



# **BUSINESS PAPER**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**15 April 2025**

## ETHICAL DECISION MAKING & CONFLICT OF INTEREST

*A Guiding Checklist for Councillors, Officers & Community Committees*

### ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of Interest?
- Could your possible conflict of interest lead to private gain or loss at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Conflict of Interest is a clash between private interests and public duty. There are two types of conflict: Pecuniary – regulated by the Local Government Act and Department of Local Government and, Non-pecuniary – regulated by Codes of Conduct, ICAC, Ombudsman, Department of Local Government (advice only).

### THE TEST FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of "corruption" – using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest.

### IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS

- 1 Do I have private interest affected by a matter in which I am officially involved?
- 2 Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?
- 3 Do my private interests conflict with my official role?

Whilst seeking advice is generally useful, the ultimate decision rests with the person concerned.

### AGENCY ADVICE

Officers of the following agencies are available during office hours to discuss the obligations placed on Councillors, officers and community committee members by various pieces of legislation, regulation and codes.

Contact	Phone	Email
Narrandera Shire Council	02 6959 5510	<a href="mailto:council@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">council@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>
Department of Local Government	02 4428 4100	<a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
ICAC Toll free	02 8281 5999 1800 463 909	<a href="mailto:icac@icac.nsw.gov.au">icac@icac.nsw.gov.au</a>
NSW Ombudsman Toll Free	02 8286 1000 1800 451 524	<a href="mailto:nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au">nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au</a>

## COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN THEMES

### Our Community

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- 1.1 To live in an inclusive, healthy and tolerant community with a positive attitude toward others.
- 1.2 Work together to advocate for quality health, education, youth and social services.
- 1.3 To feel connected and safe.

### Our Environment

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- 2.1 To value, care for and protect our natural environment.
- 2.2 Enhance our public spaces to enrich our community.
- 2.3 Maximise greater re-use of resources to increase sustainability within our community

### Our Economy

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- 3.1 Create strong conditions for investment and job creation through quality infrastructure and proactive business support.
- 3.2 Encourage new housing supply to meet the needs of the community.

### Our Infrastructure

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- 4.1 To have an improved and appropriately maintained road network.
- 4.2 Actively investigate opportunities to enhance our potable water quality.
- 4.3 To improve, maintain and value-add to our essential public and recreational infrastructure.


### Our Leadership

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- 5.1 Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.
- 5.2 Promote a community spirit that encourages volunteerism and values effective partnerships.

# Council Chambers Seating Plan

General Manager George Cowan	Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka	Deputy General Manager Infrastructure Shane Wilson	Deputy General Manager Corporate & Community Cian Middleton
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**Narrandera**  
Shire Council

Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles	Cr Tracey Lewis
Cr Bob Manning	Cr Braden Lyons
Cr Jenny Clarke	Cr Cameron Lander
Cr Cameron Rouse	Cr Peter Dawson

Media  
Live Streaming Guys

Executive Assistant Vicki Maher  
Administration Assistant Melissa Johnson

## PUBLIC GALLERY

**Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the Narrandera  
Shire Council will be held in the Council Chambers on:  
Tuesday 15 April 2025 at 2pm**

**Order Of Business**

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- 1 Opening of Meeting**
- 2 Acknowledgement of Country**
- 3 Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That apologies from Deputy Sue Ruffles be received and accepted.

- 4 Applications for Attendance by Audio-Visual Link**
- 5 Disclosures of Interests**
- 6 Confirmation of Minutes**

Ordinary Council Meeting - 18 March 2025







# **MINUTES**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**18 March 2025**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ON TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2025 AT 2PM**

**OPENING OF PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor declared the Public Forum opened at **1.30pm** and welcomed the Councillors, Council Officers, Media, Members of the Gallery and those following on the Live Streaming.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country.

*I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.*

**PUBLIC FORUM**

1. Mayor Kschenka conducted the Citizenship Ceremony for the Patel family: Jigar, Khyatiben (Getty) and Amayra
2. Mick Batchelor spoke on the Grong Grong Rodeo ground lease.

**1 OPENING OF MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting opened at **2pm** and welcomed Councillors, Council Officers, media, and those following via livestreaming. Advice was provided of Council's Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Evacuation Plan and locations of amenities.

**Present**

Chairperson Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka, Cr Sue Ruffles, Cr Bob Manning, Cr Jenny Clarke OAM, Cr Cameron Rouse, Cr Cameron Lander, Cr Braden Lyons

**Also in Attendance**

General Manager George Cowan, Deputy General Manager Infrastructure Shane Wilson, Deputy General Manager Corporate Community Cian Middleton, Executive Assistant Vicki Maher, [Minute Taker] Council Administration Assistant Melissa Johnson

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country.

*I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.*

**3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE****RESOLUTION 25/030**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Braden Lyons

That apologies from Cr Tracey Lewis from Cr Peter Dawson be received and that leave of absence be granted.

**CARRIED**

#### **4 APPLICATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK**

Nil

#### **5 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

The Mayor reminded Councillors and Council Officers of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting, and invited Councillors and Council Officers to disclose any such interests:

Nil

#### **6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

##### **RESOLUTION 25/031**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 February 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

#### **7 MAYORAL MINUTES**

##### **7.1 MAYOR REPORT - FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025**

##### **RESOLUTION 25/032**

Moved: Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Mayor Report for February and March 2025.

**CARRIED**

#### **8 NOTICES OF MOTION AND QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

**9 REPORTS OF COUNCILLORS**

Nil

**10 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****10.1 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 11 FEBRUARY 2025****RESOLUTION 25/033**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Bob Manning

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on Tuesday 11 February 2025.
2. Endorses the Committee's recommendations:
  - a. To endorse the Narrandera Shire Council's draft Heatwave Policy and Heatwave Action Plan.
  - b. To put a hold on uploading any Emergency Management restricted documentation onto the EM Knowledge Hub until security issues have been resolved.
  - c. To include the Roxy Theatre in the EM Plan as an Evacuation Centre.
  - d. To support the endeavours of Narrandera Shire Council to improve Irrigation Way, including the Irrigation Way Canal Bridge and the Cadell Street/Audley Street (Irrigation Way) and Irrigation Way/Karawatha Drive intersections.

**CARRIED****10.2 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 4 MARCH 2025****RESOLUTION 25/034**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on Tuesday 4 March 2025, appended at *Attachment 1*.

**CARRIED**

**11 REPORTS OF THE GENERAL MANAGER****11.1 ALGWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE****RESOLUTION 25/035**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Bob Manning

That Council:

1. Endorses attendance at the Annual ALGWA Conference in Griffith NSW from 1-3 May 2025 for Councillors Ruffles, Lewis and Clarke, covering associated costs as outlined within POL015.

**CARRIED**

**11.2 APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO EXECUTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEES****RESOLUTION 25/036**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That Council:

1. Endorses the appointment of community members to Australia Day Planning Advisory Committee and Koala Regeneration Advisory Committee, as detailed in this report.

**CARRIED**

**12 REPORTS OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES****12.1 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - FEBRUARY 2025****RESOLUTION 25/037**

Moved: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

Seconded: Cr Bob Manning

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Statement of Investments as at 28 February 2025.

**CARRIED**

**12.2 MONTHLY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025**

**RESOLUTION 25/038**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Monthly Financial Performance Report for the month of February 2025, as detailed in this report.

**CARRIED**

**12.3 APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO SECTION 355 AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

**RESOLUTION 25/039**

Moved: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Appoints the following Councillors as alternate delegates to Council’s Section 355 and Advisory Committees as listed in the table below:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Alternate Delegate</b>
Aboriginal Elders Liaison Group	Cr Manning
Arts & Culture Advisory Committee	Cr Lewis (nominated) pending approval
Bettering Barellan Advisory Committee	Cr Manning
Economic Taskforce Committee	N/A
Grong Grong Community Advisory Committee	Cr Manning
Koala Regeneration Committee	Cr Clarke
Lake Talbot Environs Committee	Cr Lander
Narrandera Shire Floodplain Risk Management Committee	N/A
Narrandera Stadium Committee	N/A
Narrandera-Leeton Joint Airport Management Committee	Cr Manning
Parkside Museum Section 355 Committee	Cr Lewis (nominated) pending approval
Railway Station Facility Advisory Committee	Cr Dawson (nominated) pending approval

**CARRIED**

## 12.4 DISSOLUTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS COMMITTEE

### MOTION

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That Council:

1. Notes that insufficient nominations were received for the Domestic Violence Awareness Committee via the recent public committee member expression of interest process.
2. Dissolves the Domestic Violence Awareness Committee and repeals the Terms of Reference adopted 10 December 2024.

### RESOLUTION 25/040

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That this item lay on the table until a subsequent meeting.

**CARRIED**

The Amendment then became the Motion and when put was **Carried**

## 12.5 APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEES

### RESOLUTION 25/041

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Endorses the appointment of community members to the Bettering Barellan Advisory Committee, Grong Grong Advisory Committee, Parkside Museum Section 355 Committee and Railway Station Facility Advisory Committee, as detailed in this report.
2. Endorses a supplementary public expression of interest process to invite nominations for two (2) positions on the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, one (1) position on the Bettering Barellan Advisory Committee, and the Domestic Violence Committee, commencing March 2025 and concluding April 2025.
3. Receives a further report regarding the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, Bettering Barellan Advisory Committee, and Domestic Violence Committee, at the May 2025 Ordinary Meeting following conclusion of the supplementary expression of interest process.

**CARRIED**

## 12.6 PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

### RESOLUTION 25/042

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Community Strategic Plan, appended at *Attachment 1*, with minor amendments as noted by DGMCC, for public exhibition.
2. Receives a further report regarding the draft Community Strategic Plan at the June 2025 Ordinary Meeting following completion of the public exhibition period.

**CARRIED**

## 12.7 ADOPTION OF DRAFT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

### RESOLUTION 25/043

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Adopts the draft Corporate Governance Framework, appended at *Attachment 1*, as recommended by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

**CARRIED**

## 12.8 APPOINTMENT OF DESIGNATED PERSONS

### RESOLUTION 25/044

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That Council:

1. Pursuant to clause 4.8(c) of the Code of Conduct, identifies the following positions in Council's organisation structure as designated persons:
  - a. Chief Financial Officer
  - b. Community Development Manager
  - c. Community Services Manager
  - d. Compliance Officer
  - e. Development and Environment Manager
  - f. Economic Development Manager
  - g. Governance and Engagement Manager



- h. Human Resources Manager
  - i. Information Technology Manager
  - j. Open Space and Recreation Manager
  - k. Projects and Assets Manager
  - l. Water and Sewer Manager, and
  - m. Works Manager.
2. Pursuant to clause 4.8(d) of the Code of Conduct, identifies the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee as a committee of Council whose members are designated persons.

**CARRIED**

## **12.9 REVIEW OF CCTV IN PUBLIC AREAS POLICY**

### **RESOLUTION 25/045**

Moved: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Reviews and endorses the draft CCTV in Public Areas Policy, appended at *Attachment 1*, for the purpose of public exhibition seeking community comment for a period of 28 days.
2. Deems the draft CCTV in Public Areas Policy as adopted should no submissions be received from the community at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

**CARRIED**

**13 REPORTS OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES****13.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 025-2024-2025 DUAL OCCUPANCY (MOVEABLE DWELLING)****MOTION**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That Council:

1. Approves DA-025-2024-2025, the dual occupancy (moveable dwelling) at Lot 1 Section 12 DP758757 being 17-19 Hankinson Street, Narrandera, including all variations to the Narrandera Development Control Plan (NDCP) as contained within the report, subject to the Conditions of Consent in accordance with section 4.16 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for the following reasons:
  - a. The development satisfies the provisions of the Narrandera LEP 2013, Narrandera DCP (as varied) and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
  - b. Potential impacts have been mitigated by the inclusion of appropriate conditions.
2. Conducts a Division to record the voting of Councillors.

In Favour: Crs Neville Kschenka, Sue Ruffles, Bob Manning, Jenny Clarke OAM, Cameron Rouse, Cameron Lander, Braden Lyons

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

**13.2 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES - FEBRUARY 2025****RESOLUTION 25/046**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Braden Lyons

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Development Services Activities Report for February 2025.

**CARRIED**

**13.3 APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEES****RESOLUTION 25/047**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That Council:

1. Endorses the appointment of community members to the Lake Talbot Advisory Committee.
2. Notes that insufficient nominations were received for the Narrandera Stadium Advisory Committee via the recent public committee member expression of interest process.
3. Dissolves the Narrandera Stadium Advisory Committee and repeals the Terms of Reference adopted on 10 December 2024.

**CARRIED**

#### **13.4 T-24-25-03 - NARRANDERA AIRPORT AND NALLABOOMA ESTATE LEVEE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

##### **RESOLUTION 25/048**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander  
Seconded: Cr Bob Manning

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender by Cumulus Pty Ltd of \$128,465 ex GST to undertake the Narrandera Airport and Nallabooma Estate Levee Feasibility Study in accordance with Section 55 of the Local Government Act 1993.

**CARRIED**

#### **14 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

##### **RESOLUTION 25/049**

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander  
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*:

##### **14.1 Barellan Sewer - Construction Update**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - e of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

##### **14.2 Sale of Surface Water**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

##### **14.3 Endorsement of the Common Seal of Council to Execute Tesla Licence**

## Agreement

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

### 14.4 Endorsement of the Common Seal of Council to Execute The Deed of Variation for NRMA Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**CARRIED**

### 14.1 BARELLAN SEWER - CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

#### RESOLUTION 25/050

Moved: Cr Cameron Rouse

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the construction status and financial position of the Barellan Sewer Scheme project.
2. Increases the Barellan Sewer Scheme project budget to \$9.630m funded from the sewer reserves.
3. Defers the sewer mains reline project until 2025-26 and return the funds to reserve.
4. If necessary, transfers funds from the temporary transfer of water reserve to the sewer fund reserves.

**CARRIED**

### 14.2 SALE OF SURFACE WATER

#### RESOLUTION 25/051

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Authorises the General Manager and Mayor to accept any potential offers for the lease or temporary sale of surface water favourable to Council, subject to verification that the offer satisfies the Access Licence Dealing Principles Order 2004.

**CARRIED****14.3 ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMMON SEAL OF COUNCIL TO EXECUTE TESLA LICENCE AGREEMENT****RESOLUTION 25/052**

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Endorse the placement of the Common Seal of Council to the Tesla Supercharger Licence Agreement.
2. Approve to affix the Common Seal of Council, if required, to any future documentation necessary relating to this matter.

**CARRIED****14.4 ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMMON SEAL OF COUNCIL TO EXECUTE THE DEED OF VARIATION FOR NRMA ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS****RESOLUTION 25/053**

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Endorse the placement of the Common Seal of Council to the Deed of Variation for NRMA Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.
2. Approve affixing the Common Seal of Council, if required, to any documentation necessary relating to this matter.

**CARRIED****14.5 OPEN COUNCIL****RESOLUTION 25/054**

Moved: Cr Cameron Rouse

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Moves out of Closed Council into Open Council and the Mayor advises of the resolutions endorsed in Closed Session.

**CARRIED**

**15 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS**

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

**16 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

The Meeting closed at 3.30pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 April 2025.

.....  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**

Unconfirmed

## 7 MAYORAL MINUTES

### 7.1 MAYOR REPORT - MARCH AND APRIL 2025

**Document ID:** 783927

**Author:** Council Administration Assistant

**Theme:** 5 - Our Leadership

**Attachments:** Nil

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Mayoral Report for March and April 2025.

#### BACKGROUND

Since submitting my last Mayor's Report that was presented to the Ordinary Council meeting of 18 March 2025, I attended the following on behalf of our Council:

**Meetings with General Manager:** Attended regular Monday, and unscheduled, meetings with the General Manager (GM) George Cowan to discuss various matters. The Deputy Mayor, Cr Sue Ruffles, is also invited to attend the Monday prior to Ordinary Council meetings.

All Councillors have the opportunity to attend a monthly Teams meeting with the General Manager.

#### MARCH 2025

**Tuesday 11:** Together with the General Manager, attended a meeting which was requested by Michelle Milthorpe, Independent Candidate for Farrer.

**Monday 17 March:** Attended the Narrandera Business Group's meeting at the Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club.

**Tuesday 18:** At the March Public Forum, I had the pleasure of conducting a Citizenship Ceremony for the Patel family: Jigar, Getty and Amayra.



I chaired the March Ordinary Council meeting, and the unconfirmed Minutes of that meeting are submitted for Council's endorsement.

**Later that evening**, my wife Carmel and I accepted an invitation to attend Narrandera Rotary Club's Welcome to New Citizens Dinner at the Narrandera Golf Club, where new residents enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by volunteers. I was invited to speak on behalf of Council, and I welcomed the new citizens and thanked them for choosing Narrandera as their new home. I also congratulated the Rotarians on this initiative and thanked them for the work they do for the Narrandera community despite declining membership.



**Wednesday 19:** Together with the GM, I joined our regular segment on the local Community Radio, 91.1 Spirit FM, where the GM and I advise the listeners on outcomes of agenda items from the Council meeting, as well as providing any updates on current projects. This informative segment is standardly held at 8:30am on Wednesday following the monthly Council meeting.

**Monday 24:** Chaired the Aboriginal Elders Liaison Group Meeting at the Emergency Operations Centre. Minutes will be presented to the April Council Meeting.

**Thursday 27:** GM George Cowan and I met with Cameron Monroe, Lisa Hingerty and Jane Shepard, representing the Minister, to discuss Narrandera Shire Council's application for funding to prepare a business case and the final pre-construction approvals for a much-needed water treatment plant for Narrandera. We also raised the issue of a need to extend the town's sewer system to west Narrandera and to have the independently submitted application for funding of a feasibility study for Lake Coolah approved.

Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke also joined by Teams after the venue was moved at the last minute from Parliament House. We were not given any confidence that funding would be provided.

**Friday 28:** GM George Cowan and I attended the Country Mayor's meeting at Parliament House. Guest speakers included:

- Linda Scott, who in the past strongly advocated for an increase in Financial Assistance Grants to 1%, has been appointed to the NSW Grants Commission. She advised councils not to depend on pre-payment of the grants this year.



- Philis Miller, President LGNSW - Praised councils for their response to the cyclone damage and flooding. As President, she was advocating against the ongoing impacts of cost shifting which now amounts to \$1.36 billion per annum.
- Hon Emily Suvaal MLC talked about sustainability and the importance of an inquiry she led into Financial Sustainability of Councils. The inquiry is waiting for a response to the recommendations from the report.
- A team of representatives from TCorp led by Robb Kenna made a presentation. (The presentation has been made available to Councillors under separate cover.) TCorp can provide low interest loans to complying councils (not county councils) to fund infrastructure projects such as sewerage and water treatment plants. Projects can now also include a commercial content. These loans became available from 2015.
- Auditor-General Bola Oyetunji discussed matters including depreciation, RFS assets accounting, the impact of cost shifting on the industry, and his upcoming report to Parliament.
- Chairman Rick Firman OAM saluted the Bluett Award winners, Bega Valley and Moree Plains Councils.
- Hon Penny Sharp MLC talked about Energy, Housing, Biodiversity offsets and the review of the waste levy.
- Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, focused on youth crime and is seeking support for a regional Crime Bill that would address bail conditions, monitoring, curfews, victim impact statements and realistic consequences for offenders, particularly repeat offenders.
- Rachel McCallum, Electoral Commissioner, provided statistics on the local government elections. Delegates asked about the delays associated with postal voting.

## APRIL 2025

**Tuesday 1:** Together with GM George Cowan, Deputy General Manager Infrastructure (DGMI) Shane Wilson, and Deputy General Manager Corporate & Community (DGMCC) Cian Middleton, I met with the Federal Member for Farrer Sussan Ley MP to discuss current issues in the Shire and proposed projects requiring Federal funding.

**Wednesday 2:** GM George Cowan, DGMI Shane Wilson and I attended a meeting with State Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke MP to discuss the funding required for a water treatment plant and other proposed projects.

**Monday 7:** GM George Cowan and I attended a meeting in the Chambers with Tegan Reid and Dr Damien Limberger, both from Murrumbidgee Local Health District to discuss current health services in Narrandera.

**Tuesday 8:** Cr Dawson, GM George Cowan, DGMI Shane Wilson and I attended a Teams meeting with representatives for Minister Aitchison, in regard to the canal bridge on Irrigation Way.

*I extend my gratitude and thanks to those Councillors who have attended various meetings throughout the past month, either on my behalf, or as elected committee members.*

*Until next time, Mayor Kschenkha*

**8 NOTICES OF MOTION AND QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

**9 REPORTS OF COUNCILLORS**

Nil

**10 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**10.1 NARRANDERA AND LEETON SHIRE COUNCILS JOINT AIRPORT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 31 MARCH 2025**

**Document ID: 792677**

**Author: Traffic Airport Engineer**

**Authoriser: Deputy General Manager Infrastructure**

**Attachments: 1. Narrandera and Leeton Shire Councils Joint Airport Management Committee Minutes - 31 March 2025**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Narrandera and Leeton Shire Councils Joint Airport Management Committee held on Monday 31 March 2025.

**MINUTES OF NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL  
NARRANDERA - LEETON SHIRE COUNCILS JOINT AIRPORT MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ON MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2025 AT 2PM**

**1 PRESENT**

Member Shane Wilson (Chairperson), Member Boston Edwards, Member Michael Kidd, Member George Cowan, Member Neville Kschenka, Member Jenny Clarke OAM, Observer Andrew Pearson (minute taker)

**2 APOLOGIES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Member Neville Kschenka

Seconded: Member Boston Edwards

That leave of absence from Members Jackie Kruger, Michelle Evans be received and accepted. **CARRIED**

**3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

**4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Member Boston Edwards

Seconded: Member Michael Kidd

That the minutes of the Narrandera-Leeton Shire Councils Joint Airport Management Committee held on 26 November 2024 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

## **5 REPORTS**

### **5.1 REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL WORKS 2024-25**

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Member Michael Kidd

Seconded: Member Jenny Clarke OAM

That this item is received and the information noted.

**CARRIED**

An update of operational and capital works for the 2024/25 year was tabled for the information of the Narrandera Leeton Joint Airport Management Committee. As of mid March 2025 both operational and capital allocations were within original budget allocations and are expected to remain consistent with original budget allocations as of 30 June 2025.

### **5.2 AIRPORT OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL WORKS 2025-26**

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Member Jenny Clarke OAM

Seconded: Member Michael Kidd

That the proposed Airport Operational and Capital Works for 2025-26 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

The purpose of this report was to update the Narrandera – Leeton Airport Management Committee with the proposed budget fees, charges and capital works for the 2025/26 financial year for the operation of the Narrandera – Leeton Airport.

Operational expenses are based on marginal increases on various key activity items. The focus of the 2025/26 capital works was the planned renewal of the underground electrical supply cable from the electrical lighting room to the primary wind indicator (windsock).

This electrical supply cable is believed to be the original wiring (estimated pre 1970s). Council continues to source funding opportunities for this cabling upgrade in 2025/26 and if successful it is possible that the overall cost could be up to 50% funded but the success or otherwise of grant applications remain an unknown at this point.

### **5.3 REVIEW OF CURRENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Member Boston Edwards

Seconded: Member Neville Kschenka

That the Narrandera-Leeton Airport Management Committee endorses the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between both councils for the operational requirements of Narrandera-Leeton Airport.

**CARRIED**

The Narrandera Leeton Joint Airport Management Committee considered the adequacy of the current Memorandum of Understanding between both Councils for the operational requirements of the Airport.

It was considered timely being within the first twelve months of each Council to review the document for adequacy. Consensus among members present was that the document was adequate. Some general discussion took place on the need to schedule additional meetings through the year if required. The chairperson advised that it was possible to schedule additional meetings.

### **5.4 GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Member Neville Kschenka

Seconded: Member Jenny Clarke OAM

That this item is received and the information noted.

**CARRIED**

### **6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6.1** - The next meeting of the Narrandera – Leeton Airport Management Committee has been tentatively scheduled for Monday 27 October 2025 commencing at 2.00pm. Council staff will confirm arrangements and or revised timing by week ending 26 September 2025.

**6.2** – The Narrandera – Leeton Airport Management Committee were advised that Council staff had attended recent online sessions conducted by Department Home Affairs and Australian Airport Association about recent aviation security incidents in Australia.

**6.3** – Discussion occurred in relation to Regional Express current voluntary administration and possible pending sale. The Australian government has stepped in, acquiring \$50 million in debt to prevent a collapse and maintain vital regional air links. It is understood that Regional Express are retaining the current operations in Narrandera with no reduction in flights currently from current schedules.

**6.4** - The Narrandera – Leeton Airport Management Committee were advised that the Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA) has made the decision to consolidate its Wagga and Ballarat operations which will be operated out of Ballarat due to low international

demand. The impact on Narrandera - Leeton airport is currently unknown, however there is expected to be a notable reduction of training aircraft utilising the airport.

**6.5** – Discussion occurred in relation to the recent improvements to the Air League, Aero Club front entrance and how it had improved the aesthetics of both facilities.

**6.6** – The Narrandera – Leeton Airport Management Committee were advised that the SES are now operational from the landside entry to a Council owned hangar.

**6.7** - The Narrandera – Leeton Airport Management Committee were advised that Narrandera Shire Council had recently accepted a tender for a flood levee study of the Nallabooma, Airport area and this study would be ongoing through the current year.

## **7 NEXT MEETING**

Monday 27 October 2025 2.00pm

## **8 MEETING CLOSE**

**Meeting Closed at 2.45pm**

**The minutes of this meeting were approved by the Chairperson (magiQ #...) and will be presented to the next meeting for confirmation.**

**10.2 ABORIGINAL ELDERS LIASION - MINUTES - 24 MARCH 2025**

**Document ID: 794168**

**Author: Council Administration Assistant**

**Authoriser: General Manager**

**Theme: Our Leadership**

**Attachments: 1. MINUTES - Aboriginal Elders Liaison Group - 24 March 2025**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

Receives and notes the minutes of the Aboriginal Elders Liaison meeting held on Monday 24 March 2025.





# MINUTES

## Aboriginal Elders Liaison Meeting

**24 March 2025**

(Rescheduled)

**MINUTES OF NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL  
ABORIGINAL ELDERS LIAISON MEETING  
HELD AT THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE  
ON MONDAY, 24 MARCH 2025 AT 12PM FOR 12.30PM**

The meeting commenced at **12.32pm**

**WELCOME TO COUNTRY** by Elder Jennifer Johnson

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** by Mayor Kschenka

*I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.*

**MINUTE SILENCE**

Elder Hank Lyons led a Minute Silence in honour of community members who have passed since we last met.

**1 PRESENT**

Member Alice Christian, Chairperson Neville Kschenka, Member Clem Christian, Chairperson George Cowan, Member Braden Lyons, Member Cindy Christian, Member Brenda Poole, Member Brenda Prior, Member Cherry Johnson, Member Jean Galluzzo, Member Dexter Briggs, Member Bob Manning, Member David Ivanoff, Member Collin Ingram, Member John Bamblett, Member Hank Lyons, Member Graham Byrne, Member Jennifer Johnson, Member Bonita Byrne, Member Joy Ingram, Member Lee Reavley, Member Marion Lyons, Member Michael Lyons, Member Natalie Bright, Member Nita Salafia, Member Owen Lyons, Member Paul Prior, Member Robert Carroll, Member Ronny Williams, Member Tommy Lyons, Member Tracey Prior, Member Leonie Flack, Member Vivian Christian, Member Stacie Mohr, Member Nyoka Prior, Member Vicki Maher, Member Melissa Johnson,

**2 APOLOGIES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Elder Jennifer Johnson

Seconded: Elder Joy Ingram

That apologies from Member Colleen Ingram and Member Shaun Lyons be received and accepted.

**CARRIED**

**3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

**4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Member Jennifer Johnson  
 Seconded: Member Leonie Flack

That the minutes of the Aboriginal Elders Liaison Meeting held on 25 November 2024 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**5 REPORTS**

**6.1 12.40PM - GUEST – MR GEOFFREY JOHNSON**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: MLHD Leonie Flack  
 Seconded: Elder Jennifer Johnson

That the Aboriginal Elders Liaison Group:

1. Welcome, Geoffrey Johnson to the meeting to give some information to the group from the Warrie Sovereignty Council to include representation from Ngarra to have input into the council and it's aims and objectives. The council will be approaching federal government to acknowledge Wiradjuri first nations lands, boundaries, languages and culture as a sovereign People.

**CARRIED**

**6.2 1.00PM - GUEST - NIOKA DUPOND - MURRUMBIDGEE LANDCARE**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: MLHD Leonie Flack  
 Seconded: Elder Jennifer Johnson

That the Aboriginal Elders Liaison Group:

1. Welcome Nioka Dupond of the Local Landcare, to speak to the AELG members of the upcoming program Blooming Connections.
2. Council to write to Crown Lands and the Narrandera Lands Council to advocate for the Aboriginal Land Claim over Kooris Beach be determined.

**CARRIED**

**6.3 SERVICEMEN RECOGNITION ON WIRADJURI HONOUR WALL**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Elder Jennifer Johnson

Seconded: Elder Dexter Briggs

That AELG authorise the creation of a new category "Other Servicemen Honoured" on the inside of the main wall and

Authorise the placement of plaques denoting:

1. Royce William Eldridge – NX112932 2/15 Field Regiment
2. Laurie Clarence Eldridge – N204136 39 Employment Co
3. John Ferguson – Ref 2405 NI 13724 56<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Military medal).

**CARRIED**

#### **6.4 UPDATES ON PREVIOUS MATTERS**

##### **RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

That the AELG receive and discuss the Updates on Previous Matters listing.

##### **Wiradjuri Honour Wall in Marie Bashir Park**

##### **Aboriginal Artefacts**

##### **NAIDOC Committee**

#### **6.5 DISCUSSION ON MOVING AELG MEETINGS TO GUNDYARRI**

##### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Elder Cherry Johnson

Seconded: Cr Braden Lyons

That the Aboriginal Elders Liaison Group:

1. Elder Cherri Johnson has asked that the Aboriginal Elders Liaison Group, discuss moving meetings to the Gundyarri Building in Audley Street.
2. Meetings to be held on a trial basis.

**CARRIED**

#### **6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Lyons

AECG Meeting on Tuesday 25 March 2025.

Shauntae to be placed on the Wall for Community Service.

High School NAIDOC date 30 July.

Star foundation.

**7 NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 28 April 2025 - 12pm Light Lunch = 12.30pm Meeting - EOC**

*With members to bring a fellow AELG member along with them.*

**8 MEETING CLOSE**

**Meeting Closed at 1.53pm**

**The minutes of this meeting were approved by the Chairperson (magIQ #...) and will be presented to the next meeting for confirmation.**

Unconfirmed

**11 REPORTS OF THE GENERAL MANAGER****11.1 EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Document ID:** 794349  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Authoriser:** General Manager  
**Theme:** Our Leadership  
**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Resolves to hold an Extraordinary meeting for the consideration of the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents on 6 May 2025 commencing at 2:00 PM.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is allowing Council to approve the holding of an Extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday 6 May 2025 for consideration of the draft Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents.

**SUMMARY**

Because of the timing of the preparation of the documents and the time required for public consultation it is appropriate that the drafts be considered by Council at a special meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

It is traditional for Council to hold an Extraordinary meeting for this purpose.

**RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES****Theme**

5 - Our Leadership

**Strategy**

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

**Action**

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

**Policy**

- Community Strategic Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Plans

- Workforce Strategy
- Fees and Charges

**Financial**

- The draft documents will contain the Long-Term Financial Plan including options and the annual Budget

**Legal / Statutory**

- Required by the Local Government legislation to be reviewed following an election

**Community Engagement / Communication**

- A program of community engagement has been commenced and will incorporate, listening posts, newsletters and social and mainstream media postings.

**Human Resources / Industrial Relations**

- The draft documents include the Strategic Workforce Plan

**RISKS**

The main risk is not having the draft documents on exhibition in time and by holding the special meeting that risk is minimised.

**OPTIONS**

1. Council could adopt the recommendation.
2. Council could elect to hold the Extraordinary meeting on another day prior to 16 May 2025.

**CONCLUSION**

The recommendation will be to hold the meeting on 6 May 2025 as that facilitates an appropriate period of community consultation.

**12 REPORTS OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**12.1 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - MARCH 2025**

**Document ID:** 792717

**Author:** Corporate Accountant

**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community Services

**Theme:** Our Leadership

**Attachments:** 1. March Investment Report

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Statement of Investments as at 31 March 2025.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide details to Council of its investment portfolio as at 31 March 2025, and confirm that Council’s Responsible Accounting Officer has certified that the investments listed have been made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (“the Act”), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (“the Regulation”) and Council’s Investment Policy.

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with clause 212 of the Regulation, the Responsible Accounting Officer must provide Council with a monthly written report setting out details of Council’s investments under section 625 of the Act. The report must also include certification that Council’s investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulation, and Council’s adopted Investment Policy.

*Table 1*, below, summarises the value of Council’s investments. As illustrated, Council’s investments totalled \$29.647million as at 31 March 2025. Actual interest income to 31 March 2025 is \$1.155million which compares favourably with the budgeted amount of \$795,000.

*Table 1 Summary of Council's investments as at 31 March 2025*

Fund	Balance
General	\$22,823,110.02
Water	\$5,879,835.95
Sewerage	\$886,327.28
Trust	\$57,598.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,646,871.46</b>



**BACKGROUND**

Council's Chief Financial Officer monitors the organisation's cash flow daily, with surplus funds being invested in accordance with Council's Investments Policy, as well the statutory requirements outlined in the Act and the Regulation.

Subject to those constraints, Council's objective when investing funds is to obtain the most favourable rate of interest, whilst taking into consideration the risks and security associated with the investment, as well as ensuring that Council's liquidity requirements are also being met.

Council seeks independent advice for investments and consults with its investment advisor (Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd) in managing the portfolio to ensure that returns are maximised, considering diversification and risk. A complete analysis of the performance is addressed in the Monthly Investment Review Report, appended at *Attachment 1*, prepared by the investment advisor.

Included in this report are the following items that highlight Council's investment portfolio performance for the month and an update on the investment environment:

- a. Council's investment for the month
- b. Application of Investment Funds
- c. Investment Portfolio Performance
- d. Investment Commentary
- e. Responsible Officer Certification

This report concludes with the Responsible Officer's Certification.

**Council Investments**

Institution	Long Term Credit Rating	Short Term Credit Rating	Closing Balance Invested 28/2/2025 \$	Closing Balance Invested 31/03/2025 \$	March EOM Current Yield %	March EOM % of Portfolio	Term (months)
<i>At Call Accounts</i>							
NAB	AA-	A-1+	1,627,129	1,228,244	1.15%	4.14%	N/A
NAB	AA-	A-1+	0	661,029	0.00%	2.23%	N/A
<i>Total At Call Accounts</i>			<b>1,627,129</b>	<b>1,889,273</b>	<b>0.75%</b>	<b>6.37%</b>	
<i>Short Term Deposits</i>							
CBA	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	0	0.00%	0.00%	7
Suncorp	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	0	0.00%	0.00%	12
Suncorp	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.25%	3.37%	11
CBA	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.07%	3.37%	10
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.29%	3.37%	12
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.31%	3.37%	11
Bendigo-Adelaide	A-	A-2	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.18%	3.37%	11
CBA	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.94%	3.37%	10
NAB	AA-	A-1+	200,000	200,000	5.45%	0.67%	12
CBA	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.90%	3.37%	10
NAB	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.35%	3.37%	12
Bendigo-Adelaide	A-	A-2	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.13%	3.37%	12
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.94%	3.37%	12
CBA	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.94%	3.37%	10
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.83%	3.37%	12
Suncorp	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.13%	3.37%	10
NAB	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.00%	3.37%	11
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.10%	3.37%	12
NAB	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.10%	3.37%	12
NAB	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.05%	3.37%	12
NAB	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.00%	3.37%	12
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.89%	3.37%	12
Suncorp	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.96%	3.37%	12
Suncorp	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	5.00%	3.37%	9
CBA	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.75%	3.37%	8
IMB	0	A-2	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.75%	3.37%	5
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.70%	3.37%	12
NAB	AA-	A-1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	4.70%	3.37%	5
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	1,034,999	1,000,000	4.63%	3.37%	12
Bank of Us	BBB+	A-2	0	1,000,000	4.64%	3.37%	12
Suncorp	AA-	A-1+	0	500,000	4.70%	1.69%	9
<i>Total Short Term Deposits</i>			<b>28,234,999</b>	<b>27,700,000</b>	<b>4.98%</b>	<b>93.43%</b>	
<i>Funds held in Trust</i>							
NAB - Art Gallery	AA-	A-1+	57,598	57,598	5.20%	0.19%	12
<i>Total Funds Held in Trust</i>			<b>57,598</b>	<b>57,598</b>	<b>0.01%</b>	<b>0.19%</b>	
<b>TOTAL CASH ASSETS &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>			<b>29,919,726</b>	<b>29,646,871</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	

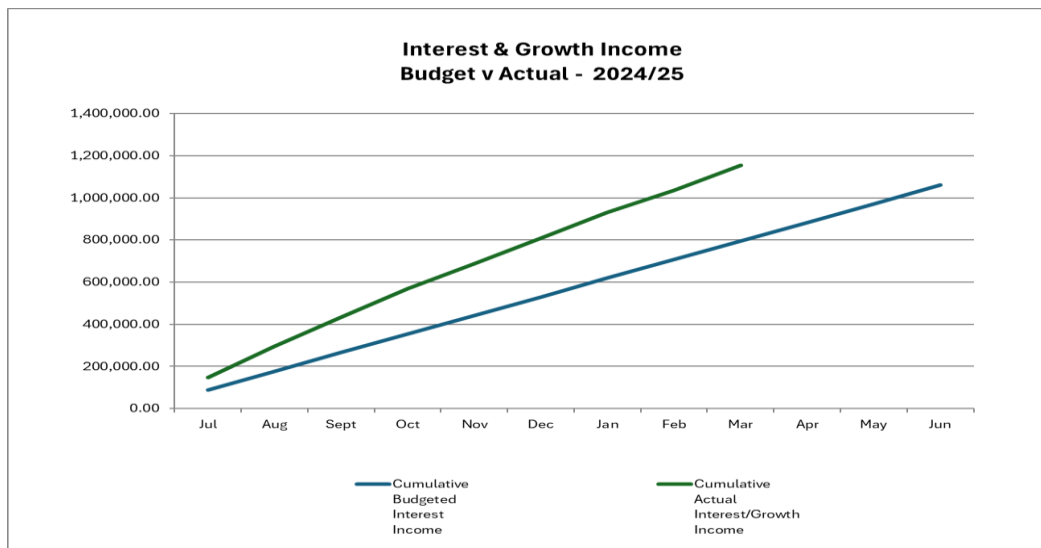
## Application of Investment Funds

RESERVES SUMMARY					
31/03/2025					
	Closing Balance 23/24	Adopted Reserve Transfers	Budget Variations approved up to 15 February 2025 Council meeting	Proposed changes for council resolution	Balance as at 31 March 2025
<b><u>Externally Restricted</u></b>					
Water Fund	(6,181,036.59)	88,052.00	901,113.80		(5,191,870.79)
Sewer Fund	(2,939,541.86)	11,454.00	2,106,926.51		(821,161.35)
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	(8,158,914.91)	1,351,618.00	4,906,692.16		(1,900,604.75)
Other Contributions	(103,248.64)	-	-		(103,248.64)
Upsent Grant & Contributions Liability	(1,416,209.68)	-	-		(1,416,209.68)
Developer Contributions	(559,308.86)	(65,000.00)	54,697.96		(569,610.90)
Waste Management	(1,646,629.74)	(6,939.00)	647,937.33		(1,005,631.41)
Stormwater	(40,685.14)	893,908.00	(885,946.00)		(32,723.14)
Crown Reserves	(422,685.51)	(80,774.00)	93,700.57		(409,758.94)
<b>Total Externally Restricted</b>	<b>(21,468,260.92)</b>	<b>2,192,319.00</b>	<b>7,825,122.33</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(11,450,819.59)</b>
<b><u>Internally Restricted</u></b>					
Plant & vehicle replacement	(2,155,286.87)	(119,941.00)	-		(2,275,227.87)
Employee Leave Entitlements	(1,301,000.00)	-	-		(1,301,000.00)
Carry over works	(1,416,520.31)	-	1,416,520.31		0.00
Community Transport	(365,525.36)	-	-		(365,525.36)
Organisational strategy and governance	(1,562,775.69)	48,500.00	-		(1,514,275.69)
Cemetery Perpetual	(482,762.88)	(23,472.00)	20,000.00		(486,234.88)
Council Committees	(63,891.61)	-	-		(63,891.61)
Information Technology Replacement	(600,349.98)	317,006.00	81,006.94		(202,337.04)
Property Development	(609,464.95)	720,000.00	(633,054.00)		(522,518.95)
Organisational service assets and projects	(909,626.55)	14,965.00	(1,265,796.39)		(3,085,049.49)
Quarry Rehabilitation	(179,838.29)	(15,000.00)	-		(194,838.29)
Financial Assistance Grant	(5,558,351.00)	-	5,558,351.00		-
Reverse Cycle Vending Machine	(4,360.29)	(3,210.00)	-		(7,570.29)
Bonds, Retentions & Trusts	(228,519.79)	-	-		(228,519.79)
<b>Total Internally Restricted</b>	<b>(15,438,273.57)</b>	<b>938,848.00</b>	<b>5,177,027.86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10,246,989.26)</b>
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>(36,906,534.49)</b>	<b>3,131,167.00</b>	<b>13,002,150.19</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(21,697,808.85)</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>(585,320.51)</b>				<b>(7,949,062.61)</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>(37,491,855.00)</b>				<b>(29,646,871.46)</b>

## Investment Portfolio Performance

Interest/growth/capital gains for the month totalled \$360,472.11, which compares favourably with the budget for the period of \$88,333.33 – outperforming budget for the month by \$272,138.78.

Council's outperformance to budget for March is mainly due to better than budgeted returns of Council investment portfolio as well as a higher than anticipated investment portfolio balance.



Council’s Cash and At-Call accounts are utilised for daily cash flow management and need to be available to meet operating and contractual payments as they fall due.

For the month of March, the portfolio (excluding cash) provided a solid return of +0.43% (actual) or +5.16% p.a (annualised), outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bill Index return of +0.35% (actual) or +4.16% p.a (annualised).

Over the past year, Council’s investment portfolio has returned 5.12%, marginally outperforming the AusBond Bank Bill index by 0.67%.

Performance	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.34%	1.02%	2.11%	3.21%	4.31%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.35%	1.07%	2.20%	3.34%	4.46%
<b>Council’s Portfolio<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>0.43%</b>	<b>1.23%</b>	<b>2.51%</b>	<b>3.82%</b>	<b>5.12%</b>
<b>Outperformance</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>0.16%</b>	<b>0.31%</b>	<b>0.48%</b>	<b>0.67%</b>

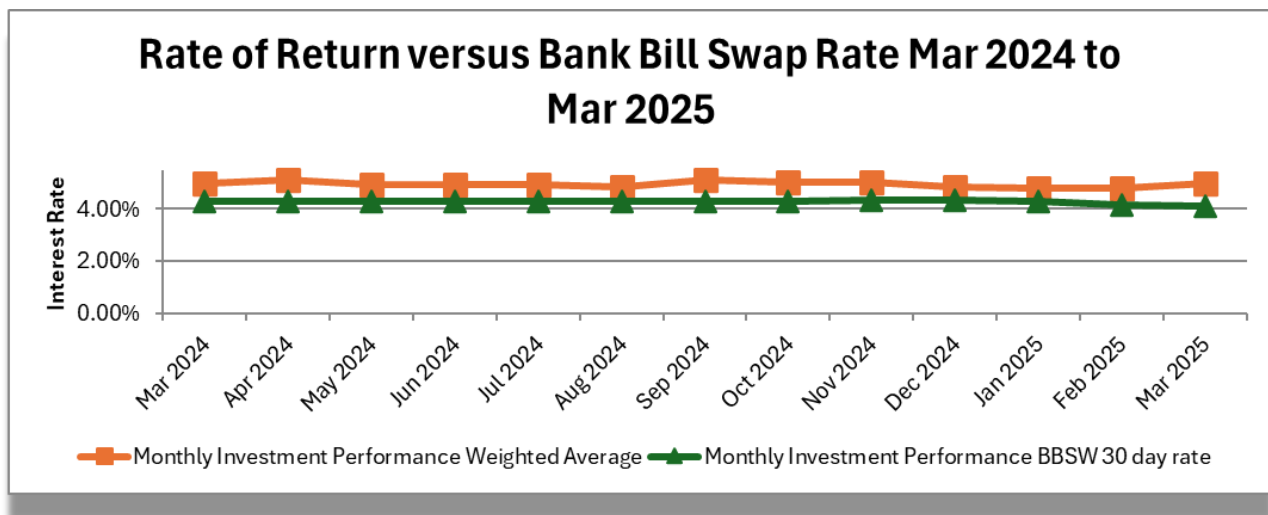
<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council’s cash account holdings. Quoted returns longer than 3 months are indicative as we do not have historical positions of the portfolio.

Performance % p.a.	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	4.10%	4.19%	4.27%	4.30%	4.31%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	4.16%	4.42%	4.46%	4.47%	4.46%
<b>Council Total Portfolio<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>5.16%</b>	<b>5.09%</b>	<b>5.10%</b>	<b>5.12%</b>	<b>5.12%</b>
<b>Outperformance</b>	<b>0.99%</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>0.64%</b>	<b>0.65%</b>	<b>0.67%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council’s cash account holdings. Quoted returns longer than 3 months are indicative as we do not have historical positions of the portfolio.

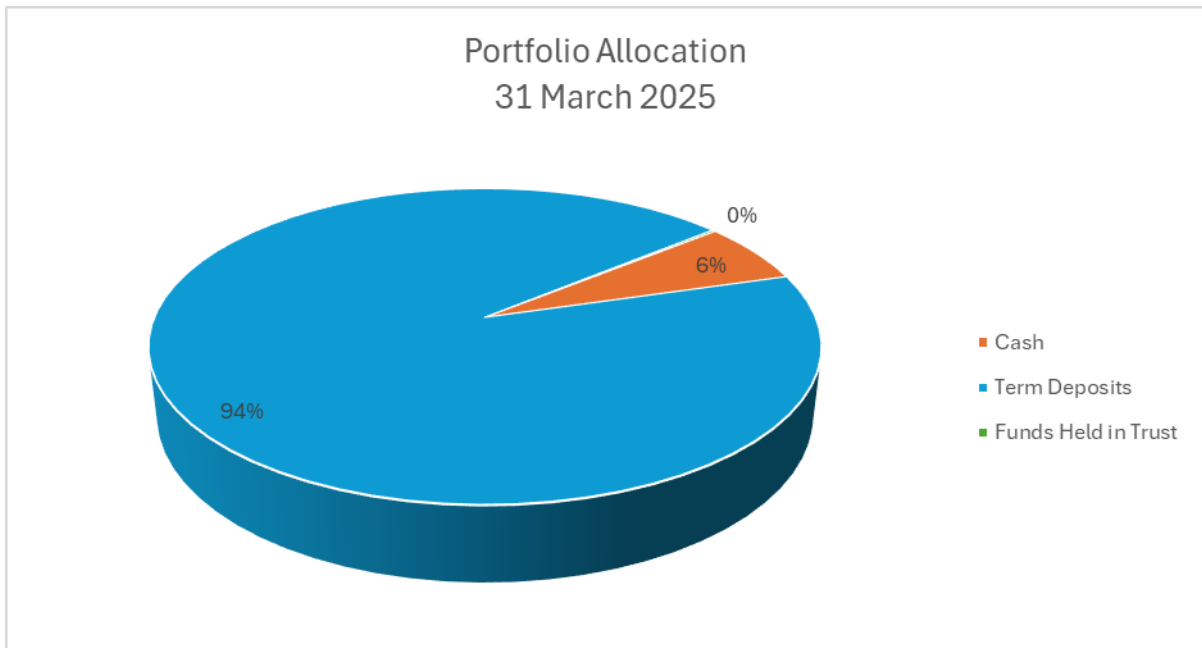
\*The AusBond Bank Bill index is the leading benchmark for the Australian fixed income market. It is interpreted from the RBA Cash rate, 1 month and 3-month Bank Bill Swap Rates.

Monthly Investment Performance				
Period Ending	Investments	Weighted Average	BBSW 30 day rate	Variance
Mar 2024	31,611,721.32	4.98%	4.30%	0.68%
Apr 2024	27,812,376.68	5.11%	4.30%	0.81%
May 2024	28,462,881.68	4.93%	4.30%	0.63%
Jun 2024	31,204,406.83	4.95%	4.30%	0.65%
Jul 2024	36,208,784.99	4.95%	4.31%	0.64%
Aug 2024	35,812,613.44	4.86%	4.30%	0.56%
Sep 2024	32,414,513.16	5.11%	4.31%	0.80%
Oct 2024	30,914,233.25	5.04%	4.31%	0.73%
Nov 2024	28,915,399.86	5.03%	4.32%	0.71%
Dec 2024	30,166,930.45	4.83%	4.32%	0.51%
Jan 2025	29,118,266.47	4.81%	4.31%	0.50%
Feb 2025	29,919,725.82	4.81%	4.16%	0.65%
Mar 2025	29,646,871.46	4.98%	4.09%	0.89%

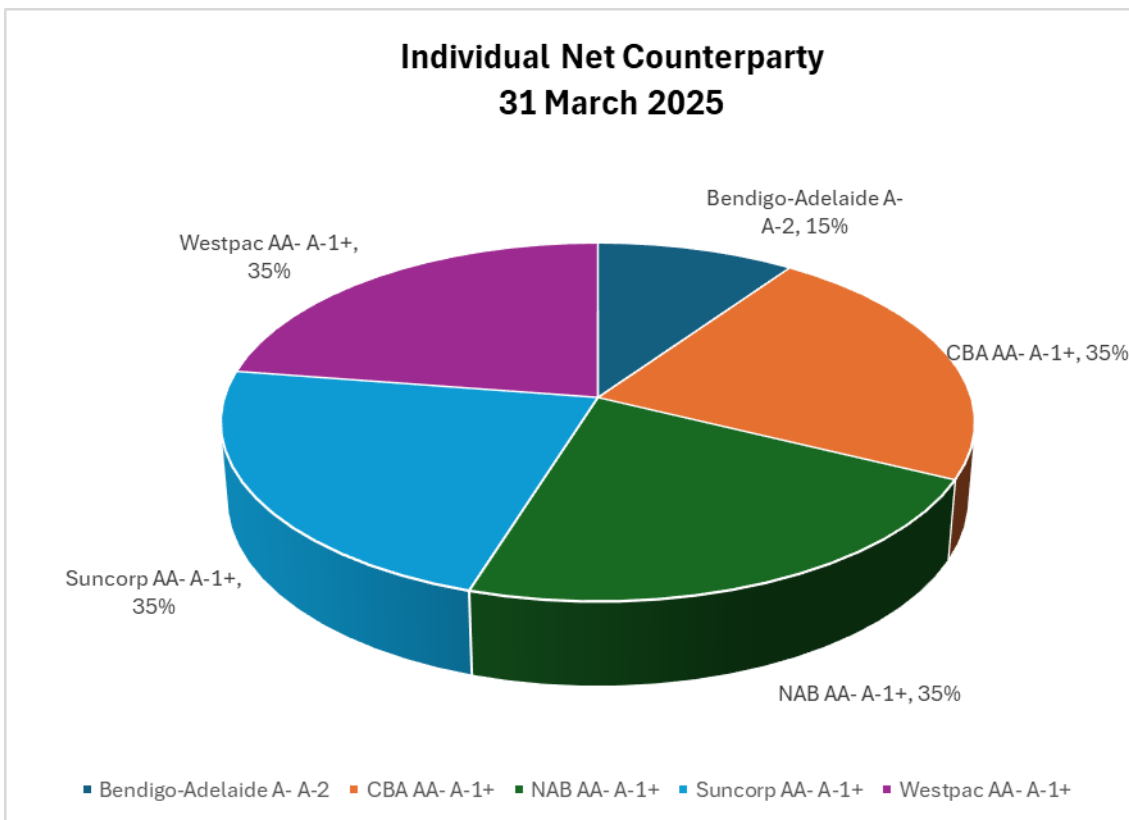


**1. Investment Commentary**

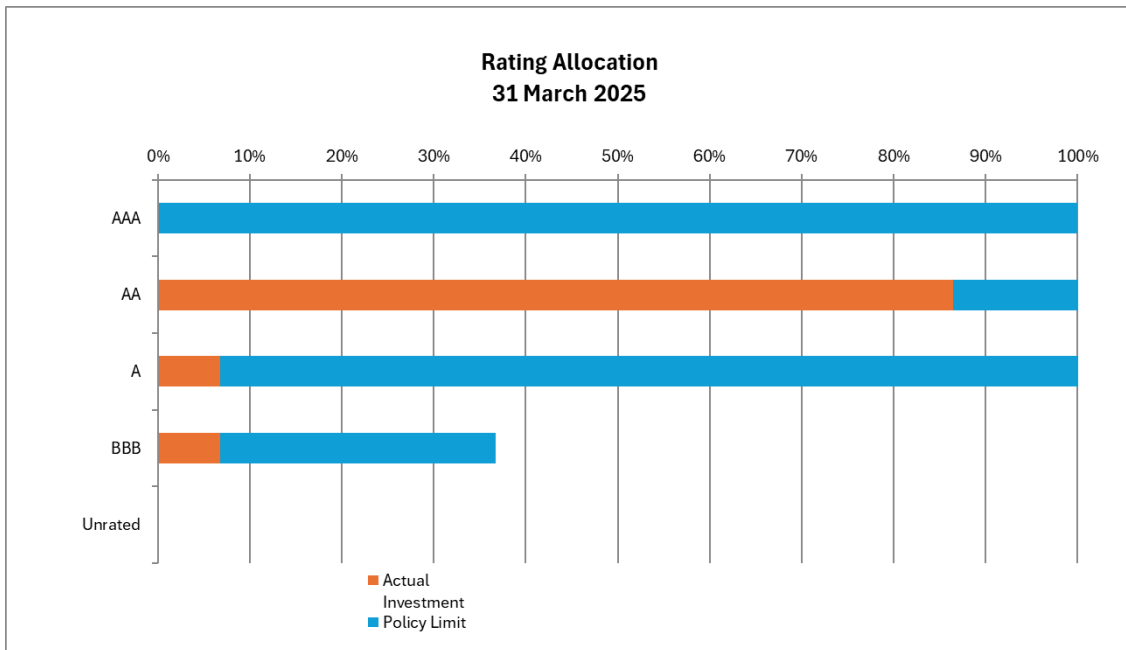
Council’s investment portfolio is dominated by Term Deposits, equating to 93.43% of the portfolio across a range of counterparties. Cash equates to 6.37% and funds held in trust around 0.19% of the portfolio.



Council’s investment portfolio is well diversified in complying assets across the entire credit spectrum. It is also well diversified from a rating perspective. Credit quality is diversified and is predominately invested amongst the investment grade Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADI’s) (being BBB+ or higher).



All investments are with the defined Policy limits, as outlined in the Rating Allocation chart below:



**Investment Portfolio Balance**

Council’s investment portfolio balance decreased over the past month by \$260K from \$29.88M to \$29.62M. This decrease is reflective of recalling investments to allow payments for our creditors.

	Closing Balance Invested 31/01/25 \$	Closing Balance Invested 28/02/25 \$	Closing Balance Invested 31/03/25 \$
<b>Total NSC Cash Assets, Cash Equivalents &amp; Investments</b>	<b>29,118,266</b>	<b>29,919,726</b>	<b>29,646,871</b>

**Monthly Investment Movements**

**Redemptions/Sales** – Council redeemed the following investments securities during March 2025.

Institution and Type	Amount	Investment Term	Interest Rate	Comments
CBA (A-1+) Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	7 months	4.95%	This term deposit was redeemed on maturity and the funds were reinvested in a new 12 month term deposit with Bank of Us (BBB+) as below
Suncorp (A-1+) Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	12 months	5.04%	This term deposit was redeemed on maturity to help with the cash flow for paying Wages & Salaries and creditors.

**New Investments** – Council purchased the following investment securities during March 2025.

Institution and Type	Amount	Investment Term	Interest Rate	Comments
Bank of Us (BBB+) Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	12 months	4.64%	Bank of Us rate of 4.64% compared favourably to the rest of the market for this term. The next best rate was 4.6% from Hume Bank (BBB+) and BankVic (BBB+)
Suncorp (A-1+) Term Deposit	\$500,000	9 months	4.7%	Suncorp rate of 4.7% compared favourably to the rest of the market for this term. The next best rate for this term was 4.7 with BOQ (A-)

**Rolled Investments** – Council rolled over the following investment securities during March 2025.

Institution and Type	Amount	Investment Term	Interest Rate	Comments
Westpac (A-1+) Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	12 months	4.63%	This term deposit was a 12-month investment earning 5.13% and was rolled at maturity into a new 12 month term deposit at 4.63%. The next best rate for this term was 4.6% with NAB (AA-).

**RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER (RAO) CERTIFICATION**

- a. I hereby certify that the investments listed above have been made in accordance with section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council’s Investment Policy.
- b. Council’s Investment Policy was reviewed and adopted on 15 March 2024.





## Monthly Investment Review



March 2025

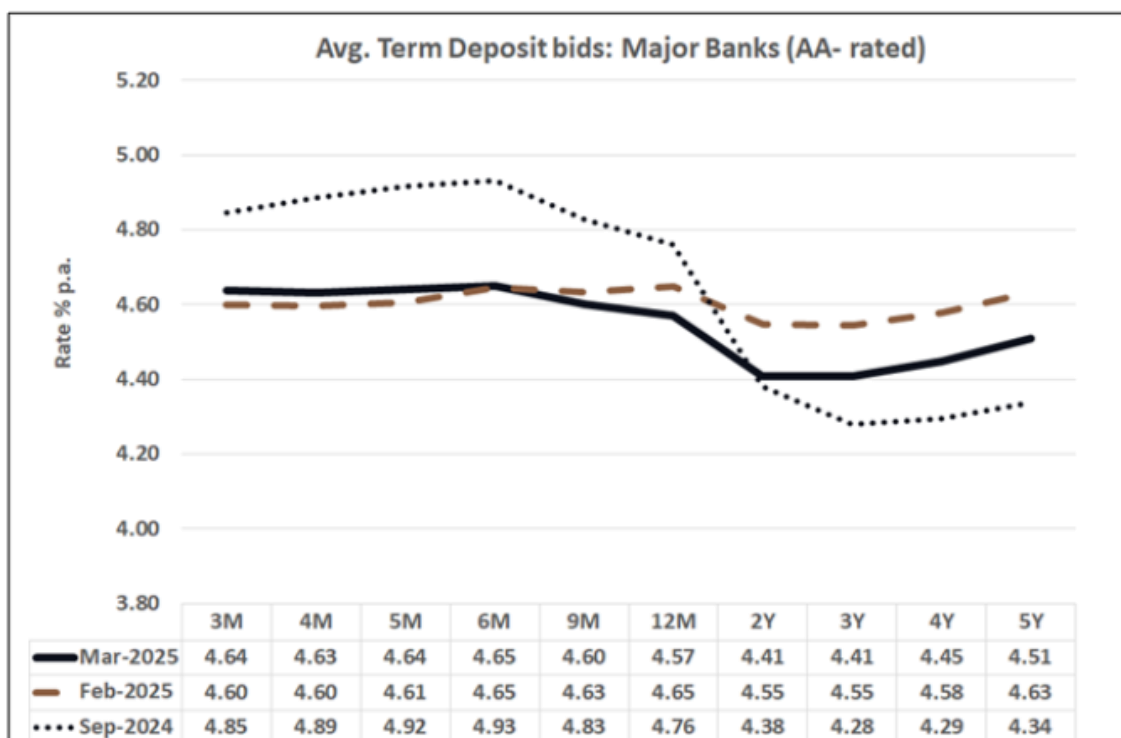
Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd  
ABN: 55 668 191 795  
Authorised Representative of InterPrac Financial Planning Pty Ltd  
AFSL 246 638  
Phone: +61 2 9053 2987  
Email: [michael.chandra@arloadvisory.com.au](mailto:michael.chandra@arloadvisory.com.au) / [melissa.villamin@arloadvisory.com.au](mailto:melissa.villamin@arloadvisory.com.au)  
Level 3, Suite 304, 80 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000



## Market Update Summary

Financial markets (equities and bonds) were sold off in March due to concerns of escalating tariff wars, global growth prospects and inflation uncertainty.

In the deposit market, over March, at the very short-end of the curve (less than 6 months), the average deposit rates offered by the major banks remained relatively flat compared to where they were the previous month (February). At the longer-end of the curve (1-5 years), the average rates fell by another 10-15bp compared to where they were in February.



Source: Imperium Markets

With additional rate cuts and a global economic downturn priced in over 2025, investors should consider diversifying and taking an 'insurance policy' against a potentially lower rate environment by investing across 1-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates above 4½% p.a. (small allocation only).



## Narrandera Shire Council’s Portfolio & Compliance

### Asset Allocation

As at the end of March 2025, the portfolio was entirely directed to fixed term deposits (94%) and cash (6%).

Senior FRNs are becoming expensive on a historical basis, although new issuances should continue to be considered on a case by case scenario. In the interim, staggering a mix of fixed deposits between 12 months to 5 years remains a more optimal strategy to maximise returns over a longer-term cycle.

With additional rate cuts and a global economic downturn being priced in 2025, investors can choose to allocate a small proportion of longer-term funds and undertake an insurance policy against any further rate cuts by investing across 1-5 year fixed deposits, locking in and targeting yields above 4½% p.a. Should inflation be within the RBA’s target band of 2-3% over the longer-term, returns around 4½% p.a. or higher should outperform benchmark.



### Term to Maturity

All maturity limits (minimum and maximum) comply with the Investment Policy.

Where there is capacity to invest in attractive medium-longer term investments, we recommend this be allocated to any remaining attractive 1-5 year fixed term deposit or primary FRNs for 3-5 year terms (refer to respective sections below).

Compliant	Horizon	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 365 days	\$29,646,871	100%	30%	100%	\$0
✓	1 - 5 years	\$0	0%	0%	50%	\$14,823,436
✓	5 - 10 years	\$0	0%	0%	30%	\$8,894,061
		<b>\$29,646,871</b>	<b>100%</b>			



**Counterparty**

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested \$	Invested %	Max Limit	Available
✓	ANZ	A-1+	\$4,500,000	15.18%	35%	\$5,876,405
✓	CBA	A-1+	\$5,000,000	16.87%	35%	\$5,376,405
✓	NAB	A-1+	\$8,146,871	27.48%	35%	\$2,229,534
✓	Westpac	A-1+	\$8,000,000	26.98%	35%	\$2,376,405
✓	Bank of Us	A-2	\$1,000,000	3.37%	10%	\$1,964,687
✓	Bendigo and Adelaide	A-2	\$2,000,000	6.75%	10%	\$964,687
✓	IMB	A-2	\$1,000,000	3.37%	10%	\$1,964,687
			<b>\$29,646,871</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

As at the end of March 2025, all individual counterparties were within policy limits. Overall, the portfolio is somewhat concentrated with only 7 ADIs utilised. We recommend a more diversified portfolio to reduce concentration risk but in all likelihood, this would increase overall returns in the long-run.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, ANZ’s takeover of Suncorp Bank was formalised, and ratings agency S&P upgraded Suncorp’s long-term credit rating to that of its parent company immediately (now rated A-1+/AA-). Investor’s exposure to Suncorp is now reflected under the parent company being ANZ.

**Credit Quality**

The portfolio is lightly diversified from a credit ratings perspective. The portfolio is mainly directed to the major banks (rated A-1+). All ratings categories are within policy limits:

Compliant	Credit Rating	Invested \$	Invested %	Max Limit	Available
✓	A-1+ Category	\$25,646,871	86.51%	100%	\$4,000,000
✓	A-1 Category	\$0	0.00%	100%	\$29,646,871
✓	A-2 Category	\$4,000,000	13.49%	30%	\$4,894,061
✓	A-3 Category	\$0	0.00%	0%	\$0
		<b>\$29,646,871</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		



**Performance**

Council’s performance (excluding cash) for the month ending March 2025 is summarised as follows:

Performance	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.34%	1.02%	2.11%	3.21%	4.31%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.35%	1.07%	2.20%	3.34%	4.46%
<b>Council's Portfolio<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>0.43%</b>	<b>1.23%</b>	<b>2.51%</b>	<b>3.82%</b>	<b>5.12%</b>
<b>Outperformance</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>0.16%</b>	<b>0.31%</b>	<b>0.48%</b>	<b>0.67%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council’s cash account holdings. Quoted returns longer than 3 months are indicative as we do not have historical positions of the portfolio.

Performance % p.a.	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	4.10%	4.19%	4.27%	4.30%	4.31%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	4.16%	4.42%	4.46%	4.47%	4.46%
<b>Council Total Portfolio<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>5.16%</b>	<b>5.09%</b>	<b>5.10%</b>	<b>5.12%</b>	<b>5.12%</b>
<b>Outperformance</b>	<b>0.99%</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>0.64%</b>	<b>0.65%</b>	<b>0.67%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council’s cash account holdings. Quoted returns longer than 3 months are indicative as we do not have historical positions of the portfolio.

For the month of March, the portfolio (excluding cash) provided a solid return of +0.43% (actual) or +5.16% p.a. (annualised), outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.35% (actual) or +4.16% p.a. (annualised).

The outperformance over longer timeframes continues to be anchored by those longer-dated deposits, with original tenors placed for 12 months. We recommend a more diversified duration position going forward, with a small consideration of deposits to be placed up to 2 years (particularly as rate cuts are imminent).



## Recommendations for Council

### **Term Deposits**

Going forward, Council's ongoing strategy in placing across 12-24 months terms is likely to earn up to  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ % p.a. higher compared to shorter tenors in a normal market environment. There is growing belief that additional rate cuts and a global economic downturn is imminent and so locking in rates above 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % p.a. across 1-5 year tenors may provide some income protection against a lower rate environment.

As at the end of March 2025, Council's **deposit** portfolio was yielding 4.98% p.a. (down 4bp from the previous month), with a weighted average duration of around 167 days (~5 $\frac{1}{2}$  months). We recommend Council incrementally increases this duration up to a minimum 9 months this calendar year, to optimise returns in the long-run.

Please refer to the section below for further details on the Term Deposit market.

### **Securities**

Primary (new) Senior **FRNs** (with maturities between 3-5 years) continue to be appealing (particularly for those investors with portfolios skewed towards fixed assets) and should be considered on a case by case scenario. **Fixed Bonds** may also provide some attractive opportunities from new (primary) issuances.

Please refer to the sections below for further details on each market.



## Term Deposit Market Review

### Current Term Deposits Rates

As at the end of March, we see value in the following:

ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
ING Bank	A	5 years	4.81%
BoQ	A-	5 years	4.60%
Hume Bank	BBB+	5 years	4.55%
Westpac	AA-	5 years	4.50%
ING Bank	A	4 years	4.68%
BoQ	A-	4 years	4.50%
Westpac	AA-	4 years	4.42%
ING Bank	A	3 years	4.57%
BoQ	A-	3 years	4.45%
Hume Bank	BBB+	3 years	4.38%
State Bank of India	BBB-	2 years	4.65%
ING Bank	A	2 years	4.55%
Bank of Us	BBB+	2 years	4.40%
Westpac	AA-	2 years	4.40%
BoQ	A-	2 years	4.45%

The above deposits are suitable for investors looking to maintain diversification and lock-in a slight premium compared to purely investing short-term.

For terms under 12 months, we believe the strongest value is currently being offered by the following ADIs (we stress that rates are indicative, dependent on daily funding requirements and different for industry segments):



ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
State Bank of India	BBB-	12 months	4.80%
Suncorp	AA-	12 months	4.71%
ICBC Sydney	A	12 months	4.68%
ING Bank	A	12 months	4.64%
State Bank of India	BBB-	9 months	4.80%
Suncorp	AA-	9 months	4.70%
BoQ	A-	9 months	4.70%
Bank of Sydney	Unrated	6 months	4.83%
State Bank of India	BBB-	6 months	4.80%
Suncorp	AA-	6 months	4.80%
BoQ	A-	6 months	4.78%
Bank of Sydney	Unrated	3 months	4.83%
State Bank of India	BBB-	3 months	4.80%
NAB	AA-	3 months	4.75%

For those investors that do not require high levels of liquidity and can stagger their investments longer term, they will be rewarded over a longer-term cycle if they roll for an average min. term of 12 months, with a spread of investments out to 5 years (this is where we see current value). In a normal market environment (upward sloping yield curve), investors could earn over a cycle, on average, up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to those investors that entirely invest in short-dated deposits.

With additional rate cuts and a global economic downturn priced in over 2025, investors should consider allocating some longer-term surplus funds and undertake an insurance policy by investing across 1-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates above 4½% p.a. This will provide some income protection if the RBA decides to continue cutting rates over 2025 and into 2026.

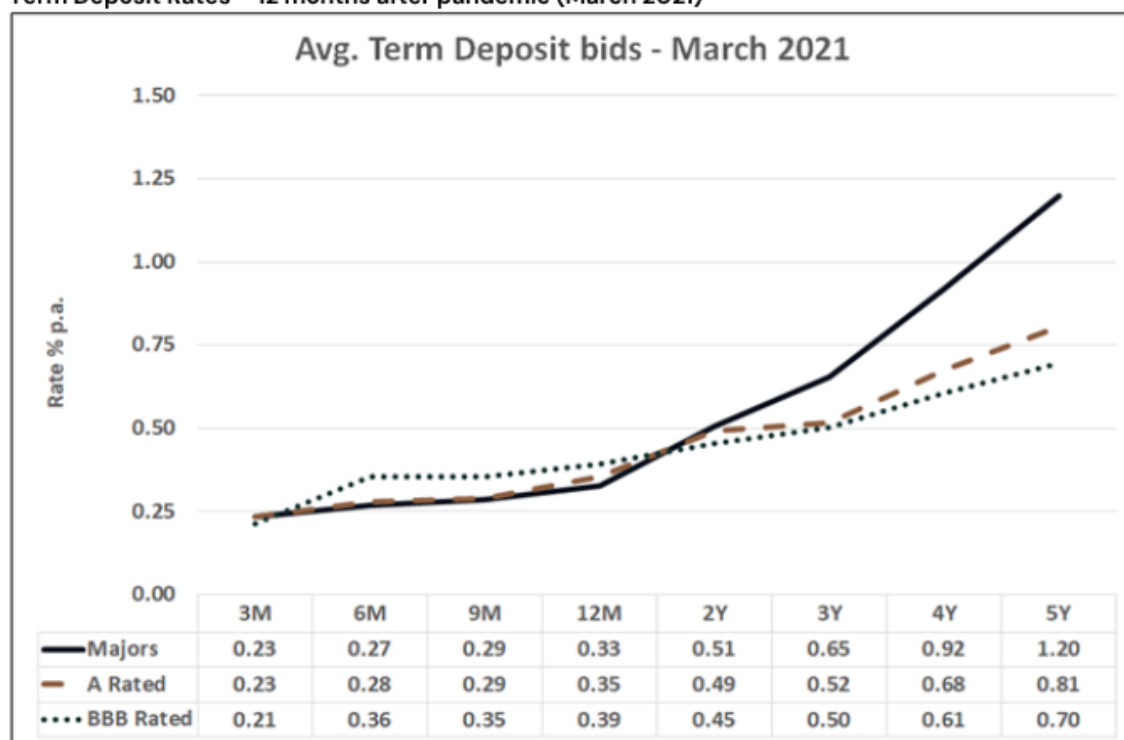




**Term Deposits Analysis**

Pre-pandemic (March 2020), a 'normal' marketplace meant the lower rated ADIs (i.e. BBB category) were offering higher rates on term deposits compared to the higher rated ADIs (i.e. A or AA rated). But due to the cheap funding available provided by the RBA via their Term Funding Facility (TFF) during mid-2020, allowing the ADIs to borrow as low as 0.10% p.a. fixed for 3 years, those lower rated ADIs (BBB rated) did not require deposit funding from the wholesale deposit. Given the higher rated banks had more capacity to lend (as they have a greater pool of mortgage borrowers), they subsequently were offering higher deposit rates. In fact, some of the lower rated banks were not even offering deposit rates at all. As a result, most investors placed a higher proportion of their deposit investments with the higher rated (A or AA) ADIs over the past three years.

**Term Deposit Rates – 12 months after pandemic (March 2021)**



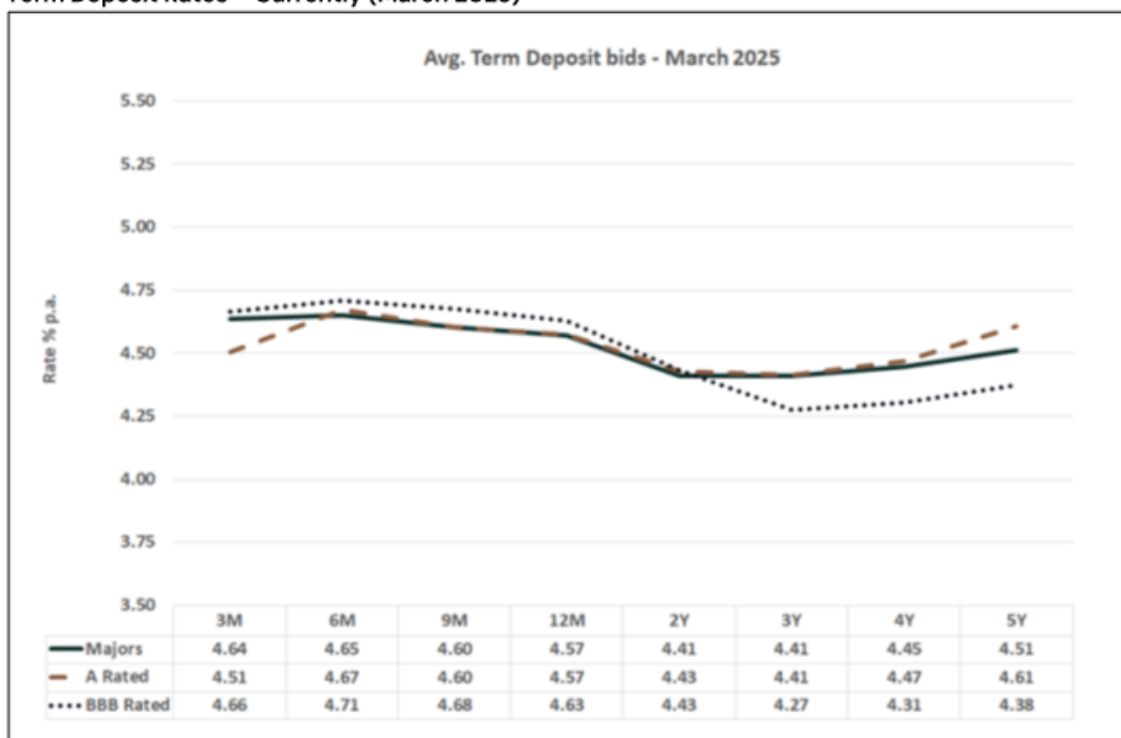
Source: Imperium Markets

The abnormal marketplace experienced during the pandemic is starting to reverse as the competition for deposits slowly increases, partially driven by the RBA's term funding facility coming to an end. In recent months, we have started to periodically see some of the lower rated ADIs ("A" and "BBB" rated) offering slightly higher rates compared to the domestic major banks ("AA" rated) on different parts of the curve (i.e. pre-pandemic environment). Some of this has been attributed to lags in adjusting their deposit rates as some banks (mainly the lower rated ADIs) simply set their rates for the week.



Going forward, investors should have a larger opportunity to invest a higher proportion of its funds with the lower rated institutions (up to Policy limits), from which the majority are not lending to the Fossil Fuel industry or considered 'ethical'. We are slowly seeing this trend emerge, although the major banks always seem to react more quickly than the rest of the market during periods of volatility:

**Term Deposit Rates – Currently (March 2025)**



Source: Imperium Markets

**Financial Stability of the Banking (ADI) Sector**

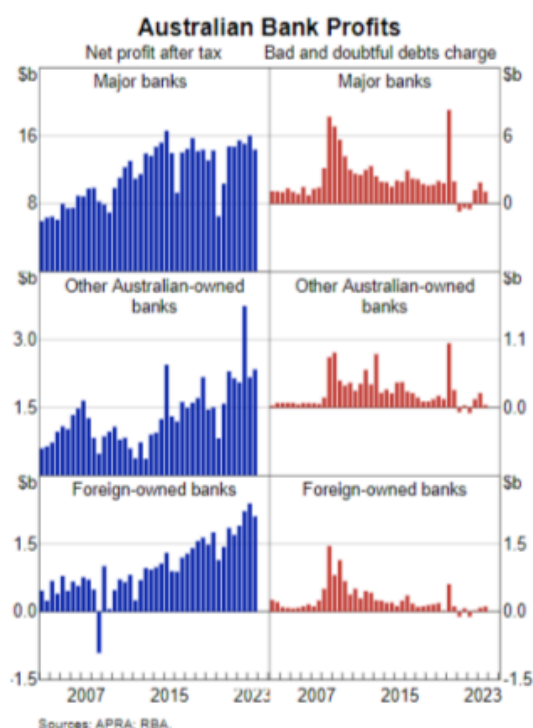
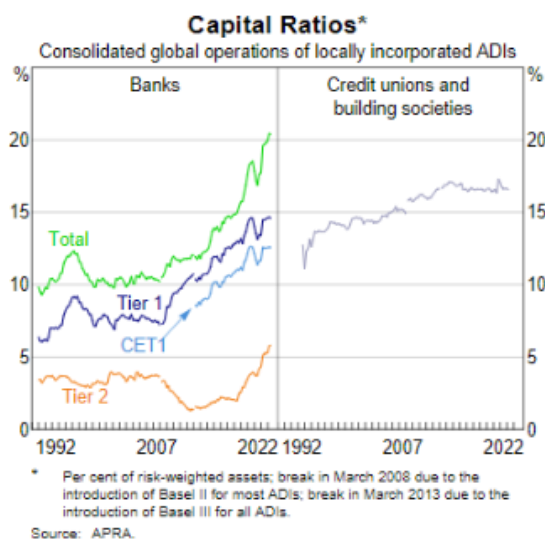
The RBA's latest Financial Stability report of 2024 reaffirms the strong balance sheet across the ADI sector. They noted that the risk of widespread financial stress remains limited due to the generally strong financial positions of most (individual) borrowers. Very few mortgage borrowers are in negative equity, limiting the impact on lenders (ADIs) in the event of default and supporting their ability to continue providing credit to the economy. Most businesses that have entered insolvency are small and have little debt, limiting the broader impact on the labour market and thus household incomes, and on the capital position of lenders (ADIs).

Australian banks (collectively the APRA regulated ADIs) have maintained prudent lending standards and are well positioned to continue supplying credit to the economy. A deterioration in economic conditions or temporary disruption to funding markets is unlikely to halt lending activity. Banks have anticipated an



increase in loan arrears and have capital and liquidity buffers well above regulatory requirements (see *Capital Ratios chart below*). APRA’s mandate is to “protect depositors” and provide “financial stability”.

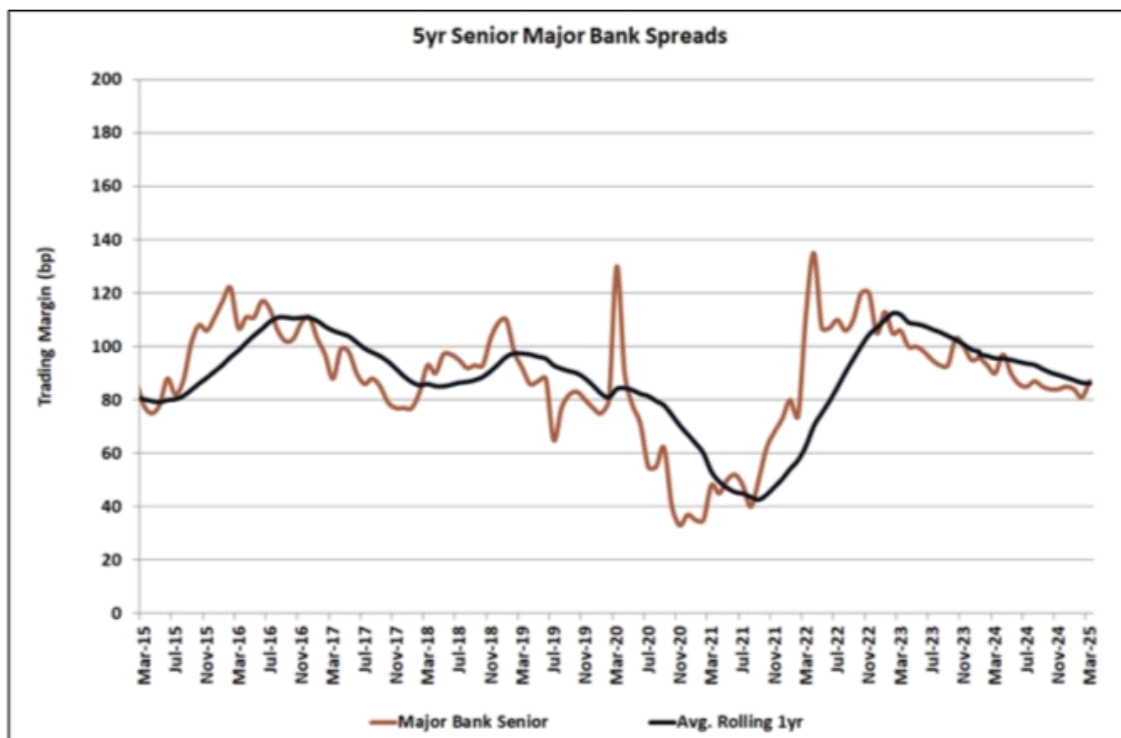
Over the past two decades, both domestic and international banks continue to operate and demonstrate high levels of profitability (see *Australian Bank Profits chart below*), which also includes two stress-test environments being the GFC (September 2008) and the COVID pandemic (March 2020):





## Senior FRNs Market Review

Over March, amongst the senior major bank FRNs, physical credit securities widened between 5-7bp at the longer-end of the curve. During the month, NAB (AA-) issued a 5 year senior security +83bp, whilst HSBC (AA-) issued a 3 year senior FRN at +70bp. Long-term major bank senior securities are approaching the ‘expensive’ territory if the 5yr margin tightens towards +80bp.



Source: IBS Capital

There was also a handful of other notable primary deals during the month:

- Beyond Bank (BBB+) 3 year senior FRN at +115bp
- Bank of Nova Scotia (A-) 6 non-call 5 year senior security at +140bp

Amongst the “A” and “BBB” rated sectors, the securities widened by around 2-5bp at the longer-end of the curve. Overall, credit securities remain fair value on a historical basis without being overly exciting. FRNs will continue to play a role in investors’ portfolios mainly based on their liquidity and the ability to roll down the curve and gross up returns over ensuing years (in a relatively stable credit environment), whilst also providing some diversification to those investors skewed towards fixed assets.



Senior FRNs (ADIs)	31/03/2025	28/02/2025
“AA” rated – 5yrs	+87bp	+81bp
“AA” rated – 3yrs	+70bp	+65bp
“A” rated – 5yrs	+95bp	+90bp
“A” rated – 3yrs	+74bp	+72bp
“BBB” rated – 3yrs	+118bp	+115bp

Source: IBS Capital

We now generally recommend switches (‘benchmark’ issues only) into new primary issues, out of the following senior FRNs that are maturing:

- On or before mid-2027 for the “AA” rated ADIs (domestic major banks);
- On or before mid-2026 for the “A” rated ADIs; and
- Within 6-9 months for the “BBB” rated ADIs (consider case by case).

Investors holding onto the above senior FRNs (‘benchmark’ issues only) in their last few years are now generally holding sub optimal investments and are not maximising returns by foregoing realised capital gains. In the current challenging economic environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.



**Senior Fixed Bonds – ADIs (Secondary Market)**

With global inflation softening and official interest rates starting to drop progressively, investors may look at some opportunities in the secondary market. We currently see value in the following fixed bond lines (please note supply in the secondary market may be limited on any day):

ISIN	Issuer	Rating	Capital Structure	Maturity Date	~Remain. Term (yrs)	Fixed Coupon	Indicative Yield
AU3CB0314763	Bendigo	A-	Senior	24/10/2028	3.57	4.79%	4.63%
AU3CB0308955	BoQ	A-	Senior	30/04/2029	4.09	5.30%	4.78%
AU3CB0319879	Nova Sco.	A-	Senior	21/03/2030	4.98	5.23%	5.14%



## Economic Commentary

### International Market

Financial markets (equities and bonds) were sold off in March due to concerns of escalating tariff wars, global growth prospects and inflation uncertainty.

Across equity markets, the US S&P 500 Index fell -5.75%, whilst the NASDAQ plunged -8.21%. Europe’s main indices were also sold off, with losses in France’s CAC (-3.96%), UK’s FTSE (-2.58%) and Germany’s DAX (-1.72%).

The US applied 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada, added to those already applied to China, and separately pulled funding for Ukraine’s war effort. China and Canada have retaliated, as they promised they would.

The FOMC left the funds rate unchanged as widely expected, although there is a smaller majority expecting the funds rate to be 50bp lower by the end of 2025 (9 vs 10 previously) and eight officials compared to four previously see one rate cut or less this year. US core CPI fell -0.22% to +0.23% in February (+3.1% y/y), while headline inflation was at +0.22% (+2.8% y/y).

The Bank of Canada delivered a 25bp rate cut taking the cash rate to 2.75%. Governor Macklem noted the trade battle with the US was a “new crisis”. Canada’s CPI picked up and was stronger than expected, with the annual headline increase at +2.6% y/y in February, up from +1.9% y/y previously.

The Bank of England (BoE) left official rates unchanged at 4.50% as widely expected. The UK unemployment rate came in as expected in January at 4.4%. Headline CPI came in below expectations at +2.8%, down from +3.0% and +3.0% expected, with the core reading coming in at +3.5% from +3.7%.

The ECB delivered the expected 25bp cut to its policy rates, taking the deposit rate down to 2.50%, its sixth rate cut since June. The policy statement was changed to say that “monetary policy is becoming meaningfully less restrictive”.

The Norwegian central bank left its policy rate unchanged at 4.50%. An upside surprise to inflation has delayed its first cut expectations until later this year.

China published February CPI and PPI numbers which showed CPI back in deflation for the first time in 13 months.

The MSCI World ex-Aus Index fell -4.66% for the month of March:

Index	1m	3m	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr
S&P 500 Index	-5.75%	-4.59%	+6.80%	+7.40%	+16.77%	+10.50%
MSCI World ex-AUS	-4.66%	-2.11%	+5.77%	+6.14%	+14.49%	+7.79%
S&P ASX 200 Accum. Index	-3.39%	-2.80%	+2.84%	+5.62%	+13.24%	+7.15%

Source: S&P, MSCI



**Domestic Market**

The RBA Minutes for February did not contain any new information given the extensive commentary by RBA officials since then. The key observation and judgements the Board applied when deciding to cut rates were that inflation had come in lower than expected.

The Monthly CPI indicator fell 0.1% to +2.4% from +2.5% (consensus 2.5%). The annual trimmed mean slipped 0.1% to +2.7% from +2.8%. The RBA in February perhaps remained a little too cautious in their inflation forecasts, and that inflation outcomes (thus far) can support a gradual easing cycle to sustain the pickup in growth to trend and support a labour market remaining near full employment.

Headline employment fell -52.8k in February against expectations of a +30k rise. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1%, though it did fall 0.056% in unrounded terms (consensus 4.1%). The market consensus is that given the RBA still views the labour market as “a little too tight”, it will take realised wages growth (WPI) and inflation (quarterly CPI) to make the case for further rate cuts.

GDP growth was +1.3% over 2024 (consensus was +1.3% and RBA +1.1%). GDP per capita rose +0.1% q/q, its first rise in seven quarters, as growth drivers rebalance with population growth past its peak and per capita spending picking up.

Retail sales came in at +0.3% m/m after a -0.1% decline in December. Spending rose across most industries, but that was partly offset by a -4.4% m/m fall in household goods retailing.

The Federal Government announced its budget, promising to reduce the bottom tax bracket from 16% to 14% over two years from July 2026. The expected other changes include the \$7.9bn program to boost bulk billing (albeit mainly in the out years – with around \$2.4bn in the next 4 years).

The Australian dollar rose around +0.88%, finishing the month at US62.80 cents (from US62.14 cents the previous month).

**Credit Market**

The global credit indices widened in the risk-off environment. They are now back to levels last seen in early 2023:

Index	March 2025	February 2025
CDX North American 5yr CDS	61bp	50bp
iTraxx Europe 5yr CDS	64bp	53bp
iTraxx Australia 5yr CDS	88bp	65bp

Source: Markit





## Fixed Interest Review

### Benchmark Index Returns

Index	March 2025	February 2025
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (0+YR)	+0.35%	+0.34%
Bloomberg AusBond Composite Bond Index (0+YR)	+0.17%	+0.93%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit FRN Index (0+YR)	+0.32%	+0.47%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit Index (0+YR)	+0.28%	+0.79%
Bloomberg AusBond Treasury Index (0+YR)	+0.12%	+0.90%
Bloomberg AusBond Inflation Gov't Index (0+YR)	-0.90%	+0.72%

Source: Bloomberg

### Other Key Rates

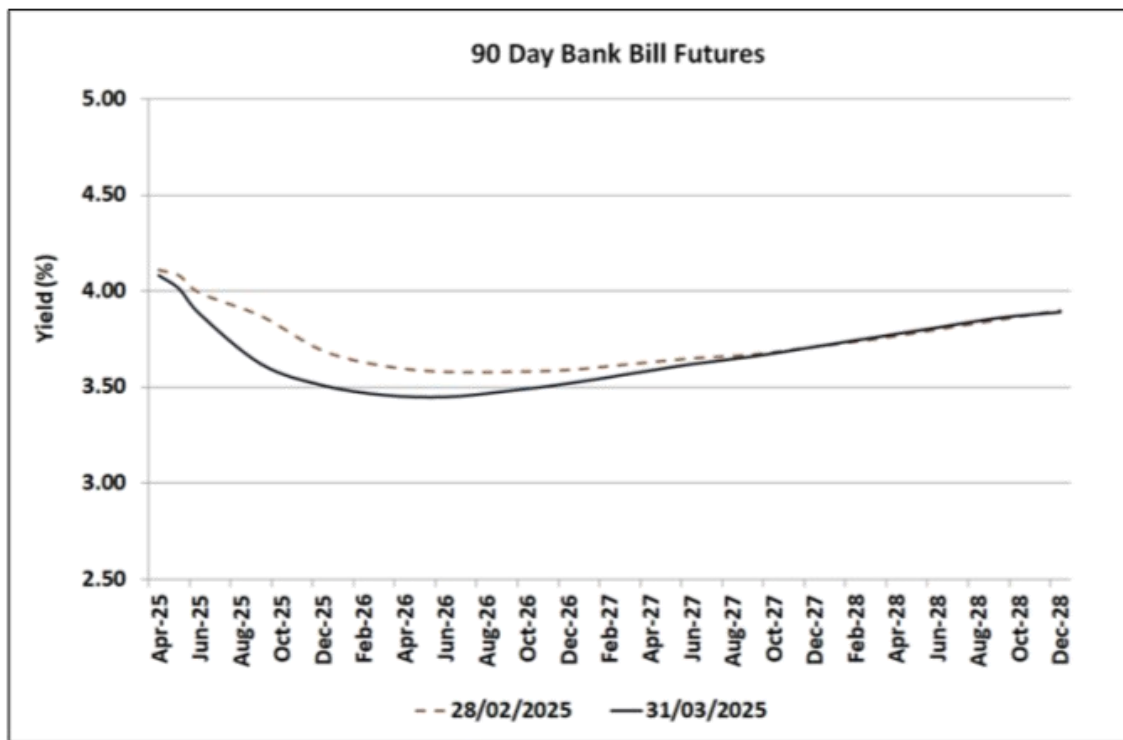
Index	March 2025	February 2025
RBA Official Cash Rate	4.10%	4.10%
90 Day (3 month) BBSW Rate	4.13%	4.12%
3yr Australian Government Bonds	3.69%	3.75%
10yr Australian Government Bonds	4.39%	4.30%
US Fed Funds Rate	4.25%-4.50%	4.25%-4.50%
2yr US Treasury Bonds	3.89%	3.99%
10yr US Treasury Bonds	4.23%	4.24%

Source: RBA, ASX, US Department of Treasury



**90 Day Bill Futures**

Bill futures fell at the short-end of the curve, with markets factoring multiple rate cuts over the remainder of 2025:



Source: ASX

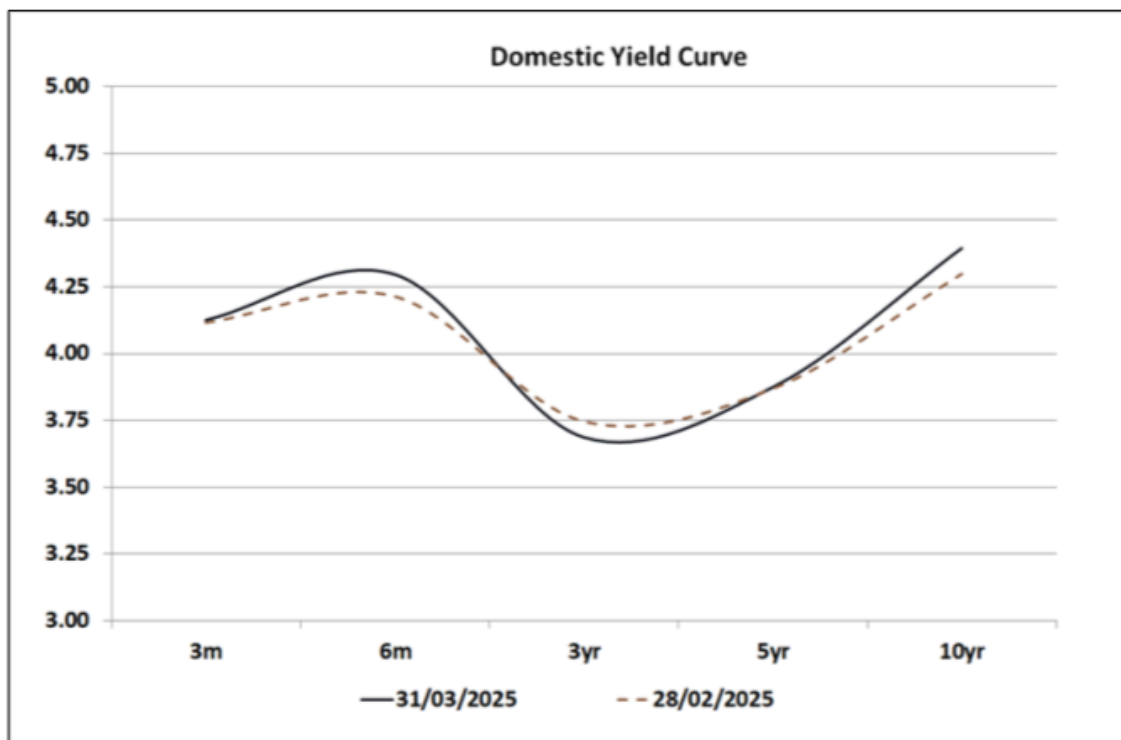


## Fixed Interest Outlook

There was a slightly hawkish drift in the US Fed members’ target rate dots in the latest projections, but not enough to move the median dot. There are still two cuts implied in the median profile for 2025, another two in 2026 and another in 2027. Fed Chair Powell said inflation has made progress but remains above target and that surveys suggest tariffs are impacting inflation expectations.

Domestically, RBA Governor Bullock has explicitly pushed back on the additional 50bp of rate cuts the market is pricing in 2025, underpinning their forecasts given they only expect trimmed mean CPI flatlining at 2.70% from mid-2025. The Governor said, “the board needs more evidence that inflation is continuing to decline before making decisions about the future path of interest rates”. She noted the RBA wants to see easing wage costs, disinflation in market services and housing inflation continuing to ease.

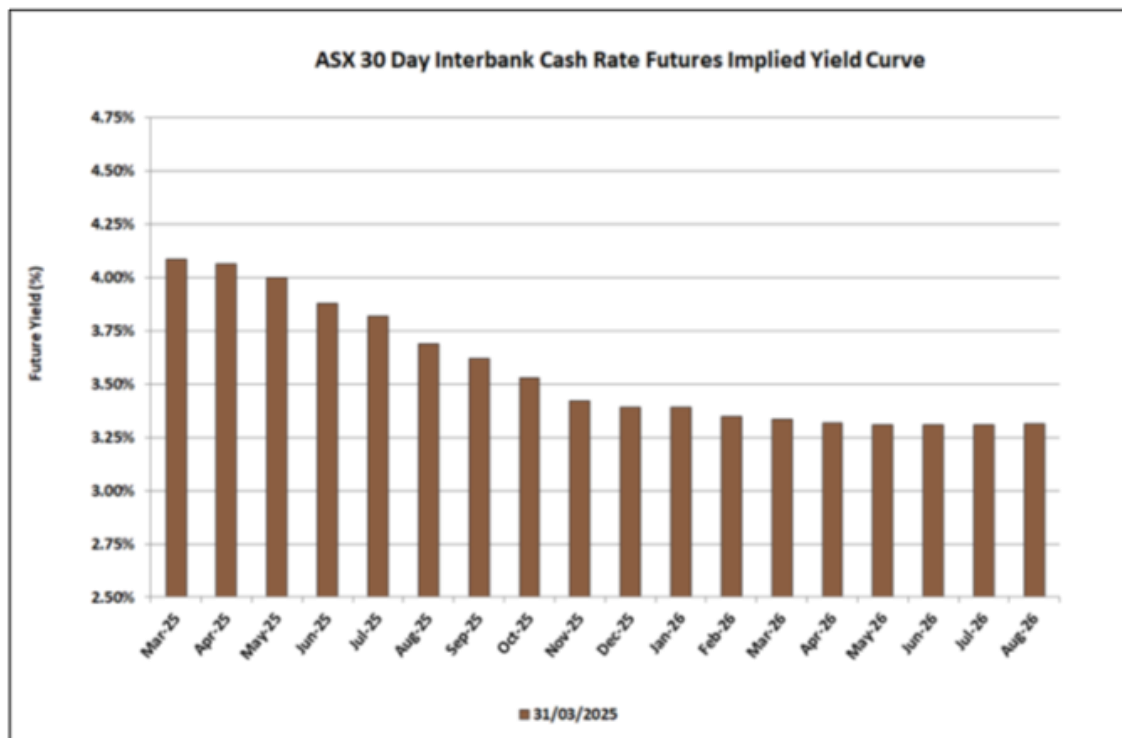
Yields rose up to 9bp at the long-end of the curve this month:



Source: ASX, RBA



Financial markets continue to fully price in two rate cuts in 2025 and another one by early 2026, despite Governor Bullock’s jawboning against such expectations:



Source: ASX

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**12.2 MONTHLY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - MARCH 2025**

**Document ID:** 786291  
**Author:** Corporate Accountant  
**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community Services  
**Theme:** Our Leadership  
**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Monthly Financial Performance Report for the month of March 2025, as detailed in this report.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the organisation’s financial position and performance for the month of March 2025.

**SUMMARY**

**Consolidated Operating Statement**

All figures shown in the below table are shown as they appear in Council’s management accounting system. Income is shown as negative (-), and expenses are shown as positive (+) numbers. Any amendments to Council’s budget that may be required in response to significant variances are done so via the Quarterly Budget Review (“QBR”) process.

*Table 1 Consolidated Income Statement – March 2025*

Consolidated Income Statement March	Original Budget \$'000	Q2 Budget \$'000	Actual YTD \$'000	Variance YTD \$'000	Actual vs Budget %
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>					
Rates and annual charges	10,638	10,656	10,539	117	99%
User charges and fees	3,225	3,227	1,874	1,353	58%
Other revenues	1,175	1,180	528	652	45%
Grants and contributions - operating	8,985	3,378	2,599	779	77%
Grants and contributions - capital	8,574	7,607	1,083	6,524	14%
Interest and investment revenue	1,112	1,112	628	484	56%
Other income	233	233	177	56	76%
Net gain from the disposal of assets	92	92	-	92	0%
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>34,034</b>	<b>27,485</b>	<b>17,428</b>	<b>10,057</b>	
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>					
Employee benefits and on-costs	9,318	9,233	6,775	2,458	73%
Materials and services	7,564	8,581	5,743	2,838	67%
Borrowing costs	151	151	101	50	67%
Depreciation and amortisation	6,737	6,737	237	6,500	4%
Impairment of receivables	6	6	4	2	67%
Other expenses	415	415	327	88	79%
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>24,191</b>	<b>25,123</b>	<b>13,187</b>	<b>11,936</b>	
<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>9,843</b>	<b>2,362</b>	<b>4,241</b>	<b>(1,879)</b>	
<b>Operating result before capital grants &amp; cont.</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>(5,245)</b>	<b>3,158</b>	<b>(8,403)</b>	

**Financial Performance by Fund**

The following Tables summarise Council’s financial performance for the reporting period by Fund.

Table 2 General Fund Operating Statement - March 2025

General Fund Income Statement March	Original Budget \$'000	Q2 Budget \$'000	Actual YTD \$'000	Variance YTD \$'000	Actual vs Budget %
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>					
Rates and annual charges	7,949	7,966	7,960	6	100%
User charges and fees	1,481	1,483	911	572	61%
Other revenues	1,175	1,180	528	652	45%
Grants and contributions - operating	8,985	3,378	2,599	779	77%
Grants and contributions - capital	8,156	6,303	919	5,384	15%
Interest and investment revenue	784	784	468	316	60%
Other income	233	233	177	56	76%
Net gain from the disposal of assets	92	92	-	92	0%
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>28,855</b>	<b>21,419</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>7,857</b>	
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>					
Employee benefits and on-costs	8,565	8,468	6,126	2,342	72%
Materials and services	5,252	5,963	4,670	1,293	78%
Borrowing costs	21	21	6	15	29%
Depreciation and amortisation	5,555	5,555	236	5,319	4%
Impairment of receivables	6	6	4	2	67%
Other expenses	415	415	327	88	79%
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>19,814</b>	<b>20,428</b>	<b>11,369</b>	<b>9,059</b>	
<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>9,041</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>(1,202)</b>	
<b>Operating result before capital grants &amp; cont.</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>(5,312)</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>(6,586)</b>	

Table 3 Water Fund Operating Statement – March 2025

Water Fund Income Statement March	Original Budget \$'000	Q2 Budget \$'000	Actual YTD \$'000	Variance YTD \$'000	Actual vs Budget %
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>					
Rates and annual charges	940	941	946	(5)	101%
User charges and fees	1,277	1,277	617	660	48%
Other revenues	-	-	-	-	0%
Grants and contributions - operating	-	-	-	-	0%
Grants and contributions - capital	10	150	(106)	256	-71%
Interest and investment revenue	281	281	140	141	50%
Other income	-	-	-	-	0%
Net gain from the disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>2,508</b>	<b>2,649</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>1,052</b>	
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>					
Employee benefits and on-costs	379	391	370	21	95%
Materials and services	1,507	1,692	741	951	44%
Borrowing costs	-	-	-	-	0%
Depreciation and amortisation	704	704	1	703	0%
Impairment of receivables	-	-	-	-	0%
Other expenses	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>2,787</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>1,675</b>	
<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>(82)</b>	<b>(138)</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>(623)</b>	
<b>Operating result before capital grants &amp; cont.</b>	<b>(92)</b>	<b>(288)</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>(879)</b>	

Table 4 Sewer Fund Operating Statement – March 2025

Sewer Fund Income Statement March	Original Budget \$'000	Q2 Budget \$'000	Actual YTD \$'000	Variance YTD \$'000	Actual vs Budget %
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>					
Rates and annual charges	1,749	1,749	1,633	116	93%
User charges and fees	467	467	346	121	74%
Other revenues	-	-	-	-	0%
Grants and contributions - operating	-	-	-	-	0%
Grants and contributions - capital	408	1,154	270	884	23%
Interest and investment revenue	47	47	20	27	43%
Other income	-	-	-	-	0%
Net gain from the disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>2,671</b>	<b>3,417</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>1,148</b>	
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>					
Employee benefits and on-costs	374	374	279	95	75%
Materials and services	805	926	332	594	36%
Borrowing costs	130	130	95	35	73%
Depreciation and amortisation	478	478	-	478	0%
Impairment of receivables	-	-	-	-	0%
Other expenses	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>1,202</b>	
<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>(54)</b>	
<b>Operating result before capital grants &amp; cont.</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>(938)</b>	

### Investments and Borrowings

Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires the Responsible Accounting Officer (Chief Financial Officer) provide Council with a monthly written report setting out details of Council’s investments under section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (“the Local Government Act”). Accordingly, details of Council’s investments and borrowings as at 31 March 2025 are set out in a separate report included in this Business Paper.

### Capital Works

As at 31 March 2025, capital expenditure is \$11,592,086 against a YTD budget of \$17,858,985 for the same period, and a 2024-25 FY budget of \$23,811,979. Commitments (approved purchase orders to external suppliers) of \$1,143,321 have been raised for delivery this year.

Current expenditure against budget indicates that delivery of works is trending slightly behind of anticipated timing, noting that delivery of works typically accelerates in the second half of the financial year. Delivery of works can be impacted by several factors, including weather conditions, availability of suppliers, and any required procurement and approval processes.

Detailed information on the delivery of Council’s Capital Works Program is contained in quarterly Capital Works Reports provided to Council.

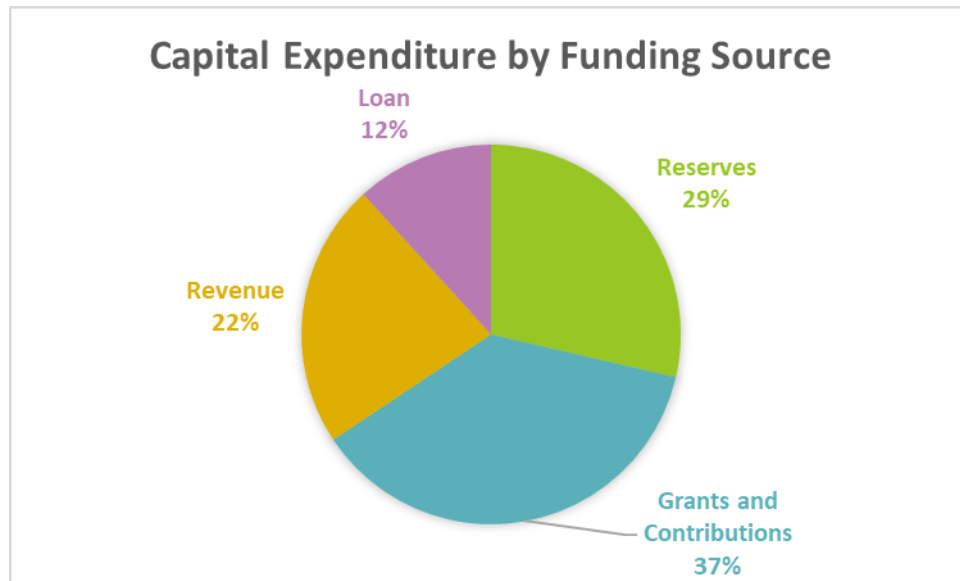
Table 5 Capital Expenditure - March 2025

Department	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Committed	YTD Actuals	Balance
	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's
Administration	630	762	83	381	298
Environment	3,345	3,966	36	133	3,797
Housing & Community Amenities	-	121	-	10	111
Transport & Communication	4,772	8,108	226	3,745	4,137
Economic Affairs	6,670	1,857	206	668	983
Recreation and Culture	408	3,560	359	2,288	913
Water Supply Network	754	1,599	19	488	1,093
Sewerage Network	737	3,802	1	3,878	77
Public Order & Safety	-	37	-	1	36
	<b>17,317</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>11,592</b>	<b>11,291</b>

Council’s capital expenditure is funded via a combination of grants, contributions, restricted funds and general revenue. *Figure 1*, below, illustrates capital expenditure for the reporting period by funding source.



Figure 1 Capital Expenditure by Funding Source



**Bank Balances**

The Table below sets out the funds held in Council’s operating account as at 31 March 2025.

Table 6 Bank Balances – March 2025

Bank Balances	Amount
<b>Cash Book</b>	
Opening Cash Book Balance	\$ 379,264.52
Plus Receipt	\$ 3,576,113.59
Less Payments	-\$ 3,294,348.91
<b>CURRENT CASH BOOK BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 661,029.20</b>
<b>Statement Summary</b>	
Opening Statement Balance	\$ 243,499.77
Plus Receipts	\$ 3,502,686.94
Less Payments	-\$ 3,164,421.85
	<b>\$ 581,764.86</b>
Uncleared receipts/payments	\$ 79,264.34
<b>Closing statement balance</b>	<b>\$ 661,029.20</b>
<b>Overdraft Limit arranged with Bank 01/01/1989</b>	<b>\$ 350,000.00</b>

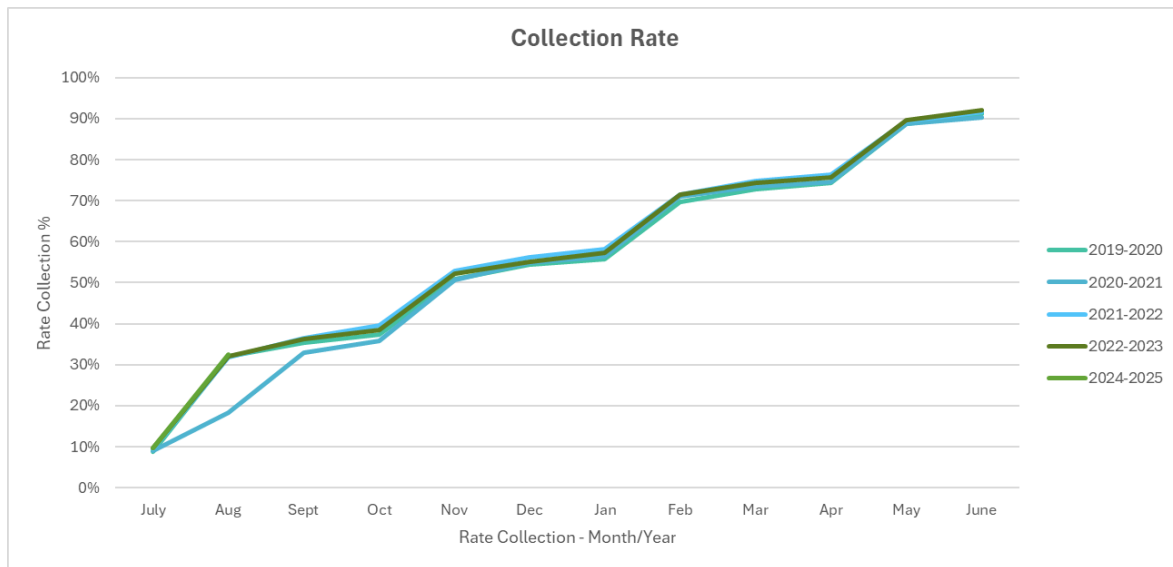
**Rates and Receipts**

The Table below sets out Council’s rates reconciliation as at 07 April 2025.

Table 7 Rates Reconciliation – March 2025

<b>Rates &amp; Charges</b>	
Previous years owing as at 07.04.2025	583,475.18
24/25 Rates levies & Supplementary levies (excl. PP)	10,656,192.06
Interest levied	66,020.00
Court Costs incurred for debt recovery	20,685.60
	<b>11,326,372.84</b>
Less Pensioner Rebates	- 204,031.34
<b>NETT BALANCE</b>	<b>11,122,341.50</b>
Less Receipts	- 8,197,426.25
<b>Total rates left owing as at 07.04.2025</b>	<b>2,924,915.25</b>
Actual % Rate Collection to Net Balance as at 07.04.2025	73.70%
Comparative % Collection to Net Balance as at 31.03.2024	74.26%
Anticipated % Collection Rate as at 30.06.2025	94.00%
<b>Water Consumption/Sewer Usage Charges</b>	
Arrears as at 01.07.2024	251,837.21
24/25 Water / Sewer usage charges, supplementary levies	672,985.85
Interest levied	34,123.10
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>958,946.16</b>
Less Receipts	- 430,083.29
<b>Total Water balance owing</b>	<b>528,862.87</b>
Actual % Water Collection to Net Balance as at 07.04.2025	44.85%

Collection rate



**BACKGROUND**

The monthly Financial Performance Report has been prepared by Council’s Responsible Accounting Officer (Chief Financial Officer) in accordance with the requirements of the:

- *Local Government Act 1993,*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021,*
- *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting, and*
- *Australian Accounting Standards.*

**RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES**

**Theme**

5 - Our Leadership

**Strategy**

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

**Action**

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

**ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy**

- There are no policy implications for Council associated with this report.

**Financial**

- This report illustrates Council’s financial position as at the end of the reporting month.

**Legal / Statutory**

- Section 8B of the Local Government Act mandates the principles of sound financial management that apply to local councils. Specifically, section 8B(c) provides that councils should have effective processes for performance management and reporting in place to support effective financial decision-making.

**Community Engagement / Communication**

- There are no community engagement or communication requirements for Council associated with this report.

**RISKS**

As noted above, Council is required to implement appropriate processes for performance management and reporting to support informed financial decision-making. Provision of this monthly report enables Councillors to better understand the organisation's financial position and overall performance, thereby supporting informed decision-making.

**CONCLUSION**

Council's financial position remains sound. It is recommended that Council resolves to receive and note the Financial Performance Report for the month of March 2025.

## 12.3 PURCHASE OF LOT 86 DP 1183416 - BOUNDARY ROAD, NARRANDERA FOR ROAD PURPOSES

**Document ID:** 791616

**Author:** Governance and Engagement Manager

**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community Services

**Theme:** Our Leadership

**Attachments:** 1. Correspondence from Hall and O'Hare Pty Ltd

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolves to purchase Lot 86 DP 1183416 from Hall and O'Hare Pty Ltd for \$1.00, with the vendor and Council to make payment of their respective legal costs, and the vendor to make payment of rates and charges to the date of settlement.
2. Following settlement classifies Lot 86 DP 1183416 as operational land for the purpose of a roadway, noting that Section 31(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act, 1993* does not require Council to provide public notice of the classification if the land is acquired for the purpose of a road.
3. Authorises the Mayor and the General Manager to sign and place the Seal of Council on any documents relating to the purchase of Lot 86 DP 1183416.

### PURPOSE

This report seeks a resolution of Council to accept ownership of Lot 86 DP 1183416 for the purpose of a roadway.

### SUMMARY

Hall & O'Hare Pty Ltd is the current owner of Lot 86 DP 1183416 comprising an area of 20.5 square metres (**image 1**). Hall & O'Hare Pty Ltd has written to Council seeking to transfer the land to Council (**attachment 1**).

### BACKGROUND

Hall & O'Hare Pty Ltd developed the most recent stage of the Corella Woods subdivision and, until recently, Lot 86 was included with other vacant allotments for rating purposes. However, now that all residential allotments have been sold, Lot 86 has become separately rateable.

Looking at various plans available for Stage 3 of the Corella Woods subdivision, Lot 86 appears to be land set aside for a proposed sewer easement that never eventuated. Enquiries with Council's Water and Sewer team confirm that Lot 86 does not contain any Council infrastructure at the present time, however there is the potential to use part of Lot 86 to extend the potable watermain from the corner of Camellia Drive to Lady Loch Crescent to eliminate water main end points.

In the short-term, Lot 86 DP 1183416 will be used as an extension of the unformed section of Boundary Road.



**Image 1 – locality map of Lot 86 DP 1183416**

Enquiries with the property owner confirmed that the land is to be transferred to Council at no cost with both parties to pay their own legal costs. Council’s solicitor has confirmed that a purchase price of at least \$1 is required to formalise the transfer.

A similar report to this report was presented to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for consideration at its 20 March 2025 with ELT agreeing to the recommendation to accept ownership of this parcel of land.

**RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES**

**Theme**

5 - Our Leadership

**Strategy**

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

**Action**

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

**ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy**

- There are no policy implications for Council associated with this report.

**Financial**

- Purchase price of \$1.00 as well as legal costs of approximately \$1,500.

**Legal / Statutory**

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- *Real Property Act 1900*

**Community Engagement / Communication**

- Land acquisition or the disposal of land owned by Council requires a formal resolution. This report seeks that resolution and has therefore been included in the ordinary section of this business paper

**RISKS**

There are no perceived risks with Council accepting ownership of Lot 86 DP 1183416, as Council either owns or manages the adjoining lands located to the east and the west of Lot 86.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council formally resolves to purchase Lot 86 DP 1183416 from Hall & O'Hare Pty Ltd, as detailed in this report.

**HALL AND O'HARE PTY LTD**

**ABN 73 110 344 735**



**[REDACTED] NARRANDERA NSW 2700**

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Narrandera Shire Council  
141 East St  
NARRANDERA NSW 2700

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Lot 86 DP 1183416

The attached parcel of land is a very small section of land situated in Boundary Rd Narrandera.

I developed the Stage 3 Corella 22 lot development in Lettie St/ Powell St/ Boundary Rd section of Narrandera.

These blocks have now all been sold.

I do not understand why Lot 86 DP 1183416 was in the original subdivision as it sits in the middle of Council owned land.

Could you please advise what steps need to be taken to revert this small parcel of land back to Council ownership.

Yours faithfully

**[REDACTED]**  
Director

Hall & O'Hare Pty Ltd.



## 12.4 JONSEN PARK - EXTENSION OF LICENCE AGREEMENTS WITH NARRANDERA SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE CLUB AND NARRANDERA TENNIS CLUB INC.

**Document ID:** 791696

**Author:** Governance and Engagement Manager

**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community Services

**Theme:** Our Leadership

**Attachments:** Nil

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolves to extend the existing licence agreements with the Narrandera Senior Citizens Welfare Club and the Narrandera Tennis Club Incorporated for an additional period of 24 months with the existing licence conditions to apply.
2. Notes that a new Plan of Management will be developed for Jonsen Park, enabling new licence agreements to be entered into following the 24-month extension period referenced above.

### PURPOSE

This report seeks a resolution from Council to extend two (2) expiring licence agreements for infrastructure located on Council land known as Jonsen Park.

### SUMMARY

Council is the licensor for two (2) licence agreements located on Jonsen Park, the licensees being the Narrandera Senior Citizens Welfare Club and the Narrandera Tennis Club Incorporated. Both agreements conclude 30 June 2025.

### BACKGROUND

The expiring licences are for defined parts of Jonsen Park legally described as Lot 1 Section R DP 2888.

Jonsen Park has four (4) distinct uses (**Image 1**):

1. An active playground area located to the north
2. Narrandera Senior Citizens Welfare Club located beneath the playground to the east
3. Disused tennis courts located to the west of the Clubhouse, and
4. Narrandera Tennis Club located to the south.

Research shows that the land was gifted to Council in October 1922 by the developer of the Jonsen Estate, the late Albert Nathan Jonsen. The Certificate of Title contains a restriction that *“the transferee will use the land for no other purpose than a public park to be called and known as ‘Jonsen Park’”*.

Jonsen Park is classified as community land in accordance with Chapter 6 Part 2 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), and Section 36 of the Act requires a Plan of Management for holdings of community land. However, Jonsen Park does not appear to

have a current Plan of Management at the present time; therefore, new licence agreements are not able to be progressed at this point in time.

The expiring 20-year licence agreements were executed in 2005 using an undated Plan of Management. The opportunity now presents for Council to prepare a new contemporary Plan of Management for Jonsen Park. The preparation of this new Plan of Management will evolve further to include other lands managed by Council as community land.



Image 1 – locality map of Jonsen Park

The licence agreements with both the Narrandera Senior Citizens Club and the Narrandera Tennis Club Incorporated conclude 30 June 2025, with the licences containing no options to renew. Section 46(1)(b)(i) and Section 46(4)(a)(i) & (ii) of the Act permit Council to enter into new licence agreements for less than five years with Section 47 detailing the methods of community consultation for the granting of a licence.

Given there is not a current Plan of Management for Jonsen Park and that the two (2) licences are about to conclude, the preferred option is for Council to extend the existing licence agreements for a suggested maximum term of 24 months, therefore allowing both licensees to retain tenure. During this time, a new Plan of Management for Jonsen Park can be developed allowing new licence agreements to progress.

## **RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES**

### **Theme**

5 - Our Leadership

### **Strategy**

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

### **Action**

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

## **ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

- There are no policy implications for Council associated with this report.

### **Financial**

- A new contemporary Plan of Management for Jonsen Park will cost approximately \$10,000. It is intended to seek a budget variation in the current 2024-25 financial year to commence this work.
- There is no revenue returned to Council from either of the licence agreements. However, if the licence agreements were not in place, there would be additional financial burdens placed on Council to manage and maintain these properties.

### **Legal / Statutory**

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*

### **Community Engagement / Communication**

- The new Plan of Management, once drafted, will be placed on exhibition seeking community comment.

**RISKS**

The risks are:

1. There are two (2) existing licence agreements for parts of Jonsen Park that conclude 30 June 2025. Given that a contemporary Plan of Management for Jonsen Park does not exist, the development of new licence agreements cannot be progressed.
2. Without an extension to the existing licence agreements, both licensees will not have legal tenure for exclusive use of respective parts of Jonsen Park beyond 30 June 2025.

**CONCLUSION**

As detailed in this report, it is recommended that Council extends the existing licence agreements with Narrandera Senior Citizens Welfare Club and Narrandera Tennis Club Incorporated for an additional period of 24 months, with the existing licence conditions to apply. A new Plan of Management will then be developed for Jonsen Park, allowing new licence agreements to progress.

## 12.5 GRONG GRONG SPORTSGROUND - REQUEST FROM GRONG GRONG HORSE SPORTS INCORPORATED FOR EXCLUSIVE SHORT-TERM LICENCE

**Document ID:** 791932

**Author:** Governance and Engagement Manager

**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community Services

**Theme:** Our Leadership

**Attachments:** 1. Correspondence from Grong Grong Horse Sports Incorporated

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the correspondence from Grong Grong Horse Sports Incorporated, appended at *Attachment 1*, requesting an exclusive short-term licence for Reserve 559010 being the Grong Grong Sportsground.
2. Endorses consultation with relevant stakeholders, as detailed in this report, in relation to Grong Grong Horse Sport Incorporated's request.
3. Pursuant to section 2.20 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and clause 31(3) of the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018*, grants Grong Grong Horse Sports Incorporated an exclusive short-term licence for part of Reserve 559010 being the Grong Grong Sportsgrounds, subject to no adverse submissions being received in the stakeholder consultation process.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to acknowledge correspondence received from Grong Grong Horse Sports Incorporated requesting the issue a short-term licence agreement over Reserve 559010 the Grong Grong Sportsground. This report recommends that stakeholder consultation be undertaken in relation to this request and, subject to adverse submissions being received, the request be approved.

### SUMMARY

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 18 March 2025, members of Grong Grong Horse Sports Incorporated addressed Council seeking a five-year licence agreement for exclusive use of Grong Grong Sportsground. Following the presentation, Grong Grong Horse Sports Incorporated provided Council a formal letter of request, which is appended at **Attachment 1**.

### BACKGROUND

Grong Grong Sportsground was gazetted as Reserve 559010 (the Reserve) on 9 June 1897 for the purpose of Public Recreation. The legal description for the land is Lot 1 Section 27 DP 758477, Lots 1 to 10 Section 28 DP 758477 and Lot 7003 DP 1025178 (**Image 1**).

Research shows that Council has been the Trustee of this land for many decades, either as the former Yanko Shire Council or the current Narrandera Shire Council. Council formally became known as the Reserve Trust Manager (RTM) through the NSW Government Gazette dated 16 December 1994.

It is important to recognise that part of the Reserve is subject to an undetermined Aboriginal Land Claim No.57102 lodged 13 November 2024 over Lots 1, 2 and 10 Section 28 DP 758477, and Lot 7003 DP 1025178.




 <p>NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL 141 East Street Narrandera NSW 2700 Ph: 02 6959 5510</p>	<p><b>GRONG GRONG SPORTSGROUND</b></p> <p>This map is a representation of the information currently held by Narrandera Shire Council. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the product, Council accepts no responsibilities for any errors or omissions.</p>	<p>Date: 10/4/2025</p> <p>Compiled by: GIS Narrandera</p> <p>Co-ordinate System: MGA 94 Zone 55</p> <p>Ref: 792865</p>
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Image 1 – Grong Grong Sportsground

Because the land is Crown land, Council as the RTM must act in accordance with the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (the Act). Part 3 Section 3.17 of the Act states that a Crown land manager (ie: Council) can act as the Minister in regard to secondary interests in or short-term licences over dedicated or reserved Crown land, other than where a provision requires Ministerial consent.

Part 2 Section 2.20 (2) of the Act states that the Minister (Council) may grant a short-term licence over dedicated or reserved Crown land for any prescribed purpose.

Clause 31(3) of the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018* (“the Regulation”) prescribes that a period of one (1) year is the maximum term for which a short-term licence may be granted under Section 2.20 of the Act inclusive of any further term available under an option or holding over provision. The Regulation requires an application fee for the consideration of the issue of a short-term licence being \$117.29.

Essentially it is possible to issue a short-term licence, but the maximum term is for one (1) year with the Committee to make an annual application to Council. Further enquiries will need to be made to Crown land NSW to determine if it is possible for the Minister to consider a longer term.

Council previously issued four (4) short-term licences to the Narrandera & District Gymkhana Club for use of the Reserve during the period late 2010 to mid-2015. Council encouraged the Club to form a Community Trust with the responsibilities as Trust Manager transferring from Council to the Club, however this did not eventuate.

### **Issues**

There is an undetermined Aboriginal land claim for part of the Reserve (ie: Lots 1, 2 and 10 Section 28 DP 758477, and Lot 7003 DP 1025178). This creates what is known as an inchoate (unformed) interest in those identified allotments within the Reserve meaning that generally no dealings are permitted.

Given the location of the infrastructure on the land, it is possible to issue a short-term licence for the allotments not under claim (ie: Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Section 28 DP 758477, and Lot 1 Section 27 DP 758477) but, in practical terms, Lot 7003 DP 1025178, which is subject to claim, separates Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Section 28 DP 758477.

### **Solution**

A solution would be to issue a short-term licence for the allotments not under claim (ie: Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Section 28 DP 758477, and Lot 1 Section 27 DP 758477) then enter into a basic maintenance agreement with the Committee for the allotments that are currently under claim (ie: Lots 1, 2 and 10 Section 28 DP 758477, and Lot 7003 DP 1025178).

### **Consultation**

Depending on the outcome of this report, the claimant for the Aboriginal land claim would need to be one of the stakeholders consulted about the issue of an exclusive short-time licence and also the maintenance agreement for the lands under claim. In the same item of correspondence, the claimant could be asked to consider withdrawing the claim from the Reserve.

Consultation with the general community would also be necessary using traditional print media, correspondence, signage and social media.

**Moving forward**

Although not a decision to be made at this meeting, Council could potentially assist Grong Grong Horse Sports Incorporated to seek the transfer of Reserve Trust Management obligations to a community group or another form of community management.

**RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES****Theme**

5 - Our Leadership

**Strategy**

5.1 - Have a Council that provides leadership through actions and effective communication.

**Action**

5.1.2 - Support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

**ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS****Policy**

- N/A

**Financial**

- Although there will be a small amount of revenue received from the short-term licence application, there will be long-term savings to Council in that maintenance of the Grong Grong Sportsground Reserve will be actioned by the licensee.

**Legal / Statutory**

- *Local Government Act, 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation, 2021*
- *Crown Land Management Act, 2016*
- *Crown Land Management Regulation, 2018*
- *Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983*

**Community Engagement / Communication**

- Engagement and consultation commences with presentation of this report within the ordinary section of this business paper. Additionally, the proposal will be advertised to the Grong Grong community using both traditional print media, correspondence, signage and Council's social media platforms.

**RISKS**

The risks include the following:

1. Continued operational expenses for Council into the future for the maintenance of the Grong Grong Sportsground, with greater community expectations about improving the Reserve.



2. Following the consultation phase for the proposed issue of an exclusive short-term licence, objections may be received that may prevent Council from issuing a licence.
3. The conditions attached to the proposed standard licence agreement developed by Crown land NSW may be considered too onerous for the Committee to action.

### **CONCLUSION**

Council has received correspondence from an active Grong Grong local committee for the issue of an exclusive short-term licence for a period of five (5) years over Reserve 559010 known as the Grong Grong Sportsground. As Reserve Trust Manager, Council can only enter into a one-year licence agreement for part of Reserve 559010.

It is recommended that Council endorses stakeholder consultation, as detailed in this report, and progresses a one-year licence agreement with Grong Grong Horse Sports Incorporated, subject to no adverse submissions being received during the consultation process.

## GRONG GRONG VILLAGE RECREATION GROUNDS

### GRONG GRONG HORSE SPORTS INC

The purpose of this proposal is to outline the commitment Grong Grong Horse Sports Inc would like to make regarding the old "Rodeo Grounds" bordered by Lachlan, Balaro, Willandra & Burrangong Streets, Grong Grong.

We would like the Council to consider offering GGHSI a 5 year lease for the grounds otherwise known as a Short Term Licence, Section 2.20 Crown Land Management Act 2016.

It is a great space with so much room for growth and opportunity for our rural town. The benefits to the town and outlying services are numerous to mention, though I will outline a rudimentary plan. We have considered a well rounded, sustainable, community encompassing structure which is future focused, financially viable and with improvements, environmentally sustainable.

To give you an idea of the depth and experience of our Committee, I would like to introduce you to them as follows:-

**Mick Batchelor, President** - Previously a long time conservator of the abovementioned land with many years of experience running the historically famous "Grongy Rodeo" on these grounds. Mick is also an exceptional Horseman and a very active member of The Lighthorse movement, another extremely important part of our History as Australians.

**Brett Wilson, Vice President** – The can do guy. Brett is a recent resident of Grong Grong and is also a great horseman in his own right. Brett is a tradesman who works tirelessly in his profession and on his own property. Brett has many connections and friends within the trades industries and equine industries. Brett lives across the road from the property and is committed to maintenance and security of the grounds.

**Kellie Wilson, Secretary** - Kellie is also a recent Resident of Grong Grong. Strengths lie in organisation, paperwork and fundraising. Kellie was part of the Southern Zone Committee for the ABCRA for many years and is great at Event Management. Currently studying a Bachelors in Psychology to undertake a career in Equine Assisted Therapy.

**Carla Judd, Treasurer** – Carla is currently the Treasurer for Ganmain Pony Club and works locally in Grong Grong. Carla is also a strong competitor in Stockhorse Classes and Heavy Horses recently returning successfully from the Canberra Royal with many Broad sashes.

**Renee Perram, Public Officer** – Renee is a very experienced Public Officer being a leader in the driving force to bring Arian Show back to from the brink of closure. Renee also has an extensive and successful history in grant applications for both Government and Councils alike. Renee is also a resident of Grong Grong and would like to see a multi use space available for her family to enjoy.

**Harry Judd, Ground Manager** – Harry is a local Farrier, Diesel Mechanic and has worked at many local farms during harvest. Harry brings with him a wealth of knowledge in Land Management, Earth Moving, Strategic Thinking and a whole lot of motivation. Harry participates in Stockhorse Events along with his wife Carla.



We would like to approach this with the following goals in mind.

1. Utilise the existing facilities for equine events to raise money for improvements in land management, to completely clean the facility of weeds, correct uneven ground, repair fencing and stock yards.
2. Community participation will play a large role in doing the above, we have had many local businesses reach out and offer services time and money to see the grounds up and running again. This will further allow us to create and grow a true community space within the grounds that the whole town can utilise and be proud of. The idea has been raised for a Community Garden which is definitely a possibility. There are many farmers and some agronomists who have offered their time and knowledge to create an easily managed, well covered sustainable space.
3. GGHSI if granted the land will undertake a \$20 million Public Liability Insurance with Affinity Insurance immediately. This will then allow us to offer other associations to run different events such as Dog Skills Training, Collectible and Markets Events, Event space for outdoor functions with community consideration.
4. As Equine enthusiasts we all travel miles and miles to attend events like Team Penning, Team Yarding, Speed Penning, Rodeo, Breed Shows, Pony Club, Dressage, Eventing, Clinics and Challenges. We would love to have some at home and bring some money into the Region. One event will fill the Motel and the Hotel every weekend we run one. People will then spend money in the surrounding towns on their way to the event or on their way home.
5. The space can also be utilised for Riding for the Disabled with some small easily manageable changes to the Arena. Anyone that can utilise this Service has to travel to Wagga Wagga or Griffith we can be more accessible for many more people to utilise the space. Investigations are currently underway to facilitate this.
6. In conjunction with CSU we can offer a unique experience for Students to continue their Hybrid Indigenous Australian Studies subjects in Environmental Management with a truly unique spot that has many recognised sites on Country.

These are some of our thoughts and there are thousands more to explore. We would like to eventually grow to an annual event which incorporates the famous "Grongy Rodeo", Food Vans, Live Music, Lighthorse displays and a truly unique "GRONGY" event.

We have the depth of ability in our committee, the drive to do so and the absolute want to see our town thrive.

Thankyou for taking the time to read our proposal.

## 12.6 PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT DOCTOR ATTRACTION AND RETENTION INCENTIVES POLICY

**Document ID:** 793413

**Author:** Community Support Manager

**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community Services

**Theme:** Our Community

**Attachments:** 1. Doctor Attraction and Retention Incentives Policy (Draft)

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Doctor Attraction and Retention Incentives Policy, appended at *Attachment 1*, for public exhibition.
2. Adopts the draft Doctor Attraction Incentives Policy as exhibited, subject to no submissions received.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement for the public exhibition of the draft Doctor Attraction and Retention Incentives Policy, appended at **Attachment 1**, for a period of 28 days and subsequently adopted, subject to no submissions being received. If submissions are received, the matter will be brought back to Council for consideration and determination.

### SUMMARY

The draft Doctor Attraction and Retention Incentives Policy ("the draft Policy") provides a framework for Council to support the attraction and retention of medical doctors to the Narrandera Shire community, via the provision of financial assistance in line with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act").

### BACKGROUND

In late 2024, Council received a request from the Narrandera Medical Centre to assist in meeting expenses associated with recruiting a new doctor and supporting their relocation to Narrandera. At its Ordinary Meeting held 10 December 2024, Council subsequently resolved to provide financial support [**res.24/211**]. At that meeting, Council also requested a policy be developed to guide potential future decision-making in relation to supporting attraction and retention initiatives for medical doctors.

Given healthcare is a responsibility of the State and Commonwealth Governments, local councils do not have a legislated role under the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the LG Act") to provide such services to their communities. However, access to health services in rural, regional and remote NSW remains an ongoing challenge, and it is not uncommon for local councils to take on additional responsibilities to support the attraction and retention of medical practitioners to their communities.

In its submission to the NSW Parliament's 2020 *Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote New South Wales*, Local Government NSW ("LGNSW") detailed a range of incentives provided by local councils to support improved health outcomes and health service access in their communities. Such

incentives include accommodation, travel incentives, private and commercial rental subsidies, and funding of equipment, facilities and other infrastructure.

Section 356 of the LG Act provides that local councils may provide financial assistance to others, including private individuals. The provision of such assistance must, however, be made in accordance with the requirements and principles of the LG Act. As such, where councils do provide financial assistance to others, better practice is for councils to develop and adopt a formal policy to provide a transparent framework for the provision of such assistance.

## **RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES**

### **Theme**

1 - Our Community

### **Strategy**

1.2 - Work together to advocate for quality health, education, youth and social services.

### **Action**

1.2.4 - Continued advocacy for the delivery of integrated health services and well-being programs.

## **ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

- The draft Policy provides a framework for the provision of financial assistance to support the attraction of skilled medical doctors to Narrandera Shire. If adopted, the draft Policy will form part of Council's Policy Register and be published to Council's website.

### **Financial**

- If the draft Policy is approved, Council will need to make a budget allocation of \$20,000 via its annual Operational Plan to support its administration.
- Under the terms of the draft Policy, the General Manager would have delegation to consider and approve requests up to this amount. Where requests exceed demand, determination would be escalated to the Council and made via resolution.

### **Legal / Statutory**

- As noted above, section 356 of the Act provides that Council may provide financial assistance to others, including private individuals. Provision of such assistance must be in accordance with the requirements and principles of the Act.

### **Community Engagement / Communication**

- The draft Policy will be publicly exhibited from 15 April 2025 (upon Council resolution) to Friday, 16 May 2025, which is slightly longer than the typical 28-day exhibition period. During the public exhibition period, members of the community will be invited to view and provide comment on the draft Policy. Any submissions received will be provided to Council for review.

**RISKS**

Council currently lacks a clear and transparent policy to guide its decision-making in relation to providing financial assistance to support the attraction of medical doctors to Narrandera Shire. Adoption of a policy ensures there is a consistent approach moving forward, mitigating the risk of inconsistent decision-making.

**CONCLUSION**

The draft Policy has been developed to provide a framework for Council to support the attraction of skilled medical doctors to the Narrandera Shire. It is recommended that the draft Policy be endorsed for public exhibition and adopted, subject to no submissions being received. If submissions are received, the matter will be brought back to Council for consideration and determination.



# Doctor Attraction and Retention Incentives Policy 202Y

## POL000



**NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL**

**Chambers:** 141 East Street Narrandera NSW 2700  
**Email:** council@narrandera.nsw.gov.au

**Phone:** 02 6959 5510  
**Fax:** 02 6959 1884



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**Policy No:** POL000  
**Policy Title:** Doctor Attraction and Retention Incentives Policy  
**Section Responsible:** Corporate and Community Services  
**Minute No/Ref:** XXXXXXX  
**Doc ID:** 762589

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### 1. INTENT

Narrandera Shire Council ("Council") is committed to ensuring that residents of the Narrandera Shire local government area enjoy access to quality medical, health and allied services. To that end, Council recognises the importance of attracting and retaining a skilled health workforce in the Narrandera Shire local government area.

Under section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act"), Council is able to provide financial assistance to others, subject to the restrictions of the Act. The intent of this Doctor Attraction and Retention Initiatives Policy ("this Policy") is to provide a framework for the provision of financial assistance to attract and retain medical doctors to the Narrandera Shire local government area, when a workforce skill shortage is identified.

### 2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to medical doctors who have accepted an offer of employment to work within and engage in medical practice in the Narrandera Shire local government area and intend to reside within the Narrandera Shire local government area.

This Policy does not extend to health workers employed by the NSW Health Service and engaged under the *Health Services Act 1997*, who are able to access comparable incentives to under the NSW Government's Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme.

### 3. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to provide a framework for Council to support the attraction and retention of medical doctors to the Narrandera Shire local government area, when a workforce skill shortage is identified, via the provision of financial assistance pursuant to section 356 of the Act.



#### 4. POLICY STATEMENT

Disparities in health outcomes and service access for those living in rural, regional and remote Australia compared to those in major cities have existed for many years. Council recognises that it can play a role in improving health outcomes and service access within the Narrandera Shire local government area, via the provision of financial assistance to attract and retain medical doctors to the Narrandera Shire local government area.

#### 5. PROVISIONS

##### 5.1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Council may provide financial assistance to medical doctors to support them in relocating to the Narrandera Shire local government area and retaining them in the local health workforce, subject to budget allocated in Council's annual Operational Plan as adopted by Council prior to the commencement of the financial year.

##### 5.1.1 Visa Expenses Assistance

Council may reimburse visa application expenses for medical doctors and their dependants, in circumstances where the applicant is relocating to the Narrandera Shire local government area from abroad and is required to obtain a visa from the Department of Home Affairs in order to do so.

Provision of visa expenses assistance will be subject to the following conditions:

- a. Reimbursement will only be made after the applicant's visa application (and those of any dependants) has been formally approved by the Department of Home Affairs, and the applicant (and any dependants) have relocated to the Narrandera Shire local government area.
- b. If the applicant ceases to engage in medical practice in the Narrandera Shire local government area within two (2) years (being 24 months) following provision of visa expenses assistance under this Policy; Council requires the visa expenses assistance to be repaid in full.

##### 5.1.2 Relocation Assistance

Council may provide a one-off allowance of up to \$8,000.00 to assist with relocation expenses and accommodation assistance.

Provision of relocation assistance will be subject to the following conditions:

- a. The applicant is required to engage in medical practice in the Narrandera Shire local government area for a minimum period of two (2) years (being 24 months).
- b. If the applicant ceases to engage in medical practice in the Narrandera Shire local government area within two (2) years (being 24 months) following provision of financial assistance under this Policy; Council requires the allowance to be repaid on a pro-rata basis.

## 5.2 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for financial assistance under this Policy:

- a. The application must be received and approved prior to the commencement of employment. Retrospective applications will not be considered or accepted.
- b. The applicant must be able to provide evidence of having accepted an offer of employment to work within in the Narrandera Shire local government area, in medical practice.
- c. The applicant must be able to demonstrate evidence of residing, or intending to reside, within the Narrandera Shire local government area.

## 5.3 APPLICATION AND APPROVAL

### 5.3.1 Application Process

The process to apply for financial assistance under this Policy will be as follows:

- a. An application must be submitted in writing to Council and addressed to the General Manager.
- b. The application must identify the level of financial assistance sought and provide evidence to support the provision of financial assistance under this Policy, including details of their employment and residence in the Narrandera Shire local government (e.g. signed offer of employment, signed property lease agreement, etc.).
- c. The application must be accompanied by a letter of support from the applicant's employer confirming the applicant's employment status, employment term, hours of employment per week, and location of employment.
- d. The application must be made prior to the applicant's relocation to the Narrandera Shire local government area.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility or application requirements outlined in this Policy will not be considered or approved.

### 5.3.2 Determination and Approval Process

Council's General Manager is delegated authority to:

- a. Approve the payment of financial assistance, subject to the provisions and conditions of this Policy.
- b. Enter into agreements for the provision of financial assistance on behalf of Council, subject to the provisions and conditions of this Policy.

### 5.3.3 Budget Allocation

All determinations and approvals made under this Policy are subject to the budget allocated in the annual Operational Plan.

In circumstances where the level of financial assistance sought exceeds Council's endorsed budget allocation, the decision to determine and approve applications shall be referred to Council and made via resolution.

#### 5.4 PAYMENT OF FUNDS

If the application is approved, the applicant will be required to sign an agreement confirming the financial assistance to be provided, and any conditions and restrictions imposed on the assistance provided.

Payment of financial assistance will not be made until the agreement is signed by both the applicant and Council's General Manager (or delegate).

#### 6. DEFINITIONS

- **Council** means Narrandera Shire Council.
- **Department of Home Affairs** means the Australian Department of Home Affairs.
- **General Manager** means the General Manager of Narrandera Shire Council appointed pursuant to section 344 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- **Medical doctor** means a doctor practising medicine registered with the Medical Board of Australia.

#### 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

##### 7.1 GENERAL MANAGER

- Determine the payment of financial assistance, subject to the provisions and conditions of this Policy.
- Enter into agreements for the provision of financial assistance on behalf of Council, subject to the provisions and conditions of this Policy.

#### 8. RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*, Section 356 – Can a council financially assist others?

#### 9. RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Nil.

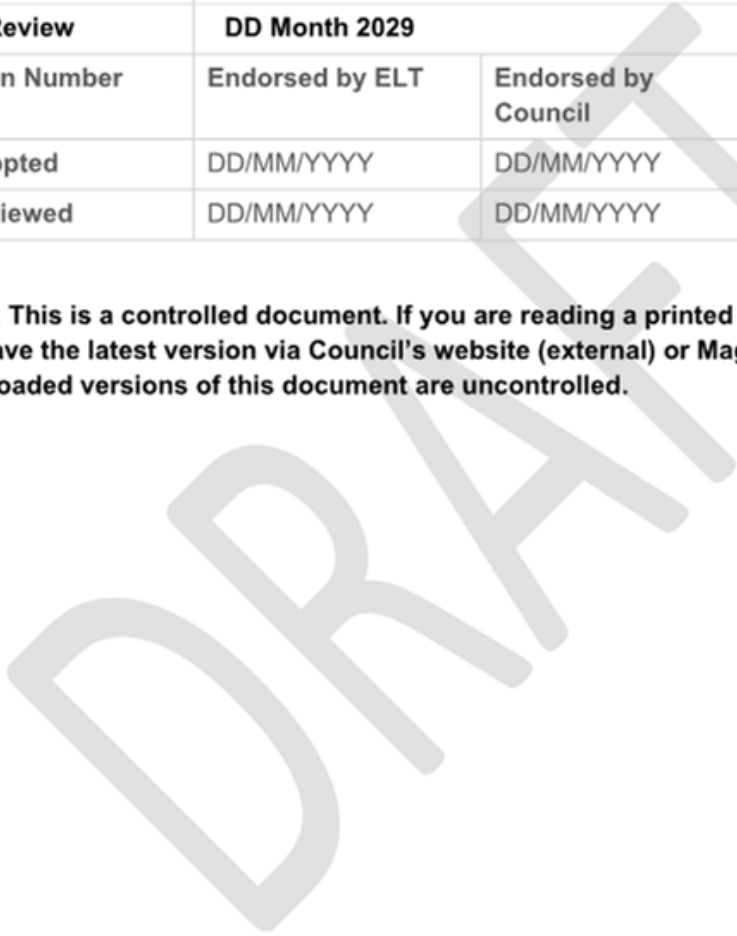
#### 10. VARIATION

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this Policy in accordance with legislation, regulation and award changes, where applicable. Council may also make changes to this Policy and any relevant procedures from time-to-time to improve the effectiveness of its operation.

**POLICY HISTORY**

<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community Services</b>		
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Council</b>		
<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>DD Month 2025</b>		
<b>GM Signature (Authorised staff to insert signature)</b>			
<b>Next Review</b>	<b>DD Month 2029</b>		
<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Endorsed by ELT</b>	<b>Endorsed by Council</b>	<b>Date signed by GM</b>
1 Adopted	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY
2 Reviewed	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY

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**13 REPORTS OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**13.1 ADOPTION - SECTION 7.12 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION PLAN 2025**

**Document ID:** 792234

**Author:** Deputy General Manager Infrastructure

**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Infrastructure

**Theme:** Our Infrastructure

**Attachments:** 1. Draft Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Adopts Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025 for commencement on 1 July 2025.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025 for commencement on 1 July 2025.

**SUMMARY**

Council resolved at the February 2025 Ordinary Council meeting to place the Draft Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025 for Narrandera Shire Council on public exhibition for the required period of 28 days. This exhibition process concluded on 20 March 2025 with no submissions having been received and the Plan is now presented before Council again for final adoption.

**BACKGROUND**

The Draft Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Plan 2025, has been adapted from the two current plans, being the Narrandera Section 94A Contributions Plan 2014 and Narrandera Shire Council Section 94 Contributions Plan – Pine Hill 1994. The levy rates have been retained as below. The Plan will apply to all development, with exception of those single dwelling-based developments.

<b>Cost of Development</b>	<b>Contribution levy rate %</b>
All development valued up to and including \$100,000	0%
All development valued between \$100,000 to \$200,000	0.5%
All development valued in excess of \$200,000	1%

Review of the current contribution plans was identified as an improvement action under the Special Variation Improvement Plan. It provides an opportunity to capture some previously exempt areas, such as renewable energy, whilst meeting current regulatory requirements.

The Narrandera Shire Council Section 94 Contributions Plan – Pine Hill 1994 was developed to recoup the costs of infrastructure required at the time. However, the current plan fails to meet the legislative requirements, nor can a nexus be formed for any future developments in this area. This plan is therefore proposed to be repealed.

## **RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES**

### **Theme**

4 - Our Infrastructure

### **Strategy**

4.3 - To improve, maintain and value-add to our essential public and recreational infrastructure.

### **Action**

N/A

## **ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

- This Plan will replace both the Narrandera Section 94A Contributions Plan 2014 and Narrandera Shire Council Section 94 Contributions Plan – Pine Hill 1994.
- The current Section 64 (LG Act 1993) developer contribution plan for water and sewer will remain current.

### **Legal / Statutory**

- Development of the Plan was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act and associated regulations, guidelines and Planning directions.

### **Community Engagement / Communication**

- The minimum 28-day consultation process has been completed with no submissions having been received.

## **RISKS**

By not adopting the reviewed Plan, Council is at risk of not complying with the legislative requirements and will not collect development contributions to which it is entitled under the Plan.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025 as presented.
2. Amend and adopt the Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025.
3. Refuse to adopt and retain the current outdated contribution plans.

**CONCLUSION**

The Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025 will ensure that the Council is compliant with the legislative requirements and provide the opportunity to collect contribution funds that are permitted under the Act.



## Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025





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## 1. Executive Summary

### 1.1 Purpose and objectives of the Plan

This Plan is the Draft Local Infrastructure Plan for Narrandera Shire Council (Council) and has been put together to meet the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. It allows Council or an Accredited Certifier to levy contributions from developments to fund public amenities and services.

This Plan aims to ensure that adequate public facilities are available for future developments and to prevent the existing community from bearing the costs associated with these facilities. Additionally, the Plan establishes the administrative framework for the collection, spending, accounting, and review of development contributions in a fair manner. In doing so, it ensures both public and financial accountability.

### 1.2 Nature of future development

Whilst the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) forecast a decrease in population, this is not considered to be a reflection what is currently happening or expected to occur. Instead, it is anticipated that up to 2035, the population of the Narrandera Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA) will grow by 500 people.

The Narrandera LGA is experiencing a considerable amount of change, with investment into the industrial areas and regional renewable energy projects resulting in the attraction of support industry to the area. Sustained growth in our traditional rural industries such as agriculture and support industries are expected. Local advancements and societal shifts, such as the reticulation of sewer in Barellan and growing industry attraction in Narrandera, are predicted to result in an increase in population of 500 people over the next 10 years.

This future development will require new, extended, or augmented public amenities and services.

### 1.3 Life of the Plan

The Plan covers a 10-year planning period, aligning with Council's 10-year financial plan, and generally fitting in with various NSW State Government and Council strategies. It also falls within the timeframe of residential and employment forecasts used by Council for planning and infrastructure purposes.

The levy payable under this Plan will be indexed from the date of determination until the date of payment of the contribution. Additionally, the development costs used to calculate the levy under this Plan will be indexed from the date of the cost estimate to the date of determination.

### 1.4 Other funding sources

Contributions sought by this Plan may only partially fund infrastructure listed in this Plan. Council will draw upon other funding sources to meet the residual costs to deliver such infrastructure.

### 1.5 Treatment of funds collected prior to the commencement of this Plan

Funds levied and collected under previous Development Contributions Plans will be used to deliver community infrastructure of a similar facility category for which they were originally collected and spent within the same catchment from within which they were levied.

Table 1 Summary of Contribution Rates

Cost of Development	Contribution levy rate %
All development valued up to and including \$100,000	0%
All development valued between \$100,000 to \$200,000	0.5%
All development valued in excess of \$200,000	1%

### 1.6 Works schedule

Contributions sought through this Plan will be used to fund, in part or in full, the public amenities and services set out in the Schedule of Works at **Appendix E**.

### 1.7 Structure of this Plan

- Section 1 – Executive Summary (this section).
- Section 2 – Introduction, identifies the name of the Plan, its commencement date, the purpose, aims and objectives of the Plan, the land and forms of development which the Plan applies and the Plan’s relationship to other plans, reports and policies.
- Section 3 – Administration and Operation of the Plan, outlines the types of public amenities and services addressed by the Plan, describes how and when contributions are to be made and provide details regarding the ongoing management of the Plan.
- Section 4 – Forecast Development and Demand for Infrastructure, outlines the residential and employment generating development forecast to occur during the life of this Plan and the plans, strategies and other documents that have contributed to the works schedule for this Plan.
- Appendix A – Abbreviations and definitions
- Appendix B – Determining the proposed Costs of Development
- Appendix C – Cost Summary Report Templates
- Appendix D – Model Conditions of Consent
- Appendix E – Rollover funds, Catchments and Work Schedules
- Appendix F – Map

## 2. Introduction

This Plan has been prepared to determine the Section 7.12 local infrastructure levy that applies and the public facilities that are to be funded by the levy. [Name of the Plan](#)

This plan is the Draft Narrandera Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2025.

### 2.2 Abbreviations and definitions used in the Plan

The meanings of key words and terms used in this Plan are contained in **Appendix A** Abbreviations and Definitions.

### 2.3 Commencement of the Plan

This Plan has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act) and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (the Regulation).

- The Plan will be adopted following public exhibition of the draft version of the Plan.
- This plan is anticipated to commence in July 2025.

### 2.4 Purpose and objectives of the Plan

The Plan's purpose and objectives are:

- To authorise the imposition of a condition on certain development consents and complying development certificates requiring the payment of a contribution pursuant to section 7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- To assist Council to provide the appropriate public facilities that are required to maintain and enhance amenity and service delivery within the area.
- To ensure that the existing community is not burdened by the provision of public facilities required as a result of future development.
- To publicly identify the purposes for which the levies are required.
- To govern the application of money paid to Council under a condition authorised by this Plan.

### 2.5 Area to which the Plan applies

This Plan applies to the entire Narrandera Shire Council LGA identified in **Appendix F** Map.

### 2.6 Operation period of this Plan

The Plan is intended to cater for a 10-year planning period from 2022 to 2032 with this period generally aligning with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Long Term Financial Plan and Resourcing Strategy.

The Plan will be monitored and, if necessary, the works schedule may be amended to account for infrastructure works that have been delivered or for which there has been a change in the estimated costs or timing.

In line with Delivery Program, the Plan will be reviewed every four years.

## 2.7 Relationship with other contributions plans

This plan repeals the following contributions plans:

- Narrandera Section 94A Contributions Plan 2014
- Narrandera Shire Council Section 94 Contributions Plan – Pine Hill 1994

Contributions imposed on developments under the above plans and paid to or held by Council will be applied to completing the works shown in **Appendix E**.

## 2.8 Savings and transitional arrangements

There are no savings or transitional provisions under this Plan. That is, if a development application has been made before the commencement of this Plan in relation to land to which this Plan applies and the application has not been finally determined before that commencement, the application shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Plan.

If a modification application pursuant to s4.55 or s4.56 of the Act has been made before the commencement of this Plan in relation to land to which this Plan applies and the application has not been finally determined before that commencement, the application must be determined in accordance with the contributions plan that applied at the date that the original development consent was granted.

This Plan does not affect any conditions imposed under a previous plan(s). Any application made under the Act to modify a development consent issued before the commencement date of this Plan will be determined against the plan that applied at the date the consent was originally determined.

### 3. Administration of the Plan

#### 3.1 Development to which this plan applies

This Plan applies to:

- Residential development (excluding single dwellings)
- Subdivisions
- Seniors living (integrated facilities, hostels, and residential care facilities)
- Rural industries, agriculture and agritourism
- Industrial development
- Retail shops, business premises, commercial premises, offices
- Educational establishments
- Tourist and visitor accommodation
- Eco-tourist facilities
- All other development, including renewable energy developments.

Exemptions to this Plan are identified in 3.4.

#### 3.2 Calculating the contributions

The maximum percentage of the proposed cost of carrying out development that may be imposed by a development levy for development is:

*Table 2 - Maximum percentage Levy for Development*

Cost of Development	Contribution levy rate %
All development valued up to and including \$100,000	0%
All development valued between \$100,000 to \$200,000	0.5%
All development valued in excess of \$200,000	1%

The levy will be determined on the basis of the rate as set out in the table above. The levy will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Levy payable} = \%C \times (\$C - E)$$

Where:

- i. %C is the levy rate applicable
- ii. \$C is the proposed cost of carrying out the development
- iii. E is the exemptions as per Clause 208 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021.

### 3.3 Calculating the cost of works

The proposed cost of carrying out the development will be determined in accordance with clause 208 of the EP&A Regulation. The procedures set out for submitting a development application (included in this plan) must be followed to enable Council to determine the amount of the levy to be paid.

The proposed cost may be adjusted before payment of a development levy, to reflect annual variations to readily accessible index figures adopted by the Plan between the day on which the proposed cost was determined by the consent authority and the day by which the development levy must be paid.

The genuine estimate of the cost of works must be supplied at the time an application is lodged. When determining the estimated cost of works, applicants must have regard to [Planning Circular PS 21-022 Calculating the genuine estimated cost of development](#).

Consistent with this circular, development applications are to be estimated in accordance with the following:

- for development up to \$100,000, the estimated cost be estimated by the applicant or a suitably qualified person, with the methodology used to calculate that cost submitted with the development application.
- for development between \$500,000 and \$3 million, a suitably qualified person should prepare the cost estimate and submit it, along with the methodology, with the development application.
- for development more than \$3 million, a detailed cost report prepared by a registered quantity surveyor.

Note: A **suitably qualified person** is a builder who is licensed to undertake the proposed works, a registered architect, a qualified and accredited building designer, a registered quantity surveyor, or a person who is licensed and has the relevant qualifications and proven experience in costing of development works at least to a similar scale and type as is proposed.

Cost Summary Report Templates are available in **Appendix C**.

Council may, at the applicant's cost, engage a person referred to in this clause to review a report submitted by an applicant in accordance with clause 2.3.

### 3.4 Exemptions

This plan does not apply to the following types of development:

- Where the proposed cost of carrying out the development is \$100,000 or less
- A single dwelling house
- Dwelling house that replaces an existing dwelling house
- Development ordinarily incidental or ancillary to the use of a dwelling house, such as a swimming pool, garages, sheds, carports, decks and the like
- Alterations, fit outs, or refurbishment of an existing development, where there is no enlargement, expansion, increase in floor area or intensification of the current use (208)(4)(g)
- An application for demolition (where there is no replacement building or development)
- An application by or on behalf of Council for community infrastructure, such as, but not limited to libraries, community facilities, waste management facilities, recreation areas, recreation facilities and carparks



- Development for the sole purpose of adaptive re-use of an item of environmental heritage contained in Council's Heritage Schedule 5.10 in the Narrandera Local Environmental Plan 2013
- Development for the sole purpose of providing affordable housing assessed under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021
- Development that involves the rebuilding or repair of damage resulting from declared natural disasters by the NSW State Government, such as flooding or bushfires
- Not for profit or charity groups – the standard of evidence required is:
  - A Certificate of Registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission; or
  - A Notice of Endorsement as a Deductible Gift Recipient, issued by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO); or
  - A Notice of Endorsement for Charity Tax Concessions, issued by the ATO.

Council will not provide exemptions to development contributions made under this Plan other than exemptions or discounts outlined above or outlined by a Ministerial direction under Section 7.17 Directions by Minister of the EP&A Act.

Council does not apply discounts to the payment of development contributions unless otherwise stated in this Plan.

### 3.5 Refunding contributions

The EP&A Act and Regulation do not make provision for refunds for contributions and there is no express power for a Council to refund contributions already paid in accordance with a condition of consent. However, Council at its complete discretion, may consider a refund where:

- A consent has been modified under the Act resulting in a reduction of the contributions payable; or
- Contributions have been paid but development has not commenced and will not proceed in accordance with the consent. In this instance, the consent will need to be surrendered in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

In each case, Council will consider refunding contributions if it has not been spent and the refund will not impact on Council's ability to deliver the works outlined in the Works Schedule. The applicant must apply for a refund in writing within 12 months of the payment of the contribution.

### 3.6 Imposing contributions

In accordance with the Act, a development levy under this Plan will be imposed as a condition of development consent, or as a condition on a Complying Development Certificate. Model Conditions of Consent are available in **Appendix D**.

### 3.7 Payment of the contribution

A levy must be paid to Council at the time specified in the condition that imposes the levy. If no such time is specified, the levy must be paid as per the following:

- Development involving building work – prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate
- Complying Development – prior to the issue of the Complying Development Certificate
- In the case of Development Applications where no Construction Certificate or Occupation Certificate is required – prior to the commencement of works or use.

Where an application is dealt with by an Accredited Certifier other than Council, the development consent shall not operate unless the amount required by the consent under this Plan is paid to Council. The amount of any monetary contribution to be paid will be the contribution payable at the time of consent and, depending upon the time of payment, will be subject to reasonable adjustment due to movements in the Consumer Price Index and/or changes to the rates indicated within this Plan.

### 3.8 Indexation of contributions

This Plan authorises Council to undertake these indexed based changes without the necessity of preparing a new or amending the contributions plan. This is to ensure that the value of contributions is not eroded over time by movements in the Consumer Price Index, land value increases, the capital costs of construction of facilities and administration of the Plan, or through changes in the costs of studies to support the Plan.

Contributions required as a condition of development consent will be adjusted at the time of payment using the following formula:

$$\text{CP} = \frac{\text{CDC} \times \text{Current Index}}{\text{Base Index}}$$

Where:

- i. **CP** is the amount of the contribution calculated at the time of payment
- ii. **CDC** is the amount of the original contribution as set out in the development consent
- iii. **Current Index** is the Consumer Price Index  
All Groups Index for Sydney (as currently available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics at the time of payment).
- iv. **Base Index** is the Consumer Price index  
All Groups Index for Sydney which applied at the time of calculation as shown on the development consent.

### 3.9 Construction certificates and the obligations of Accredited Certifiers

In accordance with the Act and the Regulation, a certifying authority must not issue a Construction Certificate or an Occupation Certificate applicable under a development consent unless it has verified that each condition requiring the payment of monetary contributions has been satisfied.

In particular, the certifier must ensure that the applicant provides a receipt(s) confirming that contributions have been fully paid and copies of such receipts must be included with copies of the certified plans provided to Council in accordance with the Regulation. Failure to follow this procedure may render such a certificate invalid.

The only exceptions to the requirement are where a works in-kind, material public benefit, dedication of land or deferred payment arrangement has been agreed by Council. In such cases, Council will issue a letter confirming that an alternative payment method has been agreed with the applicant.

### 3.10 Complying Development and the obligation of Accredited Certifiers

In accordance with the Act, Accredited Certifiers must impose a condition on a Complying Development Certificate requiring monetary contributions in accordance with this Plan for all types of development,

except for those development that are exempt from charges as per clause 3.4 or those listed under clause 208 of the Regulation.

The conditions imposed must be generally consistent with Council's standard condition for Complying Development Certificates (see **Appendix D**) and be strictly in accordance with this Plan. It is the professional responsibility of an Accredited Certifier to inform themselves of any amendments to this Plan (including current indexed rates), to accurately calculate the contribution and to apply the development contributions condition correctly in accordance with Council's current consent condition requirements.

It is also the professional responsibility of an Accredited Certifier to ensure that any applicable monetary contributions have been paid to Council prior to the timings referred to in 3.7.

### 3.11 Pooling of levies

This Plan expressly authorises monetary contributions paid for different purposes to be pooled and applied (progressively or otherwise) for those purposes. The priorities for the expenditure of the levies are shown in the works schedule.

### 3.12 Deferred or periodic payment of levies

Deferred or periodic payments may only be permitted in:

- Circumstances where the applicant can demonstrate to Council that the payment of contributions in accordance with clause 3.7 is unreasonable, and Council accepts deferred or periodic payment; or
- Circumstances where the developer intends to make a contribution by way of works in-kind or land dedication in lieu of a cash contribution in a future stage of the one development and Council and the developer have a legally binding agreement for the provision of the works or dedication; or
- In other circumstances determined to be reasonable by Council; or
- They will not jeopardise the timely provision of works or land identified within the Plan; or
- They will not adversely impact on the cash flow of the Plan.

All requests for deferred or periodic payment of contributions are required to be made in writing and may only be accepted (in writing) where:

- There are valid reasons for the deferral or periodic payment (as outlined above)
- They will not adversely impact on the administration or operation of the Plan
- They will not jeopardise the timely provision of works or land identified within the Plan
- They will not adversely impact on the cash flow of the Plan.

The conditions under which Council may accept payment by way of periodic payment for a staged development are that:

- The instalment be paid before the work commences on the relevant stage of the development
- The amount to be paid at each stage is to be calculated on a pro-rata basis in proportion to the overall development.

Matters that will be considered for deferral requests include:

- The financial position of the contribution scheme,
- The extent of any loan borrowing,
- Future Capital commitments,
- Whether or not infrastructure works essential for the initial development can be deferred,
- Whether or not development/land release can be staged to more appropriately match infrastructure requirements and commitments.
- Under certain circumstances, an applicant may also request in writing, a deferral or variation of the contribution through a Voluntary Planning Agreement (Division 7.1 – Subdivision 2 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979).

Should a deferred or periodic payment be accepted by Council, a suitable bank guarantee, to the value of the outstanding contributions is to be lodged.

The conditions under which Council may accept deferred settlement by way of lodgement of a bank guarantee are that:

- The bank guarantee be by an Australian bank for the amount of the total contribution, or the amount of the outstanding contribution, plus an amount equal to twelve months interest,
- The Bank unconditionally pays the guaranteed sum to Council if Council so demands in writing not earlier than 12 months from the provision of the guarantee or completion of the work whichever occurs first,
- The Bank must pay the guaranteed sum without reference to the applicant or landowner or other person who provided the guarantee, and without regard to any dispute, controversy, issue or other matter relating to the development consent or the carrying out of development in accordance with the development consent,
- The Bank's obligations are discharged when payment to Council is made in accordance with this guarantee or when Council notifies the Bank in writing that the guarantee is no longer required.

### 3.13 Alternatives to payment of the levy

If an applicant does not wish to pay the section 7.12 levy applicable to their development, they may offer to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement with Council under Section 7.4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in connection with the making of a development application or in an application for a modification.

The applicant's provision under a planning agreement may be additional to or instead of paying a levy in accordance with a condition of development consent authorised by this Plan. This will be a matter of negotiation with Council. The offer to enter into the planning agreement together with the draft agreement should accompany the relevant development application.

Acceptance of an offer to enter into a voluntary planning agreement is at the sole discretion of Council and payment of the section 7.12 levy will be required if Council does not agree to the offer.

### 3.14 Accounting and management of funds

Separate accounting records are maintained for all development contributions made to Council under this Plan and a Development Contributions Register will be maintained by Council in accordance with the Regulation.

Council is also required to publish details of development contributions accounts annually and this is undertaken as part of Council's annual financial reporting cycle.

### 3.15 Treatment of funds received prior to the commencement of this Plan

Funds levied and received under previous plans will be used to deliver public amenities of a similar facility type as the funds were originally received.

Funds levied and received under previous plans will be spent within the same catchment from which they were levied.

### 3.16 Monitoring and review of the Plan and contributions

It is intended that this Plan be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis as it contains forecasts of future development, including likely future population and the likely demands and costs of providing community infrastructure for that population.

The cost of works proposed by the Plan (including land values) may also require review over time if there is a concern that the indexation of costs may not be adequately reflecting actual current costs.

Council's aim is that all forecasts, costs, and assumptions are reviewed and adjustments and/or amendments as appropriate will be made at four-yearly intervals after the date of adoption of this Plan.

The Plan may also be amended to address the matters listed in the Regulation. In particular, the Plan may be amended from time to time to reflect indexation of contributions and the cost of works without the need for public exhibition.

## 4. Forecast development and demand for infrastructure

### 4.1 Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Narrandera Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) was adopted by Council in August 2020. The LSPS planning priorities, strategic directions and actions provide the rationale for land use planning decision making and how land will be used to achieve the community's broader goals.

### 4.2 Forecast development

The Narrandera LGA is experiencing a considerable amount of change, with investment into the industrial areas and regional renewable energy projects attracting support industry to the area. Sustained growth in the traditional rural industries such as agriculture and support industries are expected.

Whilst the LSPS forecast a decrease in population, this is not considered to reflect what is currently happening or anticipated to occur. Local advancements and societal shifts, such as reticulation of sewer in Barellan and industry attraction in Narrandera, are predicted to result in an increase in population of 500 people over the next 10 years. This significant public and private investment in the region is likely to drive population growth and increase the demand for public facilities.

There is also estimated to be an increase in non-residential development over this 10-year period comprising of the creation and development of approximately 85.25 hectares of industrial land, of which 48 hectares has already been sold for development. This future development will require new, extended or augmented public amenities and services.

### 4.3 Demand for public facilities and services

The increased usage of and demand for new transport and social infrastructure as a consequence of the forecast additional development will, in most cases, exceed the capacity of existing public facilities in the LGA. It will therefore be necessary that new and embellished transport and social infrastructure be provided to cater for the anticipated demand of future development.

## 5. References

The following legislation, plans and policies, studies, technical guides, and other information have been used to formulate the contents of the Plan:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016) Census Data
- Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021
- Infrastructure Contributions Practice Note Review Policy Paper October 2021
- Narrandera Local Housing & Employment Zone Land Strategy 2022
- Narrandera Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020
- Section 7.12 fixed development consent levies Practice Note 2021

## Appendix A - Abbreviations and Definitions

Words and phrases used in this plan have the same meaning as the terms defined the EP&A Act, or the Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan (SI LEP).

In this plan, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

**Accredited Certifier** means a registered certifier are independent regulators of building construction and subdivision work, that are registered and regulated by NSW Fair Trading.

**Act** means the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

**affordable housing** means housing for very low income households, low income households or moderate income households, being such households as are prescribed by the regulations or as are provided for in an environmental planning instrument.

**Applicant** means the person(s) or organisation(s) submitting a development application.

**ATO** means the Australian Taxation Office.

**CDC** means complying development certificate.

**Consent authority** has the same meaning as in the EP&A Act but also includes an Accredited Certifier responsible for issuing a complying development certificate.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is a standard measure of price movements published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

**Council** means Narrandera Shire Council.

**DCP** means a Development Control Plan adopted by Council under the Act.

**Development** has the meaning under Section 4 of the Act which in relation to land means:

- a. the use of land; and
- b. the subdivision of land; and
- c. the erection of a building; and
- d. the carrying out of a work; and
- e. the demolition of a building or work; and
- f. any other Act, matter or thing that may be controlled by an environmental planning instrument.

**Development consent** means consent under Part 4 of the Act to carry out development and includes, unless expressly excluded, a complying development certificate.

**Development levy** means a levy referred to in the Act, section 7.12.

**Development levy condition** means a condition of development consent, referred to in the Act, section 7.12, requiring the payment of a levy.

**LEP** means a Local Environmental Plan made by the Minister under the Act.

**LGA** means Local Government Area.



**Material public benefit** means a facility or work which is offered by a developer as a finished entity either in return for a reduction in the amount of monetary contributions required for the same category of contribution or as an additional or partial additional benefit under a Planning Agreement;

**Ministerial Direction** means a Direction by the Minister pursuant to Section 7.9 or Section 7.17 of the Act.

**Planning agreement** means a planning agreement referred to in the Act.

**Public infrastructure** means:

- a. public amenities and public services, and
- b. affordable housing, and
- c. transport infrastructure

but does not include water supply or sewerage services.

**Regulation** means the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021

## Appendix B - Determining the proposed Cost of Development

### 208 Determination of proposed cost of development—the Act, s 7.12(5)(a)

- (1) The proposed cost of carrying out development must be determined by the consent authority by adding up all the costs and expenses that have been or will be incurred by the applicant in carrying out the development.
- (2) The costs of carrying out development include the costs of, and costs incidental to, the following—
  - a) if the development involves the erection of a building or the carrying out of engineering or construction work—
    - (i) erecting the building or carrying out the work, and
    - (ii) demolition, excavation and site preparation, decontamination or remediation,
  - b) if the development involves a change of use of land—doing anything necessary to enable the use of the land to be changed,
  - c) if the development involves the subdivision of land—preparing, executing and registering—
    - (i) the plan of subdivision, and
    - (ii) the related covenants, easements or other rights.
- (3) In determining the proposed cost, a consent authority may consider an estimate of the proposed cost that is prepared by a person, or a person of a class, approved by the consent authority to provide the estimate.
- (4) The following costs and expenses must not be included in an estimate or determination of the proposed cost—
  - a) the cost of the land on which the development will be carried out,
  - b) the costs of repairs to a building or works on the land that will be kept in connection with the development,
  - c) the costs associated with marketing or financing the development, including interest on loans,
  - d) the costs associated with legal work carried out, or to be carried out, in connection with the development,
  - e) project management costs associated with the development,
  - f) the cost of building insurance for the development,
  - g) the costs of fittings and furnishings, including refitting or refurbishing, associated with the development, except if the development involves an enlargement, expansion or intensification of a current use of land,
  - h) the costs of commercial stock inventory,
  - i) the taxes, levies or charges, excluding GST, paid or payable in connection with the development by or under a law,
  - j) the costs of enabling access by people with disability to the development,
  - k) the costs of energy and water efficiency measures associated with the development,
  - l) the costs of development that is provided as affordable housing,
  - m) the costs of development that is the adaptive reuse of a heritage item.
- (5) The proposed cost may be adjusted before payment of a development levy, as specified in a contributions plan, to reflect quarterly or annual variations to readily accessible index figures

adopted by the plan between the day on which the proposed cost was determined by the consent authority and the day by which the development levy must be paid.

**Example—**

A contributions plan may adopt the Consumer Price Index.

- (6) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the determination of the fee payable for a development application.

**Appendix C – Cost Summary Report Templates**

<b>Cost Summary Report</b>	
Development Cost over \$500,000 and less than \$3,000,000	
	<b>Date</b>
<b>Applicant name</b>	
<b>Proposed development</b>	
<b>Development address</b>	

<b>ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT COSTS</b>	
Demolition and alterations	\$
Engineering and Earthworks	\$
Structure	\$
External walls, windows and doors	\$
Internal walls, screens and doors	\$
Wall finishes	\$
Floor finishes	\$
Ceiling finishes	\$
Lighting	\$
Fittings and equipment	\$
Hydraulic Services	\$
Mechanical Services	\$
Fire Services	\$
Lift Services	\$
External Works	\$
External Services	\$

Landscaping	\$
Other related works	\$
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	\$
Consultant fees	\$
Goods & Services Tax	\$
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COST</b>	\$

I certify that I have:

- Inspected the plans the subject of the application for development consent, complying development or construction certificate.
- Calculated the development costs in accordance with the definition of development costs in clause 208 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021*.
- Included GST in the calculation of development cost.

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Position &amp; Qualification</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

Note: For development up to \$500,000, the estimated cost must be estimated by the applicant or a suitably qualified person, with the methodology used to calculate that cost submitted with the development application.

Note: For development between \$500,000 and \$3 million, a suitably qualified person must prepare the cost estimate and submit it, along with the methodology, with the development application.

**A suitably qualified person** is: a builder who is licensed to undertake the proposed works, a registered architect, a qualified and accredited building designer, a registered quantity surveyor or a person who is licensed and has the relevant qualifications and proven experience in costing of development works at least to a similar scale and type as is proposed.

<b>Cost Summary Report</b>	
Development Cost more than \$3,000,000	
	Date
Applicant name	
Proposed development	
Development address	

DEVELOPMENT DETAILS			
Gross Floor Area – Commercial	m <sup>2</sup>	Gross Floor Area – Other	m <sup>2</sup>
Gross Floor Area – Residential	m <sup>2</sup>	Total Gross Floor Area	m <sup>2</sup>
Gross Floor Area – Retail	m <sup>2</sup>	Total Site Area	m <sup>2</sup>
Gross Floor Area Car Parking	m <sup>2</sup>	Total car parking spaces	
Total Development Cost	\$		
Total Construction Cost	\$		
Total GST	\$		

ESTIMATE DETAILS			
Professional fees	\$	Excavation	\$
% of Development cost	%	Cost per m <sup>2</sup> of site area	\$ / m <sup>2</sup>
% of Construction cost	%	Car Park	\$
Demolition and site preparation	\$	Cost per m <sup>2</sup> of site area	\$ / m <sup>2</sup>

Cost per m2 – site area	\$ / m2	Cost per space	\$
Construction – Commercial	\$	Fit out – Commercial	\$
Cost per m2 – commercial area	\$ / m2	Cost per m2 – commercial area	\$ / m2
Construction Residential	\$	Fit out – residential	\$
Cost per m2 – residential area	\$ / m2	Cost per m2 – residential area	\$ / m2
Construction – retail	\$	Fit out - retail	\$
Cost per m2 – retail area	\$ / m2	Cost per m2 – retail area	\$ / m2

I certify that I have:

- Inspected the plans the subject of the application for development consent, complying development or construction certificate.
- Prepared and attached an elemental estimate generally prepared in accordance with the Australian Cost Management Manuals from the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS).
- Calculated the development costs in accordance with the definition of development costs in clause 208 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021.
- Included GST in the calculation of development cost.
- Measured gross floor areas in accordance with the Method of Measurement of Building Area in the AIQS Cost Management Manual Volume 1, Appendix 2.

Name	
Signed	
Position & Qualification	
Date	

**Note:** For development more than \$3 million, a detailed cost report must be prepared by a registered\* quantity surveyor.

\*A member of the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors

## Appendix D - Model Conditions of Consent

The following model Conditions of Consent may be used for Development Consents and Complying Development Certificates.

### Model Development Condition of Consent

Pursuant to section 4.17 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the Narrandera Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2025 (the Plan), a monetary contribution of \$[insert total amount] must be paid to Council for the purposes of the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities and services within the [insert catchment] catchment.

The amount to be paid is to be adjusted at the time of the actual payment, in accordance with the Narrandera Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2025. The contribution is to be paid before [insert requirement]. It is the professional responsibility of the Principal Certifying Authority to ensure that the monetary contribution has been paid to Council in accordance with the above timeframe.

Council's Plan may be viewed at <https://www.narrandera.nsw.gov.au> or a copy may be inspected at Council's Offices during normal business hours.

### Model Complying Development Condition

Pursuant to Section 4.28(6) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the Narrandera Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2025 (the Plan), a monetary contribution of \$[insert total amount] must be paid to Council for the purposes of the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities and services within the [insert catchment] catchment.

The amount to be paid is to be adjusted at the time of the actual payment, in accordance with the Narrandera Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2025. The contribution is to be paid before [insert requirement]. It is the professional responsibility of the Principal Certifying Authority to ensure that the monetary contribution has been paid to Council in accordance with the above timeframes.

Council's Plan may be viewed at <https://www.narrandera.nsw.gov.au> or a copy may be inspected at Council's Offices during normal business hours.



## Appendix E – Works Schedule

The table below identifies the projects in which the funds will be partly or wholly used in the future. Note, the timings detailed below are indicative and may vary depending on the availability of grants and other funding streams.

FUTURE PROJECT LIST			
Title	Description/Comments	Estimated Capital Cost	Year of works
<b>Economic grants</b>			
Lake Talbot	Water deepening - physical works	\$2,200,000	2026
<b>Active transport /road safety</b>			
Grong Grong footpaths	Construction of a pedestrian walkway connecting Berrembed/Junee and Narrandera Streets	\$280,000	2027
Larmer St pedestrian bridge	Construction of a pedestrian bridge across the canal on the western end of Larmer Street	\$560,000	2026
Larmer St shared path	Construction of a pedestrian shared path connecting Midgeon and Elizabeth Streets	\$300,000	2027
Old Wagga Road shared path	Construction of a pedestrian shared path on Old Wagga Road connecting the urban area to Rocky Water Holes	\$880,000	2029
<b>General infrastructure</b>			
Narrandera Town entrance statement	Sign, landscaping and water feature on Lot 10 Larmer Street	\$250,000	2025
Public Art	Narrandera, Barellan and Grong Grong	\$300,000	Ongoing
Barellan Toilets	Expand toilets in main street to meet demand from bus groups	\$250,000	2030
Barellan Main St beautification	Undertake an upgrade/ beautification program of the main street areas (landscaping, footpaths, etc)	\$250,000	2025
Barellan Pool	Renewal of the existing 50m pool and filtration system	\$2,500,000	2028
Barellan Pool	Major refurbishment / fitout - changeroom - kiosk	\$350,000	2029
Changing places facility	Adult change facility with hoist and change table (Narrandera and Barellan)	\$250,000 per unit	2031

Lake Talbot Water Park	Stage 3 – upgrade of top amenities, kiosk and extend decking	\$800,000	2032
Maree Bashir Park	Adventure playground (youth)	\$750,000	2030
Maree Bashir Park	Construction of a permanent stage	\$300,000	2032
Henry Mathieson Oval	BBQ shelter, scoreboard and cricket pitch	\$80,000	2028

### Appendix E – Map

The map below identifies the Narrandera Local Government Area to which this Plan applies (see clause 2.5).



**13.2 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES - MARCH 2025**

**Document ID:** 793726

**Author:** Administration Assistant

**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Infrastructure

**Theme:** Our Environment

**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Development Services Activities Report for March 2025

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of Development Applications and other development services provided during March 2025.

**BACKGROUND**

**Development & Complying Development Applications**

A summary of Development and Complying Development Applications processed during the reporting month/s detailed in the following table:

Stage Reached	March
Lodged	3
Stop-the-Clock / Under Referral / Awaiting Information	0
Determined	4

The value of Development and Complying Development Applications approved by Council during the reporting month is detailed in the following tables:

Development Type	2024-2025			
	MARCH		Year to Date	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
Residential	4	\$ 231,688	25	\$ 5,508,725
Industrial	-	\$ -	0	\$ -
Commercial	-	\$ -	9	\$ 2,983,629
Rural Residential	-	\$ -	1	\$ 120,000
Subdivisions	-	\$ -	2	\$ -
Other	-	\$ -	0	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$ 231,688</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$ 8,612,354</b>

Under the provisions of section 4.59 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act Narrandera Shire Council determined the following development applications, applications for modification of development consents and complying development certificate applications during the reporting month.

March 2025

No	Type	Address	Development Type	Determination	STC / RFI Days	ACTIVE Business Days
DA 025 24-25	L/C	17-19 Hankinson St NARRANDERA	Dual Occupancy – Moveable Dwelling	Conditionally Approved	-	27
DA 026 24-25	L	444 Irrigation Way NARRANDERA	Shed (residential)	Conditionally Approved	-	17
DA 027 24-25	L	11-17 Bamblett St NARRANDERA	Shed (residential)	Conditionally Approved	-	11
DA 028 24-25	L	21 Dalgetty St NARRANDERA	Shed (residential)	Conditionally Approved	-	10

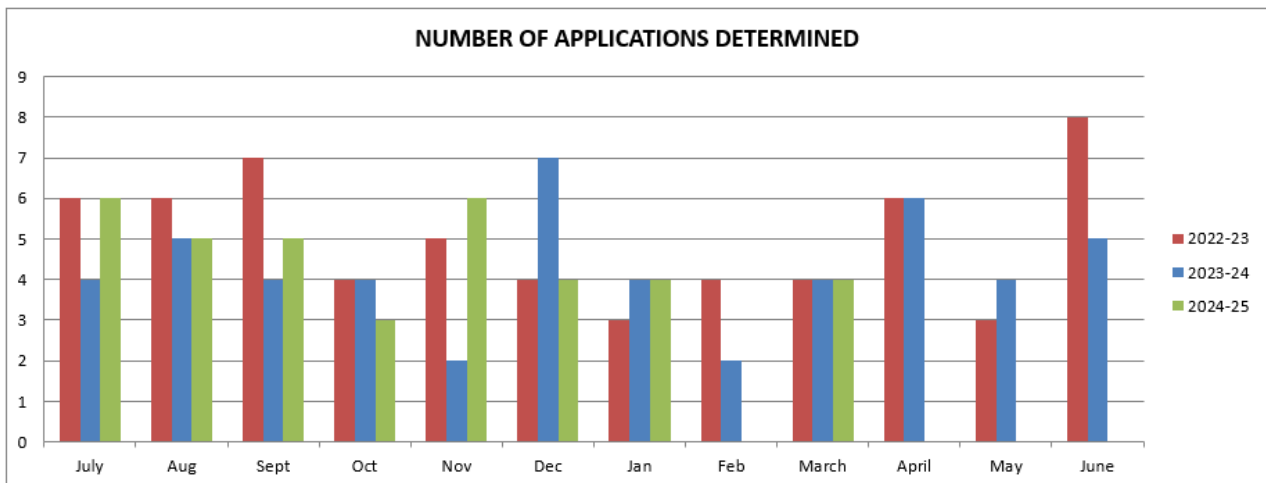
Type explanation

Local (L) – Delegated authority	Merit based assessment where development consent is required. Target determination time of 40 business days.
Council (L/C)	Local development determined by Council at an ordinary meeting.
Integrated (I)	Merit based assessment where approval from other authorities, such as TfNSW, RFS, DPI, is required in addition to development consent. The referral process extends the target determination time to 60 business days.
Modification (M)	Revision of previously approved application. No target determination time.
Stop the Clock (STC)	Calculation of active days stops while additional information required to complete the assessment is obtained from the applicant.
Request for further information	Request for further information.
Complying (CDC)	Fast track approval process without the need for a full development application if specific criteria are met.

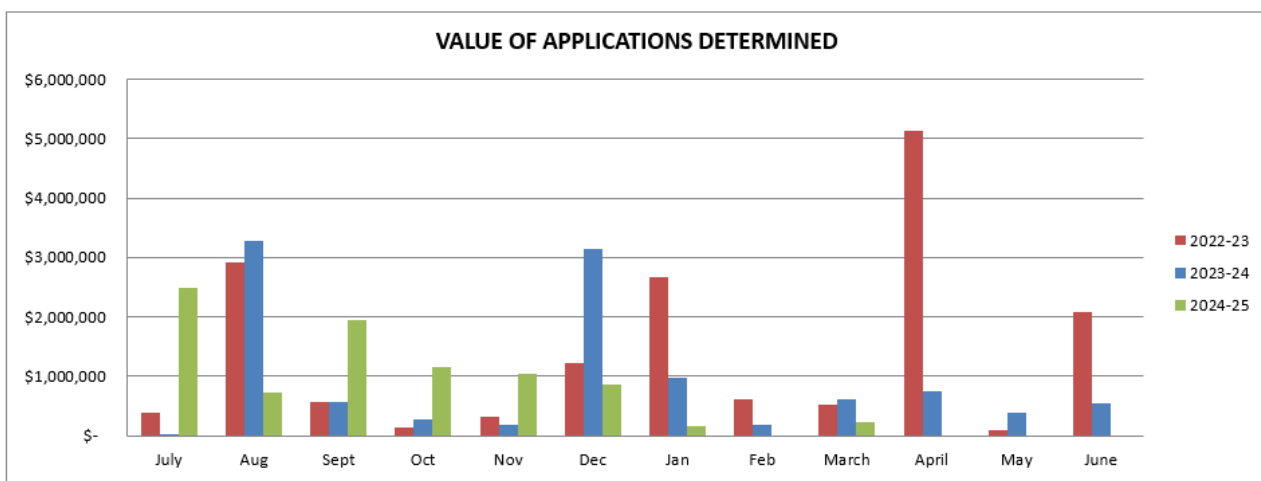
Comparison determination times

2020-21	Narrandera Shire Council average	30 days
2021-22	Narrandera Shire Council average	25 days
2022-23	Narrandera Shire Council average	18.6 days
2023-24	Narrandera Shire Council average	12.9 days
2024-25	Narrandera Shire Council average YTD	12.6 days

This graph details the comparative number of Development and Complying Development Applications determined by month over the past three years.



This graph details the comparative value of Development and Complying Development Applications determined by month over the past three years.



\*2022-23 June figures exclude \$14,200,758 for industrial workshop

### Certificates Issued

A summary of other development services activities undertaken during the reporting month is detailed in the following table:

Certificate Type	March
Construction Certificates	2
Building Certificates	1
Subdivision Certificates	-
Occupation Certificates	1
Section 10.7 (previously 149) Certificates	18
Swimming Pool Compliance Certificates	-
S68 Approvals	-

**Construction Activities**

A summary of Critical Stage building inspections undertaken during the reporting month is detailed in the following tables:

<b>Building Surveyor Inspections</b>	<b>March</b>
Critical Stage Inspections	11

**Compliance Activities**

A summary of compliance services activities undertaken during the reporting month is detailed in the following tables:

<b>Companion Animal Activity – Dogs</b>	<b>March</b>
Impounded	12
Returned	5
Rehomed	10

<b>Companion Animal Activity – Cats</b>	<b>March</b>
Impounded	9
Returned	1
Rehomed	-

<b>Compliance Activity</b>	<b>March</b>
Call outs	15
Infringement warnings/fines issued	5
Menacing/Dangerous dog incidents	1

**13.3 BARELLAN MEMORIAL POOL COMPLEX - REQUEST FOR USER CHARGES INCREASE 2025-26**

**Document ID:** 793258  
**Author:** Manager Projects and Assets  
**Authoriser:** Deputy General Manager Infrastructure  
**Theme:** Our Infrastructure  
**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Supports the request from the lessee to increase user charges at the Barellan Memorial Pool Complex for the 2025-26 financial year, subject to consideration of any submission with regard to the increase during the Fees and Charges public exhibition period.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a request from the lessee of the Barellan Memorial Pool Complex to increase the user charges of the pool facility for the 2025-26 financial year.

**SUMMARY**

The contract for management of the Barellan Memorial Pool Complex provides for the operator to seek approval from Council for an increase in the user charges. The user charges start from a historically low base and, given the facilities provided, the increase request is not considered unreasonable.

**BACKGROUND**

The lease and operating contract were awarded for management of the Barellan Memorial Pool Complex effective 1 September 2023. Clause 5(l) of the schedule of covenants conditions and provisions annexed to the lease allows the charges to be varied by the lessor from time-to-time in consultation with the lessee and appropriate Council resolution. Any changes to admission fees and charges shall be agreed to and advertised.

The charges were agreed and included within the contract at the commencement of the lease period and remain unchanged at this time, as detailed in table 1 below:

*Table 1 – Existing Admission Charge Type.*

Barellan Pool Charge Type	Year 2023-24
<b>Single Admission</b>	
Preschool Children under the age of 3 years	Free
School Age Children	\$3.00
Adults	\$4.00
Non-swimmers	\$4.00
<b>Season Tickets</b>	



Child	\$65
Single	\$75
Family	\$120

**Adjustment to User Charges**

The lessee has formally requested an increase in the user charges for the 2025-26 swim season to assist with the increase in chemical costs and additional chemicals required to operate the main pool than initially budgeted.

The areas of additional cost include:

- Electricity and chemicals combined price increased approximately 29% in 2023-24 and 40% in 2024-25 compared the tendered amount.

The admission fees have not been amended for two seasons and the operators undertook a benchmarking exercise, including 13 regional pools, to determine reasonable proposed entry charges. Additional charging types are also proposed to offer users more options and value, as detailed within the attachment to this report.

The following table shows existing user charges and the requested 2025-26 charges.

*Table 2 – Existing and Proposed Admission Charge Types and fees.*

Barellan Pool Charge Type	Current	Proposed 2025-26
<b>Single Admission</b>		
Children under the age of 3 years	Free	Free
Child (4-18 years)	\$3.00	\$4.00
Adults (19-59 years)	\$4.00	\$5.00
Spectator	-	\$2.00
Pensioner (60+ years / Concession)	-	\$4.00
<b>Season Tickets</b>		
Child (4-18 years)	\$65.00	\$80.00
Adults (19-59 years)	\$75.00	\$100.00
Family	\$120.00	\$160.00
Pensioner (60+ years / Concession)	-	\$80.00

The lessee has provided the following comments to support the user charges increase requests:

- *The current fee structure has not been altered for two seasons.*
- *Whilst the cost of living has gone up over this period, the pool fees initially went down with this contract and have remained static for two seasons.*
- *We have undertaken an extensive bench marking study against 13 other regional pools in a radius of up to 250kms.*
- *These amendments in pricing will bring BMP more in line with season pass fees charged at other pools in the region.*
- *2023/2024 season and the current season are 29% and 40% respectively higher electricity and chemical cost than originally budgeted for the main pool.*
- *The increased costs shown for the 2024/2025 season are due to the amount of chemical used to keep the pool within operational water quality standards.*

- *The increase chemical cost should have been higher; however, we negotiated hard to keep the price as low as possible.*
- *In the two seasons that we have managed the pool we have made significant improvements to the site. We have fixed things as they needed fixing; provided creature comforts when need presents. These improvements contribute to positive patron experience*

## **RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER STRATEGIES / MASTERPLANS / STUDIES**

### **Theme**

4 - Our Infrastructure

### **Strategy**

4.3 - To improve, maintain and value-add to our essential public and recreational infrastructure.

### **Action**

N/A

## **ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

- Nil

### **Financial**

- The proposed increase in user charges has no impact on the contribution currently paid by Council.
- The financial impacts will be borne by facility users who will determine acceptance by their willingness to attend the facility.

### **Legal / Statutory**

- The current contract for the Management of the Barellan Memorial Pool Complex is a legally binding contract. Consideration of the request to increase fees is permitted within the contract, subject to Council resolution.

### **Community Engagement / Communication**

- All fees and charges, including the Barellan Memorial Pool Complex user charges, are contained within Council's Fees and Charges which will be placed on public exhibition as part of the annual budget process.

## **RISKS**

The risks to Council in this matter are:

- The potential impacts due to community dissatisfaction about a price increase and the reputational problems that could be possible.
- It is believed that the main risk is held by the operators, who could find that the increase is unacceptable to current users who may choose to stay away.

**OPTIONS****Adjustment to User Charges**

1. Resolve to support the user charges increase requested and include within the Council fees and charges for the 2025-26 financial year.
2. Resolve to vary the user charges to a value different to the increase requested, include within the Council fees and charges for the 2024-25 financial year and provide reasoning to the contractor as to why such a decision was made.
3. Refuse the requested user charges increase as proposed and provide reasoning to the contractor as to why such a decision was made.

**CONCLUSION**

The contract for the management of the Barellan Memorial Pool Complex provides for the operators to seek approval from Council for an increase in the user charges and is subject to a Council resolution to amend. The user charges start from a historically low base and, given the facilities provided, the increase request is not considered unreasonable being similar or less than fees/charges of other facilities within the region.

It is recommended that the request be supported. Should there be any submission received with regard to the increase in user charges during the public exhibition of the proposed fees and charges, Council can further consider the increase prior to final adoption of the 2025-26 Financial Year Fees and Charges.

**14 Confidential Matters**

Nil

**15 Report of Confidential Resolutions**

**16 Conclusion of Meeting**