



# Wentworth

SHIRE COUNCIL

## **ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES**

**19 NOVEMBER 2025**

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## 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 Brian Beaumont  
Councillor Peter Crisp  
Councillor Greg Evans  
Councillor Susan Nichols  
Councillor Jo Rodda  
Councillor Jody Starick  
Councillor Michael Weeding

**STAFF:** Geoff Gunn (Acting General Manager)  
Jarrod Roberts (Acting 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 grants the Leave of Absence Request from Cr Weeding from 9 December 2025 to 6 January 2026.

**Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Beaumont**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Weeding advised that he had a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.10 as he is Treasurer of Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Wentworth Branch Inc.

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 15 October 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

### Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 15 October 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

**Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Armstrong**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council Resolution**

That Item 9.7 be moved to the first item on the agenda and a presentation be heard from the Audit Office.

**Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Evans**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council's Auditors provided a presentation on the Financial Statements.

**9.7 PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

File Number: RPT/25/675

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: 4.4 Manage public resources responsibly and efficiently for the benefit of the community

**Summary**

The annual audit of Council's Financial Statements was carried out by Nexia Australia on behalf of the Audit Office of New South Wales. Brett Hanger, Director, Audit and Assurance Services from Nexia Australia and Manuel Moncada from the Audit Office will join the meeting via video conference to assist in the presentation about the 2024/2025 audit to Council and the public.

Public notice of the presentation was given by advertising in the Sunraysia Daily, with the audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report made available at the Wentworth Shire Office's and on Council's website as required under Section 418 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* (the Act).

**Recommendation**

That Council notes the presentation of the Annual Financial Statements and the movements in Council's internal and external reserves as at 30 June 2025.

**Council Resolution**

That Council notes the presentation of the Annual Financial Statements and the movements in Council's internal and external reserves as at 30 June 2025 and to acknowledge and thank the staff on the audit and preparation of the financial statements.

**Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Armstrong**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council Resolution**

That Council return to the agenda as published.

**Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Evans**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 6.1 STATUS REPORT ON PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AS 19 NOVEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/715

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

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: 4.3 Provide a governance framework that is transparent and builds trust in local leadership

#### **Summary**

The Status Report on previous Council Resolutions provides details of actions that remain outstanding.

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council notes the list of outstanding action items for Council Resolutions as at 19 November 2025.

#### **Council Resolution**

That Council notes the list of outstanding action items for Council Resolutions as at 19 November 2025.

**Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Nichols**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 6.2 PROPOSED PROJECT REPORTING TEMPLATE

File Number:	RPT/25/681
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:	4.3 Provide a governance framework that is transparent and builds trust in local leadership

### Summary

This report responds to an action raised at the Ordinary Council meeting on 15 October 2025. Council staff have developed a proposed Project Reporting Template to enhance the visibility, consistency, and financial oversight of capital projects reported to Councillors. The template responds to a previous Notice of Motion and subsequent Councillor requests for an alternative reporting method that meets the spirit and intent of improved project transparency while aligning with Council's existing systems and processes.

The template provides a standardised layout for key project information, including a brief description, financial performance, variations, and status commentary. It is proposed for use on all capital projects with an original budget greater than \$250,000. Staff have considered how to manage projects that fall below this threshold at approval but subsequently exceed it due to approved variations, and three options have been identified for Councillor feedback. Councillors are invited to comment on the proposed template, the threshold settings, and the options for managing projects that increase in value over time.

### Recommendation

That Council endorses the development of a final version of the template for inclusion in future quarterly reporting.

### Council Resolution

That Council endorses the proposed Project Financial and Progress reporting template as presented for Quarterly reporting on projects with an original budget greater than \$250,000 and also to include lesser value projects that exceed \$250,000 spend due to variation or unforeseen costs development of a final version of the template for inclusion in future quarterly reporting.

**Moved Cr. Beaumont, Seconded Cr. Armstrong**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.3 SECOND OVAL AT CARRAMAR DRIVE SPORTING COMPLEX**

File Number: RPT/25/711

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

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

Strategy: 3.2 Our public assets are well maintained and able to meet the growing population demands

**Summary**

At the 17 September Ordinary Council meeting Cr Rodda put forward a Notice of Motion as follows:

*“That Council undertake an investigation on the potential for a second smaller oval at the Reserve as per the club’s suggestion to determine if possible with installed infrastructure and provide a scope and costing of clearing and levelling the land, and establishment of an oval to the south west of the current oval as a short term option to meet immediate needs of the clubs.*

Subsequently, this motion was resolved. This report outlines the information requested in the motion.

**Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the report regarding a second oval at Carramar Drive Sporting Complex.

**Council Resolution**

That Council receive and note the report regarding a second oval at Carramar Drive Sporting Complex that a user group meeting be called to determine a path forward to see what work the user groups can do to assist with any potential implementation of a second oval.

**Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Rodda**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

### 7.1 MAYORAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/708

#### **Council Resolution**

Councillor Armstrong moved that the motion be put.

**Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp**

#### **Recommendation**

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report for October 2025.

#### **Council Resolution**

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report for October 2025.

**Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Cr. Rodda**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

### 8.1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/676

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: 4.3 Provide a governance framework that is transparent and builds trust in local leadership

#### Summary

A meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee was held on 26 September 2025 and the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

The Committee considered the following items of business:

- Draft 2024/2025 Annual Financial Statements

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council receives and notes the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 26 September 2025.

#### **Council Resolution**

That Council receives and notes the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 26 September 2025.

**Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Beaumont**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

### 9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/642

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting 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 We value our civic leadership whose stewardship and decision making benefits present and future generations

#### **Summary**

The Acting 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

Nil

2. Meetings

As listed.

3. Upcoming meetings or events

As listed.

4. Other items of note

Geoff Gunn is Acting General Manager commencing 27 October 2025.

#### **Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the information contained within the October 2025 report from the Acting General Manager.

#### **Council Resolution**

That Council receive and note the information contained within the October 2025 report from the Acting General Manager.

**Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Weeding**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.2 LIFTING OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONE - WENTWORTH DISTRICT ROWING CLUB ANNUAL EASTER REGATTA**

File Number: RPT/25/629

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer

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 has received a request from the Wentworth District Rowing Club to lift the alcohol-free zone for the Rowing Club and immediate lawn area for one event. The Wentworth District Rowing Club has sought approval for the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in past years for community events in the same area. There have been no incidents or problems in past events that would warrant Council refusing the temporary lifting of the alcohol-free zone as requested.

**Recommendation**

That Council:

- a) In accordance with Section 645 of the Local Government Act 1993, suspend the operation of the alcohol-free zone in the area of the Wentworth District Rowing Club Lawns area as shown on the map attached to this report, for the periods 3 April 2026 from 5pm to 10pm, 4 April 2026 from 12pm to 10pm and 5 April 2026 from 12pm to 10pm.
- b) Advertise the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in a locally circulated newspaper, Councils website and other social media
- c) Advise the NSW Police of the details of the suspensions of the alcohol-free zone.

**Council Resolution**

That Council:

- a) In accordance with Section 645 of the Local Government Act 1993, suspend the operation of the alcohol-free zone in the area of the Wentworth District Rowing Club Lawns area as shown on the map attached to this report, for the periods 3 April 2026 from 5pm to 10pm, 4 April 2026 from 12pm to 10pm and 5 April 2026 from 12pm to 10pm.
- b) Advertise the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in a locally circulated newspaper, Councils website and other social media
- c) Advise the NSW Police of the details of the suspensions of the alcohol-free zone.

**Moved Cr. Weeding, Seconded Cr. Nichols**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.3 MEALS ON WHEELS REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2025**

File Number: RPT/25/636

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

Strategy: 2.2 The community has access to services and initiatives that contribute to well being across all stages of life

**Summary**

Council has received a request for financial assistance from the local Wentworth District Meals on Wheels. The service has provided 15762 meals to elderly residents in Wentworth Shire and overseen the governance of the Balranald Meals on Wheels. Wentworth Meals on Wheels have requested financial assistance to the value of \$8608 ex GST.

**Recommendation**

That Council consider the request for assistance from Wentworth District Meals on Wheels.

**Council Resolution**

That Council provide financial assistance to Wentworth District Meals on Wheels for the amount of \$8608 ex GST.

**Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Evans**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.4 GOL GOL PUBLIC SCHOOL - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

File Number: RPT/25/643

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer

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 by means of in-kind support for the 2026 Gol Gol Country Fair to be held on 3 May 2026. This event is organised by Gol Gol Public School and the school has provided a list of in-kind support they require. Preliminary calculations put the value of in-kind support at \$2833.10 inc GST.

**Recommendation**

That Council provide financial sponsorship by means of in-kind support to the value of \$2833.10 inc GST for the 2026 Gol Gol Country fair to be held on 3 May 2026.

**Council Resolution**

That Council provide financial sponsorship by means of in-kind support to the value of \$2833.10 inc GST for the 2026 Gol Gol Country Fair to be held on 3 May 2026.

**Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Beaumont**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.5 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - OCTOBER 2025**

File Number: RPT/25/678

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance 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: 4.1 A well engaged and informed community

**Summary**

Rates and Charges collections for the month of October 2025 were \$393,562.24. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 47.19%. For comparison purposes 48.93% of the levy had been collected at the end of October 2024. Council currently has \$37,166,932.45 in cash and investments.

**Recommendation**

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

**Council Resolution**

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

**Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Weeding**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.6 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - OCTOBER 2025**

File Number:	RPT/25/685
Responsible Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division:	Corporate Services
Reporting Officer:	Ned Lamond - Financial Services Coordinator
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:	4.4 Manage public resources responsibly and efficiently for the benefit of the community

**Summary**

As of 31 October 2025, Council had \$34 million invested in term deposits and \$3,166,932.45 in other cash investments. Council received \$129,557.24 from its investments for the month of October 2025.

In October 2025 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 3.60% and it currently has \$6,522,314.93 of internal restrictions and \$29,317,572.99 of external restrictions.

**Recommendation**

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report for October 2025.

**Council Resolution**

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report for October 2025.

**Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 9.7 was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

**9.8 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENTS - SEP 2025**

File Number:	RPT/25/677
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:	4.4 Manage public resources responsibly and efficiently for the benefit of the community

**Summary**

The September Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Office of Local Government's 2024-2025 Quarterly Budget Review Guidelines. The updated framework aims to improve transparency, consistency, and alignment with the Integrated Planning and Reporting principles.

The September QBRS provides a comprehensive review of Council's financial performance and budget position for the quarter ended 30 September 2025, including

- A detailed analysis of operating performance, including key variations in income and expenditure
- Reporting of capital works progress and associated funding sources
- Updated information on cash and investments, developer contributions, and loan balances; and
- A summary of budget variations exceeding the  $\pm 10\%$  or \$50,000 materiality threshold

Consistent with the updated reporting requirements, once this QBRS is formally tabled at the November Council Meeting, a copy of the report and its attachments will be published on Council's website to ensure transparency and public accountability.

**Recommendation**

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the September 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- b) Approve the required quarterly variations

**Council Resolution**

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the September 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- b) Approve the required quarterly variations

**Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Crisp**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 9.9 QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/680

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: 4.3 Provide a governance framework that is transparent and builds trust in local leadership

### Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Council develops a Four Year Delivery Program and a One Year Operational Plan, which details the actions to be undertaken by Council to implement the strategies established in the Community Strategic Plan.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that progress is reported to Council with respect to the principal actions detailed in its Operational Plan at least every six months. To better align with the Quarterly Budget Review Process, the Operational Plan progress report is also compiled on a quarterly basis.

### Carry forward actions

- 2.4.4 – Buronga Riverfront Toilet Block
- 2.4.5 – Buronga Pump Track Stage 2
- 2.4.6 – Greater Darling Junction Viewing Platform
- 3.2.5 – Loop Road
- 3.2.8 – Darling Street Footpaths
- 3.2.9 – Wentworth Rowing Club Extension
- 3.2.10 – Showgrounds Kitchen Upgrade
- 3.2.11 – Pooncarie Reserve Kitchen Upgrade
- 3.2.12 – Dareton Main Street Upgrade
- 3.2.13 – Wentworth Depot Upgrade
- 3.2.14 – Buronga to Gol Sharedway Upgrade
- 3.4.12 – Water Leakage & District Metering Program
- 3.4.13 – Wentworth Raw Water Pump Station
- 3.4.14 - Dareton Raw Water Pump Station
- 3.4.15 – Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant
- 3.4.16 – Wentworth Water Treatment Plant
- 3.5.7 – Punt Road Stormwater

### New Actions

- 3.5.8 – Dawn Avenue Stormwater

## Completed actions

- 2.4.4 – Buronga Riverfront Toilet Block
- 2.4.5 – Buronga Pump Track Stage 2
- 3.2.5 – Loop Road
- 3.2.6 – Darling Street Footpaths
- 3.2.10 – Showgrounds Kitchen Upgrade
- 3.2.11 – Pooncarie Reserve Kitchen Upgrade
- 3.2.12 – Dareton Main Street Upgrade
- 3.4.10 – Buronga Waste Water Treatment Plant
- 3.4.11 – Wentworth Waste Water Treatment Plant

**Recommendation**

That Council notes the report

**Council Resolution**

That Council notes the Quarterly Operational Plan Progress report.

**Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Beaumont**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.10 AF003 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

File Number:	RPT/25/650
Responsible Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division:	Corporate Services
Reporting Officer:	Annette Fraser - Team Leader Customer Service
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:	4.1 A well engaged and informed community

*At 06:17 pm Councillor Michael Weeding left the Council Chambers.*

**Summary**

Council has provided an allocation of \$200,000.00 for the 2025/26 financial year for consideration by Council, for the funding of requests from the community for financial assistance. In this financial year, \$112,348.70 has been granted to a variety of organisations through the annual fees and charges "Exemptions from the Application" process.

The total value of requests granted so far under delegated authority is \$3882.00, (\$1,306.00 plus \$2,576.00)

The total value of requests approved at the 20 August 2025 Council Meeting was \$23,557.60.

The total value of requests for Round 2 of the 2025/2026 funding application period totals \$14,000.00, which if granted in full, would leave a balance in the financial assistance program of \$46,211.70

<b>Financial Assistance Program starting balance 2023/24</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>
Annual fees & charges annual exemptions granted	\$112,348.70
Granted under delegated authority to 1 – 31 July 2025	\$ 1,306.00
Value of requests approved August 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 23,557.60
Available balance after 20 August 2025 Council Meeting	<b>\$ 62,787.70</b>
Granted under delegated authority 1 August – 24 October 2025	\$ 2,576.00
Available balance as at 24 October 2025	<b>\$ 60,211.70</b>
Financial assistance requests received 25/7/2025 – 24/10/2025	\$14,000.00
Remaining balance if all approved	<b>\$46,211.70</b>

**Recommendation**

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance, make appropriate recommendations on the level of funding to be provided to each of these applications from the Financial Assistance program.

**Council Resolution**

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance approved provide the full amount of funding requested, Wentworth Area Landcare Group \$5,000, Coomealla High School \$5,000 and Sporting Shooters Association Australia NSW Wentworth Branch Inc. \$4,000.

**Moved Cr. Beaumont, Seconded Cr. Crisp**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*At 06:22 pm Councillor Michael Weeding returned to Council Chambers.*

### 9.11 IT STRATEGIC PLAN

File Number: RPT/25/690

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Richard Waters - Manager IT

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: 4.3 Provide a governance framework that is transparent and builds trust in local leadership

#### Summary

The IT Strategic Plan provides a clear and coordinated roadmap for strengthening Council's technological capability over the next three years. The Plan responds to increasing service expectations, emerging cyber threats, changing legislative requirements, and the need for a modern, reliable and secure technology environment that supports efficient service delivery to the community.

Developed through extensive engagement with business units and an assessment of Council's current ICT maturity, the Plan outlines five key focus areas that will guide future investment and improvement:

1. **Digital Infrastructure Enhancement** – Upgrading and optimising core ICT infrastructure to ensure reliability, scalability and long-term sustainability.
2. **Service Digitisation and Automation** – Improving customer and staff experience through streamlined, digital and automated service delivery.
3. **Cybersecurity and Resilience** – Strengthening Council's security posture and resilience to cyber incidents, system disruptions and emerging threats.
4. **Data Governance and Analytics** – Establishing robust frameworks for data management and enabling data-driven decision making.
5. **Engagement and Education** – Supporting staff and community capability through targeted education, change management and communication.

The Plan includes a staged implementation roadmap that aligns with Council's Delivery Program, Operational Plan and annual budget processes. It also provides a structured response to key organisational risks, including cybersecurity vulnerabilities, system obsolescence, human error, disaster recovery, physical threats, and workforce capability.

#### Recommendation

That Council endorse the IT Strategic Plan

#### Council Resolution

That Council endorse the IT Strategic Plan.

**Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Rodda**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.12 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DETERMINATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2025**

File Number: RPT/25/709

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Carmel Giugno - Administration 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 We value our civic leadership whose stewardship and decision making benefits present and future generations

**Summary**

For the month of October 2025, a total of seven (7) Development Applications and one (1) Modification Application were determined.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$8,651,034.00 This brings the year to date total to 39 Development Applications with an estimated development value of \$16,481,959.07 and 9 Modification Applications.

**Recommendation**

That Council receives and notes the report for the Determined Development Applications for the month of October 2025.

**Council Resolution**

That Council receives and notes the report for the Determined Development Applications for the month of October 2025.

**Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.13 PROJECT & WORKS REPORT NOVEMBER 2025**

File Number: RPT/25/682

Responsible Officer: Jarrod Roberts - Acting Director Roads & 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: 3.5 Infrastructure meets the needs of our growing Shire

**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 October 2025, and the planned activities for November 2025.

**Recommendation**

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in October 2025 and the scheduled works for November 2025.

**Council Resolution**

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in October 2025 and the scheduled works for November 2025

**Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Evans**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

## 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 Request Waiving of Water Account. (RPT/25/637)**

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 (b) discussion in relation to the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.

#### **12.2 Cleaning of Water and Wastewater Lagoons Contract - PT2425/17 C00047. (RPT/25/706)**

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 Buronga Landfill Expansion - Project Management. (RPT/25/710)**

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 Buronga Landfill Expansion Project. (RPT/25/714)**

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.

**Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

### 12.1 REQUEST WAIVING OF WATER ACCOUNT

File Number: RPT/25/637

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

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

Strategy: 3.4 Use and manage our resources wisely

#### **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 (b) discussion in relation to the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.*

The Acting General Manager advised that Council approved the request from Wentworth Sporting Complex Golf Club Inc to waive their water invoice for \$6,250 for the 2024/2025 period.

**12.2 CLEANING OF WATER AND WASTEWATER LAGOONS CONTRACT - PT2425/17 C00047**

File Number: RPT/25/706

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager  
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager  
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 Our public assets are well maintained and able to meet the growing population demands

**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.*

The Acting General Manager advised that Council in accordance with the provision of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Section 178(1)(a) accepted the tender from Waters Excavations Pty Ltd 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 PT2425/17 / C00047 for \$359,552.97 (GST inclusive), and that Council approved a contingency allowance of \$32,972.10 GST inclusive.

In addition to the above contract award that Council approved the transfer of \$178,000 (GST inclusive) from the Sewer Infrastructure Fund to enable the Buronga Wastewater Treatment Plant Lagoon Cleaning work to successfully proceed. The creation of a sludge drying area will also benefit future sludge removal works.

**12.3 BURONGA LANDFILL EXPANSION - PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

File Number: RPT/25/710

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

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

Strategy: 3.2 Our public assets are well maintained and able to meet the growing population demands

**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.*

The Acting General Manager advised that Council approved an extension of \$120,000.00 inc GST to the contract for the Buronga Landfill Expansion – Project Management Tender No. PT2324/18 with Tonkin Consulting Pty Ltd.

**12.4 BURONGA LANDFILL EXPANSION PROJECT**

File Number: RPT/25/714

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

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

Strategy: 3.2 Our public assets are well maintained and able to meet the growing population demands

**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.*

The Acting General Manager advised that Council approves an extension of \$300,000.00 inc GST to the contract for the Buronga Landfill Expansion Project Tender No. PT2324/14 with Waters Excavations Pty Ltd.

**13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

**NEXT MEETING**

17 December 2025

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**CHAIR**