



Wentworth

SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

17 DECEMBER 2025

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:07PM.

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

STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
George Kenende (Acting Director Health and Planning)
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

Cr Weeding has an approved Leave of Absence.

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Rodda advised that he had a significant pecuniary interest in Item 9.4 as she is a contractor for Wentworth Regional Community Project Association.

Councillor Crisp advised that he had a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12.1 as he is a Director of the Sunraysia Early Settlers Museum.

Councillor Beaumont advised that he had a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 12.5 as he is a member of the board of the Wentworth District Medical Committee.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 19 November 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 19 November 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

That Council admits to the agenda the two late items. Item 9.20 and Closed Item 12.2.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 STATUS REPORT ON PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AS 17 DECEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/782

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 17 December 2025.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the list of outstanding action items for Council Resolutions as at 17 December 2025.

Moved Cr. Beaumont, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT DECEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/729

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Linklater thanked Geoff Gunn for being Acting General Manager and Jarrod Roberts for being Acting Director of Roads & Engineering while the General Manager was on leave.

Mayor Linklater congratulated the volunteers who received community recognition awards presented by Helen Dalton MP in Wentworth today.

The Mayor thanked all staff for their efforts and thanked the skeleton staff who will be on call over Christmas.

The Mayor congratulated Katie Robinson from Pooncarie who received the Murray Local Woman of the Year 2025 award from Helen Dalton MP.

The Mayor attended the opening of the Pooncarie Health Service refurbishment.

Cr Nichols congratulated the students of Pomona for their wonderful behaviour at the school presentation night.

Cr Rodda gave a report on the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Annual General Meeting.

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 12 NOVEMBER 2025

File Number:	RPT/25/723
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 12 November 2025, the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee continues to operate in accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW. The November meeting addressed all key areas of compliance, providing assurance to Council regarding its governance, risk, compliance, financial and audit functions.

Officer Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2025.

That Council endorses the Good Governance Framework

That Council endorses the Draft Works in Kind Agreement for Developer Contributions Policy and the Draft Council CCTV Policy for public exhibition

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2025.

That Council endorses the Good Governance Framework

That Council endorses the Draft Works in Kind Agreement for Developer Contributions Policy and the Draft Council CCTV Policy for public exhibition

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT DECEMBER 2025

File Number:	RPT/25/741
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

Council Circular 25-23 Local Government (General) Regulation Review

2. Meetings

As listed.

3. Upcoming meetings or events

As listed.

4. Other items of note

Geoff Gunn was Acting General Manager until 8 December 2025.

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 2026 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

File Number:	RPT/25/728
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 2026 Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Conference is being held from Thursday 26 March to Saturday 28 March 2026 in Blacktown Sydney. The Annual Women's Conference is an opportunity to come together and engage in learning and networking that will foster personal and professional development.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the content of the report and consider nominating representatives to attend the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) conference from Thursday 26 March to Saturday 28 March 2026 in Blacktown Sydney.

Council Resolution

That Council not send any members to the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) conference from Thursday 26 March to Saturday 28 March 2026 in Blacktown Sydney and an apology be sent.

Moved Cr. Beaumont, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 2026 REGIONAL FUTURES FORUM

File Number: RPT/25/751

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 2026 Regional Futures Forum is being held from Thursday 26 March to Friday 27 March 2026 at Charles Sturt University in Albury. The Forum will be a hands-on high impact event designed to spark new ideas, forge networks and fast track solutions across critical areas of regional transformation.

Recommendation

That Council consider nominating representatives to attend the 2026 Regional Futures Forum from Thursday 26 March to Friday 27 March in Albury NSW.

Council Resolution

That Council nominate Cr Armstrong to attend the 2026 Regional Futures Forum from Thursday 26 March to Friday 27 March in Albury NSW.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 REQUEST FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP - WENTWORTH CHRISTMAS EVE STREET PARTY AND FIREWORKS

File Number: RPT/25/761

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

At 05:26 pm Councillor Jo Rodda left the Council Chambers.

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request from the Wentworth Regional Community Project Association Inc. to provide financial sponsorship through the Event Funding Program for the 2025 Wentworth Christmas Eve Street Party fireworks display held on the 24 December.

Council approved a financial assistance request in the amount of \$7700.00 Inc GST for the 2024 event.

Recommendation

That Council provide financial sponsorship in the amount of \$7700.00 Inc GST for the 2025 Wentworth Regional Community Project Association Inc. Christmas Eve Street Party fireworks display.

Council Resolution

That Council provide financial sponsorship in the amount of \$7700.00 Inc GST for the 2025 Wentworth Regional Community Project Association Inc. Christmas Eve Street Party fireworks display.

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At 05:27 pm Councillor Jo Rodda returned to Council Chambers.

9.5 REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT WENTWORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTRE INC

File Number: RPT/25/756

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - 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: 4.4 Manage public resources responsibly and efficiently for the benefit of the community

At 05:28 pm Councillor Brian Beaumont left the Council Chambers.

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request for reimbursement from the Wentworth District Community Medical Centre Inc for the cost of security guards for their annual dinner held in the Visitor Centre Conference Room on 14 November 2025.

Recommendation

That Council consider the request and choose an option listed.

Council Resolution

That Council reimburse \$859.74 to Wentworth District Community Medical Centre Inc.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At 05:32 pm Councillor Brian Beaumont returned to Council Chambers.

9.6 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

File Number: RPT/25/730

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - 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: 4.1 A well engaged and informed community

Summary

This year Council requested nominations for the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year (must be 18 years or over on 26 January 2026)
- Young Citizen of the Year (must be under 18 years on 26 January 2026)
- Sportsperson of the Year (must be 18 years or over on 26 January 2026)
- Young Sportsperson of the Year (must be under 18 years on 26 January 2026)
- Environmental Award (individuals or groups)
- Organisation of the Year

Nominations were received for three categories. There were no nominations for the Sportsperson of the Year Award, Young Citizen of the Year or the Environmental Award.

Recommendation

That Council determines the individual award recipients through a secret ballot and that the results remain confidential until announced at the official Australia Day event at the Wentworth Visitor Centre Conference Room.

Council Resolution

That Council determines the individual award recipients through a secret ballot and that the results remain confidential until announced at the official Australia Day event at the Wentworth Visitor Centre Conference Room.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/749

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 November 2025 were \$ 1,412,405.59. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 56.26%. For comparison purposes 57.81% of the levy had been collected at the end of November 2024. Council currently has \$37,706,116.22 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/753

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 30 November 2025, Council had \$32 million invested in term deposits and fixed bonds with \$5,706,116.22 in other cash investments. Council received \$209,280.27 from its investments for the month of November 2025.

In November 2025 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 3.71% and it currently has \$6,522,314.93 of internal restrictions and \$28,589,497.86 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.9 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 AUGUST 2025

File Number:	RPT/25/722
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

The Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct requires a report to be presented to Council within three months of the end of September each year on Code of Conduct complaints.

The information contained in the report pertains to the period ended 31 August 2025.

Recommendation

That Council notes the reporting of the Code of Conduct complaints statistics for the period ending 31 August 2025.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the reporting of the Code of Conduct complaints statistics for the period ending 31 August 2025.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.10 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/748

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

Section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) states that within five months after the end of each financial year Council must prepare a report for that year reporting as to its achievements in implementing its delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken.

There is no set format for the Annual Report and Council can develop the format that best suits them and their community provided mandatory and statutory requirements are addressed. It should be easy to navigate and understand by a wide range of people.

The Annual Report must be placed on Council's website with a link provided to the Minister for Local Government.

Recommendation

That Council notes the completion of the 2024-2025 Annual Report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the completion of the 2024-2025 Annual Report.

Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.11 CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE FOR WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL - GOV018

File Number: RPT/25/746

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
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: 4.3 Provide a governance framework that is transparent and builds trust in local leadership

Summary

At the 15 October 2025 Council Meeting, Council endorsed, for public exhibition, a draft Code of Meeting Practice. The draft comprised mandatory provisions and non-mandatory provisions in the 2025 Model Meeting Code of Practice for Local Councils, and included supplementary provisions.

During the public exhibition period Council called for submissions for consideration prior to the adoption of the revised Code of Meeting Practice. No submissions were received and the draft remains unchanged.

The draft Code of Meeting Practice is now presented to Council for adoption.

Recommendation

That Council, noting that no submissions for further consideration on the draft Code of Meeting Practice have been received following public exhibition, adopts the Code of Meeting Practice for Wentworth Shire Council.

Council Resolution

That Council, noting that no submissions for further consideration on the draft Code of Meeting Practice have been received following public exhibition, adopts the Code of Meeting Practice for Wentworth Shire Council.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED

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

Against the Motion: ***Clr. Rodda.***

9.12 WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT FLOOD STUDY - RIVERINE AND MAJOR OVERLAND FLOW

File Number:	RPT/25/760
Responsible Officer:	Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division:	Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
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

Wentworth Shire Council were successful in a grant application through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for funding to draft a flood study for the Local Government Area. After a tender process, Lyall and Associates were engaged to draft a riverine flood study for Council. The project was overseen by a Floodplain Risk Management Committee made up of nominated Councillors, community members, NSW SES member, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water staff and Council staff.

Further grant funding was sought and received from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, to draft a major overland flow flood study. For project continuity, Lyall and Associates were engaged to draft the major overland flow flood study. The final output would be a combined report for the riverine and major overland flow flood study.

Lyall and Associates have drafted the first riverine and major overland flow draft flood study report (distributed separately), which was presented to the Flood Risk Management Committee for review and endorsement for public exhibition. None of the committee members objected to the public exhibition of the draft report.

The draft report is now before Council for endorsement to commence public exhibition.

Due to the size of the draft report, it will not be attached within the report, but be provided separately to the Council, while also being made available to members of the public.

Recommendation

That Council endorse to have the combined draft riverine and major overland flow draft flood study report publicly exhibited for 51 calendar days commencing on 22 December 2025.

Council Resolution

That Council endorse to have the combined draft riverine and major overland flow draft flood study report publicly exhibited for 51 calendar days commencing on 22 December 2025.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.13 WENTWORTH LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2011 – PLANNING PROPOSAL TO REZONE RU4 LAND TO RU5 AND REMOVE MINIMUM LOT SIZE LOT 1 & 2 DP 1075225

File Number:	RPT/25/772
Responsible Officer:	Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division:	Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
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

Wentworth Shire Council resolved to proceed with a Planning Proposal to amend planning provisions in the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 that specifically relate to amendment to the Land Zoning and Minimum Lot Size mapping.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure issued a Gateway Determination to proceed on 29 April 2025.

The Planning Proposal sought to amend the following provisions:

- Rezone subject site from RU4 Primary Production Small Lots to RU5 Village
- Remove the Minimum Lot Size of 10 ha from the subject site

Public exhibition was conducted in accordance with the Gateway Determination, with no submissions from the public received during this exhibition period.

The application was referred to 3 state agencies (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Agriculture, Transport for NSW and Rural Fire Service) in accordance with the Gateway Determination, with no objection being received from these agencies.

No amendments have been made to the Planning Proposal as an outcome of public exhibition and agency referral.

This report seeks Council endorsement of the Planning Proposal and approval to proceed with finalisation of the amendment to the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 as Council are the plan-making authority.

Recommendation

That Council:

- Endorse the post exhibition documentation as outlined in this report.
- Support and resolve to proceed with the finalisation of the Planning Proposal in accordance with section 3.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) Endorse the post exhibition documentation as outlined in this report.
- b) Support and resolve to proceed with the finalisation of the Planning Proposal in accordance with section 3.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- c) Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

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

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

9.14 A75 LOT 453WMI DRAINAGE RESERVE ACQUISITION

File Number: RPT/25/780

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Hilary Dye - Property and Land Tenure 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

A Council resolution is required to commence the compulsory acquisition from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure - Crown Lands and private landholders of:

- Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1014681, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1300239, and
- part Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946

For public road, water supply and drainage infrastructure and recreation resulting in the delivery of residential and industrial land supply at Pitman Avenue, Buronga.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Proceeds with the compulsory acquisition of:

- part Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1014681, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1300239,

Shown shaded pink and crimson in **Attachment AT-1**, for a future public road in accordance with section 177 of the *Roads Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

2. Makes an application to the Minister and Governor for approval to acquire:

- part Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1014681, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1300239,

Shown shaded pink and crimson in **AT-1**, in accordance with section 178(2) of the *Roads Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

3. Proceed with the compulsory acquisition of:

- part Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946,
Shown shaded yellow, orange and blue in **AT-1**, for the purposes of water supply and drainage infrastructure and recreation in accordance with sections 186 and 187 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

4. Makes an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire:

- part Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946,

Shown shaded yellow, orange and blue in **AT-1**, in accordance with sections 186 and 187 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

5. Makes the said applications in **(2)** and **(4)** with the opinion that native title has been extinguished by way of public work.

6. In the event that the Office of Local Government does not accept Council's opinion in **(5)** makes the said application in **(4)** stating that the purpose of the acquisition of all rights and interests including native title rights and interests, is to confer rights and interests, being:

- the right to develop and maintain drainage and water supply facilities, and
- the right to develop recreation areas

In relation to the land to be acquired, on Wentworth Shire Council in accordance with section 26(1)(c)(iii)(A) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

7. Does not acquire the mineral rights over the land to be acquired.

8. Confirms the acquisition of the land is not for the purpose of resale.

9. Classifies the parts of Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, shown shaded blue in **AT-1**, as community land in accordance with section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

10. Classifies the parts of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477 and part of Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946, shown shaded yellow and orange in **AT-1**, as operational land in accordance with section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

11. Delegate to the General Manager or his delegate, the power to do anything further as necessary to give effect to the compulsory acquisition including obtaining any necessary approvals and publishing any necessary notices in the Gazette.

12. Approves the transfer of part of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, being that part through Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946 and separating Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946 from Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1149120, to Kevin Desmond Cock, as full compensation for the part of Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946 shown shaded orange in **AT-1**, acquired in **(4)**.

13. Agrees to the land being acquired for compensation, at the market value of the land, to an amount determined by the Valuer General, subject to **(12)** and agreements with individual private landholders.

14. Approves the granting of the following easements to Western Murray Irrigation Limited on the basis that they are forgiven without compensation once they are no longer required:

- Easement for Water Supply 10.06 wide over that part of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477 and that part of Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946, shown with dashed blue line on **AT-1**.
- Easement for Drainage 10.06 wide over that part of Lot 453 Deposited Plan

1217477, shown with dashed red line on **AT-1**.

- Easement for Water Supply and Drainage 20.115 wide over that part of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, shown with dashed black line on **AT-1**.

15. Grants authority to the General Manager to affix the Common Seal of the Council to any documentation required to give effect to this resolution.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Proceeds with the compulsory acquisition of:

- part Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1014681, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1300239,

Shown shaded pink and crimson in **Attachment AT-1**, for a future public road in accordance with section 177 of the *Roads Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

2. Makes an application to the Minister and Governor for approval to acquire:

- part Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1014681, and
- part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1300239,

Shown shaded pink and crimson in **AT-1**, in accordance with section 178(2) of the *Roads Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

3. Proceed with the compulsory acquisition of:

- part Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946,

Shown shaded yellow, orange and blue in **AT-1**, for the purposes of water supply and drainage infrastructure and recreation in accordance with sections 186 and 187 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

4. Makes an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire:

- part Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, and
- part Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, and
- part Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946,

Shown shaded yellow, orange and blue in **AT-1**, in accordance with sections 186 and 187 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

5. Makes the said applications in **(2)** and **(4)** with the opinion that native title has been extinguished by way of public work.

6. In the event that the Office of Local Government does not accept Council's opinion in **(5)** makes the said application in **(4)** stating that the purpose of the acquisition of all rights and interests including native title rights and interests, is to confer rights and

interests, being:

- the right to develop and maintain drainage and water supply facilities, and
- the right to develop recreation areas

In relation to the land to be acquired, on Wentworth Shire Council in accordance with section 26(1)(c)(iii)(A) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

7. Does not acquire the mineral rights over the land to be acquired.
8. Confirms the acquisition of the land is not for the purpose of resale.
9. Classifies the parts of Lots 2 & 3 Deposited Plan 878007, shown shaded blue in **AT-1**, as community land in accordance with section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
10. Classifies the parts of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477 and part of Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946, shown shaded yellow and orange in **AT-1**, as operational land in accordance with section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
11. Delegate to the General Manager or his delegate, the power to do anything further as necessary to give effect to the compulsory acquisition including obtaining any necessary approvals and publishing any necessary notices in the Gazette.
12. Approves the transfer of part of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, being that part through Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946 and separating Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946 from Lot 2 Deposited Plan 1149120, to Kevin Desmond Cock, as full compensation for the part of Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946 shown shaded orange in **AT-1**, acquired in (4).
13. Agrees to the land being acquired for compensation, at the market value of the land, to an amount determined by the Valuer General, subject to (12) and agreements with individual private landholders.
14. Approves the granting of the following easements to Western Murray Irrigation Limited on the basis that they are forgiven without compensation once they are no longer required:
 - Easement for Water Supply 10.06 wide over that part of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477 and that part of Lot 100 Deposited Plan 756946, shown with dashed blue line on **AT-1**.
 - Easement for Drainage 10.06 wide over that part of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, shown with dashed red line on **AT-1**.
 - Easement for Water Supply and Drainage 20.115 wide over that part of Lot 453 Deposited Plan 1217477, shown with dashed black line on **AT-1**.
15. Grants authority to the General Manager to affix the Common Seal of the Council to any documentation required to give effect to this resolution.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.15 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DETERMINATION REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/754

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - 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: 4.2 We value our civic leadership whose stewardship and decision making benefits present and future generations

Summary

For the month of November 2025, a total of twelve (12) Development Applications and one (1) Modification Application were determined.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$4,938,535.75 This brings the Financial year to date total to 51 Development Applications with an estimated development value of \$21,420,494.82 and 10 Modification Applications.

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.16 RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONES

File Number: RPT/25/651

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth Shire is a great place to live
Strategy: 2.3 To have a safe community

Summary

Following the resolution of Council on 15 October 2025 to undertake public consultation for the re-establishment of alcohol-free zones (AFZ) in Wentworth, Buronga and Dareton; this report now seeks a resolution of Council to establish these alcohol-free zones for a period of four years.

Recommendation

That Council, having undertaken the required level of public consultation and received no submissions, re-establish the Alcohol-Free Zones at Wentworth, Dareton, and the Buronga Wetlands for an additional four-year period, commencing on 1 January 2026 and expiring on 31 December 2029.

Council Resolution

That Council, having undertaken the required level of public consultation and received no submissions, re-establish the Alcohol-Free Zones at Wentworth, Dareton, and the Buronga Wetlands for an additional four-year period, commencing on 1 January 2026 and expiring on 31 December 2029.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.17 REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN WATER USAGE ACCOUNT P664/13

File Number: RPT/25/764

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Scott Barnes - Manager Engineering 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

Council has received a request from the property owner of Assessment P664/13 requesting a reduction in excessive water charges due to unexplained water take at the property.

Recommendation

That Council provide a resolution to this matter in line with one of the options identified in this report.

Council Resolution

That Council waive a proportional amount assuming that 1/11/23 to 30/6/2024 is representative of typical 8 months of water take (equating to approximately 1/3 of the account for the next three periods, a total waiver of \$3,323.67

Moved Cr. Beaumont, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.18 DISPUTED WATER ACCOUNT P289/14

File Number: RPT/25/639

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

Summary

Council has received a request from the property owner of Assessment P289/14 requesting a reduction in water charges due to unexplained water usage at the property.

Recommendation

That Council provide a resolution to this matter in line with one of the options identified in this report.

Council Resolution

That Council waives the interest of \$1299.72 that has accrued on the property.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.19 PROJECT & WORKS REPORT DECEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/25/763

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Jamie-Lee Kelly - 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 November 2025, and the planned activities for December 2025.

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.20 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MURRAY DARLING WOMENS NETWORK

File Number: RPT/25/784

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - 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 is in receipt of a request for financial assistance from the newly formed Murray Darling Womens' Network Inc. to assist with their second event scheduled for 7 February 2025. The group are requesting \$5000 to assist with the running of the event.

Recommendation

That Council choose an option from the below:

- a) Grant the request for \$5,000 to Murray Darling Women's Network Inc.
- b) Not grant the request for \$5,000 to Murray Darling Women's Network Inc.
- c) Grant a different amount to be determined to Murray Darling Women's Network Inc.

Council Resolution

That Council grant the financial assistance request for \$5,000 to Murray Darling Women's Network Inc.

Moved Cr. Beaumont, Seconded Cr. Starick

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 Sunraysia Early Settlers Museum. (RPT/25/616)

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.

12.2 Purchase of Land - 482 Silver City Highway Part Lot 6002 DP1258384 Wentworth and Silver City Highway Part Lot 5100 DP720104 Wentworth. (RPT/25/788)

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 (d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. 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.

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. Evans

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 SUNRAYSIA EARLY SETTLERS MUSEUM

File Number: RPT/25/616

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

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.

The General Manager advised that Council resolved to purchase of the Old Coomealla Packers Building and neighbouring lots (Lot 381 DP756961, Lot 382 DP756691, Lot 579 DP756961, Lot 685 DP756961 and Lot 1034 DP 756961) as the future site of the Sunraysia Early Settlers Museum for a purchase price of \$400,000.

Council also delegated the Mayor and General Manager to affix the common seal of Council and duly execute the contracts and Council further agreed that any future capital works to prepare the site to use for any purpose be funded by State or Federal Government grants or by separate Council resolution.

**12.2 PURCHASE OF LAND - 482 SILVER CITY HIGHWAY PART LOT 6002 DP1258384
WENTWORTH AND SILVER CITY HIGHWAY PART LOT 5100 DP720104
WENTWORTH**

File Number: RPT/25/788

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: 3.5 Infrastructure meets the needs of our growing Shire

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 (d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. 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.

The General Manager advised that Council resolved to acquire 28.27ha of land adjoining Wentworth Aerodrome for the purpose of legalising the existing council infrastructure for a sum of seventy five thousand dollars. Council also resolved to classify the acquired property as operational land in accordance with section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and authorised the mayor and general manager to attach the council seal and sign the contract on behalf of Council.

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting concluded at 7:31pm

NEXT MEETING

18 February 2026

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CHAIR