



BOGAN SHIRE COUNCIL

Ordinary Business Paper

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 12 December 2024

Time: 10.30am

**Location: Bogan Shire Council
Council Chambers
81 Cobar Street
Nyngan**

**Derek Francis
General Manager**



Published Recording of Council Meeting

This Council Meeting is being recorded for publishing on Council's website as a public record. By speaking at the Council Meeting, you agree to being recorded and for this recording to be published. Please ensure that if and when you speak at this Council Meeting that you are respectful to others and use appropriate language at all times. Bogan Shire Council accepts no liability for any defamatory or offensive remarks made during the course of this Council Meeting.

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- 1 OPENING PRAYER**
- 2 REMEMBRANCES**
- 3 APOLOGIES**
- 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**
- 5 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Recommended that Council move into a closed session of Council with the public excluded, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* section 10A(2).

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MEETING - 28 NOVEMBER 2024

The minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting held at the Bogan Shire Council, Council Chambers, 81 Cobar Street, Nyngan on 28 November 2024 have been circulated to Council.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting held at the Bogan Shire Council, Council Chambers, 81 Cobar Street, Nyngan on 28 November 2024, be received and noted.

6 CONFIRMATION OF ORDINARY MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING - 28 NOVEMBER 2024

The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Bogan Shire Council, Council Chambers, 81 Cobar Street, Nyngan on 28 November 2024 have been circulated to Council.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Bogan Shire Council, Council Chambers, 81 Cobar Street, Nyngan on 28 November 2024, be received and noted.

7 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

8 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

9 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Nil

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
2	27/05/2022	122/2022	Nyngan Emergency Bore	Council seeks advice from the Minister for Water, as to a mechanism for periodic extraction of water for maintenance purposes, given that it is understood that Council is unable to extract water from the bore at this stage.	GM	<p>Letter written to new Minister for Water, advising them of resolution 122/2022 and seeking clarification on funding. Minister for Water has advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has begun on amendments to the Water Sharing Plan. • No further funding is available for the bore project. <p>Council has been verbally advised by DCCEEW that funding deadline is approaching and that the timing for the release of any amendments to the Water Sharing Plan may impact Council's ability to deliver the project. Follow up letter sent to the Minister for Water seeking clarification.</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	23/02/2023	010/2023		<p>Council vote for a 200mm pipe instead of 375mm pipe, on the basis of water consumption.</p> <p>A decision on the request for a meeting be deferred until Council receives a response from the NSW Government on whether the emergency bore hole project is to be funded.</p>	GM	<p>Public Works have provided an alternative cost estimate of \$5.092M, based on the 200mm pipeline.</p> <p>On hold pending response.</p>
	27/04/2023	081/2023		<p>Virginia and Richard Woodlock be requested to provide Council with specific concerns of concerned landholders and rate payers in writing, so that responses can be prepared, and arrangements made for appropriate NSW Government staff to be available.</p>		<p>Letter sent to Richard and Virginia Woodlock advising them of Council's resolution.</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	24/08/2023	184/23		That Council prioritises remaining available grant funding of \$7,111,871 across the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water purchases b. Belaringar Creek Syphon c. Nyngan Emergency Bore pipeline 		DPE advised accordingly.
3	27/05/2021 28/09/2023	126/2021 207/23	Addressing Local Job Vacancies	<p>Council delays the launch of the marketing campaign until progress is made with establishing more housing accommodation in Nyngan.</p> <p>Council provides a budget of \$25,000 for production of videos for the relocation campaign.</p>	DPCS	<p>Refer below.</p> <p>Production of Employment video in progress.</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
4	25/07/2024	144/24	New Water Treatment Plant Site	That Council does not proceed with building the new Water Treatment Plant on the site adjacent to the substation at the end of Dandaloo Street. That Council constructs the new Water Treatment Plant on the Council owned land at the Raw Water Pump Station at the upper weir.	DIS	In Progress
5	22/08/2024	174/24	Hoskins Street Subdivision	That Council seek the assistance of Local Member, Roy Butler to approach the Minister for Western NSW / Minister for Regional NSW for an extension of time within which to complete the Hoskins Street Subdivision Project.	GM	Pending confirmation of construction timeframes – subject to tender outcomes.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	28/11/2024	250/24		That, subject to solvency and final checks including confirmation of the tenderer’s ability to execute the construction contract within a timeframe acceptable to the funding body (NSW Government), the tender for construction of lead-in infrastructure on new residential subdivision, Lot 33 be awarded to WTC Group Australia Pty Ltd in the amount of \$1,707,618.80 including GST.	GM	UPDATE: Discussions with WTC Group commencing.
6	24/10/2024	245/24	Reclassification of Land – 8 Tabratong Street	That Council resolve to: 1. Lodge the Planning Proposal to Reclassify Public Land at 8 Tabratong Street Nyngan with the Department of	DDES	The Planning Proposal has been lodged with the Department of Planning for Gateway Determination.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination; and 2. Undertake community consultation in accordance with the Gateway Determination.		
7	27/07/2023	160/23	School Exchange Program	The General Manager commence discussions around the future of the Tongling Exchange Program, with a report to Council.	GM	Discussions held with Acting Principal, Nyngan High School.
	25/07/2024	146/24		That Council consider locations that may have economic/industry ties for the School Exchange Program, to enhance the student experience.		

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
8	26/10/2023	247/23	Before and After School Care, Nyngan	That the Before and After School Care matter be further pursued with the Department of Education, and if necessary the Minister.	GM	Refer below.
	22/02/2024	009/24		Issue of lack of Before and After School Care in Nyngan be referred to Local Member.		Correspondence sent to Local Member.
	25/07/2024	147/24		That Council request the Local Member to make further contact with the Minister for Education about the lack of Before and After School Care in Nyngan.		Email sent to Local Member in August 2024. Contact, with reminder, made with Local Members Office October 2024. GM and DPCS met with officials of Department of Education to discuss community concerns.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
10	23/11/2023	278/23	Nyngan Year-Round Fishery	That Council provide in principle support for the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with DPI Fisheries for a managed fishery in the Nyngan off-river storages, with a further report to Council to consider a draft Memorandum of Understanding.	DIS	In Progress
11	27/06/2024	127/24	Tottenham Road Condition Assessment Report	That Council prepares a Tottenham Road Rehabilitation Business Case for the Tottenham Road. That Council brings the condition assessment to the attention of the Minister for Roads and Transport for NSW to seek urgent funding to	DIS	In progress.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				address the issues raised.		
12	27/06/2024	134/24	Nyngan Community Homes	That Council request that Nyngan Community Homes Association presents a satisfactory Business Plan and shows it has the capacity to build planned homes on the land, Council will consider an appropriate arrangement to facilitate the provision of the land which was formerly the Palais Theatre, on the basis of that plan.	GM	Email forwarded to Nyngan Community Homes with Council resolution and to contact the General Manager if further information is required. Business Plan received from Nyngan Community Homes, 01/12/2024 with a request to address Council at a future meeting. Date to be determined in consultation with Mayor.
14	25/07/2024	151/24	Water Tower Art	That Council gives direction to an artist to determine the style and subject matter of artwork to be placed on the water tower near the skate park.	DIS	Artwork considered by Council at its meeting on 24/10/2024. COMPLETED

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	24/10/2024	238/24		<p>Themes that are iconic to Bogan Shire including artwork with aboriginal designs</p> <p><u>Theme One:</u> Flood and Evacuation Scene</p> <p><u>Theme Two:</u> Mining & Agricultural industries of Bogan Shire</p> <p><u>Theme Three:</u> Olympic Gold Medallists</p> <p><u>Theme Four:</u> Bogan River & Wildlife/recreation</p> <p>That Council go back to the artist and recommend four separate panels:</p> <p>1. A mining dump truck coming out of red dirt, sheep grazing, and wheat fields.</p>	GM	<p>Informal Teams meeting held between artist, available Councillors and General Manager on 06/11/2024.</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	28/11/2024	258/24		<p>2.The Bogan River showing pelicans, broilgas, wood ducks, red gums, monitor lizard, galah and kookaburra.</p> <p>3.Olympic gold medallists – rowing and equestrian</p> <p>4.Flood evacuation zone and helicopter.</p> <p>That Council delegate authority for the water tower artist to negotiate with the General Manager, Mayor and Councillor Stanton, for small changes to the sample artwork, tabled at the meeting, that was otherwise endorsed by Council.</p>		<p>UPDATE: Meeting with artist scheduled for 11/12/24</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
16	22/08/2024	175/24	<p>Nyngan Tennis Section 355 Committee</p>	<p>That Council: (Establishes a Nyngan Tennis Section 355 Committee. Adopts the attached Nyngan Tennis Section 355 Committee Instrument of Delegation effective from 23 August 2024. Becomes a member of Tennis NSW. Installs the Tennis NSW booking and locking systems for the Nyngan tennis courts and clubhouse. That the General Manager has further discussions with the interim executive of Nyngan Tennis Club about membership, fees and other relevant</p>	<p>GM</p>	<p>UPDATE: Meeting with Tennis Committee held on 02/12/2024. Awaiting feedback from Committee.</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				matters with a further report to Council.		
17	24/10/2024	214/24	Nyngan Railway Fencing	That Council again write to Local State Member Roy Butler, seeking support for the urgent need for fencing to be erected by UGL	GM	Email sent 23/10/2024. UPDATE: Further email sent 05/12/2024
18	24/10/2024	242/24	Vermont Hill Road	That Council defers a decision until a detailed report can be presented to Council on the design and costs associated with construction of this section of the road, and that the General Manager investigates the need to place "Road Closed" signage at either end of that section of road to deter through traffic from using it, if it is currently untrafficable.	GM/DIS	Road closed signs erected.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
19	28/11/2024	255/24	NSW Heritage Grants	<p>Council notes that applications are open for the 2025-27 Local Government Heritage Grants to support, promote and realise the values of locally significant heritage.</p> <p>Council makes application under this grant scheme to prepare a heritage study for the Bogan Shire LGA.</p> <p>Council provides matching funding for the grant of up to \$25,000 with this amount to be included in the February Budget Review to be funded from identified savings.</p>	DDES	In progress

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
20	28/11/2024	260/24	Nyngan Town Hall	Council calls for a proposal from NSW Public Works for the preparation of a conservation management plan for the Nyngan Town Hall. The General Manager submits an application under the 2025-27 Local Government Heritage grants for the preparation of this Plan.	DIS	In progress
21	28/11/2024	281/24	Nyngan RSL sub-Branch Avenue of Remembrance	That Council agrees, in principle, to an Avenue of Remembrance on Cannonbar Street, between Hoskins Street and Cemetery Road. That the General Manager and staff work with the Nyngan RSL sub-Branch on a suitable	DDES	

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				design, including indigenous tree species. 4. That an estimate of cost be prepared for consideration at a future meeting of Council, to help determine the extent of Councils financial contribution to the project.		

1. Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

That the report relating to the Monthly Checklist be received and those items marked at “Completed” be removed from the Checklist.

Item 10.1

10.2 ALLIANCE OF WESTERN COUNCILS (AWC)**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present, for Councillors information, the minutes of the Alliance of Western Councils Board Meeting held on 8 November 2024.

2. Background

Alliance of Western Council (AWC) Board Meetings are held quarterly, and minutes of these meetings are tabled for the information of Councillors.

3. Discussion

Of particular note was the election of the new AWC Chairperson, Councillor Glen Neill and the discussion concerning financial sustainability of Councils.

4. Attachments

1. Alliance of Western Councils Board Meeting Minutes 8 November 2024

5. Recommendation

That the Alliance of Western Councils (AWC) report be received and noted.



Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, 8 November

2024

Dubbo Regional Council

Commencing at 9.00am

Draft Minutes Board Meeting

Date: Friday, 8 November 2024
Time: 9.05 am
Venue: Dubbo Regional Council Meeting Rooms

ATTENDEES:

Peter Vlatko	General Manager Cobar Shire Council
Clr Glen Neill	Mayor Bogan Shire Council
Derek Francis	General Manager Bogan Shire Council
Clr Lachlan Ford	Mayor Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	General Manager Bourke Shire Council
Clr Greg Whiteley	Mayor Warren Shire Council
Bradley Pascoe	Divisional Manager Finance & Administration Warren Shire Council
Clr Josh Black	Mayor Dubbo Regional Council
Clr Jasen Ramien	Mayor Walgett Shire Council
Megan Dixon	General Manager Walgett Shire Council
Clr Tom Stanton	Mayor Brewarrina Shire Council



David Kirby	General Manager Brewarrina Shire Council
Clr Kathryn Rindfleish	Mayor Warrumbungle Shire Council
Leanne Ryan	Acting General Manager Warrumbungle Shire Council
Clr Danny Keady	Mayor Coonamble Shire Council
Paul Gallagher	General Manager Coonamble Shire Council
Clr Doug Batten	Mayor Gilgandra Shire Council
David Neeves	General Manager Gilgandra Shire Council
Clr Ewen Jones	Mayor Narromine Shire Council
Jane Redden	General Manager Narromine Shire Council

1. WELCOME

David Neeves assumed the Chair as Returning Officer in the interim until the Election of the new Chairperson at the Annual General Meeting.

David Neeves congratulated the new Mayors and welcomed all other participants.

Mayor Josh Black welcomed the Alliance Western Councils Board to Dubbo.



2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Interim Chairperson.

3. APOLOGIES:

Jarrold Marsden	Mayor Cobar Council
Des Kennedy	Mayor Mid-Western Regional Council
Brad Cam	General Manager Mid-Western Regional Council
Bob Stewart	Administrator Central Darling Shire Council
Greg Hill	General Manager Central Darling Shire Council
Murray Wood	General Manager Dubbo Regional Council
Gary Woodman	General Manager Warren Shire Council

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Leonie Brown, that the apologies received be accepted.

**Carried
2024/16**

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil declarations of interest were made.

5. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Previously circulated to the Board by email and attached to the Minutes.

Clr Doug Batten acknowledged the fervour and commitment made to the Alliance Western Councils by the outgoing Chair – Clr Craig Davies. Recognition for Clr Davies tireless work in the area of Biodiversity offsets was given.

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Clr Ford that:

1. The outgoing Chairperson’s report be received; and
2. That a letter of appreciation be sent to Clr Craig Davies for his service to the Alliance Western Councils.

**Carried
2024/17**

6. ADJOURNMENT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Jane Redden that at this point in the meeting, the time being 9.10 am the meeting be adjourned to proceed with the Annual General Meeting.

**Carried
2024/18**

**6.1 Election of Chair**

Clr Doug Batten nominated Clr Glen Neill for the position of Chair. The nomination was seconded by Clr Lachlan Ford. Being there was only one nominee, Clr Neill was elected Chairperson for the ensuing 12 months.

**Carried
2024/19**

6.2 Election of Deputy Chairperson

Clr Doug Batten nominated Clr Greg Whiteley for the position of Deputy Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Clr Lachlan Ford. Being there was only one nominee, Clr Whiteley was elected Deputy Chairperson for the ensuing 12 months.

**Carried
2024/20**

Clr Neill assumed the role as Chairperson.

6.3 Consideration of Financials

Discussion: Contributions have now been transferred from the previous Orana Joint Organisation Bank Account to the Alliance Western Councils Bank account.

Discussion: Regions better represented by the collaboration between Orana and Far West. Less governance and cost. A voluntary Alliance model is preferable to a forced Joint Organisation.

RESOLVED David Neeves/Clr Batten that the 2023-2024 Financial Report be noted.

**Carried
2024/21**

There being no further business the Annual General Meeting closed at 9.15 am.

RETURN TO GENERAL MEETING**7. CONFIRMATION OF ALLIANCE WESTERN COUNCILS BOARD MEETING MINUTES****7.1 Alliance Western Councils Board Meeting - 16 August 2024**

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Leonie Brown that the Minutes of the Alliance Western Councils Board Meeting held on 16 August 2024 be adopted.

**Carried
2024/22**

7.2 Matters arising

Nil.



8. CONFIRMATION OF ALLIANCE WESTERN COUNCILS GMAC MEETING MINUTES

- 8.2 RESOLVED** David Neeves/Jane Redden that the minutes of the Alliance Western Councils GMAC Meeting held on 25 October 2024 be adopted.

**Carried
2024/23**

8.3 Matters arising

Financial Contributions for Membership of Alliance Western Councils

Discussion in relation to the annual contribution for Membership of the Alliance Western Councils.

RESOLVED Peter Vlatko/Daniel Keady that the contributions for the 2024-2025 financial year be set at \$6,000 per Council per annum with the acknowledgment that should additional funding be needed for other specific reasons – future requests may be made.

**Carried
2024/24**

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Orana Utilities Alliance – Presentation Doug Moorby (brief summary discussion)

- Doug Moorby encouraged everyone to look at Section 9 of the Report from the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission – Review of Funding Models for Local Water Utilities. (Previously circulated to Board Members).
- Doug Moorby will prepare the submission for the Alliance in relation to the Productivity Commission Report.
- The Utilities Alliance has a new strategic plan – and he encouraged everyone to look at it. It is currently on the Utilities Alliance website.
- Subscription fee for the Utilities Alliance is \$7,000 per Council per annum.
- A business case has been done for a centralised training centre.
- A submission is being prepared on PFAS and the potential cost of PFAS to Utilities Alliance members.
- Dave Neeves: The Utilities Alliance is here to support member Councils. Doug Moorby's contribution is invaluable. It's a great network.
- Water and sewer operator positions are hard to fill and expensive to train.
- Utilities Alliance Report 1 – attached to the Business Paper is for notation.
- Utilities Alliance Report 2 – attached to the Business Paper is for Resolution.

RESOLVED Cllr Batten/Leonie Brown that:

1. The Utilities Alliance Report 1 attached to the Business Paper be noted; and
2. That the name of the Orana Water Utilities Alliance be changed to the "Western Councils Water Alliance" and that the Project Officer carry out all the requirements to re-brand the organisation.

**Carried
2024/25**

**9. GENERAL BUSINESS****CONTINUED****9.2 Transport for NSW Presentation – Jackie Anderson, Belinda Roberts, Amy Slessor. Adam Tanner was an apology.**

- There will be 9 plans in NSW;
- 2 are currently in Draft form;
- All Alliance members are encouraged to visit the Transport for NSW website and make an on line contribution;
- Transport for NSW requested a copy of the OROC Transport Plan; and
- The Chairperson thanked Transport for NSW for their attendance and their presentation.

9.3 Meeting Dates and Suggested Presenters

- Leonie Brown requested a Workshop in early 2025 with State Agencies invited to be present.
- Peter Vlatko requested a presentation on the cost of water and affordability.

RESOLVED Jane Redden/David Neeves that Meeting Dates for 2025 are as follows:

- GMAC Meeting - Friday, 21 February 2025.
- Alliance Board Meeting - Friday, 7 March 2025 with a potential Workshop on Thursday, 6 March 2025.

**Carried
2024/25**

9.4 Police Numbers in Our Region

General Discussion: Police numbers are an ongoing problem in some areas. Local attendance is “hit and miss” depending on the location of the individual Council areas and also the individual area circumstances.

Clarification is needed in relation to availability and standard of Police housing, Replacement Policy for absent Officers and regional incentives (cost of living advantage and travel for medical).

The possibility of a scholarship to support a person to enter the academy and then work within the Alliance Western Councils area was also discussed – to be investigated further. Executive Officer to circulate information on numbers that were distributed at the Board Meeting.

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Clr Jones that a deputation for the Alliance Western Councils be sent to the NSW Minister for Police expressing concern about policing numbers in the Alliance Western Councils area and also seeking clarification in relation to the issues raised above.

**Carried
2024/26**

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9.5 Position of Executive Officer

The Interim Executive Officer – Lisa Schiff left the room for the discussion.

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Clr Ford that:

1. That the General Manager’s from Narromine, Gilgandra and Bogan be authorised to extend the current scope of the Executive Officer as an interim measure into the first half of 2025 to oversight the completion of the Alliance Western Councils Strategic Plan and the other Executive Officer functions required of the Alliance; and
2. The General Manager’s from Narromine, Gilgandra and Bogan be authorised to negotiate and finalise the fee structure.

**Carried
2024/27**

9.6 Meeting Locations 2025

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Jane Redden to accept meetings in different locations – at the discretion of the Chair and Executive Officer.

**Carried
2024/28**

9.7 Submission Dubbo PCYC

Dubbo Mayor Josh Black addressed the Board and requested that a letter of support from the Alliance Western Councils and also individual Councils be sent to the Minister in requesting approval of the outstanding Government grant for the Dubbo PCYC Indoor Sports Complex Application.

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Clr Whiteley that the Alliance Western Councils send a letter of support for the Dubbo PCYC Indoor Sports Complex application.

**Carried
2024/29**

9.8 Sustainability

There was a general discussion in relation to the financial sustainability of Councils and the question was asked by Peter Vlatko – is financial sustainability achievable?

It was suggested that we advise politicians that funding is needed for operational activity and not for more assets. It was suggested that sustainability could only be achieved by further rate rises and this is unsustainable.

Councils are not “roads, rates and rubbish” anymore and the community expectation is that Councils will provide a much wider range of services which are usually unfunded.

David Kirby suggested that the Alliance Western Councils invite Professor Drew – Centre of Local Government Studies to address the Board of the Alliance Western Councils – on the afternoon prior to the next meeting.

RESOLVED David Kirby/Peter Vlatko that David Kirby to contact Professor Drew with a view to having him address the Alliance Western Councils Board in a workshop.

**Carried
2024/30**

**9.9 Draft Strategic Plan:**

Lisa Schiff recapped the process on preparation of the Draft Plan to date – including the outcome of the previous Workshop and presented a short PowerPoint presentation to highlight the parts of the Draft Plan still requiring input from members as follows:

- Top six Council priorities; and
- Tested the Vision, Values.

It was suggested that the PowerPoint be circulated and the Board Members given until the end of November to provide comment. A gentle reminder was given that this Plan is the Alliance Western Councils Plan and that input is both needed and welcomed.

It is anticipated that the Draft Strategic Plan will be presented to a final workshop at the next Board Meeting in March 2025. The Draft Plan will be presented to GMAC in February 2025.

RESOLVED Jane Redden/Clr Batten that:

1. The Draft Plan be circulated for comment by Board Members with comments to be received by end of first week in December 2024;
2. That the Draft Plan be presented to GMAC in February 2025; and
3. That the Draft Plan be workshopped by the Alliance Western Councils Board in March 2025 prior to finalisation.

**Carried
2024/30**

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm with the Chairperson wishing everyone a safe and Happy Christmas.

10.3 COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION (CMA)**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present, for Councillors information, the minutes of the Country Mayors Association AGM, held on 15 November 2024.

2. Background

The Country Mayors Association (CMA) Meetings are held to coincide with NSW Parliament sitting dates, the first Friday of the first week of each parliamentary session and minutes of these meetings are tabled for the information of Councillors.

3. Discussion

Of particular note, was this meeting had an attendance of 150, which was one of the largest CMA meetings that have been held and the presentations by guest speakers.

4. Attachments

1. Country Mayors Association (CMA) Minutes 15 November 2024

5. Recommendation

That the Country Mayors Association (CMA) report be received and noted.



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

Chairman: Cr Rick Firman OAM
C/- Temora Shire Council,
PO Box 262, Temora NSW 2666
Email: admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au

MINUTES

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc was held on **Friday 15 November 2024, in the Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street from 8:20am until 1pm. The meeting had a Skills and Education theme.**

Acting Chairman Cr. Rick Firman OAM extended the official Welcome.

**Guest Speaker;
NSW Opposition Leader & Liberal Leader, the Hon Mark Speakman MP**

Opposition Leader Speakman congratulated recently elected mayors. He described the regional connectedness of the NSW Coalition Opposition.

"Our shadow skills and education ministers are regionally based."

"There's a lot of pain and frustration in the regions. Pressures including difficulties getting skilled staff are a real challenge, as are the accommodation shortages. I was recently in Cowra with Local Member Steph Cooke and the increasing water costs was a pressure on agribusiness there."

"The issue with common planning assumptions (which understate growth projections and thus, funding) was another issue in Cowra and Parkes. There are dramatic reductions in funding. Councils have to repair the roads after floods and we are determined to support them."

"Prefabricated, smaller homes is one of the alternative approaches floated that will help address the housing needs of country NSW."

Introduction of new Mayors, who were presented with CMA pins. There was also acknowledgement of those who were not re-elected and recognition for retiring Executive Board Members. Three former CMA Executive Board members were presented with plaques which acknowledged their service:

Cr. Firman again paid tribute to the work of former CMA Chairman and Mayor of Gunnedah Shire, Mr Jamie Chaffey, who was pleased to take a break from campaigning for the Federal Seat of Parkes to support the CMA. Mr Chaffey encouraged Mayors to make the most of their time as Mayors and highlighted the value of the CMA.

Former CMA Executive Member and Mayor of Narromine Shire Cr. Craig Davies reiterated the importance of the bio-conservation Act issue and the CMA.

Former CMA Executive Member and Mayor of Federation Council, Cr. Patrick Bourke reiterated how he valued the CMA and the relationships from it.

Attendance 150

Cr. Kevin Mack	Mayor	Albury City Council
Frank Zaknich	CEO	Albury City Council
Cr. Todd Redwood	Deputy Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
James Roncon	GM	Armidale Regional Council
Linda Scott	Former President	ALGA
Cr. Robert Taylor	Mayor	Bathurst Regional Council
David Sherley	GM	Bathurst Regional Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader	Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Bega Valley Shire Council
Anthony McMahon	CEO	Bega Valley Shire Council
Mark Griffioen	GM	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Stephen Allan	Mayor	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Julia Cornwell McKean	Mayor	Berrigan Shire Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan	Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Grant Baker	GM	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker	GM	Blayney Shire Council
Cr. Lachlan Ford	Mayor	Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	GM	Bourke Shire Council
Cr. Jim Hickey	Deputy Mayor	Broken Hill City Council
Cr. Sarah Ndiaye	Mayor	Byron Shire Council
Mark Arnold	GM	Byron Shire Council
Cr. Kevin Beatty	Mayor	Cabonne Shire Council
Bradley Byrnes	GM	Cabonne Shire Council
Sharon Houlihan	EO	Canberra Region JO
Greg Hill	GM	Central Darling Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Watton	Mayor	Cessnock City Council
Cr. Ray Smith	Mayor	Clarence Valley Council
Laura Black	GM	Clarence Valley Council
Gary Fry	Secretariat	CMA
Cr. Jarrod Marsden	Mayor	Cobar Shire Council
Cr. Nikki Williams	Mayor	Coffs Harbour City Council
Cr. David McCann	Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council
Tony Donoghue	GM	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Keady	Mayor	Coonamble Shire Council
Paul Gallagher	GM	Coonamble Shire Council
Dirk Wymer	Acting GM	Cowra Shire Council
Cr. Paul Smith	Mayor	Cowra Shire Council
Cr. Josh Black	Mayor	Dubbo Regional Council
Murray Wood	CEO	Dubbo Regional Council
Gareth Curtis	GM	Dungog Shire Council
Cr. Digby Rayward	Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
Gary Arnold	CEO	Edward River Council

Cr. Ashley Hall	Mayor	Edward River Council
Cr. Mathew Hatcher	Mayor	Eurobodalla Shire Council
Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mayor	Federation Council
	Council and past CMA Executive	
Cr. Patrick Bourke	Member	Federation Council
Adrian Butler	GM	Federation Council
Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM	Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Doug Batten	Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Nicholas White	Councillor	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Margot Davis	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Bernard Smith	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. Nina Dillon	Mayor	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Marina Hollands	Acting CEO	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Cr. Ben Hooper	Deputy Mayor	Greater Hume Council
Evelyn Arnold	GM	Greater Hume Council
Cr. Doug Curran	Mayor	Griffith City Council
Brett Stonestreet	GM	Griffith City Council
Cr. Colleen Fuller	Mayor	Gunnedah Shire Council
Eric Groth	GM	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr. Tiffany Galvin	Mayor	Gwydir Shire Council
Max Eastcott	GM	Gwydir Shire Council
	Executive Manager Economic	
Alison McLean	Development & Tourism	Hay Shire Council
Cr. Brian Ingram	Mayor	Hilltops Council
Anothony O'Reilly	GM	Hilltops Council
Cr. Kate Dight	Mayor	Inverell Shire Council
Brett McInnes	GM	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Kinne Ring	Mayor	Kempsey Shire Council
Craig Milburn	GM	Kempsey Shire Council
Stephen Mitchell	Director Corporate and Commercial	Kempsey Shire Council
Cr. Cameron McDonald	Mayor	Kiama Municipal Council
Jane Stroud	CEO	Kiama Municipal Council
Cr. Danielle Mulholland	Mayor	Kyogle Council
Cr. John Medcalf OAM	Mayor	Lachlan Shire Council
Greg Tory	GM	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. George Weston	Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Jackie Kruger	GM	Leeton Shire Council
Cr. Steve Krieg	Mayor	Lismore City Council
John Gibbons	GM	Lismore City Council
Ross Gurney	GM	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Cass Coleman	Mayor	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Ken Cudmore	Mayor	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Gary Murphy	GM	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr. Peter Sharp	Mayor	Lockhart Shire Council
Gavin Rhodes	GM	Lockhart Shire Council
Cr. Claire Pontin	Mayor	MidCoast Council
Cr. Des Kennedy	Mayor	Mid-Western Regional Council
Brad Cam	GM	Mid-Western Regional Council
Cr. Susannah Pearse	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
Kelvin Tytherleigh	GM	Moree Plains Shire Council
Sarah Ryan	Acting CEO	Murray River Council

Cr. John Harvie	Mayor	Murray River Council
Cr. Ruth McRae OAM	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce	GM	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr. Jeff Drayton	Mayor	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Derek Finnigan	GM	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cr Darrell Tiemens	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
Eloise Chaplain	GM	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr. Craig Davies	Councillor and past CMA Executive	Narromine Shire Council
Cr. Ewen Jones	Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Phil Johnston	Director	Narromine Shire Council
Jamie Chaffey	Past CMA Chariman	Nationals Candidate for Parkes
Jonathan Malota	Policy Advisor – Transport & Data	NRMA
Cr. Katie Graham	Deputy Mayor	Oberon Council
Gary Wallace	GM	Oberon Council
Erica Van Den Honert	Executive Director	OLG
Sharne Colefax	Manager, Council Engagement Council Engagement Manager,	OLG
Anita Gambhir	North Coast and Eastern Sydney	OLG
Cr. Tony Mileto	Mayor	Orange City Council
Cr. Neil Westcott	Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Marg Applebee	Deputy Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Leah Anderson	Mayor	Port Stephens Council
Cr. Robert Mustow	Mayor	Richmond Valley Council
Vaughan Macdonald	GM	Richmond Valley Council
Cr. Kenrick Winchester	Mayor	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Rebecca Ryan	GM	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Yvonne Lingua	Executive Officer	RAMJO
Julie Briggs	CEO outgoing	REROC
Megan Mulrooney	CEO incoming	REROC
Cr. Robert Mustow	Mayor	Richmond Valley Council
Vaughan Macdonald	GM	Richmond Valley Council
Cr. Chris Homer	Mayor	Shellharbour City Council
Cr. Patricia White	Mayor	Shoalhaven City Council
James Ruprai	Acting GM	Shoalhaven City Council
Cr. Sue Moore	Mayor	Singleton Council
Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr	GM	Singleton Council
Cr. Chris Hanna	Mayor	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Julia Ham	Mayor	Snowy Valleys Council
Paul Bennett	GM	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Rick Firman OAM	Mayor (CMA Acting Chairman)	Temora Shire Council
Melissa Boxall	GM	Temora Shire Council
Cr. Bronwyn Petrie	Mayor	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr. Paul Culhane	Mayor	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Alex Waldron	CEO	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Robert Bell	Mayor	Uralla Shire Council
Toni Averay	GM	Uralla Shire Council
Cr. Eric Noakes	Mayor	Walcha Council
Megan Dixon	GM	Walgett Shire Council
Cr. Jasen Ramien	Mayor	Walgett Shire Council
Gary Woodman	GM	Warren Shire Council

Cr. Greg Whiteley	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Lindsay Mason	Acting GM	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr. Paul Best	Mayor	Weddin Shire Council
Noreen Vu	GM	Weddin Shire Council
Ken Ross	GM	Wentowrth Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mayor	Wentowrth Shire Council
Cr. Jesse Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Lisa Miscamble	GM	Wingecarribee Shire Council

Apologies

Adrian Panuccio	MidCoast Council	GM
Cr. Bob Callow	Junee Shire Council	Mayor
James Davis	Junee Shire Council	GM
Cr. Abb McAlister	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Mayor
Steve McGrath	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Acting GM
Cr. Dallas Tout	Wagga	Mayor
Steve Loane OAM	Forbes Shire Council	GM
Cr. Russell Webb	Tamworth Regional Council	Mayor
Lord Mayor Tania Brown	Wollongong City Council	
Cr. Glen Neill	Bogan Shire Council	Mayor
Cr. Andrew McKibbob	Oberon Mayor	
Cr. Kathryn Rindfleish	Warrumbungle Shire Mayor	
Cr. Sam Coupland	Armidale Regional Council Mayor	
George Cowan	Narrandera Shire	
Cr. Carol Oataway	Hay Shire Mayor	
David Waddell	Orange City Council CEO	
	Central Darling Shire	
Bob Stewart	Administrator	
Phil Hood	Walcha Council GM	
Jay Nankivell	Broken Hill City Council GM	
Steve Pinnuck	Snowy Valleys Council	

Apologies moved by Snowy Monaro Regional Council Mayor Cr. Chris Hanna and seconded by Bellingen Shire Council Mayor Cr. Steve Allan.

Reports

Year in Review Acting Chairman’s Report

Cr. Firman spoke of the very big year that the CMA has had. Cabonne Mayor Cr. Kevin Beattie moved and Bellingen Mayor Cr. Steve Allan seconded that the report be accepted. Unanimously endorsed.

LGNSW Report

President of LGNSW, Cr. Darriea Turley AM congratulated mayors on their election. “We are a family. LGNSW has a strong MoU with the CMA and we stand together.”
 Moved by Kyogle Mayor Cr. Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Eurobodalla and Cr. Mathew Hatcher

seconded that the report be accepted. Unanimously endorsed.

ALGA Report

Cr. Darriea Turley AM returned to the lectern as Vice-President of ALGA. Matt Burnett was elected President of ALGA unopposed. Cr. Turley encouraged participation and Ministerial contact at the ALGA conference.

Moved by Forbes Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phillys Miller OAM and Seconded Kyogle Mayor, Cr Dannielle Mulholland. Unanimously endorsed.

Guest Speaker

Minister for Skills, TAFE & Tertiary Education, the Hon. Steve Whan MP

Minister Whan spoke of the linkages between educational institutions, training providers and industry that are being developed. "The Educational Partnerships program is doing that (linking) with Careers advisors in schools."

"Raising awareness of the options available is important. A NSW Skills Plan will be released later this year."

"Increased visibility of options at TAFE campuses has been called for, as with increased links between TAFE and communities.

1,300 apprenticeships place for LG was announced by Minister Hoenig and other initiatives are underway."

"A strong investment in skill development like fee-free courses in VET has been undertaken by the Government. This includes encouraging people to upskill in trade skills. Doing a VET course can be financially far better than a university degree and leaves someone with a lot less debt."

"Skilled Migration is also important. NSW Government does have State nominated visa programs and we are working with the Australian Government on that. The process of assessing skills can be complicated or slow. School fees will no longer be required certain visa holders and that will make NSW more attractive for skilled migrants."

"TAFE teachers will be made less casual, more permanent and we've seen 500 transition to permanency already."

Q. Cr. Sarah Ndiaye from Byron Shire: Southern Cross University is cutting the Arts – face to face creative arts is being cut out in our education institutions, including high schools.

A The previous Federal Government introduced policy that increased Arts fees and I will follow up with the Government.

My daughter is a drama teacher, so I am certainly looking into the discussion paper.

Q. Cr. Neville Kschenka (Narrandera Shire Mayor). Doctors from overseas take too long to get their skills assessed.

A. Unfortunately, that is a Federal issue and licensing in the medical sector is very complex.

Q. Cr. Robert Bell (Mayor of Uralla Shire). Speaking from the New England REZ, there is a need for training. There are great opportunities for trades with renewable energy projects. An

electrician gets \$70/hr in town and \$180/hr at a solar farm.

A. Our Skills Plan will hopefully incorporate that. The challenge is that a solar farm construction does not last long enough for an apprenticeship.

Q. Cr. George Weston (Mayor of Leeton Shire). Commented on the difficulty skilled migrants have in traveling to distant TAFE courses.

Q. Armidale Regional Council (Deputy Mayor Todd Redwood) also highlighted the New England REZ challenges.

Q. Cr. Kinny Ring (Mayor of Kempsey Shire Council). What are you doing about key skill shortage areas?

A. We are teaching more nursing in TAFE. RPL is difficult with skilled migrants. It often involves industry bodies, Government and it can be cumbersome. Keep an eye out for the Government's Skills Plan.

Q. Cr. Cass Coleman (Lithgow City Council Mayor), our TAFE students have to travel to Sydney or Orange. We need trade TAFEs and we need to make them more accessible to regional communities.

A. We cannot make all trades available at all campuses but some online components does help. We are looking at how we can reduce travel demands.

Morning tea in the Fountain Court of the NSW Parliament building was a brief respite that was a welcomed chance to relax and network with peers from around the State.

AGM business

Minutes from 2023 AGM – Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick moved and Forbes Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM seconded. Unanimously endorsed.

Correspondence - Forbes Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM moved and Lachlan Shire Council Mayor Cr. John Medcalf OAM seconded. Unanimously endorsed.

Financials

CMA Secretary and Temora Shire GM Melissa Boxall provided a summary, given financials had been supplied.

The financials were moved by Singleton Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Sue Moore, Seconded by Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick. Unanimously endorsed.

Appointment of Returning Officers

RECOMMENDATION: That the Acting CMA Secretary/Public Officer Ms. Melissa Boxall and Secretariat Mr. Gary Fry be appointed as returning officers for the CMA Executive Board elections.

Motion of returning officers – Mayor of Wentworth Shire Council Cr. Daniel Linklater moved the motion and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM seconded. Unanimously endorsed.

That the election be conducted by secret ballot.

Moved Cr. Phyllis Miller, seconded Cr. Sue Moore (Singleton Council).

Election results:

Ms. Boxall announced the following Election results for a two-year term:

Mayor of Temora Shire Council, Cr. Rick Firman OAM was endorsed as Chairman unopposed.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick and Armidale Regional Council Mayor Cr. Sam Coupland contested for the Deputy Chairman Position. Mayor Fitzpatrick won.

From 13 candidates, the following (7) Mayors were elected to the Executive Board of the CMA:

Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM, Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Sam Coupland, Armidale Regional Council
Cr. John Medcalf OAM, Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Sue Moore, Singleton Council
Cr. Josh Black, Dubbo Regional Council
Cr. Russell Webb, Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council

The vote was close across the Board and there were no informal votes.

The following Mayors were unsuccessful:

Cr. Steve Allan, Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Chris Hanna, Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Mathew Hatcher, Eurobodalla Shire Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan, Bland Shire Council
Cr. Danielle Mulholland, Kyogle Council
And Cr. Darrell Tiemens, Narrabri Shire Council

A motion was moved that should a vacancy occur in the Executive it would be filled by the candidate with the 8th highest vote count, with another vacancy occurrence going to 9th place etc. This was moved by Mayor of Bland Shire Council Cr. Brian Monaghan, seconded by Kempsey Shire Mayor Cr. Kinne Ring. Endorsed unanimously.

Forbes Shire Council Mayor and CMA Executive Member Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM and Bland Shire Council Mayor Cr. Brian Monaghan seconded that ballot papers be destroyed. Unanimous.

Orange City Council Mayor Cr. Tony Mileto moved that all elected positions be accepted and Leeton Shire Mayor Cr. George Weston seconded. Endorsed unanimously.

Appointment of Secretariat

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION: That Gary Fry, through Regional Development Australia Inland Northern NSW be re-contracted as CMA Secretariat/Executive Officer for 2025 but that the hours for the role be extended to 30 per week, with annual cost of \$80,000 ex GST for an average of 4 days per week.

Moved – Cr. Sue Moore (Mayor, Singleton Council)

Seconded – Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM (Mayor, Forbes Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

Setting of Annual Membership Fees

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION: That the CMA increase membership fees by 10%, in light of the increasing workload with advocacy to Government Inquiries. This 10% increase would result in the fees for the 2025 calendar year becoming \$1,650 for Councils with a population of 10,000 and over, and Councils with a population of less than 10,000 paying 75% of the full fee, becoming \$1,237.50, which would also be the new fee for not-for-profit Associate Membership, while for-profit Associate Membership would become \$3,300 per year.

Moved – Cr. Phyllis Miller (Mayor Forbes Shire Council)

Seconded – Cr. Chris Hanna (Mayor Snowy Monaro Regional Council)

Carried unanimously.

General Business:**CMA Constitution. Proposed amendments have been supplied.**

RECOMMENDATION: That the proposed amendments be endorsed and that the resultant constitution for the CMA be accepted by members as the currently endorsed version (15 November 2024).

Moved – Cr. Danielle Mulholland (Mayor Kyogle Council)

Seconded – Cr. John Medcalf OAM (Mayor Lachlan Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

Membership

RECOMMENDATION: That Coffs Harbour City Council be endorsed as a Member of the Country Mayors Association of NSW.

Moved – Cr. Stephen Allan (Mayor Bellingen Shire Council)

Seconded – Cr. Mathew Hatcher (Mayor Eurobodalla Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) be endorsed as an Associate Member of the Country Mayors Association of NSW.

Moved – Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick (Mayor Bega Valley Shire Council)

Seconded – Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM (Mayor Forbes Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

Setting of Meeting Dates for 2025

RECOMMENDATION: That the meeting dates for 2025 be set to coincide with NSW Parliament sitting dates, as was the case in 2024 – the Friday of the first week of each parliamentary session. [It was stated that these dates would be communicated to members as soon as they are ascertained].

Moved – Cr. Kevin Mack (Mayor Albury City Council)

Seconded – Cr. Chris Hanna (Mayor Snowy Monaro Regional Council)

Carried unanimously.

Signatories.

RECOMMENDATION: That signatories from the former Chairman's Council [Gunnedah Shire] be removed from the Country Mayors Association account and that the new Chairman and two staff members from their Council be authorised as signatories.

Moved – Cr. Kevin Mack (Mayor Albury City Council)

Seconded – Cr. Steve Krieg (Mayor Lismore City Council)

Carried unanimously.

Hosting Non-Metropolitan Meetings in 2025

Submissions to host a non-metropolitan meeting in 2025 have been received from Orange City Council, Ballina Shire Council and Inverell Shire Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That members vote to determine if there will be one CMA member hosted meeting in 2025 or two. Further, that new CMA Executive Board assess the applications and make the selection/s and choose the optimal date.

That One CMA Regional Meeting be held in 2025.

Moved – Cr. Sue Moore (Mayor Singleton Council)

Seconded – Cr. Phyllis Miller (Mayor Forbes Shire Council)

Carried unanimously.

CMA Executive Board to determine

Moved – Cr. Kevin Mack (Mayor Albury City Council)

Seconded – Cr. Steve Krieg (Mayor Lismore City Council)

Carried unanimously.

Member motions.

Mayor of Tenterfield Shire Council Cr. Bronwyn Petrie moved “That the Country Mayors Association writes to the Premier of NSW requesting an urgent ban of importation of turf product into NSW from Queensland and increased border surveillance, and b) requests of the Premiers of NSW and Queensland and the Federal government an urgent improvement in the eradication measures delivered by Biosecurity Queensland and the National Management Group governing the National Fire Ant Eradication Program.”

Seconded - Mayor Stephen Allan (Mayor of Bellingen Shire Council).

Carried unanimously.

Final Guest Speaker

The **Premier, the Hon. Chris Minns MP** was originally scheduled to speak at 9:15am, he requested a change to 12:30pm days before the meeting and had to send an apology halfway through the meeting. He sent **Minister for Regional Roads and Transport, the Hon. Jenny Atchinson MP** as his representative.

Minister Atchinson spoke of the Government’s current priorities, which included housing and essential workers. A focus has been on increased staffing of health professionals and Police with the Academy seeing the largest intake as a result of the introduction of paid study.

Like Minister Whan, she highlighted the \$252 million funding for cadets, apprentices and trainees across all NSW Councils – which will (it is hoped) result in an additional 1300 staff.

Three new TAFE Centres of excellence across NSW was announced.

There was also an announcement of 100 new preschools to be built near schools (with 49 in regional areas) to help improve literacy and numeracy.

Meeting closed at 12:55pm

Cr Rick Firman OAM
Chairman

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11 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 BOGAN SHIRE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE SECURITY SYSTEM

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of legislative and regulatory requirements relating to children's safety and security at the Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre and to seek approval from Council to fund the installation of a new access control system to the front entrance.

2. Background

The Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre (ELC) does not currently have in place an access control system to the front door of the building, other than the self-closing gate on the surrounding fence. Any person can freely enter and exit the building particularly when the kitchen and administration office are unattended.

Under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*, Council is required to ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children being educated and cared for at the ELC from harm and hazards.

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, Council is required to ensure that a child who is being educated and cared for at the ELC does not leave the ELC premises except in accordance with certain conditions as well as ensuring that the ELC premises are safe.

3. Discussion

The last formal Assessment and Rating of the ELC took place in June 2023. The Report provided to Management indicated the Service as "Not Meeting" the requirements under National Quality Area 2 - Children's Health and Safety with reference to safety systems not meet regulatory requirements for children leaving the service premises.

The Report also indicated non-compliance with the requirements of National Quality Area 3 - Physical Environment, with reference to visibility and effective supervision of visitors to the Service.

Not addressing these matters in time for the next Assessment and Rating, could result in Non-Compliance or Breach Notices being issued with possible penalties applied. More importantly, although there have been no known safety and security incidents since the Centre opened, Council has an obligation for the safety and well-being of children and staff.

A quote has been obtained for approximately \$20,000 to install a new access control system to the front entrance, which includes a door controller and a card/pin access pad. This system ensures that doors remain locked from the outside at all times, and when the door closes, it automatically returns to a locked position.

4. Attachments

Nil

5. Recommendation

Noting the legislative and regulatory requirements relating to children's safety and security at the Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre, Council approves expenditure of \$20,000 for the installation of a new access control system to the front entrance of the Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre, with provision being made for this at the next budget review.

11.2 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE WORKER RETENTION PAYMENT GRANT

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of an announcement made by the Australian Government to provide for grant funding to allow for payments of an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) retention allowance payment to eligible ECEC workers and the implications of this for Bogan Shire Council.

2. Background

The Australian Government has announced a grant program involving an investment of \$3.6 billion in ECEC services. The grant is aimed at funding a 15% increase for all eligible ECEC workers phased in over two years (10% in the first year and 5% in the second year).

The objectives of the grant program are to:

- support a meaningful wage increase for an historically undervalued, highly feminised sector that provides an essential service;
- contribute to the ongoing professionalisation of the ECEC sector;
- ensure ECEC remains accessible and affordable to families; and
- address workforce shortages as the Government considers a pathway to universal ECEC.

The intended outcomes of the program are:

- improved attraction and retention of educators and early childhood teachers in the ECEC sector;
- improved access to high quality ECEC; and
- improved workplace instrument coverage in the ECEC sector.

The ECEC Worker Retention Payment Grant will run over two years from 2 December 2024 to 30 November 2026.

3. Discussion

Following the initial announcement by the Australian Government, Local Government NSW (LGNSW), Council's industry body, commenced discussions with the government and member councils to ensure that ECEC workers employed by local councils under the Local Government State Award would also be eligible for payment of the grant-funded allowance.

This culminated in the LGNSW Board endorsing a so-called ECEC Splinter Award which was made by the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales on 28 November 2024.

Effectively this means that, being a party to this Award, Bogan Shire Council can seek a grant from the Australian Government to fully fund wage increases in the form of an additional retention payment allowance up until 30 November 2026. Under the terms of the ECEC Splinter Award, these payments will cease at that date (when the grant funding ceases).

One of the conditions of ongoing grant funding is that the service provider (in this case Bogan Shire Council) will cap its annual ECEC (Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre) service fee increases to 4.4% between 8 August 2024 and 7 August 2025 (our 2025/26 financial year) and 4.2% between 8 August 2025 and 7 August 2026 (our 2026/27 financial year).

In this regard it is premature for Council to make a decision on fee increases for 2025/26 and 2026/27 at this stage. During the budget process in the second quarter of 2025 an assessment will be made of required fee increases based on the first quarter's operations at the new 59 place capacity. A survey of comparable ECEC service fees in the region is also undertaken at this point. Both these factors will inform Council as to the level of potential fee increases.

Following this process, should Council wish to raise the ECEC service fee by more than the percentages mentioned above, it has the option to (a) notify the Australian Government accordingly – which will make Council ineligible for grant funding from the start of the new financial year – or (b) to apply under the grant conditions for an alternative fee growth gap, which would be on the basis of financial viability.

A third option, if Council chose to increase the ECEC service fee by more than the percentages mentioned above is (c) that it could fund – through higher fees - the additional retention payment allowances itself through to 30 November 2026. This is a decision that can be made by Council during the budget process next year.

Regardless of which one of the three options Council chooses from the start of 2025/26, at this point it is eligible to claim grant payments through to 30 June 2025 which are to be passed on in their entirety to eligible Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre staff.

4. Attachments

Nil

5. Recommendation

That the Early Childhood Education and Care Worker Retention Payment Grant Report be received and noted.

12 FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 INVESTMENTS NOVEMBER 2024

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to outline the performance of Council's investment portfolio for the month of November 2024.

2. Background

In accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 a report must be presented to the Council setting out details of all the money that the Council has invested under section 625 of the Act.

3. Discussion

The Investment Report for November 2024 are shown below. At the 30th November 2024 Council had \$30 million invested. There has been a decrease of \$687,000 due to expenditure of grants where Council has already received the income as well as outstanding claims for expenditure on TfNSW flood grants and RMCC ordered works.

Consideration of this report means that Council is complying with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Investment Movements for November 2024

It is hereby certified that these investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Regulations thereto.

REF	Source	Taken Up	Maturity	% rate	Bal Oct 24	Bal Nov 24
42-150-6894	NAB - Professional Funds	4/05/2016	At Call	4.350%	14,023,325.26	11,335,350.49
11271016	Westpac	15/12/2023	16/12/2024	5.150%	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00
87-912-8864	NAB	22/02/2024	21/02/2025	5.080%	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
41-459-6828	NAB	22/02/2024	21/02/2025	5.080%	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
76-111-0458	NAB	09/05/2024	09/05/2025	5.250%	2,800,000.00	2,800,000.00
76-135-1489	NAB	09/05/2024	09/05/2025	5.250%	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
88-392-4994	NAB	29/05/2024	29/05/2025	5.200%	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
	NAB	05/11/2024	05/11/2025	5.050%		2,000,000.00
	Balance securities held				30,823,325.26	30,135,350.49
	Balance Ledger 19010.8200.8200				30,823,325.26	30,135,350.49
	Summary by institution					
	WESTPAC				6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00
	NAB				27,357,234.33	24,135,350.49
	COMMONWEALTH				0.00	0.00
					30,823,325.26	30,135,350.49

4. Attachments

Nil

5. Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Investments Report for November 2024.

12.2 SUMMARY OF RATE AND ANNUAL CHARGES COLLECTION

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a comparison of rate collections as at 30th November, 2024, with the same period last year.

2. Background

This report is provided for the information of Councillors.

3. Discussion

Rate Collections	2024-2025	2023-2024
Arrears Prior to 01/07/2024	310,749	506,830
First Instalment in arrears as at 30/11/2024	72,851	66,451
Second Instalment Outstanding as at 30/11/2024	524,828	411,436
Third Instalment Outstanding as at 30/11/2024	1,079,918	1,038,187
Fourth Instalment Outstanding as at 30/11/2024	1,120,452	1,071,942
Total Arrears	383,600	573,281
Total Outstanding	3,108,798	3,094,846
Monthly Transactions		
Amount Levied & B/Fwd	6,250,323	6,253,215
Add: Adjustments	34,188	55,444
Less: Payments to end of November	-3,100,151	-3,140,720
Less: Rebates	-75,562	-73,093
Gross Total Balance	3,108,798	3,094,846
Arrears of total amount levied %	6%	9%

Total arrears have decreased from \$573,281 at the 30th November 2023 to \$383,600 as at 30th November this year.

Each instalment amounts to approximately \$1,563,000 (Total Rates, Waste, Water & Sewer Access Charges)

As at the 30th November 2024 Council had collected \$40,569 less than at the same time last year.

4. Attachments

Nil

5. Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Rates and Annual Charges collection report.

12.3 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present to Council a an Application for Financial Assistance for the Nyngan Amateur Swimming Club.

2. Background

Under section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act), the Bogan Shire Council is able to, in accordance with a resolution of the Council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.

At its General Meeting on 23 November 2023 Council adopted a Financial Assistance Policy to assist with decision making around such requests of Council.

The policy provides guidelines, conditions, and information to assist the General Manager determine who is eligible to apply for financial assistance from council and the conditions they need to meet to receive the funding.

Council already has a long-standing resolution that waives all booking fees for the use of Council facilities and security bonds on such bookings for bonafide community organisations within the Bogan Shire.

3. Discussion

Council has received an eligible application from the Nyngan Amateur Swmming Club for an amount of \$500 to assist with their Annual Swimming Carnival being held on the 15th December 2024 by way of prize money to competitors as well as covering other costs associated with running the carnival.

Council has donated these funds to the Club since 2012 whenever a carnival has been held.

4. Attachments

Nil

5. Recommendation

That Council consider a donation of the sum of \$500 to the Nyngan Amateur Swimming Club for their Annual Swimming Carnival.

12.4 ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY COUNCIL POLICY

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the reviewed Access to Information Held by Council Policy AP012 to be adopted.

2. Background

Council is required to implement a Policy to comply with legislation regarding disclosure of information, in particular the Government Information (Public Access) Act (GIPA) 2009, the Local Government Act (LGA) 1993, and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Council is also subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and Health Records Information Privacy Act 2002 that establish standards for information handling practices for personal and health information.

3. Discussion

Council has previously had an Access to Information Policy and it has now been reviewed.

The Policy states the Council's commitment to being open and accountable in the exercise of its functions and to acknowledge the lawful rights of citizen's access to information held by the Council and provide information on how to access council information.

All persons working for or engaged by Council in either a paid or unpaid capacity must comply with this policy.

4. Attachments

Policy AP012 Access to Information Held by Council

5. Recommendation

That Council adopt the revised Access to Information Held by Council Policy AP012.

Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

POLICY AP012

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

POLICY



Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

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Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

Policy Outcomes Statement

The purpose of this Policy is to outline Council's commitment to improving accountability and transparency by ensuring that members of the public can access information in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act).

Overview

This Policy states the Council's commitment to being open and accountable in the exercise of its functions.

To acknowledge the lawful rights of citizen's access to information held by the Council.

To provide information on how to access council information.

To comply with legislation regarding disclosure of information, in particular the *Government Information (Public Access) Act (GIPA) 2009*, the *Local Government Act (LGA) 1993*, and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Council is also subject to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and *Health Records Information Privacy Act 2002* that establish standards for information handling practices for personal and health information.

Applicability

All persons working for or engaged by Council in either a paid or unpaid capacity must comply with this policy. For the purposes of this policy, this includes:

- all Council employees,
- contractors engaged who perform work for, or on behalf of Council,
- work experience students and volunteers,
- members and office bearers of Community Committees of Council,
- consultants who undertake public official functions; and
- Councillors.

Principles

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

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

Council will promote disclosure and dissemination of information about operations, plans and decisions, and information that promotes community advancement on its

Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

website wherever practicable, and will actively facilitate public access to information held by the council.

Documents required by law to be available for public inspection will be posted on the website, unless internet access poses an unacceptable risk of interference with privacy through potential data gathering and matching techniques or unless to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs on Council.

Any person is entitled to have information about their place of residence suppressed from documents available for inspection where disclosure would endanger personal safety, or removed from any register available for public inspection in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act.

Other Council documents not posted on the website will be available for inspection unless disclosure on balance is contrary to the public interest.

Any member of the public may also lodge a formal application under the GIPA Act, which will be dealt with in accordance with the Act's provisions. Formal applications will not be required where documents are otherwise available in accordance with this policy.

Any individual has a lawful right to know what personal or health information Council holds about him or her, to access that information in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act, and to amend that information in certain circumstances.

Broad requests for access to a large number of unspecified documents which, if processed, would divert substantial Council resources from dealing with other requests, or from performing other Council functions may be refused on the grounds that such a diversion of resources is contrary to the public interest (section 60 GIPA Act).

Policy

Accessing Information

Any member of the public has the legal right to request access to the information the Council maintains by submitting an application to the Council. The Council also makes a lot of information available to the public upon request and publishes a wide range of information on its website.

The Council will provide copies of requested information in digital form wherever possible. Where copies cannot be made available in digital form, information may be available for viewing at the Council administration building.

The Council is required to issue Access Directions for all records older than 30 years under Part 6 of the State Records Act 1998. Access guidelines are created for record classes rather than specific records. Records that are subject to an access direction and available to the public must be made available upon request. Under the GIPA Act, access to records that have been closed under the State Records Act 1998 is

Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

still possible. If access is denied in accordance with the GIPA Act, the review rights detailed below take effect.

Open Access Information and Proactive Disclosure

The GIPA Act requires the Council to make its "open access information" accessible to the general public. Information that is "open access information" is listed in Schedule 1 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 and Part 3 of the GIPA Act.

The Council's 'open access information' is made available to members of the public via Council's website.

The proactive sharing of information upholds the public's right to information and shows that the Council is actively looking for ways to be open and accountable. In accordance with the GIPA Act, the Council aims to identify material to disclose in advance and encourages staff to periodically determine whether the information produced and gathered in their respective business areas would be useful to publish in advance.

Informal Access to Information

If a member of the public seeks access to information that is not posted on the Council's website, they will be advised on how to submit an informal information access request via email, or on a printable form.

The Council will grant access to information unless there is a compelling public interest to withhold it.

An informal information access request is free of charge, but a scanning or photocopying fee might be charged in accordance with the Council's Revenue Policy: Fees and Charges. Requests for information access will be handled as quickly as possible, usually within 10 working days.

Formal Access to Information

When the Council denies access to information in response to an informal information access request, the individual requesting access to the information will be informed of their right to file a formal access application under section 41 of the GIPA Act.

In accordance with Section 41 of the GIPA Act, a formal access application may be required to be submitted if:

- the information sought is of a sensitive nature, as defined by the Council's Sensitive and Security Classified Information Schema;
- the processes necessary to locate the information sought are highly complex; • a substantial amount of information is sought; granting access would necessitate a thorough search;
- the information sought involves the personal or business information of third parties, the release of which requires their consent.

Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

Applications for access under Section 41 (formal applications) must be submitted in writing and include a \$30 fee. Processing fees could also be charged based on the kind and volume of information requested. The GIPA Act controls the levying of processing fees.

An access application will get a written acknowledgement of receipt within five business days.

The processing of access applications will normally take 20 working days. However, if a third party consultation or requirement to retrieve records is necessary, the decision period may be extended up to 15 working days. The statutory decision period could be prolonged in response to a request for an advance deposit.

The decision will be communicated to the applicant in writing. Any decision to deny access will be supported by justifications. If there are fees involved, access to the information won't be granted until the fee has been paid.

Review Rights for Section 41 (formal) Applications

Part 5 of the GIPA Act outlines a number of review rights. There are a variety of options available to the applicant if access to information is denied following a request made under section 41 of the GIPA Act, including asking for a review of the Council's decision:

- via an internal review by the Council;
- by the Information and Privacy Commission (IPC);
- by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

Applications for internal review must be submitted within 20 working days of the applicant receiving notice of the decision in writing and include a \$40.00 fee.

A senior official who was not involved in the initial decision-making process will carry out an internal review. Within 15 working days, the outcome of an internal review will be announced. If consultation is required, this may be extended by up to 10 working days.

As an alternative, an applicant may submit a request for review directly to the Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT). To request this review, applicants must do so within 40 working days of receiving the initial decision. If the applicant has already received a review decision from the IPC, they have 20 working days from the date of the decision to submit an application to NCAT.

How Councillors are to request access to information

Councillors' general rights and obligations with regard to getting access to council information that is legitimately required for them to perform the duties of their civic office are covered explicitly in Part 8 of the Council's Code of Conduct.

Council members and their staff should use their official email addresses or letterhead to send any written requests for information to the Office of the General

Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

Manager or the relevant Executive Manager in order to carry out the duties of their civic office.

When other departments receive similar requests, they should immediately forward them to the Office of the General Manager or the appropriate Manager.

Council members and their staff should be certain when requesting information that:

- their requests clearly and concisely describe the information they seek
- the size and scope of requests for information are within reasonable limits.

The General Manager or appropriate Manager is required to exercise reasonable judgment when responding to a Councillor's request for information. If a request is denied, justification must be given in writing since a Councillor could need the information to carry out their public duties. Every information provided to one councillor while they are carrying out their civic responsibilities ought to be made available to every other councillor who wants it.

According to the Council's Code of Conduct, "Councillors and administrators who have a private interest in only council information have the same rights of access as any member of the public." When requesting information, council members and their staff should be clear about whether it is related to their job responsibilities or just a personal interest.

Copyright

A significant portion of the Council's information that is accessible to the public is protected by copyright and is the intellectual property of third parties. As an illustration, consider the plans and reports provided with development applications. According to the GIPA Act and other pertinent laws, such as the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the public has access to this information. This information is protected by copyright laws, thus users are urged to get the owner's permission before using any of the information in any way.

Accountabilities

The General Manager will delegate responsibilities to staff to determine applications under the GIPA Act, which is reflected in the Council's 'Delegations Register from the General Manager to staff'. The Council's employees, council members, and contractors are accountable for respecting the policy's guiding concepts and procedures as necessary for their daily jobs.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following Council officers are responsible for the implementation and adherence of this Policy:

- General Manager
- Director Finance and Corporate Services

Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

All staff should notify the General Manager or the Director of Finance and Corporate Services of any request to access Government Information and not release any information without receiving authorisation from one of them.

Support and Advice

The following Council officers are available to provide support and advice on this Policy:

- Director Finance and Corporate Services

Definitions

- Government Information - refers to information contained in a record held by a government agency i.e. Bogan Shire Council.
- Record - Means any document, data or information created, compiled, recorded or stored in written form by electronic process, film or recordings, or in any other manner or by any other means that is evidence of or captures business activities and transactions.
- Access Application (Approved Form) - Council has an approved form to be used for the purpose of formal request for information that is does not come under the categories of open access information. The approved from is to be accompanied by the required application fee.

Authority
Council

Policy Owner
Director Finance & Corporate Services

Relevant Legislation**Commonwealth Acts and Australian Standards**

Copyright Act 1968

NSW Acts, Codes and Practice Notes

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Regulation 2014

Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002

Local Government Act 1993

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018

Anti-Discrimination Act 1977

State Records Act 1998 Workplace Surveillance Act 2005

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022

Associated Documents

- Formal GIPA Access Application (available on Council's website: www.bogan.nsw.gov.au)

Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 Access to Information Policy

- Informal Access Application (available on Council's website: www.bogan.nsw.gov.au)
- Publication Guide – Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (available on Council's website: www.bogan.nsw.gov.au)

Review Date
November 2028

Revision History

Date	Description of Change	Sections Affected
2018	New Policy – adopted by Manex	All
November 2024	Review Policy – all	All

13 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information that is both statistical and informative regarding the activities of the Infrastructure Services Department.

2. Background

A regular activity report is provided for the information of Councillors.

Discussion

3. Background

Roads

Road work undertaken for the reporting period 18 November 2024 to 6 December 2024 consisted of the following:

No.	Name	Comments
	Local Roads	
67	Payne’s Road	Maintenance grade and flood repairs completed
51	Curran’s Road	4km of re-sheeting commenced
19	Cooneybar Road	4km of Re-sheeting continuing
24	Canonba Road	Shoulder grading continuing
48	Fords Road	Maintenance & Flood Damage Repairs completed
71	Fergusons Road	Maintenance grading completed
78	Okeh Road	Maintenance & Flood Damage Repairs continuing
24	Canonba Road	3.6km of re-sheeting continuing
	AP Channel	Grading of Albert Priest Channel Road commenced
14	Gilgai Road	5km of re-sheeting works under IBF continuing
73	Jumps Road	Maintenance grading continuing
	Coolabah Village	Hazard Reduction grading continuing
49	Temples Lane	Maintenance grading completed
19	Cooneybar Road	4km Re-sheeting/Maintenance commenced

	Regional Roads	
7514	Monkey Bridge Road	Maintenance grading commenced
61	Condo Cobar Road	Maintenance grading/flood damage repairs continuing

	State Highways	
HW7	Mitchell Highway	Roadside slashing completed
HW8	Barrier Highway	Roadside slashing commenced
MR70	Arthur Hall VC Way	Roadside slashing completed
HW8	Barrier Highway	Resealing works commenced

Council has completed pothole repairs on the following roads:

• Mulla Road	• Mitchell Highway
• Hermidale Nymagee Road	• Canonba Road
• Gilgai Road	• Tottenham Road
• Nyngan Town Streets	• Colane Road

The upcoming works program for Council's Rural Works teams includes, but is not limited to the following works:

- Maintenance grading, re-sheeting, or flood damage repairs on the following roads,
 - Cooneybar Road
 - Tubbavilla Road
 - Glengarriff Road
 - Jumps Road
 - Jefferys Road
 - Pangee Road
 - Piesley Road
 - Monkey Bridge Road
- Continuing works funded under Infrastructure Betterment Funding for Coffils Lane, Currans Road, Budgery Road and Gilgai Road.
- Commencing Shoulder grading on the Mitchell and Barrier Highways in preparation for resealing.

Works and Services

The work undertaken during this reporting period consisted of the following:

Civil Works

- Continuing with safe pedestrian access path from Mick Glennie hostel to CBD
- Repair Works have re-commenced on the Racecourse Grandstand, completion expected mid-January 2025
- Installed seating in new shelter at Girilambone Park
- Carried out clean up from storm damage at the Early Learning Centre
- Completed Pedestrian Bridge Nymagee Street
- Installed footpath for access to assessable seating at Flood Memorial Park
- Carried out kerb and guttering maintenance after storms

Community Facilities

- Mowing/slashing and maintenance of ovals, reserves and highway approaches to Nyngan (ongoing)
- Cleaning of town facilities
- Cleaning and sweeping of the Nyngan CBD
- Cleaning and maintenance of town streets and nature strips
- Cleaning of town streets gutters and culverts
- Weed spraying lane ways and culverts (ongoing)
- Tree maintenance carried out in town streets
- Assisted in preparation for Christmas Event Pangee Street
- Ant spraying carried out on levee bank and nature strips (ongoing)

Water & Wastewater

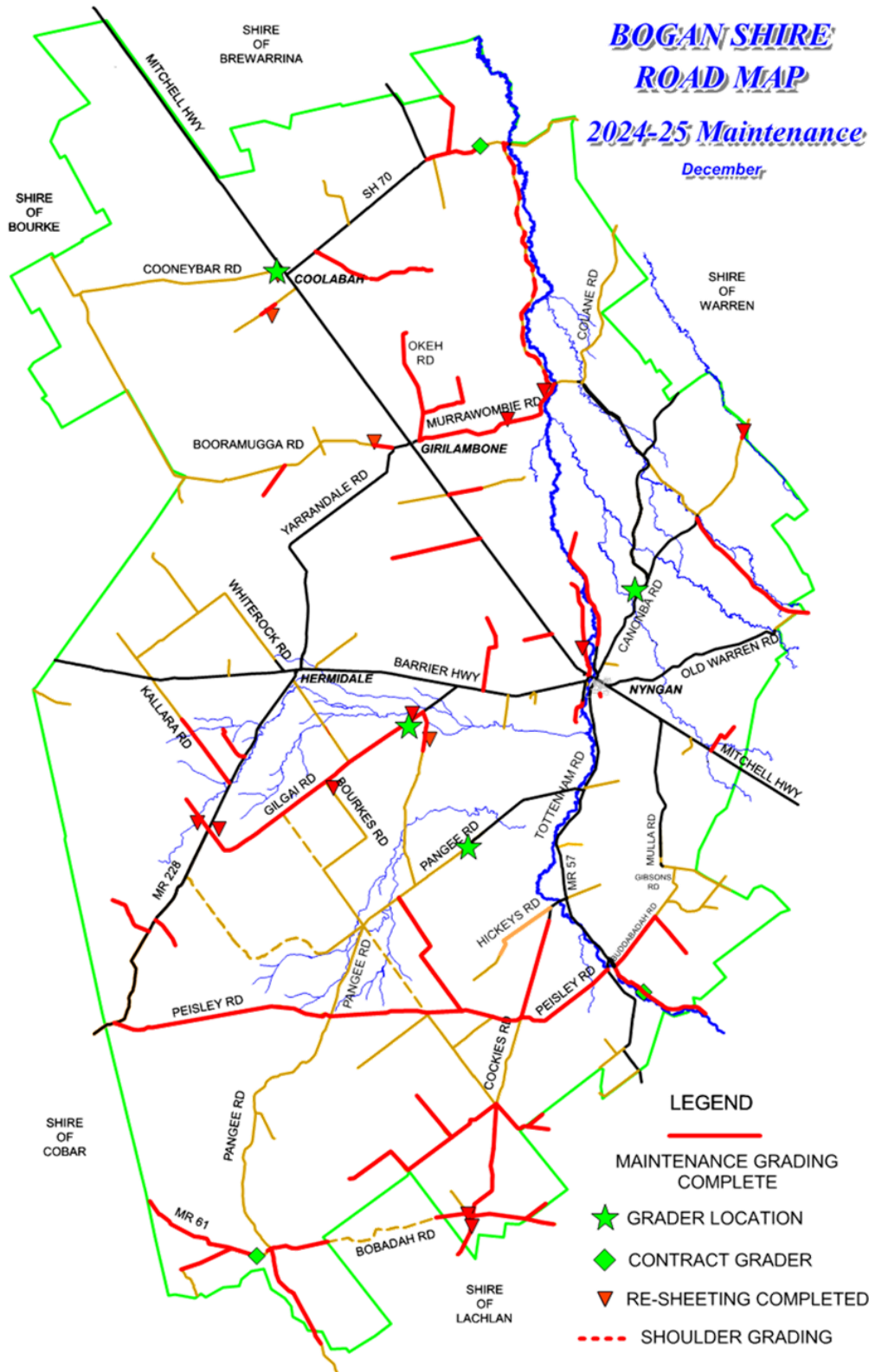
- Grading Albert Priest Channel
- Desilting Albert Priest Channel (ongoing)
- Carried out sewer system repairs Davidson Park
- Pumping from Wilga Tank to Girilambone ground tank (on going)
- Belaringar Syphon replacement completed
- Repaired sprinkler system at O'Reilly Park
- Assisted in survey of upper weir levels
- Carried out review of standard operating procedures water filtration plant
- Carried out ongoing water mains flushing
- JAC commenced replacement of No 2 raw water pump Tottenham Road pump station

4. Attachments

1. Road Maintenance Map

5. Recommendation

That the Infrastructure Services Departmental Report be received and noted.



13.2 REQUEST TO REMOVE STREET TREE - ELLEN STREET

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council in response to a resident's letter of complaint requesting the removal of a street tree on Ellen Street near the corner of Merilba Street.

2. Background

Council has received a letter from a concerned resident at 37 Merilba Street requesting that the large lemon-scented gum tree located alongside her property on Ellen Street be removed.

This request was previously considered by Council at its meeting on 28 May 2020 and refused. A letter sent to the resident in 2020 following the meeting is attached.

3. Discussion

In summary the recent letter states:

- That the resident didn't plant the tree which is on Council's footpath and therefore Council's responsibility.
- That she has had issues with the tree on several occasions with branches falling including once when she was in the backyard and it missed her by "about a yard".
- That she agrees with Council staff and the arborist that it is a healthy tree but "at 50-60 foot tall it belongs in the scrub and not in town".
- That she is "petrified" of the tree, that gum tree "branches fill up with gas and explode" and recounts experiences of her family and friends who have had near misses or been killed by falling limbs from gum trees.
- That should the tree fall it will "take out" power, the garden shed, cloths line, fence and most of the house – "a very expensive day" for Council
- That she has health issues and the worry and stress about the tree is "getting to me big time"
- That Council has cut "all the trees" at the Showground but keep refusing to do anything about this one
- There is also a huge tree alongside the property in Merilba Street which will "take out" the fence when a big limb falls

Since 2020, Council has adopted a revised Tree Preservation Policy (DDES005) which was approved at its meeting on 28 March 2024. The Policy states that approval is required to remove any tree on Council managed land. This policy intends to protect valuable trees against unwarranted removal or damage.

Section 1.5 of the policy states reasons for removal and/or pruning trees and includes:

- risk of personal injury,
- risk of damage to buildings, structures or services lines,
- risk to operational practices of business,
- creation of a traffic hazard by obstruction of vision, and
- other circumstances where it is evident that the adverse impact of the tree/s clearly outweighs its value and contribution to the amenity of the locality.

Section 1.6 outlines the reasons for protecting against removal or pruning and is as follows:

- has cultural (Aboriginal) significance of any type,
- has historical or commemorative significance,
- makes a significant contribution to the landscape/streetscape and amenity of the area,
- is exceptionally old, large, rare or endangered,
- has notable aesthetic qualities,
- assists in stabilisation of soil,
- has horticultural or scientific value, and/or
- forms part of a themed street tree planted zone.

An appropriately qualified arborist inspected the tree on 4 December 2024 and will provide a written report in due course. The arborist's verbal advice was that the tree was uncompromised and free of visual defects.

The only recommendation the arborist provided was some minor pruning of overextended limbs.

Council should consider likelihood of the tree failing and reasons for removing it, such as risk of personal injury and damage to buildings, structures and services lines compared to reasons for retaining it such as age, size and aesthetic qualities.

4. Attachments

1. Letter from Council dated 25 September 2020

5. Recommendation

For Council's consideration.



"Comfortable Country Living"

25 September 2020

Ms Helen Cuthbert
37 Merilba Street
Nyngan NSW 2825

Dear Helen

Re: Street Trees – Nyngan

I am writing regarding the recent concern you expressed for the Lemon Scented Gum Tree located in Ellen Street, adjacent to your property.

As per previous correspondence, through letters, phone calls and face to face communication this has been an ongoing issue for some time.

You advised that during 2018 you reported a large branch had fallen into your yard and you used words to the effect that "it was very lucky not to have hit me". You further advised that Council visited your house, took photos and removed the branch from your property.

Bogan Shire Council received a letter from you on 13 August, 2019 which expressed that you would like the tree to be removed as you were fearful of the tree.

Council engaged a qualified arborist who carried out an inspection on town trees, including the identified tree of interest. The inspection was conducted on 22nd April, 2020.

The arborist report concluded that the tree is healthy and deemed a low risk therefore does not require removal, however the report did identify that dead wood should be removed.

The arborist report along with your request to have the tree removed was submitted to the May 28th Ordinary Council Meeting for consideration.

Council determined (meeting minute 138/2020) that the tree does not require removal as it is a low risk tree however did support that the dead wood be removed.

Council engaged contractors who carried out tree maintenance during the week commencing 17th August, 2020. Contractors were directed to trim the dead wood in addition to trimming branches of the tree closest to your fence line.

On the 3rd September, 2020 you came into Council's Development and Environmental Services office and advised that you are not satisfied with the tree

Telephone: (02) 6835 9000
Facsimile: (02) 6835 9011
Email: admin@bogan.nsw.gov.au
www.bogan.nsw.gov.au
ABN: 68 886 242 083

Address all
communications to:
The General Manager
PO Box 221
Nyngan NSW 2825

Council Chambers
81 Cobar Street
Nyngan
New South Wales
Australia

maintenance and again requested to have the tree removed as you are concerned it is going to fall onto your property.

Council believes that it has acted reasonably to address your complaint whilst ensuring that it adheres to Council's Tree Preservation Policy (Trees on Public Land) – Policy DES005.

Council will continue to monitor the health of the Lemon Scented Gum and will ensure that this tree is included in future arborist inspections.

Council has declined your request to remove the tree, remediation action has been undertaken as advised by the arborist, Council now considers this matter resolved.

Yours faithfully



Cathy Black
Manager Environmental Services
Bogan Shire Council

14 DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

14.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS REPORT

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of Development Applications that have been submitted to Council for approval.

2. Discussion

Development Applications

Development Applications that have been received during the reporting period are indicated in the table below:

DA NUMBER	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	VALUE (\$)	PROGRESS
2022/040	A.T & B.M Burton	24 Pangee Street, Nyngan	New Serviced Apartments	\$700,000	Additional Information Required
2023/021	Mr D Boyd	33-39 Oval Place, Nyngan	New Private Shed	\$30,000	Additional Information Required
2024/004	Mr I Bennett	60 Nymagee Street, Nyngan	New Awning	\$35,000	Additional Information Required
2024/012	Mr J Bourke	40 Dandaloo Street Nyngan	New Private Awning and In-Ground Swimming Pool	\$40,000	Approved
2024/018	Bogan Shire Council	Oxley Street Nyngan	Subdivision	\$1,676,584	Approved by Council
2024/020	Mr B Jordan	16-24 Old Warren Road Nyngan	Alterations and additions to existing shed and new private shed	\$172,000	Approved
2024/021	Mrs H Martin	54 Merilba Street Nyngan	New private shed	\$34,795	Approved

Council staff continue to receive enquiries and assist the public in relation to Development Applications and the complexity of their lodgment on the NSW Planning Portal.

Attachment 1 contains statistical and historical information in relation to applications received.

3. Attachments

1. Development Applications Statistics

4. Recommendation

That the Development Applications Report be received and noted.

	Application Type							Application Value
	Totals		Breakup					
	DA	CDC	Dwellings	Shed/Garage/ Patio/Awning	Pool	Sub- division	Other	
July 2024	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	\$60,000.00
August 2024	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	\$2,306,884.00
September 2024	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	\$500,000.00
October 2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
November 2024	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	\$206,795.00
December 2024								
January 2025								
February 2025								
March 2025								
April 2025								
May 2025								
June 2025								
Total 2024/25	7	0	2	3	0	1	1	\$3,073,679.00
Total 2023/24	27	0	8	14	1	0	4	\$7,576,651.00
Total 2022/23	33	1	7	12	5	2	8	\$ 7,443,708.00
Total 2021/22	26	0	13	8	2	1	5	\$ 6,354,396.00
Total 2020/21	34	3	5	14	3	5	9	\$ 4,107,610.00
Total 2019/20	24	0	0	10	1	3	10	\$ 11,294,300.00

14.2 NYNGAN WAR MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL ACTIVITY REPORT

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the activities and statistics relating to the Nyngan War Memorial Pool.

2. Background

The Nyngan War Memorial Pool (the Pool) was opened to the public on 30 September 2024 for the current 2024/2025 season. The Pool and its facilities are managed by an external contractor who is responsible for the upkeep and day to day operations of this facility.

3. Discussion

The Nyngan War Memorial Pool has had a successful start to the season with 2,867 visitors for October and 3,945 visitors for November. See Attachment 1.

The Pool is open Monday to Friday from 6.30am till 8.00am for the early morning swimmers. It is also open every day of the week from 11am and closes at 6pm in October and April, 7pm in November and 8pm in December through to March so as to take advantage of the longer day light hours.



The Pool plays host to a number of regular activities such as the Nyngan Amateur Swim Club (NASC) who host their regular Friday evening swimming activities and occasional weekend swimming carnivals.

Social groups enjoy water aerobics up to 4 times a week, and the 'Splashers' group take advantage of the precinct for their regular Sunday morning swim.

Many families also have swimming lessons for their children early in the season, and NASC have regular morning and afternoon swimming training sessions.

The Pool will host school swimming carnivals early in the 2025 school year which will include all of the local Nyngan schools, as well as Girilambone, Hermidale and The Marra small schools.



Council will provide free access to the pool for Australia Day 2025. This has proven to be popular in past years as community members take advantage of the facilities to cool off and socialise. Other activities that are well patronised by the younger visitors to the Pool include the splash play area and water slide.



Improvements were carried out in the ‘off season’ which included the completion of the fully accessible toilets and showers. This wonderful addition to the Pool precinct was made possible through The Resources for Regions grant funding and has made the area more inclusive for all community members. See Attachment 2.

Council undertook repairs to the pool’s pipe infrastructure as water leaks had the pool losing substantial amounts of water over the past swimming season. The necessary repairs were carried out prior to the Pool opening and have so far proven to be beneficial, see Table 1 below.

Monthly Daily Average - Litres			
2023		2024	
October	187,741	October	50,555
November	227,666	November	61,100
December	242,161	December	
January	264,387	January	
February	266,655	February	
March	98,645	March	

Table 1: Daily average of water used at the pool -Litres.

4. Attachments

- 1. Visitor Statistics
- 2. New Accessable Facilities - Nyngan Pool

5. Recommendation

That the Nyngan War Memorial Swimming Pool Activity Report be received and noted.

Nyngan War Memorial Pool	
	Number of Visitors
October 2023	2,685
November 2023	3,068
December 2023	3,852
January 2024	4,168
February 2024	3,976
March 2024	2,103
April 2024	Closed
Total 2023/24	19,852
Total 2022/23	18,064
Total 2021/22	18,202

Nyngan War Memorial Pool	
	Number of Visitors
October 2024	2,867
November 2024	3,945
December 2024	
January 2025	
February 2025	
March 2025	
April 2025	Closed
Total 2024/25	6,812
Total 2023/24	19,852
Total 2022/23	18,064
Total 2021/22	18,202

Fully Accessible Showers and Toilets at the Nyngan War Memorial Swimming Pool





15 PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

16 MEETING CLOSURE