



**ORDINARY MEETING
MINUTES**

23 JUNE 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING OF MEETING	1
2	PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	1
3	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	1
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	2
6	OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS	2
7	MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS	3
7.1	Mayoral Report	3
8	REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES	4
8.1	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - 9 May 2025.....	4
9	REPORTS TO COUNCIL	6
9.1	General Managers Report.....	6
9.2	2025 Murray Darling Basin Authority River Reflections Conference	7
9.3	Request for Event Sponsorship - The Good Golly Music Festival 2025....	8
9.4	Monthly Finance Report - May 2025	9
9.5	Monthly Investment Report - May 2025.....	10
9.6	Endorsement of Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation	11
9.7	Economic Development Strategy	20
9.8	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy for Adoption	21
9.9	Determination of Councillor Remuneration for 2025/2026	22
9.10	Skin Cancer Truck request for Financial Assistance - Wentworth Community Bank.....	23
9.11	DA2025/018 Dwelling with Garage Lot 24 DP 756971 Keens Road Monak.....	24
9.12	Project & Works Report June 2025	26
9.13	DA2024/146 Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra (FOSO) Art Installation 214 Log Bridge Road Lot 2 DP 1308132 Wentworth	27
10	NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	28
10.1	Notice Of Motion - Audit of Playground Equipment Within Wentworth Shire Council.....	28
11	CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION	29
12	OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL	32

12.1	Compensation Notices for Compulsory Land Acquisitions.....	32
12.2	PT 2425/07 Junction Island Viewing Platform	33
12.3	PT 2425/15 - Bulk Flow Meter Installation	34
12.4	PT 2425/18 Head Contractor Construction of Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra (FOSO) Infrastructure	35
13	CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING	36
	NEXT MEETING	36

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:02pm

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Daniel Linklater
Councillor Jon Armstrong
Councillor Peter Crisp
Councillor Greg Evans
Councillor Susan Nichols
Councillor Jo Rodda
Councillor Jody Starick
Councillor Michael Weeding

STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Gayle Marsden (Executive Assistant to General Manager)
Ebony Carter (Business Support Officer)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Council Resolution

That Council notes the apology and grants the Leave of Absence Request from Cr Elstone.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Weeding advised that he had a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.10 as he is Vice President of the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club.

Council Resolution

That the Ordinary Council meeting be adjourned for the purpose of conducting a Public Forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Forum

Mark Forbes-Wilson spoke against Item 9.6

Council Resolution

That Council reconvenes into open session

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Recommendation**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 14 May 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 14 May 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/292

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report

Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 9 MAY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/311

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

A meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee was held on 9 May 2025 and the draft Minutes for the meeting have been separately circulated for the information of Councillors.

The Committee considered the following items of business:

- Audit Office of NSW Update
- Internal Audit Extreme & High Risk Recommendations Update
- Internal Audit Quarterly Update
- Quarterly Operational Plan Progress Report
- Quarterly Budget Review – 3rd Quarter 2024-2025
- Quarterly Risk Report
- Quarterly report on Legislative Updates
- Compliance Framework
- 2025/2026 Budget and Operational Plan Update

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Receives and notes the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 9 May 2025
- b) That Council endorses the Compliance Policy and Framework.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) Receives and notes the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 9 May 2025

b) That Council endorses the Compliance Policy and Framework.

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

That Council admits for consideration a supplementary late report item 9.13 from the General Manager as the information contained in the report is deemed to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of council.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/290

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars
Circulars 25-10 and 25-12
2. Meetings
As listed.
3. Upcoming meetings or events
As listed.
4. Other items of note

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Council Resolution

That Council receive and note the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 2025 MURRAY DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY RIVER REFLECTIONS CONFERENCE

File Number: RPT/25/294

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

The 2025 Murray Darling Basin Authority *River Reflections* Conference will be held from 29 – 30 July in Murray Bridge South Australia or by free livestream. *River Reflections* will provide an opportunity to bring together people from different backgrounds to help ensure the health of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Recommendation

That Council determines attendees to the 2025 Murray Darling Basin Authority River Reflections Conference or alternatively to attend via livestream at no cost.

Council Resolution

That Council determines that two Councillors attend the 2025 Murray Darling Basin Authority River Reflections Conference in person and other Councillors may attend via livestream at no cost.

Moved Cr. Weeding, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 REQUEST FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP - THE GOOD GOLLY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025

File Number: RPT/25/197

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Lexi Stockman - Manager Tourism and Promotion

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request to provide financial sponsorship, including in-kind support, to the value of \$30,000 for a new family-friendly music festival event called *The Good Golly Music Festival*, to be held on Saturday 4 October at James King Park, Gol Gol.

This event is brand-new and would be the first of its kind to take place in Gol Gol.

Recommendation

That Council provides financial sponsorship of \$30,000 incl GST including in-kind support, towards *The Good Golly Music Festival*.

This recommendation has been made in line with the Event Funding Policy and Event Funding Guidelines which will be introduced before the commencement of the 25/26 budget.

Council Resolution

That Council does not provide financial sponsorship of \$30,000 incl GST including in-kind support, towards *The Good Golly Music Festival*.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - MAY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/302

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring , supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of May 2025 were \$1,362,614.84. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 90.02%. For comparison purposes 91.96% of the levy had been collected at the end of May 2024. Council currently has \$47,093,464.13 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for May 2025.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for May 2025.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - MAY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/303

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.5 Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency

Summary

As of 31 May 2025, Council had \$41 million invested in term deposits and \$6,093,464.13 in other cash investments. Council received \$346,094.85 from its investments for the month of May 2025.

In May 2025 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 4.50% and it currently has \$7,304,145.24 of internal restrictions and \$38,809,514.59 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.6 ENDORSEMENT OF INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTATION

File Number:	RPT/25/293
Responsible Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division:	Corporate Services
Reporting Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Objective:	4.0 Wentworth is a caring , supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy:	4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Act (the Act) Council, following an ordinary election of Councillors, Council must review the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) before the 30 June following the election.

Additionally, Council must also review the Resource Strategy and complete a four year Delivery Program and one year Operational Plan.

The draft Community Strategic Plan was presented to Council on 16 April 2025 with the remaining draft documents being presented to Council on 14 May 2025 and were subsequently placed on public exhibition, with submissions closing on 15 June 2025.

Council is now required to consider all submissions received prior to adopting the Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) suite of documents and to make and levy the following rates and charges for 2025-2026 including:

- 4.50% increase in the Ordinary rate for 2025-2026.
- 4.50% increase in Sewer Access Charges for 2025-2026.
- 4.50% increase in Water Access Charges for 2025-2026.
- 4.50% increase in Domestic Waste Charges for 2025-2026.
- 4.50% increase in Water Consumption Charges for 2025-2026.
- Charge the maximum interest on overdue rates and charges

At the time of writing this report there had been one submission received from the public during the exhibition period. Any submissions received between the time of preparing this report and the conclusion of the public exhibition period will be the subject of a supplementary late report to be tabled at the Council meeting.

There have been minor administrative changes to all documents to reflect feedback received from Councillors and to reflect ongoing internal reviews and continuous improvement by Council officers.

Amendments have been made to the 2025-2026 Budget to reflect updated information received during the consultation period. The overall impact of the changes are as follows:

- Rates and Annual Charges increased by \$365,597
- Capital expenditure increased by \$100,000
- Total Surplus from Operating Activities increased by \$365,597
- Total 2025-2026 Cash Surplus increased by \$265,597

Recommendation

That Council endorses the 2026-2036 Community Strategic Plan – Wentworth Shire: Our Future in Focus;

That Council endorses the 2026-2030 Resource Strategy, which includes the following documents:

- Long Term Financial Plan
- Workforce Management Plan
- Asset Management Strategy

That Council endorses the 2026-2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan;

That Council endorses the 2026-2030 Delivery Program incorporating the 2025-2026 Operational Plan, Budget and Annual Statement of Revenue;

That Council resolves to increase the General rate for the 2025-2026 year by the maximum 4.50% rate pegged amount as determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART);

That Council resolves to make and levy an ordinary rate to comprise of a base rate and an ad valorem rating structure for Residential, Business and Farmland categories of rates under Sections 534, 535 & 537 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) for the 2025-2026 year including:

Farmland category

Includes all of the lands within the local government area of Wentworth categorised as Farmland except those parcels of rateable land sub categorised as Farmland, Dry Land Grazing and Farmland, Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline

Farmland

- An ordinary rate of 0.00212317 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$600.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 30.67% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$1,367,649

Farmland – Dry Land Grazing

- An ordinary rate of 0.00169004 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, sub categorised Dry Land Grazing in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$600.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 18.00% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$886,627

Farmland, Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline

- An ordinary rate of 0.03926993 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, sub categorised Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline, in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of

(\$95.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 39.47% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$17,572

Residential Category

Wentworth

- An ordinary rate of 0.00392720 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Wentworth, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to base amount of (\$240.00) for each assessment. The amount accounts for 37.46% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$390,839

Buronga

- An ordinary rate of 0.00312821 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Buronga, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$260.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 25.88% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$572,664

Gol Gol

- An ordinary rate of 0.00340937 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Gol Gol, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$260.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 22.94% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$835,302

Gol Gol East

- An ordinary rate of 0.00315793 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Gol Gol East, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$360.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 20.80% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$519,251

Pooncarie

- An ordinary rate of 0.01781231 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Pooncarie, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 45.71% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$23,889

Dareton

- An ordinary rate of 0.00874787 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Dareton, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 43.19% of the estimated yield for this

category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$91,412

Rural Residential

- An ordinary rate of 0.00251420 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Rural Residential, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 23.54% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$597,628

Business Category

Includes all of the lands within the local government area of Wentworth categorised as Business except those parcels of rateable land sub categorised as Business, Mourquong; Business, Trentham Cliffs; Business, Arumpo; Business, Wentworth; Business, Pooncarie (including all of the lands within the locality of Pooncarie sub categorised as Business Pooncarie except those lands within the township of Pooncarie).

Business

- An ordinary rate of 0.00398611 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$270.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 15.60% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$320,165

Business, Wentworth

- An ordinary rate of 0.00880812 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Wentworth, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$270.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 35.72% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$40,812

Business, Mourquong

- An ordinary rate of 0.10175891 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Mourquong, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$100.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 0.04% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$504,924

Business, Trentham Cliffs

- An ordinary rate of 0.00518175 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Trentham Cliffs, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act 1993, be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$120.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 3.57% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$13,440

Business, Arumpo

- An ordinary rate of 0.06738189 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable

lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Arumpo, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 1.29% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$113,526

Business, Pooncarie

- An ordinary rate of 0.08906291 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Pooncarie, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$100.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 0.03% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$694,000

That Council resolves to make and levy fees and charges for Sewer Services for 2025-2026 year as set out in the Annual Statement of Revenue;

That Council resolves to make and levy fees and charges for Water Services for 2025-2026 year as set out in the Annual Statement of Revenue;

That Council resolves to make and levy a Domestic Waste Management charge for 2025-2026 year under Section 496 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on each parcel of rateable land of which the service is available as set out in the Annual Statement of Revenue;

That Council resolves to fix the fees and charges as set out in the Annual Statement of Revenue; and

That Council resolves to charge the maximum interest on overdue rates and charges as determined by the Minister for Local Government.

Council Resolution

That Council endorses the 2026-2036 Community Strategic Plan – Wentworth Shire: Our Future in Focus;

That Council endorses the 2026-2030 Resource Strategy, which includes the following documents:

- Long Term Financial Plan
- Workforce Management Plan
- Asset Management Strategy

That Council endorses the 2026-2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan;

That Council endorses the 2026-2030 Delivery Program incorporating the 2025-2026 Operational Plan, Budget and Annual Statement of Revenue;

That Council resolves to increase the General rate for the 2025-2026 year by the maximum 4.50% rate pegged amount as determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART);

That Council resolves to make and levy an ordinary rate to comprise of a base rate and an

ad valorem rating structure for Residential, Business and Farmland categories of rates under Sections 534, 535 & 537 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) for the 2025-2026 year including:

Farmland category

Includes all of the lands within the local government area of Wentworth categorised as Farmland except those parcels of rateable land sub categorised as Farmland, Dry Land Grazing and Farmland, Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline

Farmland

- An ordinary rate of 0.00212317 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$600.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 30.67% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$1,367,649

Farmland – Dry Land Grazing

- An ordinary rate of 0.00169004 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, sub categorised Dry Land Grazing in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$600.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 18.00% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$886,627

Farmland, Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline

- An ordinary rate of 0.03926993 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, sub categorised Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline, in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$95.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 39.47% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$17,572

Residential Category

Wentworth

- An ordinary rate of 0.00392720 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Wentworth, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to base amount of (\$240.00) for each assessment. The amount accounts for 37.46% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$390,839

Buronga

- An ordinary rate of 0.00312821 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Buronga, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$260.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 25.88% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$572,664

Gol Gol

- An ordinary rate of 0.00340937 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable

lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Gol Gol, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$260.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 22.94% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$835,302

Gol Gol East

- An ordinary rate of 0.00315793 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Gol Gol East, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$360.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 20.80% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$519,251

Pooncarie

- An ordinary rate of 0.01781231 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Pooncarie, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 45.71% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$23,889

Dareton

- An ordinary rate of 0.00874787 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Dareton, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 43.19% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$91,412

Rural Residential

- An ordinary rate of 0.00251420 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Rural Residential, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 23.54% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$597,628

Business Category

Includes all of the lands within the local government area of Wentworth categorised as Business except those parcels of rateable land sub categorised as Business, Mourquong; Business, Trentham Cliffs; Business, Arumpo; Business, Wentworth; Business, Pooncarie (including all of the lands within the locality of Pooncarie sub categorised as Business Pooncarie except those lands within the township of Pooncarie).

Business

- An ordinary rate of 0.00398611 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$270.00) for each assessment. The base

amount accounts for 15.60% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$320,165

Business, Wentworth

- An ordinary rate of 0.00880812 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Wentworth, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$270.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 35.72% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$40,812

Business, Mourquong

- An ordinary rate of 0.10175891 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Mourquong, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$100.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 0.04% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$504,924

Business, Trentham Cliffs

- An ordinary rate of 0.00518175 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Trentham Cliffs, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act 1993, be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$120.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 3.57% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$13,440

Business, Arumpo

- An ordinary rate of 0.06738189 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Arumpo, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 1.29% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$113,526

Business, Pooncarie

- An ordinary rate of 0.08906291 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Pooncarie, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2025/2026 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$100.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 0.03% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$694,000

That Council resolves to make and levy fees and charges for Sewer Services for 2025-2026 year as set out in the Annual Statement of Revenue;

That Council resolves to make and levy fees and charges for Water Services for 2025-2026 year as set out in the Annual Statement of Revenue;

That Council resolves to make and levy a Domestic Waste Management charge for 2025-2026 year under Section 496 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on each parcel of rateable land of which the service is available as set out in the Annual Statement of

Revenue;

That Council resolves to fix the fees and charges as set out in the Annual Statement of Revenue; and

That Council resolves to charge the maximum interest on overdue rates and charges as determined by the Minister for Local Government.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

File Number: RPT/25/296

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region

Strategy: 1.1 Promote the Shire as an ideal location for investment and the establishment of innovative, sustainable and diversified industries

Summary

Council previously endorsed the draft Economic Development Strategy for public exhibition, this provided an opportunity for residents, stakeholders, and the broader community to review and comment on the Strategy.

At the conclusion of the public exhibition period, Council had received no submissions from the public. As such no amendments to the draft Strategy were required.

It is recommended that Council formally endorse the Economic Development Strategy to guide economic initiatives and strategic planning moving forward.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035.

Council Resolution

That Council endorses the Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY FOR ADOPTION

File Number: RPT/25/304

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the way organisations operate. AI-powered systems are being used to generate content, automate tasks, make decisions, drive robotics and improve efficiency in a wide range of industries.

Council can best manage the risks associated with the use of AI by developing an AI policy (and associated procedures as required) that establishes principles and controls to ensure Council uses AI in a responsible and ethical manner. Council has considered Australia's *AI Ethics Principles* in the development of this policy and will apply those principles in our use of AI enabled systems.

At the 16 April 2025 Council meeting, the draft *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy* was endorsed by Council for public exhibition for 28 days. No feedback or comments were received from the public during this time and no changes have been made to the Policy following the exhibition period.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy.

Council Resolution

That Council adopts the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.9 DETERMINATION OF COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION FOR 2025/2026

File Number: RPT/25/289

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.5 Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency

Summary

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined a 3.00% increase to the Mayoral and Councillor fees for the 2025/2026 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2025.

Sections 248 and 249 of the *Local Government Act 1993* require Councils to fix and pay an annual fee based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2025/2026 financial year. If a Council does not fix a fee, the Council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

The Remuneration Tribunal classifies the Wentworth Shire Council as a Rural Council. As such, the minimum fee for a Councillor is \$10,530 and the maximum allowable is \$13,930. In addition to the fee paid as a Councillor, the minimum fee payable to the Mayor is \$11,210 and the maximum fee is \$30,390.

In April 2024, Council resolved to increase the fees for the 2024/2025 to the maximum amount. The fees for 2023/2024 are \$13,520 for Councillors plus an additional \$29,500 for the Mayor.

Recommendation

That Council sets the level of fees to be paid to the Councillors and Mayor in accordance with the schedule of fees determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunals.

Council Resolution

That Council sets the level of fees to be paid to Councillors at \$13,930.00 and \$30,390.00 for the Mayor in accordance with the schedule of fees determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunals.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**9.10 SKIN CANCER TRUCK REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE -
WENTWORTH COMMUNITY BANK**

File Number: RPT/25/342

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

Strategy: 2.2 Work together to solve a range of social and health issues
that impact community wellbeing and vulnerable people

At 05:40 pm Councillor Michael Weeding left the Council Chambers.

Summary

Council has received a request for financial assistance from the Wentworth Community Bank to assist in bring the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation Skin Check Truck to the Wentworth Region in late November or early December 2025.

The cost to bring the truck to the region is \$44,669.90 (GST Inc) and will be split evenly between the Wentworth Community Bank, the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club and Council.

Council's contribution would come out of the 2025/2026 financial assistance budget.

Recommendation

That Council approve the request for financial assistance; and

That Council increases the 2025/2026 financial assistance budget to fund the request.

Council Resolution

That Council approve the request for financial assistance of \$13 536.66 from Wentworth Community Bank for the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation Skin Check Truck; and

That Council increases the 2025/2026 financial assistance budget to fund the request.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At 05:45 pm Councillor Michael Weeding returned to Council Chambers.

9.11 DA2025/018 DWELLING WITH GARAGE LOT 24 DP 756971 KEENS ROAD MONAK

File Number: RPT/25/328

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Georgie Martin - Cadet Planner

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

A development application (DA2025/018) was received by Council on 10 February 2025 for a dwelling with garage to be located on Lot 24 DP 756971, Keens Road, Monak, on a lot under the minimum lot size (MLS) requirement of 10'000ha for the RU1 – Primary Production zoning.

The dwelling with garage is to be located on an allotment that contains no structures but horticultural crop and has been historically utilised for such purposes but is under the prescribed MLS at only 5.14ha.

Under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011*, this development can be permitted with consent when located within the RU1 – Primary Production zone, despite the lot being below the required MLS of 10'000ha, as dwellings are permitted with consent in the zoning.

The required MLS under Clause 4.2B of the WLEP for erection of dwellings on the land is 10'000ha, as such, as part of the assessment, a variation to the MLS standard is required (referred to as a 4.6 variation).

Due to the variation being 99.94%, greater than 10%, the application cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve DA2025/018 being a dwelling with garage located Lot 24 DP 756971, Keens Road, Monak.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Approve DA2025/018 being a dwelling with garage located Lot 24 DP 756971, Keens Road, Monak.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : *Clr.s Armstrong, Crisp, Evans, Linklater, Rodda, Starick and Weeding.*

Against the Motion: *Clr. Nichols.*

9.12 PROJECT & WORKS REPORT JUNE 2025

File Number: RPT/25/307

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Megan Jackson - Roads & Engineering Administration Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

Summary

This report provides a summary of the projects and major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Department which have been completed during the months of May 2025 and the planned activities for June 2025.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in May 2025 and the scheduled works for the following month.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in May 2025 and the scheduled works for the following month.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**9.13 DA2024/146 FIBRE OPTIC SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA (FOSO) ART
INSTALLATION 214 LOG BRIDGE ROAD LOT 2 DP 1308132 WENTWORTH**

File Number: RPT/25/345

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

On behalf of Mildura Development Board, Jackson Planning prepared and lodged a development application for the Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra – Art Installation at 214 Log Bridge Road, Wentworth. The land is owned by Wentworth Shire Council and the application was supported by plans, statement of environmental effects and bush fire assessment. Having consideration to the content of all associated documents the application has been assessed and accordingly this report recommends that Development Application 2024/146 is approved subject to conditions, as listed in the attached assessment report.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve DA2024/146 subject to conditions being a Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra Art Installation at Lot 2 DP 1308132, 214 Log Bridge Road, Wentworth.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Approve DA2024/146 subject to conditions being a Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra Art Installation at Lot 2 DP 1308132, 214 Log Bridge Road, Wentworth.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Armstrong, Crisp, Evans, Linklater, Nichols, Rodda, Starick and Weeding.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - AUDIT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT WITHIN WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL**

File Number: RPT/25/314

Motion

That Council undertake an audit of playground equipment in the shire and actively seek grant funding to upgrade facilities as identified in said audit as required

Council Resolution

That Council undertake an audit of playground equipment in the shire and actively seek grant funding to upgrade facilities as identified in said audit as required

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Weeding**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Despite the right of members of the public to attend meetings of a council, the council may choose to close to the public, parts of the meeting that involve the discussion or receipt of certain matters as prescribed under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act.

With the exception of matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) (10A(2)(a)), matters involving the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer (10A(2)(b)) or matters that would disclose a trade secret (10A(2)(d)(iii)), council must be satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

The Act requires council to close the meeting for only so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security being protected. (section 10B(1)(a))

Section 10A(4) of the Act provides that a council may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Section 10B(4) of the Act stipulates that for the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:-

- (a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may -
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee.

Recommendation

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-

12.1 Compensation Notices for Compulsory Land Acquisitions. (RPT/25/308)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the item outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making.

12.2 PT 2425/07 Junction Island Viewing Platform. (RPT/25/312)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information

about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.3 PT 2425/15 - Bulk Flow Meter Installation. (RPT/25/334)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.4 PT2425/18 Head Contractor Construction of Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra (FOSO) Infrastructure. (RPT/25/341)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

Council Resolution

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-

12.1 Compensation Notices for Compulsory Land Acquisitions. (RPT/25/308)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the item outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making.

12.2 PT 2425/07 Junction Island Viewing Platform. (RPT/25/312)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.3 PT 2425/15 - Bulk Flow Meter Installation. (RPT/25/334)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for

business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.4 PT2425/18 Head Contractor Construction of Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra (FOSO) Infrastructure. (RPT/25/341)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 COMPENSATION NOTICES FOR COMPULSORY LAND ACQUISITIONS

File Number: RPT/25/308

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Allan Graham - Property Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the item outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making.

That Council authorised the General Manager to issue Compensation Notices, as the General Manager determines appropriate, to the Barkandji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation (RNTBC) pursuant to the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*, not exceeding an accumulated total amount of \$500,000.00.

12.2 PT 2425/07 JUNCTION ISLAND VIEWING PLATFORM

File Number: RPT/25/312

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Michael Hilliard

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region

Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

That Council in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 178(1)(b) and 178(3) awarded the tender to Arch Project Group Pty Ltd to complete the construction works for the Junction Island Viewing Platform for the sum of \$241,114.79 excl GST; and

That Council authorised the Mayor and General Manager to sign the contract documentation and affix the Council Seal.

12.3 PT 2425/15 - BULK FLOW METER INSTALLATION

File Number: RPT/25/334

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Scott Barnes - Manager Engineering Services

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

That Council in accordance with the provision of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Section 178(1)(a) accepted the tender from Truedrive Pty Ltd trading as RDG Electrical and subsequently authorised the Mayor and General Manager to sign the contract document and affix the seal for the recommended contractor to carry out all works specified for PT2425/15 Bulk Flow Meter Installation for \$181,819.46 (GST inc).

In addition to the above contract award, Council approved the transfer of \$79,375 (GST exc) from the Annual Water Infrastructure Fund to the Project, increasing the District Leakage and Metering Project budget from \$239,750 (GST exc) to \$319,125 (GST exc).

12.4 PT 2425/18 HEAD CONTRACTOR CONSTRUCTION OF FIBRE OPTIC SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA (FOSO) INFRASTRUCTURE

File Number: RPT/25/341

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

That Council in accordance with section 178 (3)(e) of the local government (general) regulation 2021 resolved to enter into negotiations with any person (whether or not the person was a tenderer) with a view to enter into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender and authorized the Mayor and General Manager to sign the contract documentation and affix the Council seal

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting concluded at 6:53 pm

NEXT MEETING

16 July 2025

.....
CHAIR