



# Wentworth

SHIRE COUNCIL

## **ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES**

**13 MAY 2026**

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## 1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 4:05pm

## 2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

### PRESENT:

**COUNCILLORS:** Councillor Daniel Linklater  
Councillor Jon Armstrong  
Councillor Brian Beaumont  
Councillor Peter Crisp  
Councillor Greg Evans  
Councillor Susan Nichols  
Councillor Jo Rodda  
Councillor Jody Starick

**STAFF:** Ken Ross (General Manager)  
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)  
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)  
Ebony Carter (Acting Executive Assistant to General Manager)  
Jamie-Lee Kelly (Acting Business Support Officer)

## 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### Council Resolution

That Council grants the Leave of Absence Request from Councillor Beaumont from the 6 June to 9 July 2026

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Nichols advised that she had a non-pecuniary and less than significant interest in item 9.9 as she is a life member of the Wentworth Bowling Club

Councillor Brian Beaumont advised that he had a non-pecuniary and less than significant interest in item 9.8 as he is a board member of the Wentworth District Community Medical Centre Charity.

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 15 April 2026 be confirmed as circulated.

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**Council Resolution**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 15 April 2026 be confirmed as circulated.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 6.1 STATUS REPORT ON PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AS 13 MAY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/188

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 13 May 2026.

#### Council Resolution

That Council notes the list of outstanding action items for Council Resolutions as at 13 May 2026.

**Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Starick**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

### 7.1 MAYORAL REPORT MAY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/187

#### **Recommendation**

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

#### **Council Resolution**

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

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

### 8.1 HERITAGE AND HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

File Number:	RPT/26/189
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:	4.4 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 20 April 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:-

Item 7.1 PS Ruby

#### Officer Recommendation

The Committee recommends:

That Council resolves to prepare the PS Ruby for static display and costs borne by Wentworth Shire Council are supplemented by grant funding through funding bodies appropriate to PS Rubys future preservation.

#### Council Resolution

That Council resolves to construct a plan to prepare the PS Ruby for static display and costs borne by Wentworth Shire Council are supplemented by grant funding through funding bodies appropriate to PS Rubys future preservation.

**Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Crisp**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councillor Nichols acknowledged the passing of Mr Tony Bruce Mullins. Tony was one of the original people to put his hand up for the Heritage and History Committee, he was also a member of numerous other organisations and committees including the Historical Society and the Wentworth Bowling Club and the work he has done within the Wentworth Shire Council in a short amount of time has been remarkable. Councillor Nichols on behalf of Wentworth Shire Council recognised the work that Mr Tony Bruce Mullins has done for the committees.

## 9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

### 9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT MAY 2026

File Number: RPT/26/186

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 is of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars

Nil

2. Meetings

As listed.

3. Upcoming meetings or events

As listed.

4. Other items of note

The Lower Western zone Bush Fire management committee has compiled and approved for public exhibition the Lower Western Bush Fire Management. This plan is an important tool for helping land managers across our region to understand the bushfire risk and to implement plans and controls to minimise the impact of bushfires. This plan is now available for public display online, or in person at the Wentworth and Balranald shire offices and the Lower Western Zone Fire Control centre in Dareton until the 22 of June 2026.

#### Recommendation

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

#### Council Resolution

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

**Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Beaumont**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.2 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

File Number: RPT/26/224

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer

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 the natural environment

**Summary**

The Annual Murray Darling Association's National Conference and Annual General Meeting is being held from the 24 August 2026 - 27 August 2026 in Shepparton VIC. The focus of this year's national conference is 'Working together for our Basin future'. Traditionally Council nominates representatives to attend the Murray Darling Association Conference.

**Recommendation**

That Council nominates representatives to attend the Murray Darling Association National Conference and Annual General Meeting from 24 August 2026 - 27 August 2026 in Shepparton VIC.

**Council Resolution**

That Council nominates representatives to attend the Murray Darling Association National Conference and Annual General Meeting from 24 August 2026 - 27 August 2026 in Shepparton VIC.

**Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Starick**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 9.3 COMMUNITY BANK WENTWORTH & DISTRICT SKIN CANCER TRUCK FUNDING ASSISTANCE

File Number: RPT/26/227

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

#### **Summary**

Council has received a request from the Community Bank Wentworth & District to assist in bringing the Mildura Base Public Hospital Foundation Skin Check Truck to the Wentworth Shire in late 2026 / early 2027.

The cost to bring the truck to the region is \$33,000 (Inc GST) and will be split evenly between the Community Bank Wentworth & District, the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club and Council. The Community Bank Wentworth & District and Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club have both confirmed they have approval to fund 1/3 of the cost from their boards.

Should Council approve the request funds will need to be allocated to the 2026/2027 budget to cover the contribution.

#### **Recommendation**

That Council approve expenditure of \$11,000 (inc GST), one third of the cost to bring the Mildura Base Public Hospital Foundation Skin Check Truck to the Wentworth region.

#### **Council Resolution**

That Council approve expenditure of \$11,000 (inc GST), one third of the cost to bring the Mildura Base Public Hospital Foundation Skin Check Truck to the Wentworth region.

**Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Beaumont**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.4 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - APRIL 2026**

File Number: RPT/26/221

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 April 2026 were \$378,586.76. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 79.87%. For comparison purposes 80.03% of the levy had been collected at the end of March 2025. Council currently has \$32,863,046.49 in cash and investments.

**Recommendation**

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

**Council Resolution**

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

**Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Evans**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.5 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - APRIL 2026**

File Number: RPT/26/236

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

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

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

**Summary**

As of 30 April 2026, Council had \$29 million invested in term deposits and fixed bonds with \$3,863,046.49 in other cash investments. Council received \$105,469.07 from its investments for the month of April 2026.

In April 2026 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 3.89% and it currently has \$4,463,128.89 of internal restrictions and \$27,864,056.91 of external restrictions.

**Recommendation**

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

**Council Resolution**

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

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 9.6 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENTS

File Number: RPT/26/208

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 March 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 March QBRS provides a comprehensive review of Council's financial performance and budget position for the quarter ended 31 March 2026, 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 May 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 March 2026 Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- b) Approve the required quarterly variations

### Council Resolution

That the Committee:

- a) Receive and note the March 2026 Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- b) Approve the required quarterly variations

**Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Starick**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 9.7 QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: RPT/26/210

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.

#### New Actions

- 3.5.9 – Land Purchase Buronga.

#### Completed actions

- 2.4.3 – Open Spaces Development
- 2.4.6 – Greater Darling Junction Viewing Platform
- 3.2.13 – Wentworth Depot Upgrade

### Recommendation

That Council notes the report

### Council Resolution

That Council notes the report

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.8 DRAFT 2026/2027 - OPERATIONAL PLAN - ENDORSEMENT FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

File Number:	RPT/26/200
Responsible Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division:	Corporate Services
Reporting Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Objective:	4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner
Strategy:	4.4 Manage public resources responsibly and efficiently for the benefit of the community

**Summary**

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* (the Act), Council must have an annual Operational Plan adopted for each financial year, outlining the activities to be undertaken in that year, to achieve the commitments outlined in the Delivery Program.

The Operational Plan also includes the Statement of Council Revenue Policy and the Annual Fees and Charges in accordance with the Regulations.

Council is being asked to endorse the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan for public exhibition. During the exhibition period the public are invited to provide feedback into the actions to be undertaken within the financial year. Public submissions are also invited on the proposed Rates and Annual Charges, as outlined in the Annual Statement of Revenue, and the Annual Fees and Charges.

The final version of all documents, together with all feedback received, will be presented to Council on the 24 June 2026.

**Recommendation**

That Council approve the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan to be placed on public exhibition.

That Council gives notice of its intention to adopt the following rates and annual changes, which are contained within the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan:

- To make and levy an Ordinary Rate to comprise of a base rate and an ad valorem rating structure for residential, business and farmland categories of rates;
- To increase the Ordinary Rate by the maximum 3.20% rate pegged amount determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART);
- To increase waste water access charges by 3.20%;
- To increase raw and filtered water access charges by 3.20%;
- To increase water consumption charges by 3.20%;
- To increase domestic waste charges in line with the provision of new waste services

- To levy the fees and charges established in Part B of the Annual Statement of Revenue; and
- To charge the maximum interest on overdue rates and charges as determined by the Minister for local Government.

**Motion**

That Council approve the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan to be placed on public exhibition.

That Council gives notice of its intention to adopt the following rates and annual changes, which are contained within the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan:

- To make and levy an Ordinary Rate to comprise of a base rate and an ad valorem rating structure for residential, business and farmland categories of rates;
- To increase the Ordinary Rate by the maximum 3.20% rate pegged amount determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART);
- To increase waste water access charges by 4.20%;
- To increase raw and filtered water access charges by 4.20%;
- To increase water consumption charges by 4.20%;
- To increase domestic waste charges in line with the provision of new waste services
- To levy the fees and charges established in Part B of the Annual Statement of Revenue; and
- To charge the maximum interest on overdue rates and charges as determined by the Minister for local Government.

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

**Amendment**

That Council approve the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan to be placed on public exhibition.

That Council gives notice of its intention to adopt the following rates and annual changes, which are contained within the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan:

- To make and levy an Ordinary Rate to comprise of a base rate and an ad valorem rating structure for residential, business and farmland categories of rates;
  - To increase the Ordinary Rate by the maximum 3.20% rate pegged amount determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART);
    - To increase waste water access charges by 3.70%;
    - To increase raw and filtered water access charges by 3.70%;
    - To increase water consumption charges by 3.70%;

- To increase domestic waste charges in line with the provision of new waste services
  - To levy the fees and charges established in Part B of the Annual Statement of Revenue; and
- To charge the maximum interest on overdue rates and charges as determined by the Minister for local Government.

**Moved Cr. Beaumont, Seconded Cr. Rodda**

**CARRIED**

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

***Against the Motion:*                *Clr.s Armstrong, Crisp and Starick.***

### **Council Resolution**

That Council approve the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan to be placed on public exhibition.

That Council gives notice of its intention to adopt the following rates and annual changes, which are contained within the draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan:

- To make and levy an Ordinary Rate to comprise of a base rate and an ad valorem rating structure for residential, business and farmland categories of rates;
- To increase the Ordinary Rate by the maximum 3.20% rate pegged amount determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART);
- To increase waste water access charges by 3.70%;
- To increase raw and filtered water access charges by 3.70%;
- To increase water consumption charges by 3.70%;
- To increase domestic waste charges in line with the provision of new waste services
- To levy the fees and charges established in Part B of the Annual Statement of Revenue; and
- To charge the maximum interest on overdue rates and charges as determined by the Minister for local Government.

**Moved Cr. Beaumont, Seconded Cr. Rodda**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.9 AF003 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

File Number:	RPT/26/201
Responsible Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division:	Corporate Services
Reporting Officer:	Annette Fraser - Team Leader Customer Service
Objective:	4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner
Strategy:	4.1 A well engaged and informed community

*At 05:05 pm Councillor Susan Nichols 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 \$6,533.00 (\$1,306.00 plus \$2,576.00 plus \$258.00 plus \$2,393.00)

The total value of requests approved at the 18 February 2026 Council Meeting was \$10,641.84

The total value of requests for Round 4, the final round of the 2025/2026 funding application period totals \$10,800.00, which if granted in full, would leave a balance in the financial assistance program of \$4,818.02

<b>Financial Assistance Program starting balance 2025/2026</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>
Annual fees & charges annual exemptions granted	\$112,348.70
Granted under delegated authority 11/7/2025 – 24/7/2025	\$ 1,306.00
Value of approved requests August 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 23,557.60
Value of approved requests November 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 14,000.00
Granted under delegated authority 1/8/2025 – 24/10/2025	\$ 2,576.00
Available balance after November 2025 Council Meeting	<b>\$ 46,211.70</b>
Granted under delegated authority 25/10/2025 – 24/1/2026	\$ 258.00
Value of approved requests November 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 11,441.10
Value of approved requests December 2025 Council Meeting	\$ 5,859.74
Value of approved requests February 2026 Council Meeting	\$ 10,641.84
Available balance after February 2026 Council Meeting	<b>\$ 18,011.02</b>
Granted under delegated authority 25/1/2026 – 24/4/2026	\$ 2,393.00
Financial assistance requests received 25/1/2026 – 24/4/2026	\$ 10,800.00
Remaining balance if all approved	<b>\$ 4,818.02</b>

**Recommendation**

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

**Council Resolution**

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance grants the full value of all requests totalling \$10,800.00 from the financial assistance program.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*At 05:11 pm Councillor Susan Nichols returned to Council Chambers.*

**9.10 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST RETURN**

File Number:	RPT/26/217
Responsible Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division:	Corporate Services
Reporting Officer:	Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer
Objective:	4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner
Strategy:	4.3 Provide a governance framework that is transparent and builds trust in local leadership

**Summary**

Council's Code of Conduct Policy requires Councillors and Designated Persons to disclose their personal interests by completing a publicly available disclosure of interests return.

A Councillor or Designated Person must make and lodge with the General Manager a Disclosure of Interest Form within 3 months after:

- Becoming a Councillor or Designated Person; and
- After 30 June of each year; and
- The Councillor or Designated Person becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose under schedule 1 of the Policy that has not been previously disclosed in a return lodged under paragraphs a) or b).

These returns are required to be lodged with the General Manager and tabled at the next meeting of Council after the return is lodged.

**Recommendation**

That Council notes the tabling of a Disclosure of Interest Return by Councillor Michael Weeding.

**Council Resolution**

That Council notes the tabling of a Disclosure of Interest Return by Councillor Michael Weeding.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.11 PRIVACY POLICY**

File Number: RPT/26/212

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

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

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

**Summary**

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the draft Privacy Policy which has been reviewed and updated as part of Council's four year policy review plan.

Council's Privacy Policy outlines how Council will safeguard personal and health information held by Council and explains how that information is to be dealt with, including its use and disclosure.

At its meeting held on 18 March 2026, Council resolved to endorse the draft Privacy Policy for the purpose of public exhibition. No feedback or submissions were received from the public during this time and no changes have been made to the Policy following that exhibition period.

**Recommendation**

That Council adopts the Privacy Policy.

**Council Resolution**

That Council adopts the Privacy Policy.

**Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Rodda**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.12 ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY**

File Number: RPT/26/213

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

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

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

**Summary**

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the draft Access to Information Policy which has been reviewed and updated as part of Council's four year policy review plan.

Council's access to information is governed by the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) (the GIPA Act). The Act creates an enforceable right to access government information and provides that access to government information is restricted only when there is an overriding public interest against the disclosure. The Access to Information Policy sets out Council's commitment to providing the public with access to information and in doing so through each of the four ways required under the GIPA Act.

At its meeting held on 18 March 2026, Council resolved to endorse the draft Access to Information Policy for the purpose of public exhibition. No feedback or submissions were received from the public during this time and no changes have been made to the Policy following that exhibition period.

**Recommendation**

That Council adopts the Access to Information Policy.

**Council Resolution**

That Council adopts the Access to Information Policy.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.13 COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT POLICY**

File Number: RPT/26/223

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Corporate Services

Reporting Officer: Mardi Cleggett - Governance Officer

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

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

**Summary**

This report seeks adoption of the draft Complaint Management Policy which has been reviewed and updated as part of Council's policy review plan, and in conjunction with the recent review and update of Council's Complaint Management Framework.

**Recommendation**

That Council adopt the reviewed Complaint Management Policy.

**Council Resolution**

That Council adopt the reviewed Complaint Management Policy.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.14 ROAD SAFETY QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY 2026 - MARCH 2026**

File Number: RPT/26/218

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director of Roads & Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

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 January 2026 to March 2026.

**Recommendation**

That Council receives and notes the Road Safety Quarterly Report for January 2026 to March 2026.

**Council Resolution**

That Council receives and notes the Road Safety Quarterly Report for January 2026 to March 2026.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.15 DA2025/021 MANUFACTURED HOME ESTATE 78 CORBERTT AVENUE  
BURONGA LOT 2 DP 1300239**

File Number: RPT/26/228

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager  
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager  
Reporting Officer: George Kenende - Strategic Planner

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

**Council Resolution**

That item 9.15 lies on the table

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

**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 and Starick.***

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

**Summary**

A development application (DA2025/021) was lodged by Council on 11 February 2025 for a manufactured home estate at 78 Corbett Avenue Buronga Lot 2 DP 1300239.

Under the RU5 Village zoning of the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011* (WLEP 2011), the proposed development (manufactured home estate) is permitted with consent.

The *Local Government Act 1993* defines manufactured home estate as:

- ***manufactured home estate*** means land on which manufactured homes are, or are to be, erected.

The *Local Government Act 1993* defines manufactured home as:

- ***manufactured home*** means a self-contained dwelling (that is, a dwelling that includes at least one kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living area and that also includes toilet and laundry facilities), being a dwelling—
  - a) that comprises one or more major sections, and
  - b) that is not a motor vehicle, trailer or other registrable vehicle within the meaning of the Road Transport Act 2013,
- and includes any associated structures that form part of the dwelling.

During public exhibition, nine (9) submissions were received (2 being the same submitter) raising concerns about the proposed development.

For Council to have the legal pre-requisite power to approve development applications, the following must be provided:

- Written Land owners consent as per section 23 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*. License and leases are not considered land owners consent
- For land formally used for agriculture/horticulture use, a Preliminary Site Investigation for contamination **must** be provided to Council as per Chapter 4 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 (R&H SEPP).

For Council to be able to approve a development application for a manufactured home estate, a number of prerequisites must be met:

- Satisfy matters under Chapter 3, Part 8 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021* (Housing SEPP)
- Have a design consistent with Part 2 Division 3 of the *Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2021*
- The development must be capable of being adequately serviced as per clause 7.2 of the WLEP 2011
- Matters for consideration under section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

The above matters have not been met, and insufficient information has been provided with the development application.

The application has been presented to Council for determination and was not determined under delegation for the following reasons:

- The application is recommended for refusal
- More than 3 submissions were received to the application

### **Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Refuse DA2025/021 for a manufactured home estate at 78 Corbett Avenue Buronga Lot 2 DP 1300239 subject to reasons.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

**9.16 USE OF PLANNING CONSULTANTS**

File Number:	RPT/26/252
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 with interview for the two managers positions to be held in May however, external planning support will continue to be required until these positions are successfully filled, and staff are fully onboarded. Current expenditure is approaching \$500,000 with further costs anticipated during the recruitment period.

This report seeks Council approval to authorise the General Manager to expend a further \$200,000 (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 \$200,000 (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 \$200,000 (GST Exc) for the engagement of planning consultants to support the Planning Department until recruitment of vacant positions has been completed.

Moved Cr. Rodda, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**9.17 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DETERMINATION REPORT - APRIL 2026**

File Number: RPT/26/205

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 April 2026, a total of 17 Development Applications and two (2) Modification Applications were determined.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$4,970,206.00. This brings the Financial year to date total to 161 Development Applications with an estimated development value of \$63,393,247.47 and 21 Modification Applications.

**Recommendation**

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

**Council Resolution**

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

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.18 PROJECT & WORKS REPORT MAY 2026**

File Number: RPT/26/219

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 April 2026, and the planned activities for May 2026.

**Recommendation**

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in April 2026 and the scheduled works for May 2026.

**Council Resolution**

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in April 2026 and the scheduled works for May 2026.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Nil

## 11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Recommendation**

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

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

#### **12.1 Plant Replacement - Approval for Tender for Replacement of Plant 523 - Hino Water Tanker - VR2526/523. (RPT/26/197)**

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 Plant Replacement - Approval for Tender for Replacement of Plant 527 - Isuzu Long Cab Chassis - VR2526/527. (RPT/26/198)**

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 Plant Replacement - Approval for Tender for Replacement of Plant 534 - Caterpillar 12M Grader - VR2526/534. (RPT/26/199)**

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

**Council Resolution**

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

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

### 12.1 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL FOR TENDER FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 523 - HINO WATER TANKER - VR2526/523

File Number: RPT/26/197

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.*

That Council accepted the tender from Johnsons Truck & Coach Service for the supply & delivery of one UD CW25360 Allquip 14,000 ltr polly tank for the sum of \$375,916.00 inc GST as specified and accepted the trade price of \$34,000.00 inc GST for the Council owned Hino Water Tanker, plant item 523 with a total changeover price of \$341,916.00 inc GST.

**12.2 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL FOR TENDER FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 527 - ISUZU LONG CAB CHASSIS - VR2526/527**

File Number: RPT/26/198

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.*

That Council accepted the tender from Johnsons Truck & Coach Service for the supply & delivery of one Hino 921 4400wb for the sum of \$205,500.000 inc GST as specified and accepted the trade price of \$22,000.00 inc GST for the Council owned Isuzu Long Cab Chassis, plant item 527 with a total changeover price of \$183,500.00 inc GST.

**12.3 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL FOR TENDER FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 534 - CATERPILLAR 12M GRADER - VR2526/534**

File Number: RPT/26/199

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.*

That Council accepted the tender from William Adams for the supply of one Caterpillar 140 Motor Grader as specified for the sum of \$731,830.00 inc GST, and accepted the trade price of \$167,200.00, inc GST for the Council owned Caterpillar 12M Grader, plant item 534 with a total changeover price of \$564,630.00 inc GST.

**13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting concluded at 5:52pm

**NEXT MEETING**

24 June 2026

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**CHAIR**