



Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ORDINARY MEETING** of Wentworth Shire Council will be held in the **WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DARLING STREET, WENTWORTH**, commencing at **4:00PM**.

The meeting is being livestreamed and/or recorded for on-demand viewing via Council's website. Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and/or voice being webcast.

All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing personal information about another individual without their consent. Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments.

The meeting must not be recorded by others without prior written consent of the Council in accordance with the Council's code of meeting practice.

Councillors & staff are obligated to declare Conflicts of Interest as required under the Local Government Act 1993 and Councils adopted Code of Conduct.

Councillors are reminded of their Oath of Office whereby they have declared and affirmed that they will undertake the duties of the Office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Wentworth Shire and the Wentworth Shire Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

KEN ROSS
GENERAL MANAGER

ORDINARY MEETING

AGENDA

18 MARCH 2026

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor requests that the General Manager makes announcements regarding the live-streaming of the meeting.

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.

3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 18 February 2026 be confirmed as circulated.



ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 FEBRUARY 2026

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 4pm.

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: Ken Ross (General Manager)
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Gayle Marsden (Executive Assistant to General Manager)
Jamie-Lee Kelly (Administration Officer)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Starick advised that she had a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.12 as she is the Council Representative on the Board of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens.

Councillor Evans advised that he had a less than significant non pecuniary interest in Item 9.13 as the person (company) applying for funding is a relative.

Councillor Rodda advised that she had a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.12 as she is involved in the Magenta Art Prize.

Councillor Linklater advised that he had a less than significant non- pecuniary interest in Item 12.2 as the acquiring party is a relative.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 17 December 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 17 December 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

That Council admits for consideration a supplementary late report from the Health & Planning Department due to an error in the agenda process.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 STATUS REPORT ON PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AS 18 FEBRUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/93

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: 4.3 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 18 February 2026.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the list of outstanding action items for Council Resolutions as at 18 February 2026.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS**7.1 MAYORAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2026**

File Number: RPT/26/26

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report for February 2026.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report for February 2026.

Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 HERITAGE AND HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

File Number: RPT/26/86

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

Summary

A meeting of the Heritage and History Advisory Committee was held on 15 December 2025 and the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

The Committee has requested that the Reporting Officer seeks resolutions of Council on the following items:-

Item 7.2 State Heritage Listing of the PS Ruby

Committee Recommendation

That Council endorse the recommendation of the committee:

- a) That an application be lodged with Heritage NSW to list the PS Ruby as a State Heritage Item
- b) That a recommendation on the future of the PS Ruby be provided at the March meeting of Council following appropriate evaluation and discussion on the various reports provided.

Council Resolution

- a) That an application be lodged with Heritage NSW to list the PS Ruby as a State Heritage Item
- b) That a recommendation on the future of the PS Ruby be provided at the March meeting of Council following appropriate evaluation and discussion on the various reports provided.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

Amendment

That Council endorse that an application be lodged with Heritage NSW to list the PS Ruby as a State Heritage Item

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

That Council endorse that an application be lodged with Heritage NSW to list the PS Ruby as a State Heritage Item

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/27

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

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

Strategy: 4.2 We value our civic leadership whose stewardship and decision making benefits present and future generations

Summary

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

1. **OLG Circulars**

Council Circular 26-01 Release of Quarterly Budget Review Statement Data Return Templates

Council Circular 26-02 2025 Model Meeting Code – Supplementary Guidance and Updated FAQs

2. **Meetings**

As listed.

3. **Upcoming meetings or events**

As listed.

4. **Other items of note**

Geoff Gunn was Acting General Manager 14 – 26 January 2026

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the information contained within the February 2026 report from the General Manager.

Council Resolution

That Council receive and note the information contained within the February 2026 report from the General Manager.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 WENTWORTH PIONEER HOMES REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

File Number: RPT/25/743

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 from Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc. to provide financial assistance of \$150,000 over 3 years to assist with building more units at the Tunkin Homes site. There are currently 3 units under construction with the Development Application approved for 11 units. Council owns the land and has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Will consider funding or partially funding the proposal from Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc following a budget review and that the proposal will be tabled for consideration following the review
- b) Not fund the proposal from Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc

Motion

That Council will consider funding or partially funding the proposal from Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc following a budget review and that the proposal will be tabled for consideration following the review.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Beaumont

Amendment

That Council will consider the proposal from Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc following a budget review and that the proposal will be tabled for consideration following the review.

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution

That Council will consider the proposal from Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc following a budget review and that the proposal will be tabled for consideration following the review

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 USE OF PLANNING CONSULTANTS

File Number: RPT/26/82

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

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

Strategy: 3.1 An urban environment that maintains and enhances our sense of identity and place

Summary

Council's Planning Department is currently experiencing ongoing resourcing constraints due to three (3) vacant positions within the approved organisational structure. These vacancies have created pressure on Council's ability to maintain statutory planning functions and service delivery timeframes.

To address these challenges, Council has engaged planning consultants to provide planning services on an interim basis. The engagement has been undertaken in accordance with the NSW Local Government Procurement Panel Contract LGP1208-4 – Professional Consulting Services, which is exempt from the requirement to tender under Section 55 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Recruitment to the vacant positions is underway; however, external planning support will continue to be required until these positions are successfully filled, and staff are fully onboarded. Current expenditure is approaching \$260,000, with further costs anticipated during the recruitment period.

This report seeks Council approval to authorise the General Manager to expend up to \$500,000 (GST Exc) to ensure continuity of planning services and mitigate operational and statutory risks during this transitional period.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Notes the engagement of consultants for the provision of Planning Services support.
- b) Authorises the General Manager to expend up to \$500,000 (GST Exc) for the engagement of planning consultants to support the Planning Department until recruitment of vacant positions has been completed.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) Notes the engagement of consultants for the provision of Planning Services support.
- b) Authorises the General Manager to expend up to \$500,000 (GST Exc) for the engagement of planning consultants to support the Planning Department until recruitment of vacant positions has been completed.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 MIDWAY SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS

File Number: RPT/26/65

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

Summary

Since 2018 the Midway Service Centre has offered Customer Service, Library Services and in 2021 Banking Agency services were established. The closure of the Bank Agency in October 2025 has reduced customer visitation (see attachment) to the Centre and prompted a review of the future service delivery model.

Four options have been identified for Council's consideration:

1. Continue operations with a full-time Customer Service Officer
2. Reduce operating hours
3. Operate as a library only

Each option presents a different balance of community benefit, staffing requirements, operational costs and visitor support. Maintaining full service provides continuity but incurs higher staffing and operational costs. Reducing hours or transitioning to a library-only model offers cost savings but reduces service accessibility.

Recommendation

That Council endorse option 3 to operate as a Library only, for a trial period of 12 months and review decision in February 2027.

Motion

That Council endorse option 2 to reduce operating hours for a trial period of 12 months and review decision in February 2027.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Weeding

Amendment

That Council endorse option 3 to operate as a Library only, for a trial period of 12 months and review decision in February 2027.

Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED

Council Resolution

That Council endorse option 3 to operate as a Library only, for a trial period of 12 months and review decision in February 2027.

Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED

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

Against the Motion: ***Clr.s Rodda and Nichols***

Council Resolution

That Council

- a) Resolve to deal with Item 9.5, Item 9.6, Item 9.7 and Item 9.8 by exception.
- b) Approve the recommendations for Item 9.5, Item 9.6, Item 9.7 and Item 9.8 as written

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - DECEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/26/3

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 December 2025 were \$ 975,110.37. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 63.27%. For comparison purposes 63.24% of the levy had been collected at the end of December 2024. Council currently has \$35,993,187.68 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

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

9.6 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - DECEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/26/1

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 December 2025, Council had \$31 million invested in term deposits and fixed bonds with \$4,993,187.68 in other cash investments. Council received \$110,342.78 from its investments for the month of December 2025.

In December 2025 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 3.57% and it currently has \$6,522,314.93 of internal restrictions and \$27,896,497.41 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

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

9.7 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/40

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 January 2026 were \$ 289,982.12. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 65.09%. For comparison purposes 64.93% of the levy had been collected at the end of January 2025. Council currently has \$35,051,185.84 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for January 2026.

9.8 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - JANUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/55

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 January 2026, Council had \$31 million invested in term deposits and fixed bonds with \$4,051,185.84 in other cash investments. Council received \$140,311.52 from its investments for the month of January 2025.

In January 2026 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 3.53% and it currently has \$5,816,314.93 of internal restrictions and \$28,184,263.46 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report for January 2026.

9.9 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENTS

File Number: RPT/26/38

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Ned Lamond - Financial Services Coordinator

Summary

The December 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 December QBRs provides a comprehensive review of Council's financial performance and budget position for the quarter ended 31 December 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

While the new QBRs format no longer includes financial Key Performance Indicator (KPI)'s, Council notes that the OLG is currently reviewing the financial and sustainability ratios used across the sector. At this stage, Council's priority is to bed down the requirements of the revised guidelines. The reintroduction of the previous suite of KPI's will be considered as part of future reporting.

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

At 05:17 pm Councillor Brian Beaumont left the Council Chambers.

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- a) Receive and note the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- b) Endorse the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement for presentation to the February Council Meeting.

Council Resolution

That the Committee:

- a) Receive and note the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- b) Endorse the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement for presentation to the February Council Meeting.

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At 05:20 pm Councillor Brian Beaumont returned to Council Chambers.

9.10 QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: RPT/26/46

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.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the report.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.11 REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

File Number: RPT/26/66

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 recommends the reappointment of Caroline Smith to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a further term of three (3) years, concluding at the end of her allowable tenure under the guideline for risk management and internal audit for NSW local government.

A performance review conducted by the Director Corporate Services and the Chair of the Committee confirms that Caroline continues to make a strong contribution to the Committee's objectives.

Recommendation

That Council reappoints Caroline Smith as an Independent Member to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a further term of three (3) years, noting that this term will take her to the end of her allowable period of membership.

Council Resolution

That Council reappoints Caroline Smith as an Independent Member to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a further term of three (3) years, noting that this term will take her to the end of her allowable period of membership.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.12 AF003 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

File Number: RPT/26/23

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

Council Resolution

That Council deal separately with the request for funding for the Magenta Art Prize.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At 05:24 pm Councillor Jo Rodda left the Council Chambers.

At 05:24 pm Councillor Jody Starick 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 \$4140.00 (\$1,306.00 plus \$2,576.00 plus \$258.00).

The total value of requests approved at the 19 November 2025 Council Meeting was \$14,000.00.

The total value of requests for Round 3 of the 2025/2026 funding application period totals \$10,641.84, which if granted in full, would leave a balance in the financial assistance program of \$18,011.12

Financial Assistance Program starting balance 2023/24	\$200,000.00
Annual fees & charges annual exemptions granted	\$112,348.70
Granted under delegated authority to 1 – 24 July 2025	\$ 1,306.00
Value of requests approved August 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 23,557.60
Value of approved request November 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 14,000.00
Granted under delegated authority 1 August – 24 October 2025	\$ 2,576.00
Available balance after November 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 46,211.70
Granted under delegated authority 25 October 2025 - 24 January 2026	\$ 258.00

Value of approved requests November 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 11,441.10
Value of approved requests December 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 5,859.74
Financial assistance requests received 25/10/2025 – 24/1/2026	\$ 10,641.84
Remaining balance if all approved	\$ 18,011.12

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 approve the request for financial assistance for the Magenta Art Prize of \$4,974.75.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At 05:28 pm Councillor Jo Rodda returned to Council Chambers.

At 05:28 pm Councillor Jody Starick returned to Council Chambers.

Council Resolution

That Council approve the requests for financial assistance for funding to Wentworth Pioneer Homes of \$3,667.09 and Wentworth District Rowing Club of \$2,000.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.13 REQUEST FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP - WENTWORTH/MILDURA COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026.

File Number: RPT/26/54

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

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

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

At 05:28 pm Councillor Greg Evans left the Council Chambers.

Summary

Council has received a request from the event organiser seeking funding support for the delivery of the Wentworth/Mildura Country Music festival in 2026. The request is supported by outcomes achieved during the 2025 event, which was delivered across Wentworth and Mildura over nine days.

Based on information provided by the event organiser and economic impact modelling using REMPLAN data, it is estimated that the 2025 event generated approximately \$200,000 in economic benefit to the Wentworth local economy. The event attracted visitors from outside the Sunraysia region, contributing to increased overnight stays and expenditure within the Shire.

Recommendation

That Council approves funding support of \$8,000 ex GST for the 2026 Country Music Festival, to be allocated from the Events Sponsorship Budget, based on the demonstrated economic and community benefits delivered by the 2025 event.

Council Resolution

That Council approves funding support of \$8,000 ex GST for the 2026 Country Music Festival, to be allocated from the Events Sponsorship Budget, based on the demonstrated economic and community benefits delivered by the 2025 event.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At 05:32 pm Councillor Greg Evans returned to Council Chambers.

Council Resolution

That Council

- a) Resolve to deal with Item 9.14 and Item 9.15 by exception.
- b) Approve the recommendations for Item 9.14 and Item 9.15 as written

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.14 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DETERMINATION REPORT - DECEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/26/5

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Chloe Stephenson - Coordinator 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

For the month of December 2025, a total of twenty (20) Development Applications and two (2) Modification Applications were determined.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$7,079,900.16. This brings the Financial year to date total to 71 Development Applications with an estimated development value of \$28,500,394.98 and 12 Modification Applications.

Recommendation

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

9.15 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DETERMINATION REPORT - JANUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/53

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Chloe Stephenson - Coordinator 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

For the month of January 2026, a total of 27 Development Applications and one (1) Modification Applications were determined.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$12,573,568.42. This brings the Financial year to date total to 98 Development Applications with an estimated development value of \$41,073,963.40 and 13 Modification Applications.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report for the Determined Development Applications for the month of January 2026.

9.16 ROAD SAFETY QUARTERLY REPORT OCTOBER 2025 - DECEMBER 2025

File Number: RPT/26/6

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Acting General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Barnaby Bates - Council Community Officer Road Safety

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

Strategy: 1.3 High quality connectivity across the region

Summary

This report is to provide Council with an update of the Road Safety Officer's activities from October 2025 to December 2025.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Road Safety Quarterly Report for October 2025 to December 2025.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the Road Safety Quarterly Report for October 2025 to December 2025.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.17 PROJECT & WORKS REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/68

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director of 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 January 2026, and the planned activities for February 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in January 2026 and the scheduled works for February 2026.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in January 2026 and the scheduled works for February 2026.

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.18 DA2026/012 DWELLING WITH GARAGE AND SWIMMING POOL 38 HENDY ROAD LOT 2 DP 1185850 BURONGA

File Number: RPT/26/88

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

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

Strategy: 3.1 An urban environment that maintains and enhances our sense of identity and place

Summary

A development application (DA2026/012) was received by Council on 16 January 2026 for a dwelling with swimming pool and safety barrier to be located at 38 Hendy Road Lot 2 DP 1185850 Buronga within the river front setback.

Under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP 2011)*, this development is permitted with consent when located within the RU5 Village zone.

The nature of this application cannot be determined under delegated authority, and must be determined by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve DA2026/012 for a dwelling and swimming pool with safety barrier located at 38 Hendy Road Lot 2 DP 1185850 Buronga.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Approve DA2026/012 for a dwelling and swimming pool with safety barrier located at 38 Hendy Road Lot 2 DP 1185850 Buronga.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED

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, Rodda, Starick and Weeding.***

Against the Motion: ***Clr. Nichols.***

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**10.1 PS RUBY FUTURE**

File Number: RPT/26/89

Motion

That Council prepare an appropriate plan and allocate a budget to stop Ruby as an iconic shire asset from falling into a further state of disrepair and further degradation

Option A; To get Ruby back into an operational state for cruising passengers

Option B; Consider a floating static display that public can take tours and walk throughs

Council Resolution

That Council prepare an appropriate plan and allocate a budget of \$50,000 this financial year to stop Ruby as an iconic shire asset from falling into a further state of disrepair and further degradation and that Council undertake an assessment report of what future works are required to make the vessel assessable to the public.

Moved Cr. Weeding, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.2 EARLY SETTLERS MUSEUM DARETON AND PS RUBY FUTURE

File Number: RPT/26/92

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

Summary

Councillor Greg Evans has asked the following Questions with Notice:

1. The land and buildings have been purchased to house the Early Settler Museum at Dareton. Can the director of finance provide a report to council where funds were drawn to make this purchase. The report to council can also provide future arrangements involved during the development of the Museum and how council's finances could be impacted.

Officer Comments

At the December 2025 meeting of Council the following resolution was carried:

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) Agree to the 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.
- b) Agree to a purchase price of \$400,000
- c) Delegate the Mayor and General Manager to affix the common seal of Council and duly execute the contracts.
- d) Agree 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.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To date the purchase has been communicated with Council's legal representatives, but the settlement date is yet to be agreed upon. Therefore, to date no funds have been drawn down to make the purchase. The funding strategy for this and other recent land purchases has been the subject of internal discussions where it was agreed that a report will be brought to Council seeking approval to obtain an appropriate loan to cover this expenditure.

As requested in the second part of Cr Evans' above question with notice, part d) of the Council resolution above covers off on the query.

2. To the Mayor, is it possible to call a meeting of the History and Heritage Advisory Committee as soon as practical. The decision on PS Rubys future needs urgent attention and my question would be is this matter now beyond the scope of a small committee and would it be better debated with a whole of Council forum.

Officers Comments

A similar motion has been placed on the agenda from Councillor Weeding and accordingly this item and that one can be discussed as the whole Council as suggested by Councillor Evans.

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 Panel Contract - Additional Suppliers. (RPT/25/787)

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 Potters Drive Classification & Closure. (RPT/26/52)

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 (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information

about the item outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making.

12.3 Purchase of Industrial Lot for Emergency Services. (RPT/26/70)

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

12.1 Panel Contract - Additional Suppliers. (RPT/25/787)

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.

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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.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 PANEL CONTRACT - ADDITIONAL SUPPLIERS

File Number: RPT/25/787

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: 3.2 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 General Manager advised that Council approved the following supplier list to be included in the 23/24 Panel Contract for the next 12 months based on their reason for missing original application period.

1. KW Quarries Pty Ltd
2. Sargents Pest Control
3. R & W Septic
4. Jim's Test and Tag Mildura West

12.2 POTTERS DRIVE CLASSIFICATION & CLOSURE

File Number: RPT/26/52

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

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth Shire is a great place to live
Strategy: 2.4 To have a strong sense of place

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 (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law. 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:

1. Approved the closure of a portion of Council's public road known as Potters Drive, Gol Gol, under the provisions of Division 3 of the *Roads Act 1993*.
2. Upon the road being closed, will classify the land as Operational Land.
3. Confirmed that upon closure and after the land is classified as Operational Land, a small portion of Potters Drive Road reserve, that is not reasonably required as a road for public use (whether for present or future needs), will be made available for resale.
4. Will enter into a Deed of Agreement with the acquiring landholder for sum of \$6,000 and further to pay for all of Councils expenses incurred in the process, including any legal fees.
5. Authorised the General Manager and Mayor to sign any necessary documentation.

12.3 PURCHASE OF INDUSTRIAL LOT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

File Number: RPT/26/70

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:

- a) Authorised the General Manager to enter into contracts to purchase 14 Two Up Drive Lot 25 DP 1305730 Buronga for the purpose of the establishment of an Emergency Services Complex.
- b) Approved the purchase price of \$655,000
- c) Authorised the expenditure to be funded through a loan for Councils land acquisitions purchases
- d) Categorise the property as operational land in accordance with Clause 31 of the *Local Government Act 1993*
- e) Authorised the Mayor and General Manager to attach the council seal and sign all documentation on behalf of Council

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 7:09pm.

NEXT MEETING

18 March 2026

.....
CHAIR

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 STATUS REPORT ON PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AS 18 MARCH 2026

File Number: RPT/26/99

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: 4.3 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 18 March 2026.

Attachments

1. Outstanding Actions as at 18 March 2026 [↓](#)

Division: Committee: Ordinary Council Officer: Outstanding Action Items Report				Date From: Date To: Printed: Thursday, 5 March 2026 3:31:38 PM	
Meeting	Item	Title	Item	Action Record (latest first)	
Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	9.18	FOGO & Recycling introduction	Council Resolution That Council: a) Approves the introduction of Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) and Recycling kerbside waste collection services in conjunction with general kerbside waste collection as part of a new kerbside contract to commence in July 2026 following the expiry of the current contract end June 2026 b) as per Section 55(3)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW) that Council enter into direct negotiations with Council's existing contractor with the intention of entering into a contract for waste collection services as a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders as other tenderers are likely to be uncompetitive and there is a likelihood of an unavailability of other reliable tenders. c) Approves a community education process to be facilitated by the Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation for a three bin system rollout Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Armstrong <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>	05 Mar 2026 11:30am Wall, Samantha Report tabled at this Council meeting.	
Ordinary Council 23/06/2025	10.1	Notice Of Motion - Audit of Playground Equipment Within Wentworth Shire Council	Council Resolution That Council undertake an audit of playground equipment in the shire and actively seek grant funding to upgrade facilities as identified in said audit as required Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Weeding <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>	05 Mar 2026 11:30am Wall, Samantha ongoing	

Division: Committee: Ordinary Council Officer:			Date From: Date To:		Printed: Thursday, 5 March 2026 3:31:38 PM	
Outstanding Action Items Report						
Ordinary Council 17/09/2025	10.2	Advocacy Second Bridge at Monak	<u>Council Resolution</u> That Council note the Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy document adopted by Mildura Rural City Council on 24 April 2025, and their advocacy priority titled Monak Bridge and commence advocacy in support of the Heavy Vehicle Bypass, including representation to State and Federal members, Transport ministers, and Transport for NSW. Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Cr. Rodda <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>		05 Mar 2026 3:31pm Carter, Ebony Ongoing	
Ordinary Council 19/11/2025	6.3	Second Oval at Carramar Drive Sporting Complex	<u>Council Resolution</u> 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 <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>		04 Mar 2026 12:12pm Wall, Samantha Following the user group meeting held on 17 February, the general consensus was that, given the cost and scope of works involved, the inclusion of a second oval at the complex would not be viable within the current masterplan.	
Ordinary Council 17/12/2025	9.12	Wentworth Shire Council Draft Flood Study - Riverine and Major Overland Flow	<u>Council Resolution</u> 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 <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>		05 Mar 2026 11:25am Carter, Ebony Final Flood Study tabled at this meeting for endorsement.	
Ordinary Council	8.1	Heritage and History Advisory	<u>Council Resolution</u>		05 Mar 2026 11:26am Carter, Ebony Application has been lodged. Action item complete	

Division: Ordinary Council Committee: Officer: Outstanding Action Items Report Date From: Date To: Printed: Thursday, 5 March 2026 3:31:38 PM			
18/02/2026	Committee Meeting	That Council endorse that an application be lodged with Heritage NSW to list the PS Ruby as a State Heritage Item Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>	
Ordinary Council 18/02/2026	9.2 Wentworth Pioneer Homes Request for Financial Assistance	<u>Motion</u> That Council will consider funding or partially funding the proposal from Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc following a budget review and that the proposal will be tabled for consideration following the review. Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Beaumont	05 Mar 2026 11:52am Carter, Ebony Ongoing
Ordinary Council 18/02/2026	9.11 Reappointment of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Member	<u>Council Resolution</u> That Council reappoints Caroline Smith as an Independent Member to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a further term of three (3) years, noting that this term will take her to the end of her allowable period of membership. Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Starick <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>	05 Mar 2026 11:50am Carter, Ebony Committee member advised of reappointment - Action item complete.
Ordinary Council 18/02/2026	9.13 Request for Event Sponsorship - Wentworth/Mildura Country Music Festival 2026.	<u>Council Resolution</u> That Council approves funding support of \$8,000 ex GST for the 2026 Country Music Festival, to be allocated from the Events Sponsorship Budget, based on the demonstrated economic and community benefits delivered by the 2025 event. Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Rodda <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>	05 Mar 2026 11:47am Carter, Ebony Applicant has been advised of resolution - Action item complete.

Division: Committee: Officer: Ordinary Council		Date From: Date To: Printed: Thursday, 5 March 2026 3:31:38 PM	
Outstanding Action Items Report			
Ordinary Council 18/02/2026 6	10.1	PS Ruby Future	Council Resolution That Council prepare an appropriate plan and allocate a budget of \$50,000 this financial year to stop Ruby as an iconic shire asset from falling into a further state of disrepair and further degradation and that Council undertake an assessment report of what future works are required to make the vessel assessable to the public. Moved Cr. Weeding, Seconded Cr. Crisp <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>
		05 Mar 2026 11:40am Carter, Ebony Ongoing	

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT MARCH 2026

File Number: RPT/26/100

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by Mayor Linklater from 19 February 2026 – 18 March 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report for March 2026.

Report

The following table lists the meetings attended by Mayor Linklater for the period of 19 February 2026 – 18 March 2026

Date	Meeting	Location
19 Feb 2026	Heavy Vehicle Driver Forum	Trentham
23 Feb 2026	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
24 Feb 2026	Discuss Regional Airfares with Australian Government Productivity Commission	Mildura
26 Feb 2026	Future of Rural & Regional Health	Online
27 Feb 2026	Briefing Murray Darling Basin Plan Review preparation of submission - RAMJO	Online
03 March 2026	Sturt Highway Taskforce	Wentworth
04 March 2026	Flood Risk Management Committee	Wentworth
04 March 2026	Regional Aircraft Discussion	Mildura
04 March 2026	MDBA Plan Review & Operation & Management of Menindee Lakes & Lower Darling	Wentworth
04 March 2026	Mildura Living Autumn Launch	Mildura
05 -06 March 2026	Western Division of Councils AGM	Cobar
06 March 2026	International Women's Day Event	Wentworth
10 March 2026	Seniors Morning Tea	Midway
16 March 2026	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
17 March 2026	NSW Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (LGA) Meeting	Wentworth
17 March 2026	Lightstate Committee of Management	Mildura
18 March 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting	Wentworth

Attachments

Nil

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 4 MARCH 2026

File Number: RPT/26/118

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - 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: 3.3 Minimise the impact on our natural environment

Summary

A meeting of the Flood Risk Management Committee was held on 4 March 2026 and the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

The Committee has requested that the Reporting Officer seeks resolutions of Council on the following items:-

1. Final Wentworth Flood Study Report
2. Wentworth Flood Study 2026 Development Control Plan Land Use Planning Provisions
3. Wentworth Flood Study 2026 Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 Land Use Planning Provisions
4. Applying for funding for the Pooncarie Environs Flood Study

Officer Recommendation

That Council endorse the recommendations of the Flood Risk Management Committee as follows:

1. That Council adopt the final Wentworth Flood Study Report.
2. That Council
 - a) Endorse public exhibition of the interim Flood Planning Area mapping, Flood Planning Constraints Category mapping and suggested DCP wording under Appendix I of the flood report
 - b) Adopt and include the preliminary Flood Planning Area mapping, Flood Planning Constraints Category mapping and Development Control Plan wording into the Wentworth Development Control Plan after exhibition and review.
3. That Council, following adoption of the flood study, endorse Council staff commence using the 0.5m freeboard to determine the flood planning levels using the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood mapping within the report (amending the 0.75m within the current Wentworth Development Control Plan). This will include land within the suggested Development Control Plan under Appendix I of the flood report, until such time as that Development Control Plan chapter and accompanying mapping is adopted by Council.
4. That Council apply to the next round of funding for a Pooncarie Environs Flood Study.

Attachments

1. Minutes Flood Risk Management Committee 4 March 2026 [↓](#)



**FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

4 MARCH 2026

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4 MARCH 2026

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FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**4 MARCH 2026**

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 10:14am.

2 PRESENT**COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Daniel Linklater (Mayor)

Councillor Susan Nichols

Councillor Greg Evans

Councillor Michael Weeding

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

Robert Rigby (Community Representative)

David Buck (Community Representative)

Craig Ronan (State Emergency Services)

STAFF MEMBERS

Ken Ross (General Manager)

Geoff Gunn (Director Roads & Engineering)

Gayle Marsden (Executive Assistant to General Manager)

3 APOLOGIES

Kade Small, George Kenende

4 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**Recommendation**

That the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting held 2 March 2026 be confirmed as circulated.

Committee Resolution

That the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting held 2 March 2026 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved Rigby, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4 MARCH 2026

7 REPORTS

7.1 OVERVIEW OF FINAL WENTWORTH FLOOD STUDY REPORT

File Number: RPT/26/101

Responsible Officer: George Kenende - Strategic Planner
 Responsible Division: Health and Planning
 Report Author: George Kenende - Strategic Planner

Summary

Wentworth Shire Council has engaged Lyall and Associates as the contractors to prepare the Wentworth Flood Study focusing on riverine flooding. This engagement was extended to include the major overland flow flood study. A decision was subsequently made to combine these 2 studies to be completed at the same time under a single report.

Previous Flood Risk Management Committee meetings were provided an overview of the progress of the flood study to date as presented by Lyall & Associates to the Flood Risk Management Committee :

- 27 March 2024 (first meeting): Objectives, processes and any flood modelling done to that date for the Wentworth Flood Study.
- 4 December 2024: The progress of the flood study including mapping and flood modelling done to that date
- 23 July 2025: The progress of the riverine and major overland flow flood study including preliminary riverine design results and outputs as well as validation of the major overland flow model
- 17 November 2025: The first draft of the flood study with a recommendation for Council to endorse the draft for public exhibition was made.

The draft flood study endorsed by the Flood Risk Management Committee was presented to Council at the 17 December 2025 ordinary Council meeting where public exhibition of the flood study was endorsed.

The exhibition period for the Draft flood study report was from 22 December 2025 to 18 February 2026.

The exhibition of the draft flood study was conducted in the following manner:

- On Councils social media
- On Councils engage website
- In the newspaper
- Via email to identified stakeholders including Western Murray Irrigation, Mildura Rural city Council and Mallee Catchment Management Authority

Two (2) drop-in sessions were held on 11 February 2026:

- **Session 1** - Wentworth Visitor Centre Conference, from 10a to 1pm
- **Session 2** - Midway Community Centre (Function room), from 3pm to 6pm

During the exhibition period 8 written submissions were received, and 1 submission was received after the exhibition period.

During the drop-in sessions, nineteen (19) attendees came to session 1 and fifteen (15) attendees came to session 2.

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4 MARCH 2026

Lyall & Associates will present an overview of the submissions received in writing and during the drop-in sessions. This will include discussion about the final Wentworth Flood Study report (riverine flooding and major overland flow flooding), which will be formerly adopted by Council.

Attachment 1: Submissions to draft WSC Draft Flood Study Report

Lyall & Associates have now provided a final Report and associated mapping.

[WFS V1 Report \[Rev 1.2\].pdf](#)

[WFS V2 Figures \[Rev 1.2\].pdf](#)

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends that Council adopt the final Wentworth Flood Study Report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee recommends that Council adopt the final Wentworth Flood Study Report.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4 MARCH 2026

**7.2 WENTWORTH FLOOD STUDY 2026 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN LAND
USE PLANNING PROVISIONS**

File Number: RPT/26/103

Responsible Officer: George Kenende - Strategic Planner

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Report Author: George Kenende - Strategic Planner

Summary

Wentworth Shire Council engaged Lyall and Associates as the contractors to prepare the Wentworth Flood Study, which combines riverine and major overland flow flooding. As part of the project brief, they were requested to map an interim flood planning area and recommend general planning controls to apply to land from Gol Gol to Wentworth on the floodplain.

A Development Control Plan (DCP) is a written document that supports the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and expands its principal development standards. It is a local Council adopted plan and guides council staff, developers and landowners in the requirements and guidelines for development. A Development Control Plan may contain a range of measures such as planning principles, objectives and controls for buildings. Development Control Plans can also have controls for single topics such as specific controls to guide development on flood liable land.

The draft flood study report included interim flood planning area mapping and suggested interim wording for inclusion in the Wentworth Development Control Plan 2011 (WDCP). The riverine mapping was made for land from Gol Gol to Wentworth, and the local catchment was done for the main townships of Gol Gol, Buronga, Dareton and Wentworth. The report also recommends that prior to the preparation of the future Wentworth Flood Risk Management Study and Plan, Council use the freeboard flood levels derived as part of the present study. This will be used when setting the minimum floor levels of future development that is located within the extent of the Local Catchment Flooding Flood Planning Area and Murray and Darling River Flooding Flood Planning Area, respectively.

Section 733 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides critical conditional protection to Council (good faith defences) in respect to good faith advice given or decision by Council relating to flooding. Decisions by Council include the granting or refusal of development applications under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. A condition for the good faith defense is that Council decisions were done in accordance with the principles contained in the relevant manual most recently notified. In terms of flooding, this would be the *NSW Flood Risk Manual 2023* which recommends land-use planning and development decisions should connect with the best available information. Once adopted, the flood study report would contain the best available flood information.

For Council to ensure the best available flood information is being used in making planning decisions about development applications, it is recommended that the following actions be taken by Council once the flood study is adopted:

1. Flood Planning Area mapping, Flood Planning Constraints Category mapping and suggested Development Control Plan wording under Appendix I of the flood report be endorsed by Council for public exhibition as per Councils Community Participation Plan
2. After exhibition, a final review will be conducted before the Flood Planning Area mapping, Flood Planning Constraints Category mapping and Development Control Plan wording is presented to Council for adoption and inclusion into the Wentworth Development Control Plan.

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4 MARCH 2026

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends that Council, following adoption of the flood study, commence the process of updating the Wentworth Development Control Plan by:

- a) Endorsing public exhibition of the Flood Planning Area mapping, Flood Planning Constraints Category mapping and suggested DCP wording under Appendix I of the flood report
- b) Adoption and inclusion of the Flood Planning Area mapping, Flood Planning Constraints Category mapping and Development Control Plan wording into the Wentworth Development Control Plan after exhibition and review

Committee Resolution

That the Committee recommends that Council, following adoption of the flood study, commence the process of updating the Wentworth Development Control Plan by:

- a) Endorsing public exhibition of the interim Flood Planning Area mapping, Flood Planning Constraints Category mapping and suggested DCP wording under Appendix I of the flood report
- b) Adoption and inclusion of the preliminary Flood Planning Area mapping, Flood Planning Constraints Category mapping and Development Control Plan wording into the Wentworth Development Control Plan after exhibition and review.

Moved Cr. Weeding, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4 MARCH 2026

7.3 WENTWORTH FLOOD STUDY 2026 WENTWORTH LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2011 LAND USE PLANNING PROVISIONS

File Number: RPT/26/104

Responsible Officer: George Kenende - Strategic Planner

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Report Author: George Kenende - Strategic Planner

Summary

Wentworth Shire Council engaged Lyall and Associates as the contractors to prepare the Wentworth Flood Study, which combines riverine and major overland flow flooding. One of the outputs of the flood study is the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood level mapping, which can be used to identify the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood levels across the extent of the mapping. This is used to derive the relevant Flood Planning Level (FPL) by adding 0.5 m freeboard, to achieve the Flood Planning Level.

A Local Environmental Plan (LEP) in NSW is a legal planning instrument used by local councils to control land use, development, and zoning within their local government area. It outlines what can be built (e.g., housing, industrial, or rural) and specific matters that must be considered when assessing development applications. The Council has the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP) which contains clause 5.21 "Flood planning". The clause states that land within the Shire considered by Council to be within the flood planning area must have flooding matters addressed during assessment.

Clause 5.21(2) of the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 has the same meaning as *flood planning area* defined in the 2023 NSW Government's Flood Risk Management Manual:

Flood planning area (FPA): The Flood Planning Area is generally developed based on the Flood Planning Level for typical residential development. Different types of development may have different Flood Planning Levels applied within the Flood Planning Area. In addition, development controls will vary across the Flood Planning Area due to varying flood constraints.

Flood planning level (FPL): Different Flood Planning Levels may apply to different types of development. Determining the Flood Planning Level for typical residential development should generally start with a DFE of the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood plus an appropriate freeboard (typically 0.5 m). This assists in determining the Flood Planning Area.

Defined flood event (DFE): The flood event selected as a general standard for the management of flooding to development Aims to reduce the frequency of flooding but does not remove all flood risk, for example, in selecting a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood as a Defined Flood Event you are accepting that there is a 1 in 100 chance that a larger event will occur in any year. This risk is being built into the decision

For Council to ensure the best available flood information is being used in making planning decisions under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011, it is recommended that the following actions be taken by Council once the flood study is adopted:

1. Council staff commence using the 0.5m freeboard to determine the flood planning levels using the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood mapping within the report (amending the 0.75m within the current Wentworth Development Control Plan). This

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4 MARCH 2026

would include land within the suggested Development Control Plan under Appendix I of the flood report, until such time as that Development Control Plan chapter and accompanying mapping is adopted by Council.

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends that Council, following adoption of the flood study, endorse Council staff commence using the 0.5m freeboard to determine the flood planning levels using the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood mapping within the report (amending the 0.75m within the current Wentworth Development Control Plan). This will include land within the suggested Development Control Plan under Appendix I of the flood report, until such time as that Development Control Plan chapter and accompanying mapping is adopted by Council.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee recommends that Council, following adoption of the flood study, endorse Council staff commence using the 0.5m freeboard to determine the flood planning levels using the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood mapping within the report (amending the 0.75m within the current Wentworth Development Control Plan). This will include land within the suggested Development Control Plan under Appendix I of the flood report, until such time as that Development Control Plan chapter and accompanying mapping is adopted by Council.

Moved Robert Rigby, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4 MARCH 2026

8 ACTIONS

Committee Resolution

That the Committee recommends to Council that Council apply to the next round of funding for a Pooncarie Environs Flood Study.

Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Robert Rigby

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 NEXT MEETING

TBC

10 CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 10:54am.

8.2 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 6 FEBRUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/105

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 6 February 2026. The Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors. The Committee considered the following items of business:

- Buronga Landfill Presentation
- Audit Office of NSW Update
- Internal Audit Extreme & High-Risk Recommendations Update
- Internal Audit Quarterly Update
- Quarterly Risk Report
- Quarterly Operational Plan Progress Report
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2nd Quarter 2025-2026
- Draft Privacy Policy
- Draft Access to Information Policy
- Draft Complaint Management Policy
- Work Health & Safety Report
- Quarterly Fraud Report
- Quarterly report on Legislative Updates
- Cyber Security Quarterly Update
- Asset Management Plan Update

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 February 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 6 February 2026.

That Council endorse the following draft policies to be placed on public exhibition

- GOV007 Privacy Policy

- GOV008 Access to Information Policy
- GOV012 Complaint Management Policy

Additional Information

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of matters considered by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) at its meeting held on 6 February 2026, and to demonstrate how the Committee's work aligns with the requirements of the *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*.

Under section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the associated Guidelines, the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee is required to oversee Council's governance, risk management, compliance, financial management, service reviews and internal audit functions. The Committee is also required to operate in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference and to ensure that its activities support the General Manager's annual attestation of compliance.

At the meeting the Committee considered the following items:

- Buronga Landfill Presentation
- Audit Office of NSW Update
- Internal Audit Extreme & High-Risk Recommendations Update
- Internal Audit Quarterly Update
- Quarterly Risk Report
- Quarterly Operational Plan Progress Report
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2nd Quarter 2025-2026
- Draft Privacy Policy
- Draft Access to Information Policy
- Draft Complaint Management Policy
- Work Health & Safety Report
- Quarterly Fraud Report
- Quarterly report on Legislative Updates
- Cyber Security Quarterly Update
- Asset Management Plan Update

The table below sets out the relationship between the Committee's agenda items and the mandatory elements of the Guidelines

Agenda Item	Relevant Mandatory Guideline Requirement(s)	How item satisfies the requirement
Buronga Landfill Presentation	Oversight of risk management and internal control effectiveness	Provides ARIC with assurance over management of a significant operational and environmental risk, including controls, compliance obligations and emerging risk issues
Audit Office of NSW	Monitor external audit	Keeps ARIC informed of sector-wide

Agenda Item	Relevant Mandatory Guideline Requirement(s)	How item satisfies the requirement
Update	relationships and outcomes	audit findings, emerging audit risks, and matters relevant to Council's financial reporting and governance obligations.
Internal Audit Extreme & High-Risk Recommendations Update	Monitor implementation of internal audit recommendations	Directly addresses the mandatory requirement for ARIC to track management action on high and extreme risk audit findings and ensure timely remediation.
Internal Audit Quarterly Update	Oversee internal audit activity and performance	Enables ARIC to confirm internal audit is operating in accordance with the approved Internal Audit Charter and risk-based Internal Audit Plan.
Quarterly Operational Plan Progress Report	Oversight of governance, performance and risk integration	Demonstrates linkage between strategic risks, operational delivery, and performance reporting, supporting ARIC's assurance role.
Quarterly Budget Review – 2nd Quarter 2025–2026	Oversight of financial management and sustainability	Enables ARIC to assess financial performance, emerging financial risks, and the adequacy of financial controls supporting good governance.
Quarterly Risk Report	Review effectiveness of Council's risk management framework	Provides regular assurance that risks are identified, assessed, treated, and monitored in accordance with the risk management aligned requirements in the Guidelines.
Draft Policies	Review governance frameworks, policies and compliance	Supports ARIC's role in reviewing key governance policies that underpin compliance, internal controls and risk management obligations.
Work Health & Safety Report	Oversight of key operational and safety risks	Enables ARIC to monitor WHS risks, incidents and controls as part of Council's overall risk management framework.
Quarterly Fraud Report	Oversight of fraud and corruption prevention and detection.	Directly supports ARIC's mandatory role in monitoring fraud control frameworks, incidents, trends and management responses.
Quarterly Report on Legislative Updates	Oversight of compliance and governance risks	Ensures ARIC is informed of legislative changes that may introduce new risks, compliance obligations or control gaps
Cyber Security Quarterly Update	Oversight of emerging and strategic risks	Provides ongoing assurance regarding cyber security controls, uplift activities and risk treatments.
Asset Management Plan Update	Oversight of risk management, sustainability, and	Supports ARIC's role in reviewing whether asset-related risks are appropriately identified, managed and

Agenda Item	Relevant Mandatory Guideline Requirement(s)	How item satisfies the requirement
	internal controls	aligned with long-term financial sustainability.

To support Council's assurance framework, the following compliance matrix demonstrates how the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting addressed they key requirements of the Guidelines.

NSW Guideline Clause / Core Requirement	Description of Requirement	ARIC Agenda Items Addressing This Clause	How the Agenda Items Addressed the Clause
Risk Management Framework Oversight	ARIC must review the effectiveness of Council's risk management framework and key strategic and operational risks	- Quarterly Risk Report - Cyber Security Quarterly Update - Work Health & Safety Report - Buronga Landfill Presentation	Regular reporting enables ARIC to assess risk identification, risk ratings, control effectiveness, emerging risks, and risk treatment progress across critical risk areas.
Internal Audit Governance and Performance	ARIC must oversee internal audit planning, performance and conformance with the Internal Audit Charter	Internal Audit Quarterly Update	ARIC received assurance that internal audit activities are progressing in line with the approved risk-based Internal Audit Plan and professional standards.
Monitoring Implementation of Audit Recommendations	ARIC must monitor management's implementation of internal and external audit recommendations, particularly high and extreme risks	Internal Audit Extreme & High-Risk Recommendations Update	ARIC reviewed status, timelines and adequacy of management actions addressing high and extreme risk findings, supporting accountability and control improvement.
External Audit	ARIC must oversee Council's relationship with external auditors and monitor issues arising from external audits	Audit Office of NSW Update	ARIC was informed of sector wide audit themes, emerging risks and matters relevant to Council's governance, financial reporting and control environment.
Financial Management & Sustainability	ARIC must review financial performance, sustainability risks and internal financial	Quarterly Budget Review – 2nd Quarter 2025-2026	ARIC addressed budget performance, variances, emerging financial risks and potential impacts on

NSW Guideline Clause / Core Requirement	Description of Requirement	ARIC Agenda Items Addressing This Clause	How the Agenda Items Addressed the Clause
	controls		Council's financial sustainability and long-term planning.
Fraud and Corruption	ARIC must oversee fraud and corruption prevention, detection and response mechanisms	- Quarterly Fraud Report - Draft Compliant Management Policy	Reporting enables ARIC to monitor fraud incidents, trends, controls and complaint handling arrangements that support early detection of misconduct and maladministration.
Governance, Ethic, and Policy Framework Oversight	ARIC must review key governance policies and frameworks supporting ethical conduct and compliance	Draft Policies	ARIC reviewed governance policies to ensure they support transparency, accountability, privacy compliance and sound internal controls.
Compliance with Legislative & Regulatory Requirements	ARIC must monitor compliance with applicable legislation and identify emerging compliance risks	Quarterly Report on Legislative Updates	ARIC received assurance that legislative changes were being monitored, assessed for impact and incorporated into Council's governance and control environment.
Cyber Security and Information Risk	ARIC must oversee information security and cyber security risk as part of the broader risk management framework	Cyber Security Quarterly Update	ARIC assessed cyber security, key control gaps and planned uplift activities, supporting oversight of a critical and evolving risk area.
Asset Management and Infrastructure Risk	ARIC must consider whether asset-related risks are appropriately managed and aligned with long-term financial sustainability	Asset Management Plan Update	ARIC reviewed asset planning information to gain assurance that asset risk, renewal needs, and long-term sustainability considerations are identified and managed.
Performance and Operational Risk Oversight	ARIC must review operational performance information where it informs risk and control effectiveness.	Quarterly Operational Plan Progress Report	Reporting enabled ARIC to assess whether operational delivery risks and control issues that may impact achievement of Council's objectives.

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 February meeting addressed all key areas of compliance, providing assurance to Council regarding its governance, risk, compliance, financial and audit functions.

Attachments

1. Minutes - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee 06 February 2026 [↓](#)
2. Draft - Access to Information Policy [↓](#)
3. Draft Privacy Policy [↓](#)
4. Draft Complaints Management Policy [↓](#)



**AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

6 FEBRUARY 2026

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

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AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**6 FEBRUARY 2026**

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 10:03am

2 PRESENT**MEMBERS**

Rosanne Kava (Chair) (Video Conference)
Diane Schmidt
Caroline Smith (Video Conference)
Councillor Jody Starick (Non-Voting) (Video Conference)

OBSERVERS

Brett Hanger (Audit Partner Nexia)
Manuel Moncada (Audit Office of New South Wales)
Paul Harrison (Internal Audit Manager RSD Audit)

STAFF OBSERVERS

Ken Ross (General Manager)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy) (Video Conference)
Ebony Carter (Business Support Officer)
Mardi Cleggett (Governance Officer)
Ned Lamond (Financial Services Coordinator)

3 APOLOGIES

NIL

4 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NIL

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**Recommendation**

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 12 November 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

Committee Resolution

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 12 November 2025 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved DS Schmidt, Seconded RK Kava

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

6 FEBRUARY 2026

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7 REPORTS

7.1 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST

File Number: RPT/26/7

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

The purpose of this report is to report on the status of Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings.

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends that Council notes the Outstanding Actions List.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee recommends that Council notes the Outstanding Actions List.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.2 BURONGA LANDFILL PRESENTATION

File Number: RPT/26/19

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

As outlined at the November Committee meeting there will be a presentation regarding the recent expansion works at the Buronga Landfill and the financial modelling that underpins the current and future operations of the site.

Recommendation

The Committee notes the Buronga Landfill Presentation.

Committee Resolution

The Committee notes the Buronga Landfill Presentation.

CONSENSUS

Geoff Webster (Waste and Management Services) and Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering) gave a presentation to the committee on the Buronga Landfill expansion.

Geoff Webster to provide the presentation to the committee.

Geoff Webster and Geoff Gunn left the meeting at 10:56am

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.3 AUDIT OFFICE UPDATE

File Number: RPT/26/8

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

This report is a place holder to allow Council's external auditor, the Audit Office of New South Wales to update the Committee on a quarterly basis on any matter of importance. Included for discussion this quarter is the:

- Annual Engagement Plan for 2025/2026 Audit (to be separately circulated if available before the meeting)
- Auditor General Report on the 2025 Local Government Audit (link has been separately circulated)

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and accepts the Annual Engagement Plan for 2025/2026 audit and Auditor General Report on the 2025 Local Government Audit as separately circulated to the committee

CONSENSUS

Action: The Committee requested that the Director Corporate Services complete the Key Areas for Improvement Self-Assessment and report the outcome to a future meeting.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.4 INTERNAL AUDIT EXTREME & HIGH RISK RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

File Number: RPT/26/10

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

The Committee has requested a quarterly update on the progress of implementing Extreme and High Risk recommendations from internal audit reports.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.5 INTERNAL AUDIT QUARTERLY UPDATE

File Number: RPT/26/9

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

Recommendation

The Committee notes the Internal Audit Quarterly report and endorses the Procurement & Accounts Payable Internal Audit Proposed Scope of Works.

Committee Resolution

The Committee notes the Internal Audit Quarterly report and endorses the Procurement & Accounts Payable Internal Audit Proposed Scope of Works.

CONSENSUS

An additional draft scope of works for a follow up Work Health & Safety audit was sent to committee members after the agenda had been completed and sent out. Draft Scope of works was admitted as a late item for consideration.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.6 QUARTERLY RISK REPORT

File Number: RPT/26/11

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

The purpose of the Quarterly Risk Report is to provide the Committee with an update on Council's key strategic and operational risk, the effectiveness of existing controls, and progress on risk management activities undertaken during the reporting period. The report supports the Committee in its oversight role by ensuring that significant risks are being appropriately identified, assessed, and managed in accordance with Council's Risk Management Framework.

Key highlights include:

- Total Risks: 50
- New Risks: 1 – Waste Management Contracts (identified as an emerging risk last quarter)
- Risk Rating Increase: 1 – Development Application Assessments
- Emerging Risks: 1 – Gifted Assets from Developers

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

Ken Ross left the meeting at 11:30am

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.7 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENTS

File Number: RPT/26/12

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Ned Lamond - Financial Services Coordinator

Summary

The December 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 December QBRs provides a comprehensive review of Council's financial performance and budget position for the quarter ended 31 December 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

While the new QBRs format no longer includes financial Key Performance Indicator (KPI)'s, Council notes that the OLG is currently reviewing the financial and sustainability ratios used across the sector. At this stage, Council's priority is to bed down the requirements of the revised guidelines. The reintroduction of the previous suite of KPI's will be considered as part of future reporting.

Consistent with the updated reporting requirements, once this QBRs is formally tabled at the February 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 the Committee:

- a) Receive and note the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- b) Endorse the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement for presentation to the February Council Meeting.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee:

- a) Receive and note the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- b) Endorse the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement for presentation to the February Council Meeting.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.8 QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: RPT/26/13

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

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* (NSW) 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.

New Actions

- 3.2.15 – Land Purchase Dareton.

Completed actions

- 3.2.7 – Flood Recovery Activities – Roads, Bridges, Footpaths
- 3.2.14 – Buronga to Gol Gol Footpath Upgrade
- 3.4.4 – Buronga Landfill Expansion
- 3.4.9 – Sewer Mains Refurbishment
- 3.4.12 – Water Leakage & District Metering Program

Recommendation

The Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

The Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.9 DRAFT POLICY FOR ENDORSEMENT - GOV007 PRIVACY POLICY

File Number: RPT/26/25

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Report Author: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

Summary

Council policies are a major component of the governance framework, guiding decision-making and supporting the strategic direction of Council. Council Policies are generally reviewed every four years coinciding with the term of Council. Whilst some policies must be reviewed within the first 12 months of a new Council term in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), the remaining policies are reviewed over the term of Council, consistent with a policy review plan. Council's Privacy Policy is reviewed as part of that policy review project.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Council endorses the Draft Privacy Policy and its placement on public exhibition for 28 days.

Committee Resolution

The Committee recommends that Council endorses the Draft Privacy Policy and its placement on public exhibition for 28 days.

CONSENSUS

The Committee queried the definition for Health Information that was included in the Definitions and Abbreviations table. The way it was presented made it difficult to read and understand.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.10 DRAFT POLICY FOR ENDORSEMENT - GOV008 ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY

File Number: RPT/26/29

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

Summary

Council policies are a major component of the governance framework, guiding decision-making and supporting the strategic direction of Council. Council Policies are generally reviewed every four years coinciding with the term of Council. Whilst some policies must be reviewed within the first 12 months of a new Council term in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), the remaining policies are reviewed over the term of Council, consistent with a policy review plan. Council's Access to Information Policy is reviewed as part of that policy review project.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Council endorses the Draft Access to Information Policy and its placement on public exhibition for 28 days.

Committee Resolution

The Committee recommends that Council endorses the Draft Access to Information Policy and its placement on public exhibition for 28 days.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.11 DRAFT POLICY FOR ENDORSEMENT - GOV012 COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT POLICY

File Number: RPT/26/24

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Report Author: Mardi Cleggett - Governance Officer

Summary

In 2025 Governance undertook a review of Council's complaint management framework, with a progress report of the review and implementation of the framework, provided to this Committee in November 2025.

As part of the complaint management framework, a review of the Complaint Management Policy has been performed and is provided to the Committee for review.

Governance is also currently managing a review of all Council policies, working with each department to ensure currency and relevance of those policies.

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends that Council endorses the Draft Complaints Management Policy and places it on public exhibition for 28 days.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee recommends that Council endorses the Draft Complaints Management Policy and places it on public exhibition for 28 days.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.12 QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

File Number: RPT/26/4

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Report Author: Mardi Cleggett - Governance Officer

Summary

The Committee has requested a quarterly report on new NSW legislation, or substantial changes to existing legislation to help inform their deliberations.

This report provides details on statutory instruments during the period October to December 2025, either new, substantial and upcoming changes to relevant legislation that impact Council's legislative operating environment. There were several amendments that have or will affect Council across the quarter.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.13 QUARTERLY FRAUD REPORT

File Number: RPT/26/14

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

Having made the appropriate inquiries the General Manager can report that no instances of Fraudulent activity or behavior have been identified for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report

CONSENSUS

Action: For a future meeting the Committee has requested further information about how Council investigate or determine fraudulent activity. A review of the Fraud Control Policy is scheduled to be presented to the Committee at the August 2026 meeting.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.14 WORK HEALTH SAFETY REPORTING

File Number: RPT/26/16

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

Summary

Implementation of a new Work Health Safety (WHS) software system (Donesafe) and the benefit of RSD Internal Audit findings on our WHS processes has provided Council with an opportunity to review our WHS management reporting procedures.

A new WHS reporting template was developed based on a NSW Government publication '*Measuring and Reporting WHS Information*' and adopting an approach that allows for evaluation of WHS systems as a whole as recommended by RSD Audit.

Following provision of the new template to ARIC in August 2025, the first management report using that template was provided to the Committee for review at the 12 November 2025 ARIC meeting. Whilst subsequent monthly management reporting has continued in the same format, it has not yet reached the desired level of analysis of trends evidenced by the data and the resultant planned actions in response. The Governance team is continuing to work with the HR Manager to support adoption of the changed reporting approach, with staff absences to some extent hindering progress.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.15 CYBER SECURITY QUATERLY UPDATE

File Number: RPT/26/17

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

This report provides an update on Council's progress in implementing the Cyber Security Improvement Plan for the reporting quarter. During the quarter, three key actions were completed, these outcomes represent a significant uplift in Council's security posture.

Some initiatives remain in progress due to the complexity of implementation across legacy systems and the need for external guidance. These matters are being actively managed and do not detract from the overall positive trajectory of the improvement plan.

Overall, Council is demonstrating strong commitment to improving its cyber security maturity. Continued delivery of the Improvement Plan, supported by executive oversight and ongoing investment, will further strengthen Council's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber security threats.

Recommendation

The Committee notes the progress in implementing the Cyber Security Improvement Plan.

Committee Resolution

The Committee notes the progress in implementing the Cyber Security Improvement Plan.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2026

7.16 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

File Number: RPT/26/18

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Summary

This report provides expanded information on Year One (2026) of Council's Three-Year Asset Management Action Plan, in response to a request from the Committee at its meeting 12 November 2025. Year One has been deliberately structured as a foundation year, focused on establishing governance frameworks, prioritising high-risk asset classes, and improving data integrity and internal controls.

The report outlines the sequencing and scope of key 2026 activities, including the establishment of an Asset Management governance framework, introduction of a condensed AMP format, development of a Road Network AMP as the priority asset class and preparatory data work for future asset classes. The information provided is intended to give the Committee clear visibility of Year One activities and how they will be governed.

Recommendation

The Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

The Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

Verbal update will be provided to the committee at the May meeting.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

6 FEBRUARY 2026

8 ACTIONS

9 NEXT MEETING

8 May 2026

10 CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12:51 pm.



COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY NUMBER & TITLE:	GOV008	ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY
WORD DOCUMENT ID:	DOC/26/246	
VERSION:	2.0	
ADOPTED MEETING DATE:	Click or tap to enter a date.	
REVIEW DUE:	Four yearly or following change of legislation or incident	
VERSION AMENDMENTS:	This version updated to fit Council's new Policy Template and with other changes that include removing procedural details previously provided.	

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Corporate Services
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ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to outline Wentworth Shire Council's commitment to improving accountability and transparency, by ensuring that members of the public can access information in accordance with the provisions in the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) and the associated Regulations.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to the following principles regarding public access to information:

- open and transparent government;
- consideration of the public interest in relation to access requests;
- equitable access to information; and
- respect for the privacy of individuals.

2. POLICY COVERAGE

The policy applies to all Council staff including Councillors, and members of the public who want to access Council information.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

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

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

4. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term/Word	Definition
Council	Wentworth Shire Council
Government information held by an agency	This is a reference to information contained in a record held by the agency. Record here means any document or other source of information compiled, recorded, or stored in written form or by electronic process, or in any other manner or by any other means.

Title: GOV008	ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY	V2.0	Version date: XX/XX/XXXX
DOC ID: DOC/26/246	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

Overriding public interest against disclosure	Section 14 of the GIPA Act contains an exhaustive list of the public interest considerations against disclosure that agencies may have regard to when deciding whether or not to disclose information they hold.
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5. POLICY CONTENT

Council is committed to taking active steps to meet the core objects of the GIPA Act, to maintain and advance a system of responsible and representative democratic government that is open, accountable, fair and effective, by making government information available to the public by:

- authorising and encouraging the proactive public release of government information;
- giving members of the public an enforceable right to access government information; and
- providing that access to government information is restricted only when there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

In accordance with the GIPA Act, Council will maintain an *Agency Information Guide* that provides community members, Council staff and the general public with information concerning:

- the structure and functions of Council;
- the way in which functions of Council affect members of the public;
- the avenues available to the public to participate in policy development and the exercise of Council's functions; and
- the type of information available from Council and how this information is made publicly available.

Council will publish clear guidance on its website describing how members of the public can request access to information - any member of the public has a legal right to make an application to Council for access to government information that Council holds.

Council will publish specific open access information (mandatory release) on its website and make available to the public other information as prescribed under Schedule 1 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018* (NSW), unless there is an overriding public interest not to do so. Such information is made available free of charge. Open access information includes Council policies, Council's disclosure log of access applications, Council's register of government contracts and Council's record of open access information that it does not make publicly available on the basis of an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Council will periodically review the government information it holds with a view to making publicly available further information (proactive release) unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In response to an informal request and in accordance with authority under the GIPA Act, Council will consider release of information that is not publicly available on Council's website, subject to any reasonable conditions that Council thinks fit to impose and unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information. Council will facilitate consideration of an informal request

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COUNCIL POLICY

through provision of an *Informal Request to Access Information Form* for completion. Council may impose processing fees in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

A member of the public can make a request to access information that is not made available through mandatory release (open access), proactive or informal release, and where the information sought is of a sensitive nature, excessively onerous or voluminous, or contains personal information about a third party, through a formal access application process. This requires completion of Council's *GIPA Access Application Form* and payment of a prescribed fee. Council may impose additional processing fees in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

Council will deal with and decide formal access applications in accordance with the provisions of the GIPA Act. These include specific time frames for decision making, providing for consultation with a third party regarding potential release of information, and a requirement to provide details of the reasons for any refusal to access information in writing when responding to formal access applications.

The GIPA Act sets out a formal access applicant's right to have certain access application decisions reviewed: internally by Council; external review by the NSW Information Commissioner or externally by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Access to Council records by Councillors is governed by the Code of Conduct. Councillors should be guided by the Code of Conduct when seeking access to documents in their capacity as a Council official.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

Legislation

- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 (NSW)*
- *Health Records & Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW)*
- *Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)*
- *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2022 (NSW)*
- *State Records Act 1998 (NSW)*

Council Policies and Documents

- GOV004 – Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- GOV007 – Privacy Policy
- GOV020 – Code of Conduct Policy
- GOV022 – Compliance Policy
- Compliance Framework
- Governance Framework
- Privacy Management Plan
- Records & Information Management Policy (Operational)

7. ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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DOC ID: DOC/26/246	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

8. DOCUMENT APPROVAL

This Council Policy is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on [Click or tap to enter a date.](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void. This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

Signed: _____
General Manager Wentworth Shire Council

[Click or tap to enter a date.](#)
Date

Title: GOV008	ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY	V2.0	Version date: XX/XX/XXXX
DOC ID: DOC/26/246	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY NUMBER & TITLE:	GOV007	PRIVACY POLICY
WORD DOCUMENT ID:	DOC/25/28997	
VERSION:	1.4	
ADOPTED MEETING DATE:	Click or tap to enter a date.	
REVIEW DUE:	Four yearly or following change of legislation or incident	
VERSION AMENDMENTS:	This version updated to fit Council's new Policy Template and includes reference to the Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme	

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Corporate Services
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PRIVACY POLICY

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to ensure that Council protects and appropriately manages the personal information and health information that it collects from individuals.

POLICY STATEMENT

The collection of personal and health information from Councillors, employees, volunteers, contractors, ratepayers and members of the public is required for Council to perform its statutory functions and to allow the effective provision of services.

This policy sets out the principles that promote the protection of personal and health information and provides the foundation for Council's Privacy Management Plan.

1. POLICY COVERAGE

This policy applies to all personal or health information collected, maintained and/or used by Council officials including Councillors, contractors and volunteers as well as external contractors who have been granted access to Council's information assets.

2. STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

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

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

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term/Word	Definition
Personal Information	Any information or opinion about a person whose identity is apparent or can be reasonably ascertained from the information or opinion, as defined in the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> (NSW)

Title: GOV007	PRIVACY POLICY	V1.4	Version date: XX/XX/XXXX
DOC ID: DOC/25/28997	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

Health Information	Information or an opinion about: - the physical or mental health or a disability of a person - a person's express wishes about the future provision of health services to him, her or them - a health service provided, or to be provided, to a person as well as other personal information including personal information: - collected to provide, or in providing, a health service or in connection with body parts, organs donations as defined in the <i>Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002</i> (NSW).
Privacy Management Plan	The Privacy Management Plan as required by Council under section 33 of the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> (NSW) outlining policies, procedures and practices adopted by Council to ensure compliance with the above Acts and the Privacy Code of Practices for Local Government 2000.
Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme	The NSW Mandatory Notification of Data Breach scheme set out in Part 6A of the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> (NSW) requiring prompt notification in the event of an eligible data breach to the NSW Privacy Commissioner and affected individuals where there is unauthorised access to or unauthorised disclosure of, or a loss of, personal information that is likely to result in serious harm.

4. POLICY CONTENT

When Council collects personal information and health information, Council must comply with legislative requirements which include the following principles:

- Personal information must be collected for a lawful purpose;
- Personal information must be collected directly from the person to whom the information relates or from someone authorised to provide the information;
- The person to whom the information relates must be advised prior to collection or as soon as possible after collection that the information is being collected, the purposes for which it is being collected, the intended recipients of the information and whether the supply of the information is required by law or is voluntary and if there are any consequences to not providing it;
- Council must take reasonable steps to ensure that the personal information collected is relevant to the purpose for which it is collected, accurate, complete, up-to-date and not excessive;

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DOC ID: DOC/25/28997	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

- The information is kept for no longer than is necessary, is disposed of securely and in accordance with legislative requirements and is protected, by taking required security safeguards to prevent unauthorised disclosure or misuse;
- At the request of the individual to whom the information relates and without excessive delay or expense, provide the individual with access to the information;
- The information will only be used and/or disclosed in accordance with applicable legislation.

Personal information and health information collected by Council will be:

- managed according to and in compliance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (PIIP Act), *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* (HRIP Act), the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) and the *Local Government Act 1993* (LGA);
- managed according to Council's *Privacy Management Plan*;
- managed in accordance with the legal obligations under the Information Protection Principles (IPP) and Health Protection Principles (HPP) in relation to the collection, storage, use and disclosure of personal information and health information; and
- subject to the NSW Mandatory Notification of Data Breach (MNDB) Scheme.

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW)
- *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* (NSW)
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW)
- *State Records Act 1998* (NSW)
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022* (NSW)

Council Policies & Documents

- GOV020 Code of Conduct Policy
- Privacy Management Plan
- GOV027 Data Breach Policy
- Data Breach Response Plan
- GOV008 Access to Information Policy
- GOV022 Compliance Policy
- Compliance Framework
- GOV004 Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- Records and Information Management Policy
- Governance Framework

Title: GOV007	PRIVACY POLICY	V1.4	Version date: XX/XX/XXXX
DOC ID: DOC/25/28997	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

- GOV028 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

6. ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7. DOCUMENT APPROVAL

This Council Policy is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on [Click or tap to enter a date..](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void. This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

Signed:

General Manager Wentworth Shire Council

[Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Date

Title: GOV007	PRIVACY POLICY	V1.4	Version date: XX/XX/XXXX
DOC ID: DOC/25/28997	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY NUMBER & TITLE:	GOV012	COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT POLICY
WORD DOCUMENT ID:	DOC/25/27048	
VERSION:	1.0	
ADOPTED MEETING DATE:	Click or tap to enter a date.	
REVIEW DUE:	Four yearly or following change of legislation or incident	
VERSION AMENDMENTS:	Nil	

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Corporate Services
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COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY OBJECTIVE

Wentworth Shire Council (Council) is committed to delivering quality customer service and communicating effectively with the community. An effective complaints management system is an essential part of the provision of quality customer service and is also a key component of sound corporate governance ensuring that there is an appropriate level of accountability in the exercise of Council functions.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The intent of this policy is to ensure that Council establishes a complaints management system that handles feedback and complaints effectively and provides an efficient, fair and accessible mechanism for resolving complaints. Wentworth Shire Council reserves the right to manage and investigate complaints in any way deemed appropriate dependent on the circumstances, however, in most cases, Council will follow the processes outlined in this policy and assess accordingly with this policy.

Complaints should not be trivial in nature and should contain enough information to ensure the complaint can be investigated in full and within acceptable timeframes. If a complaint is trivial in nature or insufficient information is provided, this may impact Council's ability to investigate and respond to the complaint. The complaint must relate to matters that Council has a jurisdiction to resolve.

A complaint management system is an organised way of responding to, recording and reporting complaints, as well as using complaints to improve service to Council's customers.

Council aims to:

- Recognise the customer's right to raise concerns about their dealings with Council;
- Provide clear definitions of what constitutes a complaint;
- Provide an efficient, fair and accessible mechanism for resolving complaints;
- Inform the community and customers about the process used to handle complaints; and
- Establish the remedies that are available to resolve complaints.

Title: GOV012	COMPLAINT MANGEMENT POLICY	VXX	Version date: XX/XX/XXXX
DOC ID: DOC/25/27048	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

Council regards all complaints with the utmost seriousness and will handle complaints in a professional, respectful and timely manner in order to resolve the issues raised by the complainant.

2. POLICY COVERAGE

This policy applies to all Council staff. It also applies to contractors and consultants carrying out services on behalf of Wentworth Shire Council.

It should be noted that particular categories of complaints are covered by specific policies or legislation and will be treated according to those specific requirements. Complaint types specific to these may relate to:

- Breaches of Council's Code of Conduct
- Reports of fraud or corruption
- Staff grievances
- Breaches of privacy legislation
- Complaints relating to non-disclosure of pecuniary interests by Councillors

3. STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Strategy: 4. Wentworth Shire Council is supported by a strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

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

4. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term/Word	Definition
Complaint	an expression of dissatisfaction made to or about an organisation, related to its products, services, staff or the management of a complaint, where a response or resolution is explicitly or implicitly expected or legally required
Complaint Management System	all policies, procedures, guidance documents and software used by Council for the management of complaints

5. POLICY CONTENT

This policy and complaint management framework documents are intended to ensure Council handles complaints fairly, efficiently and effectively.

Council's complaint management framework is underpinned by several principles, in particular:

- Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest;
- Council treats all people with respect, including those making complaints
- All complaints will be acknowledged and responded to in a fair, timely and effective manner in accordance with our publicly available procedures

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DOC ID: DOC/25/27048	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version	



COUNCIL POLICY

- Council values complaint information and will use it to guide continuous improvement of our services, procedures and processes
- Good governance of, and by, local government; and
- Ethical and legal behaviour of Councillors and local government employees.

5.1 What is a complaint?

A complaint, as defined by Australian and New Zealand Standard Guidelines for complaint management in organisations - AS/NZS 10002:2022 (AS/NZS Complaint Management Standard) is:

‘an expression of dissatisfaction made to or about an organisation, related to its products, services, staff or the management of a complaint, where a response or resolution is explicitly or implicitly expected or legally required’.

5.2 What is not a complaint?

Requests for service are not considered complaints for the purpose of this policy. Requests or actions that are **not** complaints may include:

- Requests for information
- Request for service, action or assistance
- Reporting of a hazard or risk (for example a fallen tree)
- Reports of faulty infrastructure
- Reports about neighbours, dogs or building work that falls into the compliance aspect of Council's responsibility, such as requests for action for unauthorised building or other breaches or reports of noise.
- Comments or objections relating to a development

5.3 Complaint Handling

All Council staff are to accept, acknowledge, investigate and manage complaints in accordance with this policy, and the Complaint Management Framework.

Training is provided to support staff in the effective management of complaints to Council.

5.4 Complaint Records Management

All complaints must be recorded and managed in Council's Complaints Management Register. The staff member who receives the complaint is responsible for registering it in Council's electronic document management system (EDMS) and initial information on the Register, regardless of the method or location by which the complaint is received including verbally, by email, in person, or by post.

The Complaints Management Register must be kept current and updated in real time to accurately reflect all related conversations, investigations, actions, and resolutions.

5.5 Confidentiality

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DOC ID: DOC/25/27048	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version	



COUNCIL POLICY

Council will manage complaints in a sensitive manner, and protect the confidentiality of parties to the complaint whenever possible.

Instances where it may not be possible for Council to maintain confidentiality of the complaint due to legal requirements include:

- Successful applications to access records under *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) (GIPA),
- Successful applications for disclosure of information under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW) (PPIPA),
- Court order or subpoena
- Council is required by law to report certain information under legislation, for example: *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (NSW), or *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1998* (NSW).

5.6 Unreasonable complaints

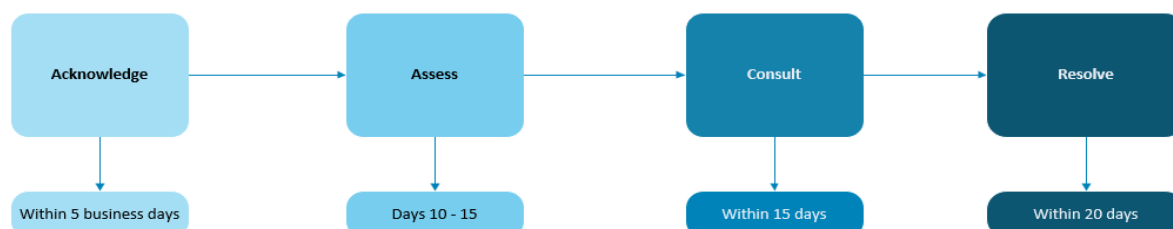
Council will support staff managing any unreasonable conduct of people making complaints that impact on staff health, security and wellbeing or unreasonably or disproportionately diverts Council resources, in accordance with the Complaint Management Framework.

5.7 Council's Complaint Management Process

Council's complaint management process provides at least three levels of review. Where possible, complaints will be resolved at first contact with Council. The levels are:

1. Standard Complaints (Frontline) – resolved at first contact by frontline or first point of contact staff
2. Complex Complaints (Investigation) – undertaken by a senior officer if the complainant is dissatisfied with the level one response
3. Unresolved Complaints (External Review) – complaints that cannot be resolved after the first two levels may be referred to an external agency such as the NSW Ombudsman or Office of Local Government.

Council aims to resolve complaints in accordance with the NSW Ombudsman guidelines of within 20 working days, as shown below:



Where a complaint is addressed to a Councillor from a customer, the information will be forwarded to the General Manager's Office to ensure the complaint is officially recorded. The details of the

Title: GOV012 COMPLAINT MANGEMENT POLICY	VXX	Version date: XX/XX/XXXX
DOC ID: DOC/25/27048	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version	



COUNCIL POLICY

complaint will be provided to an appropriate officer for investigation and management under this policy. Councillors are not responsible for the investigation of, or response to any operational complaint.

5.8 Complaint Outcomes

Council welcomes feedback on complaint outcomes, positive and negative. A person making a complaint is entitled to ask for an internal review of the complaint, if they are dissatisfied with the outcome. An internal review is the second level of complaint management with a review being undertaken by a more senior officer of Council. The General Manager may be informed of a complaint depending on its nature.

The person making the complaint is able to seek an external independent review if they are unsatisfied with the internal review outcome. Council will provide advice on how to approach the organisations that can perform the external review, to the complainant.

5.9 How to make a complaint

Council provides a number of avenues for people to make a complaint:

Email: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Online: www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Mail: Wentworth Shire Council, PO Box 81, Wentworth NSW 2648

In person: 61 Darling Street, Wentworth NSW 2648

Midway Service Centre, 3 Midway Drive, Buronga NSW 2739

Phone: 03 5027 5027

Due to the complexity of some matters, Council may request complaints submitted over the phone, be lodged in writing.

Council's Compliments and Complaints website page provides additional information: [Compliments and Complaints](#)

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA)

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) (PPIPA)

Children's Guardian Act 2019 (NSW)

Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1998 (NSW)

Australian and New Zealand Standard Guidelines for complaint management in organisations - AS/NZS 10002:2022 (AS/NZS Complaint Management Standard)

NSW Ombudsman – Effective Complaint Management Guidelines 2025

Wentworth Shire Council Complaint Management Framework August 2025

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COUNCIL POLICY

7. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

8. DOCUMENT APPROVAL

This Council Policy is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on [Click or tap to enter a date..](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void. This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

Signed: _____
General Manager Wentworth Shire Council

[Click or tap to enter a date.](#)
Date

Title: GOV012 COMPLAINT MANGEMENT POLICY	VXX	Version date: XX/XX/XXXX
DOC ID: DOC/25/27048	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version	

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT MARCH 2026

File Number: RPT/26/97

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

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

Strategy: 4.2 We value our civic leadership whose stewardship and decision making benefits present and future generations

Summary

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

1. OLG Circulars

Council Circular 26-04

2. Meetings

As listed.

3. Upcoming meetings or events

As listed.

4. Other items of note

The Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra opening has been delayed until 24 April 2026 due to the impact of the massive rain event at the end of February.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the information contained within the March 2026 report from the General Manager.

Detailed Report

1. Circulars

Council Circular 26-04 Advice to councils on transfer of Crown roads to councils

What's new or changing?

- Some councils have raised concerns regarding the transfer of Crown roads to councils after councils have approved development applications (DAs) that require the road for access. In some cases, these transfers were done without council agreement.
- The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands (the Department) wishes to clarify the policy on the transfer of Crown roads to council.
- The Office of Local Government is releasing advice on behalf of the Department's Crown Lands group.

What will this mean for council?

- Under the Crown Lands Administration of Crown Roads Policy (Policy) and Guidelines, if a council (including previous councils where amalgamated) approves, or has approved, a development application (DA) that requires a Crown road for access without the prior approval of the Department, the Department may transfer the road to council, regardless of whether the council agrees to the transfer.
- The Department is advising councils to require applicants for all DAs that rely on Crown roads to obtain Landowners consent from the Department before the DA is determined.
- Councils should also assess road condition and location as part of the DA process. Councils can then condition the DA consent to require the developer to upgrade and maintain the road to council standards, or for them to make developer contributions if they have a contributions plan.

Key points

- The Department is not a traditional road construction or maintenance authority and has no related plant, equipment, technical capability or funding. Rather, the Department's role is primarily to be an administrative roads authority. This means the Department manages Crown roads until they are required for public access, at which point the roads are transferred to a more appropriate roads authority.
- Under the Crown Lands Administration of Crown Roads Policy and Guidelines, if a council approves a DA that requires a Crown road for access, this meets one of eight possible criteria for the transfer of the road and the Department will initiate the transfer of the road to council as the relevant roads authority.
- That is because with the commencement of the development consent, the purpose of the Crown road will change, and either council is satisfied with the road condition in its current form, or will require it to be upgraded and maintained to council standards to allow ongoing access.
- A Crown road can be transferred to council without the council's agreement, however it is the practice of the Department to consult with the affected council before processing a Crown road transfer. Each proposed transfer is considered on a case by case basis and road transfers proceed under section 152I Roads Act 1993, by gazette.
- Councils should be aware that concerns around the road condition and/or cost to upgrade and maintain the road, or that the road or 'track in use' is not completely within the gazetted road corridor, are not considered valid reasons to prevent the transfer of a Crown road to council.
- To ensure councils are aware of the Department's position and the potential implications of Crown land transfers, councils are advised to require DA applicants that rely on a Crown road, or 'tracks in use' through Crown land, to get landowners' consent before approving the DA. Then they can be aware of the Department's position and potentially require the DA applicant as a condition of consent, to upgrade the road to council minimum standards or, make an infrastructure contribution or charge a levy (if council has a contributions plan). The Policy also states other criteria for the transfer of Crown roads without the agreement of councils, include:
 - The Crown road is formed and provides access to urban and rural areas
 - The Crown road was constructed, has been/is being maintained by council to facilitate access as part of its local road network
 - A council objects to a road closure on the grounds the road is required for public access.

- The Department will not transfer a Crown road if it has been upgraded or repaired following a natural disaster as part of disaster mitigation. However, if the road was eligible for transfer prior to the natural disaster, transfer may be initiated.
- The majority of Crown roads are transferred to councils by agreement, to facilitate development and other outcomes in the public interest.

2. Meetings

Following is a list of meetings or events attended by the General Manager from 19 February 2026 – 18 March 2026

Date	Meeting	Location
23 Feb 2026	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
27 Feb 2026	Briefing Murray Darling Basin Plan Review preparation of submission - RAMJO	Online
04 March 2026	Flood Risk Management Committee	Wentworth
04 March 2026	MDBA Plan Review & Operation & Management of Menindee Lakes & Lower Darling	Wentworth
04 March 2026	Information Session Review of Joint Organisations in NSW	Online
11 March 2026	NRAR – Controlled Activity Education Session	Wentworth
16 March 2026	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
17 March 2026	NSW Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (LGA) Meeting	Wentworth
17 March 2026	Lightstate Committee of Management	Mildura
18 March 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting	Wentworth

3. Events

Following is a list of events, conferences, or committee meetings, including out of region meetings where the Shire has been requested to attend in an official capacity from 19 March 2026 – 15 April 2026.

Date	Meeting	Proposed Attendees	Location
19 March 2026	Wentworth Shire Interagency Group Meeting	Cr Rodda & Cr Beaumont	Midway
19 March 2026	Wentworth Showgrounds User Group Meeting	Cr Nichols & Cr Evans	Wentworth
24 March 2026	Mildura Wentworth Chamber of Commerce & Industry Launch	Councillors & Executive Staff	Mildura
25 – 27 March 2026	Regional Futures Forum	Cr Armstrong	Albury
26 – 27 March 2026	Country Mayors Association Meeting	Mayor and General Manager	Sydney
26 March 2026	Pooncarie Sporting Reserve User Group Meeting	Cr Armstrong, Rodda &	TBC

		Beaumont	
06 April 2026	Wentworth Regional Tourism INC Meeting	Cr Rodda	Dareton
14 April 2026	Australian Inland Botanical Gardens Meeting	Cr Rodda & Cr Starick	Mildura
15 April 2026	Former Mayors Lunch	Mayor	Wentworth
15 April 2026	Citizenship Ceremony	Councillors and GM	Wentworth
15 April 2026	MRCC and Agricultural Industries Representatives working Group	Mayor	Mildura
15 April 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting	Councillors and Executive Staff	Wentworth

4. Other Items of Note

Attachments

1. Council Circular 26-04 [↓](#)

From: [Office of Local Government](#)
To: [Wentworth Shire Council](#)
Subject: Council Circular 26-04 Advice to councils on transfer of Crown roads to councils
Date: Friday, 20 February 2026 4:40:04 PM



STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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Council Circular

20 February 2026

Council Circular 26-04 Advice to councils on transfer of Crown roads to councils

Circular Details	Circular 26-04 / 20/02/2026 / A998186
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands Email: enquiries@crowland.nsw.gov.au Tel: 1300 886 235
Action Required	For information
PDF Version of Circular	☐ Council Circular 26-04 Advice to councils on transfer of Crown roads to councils

What's new or changing?

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- Councils should also assess road condition and location as part of the DA process. Councils can then condition the DA consent to require the developer to upgrade and maintain the road to council standards, or for them to make developer contributions if they have a contributions plan.

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- The Department will not transfer a Crown road if it has been upgraded or repaired following a natural disaster as part of disaster mitigation. However, if the road was eligible for transfer prior to the natural disaster, transfer may be initiated.

- The majority of Crown roads are transferred to councils by agreement, to facilitate development and other outcomes in the public interest.

Where to go for further information

- [Guidelines – Administration of Crown Roads](#)
- [Administration of Crown Roads Policy](#)
- [Landowner's consent | Crown Lands](#)
- <https://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/find-services/sale-and-ownership-transfers/transfer-a-crown-road>
- Contact: DPHI – Crown Lands Tel:1300 886 235
- Email: enquiries@crownland.nsw.gov.au

Brett Whitworth PSM

Deputy Secretary, Local Government



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9.2 ATTENDANCE TO THE 2026 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

File Number:	RPT/26/83
Responsible Officer:	Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division:	Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer:	Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer
Objective:	4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner
Strategy:	4.2 We value our civic leadership whose stewardship and decision making benefits present and future generations

Summary

The 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government is being held from 23 June to 25 June 2026 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The National General Assembly of Local Government provides an opportunity for Councils to identify and discuss national issues of priority for the sector.

Council is required to nominate and endorse delegates to attend the National General Assembly. In previous years the Mayor and General Manager have attended the conference and from time to time one other Councillor.

Please note that the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government conference will coincide with the 24 June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting. This meeting cannot be brought forward due to the consultation period required for the Delivery Plan and Operation Plan 2026/27. These documents which will include the budget and Councils fees and charges are to be presented at the June Ordinary Council Meeting for endorsement.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Nominate delegates to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government held from 23 June to 25 June 2026
- b) Not send delegates to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government held from 23 June to 25 June 2026

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government is taking place on 23-25 June 2026 in Canberra and council needs to endorse the delegates for the conference. This conference provides an opportunity for Councils to identify and discuss national issues of priority for the sector.

Background

The 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government Conference is held annually and is the main local government forum for policy making in Australia. Council sends delegates to the Conference annually. The theme for this year's National General Assembly of Local Government is: "*Stronger Together. Resilient. Productive. United*".

The 32nd National General Assembly of Local Government will focus on opportunities for councils to work with the next Federal Government to deliver local solutions that will help them deliver on their vision for the nation.

Cost

Approximate costs for attendance per person at the conference are as follows:

Registration - \$1000.00

Accommodation - \$1200.00

Return Flights - \$1200.00

Conclusion

Council is required to consider whether to nominate delegates to attend the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government.

Attachments

1. 2026 NGA Discussion Paper [↓](#)

**Stronger Together:
Resilient. Productive. United**

**2026
National
General
Assembly
Discussion Paper**
National Convention Centre Canberra



ALGA
Australian Local
Government Association

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 32nd National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra in June 2026.

As convenor of the NGA, the ALGA Board warmly invites all councils to send representatives to this important national event. The final date for the NGA will be confirmed once the 2026 Federal Government Parliamentary sitting calendar is released.

The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments. It gives councils a chance to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and strengthen the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend the 2026 NGA familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper.

KEY DATES

27 October 2025 | Opening of Call for Motions

27 February 2026 | Acceptance of Motions closes

TO SUBMIT YOUR MOTION

VISIT: [ALGA.COM.AU](https://alga.com.au)

ALGA AND THE NGA – WORKING FOR YOU

Established 1947, ALGA is a federation of member state and territory associations. Its mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and our communities.

Since 1994, the NGA has raised the profile of local government on the national stage, showcasing the value of councils and demonstrating – particularly to the Australian Government – the strength and value of working with local government to deliver on national priorities.

Debate on motions was introduced to the NGA as a vehicle for councils from across the nation to canvas ideas. Outcomes of these debates (NGA Resolutions) can be used by councils to inform their own policies and priorities, as well as their advocacy when dealing with federal politicians.

At the same time, they help ALGA and its member state and territory associations gain valuable insight into council priorities, emerging national issues, and the level of need and support for new policy and program initiatives.

Given ALGA's structure, Constitution, and resources, the NGA resolutions do not bind ALGA. However, NGA resolutions are carefully considered by the Board to determine ALGA's policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

This is your NGA, and ALGA is pleased to act as the convenor. ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be determined by the ALGA Board in the interests of all councils.

We encourage councils to consider the topics and guidance in this paper as you develop your motions.

The ALGA Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA 2026 and those who submit motions for debate.

SUBMITTING MOTIONS

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) gives you and your council an important opportunity to influence the national policy agenda.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Secretariat has prepared this short discussion paper to help you identify motions that address the NGA 2026 theme of “Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.” This theme encourages debate on how councils across Australia can become more resilient, contribute to the nation’s productivity agenda, and present a united voice to the federal government on key issues in the national sphere.

We encourage you to read all the sections of the paper. We have included guiding questions to assist in developing your motion, but you do not have to respond to every question. You can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper with your motion.

Your NGA motion should focus on how local governments can work in partnership with the Australian Government to address the challenges our communities face or seize the opportunities that are national priorities.

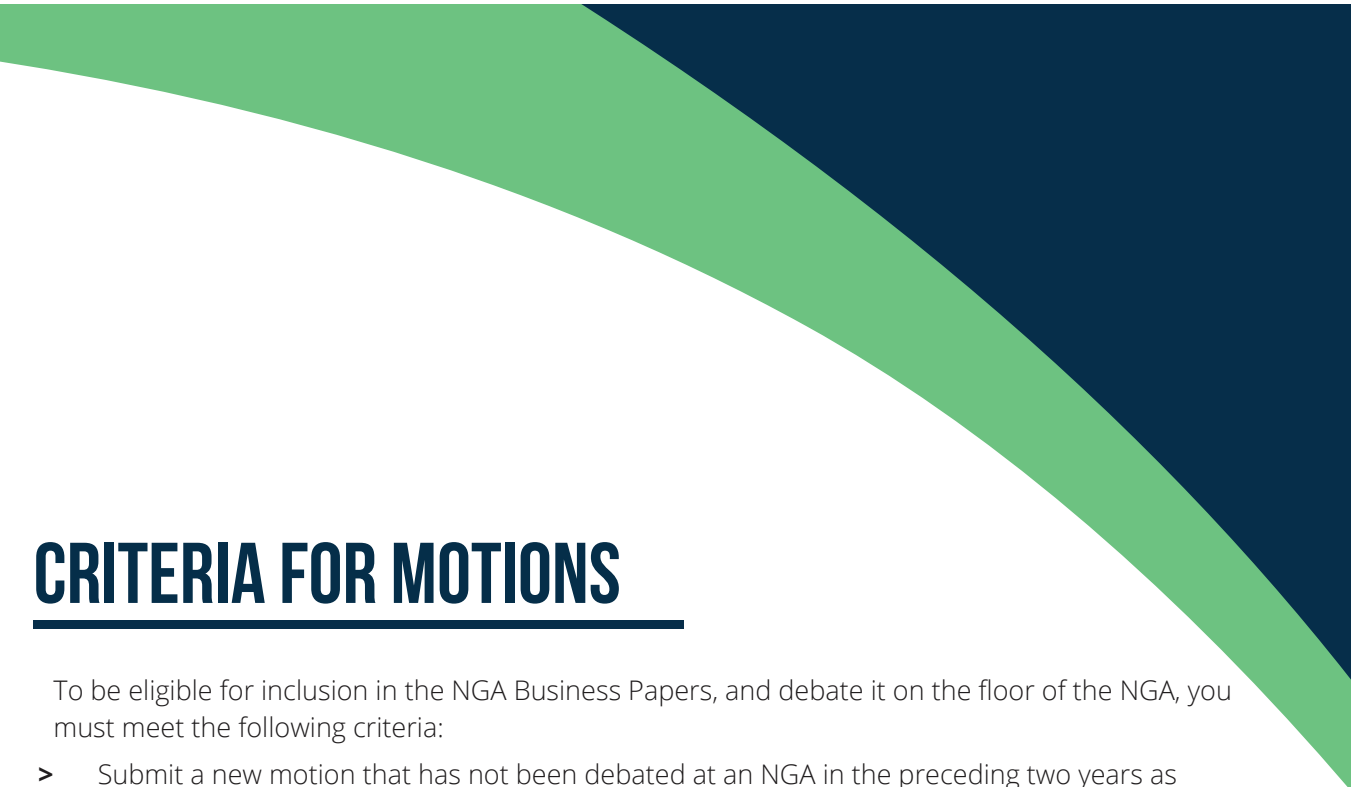
Each year the Secretariat receives a high volume of motions. Councils are encouraged to submit only their highest-priority motions and ensure it meets the criteria below. Multiple motions on a similar topic may be re-written into a single strategic motion, and councils will be invited by the Secretariat to put their council name to the proposal.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- Each motion requires a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council.
- You can lodge motions electronically using the online portal available at www.alga.asn.au
- **Motions should be received no later than 11:59 pm AEST on Friday 27 February 2026.**

WHO CAN SUBMIT A MOTION

- Any council that is a financial member of their state or territory local government association can submit a motion.
- We will not accept motions submitted on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members or gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.



CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and debate it on the floor of the NGA, you must meet the following criteria:

- > Submit a new motion that has not been debated at an NGA in the preceding two years as found in previous business papers on the ALGA website.
- > Ensure your motion is relevant to the work of local government across the nation, not focused on a specific location or region, unless the project has national implications.
- > Align your motion with the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association.
- > Propose a clear action and outcome on a single issue, calling on the Australian Government to take action. Motions covering more than one issue will not be accepted.
- > Ensure the motion does not seek to advantage one or a few councils at the expense of others.
- > Avoid being prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

WRITING TIPS

Motions should seek the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs.

- > Start with: "This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...".
Be concise, clearly worded, and unambiguous.
- > Use the background section of the form to help delegates understand your issue.
- > Keep your motion to 100 words, the national objective to 100 words, and the key arguments to 150 words.

PROCESS OF SELECTION

The ALGA Secretariat will review motions for quality control and consistency with the criteria.

- > With the agreement of the relevant council, we may edit motions to ensure consistency.
- > If we have any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, we will raise these with the nominated contact officer.
- > Where there are multiple motions on a similar issue, the Secretariat may combine them into a single overarching strategic motion and invite the council to attach their name to the strategic motion.
- > Motions that reflect existing ALGA policy will be noted in the Business papers—but will not be included for debate, as they have already been covered in existing ALGA advocacy and policy positions.

The ALGA Board provides final decision on which motions are included in the Business paper.

- > The ALGA Board and state and territory local government associations will review all submitted motions to determine their eligibility.
- > The ALGA Board will consider the importance and relevance of the issue to local government and whether the motions meet all the criteria.
- > The ALGA Board will refer any motion primarily concerned with local or state issues to the relevant state or territory local government association and it will not include it in the NGA Business Papers.

WHO WILL SPEAK TO THE MOTION AT NGA?

We expect any council that submits a motion to be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to the motion. The decision on the speaker is at the discretion of the council.

AFTER THE NGA

The resolutions of the NGA will be referred to the relevant federal Minister as an outcome of the NGA. Resolutions passed at the NGA do not become binding policy on ALGA, with policy positions to remain at the discretion of the ALGA Board.

All NGA resolutions will be published on www.alga.com.au.

As the host of the NGA, ALGA will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on the ALGA website.



OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- > It is important to complete the background section of the submission form. Do not assume NGA delegates will know the background of the proposal. This section helps all delegates to understand your motion and informs decision making. Please note, motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- > Keep motions practical, focussed and can be implemented. This ensures that relevant Australian Government Ministers can respond thoughtfully and promptly. Avoid complex motions with multiple points that require cross-portfolio implementation.
- > If there are any questions about a motion, ALGA will contact the nominated officer. With the council's agreement, these motions may be edited before being included in the NGA Business Papers.
- > Debate will follow the rules published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions.

SETTING THE SCENE

In the face of evolving challenges and opportunities, local governments around Australia stand at the forefront of driving resilience and productivity. Local governments know we are stronger together and the importance of unity across all levels of government. The theme for this year's NGA, **Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United**, underscores the pivotal role councils play in shaping the nation's future and delivering national priorities.

As the backbone of local communities, councils are uniquely positioned to implement place-based solutions that address both local needs and national priorities. This year's NGA encourages debate on how councils can enhance their resilience, contribute meaningfully to the nation's productivity agenda, and present a cohesive voice to the federal government on critical issues.

By fostering collaboration and innovation, local governments can lead the way in creating sustainable and thriving communities.

The 2026 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers, ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard at the national level.

In this context, this year's call for motion focusses on ten priority areas:

- Financial sustainability
- Emergency management
- Housing and planning
- Roads and infrastructure
- Closing the Gap
- Jobs and skills
- Environment
- Cyber security
- Climate change
- Intergovernmental relations.



1. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Financial sustainability is the biggest challenge facing Australia's local governments which is why it remains one of ALGA's top priorities. Sustainably funded, councils can play a key role delivering local solutions to national priorities.

The 2025 Parliamentary inquiry interim report into local government sustainability confirmed that the role of councils has evolved and expanded over time, putting significant pressure on local government budgets. It is critical the Federal Government reinstates and finalises the Parliamentary inquiry into local government sustainability.

For almost one in four councils, federal Financial Assistance Grants make up at least 20 per cent of their annual operating revenue. This funding is untied, meaning it can be used to address local priorities.

Over the past 30 years, the value of Financial Assistance Grants as a percentage of Commonwealth taxation revenue has dropped from 1% in 1996 to just 0.5% today. To address this, ALGA is advocating for a **return to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue for local government over the next three years.**

ALGA also proposes five new, untied funding streams to be distributed to all councils on a formula basis, including:

- \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply,
- \$500 million per year for community infrastructure,
- \$600 million per year for safer local roads,
- \$900 million per year for increased local government emergency management capability and capacity, and
- \$400 million per year for climate adaptation.

Additionally ALGA advocates for permanent, full membership of National Cabinet, the Council on Federal Financial Relations and the Local Government Ministers' Forum to ensure local perspectives are considered in national decision making.

What are the opportunities to address financial sustainability across councils, and support their capacity to deliver local solutions to national priorities?

Are there improvements to be made to existing federal funding programs and arrangements that would support improved local government financial sustainability?

2. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The frequency, duration, and severity of natural disasters in Australia are a major concern for local governments.

Between 2019 and 2023, 434 of Australia's 537 councils faced natural disasters. Since 2020, 346 councils have dealt with at least two or more natural disasters. These numbers highlight that Australia will likely face more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters in the future, as noted by the 2025 Australian National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA). Regional communities, which have the least capacity to plan and respond to natural disasters, are often hit the hardest. However, the NCRA also warns that even areas that have never experienced disasters will face one at some point as the climate continues to warm.

More frequent disasters will further strain emergency services and disaster response and recovery efforts at all levels of government. Natural disasters currently cost Australia \$38 billion per year in direct physical damage, economic disruption, and social impacts, affecting millions of people. This figure is forecast to rise to approximately \$73 billion by 2060.

Councils are crucial in supporting their communities during and after disasters, but do not have enough funding to carry out these functions. They are already stretched thin, with many councils facing financial instability, and the increasing frequency of disasters has a cumulative financial impact.

Investing more in disaster prevention and resilience, as well as boosting local government emergency management response funding, will save money in the long run and better protect lives, homes, and businesses. Every dollar spent on reducing the impact of climate-related disasters saves the government up to \$8 in the long term.

ALGA is asking for \$900 million per year to help councils improve their disaster response and resilience. They also want the Commonwealth to fully implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and other major reviews, including the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (the Glasser Review) and the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (the Colvin Review)

The Independent Reviews by Colvin and Glasser support a strategic shift towards disaster risk reduction and resilience. The Colvin Review recommended a major capacity uplift for local government and an enhanced national training and exercise regime which tests and builds local government capability. However, while ALGA notes the need to invest in risk-reduction and resilience-building initiatives, embedding recovery at all points along the emergency management continuum, should always be at the front of mind for all levels of government. ALGA's response to these Reviews reiterated the need for a sustainable funding model for disasters through a non-competitive pathway, and dedicated funding for local government.

Councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to better support them in preparing, responding to, and recovering from, natural disasters.

Please note that many aspects of emergency management are state or territory responsibilities, and your motions should focus on how the Australian Government could assist.

What new programs, or improvements to existing programs, could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to improve the current natural disaster management systems to further assist in recovery and build resilience?

How can the Government best support Australian councils to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters?



3. HOUSING AND PLANNING

Australia is experiencing an affordable housing crisis, with a lack of housing supply impacting on homeowners and renters.

The crisis is leading to more people experiencing homelessness and struggling with housing insecurity and affordability.

In many jurisdictions, local government performs a key role in zoning and approving housing and delivering enabling infrastructure. However, councils are often unfairly blamed for delays in housing approvals when most applications that meet the requirements are processed quickly and efficiently.

One of the biggest barriers to building more homes is a lack of funding for enabling infrastructure, including the roads, power and water connections necessary for new developments.

The National Housing Accord – which ALGA is a signatory to on behalf of local government – sets an ambitious national target of 1.2 million new, well-located homes over the next five years. According to ALGA's research, it will cost at least \$5.7 billion to build the infrastructure needed to meet the national housing target. This is in addition to the existing funding gaps for local government infrastructure, which is estimated to be between \$50-\$55 billion for replacing infrastructure in poor condition (2024 National State of the Assets Report).

The 2024 Addressing the Housing Crisis: Unlocking Local Government's Contribution Report by Equity Economics found that 40% of surveyed local governments have reduced new infrastructure developments due to insufficient funding for enabling infrastructure required to support new housing, further exacerbating the housing crisis.

ALGA is calling for a new five-year, \$1.1 billion annual fund that would be provided to all councils to get the foundations right for increasing Australia's housing supply.

We are advocating for local governments to be provided with \$500 million per year for critical and community infrastructure and assets that will help create more liveable communities.

ALGA is also seeking a seat at the table for national discussions on housing policy, including full membership of National Cabinet and the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council.

What new programs and policies could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to support the provision of more affordable housing?

How can local governments be better supported in their role in planning and approving housing, and delivering enabling infrastructure?



4. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Local governments are responsible for about one-third of Australia's public infrastructure, including local roads, buildings, facilities, airports, water and land.

According to ALGA's 2024 National State of the Assets report, Australia's councils manage over \$600 billion worth of assets and infrastructure, which is about ten times their annual revenue.

This makes local governments the most asset-intensive level of government. Councils manage local roads, which make up around 75% of the national road network, totalling more than 650,000 km. These roads serve every Australian and business daily, and are key to Australia's productivity.

Safer roads

The unacceptable number of deaths and serious injuries on Australian roads has continued to rise every year since 2020.

Tragically, around half of all fatal road crashes occur on local roads in regional areas. During the 12 months ending August 2025 there were 1,353 road deaths, 4.3% higher than the same time in the previous year, according to national road safety data.

Effectively funding the maintenance and necessary safety upgrades of Australia's local road network is a big challenge, and despite recent increases in the federal Roads to Recovery funding, there is still a \$500 million per year shortfall, according to the 2023 Grattan Institute's Potholes and Pitfalls report.

ALGA is calling for \$600 million per year safer roads fund – with \$500 million for infrastructure improvements and \$100 million for road safety programs – to support all councils to play a more effective role reducing deaths on Australian roads.

Community infrastructure

Local government libraries, playgrounds, bike paths and community centres are vital to the wellbeing and liveability of communities. However, many of these facilities need significant attention and upgrades.

According to ALGA's 2024 National State of the Assets report, around \$8.3 billion of local government buildings and facilities and \$2.9 billion of parks and recreation assets are in poor condition.

On a positive note, since 2021, the amount of local government buildings and facilities in poor condition has fallen from 10 per cent to eight per cent. This is the result of increased federal investment through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, from both the Coalition and Labor governments since 2020.

Unfortunately, this program has ceased and there is an urgent need for ongoing and significant community infrastructure. ALGA is proposing a \$500 million per year community infrastructure fund – to be provided to all councils – to build, (and importantly), maintain and upgrade the local facilities that make communities great.

Are there new programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to improve the long-term sustainability of local government roads and community infrastructure?

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's capacity to manage local government infrastructure and to integrate these plans into long-term financial plans?

Are there opportunities for the Australian Government to support councils to invest in local infrastructure that will help address national priorities?

5. CLOSING THE GAP

Local governments play a crucial role in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. ALGA is a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, which focuses on four priority reform targets and 19 socio-economic targets in areas like education, employment, health, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Local governments are uniquely positioned to support partnerships that address long-term service gaps and ensure their delivery. However, the Productivity Commission Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap found that Federal and state governments are not adequately supporting or involving local governments in these reforms.

ALGA is calling for more resourcing and funding for local government, to support place-based initiatives or broader programs to enable councils to better facilitate and meet Closing the Gap objectives in their communities.

ALGA is also advocating for the Commonwealth to:

- Establish a national framework/set of protocols outlining which Federal Government departments/agencies should engage with local government in place-based initiatives, and planning for community-level projects or expenditure.
- Seek greater local government input in programs that impact on Closing the Gap targets to better shape programs with local knowledge and the needs of specific communities.
- Develop programs, with state and territory governments, to include funded support positions for local government coordination and partnership efforts (including member associations).
- Recognise councils with majority or all Aboriginal-elected members as key service delivery bodies in policy and program development.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to assist local government to advance reconciliation and close the gap?

Are there practical programs or initiatives that local government and the Australian Government could introduce to maintain, build and strengthen the level of trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and governments?



6. JOBS AND SKILLS

Australia's jobs and skills crisis is significantly impacting local governments, which employ around 213,000 people nationwide. ALGA's 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey found that nine out of ten Australian councils face jobs and skills shortages, hindering project and service delivery.

Town planners, building surveyors, and engineers are the most in-demand professions. These roles are crucial for supporting and enabling communities to become more resilient and to help boost local economic growth and national productivity. National priorities, such as increasing housing supply, cannot be achieved without local government support and the right professionals to undertake this work.

Several factors drive these skill shortages, including difficulty attracting young people to local government jobs, lack of available training courses, wage competition, and insufficient resources to upskill the current workforce. This includes access to training facilities for rural and remote councils, workplace supervisors, subject matter experts, and contextualized training resources.

Councils urgently need more federal funding to invest in workforce development and training programs, attract workers to regional areas, and address broader skills shortages in the national economy. ALGA is calling for the Federal Government's National Skills Plan to acknowledge the vital role of local governments as employers in training and skills development. ALGA also seeks funding opportunities for council employees to access training for identified skills shortage areas, especially in regional and remote communities.

Additionally, it is important for the Commonwealth to undertake a national audit of institutions offering urban and land use planning, building surveyors, and engineering qualifications, and to identify more readily available pathways for regional and remote study.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could implement that would enhance local government's capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled staff now and into the future?

Are there programs or changes to existing programs that would increase local government's ability to employ apprentices and trainees?

Are there other initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's ability to plan and develop skills fit for the future?

7. ENVIRONMENT

Local governments play a crucial role in protecting our local environment including places, flora and fauna.

Councils spend more money on environmental protection than any other level of government. According to SGS Economics and Planning, councils spent \$6.75 billion in 2021-22 on biodiversity, biosecurity, water management, and waste management. By comparison, states and territories spent \$6.62 billion, and the Commonwealth allocated \$6.7 billion over the same period.

Local government is also key in improving waste management and resource recovery to reduce pollution, maintain communities and keep people healthy. However, as the Australian Government recently reported, we are running out of viable landfill space and circular economy solutions are required.

Local governments are ideal partners for on-the-ground action to deliver environmental priorities and outcomes, but they need better funding and support.

Councils bring a local, community-based and integrated approach to managing environmental issues, including weed and pest management, monitoring and protecting threatened species, contributing to water security and enhancing biodiversity.

ALGA is calling on the Federal Government to:

- Fund councils to support the delivery of national environmental outcomes. This includes outcomes stipulated in international conventions, threatened species action plans, matters of national, state, and local environmental significance, and any new obligations/expectations under reforms to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.
- Fund local governments to manage environmental threats, including pests, weeds, and biosecurity threats.
- Ensure local government is appropriately recognised and engaged through environmental law reform processes.
- Seek agreement, under the National Water Initiative, on the overarching social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes and goals for water on a national and holistic basis, and action planning and funding and achieve these outcomes and goals.



Waste management and resource recovery

Collecting, treating, and disposing of waste costs local governments an estimated \$3.5 billion annually.

The 2022 National Waste report revealed waste generation has increased 20 per cent over the last 15 years (8.3 per cent coming from municipal waste). Although, recycling and recovery of Australia's core waste has increased by 57 per cent since 2006-07, Australia still has one of the lowest rates of recycling among OCED countries.

The responsibility and cost for waste reduction in Australia should be borne by industry, and not local governments.

Implementing mandatory product stewardship, including payments to local governments for any residual resource recovery services, would ensure producer responsibility is operationalised and reduce the cost and risk burden on councils.

ALGA is advocating for the Federal Government to:

- Establish a mandatory product stewardship approach for waste materials and ensure product stewardship schemes include, and are effective, in regional and remote areas.
- Ban the importation and manufacturing of products containing identified contaminants.
- Prioritise national policy attention to waste streams with the highest potential to improve environmental outcomes, reduce costs to local government, and create economic opportunity.
- Introduce a 'local government impact assessment' into national waste policy and reform processes to ensure council interests are systematically incorporated into policy design.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to strengthen Australia's environmental services and infrastructure?

What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government in to progress local regional and national objectives?

What actions and investments should the Australian Government prioritise to improve resource recovery rates?

What initiatives and approaches should the Australian Government take to improve waste, recycling and resource recovery in regional, rural and remote LGAs?

What are the most significant opportunities in the circular economy and how can the Australian Government engage with local governments to leverage these opportunities?



8. CYBER SECURITY

Cyber security is a growing risk for all Australian governments and businesses, and councils are not immune. However many local governments are under-resourced and struggle to deal with increasingly sophisticated cyber threats and attacks.

Local governments manage large amounts of sensitive data about communities and community members, including private information from the aged care, health, and social services they deliver. Furthermore, most councils are responsible for managing critical infrastructure, including water, waste, power networks, and transport systems.

Councils need greater support to strengthen their cyber security preparedness and response capability, and protect valuable data.

ALGA is calling for greater funding and support from the federal government to improve cyber security capability and capacity across the local government sector.

Drawing upon your council's experience, and your knowledge of other councils within your state or territory, are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to help local government develop its digital technology services and infrastructure?

Are there actions the Australian Government could take to improve cyber security within the local government sector?

9. CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change – including from more frequent and severe natural disasters, coastal erosion and rising temperatures – are being felt right across every community.

Councils, being the closest government to communities, are crucial in creating a sustainable future and helping the Federal Government achieve net zero emissions by 2050. However, they need support to manage these impacts.

Climate adaptation

Local governments are on the frontline of climate adaptation. They build public swimming pools to keep people cool, plant trees for shade, and upgrade stormwater systems to handle heavy rains. With their local knowledge and leadership, they play a vital role in addressing climate risks and seizing new opportunities from new industries and achieving national climate adaptation objectives.

Councils are already investing significantly in climate adaptation, but they need more support to match the scale of the challenges. ALGA's modelling shows that councils deliver \$0.8 to \$3.1 in benefits for every \$1 invested. A \$2 billion investment by 2030 could benefit local communities by \$2.2 to \$4.7 billion.

ALGA is calling for a new \$400 million per year climate adaptation fund, to be distributed across all councils to provide local, place-based solutions to Australia's changing climate.

We are also asking the Federal Government to:

- Streamline and make it easier for local governments to undertake climate risk management. This should involve implementing a voluntary climate risk framework for local government which supports consistent climate risk assessment, reporting, decision making and expenditure.
- Develop, operate and maintain an information and data suite designed specifically for local government adaptation use (on an opt-in basis).

Emissions reduction

The Australian Local Government Climate Review 2024 found that 86% of councils (out of 120 respondents) had an emissions inventory. However, they face barriers in reducing corporate emissions, such as internal resourcing (69%), funding (64%), and staff capability (40%).

While councils are committed to reducing emissions locally, they need more funding to avoid burdening ratepayers and to allow communities to benefit from low-emissions technologies sooner.



ALGA is asking the Federal Government to:

- Collaborate with local governments as part of a multi-level governance approach (per the Australian Government's pledge to the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships) to undertake strategic planning and prioritisation of net zero projects, infrastructure and service needs on a regional level.
- Fund emissions reduction plans with local governments across states and territories to facilitate a place-based approach to achieving net zero communities.
- Expand, and make more accessible, existing funding programs which enable local governments to reduce emissions and support community emissions reduction.
- Provide councils with accessible and nationally harmonised tools to maintain pace with trends in emissions measurement and reporting.
- Ensure local governments are compensated where emissions reduction processes place additional pressure on services and infrastructure (e.g, heavier EV truck impact on maintenance/standards of roads/bridges).

Renewable energy transition

Local governments are crucial partners in the transition to net zero. They engage with project proponents, negotiate community benefits, provide trusted information to residents, and manage the impacts of large projects on roads, housing, and local skills.

Councils strive to create a positive long-term legacy while balancing the immediate risks and impacts of the transition.

ALGA is asking the Federal Government to:

- Create a program of work dedicated to understanding local government experiences with renewable energy transition in their local area and region and develop specific supports for local governments.
- Establish a national approach and mechanism for cost recovery to local governments for the role of brokering benefits between project proponents and their communities, benefitting all Australians.
- Develop and maintain regional plans and a national map demonstrating zoning for prospective and proposed renewable energy projects and transmission corridors.

Noting the Australian Government's approach to reducing emissions, are there partnerships, programs, and initiatives that local government and the Australian Government can form to achieve Australia's 2050 net zero emissions target?

What are the opportunities to support councils to increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change?

What support do councils need to ensure that renewable energy projects deliver lasting benefits to the communities that house them?

What are the most significant climate risks being faced by local governments and what approach should the Australian Government take to supporting councils?

What roles and responsibilities for emissions reduction and climate risk management is your council shouldering that should be primarily managed by other levels of government? How should this responsibility be shared or rebalanced?

What are the most significant emissions reduction opportunities for your council and what could the Commonwealth provide to enable you to implement these opportunities?

10. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

ALGA has unique access and insight into government decision-making in Australia.

We represent local government at Ministerial Councils and forums on a range of key issues including transport, emergency management, energy, climate, environment, planning, culture and Closing the Gap.

At these meetings, ALGA's leaders provide a powerful and strong voice for councils and communities, and ensure local perspectives are considered in national policy development.

However, ALGA does not have a permanent voice on National Cabinet – the main forum linking all governments across the nation.

For almost 30 years, ALGA was a valued member and contributor to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). However, ALGA's membership did not carry over when COAG transitioned to National Cabinet in 2020, and ALGA now only attends one meeting each year as an observer. ALGA is also invited to attend one meeting per year of the Council on Federal Financial Relations.

ALGA is calling on the Federal Government to return ALGA as a full member of National Cabinet with ongoing membership and voting rights. This will enable local government leaders to provide local perspectives on national decision making and ensure the views of Australian communities are understood and considered.

We are also seeking full membership of the Local Government Ministers' Forum, which ALGA currently attends in an ex-officio capacity.

Given the important role councils play delivering local solutions to national priorities, how can intergovernmental arrangements be further improved in Australia?

Are there new initiatives and programs that could be adopted to improve the level of cooperation and collaboration between the Australian Government and local government?



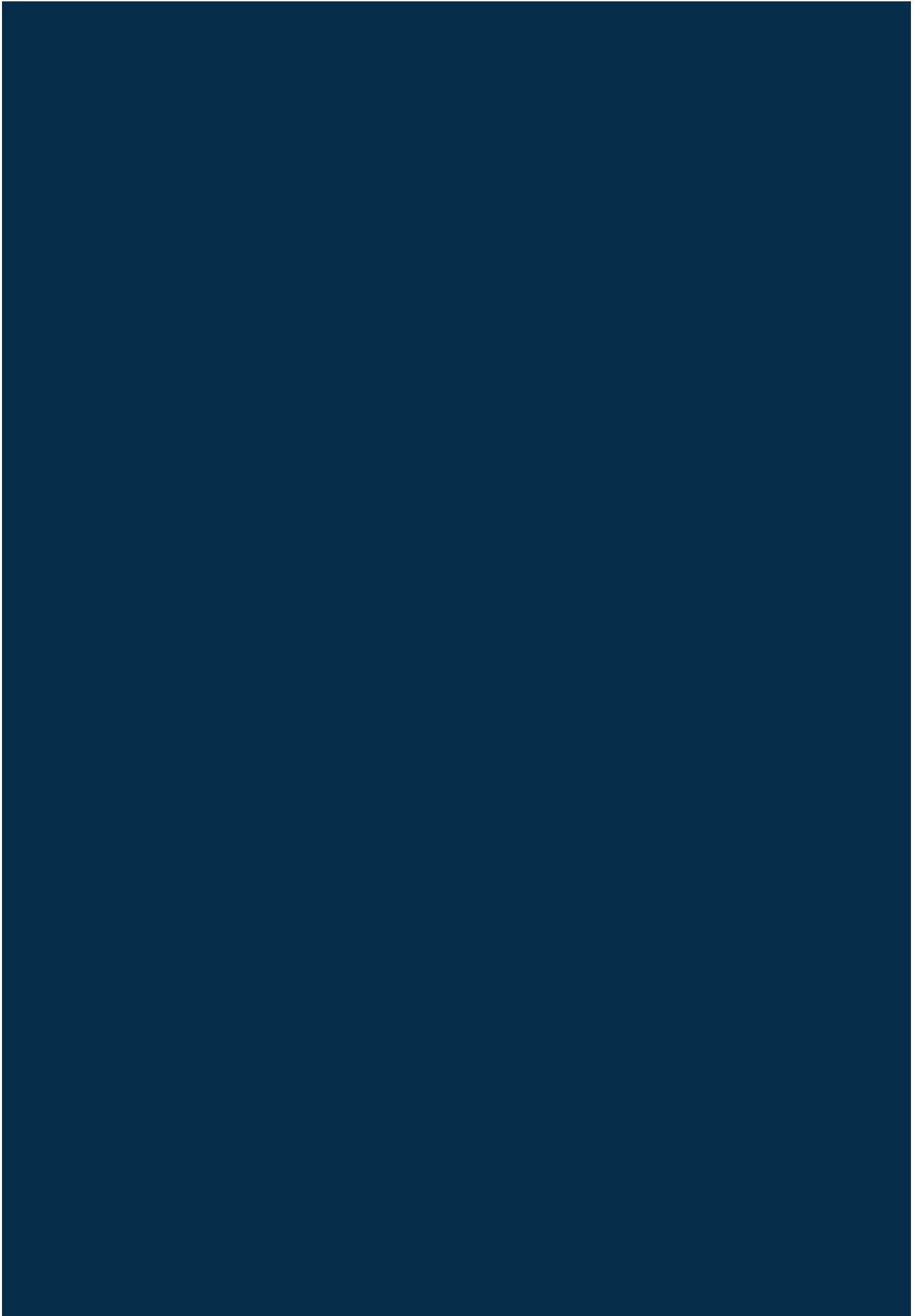
CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government.

A final reminder:

- Motions should be lodged electronically at www.alga.com.au and received no later than **11.59pm AEST on 27 February 2026**.
- Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- Motions should commence with the following wording: *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...*
- Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2026 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.
- Resolutions of the National General Assembly do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions. The resolutions are used by the ALGA Board to inform policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2026 National General Assembly in Canberra.



9.3 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/110

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 February 2026 were \$ 1,288,377.57. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 71.3%. For comparison purposes 74.51% of the levy had been collected at the end of February 2025. Council currently has \$35,206,545.89 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for February 2026.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to indicate to Council the position in relation to the rate of collections and the balance of cash books.

Reconciliation and Balance of Funds held as at 28 February 2026

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 28 February 2026.

	Combined Bank Account	
Cash Balance as at 1 February 2026	\$	2,906,009.11
Add: Receipts for the Period Ending 28 February 2026 Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	\$	4,502,128.29
Less: Payments for the Period Ending 28 February 2026 Cash Book entries for this Month	\$	4,346,768.24
Cash Balance of Operating A/C as at 28 February 2026	\$	3,061,369.16
Trust Fund Balance	\$	1,145,176.73
Total Investments as at 28 February 2026	\$	31,000,000.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$	35,206,545.89

Collection of Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges collections for the month of February 2026 were \$ 1,288,377.57. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 71.3%. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 28 February 2026 is as follows:

Note: For comparison purposes 74.51% of the levy had been collected at the end of February 2025.

LEVIES	RATES & CHARGES	
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2025 - Rates / Water	799,031.20	
Rates and Charges Levied 21 July 2025	11,941,099.57	\$ 12,740,130.77
+ Additional Water Charges	1,558,592.52	
+ Supplementary Rates and Charges	161,029.99	
+ Additional Charges	73,895.87	
- Credit Adjustments	35,172.85	
- Abandonments	23,289.32	\$ 14,475,186.98
DEDUCTIONS		
- Payments	10,164,498.92	
- Less Refunds of Payments	17,242.70	\$ 10,147,256.22
		\$ 4,327,930.76
- Pensioner Subsidy		
Government Subsidy	95,598.38	
Council Subsidy	78,216.86	\$ 173,815.24
RATES/WATER CHARGES OUTSTANDING 28 FEBRUARY 2026	\$	4,154,115.52

Rates/Water write offs and adjustments

The following rates or charges have been written off or adjusted under the delegated authority of the General Manager for the month of February 2026.

Account	Date	Amount	Comment
Rates			
706-0224	18/02/2026	10.26	Credit interest- Claim they did not receive rate notice
724/47	18/02/2026	33.08	Credit interest - Paid into water instead of rates through BPAY
1287/3	13/02/2026	5.84	Credit interest - Paid into water instead of rates through BPAY
Debtors			
ARCH	27/02/2026	\$ 761.72	Credit - Charged incorrectly at Buronga Landfill
CUMMIN	13/02/2026	\$ 18.00	Creidt - Landfill charge paid at the Landfill and also added to Landfill account data for account to be issued
MWR	13/02/2026	\$ 1,121.60	Credit - Charged incorrectly at Burona Landfill

Council Loans Report

Name	Institution	Purpose	Interest Rate	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding	Due Date
Loan 202	ANZ Bank	Civic Centre	3.47% Fixed	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 446,236.27	21/10/2026
Loan 203	National Australia Bank	Midway Centre	3.586% Fixed	\$ 1,900,000.00	\$ 1,092,340.94	1/06/2033
Loan 204	Bendigo Bank	Buronga Landfill	5.29% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,029,407.18	12/05/2037
CFWC310604	T-Corp	Trentham Cliffs Sewer	1.82% Fixed	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 429,068.07	4/06/2031
CFWC310624	T-Corp	Burong/Gol Gol Stormwater	1.79% Fixed	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 715,242.61	24/06/2031
Loan 205	National Australia Bank	Willowbend Caravan Park	2.2% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 927,469.01	25/01/2027
Loan 206	Bendigo Bank	Buronga Landfill #3	1.85% Fixed	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 368,490.54	25/09/2028
Loan 207	National Australia Bank	Willowbend Caravan Park	1.933% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,078,305.81	31/03/2028
Loan 207	National Australia Bank	Civic Centre	1.933% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,406,564.40	31/03/2028
CFWC440209	T -Corp	Civic Centre	5.45% Fixed	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 3,764,837.11	9/02/2044
CFWC440523	T-Corp	Stormwater	5.73% Fixed	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 1,915,586.90	23/05/2044
CFWC440822	T-Corp	Buronga Landfill	5.48% Fixed	\$ 12,000,000.00	\$ 11,479,733.04	22/08/2044
TOTAL					\$ 24,653,281.88	

Overtime and Travelling

Month	Feb	Pay Periods	16 & 17			
Overtime from 17 January 2026 to 13 February 2026						
Overtime						
	Time and a Half Includes Time		Double Time		Total	2025/26 Accumulative Total
Department	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount		
Animal Services	11.50	612.66	9.50	\$ 674.80	\$ 1,287.46	\$ 11,995.27
Assets					\$ -	\$ 213.92
Building Maintenance	1.75	127.30			\$ 127.30	\$ 865.53
Civil					\$ -	\$ 4,982.20
Council Roads	232.00	11,647.78	119.00	\$ 8,044.44	\$ 19,692.22	\$ 156,677.72
Depot Store	2.00	116.23	6.50	\$ 503.65	\$ 619.88	\$ 1,239.76
Finance	2.00	178.07	2.00	\$ 237.42	\$ 415.49	\$ 913.78
GM's Office	2.00	164.73	5.00	\$ 549.12	\$ 713.85	\$ 4,416.71
Health & Planning					\$ -	\$ 136.17
Indoor Engineers					\$ -	\$ 540.87
IT Support	0.50	41.84			\$ 41.84	\$ 2,319.57
Landfill Transfer Stations	25.50	1,381.48			\$ 1,381.48	\$ 5,215.00
Library					\$ -	\$ 3,420.78
Parks & Gardens	9.50	509.55	8.00	\$ 533.20	\$ 1,042.75	\$ 11,477.12
Private Works					\$ -	\$ 7,132.68
RMS Roads	9.00	498.92	10.00	\$ 839.01	\$ 1,337.93	\$ 8,748.40
Subdivision Officer					\$ -	\$ 411.84
Tourism & Promotion	6.25	362.37	11.00	\$ 842.59	\$ 1,204.96	\$ 13,008.11
Water & Waste Water	41.50	2,426.96	65.50	\$ 5,202.95	\$ 7,629.91	\$ 82,043.81
Workshop	15.50	1,025.68			\$ 1,025.68	\$ 5,848.27
Workshop/Mechanics					\$ -	\$ 228.05
Total	359.00	19,093.57	236.50	17,427.18	\$ 36,520.75	\$ 322,272.35
Travel Allowance						
Department	Kms	Amount				
Water & Waste Water	163	159.74				
Cumulative Travel	282.70	436.79				
Grand Total Pay 16 & 18		\$ 36,680.49				

Overtime comments

Council roads – includes maintenance, resheeting and rehabilitation works on remote roads such as Karpa Kora Road, Ivanhoe Road, Pine Camp Road and Springwood Road.

Water team overtime is associated with:

- After hours operation and maintenance of water treatment plants

Conclusion

- The report indicates to Council that its finances are in a favourable position.

Attachments

Nil

9.4 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

File Number:	RPT/26/108
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 28 February 2026, Council had \$31 million invested in term deposits and fixed bonds with \$4,206,545.89 in other cash investments. Council received \$71,643.04 from its investments for the month of February 2026.

In February 2026 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 3.52% and it currently has \$5,816,314.93 of internal restrictions and \$27,958,249.40 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report for February 2026.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of its investments as required by the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the associated regulation.

Matters under consideration.

As of 28 February 2026, Council had \$35,206,545.89 invested with Six (6) financial institutions and one (1) Treasury Corporation. This is an increase of \$155,360.05 from the previous month.

The investment of surplus funds remains in line with Council's Investment Policy. This ensures sufficient working capital is retained, and restrictions are supported by cash and investments that are easily converted into cash.

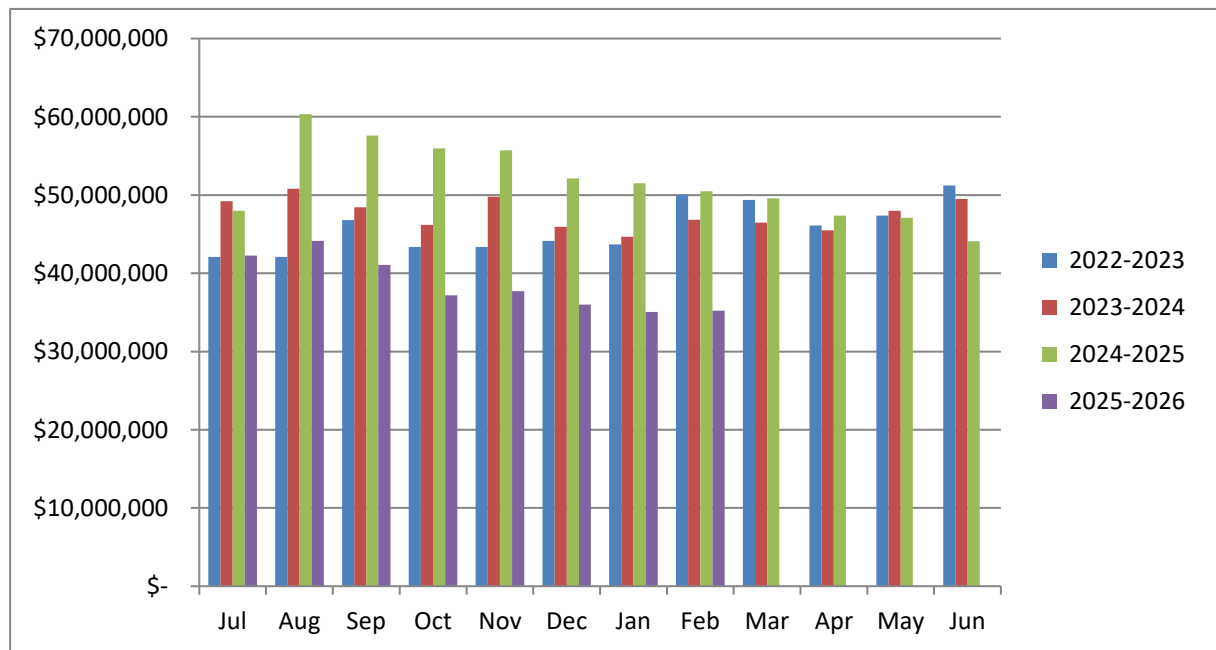
Interest Received from Cash Investments in February 2026

23 deposits matured or provided interest in February earning Council \$71,643.04 in interest. The budget for February was \$177,083.33. Year to date Council has received \$1,326,340.00 in interest based on cash accounting compared to the budget to February of \$1,416,666.64 Expired investments are now shown in the attached report along with a summary of accrued interest. The budget for the financial year was set at \$2,125,000.00

Restrictions

Internal Restrictions		
- Employee Entitlements	\$2,300,921.00	
- Future Development Reserve	\$576,217.20	
- Trust Account	\$1,145,176.73	
- Capital Projects	\$1,000,000.00	
- Plant Replacement Reserve	\$0	
- Landfill Reserve	\$794,000.00	\$5,816,314.93
External Restrictions		
- Water Fund	\$11,527,314.51	
- Sewer Fund	\$7,680,363.82	
- T-Corp Loan Balance	\$2,259,944.00	
- Developer Contributions Reserve	\$1,320,500.00	
- Unexpended Grants	\$4,337,717.34	
- Crown Reserves Reserve	\$222,399.65	
- Prepayments Cemeteries	\$609,867.48	\$27,958,249.40
Day to Day Liquidity		\$ 1,431,981.56
Total Funds Available		\$35,206,545.89

Total Funds Invested



Summary – Unexpended Grants as at 28 February 2026

Grant	Amount	Expiry
OLG Flood Recovery Grants	\$602,061.24	30/06/2026
Crown Reserve Improvement Fund Astronomy Park	\$439,169.65	30/06/2026
Main Roads Block Grant	\$726,973.51	30/06/2026
Regional Emergency Road Repair Program	\$2,569,655.54	31/10/2027
Total	\$ 4,337,717.34	

Conclusion

The Director Corporate Services has certified that all investments have been made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 and Council's Investment Policy. Council is investing its funds prudently to optimise returns and reduce exposure to risk in accordance with legislation and its own investment policy.

Attachments

1. Yield Hub Report - February 2026[1](#)



Wentworth Shire Council

Holdings Report

As At 28th of February, 2026

Important Disclaimer



Disclaimer

This document is for informational purposes only and is intended for wholesale investors as defined under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). It does not constitute financial advice, an offer, solicitation, or recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any financial products.

While reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information, we make no representations or warranties as to its completeness, reliability, or fitness for any purpose. Any opinions, estimates, or assumptions contained in this document are subject to change without notice.

Before making any investment decision, you should seek independent financial, legal, and tax advice to determine the appropriateness of any information in the context of your own circumstances.

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Regulatory Information

The YieldHub platform is powered by Curve Securities Ltd.

ABN 94 143 558 598 | AFS Licence 405751

Phone: (02) 9690 2188 | Curve: 1300 128 783 | Email: yield@curve.com.au

Suite 1801, Level 18, 1 Bligh St, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Portfolio Performance Dashboard as at 28/02/2026





Portfolio Cost

\$31,000,000



Portfolio Value

\$31,000,000



Unrealised Gain/Loss

\$0



Weighted Avg. Term

37.5 days



Weighted Avg. Yield

3.8000%



February 2026 Interest

\$71,643



FY26 Interest

\$1,382,858



Accrued Interest

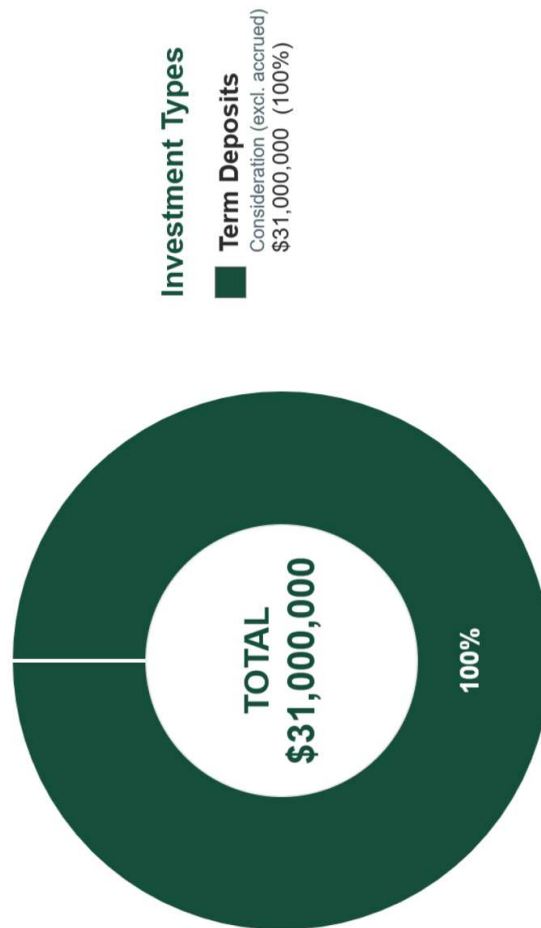
\$126,821

Portfolio metrics current as of reporting date

Investment Distribution by Value



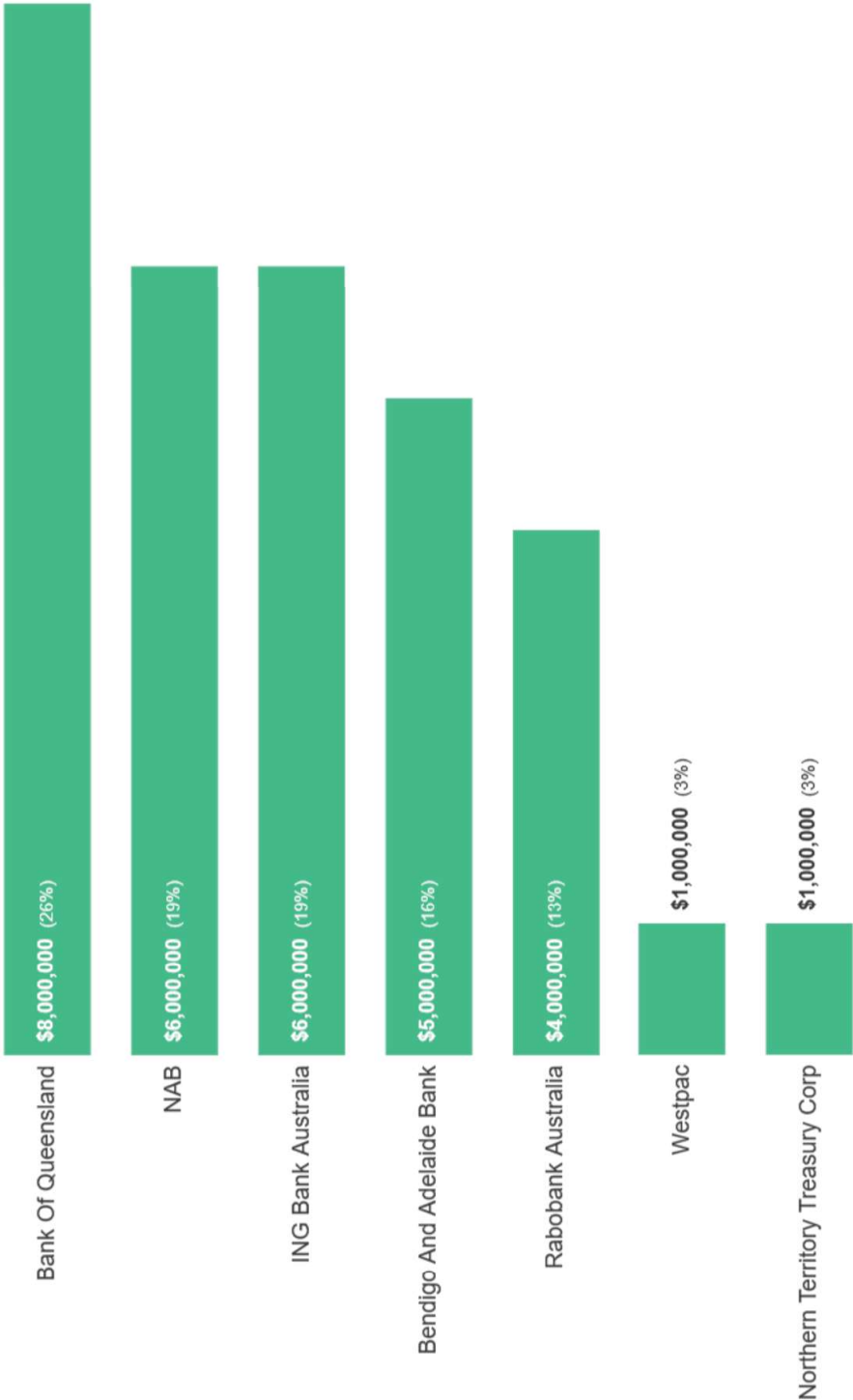
Investments as at 28/02/2026



This chart shows the distribution of investments by product type based on current portfolio value.

Values used: Term Deposits use Consideration value. NCDs use Consideration value. Bonds use Gross Value (market value including accrued interest at month end). Cash Accounts use Current Balance.

Investment Distribution by Counterparty



TERM DEPOSITS (31) | Total Consideration (excl. accrued): \$31,000,000

INVESTMENT	INSTITUTION	S&P EQUIV. RATING	CONSIDERATION	SETTLEMENT DATE	TERM (DAYS)	MATURITY DATE	YIELD	INTEREST FREQUENCY	INTEREST ACCRUED	TOTAL DEPOSIT INTEREST	NEXT PAYMENT DATE	COMMENTS
CN# 099476 Wentworth Shire Council	Westpac	A-1+ / AA-	\$1,000,000	27/02/2026	28	27/03/2026	3.9000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$213.7 Total: \$213.7	\$2,991.78	27/03/2026	
CN# 099356 Wentworth Shire Council	Rabobank Australia	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	23/02/2026	31	26/03/2026	3.8500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$632.88 Total: \$632.88	\$3,269.86	26/03/2026	
CN# 099355 Wentworth Shire Council	NAB	A-1+ / AA-	\$1,000,000	23/02/2026	31	26/03/2026	3.6000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$591.78 Total: \$591.78	\$3,057.53	26/03/2026	
CN# 099352 Wentworth Shire Council	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	23/02/2026	30	25/03/2026	3.6000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$591.78 Total: \$591.78	\$2,958.9	25/03/2026	
CN# 099303 Wentworth Shire Council	Bank of Queensland.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	19/02/2026	32	23/03/2026	3.7500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$1,027.4 Total: \$1,027.4	\$3,287.67	23/03/2026	
CN# 099302 Wentworth Shire Council	Bank of Queensland.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	19/02/2026	32	23/03/2026	3.7500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$1,027.4 Total: \$1,027.4	\$3,287.67	23/03/2026	
CN# 099171 Wentworth Shire Council	ING Bank (Australia)	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	12/02/2026	32	16/03/2026	3.9200%	At maturity	Monthly: \$1,825.75 Total: \$1,825.75	\$3,436.71	16/03/2026	
CN# 099161 Wentworth Shire Council	Bank of Queensland.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	12/02/2026	32	16/03/2026	3.7500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$1,746.58 Total: \$1,746.58	\$3,287.67	16/03/2026	
CN# 099160 Wentworth Shire Council	Bank of Queensland.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	12/02/2026	32	16/03/2026	3.7500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$1,746.58 Total: \$1,746.58	\$3,287.67	16/03/2026	
CN# 099055 Wentworth Shire Council	NAB	A-1+ / AA-	\$1,000,000	09/02/2026	30	11/03/2026	3.6500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,000 Total: \$2,000	\$3,000	11/03/2026	
CN# 099044 Wentworth Shire Council	NAB	A-1+ / AA-	\$1,000,000	09/02/2026	31	12/03/2026	3.6000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$1,972.6 Total: \$1,972.6	\$3,057.53	12/03/2026	
CN# 099043 Wentworth Shire Council	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	09/02/2026	30	11/03/2026	3.6000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$1,972.6 Total: \$1,972.6	\$2,958.9	11/03/2026	
CN# 099042 Wentworth Shire Council	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	09/02/2026	30	11/03/2026	3.6000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$1,972.6 Total: \$1,972.6	\$2,958.9	11/03/2026	
CN# 099041 Wentworth Shire Council	Rabobank Australia	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	09/02/2026	31	12/03/2026	3.8500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,109.59 Total: \$2,109.59	\$3,269.86	12/03/2026	
CN# 099040 Wentworth Shire Council	Bank of Queensland.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	09/02/2026	31	12/03/2026	3.7500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,054.79 Total: \$2,054.79	\$3,184.93	12/03/2026	

Term Deposits (continued)

INVESTMENT	INSTITUTION	S&P EQUIV. RATING	CONSIDERATION	SETTLEMENT DATE	TERM (DAYS)	MATURITY DATE	YIELD	INTEREST FREQUENCY	INTEREST ACCRUED	TOTAL DEPOSIT INTEREST	NEXT PAYMENT DATE	COMMENTS
CN# 099030 Wentworth Shire Council	NAB	A-1+ / AA-	\$1,000,000	06/02/2026	31	09/03/2026	3.6000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,268.49 Total: \$2,268.49	\$3,057.53	09/03/2026	
CN# 099009 Wentworth Shire Council	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	06/02/2026	31	09/03/2026	3.6000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,268.49 Total: \$2,268.49	\$3,057.53	09/03/2026	
CN# 099008 Wentworth Shire Council	Bank of Queensland.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	06/02/2026	31	09/03/2026	3.7500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,363.01 Total: \$2,363.01	\$3,184.93	09/03/2026	
CN# 098951 Wentworth Shire Council	ING Bank (Australia)	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	04/02/2026	30	06/03/2026	3.8200%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,616.44 Total: \$2,616.44	\$3,139.73	06/03/2026	
CN# 098950 Wentworth Shire Council	ING Bank (Australia)	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	04/02/2026	30	06/03/2026	3.8200%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,616.44 Total: \$2,616.44	\$3,139.73	06/03/2026	
CN# 098949 Wentworth Shire Council	ING Bank (Australia)	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	04/02/2026	30	06/03/2026	3.8200%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,616.44 Total: \$2,616.44	\$3,139.73	06/03/2026	
CN# 098948 Wentworth Shire Council	ING Bank (Australia)	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	04/02/2026	30	06/03/2026	3.8200%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,616.44 Total: \$2,616.44	\$3,139.73	06/03/2026	
CN# 098947 Wentworth Shire Council	ING Bank (Australia)	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	04/02/2026	30	06/03/2026	3.8200%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,616.44 Total: \$2,616.44	\$3,139.73	06/03/2026	
CN# 098683 Wentworth Shire Council	Bank of Queensland.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	19/01/2026	182	20/07/2026	4.4500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$3,413.7 Total: \$4,998.63	\$22,189.04	20/07/2026	
CN# 098506 Wentworth Shire Council	NAB	A-1+ / AA-	\$1,000,000	08/01/2026	62	11/03/2026	3.8500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,953.42 Total: \$5,484.93	\$6,539.73	11/03/2026	
CN# 098505 Wentworth Shire Council	NAB	A-1+ / AA-	\$1,000,000	08/01/2026	62	11/03/2026	3.8500%	At maturity	Monthly: \$2,953.42 Total: \$5,484.93	\$6,539.73	11/03/2026	
CN# 098473 Wentworth Shire Council	Rabobank Australia	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	07/01/2026	91	08/04/2026	4.3000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$3,298.63 Total: \$6,243.84	\$10,720.55	08/04/2026	
CN# 098472 Wentworth Shire Council	Rabobank Australia	A-1 / A	\$1,000,000	07/01/2026	91	08/04/2026	4.3000%	At maturity	Monthly: \$3,298.63 Total: \$6,243.84	\$10,720.55	08/04/2026	
CN# 092043 Wentworth Shire Council	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	27/03/2025	365	27/03/2026	4.4800%	At maturity	Monthly: \$3,436.71 Total: \$41,608.77	\$44,800	27/03/2026	
CN# 068928 Wentworth Shire Council	Bank of Queensland.	A-2 / A-	\$1,000,000	04/12/2023	1095	03/12/2026	5.2500%	Annually	Monthly: \$4,027.4 Total: \$12,513.7	\$157,500	03/12/2026	

Term Deposits (continued)

INVESTMENT	INSTITUTION	S&P EQUIV. RATING	CONSIDERATION	SETTLEMENT DATE	TERM (DAYS)	MATURITY DATE	YIELD	INTEREST FREQUENCY	INTEREST ACCRUED	TOTAL DEPOSIT INTEREST	NEXT PAYMENT DATE	COMMENTS
CN# 054172 Wentworth Shire Council	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (Territory Bonds)	NR / AA-	\$1,000,000	16/09/2021	1916	15/12/2026	1.3500%	Quarterly	Monthly: \$1,035.62 Total: \$2,773.97	\$70,865.75	16/03/2026	

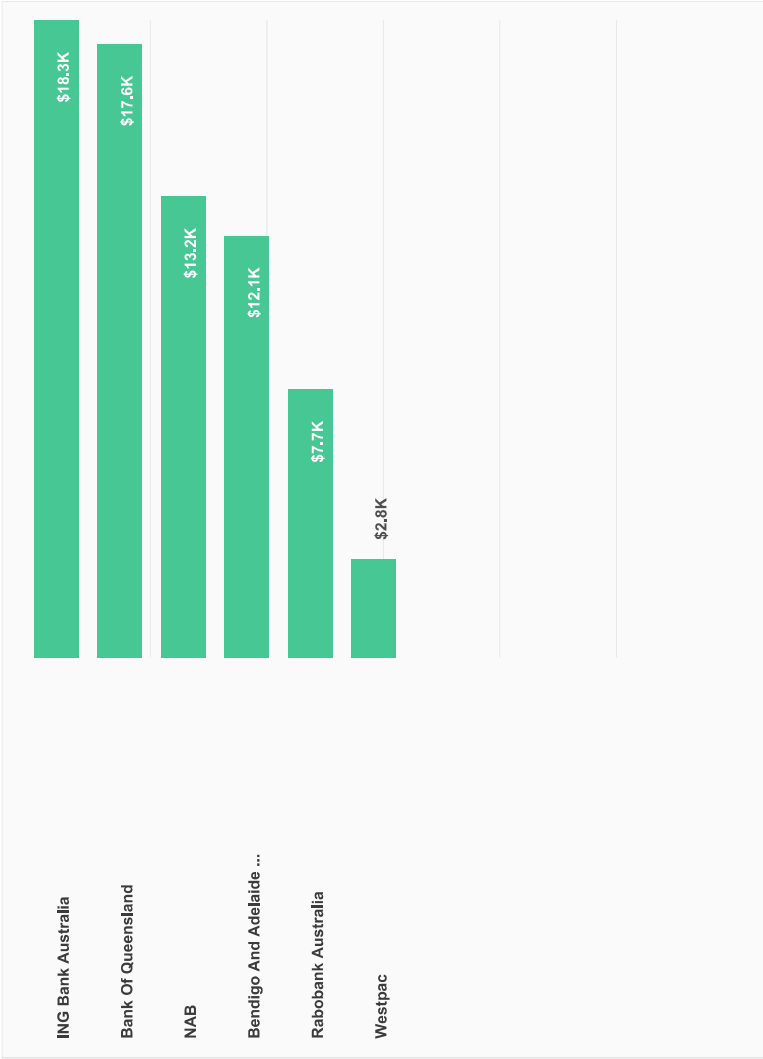
Transaction Activity (01/02/2026 to 28/02/2026)



TRANSACTION TOTALS



INTEREST PAYMENTS BY COUNTERPARTY



Transaction Summaries by Counterparty (01/02/2026 to 28/02/2026)



Investments	
Counterparty	Amount
Bank Of Queensland	\$6,000,000
ING Bank Australia	\$6,000,000
NAB	\$4,000,000
Bendigo And Adelaide...	\$4,000,000
Rabobank Australia	\$2,000,000
Westpac	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$23,000,000

Maturities	
Counterparty	Amount
Bank Of Queensland	\$6,000,000
ING Bank Australia	\$6,000,000
NAB	\$4,000,000
Bendigo And Adelaide...	\$4,000,000
Rabobank Australia	\$2,000,000
Westpac	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$23,000,000

Interest Payments	
Counterparty	Amount
ING Bank Australia	\$18,263.01
Bank Of Queensland	\$17,580.82
NAB	\$13,213.7
Bendigo And Adelaide...	\$12,082.19
Rabobank Australia	\$7,683.56
Westpac	\$2,819.73
TOTAL	\$71,643.01

Transaction Summaries by Investment Type (01/02/2026 to 28/02/2026)



Investments	
Investment Type	Amount
Term Deposit	\$23,000,000.00
TOTAL	\$23,000,000.00

Maturities	
Investment Type	Amount
Term Deposit	\$23,000,000.00
TOTAL	\$23,000,000.00

Interest Payments	
Investment Type	Amount
Term Deposit	\$71,643.01
TOTAL	\$71,643.01

Portfolio Performance Summary As at 28/02/2026



Time Period	Term Deposits	Total Avg Yield	RBA Cash	1m BBSW	3m BBSW	AusBond Bank Bill	AusBond Annualised	vs RBA	vs 1m BBSW	vs 3m BBSW	vs AusBond
As At 28/2/2026	3.80%	3.80%	3.85%	3.81%	3.99%	10339,704	---	-0.05%	-0.01%	-0.19%	---
1m	3.64%	3.64%	3.60%	3.68%	3.84%	0.00%	0.00%	+0.04%	-0.04%	-0.20%	+3.64%
3m	3.61%	3.61%	3.60%	3.55%	3.66%	0.61%	2.49%	+0.01%	+0.06%	-0.05%	+1.12%
6m	4.00%	4.00%	3.60%	3.55%	3.57%	1.51%	3.04%	+0.40%	+0.45%	+0.43%	+0.95%
12m	4.88%	4.88%	4.10%	4.09%	4.12%	3.54%	3.54%	+0.78%	+0.79%	+0.76%	+1.34%

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PERFORMANCE DATA:

- Portfolio Weighted Average Yield: Your yield is calculated by examining each investment and weighting its contribution based on its size relative to your total portfolio. Larger investments have greater influence on the overall portfolio yield.
- Benchmark Comparisons: The "vs" columns show how your portfolio yield compares to standard market references, helping you understand whether your investment strategy is delivering returns above or below alternatives. Green values indicate outperformance.
- Time Periods: Rows labeled "1m", "3m", "6m", and "12m" represent historical lookback periods from your report date, allowing you to track how your portfolio and market yields have changed over time and evaluate long-term performance.

Note: Historical performance data is provided for informational purposes only and does not guarantee future results.

9.5 QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT

File Number: RPT/26/128

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
 Responsible Division: Corporate Services
 Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
 Geoff Gunn - Director of Roads & Engineering

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

This report provides Council with an update on the progress of capital projects with an approved original budget greater than \$250,000, as well as projects that have exceeded this threshold due to approved variations. The report outlines expenditure to 31 December 2025, variations, delivery status, key risks and any issues impacting project timelines or costs.

For the reporting period ending 31 December 2025, there were 16 capital projects that met the reporting requirements and are included in this report.

Recommendation

That Council notes the report.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a quarterly overview of the progress and financial status of major capital projects.

Background

This report provides Council with an update on the progress of capital projects with an approved original budget greater than \$250,000, as well as projects that have exceeded this threshold due to approved variations. The report outlines expenditure to 31 December 2025, variations, delivery status, key risks and any issues impacting project timelines or costs.

Report Detail

For the reporting period ending 31 December 2025, there were 16 capital projects that met the reporting requirements and are included in this report.

Summary of Project Status

The summary below provides a high-level snapshot of the delivery status of Council's major capital projects for the reporting quarter. Further detail on individual projects including financial performance and explanatory commentary, is provided in the detailed project reporting attachment.

Status Category	Number of Projects	Notes
On Track	8	Tracking to scope, budget and schedule

At Risk	0	Emerging risks may impact delivery
Delayed	2	Schedule delay requiring reforecast or intervention
Completed	6	Project now completed

Six projects were completed during the reporting period, with five additional projects anticipated to be completed in the next quarter.

The following table provides a consolidated overview of all the capital projects captured under the reporting threshold for the quarter.

Project	Original Budget	Total Variations	Revised Budget	Total Expenditure	Status
Depot Upgrade	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$257,299	On track
Buronga Landfill Redevelopment	\$10,958,549	\$1,156,618	\$12,115,167	\$12,217,560	Complete
Wentworth Rowing Club	\$469,000	\$0	\$469,000	\$51,046	On Track
Ski Reserve Rehabilitation	\$679,316	\$0	\$679,316	\$216,115	On Track
Junction Island Viewing Platform	\$350,000	\$0	\$70,472	\$275,691	Complete
Reserves Kitchen Upgrade	\$400,000	\$80,000	\$480,000	\$552,028	Complete
Open Spaces Upgrade	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000	\$416,679	On Track
Darling Street Footpath	\$550,000	\$0	\$550,000	\$562,237	Complete
Buronga/Gol Gol Footpath	\$353,069	\$127,146	\$480,215	\$481,468	Complete
Water Leakage & District Metering	\$394,882	\$0	\$394,882	\$385,864	Delayed
Sewer Main Relining	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$610,757	On Track
FOSO	\$5,535,516	\$0	\$5,535,516	\$1,210,152	Delayed
Wentworth Raw Water Pipeline	\$782,050	\$0	\$782,050	\$735,134	Complete
Gol Gol WTP	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$63,863.69	On Track
Sludge Removal Buronga WWTP	\$359,000	\$0	\$359,000	\$25,710.97	On Track
Milpara Rd/Tara Downs Crossing	\$765,721	\$0	\$765,721	\$0	On Track

Variation for Noting*Buronga Landfill*

Variations associated with the Buronga Landfill project have previously been reported to Council in August, September and November, and relate to matters identified during the progression of the works.

Reserve Kitchen Upgrades

A variation to the project scope was required following additional requirements identified by facility users. In addition, the remote location of the Pooncarie project resulted in higher than anticipated costs and reduced contractor availability, which limited the number of contractors willing to undertake the works. An internal variation from the Building Capital Works fund was applied to assist in offsetting a portion of the additional costs.

Buronga-Gol Gol Shareway

A variation to the project scope occurred following a request from NSW Police to install solar lighting at selected locations along the pathway to address public safety concerns. The additional works were incorporated into the project scope to improve safety outcome for users of the path.

Conclusion

This report provides Council with an overview of the progress and financial status of capital projects captured under the project reporting framework for the period ending 31 December 2025. A total of 16 projects met the reporting requirements during the quarter. Of these, six projects were completed during the reporting period, with a further five projects forecast to be completed in the next quarter, subject to current delivery schedules.

Overall, the majority of projects are progressing in line with approved scope, budget and timeframes. Where variations or delivery challenges have arisen, these have been identified and managed through Council's project governance processes, with explanatory commentary provided within this report.

Going forward, it is anticipated that this information will be incorporated in the Quarterly Budget Review Report, enabling Council to receive consolidated financial and project delivery updates as part of the regular financial reporting process.

Attachments

1. Quarter 2 projects [1](#)

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1014-2999-0001	Wentworth Depot Upgrade	On Track

Brief Project Description

Installation of new fuel tank & perimeter paving

Fencing & pavement of additional storage area

Decommissioning of old fuel tanks to meet EPA requirements

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$250,000	0	\$250,000	\$32,332.54	\$257,298.62	-\$7,298.62	104%

Description of Variations

WHS required bollards around perimeter around new fuel pod.

Project Status Comments

Project to be completed on 28/02/26

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1421-2999-0000	Buronga Landfill Upgrade	Complete

Brief Project Description

Redevelopment of the Buronga Landfill site including construction of the following:

- New Cell
- Front Entrance
- Recyclable Shed
- C & D Shed
- Residual Waste Shed
- Internal Roads & Carpark
- Staff Amenities
- Phytocap of existing landfill structure

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$10,958,549.47	\$1,156,617.71	\$12,115,167.18	\$1,479,893.68	\$12,217,559.63	-\$102,392.45	101%

Description of Variations

As per the previous reports to Council in August, September & November

Project Status Comments

Complete.

Phytocap stage 2 – planting of vegetation and installation of irrigation is a separate project and will be reported accordingly.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1545-2999-0030	Wentworth Rowing Club Upgrades	On Track

Brief Project Description

Upgrade of the Wentworth Rowing Club to improve boat storage, amenities and compliance with current building standards. Significant works required post the 2022/2023 flood event.

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$469,000	0	\$469,000	\$1,722.36	\$51,046.44	\$417,953.56	11%

Description of Variations

Provide a brief explanation of any approved or proposed variations (e.g. 'Variation approved for additional structural works following design changes to foundation system.').

Nil

Project Status Comments

On Track – Renovations works with in the exiting rowing club rooms are currently underway. When complete the building extension shed to house the longer row boats will be constructed.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1545-2999-0039	Ski Reserve Rehabilitation	On Track

Brief Project Description

The area between the Ski Reserve and the Wentworth Hospital has asbestos and other building wastes scattered across it. Project is to fence the site, remove all surface asbestos and other waste, cap the surface with a layer of geofabric and soil. Site to be restored via hydroseeding and surface irrigation system.

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$679,316	0	\$679,316	\$203,885.94	\$216,115.20	\$463,200.80	32%

Description of Variations

Nil

Project Status Comments

On Track to be completed in the next quarter.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1545-2999-0042	Junction Viewing Platform	Complete

Brief Project Description

The existing timber platform at the tip of the Murray and Darling Junction was in a poor condition, very small and not permitting disabled access. As the most important icon within Wentworth Shire Council, it was considered that a new structure was required. Scope includes:

- Large raised Timber platform.
- Foundation to suit the unique environment including accessibility issues
- Compliant ramp access
- Seating
- Signage to suit the location

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$350,000	0	\$350,000	\$70,471.71	\$275,690.62	\$74,309.38	74%

Description of Variations

Nil

Project Status Comments

Project Complete

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1545-2999-0043 Wentworth 1548-2999-0010 Pooncaire	Reserve Kitchen Upgrades (Wentworth & Pooncaire)	Complete

Brief Project Description

Replace of existing public kitchen amenities at the Pooncaire Public Reserve and the Wentworth Showgrounds

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$400,000	+\$80,000	\$480,000	\$1,775.86	\$552,028.07	-\$72,028.07	115%

Description of Variations

Scope of the projects continued to change due to user group requirements. Due to the remote location for the Pooncaire project increased in the cost but also reduced number potential contractor will to take on the job. An internal variation of \$80,000 was allocated from the Building upgrades fund to help off set some of the additional costs.

Project Status Comments

Complete.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1549-2999-0011	Dawn Ave Drainage Basin Open Spaces Upgrade	On Track

Brief Project Description

Dawn Ave Basin has been identified as an important drainage basin as well as having community recreational opportunities.

Scope of work includes:

- Excavation and landscaping of the basin
- Sharedway around basin
- Seating
- Shade structure
- Irrigation
- Grass and plantings.

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$600,000	0	\$600,000	\$398,233.50	\$416,679.47	\$183,320.53	69%

Description of Variations

Nil

Project Status Comments

On track to be completed in the next quarter

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1565-2999-0012	Darling Street Footpath Upgrade	Complete

Brief Project Description

Removal of existing pavement & upgrade to new exposed concrete due to ongoing safety hazards

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$550,000	0	\$550,000	\$97,678.69	\$562,237.03	-\$12,237.03	102%

Description of Variations

Upgrade to water & stormwater infrastructure under concrete pavement, that were found during the duration of the project.

Project Status Comments

Project completed 30/09/25

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1865-2999-0017	Buronga Gol Gol Sharedway	Complete

Brief Project Description

Upgrade of the sharedway between Drings Hill and Carramar Drive Midway.

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$353,069	\$127,145.94	\$480,214.94	\$342,858.43	\$481,468.05	-\$1,253.11	101%

Description of Variations

Additional Solar Public lighting was installed along certain parts of the path due to a Public Safety request from NSW Police. This was not in the original scope of the project.

Project Status Comments

Completed.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
2005-2999-0151	Water Leakage & District Monitoring	Delayed

Brief Project Description

WSC water network current has various flow meters installed at water treatment plants. Some needing replacement to measure correctly and to be located in serviceable underground pits. In addition, the Buronga / Gol Gol / Mourquong / Dareton system is needing to be broken up into the four districts. All of this additional and accurate water meter information is able to assist WSC with finding leaks and better management of the networks. Scope was the installation of flow metering at the following 5 locations:

- Poongarie WTP
- Wentworth WTP
- Midway Tower
- Buronga Pump Station
- Dareton Tower

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$394,882	0	\$394,882	\$36,651.66	\$385,864.04	\$9,018	98%

Description of Variations

Nil

Project Status Comments

Project delayed. Final completion is to have the flow metering automatically recorded on WSC's Water SCADA system. This system / database enables review of trends and other information analysis. Delayed as priority given to the Gol Gol WTP Capacity increase project.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
3005-2999-0126	Sewer Main refurbishment	On Track

Brief Project Description

WSC has aging sewer infrastructure and a number of major sewer breaks in Wentworth have been extremely costly to repair. The refurbishment of sewer has been a preferred solution by utilities to extend sewer asset life. The project is a three year program with a contractor engaged to provide all three years of sewer rehabilitation at agreed rates.

Scope of work includes:

- Cleaning of sewer
- Camera footage and condition assessment
- Refurbishment of sewer via relining technique
- Cut out of sewer property junctions
- Asset information for GIS system

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$1,000,000	0	\$1,000,000	\$234,961.51	\$610,757.11	\$389,242.89	61%

Description of Variations

NIL – Completed on an agreed schedule of rates

Project Status Comments

Project continuing into a second year with continued focus on the older clay pipes in Wentworth's Western side.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
1915-2999-0002	Fiber Optic Symphonic Orchestra (FOSO)	Delayed

Brief Project Description

Creation of an event space for the Bruce Munro Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra Installation.

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$5,535,516	\$0	\$5,535,516	\$836,219.73	\$1,210,152.42	\$4,325,363.58	22%

Description of Variations

There have been no variations as at 31 December.

Project Status Comments

Original Practical completion date has been amended due to changes made to the design requiring a DA modification in order for Construction Certificates to be issued.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
2005-2999-0282	Wentworth Raw Water Pipeline	Complete

Brief Project Description

The existing raw water rising main from the raw water pump station, has a section of pipe near and including Tuckers Creek bridge that has over the past 10 or more years seen multiple failures requiring repairs. A break some 12 months ago resulted in a number of residential properties being impacted. Project is to construct a replacement pipeline to enable the significantly repaired pipeline to be redundant. Pipe sizing to consider additional future flows.

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$782,050	0	\$782,050	\$667,526.40	\$735,134.05	\$46,915.95	94%

Description of Variations

Nil

Project Status Comments

Project Complete and successfully operating

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
2005-2999-0289	Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Temporary Capacity increase	On Track

Brief Project Description

Gol Gol WTP has a designed maximum flow rate of 45 L/s. However peak summer flow rates have been getting close on exceeding this maximum rate. Scope is to increase both the Raw Water Pump Station and Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant to be able to supply an additional 15 L/s to achieve a flow rate of 60 L/s.

Scope includes:

- Raw water pumps to operate in duty / assist rather than duty / standby
- Inlet work improvements to reduce friction losses.
- Settled water pumps to operate in duty / assist rather than duty / standby
- Clear water pumps to operate in duty / assist rather than duty / standby
- Double to Clear water storage capacity

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$30,497.54	\$63,863.69	\$186,136.31	26%

Description of Variations

NIL

Project Status Comments

On Track – Settled water and Clear water pumps operations have been modified to duty / assist operation. Additional clear water storage has been delivered. Inlet works and additional clear water storage pipework has been procured.

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
3005-2999-165	Buronga Wastewater Treatment Plant Pond Sludge Removal	On Track

Brief Project Description

Buronga Wastewater Treatment Plant has been in service for over 30 years. The lagoons have not been cleaned and there is significant build up around Lagoon once inlet. Scope is to remove waste sludge from Lagoon 1 and place in a new drying bed area to enable it to dry out prior to cartage to landfill. Scope does not include excavation, cartage and disposal of dried sludge in approx. two years time.

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$359,000	\$0	\$359,000	\$24,169.73	\$25,710.97	\$333,289.03	7%

Description of Variations

Provide a brief explanation of any approved or proposed variations (e.g. 'Variation approved for additional structural works following design changes to foundation system.').

NIL

Project Status Comments

On Track

Project Financial and Progress Reporting Template

Project ID	Project Name	Project Status (On Track / At Risk / Delayed)
TBA	Milpara Rd / Tara Downs Crossing Upgrade	On Track

Brief Project Description

The Milpara Road including the culvert structure over the Darling Anabranh (Tara Downs Crossing) is needing a significant upgrade to improve safety and structure stability. Scope includes:

- Milpara Road intersection with the Silver City Highway
- Milpara Road approaches to the Tara Downs structure including culverts, guard railing and vegetation removal
- Tara Downs Structure repairs
- Truck parking area prior to Anabranh Mail Road
- Milpara Road intersection with Anabranh Mail Road

Financial Summary

Original Budget (\$)	Approved Variations (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Expenditure this Quarter (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure to Date (\$)	Remaining Budget (\$)	% of Budget Spent
\$765,721						

Description of Variations

Nil

Project Status Comments

On Track – Survey of Milpara Road complete. Concept design prepared. Tara Downs Culvert has final structural designs complete.

9.6 LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

File Number: RPT/26/107

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

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

Council has undertaken, and is planning to undertake, several strategic land acquisitions to support service delivery requirements. While each acquisition could have been funded individually from existing unrestricted cash reserves, the cumulative impact of four land purchases totaling \$2,455,000 over an 18-month period would place undue strain on Council's unrestricted cash and liquidity position.

This report recommends that Council borrow funds to reimburse prior land purchases and to fund future acquisitions. Borrowing allows Council to preserve adequate working capital, apply intergenerational equity principles, and spread the cost of long-life assets across the ratepayers that will benefit from them over time.

An analysis of borrowing options demonstrates that a longer loan term provides improved cash flow flexibility and better alignment with Council's long-term sustainability objectives.

Recommendation

That Council approves the borrowing of funds to reimburse Council from previous land purchases totaling \$1,400,000.

That Council approves the borrowing of funds to finance future land purchases totaling \$1,055,000.

That Council delegates authority to the Mayor and the General Manager to sign loan agreement and affix the Council seal.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to borrow funds to reimburse previous land purchases and future strategic land acquisitions.

Background

Council has recently undertaken, and is planning to undertake, a number of strategic land acquisitions to support tourism and economic development and long term operational needs for emergency service infrastructure. These acquisitions align with Council's strategic planning objectives and service delivery responsibilities.

In some cases, land purchases have been funded from Council's existing cash reserves, while this approach enabled timely acquisition, it has temporarily reduced available working capital and reserves. Borrowing is now proposed to reimburse these funds and to ensure that future acquisitions are funded in a financially sustainable manner.

Matters under consideration

Details of Proposed Borrowing

Reimbursement of Previous Land Purchases – Council has previously acquired the following parcels of land using internal funds:

- FOSO Event Space – Log Bridge Road Wentworth – Purchase cost - \$850,000
- Future RFS Fire Control Centre Site – Silver City Highway Dareton – Purchase cost - \$550,000

Total reimbursement required: \$1,400,000

Funding of Future Land Purchases – Council has approved the acquisition of the following parcels of land

- Old Coomealla Packers Shed – Silver City Highway Dareton – Purchase cost - \$400,000
- Combined RFS/SES/NSW Ambulance Site – 2UP Drive, Buronga – Purchase cost \$655,000

Total funding required: \$1,055,000

Each of the four land acquisitions could individually have been funded from Council's existing unrestricted cash reserves without undue financial strain. However, the cumulative impact of all four transactions over an 18-month period totaling \$2,455,000 would materially diminish Council's unrestricted cash position and place significant pressure on Council's liquidity and working capital. This is because unrestricted cash balances are generally earmarked to maintain day-to-day operations and to meet short-term financial obligations, and a cumulative drawdown of this magnitude would risk reducing these funds to levels below prudent benchmarks.

Intergenerational equity is a core financial management principle in local government, requiring that the cost of long-life assets is shared fairly between current and future ratepayers who will benefit from those assets.

The land acquisitions in this report are strategic long-term assets that supports service delivery over multiple decades. Funding these purchases entirely from current unrestricted cash reserves would result in today's ratepayers bearing the full financial burden, despite future ratepayers receiving the majority of the benefit.

Borrowing to fund these acquisitions allows Council to spread the cost over time, ensuring that future ratepayers contribute to the cost of assets from which they will directly benefit. This approach aligns with accepted local government financial management practice and supports long-term sustainability, particularly where assets have long useful lives and limited ongoing operating costs. In this context, the proposed borrowings represent a fair and responsible application of intergenerational equity principles.

Options

To assist Council in determining the most appropriate borrowing structure, an analysis has been undertaken comparing two loan options based on borrowing \$2,500,000, which provides sufficient capacity to fund the proposed land acquisitions and reimbursements.

Loan Term	Indicative Interest Rate	Annual Principal & Interest Impact
5-year term	5.03%	Higher annual repayments, shorter overall cost
10-year term	5.39%	Lower annual repayments, higher total interest cost

Note: interest rate provided are indicative market figures based on TCorp Rates at the time of writing this report.

Additional Commentary**5-Year Loan**

- Indicative annual repayment - \$575,000
- Total repayments over 5 years - \$2,875,000
- Total interest cost - \$375,000

This option results in a lower total interest cost due to the shorter loan term. However, the higher annual repayment places greater pressure on Council's operating cash in the short term and reduces budget flexibility during the repayment period.

10-Year Loan

- Indicative annual repayment - \$330,000
- Total repayment over 10 years - \$3,300,000
- Total interest cost - \$800,000

While the total interest cost is higher over the long term, this option significantly reduces the annual repayment burden. This provides greater flexibility within Council's annual budgets, helps preserve unrestricted cash reserves, and better aligns repayment timing with the long-term benefits of the assets.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

The loans will be structured over appropriate terms to minimise annual repayment impacts while ensuring intergenerational equity, given the long-term nature of the assets being acquired. Loan servicing costs will be incorporated into Council's Long Term Financial Plan and annual budgets. Preliminary analysis indicates that Council has sufficient borrowing capacity and that the proposed loans can be accommodated within existing financial sustainability benchmarks.

The proposed borrowings support Council's strategic objectives by facilitating timely acquisition of land for long-term infrastructure and service planning, ensuring prudent cash flow and reserve management and applying intergenerational equity principles to long-life assets.

Key risks associated with borrowing funds include interest rate fluctuations and ongoing repayment obligations. These risks will be mitigated by seeking competitive loan terms, aligning loan durations with asset life and monitoring impacts through Council's financial reporting and Long-Term Financial Plan.

Conclusion

Borrowing to fund reimbursement of previous land purchases and the acquisition of future strategic sites represents a prudent and responsible financial strategy. While each purchase could have been managed individually through existing cash reserves, the combined impact of all four transactions with a relatively short timeframe would materially reduce Council's unrestricted cash and weaken liquidity.

The proposed borrowing approach preserves Council's financial resilience, supports long-term service delivery, and ensures that the cost of long-life assets is shared equitably between current and future ratepayers. Based on the analysis presented, a longer long term provides the most appropriate balance between affordability, risk management and intergenerational equity.

Approval of the recommendation in this report will place Council in a stronger financial position while enabling the timely delivery of critical infrastructure.

Attachments

Nil

9.7 COUNCIL USE OF CCTV POLICY FOR ADOPTION

File Number: RPT/26/116

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Mardi Cleggett - Governance Officer

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

Strategy: 2.3 To have a safe community

Summary

Council has developed a *Council Use of CCTV Policy* to appropriately operate and manage CCTV systems installed across Council facilities and public spaces.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Council Use of CCTV Policy.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a new policy to Council, that provides the guidance and set of principles for the use and management of CCTV systems in use by Council.

Background

Council owns and manages CCTV cameras across Council facilities and public spaces. Previously, CCTV cameras were managed and monitored by an external provider.

With the redevelopment of the Wentworth Visitor Centre, Council has installed its own CCTV system and currently monitors and manages these cameras internally. Other sites/facilities across the Shire that are managed by Council include:

- Wentworth Visitor Centre
- Wentworth Town Hall
- Wentworth Depot
- Midway Service Centre
- Dareton Library
- Buronga Landfill
- Buronga Pound
- Dareton Main Street (in progress).

Sites will be listed on Council's website for transparency.

It was identified that as Council's CCTV system captures public movements, an appropriate policy and internal procedures documents were required to manage the system, privacy and authorised access to the system.

The draft policy was endorsed by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting of 12 November, with the report seeking endorsement for public exhibition presented at the 17 December 2025 Council meeting.

Report Detail

The draft Council Use of CCTV Policy was placed on public exhibition for 28 days following endorsement of the draft policy at the 17 December 2025 Council meeting. No feedback or

comments were received during the exhibition period, therefore no changes have been made to the Policy as previously presented. The policy number and adoption date will be added once adopted.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the Council Use of CCTV Policy be adopted by Council.

Attachments

1. Working Document - Council Use of CCTV Policy [↓](#)



COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY NUMBER & TITLE:	GOVXXX	COUNCIL USE OF CCTV POLICY
WORD DOCUMENT ID:		
VERSION:	1.0	
ADOPTED MEETING DATE:	Click or tap to enter a date.	
REVIEW DUE:	Four yearly or following change of legislation or incident	
VERSION AMENDMENTS:	Nil	

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Corporate Services
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COUNCIL USE OF CCTV POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides for the management and operation of Council's Closed Circuit Television systems (CCTV) across the Wentworth Shire local government area. The Procedures will guide Council staff in the operation of those systems and ensure alignment with the *NSW Government Policy Statement and Guidelines for the Establishment and Implementation of CCTV in Public Places*.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

This policy applies to all CCTV cameras/systems installed in public places within the Wentworth Shire Council area. CCTV cameras operate in and around Council buildings for the protection of Council assets and the surveillance of public areas and spaces, in alignment with a commitment to public safety, and for the workplace health and safety of Council employees.

The objectives of this Policy are:

- to ensure CCTV cameras/systems are compliant with relevant guidelines and legislation
- to ensure CCTV cameras/systems are installed where there is an identified safety or security need and installed for a lawful and proper purpose
- to ensure a clear evidence-based approach is applied to CCTV camera/system installation
- to ensure the management of CCTV system data is appropriate, related to use, retention, security, privacy, access, disclosure, storage and disposal.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Objective 2: Our Community – Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

Strategy 2.3: To have a safe community

4. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term/Word	Definition
Australian Privacy Acts and Regulations	means the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth), the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> (NSW) and any other privacy laws or regulations pertaining to the State of New South Wales as amended from time to time

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COUNCIL POLICY

Authorised Officer(s)	means any officer of Wentworth Shire Council authorised by the General Manager
CCTV Camera/System	Council owned or managed closed circuit television cameras and system operating in public places and Council facilities
CCTV Footage	may include CCTV recordings, body cameras, dashcams, other visual recordings or still images, audio recordings, video material, drone footage
Council	means Wentworth Shire Council
GIPA Act	<i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)</i>
Law Enforcement Agency / Law Enforcement Officer	means any of the following: - the NSW Police Force, a police force or police service of another State or Territory, the Australian Federal Police - a member of the NSW Police Force, a police force or police service of another State or Territory or the Australian Federal Police - the Independent Commission Against Corruption or a member of the Commission - the New South Wales Crime Commission or a member of the Commission - the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission or a member of the Commission - Corrective Services NSW or a member or representative of Corrective Services - The Australian Crime Commission or a member of the Commission - Any other authority or person responsible for the enforcement of criminal laws of the State or Commonwealth, a person or body prescribed for the purposes of this definition by an Act or regulations
Personal Information	includes information that is recorded in any form about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can be reasonably ascertained from the information and includes any still or moving images of an individual, written information or a voice recording
Public Place	defined from the Local Government Act 1993, means a public reserve, public bathing reserve or swimming pool, a public road or bridge or wharf, a Crown reserve, public land or Crown land.
Recorded Material	means any audio or visual material recorded by the CCTV system
Video Surveillance	surveillance by closed circuit television for direct visual monitoring and/or recording of activities on premises or in a place

5. POLICY CONTENT

5.1 Purpose

Council may install CCTV cameras for one or more of the following purposes:

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- a) to act as a deterrent for damage to facilities, assets and infrastructure, and to collect evidence for investigative and law enforcement purposes in the event of criminal damage
- b) to enhance the general safety and security of employees and visitors to Council facilities through effective monitoring policies and procedures
- c) when and if requested, to provide intelligence for local emergency situations in consultation and with the Local Emergency Management Committee (e.g flooding, traffic accidents).

Compliance

Use of CCTV (and associated footage) by Council will comply with:

- this Policy and associated Procedures
- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)*
- *State Records Act 1998 (NSW)*
- *Surveillance Devices Act 2007 (NSW)*
- Surveillance Devices Regulation 2022 (NSW)
- *Workplace Surveillance Act 2005 (NSW)*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 1993 (NSW)*
- *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*
- Information Protection Principles NSW (IPPs)
- Complaint Management Policy (GOV012)
- Privacy Policy (GOV007)
- Data Breach Policy (GOV027)
- Any applicable and relevant State and Commonwealth Laws and Guidelines

5.2 Guidelines and Requirements

5.2.1 CCTV Camera Locations

Council will make all reasonable attempts to ensure that CCTV operated in public places is positioned so that no other land, including residential land, is filmed unless it is not reasonably practicable to avoid filming the other land when filming the public place.

5.2.2 CCTV Installation

CCTV cameras will be installed and mounted:

- a) CCTV cameras will be installed by authorised licenced security companies or any other person as authorised by Council.
- b) with placement and location to optimise surveillance and ensure clear images
- c) to ensure capture of images for relevant purposes and requirements as per this policy
- d) visible to the public in locations clearly identified and signed
- e) installation and placement of CCTV cameras or other aspects of the CCTV system, will be solely at the discretion of Council in consultation with relevant stakeholders and the community, when and as appropriate.

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Location of CCTV cameras within the Shire will be listed on Council's website.

5.2.3 CCTV Operation

- a) CCTV cameras are installed to act as a deterrent to unwanted behaviour, assist in a timely and effective response to incidents and gather evidentiary material in the event of criminal behaviour.
- b) Council CCTV cameras operate 24 hours per day, capture public areas within the camera field(s) of view, and record activity including individuals, groups, vehicles and any other activity within the camera range of view. Council's policy does not cover CCTV on private property operated by owners of such private property.
- c) The operation of CCTV by Council will be in accordance with New South Wales legislative requirements and any other appropriate Federal laws (where appropriate).
- d) CCTV footage from public areas may be used for workforce related matters in exceptional circumstances and as outlined in Council's Workplace Surveillance Policy (OP/WF547), and/or for the investigation of criminal incidents or where required under Work Health & Safety or other legislation. Council staff will be notified in writing prior, in the event that surveillance is to be undertaken within staff only areas.
- e) Access to any monitors displaying CCTV footage (whether in real time or otherwise) will be restricted to Authorised Personnel.
- f) CCTV recording equipment will be located in secure areas and may only be accessed by Authorised Personnel.

5.2.4 CCTV Information Storage and Records

Images captured and recorded by Council will:

1) be captured in real time

Council's CCTV system is not *live monitored* in real time by Council, contractors or other agencies, however, live monitoring may be required for the early identification and rapid response to anti-social behaviours for identified law enforcement operations or community events.

2) be stored on a secure drive at a central location controlled by Council

Strict security protocols are in place to ensure the data held by Council is secure and restricted to nominated Authorised Officer(s) only.

3) be retained for the minimum recommended data retention period for recorded footage as specified by any legislated or regulated requirements (or as per this policy).

CCTV footage from Council operated CCTV systems is managed under the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW) and the State Records Authority NSW – Local Government Functional Retention and Disposal Authority FA450 – section 17.5 All CCTV information received, collected and managed will be in accordance with the Act, the above and relevant retention and disposal authorities and Council's

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Records Management Plan and Policy. Where any recordings are required as evidence, Council will retain in accordance with relevant entries and schedules.

Council retains ownership of and has copyright in all documentation, recorded material, data and other material related to CCTV operations under this policy. Any unauthorised third-party release or distribution of data, recordings, photographs and/or documentation provided by Council is strictly prohibited. Council consent must be obtained to release of any of the above.

5.2.5 Disposal of CCTV

Council will retain and access CCTV data, information and recordings only for the purposes stated in this policy. Council will retain CCTV information such as data, recordings, image stills, audio and other material for a period of 30 days, however there may be instances where CCTV information, data or footage is retained for longer or shorter periods.

5.2.6 Access to CCTV Footage – Council Employees

- a) access to CCTV footage and areas where CCTV footage is stored will be restricted to Authorised Officers of Council, or Authorised Law Enforcement Officers (where required)
- b) CCTV footage will not be accessed or viewed by any other person than Authorised Officers (with the exception where it is permitted by law)
- c) all Authorised Officers involved in the recording, observation and management of CCTV footage will be appropriately trained and informed of their responsibility to act in an ethical and lawful manner, under this policy and any relevant legislation
- d) Council will take action as appropriate in the event of Council becoming aware of any inappropriate or unlawful use of the CCTV system or footage, including disciplinary or legal action
- e) inappropriate or unlawful use of the CCTV system or footage by an employee will be considered a breach of Council's Code of Conduct and may be referred to NSW Police as it may constitute criminal action.

5.3 Use of CCTV Footage

5.3.1 Rights to Privacy

Council will comply with legislation such as the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW).

5.3.2 Disclosure and use of CCTV Footage

- a) Council will retain footage in line with this policy, and provide access to Authorised Officers as required.
- b) Council will not provide footage unless the disclosure or use is:
 - i. If footage requested of an employee:
 - a) for a legitimate purpose related to their employment
 - b) for legitimate business activities or functions, or
 - c) to provide evidence in criminal and/or regulatory functions, such as requested by ICAC.

Title: GOVXXX	COUNCIL USE OF CCTV POLICY	V1.0	Version date: 18/03/2026
DOC ID: DOC/24/15940	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



COUNCIL POLICY

- c) requested by a law enforcement agency for the detection, investigation or prosecution of an offence, and requested on the appropriate request form
- d) requested in relation to criminal proceedings, as requested by a law enforcement agency or court subpoena
- e) requested as believed to be necessary to avert an imminent threat of serious violence
- f) to assist in local emergency situations in conjunction with the Local Emergency XXX and as approved by the General Manager

5.3.3 Security of CCTV Footage

Strict security and information technology protocols are in place to ensure the data held by Council is secure and restricted to nominated Authorised Officer(s) only. Any breach of data will be managed under Council's Data Breach Policy and Response Plan.

5.4 Requests for Access to CCTV Footage

5.4.1 Internal Requests

Requests from within Wentworth Shire Council for disclosure of any footage should be made in the first instance to Governance, who will then progress requests to the Director Corporate Services for discussion, and approval by the General Manager.

A request for footage must be accompanied by:

- (a) Appropriate justification for why the footage is required; and
- (b) an explanation of its connection to any open authorised line of enquiry.

5.4.2 External Requests

Release of, and access to Council's CCTV data and recordings will only be granted to a law enforcement agency or law enforcement officer, upon receipt and approval of the relevant Access to Information Request – Law Enforcement, prior to any data being released.

A law enforcement agency that obtains data, CCTV recordings or information are responsible for ensuring compliance with any relevant laws including the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)(PPIP)*.

Requests for access to CCTV footage from any person other than from a law enforcement agency, must be made as an Access Application in accordance with the GIPA Act.

5.5 Notification and Signage

Council will install signage where CCTV cameras are installed, to indicate the presence of a CCTV system. Signage will:

- be placed at each CCTV coverage location/area
- be clearly visible
- indicate cameras are in operation at the location
- indicate the operation hours of cameras
- indicate Council owns the CCTV cameras
- include Council contact information

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DOC ID: DOC/24/15940	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version		



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5.6 Complaints and Enquiries

Complaints relating to the management or operation of the CCTV cameras/system, will be handled in accordance with Council's Complaint Management Policy and Framework.

Complaints are to be submitted in writing to:

The General Manager
Wentworth Shire Council
PO Box 81
WENTWORTH NSW 2648

Where a complaint cannot be resolved by Council, it may be referred to an external agency.

A member of the public is also entitled to submit complaints to the Privacy Commissioner at:

Information and Privacy Commission NSW
GPO Box 7011
SYDNEY NSW 2001
E: ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au
P: 1800 472 679

5 RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)
State Records Act 1998 (NSW)
Surveillance Devices Act 2007 (NSW)
Surveillance Devices Regulation 2022 (NSW)
Workplace Surveillance Act 2005 (NSW)
Government Information (Public Access) Act 1993 (NSW)
Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
Australian Privacy Principles
Complaint Management Policy (GOV012)
Privacy Policy (GOV007)
Data Breach Policy (GOV027)

6 ATTACHMENTS

Procedures – CCTV Systems

7 DOCUMENT APPROVAL

This Council Policy is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on [Click or tap to enter a date..](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void. This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

Signed: _____
General Manager Wentworth Shire Council

[Click or tap to enter a date.](#)
Date

Title: GOVXXX	COUNCIL USE OF CCTV POLICY	V1.0	Version date: 18/03/2026
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9.8 WORKS IN KIND AGREEMENTS FOR DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

File Number: RPT/26/106

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

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

Strategy: 3.1 An urban environment that maintains and enhances our sense of identity and place

Summary

This report seeks Council's consideration of the Draft Works in Kind Agreements for Developer Contributions Policy, which has been developed to provide a clear, consistent and transparent framework for the assessment and acceptance of works delivered by developers in lieu of monetary contributions.

The Policy clarifies when Works in Kind Agreements may be considered, the governance and approval requirements, valuation and certification processes, and the circumstances in which Works in Kind Agreements are not permitted.

Following public exhibition, during which no formal submissions were received, the policy is presented to Council for endorsement to support sound decision-making, reduce risk and ensure alignment with legislative requirements and best-practice governance.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Works in Kind Agreements for Developer Contributions Policy

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Works in Kind Agreements for Developer Contributions Policy

Background

At its meeting held on 17 December 2025, Council resolved to endorse the Draft Works in Kind Agreements for Developer Contributions Policy for the purpose of public exhibition.

The Policy was prepared to provide consistent, transparent and risk-managed frameworks for circumstances where developers deliver public infrastructure works in lieu of monetary contributions under Section 7.11 of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)* and Sections 305-307 of the *Water Management Act 200 (NSW)*

Matters under consideration

The draft Policy was placed on public exhibition in accordance with Council's Community Engagement and Exhibition requirements. No formal submissions were received during the exhibition period. As no submissions were received, no changes to the draft Policy.

The absence of submissions indicates that the draft Policy has not raised any significant concerns from stakeholders. The Policy provides:

- Clear eligibility criteria for Works in Kind Agreements
- Defined assessment and approval processes

- Financial and valuation controls
- Asset quality, handover and defects management requirements
- Improved governance and risk management.

Adoption of the Policy will strengthen Councils developer contributions framework and support consistent decision-making across development applications involving Works in Kinds.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the adoption of the Policy. Implementation will be managed within existing operational resources. Adoption of the Policy reduces Council's exposure to financial governance and asset management risks by providing a clear and standardised framework for Works in Kind arrangements.

Conclusion

The Draft Works in Kind Agreements for Developer Contributions Policy has completed the public exhibition process in accordance with Council's requirements. As no formal submissions were received, it is appropriate to proceed with the adoption of the Policy in its exhibited form.

Attachments

1. Works in Kind Agreement for Developer Contributions Policy [↓](#)



COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY NUMBER & TITLE:	AF019	Works in Kind Agreements for Developer Contributions Policy
WORD DOCUMENT ID:	DOC/26/5339	
VERSION:	1.0	
ADOPTED MEETING DATE:	Click or tap to enter a date.	
REVIEW DUE:	Four yearly or following change of legislation or incident	
VERSION AMENDMENTS:	Nil	

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Roads and Engineering
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Works in Kind Agreements for Developer Contributions Policy

POLICY OBJECTIVE

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the treatment of Works in Kind (WIK) credits as an alternative to cash payments for developer contributions under Section 7.11 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) and Section 305-307 of the *Water Management Act 2000* (NSW). This policy seeks to ensure transparency, consistency, and fairness in managing developer contributions, while supporting timely and appropriate delivery of infrastructure.

This Policy does not apply to:

- Development Contributions payable levied under a Section 7.12 Development Contribution Plan levied under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW); and
- Any proposal or request to provide WIK that are not consistent with the intent of the relevant Developer Contribution Plan (DCP) or Development Servicing Plans (DSP).

2. POLICY COVERAGE

This policy applies to all developers, contractors and Council officers involved in developments where WIK arrangements are proposed in lieu of cash payments for infrastructure works.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

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

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

4. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term/Word	Definition
Council	Wentworth Shire Council
Credit	The value assigned to Works in Kind that offsets the developer's contribution obligation.
Developer Contributions	Financial contribution made by developers towards public infrastructure needed to support an approved development.

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Developer Contribution Plan (DCP)	Is a formal plan prepared by Council that sets out how developer charges for public infrastructure and facilities required to meet the increased demand generated for new development are calculated and applied under s7.11 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)</i>
Development Servicing Plan (DSP)	Is a formal plan prepared by Council that sets out how developer charges for water supply and sewerage infrastructure are calculated and applied under s305-307 of the <i>Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)</i>
Works in Kind (WIK)	Infrastructure works or assets constructed by a developer on behalf of Council, instead of making a cash contribution.

5. POLICY CONTENT

Council recognises that WIK's can accelerate the delivery of essential infrastructure and support community needs effectively. This policy establishes the framework and conditions under which WIK credits will be accepted and applied in lieu of cash contributions.

Eligibility Criteria

Council will only consider proposals to enter a WIK agreement where the relevant DCP and/or DSP provides that a WIK agreement can be entered into for the carrying out of the works in full or partial satisfaction of developer charges payable.

To be eligible for WIK credits:

- The proposed works must offset a condition in the approved Development Application;
- Works must meet Council's standards, including relevant specifications, design criteria and quality requirements;
- The proposal must provide value equal to or greater than the contribution obligation; and
- WIK contributions must be agreed upon in advance and documented through a formal agreement between the developer and Council.

Application Process

The developer must submit a formal application indicating their intent to provide WIK in place of a cash payment. The application should include:

- A detailed description of the proposed works including the relevant development application condition(s)
- Estimated costs and valuation of works;
- Timelines for project completion; and
- Evidence of how the works meet Council's specifications and standards.

Council will evaluate the proposal against the following criteria:

- Feasibility and practicality of WIK delivery by the developer;
- Capacity to meet Council's quality and design standards; and

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- Cost estimates compared to Council benchmarks for similar works.

If the WIK proposal is deemed acceptable, Council will negotiate and sign a formal Works in Kind Agreement. This agreement will include:

- Scope and specifications of the works;
- Credit amount to be applied in lieu of cash payment;
- Timeline for completion and inspection milestones;
- Terms of handover and acceptance by Council; and
- Conditions for compliance, quality, and performance standards.

The credit for WIK will be determined based on:

- Market rates or Council cost estimates for equivalent works;
- An independent valuation, if necessary, to ensure fair and transparent valuation. If a valuation is necessary, the cost of the valuation will be borne by the developer;
- Agreed upon adjustments to address variances in project scope or scale; and
- If the final cost is less than the contribution obligation then the balance will be required to be paid in cash. If the final cost is greater than the contribution obligation the excess credit will not be credited against any other contribution obligation or carried forward to a future development unless an exception is granted by Council.

Council will monitor the progress and quality of WIK contributions through regular inspections at key milestones as outlined in the agreement. Final acceptance of works will only be granted upon satisfactory completion and final inspection.

Should the works fail to meet Council's standards, rectification will be required at the developer's expense before credits are applied. Credits will be reported in Council's records and applied to the developer's contribution obligations as per the conditions of the approved development application.

Failure to meet the standards or timelines outlined in the WIK Agreement may result in suspension or cancellation of the credit arrangement, and the developer may be required to make cash payments.

In the event of a dispute regarding valuation, standards, or other terms, either party may request a mediation process facilitated by an independent third-party to achieve a fair resolution.

Probity

Council is committed to ensuring that the negotiations of any WIK agreement is conducted in a fair and transparent manner. To achieve this we will:

- Comply with our Code of Conduct;
- Inform developers as required about our values, Code of Conduct and business ethics, specifically, about ethical behaviour appropriate to business dealings;
- Ensure that Council staff understand the circumstances in which WIK agreements are appropriate;

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COUNCIL POLICY

- Ensure that Council staff understand their particular role and responsibility, some of which carry the potential for conflicts of interest
- Ensure that Council staff involved in the WIK agreement process or assessment of cost estimates declare whether they have a conflict of interest;
- Ensure that all meetings and communication with the developer in respect of the WIK agreement are properly documented;
- Ensure that where Council has a stake in the development subject to a WIK agreement, that Council takes appropriate steps so that there is no conflict of interest, including taking appropriate steps to avoid a conflict of interest between Council's role as a planning authority and Council's interest in the development;
- Ensure a separation of responsibilities so the Council staff co-ordinating the WIK agreement are not involved in the assessment of any planning proposal or determination of any development application to which a WIK agreement relates to provide advice on WIK matters.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*
- *Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)*
- GOV020 – Code of Conduct Policy
- GOV023 - Conflicts of Interest Policy
- GOV009 - Delegations Policy
- GOV003 - Fraud Control Policy
- GOV022 - Legislative Compliance Policy

7. ATTACHMENTS

N/A

8. DOCUMENT APPROVAL

This Council Policy is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on [Click or tap to enter a date..](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void. This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

Title: AF019 Works in Kind Agreement POLICY	V1.0	Version date: 03/03/2026
DOC ID: DOC/26/5339	Do not use this policy in printed form without first checking it is the current version	

9.9 REQUEST FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP - WENTWORTH SHIRE POONCARIE DESERT DASH.

File Number: RPT/26/120

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

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

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

Summary

Council has received a request from the Sunraysia Motor Sports Club seeking funding support for the delivery of the Wentworth Shire Pooncarie Desert Dash in 2026. The event organisers are seeking \$30,000 in sponsorship under the Event Funding Program to support a well-established major event that has operated in the region for the past five years. The event is projected to attract up to 1,200 visitors from outside the Wentworth region, each staying a minimum of three nights generating substantial tourism activity and economic benefit for the local economy.

Assessment against the program criteria indicates that the event delivers significant economic value, with modelling indicating the event is likely to inject approximately \$800,000 in direct expenditure within the local economy. When broader indirect and induced impacts are considered, the total regional economic contribution is projected to increase significantly, potentially reaching closer to \$1,500,000 in overall benefit

Recommendation

That Council approves funding support for the 2026 Wentworth Shire Pooncarie Desert Dash, to be allocated from the Events Sponsorship Budget.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for funding support for the delivery of the 2026 Wentworth Shire Pooncarie Desert Dash.

Background

The Sunraysia Motor Sports Club has delivered the event for the past 5 years with the event held entirely within the Wentworth Shire Local Government Area. In 2025 Council provided \$20,000 in funding from the Events Sponsorship Budget to support the delivery of the event.

The event aligns with Council's objectives to support economic development, tourism and activation of local communities.

Matters under consideration

The event organisers have provided the following information in relation to the 2025 event:

- The event is held over multiple days entirely within the Wentworth Shire Local Government Area
- Attendance of approximately 1,500 people
- Of those attendees, approximately 1,100 travelled from outside the Sunraysia region
- Visitors stayed in the region for an average of 3 to 4 nights

The funding application has been assessed by a panel consisting of the following Council Officers:

- Director Corporate Services
- Manager Business & Corporate Services
- Tourism & Events Officer

The application was evaluated against the established assessment criteria of the Event Funding Program, ensuring a consistent and rigorous appraisal of its overall merit. The criterion relating to economic and tourism impact considered the event's demonstrated capacity to generate measurable visitor expenditure, attract non-local attendance, and contribute to regional economic activity.

The community impact and benefits criterion assessed the extent to which the event enhances community participation, social cohesion and local profile. The assessment of event offerings focused on the quality, distinctiveness and competitiveness of the proposed event and its contribution to the region's broader events calendar.

The sustainability criterion examined the event's financial viability, long-term growth potential, and ability to deliver ongoing benefits. Finally, the criterion relating to event preparation and organisational capability evaluated the applicant's readiness, delivery experience and capacity to effectively manage an event of the proposed scale. Collectively, these criteria provide a comprehensive and methodical framework for determining the suitability and strategic value of the application.

Members of the assessment panel scored each criterion out of five, with a maximum possible score of 25 for the application. Scoring undertaken by the three-member assessment panel resulted in a weighted average score of 20 out of a maximum 25 points, reflecting strong overall performance against the program criteria

Based on the assessment of the application across all criteria, the event demonstrates very strong strategic alignment with the objectives of the Event Funding Program and represents a high-value investment for the region. The request for \$30,000 in sponsorship is well supported by the scale of anticipated visitation, the proven history of growth and the broader economic and community benefits generated.

The projected influx of up to 1,200 out-of-the region visitors each staying a minimum of three nights, indicates a significant financial return for local the local economy. The estimated direct visitor expenditure of approximately \$800,000 represents a return on investment of 25:1 when compared to the requested funding, demonstrating exceptional efficiency in terms of public contribution relative to economic outcomes.

The event's established five-year history and ongoing growth, including international competitor participation, provides strong evidence of organisational capacity, event maturity, and long-term sustainability.

These factors reduce risk and indicate that the event is likely to continue delivering benefits beyond the funded year. Continued Council support would not only secure the immediate economic impact but also continue to grow the region's reputation by attracting national and international visitations.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

The requested funding for 2026 event can be accommodated within the Events Sponsorship Budget. The budget for 2025/2026 is \$165,000 and currently \$69,769 has been allocated.

Council provided the event organisers with \$20,000 in funding for last years event. For the current application, the organisers have requested an increased contribution of \$30,000 to support the growing scale and operational requirements of the event. In considering this request, Council may elect to:

- a) maintain funding at the previous level of \$20,000;
- b) approve the full \$30,000 request;

- c) provide a partial contribution between these two amounts;
- d) decline the request

These options should be considered in light of the event's demonstrated economic impact, community benefits, and alignment with program objectives.

Conclusion

The assessment demonstrates that the event strongly meets the objectives and priorities of the Event Funding Program, particularly in relation to economic impact, tourism generation, community benefit and event sustainability. With its expanding national and international profile, growing participation levels and capacity to attract significant overnight visitation, the event offers a robust and measurable benefit to the Wentworth region.

The anticipated visitor influx and associated spending provide clear evidence of substantial economic stimulation; therefore, it is the recommendation of the assessment panel that Council support the request for sponsorship.

Attachments

1. Sunraysia Motor Sports Club Funding Request. [↓](#)
2. 2025 Financials - Pooncarie Desert Dash (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)



ABN 96 283 886 815

Application Form

(for event funding)



If you require assistance reading and understanding this document, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call Wentworth Shire Council on 03 5027 5027.

HOW TO LODGE THIS APPLICATION

Email to Council Events Team:
events@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Post this form or lodge it at
Wentworth Shire Council offices

PART A Event Details

Name of Event: Wentworth Shire Pooncarie Desert Dash

Event Details: Round 1 Australian Off Road Championship Round 2 NSW Off Road Championships

How many people do you expect to attend your upcoming event? 1500

Of the expected attendance, how many attendees do you expect will... visit from local areas? 300

visit from outside the region? 1200

If you are expecting visitors to attend your event from outside the region, how many nights do you expect them to stay? 3 to 4 nights

PART B Event Budget

You are required to summarise your income and expenditure and attach your own budget to this application form to provide financial detail about your event. To validate the expenditure in your budget, you will need to attach quotations for the expenses you are seeking funding for, including Council in-kind support (i.e. extra bins, road closures etc).

The information provided will form part of your funding agreement and if successful, will be checked against the post event acquittal.

Total event funding request:
30,000.00

PART C Event Exposure

Summarise key marketing & promotion activities that are planned to attract visitors from outside the Shire.

We have booked the electronic sign on the corner of 7th Street and the Bridge for the month leading up to our event which will enable us to showcase our event and sponsors, Motorsports Australian website, Sunraysia Motor Sports website and all other social media.

Our event is going to be live streamed for the first time this year, this means our event will reach motorsport lovers both nationally and internationally.

PART D Collaboration and Engagement

How does your event contribute to positive collaboration and engagement within the local community?

i.e. how will the local community benefit, how will the local community actively be involved, opportunities for volunteers.

We use local landholders land to run our event on and with out their support we wouldn't have a race, all the landholders that are involved also volunteer over the weekend as recovery vehicles on their property. Local stores have a big 4 days as competitors purchase fuel, food and drinks, accomadations in Pooncarie is fully booked and we also use accomadation in both Dareton and Wentworth for our officals and competitors.

How does your event positively contribute to the Wentworth Shire calendar of events?

i.e. identified gap in the events calendar, develop a certain area or venue, timing of the event

The timing of our event is in line with landholders and their livestock (shearing), it is also the first round of 4 of the Australian Off Road Championship and second round of the NSW Off Road Championship. Our event is ran before the iconic Finke Desert race and competitors come to Pooncarie Desert Dash to make sure their cars, drivers and navigators are ready for the season of racing ahead.

PART E Meaningful Experiences**How will attendees benefit from attending your event?**

i.e. what experiences will they have? What impact does this have on the local community?

The Pooncarie Desert Dash has been running for the past 5 years and over those years the event has grown, the competitors love our terrain we have here and continue to return each year to our event. We have spoken to the local bussiness owners in Pooncarie and they all say that it is the biggest weekend for leaving money in their town.

Over the years we have put alot back into the community in the way of the Flying Doctors, Doctors & Nurses Accomadation, Pooncarie Race Grounds and the Community Christmas Tree.

We are members of the User Group at the Race Complex and work with the other user group members and Wentworth Shire to make it a better place.

How will the event be accessibility friendly?

i.e. what measures will be put in place to ensure the event is inclusive?

We are a stand alone event in that there is no other events like this in the region or for that matter the States of NSW and Victoria. We attrack competitors form all over Australia and even Internationally.

Looking forward we have been able to access land through the landholders that will enable us to reformat our event. This is something we have been working on for many years, by enabling this we will be able to run our event from Dareton to Pooncarie with an over night stop and then return back to Dareton, we also look to introduce motorbikes into our event. This means our event will have the compacity to triple in size bring a larger number of competitors (cars 90 bike 400), service crew (8 to 10 per entry) and spectators to our shire. We believe by running an event like this we will be able to put more back into towns in our shire (Dareton & Wentworth) and Pooncarie will still benifit from the over night stop.

PART F Capacity and Capability

Please outline your experience as an event organiser and the size of the event committee.
 Include details of previous event experience including the size of the events and any success stories.

We are a small committee of 10 very enthusiastic motorsport followers, we have a membership base of around 90 and volunteers of around 100, we believe we have ran a successful event for the past 5 years. Our event has grown each year with competitors numbers increasing and attracting international competitors as well.

PART G Application Check List

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Completed Licence Application Form | ☐ Other Supporting Documentation
(event management plan, site plans/
drawings, letters of support or other
forms of supporting documentation. |
| ☒ Copy of Event Budget | |
| ☒ Copy of Expense Quotations | |

PART H Applicant Details

Title ☐ Mr ☒ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Other

Applicants Name

Postal Address

Suburb/Locality

Phone

Email

Do you wish to receive all correspondences via email? ☒ Yes ☐ No

PART I Acknowledgements

I, the undersigned, certify that I am authorised to submit this application on behalf of my organisation.
 I have read, understood and agree to the terms and conditions of this application for event funding.
 I have completed all sections of the application and to the best of my knowledge all the information I have given is true and correct.
 I agree that Wentworth Shire Council, for the purpose of assessing this application, may check any of my statements.
 I understand that this is an application and may not necessarily result in event funding approval.

Name

Signature

Date

20/2/2026

If more signatures are required, please attach a separate document.

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Notice The personal information provided on this form is collected by Council for the purposes of processing this application by Council's employees and other authorised persons. This form will be stored within Council's record management system and may be available for public access and/or disclosure as required by law.

9.10 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DETERMINATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/117

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

For the month of February 2026, a total of 21 Development Applications and three (3) Modification Applications were determined.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$8,989,247.09. This brings the Financial year to date total to 119 Development Applications with an estimated development value of \$50,063,210.49 and 16 Modification Applications.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report for the Determined Development Applications for the month of February 2026.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a list of Development Applications as tabled in the attachment, determined in the month of February 2026.

Conclusion

The total value of determinations was \$8,989,247.09 for the month of February 2026. The average determination time was 51 days.

Attachments

1. Delegated Authority Report - February 2026 [↓](#)

DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026

FILE NUMBER	APPLICANT	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	VALUE (EX GST)	DETERMINATION DATE	COMMUNITY VIEWS	ACTIVE DAYS
DA2025/129 PAN 556989	Jackson Planning	10 Carramar Drive Lot 5 DP 1280364 Gol Gol	Swimming Pool with Safety Barrier, Storage Shed, Colorbond Fencing & Retaining wall	\$220,000.00	17/02/26	0	196
DA2025/146 PAN 562086	Shayne Connolly	246C Pomona Road Lot 6 DP 1255922 Pomona	Dwelling and Secondary Dwelling	\$770,000.00	17/02/26	1	164
DA2025/198 PAN 589999	MH2 Engineering & Architectural Services	1B Livingstone Drive Lot 3 DP 1295297 Gol Gol	Dwelling, Garage and Colorbond Fencing	\$348,573.48	18/02/26	0	30
DA2025/201 PAN 590610	BW&A National Building Consultants	32 Corbett Avenue Lot 2 DP 1305730 Buronga	Warehouse	\$143,000.00	03/02/26	0	68
DA2025/204 PAN 594126	Mallee Sheds	524 Pomona Road Lot 6 DP 432081 Pomona	Storage Shed	\$119,099.00	12/02/26	0	70
DA2025/206 PAN 593871	Jackson Planning	42 Thomas Street Lot 6 DP 1298329 Gol Gol	Dwelling, Garage, Retaining Wall and Fence	\$550,000.00	20/02/26	0	74
DA2025/207 PAN 593758	MH2 Engineering & Architectural Services	38 Corbett Avenue Lot 6 DP 1305730 Buronga	Industrial Warehouse	\$516,500.00	18/02/26	0	65
DA2025/210 PAN 597618	BW&A National Building Consultants	4 Carramar Drive Lot 2 DP 1280364 Gol Gol	Dwelling, Garage and Storage Shed	\$511,500.00	02/02/26	0	45
DA2025/211 PAN 590212	Gowers Homes	117 Wilga Road Lot 4 DP 1298247 Gol Gol	Dwelling, Garage and Storage Shed	\$992,390.00	06/02/26	0	46
DA2025/212 PAN 594847	BW&A National Building Consultants	Kari Drive Lot 28 DP 1285900 Gol Gol	Storage Shed	\$75,014.00	09/02/26	0	46

DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026

DA2025/213 PAN 602727	Jackson Planning	Kari Drive Lot 18 DP 1285900 Gol Gol	Storage Shed	\$48,400.00	24/02/26	0	62
DA2026/005 PAN 599428	MH2 Engineering & Architectural Services	50 Thomas Street Lot 2 DP 1298329 Gol Gol	Dwelling, Garage Storage Shed and Fencing	\$482,350.00	9/02/26	0	32
DA2026/006 PAN 602514	Jackson Planning	Woolshed Drive Lot 9 DP 1297691 Wentworth	Storage Shed	\$68,200.00	19/02/26	0	37
DA2026/007 PAN 599211	Wentworth Shire Council	482 Silver City Highway Lot 5100 DP 720104 & Lot 6002 DP 1258384 Wentworth	Two (2) Lot Boundary Realignment	\$0.00	19/02/26	0	36
DA2026/010 PAN 601923	MH2 Engineering & Architectural Services	6 Kingfisher Road Lot 19 DP 1300407 Gol Gol	Dwelling, Garage and Colorbond Fencing	\$404,000.00	16/02/26	0	32
DA2026/012 PAN 604145	Roy Costa Planning & Development	38 Hendy Road Lot 2 DP 1185850 Buronga	Dwelling, Garage, Entertainment Area Swimming Pool and Safety Barrier	\$2,805,000.00	18/02/26	0	33
DA2026/013 PAN 601652	Mallee Sheds	4 Kingfisher Road Lot 20 DP 1300407 Gol Gol	Storage Shed	\$31,014.72	20/02/26	0	32
DA2026/014 PAN 605505	The Shed Company Mildura	126 Darling View Road Lot 3 DP 1188673 Wentworth	Storage Shed	\$167,783.00	16/02/26	0	27
DA2026/015 PAN 597471	Mallee Sheds	427 Gunya Road Lot 1 DP 1182993 Coomealla	Carport	\$11,424.88	16/02/26	0	26
DA2026/016 PAN 594024	Rachelle Stephens	7071 Sturt Highway Lot 1 DP 839500 Gol Gol	Removal of Existing Shed and Construction of New Storage Shed	\$45,000.01	20/02/26	0	24
DA2026/019 PAN 603709	The Trustee for James D Harwood Trust	143 Summer Drive Lot 34 DP 1293754 Gol Gol	Dwelling, Garage and Storage Shed	\$679,998.00	24/02/26	0	25

DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026

S4-55/2026/003 (2) PAN 600682	Jackson Planning	175A West Road Lot 2 DP 1196467 Buronga	Modify DA2024/046 Demolition of Existing Dwelling and Construction of a Double Storey Dwelling with Garage and Swimming Pool Amend Condition #2, #14, #15, and #67 Delete Condition #14 Add Condition #N1, #N2, #N3 and #N4	\$0.00	25/02/26	0	22
S4-55/2026/004 (1) PAN 605616	MH2 Engineering & Architectural Services	Kari Drive Lot 19 DP 1285900 Gol Gol	Modify DA2025/127 Dwelling with Garage, Storage Shed, Rainwater Tank and Fence Amend Condition #13	\$0.00	20/02/26	0	17
S4-55/206/005 (1A) PAN 607952	Marlina Hurst	Wurlong Drive Lot 8 DP 1294020 Gol Gol	Modify DA2024/022 Dwelling with Garage Storage Shed and Swimming Pool Amend Roof Line and Remove Box Gutter	\$0.00	25/02/26	0	15

9.11 PROJECT & WORKS REPORT MARCH 2026

File Number: RPT/26/115

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director of 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 February 2026, and the planned activities for March 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in February 2026 and the scheduled works for March 2026.

Detailed Report

Refer below for updates of the works completed in February 2026, and the planned activities for March 2026.

Projects and Works Completed in February 2026 and Scheduled for March 2026.

Roads	<u>Maintenance Grading</u> • Works have been recently completed on the Rufus River, Nulla and Renmark Roads. • Works are scheduled to be completed on the Pine Camp, Springwood, Belvedere, Karpa Kora, Ivanhoe and Arumpo Roads. Contractors have also been engaged to utilise the favorable conditions following recent rains. <u>Ivanhoe Road Resheeting Works</u> • Funded by the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund, a 6km section west of the Wilkurra Road intersection will receive a 100mm top up of locally sourced gravel. • Works have been postponed, as Council have applied for a bore ground water extraction license due to the dry conditions. If approved, the license will not only provide water for this project but also maintenance grading going into the future. At this stage these works will not commence until April 2026. <u>TfNSW Maintenance</u> • Heavy patching works on various sections of the Sturt and Silver City Highways commenced on the 23 February 2026 and are scheduled to be completed 13 March 2026. • Roadside vegetation removal works will be undertaken at the end of March. • Asphalt heavy patching and reseal works on the Sturt Highway will commence after Easter • Clean up and rectification works continue at various sites on the Silver
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Roads <i>(continued)</i>	City and Sturt Highways following the significant rain event in late February and early March. <u>Nob and Polia Road Formation/Drainage Works</u> • All works on the Nob Road are complete. The completed works have greatly improved the condition and safety of the road and will reduce the timeframes of road closures following heavy rain events. • Polia Road works are scheduled to commence once heavy machinery can access site following the recent heavy rains. <u>New Gravel Pits</u> • A consultant has completed the Review of Environmental Factors process on behalf of Council, for the proposed new gravel pits located on the Arumpo, High Darling and Polia Roads. • Our consultant will then submit the application to have the pits registered with the DPIE and licenses added to our head licence. • The gravel pits will supply material for significant road surface upgrades forecasted in the area. <u>Arumpo Mungo Formation and Drainage Works</u> • Final approval is only weeks away to commence works onsite. • Works consist of major earthworks over a 10km section which falls within the World Heritage Area, the proposed work has required significant environmental approvals before commencement. <u>River Road, Fletchers Lake Road and Memorial Road Rehabilitation</u> • Surveys have been completed. • Designs on all the roads have been completed and are being assessed by Wentworth Shire Council. • The stabilisation and material supply tenders have been received and assessed with recommendations put forward to Council.
Water and Sewer	<u>Gol Gol Buronga Reticulation Modelling</u> • Filtered water modelling has confirmed that current network meets the minimum flow and pressure supply requirements. • Additional scenarios to be modeled in line with proposed new developments to determine any required pipeline upgrades. <u>Safe and Secure Water Program (4 activities) – Development</u> 1. <u>Wentworth Water Treatment Plant</u> 2. <u>Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant</u> 3. <u>Wentworth Raw Water Pump Station</u> 4. <u>Dareton Raw Water Pump Station</u> • NSW Government has completed the review of the two pump station activities. Wentworth Shire Council is now able to finalise these two development activities. • NSW Government to still complete the review of the two water treatment activities. • Wentworth Shire Council is progressing the interim upgrade to produce up to an additional 10 L/s through the Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant prior to demand peaks. • Pump station control upgrade was completed and up to 60 L/s has been delivered during peak supply times. • Additional 180,000 L of storage tanks delivered to Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant. Installation of pipework to occur. • Additional inlet pipework materials were procured and installation to

Water and Sewer (continued)	occur. <u>Sewer Rehabilitation Program</u> - WSC team is currently developing an updated scope of work for annual works program for later this year. <u>District Bulk Metering</u> - The final two meters still need to be displayed on SCADA and recording for reporting purposes. <u>Wastewater and Water Lagoon Cleaning</u> Buronga Wastewater Treatment Plant - Remote control boat survey of lagoons to determine sludge build up - Sediment dredging equipment was established at the inlet works of first lagoon where majority of buildup has occurred. - Original contract amount of 3000m3 dredged into constructed drying bed. - Additional 1000m3 to be dredged to clear inlet works area of accumulated sludge. - Impacted by rain events of late February early March. <u>Pooncarie Water Treatment Plant</u> - Lagoon cleaning is scheduled for March.
Projects	<u>Midway to Gol Gol Footpath Upgrade</u> - All asphaltting works are complete, with the pathway open for locals and visitors to use. - Minor beautification works to be completed, along with installation of recycled plastic pillars with give way signage for pedestrians at high traffic areas. <u>Punt Road Stormwater Upgrade</u> - Works include the installation of a new penstock gate at the outlet on the river together with new storm water pit and kerb & channel to replace damaged sections caused by the 2022 floods. - Works expected to be completed by end April. <u>Dareton Asbestos Removal and Demolition</u> - An Asbestos Removal contract has been awarded with works expected to be completed by Easter. - Demolition will commence to remove all structures and clean up the sites following being issued an asbestos clearance certificate. <u>Open Spaces – Dawn Ave Drainage Basin</u> - Works complete <u>Wentworth Kerb Upgrades</u> - Package of works to be tendered in March <u>Junction Island Viewing Platform</u> - Signage installed including a “photo frame” on the platform - Bench seats installed on the platform. - Works complete

Projects (continued)	<u>Old Wentworth Water Tower Reserve</u> Grass is establishing with irrigation over February. Fence and irrigation to be removed in May. <u>Pooncarie and Wentworth Camp Kitchens</u> While some rectification works have been completed, outstanding defects remain for both kitchens, Red brick feature under server windows still to be incorporated for Wentworth Camp Kitchen. <u>Wentworth Rowing Club Upgrade</u> Renovations Works • Demolition complete • Framing for new internal works. • Impacted by rain events of late Feb/early March. Extension Works • Fabrication of steelwork underway • Still on schedule to commence post Renovation works. <u>Milpara Road / Tara Downs culvert and road improvement works</u> • Tender documentation being prepared for the major Anabranck crossing structural repairs. Works scheduled for May. • Detailed design underway and to be completed in March. <u>Avoca Street Footpath Dareton</u> • Concept Design prepared. <u>Cadell Street Sharedway Wentworth</u> • Pedestrian counts complete • Concept design in progress <u>Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra (FOSO) – Electrical supply</u> • Contractor installed the required additional power poles and wires for mains power to the site. • Energisation scheduled once site is suitably accessible post the late February / early March rain event.
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Attachments

1. Bunnerungee Bridge [📄](#)
2. Boeill Creek Road [📄](#)
3. Desludging Sewer Ponds [📄](#)
4. Wentworth Rowing Club Upgrade [📄](#)
5. FOSO Site [📄](#)











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 Plant Replacement - Approval for Tender for Replacement of Plant 660 - Mazda BT50 - VR2526/660. (RPT/26/95)

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 PT2526/05 - Stabilisation Works - Various Roads. (RPT/26/96)

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 PT2526/06 - Supply Road Base Material - Various Roads -. (RPT/26/102)

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 New kerbside waste collection contract. (RPT/26/131)

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 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL FOR TENDER FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 660 - MAZDA BT50 - VR2526/660

File Number: RPT/26/95

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director of Roads & Engineering
 Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
 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.

12.2 PT2526/05 - STABILISATION WORKS - VARIOUS ROADS

File Number: RPT/26/96

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director of Roads & Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Jarrold Roberts - Manager Works

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

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

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

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

12.3 PT2526/06 - SUPPLY ROAD BASE MATERIAL - VARIOUS ROADS -

File Number: RPT/26/102

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director of Roads & Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Jarrold Roberts - Manager Works

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

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

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

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

12.4 NEW KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT

File Number: RPT/26/131

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director of Roads & Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Geoff Gunn - Director of Roads & Engineering
Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

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

Strategy: 3.3 Minimise the impact on our natural environment

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.

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

NEXT MEETING

15 April 2026