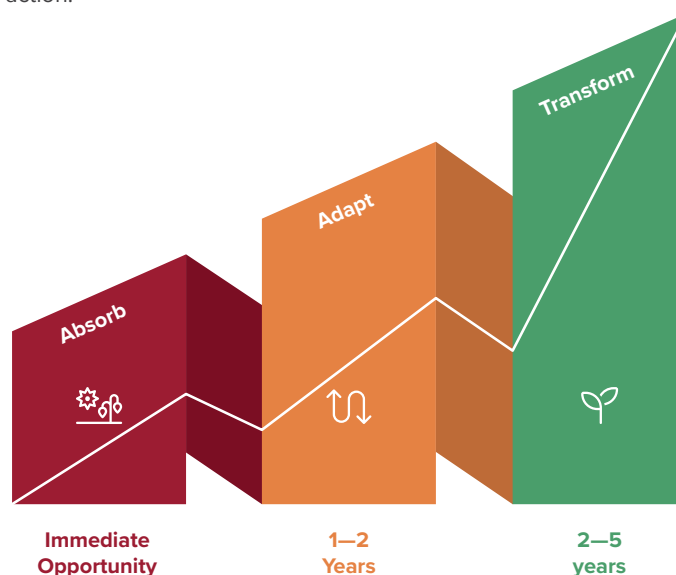


Figure 16 — Resilience theory of change



Pathway 1 – Anticipate water availability

The region’s social and economic resilience is inextricably linked to water availability. Reducing the inherent uncertainties of water availability is critical to the ongoing sustainability of the region.

This is particularly the case with the evolution of the water market in NSW, whereby water allocations have been decoupled from land ownership. The ability to trade water unlocks an additional revenue stream for those farmers who hold those allocations, but it also creates challenges for those farmers who have to purchase both land and water allocations. In times of drought, they could be left with a farm (and its associated debt obligation) and having to purchase water temporarily at a high price due to reduced availability.

Key actions under this pathway to build resilience include:

- > Increasing collective understanding of water market dynamics – including communicating the risks of temporary allocation purchases
- > Improving water allocation forecasting
- > Improving access to and awareness of climate forecasts for dryland farmers
- > Considered and well-informed planning for water infrastructure programs and management

| ID | SPECIFIC ACTION | IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY | STAKEHOLDER(S) |
|-----|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1.1 | Develop an agreed approach for drought fodder management/distribution with improved governance arrangements overseen by a local independent authority (e.g. using Stock Saleyard operations as a model) | Adapt to strengthen preparedness and ensure coordination of processes | Council |
| 1.2 | Councils to review town water supply restrictions policies and approaches to providing emergency water supplies, recognising the wellbeing benefits of towns being “green” even during dry times, and include water use efficiency approaches. | Adapt to strengthen preparedness and support common good outcomes | Council |
| 1.3 | Undertake an independent assessment of the Lake Coolah development proposal with consideration to multiple objectives including flood mitigation, wetland enhancement and water delivery system efficiency | Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects | Council |
| 1.4 | Councils to review stormwater management and town sewerage discharge strategies and approaches to maximise opportunities for reuse of water resources | Adapt to strengthen preparedness through continuous improvements | Council |
| 1.5 | Work with International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage Australia and Irrigation Australia to promote the bench marking of irrigation scheme delivery efficiencies, and explore a “5 Star” approach – that will support regional marketing of agricultural products | Adapt to leverage existing strengths | Industry groups |
| 1.6 | Deliver continuing education / training program on the operation of water markets, with irrigators as the target audience | Adapt through increased local understanding of the system | Industry groups Irrigators |
| 1.7 | Work with the NSW Government to introduce training and programs for primary producers to further develop rainfall and weather intelligence using drought signals / indicators for use in conjunction with soil moisture and other weather data. | Adapt through improved processes to complement planning | Council State Government |
| 1.8 | Promote engagement with the One Basin CRC projects delivered through the Griffith Hub, and explore the possibility of a Centre of Irrigation Excellence building upon the existing Irrigation Research and Extension Committee model. | Transform through increased capacity and recognition of local strengths | Council |



Pathway 2 – Proactively manage business interests

Strength of small business is a feature of the region whether it's fuel, cafes, hairdressers, mechanical or the local accountant. While drought generally impacts farmers first, the flow-on effects are felt across towns and communities through business impacts and in-turn, employment and expenditure.

Resilient, diverse and prepared businesses are better positioned to ride the peaks and troughs when they are planned for and anticipated. A range of pressures exist outside of drought times which requires strategic long term planning to address, while more agile initiatives provide interventions during drought, and are effective where planned for in advance. Priority action areas include:

- > Support for businesses to adapt and prepare
- > Ensuring the region has the right skills, and attracts new skills for confident business growth
- > Ensure business has the information they need to operate effectively.

| ID | SPECIFIC ACTION | IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY | STAKEHOLDER(S) |
|------|---|--|--|
| 2.1 | Investigate the reintroduction of previous Services Australia farm exit program | Adapt to facilitate business transition | Council Services Australia (Federal Government) |
| 2.2 | Investigate potential to fund local application (using a co-operative approach) of the NSW Farmers' Federation "Ag Career Start" program | Adapt to strengthen preparedness and build local capacity | Council |
| 2.3 | Undertake a more detailed analysis of economic flows / benefits done by ABARES prior to the next drought (taking milling and downstream activities into account) | Adapt to strengthen preparedness through understanding of the system | Council |
| 2.4 | Undertake a review across all the local education service provider course and curriculum offerings to meet local agricultural industry and supply chain needs including opportunities for rural cadetships, apprenticeship advisors, and how to increase housing with a link to trade apprenticeships | Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects | Council TAFE NSW Local education providers |
| 2.5 | Support small businesses with computer and internet training | Absorb immediate action to support community capacity | Council State Government |
| 2.6 | Promote the benefits of "lifestyle" driving the purpose of business / financial / succession planning, and promote the benefits and delivery of business plans e.g. for improved access to capital | Adapt to strengthen preparedness | Council |
| 2.7 | Promote drought assistance programs or financial subsidy programs to "supply chain" businesses when they are impacted by agricultural clients who are impacted by drought | Adapt to support endurance during drought | Council Business owners and operators |
| 2.8 | Engage a project officer to help local businesses (small to large) develop their own drought resilience plan - and facilitate access to grant funding from various agencies | Adapt to strengthen preparedness | Business owners and operators Council |
| 2.9 | Provide training to local providers on responding to tenders | Absorb immediate action to support local capacity | Council |
| 2.10 | Provide local support to Services NSW / Concierge service to provide opportunities for workers displaced by drought to get other local short-term work | Adapt to strengthen preparedness and mobilise workforce supply | Council State Government |
| 2.11 | Promote the need to broaden the rules for "backpacker" workers to attract more workers for agricultural related industries | Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects and ensure workforce supply | Federal Government |
| 2.12 | Promote opportunities in alternate industries that suit available soils, water and climatic conditions. | Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects | Council State Government |
| 2.13 | Review / update regional economic development strategies to include promotion of non-water based industries, agricultural industries that align with available soils and water, and others that take advantage of available products | Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects and diversification of economy | Council State Government |
| 2.14 | Undertake regional internet/phone service audit for digital access, along with an energy access audit and advocate for improved connectivity | Absorb immediate action to inform advocacy of key barriers | Council |
| 2.15 | Advocate for improved consistency in funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service to support local business operators to take proactive steps toward enhanced drought resilience | Absorb immediate action to provide continuity of services | Council |
| 2.16 | Develop a "Generation Ag Link" program modelled on the CSIRO program "Generation STEM Link" | Adapt to strengthen preparedness by building capacity and local industry understanding | Industry groups |



Pathway 3 – Support off-farm diversification

The region boasts many economic development opportunities which over time will offer varied income and productivity opportunities. Some of these opportunities are truly transformative and offer long term prospects for change, growth and stability. As an agriculturally based economy, there is benefit in:

- > Leveraging existing tourism assets as a major economic pillar
- > Building the financial strength of all businesses regardless of sector or scale
- > Diversifying the regional economy through manufacturing and value adding agriculture
- > Keeping our towns active and attractive.

| ID | SPECIFIC ACTION | IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY | STAKEHOLDER(S) |
|------|--|--|--|
| 3.1 | Councils to have a strategy for future land release and development, potentially adopting a “cooperative model” approach | Absorb immediate action to identify site potential | Council |
| 3.2 | Build on the Regional Arts Development Program - Regional Cultural Tourism report | Absorb immediate action to build existing work foundations | Regional Arts Network Council |
| 3.3 | Advocate for public service remote area benefits to attract and retain critical services and workforce | Transform the long-term economic stability through continuity of services | Council |
| 3.4 | Develop an Ag Industry focussed “Job Keeper” type program (taking principles from the Farm Household Allowance program delivered by Services Australia) for application during drought. | Transform the long-term economic stability through continuity of operations | Industry groups State Government |
| 3.5 | Promote agritourism and a viable diversification strategy | Adapt to strengthen preparedness through economic diversification | Council Tourism organisations |
| 3.6 | Promote value added manufacturing for existing and emerging agricultural commodities, such as almonds, grapes, citrus, sugar plum etc | Adapt to strengthen preparedness through economic diversification | Industry groups |
| 3.7 | Investigate a Geographic Indicator designation that would support sustainability accreditation for the Western Riverina agricultural industries | Adapt to leverage existing strengths | Industry groups |
| 3.8 | Develop public works / maintenance program of works e.g. town revitalisation, roadside clean-up / maintenance, farm clean outs to be done during drought | Adapt to inform preparedness through ready made actions with impact | Council |
| 3.9 | Schedule training during “down time” to upskill people in the agricultural industry | Adapt to strengthen preparedness | Farm business owners and operators |
| 3.10 | Outside of drought, promote availability of water in towns as an opportunity for new businesses – include in Economic Development strategies | Adapt to strengthen preparedness through economic diversification | Council |
| 3.11 | Promote National and State support for regionalisation strategies such as the Regional Development Australia “Country Change Riverina and Murray” strategy (to encourage movement from cities to regional areas) | Transform the long-term economic stability through continuity of services | Federal Government State Government |
| 3.12 | Facilitate affordable housing, fast track land development, explore community cooperative approach and private / public partnerships with Council | Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects | Council State Government |
| 3.13 | Upskill and build capability of local providers in diverse business areas to allow them to compete in the tender and procurement process during drought that support broader business offers. | Adapt to strengthen preparedness through economic diversification | Council |



**Pathway 4 –
Grow local co-operative
service provision**

The co-operative model of business and service provision in this region is truly unique. It is not found in many other parts of Australia at such a significant scale and could support the region’s long-term resilience and prosperity. It is borne from a generational legacy of the collaboration needed to operate and maintain the complex irrigation schemes that thread through the landscape. Without co-operation, in this landscape, water availability would not exist.

Expanding this co-operative model beyond its irrigation roots is already evident, with pubs and rice mills already emerging to trade using this model of ownership and operation. Extending this model further into retail, grocery, aged care, and possibly even housing is arguably not too much of a stretch to achieve.

This pathway seeks to focus on this demonstrated strength of collaboration and cooperation in Western Riverina communities. This builds on these existing tangibles and non-tangible cultural assets to maintain baseline service provision for key sectors, and support social and community fabric and morale during drought times through enabling mechanisms that drive locally cooperative outcomes.

| ID | SPECIFIC ACTION | IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY | STAKEHOLDER(S) |
|-----|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 4.1 | Establish ongoing “Wellbeing Hubs” connecting community organisations to landholders, business and the community and develop action plans for priorities of each hub | Transform into the long term supporting continuity of services and community network capacity | Community organisations Council |
| 4.2 | Develop cooperative structure models for a range of situations along with guidelines to encourage people and corporations to co-invest in community services | Transform into the long-term supporting continuity of services and community network capacity | Community organisations |
| 4.3 | Promote programs, financial planning advice and funding available from providers including Services Australia | Adapt to broaden clarity and uptake of programs | Services Australia Council |
| 4.4 | Councils to consider the provision of more ‘drop in’ style community services to support locals especially in drought when costs can prohibit travel | Absorb to strengthen local access to support | Council |
| 4.5 | Link community-based investment in local infrastructure (e.g. ongoing social activities) with LGA programs including for social connectivity and for places of refuge linked to floods / bushfires etc. | Adapt immediate actions to support ongoing preparedness | Council |
| 4.6 | Undertake an audit of Council roads to identify priorities for an “Infrastructure Betterment” program to make access to farms more resilient to droughts, floods and other events | Adapt to direct future funding and support movement networks | Council Landowners |



Pathway 5 – Support community cohesion

Cohesive and connected communities are a key ingredient to support drought resilience. Drought, as opposed to other hazards, can divide communities through isolation. Strong community connections are therefore critical in ensuring community care and wellbeing, looking out for mates and providing mutual relief.

This was a clear priority identified by the community through the plan engagement process. Community connection, participation and identity are already strengths of the Western Riverina and need to be maintained and bolstered.

This pathway seeks to build on the existing community strength of the Western Riverina region to support cohesiveness of the social fabric and morale during drought times by:

- > Supporting strong social cohesion
- > Attracting and retaining social and cultural events
- > Maintaining an inclusive community.

| ID | SPECIFIC ACTION | IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY | STAKEHOLDER(S) |
|------|---|--|---|
| 5.1 | Include delivery of hard copy documents to households in communications strategies (where requested) | Absorb immediate action support accessibility | Council State Government |
| 5.2 | Advocate for additional subsidies during drought for youth sport and support similar initiatives such as “Active Farmers” | Adapt to utilise existing initiatives and programs | Council |
| 5.3 | Councils and community groups to drive / facilitate / promote volunteerism and develop a steering committee (or similar) to direct volunteer deployment in times of drought | Adapt to strengthen preparedness and capability to respond | Council Community groups |
| 5.4 | Develop written and visual history of the region (providing a way for intergenerational involvement and connection) | Transform into the long term through retaining regional identity | Council |
| 5.5 | Develop a list of groups and associations seeking volunteers, based on examples such as SES community actions teams – link to “Community Hub” Actions | Adapt to strengthen preparedness and capability to respond | Community groups |
| 5.6 | Council to promote and deliver free “Big Social” events | Adapt to strengthen preparedness and support role of community networks | Council Community organisation |
| 5.7 | Support existing and promote new “Food Festival” programs to show case locally grown products – invite celebrity chefs | Adapt the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects | Council Destination groups |
| 5.8 | Develop a local “Drought Self Help” kit (similar to Red Cross kit) | Adapt to strengthen preparedness | Council |
| 5.9 | Build on and expand the “Teach the Teachers” program relating to agricultural production and experiences of living in rural communities | Adapt to strengthen preparedness and connection to the region | Council Industry groups Schools |
| 5.10 | Support excursions from city schools to the region and continue to support “Boys to the Bush” program | Adapt to strengthen preparedness build understanding across region to urban areas | Council Community organisations Department of Education |
| 5.11 | Explore opportunities for mentor programs for both men and women, and promote existing programs focused on rural leadership and change makers | Adapt through capacity building of locals | Council Community organisations |
| 5.12 | Support delivery of drought resilience programs within schools | Absorb immediate action to strengthen preparedness | Schools |
| 5.13 | Continue to invest in the maintenance and enhancement of community facilities to support community cohesion during times of drought | Absorb immediate action to strengthen preparedness | Council |
| 5.14 | Work with Indigenous groups to “co-solve” water issues | Transform the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects | Council First Nations groups |



**Pathway 6 –
Embed environmental
stewardship and
sustainable agricultural
practices**

The health of the landscape is integral to our economic and community wellbeing. Retaining soil moisture in the landscape and topsoil retention are clear drought impact reduction pursuits. Pest and weed management offer further opportunities to stem landscape degradation.

Areas for action include supporting land management and maintaining and enhancing biosecurity.

| ID | SPECIFIC ACTION | IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY | STAKEHOLDER(S) |
|------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 6.1 | Promote and support Landcare in providing opportunities for landholders to demonstrate the benefits derived from their business and land practices (including use of photo diaries) | Adapt to support resilient landscapes | Landcare |
| 6.2 | Support Landcare and associated programs and advocate for continuity of funding on programs that focus on climate ready revegetation and improving native seed supply | Adapt to support resilient landscapes | Landcare |
| 6.3 | Promote a policy for fixed riparian zone / corridors for reconstruction and restoration | Adapt the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects | Council |
| 6.4 | Support actions for on-going carp management within the region's waterways | Absorb immediate actions to support ongoing efforts | State government agencies |
| 6.5 | Advocate for and ensure understanding of the impacts of future reviews of the Snowy Water Licence | Adapt into long-term to maintain economic stability | Council Industry groups |
| 6.6 | Link Landcare with Regional Services Australia to identify funding opportunities for involvement in farm management professional development opportunities | Adapt the long-term economic stability through catalyst projects | Landcare |
| 6.7 | Promote the landscape and production benefits of sustainable and restorative agricultural practices and focus on driving buy-in through initiatives such as mapping of land use capability. | Adapt to support resilient landscapes | Industry groups Landcare |
| 6.8 | Work with First Nations peoples to bring First Nations ecological practice back to Country | Transform through actions building partnerships and resilient landscapes | First Nations groups |
| 6.9 | Support the establishment of Landcare groups across each of the council areas | Adapt to support resilient landscapes | Council Landcare |
| 6.10 | Develop a program to focus on improvements to road side revegetation for connected corridors | Adapt to support resilient landscapes | Council |

Implementation


The Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan relies on collaborative implementation approaches involving a range of stakeholders.


The action plan for drought resilience spans the drought cycle and its interaction with the community, that is before, during and recovery from drought. The actions to implement cover levels of government, community and industry groups, service providers, not-for-profits, landowners, and local communities with actions that have effect at different points of the drought cycle. This includes short, medium and long term opportunities, and interventions that are strategic by strengthening preparedness or are agile and ready to be implemented when enduring drought.


Pathways implementation


The purpose of the action plan is to inform future drought funding and ongoing preparedness across the region. Stakeholders work together regionally to build drought resilience in the economy, environment and our communities, proactively and pragmatically.


The action plan has been drawn together through community expression, existing initiatives and background data. In developing this action plan, it is noted that:

 actions are purposefully listed with multiple stakeholders, and unspecified timeframes or funding to acknowledge that delivery is dependent on a range of variables

 implementation will occur through participation of all stakeholders over time as priorities, resources and funding arise

 as a regional plan, the actions are collective and collaborative

 roles and responsibilities are flexible, including for local governments. The plan is owned by the region. Any stakeholder can start an action that is within their capacity

 some actions are indeed underway by various stakeholders, the purpose of maintaining them in the action plan, is that the community has advised that the action is integral to drought resilience.

Stakeholder roles in implementation

| DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| An advocate actively supports a position, action or policy. The task is outside the advocate’s jurisdiction, capacity or resourcing and advocacy is required to engage with those parties with capacity to deliver. For example, telecommunications advocacy. |
| A partner joins others in a common cause or action where roles and responsibilities are shared across areas of expertise. Each partner brings an element to the action for joint delivery. For example, region-wide strategic initiatives. |
| A lead is in control of an action. The action may still involve partners or other roles, but the action is reliant upon a lead party due to their technical or other expertise. E.g. Health or counselling matters |
| An owner is the only party that can undertake or permit the action. E.g. local government as public asset owners |
| A supporter is united with others in the need or benefits of the action but potentially does not have a major role. The action is led or owned by others. E.g. A supporter may provide assistance in kind, technical advice or donations to action leaders |
| A stakeholder is anyone who has an interest in the project, program or action. Stakeholders will have varying degrees of involvement from owner to advocate and all points between. |
| A deliverer is responsible for implementation and outcomes of an action or funded program. e.g. Community agency delivering social aid programs. |
| A funder provides the funding arrangements. The party is not involved with scoping, executing or delivering the program but may require some outcome reporting or evidence. e.g. the government grant funding for a pest control program delivered by others. |

Governance structure

Implementation of the regional drought resilience plan is to be driven by a collaborative and multi-disciplined drought resilience project control group (PCG). Membership will be broadened to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to drought resilience efforts.

This will enable the PCG to adopt agile approaches and shift priorities as needed depending on changing circumstances, and as opportunities arise. Despite this, all actions remain relevant in terms of maximising funding opportunities. This also allows expertise across the strategic pathways, and for partnerships to evolve as funding and priorities arise

A Chair of the PCG will be selected.

A PCG Terms of Reference is to be prepared for its membership to guide its function. The Terms of Reference could include:

- Role and purpose and connection to the RDRP
- Stakeholder and membership lists
- Meeting arrangements, (potentially quarterly) and responsibilities of attendees
- The circumstances of a quorum and decision making protocols
- The election or rotation of a chair person
- An action plan for the first 60 days or 12 months including delivery of the priority actions with the implementation funding; and
- A process for reflection and nominating next priority actions.

A Memorandum of Understanding may also be required.

PCG meetings should be held in different localities across the region over time.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework

The drought action plan incorporates a large suite of projects and actions, some offer immediate opportunity, some are medium-term items and others are longer-term transformational opportunities. Not all actions can be focused on or delivered at once. The ‘absorb, adapt, transform’ framework will guide the PCG in terms of its implementation and coordination of activities and funding pursuits, and will enable a flexible and agile approach as drought conditions change, guiding the focus.

Other stakeholders are able to use the plan to support funding and grant applications at any time, as desired. Opportunities for collaborative delivery partnerships, where two stakeholders may wish to provide similar projects, should be explored

This system will:

- > Provide regular opportunities to define when conditions are changing locally; and
- > Catalyse a change in focus to respond to the needs of the changing conditions.

This ensures a level of agility is adopted with regard to the implementation approach. Local governments may wish to apply more objective targets for immediate actions or further incorporate the outcomes of this plan into the local government reporting framework to ensure delivery.

As immediate efforts in response to the action plan are delivered, broader efforts across collaborators is guided in its approach, underpinned by this plan which enables stakeholders to work towards and contribute to regional drought resilience outcomes, including those at the local and property level.

The drought resilience action plan also requires that a ‘lessons learned’ posture is adopted, ensuring new information, knowledge, approaches and science is rolled into implementation delivery as a guiding principle. This will mean that over time, the drought resilience action plan may be adapted to reflect new learnings and the adjustment of intervention pathways as required. The PCG is responsible to conduct an annual lessons learned review, with changes to inform action moving forward.

The drought resilience action plan has been thoughtfully designed to not only guide collective effort and action but to enable adaptation through ongoing monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The Regional Drought Resilience Plan is a 10-year plan, to be reviewed after five years.

An annual monitoring program to inform adaptive learning is outlined below. Addendums to this plan can be made, to reflect these learnings over time and ensure the document maintains pace with changing circumstances and maturation of drought preparedness activities.

Tracking progress and reporting

Action-based project tracking against the drought resilience action plan, the principles and objectives of the plan should be undertaken on an annual basis. This tracking and reporting shall be the responsibility of the implementation PCG chair, unless otherwise delegated. Likewise, an annual evaluation process will be conducted by the PCG, guided by the evaluation questions that follow.



Image: Jerilderie Grain Storage and Handling

Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Key evaluation questions

These key evaluation questions are high level questions designed to frame the analysis of progress and performance of the Western Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan against the above framework. These key evaluation questions may help to structure annual tracking and reporting.

| PROPERTY | EVALUATION |
|---|---|
| <p>Effectiveness and Outcomes</p> | <p>What have been the outcomes (intended, unintended, positive and negative) of the plan implementation process and progress?</p> |
| | <p>To what extent has progress contributed to or furthered the principles and objectives of the regional drought resilience plan?</p> |
| | <p>Has the plan been used for or otherwise supported successful funding and grant applications?</p> |
| | <p>To what extent have stakeholders outside the PCG responded to the plan's content?</p> |
| | <p>Have any barriers or challenges been identified throughout the implementation of plan, and what solutions to address these have been identified?</p> |
| <p>Drought resilience maturation</p> | <p>To what extent has efforts in implementing the plan contributed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Creating stronger connectedness and greater social capital within communities, contributing to well-being and security? > Empowering communities and businesses to implement activities that improve their resilience to drought? > Supporting more primary producers and land managers to adopt whole-of-system approaches to natural resource management to improve the natural resource base, for long-term productivity and landscape health? |
| <p>Stakeholder engagement</p> | <p>In what ways are the PCG and other stakeholders collaborating and collectively contributing to efforts outlined by the action plan?</p> |
| | <p>In what ways has the plan provided inclusive involvement across sectors, disciplines and communities?</p> |
| | <p>In what ways has the plan been able to support individual stakeholder goals, objectives and aspirations with regard to drought resilience?</p> |

The reporting may be undertaken using a range of tools to capture experiences and perspectives from across the PCG, allied stakeholders as well as the communities of Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee and Narrandera Shire more broadly. These tools may include:

- > Meetings and event data capture
- > Targeted meeting / interviews with stakeholders
- > Survey data
- > Case studies and data from the PCG
- > Media, including social media; and
- > Funding and grant applications.

Achieving the plan’s outcomes

A further opportunity for the PCG to measure the contribution to or achievement of the plan’s outcomes is by using local data to assess specific outcomes. The data sources or indicators will need to be selected by the PCG and can provide insights as to how the plan is tracking against the resilience theory of change. Outcomes include (but are not limited to):

| STRATEGIC PATHWAYS | OUTCOMES |
|---|--|
| Anticipate water availability | 1 Community infrastructure is resilient and helps to reduce disruptions |
| | 2 Capacity to make informed decisions through local knowledge, access to data, intelligence and innovate tools is increased |
| Proactively manage business interests | 3 Agricultural productivity in the region is sustained |
| | 4 Increased capacity to meet local procurement demands and local employment |
| Support off-farm diversification | 5 Employment loss is avoided or minimised, ensuring livelihood are maintained |
| | 6 Reduced decline of gross regional product relative to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Non-drought periods > Previous drought periods > Other regions in NSW, Victoria and South Australia |
| Grow local co-operative service provision | 7 Community partnerships are strengthened through program delivery |
| | 8 Services are retained in the region, and offered in local centres |
| Support community cohesion | 9 Capacity and capability of community groups is strengthened |
| | 10 Mental health services are available and are accessible |
| Embed environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices | 11 Environmental degradation of landscapes and waterways is reduced throughout and emerging from drought |
| | 12 Increase in activities relating to environmental restoration |

Learning

Regular (annual) monitoring provides the ability for reflection and learning. The progress tracking and reporting methodology, using key evaluation questions, will present specific insights in terms of those opportunities to build in ‘lessons learned’ through engagement across stakeholders with a role in drought resilience. These lessons should, on an annual basis, be contemplated with regard to the drought action plan to determine any relevant updates, new insights, intelligence and technologies that can be integrated to ensure the action plan keeps pace with a growing drought resilience maturation across systems and sectors.

This process will ensure the action plan remains a ‘live document’ that appropriately supports and services the needs of all stakeholders and importantly, those of the Western Riverina communities in preparation for, endurance of, and recovery from drought.

Concepts to guide adaptive learning as part of plan implementation are included at Appendix B. These items will help navigate maturation of this plan over time.

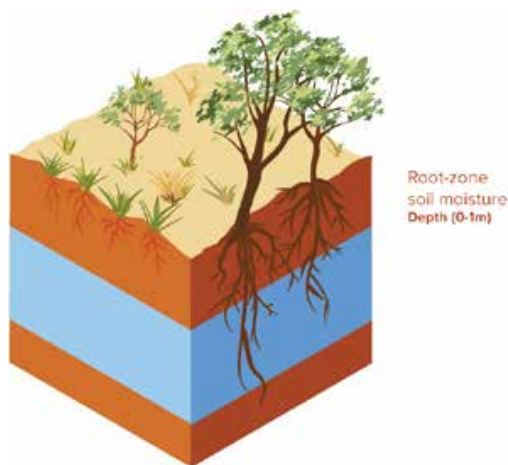
Appendix A – Drought history

Precipitation and root zone soil moisture are considered as indicators of drought according to the Bureau of Meteorology’s Australian Water Resources Assessment Landscape (AWRA-L) service. Root zone soil moisture is a calculation of the upper and lower soil layers in the AWRA-L, which represents the water-holding capacity of the top one metre of soil. Root zone soil moisture and precipitation rates are each useful indicators of future drought potential.

Locally, some of the most impactful periods of drought include the late 1910s, the World War II drought, 1967, 1982 to 1983, 2006 and and the 2017-2019 drought.

Some of the continent’s most impactful droughts in recent recorded history have affected the region. Here, we consider the significant drought periods identified by the Bureau of Meteorology:

- > 1914 to 1915
- > 1937 to 1945 (World War II drought)
- > 1965 to 1968
- > 1982 to 1983
- > 1997 to 2009 (Millennium drought)
- > 2017 to 2019



(Source BoM, 2024)

Below, we consider these droughts and the changes in conditions against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022*.

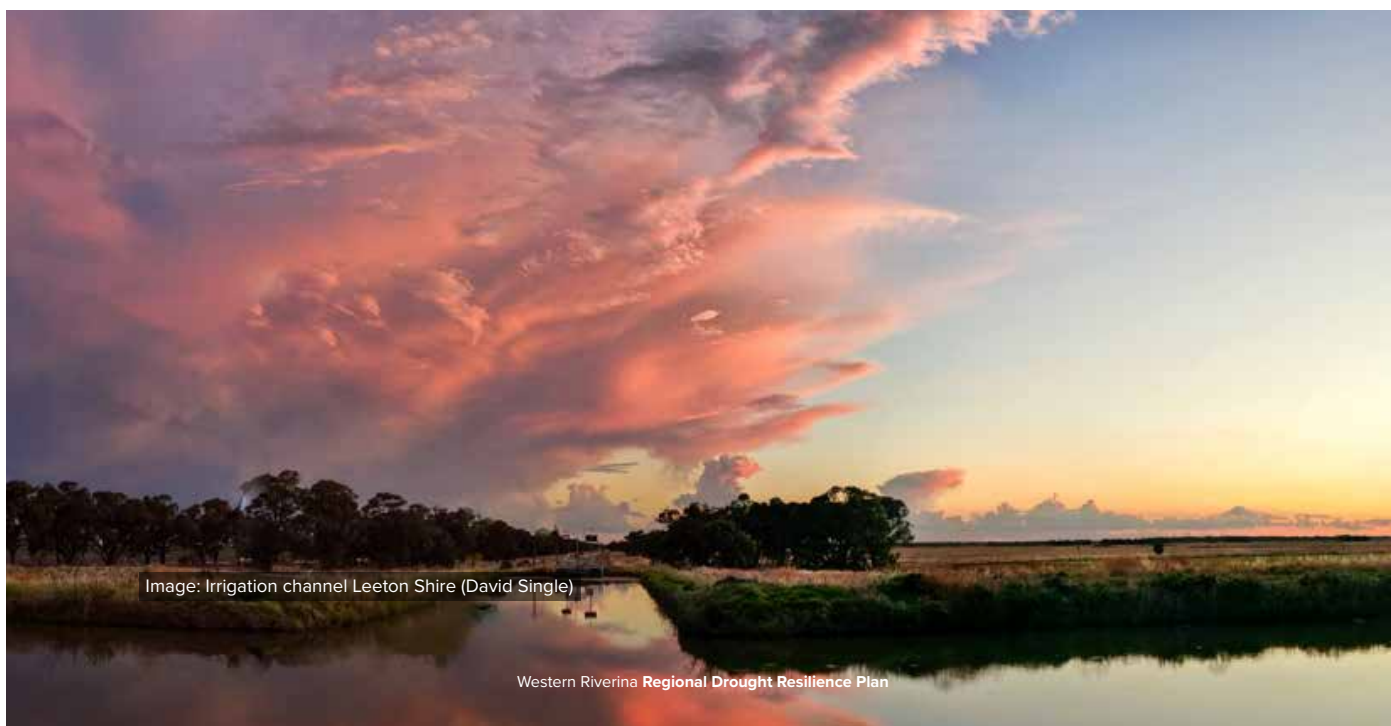


Image: Irrigation channel Leeton Shire (David Single)

1914-1915

Nationally, this drought was short but notable, primarily due to the failure of national wheat crop. This drought was driven by a strong El Nino, with drought conditions first becoming evident in 1914. Rains improved in 1916 but began to decrease again over the subsequent years (1918 and 1919).

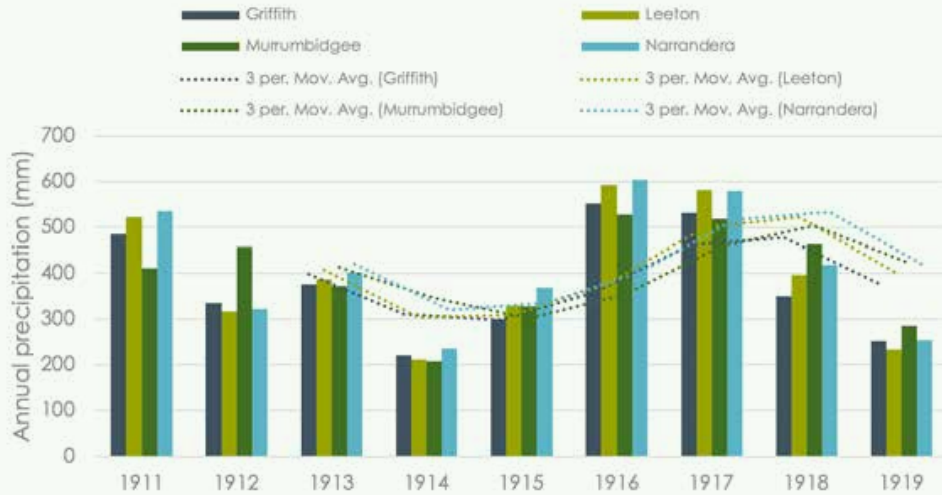


Figure 17 — Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1910 to 1918)

Precipitation (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)

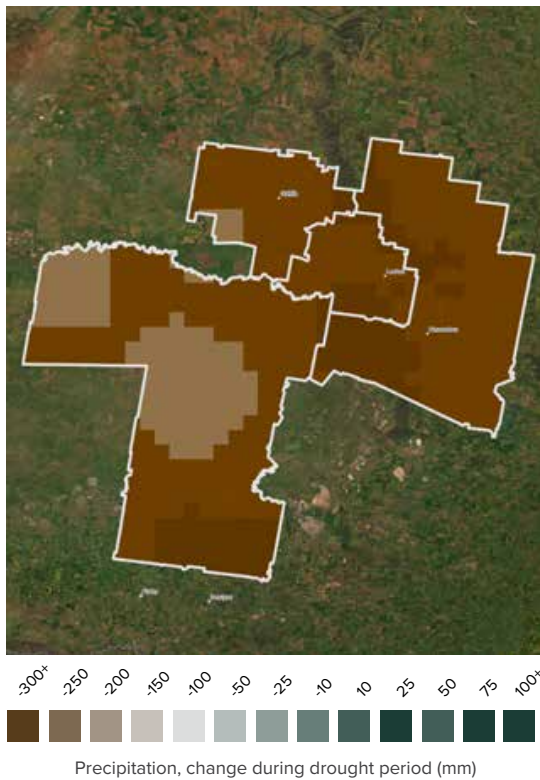


Figure 18 — Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

1937 to 1945 (World War II drought)

This drought period was characterised by several breaks (1939 and 1942-1943), but significant periods of dryness. Rainfall rates were lower in 1937-1938 and 1940-1941. For the Western Riverina, 1940 was the most notable year, with extremely low rainfall totals across the entire region.

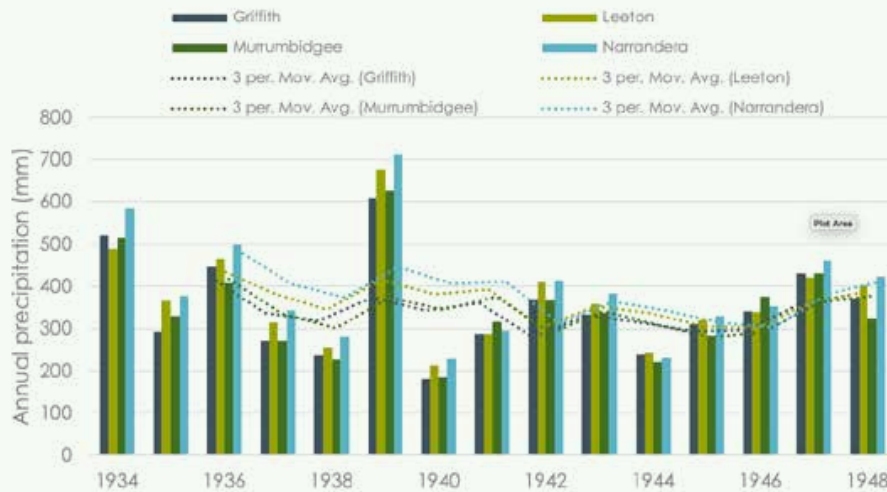


Figure 19 — Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1934 to 1948)

Precipitation (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)

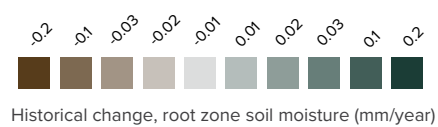
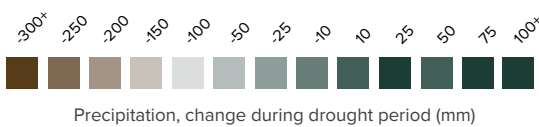


Figure 20 — Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

1965 to 1968

The 1960s was generally dry across the continent. Drought developed in 1964 in northern New South Wales and had extended across most of the country by the following year. This was evident across the region, with lower rates of rainfall and soil moisture across much of the region. 1967 was the most severe year, with annual rainfall rates across each LGA below 200 mm.



Figure 21: Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1962 to 1971)

Precipitation (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)

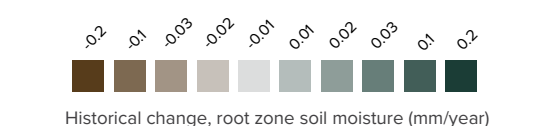
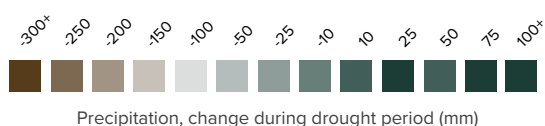
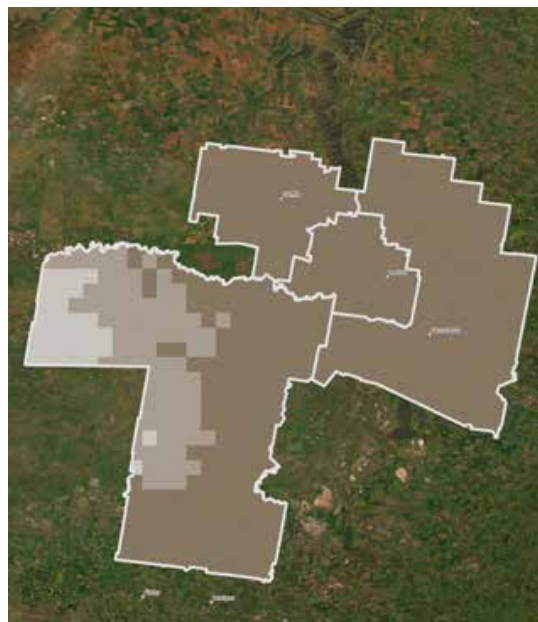


Figure 22: Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

1982-1983

Despite being only one year long this was one of Australia's most severe droughts in the 20th century. A very strong El Nino led to these drought conditions. The region experienced widespread dryness.

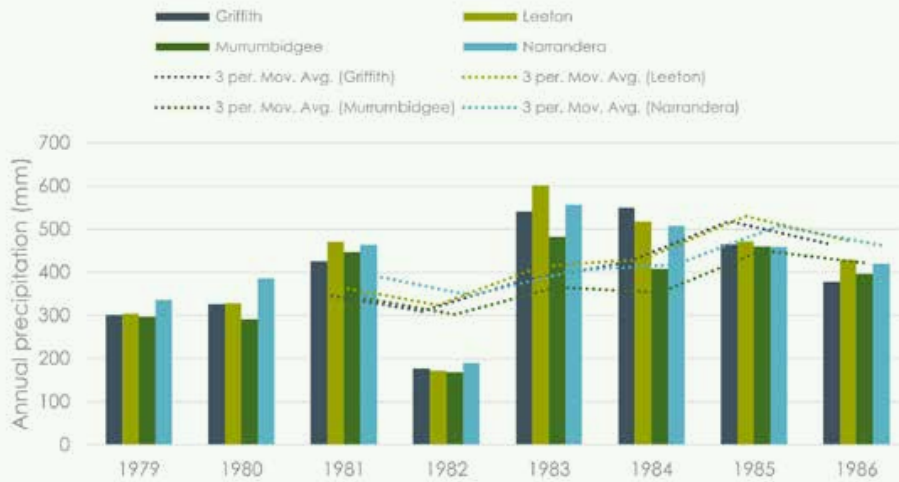


Figure 23: Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1979 to 1986)

Precipitation (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)

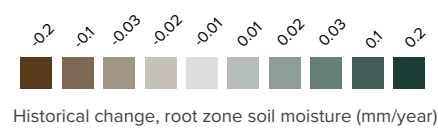
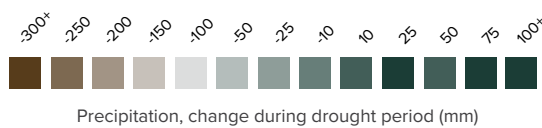
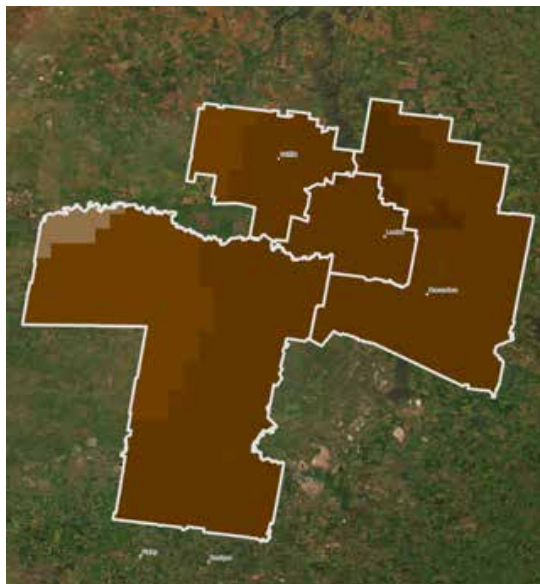


Figure 24 — Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

1997 – 2009 (Millennium drought)

The Millennium drought was a long-lasting period of dryness, most severe in densely populated areas of the south-east and south-west of the country. For the Western Riverina region, the beginning of this period was relatively unimpactful, as from lower levels in 1997, based on rainfall and soil moisture figures. It is not until 2001 when there is a dry spell into 2005, and then a severe dry year in 2006.

Editor’s note: The maps below show significant rainfall and higher soil moisture over this period, despite it being identified as a drought. This discrepancy is likely due to the reference period used to produce these maps (2002 – 2022) and that there was significant dryness in the latter half of that period. This result is then compounded by the short-lasting periods of rainfall decline during this long drought period (1997 – 2009). Therefore, leading to the appearance of increased rainfall and soil moisture compared to the reference period.



Figure 25: Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (1994 to 2012)

Precipitation (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)

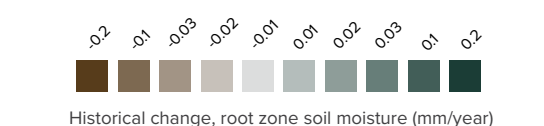
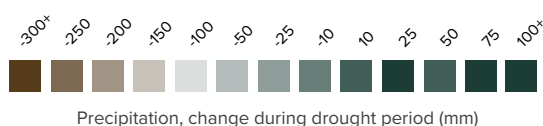
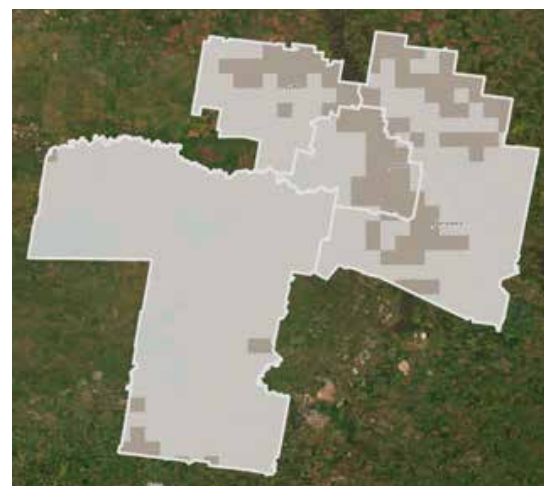
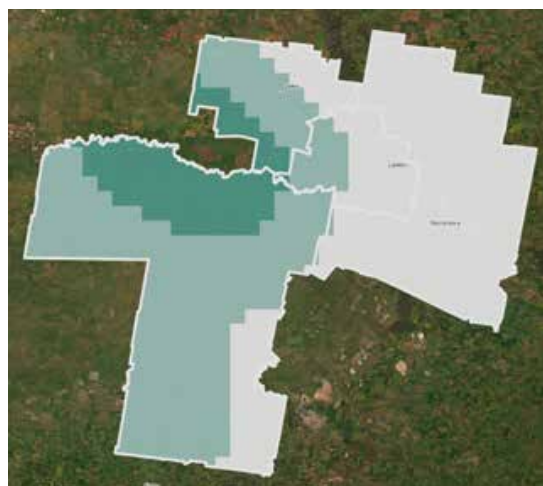


Figure 26: Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

2017-2019

Following a wet 2016, dry conditions returned in 2017 across south and eastern Australia. This was a sustained multi-year period of dryness, unprecedented in recorded history. A strong Indian Ocean Dipole was a significant contributor to dry conditions the second half of 2019, leading into significant 2019/2020 bushfire season. The region was similarly affected during this period, with widespread low rainfall and low soil moisture.



Figure 27 — Yearly precipitation (absolute), by LGA (2014 to 2022)

Precipitation (mm)

Soil moisture (mm/yr)

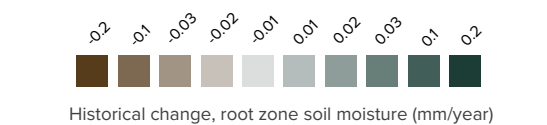
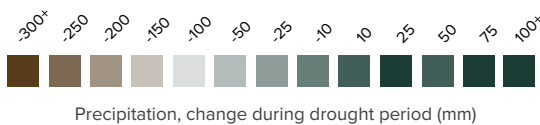
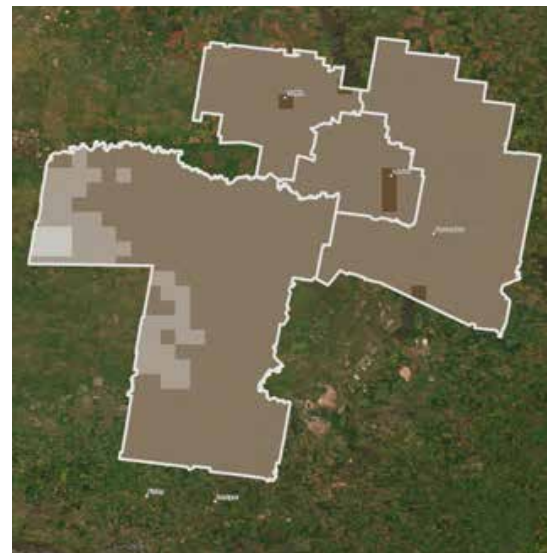


Figure 28 — Changes in conditions during drought against a present-day baseline of 2002 to 2022

Appendix B – Concepts to guide adaptive learning

As part of learning processes through the implementation, this appendix provides key considerations to guide further iterations and amendments to this RDRP. As drought resilience processes mature, the ability for further robust adaptation pathways to be implemented will emerge.

The table below captures specific items identified for integration as part of future plan iterations.

| NO. | ASPECT OF CONSIDERATION |
|---|---|
| Expansion of drought resilience relative to diverse stakeholder groups | |
| 1 | <p>Expand on what drought means to different segments of the region’s community and industries, and adaptation pathways to ‘maintain, modify or transform’ to grow drought resilience.</p> <p>As implementation of this foundational RDRP occurs, and monitoring, evaluation and learning processes are undertaken, opportunity will arise to advance the concepts of resilience theory, and make more clear how the adaptation pathways are continuously improving and escalating to underpin drought resilience maturation.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Continue to engage with diverse community and industry groups to advance implementation of the plan.</p> <p>Future plan updates could capitalise on the community’s desire to be engaged and involved in the plan’s delivery by acknowledging the role that key knowledge holders could play. Stakeholder engagement could be expanded to include direct participation of different drought vulnerable groups including gauging their capacity to participate and how best to engage with them moving forward. This information could be used to better target vulnerable residents and ensure adequate supports are in place to involve different community segments.</p> |
| Expansion of resilience adaptation pathways | |
| 3 | <p>Use diverse quantitative and empirical evidence on the potential impact of the interaction of historical and projected drought with key economic and social variables over time, such as demographic changes, shifts in the diversity of businesses, and livelihoods and employment opportunities for different community segments, in emergent versus declining types of industries, and in labour mobility among different industry and sectors.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Further develop the theory of change to aligns the plan’s objectives and actions towards reaching its intended outcomes, including the degree to which the proposed actions contribute to adaptation and transformation.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Expand on the interrelationships between economic, social and environmental factors across existing and updated documents, plans and strategies, and describe how these relationships influence potential cascading impacts of drought.</p> |

| NO. | ASPECT OF CONSIDERATION |
|---|---|
| Expansion of resilience adaptation pathways (cont) | |
| 6 | Future plan updates could profile drought impacts for those non-agricultural sectors identified as key sectors in the community, such as mining, renewable energy, health care and social assistance and tourism sectors. Such a profile could include an exploration of how these sectors can build resilience or drive transformation through learning, preparedness and planning. |
| 7 | Future plan updates could develop a suite of plausible future scenarios through a participatory process and based on climate, drought and other drivers of change. The development of future scenarios could consider how trends, shocks or stresses (including drought) will interact with and likely affect the region’s economic, social and environmental characteristics, and the implications for diverse stakeholder groups. This exercise will also assist these stakeholders to explore and identify actions and pathways that assist with building resilience under different plausible future scenarios. |
| Resilience action planning | |
| 8 | Establish resilience indicators for each of the plan’s ‘priority areas’, using baseline observations drawn from the MEL process within the initial years of plan implementation. |
| 9 | Future updates could provide more information to substantiate the assumed mechanisms by which its actions can be achieved, and to what extent they align with the broader objectives and outcomes of the plan. |
| Implementation | |
| 10 | As implementation advances, expand the implementation content of the plan with respect to its governance arrangements and the function / operation of the PCG. |
| 11 | <p>As partnership arrangements and relationships are built through this foundational plan, more information could be built on the main purpose of each collaboration setting clear intent and requirements, alongside specific measures. This can provide greater structure to partnerships, which may be a focus under each pathway.</p> <p>The types of partnerships and activities sought may influence these reporting arrangements. Review of partnership may be ongoing to ensure appropriate representation of groups, including First Nations communities and non-farming populations.</p> |
| 12 | Future plan updates could provide more explicit descriptions of what external support is required for successful implementation. |
| 13 | Future updates to the plan may provide further detail on the sequencing of actions, as these are prioritised and refined and as funding becomes clearer. |

| NO. | ASPECT OF CONSIDERATION |
|--|---|
| Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework | |
| 14 | <p>Further develop structured approaches to capturing lessons from performance measures, linked with monitoring in addition to lessons from annual evaluations currently identified in the MEL. Integrate lessons learned from the plan’s existing evaluation questions back into the plan’s actions.</p> <p>Continue to enhance and mature the plan’s MEL processes over time as the plan transitions from foundational into a performance posture.</p> |
| 15 | <p>Further develop performance indicators tied to actions in the plan’s MEL plan. This will improve accountability by showing the degree to which proposed priorities and actions contribute to the plan’s articulated vision and outcomes. This could include using quantitative and empirical evidence for key economic and social variables over time. This could include evidence that helps to track demographic shifts, changes in the diversity of businesses, livelihoods and employment opportunities for different community segments in emergent versus declining types of industries. It could further include evidence of labour mobility among different industry and sectors in order to assess actions focused on economic diversification.</p> |
| Resilience assessment | |
| 16 | <p>Ensure future iterations of the plan are qualified by a review of the Resilience Assessment components to identify key circumstantial changes which have occurred.</p> |
| 17 | <p>Continue to build upon and refine the program logic approach embedded within the Resilience Assessment that supported the development of the current plan, into a well-developed theory of change that provides a detailed and explicit causal mechanisms and valid assumptions by which the plan, through its implementation, will deliver the desired outcomes and impact.</p> |



17 OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Nil

18 OUR LEADERSHIP


18.1 DEVELOPMENT OF 2025-26 OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET

Document ID: 761341

Author: Finance Manager

Authoriser: Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community

Theme: Our Leadership

Attachments: 1. 2025-26 Budget Timeline [↓](#) 

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the update on the development of the 2025-26 Operational Plan and Budget, as detailed in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to brief Council on the development of the 2025-26 Operational Plan, incorporating the Statement of Revenue Policy and annual Budget, and present a timeline detailing key stages and milestones.

SUMMARY

Council's Operational Plan must be developed and adopted prior to 30 June 2025. This report provides a timeline for the development, public exhibition and adoption of the Operational Plan, including the annual Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy.

BACKGROUND

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the LG Act"), Council is required to develop and adopt an Operational Plan at the beginning of each financial year, outlining the individual projects, programs and actions to be delivered over the course of the financial year to achieve its Delivery Program. The Operational Plan must also include the organisation's annual Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy, detailing the rates, fees and charges to be levied in the financial year.

As with all other IP&R documents, the Operational Plan must be prepared in accordance with the statutory provisions outlined in the LG Act and accompanying *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, as well as the *Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines* (IP&R Guidelines) issued and prescribed by the Office of Local Government (OLG).

Prior to adoption, the draft Operational Plan must be endorsed for public exhibition and exhibited for a period of no less than 28 days. During this period, members of the community are invited to provide feedback on the draft Operational Plan. Any public submissions received in relation to the draft Operational Plan must be considered by Council before its adoption.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES**Theme**

5 - Our Leadership

Strategy

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

Action

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**Policy**

- The draft Operational Plan will incorporate Council's Statement of Revenue Policy for the 2025-26 year. This policy must contain a detailed estimate of Council's income and expenditure for the year, including information on all rates, fees and charges to be levied by Council during the year (cl. 4.20, IP&R Guidelines).

Financial

- The draft Operational Plan will incorporate Council's Budget for the 2025-26 year, which must clearly provide for the actions Council has committed to undertaking during the financial year (cl. 4.19, IP&R Guidelines).

Legal / Statutory

- As detailed above, Council is required to develop an Operational Plan as part of its IP&R requirements under the LG Act. In preparing its Operational Plan, Council must observe the IP&R Guidelines prescribed by the OLG.

Community Engagement / Communication

- As noted above, the draft Operational Plan must be publicly exhibited prior to adoption by Council (cl. 4.25, IP&R Guidelines). During this period, members of the community can provide feedback via public submissions. Any submissions received must be considered by Council prior to the adoption of the Operational Plan.
- Council traditionally facilitates a Budget Roadshow during the exhibition period. However, as Council will be undertaking significant community consultation in the first part of 2025 to inform the development of the new IP&R framework (including Community Strategic Plan, Disability Inclusion Action Plan and Delivery Program), it is instead proposed to use this time to facilitate Councillor site visits and facility inspections for Councillors, to avoid consultation fatigue. These arrangements will be finalised and confirmed in early 2025.

Human Resources / Industrial Relations (if applicable)

- Nil.

RISKS

Preparation of the draft Operational Plan mitigates the risk of Council failing to comply with its statutory obligations under the LG Act. As illustrated in the Operational Plan timeline (refer *Attachment 1*), effective project management will be undertaken to ensure the successful preparation of the draft Operational Plan in line with legislated timeframes.

CONCLUSION

Preparation of Council's 2025-26 Operational Plan, including Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy, will soon commence in line with the timeline contained at *Attachment 1*. It is recommended that Council receives and notes the briefing detailed in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

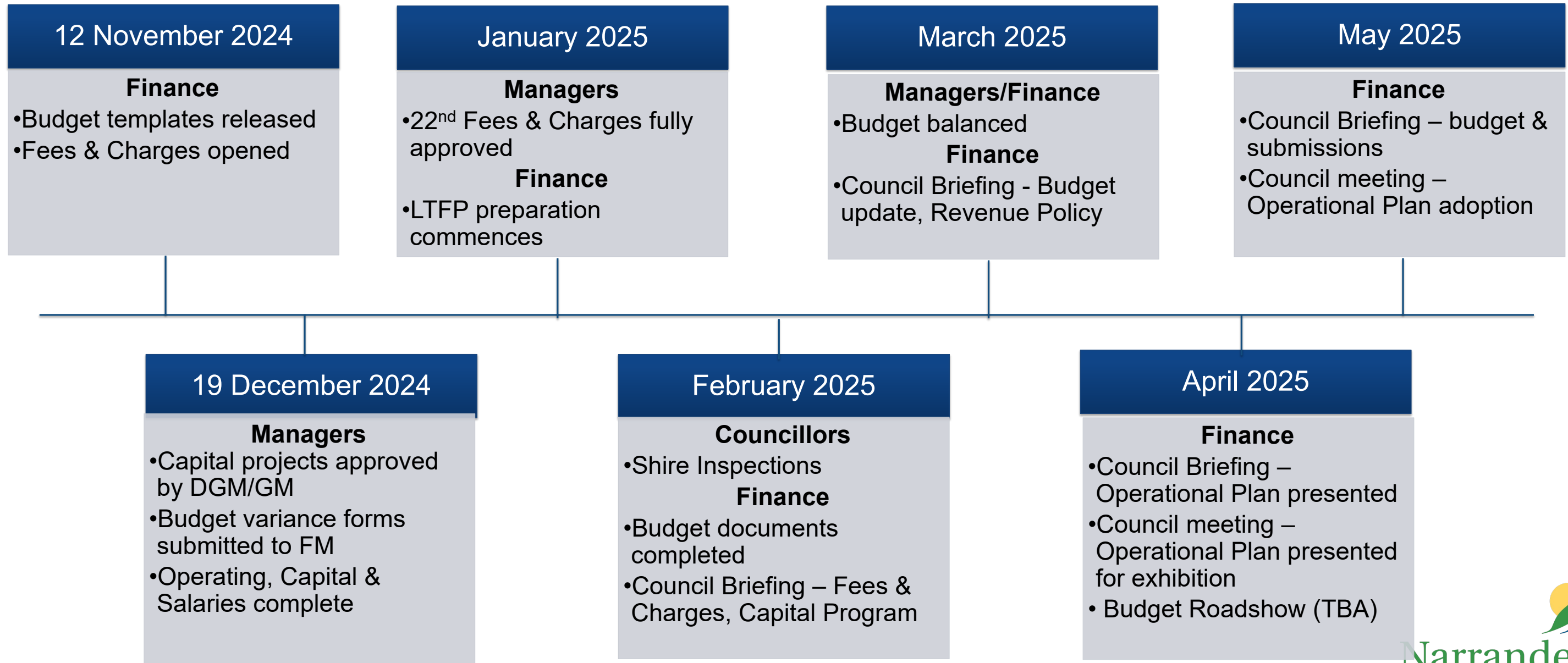
1. Receives and notes the update on the development of the 2025-26 Operational Plan and Budget, as detailed in this report.



2025-2026 Operational Plan Timeline



2025-2026 Operational Plan Timeline

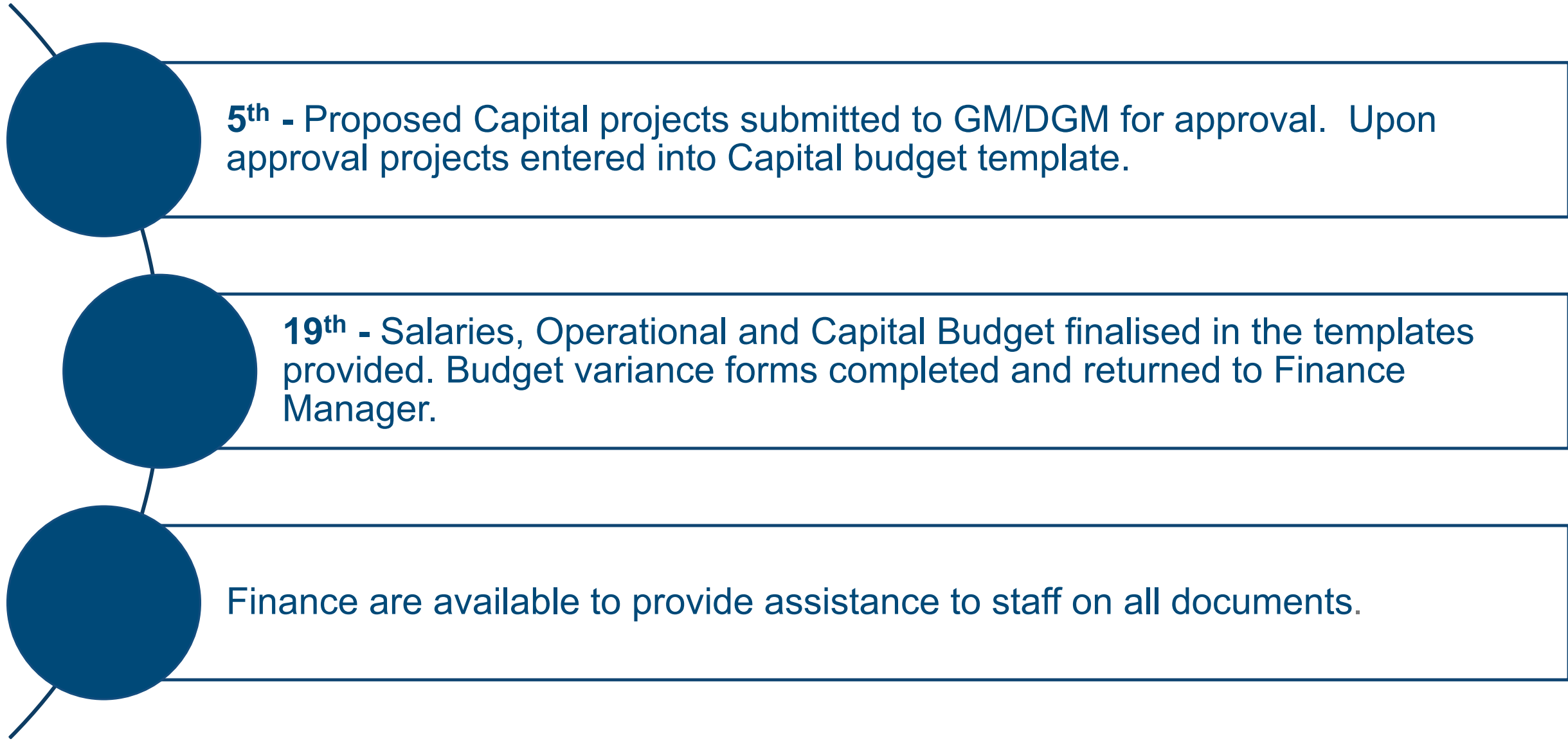


12 November 2024

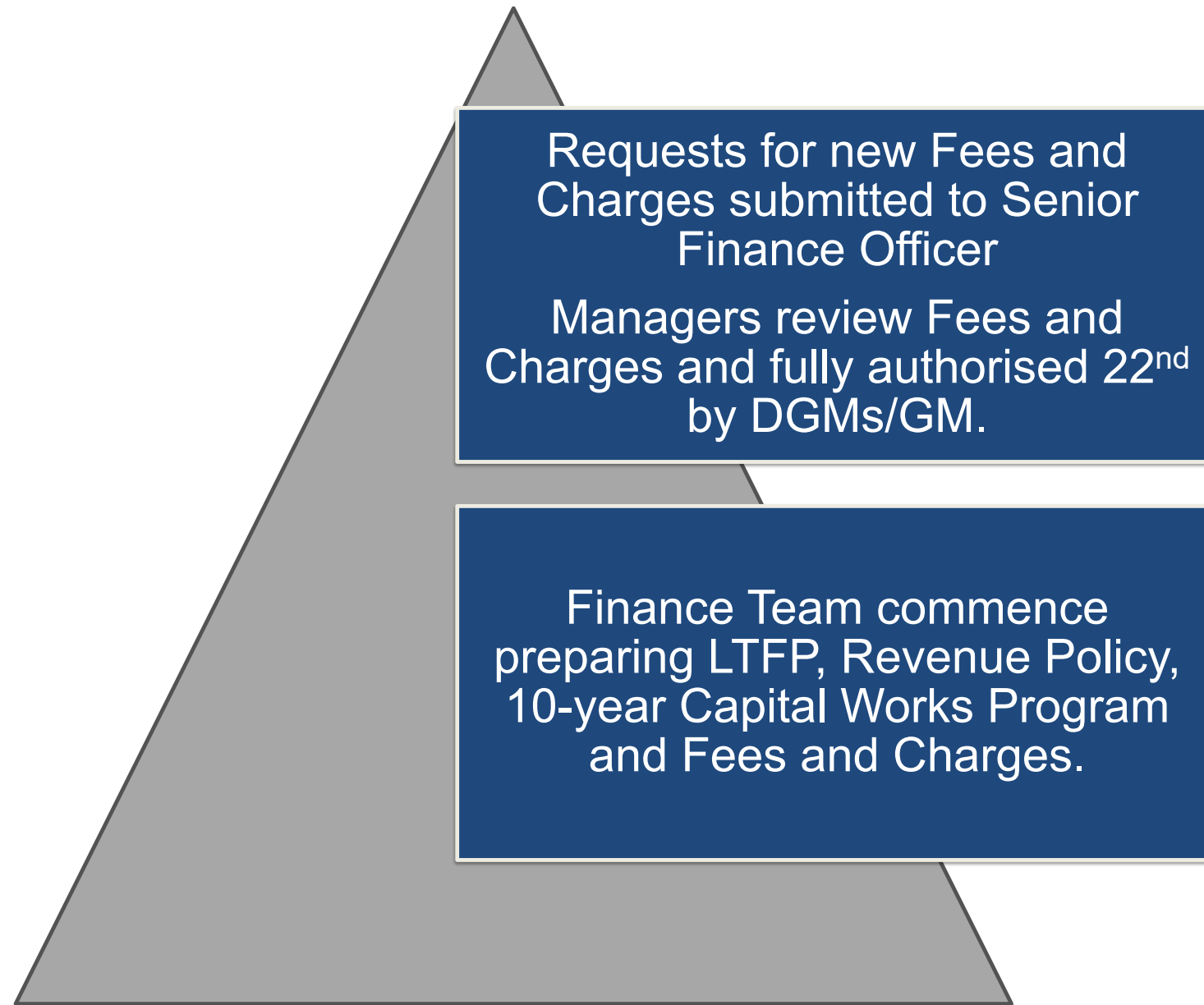
Fees & Charges are now accessible via the portal. Managers are able to increase their fees either by a Council-wide indexation or CPI indexation.

Finance Team distribute templates for Salaries, Operating Budget and 10-year Capital Program.

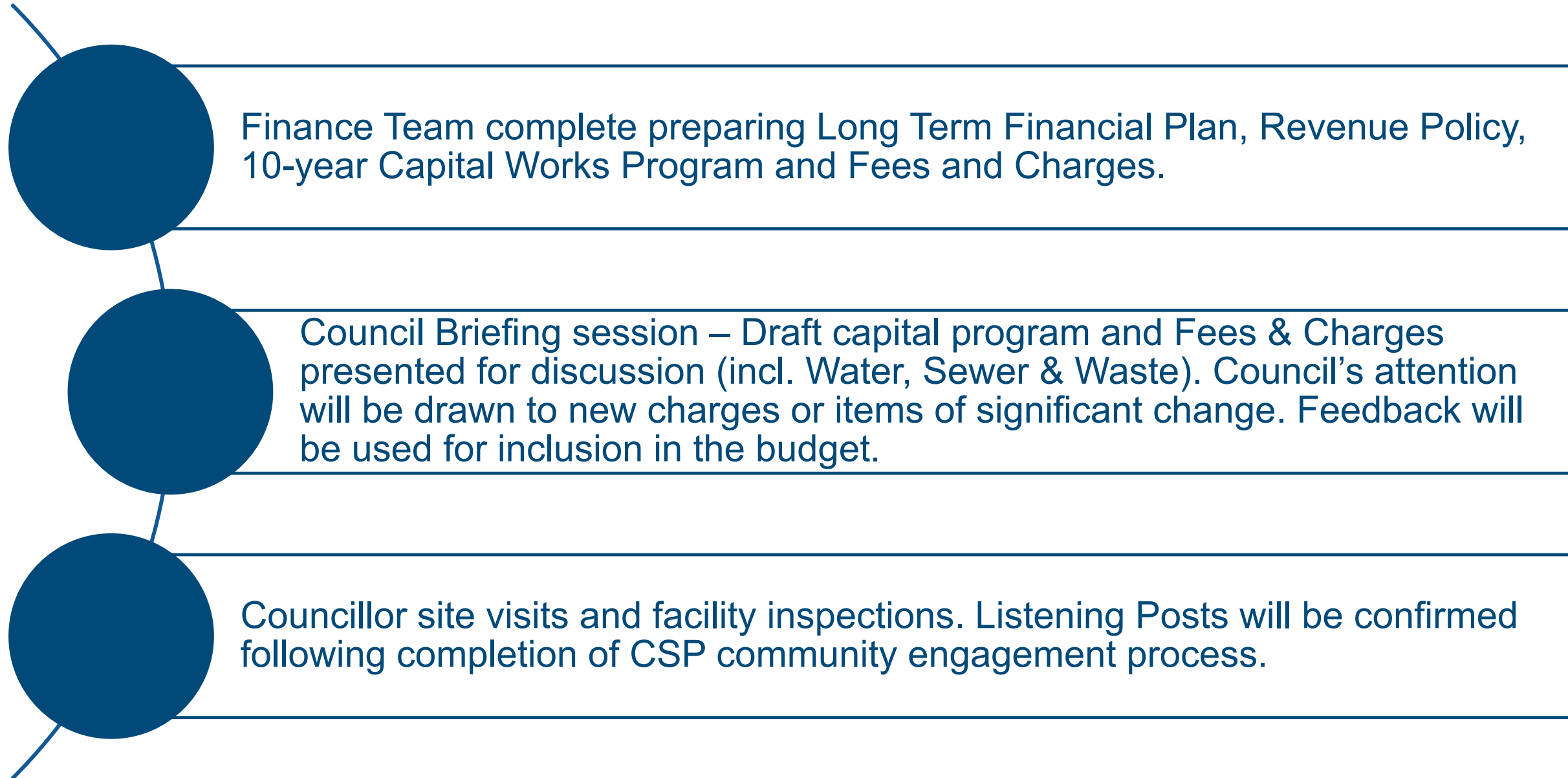
19 December 2024



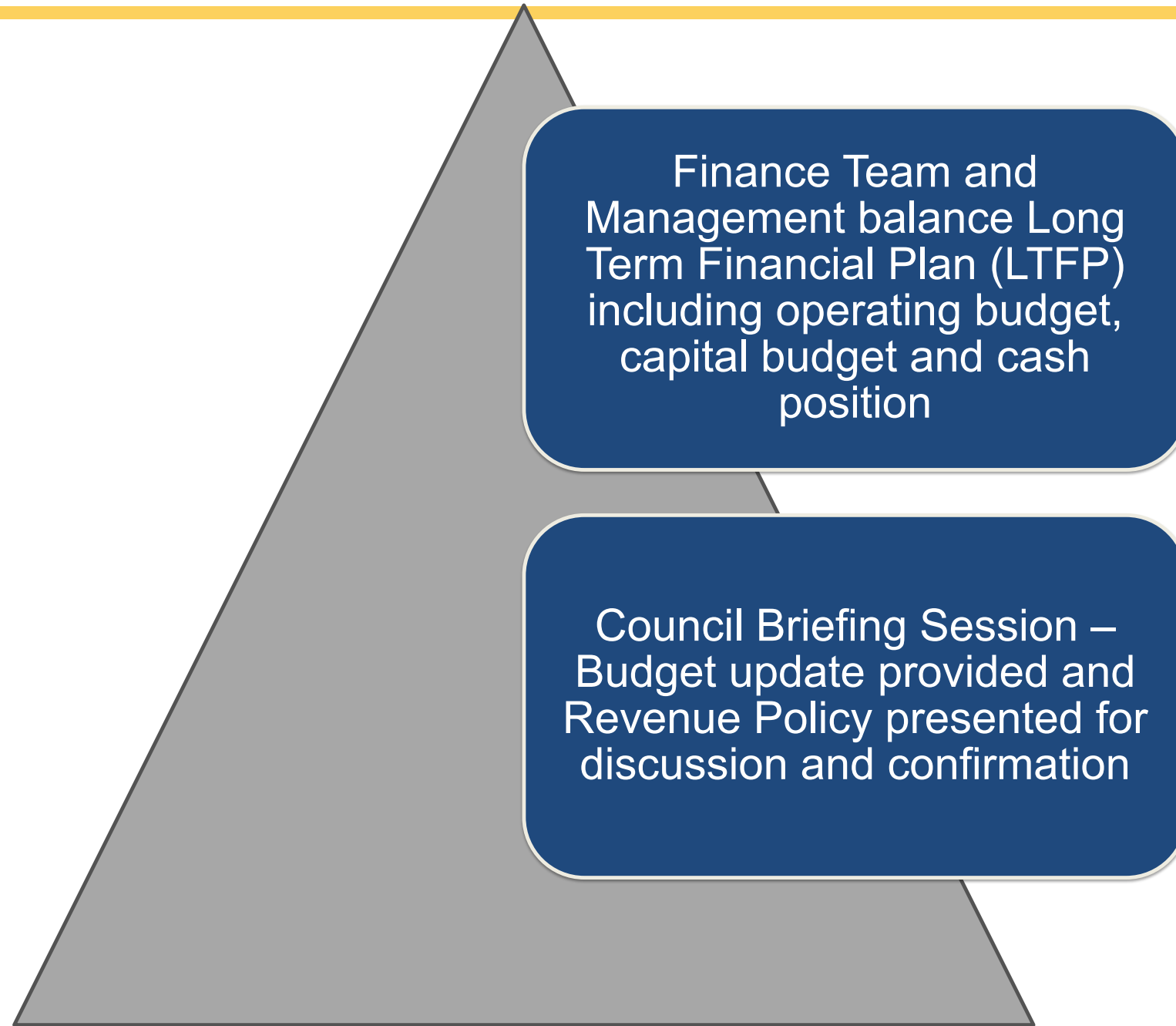
January 2025



February 2025



March 2025



April 2025

Council Briefing Session

- Review draft Operational Plan – including Budget, Fees & Charges, Revenue Policy, Capital Works and Roads Programs

Council Meeting

- Adopts draft Operational Plan for exhibition, along with proposed Fees & Charges, Revenue Policy, Capital Works and Roads Program.

Exhibition Period

- 28-day statutory exhibition period during which time members of the public will be invited to review and provide feedback on the draft Operational Plan.



May 2025

Council Briefing Session – Operational Plan submissions received during the exhibition period and proposed budget are reviewed

Council Meeting – Council adopts the draft Operational Plan as exhibited, or with amendments

19 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Nil

20 PROCUREMENT

20.1 TENDER T-24-25-01 PLANT AND EQUIPMENT HIRE SERVICES

Document ID: 761444

Author: Works Manager

Authoriser: Deputy General Manager Infrastructure

Theme: Procurement

Attachments:

1. **Supply Category Matrix - Confidential (under separate cover)**
2. **Evaluation Panel Report - Plant and Equipment Hire Services - TEC signed - Confidential (under separate cover)**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the companies as detailed within the report to be included on the panel for Plant and Equipment Hire Services under Clause 166(c) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 for a period of three years from the date of this resolution.
2. Authorises the General Manager to add new suppliers to the panel of Plant and Equipment Hire Services during the three-year period, subject to them meeting all contract requirements.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the submissions received for the Hiring of Plant and Equipment Services request for tender for a three-year period. The establishment of the panel allow for the council to undertake selective tender method, thus removing the need to undertake specific tender processes each time the plant item is required as permitted in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

The Plant and Equipment will be used in civil works throughout the LGA for such as road works, footpath, kerb and gutter, storm water, creek and earthworks.

SUMMARY

Tenders were called and thirty-four (34) companies submitted proposals for the Plant and Equipment Hire Services panel arrangement as below.

| Tenderer Entity | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Boots Civil Pty Ltd | 8 | DJ McCormick Constructions/The Trustee for McCormick Family Trust |
| 2 | Brooks Hire Service Pty Ltd | 9 | DLM PLANT HIRE PTY LTD |
| 3 | Cleary Earth & Civil | 10 | Environmental Facility Services Pty Ltd |
| 4 | Coates Hire Operations Pty Ltd | 11 | JW BG DJ & JM O'Mahoney Pty Ltd |
| 5 | Conplant Pty Ltd | 12 | Hume Hire Pty Ltd |
| 6 | Conx Hire/ The Trustee for Boda | 13 | JSC Pty Ltd |

| | | | |
|----|--|----|---------------------------|
| | Family Trust | | |
| 7 | Crushrite Pty Ltd | 14 | Kennards Hire |
| 15 | M Hannan Water and Truck Hire | 25 | Rollers Pty Ltd |
| 16 | MICK OD PTY LTD | 26 | Rosmech Sales & Service |
| 17 | United Rentals Australia Pty Ltd trading as Orange Hire | 27 | Sitex Rentals Pty Ltd |
| 18 | P & A Bulk Haulage | 28 | Smallmon Brothers Pty Ltd |
| 19 | Pipe Doctor Australia Pty Ltd | 29 | Stabilco Pty Ltd |
| 20 | Premiair hire | 30 | Stabilfix Pty Ltd |
| 21 | R C Elliott Excavations Pty Ltd T/a Beechworth Excavations | 31 | The Stabilising Pty Ltd |
| 22 | Rapley Earthworks Pty Ltd | 32 | WESTRAC PTY LTD |
| 23 | Riverina Stabilisers Pty Ltd | 33 | Winnett Bros Pty Ltd |
| 24 | Road Verge Trimming RVT Pty Ltd | 34 | Yellowgate Group Pty Ltd |

BACKGROUND

Narrandera Shire Council as part of the annual maintenance and capital works program across all areas of Council, requires the assistance of outside contractor plant items and machine operations. This request for tender (RFT) for the Hiring of Plant and Equipment Services sets out costs for wet (plant and operator) hire and/or dry (plant only) hire of all plant items available to Council from the tendered companies.

The attached supply category matrix identifies supplier’s vs their category of plant and equipment provided as a summary.

Tender Process

The tender was called via the VendorPanel portal on 12 September 2024 and closed on 10 October 2024 at which time the tender opening was undertaken.

Evaluation of the tenders involved the assessment of aspects such as price/rates, capability, conformance to specification and experience. There was no mandatory site meeting or inspection required with the tender.

Tender Assessment

Thirty-four (34) tenders were received, and thirty-two (32) were assessed as being conforming.

The following two tender submissions were non-conforming and were excluded from further consideration.

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|
| 33 | Winnett Bros Pty Ltd | Non-conforming |
| 34 | Yellowgate Group Pty Ltd | Non-conforming |

Therefore, the evaluation panel agreed that all the thirty-two conforming tenders be recommended to be included in the Plant and Equipment Hire Services panel arrangement.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES

Theme

Procurement

Strategy

4.1 - To have an improved and appropriately maintained road network.

Action

4.1.2 - Plan and undertaken road maintenance and upgrades based on available funding.

ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Policy

- Council Procurement Policy and Tendering Guidelines

Financial

- All hire of plant and equipment is budgeted within individual projects.

Legal / Statutory

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulations 2021

RISKS

- Delay in awarding the tenders will result in all tenders falling out of validity and Council experiencing significant delays in their delivery programs potentially posing safety risk in using Council assets.
- Selecting other tenderer(s) will result in the need to find additional funding, which will also impact on quality and timely delivery of the services to make the assets safer to the users and the wider Community.

OPTIONS

1. Accept the conforming tenders based on schedule of rates for the Plant and Equipment Hire Services as per the resolution.
2. Resolve to not accept any tenders. This will result in Council being unable to maintain the assets, deteriorating further posing safety risk for the users.

CONCLUSION

That the thirty-two (32) companies which lodged submissions deemed compliant be included in the Plant and Equipment Hire Services panel for the three-year duration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the companies as detailed within the report to be included on the panel for Plant and Equipment Hire Services under Clause 166(c) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 for a period of three years from the date of this resolution.
2. Authorises the General Manager to add new suppliers to the panel of Plant and Equipment Hire Services during the three-year period, subject to them meeting all contract requirements.

21 POLICY

Nil

22 COMMITTEE REPORTS**22.1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 10 OCTOBER 2024****Document ID:** 760227**Author:** Governance and Engagement Manager**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community**Attachments:** 1. **Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes - 10 October 2024****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on Thursday 10 October 2024.

Special mention of the following:

1. That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:
 - a. Conveys appreciation to the finance team of Council and the external auditor in the preparation and finalisation of the 2023-24 financial statements; and
 - b. Receives and reviews the audited 2023-24 financial statements; and
 - c. Recognises the provision by the external auditor of an unmodified audit opinion; and
 - d. Recommends that Council proceeds with the publication of the 2023-24 financial statements; and
 - e. Receives and notes the contents of the Audit Office NSW Engagement Closing Report on the 2023-24 financial statements.
2. That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:
 - a. Supports the 2023-24 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, Chairperson Annual Report which will be presented to Council at the 15 October 2024 meeting.

**MINUTES OF NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL
AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2024 AT 2.30PM**

Meeting commenced at 2.32pm

1 PRESENT

Members: Chairperson Mr John Batchelor (T), Member Mrs Gayle Murphy (T).

Observers: GM George Cowan (T), GEM Craig Taylor, FM Bec Best (T), ERSO Amanda Collins and Secretary CAA Melissa Johnson.

Participants: Phil Swaffield of the National Audits Group (T), Lawrissa Chan of the Audit Office of NSW (T), Josh Porker & Cranos Moyo of RSD Audit (T), Laurie Knight of Local Gov Consulting (T)

(T) = attendance using Teams

2 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION

That apologies from Mr Stewart Todd also Cr Cameron Lander be received and accepted.

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Chair John Batchelor

That the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 5 June 2024 and the Extraordinary Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 REPORTS

6.1 PRESENTATION OF THE 2023-2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Chair John Batchelor

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Convey appreciation to the finance team of Council also the external auditor in the preparation and finalisation of the 2023-2024 financial statements; and
2. Receives and reviews the audited 2023-2024 financial statements; and
3. Recognise the provision by the external auditor of an unmodified audit opinion; and
4. Recommend that Council proceed with the publication of the 2023-2024 financial statements; and
5. Receives and notes the contents of the Audit Office NSW Engagement Closing Report on the 2023-2024 financial statements.

CARRIED

6.2 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Chair John Batchelor

Seconded: Mrs Gayle Murphy

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Support the 2023-2024 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, Chairperson Annual Report which will be presented to Council at the 15 October 2024 meeting.

CARRIED

6.3 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Chair John Batchelor

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Receive the verbal comments from National Audits Group on progress to date on the Personnel Succession Planning/Attraction internal audit also the Community Transport and Investments internal audits.

CARRIED

6.4 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Chair John Batchelor

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Receive and note the report by the General Manager.
2. Ask that the General Manager present copies of the Psychosocial Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan to the Committee for review.

CARRIED

6.5 RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL ELECTION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Chair John Batchelor

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Note the September 2024 ordinary Councillor election results published by the NSW Electoral Commission on Tuesday 1 October 2024; and
2. Note that Cr Lander has been reappointed as the non-voting Councillor member for the term of the newly elected Council concluding September 2028.

CARRIED

6.6 MONITORING OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Chair John Batchelor

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Review and support the comments against each line item in the attached Audit Recommendations and Actions document; and
2. Where the line item has been completed or no further action is required that the line item be removed from viewing within the document but retained within the document dataset for future reference; and
3. Request that where possible, each line item action be linked to the Key Performance Indicator(s) of the responsible officer.

CARRIED

6.7 REVIEW OF ENTERPRISE RISK REGISTER

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Chair John Batchelor

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Note the contents of the Enterprise Risk Register.

CARRIED

6.8 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2022-2026 HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE REVIEW - 30 JUNE 2024

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Chair John Batchelor

Seconded: Mrs Gayle Murphy

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Support the adopted Delivery Program 2022-2026 half year performance review for the reporting period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024; and
2. Seek a review of the framework that determines the action performance progress percentage, as detailed within the 6 monthly Delivery Program review presented to this meeting.

CARRIED

6.9 FINANCIAL BALANCE OF INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Chair John Batchelor

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Acknowledge that on 30 September 2024 the Internal Audit function had an unexpended financial balance of \$80,807.39.

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS**Bec Best**

Thank you to the members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for their continued support.

Thank you to Laurie Knight for his support in preparing the 2023-2024 Financial Statements.

7 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28 November 2024 commencing at 10.00am

8 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting Closed at 4.05pm

The minutes of this meeting were approved by the Chairperson (MAGIQ Doc ID 760222) and will be presented to the next meeting for confirmation.

22.2 KOALA REGENERATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 29 OCTOBER 2024

Document ID: 763089

Author: Events & Visitor Services Team Leader

Authoriser: General Manager

Attachments: 1. Koala Regeneration Advisory Committee Minutes - 29 October 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Koala Regeneration Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 29 October 2024.



MINUTES

Koala Regeneration Committee

29 October 2024

**MINUTES OF NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL
KOALA REGENERATION COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE NARRANDERA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
ON TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2024 AT 5PM**

1 PRESENT

Chair Leigh Mathieson, Members Mrs Nella Smith, Ms Kimberley Beattie, Mrs Gayle Murphy (T), Joanne Connolly (T), Mrs Lee Reavley, Cr. Sue Ruffles, Minute Taker Brenda Hartmire

T = Attendance via Teams

2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Mrs Lee Reavley

That apologies from Ms Lindsay Hayes and Cr Braden Lyons be received and accepted.

CARRIED

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Member Joanne Connolly

Seconded: Mrs Gayle Murphy

That the minutes of the Koala Regeneration Committee held on 13 August 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 REPORTS

6.1 KOALA REGENERATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Gayle Murphy

Seconded: Mrs Nella Smith

That the Committee:

1. Reviews the Koala Regeneration Advisory Committee review of Terms of Reference

CARRIED

NOTES FOR THE TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

1. To advise Narrandera Shire Council on the welfare and conservation efforts of the Nationally Significant Koala Colony in the Narrandera LGA with the assistance of NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and assist Narrandera Shire Council to run the Annual Koala Count. (Change to purpose)
2. No changes
3. No changes
4. Objectives
 - a. That the Annual Koala Count becomes a Council led event under the direction of the Koala Regeneration Committee in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service.
 - b. Recommend to Council regarding the preservation of the Narrandera Koala Colony.
 - c. Advocate for state and national funding opportunities in support of the Narrandera Koala Colony.
5. No change
6. Change to the first point – from “Four (4) Community representatives” to “a minimum of Four (4) Community representatives”. Change the third point to read One (1) NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service representative”
7. Add in as a first point “All members of the previous committee be invited to apply”
8. No change
9. No change
10. Change to “Meetings are held four times per year with the first one prior to end of March.”
11. No change
12. No change
13. No change
14. No change
15. No change
16. No change

6.2 KOALA COUNT DEBRIEF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Member Joanne Connolly

Seconded: Mrs Lee Reavley

That the Committee:

1. Discuss the recent Koala Count and consider any adjustments for the 2025 Koala Count

CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF THE RECENT KOALA COUNT

- That the Koala Count be held on the third weekend in September annually.
- That the annually allocated budget (\$2500) for the Koala Count was a valuable support to 2024 Koala Count.
- Add into the registration an option to choose the difficulty level, including a colour coded map to assist and description.
- Consider a poster display explaining Koalas for Muster Point.

KOALA TRANSECT MARKERS

- First task of the next committee to organise the installation of koala transect markers.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

7 NEXT MEETING

No meeting date set as this is the final meeting of this committee.

8 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting Closed at 6.20pm

The minutes of this meeting were approved by the Chairperson (magiQ #763093) and will be presented to the next meeting for confirmation.

22.3 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 8 OCTOBER 2024

Document ID: 763906

Author: Manager Projects and Assets

Authoriser: Deputy General Manager Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Local Emergency Management Committee Minutes - 8 October 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on Tuesday 8 October 2024.

6.1 POLICY REVIEW – POL 166 NARRANDERA HEATWAVE AND PLANS

That the committee supported the endorsement in principle the draft Heat Wave Policy for Narrandera Shire Council with the policy to be reviewed at the next meeting.

6.2 AGENCY REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION

For Council to Note and Accept Agency Reports

**MINUTES OF NARRANDERA – LEETON SHIRE
COUNCILS LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

**LEETON SOILDERS CLUB, CNR ACACIA &, YANCO AVE,
LEETON ON TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2024 AT 9:45AM**

1 PRESENT

Chair Mr Luke Tedesco, Mr Chad Kennis, Mr Fred Hammer, Ms Rebecca Bradshaw, Ms Simone Powles, Mr David Buchtman, Ms Debbie Hobbs, Mr Glenn Newman, Mr Brett Jameson, Mr Dale Gillespie, Ms Amy Thorn, Mr Max Gordon-Hall

2 APOLOGIES

Mr Jason Clarke, Ms Brigette Bragg, Mr David Arthur, Mr Shane Wilson, Ms Alison McDonald, Mr Peter Watson, Mr Steve Evans, Mr Shane Hargraves, Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka, Mr Alastair Macdonald, Mr Steve Hompes.

3 CONFIRMATION OF PRCUNIARY INTEREST

Nil

4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

A discussion was had about the changes that are being made to the Local Emergency planning guidelines. There is a new template for the EM Plans. If the merging of the Leeton and Narrandera EMC is made permanent, a combined EM Plan will need to be explored.

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on 8 October 2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Mr Fred Hammer

Seconded: Mr Brett Jameson

6 AGENCY REPORTS

6.1 POLICY REVIEW - POL166 NARRANDERA HEATWAVE AND PLANS

RECOMMENDATION

That ELT:

1. Provide feedback and endorsement on the draft Heatwave Policy and Heatwave Action Plan.

Mr Hammer brought to the committee Narrandera Shire Councils new Heatwave Policy. This was drafted in conjunction with RAMJO. Mr Buchtmann mentioned the consequent management guide that needed to be considered. Ms Thorn raised that it should be noted that there was a nationwide intravenous fluid shortage that may need to be taken into consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee support the endorsement in principal the draft Heat Wave Policy for Narrandera Shire Council with the policy to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Moved: Ms Debbie Hobbs Seconded:

Mr Chad Kennis

6.2 AGENCY REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION

For Council to Note and Accept Agency Reports

6.3 – REMO – Please refer to Attachment 1 – REMO – Agency Report

6.4 – LEOCON – No Report. Mr Hammer gave thanks to outgoing LEOCON Chris Quiring for his service to the committee.

6.5 – LEMO Leeton – Mr Tedesco presented the committee with the draft proposal for the Roxy Theatre to become the primary evacuation center for Leeton. Mr Tedesco explained that there are issues with the roof at the current evacuation center (Leeton Indoor Stadium) that needs extensive repairs. With the refurbishment of the Roxy Theatre due to be completed at approximately the end of October, it is believed that this would be the best location for the evacuation center. The Stadium would become the secondary location once the repairs are completed.

Mr Hammer enquired if there was room for bedding in the Roxy. Mr Tedesco advised that due to the retractable seating on the main floor, there would be sufficient room. He also added that the Roxy has adequate bathroom facilities including showers, kitchen facilities, fire compliance, HVAC, and an Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS).

Mr Kennis queried about the parking available close to the Roxy Theatre. Mr Tedesco advised that there was a large car park close by in Sycamore street, parking at the rear along Mountford park and along the main street. Leeton Shire Council would also have the ability to close/reserve parking for disability access.

Mr Buchtman noted that Disaster Welfare is happy to support this proposal and will continue to work with LSC to finalise the details.

That the committee supports in principal the draft proposal for the Roxy Theatre to become the primary evacuation center for Leeton. That was moved by Mr Fred Hammer and seconded by Mr Dave Buchtman. The recommendation is to be tabled at the Leeton Shire Council ordinary meeting for resolution.

6.6 – LEMO Narrandera - Mr Hammer advised that Narrandera Shire Council, as part of the Floodplain Risk Management Plan have submitted an applications for funding to undertake a feasibility study for the Nallabooma and Airport preferred ring levee, The outcome for the funding application is expected in November. A detailed design of the preferred levee system has been completed for the Barellan area. The priority for council at this stage is completing the installation of the sewer scheme, which was a main issues during the last flood event, where the residence were evacuated due to the inundation of septic systems.

6.7 – VRA – Please refer to Attactment 2– VRA Agency Report and Attachement 3 - VRA Unit Status.

6.8 – Fire and Rescue – Please refer to Attactment 4– Fire and Rescue Agency Report.

6.9 – SES – Please refer to Attactment 5– SES Agency Report.

6.10 – NSW Police Force – No report – Mr Hammer enquired regarding the recruitment of the LEOCON position. Mr Jameson informed the committee that the recruitment should begin in November. He also noted that there is a big push in recruitment for the Riverina area at the moment.

6.11 – Ambulance – No Report – Mr max Gorden-Hall.

6.12 – NSW Health – Ms Amy Thorn is the new Facilities Manager. Amy advised that they are currently capping patient numbers due to staff shortages.

6.13 – WSFA (Welfare Services) - Please refer to Attactment 6 – WSFA Agency Report. Mr Buchtman presented a slide show to the committee giving an overview of Evacuation Centres provided by Welfare Services Functional Area – please refer to attachment 7 – WSFA Evac presentation.

6.14 – NSW Reconstruction Authority – Please refer to Attactment 8 – NSW Reconstruction Authority Agency Report.

6.15 – EduSFA – Please refer to Attactment 9 – EduSFA Agency Report.

6.16 – Red Cross – Please refer to Attactment 10 – Red Cross Agency Report.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

NIL

8 CORRESPONDANCE

NIL

9 NEXT MEETING

11 February 2025 - Narrandera Shire Council to advise time & venue.

10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting Closed at 10:50am

The minutes of this meeting were approved by the Chairperson (763899) and will be presented to the next meeting for confirmation.

22.4 AUSTRALIA DAY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 31 OCTOBER 2024**Document ID: 764110****Author: Events & Visitor Services Team Leader****Authoriser: General Manager****Attachments: 1. Australia Day Planning Advisory Committee Minutes - 31 October 2024****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Australia Day Planning Advisory Committee held on Thursday 31 October 2024.

Please note discussion points below:

AUSTRALIA DAY EVENT PLANNING AWARDS CEREMONY

- Australia Day Council grant was successful
- Belinda Shanahan accepted the offer to perform at the Australia Day Ceremony and will sing Advance Australia Fair, Great Southern Lands and I Still Call Australia Home.
- Enquiries to be made of the young Wiradjuri dance group, who performed at Spring Fair to be part of the opening of the Australia Day Ceremony along with a Wiradjuri representative to deliver the Welcome to Country and play the didgeridoo.
- Gayle Murphy to be invited to be the Local Australia Day Ambassador for 2025.
- The ceremony will now be held at Marie Bashir Park.

AUSTRALIA DAY ACTIVITIES

- As Narrandera Ex Serviceman's Club Auditorium is not available for the Australia Day Concert, the CRC Church and hall to be hired if available with a music duo in the hall and a movie in the theatre.
- Wiradjuri art workshop and bush tucker cooking class will be held at the Narrandera Arts and Community Centre by Sandhills Artefacts concluding with an afternoon tea.



MINUTES

Australia Day Planning Committee

31 October 2024

**MINUTES OF NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL
AUSTRALIA DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2024 AT 8.30AM**

1 PRESENT

Chair Beryl Brain, Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka, Mrs Helen McDermott, Mr Glenn Bartley, Mr Graeme Davies, Cr Braden Lyons

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Graeme Davies

Seconded: Mr Glenn Bartley

That the minutes of the Australia Day Planning Committee held on 26 September 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 REPORTS

6.1 AUSTRALIA DAY EVENT PLANNING UPDATE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mrs Helen McDermott

Seconded: Mr Graeme Davies

That the Committee:

1. Receives an update on Australia Day Event Planning progress

CARRIED

**AUSTRALIA DAY EVENT PLANNING
AWARDS CEREMONY**

- Australia Day Council grant was successful
- Belinda Shanahan accepted the offer to perform at the Australia Day Ceremony and will sing Advance Australia Fair, Great Southern Lands and I Still Call Australia Home.

- Enquiries to be made of the young Wiradjuri dance group, who performed at Spring Fair to be part of the opening of the Australia Day Ceremony along with a Wiradjuri representative to deliver the Welcome to Country and play the didgeridoo.
- Gayle Murphy to be invited to be the Local Australia Day Ambassador for 2025.
- The ceremony will now be held at Marie Bashir Park.

AUSTRALIA DAY ACTIVITIES

- As Narrandera Ex Serviceman's Club Auditorium is not available for the Australia Day Concert, the CRC Church and hall to be hired if available with a music duo in the hall and a movie in the theatre.
- Wiradjuri art workshop and bush tucker cooking class will be held at the Narrandera Arts and Community Centre by Sandhills Artefacts concluding with an afternoon tea.

9.1 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATIONS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Braden Lyons

Seconded: Mr Graeme Davies

That The Committee:

1. Recommends not to extend the closing date of nominations as enough nominations have been received.
2. Will make recommendations at the November 21 meeting for the Award winners;
 - Nominees for Citizen of the Year
 - 3 nominees
 - Nominees for Senior Citizen of the Year
 - 2 nominees
 - Nominees for Young Citizen of the Year
 - 2 nominees
 - Nominees for Organisation of the Year
 - 4 nominees
 - Nominees for Disability Advocate Award
 - 1 nominee
 - Nominees for Environmental Award
 - 1 nominee

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

7 NEXT MEETING

Thursday November 21, 8.30am Narrandera Destination and Discovery Hub

8 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting Closed at 9.52am

The minutes of this meeting were approved by the Chairperson (magiQ #763989) and will be presented to the next meeting for confirmation.

23 STATUTORY AND COMPULSORY REPORTING – DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORTS

23.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES - OCTOBER 2024

Document ID: 764032

Author: Administration Assistant

Authoriser: Deputy General Manager Infrastructure

Theme: Statutory and Compulsory Reporting – Development Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Development Services Activities Report for October 2024.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of Development Applications and other development services provided during October 2024.

BACKGROUND

Development & Complying Development Applications

A summary of Development and Complying Development Applications processed during the reporting month/s detailed in the following table:

| Stage Reached | October |
|--|----------------|
| Lodged | 6 |
| Stop-the-Clock / Under Referral / Awaiting Information | 0 |
| Determined | 3 |

The value of Development and Complying Development Applications approved by Council during the reporting month/s is detailed in the following tables:

| Development Type | 2024-2025 | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | OCTOBER | | Year to Date | |
| | Number | Value \$ | Number | Value \$ |
| Residential | 2 | \$ 1,138,000 | 12 | \$ 3,991,537 |
| Industrial | 0 | \$ - | 0 | \$ - |
| Commercial | 1 | \$ 18,000 | 5 | \$ 2,215,809 |
| Rural Residential | 0 | \$ - | 1 | \$ 120,000 |
| Subdivisions | 0 | \$ - | 1 | \$ - |
| Other | 0 | \$ - | 0 | \$ - |
| TOTAL | 3 | \$ 1,156,000 | 19 | \$ 6,327,346 |

Under the provisions of section 4.59 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act Narrandera Shire Council determined the following development applications, applications for modification of development consents and complying development certificate applications during the reporting month.

| No | Type | Address | Development Type | Determination | STC / RFI Days | ACTIVE Business Days |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 004-24-25 | L/I RFS | 66 Larmer Street NARRANDERA | 3 x dwellings & 1 into 3 lot subdivision | Conditionally Approved | - | 21 |
| 012-24-25 | L | 74 Bendee Street BARELLAN | Carport & amenities | Conditionally Approved | - | 11 |
| 014-24-25 | L | 89 Larmer Street NARRANDERA | 2 x dwellings & multi occupancy | Conditionally Approved | - | 10 |

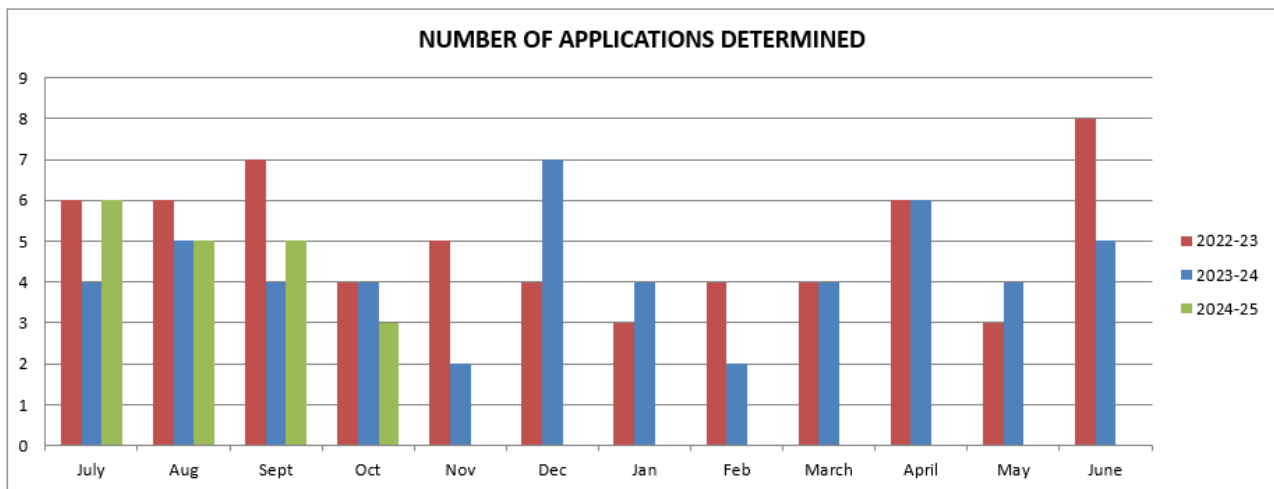
Type explanation

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Local (L) – Delegated authority | Merit based assessment where development consent is required. Target determination time of 40 business days. |
| Council (L/C) | Local development determined by Council at an ordinary meeting. |
| Integrated (I) | Merit based assessment where approval from other authorities, such as RMS, RFS, DPI, is required in addition to development consent. The referral process extends the target determination time to 60 business days. |
| Modification (M) | Revision of previously approved application. No target determination time. Development value figures not included in table below. |
| Stop the Clock (STC) | Calculation of active days stops while additional information required to complete the assessment is obtained from the applicant. |
| Complying (CDC) | Fast track approval process without the need for a full development application if specific criteria are met. |

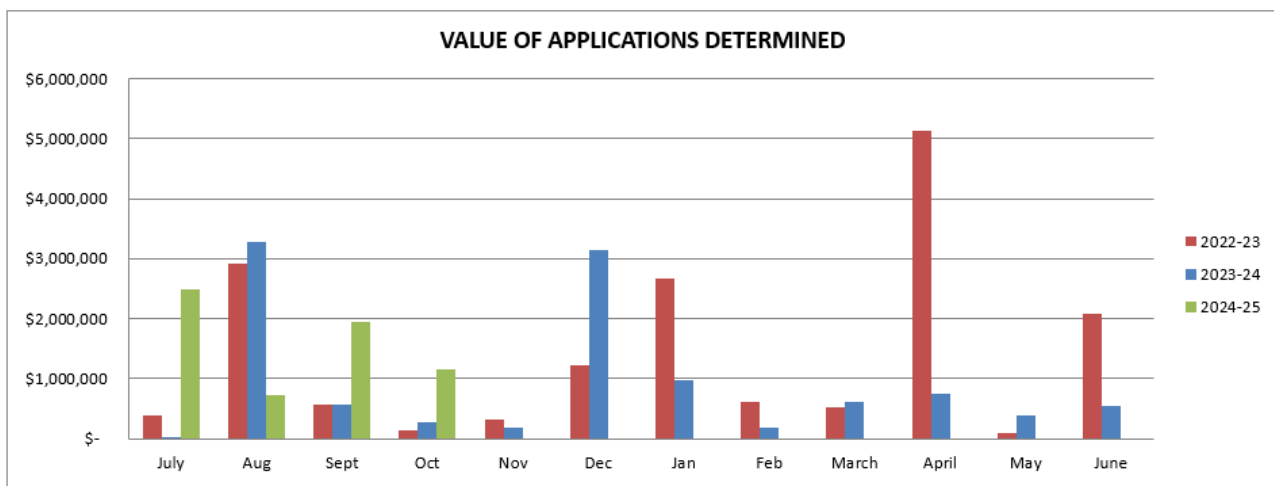
Comparison determination times

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2020-21 | Narrandera Shire Council average | 30 days |
| 2021-22 | Narrandera Shire Council average | 25 days |
| 2022-23 | Narrandera Shire Council average | 18.6 days |
| 2023-24 | Narrandera Shire Council average YTD | 12.5 days |

This graph details the comparative number of Development and Complying Development Applications determined by month by month over the past three years.



This graph details the comparative value of Development and Complying Development Applications determined by month over the past three years.



*2022-23 June figures exclude \$14,200,758 for industrial workshop

Certificates Issued

A summary of other development services activities undertaken during the reporting month is detailed in the following table:

| Certificate Type | October |
|--|---------|
| Construction Certificates | - |
| Building Certificates | - |
| Subdivision Certificates | - |
| Occupation Certificates | - |
| Section 10.7 (previously 149) Certificates | 26 |
| Swimming Pool Compliance Certificates | - |
| S68 Approvals | 3 |

Construction Activities

A summary of Critical Stage building inspections undertaken during the reporting month is detailed in the following tables:

| Building Surveyor Inspections | October |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Critical Stage Inspections | 12 |

Compliance Activities

A summary of compliance services activities undertaken during the reporting month is detailed in the following tables:

| Companion Animal Activity – Dogs | October |
|---|----------------|
| Impounded | 16 |
| Returned | 2 |
| Rehomed | 12 |

| Companion Animal Activity – Cats | October |
|---|----------------|
| Impounded | 6 |
| Returned | - |
| Rehomed | - |

| Compliance Activity | October |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Call outs | 15 |
| Infringement warnings/fines issued | 5 |
| Menacing/Dangerous dog incidents | - |

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Development Services Activities Report for October 2024.

24 STATUTORY AND COMPULSORY REPORTING – FINANCIAL / AUDIT REPORTS

24.1 SUBMISSIONS REGARDING GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS' REPORT

Document ID: 762832

Author: Finance Manager

Authoriser: Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community

Theme: Statutory and Compulsory Reporting – Financial / Audit

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes that no submissions were received in regard to the General Purpose Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the period ending 30 June 2024.
2. Concludes the 2023-24 financial reporting process in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that no submissions were received in regard to the audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the period ending 30 June 2024, which were publicly exhibited following adoption by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held 15 October 2024 [**res. 24/168**]. This now concludes the financial reporting process for the 2023-24 year under the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act").

SUMMARY

In accordance with section 416(1) of the Act, Council's General Purpose Financial Statements for a year must be prepared and audited within four (4) months of the end of the reporting period concerned (being 31 October).

The Auditor-General of New South Wales and its audit service provider firm, RSD Audit, completed the external audit of Council's Financial Statements ended 30 June 2024, with the audited Financial Statements presented to Council at its Ordinary Meeting held 15 October 2024. Council adopted the Financial Statements and Auditors' Report as presented [**res. 24/268**].

Consistent with Council's resolution at its October Ordinary Meeting and its legislative obligations under section 420 of the Act, the 2023-24 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report were publicly exhibited following the October Ordinary Meeting.

Public Notice of the presentation of the audited Financial Statements at this meeting was published to Council's website at www.narrandera.nsw.gov.au.

Public submissions on the 2023-24 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report were invited until 5:00pm on Tuesday, 22 October 2024. Any submissions received during the exhibition period are required to be reported at this Ordinary Meeting and referred to the external Auditor in accordance with section 420(3) of the Act.

Council did not receive any submissions in relation to the 2023-24 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES

Theme

5 - Our Leadership

Strategy

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

Action

5.1.4 - Report on compliance with the financial performance measures within the annual financial statements.

ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Policy

- Nil.

Financial

- Nil.

Legal / Statutory

- As detailed above, Council is required to comply with the relevant provisions of the Act in undertaking and completing its External Audit process. Section 420 of the Act provides that any member of the public may make a submission with respect to Council's audited Financial Statements. Such submissions must be made in writing and once lodged with Council, referred to the External Auditor.

Community Engagement / Communication

- As noted above, the Act requires Council to publicly exhibit its audited General Purpose Financial Statements and accompanying Auditor's Report and provides for members of the public to make submissions in regard to the documents and directs how submissions will be reported. The public exhibition period was undertaken following Council's October Ordinary Meeting, consistent with the legislative provisions of the Act, and public no submissions were received.

Human Resources / Industrial Relations (if applicable)

- Nil.

RISKS

Not advertising for submissions would be in contravention to the Local Government Act and would limit the public's avenues to comment on the Financial Statements and Auditors' Report.

CONCLUSION

Council notes that no submissions were received and that no further action is required, concluding the 2023-24 financial reporting process in accordance with the Act.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes that no submissions were received in regard to the General Purpose Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the period ending 30 June 2024.
2. Concludes the 2023-24 financial reporting process in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

24.2 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM - SEPTEMBER 2024 QUARTER**Document ID:** 764536**Author:** Finance Manager (Responsible Accounting Officer)**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community**Theme:** Statutory and Compulsory Reporting – Financial / Audit**Attachments:**

1. Capital Program 30 September 2024 [↓](#) 
2. Capital Expenditure 30 September 2024 [↓](#) 
3. Operational Expenditure 30 September 2024 [↓](#) 

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained in the Quarterly Capital Works Report as at 30 September 2024.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to monitor the progress of 2024/2025 capital works programs for the quarter ending 30 September 2024.

BACKGROUND

Works listed in the attachment are for works against budgeted projects for the 2024-25 financial year. Key operational expenses are also included in this report and have been highlighted separately.

PROGRESS TO DATE IN EACH AREA**Projects Pending Grant Funding**

- Narrandera Cemetery furniture, Barellan Cemetery furniture, Barellan Sportsground lighting upgrades, LT Pool – Replace Remaining Fencing (125m), LT Pool - Shotcreate Treatment crib wall, Barellan Sportsground storm water drainage works, Barellan Sportsground - Lighting Upgrades Eastern, Narrandera Sportsground Hot mixing spectator walkways, Irrigation Dog Park CRIF2023/24, Grong Grong Park – Furniture, Marie Bashir Park Paths & Uplighting, Marie Bashir Park PowerPoint vendor sites, Barellan Park – Furniture, Barellan Main Street Planter Boxes, Replace Barellan Main street BBQ shelter, Narrandera Park - Lighting/uplighting memorials & trees, Narrandera Memorial Park - Larmer St - Irrigation, driveways, curb etc, Boating Pontoon x 3, Stadium Lighting Replacement, Parkside Museum - Outdoor Space Upgrade, Get NSW Active, Sewer - Primary Filter,

Administration

- Procurement has occurred for the Councillor iPad Project and are currently being setup for staff and councillors.
- Procurement will take place in April for the Replace Desktops/Laptops project.
- Software licencing will be reviewed throughout the year.
- Options are being investigated for the GDA Dataset Transition & Imagery.
- The Integrated Software System project has commenced and will continue throughout the year.

- Upgrade of Phone System is in the planning stage.
- Electronic Signature Software and IT review projects are on hold until the completion of the EMS project.
- The Depot, HACC & Chambers replace network cabling has been placed on hold until seating arrangement have been confirmed.
- Procurement is complete and awaiting installation for the Chambers HACC & Library - Alarm & Access Control and Chambers Access Control System Replacement.
- Projects completed: Replace Backup Hardware, Business Continuity Site.

Public Order & Safety

- The Landervale Fire shed build is complete with the power easement being finalised
- The construction of the Gillenbah Station Amenities project is complete, awaiting formal advice from the Rural Fire Service.

Environment

- Planning is underway for the Greenwaste Handling Facility and New Security Fencing and CCTV at the Narrandera Waste Depot.
- The design is complete for the Further Masterplan works stage 1 and awaiting the outcome of the Precinct application.
- The Urban Stormwater Upgrade detailed design works have been completed. Pending grant funding and approval of stage 2 of the Rate Variation.
- Works for the Stormwater improvement works have been cancelled due to funding constraints.
- The OSR - Asset Backlog (funded by Special Variation) will be allocated to fund the Marie Bashir Park infants area refurbishment.
- Control programs have commenced in the Bundidgerry area for the CRIF 23-24 Weeds Program grant. Procurement of plant items will commence in December.

Housing & Community Amenities

- The draft plan of management is under review for the Cemetery Master Plans.

Recreation & Culture

- Procurement for the Library Book and Resources Annual replacement is ongoing throughout the year.
- Procurement is underway for the replacement of the Library Service Desk.
- Planning is underway for the Lake Talbot Pool Replace Kitchen, Barellan Pool Safety Signage & Pool Marking and Barellan Pool Replace Café Furniture.
- The Narrandera Park Irrigation Management System flow meters have been installed with testing of water sensors underway.
- Minor landscape works are planned for the Narrandera Memorial Park lawn areas and garden beds.
- Planning is underway for the Barellan Playground Upgrades.
- Scope is being prepared for the Stadium and Sportsground masterplan.

Disaster Recovery Funding

- Planning has commenced with Murrumbidgee Irrigation for the Construction of flood relief gates.
- Replacement of soft fall in MBP has been procured.
- Design options are being reviewed for the Flood levies at water supply bores.
- Works are underway for the Narrandera Library Stormwater structure.
- Planning is underway for the Youth development program, Community Information Boards, Economic Development Strategy & Signage.
- Landervale Road/Lismoyle Road Betterment Project is awaiting approval by the OLG.
- Works are being scoped for the Replacement of trees project.

Local Roads & Community Infrastructure

- Works are nearing completion for the Brewery Flat Boat ramp & Toilets project.
- Procurement is complete for the Barellan Sportsground scoreboard with the location being coordinated with user group representatives.
- Construction is underway with the path and equipment installed for the playground upgrade at Marie Bashir Park.
- The Narrandera Footpaths upgrade has been commenced works
- Three laneways have been completed for the Narrandera laneway upgrades, remaining lanes are being scheduled.
- Projects completed: Barellan Toddler Pool.

Crown Reserve Improvement Program

- The upgrades for the Lake Talbot reserve have progressed with the BBQ and seating installed, stairs have been procured with additional works being complete after the stairs have been installed.

Stronger Country Community Funding

- Community Safety Upgrade Program (CCTV) replacement of existing cameras is underway.
- The Recreation Upgrade at Narrandera Water tower is awaiting the installation of fencing.

Lake Talbot

- The Lake Talbot Area Accessibility project walking track upgrade works are complete, signage has been procured.

Transport & Communication

- Planning has commenced for the Urban Roads Construction, Urban Roads Construction Laneways, Urban Pavement Rehabilitation, Urban kerb & guttering replacement, Urban Footpath Replacement, Roads resheeting (unsealed roads) and Rural Sealed Roads Construction.
- Urban Reseals and Sandy creek road reseal is planned to commence quarter 3.
- Works are continuing for the Urban Emergency Drainage Works January Event between other major projects

- Projects completed: Pethers Roads Sealing, Holloway Rd Culvert and Grong Grong River Road

Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund

- Planning is underway for Minor Heavy Patches Urban, Minor Heavy Patches Rural, Mejum Road Resheet, Bunganbil Road Rehab, Cove Road Resheet, Bulloak Tank Resheet and Quandong Park Road Resheet.
- There is ongoing operational cost for the following projects Sealed Roads Shoulder Grading, Gravel Roads Grading and Formed Roads Grading
- Works at the Landervale Road Resheet are nearing completion
- Projects Completed: Nolans Road resheet, Davies Road Resheet, Erigolia Road Heavy Patching and Donaldson Road Resheet

Fixing Local Roads

- Brewarrana Bridge Retrofitting has been completed with costs being finalised.
- The design is complete for the Old Wagga Road Rehab project, environmental investigations are continuing.

Regional Roads Capital Works (Block grant)

- MR243, MR370, MR596 will be reviewed throughout the year.
- MR7608 Barellan Road works will commence in quarter 3.

Roads to Recovery

- Resheeting has commenced for Settlement road.
- Projects completed: Loobys Rd Resheet, Dows Rd Resheet, Davies Rd Resheet, Junee St Rehab, Federal Park Rd, Quilters Rd Resheet, Glen Moor Rd Resheet.

Economic Affairs

- Red Hill Industrial Estate Expansion project has been deferred awaiting successful grant funding.
- The Lake Talbot Tourist Park reseal driveways project is scheduled to commence in 2025.
- The plant replacement program is underway. Program is underway for the following Light Vehicles, Trucks & Trailers, Heavy Plant Purchases, Other Plant Capital.
- Planning is underway for the Building renewal & upgrades and Grong Grong Sportsground Toilet / Shower Fitout.
- The scope is being prepared for the Buildings Asset Backlog (funded by Special Variation).
- Works are underway for the Airport Replace Wind Socks.
- Projects Completed: SES Airport Hangar.

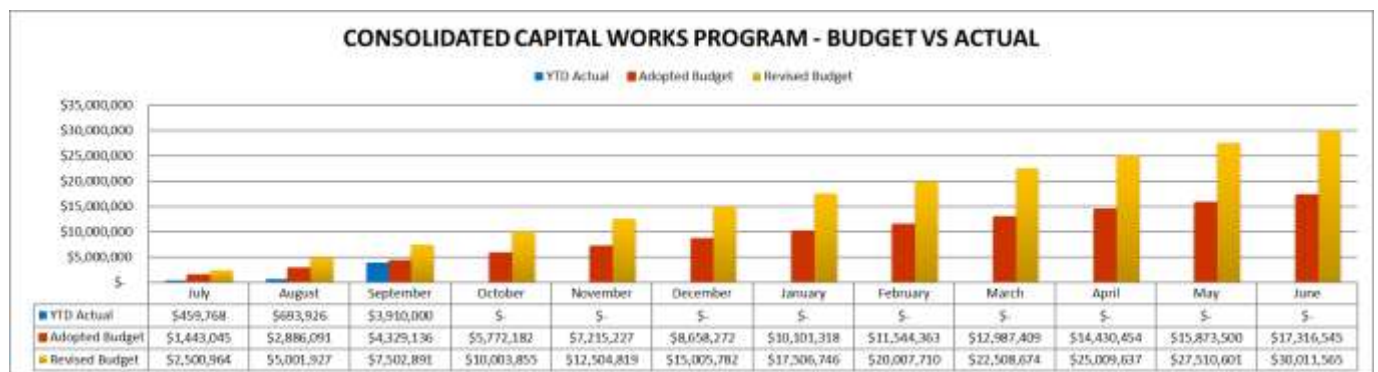
Water Supply network

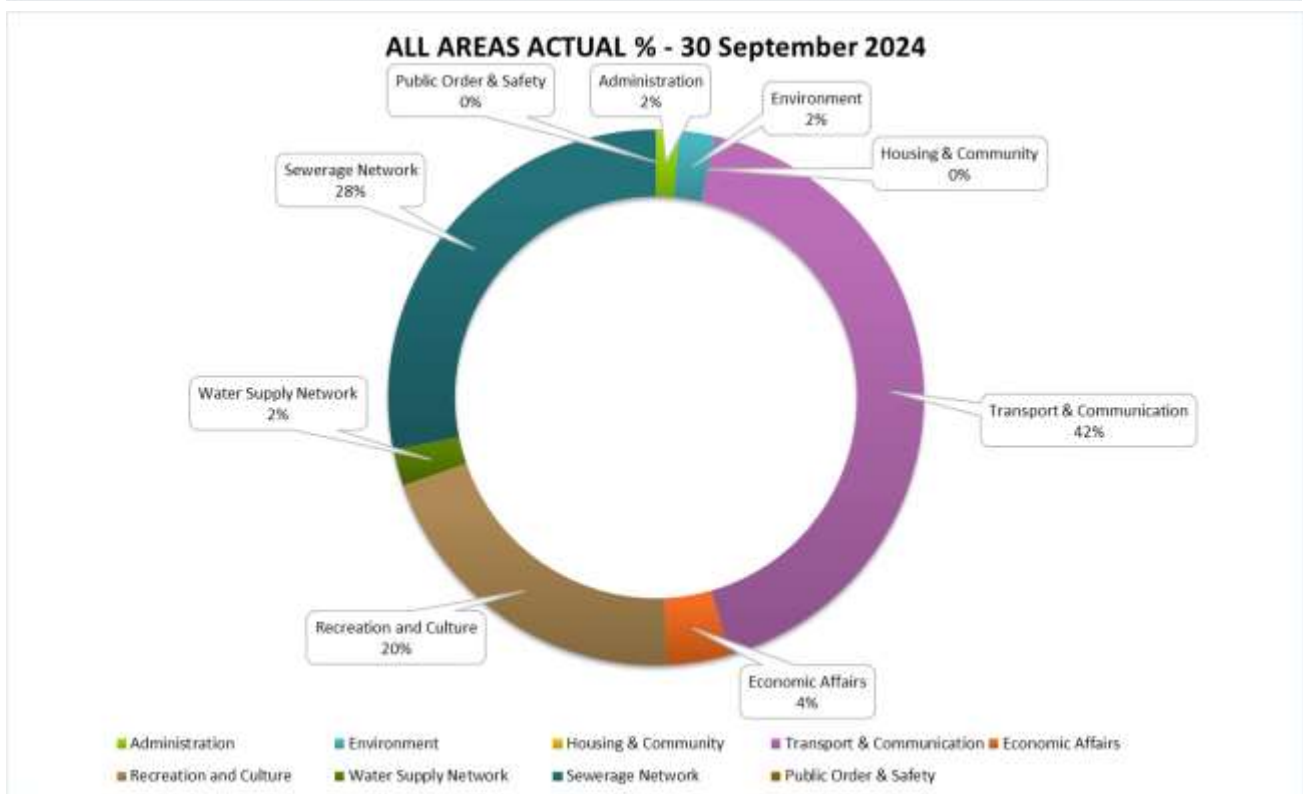
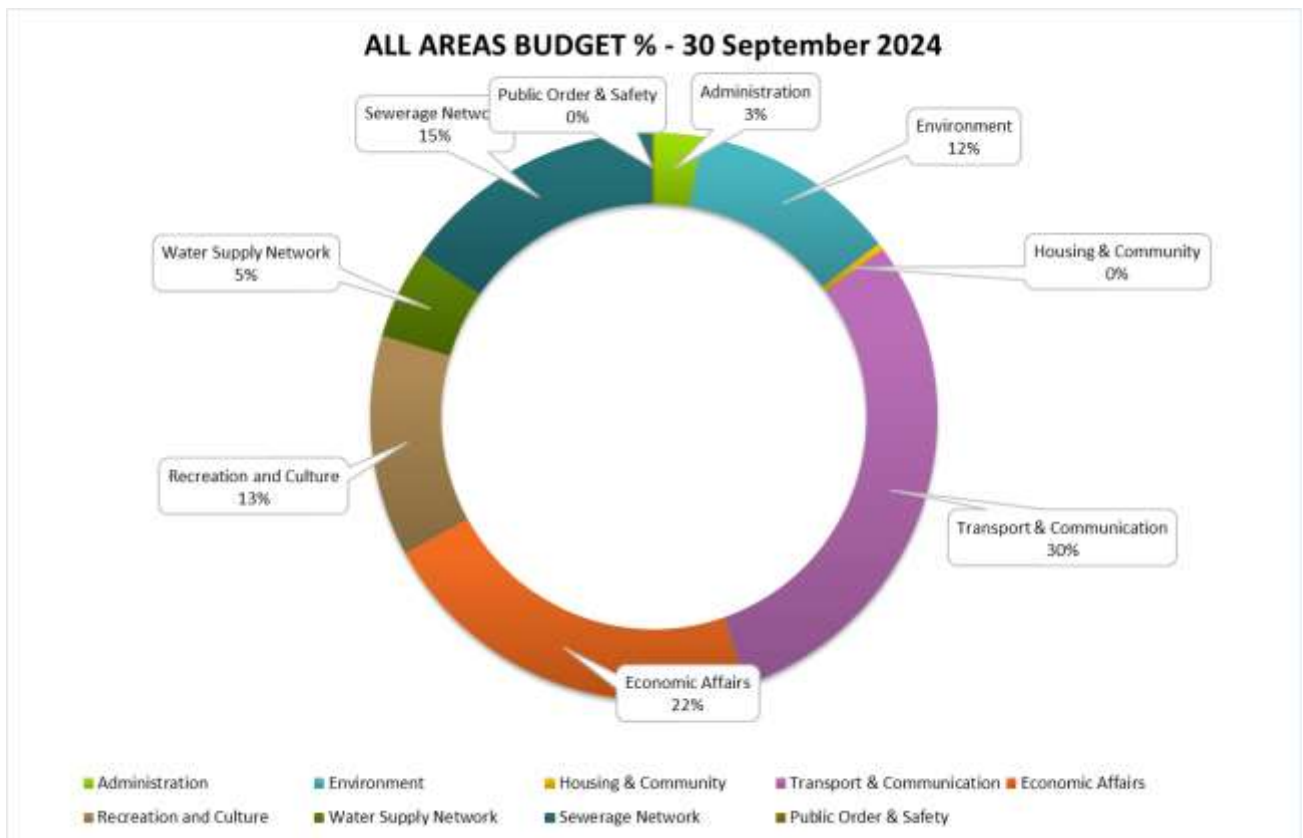
- Water Service Replacements will be undertaken as required.
- Quotes are to be sought for the North Zone Pressure Pump low pressure issues, Pine Hill Pumps Replacement, Main Pump Overhaul and Maintenance and Automatic hydrant flushing
- Scheduling is to occur for the Mains Replacements and Hydrant and Valve Replacement.

- The final report is pending for the IWCM Additional Works and Water Treatment Plant Scoping Study.
- Works have commenced for the Cul-de-sac ring mains.
- Procurement is underway for the Telemetry Hardware Upgrade.
- The SCADA online analysers and Back power inputs for the pump stations are to be completed in conjunction with SCADA upgrade in 2025.
- Installation is underway for the Renew Bore Flowmeters.

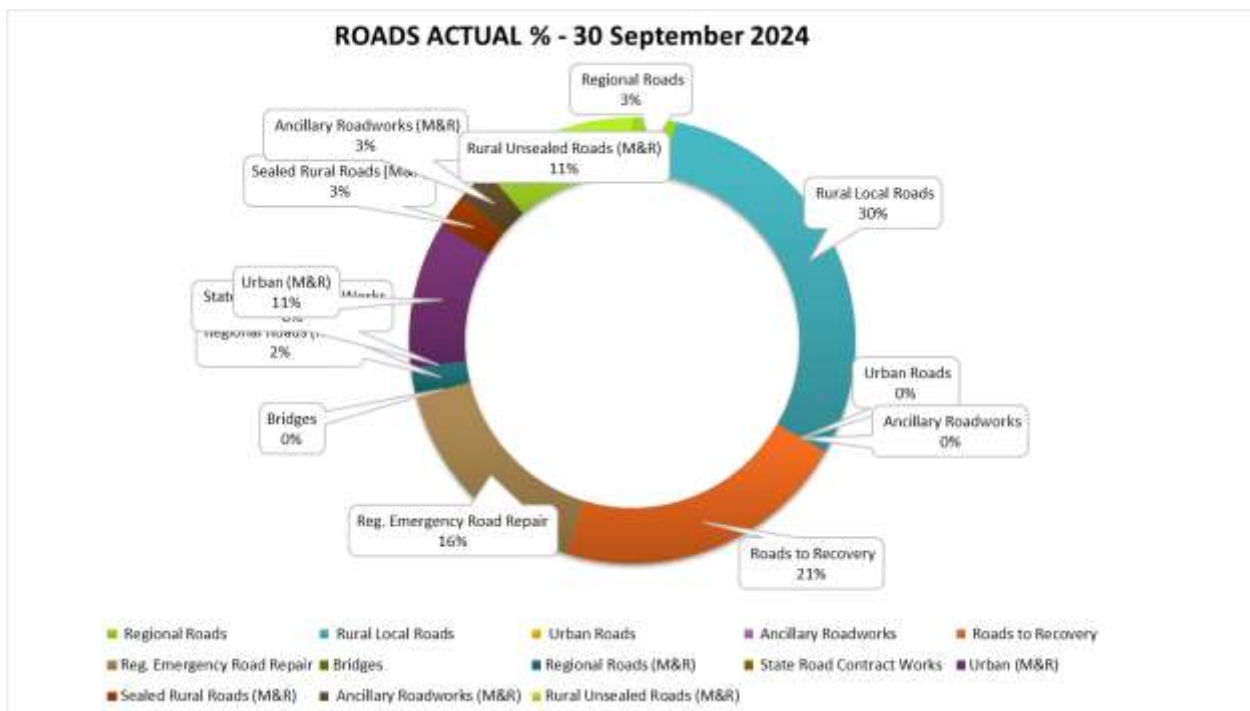
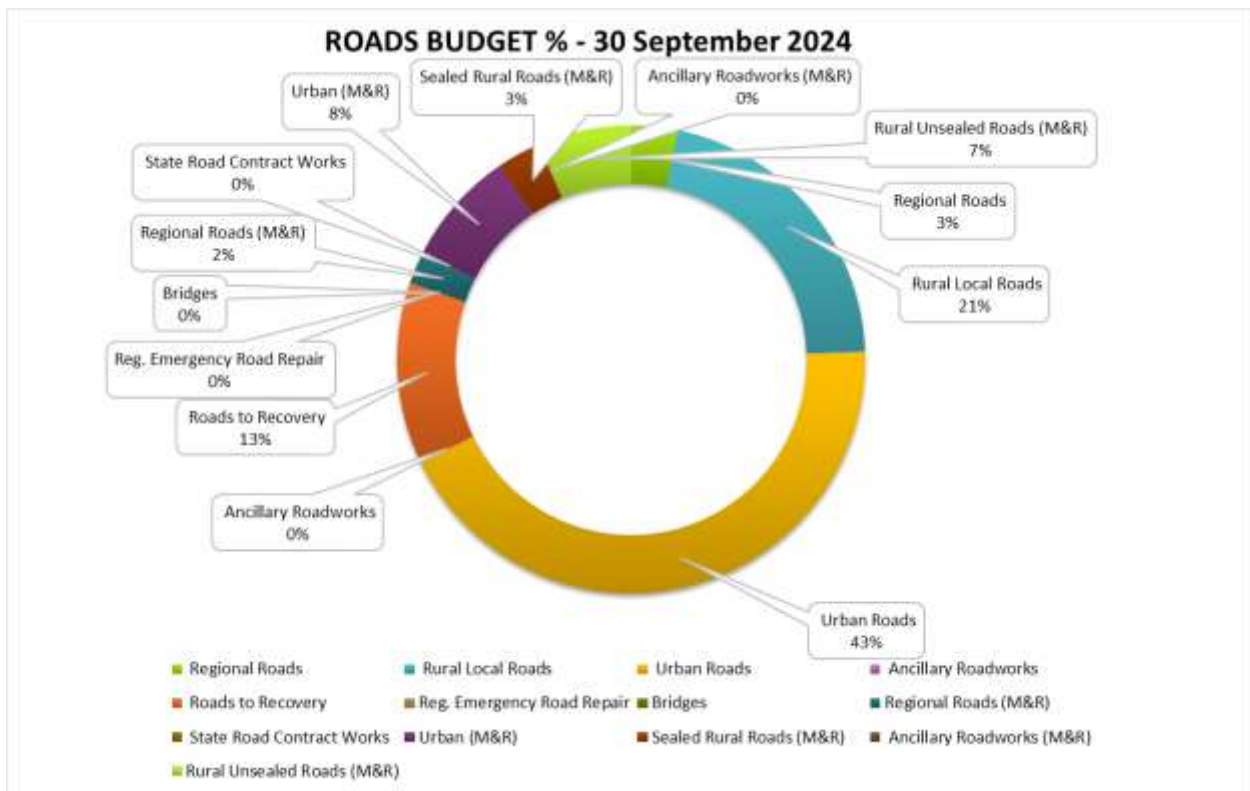
Sewerage Network

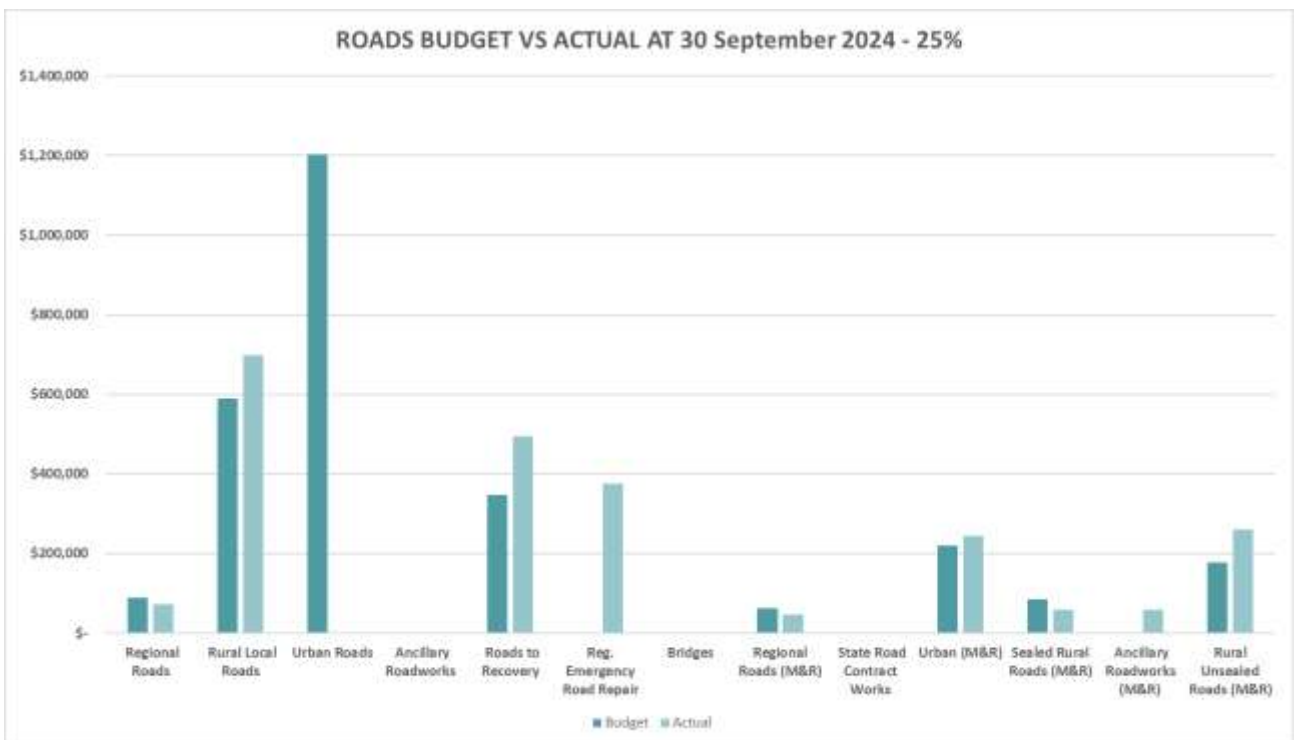
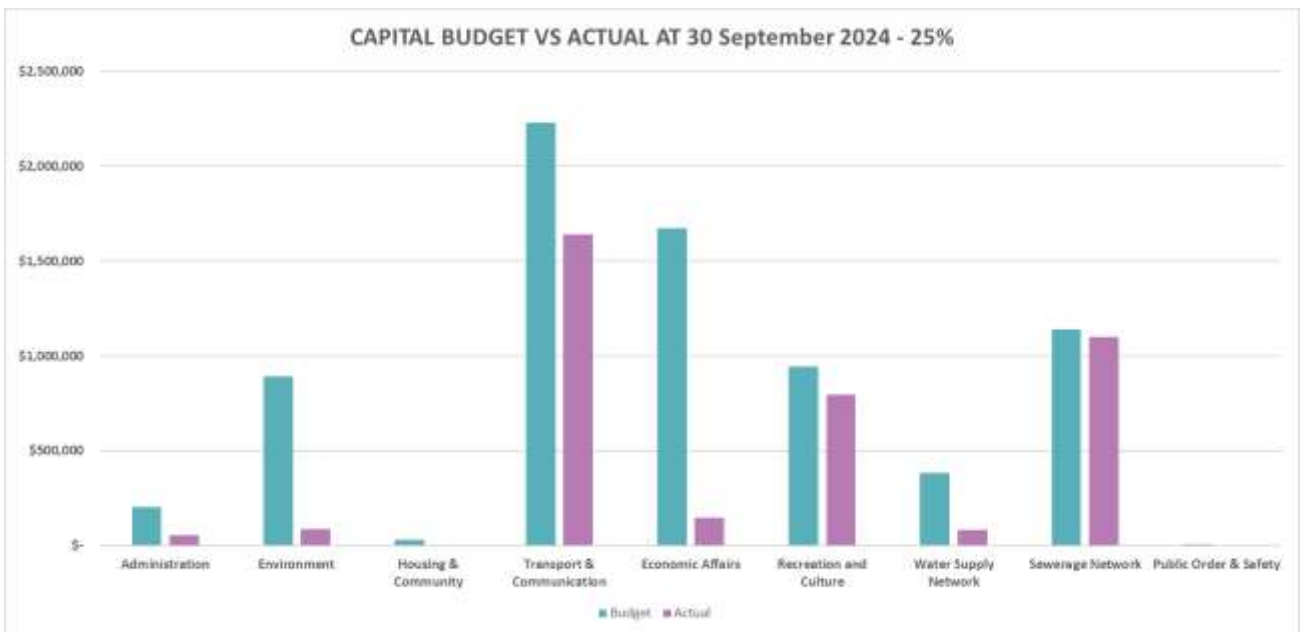
- Request for quote is underway for the Telemetry hardware and software upgrade.
- The Barellan sewer project is nearing completion.
- The SCADA online analysers and Back power inputs for the pump stations are to be completed in conjunction with SCADA upgrade in 2025.
- Request for Quote will be obtained the under Local Government Procurement for the Sewer Main Relines and Manhole Replacements project.

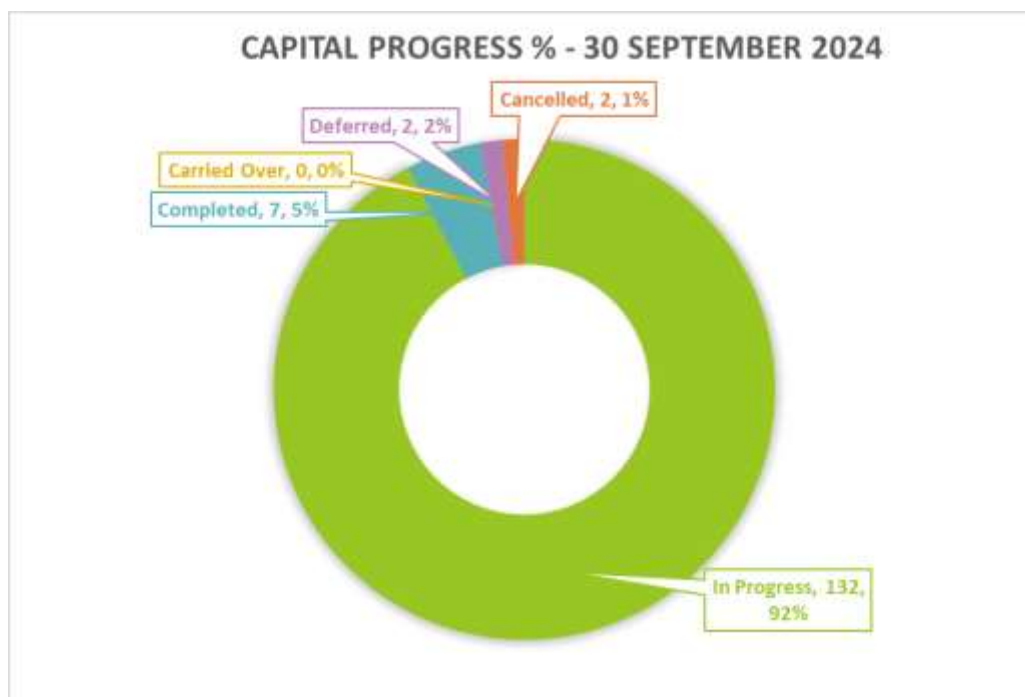
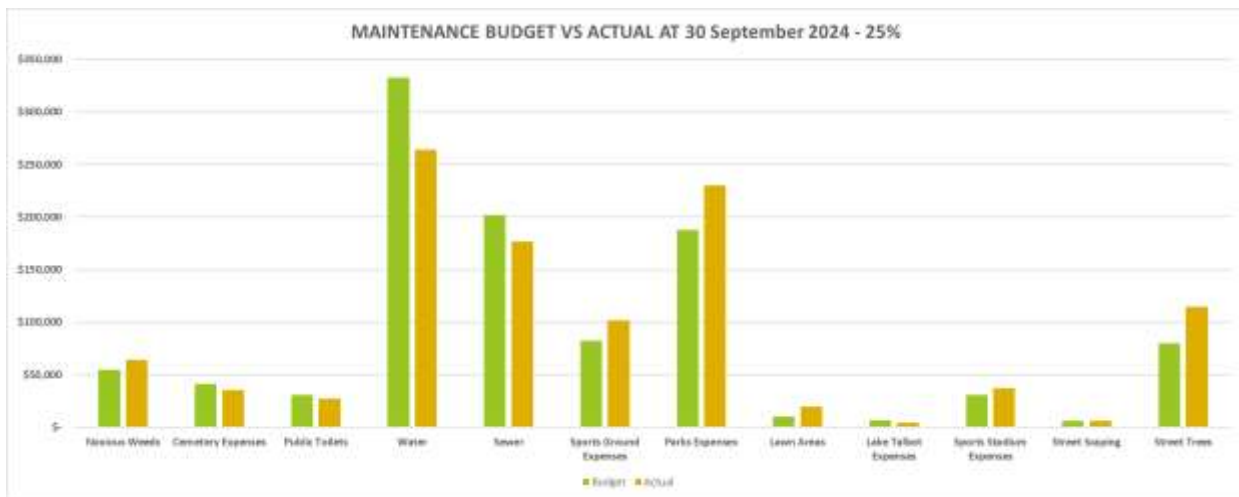




2.







TERMINOLOGY

This report contains an explanation of terminology and headings used in the capital works report. Key terms and terminology are as follows.

- **Budget:** This is the total allocation to complete the project.
- **YTD Exp:** Total expenditure allocated to project as of report date.
- **Balance:** Amount of unspent funds including commitments for each program at reporting date.
- **Graph:** The graph at the top of the report displays the original budget adopted by Council, the revised budget and year to date expenditure, including commitments.

CONCLUSION

That Council receives and notes the information contained in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained in the Quarterly Capital Works Report as at 30 September 2024.

KEY OPERATIONAL & CAPITAL WORKS EXPENSES 2024-25 AS AT - 30 September 2024

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|
| Complete | Carryover | Deferred | Grant Dependent | Cancelled | Revote | Key Operational |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|

| No. | Project | Adopted Budget | Committed | Revised Budget | Expenditure | Balance | % | Comments |
|-----|--|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|-----------|------|---|
| 1 | Councillor iPad Project | 20,000 | | 20,000 | 10,718 | 9,282 | 54% | iPads have been ordered & are being setup for Councillors and staff. |
| 2 | GDA Dataset Transition & Imagery | - | | 11,466 | - | 11,466 | 0% | Will investigate options. |
| 3 | Chambers Access Control System Replacement | - | | 25,186 | - | 25,186 | 0% | New system has been ordered and awaiting installation. |
| 4 | Replace Desktops/Laptops | 20,000 | | 20,000 | 405 | 19,595 | 25% | Will order replacements starting in April. |
| 5 | Software Licencing | 30,000 | | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 0% | Will review throughout the financial year. |
| 6 | Replace Backup Hardware | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 100% | Complete |
| 7 | Upgrade Phone System | 60,000 | | 60,000 | - | 60,000 | 0% | In planning stage |
| 8 | Business Continuity Site | 10,000 | | 10,000 | - | 10,000 | 100% | Complete |
| 9 | Electronic Signature Software | 20,000 | | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | 0% | On hold until completion of EMS project |
| 10 | IT Review | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | On hold until completion of EMS project |
| 11 | Integrated Software System | 380,000 | | 525,007 | 21,763 | 503,244 | 4% | magiQ Cloud ERP implementation in progress |
| 12 | Depot & HACC Replace network cabling | 20,000 | | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | 0% | On hold until seating arrangements confirmed |
| 13 | Chambers HACC & Library - Alarm & Access Control | 20,000 | | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | 10% | Awaiting installation of new Access Control system at the Chambers |
| 14 | Chambers Network Cabling replacement | 40,000 | | 40,000 | - | 40,000 | 0% | On hold until seating arrangements confirmed |
| 15 | Landervale Fire Shed | - | | 29,828 | 512 | 29,316 | 2% | Shed complete with power easement being finalised |
| 16 | Gillenbah Station Amenities | - | | 7,105 | - | 7,105 | 0% | Construction complete, awaiting formal advice from RFS. |
| 17 | New security fencing and CCTV (Narrandera Waste Depot) | - | | 140,030 | 0 | 140,030 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 18 | Further Masterplan works stage 1 | - | | 77,846 | 81,912 | -4,066 | 105% | Design complete, awaiting the outcome of Precinct application. |
| 19 | OSR - Asset Backlog (funded by Special Variation) | 60,000 | | 60,000 | - | 60,000 | 0% | Adjustment to be made in Sept QBR \$40k try from Irrigation at the Dog Park. 60k will be allocated to fund the MBP Infants area refurbishment |
| 20 | CRIF 23-24 Weeds Progam grant | - | | - | 3,774 | -3,774 | 0% | Plant Items to be procured commencing December 2024. Control programs have commenced in the Bundidgerry area |
| 21 | Greenwaste handling facility | 150,000 | | 150,000 | - | 150,000 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 22 | Stormwater improvement Works | 134,996 | | 134,996 | - | 134,996 | 0% | Cancelled |
| 23 | Narrandera Urban Stormwater Upgrade | 3,000,000 | | 3,000,000 | - | 3,000,000 | 0% | Awaiting successful grant funding and second part SV |
| 24 | Library - Book & Resources annual replacement | 32,787 | | 32,787 | 2,783 | 30,004 | 8% | Procurement is ongoing throughout the year |
| 25 | Library - Replacement of Service Desk | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | Procurement underway |
| 26 | LT Pool - Replace Kitchen at Cottage | 25,000 | | 25,000 | - | 25,000 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 27 | Barellan Pool - Safety Signage & Pool Marking to Current Standards | 7,000 | | 7,000 | - | 7,000 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 28 | Barellan Pool - Replace Café Furniture | 3,000 | | 3,000 | - | 3,000 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 29 | Ndra Park Irrigation Management System | - | | 104,638 | 636 | 104,001 | 1% | Flow meters installed, systems progressing trialling water sensors |
| 30 | Ndra Memorial Park lawn areas & garden beds | - | | 2,989 | - | 2,989 | 0% | Minor landscaping works planned, previous allocation used for essential fountain repairs. |
| 31 | Adventure playground upgrade - Infant area | 300,000 | | 300,000 | - | 300,000 | 0% | cancelled duplicate of 300-1046 |
| 32 | Brln Playground - Upgrades and festive decorations | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 33 | OLG DRF - Construction of flood relief gates | - | | 120,000 | - | 120,000 | 0% | Planning commenced with MI. |
| 34 | OLG DRF - Replacement of soft fall in MBP | - | | 150,000 | 5,900 | 144,100 | 4% | Infants area committed |
| 35 | OLG DRF - Flood levies at water supply bores | - | | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | 0% | Design options being reviewed. |
| 36 | OLG DRF - Ndra Library Stormwater structure | - | | 17,387 | 8,073 | 9,314 | 46% | Works underway. |
| 37 | OLG DRF - Youth development program | - | | 175,000 | - | 175,000 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 38 | OLG DRF - Community Information Boards | - | | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 39 | OLG DRF - Economic Development Strategy & Signage | - | | 17,600 | - | 17,600 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 40 | OLG DRF - Lismoyle Road Betterment Project | - | | 200,000 | - | 200,000 | 0% | Approval received from the OLG |
| 41 | OLG DRF - Replacement of trees | - | | 85,000 | - | 85,000 | 0% | Works currently being scoped -planting will be identified in 2020-25 tree audit |

KEY OPERATIONAL & CAPITAL WORKS EXPENSES 2024-25 AS AT - 30 September 2024

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|
| Complete | Carryover | Deferred | Grant Dependent | Cancelled | Revote | Key Operational |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|

| No. | Project | Adopted Budget | Committed | Revised Budget | Expenditure | Balance | % | Comments |
|-----|---|------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|--|
| 42 | LRCI R3 Brewery Flat Boat ramp & Toilets | - | | 20,976 | 20,195 | 781 | 96% | Deck 95% complete, ramp and stairs currently being constructed, BBQ to be installed |
| 43 | LRCI R3 Brewery Flat - Connecting Walkway | - | | 84,990 | 4,749 | 80,241 | 6% | Completed, creek crossing construction to be investigated under the reconnecting rivers proposals |
| 44 | LRCI R3 Barellan Sportsground Scoreboard | - | | 86,457 | - | 86,457 | 0% | Scoreboard procured, coordinated location with user group representatives, Telstra grant successful BUFC 12,500, Cricket NSW grant successful 15,000 |
| 45 | LRCI 4 Barrellan Pool - Toddler Pool | - | | 505,562 | 428,323 | 77,239 | 85% | Project complete |
| 46 | LRCI 4 D&DH Interpretative Fit Out | - | | 249,315 | 0 | 249,315 | 0% | |
| 47 | LRCI 4 MBP - Playground Upgrade Stage 1 | - | | 297,308 | - | 297,308 | 0% | Playground equipment installed, new path installed, Softfall will be installed late November |
| 48 | LRCI 4 Narrandera Footpaths Upgrade | - | | 245,692 | 1,640 | 244,052 | 1% | Commenced |
| 49 | LRCI 4 Narrandera Laneway Upgrades | - | | 325,246 | 76,265 | 248,981 | 23% | three laneways completed, remaining being scheduled |
| 50 | CRIP Upgrade Lake talbot Reserve - stairs, BBQ shelter, walking trails and seating. | - | | 84,890 | 5,117 | 79,773 | 6% | stairs to be installed, disable parking bay to be completed, planned December 2024 |
| 51 | SCCF5 - Community Safety Upgrade Program (CCTV) | - | | 261,630 | 110,705 | 150,925 | 42% | Project underway |
| 52 | SCCF5 - Recreation Upgrade Narrandera Water tower | - | | 103,831 | 44,606 | 59,225 | 43% | Fencing to be installed |
| 53 | LT Rec Area - Accessibility project | - | | 12,700 | 79,631 | -66,931 | 627% | Bundidgerry Walking track upgrade works complete. Signage to be ordered pending available funds. |
| 54 | Stadium & Sportsground Masterplan | 30,000 | | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 0% | Scope being prepared- to be raised at the next stadium meeting |
| 55 | Cemetery mangement plans and mapping software | - | | 120,853 | - | 120,853 | 0% | Draft Plan of Management and records review completed, documents currently under review |
| 56 | Urban Roads Construction | 140,106 | | 140,106 | - | 140,106 | 0% | Planning stage |
| 57 | Urban Roads Construction - Laneways | 43,640 | | 43,640 | - | 43,640 | 0% | Planning stage, in conjunction with LRCI4 laneways |
| 58 | Urban Reseals | 335,522 | | 335,522 | - | 335,522 | 0% | Planning for works in Q3 |
| 59 | Urban Pavement Rehabilitation | 141,255 | | 141,255 | - | 141,255 | 0% | Planning stage |
| 60 | Urban K&G Replacement | 16,806 | | 16,806 | - | 16,806 | 0% | Planning stage, working with urban construction and resealing program |
| 61 | Urban Footpath Replacement | 11,204 | | 11,204 | - | 11,204 | 0% | Planning stage |
| 62 | Urban Emergency Drainage Works - January Event | 53,562 | | 53,562 | - | 53,562 | 0% | Works continuing between other major projects |
| 63 | Rural Sealed Roads Construction | 339,015 | | 350,883 | - | 350,883 | 0% | Planning stage |
| 64 | Pethers Roads Sealing | | | - | - | 0 | 0% | Complete |
| 65 | Rural Roads Reseals | 205,022 | | 205,022 | | 205,022 | 0% | |
| 66 | Sandy Creek Rd – CH 0.94-1.44 | | | | - | | | Planning for works in Q3 |
| 67 | FLR R1 - Brewarrana Bridge Retrofitting | - | | 224,011 | 97,467 | 126,544 | 44% | Construction completed, finalising costs |
| 68 | FLR R4 - Old Wagga Road Rehab | - | | 839,479 | 30,323 | 809,156 | 4% | Design complete, Environmental investigations continuing |
| 69 | Flood Damage Repairs AGRN1001 | - | | 740,399 | | 169,852 | 77% | |
| 70 | Holloway Rd Culvert | | | | 360,528 | | | Complete, finalising costs |
| 71 | Grong Grong River Road | | | | 210,019 | | | Complete, finalising costs |
| 72 | Roads Resheeting (Unsealed roads) | 337,924 | | 522,849 | - | 522,849 | 0% | Planning stage in conjunction with RERRF works and AGRN1001 resheeting material costs |
| 73 | Regional Roads Capital Works (Block grant) | 356,400 | | 356,400 | | 284,145 | 20% | |
| 74 | MR243 - Canola Way to (GG, Gainain, Matong & Coolamon) | | | | 46,781 | | | Will be reviewed throughout the financial year |
| 75 | MR370 - To Lockhart | | | | - | | | Will be reviewed throughout the financial year |
| 76 | MR596 - Back Yamma Road (south-west of Morundah) | | | | - | | | Will be reviewed throughout the financial year |
| 77 | MR7608 - Barellan Road | | | | 25,474 | | | Planning construction Q3 |
| 78 | Roads to Recovery RTR | 1,391,842 | | 1,391,842 | | 897,446 | 36% | |

KEY OPERATIONAL & CAPITAL WORKS EXPENSES 2024-25 AS AT - 30 September 2024

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|
| Complete | Carryover | Deferred | Grant Dependent | Cancelled | Revote | Key Operational |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|

| No. | Project | Adopted Budget | Committed | Revised Budget | Expenditure | Balance | % | Comments |
|-----|---|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|-----------|------|--|
| 79 | Loobys Rd CH1.75-4.08 Resheet | - | - | - | 63,860 | - | - | Completed |
| 80 | Dows Rd CH 0.0-5.64 Resheet | - | - | - | 136,760 | - | - | Completed |
| 81 | Davies Rd CH 0.0-2.37 Resheet | - | - | - | 61,602 | - | - | Completed |
| 82 | Junee St CH 0.43-0.7 Rehabilit | - | - | - | 39,514 | - | - | Completed |
| 83 | Federal Park Rd CH 0.0-0.57 | - | - | - | 105,535 | - | - | Completed |
| 84 | Quilters Rd CH0.0-4.85 Resheet | - | - | - | 87,125 | - | - | Completed |
| 85 | Settlement Rd CH 1.70-4.44 Resheet | - | - | - | - | - | - | Underway |
| 86 | Glen Moor Rd CH 4.80-5.30 Resheet | - | - | - | - | - | - | Completed |
| 87 | Landervale Rd CH2.04-4.70 New Seal | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 88 | REGIONAL EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIR FUND | 1,400,000 | - | 3,541,669 | - | 3,165,683 | 11% | |
| 89 | Minor Heavy Patches - Urban | - | - | - | - | - | - | Planning stage |
| 90 | Minor Heavy Patches - Rural | - | - | - | 846 | - | - | Planning stage |
| 91 | Sealed Roads Shoulder Grading | - | - | - | 2,543 | - | - | Ongoing operational costs - Planned to avoid wet weather |
| 92 | Gravel Roads Grading | - | - | - | 48,117 | - | - | Ongoing operational costs |
| 93 | Formed Roads Grading | - | - | - | 842 | - | - | Ongoing operational costs |
| 94 | Nolans Rd CH 0.0-1.5 resheet | - | - | - | 28,946 | - | - | Completed |
| 95 | Nolans Rd CH 1.9-2.9 resheet | - | - | - | 38,731 | - | - | Completed |
| 96 | Mejum Rd CH 4.6-5.63 Resheet | - | - | - | 6,337 | - | - | Planning stage |
| 97 | Davies Rd CH 2.53-4.53 Resheet | - | - | - | 64,515 | - | - | Completed |
| 98 | Erigolia Rd Heavy Patching | - | - | - | 185,110 | - | - | Completed |
| 99 | Bunganbil Rd CH 3.26-3.66 Reha | - | - | - | - | - | - | Planning stage |
| 100 | Bunganbil Rd CH 8.0-9.16 Rehab | - | - | - | - | - | - | Planning stage |
| 101 | Donaldson Rd CH 2.0-6.62 Reshe | - | - | - | - | - | - | Completed |
| 102 | Cove Rd CH 0.0-1.2 Resheet | - | - | - | - | - | - | Planning stage |
| 103 | Bulloak Tank CH 9.77-11.19 Resheet | - | - | - | - | - | - | Planning stage |
| 104 | Landervale Rd CH 2.04-4.70 Resheet | - | - | - | - | - | - | Works nearing completion |
| 105 | Quandong Park Rd CH 4.80-5.80 Resheet | - | - | - | - | - | - | Planning stage |
| 106 | Red Hill Industrial Expansion - Sewer | 930,000 | - | 930,000 | - | 930,000 | 0% | Project defered awaiting successful grant funding |
| 107 | Red Hill Industrial Expansion | 3,970,000 | - | 3,970,000 | 10,000 | 3,960,000 | 0% | Project defered awaiting successful grant funding |
| 108 | Gateway/Entrance signs | - | - | 9,355 | - | 9,355 | 0% | |
| 109 | LT Tourist Park - Reseal driveways | - | - | 74,103 | 6,463 | 67,640 | 9% | Project will commence in 2025 |
| 110 | Light Vehicles | 213,375 | - | 213,375 | - | 213,375 | 0% | Program underway |
| 111 | Trucks & Trailers | 93,000 | - | 93,000 | - | 93,000 | 0% | Program underway |
| 112 | Heavy Plant Purchases | 766,470 | - | 766,470 | 88,547 | 677,923 | 12% | Program underway |
| 113 | Other Plant Capital | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | 0% | Program underway |
| 114 | Building renewal & upgrades in portfolio | 152,327 | - | 159,753 | 19,085 | 140,668 | 12% | Planning underway |
| 115 | PAM - Buildings Asset Backlog (funded by Special Variation) | 400,000 | - | 400,000 | 12,024 | 387,976 | 3% | Scope being prepared |
| 116 | GG Sportsground - Toilet / Shower Fitout | 25,000 | - | 25,000 | - | 25,000 | 0% | Planning underway |
| 117 | SES Airport Hanger | - | - | 7,624 | 13,721 | -6,098 | 180% | Project complete |
| 118 | Airport - Replace Wind Socks | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 4,500 | 45,500 | 9% | Scoping Aug, Sep works planned Oct 24 - March 2025. |
| 119 | Airport - Amenity building for SES | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 0% | Being undertaken by Project/Assets section. |
| 120 | Water - Services Replacements | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | 13,779 | 6,221 | 69% | As needed |
| 121 | Water - WTP filter/Upgrade design | - | - | 28,569 | - | 28,569 | 0% | |
| 122 | Water - North Zone Pressure Pump - low pressure issues | 37,434 | - | 37,434 | - | 37,434 | 0% | RFQ to be sought |
| 123 | Water - Main Replacements | 300,000 | - | 300,000 | 15,781 | 284,219 | 5% | To be scheduled |
| 124 | Water - Main Replacements 2023-24 | - | - | 266,419 | - | 266,419 | 0% | |
| 125 | Water - Hydrant and Valve replacements | 65,000 | - | 152,712 | 2,886 | 149,826 | 2% | To be scheduled |

KEY OPERATIONAL & CAPITAL WORKS EXPENSES 2024-25 AS AT - 30 September 2024

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|
| Complete | Carryover | Deferred | Grant Dependent | Cancelled | Revote | Key Operational |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|

| No. | Project | Adopted Budget | Committed | Revised Budget | Expenditure | Balance | % | Comments |
|-----|---|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-----|--|
| 126 | Water - IWCM Additional Works | - | | 74,783 | - | 74,783 | 0% | Final report pending |
| 127 | Water - WTP Scoping Study | - | | 111,419 | 25,279 | 86,139 | 23% | Awaiting final report |
| 128 | Water - Gordon St fencing | - | | 14,548 | - | 14,548 | 0% | |
| 129 | Water - Cul-de-sac ring mains | - | | 61,365 | 23,425 | 37,940 | 38% | Work commenced |
| 130 | Water - Telemetry hardware upgrade | - | | 135,792 | 4,056 | 131,735 | 3% | Procurement commenced |
| 131 | Water - Pine Hill Pumps Replacement | 26,401 | | 26,401 | - | 26,401 | 0% | RFQ to be sought |
| 132 | Water - Main Pump Overhaul and Maintenance | 45,000 | | 45,000 | - | 45,000 | 0% | RFQ to be sought |
| 133 | Water - SCADA online analysers | 70,000 | | 70,000 | - | 70,000 | 0% | To be completed in conjunction with SCADA upgrade in 2025 |
| 134 | Water - Back power inputs for pump stations | 70,000 | | 70,000 | - | 70,000 | 0% | To be completed in conjunction with SCADA upgrade in 2025 |
| 135 | Water - Automatic hydrant flushing | 120,000 | | 120,000 | - | 120,000 | 0% | RFQ to be sought |
| 136 | Water - Renew Bore Flowmeters | - | | - | - | 0 | 0% | Installation underway |
| 137 | Sewer - Barellan Sewer | - | | 3,124,902 | 1,092,142 | 2,032,760 | 35% | Nearing completion |
| 138 | Sewer - Telemetry hardware upgrade | 97,457 | | 97,457 | - | 97,457 | 0% | Design RFQ out currently. Design to be complete by end of 2024. |
| 139 | Sewer - Telemetry software upgrade | 40,000 | | 40,000 | 707 | 39,293 | 2% | Design RFQ out currently. Design to be complete by end of 2024. |
| 140 | Sewer - Main Relines | 350,000 | | 1,040,121 | 7,077 | 1,033,044 | 1% | RFQ to be sought under LGP contract |
| 141 | Sewer - Manhole Replacements | 150,000 | | 150,000 | 81 | 149,919 | 0% | RFQ to be sought under LGP contract |
| 142 | Sewer - SCADA online analysers | 50,000 | | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 0% | To be completed in conjunction with SCADA upgrade in 2025 |
| 143 | Sewer - Backup power inputs for pump stations | 50,000 | | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 0% | To be completed in conjunction with SCADA upgrade in 2025 |
| 144 | Grant Dependant | | | | | | | |
| 145 | Narrandera Cemetery - Furniture | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 146 | Barellan Cemetery - Furniture | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 147 | LT Pool - Replace Remaining Fencing (125m) | 50,000 | | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 148 | LT Pool - Shotcrete Treatment crib wall | 35,000 | | 35,000 | - | 35,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 149 | Brln Sportsground - Lighting Upgrades Eastern | 84,000 | | 84,000 | - | 84,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 150 | Brln Sportsground - Storm water drainage works | 30,000 | | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 151 | Ndra Sportsground Hot mixing spectator walkways | 50,000 | | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 152 | Irrigation Dog Park CRIF2023/24 | 40,000 | | 40,000 | - | 40,000 | 0% | grant depended - council funds of \$40k to be allocated in Sept QBR to the OSR backlog project |
| 153 | Grong Grong Park - Furniture | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 154 | MBP Paths & Uplighting | 120,000 | | 120,000 | - | 120,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 155 | MBP PowerPoint vendor sites | 30,000 | | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 156 | Brln Park - Furniture | 10,000 | | 10,000 | - | 10,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 157 | Barellan Main Street Planter Boxes | 40,000 | | 40,000 | - | 40,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 158 | Replace Barellan Main street BBQ shelter | 50,000 | | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 159 | Ndra Park - Lighting/uplighting memorials & trees | 30,000 | | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 160 | Ndra Memorial Park - Larmer St - Irrigation, driveways, curb etc. | 180,000 | | 180,000 | - | 180,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 161 | Boating Pontoon x 3 | 30,000 | | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 162 | Stadium Lighting Replacement | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 163 | Parkside Museum - Outdoor Space Upgrade | 50,000 | | 50,000 | - | 50,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 164 | Get NSW Active | 627,000 | | 627,000 | - | 627,000 | 0% | grant dependent |
| 165 | Sewer - Primary Filter | 400,000 | | 400,000 | - | 400,000 | 0% | Grant funding to be sought |
| 166 | Operational | | | | | | | |
| 167 | Newell Hwy Contribution Grong Grong Reseal | | | - | - | 0 | 0% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 168 | Newell Hwy Contribution Grong Grong town entrance signs | | | - | - | 0 | 0% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 169 | Grong Grong Earth Park - RMS | | | - | - | 0 | 0% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 170 | Urban Roads Maintenance | 880,596 | | 880,596 | 244,688 | 635,908 | 28% | Ongoing operational costs |

KEY OPERATIONAL & CAPITAL WORKS EXPENSES 2024-25 AS AT - 30 September 2024

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|
| Complete | Carryover | Deferred | Grant Dependent | Cancelled | Revote | Key Operational |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|

| No. | Project | Adopted Budget | Committed | Revised Budget | Expenditure | Balance | % | Comments |
|-----|--|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----|---------------------------|
| 171 | Sealed Rural Roads Maintenance | 339,584 | | 339,584 | 58,757 | 280,827 | 17% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 172 | Rural Unsealed Roads Expenses | 712,907 | | 712,907 | 260,797 | 452,110 | 37% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 173 | Regional Roads (M&R Grant) | 251,240 | | 251,240 | 47,352 | 203,888 | 19% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 174 | State Road Contract Works RMCC | - | | - | - | 0 | 0% | No current RMCC Contract |
| 175 | REGIONAL EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIR FUND | | | - | | -59,082 | 0% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 176 | Potholes/Patching - Local Roads | | | | 59,082 | | | Ongoing operational costs |
| 177 | Sealed Roads Pavement Maint | | | | - | | | Ongoing operational costs |
| 178 | Noxious Weeds Expenses | 219,467 | | 219,467 | 63,914 | 155,553 | 29% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 179 | Public Toilets Expenses | 122,828 | | 122,828 | 27,208 | 95,620 | 22% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 180 | Cemetery Expenses | 163,895 | | 163,895 | 35,074 | 128,821 | 21% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 181 | Sports Ground Expenses | 329,795 | | 329,795 | 101,817 | 227,978 | 31% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 182 | Parks Expenses | 750,575 | | 750,575 | 230,240 | 520,335 | 31% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 183 | Lawn Areas | 40,000 | | 40,000 | 19,253 | 20,747 | 48% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 184 | East Street - Street Scaping | 22,963 | | 22,963 | 6,108 | 16,855 | 27% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 185 | Street Trees | 320,170 | | 320,170 | 114,788 | 205,382 | 36% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 186 | Lake Talbot Expenses | 26,358 | | 26,358 | 4,439 | 21,919 | 17% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 187 | Sports Stadium Expenses | 122,523 | | 122,523 | 36,994 | 85,529 | 30% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 188 | Water incident and emergency management plan | 12,500 | | 12,500 | - | 12,500 | 0% | |
| 189 | Backflow prevention administration | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | |
| 190 | DWMS annual review | 12,500 | | 12,500 | - | 12,500 | 0% | |
| 191 | DWMS external review | 30,000 | | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 0% | |
| 192 | Asset condition ratings | 60,000 | | 60,000 | - | 60,000 | 0% | |
| 193 | Recycled water management plan review and implementation | 22,500 | | 22,500 | - | 22,500 | 0% | |
| 194 | Recycled water asset condition ratings | 15,000 | | 15,000 | - | 15,000 | 0% | |
| 195 | Bores Expenses | 52,247 | | 52,247 | 16,650 | 35,597 | 32% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 196 | Pump Station Expenses | 140,802 | | 140,802 | 73,182 | 67,620 | 52% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 197 | Mains Expenses | 360,629 | | 360,629 | 101,784 | 258,845 | 28% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 198 | Recycled Water | 53,718 | | 53,718 | 1,942 | 51,776 | 4% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 199 | Reservoirs Expenses | 29,359 | | 29,359 | 12,072 | 17,287 | 41% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 200 | Reservoirs cleaning expense | 22,500 | | 22,500 | - | 22,500 | 0% | |
| 201 | Water Supply Licence | 31,953 | | 31,953 | 4,402 | 27,551 | 14% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 202 | Water modelling software licence | 15,000 | | 15,000 | - | 15,000 | 0% | |
| 203 | Chlorine & Chemicals Expenses | 24,401 | | 24,401 | 6,557 | 17,844 | 27% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 204 | Meter Reading Expenses | 46,036 | | 46,036 | 1,542 | 44,494 | 3% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 205 | Telemetry System Maintenance | 9,619 | | 9,619 | 368 | 9,251 | 4% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 206 | Hydrant Flushing Program | 77,343 | | 77,343 | 4,661 | 72,682 | 6% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 207 | Pump Stations Electricity Expenses | 309,000 | | 309,000 | 40,716 | 268,284 | 13% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 208 | Sewer Incident & Emergency Plan | 12,500 | | 12,500 | - | 12,500 | 0% | |
| 209 | Trade waste administration | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 0% | |
| 210 | Sewer asset condition ratings | 60,000 | | 60,000 | - | 60,000 | 0% | |
| 211 | Sewer Main Augmentation Design | - | | - | - | 0 | 0% | |
| 212 | Pump Station Expenses | 113,552 | | 113,552 | 19,728 | 93,824 | 17% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 213 | Mains Expenses | 222,562 | | 222,562 | 84,782 | 137,780 | 38% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 214 | Treatment Works Expenses | 289,257 | | 289,257 | 57,098 | 232,159 | 20% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 215 | Telemetry System Maintenance | 2,185 | | 2,185 | - | 2,185 | 0% | Ongoing operational costs |
| 216 | Sewer Heating & Electricity | 103,000 | | 103,000 | 14,857 | 88,143 | 14% | Ongoing operational costs |

Capital Expenditure as at 30 September 2024

| | Sum of Adopted Budget | Sum of Revised Budget | Sum of Committed | Sum of Expenditure | Sum of Balance |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Administration | | | | | |
| Information Technology | \$ 630,000.00 | \$ 811,658.78 | | \$ 54,649.60 | \$ 757,009.18 |
| Environment | | | | | |
| Stormwater | \$ 3,134,996.00 | \$ 3,134,996.00 | | \$ - | \$ 3,134,996.00 |
| Narrandera Landfill | \$ 150,000.00 | \$ 367,876.33 | | \$ 81,912.01 | \$ 285,964.32 |
| Noxious Weeds | \$ 60,000.00 | \$ 60,000.00 | | \$ 3,773.84 | \$ 56,226.16 |
| Housing & Community Amenities | | | | | |
| Narrandera Cemetery | \$ - | \$ 120,852.84 | | \$ - | \$ 120,852.84 |
| Transport & Communication | | | | | |
| Regional Roads | \$ 356,400.00 | \$ 356,400.00 | | \$ 72,254.77 | \$ 284,145.23 |
| Rural Roads | \$ 544,036.63 | \$ 2,359,794.13 | | \$ 698,337.92 | \$ 1,661,456.21 |
| Urban Roads | \$ 2,480,018.84 | \$ 4,806,612.46 | | \$ - | \$ 4,430,626.10 |
| Roads to Recovery | \$ 1,391,842.00 | \$ 1,391,842.00 | | \$ 494,395.92 | \$ 897,446.08 |
| Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund | \$ - | | | \$ 375,986.36 | |
| Economic Affairs | | | | | |
| Buildings | \$ 652,327.00 | \$ 667,377.06 | | \$ 49,330.66 | \$ 618,046.40 |
| Plant | \$ 1,092,845.00 | \$ 1,092,845.00 | | \$ 88,546.91 | \$ 1,004,298.09 |
| Red Hill Industrial Estate | \$ 4,900,000.00 | \$ 4,900,000.00 | | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 4,890,000.00 |
| Grong Grong Sportsground | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 25,000.00 | | \$ - | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Economic Development | \$ - | \$ 9,355.00 | | \$ - | \$ 9,355.00 |
| Recreation and Culture | | | | | |
| Lake Talbot Recreation Area | \$ - | \$ 171,692.35 | | \$ 91,210.82 | \$ 80,481.53 |
| Library | \$ 37,787.00 | \$ 37,787.00 | | \$ 2,783.27 | \$ 35,003.73 |
| Marie Bashir Park | \$ 300,000.00 | \$ 1,094,987.38 | | \$ 13,973.40 | \$ 1,081,013.98 |
| Narrandera Parks | \$ - | \$ 104,637.95 | | \$ 636.48 | \$ 104,001.47 |
| Narrandera Sportsground | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 | | \$ - | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Lake Talbot Pool | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 25,000.00 | | \$ - | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Ndra Memorial Park | \$ - | \$ 2,989.11 | | \$ - | \$ 2,989.11 |
| Local Roads Comm. & Infrastructure | \$ - | \$ 1,815,546.42 | | \$ 531,172.15 | \$ 1,284,374.27 |
| Disaster Recovery Funding | \$ - | \$ 120,000.00 | | \$ - | \$ 120,000.00 |
| Stronger Country Community Funding | \$ - | \$ 365,460.50 | | \$ 155,310.29 | \$ 210,150.21 |

Capital Expenditure as at 30 September 2024

| | Sum of Adopted Budget | Sum of Revised Budget | Sum of Committed | Sum of Expenditure | Sum of Balance |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Barellan Pool | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | | \$ - | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Barellan Playground | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | | \$ - | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Water Supply Network | | | | | |
| Water | \$ 753,835.24 | \$ 1,534,442.05 | | \$ 85,207.25 | \$ 1,449,234.80 |
| Sewerage Network | | | | | |
| Sewer | \$ 737,457.20 | \$ 4,552,479.78 | | \$ 1,100,006.75 | \$ 3,452,473.03 |
| Public Order & Safety | | | | | |
| Rural Fire Service | \$ - | \$ 36,932.58 | | \$ 511.98 | \$ 36,420.60 |
| Grand Total | \$ 17,316,544.92 | \$ 30,011,564.73 | | \$ 3,910,000.38 | \$ 26,101,564.35 |

Key Operational as at 30 September 2024

| Row Labels | Sum of Adopted Budget | Sum of Revised Budget | Sum of Committed | Sum of Expenditure | Sum of Balance |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Housing & Community Amenities | | | | | |
| Noxious Weeds | \$ 219,467.00 | \$ 219,467.00 | | \$ 63,914.27 | \$ 155,552.73 |
| Cemetery Expenses | \$ 163,895.00 | \$ 163,895.00 | | \$ 35,073.65 | \$ 128,821.35 |
| Public toilets | \$ 122,828.00 | \$ 122,828.00 | | \$ 27,208.28 | \$ 95,619.72 |
| Transport & Communication | | | | | |
| Regional Roads | \$ 251,240.00 | \$ 251,240.00 | | \$ 47,352.25 | \$ 203,887.75 |
| State Roads | \$ - | \$ - | | \$ - | \$ - |
| Urban Roads | \$ 880,596.00 | \$ 880,596.00 | | \$ 244,688.21 | \$ 635,907.79 |
| Sealed Rural Roads | \$ 339,584.00 | \$ 339,584.00 | | \$ 58,757.25 | \$ 280,826.75 |
| Ancillary Roadworks | | \$ - | | \$ 59,082.05 | -\$ 59,082.05 |
| Unsealed Rural Roads | \$ 712,907.00 | \$ 712,907.00 | | 260796.7 | \$ 452,110.30 |
| Water Supplies | | | | | |
| Water | \$ 1,330,107.00 | \$ 1,330,107.00 | | \$ 263,874.94 | \$ 1,066,232.06 |
| Sewer Supplies | | | | | |
| Sewer | \$ 808,056.00 | \$ 808,056.00 | | \$ 176,464.69 | \$ 631,591.31 |
| Recreation and Culture | | | | | |
| Sports Ground Expenses | \$ 329,795.00 | \$ 329,795.00 | | \$ 101,817.33 | \$ 227,977.67 |
| Parks Expenses | \$ 750,575.00 | \$ 750,575.00 | | \$ 230,240.24 | \$ 520,334.76 |
| Lawn Areas | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 40,000.00 | | \$ 19,252.66 | \$ 20,747.34 |
| Lake Talbot Expenses | \$ 26,358.00 | \$ 26,358.00 | | \$ 4,438.54 | \$ 21,919.46 |
| Sports Stadium Expenses | \$ 122,523.00 | \$ 122,523.00 | | \$ 36,994.27 | \$ 85,528.73 |
| Street Scaping | \$ 22,963.00 | \$ 22,963.00 | | \$ 6,108.08 | \$ 16,854.92 |
| Street Trees | \$ 320,170.00 | \$ 320,170.00 | | \$ 114,787.84 | \$ 205,382.16 |
| Grand Total | \$ 6,441,064.00 | \$ 6,441,064.00 | | \$ 1,750,851.25 | \$ 4,690,212.75 |



24.3 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - SEPTEMBER 2024

Document ID: 764857

Author: Finance Manager

Authoriser: Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community

Theme: Statutory and Compulsory Reporting – Financial / Audit

Attachments: 1. September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statement  

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives, notes and endorses the information and variations contained in the September Quarterly Budget Review, appended at *Attachment 1*.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the September Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

SUMMARY

The General fund forecast net operating result from continuing operations after the quarter is a surplus \$992,000 compared to the original budget forecast result of a surplus of \$9,042,000.

The General Fund forecast net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital after the quarter is a deficit of \$5,311,000 compared to original budget forecast of \$886,000. This is a result of the Financial Assistance Grant prepayment totalling \$5,558,351.

Below is a table that outlines each of Council’s Funds’ operating positions before capital grants.

| Operating Position before Capital Grants | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Fund | Original (000’s) | September (000’s) |
| General | 886 | -5,311 |
| Water | -92 | -288 |
| Sewer | 476 | 356 |
| Consolidated | 1,270 | -5,243 |

BACKGROUND

Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (“the LG Regulation”) provides that the Responsible Accounting Officer must submit to Council, not later than two months after the end of each quarter (except the June Quarter), a statement that shows by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the Operational Plan that Council has adopted for the current year, a revised estimate of the income and

expenditure for that year. The budget statement must include a note by the Responsible Accounting Officer as to whether or not she believes that the financial position of Council is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure.

The LG Regulation mandate a minimum of six statements that must be produced. These include:

1. Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer,
2. Income and Expenses Statement,
3. Capital Budget Statement,
4. Cash and Investments Position Statement,
5. Key Performance Indicators, and
6. Statement of Contracts and Other Expenses.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES

Theme

5 - Our Leadership

Strategy

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

Action

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Nil

Policy

- Nil.

Financial

- Council's short-term financial position (the level of working capital) is satisfactory as at 30 September 2024.

Legal / Statutory

- This report ensures Council's compliance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Part 9 Division 3 Clause 203.

Community Engagement / Communication

- There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

RISKS

Council's budgets are monitored in accordance with the adopted Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan. It is essential for Council to monitor programs against budget to

avoid depending on savings from other programs and to utilise reserves that had been set aside for other specific purposes.

VARIATIONS

Variations during the September quarter are detailed in attachment one with an overall summary below by Fund and Activity.

General Fund

Rates and Annual charges

Waste collection fees increased \$17,000 due to higher than anticipated income.

User charges and fees

Income from user fees increased \$2,000 due to higher than budgeted income for domestic tip fees.

Other revenues

Council's other revenues increased \$5,000 from reimbursable insurance expenses.

Operating grants and contributions

Council received an additional \$35,000 for the financial assistance grant annual allocation. Roads to Recovery income decreased \$95,000 to align with the approved five-year program.

Capital grants and contributions

Council grants and contributions has been adjusted for the following:

- Approved grant funding from the crown reserve improvement fund 23-24 \$48,000
- Adjustment to align the funding source for the irrigation dog park project to be grant dependent \$40,000
- Adjustment to align the funding source for the Narrandera stormwater upgrade to be funded by loan
- Decreased income for the adventure playground project \$280,000, project is being funded under Local Roads Community Infrastructure program round 4.
- Income decreased \$4,180,000 for the Red Hill industrial projects being deferred to 2025-2026.

Employee benefits and oncosts

Funds within employee benefits and oncosts have been reallocated to materials and services (\$100,000).

Materials and services

Materials and services increased \$134,000 relating to insurance expense (\$74,000), Council rates and charges expense (\$25,000), furniture and fittings expense (\$20,000) and Stage 2 of the Immersive experience project (\$10,000).

Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure decreased \$5.292 million relating to:

- Successful grant funding: CRIF Weeds 23-24 (\$47,871)
- Cancelled projects: Stormwater improvement works (\$135,000) and Adventure playground upgrade (280,000).

- Funding Adjustment: OSR asset backlog (\$40,000).
- Deferred projects: Red Hill Industrial Expansion (\$4,900,000).
- Budget adjustment: Lake Talbot Rec Area accessibility project (\$29,500) and Roads to Recovery (-\$95,020).

Reserve transfers

Transfers relating to reserves include:

- Waste management – additional income of \$20,000
- Stormwater management – cancelled stormwater improvement project \$135,000 and reallocation of funding source for the Narrandera urban stormwater upgrade to loan funding \$750,000
- Property development – Projects for the Red Hill industrial estate have been deferred to 24-25 \$720,000

Water Fund

The following amendments were made for the September quarter:

- Employee benefits and on-costs increased \$12,000 for the reservoir and recycled mains expenses.
- Materials and services increased \$185,000 for projects relating to data digitisation, bore cleaning and make safe repairs.
- Capital projects increased \$65,000 to renew Bore Flowmeters
- Transfer from reserve of \$260,168

Sewer Fund

The following amendments were made for the September quarter:

- Materials and services increased \$120,000 for the sewer augmentation design (\$70,000), mains expenses (\$35,000) and structural assessment (\$15,000).
- Capital projects decreased \$450,000 from the sewer main relines (-\$300,000) and manhole replacements (-\$150,000).
- Transfer to reserve of \$330,000

Key Performance Indicators



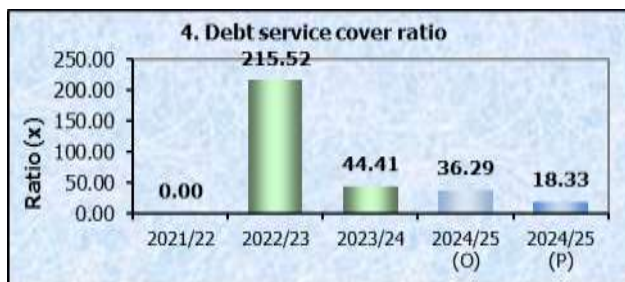
This ratio measures Council’s achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.



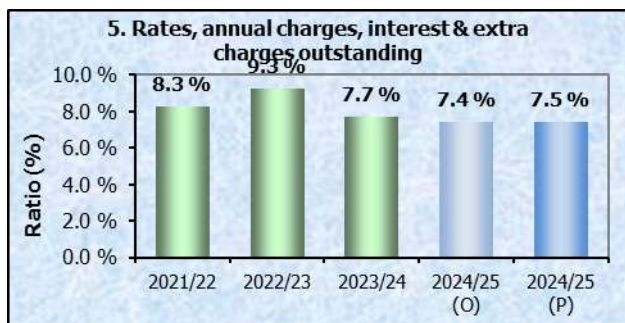
This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants & contributions.



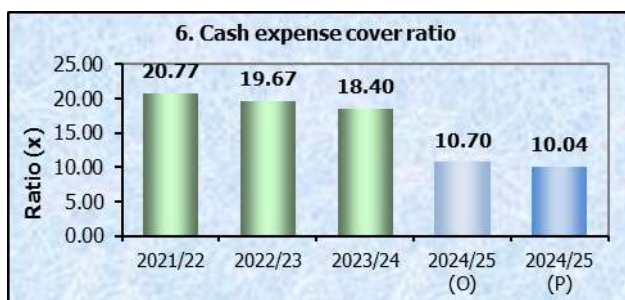
To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.



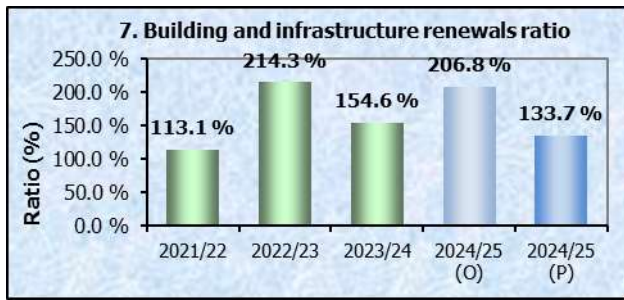
This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments.



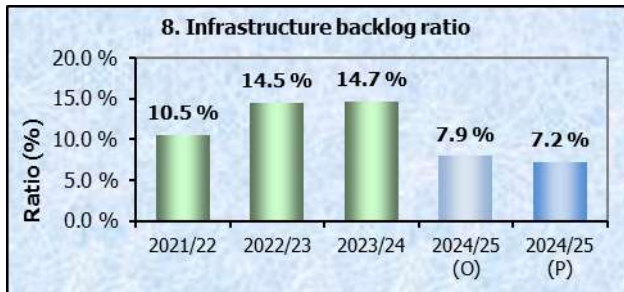
To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.



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



To assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed relative to the rate at which they are depreciating.



This ratio shows what proportion the backlog is against the total value of a Council's infrastructure.



Compares actual vs. required annual asset maintenance. A ratio above 1.0 indicates Council is investing enough funds to stop the Infrastructure Backlog growing.

CONCLUSION

That Council receives, notes and endorses the September Quarterly review in accordance with the Local Government Financial Regulations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives, notes and endorses the information and variations contained in the September Quarterly Budget Review, appended at *Attachment 1*.

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

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Narrandera Shire Council


Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Report by responsible accounting officer

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

30 September 2024

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Narrandera Shire Council for the quarter ended 30/09/24 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30/6/25 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Signed: 

Rebecca Best
Responsible accounting officer

date:

1/11/2024

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Income & expenses budget review statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024

Income & expenses - Council Consolidated

| (\$000's) | Original budget 2024/25 | Approved Changes | | Revised budget 2024/25 | Variations for this Sep Qtr | Notes | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Carry forwards | Other than by QBRs | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 10,638 | - | - | 10,638 | 18 | | 10,656 | 10,630 |
| User charges and fees | 3,225 | - | - | 3,225 | 2 | | 3,227 | 748 |
| Other revenues | 1,175 | - | - | 1,175 | 5 | | 1,180 | 62 |
| Grants and contributions - operating | 8,985 | (5,551) | - | 3,434 | (56) | | 3,378 | 619 |
| Grants and contributions - capital | 8,574 | 2,655 | - | 11,229 | (3,622) | | 7,607 | (365) |
| Interest and investment revenue | 1,112 | - | - | 1,112 | - | | 1,112 | (359) |
| Net gain from disposal of assets | 92 | - | - | 92 | - | | 92 | - |
| Other income | 234 | - | - | 234 | - | | 234 | 72 |
| Total income from continuing operations | 34,035 | (2,896) | - | 31,139 | (3,653) | | 27,486 | 11,407 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 9,318 | 3 | - | 9,321 | (88) | | 9,233 | 2,353 |
| Borrowing costs | 151 | - | - | 151 | - | | 151 | 34 |
| Materials and services | 7,565 | 577 | - | 8,142 | 439 | | 8,581 | 2,266 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 6,736 | - | - | 6,736 | - | | 6,736 | 1,685 |
| Impairment of receivables | 6 | - | - | 6 | - | | 6 | 4 |
| Legal costs | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Consultants | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Other expenses | 415 | - | - | 415 | - | | 415 | 104 |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 24,191 | 580 | - | 24,771 | 351 | | 25,122 | 6,446 |
| Net operating result from continuing operations | 9,844 | (3,476) | - | 6,368 | (4,004) | | 2,364 | 4,961 |
| Discontinued operations - surplus/(deficit) | | | | - | | | - | |
| Net operating result from all operations | 9,844 | (3,476) | - | 6,368 | (4,004) | | 2,364 | 4,961 |
| Net Operating Result before Capital Items | 1,270 | (6,131) | - | (4,861) | (382) | | (5,243) | 5,326 |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 30/09/24 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRs report

Narrandera Shire Council

Consolidated Income Statement

for the period ending 30 September 2024

| | Original Budget | Sep Revised Budget | Actual YTD |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Income from continuing operations | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 10,638 | 10,656 | 10,630 |
| User charges and fees | 3,225 | 3,227 | 748 |
| Other revenues | 1,175 | 1,180 | 62 |
| Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes | 8,985 | 3,378 | 619 |
| Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes | 8,574 | 7,607 | (365) |
| Interest and investment revenue | 1,112 | 1,112 | (359) |
| Other income | 233 | 233 | 72 |
| Net gain from the disposal of assets | 92 | 92 | - |
| Total income from continuing operations | 34,034 | 27,485 | 11,407 |
| Expenses from continuing operations | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 9,318 | 9,233 | 2,353 |
| Materials and services | 7,564 | 8,581 | 2,266 |
| Borrowing costs | 151 | 151 | 34 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 6,737 | 6,737 | 1,684 |
| Impairment of receivables | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Other expenses | 415 | 415 | 104 |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 24,191 | 25,123 | 6,445 |
| Operating result from continuing operations | 9,843 | 2,362 | 4,962 |
| Operating result from discontinued operations | - | - | - |
| Net operating result for the year attributable to Council | 9,843 | 2,362 | 4,962 |
| Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes | 1,269 | (5,245) | 5,327 |

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Income & expenses budget review statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024

Income & expenses - General Fund

| (\$000's) | Original budget 2024/25 | Approved Changes | | Revised budget 2024/25 | Variations for this Sep Qtr | Notes | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Carry forwards | Other than by QBRs | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 7,949 | - | - | 7,949 | 17 | | 7,966 | 8,021 |
| User charges and fees | 1,481 | - | - | 1,481 | 2 | | 1,483 | 264 |
| Other revenues | 1,175 | - | - | 1,175 | 5 | | 1,180 | 62 |
| Grants and contributions - operating | 8,985 | (5,551) | - | 3,434 | (56) | | 3,378 | 619 |
| Grants and contributions - capital | 8,156 | 1,769 | - | 9,925 | (3,622) | | 6,303 | (529) |
| Interest and investment revenue | 784 | - | - | 784 | - | | 784 | (269) |
| Net gain from disposal of assets | 92 | - | - | 92 | - | | 92 | - |
| Other income | 234 | - | - | 234 | - | | 234 | 72 |
| Total income from continuing operations | 28,856 | (3,782) | - | 25,074 | (3,654) | | 21,420 | 8,240 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 8,565 | 3 | - | 8,568 | (100) | | 8,468 | 2,139 |
| Borrowing costs | 21 | - | - | 21 | - | | 21 | 2 |
| Materials and services | 5,252 | 577 | - | 5,829 | 134 | | 5,963 | 1,894 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 5,555 | - | - | 5,555 | - | | 5,555 | 1,389 |
| Impairment of receivables | 6 | - | - | 6 | - | | 6 | 4 |
| Legal costs | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Consultants | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Other expenses | 415 | - | - | 415 | - | | 415 | 104 |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 19,814 | 580 | - | 20,394 | 34 | | 20,428 | 5,532 |
| Net operating result from continuing operations | 9,042 | (4,362) | - | 4,680 | (3,688) | | 992 | 2,708 |
| Discontinued operations - surplus/(deficit) | | | | - | | | - | |
| Net operating result from all operations | 9,042 | (4,362) | - | 4,680 | (3,688) | | 992 | 2,708 |
| Net Operating Result before Capital Items | 886 | (6,131) | - | (5,245) | (66) | | (5,311) | 3,237 |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 30/09/24 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRs report

Narrandera Shire Council

General Fund Income Statement

for the period ending 30 September 2024

| | Original Budget | Sep Revised Budget | Actual YTD |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Income from continuing operations | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 7,949 | 7,966 | 8,021 |
| User charges and fees | 1,481 | 1,483 | 264 |
| Other revenues | 1,175 | 1,180 | 62 |
| Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes | 8,985 | 3,378 | 619 |
| Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes | 8,156 | 6,303 | (529) |
| Interest and investment revenue | 784 | 784 | (269) |
| Other income | 233 | 233 | 72 |
| Net gain from the disposal of assets | 92 | 92 | - |
| Total income from continuing operations | 28,855 | 21,419 | 8,240 |
| Expenses from continuing operations | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 8,565 | 8,468 | 2,139 |
| Materials and services | 5,252 | 5,963 | 1,894 |
| Borrowing costs | 21 | 21 | 2 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 5,555 | 5,555 | 1,389 |
| Impairment of receivables | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Other expenses | 415 | 415 | 104 |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 19,814 | 20,428 | 5,532 |
| Operating result from continuing operations | 9,041 | 991 | 2,708 |
| Operating result from discontinued operations | - | - | - |
| Net operating result for the year attributable to Council | 9,041 | 991 | 2,708 |
| Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes | 885 | (5,312) | 3,237 |

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Income & expenses budget review statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024

Income & expenses - Water Fund

| (\$000's) | Original budget 2024/25 | Approved Changes | | Revised budget 2024/25 | Variations for this Sep Qtr | Notes | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Carry forwards | Other than by QBRS | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 940 | - | - | 940 | 1 | | 941 | 960 |
| User charges and fees | 1,277 | - | - | 1,277 | - | | 1,277 | 199 |
| Other revenues | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Grants and contributions - operating | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Grants and contributions - capital | 10 | 140 | - | 150 | - | | 150 | (106) |
| Interest and investment revenue | 281 | - | - | 281 | - | | 281 | (73) |
| Net gain from disposal of assets | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Other income | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Total income from continuing operations | 2,508 | 140 | - | 2,648 | 1 | | 2,649 | 980 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 379 | - | - | 379 | 12 | | 391 | 110 |
| Borrowing costs | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Materials and services | 1,507 | - | - | 1,507 | 185 | | 1,692 | 237 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 704 | - | - | 704 | - | | 704 | 176 |
| Impairment of receivables | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Legal costs | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Consultants | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Other expenses | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 2,590 | - | - | 2,590 | 197 | | 2,787 | 523 |
| Net operating result from continuing operations | (82) | 140 | - | 58 | (196) | | (138) | 457 |
| Discontinued operations - surplus/(deficit) | | | | - | | | - | |
| Net operating result from all operations | (82) | 140 | - | 58 | (196) | | (138) | 457 |
| Net Operating Result before Capital Items | (92) | - | - | (92) | (196) | | (288) | 563 |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the quarter ended 30/09/24 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRS report

Narrandera Shire Council

Water Fund Income Statement

for the period ending 30 September 2024

| | Original Budget | Sep Revised Budget | Actual YTD |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| Income from continuing operations | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 940 | 941 | 960 |
| User charges and fees | 1,277 | 1,277 | 199 |
| Other revenues | - | - | - |
| Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes | - | - | - |
| Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes | 10 | 150 | (106) |
| Interest and investment revenue | 281 | 281 | (73) |
| Other income | - | - | - |
| Net gain from the disposal of assets | - | - | - |
| Total income from continuing operations | 2,508 | 2,649 | 980 |
| Expenses from continuing operations | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 379 | 391 | 110 |
| Materials and services | 1,507 | 1,692 | 237 |
| Borrowing costs | - | - | - |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 704 | 704 | 176 |
| Impairment of receivables | - | - | - |
| Other expenses | - | - | - |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 2,590 | 2,787 | 523 |
| Operating result from continuing operations | (82) | (138) | 457 |
| Operating result from discontinued operations | - | - | - |
| Net operating result for the year attributable to Council | (82) | (138) | 457 |
| Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes | (92) | (288) | 563 |

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Income & expenses budget review statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024

Income & expenses - Sewer Fund

| (\$000's) | Original budget 2024/25 | Approved Changes | | Revised budget 2024/25 | Variations for this Sep Qtr | Notes | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Carry forwards | Other than by QBRS | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 1,749 | - | - | 1,749 | - | | 1,749 | 1,649 |
| User charges and fees | 467 | - | - | 467 | - | | 467 | 285 |
| Other revenues | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Grants and contributions - operating | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Grants and contributions - capital | 408 | 746 | - | 1,154 | - | | 1,154 | 270 |
| Interest and investment revenue | 47 | - | - | 47 | - | | 47 | (17) |
| Net gain from disposal of assets | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Other income | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Total income from continuing operations | 2,671 | 746 | - | 3,417 | - | | 3,417 | 2,187 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 374 | - | - | 374 | - | | 374 | 104 |
| Borrowing costs | 130 | - | - | 130 | - | | 130 | 32 |
| Materials and services | 806 | - | - | 806 | 120 | | 926 | 135 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 477 | - | - | 477 | - | | 477 | 120 |
| Impairment of receivables | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Legal costs | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Consultants | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Other expenses | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 1,787 | - | - | 1,787 | 120 | | 1,907 | 391 |
| Net operating result from continuing operations | 884 | 746 | - | 1,630 | (120) | | 1,510 | 1,796 |
| Discontinued operations - surplus/(deficit) | | | | - | | | - | |
| Net operating result from all operations | 884 | 746 | - | 1,630 | (120) | | 1,510 | 1,796 |
| Net Operating Result before Capital Items | 476 | - | - | 476 | (120) | | 356 | 1,526 |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the quarter ended 30/09/24 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRS report

Narrandera Shire Council

Sewer Fund Income Statement

for the period ending 30 September 2024

| | Original Budget | Sep Revised Budget | Actual YTD |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Income from continuing operations | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 1,749 | 1,749 | 1,649 |
| User charges and fees | 467 | 467 | 285 |
| Other revenues | - | - | - |
| Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes | - | - | - |
| Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes | 408 | 1,154 | 270 |
| Interest and investment revenue | 47 | 47 | (17) |
| Other income | - | - | - |
| Net gain from the disposal of assets | - | - | - |
| Total income from continuing operations | 2,671 | 3,417 | 2,187 |
| Expenses from continuing operations | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 374 | 374 | 104 |
| Materials and services | 805 | 926 | 135 |
| Borrowing costs | 130 | 130 | 32 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 478 | 478 | 120 |
| Impairment of receivables | - | - | - |
| Other expenses | - | - | - |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 1,787 | 1,908 | 391 |
| Operating result from continuing operations | 884 | 1,509 | 1,797 |
| Operating result from discontinued operations | - | - | - |
| Net operating result for the year attributable to Council | 884 | 1,509 | 1,797 |
| Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes | 476 | 355 | 1,527 |

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Capital budget review statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024

Capital budget - Council Consolidated

| (\$000's) | Original budget 2024/25 | Approved changes | | Revised budget 2024/25 | Variations for this Sep Qtr | Notes | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Carry forwards | Other than by QBRS | | | | | |
| Capital expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| New assets | | | | | | | | |
| - Plant & Equipment | 1,093 | - | - | 1,093 | - | | 1,093 | 89 |
| - Land & Buildings | 4,975 | 37 | - | 5,012 | (4,900) | | 112 | 10 |
| - Office Equipment | 35 | 11 | - | 46 | - | | 46 | - |
| - Other Structures | 500 | 1,536 | - | 2,036 | 77 | | 2,113 | 594 |
| - Roads Bridges & Footpaths | 841 | 331 | - | 1,172 | - | | 1,172 | 6 |
| - Recreational | 110 | 623 | - | 733 | 20 | | 753 | 76 |
| - Drainage | 3,000 | 220 | - | 3,220 | - | | 3,220 | - |
| - Water | 260 | 291 | - | 551 | 65 | | 616 | 49 |
| - Sewer | 500 | 3,125 | - | 3,625 | - | | 3,625 | 1,092 |
| - Pool | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Renewal assets (replacement) | | | | | | | | |
| - Plant & Equipment | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| - Land & Buildings | 552 | 7 | - | 559 | - | | 559 | 31 |
| - Roads, Bridges, Footpaths | 4,729 | 4,216 | - | 8,945 | (95) | | 8,850 | 1,647 |
| - Office Equipment | 615 | 170 | - | 785 | - | | 785 | 33 |
| - Other Structures | 559 | 931 | - | 1,490 | (259) | | 1,231 | 205 |
| - Library Books | 33 | - | - | 33 | - | | 33 | 3 |
| - Recreational | 5 | - | - | 5 | - | | 5 | - |
| - Drainage | 135 | 17 | - | 152 | (135) | | 17 | 8 |
| - Water | 494 | 490 | - | 984 | - | | 984 | 37 |
| - Sewer | 637 | 690 | - | 1,327 | (450) | | 877 | 8 |
| - Pool | 120 | - | - | 120 | - | | 120 | - |
| Loan repayments (principal) | 289 | - | - | 289 | - | | 289 | 178 |
| Total capital expenditure | 19,482 | 12,695 | - | 32,177 | (5,677) | | 26,500 | 4,066 |
| Capital funding | | | | | | | | |
| Rates & other untied funding | 4,248 | 1,303 | - | 5,551 | (25) | | 5,526 | 577 |
| Capital grants & contributions | 8,471 | 7,127 | - | 15,598 | (4,412) | | 11,186 | 2,532 |
| Reserves: | | | | | | | | |
| - External restrictions/reserves | 4,269 | 3,734 | - | 8,003 | (520) | | 7,483 | 525 |
| - Internal restrictions/reserves | 2,494 | 531 | - | 3,025 | (720) | | 2,305 | 432 |
| New loans | | | | | | | | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Receipts from sale of assets | | | | | | | | |
| - Plant & equipment | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| - Land & buildings | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Total capital funding | 19,482 | 12,695 | - | 32,177 | (5,677) | | 26,500 | 4,066 |
| Net capital funding - surplus/(deficit) | - | - | - | - | - | | - | - |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the quarter ended 30/09/24 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRS report

for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

cash & investments budget review statement

budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024

cash & investments - Council Consolidated

| 00's) | Original Balance 30-Jun-24 | Approved changes Balance 2024/25 | Approved changes | | Revised Balance 2024/25 | Variations Balance Sep Qtr | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Balance forwards | Other than by QBRS | | | | |
| Externally restricted ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | | | | |
| Developer Contributions | 559 | 65 | (44) | - | 580 | - | 580 | 577 |
| Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants | 8,159 | (1,352) | (4,891) | - | 1,916 | - | 1,916 | 7,868 |
| Spent Grants & Contributions Liability | 1,519 | - | - | - | 1,519 | - | 1,519 | 966 |
| Water Supplies | 6,181 | (88) | (641) | - | 5,452 | (260) | 5,192 | 6,329 |
| Waste Management Service | 892 | (11) | (690) | - | 191 | 330 | 521 | 2,778 |
| Waste Management | 1,647 | 7 | (218) | - | 1,436 | 20 | 1,456 | 2,427 |
| Stormwater Management | 41 | (894) | - | - | (853) | 885 | 32 | 119 |
| Open Lands | 423 | 81 | (94) | - | 410 | - | 410 | 431 |
| Spent Internal Loans | 2,047 | - | (2,047) | - | - | - | - | 177 |
| Total externally restricted | 21,468 | (2,192) | (8,625) | - | 10,651 | 975 | 11,626 | 21,672 |
| <small>• funds that must be spent for a specific purpose</small> | | | | | | | | |
| Internally restricted ⁽²⁾ | | | | | | | | |
| Employee Leave Entitlements | 1,301 | - | - | - | 1,301 | - | 1,301 | 1,301 |
| Replacement - Plant & Vehicles | 2,155 | 120 | - | - | 2,275 | - | 2,275 | 2,577 |
| Transferred Over Works | 1,417 | - | (1,417) | - | - | - | - | 731 |
| Information Technology Replacement | 600 | (317) | (146) | - | 137 | - | 137 | 588 |
| Library Perpetual | 483 | 24 | (20) | - | 487 | - | 487 | 487 |
| Organisational Strategy & Governance | 1,563 | (49) | - | - | 1,514 | - | 1,514 | 1,527 |
| Community Transport | 366 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 366 |
| Council Committees | 64 | - | - | - | 64 | - | 64 | 64 |
| Property Development | 609 | (720) | - | - | (111) | 720 | 609 | 609 |
| Organisational Service Assets & Projects | 910 | (15) | (365) | 1,969 | 2,499 | - | 2,499 | 1,536 |
| Library Rehabilitation | 180 | 15 | - | - | 195 | - | 195 | 195 |
| Financial Assistance Grant | 5,558 | - | (5,558) | - | - | - | - | 1,486 |
| Reverse Cycle Vending Machine | 4 | 3 | - | - | 7 | - | 7 | 5 |
| Gifts, Retentions & Trusts | 229 | - | - | - | 229 | - | 229 | 229 |
| Total internally restricted | 15,439 | (939) | (7,506) | 1,969 | 8,597 | 720 | 9,317 | 11,701 |
| <small>• funds that Council has earmarked for a specific purpose</small> | | | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted (ie. available after the above Restr) | 585 | - | - | - | 951 | - | 366 | 366 |
| Total Cash & investments | 37,492 | (3,131) | (16,131) | 1,969 | 20,199 | 1,695 | 21,309 | 33,739 |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the quarter ended 30/09/24 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRS report

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Cash & investments budget review statement

Comment on cash & investments position

Not applicable

Investments

Investments have been invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

Cash

The Cash at Bank figure included in the Cash & Investment Statement totals \$33,739,471

This Cash at Bank amount has been reconciled to Council's physical Bank Statements.
The date of completion of this bank reconciliation is 30/09/24

Reconciliation status

The YTD cash & investment figure reconciles to the actual balances held as follows: **March \$ 000's**

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| Cash at bank (as per bank statements) | | 1,314 |
| Investments on hand | | 32,425 |
| less: unrepresented cheques | (Timing Difference) | - |
| add: undeposited funds | (Timing Difference) | - |
| less: identified deposits (not yet accounted in ledger) | (Require Actioning) | - |
| add: identified outflows (not yet accounted in ledger) | (Require Actioning) | - |
| less: unidentified deposits (not yet actioned) | (Require Investigation) | - |
| add: unidentified outflows (not yet actioned) | (Require Investigation) | - |
| Reconciled cash at bank & investments | | 33,739 |
| Balance as per QBRS review statement: | | 33,739 |
| Difference: | | - |

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Contracts budget review statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024

Part A - Contracts listing - contracts entered into during the quarter

| Contractor | Contract detail & purpose | Contract value (GST inc.) | Start date | Duration of contract | Budgeted (Y/N) | Notes |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|-------|
| Iberdrola Australia | Sale of Electricity for Large sites and Street Lighting | \$ 2,353,860 | 01.01.2025 | 31.12.2030 | Y | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Notes:

1. Minimum reporting level is 1% of estimated income from continuing operations of Council or \$50,000 - whatever is the lesser.
2. Contracts listed are those entered into during the quarter being reported and exclude contractors on Council's Preferred Supplier list.
3. Contracts for employment are not required to be included.

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the quarter ended 30/09/24 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRS report

Narrandera Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Consultancy & legal expenses budget review statement

Consultancy & legal expenses overview

| Expense | YTD expenditure (actual dollars) | Budgeted (Y/N) |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Consultancies | 15,750 | Y |
| Legal Fees | 1,080 | Y |

Definition of a consultant:

A consultant is a person or organisation engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management. Generally it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

Comments

Expenditure included in the above YTD figure includes:

Details

Legal Fees

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|--------|
| Rates and Debtors Legal Costs | \$ | 667.00 |
| General Legal Expenses | \$ | 413.00 |
| Other Legal Expenses | \$ | - |

Consultancies

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----|----------|
| Kim Biggs Consulting | Museum Advisor | \$ | 6,751.80 |
| Xeros Piccolo Consulting Engineers | Bridge Designs | \$ | 5,478.00 |
| Laurie Knight | Finance Support | \$ | 3,520.00 |

| RESERVE DETAILS 2024-2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-----|-------|------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| RESERVE DETAILS | Balance 30 Jun 2024 | Budget Transfer 24/25 | Other | Carry over | Sept | Dec | March | June | Net Transfer 24/25 | Balance 30 Jun 2025 | 25/26 Budget Movement | Balance 30 Jun 2026 |
| GENERAL FUND - DETAILS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employee's Leave Entitlement | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employee's Leave Entitlement | \$ 1,301,000.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 1,301,000.00 | | \$ 1,301,000.00 |
| Plant & Vehicle Replacement | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plant & Vehicle Replacement | \$ 2,155,286.87 | \$ 119,941.00 | | | | | | | \$ 119,941.00 | \$ 2,275,227.87 | -\$ 106,056.00 | \$ 2,169,171.87 |
| Information Technology Replacement | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Street Camera Replacement | \$ 1,000.00 | | | -\$ 1,000.00 | | | | | -\$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | | \$ - |
| Computer Replacement | \$ 599,349.98 | -\$ 317,006.00 | | -\$ 145,006.94 | | | | | -\$ 462,012.94 | \$ 137,337.04 | | \$ 137,337.04 |
| Carry Over Works | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carry Over Operating Program | \$ 113,483.77 | | | -\$ 113,483.77 | | | | | -\$ 113,483.77 | \$ 0.00 | | \$ 0.00 |
| Carry Over Capital Program | \$ 1,303,036.54 | | | -\$ 1,303,036.54 | | | | | -\$ 1,303,036.54 | \$ 0.00 | | -\$ 0.00 |
| Organisational service assets and projects | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Art & Festive Tree Maintenance | \$ 49,228.36 | \$ 20,000.00 | | | | | | | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 69,228.36 | | \$ 69,228.36 |
| Infrastructure Replacement & Renewal | \$ 188,984.01 | -\$ 84,965.00 | \$ 1,659,000.00 | -\$ 365,217.90 | | | | | \$ 1,208,817.10 | \$ 1,397,801.11 | \$ 320,000.00 | \$ 1,717,801.11 |
| Narrandera Business Centre Master Plan | \$ 18,191.03 | | \$ 309,919.84 | | | | | | \$ 309,919.84 | \$ 328,110.87 | | \$ 328,110.87 |
| Delivery of Aged strategies | \$ 201,666.15 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 201,666.15 | | \$ 201,666.15 |
| Shire Property Renewal & Cyclical Maint. | \$ 354,483.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 354,483.00 | | \$ 354,483.00 |
| Visitor Centre Building Replacement | -\$ 0.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | -\$ 0.00 | | -\$ 0.00 |
| Renewable Energy | \$ 86,898.00 | \$ 50,000.00 | | | | | | | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 136,898.00 | | \$ 136,898.00 |
| Narrandera Park Landscape | \$ 10,176.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 10,176.00 | | \$ 10,176.00 |
| Organisational strategy and governance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Election & Integrated Planning Exp | \$ 59,195.91 | -\$ 48,500.00 | | | | | | | -\$ 48,500.00 | \$ 10,695.91 | | \$ 10,695.91 |
| Financial Management Reserve Strategy | \$ 1,461,079.78 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 1,461,079.78 | | \$ 1,461,079.78 |
| Employee Training Programs | \$ 42,500.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 42,500.00 | | \$ 42,500.00 |
| Community Transport | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Transport | \$ 365,525.36 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 365,525.36 | | \$ 365,525.36 |
| Financial Assistance Grant | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Financial Assistance Grant | \$ 5,558,351.00 | | | -\$ 5,558,351.00 | | | | | -\$ 5,558,351.00 | \$ - | | \$ - |
| Council Committees | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Committee - Barellan Museum | \$ 4,156.68 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 4,156.68 | | \$ 4,156.68 |
| Committee - Koala Committee | \$ 18,616.46 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 18,616.46 | | \$ 18,616.46 |
| Committee - Railway Station | \$ 11,642.60 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 11,642.60 | | \$ 11,642.60 |
| 355 Committee - Parkside Museum | \$ 4,071.36 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 4,071.36 | | \$ 4,071.36 |
| Committee - Barellan Hall | \$ 22,663.95 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 22,663.95 | | \$ 22,663.95 |
| Committee - Grong Grong Community Hall | \$ 2,553.66 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 2,553.66 | | \$ 2,553.66 |
| Committee - Domestic Violence | \$ 186.90 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 186.90 | | \$ 186.90 |
| Cemetery Perpetual | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N'dra Cemetery - Perpetual mtnce all | \$ 482,762.88 | \$ 23,472.00 | | -\$ 20,000.00 | | | | | \$ 3,472.00 | \$ 486,234.88 | \$ 23,472.00 | \$ 509,706.88 |
| Property Development | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Property Development (Red Hill) | \$ 609,464.95 | -\$ 720,000.00 | | | \$ 720,000.00 | | | | \$ - | \$ 609,464.95 | | \$ 609,464.95 |
| Quarry Rehabilitation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Quarry Rehabilitation | \$ 52,112.07 | \$ 15,000.00 | | | | | | | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 67,112.07 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 82,112.07 |
| Quarry Maintenance | \$ 127,726.22 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 127,726.22 | | \$ 127,726.22 |
| Reverse Cycle Vending Machine | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reverse Cycle Vending Machine | \$ 4,360.29 | \$ 3,210.00 | | | | | | | \$ 3,210.00 | \$ 7,570.29 | \$ 3,158.00 | \$ 10,728.29 |
| Waste Management | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Narrandera Waste Depot | \$ 884,584.45 | \$ 6,939.00 | | -\$ 217,876.33 | \$ 19,939.00 | | | | -\$ 190,998.33 | \$ 693,586.12 | \$ 155,826.00 | \$ 849,412.12 |
| Narrandera Waste Depot - Excavation | \$ 104,704.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 104,704.00 | | \$ 104,704.00 |
| Narrandera Waste Depot - Rehabilitation | \$ 368,644.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 368,644.00 | | \$ 368,644.00 |
| Barellan Waste Depot | \$ 76,421.29 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 76,421.29 | | \$ 76,421.29 |
| Barellan Waste Depot - Excavation | \$ 36,592.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 36,592.00 | | \$ 36,592.00 |
| Barellan Waste Depot - Rehabilitation | \$ 53,429.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 53,429.00 | | \$ 53,429.00 |
| Narrandera Depot Compactor Expenses | \$ 48,379.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 48,379.00 | | \$ 48,379.00 |
| Grong Grong Waste Depot Rehabilitation | \$ 73,876.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 73,876.00 | | \$ 73,876.00 |

RESERVE DETAILS 2024-2025

| RESERVE DETAILS | Balance 30 Jun 2024 | Budget Transfer 24/25 | Other | Carry over | Sept | Dec | March | June | Net Transfer 24/25 | Balance 30 Jun 2025 | 25/26 Budget Movement | Balance 30 Jun 2026 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Crown Reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Talbot Tourist Park | \$ 422,685.51 | \$ 80,774.00 | -\$ | 94,102.57 | \$ 402.00 | | | | -\$ 12,926.57 | \$ 409,758.94 | \$ 80,589.00 | \$ 490,347.94 |
| Stormwater | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Narrandera Stormwater Reserve | \$ 29,045.16 | -\$ 902,758.00 | | | \$ 884,996.00 | | | | -\$ 17,762.00 | \$ 11,283.16 | \$ 12,650.00 | \$ 23,933.16 |
| Barellan Stormwater Reserve | \$ 11,639.98 | \$ 8,850.00 | | | | | | | \$ 8,850.00 | \$ 20,489.98 | | \$ 20,489.98 |
| Developer Contributions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Section 7.11 (94) | \$ 60,273.84 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 60,273.84 | | \$ 60,273.84 |
| Section 7.12 (94A) | \$ 235,299.31 | | -\$ | 43,597.96 | | | | | -\$ 43,597.96 | \$ 191,701.35 | | \$ 191,701.35 |
| Section 7.4 - Youth activities | \$ 211,100.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 211,100.00 | | \$ 211,100.00 |
| Section 7.4 | \$ 52,635.71 | \$ 65,000.00 | | | | | | | \$ 65,000.00 | \$ 117,635.71 | \$ 65,000.00 | \$ 182,635.71 |
| Bonds, Retentions & Trusts | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kaniva Quarry | \$ 30,000.00 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 30,000.00 | | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Arts Centre Trust | \$ 55,489.63 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 55,489.63 | | \$ 55,489.63 |
| Sale of Land | \$ 139,490.86 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 139,490.86 | | \$ 139,490.86 |
| Barellan Toddler Pool Retention | \$ 3,539.30 | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ 3,539.30 | | \$ 3,539.30 |
| External Restrictions (Note 6 order) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Fund | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Replacement | \$ 5,303,713.99 | -\$ 98,052.00 | \$ - | \$ - | 260,158.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 358,210.00 | \$ 4,945,503.99 | -\$ 3,066,689.00 | \$ 1,878,814.99 |
| Carry Over Works | \$ 640,955.80 | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 640,955.80 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 640,955.80 | \$ - | \$ 0.00 | -\$ 0.00 |
| Retention - Pine Hill Construction | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Section 64 | \$ 236,366.80 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 246,366.80 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 256,366.80 |
| Sewer Fund | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asset Replacement | \$ 103,539.92 | -\$ 19,454.00 | \$ - | \$ - | 330,011.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 310,557.00 | \$ 414,096.92 | \$ 78,869.00 | \$ 492,965.92 |
| Carry Over Works | \$ 690,120.77 | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 690,120.77 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 690,120.77 | \$ - | \$ 0.00 | -\$ 0.00 |
| Unspent Loan | \$ 2,046,816.74 | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 2,046,816.74 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 2,046,816.74 | \$ - | \$ 0.00 | -\$ 0.00 |
| Section 64 | \$ 99,064.43 | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ 107,064.43 | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ 115,064.43 |
| General Fund - External Restrictions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants | \$ 8,158,914.91 | -\$ 1,351,618.00 | \$ - | -\$ 4,890,510.16 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 6,242,128.16 | \$ 1,916,786.75 | -\$ 1,353,920.00 | \$ 562,866.75 |
| Other Contributions | \$ 103,248.64 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 103,248.64 | \$ - | \$ 103,248.64 |
| Unspent grant & contributions Liability | \$ 1,416,209.68 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,416,209.68 | \$ - | \$ 1,416,209.68 |
| Developer Contributions | \$ 559,308.86 | \$ 65,000.00 | \$ - | -\$ 43,597.96 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 21,402.04 | \$ 580,710.90 | \$ - | \$ 580,710.90 |
| Waste Management | \$ 1,646,629.74 | \$ 6,939.00 | \$ - | -\$ 217,876.33 | 19,939.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 190,998.33 | \$ 1,455,631.41 | \$ - | \$ 1,455,631.41 |
| Stormwater | \$ 40,685.14 | -\$ 893,908.00 | \$ - | \$ - | 884,996.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 8,912.00 | \$ 31,773.14 | \$ - | \$ 31,773.14 |
| Crown Reserves | \$ 422,685.51 | \$ 80,774.00 | \$ - | -\$ 94,102.57 | 402.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 12,926.57 | \$ 409,758.94 | \$ - | \$ 409,758.94 |
| Total External Restrictions | \$ 21,468,260.92 | -\$ 2,192,319.00 | \$ - | -\$ 8,623,980.33 | \$ 975,190.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 9,841,109.33 | \$ 11,627,151.59 | -\$ 4,323,740.00 | \$ 7,303,411.59 |
| Internal Restrictions (Note 6 order) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plant & vehicle replacement | \$ 2,155,286.87 | \$ 119,941.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 119,941.00 | \$ 2,275,227.87 | -\$ 106,056.00 | \$ 2,169,171.87 |
| Employee Leave Entitlements | \$ 1,301,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,301,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 1,301,000.00 |
| Carry over works | \$ 1,416,520.31 | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 1,416,520.31 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 1,416,520.31 | \$ - | \$ 0.00 | -\$ 0.00 |
| Community Transport | \$ 365,525.36 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 365,525.36 | \$ - | \$ 365,525.36 |
| Organisational strategy and governance | \$ 1,562,775.69 | -\$ 48,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 48,500.00 | \$ 1,514,275.69 | \$ - | \$ 1,514,275.69 |
| Cemetery Perpetual | \$ 482,762.88 | \$ 23,472.00 | \$ - | -\$ 20,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,472.00 | \$ 486,234.88 | \$ 23,472.00 | \$ 509,706.88 |
| Council Committees | \$ 63,891.61 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 63,891.61 | \$ - | \$ 63,891.61 |
| Information Technology Replacement | \$ 600,349.98 | -\$ 317,006.00 | \$ - | -\$ 146,006.94 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 463,012.94 | \$ 137,337.04 | \$ - | \$ 137,337.04 |
| Property Development | \$ 609,464.95 | -\$ 720,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | 720,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 609,464.95 | \$ - | \$ 609,464.95 |
| Organisational service assets and projects | \$ 909,626.55 | -\$ 14,965.00 | \$ 1,968,919.84 | -\$ 365,217.90 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,588,736.94 | \$ 2,498,363.49 | \$ 320,000.00 | \$ 2,818,363.49 |
| Quarry Rehabilitation | \$ 179,838.29 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 194,838.29 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 209,838.29 |
| Financial Assistance Grant | \$ 5,558,351.00 | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 5,558,351.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 5,558,351.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Reverse Cycle Vending Machine | \$ 4,360.29 | \$ 3,210.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,210.00 | \$ 7,570.29 | \$ 3,158.00 | \$ 10,728.29 |
| Bonds, Retentions & Trusts | \$ 228,519.79 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 228,519.79 | \$ - | \$ 228,519.79 |
| Total Internal Restrictions | \$ 15,438,273.57 | -\$ 938,848.00 | \$ 1,968,919.84 | -\$ 7,506,096.15 | \$ 720,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 5,756,024.31 | \$ 9,682,249.26 | \$ 255,574.00 | \$ 9,937,823.26 |
| Total Restrictions | \$ 36,906,534.49 | -\$ 3,131,167.00 | \$ 1,968,919.84 | -\$ 16,130,076.48 | \$ 1,695,190.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | -\$ 15,597,133.64 | \$ 21,309,400.85 | -\$ 4,068,166.00 | \$ 17,241,234.85 |

25 STATUTORY AND COMPULSORY REPORTING – OTHER REPORTS

25.1 ENDORSEMENT OF 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Document ID: 762032

Author: Governance and Engagement Manager

Authoriser: Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community

Theme: Statutory and Compulsory Reporting – Other

Attachments: 1. 2023-2024 Annual Report (under separate cover) 

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Annual Report 2023-24, appended at *Attachment 1*, pursuant to section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Notes that the Annual Report 2023-24 will be published to Council's website with the URL provided to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2024, pursuant to section 428(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to review and adopt the 2023-24 Annual Report and attachments as presented, for publication to Council's website by 30 November 2024, as required under the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act").

SUMMARY

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) provisions of the Act, Council is required to prepare an Annual Report detailing its achievements in implementing its adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan over the previous financial year. The Annual Report must include a copy of Council's audited Financial Statements, and once endorsed, a copy of the Annual Report must be provided to the Minister for Local Government. This report is the last in the previous IP&R program and recommends that Council formally endorse the Annual Report.

NOTE: The Annual Report is to be reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Leadership Team on Thursday 7 November 2024 – should there be any necessary changes, these amendments will be reflected in the document presented to Council for adoption.

BACKGROUND

Reporting is a key component of the IP&R framework for local councils in New South Wales. The process requires reporting back to the community about progress made on implementation of the Delivery Program and progress to achieving the strategies within the Community Strategic Plan.

The Annual Report must focus on Council's achievements in implementing its adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan and include a copy of Council's audited Financial Statements for the year, in addition to a range of other information as specified in the Act

and accompanying *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (“the Regulation”) as well as other legislation.

The Annual Report provides a wide cross-section of information from not only the statutory reporting requirements, but the achievements in implementing the 2022-26 Delivery Program and highlights those projects, services, programs and events that are perhaps not widely celebrated but have a positive impact for both individuals within the community and the community-at-large.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES

Theme

5 - Our Leadership

Strategy

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

Action

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Policy

- Nil.

Financial

- There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report - the Annual Report presents a summary of Council’s performance over the 2023-24 financial year and as required under the Regulation, contains a copy of the organisation’s audited Financial Statements for the 2023-24 year.

Legal / Statutory

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines published September 2021

Community Engagement / Communication

- Publication of the 2023-24 Annual Report meets the statutory reporting requirements of Council and details the activities, financial information and steps taken to deliver the actions contained with the adopted Delivery Program also the adopted Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Human Resources / Industrial Relations

- Nil

RISKS

There are no perceived risks associated with the endorsement and publication of the 2023-24 Annual Report and attachments.

OPTIONS

The options available to Council include:

1. Adopt the 2023-24 Annual Report and attachments as presented and require that the document be published to the community via Council's website then advise the Office of Local Government of the appropriate URL; or
2. Require identified amendments to be made to the 2023-24 Annual Report and attachments before publishing the documents to the community via Council's website then advise the Office of Local Government of the appropriate URL.

CONCLUSION

The 2023-24 Annual Report and attachments is the culmination of the efforts of not only Council and staff over the past 12 months, but the community as a whole. It will be recommended that Council endorses the Annual Report as presented and publishes the document to the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Annual Report 2023-24, appended at *Attachment 1*, pursuant to section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Notes that the Annual Report 2023-24 will be published to Council's website with the URL provided to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2024, pursuant to section 428(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

26 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS PAPER REPORTS

Nil