



# **BOGAN SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Ordinary Business Paper**

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

**Date: Thursday, 27 March 2025**

**Time: 7.00pm**

**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.



**Table of Contents**

**1 Opening Prayer.....7**

**2 Rememberances.....7**

**3 Apologies .....7**

**4 Disclosure of Interests.....7**

**5 Confidential Matters ..... Error! Bookmark not defined.**

**Confirmation of CONFIDENTIAL Minutes ..... Error! Bookmark not defined.**

    5.1 TENDER 2024/2025-05 MAINTENANCE GRADING & GRAVEL  
RESHEETING ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

**6 Confirmation of Ordinary Minutes ..... 8**

**7 Notice of Motion ..... 9**

    7.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CONTROL OF PEST BIRD SPECIES ..... 9

**8 Mayoral Minutes ..... 11**

    Nil

**9 Committee Meeting Minutes ..... 11**

    Nil

**10 General Manager’s Reports..... 12**

    10.1 GENERAL MANAGERS CHECKLIST ..... 12

    10.2 COBAR WATER BOARD - WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT ..... 30

    10.3 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN ..... 37

    10.4 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN..... 96

**11 People and Community Services Reports ..... 114**

    11.1 BOGAN SHIRE MEDICAL CENTRE OPERATIONAL REPORT ..... 114

    11.2 BOGAN SHIRE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE - PRIORITY ACCESS ..... 118

    11.3 ULTRASOUND-GUIDED INJECTION FEE ..... 119

**12 Finance and Corporate Services Reports ..... 121**

    12.1 INVESTMENTS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025..... 121

    12.2 SUMMARY OF RATE & ANNUAL CHARGES COLLECTION ..... 122

    12.3 REVISION OF COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT POLICY - FIN002 ..... 123

    12.4 REVISED COMMUNITY EVENTS POLICY - AP012..... 134

**13 Infrastructure Services Reports..... 141**

    13.1 DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT..... 141

    13.2 PROPOSED CROWN ROADS CLOSURES ..... 145

    13.3 TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT ..... 150

**14 Development and Environmental Services Reports ..... 152**

    14.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS REPORT..... 152

    14.2 LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY ..... 154

14.3	AWNINGS OVER PUBLIC LAND .....	163
<b>15</b>	<b>Precis of Correspondence.....</b>	<b>173</b>
15.1	DUCK CREEK PICNIC RACE COMMITTEE INC.....	173
15.2	WESTERN NSW LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT HEALTH COUNCIL - RAW WATER CONNECTION FOR THE NYNGAN HEALTH SERVICE....	175
15.3	REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SEATING AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT O'REILLY PARK.....	177
15.4	NYNGAN JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB .....	180
15.5	BOGAN COFFEE SHOP .....	185
15.6	GRIFFITHS PASTORAL ENTERPRISES - NYNGAN EMERGENCY BORE .....	189
<b>16</b>	<b>Meeting Closure .....</b>	<b>192</b>

- 1 OPENING PRAYER**
- 2 REMEMBERANCES**
- 3 APOLOGIES**
- 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

**5 CONFIRMATION OF ORDINARY MINUTES**

**6.1 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING - 27 FEBRUARY 2025**

The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Bogan Shire Council, Council Chambers, 81 Cobar Street, Nyngan on 27 February 2025 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 27 February 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.



**7 NOTICE OF MOTION**

**7.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CONTROL OF PEST BIRD SPECIES**

**Attachments**

1. Notice of Motion - Control of Pest Bird Species

17 March 2025

The General Manager  
Bogan Shire Council  
PO Box 221  
NYNGAN NSW 2825

Dear Derek

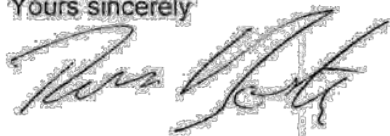
**Notice of Motion – Control of Pest Bird Species**

I would like to place the following notice of motion on the business paper agenda for the March 2025 Ordinary meeting of Council:

That the General Manager prepare a report for consideration at the April 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting detailing the following:

1. The role of State and Local Government in the management of pest Bird Species (Indian Myna).
2. Actions undertaken by State Government in the management of pest Bird Species (Indian Myna).
3. Any options available for external funding for Local Government and/or local community groups for eradication and management programs.
4. Any options for programs to be developed that could seek funding from business owners in Nyngan for the management of pest Bird Species.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Richard Bootle**  
Bogan Shire Council

**8 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

**9 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Nil

**10 GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORTS**

**10.1 GENERAL MANAGERS CHECKLIST**

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
1	21/12/2017  23/11/2023	392/2017  282/23	<b>Increase of train speed through Nyngan</b>	<p>Strong letter of concern and a request to address Council be sent to the relevant rail authorities and a copy to the local member.</p> <p>That Council respond to Minister Aitchison, with a request that the train speed limit be reduced to 20km/hour, as Council is not in a position financially to provide rail crossing lights.</p>	<b>GM</b>	<p>Refer below.</p> <p>This matter was drawn to the attention of Minister Aitchison on 12/01/2024 during her visit to Nyngan.</p> <p>Further letters sent to Minister Aitchison and Roy Butler MP.</p> <p>Discussed with Minister Aitchison on 15/07/2024 during her visit to Nyngan.</p> <p>Letter received from Minister Aitchison. TNSW has requested a review of train speeds from UGL.</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
2	27/05/2022	122/2022	<b>Nyngan Emergency Bore</b>	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.	<b>GM</b>	Letter written to new Minister for Water, advising them of resolution 122/2022 and seeking clarification on funding. Minister for Water has advised that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work has begun on amendments to the Water Sharing Plan.</li> <li>• No further funding is available for the bore project.</li> </ul> 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.
	23/02/2023	010/2023		Council vote for a	<b>GM</b>	Report to Council refers. Public Works have provided an

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	27/04/2023	081/2023		<p>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> <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</p>	GM	<p>alternative cost estimate of \$5.092M, based on the 200mm pipeline.</p> <p>On hold pending response.</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		<p>arrangements made for appropriate NSW Government staff to be available.</p> <p>That Council prioritises remaining available grant funding of \$7,111,871 across the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Water purchases</li> <li>b. Belaringar Creek Syphon</li> <li>c. Nyngan Emergency Bore pipeline</li> </ul>		DPE advised accordingly.
	27/02/2025	011/25		<p>That council modifies Council resolution 122/2022 to read:                      “Extraction of water is limited to 200ML/year and is to be used for Bogan Shire town water supply including villages only when Macquarie</p>		

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	27/02/2025	012/25		<p>River supply has ceased, or for maintenance and testing”</p> <p>That Council give the objectors to the present bore 14 days to negotiate various conditions with council and agree to its present location. If agreement is not reached within that time, Council proceed with Option 3 below:</p> <p>That Council seek tenders for the Nyngan Emergency Bore project as now proposed by NSW Public Works with the following scope of works:</p> <p>i. Installation of a new bore, with power supply,</p>		<p><b>UPDATE:</b> Letter sent to the objectors on 04/03/2025. No agreement reached by 19/03/2025.</p> <p>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has released their further consultation document on the Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources Water Sharing Plan: <a href="https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/plans-and-strategies/water-sharing-plans/public-exhibition/nsw-great-artesian-basin-groundwater">https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/plans-and-strategies/water-sharing-plans/public-exhibition/nsw-great-artesian-basin-groundwater</a></p>

Item 10.1



Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				in the vicinity of the current bore that meets the boundary proximity requirements of the Water Sharing Plan. ii. Installation of pipeline from the new bore site to Nyngan iii. Project design, project management and other associated costs		
3	27/05/2021  28/09/2023	126/2021  207/23	<b>Addressing Local Job Vacancies</b>	Council delays the launch of the marketing campaign until progress is made with establishing more housing accommodation in Nyngan. Council provides a budget of \$25,000 for production of videos for the relocation campaign.	<b>DPCS</b>	Refer below.  Production of Employment video in progress.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
4	25/07/2024	144/24	<b>New Water Treatment Plant Site</b>	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.	<b>DIS</b>	In Progress DCCEEW has advised that both sites should be included in an options study, funded from existing grant budget, to formally exclude the substation site.
5	22/08/2024	174/24	<b>Hoskins Street Subdivision</b>	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.	<b>GM</b>	Local Member briefed – further action pending construction timeframes.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	20/01/2025	002/2025		<p>Council decline to accept any of the tenders submitted to the Council meeting on 28 November 2024 for the construction of lead in infrastructure for the 33 Lot Residential Subdivision on Hoskins Street. The General Manager enter into negotiations with the remaining tenderers and other parties, starting with the next best ranked tenderer according to the report provided to the meeting on 28 November 2024, to undertake the project in the best interests of Council subject to financial constraints, being the remaining grant funds</p>	<b>GM</b>	<p>Council has been successful in appointing the original tenderer’s engineering design consultants for civil and hydraulic design work based on recommendations from Lyons Project Management.</p> <p>Geotechnical assessment is expected to be completed by the end of February.</p> <p>Lyons Project Management have recommended that as the design progresses towards completion, Council commence further negotiations with remaining tenderers with the scope adjusted to reflect the design components being removed from the scope.</p> <p>This will be a construct-only contract using the MW21 Local Government Contract as per the</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				<p>and borrowings authorised at Council’s November meeting.</p> <p>A panel comprising the Deputy Mayor, General Manager, Director Infrastructure Services and Director Finance and Corporate Services be delegated the authority to determine the appointment of suitable contractors to undertake the project in the best interests of Council, based on recommendations from Lyons Project Management, and subject to financial constraints - being the remaining grant funds and borrowings</p>		<p>original tender.</p> <p>Lyons Project Management have stated that by moving forward with this approach they anticipate not only saving valuable time but also ensuring that Council can demonstrate progress with the project’s grant funding body. Council can also demonstrate value for money through negotiations in a competitive environment.</p> <p><b>UPDATE</b> Request for pricing issued through Council’s Vendor Panel system 14/03/2025, closing 08/04/2025.</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				authorised at Council's November meeting.		
6	24/10/2024	245/24	<b>Reclassification of Land – 8 Tabratong Street</b>	That Council resolve to: 1. Lodge the Planning Proposal to Reclassify Public Land at 8 Tabratong Street Nyngan with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination; and 2. Undertake community consultation in accordance with the Gateway Determination.	<b>DDES</b>	The Planning Proposal has been lodged with the Department of Planning for Gateway Determination.
7	27/07/2023	160/23	<b>School Exchange Program</b>	The General Manager commence discussions around the future of the Tongling Exchange Program, with a report to	<b>GM</b>	Discussions held with Acting Principal, Nyngan High School.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
	25/07/2024	146/24		<p>Council.</p> <p>That Council consider locations that may have economic/industry ties for the School Exchange Program, to enhance the student experience.</p>		
8	26/10/2023	247/23	<b>Before and After School Care, Nyngan</b>	That the Before and After School Care matter be further pursued with the Department of Education, and if necessary the Minister.	<b>GM</b>	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		Email sent to Local Member in August 2024.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				further contact with the Minister for Education about the lack of Before and After School Care in Nyngan.		<p>Contact, with reminder, made with Local Members Office October 2024.</p> <p>GM and DPCS met with officials of Department of Education to discuss community concerns.</p> <p>Local Member has written to Minister for Education and Early Learning and issued a press release.</p>
9	23/11/2023	278/23	<b>Nyngan Year-Round Fishery</b>	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	<b>DIS</b>	In Progress

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				Memorandum of Understanding.		
10	27/06/2024	134/24	<b>Nyngan Community Homes</b>	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.	<b>GM</b>	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.
11	22/08/2024	175/24	<b>Nyngan Tennis Section 355 Committee</b>	That Council: (Establishes a Nyngan Tennis Section 355 Committee. Adopts the attached Nyngan Tennis Section 355 Committee	<b>GM</b>	Meeting with Tennis Committee held on 02/12/2024.  <b>UPDATE:</b> Further meeting scheduled.

Item 10.1



Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				<p>Instrument of Delegation effective from 23 August 2024.</p> <p>Becomes a member of Tennis NSW.</p> <p>Installs the Tennis NSW booking and locking systems for the Nyngan tennis courts and clubhouse.</p> <p>That the General Manager has further discussions with the interim executive of Nyngan Tennis Club about membership, fees and other relevant matters with a further report to Council.</p>		
12	24/10/2024	214/24	<b>Nyngan Railway Fencing</b>	That Council again write to Local State Member Roy Butler, seeking support for the urgent	<b>GM</b>	<p>Email sent 23/10/2024.</p> <p>Further email sent 05/12/2024.</p> <p>Email received from UGL 18/12/24</p>

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				need for fencing to be erected by UGL		advising that they are in the process of seeking quotes for the palisade fencing request.
13	24/10/2024	242/24	<b>Vermont Hill Road</b>	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.	<b>DIS</b>	Road closed signs erected.
14	28/11/2024	255/24	<b>NSW Heritage Grants</b>	Council notes that applications are open for the 2025-27 Local Government Heritage Grants to support,	<b>DDES</b>	Grant submitted

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				<p>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>		
15	28/11/2024	260/24	<b>Nyngan Town Hall</b>	<p>Council calls for a proposal from NSW Public Works for the preparation of a conservation management plan for the Nyngan Town Hall.</p>	<b>DIS</b>	Grant submitted

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				The General Manager submits an application under the 2025-27 Local Government Heritage grants for the preparation of this Plan.		
16	28/11/2024	281/24	<b>Nyngan RSL sub-Branch Avenue of Remembrance</b>	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 design, including indigenous tree species. That an estimate of cost be prepared for consideration at a future meeting of Council, to help determine the extent	<b>DDES</b>	Nyngan RSL sub-Branch advised that matter will be discussed at their meeting on 11/03/25.

Item 10.1

Item	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
				of Councils financial contribution to the project.		

**1. Attachments**

Nil

**2. Recommendation**

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

## **10.2 COBAR WATER BOARD - WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors of discussions with Cobar Water Board in relation to the conclusion of a water supply agreement and related matters.

### **2. Background**

Bogan Shire Council has been in discussion with representatives of Cobar Water Board about a new water supply agreement off and on for at least the last 12 years.

The current agreement, the Overshot Weir Agreement 1970, grants Cobar Water Board the right to extract water from Bogan Shire Council's water assets (the weir pool) but a more contemporary agreement is required to ensure relative rights and responsibilities are clearly articulated.

### **3. Discussion**

In 2024 the Mayor and General Manger met with Minister Rose Jackson to discuss water-related matters including the need to reach agreement with Cobar Water Board on a water supply agreement. Minister Jackson offered to appoint one of the senior staff of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to facilitate discussions with Cobar Water Board and Bogan Shire Council. Facilitated meetings involving the General Manager of Bogan Shire Council, the Secretary of the Cobar Water Board and staff were held on 24 October 2024 and 26 February 2025 with another planned for 24 March 2025.

At the meeting held on 26 February 2025 consensus was reached that a water supply agreement between Cobar Water Board and Bogan Shire Council could proceed and that DCCEEW would help formulate this agreement with a draft to be supplied to both parties for further discussion.

It was also agreed, in principle, to explore the formation of a Water Delivery Advisory Committee which would include Bogan Shire Council, Cobar Water Board and other users of the Albert Priest Channel to assist communication regarding future planned Channel operations and maintenance activities.

Also discussed at the meeting was Cobar Water Board's request to lease the portion of land that their solar panels occupy at the Upper Weir off Temples Lane and the adjacent land for the purposes of constructing their new pump station.

During this discussion Bogan Shire Council raised two concerns, firstly that Council's concerns about the new pump station's higher volumetric pumping capacity had not been adequately addressed by DCEEW and secondly that no agreement had yet been reached on leasing or licencing further land to Cobar Water Board for construction of a pump station. On the first concern, correspondence has since been received from DCCEEW, included as Attachment 1 indicating addressing Council's concerns about volumetric flowrates somewhat.

In relation to the lease of land to Cobar Water Board, as its meeting held on 25 March 2021 Council resolved as follows (051/2021):

*That the General Manager enter into a lease or licence agreement with Cobar Water Board for the installation of solar panels on Lot 101 DP803386 with the solar panel area to be fenced at Cobar Water Board cost.*

No mention was made at that stage of lease of land for the purposes of a pump station.

Prior to any land agreement being reached it has been necessary to survey and subdivide this parcel of land and this process only reached finality toward the end of last year. Attachment 2 indicates new subdivisions with the proposed Cobar Water Board lease portion marked in yellow.

Now that these parcels of land have been subdivided Council should, by resolution, and in keeping with resolution 051/2021 specify the subject Cobar Water Board lease parcel. This parcel can also accommodate the proposed pump station and this use should be incorporated into the resolution. Alternatively, Council could choose to sell this parcel of land to Cobar Water Board at a market price.

Attachment 1 also contains a request for an access, construction and operation licence to allow DCCEEW to progress the project. The General Manager is able to progress this administratively.

#### **4. Attachments**

1. Correspondence from DCCEEW
2. Plan of Lot 1 DP803368

#### **5. Recommendation**

1. That this report be received and noted.

That the General Manager enter into a lease agreement with the Cobar Water Board for Lot 1 DP803368 for a period of 10 years, at an agreed market related rental, with annual rent renew for the purposes of the installation of solar panels and a water pump station.

## Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



Our ref: OUT25/2880

Derek Francis

General Manager

Bogan Shire Council

PO Box 221

Nyngan NSW 2825

11 March 2025

---

**Subject: Nyngan to Cobar pumping stations upgrade – pumping capacity and weir pool impacts, land Access, Construction and Operation Licence Agreement**

Dear Derek

This letter confirms our discussions in the Bogan / Cobar Water Supply Agreement Meeting #2 held Wednesday 26 February 2025, and previous project updates provided by the Nyngan to Cobar pumping stations project team. It also follows your email dated 24 January 2025.

We seek to address Bogan Shire Council's:

- concerns regarding the potential impacts to the weir pool
- need to understand land access and tenure arrangements

with an end intent of seeking Bogan Shire Council's execution of the access, construction and operation licence agreement (**attached**) which will enable construction works on the pump stations to commence.

The pump stations project is proceeding well with detailed design and construction planning underway. Diona Pty Ltd have been appointed as the main contractor to deliver the works. As noted in your email, the project is being delivered by the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) as the construction authority responsible for delivering water infrastructure on behalf of the wider Department. WAMC has been approved as the Construction Authority for the delivery of the project and is also the Licensee entity included in the **attached** access, construction and operation licence agreement.

As noted in your email, WAMC as a Construction Authority has powers to access land, including Council owned land, to construct public water management works for the benefit of communities,



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



including the Cobar community. However, our strong preference is to work collaboratively with Bogan Shire Council to negotiate access as per the **attached** agreement.

If any elements of the following clarifications or the **attached** agreement are unclear, we reiterate our offer for the project team to meet with Bogan Shire Council to present on the project and allay any concerns.

Pump capacity and weir pool impacts

Criteria	Nyngan	Hermidale
Existing pump maximum capacity	200 L/s	200 L/s
New pump minimum flowrate	145 L/s	122.5 L/s
New pump maximum flowrate	290 L/s	245 L/s

The current maximum flowrate of the existing pumps at Nyngan is 200 L/s. The new pumps at Nyngan have a maximum design flowrate of 290 L/s. However, in practicality the pumps will draw a maximum of 245 L/s due to:

- Existing pipeline capacity and downstream storage constraints
- Downstream pumping station (Hermidale) maximum capacity of 245 L/s
- Existing Water Access Licence conditions.

It is also expected that typical average flow rates will be lower than maximum, in the best interests of maintaining system reliability and minimising operation and pipeline repair costs to operate at lower pressure and flow to mitigate risk of failure of the existing pipelines.

In addition, the offtake requires sufficient depth of water (head) to operate. While the detailed design of the offtake is being finalised, the basis of design for the project specifies a maximum drawdown to the minimum operating level in the weir pool.

Cobar Water Board will be required to amend its Water Supply Works Approval to reflect the configuration of the pumps and intake. The project will not change the existing Water Access Licence conditions (including current licenced volume) and standing arrangements under which Cobar Water Board accesses and takes water from the weir pool. Amendment of the approval will require the installation of a compliant metering device at the low lift pump station to measure and record the water volume extracted.

When considering all the above, the new pumps will:

- Operate on a 'like-for-like' basis compared to the existing pumps, addressing the key failure risks posed by the current pumps

**Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**

- Not change current water access rights.

**Land access and tenure**

Bogan Shire Council owns the land upon which the low and high lift pump stations, as well as pipework connecting the pumping stations, is located. We are seeking short term construction access via the **attached** Access, Construction and Operation Licence Agreement. Full details, including maps, are provided in the **attached** agreement.

We understand that Bogan Shire Council and Cobar Shire Council are considering transferring ownership of a portion of Lot 101 DP 803368 upon which the solar panels are located. We are not seeking to amend this transfer as part of the project. However, we would like to understand Council preference for Cobar Water Board tenure for the pump stations, electrical connection and pipeline between high and low lift pump stations. The Access, Construction and Operation Licence Agreement proposes easements benefiting Cobar Water Board over both pump stations and associated infrastructure.

If an ownership transfer is considered by both Bogan Shire Council and Cobar Water Board to be preferable, the project team can work with both parties to support this throughout the construction and post-construction period.

We also note the Crown Road parcel on the northern boundary of Lot 101 connecting Temples Lane and the Bogan River. We would be interested in Council's view of the project approaching Crown Lands to request transfer of the Crown Road to Council, should Council see benefit in this arrangement. This road appears to be maintained by Council and would provide Council ownership of the connection between Temples Lane and Council camping facilities on community land adjacent to the river. An electrical easement would otherwise be required over the Crown Road to the new pump station.

In the interim, while the items discussed in this letter are jointly resolved, the **attached** access, construction and operation licence provides the necessary coverage to enable us to progress delivery of this vital project.

Construction work is currently scheduled to commence in May 2025. As such, we would really appreciate your timely review and execution of the agreement on behalf of Bogan Shire Council please.

Please note we continue to correspond with Cobar Shire Council and Cobar Water Board, continuing to ensure that the key parties are receiving the same information from the project team.

**Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**

If you have any questions or wish to arrange for a briefing from the project team, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Manager – Puneet Kaur – via email [puneet.kaur@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:puneet.kaur@dpie.nsw.gov.au) or mobile 0408 347 222.

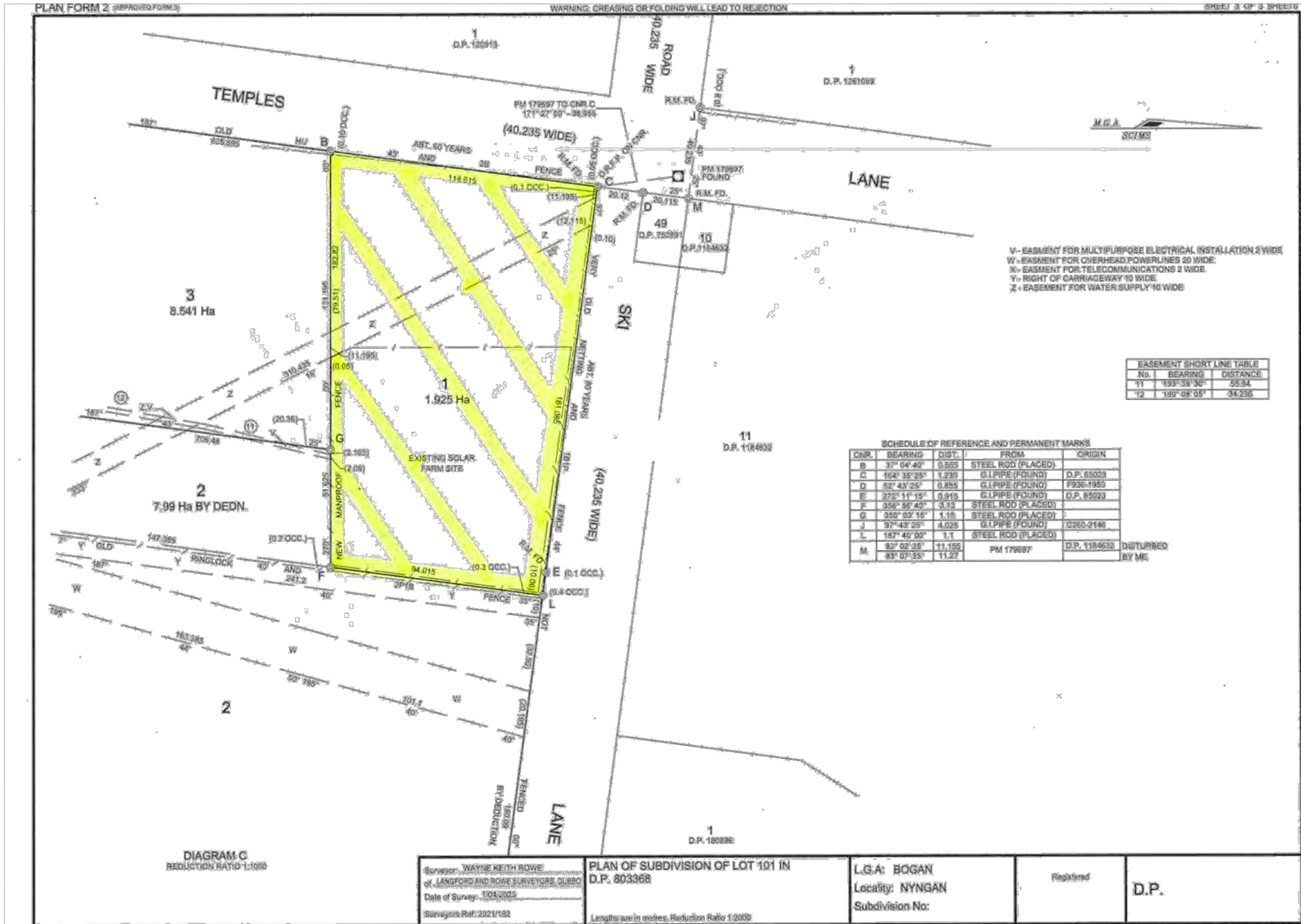
Alternatively you may contact me directly via email – [sarah.horne@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sarah.horne@dpie.nsw.gov.au) or 0460 299 839.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Horne".

Sarah Horne

A/ Director Infrastructure Projects - North  
Water – Infrastructure Delivery



## 10.3 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the Regional Drought Resilience Plan and select the project/s to be carried out under the Plan.

### 2. Background

In November 2023 Council considered a Report from the General Manager in relation to the preparation of a Drought Resilience Plan, by the Far North West Joint Organisation of Councils (FNWJO) on behalf of a consortium comprising Bogan, Warren and Coonamble Councils.

Funding was provided by the NSW Government, in partnership with the federal Future Drought Fund, for the preparation of these Plans across the State “as a first step to understanding drought resilience actions for future funding”.

The stated aim of the project was to:

Build capability and empower regional communities to plan and act early to reduce and respond to drought risks. The program is designed to support the development of drought plans that consider:

- Growing self-reliance and drought resilience of regional communities including the agricultural sector
- Improving natural capital of agricultural landscapes for better environmental outcomes
- Strengthening the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional and remote communities.

At its meeting in November 2023, Council adopted a project plan for implementation by the FNWJO to prepare and submit a Regional Drought Resilience Plan on behalf of our consortium.

Council has been advised that the Coonamble, Warren and Bogan Regional Drought Resilience Plan has now received Ministerial approval and Council can commence implementation of projects for expenditure of funds.

A copy of the approved Plan is available from the General Manager’s Office or online at [Regional Drought Resilience Planning - DAFF](#). Some printed copies of the Plan will also be available at the Council Meeting briefing session.

### 3. Discussion

Council now has to determine which projects to undertake to receive funding under the approved Coonamble, Warren and Bogan Regional Drought Resilience Plan.

Contained within the Plan, prepared by the FNWJO are the following:

- Project 1 - Water Security Baseline Project - \$150,000 (refer summary from the FNWJO – Attachment 1).

- Project 2 - Social Inclusion and Preparedness Education - \$120,000 (refer summary from the FNWJO – Attachment 1)

The scope of these Projects, together with some background information, is set in a Summary document provided by the FNWJO as Attachment 1.

Following receipt of the approved Plan, on 20 February 2025 the Mayors and General Managers of Bogan, Warren and Coonamble Shire Councils met to discuss an alternative Project. This Project sees a collaborative approach to establish the region as a premier nature-based tourism destination which, if successful, could provide direct financial opportunities for local landholders and businesses, helping them establish new income streams.

This alternative Project is provisionally titled 'The Country Heartline' a name chosen to capture the essence of rural charm, immersive agritourism, and the opportunity for visitors to reconnect with the country way of life.

Warren Shire Council is offering to lead the Project, through their Economic, Development and Visitation Manager, to develop the opportunity further by setting up a governance framework and steering committee.

A "text-only" copy of the Project's Business Plan is included as Attachment 2. The full colour business plan is available from the General Manager's Office. Some printed copies of the Business Plan will also be available at the Council Meeting briefing session.

At this meeting, Council will need to determine whether to proceed with Projects 1 and 2, as proposed by the FNWJO or the alternate Project proposed by Warren Shire Council.

The following alternative draft resolutions refer:

#### FNWJO Proposal:

That:

1. Bogan Shire Council endorses the Regional Drought Resilience Plan 016 (August 2024 edition) and notes that the document is a living document which can be changed, altered and updated to reflect environmental changes.
2. Bogan Shire Council endorses the FNWJO's recommendation to undertake the following implementation projects as part of the Regional Drought Resilience Funding
  - a. Project 1 - Water Security Baseline Project
  - b. Project 2 – Drought Preparedness – Education and Social Revitalisation
3. Bogan Shire Council delegates authority to the Executive Officer of the Far Northwest Joint Organisation to execute the funding deed and project deliverables.

#### Warren Shire Council Proposal:

That:

1. Bogan Shire Council endorses the Regional Drought Resilience Plan 016 (August 2024 edition) and notes that the document is a living document which can be changed, altered and updated to reflect environmental changes.

2. Council defer the FNWJO's recommendation to undertake the following implementation projects as part of the Regional Drought Resilience Funding:
  - a. Project 1 – Water Security Baseline Project
  - b. Project 2 – Drought Preparedness – Education and Social Revitalisation
3. The General Manager advises the Far Northwest Joint Organisation of Councils that the \$300,000 under RDPR016 for Bogan, Warren and Coonamble is to be used in a collaborative approach to establish the region as a premier nature-based tourism destination.
4. The General Manager advise the Far Northwest Joint Organisation of Councils that Council wishes to amend the project deliverables to coincide with the tourism destination project identified by Bogan, Warren and Coonamble Councils.
5. Council establishes a governance framework around the tri-party (Bogan, Warren and Coonamble) arrangement and that the three Councils establish a Project Steering Committee for the Regional Drought Resilience Plan.
6. That the Mayor, General Manager and any other interested Councillor be appointed to the Project Steering Committee along with Council staff as required.

#### **4. Attachments**

1. Far North West JO Project Information
2. Warren Shire Council Tourism Project Proposal

#### **5. Recommendation**

1. For Council's consideration.

## **PROJECT UPDATES & INFORMATION - RDPR016**

### **1. Drought Plans Developed and Adopted**

FNWJO applied for funding in January 2023 to deliver Regional Drought Resilience Plans and associated implementation for the following regions;

- RDPR016 – Bogan, Warren and Coonamble (\$200K)

Draft projects were distributed to Councils for feedback, any feedback provided was included in the plan document before being forwarded to Regional NSW on 16 January 2025. RDPR016 has been lodged for Ministerial approval (State and Federal) and an expected outcome is due early March 2025.

This plan will be approved in its current state, however each plan is a “living document” and has the ability to be changed, altered or updated to reflect the changing environment at any time.

Implementation of projects cannot commence until the plan has been approved, however FNWJO aims to have implementation projects resolved by Council, quoted and ready to commence as soon as RDPR016 has Ministerial approvals.

Plan development funding that has not been spent can be carried over into plan implementation activities. FNWJO has been prudent in managing plan development funds and as a result have an underspend of \$50K that can be added to the \$250K already available for plan implementation. The total for plan implementation across the RDPR016 area is \$300K.

### **2.1 Drought Plan Implementation**

#### **Funds available for implementation**

RDPR016	\$250,000
UNSPENT STAGE 1	\$ 50,000
	<b>\$300,000</b>

It is imperative that RDPR016 have clear implementation projects planned and agreed by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**; this will expedite the projects to ensure implementation is commence by end March 2025. **Projects are to be completed and reported on by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

FNWJO met with NSW Drought colleagues in Dubbo on Thursday 23rd January 2025 to discuss implementation project options.

Issues discussed.

- Currently councils are undertaking IP&R activities, there is a recognised staff shortage across the region and some General Manager have expressed their



concern that their Councils do not have the resources to “deliver” the implantation projects and would be more comfortable with FNWJO to manage the delivery.

- Realistic deliverables with available resources and timeframe - Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and the NSW Government have already extended the completion date by 5 months to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- **Limited funds for regional water infrastructure at this time** - The advice from the Department was to “park” planning and infrastructure ideas for future funding opportunities
- **Recommended prelude to a “Water Infrastructure Project”** with current funding; a regional audit of existing water (artesian / sub-artesian / riverine) availability, current storage and access infrastructure, public and private access / usage by towns / villages / hamlets / industry / rural. and getting this information gathered, documented, organised and catalogued as a starting point for future funding opportunities.
- Project to focus on communication, understanding and strengthening relationships between stakeholders with the view of making future partnerships possible.
- Discussions had with GM's in late 2024, identified that Councils are at different stages of their water security journey. In western NSW we have a high turnover of staff, information gets archived, a new person comes along with a new idea and we start from ground zero again. Sourcing and cataloguing the historical and current information would prevent the duplication.
- Regional perspective was required - regional interests not just LGA interests coverage - rivers and water sources don't start and stop at our local government boundaries.
- Advised to **pursue “social and educational” drought preparedness projects**. This was discussed quite a lot during the community consultation processes but it seemed to get diluted in the writing of the strategy (documentation does exist to support these activities)
- Discussion was had about **“drought preparedness workshops / roadshow”** that could be rolled out and delivered by **30th November 2025**.
- “Volunteer fatigue” and “consultation fatigue” are real things in our area

After consideration of all stakeholder needs and feedback from Kate Mannion (Manager, Drought Resilience Planning Program) in a teleconference 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, the following projects were deemed suitable, would provide value for money and could be delivered with current resources and within timeframes, ***if they can be commenced without delay and within 5 – 6 weeks;***

- Project 1 - Water Security Baseline Project
- Project 2 – Drought Preparedness – Education and Social Revitalisation

## **2.2 Project Rational**

### **Project 1 - Water Security Baseline Project - \$150K**

(Councils - Bogan, Warren and Coonamble)

A regional Water Security Baseline Issues Report will undertake a comprehensive stocktake of current water resources, infrastructure, and usage patterns across the RDPR016 Area (Bogan, Warren and Coonamble).

This initial phase will establish a clear baseline of water allocations, identify major water users including urban, agricultural and industrial operations; and document existing water security measures in each participating local government area.

This work will create a catalogue of historical reports / plans at both a localised and regional level. This database will be distributed and accessible to all stakeholders and can be used as a baseline for future "water security plans" (basically getting the information into one place).

The water needs of the RDPR016 (Bogan, Warren and Coonamble) area is complex. Water sources are not defined by Local Government boundaries and water quality from rivers and ground sources vary in quality, quantity and potability.

*Additionally, the actions of "upstream users" on how water is accessed, stored and used has consequences for "down-stream" users; the complexities are magnified the larger the geographic area being investigated; communities have competing needs and there needs to be recognition that a "Regional Water Security Plan" will require compromise for a regional plan versus a localised "LGA Water Security Plan".*

By understanding our region's current water profile, including surface and groundwater resources, we can better identify vulnerabilities and opportunities for improved drought preparedness, water effectiveness and efficiencies. This foundational work will inform subsequent phases of the planning process, ultimately leading to a coordinated regional approach to drought management and allowing all stakeholders access to information surrounding this complex issue.

The project will be delivered separately across the two RDRP regions and FNWJO will go to three quotes as per FNWJO procurement policy as the RDPR016 project is under the \$250K threshold for tenders.

The project scope will include;

- Stage 1 - Identify historical / current data; documentation / information, water infrastructure audit and needs analysis for each LGA. This will include a visit to each LGA to take photos and make face-to face contact with key information sources - Due July 2025

- Stage 2 - Examine and analyse the data from each area; identify issues and providing a baseline needs analysis for each LGA – Due August 2025
- Stage 3 – Analyse data through an independent regional lens – essentially stitching RDPR004 and RDRP016 areas together and examine water security impacts of neighbouring LGA's (water does not identify LGA boundaries) to provide a regional perspective and provide LGA's for draft findings for consultation between stakeholder Councils – Due September 2025
- Stage 4 – Production of final findings of regional water security issues
- Step 5 – Identify issues that may require additional future investigation, investigate options of regional solutions; circulate findings with stakeholders (Local, State and Federal Governments, industry, cultural and recreational stakeholders)

#### **Project Quotations**

Projects would be undertaken as per Cobar Shire Council procurement policy and as per information provided by Councils in November 2025 the following will be asked to quote along with any other suppliers recommended by participating Councils.

- Aither - Will Fargher, Global Water Practice Director, 0402336614
- The Stable Group, Jillian Kilby, 0468800625
- Hydro Tech Solutions, Victor Papierniak-Wojtowicz *BE(Hons) CPEng RPEQ*, Principal Engineer, 0421 171 090
- Bruce Whitehall, Senior Water Advisor, Alluvium, 0459 813 554

#### **Project 2 – Social Inclusion and Preparedness Education - \$120K**

Councils – Bogan, Warren and Coonamble

This project will deal with the delivery of social, economic and drought preparedness activities as identified in the consultation process and documented in the RDPR016 plan through the roll out of a "Practical Drought Preparedness Roadshow" and associated resources;

- Education component
  - i. Communications and data access – practical ways of improving connectivity
  - ii. Mental health – practical ways of accessing mental health services
  - iii. Taking the guess work out of decision making – how to make and effective and efficient decision, with minimal stress
  - iv. Understanding the concept of maximised production (good season) V's hibernating production (drought season) and resourcing it appropriately
  - v. Financial planning – practical ways to access assistance
  - vi. Stock nutrition
- Community "re-grouping" - "social" connectedness has declined as communities are "busy" being productive
- Positive reinforcement and preparedness to "fill-up" the emotional cup

- "Volunteer fatigue" and "consultation fatigue" are real things – community desire to be a "passive participant".
- Engage a 3<sup>rd</sup> party supplier with existing regional networks organise, co-ordinate and roll out the program - no stress on existing Council resources

Projects will be delivered separately across the two RDRP regions and FNWJO will go to three quotes as per FNWJO procurement policy.

**Project Quotations**

- Stage 1 – Reestablish and create networks, resources and confirm locations / dates for roadshow - Due July 2025
- Stage 2 – Roll out roadshow throughout region – August, September, October 2025
- Stage 3 – Finalisation of project and reporting – November 2025

**Project Quotations**

Projects would be undertaken as per Cobar Shire Council procurement policy, with the following organisations to be approached for quotation due to their regional coverage and recent past experience with drought activities. Council can recommend additional suppliers.

- NALAG
- Mission Australia
- Centacare

**3. FNWJO Administration and Management - \$30K**

Time is tight and Councils are currently under resourced and under pressure with core business activities. With delegated authority from Councils to the Executive Officer of the FNWJO, this project can be managed on Councils behalf with little more than some local input into key people to be involved.

FNWJO advise an allocation of \$40K for project management, monitoring and reporting be recognised in the project budget.

**4. RDPR016 - Implementation Budget - \$300K TOTAL**

Activity	Budget	Supplier
Project 1 - Water Security Baseline Project	\$150,000	TBD
Project 2 – Social Inclusion and Preparedness Education	\$120,000	TBD
Project Administration and Management	\$ 30,000	FNWJO
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	

**DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN**

**PROJECT PROPOSAL DOCUMENTATION**

**Tentative Project Concept: The Country Heartline**

## Foreword

The following document presents a strategic vision for a proposed regional tourism initiative aimed at strengthening the visitor economy and enhancing drought resilience across **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires**.

It is important to note that the concepts detailed within this document are intended as a suggested marketing framework only. To improve readability, clarity, and cohesion, the initiative has been provisionally titled 'The *Country Heartline*'—a name chosen to capture the essence of rural charm, immersive agritourism, and the opportunity for visitors to reconnect with the country way of life. However, this is a conceptual title only and has been used to assist with the structure and flow of this document.

The Collaborative Governance Group, consisting of representatives from all three councils, will workshop project concepts before finalising a unified direction. Until the group reaches a formal agreement on a concept, the ideas presented in this document remain indicative only.

Attached as Annexure 2 is a detailed marketing analysis outlining the relevance and marketability of the *Country Heartline* concept. This includes an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the suggested name, as well as an assessment of its alignment with regional tourism trends and visitor demand.

This document serves as a starting point for collaboration between the three councils, landholders, local businesses, and tourism operators, providing an informed basis for strategic decision-making. The framework outlined here seeks to position our region competitively within the broader NSW visitor economy while ensuring that local communities and landowners benefit directly from the opportunities it presents.

By working together, **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires** have the opportunity to develop a compelling tourism experience that celebrates the diverse landscapes, agricultural heritage, and cultural richness of our region while ensuring long-term economic sustainability.

This document is not a finalised plan but a suggested pathway forward, designed to stimulate discussion and guide future decision-making. It remains open to input, refinement, and adaptation as the project progresses.

## How this Document is Presented

### Introduction & Background

- **Drought Resilience Context –**  
Why this project aligns with regional drought resilience objectives.
- **Overview of the Three Shires –**  
Summarising their economic and tourism landscape.
- **Introduction of the *Country Heartline* Concept**  
Brief introduction of the proposed *Country Heartline* tourism route concept idea.
- **Comparison with The Pub Route –**  
Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to highlight why this counterbalancing initiative is essential.

### Governance & Project Steering Committee

- **Governance Structure –**
  - Warren Shire Council's Economic Development & Visitation Manager as the project lead.
  - Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires' representatives as core members.
  - Specialist roles under each section (marketing, design, infrastructure, funding oversight, etc.).
- **Roles & Responsibilities:**
  - Who is responsible for what?
  - How decisions will be made?
  - How will councils contribute in-kind resources (travel, administration, project time, etc.)?

### Financial Plan & Budget Allocation

- **Funding Overview –**
  - Projected budget allocation table (where money will be spent).
  - Timeline of financial releases vs. implementation milestones.
- **Value for Money Argument –**  
Reinforcing why this investment provides long-term economic benefits over a stocktake report.

## Project Description: What We Are Building

- **The Core Concept** – A detailed breakdown of:
  - What the Country Heartline will look like.
  - Key tourism assets involved (Macquarie Marshes, farm stays, cultural experiences, etc.).
  - How it integrates with regional tourism (and contrasts with The Pub Route).
  
- **Deliverables:**
  - Itinerary Development – Suggested routes, themes, and experiences.
  - Branding & Positioning – How we will differentiate Country Heartline from other tourism trails.
  - Visitor Engagement – How we attract, retain, and engage tourists with compelling experiences.
  - Farmer Participation & Incentives – Engaging landholders to offer farm stays, tours, or produce sales.

## Implementation Roadmap

- **Step-by-Step Timeline** –
  1. **Pre-Funding Preparation** –  
Initiating steering committee, research, branding, and stakeholder engagement.
  
  2. **Phase 1: Infrastructure & Content Development** –  
Mapping routes, signage procurement, working with local landholders.
  
  3. **Phase 2: Branding & Marketing Rollout** –  
Website, brochures, social media, and digital advertising.
  
  4. **Phase 3: Visitor Engagement & Soft Launch** –  
Trialling farm stays, guided tours, and early feedback loops.
  
  5. **Full Launch & Review** –  
Launching to the public and setting up performance measurement metrics.

## Marketing, Branding & Advertising Strategy

- **Key Messages & Target Markets:**
  - Caravanners, grey nomads, families, international visitors, etc.
  - How we position Country Heartline as "A New Way to Experience Regional NSW."



- **Marketing Assets:**
  - **Website Development –**  
Timeline and objectives.
  - **Brochures & Printed Materials –**  
Design, distribution strategy.
  - **Signage & Wayfinding –**  
Where signs will go, costs, and procurement process.
  - **Social Media & Digital Strategy –**  
Campaigns, influencer engagement, partnerships.
- **Leveraging Partnerships:**
  - Destination NSW, tourism bodies, travel writers, media outlets.

## **Risk Management & Contingency Planning**

- **Potential Risks:**
  - Council capacity risks (staff workloads, administration burdens).
  - Landholder resistance to farm stays & tourism participation.
  - Funding shortfalls or delayed approvals.
  - External factors (drought severity, weather impacts on roads, tourism downturns).
- **Mitigation Strategies –**
  - How we address, adapt, and pivot.

## **Performance Measurement & Project Review**

- **How We Measure Success:**
  - Tourism Data – Tracking visitor numbers, regional spend.
  - Economic Impact – Measuring increased revenue for farms, local businesses.
  - Stakeholder Satisfaction – Landholder and council engagement feedback.
- **Project Review & Ongoing Management –**
  - Who maintains and evolves the project after initial launch.

## **Why This Structure Works**

- ✔ It provides councils with everything they need to make an informed decision.
- ✔ It is structured in a logical, high-level way but allows for detail where necessary.
- ✔ It balances strategic vision with practical implementation.
- ✔ It serves as a living document that councils can use immediately upon funding approval.

## **Introduction:**

# **Strengthening Drought Resilience through Tourism and Economic Diversification**

## **Background: The Need for a Sustainable Approach to Drought Resilience**

Drought remains one of the most significant challenges facing regional and rural communities across New South Wales. In response, the Drought Resilience Plan has been submitted for ministerial approval, outlining a series of strategies to enhance the long-term sustainability and economic stability of affected shires. As part of this broader initiative, councils across regional NSW are considering how best to apply funding to ensure maximum community benefit.

For *Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires* (always listed in this alphabetical order), drought resilience is not just about immediate water management—it is about creating sustainable economic opportunities that empower local communities to withstand future drought conditions. The goal is to foster new revenue streams, particularly in the agricultural sector, that can serve as long-term buffers against the financial pressures of climate variability.

## **The Proposed Collaborative Approach: Working Together for Regional Solutions**

*Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires* have a unique opportunity to pool funding and resources into a collaborative drought resilience initiative that not only aligns with state and federal priorities but also ensures real, tangible benefits for landholders and local businesses.

Rather than working in isolation, the councils have recognised the greater potential of a regional-scale initiative. A unified approach allows for broader economic impact, improved visitor economy outcomes, and a stronger collective case for future funding opportunities. This collaborative effort is an essential step in future-proofing the region's economy while promoting sustainable tourism and agricultural diversification.

## The *Country Heartline* Concept: A Vision for Tourism-Driven Drought Resilience

As part of this strategic direction, one potential concept under consideration is the *Country Heartline*—a proposed tourism-driven drought resilience project that would see **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires** work together to develop farm stays, farm tours, and farm gate experiences. This initiative would diversify income streams for landholders, increase regional visitation, and enhance the long-term viability of rural businesses.

It is important to clarify that *Country Heartline* is a working project title, designed to provide a cohesive vision for this initiative. The name and branding elements are open to discussion and refinement, allowing for flexibility in final project development. The core focus, however, remains the same: leveraging tourism as a tool for drought resilience and economic diversification.

This project would complement The Pub Route, an eight-loop tourism experience launching across Cobar, Bourke, and Walgett Shires. *Country Heartline* would provide a unique, alternative visitor experience, showcasing the natural landscapes, farm-based tourism, and rural heritage of **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires**—strengthening the region's overall appeal to visitors.

### Strategic Risk: The Need to Establish a Counterbalance to The Pub Route

While *The Pub Route* is a valuable tourism initiative for Cobar, Bourke, and Walgett Shires, its success has the potential to draw significant visitor traffic away from **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires**. If no complementary itinerary or counterbalancing tourism initiative is established, the economic benefits of increased regional visitation may bypass our shires altogether, further concentrating visitor spend in neighbouring areas.

By proactively developing *Country Heartline*, **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires** can:

- Retain and Capture Visitor Spend – Ensuring that travellers who explore *The Pub Route* have a compelling reason to extend their journey into our shires, rather than bypassing them.
- Position the Region as a Key Destination – Creating a linked itinerary experience between these two tourism initiatives ensures that our region remains competitive.
- Expand the Appeal Beyond Pub Tourism – While *The Pub Route* caters largely to history and pub-focused travellers, *Country Heartline* appeals to nature lovers, agritourism enthusiasts, and eco-tourists, broadening the visitor base.

By acting now, **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires** can ensure that they remain a competitive and desirable tourism destination, securing a share of the visitor economy growth currently being driven by The Pub Route's upcoming launch.

## **Alternative Proposal: The Consultant-Driven Stocktake Report**

An alternative use of the funding has been proposed: engaging a consulting firm to undertake a stocktake report on the existing water resources within the three shires. While understanding local water resources is valuable, this approach risks duplicating existing knowledge that councils already possess. Reports of this nature often sit on shelves, providing limited direct benefits to landholders or the broader economy.

Given the tight project timeframes and the urgency of delivering practical, on-the-ground solutions, there is a clear case for investing in tangible initiatives that provide immediate and lasting benefits.

## **Why Tourism-Driven Drought Resilience is the Stronger Investment**

By pooling resources into a tourism-based resilience initiative, **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires** can:

- **Deliver Real Economic Benefits:** Rather than producing another report, this project will provide direct financial opportunities for local landholders, helping them establish new income streams.
- **Create a Lasting Legacy:** The tourism sector is a long-term economic driver, contributing to the resilience of local businesses, accommodation providers, and rural communities.
- **Leverage Regional Strengths:** The Macquarie Marshes, a globally recognised wetland, is a major tourism drawcard, offering significant potential for eco-tourism, farm stays, and cultural heritage experiences.
- **Enhance Regional Tourism Offerings:** This project would fill a gap in NSW's tourism market by providing a complementary travel experience to the Pub Route, ensuring that the region is positioned as a must-visit destination for road-trippers, grey nomads, and experience-seeking travellers.

## **Ensuring Tangible Outcomes for Farmers and Rural Communities**

The core objective of this project is to ensure that funding translates into tangible outcomes for farmers and rural communities. Through carefully designed initiatives such as:

- **Farm Stay & Agri-Tourism Programs –**  
Supporting property owners to host visitors, increasing direct farm income.
- **Guided Farm Tours & Experiences –**  
Providing new tourism opportunities, connecting visitors with authentic rural life.

- **Farm Gate & Regional Produce Markets –**  
Helping farmers diversify by selling directly to consumers and tourists.

***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires*** have a rare opportunity to lead the way in regional drought resilience innovation. By investing in real-world tourism solutions, this project will strengthen local economies, increase regional visitation, and provide lasting financial stability for landholders—ultimately making it a far more impactful and valuable use of available funding than a consultant’s report.

## **COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL PROFILES:- BOGAN, COONAMBLE, AND WARREN SHIRES**

The *Country Heartline* connects three distinct yet interlinked shires—**Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires**—each contributing unique landscapes, cultural heritage, and tourism assets that complement the Macquarie Marshes, which sit at the heart of the region. This section provides an overview of each shire’s key strengths, geographical markers, and their relationship to the trail:

### **Bogan Shire**

Located in western New South Wales, Bogan Shire encompasses vast expanses of open plains. The principal town, Nyngan, serves as a key service hub along the Mitchell Highway. Nyngan is situated at approximately 31°33'41.8"S latitude and 147°11'47.6"E longitude.

The shire is renowned for its wool production, cropping, and cattle grazing industries, with tourism opportunities arising from its rich rural heritage. Visitors can explore the Bogan River, enjoy farm stays on expansive sheep and cattle stations, and visit the iconic Big Bogan statue, a landmark celebrating local character. Bogan Shire provides an essential entry point to the Macquarie Marshes for travellers arriving from western NSW and South Australia, showcasing the transition from arid outback landscapes to lush wetland environments.

### **Coonamble Shire**

Positioned along the Castlereagh Highway in northern New South Wales, Coonamble Shire features a landscape dominated by grazing lands, grain production, and the iconic wool industry. The principal town, Coonamble, is located at approximately 30°57'00"S latitude and 148°23'00"E longitude.

The shire boasts a strong Indigenous heritage and is home to significant Aboriginal cultural sites, offering visitors insights into the region’s deep spiritual and historical connections. The annual Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft, one of the largest in Australia, attracts thousands of visitors, highlighting the area’s robust equestrian traditions. Proximity to the northern section of the Macquarie Marshes makes Coonamble Shire a prime location for birdwatching and nature-based tourism. Nearby natural attractions, such as the Pilliga Forest and Warrumbungle National Park, offer additional eco-tourism opportunities that complement the trail experience.

## Warren Shire

Situated along the Macquarie River, Warren Shire is widely recognised as the Gateway to the Macquarie Marshes, making it central to the success of The *Country Heartline*. The principal town, Warren, is located at approximately 31°42'00"S latitude and 147°50'00"E longitude.

The shire's economy is underpinned by agriculture, particularly cotton farming, livestock grazing, and agribusiness operations. The Burrima Boardwalk, a purpose-built structure within the Macquarie Marshes, offers visitors an intimate and immersive way to experience the wetlands without disrupting the fragile ecosystem. Warren serves as a regional hub, providing art galleries, heritage buildings, and scenic riverfront recreation areas. As an advocate for environmental conservation and wetland protection, Warren Shire plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable tourism and raising awareness about the importance of water management in drought-prone regions.

## Macquarie Marshes: The Central Link

The Macquarie Marshes, a Ramsar-listed wetland of international significance, lie at the heart of all three shires, serving as the unifying natural asset that ties The *Country Heartline* together. The marshes are located at approximately 30°38'24"S latitude and 147°41'31.2"E longitude.

Spanning over 200,000 hectares, these wetlands provide vital breeding grounds for migratory birds, fish, and other native wildlife. The marshes act as a climate buffer, helping to regulate water availability during droughts and ensuring ecosystem resilience.

For visitors, the Macquarie Marshes offer a rare opportunity to explore one of Australia's most significant inland wetland ecosystems. Whether through guided birdwatching tours, eco-education programs, or self-guided kayak adventures, the wetlands present an unparalleled experience in biodiversity, conservation, and sustainable tourism.

Together, these three shires create a diverse and interconnected tourism experience, offering visitors an itinerary that transitions from open outback landscapes to rich wetlands, from cultural history to modern rural life, and from starry night skies to tranquil waterways.

## Shared Regional Strengths

- **Agricultural Backbone:**  
All three shires are deeply tied to primary industries, particularly sheep, cattle, and grain farming.
- **Proximity to the Macquarie Marshes:**  
A globally recognised wetland that offers significant eco-tourism opportunities.

- **Tourism Potential:**  
Growing interest in nature-based tourism, farm stays, and agritourism experiences.
- **Strong Community Identities:**  
Each shire has distinct local character while benefiting from regional collaboration opportunities.

This regional profile provides a solid foundation for integrating economic development and tourism strategies within the *Country Heartline* project.



## **THE COUNTRY HEARTLINE TOURISM TRAIL**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The *Country Heartline* is a collaborative tourism initiative designed to position Warren, Coonamble, and Bogan Shires as a premier destination for eco-tourism, cultural heritage, and slow travel experiences. The project will be guided by a task group with representatives from each shire and industry stakeholders, working together to deliver a world-class visitor experience.

Additionally, this project aligns with broader drought resilience strategies, ensuring that our regional economies remain viable and adaptive during prolonged dry periods. By developing a sustainable tourism model, we create an alternative revenue stream for local businesses, farmers, and producers, offering economic stability when agricultural incomes fluctuate. Tourism serves as a complementary industry that can buffer communities from the economic hardships associated with water scarcity and drought cycles.

This project presents a groundbreaking opportunity for inter-council collaboration, fostering stronger regional partnerships that enhance our collective economic prospects. By working together, Warren, Coonamble, and Bogan Shires can leverage shared resources, expertise, and marketing efforts to position our region as a compelling, must-visit destination. This approach ensures that each council benefits from increased visitor numbers, broader regional branding, and enhanced economic sustainability. A united front in tourism promotion strengthens our appeal to government funding bodies, tourism investors, and conservation organisations, making *The Country Heartline* a flagship initiative for regional resilience and economic development.

Additionally, *The Country Heartline* provides a future-proofing strategy for our shires to remain competitive amidst growing regional tourism initiatives. Other regions have successfully launched themed trails such as pub routes, adventure circuits, and heritage drives, which cater to different markets. This project ensures that Warren, Coonamble, and Bogan Shires offer a complementary alternative, tapping into the expanding market of eco-tourists, cultural travellers, and wellness seekers. Rather than competing directly with high-traffic pub routes, our region will cater to travellers seeking solitude, natural beauty, and immersive experiences—a segment that is growing rapidly in both domestic and international tourism markets.

By integrating eco-tourism, farm-based tourism, and cultural heritage, *The Country Heartline* will diversify economic opportunities across multiple sectors, from accommodation and food services to guided tours and conservation initiatives. This project is not only about attracting visitors but also about building a long-term, drought-resilient economic framework that benefits local businesses, sustains regional livelihoods, and secures our communities against future economic downturns.

## **COMPETITION SWOT ANALYSIS**

### **The Pub Route: A Heritage and Touring Experience for Regional NSW**

#### **Overview**

The Pub Route is a new regional tourism initiative launching on 1st March 2025, developed collaboratively by Cobar, Bourke, and Walgett Shire Councils. This self-drive experience offers visitors a curated journey through historical pubs, country landscapes, and cultural heritage sites across the three shires.

Designed to appeal to a wide range of travellers, The Pub Route is more than just a "pub crawl"—it is a structured touring experience that weaves together outback history, architectural heritage, and authentic country hospitality. The initiative is expected to significantly increase visitor traffic to the participating shires, with the potential to draw visitors away from surrounding areas if no complementary tourism project is established.

#### **Structure of The Pub Route**

The Pub Route consists of eight distinct driving loops, each offering a thematic experience across the Cobar, Bourke, and Walgett Shires.

##### **1. Two Rivers Route**

- Connects Cobar to Louth, Fords Bridge, and Bourke.
- Stops include Shindy's Inn (Louth), Warrego Hotel (Fords Bridge), The Northey, and Port of Bourke Hotel.

##### **2. Copper Route**

- Starts in Cobar, then passes through Canbelego, Nymagee, Euabalong, Mount Hope, and back to Cobar.
- Highlights historic copper mining settlements and remote country pubs.

##### **3. Poets Route**

- Inspired by Australian bush poets, following the Warrego, Cuttaburra, and Irara Rivers.
- Extends into Hungerford, Queensland, offering a cross-border outback experience.

##### **4. River Run Route**

- Follows the Darling River down to Tilpa, featuring Shindy's Inn (Louth) and the Tilpa Hotel.
- Focus on riverside pubs, remote travel, and outback storytelling.

#### 5. Rockholes Route

- An old coach road journey from Bourke to Mt Oxley, Gongolgon, Byrock (Mulga Creek Hotel), then back via the Mitchell Highway.
- Showcases historic stock routes, coach trails, and iconic outback watering holes.

#### 6. Opal Route

- A journey through outback opal mining towns, celebrating the adventurous spirit of early miners.
- Highlights include pubs and local mining culture.

#### 7. Barwon Route

- A broadacre farming and bush pub experience through black soil plains and Coolabah-lined roads.

#### 8. Hot Baths Route

- **A Great Artesian Basin experience, linking outback hot springs with historic country pubs.**

### Target Audience & Tourism Appeal

While the name *The Pub Route* suggests a focus on pub tourism, the initiative is designed to attract a broader visitor demographic, including:

- **Caravanners and Grey Nomads –**  
Seeking structured, scenic road trips with clear itineraries and safe, welcoming country hospitality.
- **History and Architecture Enthusiasts –**  
Many of the pubs along the route are historically significant, offering insights into regional settlement and colonial Australia.
- **Cultural Tourists –**  
The experience integrates Indigenous history, local storytelling, and rural traditions.
- **Social Groups & Events –**  
Themed events and pub trails cater to travel clubs, group tours, and special interest visitors.

### Potential Impact on Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires

While The Pub Route is a positive tourism initiative for Cobar, Bourke, and Walgett Shires, it presents both opportunities and challenges for surrounding regions, including ***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires.***

#### Potential Risks

- **Loss of Visitor Traffic:**

Without a complementary itinerary, The Pub Route may divert tourism flow away from Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren.

- **Concentration of Economic Benefits:**  
If visitors spend extended time along The Pub Route without additional reasons to travel further, our shires risk missing tourism-related economic benefits.
- **Regional Tourism Competition:**  
The launch of The Pub Route establishes a strong brand that could overshadow other local tourism initiatives unless a coordinated response is implemented.

### **Strategic Response: The *Country Heartline* Project**

To counterbalance these risks, ***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires*** must establish their own distinctive regional tourism offering. The proposed *Country Heartline* Project is designed to:

- ✓ **Retain and capture visitor spend –**  
Providing a complementary travel experience that encourages visitors to extend Their journey into our shires.
- ✓ **Offer an alternative travel style –**  
While The Pub Route focuses on pub history, *Country Heartline* promotes nature, farm stays, and immersive rural experiences.
- ✓ **Position the region as a must-visit destination –**  
Developing a strong, well-branded itinerary that leverages key assets like the Macquarie Marshes, agritourism, and outback charm.
- ✓ **Encourage cross-promotion –**  
Linking The Pub Route with the *Country Heartline* allows for cooperative marketing opportunities that benefit both regions.

### **Conclusion**

The Pub Route is an important regional tourism initiative that will drive significant visitor interest to Cobar, Bourke, and Walgett Shires. However, without a coordinated response, it may negatively impact tourism flow into ***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires***.

The *Country Heartline* Project serves as the ideal counterbalance, ensuring that our region remains a competitive and attractive destination. By establishing a distinct yet complementary visitor experience, we can strengthen tourism resilience, retain economic benefits, and reinforce our shires as key players in the NSW regional visitor economy.

## SWOT Analysis: The Pub Route vs. The Country Heartline

Factor	The Pub Route (Cobar, Bourke, Walgett Shires)	The Country Heartline (Bogan, Coonamble, Warren Shires)
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Well-defined and easily marketable as a pub and heritage tourism trail.</li> <li>- Strong appeal to self-drive tourists, caravanners, and grey nomads.</li> <li>- Rich history tied to outback pubs, colonial Australia, and local legends.</li> <li>- High visitor spending potential at pubs, accommodation, and fuel stops.</li> <li>- Supported by three councils, leveraging tourism resources and funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positioned as a slow travel and immersive agritourism experience.</li> <li>- Showcases farm stays, local produce, heritage, and nature-based tourism.</li> <li>- Includes Macquarie Marshes, an internationally recognised wetland, attracting birdwatchers and eco-tourists.</li> <li>- Supports economic resilience by generating income for farmers via farm stays, agritourism, and direct sales.</li> <li>- Appeals to a wider audience, including families, international visitors, and nature lovers, beyond just pub-goers.</li> </ul>
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited diversity in experiences—mainly pub stops and historic sites.</li> <li>- Potential for low visitor spend in towns that don't have strong tourism offerings beyond pubs.</li> <li>- Drinking-focused tourism may deter some markets (families, wellness travellers, eco-tourists).</li> <li>- Heavily reliant on pub owners and their ability to provide a great visitor experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requires significant landholder buy-in—some farmers may resist involvement in tourism.</li> <li>- Infrastructure gaps, particularly in wayfinding signage, digital marketing, and booking systems.</li> <li>- Still an unfamiliar concept in NSW, requiring strong branding and promotion to attract visitors.</li> <li>- More complex logistics than a traditional drive route—farm stays and experiences must be well-organised.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leverage nostalgia &amp; storytelling—many outback pubs have fascinating histories that can be further marketed.</li> <li>- Encourage extended visitor stays by linking to additional outback experiences (e.g., national parks, historic stock routes).</li> <li>- Expand into themed events—pub trails, history tours, and ghost stories to increase visitor appeal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a premium agritourism trail in NSW, positioning it as an alternative to the Hunter Valley's wine tourism model but for farm stays and rural experiences.</li> <li>- Partner with tourism bodies (Destination NSW, Outback NSW Tourism) to boost visibility and funding.</li> <li>- Capitalise on international interest in sustainable, nature-based tourism—eco-conscious travellers are seeking low-impact, immersive travel.</li> <li>- Offer new income streams for local farmers, reducing reliance on unpredictable agricultural revenue.</li> </ul>

Factor	The Pub Route (Cobar, Bourke, Walgett Shires)	The Country Heartline (Bogan, Coonamble, Warren Shires)
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic downturns could reduce disposable income for pub-centric travel.</li> <li>- Overcrowding at key pubs may lead to inconsistent visitor experiences.</li> <li>- Tourism fatigue in small towns—some communities may struggle to keep up with increased visitor demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delays in landholder participation—if not enough farms sign up, the trail lacks core experiences.</li> <li>- Severe weather events (droughts, floods) impacting accessibility and visitor numbers.</li> <li>- Competing regional tourism projects—without strong marketing, visitors may prioritise The Pub Route or other NSW travel experiences.</li> </ul>

**Summary: Why The Country Heartline is Needed**

While The Pub Route has a clear market, it is largely built around historic drinking culture, limiting its ability to attract eco-conscious and experience-driven travellers. The *Country Heartline* provides a much-needed counterbalance—offering immersive farm stays, food tourism, and eco-tourism, all while supporting drought resilience for farmers.

This complementary positioning ensures that **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires** do not lose visitor traffic to Cobar, Bourke, and Walgett, but instead create a multi-layered experience that extends visitor stays and spending across both regions.

This SWOT analysis provides a clear strategic comparison and strengthens the argument for The Country Heartline as a viable, long-term tourism investment.

## Governance Framework

Establishing a robust governance framework is essential for the successful implementation of the *Country Heartline* project. This framework ensures collaborative decision-making, leverages the strengths of each council, and aligns with regional objectives. Below is a detailed outline of the proposed governance structure and the roles within the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

### 1. Collaborative Governance Structure

The *Country Heartline* project will adopt a collaborative governance model, distributing decision-making authority among the three participating councils: This approach fosters ***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires*** shared ownership, mutual accountability, and ensures that the project reflects the diverse interests of all stakeholders.

#### Key Components:

- **Project Steering Committee (PSC):**  
The central decision-making body responsible for strategic oversight and guidance.
- **Subcommittees and Working Groups:**  
Specialised teams focusing on specific project areas such as branding, infrastructure, marketing, and community engagement.
- **Regular Joint Council Meetings:**  
Scheduled sessions involving General Managers and Mayors to review progress, address challenges, and ensure alignment with regional goals.

### 2. Project Steering Committee (PSC)

#### Composition:

- **Chairperson:**  
Economic Development & Visitation Manager, Warren Shire Council.
- **Council Representatives:**
  - **Bogan Shire Council:**  
To nominate a member(s) with expertise in tourism development, community engagement, or economic planning.
  - **Coonamble Shire Council:**

To nominate a member(s) with strengths in marketing, cultural heritage, or infrastructure development.

- **External Advisors:**
  - Graphic Design Specialist (Consultant)
  - Infrastructure and Signage Coordinator
  - Financial Oversight Officer
  - Printing Specialist

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- **Chairperson:**
  - Provide strategic leadership and ensure the project aligns with overarching regional objectives.
  - Facilitate effective communication among councils and stakeholders.
  - Oversee the implementation of PSC decisions and directives.
- **Council Representatives:**
  - Act as liaisons between the PSC and their respective councils, ensuring seamless information flow.
  - Contribute local insights and expertise to inform project strategies.
  - Participate actively in decision-making processes, reflecting their council's perspectives.
- **External Advisors:**
  - Offer specialised knowledge to guide project components such as marketing campaigns, infrastructure planning, and financial management.
  - Ensure that project deliverables meet industry standards and best practices.

#### **Decision-Making Process:**

- **Consensus-Based Approach:**

Decisions will be made collaboratively, with each council having equal input to promote shared ownership.
- **Regular Meetings:**

The PSC will convene bi-monthly to assess project milestones, address emerging issues, and plan forthcoming activities.
- **Documentation:**

All meetings will have recorded minutes and action items to maintain transparency and accountability.

### **3. Initial Project Meeting**

The inaugural project meeting is pivotal in setting the collaborative tone and establishing a unified vision.



**Attendees:**

- **General Managers and Mayors** from *Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shire* Councils.
- **Appointed PSC Members** from each council.
- **External Advisors** (as identified).

**Agenda:**

- **Project Overview:**  
Present the *Country Heartline* concept, objectives, and anticipated outcomes.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:**  
Clarify the governance structure, delineate roles within the PSC, and outline expectations.
- **Collaboration Framework:**  
Establish communication protocols, decision-making processes, and mechanisms for conflict resolution.
- **Next Steps:**  
Develop an immediate action plan, including scheduling regular PSC meetings and setting initial project milestones.

Detailed Agenda is attached as Appendix 1 to this document.

**Outcome:**

A formalised commitment from all councils, solidifying their collaboration and support for the *Country Heartline* project.

This governance framework is designed to ensure that the *Country Heartline* project operates through a collaborative, transparent, and effective partnership among the three councils, driving regional development and achieving shared objectives.

## Financial Implications and Project Arrangements

### Project Funding and Resource Allocation

The *Country Heartline* project is expected to operate within a funding range of \$270,000 to \$300,000, sourced through a combination of project-specific funding allocations and redirected funds from Part 1 of the Drought Resilience Plan. This financial structure ensures that the initiative is strategically funded, balancing external investment with in-kind contributions from participating councils to maximise impact and cost efficiency.

### Funding Breakdown

The project funding is structured as follows:

- **Core Project Funds**  
\$200,000 drawn from **Drought Resilience Program** funding
- **Third-Party Consultation:**  
A dedicated \$50,000 allocation within this budget to engage industry experts, marketing specialists, and regional tourism advisors to enhance project outcomes.
- **Balance of Funds:**  
The remaining funds will be drawn from unspent allocations from Part 1 of the Drought Resilience Plan, ensuring that all available financial resources are directed towards on-the-ground implementation rather than administrative overheads.

This funding model is designed to support the development, branding, marketing, and rollout of the *Country Heartline* initiative while maintaining strong financial accountability and alignment with strategic drought resilience objectives.

### Council Contributions and Shared Responsibilities

While the project is externally funded, each of the three participating councils—**Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires**—will be expected to provide **in-kind support** in the form of:

#### **Project Personnel –**

Each council will assign representatives to the Project Steering Committee, contributing their time, expertise, and operational insights to ensure successful project execution.

**✔ Travel & Administration –**

Councils will cover the costs of staff travel and administrative functions associated with their participation in the project. This includes attendance at key meetings, stakeholder engagement, and cross-regional collaboration.

**✔ Local Procurement & Resource Allocation –**

Where possible, councils will be encouraged to source services and materials locally, ensuring that project-related spending benefits regional businesses and aligns with procurement policies.

By leveraging in-house resources and council expertise, the project minimises reliance on external consultancy services while ensuring that regional knowledge and governance remain at the core of decision-making.

**Financial Sustainability and Cost Management**

To ensure long-term financial viability, the project will operate under a structured financial management framework that includes:

**◆ Transparent Budgeting –**

Regular financial reporting and budget tracking to ensure spending remains within approved allocations.

**◆ Procurement Compliance –**

Adhering to council and government procurement policies, ensuring competitive tendering for third-party services.

**◆ Risk Contingencies –**

Allocating a portion of funds for risk mitigation, including cost overruns, unforeseen delays, and infrastructure requirements.

**◆ Return on Investment (ROI) Focus –**

Directing spending towards high-impact initiatives, including branding, signage, marketing, and digital assets, which will continue to generate economic benefits beyond the project's completion.

**Maximising Value for Money**

The financial structure of the *Country Heartline* project is designed to ensure the best possible use of available funds, maximising direct economic benefits for farmers, local businesses, and regional communities.

Unlike a consultant-driven water resource stocktake report, which would primarily consume funding without delivering direct economic outcomes, this initiative:

- Creates tangible tourism assets, such as farm stay opportunities, visitor experiences, and an integrated marketing campaign.
- Strengthens regional economies by encouraging increased visitation and extended visitor stays, boosting local business revenue.
- Supports farmers and rural landholders by offering alternative revenue streams, improving long-term financial resilience in times of drought.

By taking a balanced approach to funding, combining external investment with council-led contributions, the project ensures that the available budget delivers the maximum possible impact, creating a lasting legacy for ***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires***.

## DETAILED PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Concept: The Country Heartline

#### The Country Heartline: Country Charm, Country Calm

##### Find Yourself in the Country—

A Journey of Immersion, Discovery, and Resilience In a world that moves too fast, where concrete replaces open skies and screens take the place of real conversations, the Country Heartline offers a chance to slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect—with nature, with history, and with yourself.

This is more than just a scenic drive or a simple farm stay. *The Country Heartline* is an invitation to step into the rhythm of the land, to immerse yourself in the heart of the country, and to experience the warmth and resilience of the communities that make rural Australia special.

##### The Experience—Why Visitors Will Come and Why They Will Stay A Journey Through Wide Open Spaces

There's a magic in the wide, unbroken horizons of ***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires***.

A serenity in the golden fields that stretch endlessly beneath a sky painted with the soft hues of dawn and dusk. *The Country Heartline* taps into this sense of vastness, freedom, and tranquility, offering visitors a chance to slow down, take in the fresh air, and find space to think, relax, and reconnect.

Unlike the fast-paced pub tours or bustling regional hubs, this is a tourism experience built around quiet moments, immersive experiences, and meaningful connections—whether it's standing in awe of the internationally recognised Macquarie Marshes, sharing a sunset over the river with a local farmer, or feeling the rich red dirt beneath your fingertips as you pick fresh produce straight from the earth.

##### ***Country Charm: Meet the People Who Make the Land Come Alive***

The *Country Heartline* isn't just about landscapes—it's about the people who live here and their stories, their traditions, their hospitality.

- Sit on the verandah of a family-run sheep station, sipping a glass of local wine as the sun sinks below the paddocks.
- Hear the crackling of a campfire and listen to stories passed down through generations of farmers, drovers, and Indigenous custodians.
- Walk through historic townships, where murals tell the story of the past, and friendly locals welcome you like an old friend.

This is about real experiences—genuine, warm, and unfiltered. It's about connection.

## **Country Calm: Find Yourself in the Rhythm of Rural Life**

The *Country Heartline* is for those who want to escape the rush and embrace a slower, more mindful way of travelling. Here, visitors can:

- Wake up to the sounds of the bush instead of the hum of traffic.
- Spend time outdoors, whether it's birdwatching in wetlands, walking through historic stock routes, or simply enjoying the stillness of a country morning.
- Experience hands-on farm life—helping to round up sheep, learning the art of wool-classing, or simply enjoying the unplugged simplicity of a rustic farm stay.

For city-dwellers, this is a chance to reconnect with nature.

For families, it's an opportunity to show children where their food comes from and let them experience the joy of simple country pleasures.

For road-trippers and grey nomads, it's an alternative route that offers more than just a pit stop—but rather a way to fully immerse in the landscape.

## **Why This Matters—Building Resilience for Our Shires and Farmers**

Beyond its appeal to visitors, the *Country Heartline* is a strategic initiative to strengthen regional economies and provide long-term resilience for farming communities.

- **Drought-Proofing Rural Economies:**  
By creating new revenue streams for farmers through farm stays, farm gate produce, and agritourism experiences, the initiative helps reduce reliance on unpredictable agricultural conditions.
- **Boosting Local Businesses:**  
Visitors will spend money in local towns, supporting family-run bakeries, general stores, cafes, and small-town pubs.
- **Encouraging Sustainable Tourism Growth:**  
By focusing on eco-tourism and low-impact travel, the Country Heartline complements rather than competes with existing tourism initiatives.

## **A Complementary Trail—Positioning The Country Heartline Within the Region**

The *Country Heartline* is not just another tourism trail—it's a carefully designed experience that works in harmony with existing regional offerings, ensuring that visitor traffic and spending are distributed more evenly across the shires.

- The Pub Route (Cobar, Bourke, Walgett) attracts travellers interested in history, road trips, and iconic Australian pubs. The *Country Heartline* provides the perfect counterbalance—offering a slower, nature-focused, and immersive rural experience for visitors who want to extend their time in the region.

- **Macquarie Marshes & Eco-Tourism –**  
The globally significant Macquarie Marshes sit between the three shires and serve as a centrepiece of the *Country Heartline* experience. This will attract birdwatchers, nature photographers, and international eco-tourists, reinforcing sustainable tourism in the area.
- **Supporting the NSW Visitor Economy –**  
Unlike other well-established food and wine trails in NSW, the *Country Heartline* brings something entirely unique—a chance to fully experience rural life through slow travel, authentic interactions, and hands-on experiences.

## **A Global Trend, A Local Solution—Why This Works**

Across the world, slow tourism and agritourism are booming—and New South Wales has yet to fully embrace this deeply immersive, experience-based approach to regional tourism.

- Italy's Agriturismo model has successfully turned farm stays into a thriving industry, attracting visitors to remote areas and preserving local traditions.
- The US and Canada's Rural Routes have capitalised on farm-to-table movements, hands-on agricultural experiences, and rural wellness retreats.
- Scandinavia's Eco-Farm Getaways have brought in visitors who seek a complete disconnection from city life and immersion in nature.

Australia's rural and agricultural heartland is just as rich in experiences, history, and opportunity. The *Country Heartline* is our way of unlocking that potential, giving visitors the space to reconnect with the land while directly supporting the communities that call it home.

## **Conclusion: A New Way to Experience the Country**

In a time when travellers are looking for authenticity, depth, and meaning in their experiences, the *Country Heartline* offers exactly that.

- It is a road trip for the soul, an invitation to slow down and reconnect with nature, people, and oneself.
- It is a living, breathing example of how tourism can support regional communities, helping farmers and local businesses thrive in unpredictable climates.
- It is a trail that balances conservation, culture, and commerce, ensuring that our landscapes and stories remain protected while offering something truly special to visitors.

The *Country Heartline* is where travellers come not just to visit, but to truly experience, to learn, to breathe, and to find themselves in the country.

***This is Country Charm.***

***This is Country Calm.***

***This is The Country Heartline.***

## Key Tourism Assets of the Country Heartline

The *Country Heartline* is a thoughtfully curated journey that invites visitors to immerse themselves in the authentic rural experiences of **Bogan Shire**, **Coonamble Shire**, **Warren Shire**, and the natural splendour of the Macquarie Marshes. This initiative highlights key tourism assets, offering a harmonious blend of cultural heritage, ecological wonders, and genuine country hospitality.

### 1. Macquarie Marshes:

Spanning approximately 220,000 hectares, the Macquarie Marshes are among the largest semi-permanent wetlands in southeastern Australia. This ecological haven supports over 200 bird species, making it a paradise for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts. Visitors can explore the wetlands via the Burrima Boardwalk, offering an intimate glimpse into this vibrant ecosystem.

[warren.nsw.gov.au](http://warren.nsw.gov.au)

### 2. Farm Stays and Agricultural Experiences:

The region boasts numerous working farms that open their doors to visitors, providing authentic farm stay experiences. Guests can engage in daily farming activities, from sheep shearing to crop harvesting, gaining hands-on insight into sustainable agriculture and rural life.

### 3. Cultural and Heritage Attractions:

- *Nyngan Museum*: Located in Bogan Shire, this museum offers a rich tapestry of the area's history, featuring exhibits from the 1800s and stories from local residents.

[bogan.nsw.gov.au](http://bogan.nsw.gov.au)

- *Mid-State Shearing Shed*: Also in Bogan Shire, this attraction showcases the significance of the shearing industry, adorned with murals by local artists.

[bogan.nsw.gov.au](http://bogan.nsw.gov.au)

- *Coonamble Museum Under the Bridge*: Housed in historic police barracks, this museum provides a window into the town's past, highlighting the resilience and spirit of its pioneers.

[traveltriangle.com](http://traveltriangle.com)

### 4. Natural Attractions:

- *Tiger Bay Wetlands*: Situated on the outskirts of Warren, these wetlands are a sanctuary for various bird species and aquatic flora. The adjacent Window on the Wetlands Centre offers informative displays about the region's environment and heritage.

[warren.nsw.gov.au](http://warren.nsw.gov.au)



- *Bogan River*: Flowing through Nyngan, the Bogan River provides serene spots for fishing, picnicking, and leisurely walks, embodying the tranquil charm of the countryside.  
[bogan.nsw.gov.au](http://bogan.nsw.gov.au)

## Integration with Regional Tourism

The *Country Heartline* is designed to complement existing regional tourism initiatives, offering a distinctive experience that emphasises relaxation, ecological appreciation, and cultural immersion.

- **Contrast with the Pub Route:**  
While the Pub Route celebrates the historic pubs and lively social scenes of Cobar, Bourke, and Walgett Shires, the Country Heartline offers a serene alternative. It focuses on the natural beauty and cultural depth of Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires, appealing to travellers seeking a peaceful retreat into nature and rural life.  
[thepubroute.com.au](http://thepubroute.com.au)
- **Complementary Itinerary:**  
Visitors can seamlessly integrate both experiences into their travel plans. After exploring the vibrant pub culture and historical landmarks along the Pub Route, travellers can transition to the *Country Heartline* for a rejuvenating experience amidst wetlands, farmlands, and heritage sites.

By highlighting these and other existing (or planned) assets and integrating with regional tourism, the *Country Heartline* not only enriches the visitor experience but also fosters economic resilience and cultural preservation within these rural communities.

## PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The *Country Heartline* initiative aims to create a distinctive and immersive agritourism experience across the **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires**, with the Macquarie Marshes as a central feature. To achieve this, the project will focus on several key deliverables:

### 1. Itinerary Development

Crafting a compelling itinerary is essential to guide visitors through the unique landscapes, cultural heritage, and agricultural experiences of the region.

#### 1. Thematic Routes:

Develop multiple themed itineraries catering to diverse interests, such as:

- *Ecotourism Adventures*: Exploring the Macquarie Marshes, birdwatching, and nature walks.
- *Cultural Heritage Trails*: Visiting local museums, historical sites, and Indigenous cultural centres.
- *Farm Life Experiences*: Participating in farm stays, agricultural workshops, and produce harvesting.

- **Duration Options:**  
Offer itineraries ranging from day trips to week-long stays, providing flexibility for different visitor schedules.
- **Integrated Activities:**  
Incorporate local events, markets, and festivals into the itineraries to enhance the visitor experience and support community engagement.

## 2. Branding and Positioning

Establishing a strong brand identity will differentiate the Country Heartline from other tourism offerings.

- **Brand Essence:**  
Emphasise themes of "Country Charm" and "Country Calm," highlighting the serene, authentic, and enriching experiences available.
- **Visual Identity:**  
Develop a cohesive visual brand, including logos, colour schemes, and design elements that reflect the natural beauty and cultural richness of the region.
- **Storytelling:**  
Share narratives of local farmers, Indigenous heritage, and the ecological significance of the Macquarie Marshes to create an emotional connection with potential visitors.

## 3. Differentiation from Other Tourism Trails

To stand out in the tourism market, the Country Heartline will offer unique value propositions.

- **Immersive Agritourism:**  
Unlike traditional trails, this initiative provides hands-on farming experiences, allowing visitors to engage directly with agricultural activities.
- **Ecological Focus:**  
Highlight the Macquarie Marshes as a key attraction, offering eco-tours and educational programs about wetland conservation.
- **Community Integration:**  
Facilitate interactions between visitors and local communities through homestays, cultural exchanges, and participation in local traditions.

## 4. Visitor Engagement

Attracting and retaining tourists requires creating compelling and memorable experiences.

- **Interactive Platforms:**  
Develop a user-friendly website and mobile app featuring virtual tours, itinerary planning tools, and booking systems.

- **Personalised Experiences:**  
Offer customisable packages that allow visitors to tailor their activities based on interests and preferences.
- **Loyalty Programs:**  
Implement programs that encourage repeat visits, such as discounts for returning guests or referral incentives.

#### 5. Farmer Participation and Incentives

Engaging local landholders is crucial for the authenticity and success of the agritourism experience.

- **Incentive Programs:**  
Provide financial support, marketing assistance, and training for farmers to develop and promote agritourism services.
- **Collaborative Networks:** Establish a cooperative network among participating farmers to share resources, best practices, and coordinate offerings.
- **Regulatory Support:** Assist farmers in navigating legal requirements and obtaining necessary permits for hosting visitors.

Engaging local farmers is pivotal to the success of the **Country Heartline** initiative. To facilitate their active participation, it's essential to provide them with resources and guidance to develop sustainable agritourism ventures. This includes connecting them with third-party organisations and programs that offer expertise in business development and operational setup.

#### Connecting Farmers with Supportive Organisations

Several organisations specialise in assisting farmers to diversify into agritourism:

- **Destination NSW's Agritourism Program:** Offers resources and training to help farmers develop agritourism experiences, including guidance on planning approvals and business development.  
[destinationnsw.com.au](https://destinationnsw.com.au)
- **Regionality's Agritourism Business Development Program:** Provides capacity-building and business mentoring specifically designed to support farmers in innovating and expanding into agritourism.  
[regionality.com.au](https://regionality.com.au)
- **NSW Department of Planning's Agritourism Resources:** Offers information on planning reforms and guidelines to facilitate the establishment of agritourism ventures, making it easier for farmers to diversify their income streams.  
[planning.nsw.gov.au](https://planning.nsw.gov.au)

#### Case Study 1: Willie Retreat

An exemplary model within the Macquarie Marshes region is **Willie Retreat**. This establishment offers a range of accommodations, including cabins, bunkhouses, and camping facilities, providing visitors with immersive experiences in the heart of the marshes. By developing a simple website and utilising a cost-effective booking

platform like Little Hotelier, Willie Retreat has successfully made its services accessible to a broader audience. This approach demonstrates how leveraging digital tools can enhance visibility and streamline operations for agritourism businesses.

[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

### **Case Study 2: Callubri Station**

Callubri Station, located between Nyngan and Tottenham in Central West New South Wales, serves as an exemplary model of successful agritourism integration. This fourth-generation, 28,500-acre Merino sheep and wheat station has seamlessly blended traditional farming with luxury tourism, offering guests an authentic outback experience.

[callubristation.com.au](https://www.callubristation.com.au)

### **Key Features of Callubri Station's Agritourism Model:**

#### **1. Luxury Accommodation:**

Guests can choose between the unique Sky Suites, elevated accommodations providing panoramic views of the vast landscape, and the River Suite, a wheelchair-accessible option near the Shearer's Quarters Guest Lounge.

[callubristation.com.au](https://www.callubristation.com.au)

#### **2. Authentic Farm Experiences:**

Visitors are invited to participate in daily farm activities, including guided tours led by fourth-generation farmer Mike Armstrong. These tours offer insights into the station's operations and the broader agricultural practices of the region.

[callubristation.com.au](https://www.callubristation.com.au)

#### **3. Culinary Excellence:**

Emphasising a paddock-to-plate philosophy, Callubri Station provides meals crafted from seasonal, homegrown produce. Guests can savour handmade sourdough from stone-milled wheat produced on-site and enjoy Merino lamb raised on the property.

[callubristation.com.au](https://www.callubristation.com.au)

#### **4. Event Hosting:**

The station's Shearer's Quarters Hall accommodates up to 110 guests, making it an ideal venue for conferences, weddings, and private events. The combination of rustic charm and modern amenities ensures a memorable setting for various occasions.

[bensw.com.au](https://www.bensw.com.au)

### **Lessons for the Country Heartline Initiative:**

Callubri Station's success underscores the potential benefits of integrating agritourism into traditional farming operations:

- **Diversified Income Streams:**  
By offering accommodation, dining, and event services, the station has created additional revenue sources beyond conventional agriculture.
- **Enhanced Visitor Engagement:**  
Providing immersive experiences fosters a deeper connection between guests and the agricultural lifestyle, promoting appreciation and support for rural communities.
- **Sustainable Practices:**  
On-site resources for culinary offerings and activities emphasises sustainability and self-sufficiency, appealing to environmentally conscious travellers.

#### **Action Plan for Farmer Engagement**

To replicate such successes, the following steps are recommended:

- **Workshops and Training Sessions:**  
Organise events where experts from agritourism development programs can provide hands-on guidance on business planning, marketing, and operational management.
- **Resource Compilation:**  
Develop a comprehensive guide detailing available programs, grants, and tools, including digital platforms like Little Hotelier, to assist farmers in setting up and managing their ventures.
- **Peer Networking Opportunities:**  
Facilitate connections between emerging agritourism operators and established entities like Willie Retreat to share insights, challenges, and best practices.

By proactively linking farmers to these resources and support networks, the *Country Heartline* initiative can foster a robust agritourism sector that benefits both landholders and visitors, enriching the regional tourism landscape.

Focussing on these deliverables, the *Country Heartline* aims to create a sustainable and enriching tourism experience that benefits both visitors and the local communities.

Incorporating similar strategies within the *Country Heartline* can enrich the visitor experience while bolstering the economic resilience of participating farms. By highlighting authentic rural life, offering comfortable accommodations, and facilitating direct interactions between guests and farmers, the initiative can create a unique and compelling agritourism destination.

## Implementation Roadmap

### Country Heartline Project Plan Roadmap & Timeline Project Implementation: April – November 2025

The *Country Heartline* initiative follows a structured seven-month implementation roadmap, ensuring all elements are developed, launched, and operational within the project timeline.

This detailed project roadmap ensures that the *Country Heartline* is launched on time, within budget, and in alignment with council and funding expectations. Each phase builds momentum, ensuring that marketing, business engagement, and infrastructure development align seamlessly.

This timeline provides confidence to all stakeholders that the project is well-structured, achievable, and capable of delivering long-term economic benefits for ***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires***.

### Pre-Project Activities (February – March 2025)

Key Focus: Council approvals, funding application, initial project planning, and preparation for kick-off.

#### March 2025 – *Project Approval & Funding Submission*

Project Proposal Submission to Full Councils

- Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires receive the full project proposal for review and endorsement.
- Formal approval sought from each council to proceed with the initiative.
- Endorsement of Warren Shire Council's Economic Development & Visitation Manager as the lead coordinator.

Funding Application Lodgement

- Submission of funding requests under the Drought Resilience Program and other available grants.
- Confirmation of budget allocations, council financial commitments, and in-kind contributions.
- Initial discussions with third-party consultants and potential industry partners to outline cost estimates.

✔ Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Begins

- Early conversations with landholders, tourism operators, and regional businesses to gauge interest and refine the engagement strategy.
- Destination NSW, Outback NSW Tourism, and visitor centre discussions initiated for future collaboration.

**April 2025 – Project Planning & Kick-Off Meeting Preparation**

✔ Drafting of Project Governance & Planning Documentation

- Development of draft governance framework, initial project scope, and timeline.
- Confirmation of key personnel from each shire for the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- Preliminary mapping of potential tourism experiences, signage locations, and infrastructure needs.

✔ Preparation for Initial Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

- Agenda developed for the early April kick-off meeting.
- Discussion points include:
  - Roles & responsibilities of each council
  - Initial branding concepts & marketing positioning
  - Stakeholder engagement plans & landholder outreach strategies
  - Website & digital asset development scope
  - Procurement processes for signage, marketing, and infrastructure

✔ Early-Stage Marketing & Communications Planning

- Drafting of introductory project messaging for councils, landholders, and key stakeholders.
- Creation of press releases & early social media placeholders for future digital engagement.
- Initial visual branding concepts & potential logo design drafts.

✔ Confirmation of Early Partnerships & Consultant Engagements

- Preliminary conversations with website developers, tourism branding specialists, and agritourism consultants.
- Sourcing of quotes and procurement pathways for project materials and assets.

## **Phase 1: Project Initiation & Planning (April – May 2025)**

Key Focus: Governance, stakeholder engagement, branding, and foundational planning.

### **April 2025 – *Project Kickoff & Strategic Framework Development***

- ✔ Initial Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting (Led by Warren Shire Council)
  - General Managers & Mayors from Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires formally endorse governance and project structure.
  - Assignment of key personnel from each shire to the PSC.
  - Agreement on roles, responsibilities, and communication structures.
- ✔ Governance & Financial Framework Finalised
  - Approval of project structure and council commitments.
  - Confirmation of funding allocations and procurement guidelines.
  - Identification of external expertise required (marketing, signage, digital development, agritourism consultants).
- ✔ Branding & Positioning Workshop
  - Stakeholder discussion on final brand identity, key messages, and positioning strategy.
  - Approval of Country Heartline branding, logos, and marketing direction.
  - Initiation of website and social media handle registrations.
- ✔ Landholder & Business Engagement Strategy
  - Initial outreach to farmers, landowners, and tourism operators.
  - Invitations for expressions of interest in farm stays, farm gate sales, and tour participation.

### **May 2025 – *Project Infrastructure & Content Development***

- ✔ Website & Digital Development Begins
  - Web developer appointed; initial wireframes and SEO strategy initiated.
  - Drafting of interactive itinerary-building functionality.
- ✔ Signage Procurement & Permissions
  - Signage designs finalised for roadways, farm gates, and wayfinding markers.
  - Costings and council approvals sought for installations.
- ✔ Marketing Content Production



- Photography and video shoots scheduled for key attractions and landscapes.
- Initial drafts of brochures, social media content, and digital campaigns.

✔ Farm Tourism Training & Information Sessions

- Workshops for landholders interested in developing agritourism businesses.
- Case studies shared (e.g., Willie Retreat, Callubri Station).

## **Phase 2: Development & Pre-Launch (June – August 2025)**

Key Focus: Marketing rollout, infrastructure installation, and business engagement.

### **June, July, August 2025 – Finalisation of Key Assets & Pre-Marketing Begins**

✔ Website Development Continues & Content Integration

- Soft launch with initial itinerary pages, farm stay directory, and booking links.
- Refinement based on usability feedback.

✔ Social Media Pre-Campaign Begins

- Instagram, Facebook, YouTube & TikTok content rollout begins.
- Engagement with influencers and regional travel bloggers.

✔ Farm Stay & Tour Registrations Finalised

- Operators confirmed for launch itineraries.
- Ongoing marketing assistance for new agritourism businesses.

✔ Signage Development Begins

- Roadway wayfinding signs, interpretative signs, and visitor information points developed.

### **August 2025 – Marketing Expansion & Industry Partnerships**

✔ Destination NSW & Regional Tourism Partnerships Secured

- Inclusion in NSW road trip guides and state-level marketing campaigns.
- Travel writer familiarisation trips coordinated.

✔ Printed Brochures & Visitor Maps Finalised

- Supplied to visitor centres, accommodation providers, and service stations.

✔ Local Business & Council Alignment

- Businesses briefed on tourism expectations & opportunities for engagement.

### **August, September, and October 2025 – Soft Launch & Pre-Tourism Activation**

- ✔ Industry Testing & Site Visits for Key Attractions
  - Final quality checks and familiarisation visits for tourism operators.
  - Media previews and trial runs of farm tours and overnight stays.
- ✔ Website Testing & Content Integration
  - Soft launch with initial itinerary pages, farm stay directory, and booking links.
  - Refinement based on usability feedback.
- ✔ Paid Digital Marketing Begins
  - Google Ads, targeted social media promotions.
  - Promotion in Australian travel and lifestyle media.
- ✔ Social Media Pre-Campaign Increases
  - Instagram, Facebook, YouTube & TikTok content rollout intensifies.
  - Increased Engagement with influencers and regional travel bloggers.
- ✔ Signage Installation Begins
  - Roadway wayfinding signs, interpretative signs, and visitor information points installed.
- ✔ Printed Brochures & Visitor Maps Delivered
  - Supplied to visitor centres, accommodation providers, and service stations.

### **Phase 3: Official Launch & Visitor Engagement (Late October – November 2025)**

Key Focus: Full activation, media coverage, monitoring, and evaluation.

#### **November 2025 – Official Launch Month**

- ✔ Formal Launch Event
  - High-profile launch in one of the key towns (Nyngan, Coonamble, Warren, or Macquarie Marshes).
  - Media coverage, influencer collaborations, and tourism body presence.
- ✔ Promotional Campaigns
  - Television & radio promotions targeting regional NSW and Sydney markets.
  - PR campaign featuring travel writers and key influencers.

✔ Tourism Data Collection Begins

- Visitor tracking and economic impact monitoring starts.

**November 2025 – Ongoing Engagement & Adjustments**

✔ Stakeholder Check-ins

- First-month performance review with landholders, businesses, and councils.

✔ Campaign Adjustments Based on Early Data

- Refinements in digital marketing focus areas.
- Enhancements to visitor itineraries and wayfinding feedback integration.

✔ Expanded Content Production

- Video features and case studies produced for additional marketing outreach.

**End November 2025 – Finalisation & Funding Acquittal**

✔ Final Tourism Data & Performance Review

- Analysis of visitation numbers, regional spend, and stakeholder satisfaction.
- Economic impact assessment report prepared.

✔ Official Project Acquittal (28 November 2025)

- Final funding and budget reconciliations.
- Submission of acquittal documentation to funding bodies.

✔ Transition to Long-Term Management

- Governance committee established for continued project oversight.
- Ongoing funding and expansion discussions.

# Marketing, Branding & Advertising Strategy for the Country Heartline

The *Country Heartline* is not just another tourism initiative—it is a transformative new way to experience regional New South Wales. This section details how we will strategically position, promote, and market the Country Heartline to attract, engage, and retain visitors, while ensuring it delivers economic benefits for **Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires**.

## 1. Key Messages & Target Markets

### Positioning the Country Heartline

The *Country Heartline* is a slow travel experience designed for those seeking authentic, immersive rural encounters. With a focus on farm stays, farm gate produce, agritourism, eco-tourism, and cultural heritage, the *Country Heartline* will be positioned as:

- **A Journey to Reconnect with the Land –**  
“Country Charm. Country Calm.”
- **A Slow Travel Alternative –**  
A counterbalance to fast-paced tourism routes, allowing visitors to experience rural life, breathe fresh air, and engage with the people who sustain the land.
- **A Drought Resilience Initiative –**  
Every stay, tour, and experience directly support farmers, landholders, and regional businesses, ensuring long-term sustainability.

### Primary Target Markets

#### 1. Caravanners & Grey Nomads

- Retirees and mature travellers seeking extended road trips, authentic rural stays, and relaxing, slow-paced adventures.
- Likely to travel year-round, high-spending on experiences, food, and accommodation.
- Marketing Approach:
  - Caravan park and RV-friendly partnerships to ensure easy stopovers.
  - Promotion through Grey Nomads Australia, CMCA (Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia), and caravan touring groups.

#### 2. Families & Self-Drive Travellers

- Parents looking for hands-on educational experiences for their children, farm stays, nature-based activities, and cultural discovery.
- Marketing Approach:
  - Partnerships with family travel bloggers, influencers, and experience-based holiday sites (Kidspot, Family Travel).
  - Promotion in school holiday getaway campaigns.

### 3. International Visitors & Eco-Tourists

- Travellers from Europe, the UK, the USA, and New Zealand who have a strong interest in outback experiences, agritourism, and Indigenous heritage.
- Growing market for birdwatchers and nature photographers drawn to the Macquarie Marshes.
- Marketing Approach:
  - Inclusion in Destination NSW and Tourism Australia's international itineraries.
  - Targeted campaigns in eco-travel publications, conservation networks, and wildlife tourism operators.

### 4. Short-Stay Weekend & Regional Visitors

- Domestic travellers from Sydney, Canberra, and Newcastle seeking a weekend getaway that offers relaxation, cultural experiences, and farm-to-table dining.
- Marketing Approach:
  - PR-driven coverage in regional travel sections of major newspapers (Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian).
  - Partnerships with boutique travel agencies and regional event calendars.

## 2. Marketing Assets & Branding Strategy

### Website Development

A visually stunning and highly functional website will be the central hub for all information about the *Country Heartline*.

- Key Features:
  - High-quality photography and video showcasing the landscapes, farm stays, and experiences.
  - Interactive itinerary builder where visitors can customise their trip based on interests.
  - Integrated online booking system (leveraging third-party platforms like Little Hotelier).
  - Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) to rank highly on Google for key search terms like "farm stays NSW" and "Macquarie Marshes tourism."
- Development Timeline:
  - Phase 1 (3 months pre-launch): Website wireframe, branding assets, SEO setup.
  - Phase 2 (1 month pre-launch): Full content integration, mobile optimisation, testing.
  - Phase 3 (Launch & Beyond): Continuous updates, blog content, and video storytelling.

## Brochures & Printed Materials

- Design & Distribution Strategy:
  - Printed guides for visitor information centres, tourism expos, caravan parks, and key accommodation venues.
  - Inclusion in Destination NSW official guides and regional maps.
  - Digital versions available for download on the website.

## 3. Signage & Wayfinding Strategy

To establish the *Country Heartline* as a recognised tourism trail, we need a consistent and cohesive signage strategy that improves navigation and enhances branding.

- **Types of Signage:**
  - Entry & Welcome Signs – Placed at key entry points into Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires.
  - Directional Signs – Installed on highways and rural roads guiding visitors to farm stays, attractions, and key locations.
  - Interpretative & Educational Signage – Located at Macquarie Marshes, historic sites, and key experience hubs.
- **Procurement & Budgeting:**
  - Consult with signwriters early to ensure alignment with branding.
  - Secure council approvals for installation and liaise with Destination NSW for co-funded signage grants.

## 4. Social Media & Digital Strategy

### Content Strategy & Platforms:

- Instagram & Facebook – Visual storytelling, video highlights of farm stays, visitor experiences, and behind-the-scenes glimpses into rural life.
- YouTube & TikTok – Short-form videos featuring farmers, visitors, and immersive experiences.
- Email Marketing – Monthly newsletters with new itinerary ideas, seasonal travel tips, and special offers.

### Campaigns & Influencer Engagement:

- Influencer Partnerships – Collaborate with travel bloggers, eco-tourists, and family adventure influencers to visit and promote the trail.
- Seasonal Campaigns:
  - Winter in the Outback – Featuring campfires, crisp country air, and cozy farm stays.
  - Spring Harvest Trail – Promoting farm gate produce, shearing season, and local markets.

## 5. Leveraging Partnerships

### Key Partners & Collaborative Marketing Efforts

- Destination NSW & Destination Country and Outback NSW
  - Inclusion in official marketing campaigns, NSW road trip guides, and international travel expos.
- Travel Media & Journalists
  - Press trips for major travel publications, freelance journalists, and digital media outlets.
  - Editorial coverage in Traveller (SMH), Out & About with Kids, and Australian Geographic.
- Tourism Bodies & Local Councils
  - Collaboration with visitor information centres, regional tourism boards, and agritourism networks to cross-promote experiences.

### Conclusion: A Comprehensive Approach to Tourism Growth

By implementing this holistic marketing, branding, and advertising strategy, the *Country Heartline* will establish itself as:

- ✓ A recognised and sought-after slow travel destination in NSW.
- ✓ A complementary tourism experience to the Pub Route and existing outback trails.
- ✓ A model for sustainable agritourism and regional economic development.

This is more than just a tourism initiative—it's a movement to reconnect with the land, support rural communities, and offer a deeply meaningful experience to travellers.

### Next Steps:

- Finalise branding and website development.
- Begin outreach to tourism partners and influencers.
- Secure signage approvals and confirm distribution strategies.
- Launch pre-campaign teasers and social media engagement.

This strategy positions the *Country Heartline* for long-term success, economic sustainability, and tourism growth in regional NSW.

## RISK MANAGEMENT AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Implementing the *Country Heartline* project necessitates a comprehensive risk management and contingency planning framework to ensure its success and sustainability. Identifying potential risks and establishing effective mitigation strategies will provide confidence to all stakeholders, including the councils of ***Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires***.

### 1. Council Capacity Risks

***Potential Risks:***

- **Staff Workloads and Administrative Burdens:**  
The additional responsibilities associated with the project may strain existing council resources, leading to potential delays or oversights.

***Mitigation Strategies:***

- **Resource Allocation Planning:**  
Conduct a thorough assessment of current workloads and identify areas where additional support is required.
- **Hiring Temporary Staff or Consultants:**  
Engage external experts on a contractual basis to manage specific tasks, ensuring that permanent staff are not overburdened.
- **Inter-Council Collaboration:**  
Foster a collaborative environment among the three councils to share resources, expertise, and responsibilities, thereby distributing the workload more evenly.

### 2. Landholder Resistance

***Potential Risks:***

- **Hesitancy to Participate in Agritourism:** Some landholders may be reluctant to diversify into tourism due to concerns about privacy, increased liability, or lack of knowledge about the industry.

***Mitigation Strategies:***

- **Educational Workshops and Seminars:** Organise sessions that highlight the benefits of agritourism, featuring success stories and providing practical guidance on implementation.
- **Financial Incentives and Support:** Offer grants, subsidies, or low-interest loans to assist landholders in developing tourism infrastructure.
- **Partnerships with Tourism Organisations:** Connect landholders with established tourism bodies that can provide marketing support, training, and resources to ease the transition into agritourism.



### 3. Funding Shortfalls or Delayed Approvals

**Potential Risks:**

- **Insufficient Financial Resources:**  
The project may face budget constraints or delays in securing necessary funding and approvals.

**Mitigation Strategies:**

- **Diverse Funding Sources:**  
Pursue multiple funding avenues, including federal and state grants, public-private partnerships, and community fundraising initiatives.
- **Phased Implementation Plan:**  
Break the project into manageable stages, allowing for incremental progress aligned with available funding.
- **Regular Communication with Funding Bodies:**  
Maintain open lines of communication with grant providers and regulatory agencies to stay informed about application statuses and to expedite approval processes.

### 4. External Factors

**Potential Risks:**

- **Drought and Weather Impacts:**  
Severe weather conditions could affect road accessibility, the appeal of outdoor activities, and overall visitor experience.
- **Tourism Downturns:**  
Economic downturns, pandemics, or other unforeseen events could lead to a decrease in tourist numbers.

**Mitigation Strategies:**

- **Infrastructure Investment:** Enhance and maintain roads and facilities to withstand extreme weather, ensuring year-round accessibility.
- **Diversified Tourism Offerings:** Develop a range of attractions, including indoor and weather-independent activities, to appeal to visitors regardless of external conditions.
- **Flexible Business Models:** Encourage stakeholders to adopt adaptable business practices, such as offering virtual experiences or online sales of local products, to sustain operations during downturns.
- **Insurance and Financial Planning:** Promote the use of insurance products and financial risk management tools among farmers and business owners to safeguard against income fluctuations due to external factors.

## 5. Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

### **Potential Risks:**

- **Delays Due to Regulatory Approvals:**  
Navigating the regulatory landscape for agritourism ventures can be complex and time-consuming.
- **Environmental Concerns:**  
Tourism activities may inadvertently impact local ecosystems, particularly sensitive areas like the Macquarie Marshes.

### **Mitigation Strategies:**

- **Engage Early with Regulatory Bodies:**  
Initiate discussions with relevant authorities early in the planning process to understand requirements and streamline approvals.
- **Environmental Impact Assessments:**  
Conduct thorough assessments to identify potential ecological impacts and develop strategies to mitigate them, ensuring sustainable tourism practices.
- **Community Consultation:**  
Involve local communities and Indigenous groups in planning to align tourism activities with cultural values and environmental preservation efforts.

## 6. Biosecurity Risks

### **Potential Risks:**

- **Introduction of Pests and Diseases:**  
Increased movement of people may elevate the risk of biosecurity threats to local agriculture.

### **Mitigation Strategies:**

- **Implement Strict Biosecurity Protocols:**  
Establish clear guidelines for visitors to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and diseases.
- **Education and Awareness Campaigns:**  
Inform visitors about the importance of biosecurity and their role in protecting the local environment.
- **Collaboration with Biosecurity Agencies:**  
Work closely with governmental biosecurity departments to monitor risks and respond promptly to any incidents.

By proactively identifying these potential risks and implementing robust mitigation strategies, the *Country Heartline* project can enhance its resilience and ensure a sustainable, enriching experience for both visitors and the local communities.

## Performance Measurement and Project Review

Implementing the *Country Heartline* initiative requires a robust framework for performance measurement and ongoing project management to ensure its success and sustainability. This section outlines the key metrics for evaluating the project's impact and details the structures necessary for its continuous evolution.

### 1. Performance Measurement

To gauge the effectiveness of the *Country Heartline*, we will employ a multifaceted approach focusing on quantitative and qualitative metrics:

- **Visitor Numbers and Tourism Data:**  
Utilise data from Tourism Research Australia and local visitor information centres to monitor the influx of tourists to the region. This includes tracking overnight stays, day visits, and occupancy rates at participating farm stays and accommodations.
- **Economic Impact Assessment:**  
Analyse regional spending patterns to determine the financial benefits to local businesses. Metrics will encompass average visitor expenditure, length of stay, and the multiplier effect on the local economy. Regular economic impact studies will be conducted to quantify these benefits.
- **Revenue Growth for Farms and Local Enterprises:**  
Monitor the income trajectories of participating farms and businesses by comparing pre- and post-involvement financial data. This will highlight the direct economic advantages of the initiative.
- **Stakeholder Satisfaction Surveys:**  
Implement regular feedback mechanisms for landholders, council members, and local business owners to assess satisfaction levels, identify challenges, and gather suggestions for improvement.
- **Visitor Experience Feedback:**  
Collect and analyse visitor reviews and feedback through surveys, social media platforms, and travel forums to gauge the quality of experiences offered and identify areas for enhancement.
- **Environmental and Cultural Impact Monitoring:**  
Evaluate the initiative's effects on local ecosystems, particularly sensitive areas like the Macquarie Marshes, and cultural heritage sites to ensure sustainable and respectful tourism practices.

## 2. Project Review and Ongoing Management

Sustaining the momentum of the *Country Heartline* post-launch necessitates a structured approach:

- **Establishment of a Governance Committee:**  
Form a dedicated body comprising representatives from Bogan, Coonamble, and Warren Shires, local tourism boards, landholder associations, and Indigenous community leaders. This committee will oversee strategic direction, policy formulation, and stakeholder coordination.
- **Appointment of a Project Coordinator:**  
Designate a full-time coordinator responsible for day-to-day operations, marketing efforts, partnership management, and serving as the primary liaison among stakeholders.
- **Regular Performance Reviews:**  
Conduct biannual evaluations of the initiative's progress using the aforementioned performance metrics. These reviews will inform necessary adjustments to strategies and operations.
- **Adaptive Management Strategies:**  
Stay attuned to industry trends, environmental changes, and stakeholder feedback to adapt offerings and approaches proactively. This includes diversifying tourism products, enhancing marketing campaigns, and implementing sustainable practices.
- **Continuous Stakeholder Engagement:**  
Maintain open communication channels with all participants to foster collaboration, address concerns promptly, and ensure the initiative aligns with community values and expectations.
- **Financial Sustainability Planning:**  
Explore diverse funding avenues such as grants, partnerships, and revenue-sharing models to ensure the long-term financial viability of the *Country Heartline*.

Implementing this comprehensive performance measurement and management framework, the *Country Heartline* will not only achieve its initial objectives but also adapt and thrive, delivering sustained economic, cultural, and environmental benefits to the region.

## **PROJECT KICKOFF – PROPOSED AGENDA**

**Agenda: Multi-Council Project Kick-Off Meeting**

**Three Rivers and Macquarie Marshes Tourism & Drought Resilience Project**

**Date:** [Insert Date]

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Location:** [Insert Venue]

**Chair:** Economic Development and Visitation Manager, Warren Shire Council

---

### **9:00 AM – 9:15 AM | Arrival & Registration**

- Attendees sign in and collect project materials.
- Light refreshments provided.

### **9:15 AM – 9:30 AM | Welcome & Opening Remarks**

**Chair:** Economic Development and Visitation Manager, Warren Shire Council

- Acknowledgement of Country.
- Introduction of project committee members.
- Overview of the day's agenda and objectives.

### **9:30 AM – 10:15 AM | Project Overview & Vision**

**Presenter:** Chair & Lead Representatives from Partner Councils

- Why the project exists and its significance.
- Expected outcomes and long-term benefits.
- Introduction to the tourism circuit and farm stay concept.

### **10:15 AM – 10:45 AM | Project Governance & Structure**

**Presenter:** Project Steering Committee Representative

- Role of the Project Steering Committee.
- Governance framework and decision-making process.
- Explanation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

### **10:45 AM – 11:00 AM | Morning Tea Break**

- Refreshments provided.

## **11:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Defining the Project Scope & Objectives**

**Facilitator:** Chair

- Explanation of the Project Charter.
- Defining SMART goals for tourism circuit, agritourism, and marketing.
- Understanding success indicators and key performance metrics.

## **11:45 AM – 12:30 PM | Project Planning & Task Allocation**

**Facilitator:** Chair

- Breaking down the project into workstreams:
  - Branding & Marketing
  - Tourism Circuit Development
  - Farm Stay Program
  - Stakeholder Engagement
- Assigning responsibilities and initial action steps.

## **12:30 PM – 1:00 PM | Catered Lunch & Networking**

- Opportunity to discuss ideas and build connections.

## **1:00 PM – 1:45PM | Branding, Marketing & Communications**

**Presenter:** Marketing & Communications Lead

- Project branding discussion: Name, logo, and messaging.
- Website and social media strategy.
- Print and digital marketing plans.

## **1:45 PM – 2:45 PM | Tourism Circuit & Infrastructure Planning**

**Presenter:** Infrastructure & Planning Lead

- Identifying key destinations and itineraries.
- Infrastructure needs and wayfinding signage.
- Mapping travel routes and accessibility improvements.

## **2:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Afternoon Tea Break**

- Refreshments provided.

### **3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Farm Stay & Agritourism Development**

**Presenter:** Agritourism & Business Support Lead

- Engaging farmers and regional businesses.
- Pilot program selection process.
- Business support and farm stay toolkit.

### **4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Risk Management & Problem-Solving**

**Facilitator:** Chair

- Identifying risks and mitigation strategies.
- Open discussion: Challenges and potential roadblocks.
- Contingency planning.

### **4:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Next Steps & Closing Remarks**

**Chair:** Economic Development and Visitation Manager, Warren Shire Council

- Summary of the day's key takeaways.
  - Review of assigned tasks and responsibilities.
  - Next meeting date and communication channels.
  - Closing remarks and appreciation for attendees.
-

## **10.4 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present a draft of the 2025/2035 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for Council's consideration and approval for public exhibition as required by the provisions of the Local Government Act.

### **2. Background**

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework which came into practice at Bogan Shire Council in 2012 changed the way Councils in NSW planned, documented and reported on their plans for the future.

In essence the IP&R Framework (refer Attachment 1) begins with the community's, not Council's, aspirations for a period of at least 10 years. It includes a suite of integrated plans that set out a vision and goals and strategic actions to achieve them. It involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant.

The CSP is the highest level plan that a Council prepares. The purpose of the plan is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. Specific activities or actions under each strategy are being developed and these will be set out in the Delivery Program and the Operating Plan and Budget for consideration by Council in April and May.

Because the CSP is intended to be a whole-of-community plan it includes priorities and aspirations which fall to State or Federal government agencies or the non-Government sector to meet. For example, health, education and policing are mentioned in our CSP. Council's role in this regard will most likely be to lobby for or drive these agendas locally on behalf of the community.

### **3. Discussion**

Council has received significant community input into the development of our CSP from a variety of sources including

- returned community survey forms,
- a community workshop evening,
- a workshop with the Nyngan High School SRC,
- a creative writing and drawing competition involving all the primary schools,
- direct feedback via Mayor, Councillors and General Manager



This input has been summarised in Attachments 2, 3 and 4 – Community Feedback Summaries.

This document indicates priority feedback topics, and the number of responses received around that topic. It also shows whether the feedback topic already aligns with a Strategy within Council's existing CSP and, if not a potential new/revised Strategy.

It is important to bear in mind that, just because a particular feedback topic aligns with a Strategy in the CSP, this doesn't mean that it becomes a funded activity of Council in the four year Delivery Program or 2025/26 Operational Plan and Budget. The feedback topics reflected on Attachments 2,3 and 4 will need to be taken into account when the draft Delivery Program is considered by Council in April.

For example, strong community feedback was received on the need to restore / revamp the Nyngan Town Hall. This aligns with our Strategy 1.2.4 – "Maintain and improve community halls and other similar facilities for community use" but the specific actions or activities that Council wants to take in relation to the Nyngan Town Hall in the current terms of Council need to be specified in the Delivery Program and thereafter the Operational Plan and Budget.

Attachment 5 shows the structure of our draft CSP for 2025/2035. This is based on the existing CSP, updated where necessary, and with suggested amendments (in blue text) required to take our recent community feedback into account.

In reviewing this document and considering it for approval, questions Councillors may wish to ask themselves include:

- To what extent do these goals and outcomes reflect the long-term strategic priorities for Bogan Shire?
- Whether strategies listed cover all the major elements that will collectively achieve the outcomes and goals listed? (Bearing in mind that certain things Council does will be listed as actions under a relevant strategy in the Operating Plan and Budget.)
- Whether the extent of Council's involvement is correctly reflected and the indicators of success are appropriate?

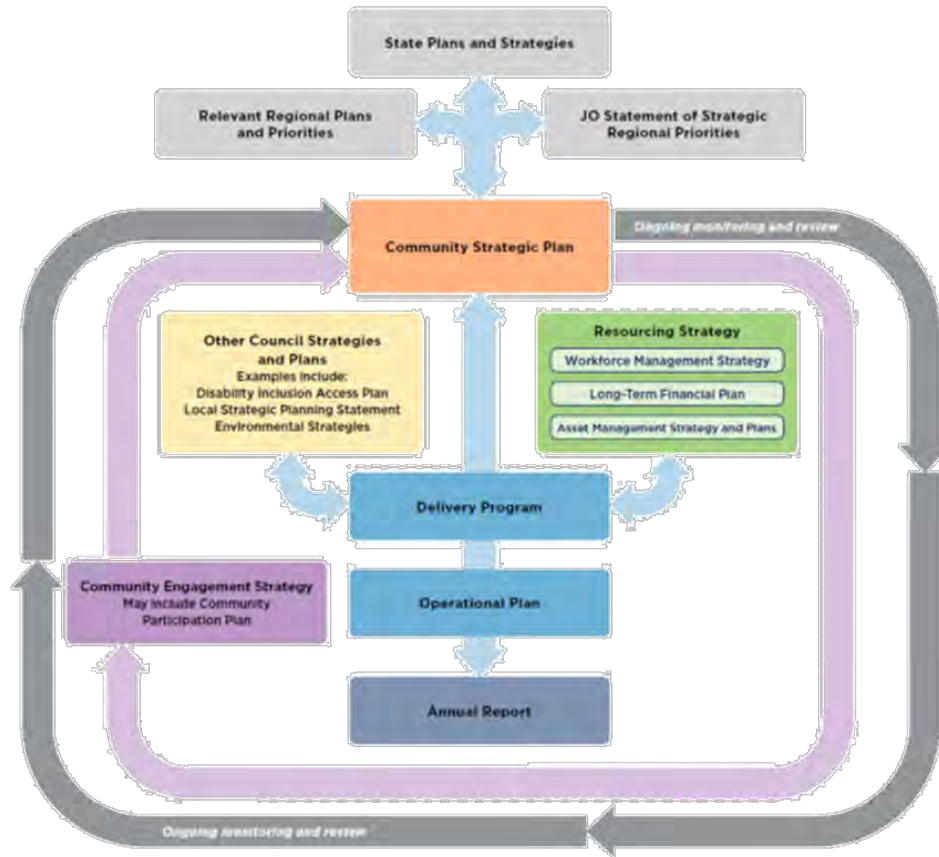
#### **4. Attachments**

1. Intergrated Planning and Reporting Frameowrk
2. Community Feedback - Community Workshop 19 February 2025
3. Community Feedback Survey
4. Community Feedback - Nyngan High School Workshop 27 February 2025
5. Draft 2025/2035 Community Straegtic Plan Framework

#### **5. Recommendation**

That the draft 2025/2035 Community Strategic Plan framework be considered and approved for public exhibition.

### Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework



Community Feedback - Community Workshop 19 February 2025

	Community Feedback Topics	# Responses	Alignment with existing Strategy	Potential New / Revised Strategy
<b>SOCIAL</b>				
1	Restoration/revamp - Town Hall/All purpose/wellness centre	27	1.2.4	
2	More events (movie nights, events for older teenagers, mardi gras, watersports, Big Bogan Festival, inflatables during summer, annual debutant, car boot sales)	16	1.1.1	
3	Before and After School Care	11	1.3.1	
4	Aged care homes Seniors Living	6	1.3.4	
5	Emergency housing/accommodation for escaping DV	6	1.5.1	
6	Permanent GPs/specialists	5	1.5.1	
7	Performing arts opportunities	5	1.1.1	
8	Show ground improvements (toilets)	4	1.2.5	
9	Community garden (Suggested near youth centre or CWA)	4	1.2.4	
10	Tertiary education opportunities	3	1.4.1	
11	Residential Aged Care increase	3	1.3.4	
12	Access to childcare at the ELC/reduce waitlist	3	1.3.1	
13	Better access to healthcare	3	1.5.1	
14	Art gallery	3	1.2.4	
15	Support of aged people	3	1.3.4	
16	Retain and maintain sporting facilities	3	1.2.3	
17	More opportunities for study/new graduates	3	1.4.2	
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>				
18	Bike Paths	8	-	2.1.3
19	Reliable Telecommunications	7	2.5.1	
20	Clean town water	7	2.3.1	
21	Improved water security/water infrastructure	5	2.3.2	
22	Walking track	4	-	2.1.3
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>				
23	Maintain green spaces, parks, gardens	11	1.3.2 / 3.3.1 / 3.3.5	
24	Subdivision of land (under 600 acres, 20 – 100 acres, 25 acres)	10	3.1.1	
25	Weed control	6	3.3.6	
26	More trees	6	3.3.5	
27	More shade in parks	4	3.3.1	
28	Green Waste Bin	4	3.2.1	
29	Stray dog control	4	3.4.3	
30	Maintain Bogan River	4	3.3.2	
31	Beautification	3	3.3.5	
32	Land available for new commercial and industrial lots	3	3.1.1	
33	Ski club facilities improved (green spaces, toilet blocks)	3	3.3.2	
<b>ECONOMIC</b>				
34	Housing	21	-	4.4.1 / 4.4.2
35	Promotion of Nyngan and facilities	12	4.2.1	
36	More businesses	11	4.1.1	
37	Bakery	7	4.1.1	
38	Businesses/shops/cafes open for longer hours	7	4.1.1	
39	Accommodations (visitor/short term)	5	-	4.2.3
40	Farmers markets (weekends)	4	4.1.1	
41	Airport lighting	3	4.3.2	
42	State government incentive/support small businesses	3	4.1.1	
43	More dining options	3	4.1.1	

**Community Feedback - Community Survey**

	Community Feedback Topics	# Responses	Alignment with existing Strategy	Potential New / Revised Strategy
<b>SOCIAL</b>				
1	A strong community focus	4	Aligns generally with Social Goal and covers all Outcomes and Strategies	
2	Permanent doctors	2	1.5.1	
3	Sport in town during the weekend instead of having to travel	2	1.2.3	
4	Big Bogan festival	2	1.1.1	
5	Pool is well looked after	2	1.5.1	
6	Keep town/green spaces looking nice and clean	2	1.3.2	
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>				
7	Bogan river is a reliable water source	2	2.3.2	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>				
8	Subdivide and permit hobby farms (5 – 500 acres)	2	3.1.1	
<b>ECONOMIC</b>				
9	More housing	6	-	4.4.1 / 4.4.2
10	Job opportunities	4	4.1.1	
11	Cafes open for longer hours	3	4.1.1	
12	Suitable accommodation (visitors / short term)	2	-	4.2.3

**Community Feedback - Nyngan High School Workshop 27 February 2025**

	Community Feedback Topics	# Responses	Alignment with existing Strategy	Potential New / Revised Strategy
<b>SOCIAL</b>				
1	More events (e.g. Debutant, similar to duck creek and long table, charity events, live music)	7	1.1.1	
2	More TAFE Opportunities (eg. Art/tattoo course)	4	1.4.1	
3	More rides at the shows	3	1.1.1	
4	Golf club fix up (eg knock down walls for some more room)	3	1.2.3	
5	Motorbike track	3	1.5.1	
6	Diving board	3	1.2.1	
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>				
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>				
7	New boat ramp	6	3.3.2	
8	Have carp musters/fishing comp/tag fishing comp more regularly	3	3.3.2	
<b>ECONOMIC</b>				
9	Bakery	8	4.1.1	
10	More job opportunities	4	4.1.1	
11	More/cheaper housing	3		4.4.1 / 4.4.2

# 1 - Social

*Goal - An inclusive community that works together and can access services and opportunities to support our comfortable country living.*

## 1.1 Social and Cultural

**Outcome:** Our community enjoys and actively participates in our rich culture, social environment and communal vibe.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
1.1.1	Support and create opportunities for community festivals, events and cultural activities through planning, marketing, direct involvement and various forms of assistance.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Events & Activities Held
1.1.2	Promote, support and preserve connections to local heritage and culture recognising the role they play in tourism and economic development of the Shire.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Museums Operating Well
1.1.3	Identify, respect and preserve sites and items of historical significance.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Community Heritage Study Updated
1.1.4	Develop and support volunteer groups to carry out functions and projects for the benefit of the community and volunteers.	Community & Council	Ongoing	Partnership	Continued Operation of Groups

**1.2 Community Spaces**

**Outcome:** Our community utilise and values the educational, recreational and social opportunities provided by our community spaces.

	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
1.2.1	Provide, maintain and improve functional Nyngan Pool facilities to cater for a variety of users.	Council	Seasonal & Ongoing	Direct	Met standards / Positive Community Feedback
1.2.2	Maintain and improve our parks, gardens and playgrounds to promote their use and enjoyment by the whole community and our visitors.	Council	Long Term & Ongoing	Direct	Maintenance Program in Operation / Positive Community Feedback
1.2.3	Maintain and improve our sports grounds and active recreational facilities through the diversity of sport and recreation on offer.	Community & Council	Long Term & Ongoing	Direct	Maintenance Program in Operation / Positive Community Feedback
1.2.4	Maintain and improve community halls and other similar facilities for community use.	Community & Council	Long Term & Ongoing	Direct	Plan of Management in Place / Positive Community Feedback
1.2.5	Maintain and improve Shire showground and equestrian facilities for community use.	Council	Ongoing	Partnership	Usage / Positive Community Feedback
1.2.6	Support operation of a youth and community centre that provides recreational, educational and cultural activities.	Council	Medium Term & Ongoing	Partnership	Usage / Positive Community Feedback
1.2.7	Provide and promote quality Library services.	Council	Long Term & Ongoing	Direct	Usage / Positive Community Feedback

**1.3 Inclusive Communities**

**Outcome:** Children, older people and people with disabilities are supported, feel secure, valued and are engaged in our community.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
1.3.1	Provide and improve childcare facilities, preschools, after hours care and playgroups that meet the needs of the whole community.	Government Agencies, Community & Council	Ongoing	Advocate, Direct & Support	Services Available
1.3.2	Identify and support the social needs of young people in the community and provide programs and infrastructure to support social interaction.	Government Agencies, Community & Council	Ongoing	Advocate, Direct & Support	Positive Community Feedback
1.3.3	Identify and support the social needs of people with disabilities in the community and provide programs and infrastructure to support social interaction.	Government Agencies, Community & Council	Ongoing	Advocate, Direct & Support	Positive Community Feedback / DIAP Implementation
1.3.4	Identify and support the social needs of older people in the community and provide programs and infrastructure to support social interaction as well as housing to support assisted and independent living.	Government Agencies, Community & Council	Ongoing	Advocate, Direct & Support	Positive Community Feedback

**1.4 Education**

**Outcome:** Our community has access to opportunities for education at all levels.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
1.4.1	Provide a range of high quality primary and secondary education and vocational training facilities and opportunities.	Government Agencies	Ongoing	Advocate	Opportunities available
1.4.2	Provide support and encouragement for local people to obtain work in Bogan Shire after completing their education.	Government Agencies, Business, Council	Ongoing	Advocate, Direct & Support	Increased local Employment

**1.5 Public Health**

**Outcome:** Our community has access to the medical services, facilities and programs it needs to enhance and protect our health.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
1.5.1	Work with the community and the Government to ensure medical, dental, specialist, mental health and allied health services and facilities meet the needs of residents and visitors.	Government Agencies, Council	Ongoing	Advocate, Direct	Available Health Care



**1.6 Emergency Services**

**Outcome:** Our emergency services provide effective and efficient services to the community to protect property and the safety of our community.

	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
1.6.1	Protect people and property from fire related incidents.	Government Agencies & Council	Ongoing	Advocate	Services Available
1.6.2	Provide an appropriate level of ambulance services for the community	Government Agencies	Ongoing	Advocate	Services Available
1.6.3	Improve community safety and maintain low crime levels.	Government Agencies & Council	Ongoing	Advocate	Safe and Low Crime Community

## 2 - Infrastructure

*Goal - Construct and manage fit for purpose community assets that provide access to quality services.*

### 2.1 Transport Networks

**Outcome:** Our well-constructed and maintained transport network enables safe and efficient movement of people and freight throughout the Shire.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
2.1.1	Efficient local and regional transport networks that meet community and business needs.	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Direct	Asset Mgt Plan Implemented
2.1.2	Maintain state road networks to ensure provision of efficient transport links.	State Government & Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Partnership	Community Satisfaction
2.1.3	Provide, maintain and improve bike paths and walking tracks.	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Direct	Continued usage

### 2.2 Rail Services

**Outcome:** Our rail connection remains the preferred mode of transporting bulk agricultural and mining freight safely and reliably.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
2.2.1	Advocate for continued use of the rail line for transporting agricultural and mining products.	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Advocate	Continued usage
2.2.2	Advocate for improved safety, environmental management and amenity in the rail corridor	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Advocate	Less complaints / no incidents

### 2.3 Water

**Outcome:** We have access to secure water to provide Nyngan with reliable, cost effective, potable water as well as raw water supply to villages.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
2.3.1	Provide a financially viable, efficient, permanent potable water supply for Nyngan and raw water supply for the villages and has sufficient capacity for current and projected growth requirements.	State Government & Council	Long Term	Partnership & Direct	Water supply to Nyngan and villages.
2.3.2	Enhance the security of our water supply, ensuring long term drought management plans are developed and water losses are minimised.	Council	Long Term & Ongoing	Direct	Plans implemented

**2.4 Sewerage**

**Outcome:** We have a reliable, safe and cost effective sewerage service.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
2.4.1	Provide a financially viable and efficient sewerage system that has sufficient capacity for current and projected growth requirements.	Council	Long Term & Ongoing	Direct	Service maintained
2.4.2	Ensure effective management of liquid trade waste.	Council	Medium Term	Direct	Policy Implemented
2.4.3	Ensure effective management of on-site sewage treatment plants	Council	Medium Term	Direct	Controls in place

**2.5 Communication Networks**

**Outcome:** The community has access to current and reliable communications infrastructure and technology to facilitate communications for safety, learning, business and providing services to our community.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
2.5.1	Maximise the coverage and availability of telecommunications infrastructure across the Shire.	Government Private Provider	Short Term & Ongoing	Advocate	Services are improved

## 3 – Managing Our Environment

*Goal - To support, enhance and preserve the environment of our shire through sound planning and management practices to ensure a sustainable, attractive, healthy and safe community.*

### 3.1 Built Environment

**Outcome:** Our Shire is enhanced through relevant planning processes in accordance with statutory requirements.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
3.1.1	Conduct periodic reviews of Council's planning instruments to ensure that land use planning supports the long term sustainability of our local communities and our economy.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Land Available for Expansion
3.1.2	Development complies with relevant Planning legislation, Local Government Act, National Construction Code and Local Council Policies.	Council & Government Agencies	Short Term & Ongoing	Partnership	Compliance met
3.1.3	Ensure our community's buildings are safe, healthy and maintained.	Council & Community	Ongoing	Partnership	Increased Compliance
3.1.4	Develop and implement flood requirements for all urban flood plain areas.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Requirements Developed

### 3.2 Waste and Recycling

**Outcome:** Our waste is effectively managed by reducing waste to landfill and maximising resource recovery through recycling.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
3.2.1	Provide cost effective and efficient kerbside collection of waste.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Services Delivered
3.2.2	Operate the Bogan Shire waste facilities to comply with regulations and license requirements, ensuring it is environmentally sound.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Compliance with Landfill Environmental Management Plan

**3.3 Natural Environment**

**Outcome:** Our open space areas are appropriately managed and maintained for community use and to preserve their biodiversity value whilst minimising the impact of pollution and weeds on the environment.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
3.3.1	Provide safe, high quality, well serviced and maintained parks.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Well Presented & Used
3.3.2	Protect and improve the amenity of the river corridor to enhance and increase utilisation for a range of recreational activities.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Increased Use
3.3.3	Provide a clean and pleasant streetscape, ensuring regular street sweeping and cleaning of public spaces.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Community Feedback
3.3.4	Implement programs which foster responsible and protective behaviours towards reducing waste and illegal dumping.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Community Feedback
3.3.5	Protect, preserve and enhance Bogan Shire's natural environments, waterways, flora and fauna through responsible development and management.	Government Agencies & Council	Ongoing	Partnership	Environment & Assets Preserved
3.3.6	Meet Council's obligations under the Biodiversity Act 2015 in respect of maintenance of invasive weeds.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Compliance

**3.4 Health, Safety and Regulation**

**Outcome:** Council meets its compliance and regulatory obligations.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
3.4.1	Liaise with Local Liquor Accord to ensure compliance strategies are maintained to maximise public health and safety.	Government Agency & Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Partnership	Obligations Met
3.4.2	Ensure compliance with Food Safety Standards.	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Direct	Inspections Completed
3.4.3	Continue ongoing management and control of companion animals and encourage owner compliance with NSW Companion Animals Act 1998.	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Direct	Increased Compliance / Community Feedback

## 4 – Economic

*Goal - A vibrant economy with a diversity of successful businesses that provides opportunities to live, work and visit that contribute to a prosperous community.*

### 4.1 Local Industry

**Outcome:** Industries in our community continue to grow and prosper, positively contributing to the success of our economy.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
4.1.1	Support and promote local industry, to identify gaps and develop initiatives for sustainable economic growth and local employment opportunities.	Council, Government Agencies, Community	Short Term	Direct	Number of Commercial Enterprises
4.1.2	Support agricultural businesses so that they have the capacity to be a significant contributor to the local, regional and national economy.	Private Enterprise & Council	Long Term & Ongoing	Support	Strong Agricultural Sector
4.1.3	Work in conjunction with mining companies to obtain mutual benefit from an abundance of natural mining resources which provide our shire with opportunities for local economic growth and employment.	Government Agencies & Private Enterprise	Long Term & Ongoing	Partnership	Strong Mining Sector

### 4.2 Tourism

**Outcome:** Bogan Shire is regarded as a welcoming and attractive place to visit, providing a diversity of services, cultural experiences and recreational opportunities.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
4.2.1	Develop and implement a tourism strategy which includes the identification of potential opportunities for growth and new tourism products through consultation with stakeholders.	Council & Community	Ongoing	Direct & Partnership	Strategy Implemented
4.2.2	Provide a welcoming aesthetic for the town.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Positive Community Feedback
4.2.3	Develop the availability of visitor and short-term accommodation to support local tourism	Private Sector	Ongoing	Support	Increased availability

<b>4.3 Public Transport</b>					
<b>Outcome:</b> Access to reliable, cost-effective and regular transport services linking the Shire to larger centres.					
	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
4.3.1	Identify gaps and opportunities and engage with stakeholders, to investigate options for improved public transport.	Government Agencies & Private Sector	Ongoing	Advocacy	Increased Availability
4.3.2	Maintain airport facilities to meet required and expected standards.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Compliance with CASA Regulations

<b>4.4 Housing</b>					
<b>Outcome:</b> Access to a variety of sustainable, affordable and flexible living options for all residents					
	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
4.4.1	Develop and support the implement of a Residential Housing Strategy	Council and Government Agencies	Ongoing	Partnership	Progressive Implementation
4.4.2	Enable and support opportunities for residential housing development in the Bogan Shire	Council, Government Agencies and Private Sector	Ongoing	Advocacy, Direct & Support	Increase in residential housing development

## 5 – Civic Leadership

*Goal - Fair, transparent and effective leadership and governance with a strong focus of engaging our community to ensure Council remain relevant and responsive.*

### 5.1 Leadership, Advocacy and Governance

**Outcome:** Proactive, fair and transparent local government.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
5.1.1	Facilitate purposeful engagement and consultation with the community and other stakeholders to progress the outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Community Engagement Undertaken
5.1.2	Provide accountability to the community by regularly reporting on Council activities through the publication of statutory reports, business papers, meeting minutes and general information.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Community Feedback
5.1.3	Councillors represent the interests of the community through strong and positive leadership and advocacy.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Effective Council Meetings
5.1.4	Maintain effective partnerships through regional and industry bodies to collaborate on matters of mutual interest and lobby collectively on behalf of the community.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Participation Maintained
5.1.5	Councillors take pride in our community, are inclusive and respectful, work together to get achieve goals and outcomes and contribute positively to our culture	Community & Council & Government Agencies	Ongoing	Partnership	Community Feedback



**5.2 Managing our Business**

**Outcome:** Effective and responsible management of Councils resources and initiatives to achieve our strategic goals and outcomes.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
5.2.1	Undertake sound financial planning, management and reporting to fulfil our responsibilities and ensure that Bogan Shire Council remains financially viable.	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Direct	Strong Financial Position
5.2.2	Manage our people effectively to ensure Council meets its goals and can implement its mission and deliver on its vision.	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Direct	Positive Workforce Data
5.2.3	Implement sound asset management practices to ensure adequate provision is made for the maintenance and long-term replacement of Council's infrastructure assets.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Asset Management embedded
5.2.4	Manage Council's operations effectively and on business-like principles to maximise service delivery for the community.	Council	Ongoing	Direct	Positive Community Feedback

**5.3 Disaster Management**

**Outcome:** We have the capability to plan, arrange, and implement measures for the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from disasters.

	Strategy	Who	When	Council's Role	Measure of Success
5.3.1	Facilitate the Local Emergency Management Committee to ensure a co-ordinated response by all agencies having responsibilities and functions in emergencies	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Direct	Effective LEMC
5.3.2	Ensure that Bogan Shire Council retains a high level of responsiveness for emergencies	Council	Short Term & Ongoing	Direct	Effective Responsiveness

## 11 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORTS

### 11.1 BOGAN SHIRE MEDICAL CENTRE OPERATIONAL REPORT

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on the operations and statistics of the Bogan Shire Medical Centre.

#### 2. Discussion

Below are the activities and statistics of the Bogan Shire Medical Centre for the November 2024 – February 2025 period.

##### Statistics

Total registered active patients as of February 2025:	4,069
Total CDM (Chronic Disease Management) patients:	383
Total RAC (Residential Aged Care) patients:	25
Total 75+ Health Assessments completed:	28
Total ATSI (Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander) Health Assessments completed:	6

Current waiting periods to see a GP is approximately 1 day, with appointments available for acute complaints (On the Day appointments) daily.

##### Online Bookings for Appointments

The BSMC online booking system - AutoMed continues to be a successful addition to the Practice, with many online bookings being made every week. The application displays each doctor's availability and/or services on offer at the Bogan Shire Medical Centre.

Number of online bookings for period: 352

##### Residential Aged Care (RAC) Patients

During Dr Senthil Chengoden's absence the VRGS doctor has been providing care to the 25 Residential Aged Care (RAC) patients currently residing at the Nyngan Facility. Locum doctors at the Bogan Shire Medical Centre have been completing any outstanding scripts for the residents.

##### Bogan Shire Medical Centre Aboriginal Health Worker

Judy Carney has been working in this role since September 2024 and is actively working towards gaining her Aboriginal Health Worker qualification.

Judy has been engaging with the Aboriginal community, building trusted community connections and relationships to deliver patient-centred holistic care.

Some of the work that Judy has been undertaking includes:

- Collaborating with health services, enabling an increase in access to health treatment and prevention services to improve health outcomes of First Nations peoples
- Successfully arranging for visiting optometrists to conduct clinics at the Medical Centre
- Collaborating with existing Family Planning clinics to deliver a culturally safe and accessible service to First Nations peoples
- Linking First Nations patients with other healthcare services
- Promoting awareness and prevention tools for chronic disease under the guidance of our clinical staff

### Ultrasound Services

The Ultrasound service continues to operate four days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday), with on call services provided as needed for emergency cases.

### *Medical Diagnostic Services*

For the period November 2024 to February 2025, the following number of medical diagnostic services were provided.

November:	120
December:	93
January:	81
February:	95

### Bogan Shire Medical Centre Accreditation

For Councillor's information, Accreditation is an independent recognition that our Practice meets the requirements of the governing national industry Standards, set by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). It demonstrates that we have a commitment to safety, quality and continuous improvements.

The benefits of Council being Accredited are as follows:

- Improved patient safety
- Effective risk management
- Patient assurance of a high level of care
- Building a culture of quality
- Continuous quality improvement (CQI)
- Increased insurance provider recognition
- Be eligible for financial incentives from Medicare

Achieving AGPAL Accreditation is a clear message to the community that Council takes their role in providing safe, quality primary healthcare to all Bogan Shire residents very seriously and makes this a priority.

Medical Centre staff completed a 3 month-long Accreditation process for the Medical Centre, culminating in a site visit by the assessment team from AGPAL on Monday 24 February.

The AGPAL assessment team provided feedback to staff on the day that they were extremely impressed with the Practice, that staff were very organised and professional, and they had ZERO recommendations for improvement or requests for additional information to determine the outcome.

Council received an email from AGPAL on Wednesday 26 February stating, “After a review of your practice’s accreditation application and assessment report and based on the level of compliance demonstrated by your practice, AGPAL has made the decision to ACCREDIT Bogan Shire Medical Centre - congratulations!”

This is an excellent achievement for Council and the BSMC staff. For Councillor’s information, in past years, staff have been required to provide additional information after the on-site assessment for accreditation to be awarded. This is not to say the Practice hasn’t met any criterion at the time, but some documentation and evidence may have not be available at the time and this has had to be supplied afterwards. The BSMC has been an Accredited Practice since its opening in May 2017.

Allied Health Services

Allied Health services as of March 2025 are listed below.

Type of Service	Days	Times	Frequency	Service Accessed by
Sonography	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	8:30am-4:30pm	Weekly	Private bill with Medicare rebate
Family Planning NSW	Monday/ Tuesday	11am-5pm	Monthly	BSMC or Self-Referral
Mental Health Clinician	Tuesday, Wednesday	9am-4pm	Fortnightly	BSMC Referral
Mental Health Nurse	Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday	9am-5pm	Monthly	BSMC Referral
Psychiatrist	Wednesday	9am-3pm	Bi-Monthly	BSMC Referral
Drug and Alcohol councillor	Tuesday, Wednesday	9am-5pm	Fortnightly	BSMC Referral
Dietician	Tuesday	9am-4pm	Fortnightly	Referral/ EPC
Pathology	Monday to Friday	8.30am - 11.30am	Weekly	Anyone holding a pathology request form – not required to be a patient of BSMC
Physiotherapy	Mondays & Thursdays	8.30am – 4.30pm	Weekly	Referral or Private appt.

Podiatrist	Wednesdays & Fridays	9.00am - 2.30pm	Weekly	Referral or Private appt.
Telehealth Services (e.g.pain specialist, endocrinology, psychology)	Offered 5 days a week	8:45am-5pm	Offered 5 days a week	Referral (Medicare or private bill)
Alcohol and other Drug worker	Tuesday	9.30am-3pm	Fortnightly	BSMC or Self-Referral
Aboriginal Health Worker	Offered 5 days a week	8:30am-4:30pm	5 days a week	BSMC or self

**3. Attachments**

Nil

**4. Recommendation**

That the Operational Report for the Bogan Shire Medical Centre be received and noted.

## 11.2 BOGAN SHIRE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE - PRIORITY ACCESS

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the continuation of a Priority Access policy position applicable to health care professionals at the Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre.

### 2. Background

At its meeting held on 23 March 2023, Council resolved as follows:

**044/2023** - Council recognises the acute shortage of health care professionals, especially nurses in the Bogan Shire, affecting the Nyngan Multi-Purpose Service and the Bogan Shire Medical Centre. To help address this situation, Council will give priority of access to children of clinical staff on the ELC waitlist. This policy position is to be reviewed in 12 months' time.

At its meeting held on 28 March 2024, Council resolved as follows:

**040/2024** - Council recognises the acute shortage of health care professionals, especially nurses in the Bogan Shire, affecting the Nyngan Multi-Purpose Service and the Bogan Shire Medical Centre. To help address this situation, Council will give priority of access to children of clinical staff on the ELC waitlist. This policy position is to be reviewed in 12 months' time.

### 3. Discussion

At the time of the last resolution in March 2024, there was a strong demand for childcare places at the ELC, with 66 children on the waitlist, up from 59 at the time Council considered the report in March 2023. The current waitlist for immediate placement has been eliminated with the introduction of the third room.

There are currently no children of health care professionals who have been allocated places under the Priority of Access Policy.

Discussions with the Western NSW Local Health District indicate that there is still a need to attract and retain health care professionals, especially nurses to Nyngan.

### 4. Attachments

Nil

### 5. Recommendation

For Council's consideration.

### 11.3 ULTRASOUND-GUIDED INJECTION FEE

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is for Council to make a fee for Ultrasound-guided injection services at the Bogan Shire Medical Centre (BSMC).

#### 2. Background

Medical ultrasound is now well-established and well-utilised at the BSMC with service growth reaching patients, referring doctors and specialists from outside the Bogan Shire area.

Ultrasound is a highly specialised diagnostic allied health service which is provided to the Bogan Shire community by a post graduate qualified and accredited sonographer to meet the Australian Government’s Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme standards and Medicare legislation.

Bogan Shire Medical Centre does not currently provide ultrasound-guided injections as part of its normal Ultrasound Services.

With the purchase of the new ultrasound machine in early 2024, Practice staff have been contacted by a number of GPs asking about additional services such as ultrasound-guided injections and wanting to refer their patients to the BSMC.

#### 3. Discussion

Ultrasound-guided injections are a minimally invasive procedure where ultrasound imaging is used to visualise the target area and guide the needle placement for injecting medication.

This technique is used to treat various painful musculoskeletal conditions, including tendonitis, bursitis, and arthritis, by precisely targeting the inflamed tissue or joint with medication.

A comparison of fees for Ultrasound-guided injection services delivered by two of the major providers in Dubbo shows the following out of pocket costs for patients, which appear to be standard across the industry:

Provider A	Provider B	BSMC Proposed Fee
<p>\$180 out of pocket cost.</p> <p>This <b>includes the cost of steroid medication</b>, which ranges between \$5 for concession card holders and \$35 for non-concession card holders.</p>	<p>\$150 out of pocket cost.</p> <p>This <b>includes the cost of steroid medication</b>, which ranges between \$5 for concession card holders and \$35 for non-concession card holders.</p>	<p>\$120 out of pocket cost.</p> <p>This <b>does not include the cost of steroid medication</b>, which ranges between \$5 for concession card holders and \$35 for non-concession card holders. Patients would provide their own GP prescribed steroid medication for the injection.</p>

The proposed fee includes all medical consumables used to administer the injection, including local anaesthetic, gloves, dressing pack, needles and syringe, and antiseptic solution. It also includes the Sonographer’s time, which is 30 minutes for this type of procedure.

Sonography is an allied health service with additional and ongoing operating costs, it would be in the best financial interest of Council and the community to consider implementing a fee or an out of pocket cost (gap or patient payment) at a slightly lower rate to that of 'Providers A and B' mentioned in the table above. This would hopefully encourage patients to have this service delivered locally, whilst still covering all related expenses of the Practice.

A reasonable out of pocket cost charged to patients to ensure the service's viability is still substantially less than if they were to travel to a Dubbo provider as they would still have out of pocket costs applied as noted in the table in addition to travel expenses, meals and often accommodation.

Ultrasound-guided injections services are covered by Council's insurance and medical indemnity. A Policy has been developed for the delivery of this service at the Practice, along with consent forms for patients, GPs and the Sonographer to sign.

To comply with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* Council is required to make these fees by resolution.

#### **4. Attachments**

Nil

#### **5. Recommendation**

That:

1. Council adopts an Ultrasound Service Fee (out of pocket costs) for Ultrasound-guided injections of \$120.00.

*Note: Out of pocket costs are over and above the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) benefits (Medicare payment) applied to Ultrasound Services.*

2. This fee be reviewed annually when all fees and charges are reviewed as part of the Annual Plan and Budget process.
3. Patients be required to pay in full, all charges for Ultrasound-guided injection services, which include fees (out of pocket costs) in addition to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) fee applied to Ultrasound Services on the day the service is provided to them, with the MBS benefit being processed on the same day.



## 12 FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

### 12.1 INVESTMENTS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to outline the performance of Council's investment portfolio for the month of February 2025.

#### 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 February 2025 is shown below. At the 28th February 2025 Council had \$30.3 million invested. There has been an increase of \$175,000 due to the 3rd quarter rates instalment falling due. Consideration of this report means that Council is complying with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

#### Investment Movements for February 2025

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 January 25	Bal February 25
42-150-6894	NAB - Professional Funds	4/05/2016	At Call	4.100%	7,330,736.09	11,505,890.90
11271016	Westpac	17/12/2024	17/12/2025	5.010%	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00
87-912-8864	NAB	22/02/2024	21/02/2025	5.080%	2,000,000.00	
41-459-6828	NAB	22/02/2024	21/02/2025	5.080%	2,000,000.00	
76-111-0458	NAB	10/05/2024	9/05/2025	5.250%	2,800,000.00	2,800,000.00
76-135-1489	NAB	10/05/2024	9/05/2025	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
32-556-4779	NAB	5/11/2024	5/11/2025	5.050%	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
98-544-4756	NAB	30/01/2025	30/01/2026	4.850%	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
98-568-5779	NAB	30/01/2025	30/01/2026	4.850%	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
	Balance securities held				30,130,736.09	30,305,890.90
	Balance Ledger 19010.8200.8200				30,130,736.09	30,305,890.90
	<b>Summary by institution</b>					
	Commonwealth				0.00	0.00
	NAB				24,130,736.09	24,305,890.90
	Westpac				6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00
					30,130,736.09	30,305,890.90

#### 4. Attachments Nil

#### 5. Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Investments Report.

## 12.2 SUMMARY OF RATE & ANNUAL CHARGES COLLECTION

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a comparison of rate collections as at 28th February, 2025, 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	267,270	402,332
First Instalment in arrears as at 28/2/2025	9,058	3,827
Second Instalment in arrears as at 28/2/2025	263,088	220,558
Third Instalment in arrears as at 28/2/2025	470,600	418,523
Fourth Instalment Outstanding as at 28/2/2025	1,062,863	1,026,551
<b>Total Arrears</b>	<b>1,010,016</b>	<b>1,045,240</b>
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	<b>2,072,879</b>	<b>2,071,791</b>
<b>Monthly Transactions</b>		
Amount Levied & B/Fwd	6,248,285	6,259,035
Add: Adjustments	54,274	71,275
Less: Payments to end of February	-4,154,756	-4,184,345
Less: Rebates	-74,924	-74,174
Add: Postponed	0	0
<b>Gross Total Balance</b>	<b>2,072,879</b>	<b>2,071,791</b>
<b>Arrears of total amount levied %</b>	<b>16.1%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>

Total arrears have decreased from \$1,045,240 at the 29th February 2024 to \$1,010,016 as at 28th February this year.

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

Council has 0.5% in arrears on the first instalment.

Council has 16% in arrears on the second instalment.

Council has 30% in arrears on the third instalment.

As at the 28th February, Council had collected \$29,589 less than at the same time last year. At the time of writing this report council has collected an additional \$533,310 reducing the arrears on the third instalment to 10%, the arrears overall to \$490,926 and the arrears of total amount levied to 7.8%

### 4. Attachments Nil

### 5. Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Rate and Annual Charges Collection report.

## **12.3 REVISION OF COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT POLICY - FIN002**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to review Policy FIN002 Investment Policy. The Policy was last adopted on 24 March 2022 and is now due to be reviewed.

### **2. Background**

The Investment Policy is an important Policy of Council that has an effect on how Council invests ratepayers' money from a viewpoint of both risk and return.

The objective of this Policy is to govern how staff invests Council's money so as to obtain the highest possible return for a given level of risk.

### **3. Discussion**

There is a positive correlation between risk and return when placing investments. Council wants the highest return possible but only at an acceptable level of risk. The Investment Policy governs how much risk Council staff can take when investing Council funds.

The current Investment Policy was adopted in March 2022 in an uncertain economic environment with low interest rates. It allows only conservative investments allowed by the most current investment order that has been issued by the Minister for Local Government.

A requirement of the Policy is that it be reviewed at least once every three years.

The economic environment is still uncertain due to different factors influencing interest rates and investments, and the policy, which is conservative, remains unchanged.

### **4. Attachments**

1. Investment Policy FIN002

### **5. Recommendation**

That Council adopt the current Investment Policy FIN002.

Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002

# **POLICY FIN 002**

# **INVESTMENT POLICY**



**Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002**

**Contents**

**Introduction ..... 3**

**Objectives ..... 3**

**Legislative Requirements ..... 3**

**Delegation of Authority ..... 4**

**Prudent Person Standard ..... 4**

**Ethics and Conflicts of Interest ..... 4**

**Approved Investments ..... 4**

**Prohibited Investments ..... 5**

**Risk Management Guidelines ..... 5**

**Council’s Attitude to Risk ..... 5**

**Investment Guidelines/Strategy ..... 6**

**Investment Advisor ..... 7**

**Benchmarking ..... 7**

**Reporting and Reviewing of Investments ..... 8**

**Authority ..... 9**

**Policy Owner / Further Assistance ..... 9**

**Related Information ..... 9**

**Review Date ..... 9**

**Revision History ..... 9**

## Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002

### Introduction

The purpose of this Investment Policy is to provide a framework to assist Councillors, the General Manager, the Responsible Accounting Officer and the Business Services Officer of Bogan Shire Council to invest surplus funds, not immediately required for any other purpose, in a prudent and appropriate manner. The Policy establishes limits in which Council officers must operate and determines the general level of risk that is acceptable for monies managed on behalf of the Bogan Shire residents.

### Objectives

To provide a framework for the investing of Council's funds at the most favourable rate of interest available to it at the time whilst having due consideration of risk and security for that investment type and ensuring that its liquidity requirements are being met.

While exercising the power to invest, consideration is to be given to the preservation of capital, liquidity, and the return of investment.

- Preservation of capital is the principal objective of the investment portfolio. To prevent any loss to the amount invested, while gaining the most advantageous rate of return with minimum risk. Investments are to be placed in a manner that seeks to ensure security and safeguarding the investment portfolio. This includes managing credit and interest rate risk within identified thresholds and parameters.
- Investments should be allocated to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet all reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements, as and when they fall due, without incurring the risk of significant costs due to the unanticipated sale of an investment.
- Investments are expected to achieve a market average rate of return in line with the Council's risk tolerance.

### Legislative Requirements

All investments are to comply with the following:

- Ministerial Investment Order; (Attachment 1) issued 12/1/2011
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (LGGR);
- Local Government Act 1993;
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting;
- Australian Accounting Standards;
- The Trustee Amendment (Discretionary Investments) Act 1997 – Sections 14;
- Office of Local Government Circulars.

**Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002****Delegation of Authority**

Authority for implementation of the Investment Policy is delegated by Council to the General Manager in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The General Manager may in turn delegate the day-to-day management of Council's Investment to the relevant Finance Staff.

Officers' delegated authority to manage Council's investments shall be recorded and they are required to acknowledge they have received a copy of this policy and understand their obligations in this role.

**Prudent Person Standard**

The investment will be managed with the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise. As trustees of public monies, officers are to manage Council's investment portfolio to safeguard the portfolio in accordance with the spirit of this Investment Policy, **and not for speculative purposes.**

**Ethics and Conflicts of Interest**

Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and management of Council's investment portfolio. This policy requires officers to disclose any conflict of interest to the General Manager.

Independent advisors are also required to declare that they have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest and receive no inducements in relation to Council's investments.

**Approved Investments**

Investments are limited to those allowed by the most current Ministerial Investment Order that has been issued by the Minister for Local Government and include:

- Commonwealth/State/Territory Government security eg bonds;
- Interest bearing deposits issued by an authorised deposit-taking institution (ADI);
- Bills of exchange, (< 200 days duration), guaranteed by an authorised deposit-taking institution;
- Debentures issued by NSW Local Government under Local Government Act (1993);
- Deposit with NSW Treasury Corporation (T-Corp) &/or Investments in T-Corp Hour-Glass Facility;

## Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002

### Prohibited Investments

In accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order, this investment policy prohibits but is not limited to any investment carried out for speculative purposes including:

- Derivative based instruments;
- Principal only investments or securities that provide potentially nil or negative cash
- Standalone securities issued that have underlying futures, options, forwards contracts and swaps of any kind.

This policy also prohibits the use of leveraging (borrowing to invest) for an investment. However, nothing in the policy shall prohibit the short-term investment of loan proceeds where the loan is raised for non-investment purposes and there is a delay prior to the expenditure of loan funds.

### Risk Management Guidelines

Investments obtained are to be considered in light of the following key criteria:

- **Preservation of Capital** – the requirement for preventing losses in the investment portfolio's capital value;
- **Diversification** - the requirement to place investments in a range of products so as not to be over exposed to a particular sector of the investment market;
- **Credit risk** - The risk that a party or guarantor to a transaction will fail to fulfil its obligations. In the context of this document it relates to the risk of loss due to the failure of an institution/entity with which an investment is held to pay the interest and/or repay the principal of an investment;
- **Market Risk** - the risk that the fair value or future cash flows (Market Value) of an investment will fluctuate due to changes in market prices;
- **Liquidity Risk** - the risk an institution runs out of cash, is unable to redeem investments at a fair price within a timely period, and thereby Council incurs additional costs (or in the worst case is unable to execute its spending plans);
- **Maturity Risk** - the risk relating to the length of term to maturity of the investment. The larger the term, the greater the length of exposure and risk to market volatilities.
- **Rollover Risk** – the risk that income will not meet expectations or budgeted requirement because interest rates are lower than expected in future.

### Council's Attitude to Risk

All Bogan Shire Council's investments must be made subject to the following minimum constraints:



**Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002**

- All investments must be of “investment grade” credit rating which implies that there is a **better than** “adequate” or “satisfactory” capacity to meet obligations.
- All investments should be dealt through reputable institutions with a Long Term Credit rating of at least “A” or a Short Term Credit Rating of “A-2” unless deposits with the institution are covered by the Government Guarantee. As per Table 1
- All investments must be for a period no longer than the period over which the underlying liability could reasonably be expected to arise.
- Where there is no identified underlying liability the term to maturity of the investments must not exceed 3 years.
- The investment portfolio must be managed in such a way that Council is able to meet its cash flow obligations at all times.
- Preservation of the capital component of all investments must be the highest priority.

**Investment Guidelines/Strategy****I. Quotations on Investments**

Not less than three (3) quotations shall be obtained from authorised institutions when an investment is proposed.

**II. Assessment of Cashflow**

Investments should be placed for a term which best suits the cash flow requirements of Council but for no longer than the 2 years prescribed by this policy.

**III. Preservation of Capital****a) Credit Risk**

There are two types of Credit Ratings; Short- term credit ratings and Long-term credit ratings. N.B. The credit rating is as determined by S&P, Fitch and Moody's.

Short-term credit ratings are an indication of the institutions capacity to meet short term financial commitments, i.e. less than 12 months.

Long-term credit ratings are an indication of the institutions capacity to meet financial commitment over the long term, i.e. greater than 12 months and generally apply to the rating of the institution.

**b) Diversification Risk**

The following tables represent the maximum allowable investment with any one Financial Institution.

**Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002**

Short Term Investments – Up to 12 months

Long – Term Credit Rating (Institution Rating)	Short – Term Credit Rating	Maximum % of Portfolio	
		<u>With one institution</u>	<u>Per Long Term Credit Rating</u>
AAA Category	A1	100%	100%
AA Category or Major Bank	A1	50%	100%
A Category	A1	15%	30%

Long Term Investments – Greater than 12 months but less than 3 years

Long-Term Credit Rating (Institution Rating)	Maximum % of Portfolio	
	<u>With one institution</u>	<u>Per Long Term Credit Rating</u>
AAA	80%	100%
AA + or -	30%	100%
A + or -	10%	25%

Major Banks to include Commonwealth Bank, NAB and Westpac.

**Investment Advisor**

An investment advisor may be appointed by the General Manager and they must be licensed by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. The advisor must be independent and must confirm in writing that they have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to investment products being recommended and is free to choose the most appropriate product within the terms and conditions of the investment policy. Independence includes receiving no commissions or other benefits in relation to the investments being recommended or reviewed, except as fully rebated to Council, promptly. Council will continue to make all decisions in relation to the placement of investments.

**Benchmarking**

The performance of the investment portfolio shall be compared as follows:

- (a) Cash – 11am Cash rate
- (b) Direct Investments – BBSW Rate: Average Mid - 90 day

**Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002****Reporting and Reviewing of Investments**

Documentary evidence must be held for each investment and details thereof maintained in an Investment Register. The documentary evidence must provide Council legal title to the investment.

Certificates must be obtained from the financial institutions confirming the amounts of investments held on the Council's behalf as at 30 June each year and reconciled to the Investment Register.

All investments are to be appropriately recorded in Council's financial records and reconciled at least on a monthly basis.

A monthly report will be provided to Council. The report will detail the investment portfolio in terms of performance, percentage exposure of total portfolio, maturity date and market value.

This Investment Policy will be reviewed at least every three years or as required in the event of legislative changes. The Investment Policy may also be changed as a result of other amendments that are to the advantage of Council and in the spirit of the policy.

Any amendment to the Investment Policy must be reported to Council at the next Council meeting.

**Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002**

**Authority**

Council Resolution No.

**Policy Owner / Further Assistance**

Director Finance & Corporate Services

**Related Information**

Local Government Act 1993 Investment Order

**Review Date**

March 2028

**Revision History**

Date	Description of Change	Sections Affected
26 September 2013	Adopted by Council	All
23 October 2014	Adopted by Council	All
22 October 2015	Adopted by Council	All
15 December 2016	Adopted by Council	All
21 December 2017	Adopted by Council	All
20 December 2018	Adopted by Council	All
24 March 2022	Adopted by Council	All
27 March 2025		All

**Bogan Shire Council Investment Policy FIN002**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 – INVESTMENT ORDER**

(Relating to investments by councils)

I, the Hon. Barbara Perry MP, Minister for Local Government, in pursuance of section 625(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and with the approval of the Treasurer, do, by this my Order, notify for the purposes of section 625 of that Act that a council or county council may only invest money (on the basis that all investments must be denominated in Australian Dollars) in the following forms of investment:

- (a) any public funds or securities issued by or guaranteed by, the Commonwealth, any State of the Commonwealth or a Territory;
- (b) any debentures or securities issued by a council (within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW));
- (c) interest bearing deposits with, or any debentures or bonds issued by, an authorised deposit-taking institution (as defined in the *Banking Act 1959* (Cwth)), but excluding subordinated debt obligations;
- (d) any bill of exchange which has a maturity date of not more than 200 days; and if purchased for value confers on the holder in due course a right of recourse against a bank which has been designated as an authorised deposit-taking institution by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority;
- (e) a deposit with the New South Wales Treasury Corporation or investments in an Hour-Glass investment facility of the New South Wales Treasury Corporation.

All investment instruments (excluding short term discount instruments) referred to above include both principal and investment income.

**Transitional Arrangements**

- (i) Subject to paragraph (ii) nothing in this Order affects any investment made before the date of this Order which was made in compliance with the previous Ministerial Orders, and such investments are taken to be in compliance with this Order.
- (ii) Paragraph (i) only applies to those investments made before the date of this Order and does not apply to any restructuring or switching of investments or any re-investment of proceeds received on disposal or maturity of such investments, which for the avoidance of doubt must comply with this Order.

**Key Considerations**

An investment is not in a form of investment notified by this order unless it also complies with an investment policy of council adopted by a resolution of council.

All councils should by resolution adopt an investment policy that is consistent with this Order and any guidelines issued by the Chief Executive (Local Government), Department of Premier and Cabinet, from time to time.

The General Manager, or any other staff member, with delegated authority by a council to invest funds on behalf of a council must do so in accordance with the council's adopted investment policy.

Councils have a fiduciary responsibility when investing. Councils should exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons.

When exercising the power of investment councils should consider, but not be limited by, the risk of capital or income loss or depreciation; the likely income return and the timing of income return, the length of the term of the proposed investment, the liquidity and marketability of the proposed investment, the likelihood of inflation affecting the value of the proposed investment and the costs (including commissions, fees, charges and duties payable) of making the proposed investment.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2011

  
**Hon BARBARA PERRY MP**  
 Minister for Local Government

## **12.4 REVISED COMMUNITY EVENTS POLICY - AP012**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to adopt the revised Bogan Shire Council Community Events Policy.

### **2. Background**

Council has been, and will continue to, allow community organisations and various groups to hold Community Events at Council owned facilities.

This Policy was developed and adopted in March 2021 to assist Council ensure events being held are conducted using best practice with an aim to ensure the safety of all participants and to provide guidance and assist organisers of these events.

Council, at the same time, developed an Application for a Community Event which is required to be completed by anyone wishing to hold any event at a Council owned facility. This application includes a Facility Hire Agreement including Conditions of Hire, a Risk Management Assessment Template and Matrix and an Event Site Plan as well as stating the need to supply Council with Traffic Management Plans (as requested), Insurance Certificates, Liquor Licences and Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificates (as requested).

### **3. Discussion**

Council staff developed this Policy, in conjunction with the application, to provide guidance to Council staff on the requirements of event holders and organisers when Council allows a community group to use a Council owned facility. The Policy and application also assist event holders by giving clear and consistent guidelines on Council's expectations prior to an event taking place and to ensure that information is disseminated in the same way that, if the Community wish to use a Council owned facility, they are aware they will be required to adhere to certain conditions and provide the required documentation.

These are not only necessary to meet Council's Risk Management requirements, but they assist Council to meet our insurance obligations.

The only change to the previous version of the Policy is to condition 1.2 which is the timeframe that applications must be given to Council. This has been changed from 2 weeks to 4 weeks, as Council need this time to review the documents and refer anything to our insurers if necessary.

### **4. Attachments**

1. Community Events Policy AP012

### **5. Recommendation**

That Council adopt the revised Community Events Policy AP012

**COUNCIL POLICY AP012**  
**COMMUNITY EVENTS**



Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 (Community Events)

**Contents**

Policy Outcomes Statement ..... 3

Overview..... 3

Applicability..... 3

Principles ..... 3

Policy ..... 4

Authority ..... 5

Policy Owner / Further Assistance..... 5

Related Documents ..... 5

Related Information ..... 5

Review Date ..... 6

Revision History..... 6



## Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 (Community Events)

### **Policy Outcomes Statement**

This policy will assist Council to ensure events being held in the Bogan Shire are conducted using best practice with the aim of ensuring the safety of all participants.

### **Overview**

This policy is to provide guidance and assist organisers of community events that are held on Council land or at Council's facilities in the Bogan Shire area.

It also provides a standardised process in relation to holding street stalls within the Bogan Shire with bookings being co-ordinated via one point of contact with the council.

### **Applicability**

This Policy applies to all Community Events that are held on Council owned land or in Council owned or managed buildings. This Policy does not apply to events on private land.

The policy encompasses events organised by Council, by other government agencies, by businesses, schools and special interest groups or community groups.

### **Principles**

Bogan Shire Council recognises that community events play an important role in fostering community wellbeing and creating local identity. As a result, Council supports community events through the provision of in-kind services, allocation of equipment and strategic advice.

Council does not act in a community event organiser capacity although it may, on occasion, deliver its own events. Council supports Community Events by administratively facilitating the assessment of event applications, issuing associated approvals and providing event organisers with assistance required for planning of events in the shire, including through the following:

- Provision of guidelines and requirements to assist the effective and consistent assessment of event applications detailed in Council's Community Event Application document.
- Applying a cross-organisational approach to the approval phase of all events in the Shire that have an impact on residents and visitors
- Provision of advice and detailed information on appropriate event venues
- Provision of event guidelines to assist event organisers in preparing and submitting event applications
- Provision of a fee structure that adheres to Councils fees and charges and Community event resolution 439/2018.

## Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 (Community Events)

**Policy**

- 1. The following conditions shall apply to all community events (except street stalls)**
  - 1.1. All applications for events will only be considered if submitted on the appropriate Council form.
  - 1.2. Applications for events are to be made not less than 4 weeks prior to the proposed date of the event. If road closures are required, the timeframe for notification is 2 months.
  - 1.3. Approval for events are only to be granted on a year-by-year basis
  - 1.4. Reservation of areas for an event on a particular date cannot be confirmed until such time as an application has been approved.
  - 1.5. Where two or more applicants request the same date and venue then preference will be given to the applicant who lodges their application first.
  - 1.6. Event organisers are required to comply with the directions of Council Officers during the course of conducting the event.
  - 1.7. Event organisers are responsible for paying for the removal of all rubbish from the venue site. All banners and signs at the venue and elsewhere in the Council area must be removed after the event. If this does not occur, then remedial action will be taken by the Council at the cost to the event organiser.
  - 1.8. Organisers of the events will be responsible for the provision of any temporary toilet facilities in quantities and locations as directed by the Council, and at the expense of the event organiser.
  - 1.9. Event organisers are responsible for damage to Council facilities or infrastructure which occurs during the course of the event, e.g. damage to Council's irrigation system due to spikes being driven into the ground.
  - 1.10. The holding of a public liability insurance policy which notes the event and Council's interest as a named insurer is a required condition of consent. In the case of events the minimum level of cover is twenty million dollars (\$20M). The original policy statement issued by the insurer, or a certificate of currency, or certified copy, must be provided to the Council not less than 7 days prior to the event taking place.
  - 1.11. Prior to, or during the course of the event no signs or other objects are to be attached to trees, street furniture or public utilities, without the written approval of Council.
  - 1.12. No event shall commence prior to 8:00am or continue after 11:00pm without prior approval of Council.
  - 1.13. No glass bottles or glasses are permitted at the event.

**Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 (Community Events)**

- 1.14. Where the event involves the participation of temporary food stalls then they shall comply with the provisions of the relevant Food Acts of NSW and with Council's requirements for temporary food stalls and may be subject to inspection prior to and during the course of the event.
- 1.15. The organisers of all events are to comply with all environmental protection legislation at all times.
- 1.16. Amusement rides are not permitted without the express permission of Council.
- 1.17. In considering approval of events, the provision of appropriately trained and licensed security staff to assist in the orderly conduct of events is seen as desirable and may be a requirement of approval at the discretion of Council.

**2. The following conditions shall apply to street stalls**

- 2.1. Bookings for street stalls are to be administered by Bogan Shire Council via the customer services (front) counter.
- 2.2. The organisation or club holding the stall must display a sign at the stall clearly identifying them.
- 2.3. Only one organisation may hold a street stall on any given day.
- 2.4. Current Public Liability Insurance is required for street stall holders in the same terms as required under paragraph 1.10 above,

**Authority**

Council resolution no.

**Policy Owner / Further Assistance**

Director Finance and Corporate Services / Governance & Risk Officer

**Related Documents**

Application for Community Event

**Related Information**

Council's legislative requirements include, but are not limited to the following instruments of legislation:

- Civil Liability Act 2002
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (as amended)

Bogan Shire Council Policy AP012 (Community Events)

- Local Government Act 1993
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Summary Offences Act 1988

**Review Date**

March 2028

**Revision History**

Date	Description of Change	Sections Affected
13/02/2021	New policy drafted	All
27/03/2025	Revised Policy	All

**13 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS**

**13.1 DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT**

**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the activities of the Infrastructure Services Department.

**2. Background**

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

**3. Discussion**

**Roads**

Road work undertaken for the reporting period 14 February 2025, to 12 March 2025 consisted of the following:

No.	Name	Comments
	Local Roads	
51	Curran’s Road	4km of re-sheeting under Infrastructure Betterment Fund continuing
14	Gilgai Road	5km of re-sheeting works under Infrastructure Betterment Fund completed
5	Peisley Road	5km of re-sheeting continuing
10	Pangee Road	5km of construction continuing
92	Colane Road	Maintenance grading commenced
1	Mulla Road	Maintenance grading commenced
9	Glengariff Road	2km of re-sheeting commenced
84	Budgery Road	1km of re-sheeting under Infrastructure Betterment Fund continuing
12	Coffills Lane	5km of re-sheeting under Infrastructure Betterment Fund continuing

	State Highways	
HW7	Mitchell Highway	Shoulder grading completed

Council has completed pothole repairs on the following roads:

• Buckiinguy Road	• Canonba Road
• Nyngan Town Streets	• Colane Road
• Old Warren Road	• Pangee Road

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

- Maintenance grading, and re-sheeting on the following roads:
  - 4km of re-sheeting on Tubbavilla Road
  - 5km of re-sheeting on Pangee Road
  - 2km of re-sheeting on Elmore Road
  - 2km of re-sheeting Gongolgon Road
- Completion of works funded under Infrastructure Betterment Funding for Coffils Lane, Currans Road, and Budgery Road.

**Works and Services**

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

Civil Works

- Carried out maintenance on photo finish booth at Racecourse Grandstand
- Commenced works on storm water pumpstation network extension
- Continued works on footpath replacement in Wambiana Street
- Installed bush kitchen to Bushcare Education Area Bogan River
- Carried out drainage improvements near tennis courts
- Carried out repairs to boat ramp at Rotary Park
- Upgraded safety signage at Showgrounds

Community Facilities

- Mowing/slashing and maintenance of ovals, reserves and highway approaches to Nyngan
- Removed graffiti at river pump station & Jack Hargreaves Park
- Commenced preparing Racecourse for Anzac race meeting

Water & Wastewater

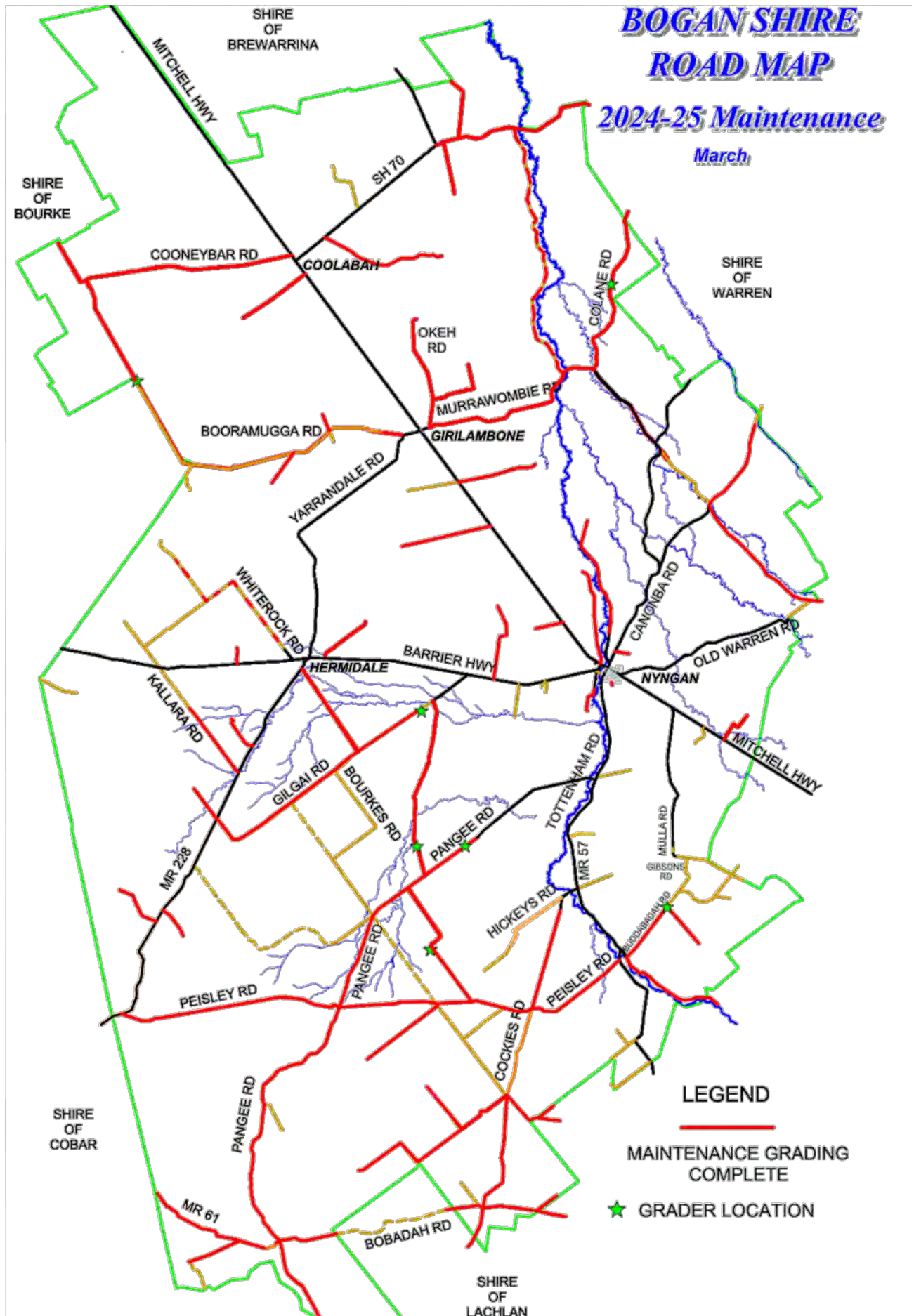
- Installed new water service Dandaloo Street
- Repaired Broken mains Hermidale
- APC will shut down 31st March, currently planned to restart 5th May
- Replaced sewer pump Youth centre pump station
- Extended water line to service Bushcare education site.
- Carry out repairs to No 4 sewer pump station float system

**4. Attachments**

1. Roads Maintenance Map

**5. Recommendation**

That the Infrastructure Departmental Report be received and noted.





## **13.2 PROPOSED CROWN ROADS CLOSURES**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the proposed road closures being considered by the Minister for Lands and Water.

### **2. Background**

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has written to Council to consider whether Council has any interests that may be affected by the proposed road closures.

### **3. Discussion**

The attached plan shows a number of proposed road closures, in an area west of Tottenham Road, and north of Pangee Road.

None of the proposed road closures are roads maintained by Council.

### **4. Attachments**

1. Letter from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

### **5. Recommendation**

For Councils Consideration

**NSW Department of Planning, Housing and  
Infrastructure**

Our ref: 24/15224  
Account No: 675179

Phone: 1300 886 235  
[roads@crowmland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:roads@crowmland.nsw.gov.au)

25 February 2025

**Notification to multiple agencies**  
**Via email**

**RE: PROPOSED ROAD CLOSINGS**

PARISH: Miandetta  
COUNTY: Flinders  
SHIRE: Bogan

The Minister for Lands and Water proposes to consider the proposed sale of the roads identified by black and orange hatching and/or plain orange fill on the attached diagram. It is noted that roads are intended to be sold in accordance with section 152B of the *Roads Act 1993*. If sale of road proceeds the road will cease to be a public road upon transfer of the road to freehold land in accordance with section 152H of the *Roads Act 1993*.

The proposal will be advertised in the Nyngan Weekly on 27th February 2025 and a copy of the advertisement is attached for your information.

Would you please consider whether your Department/Authority has any interests which may be affected by the proposed road disposals?

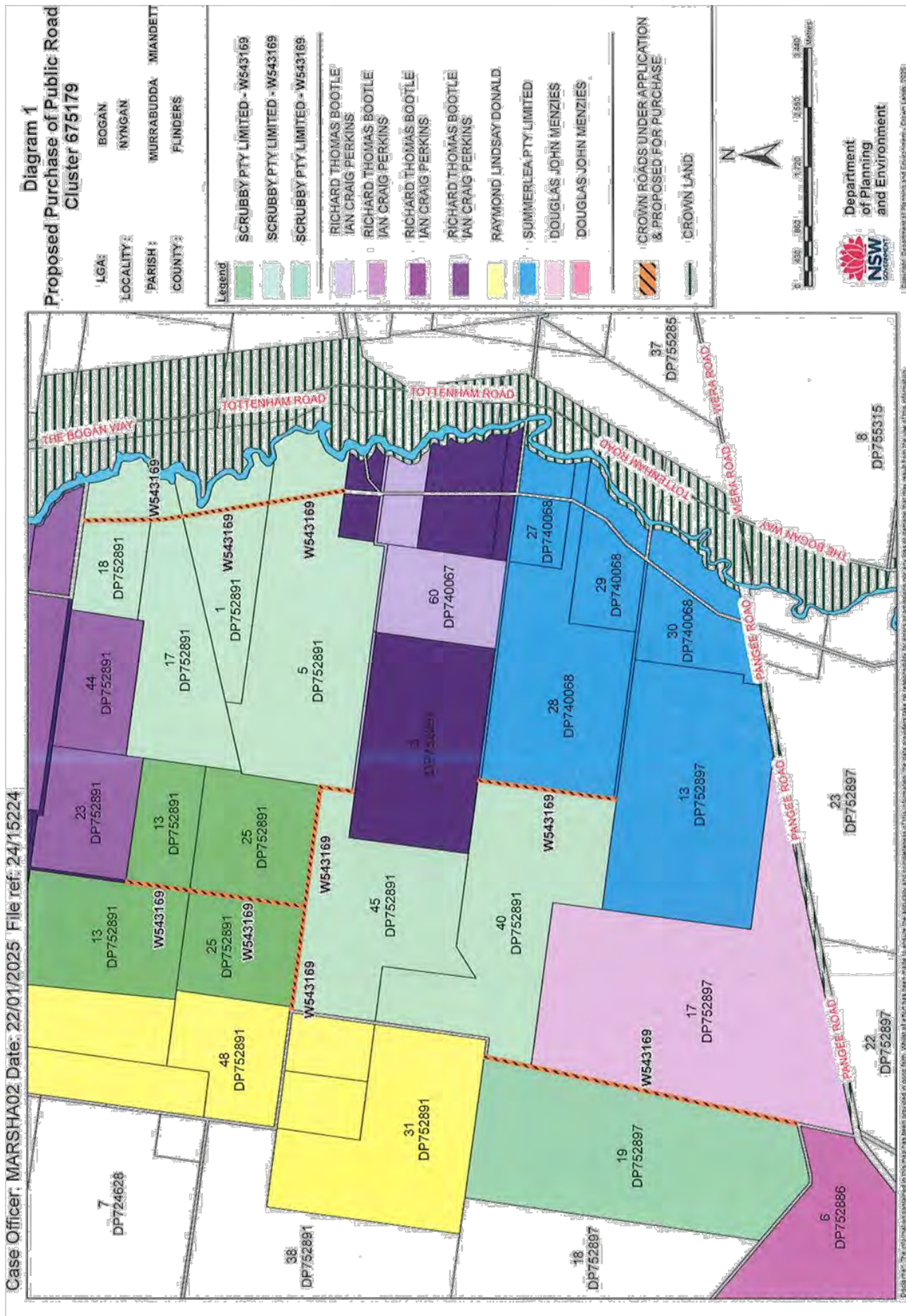
The department will assume that you have no objection to the proposal if you do not respond by 25th March 2025. Please advise this office within the 28 day period if your Department/Authority requires additional time to consider its position and respond.

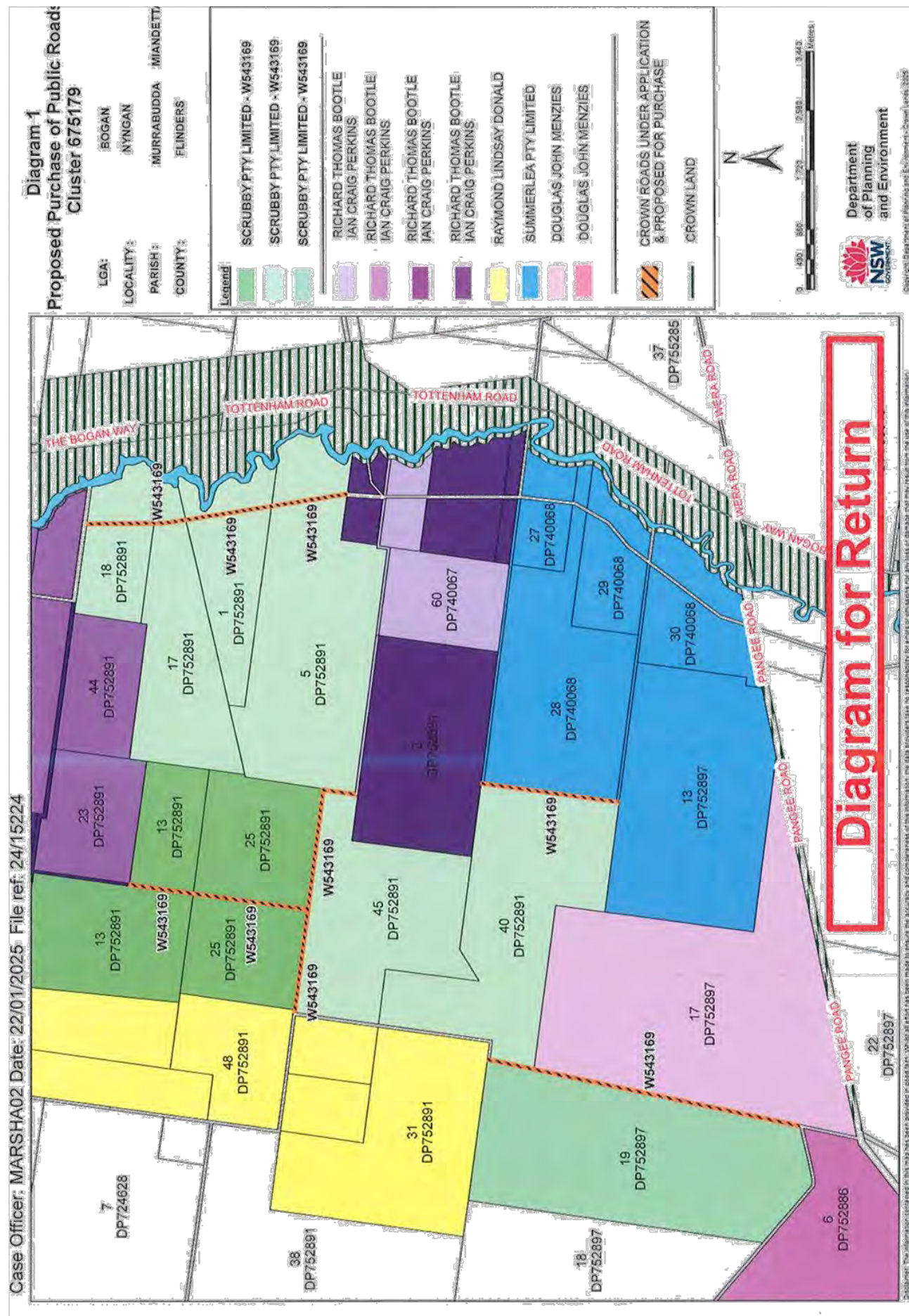
Enquiries in relation to this matter can be directed to April Marshall, who can be contacted on or via email at [april.marshall@crowmland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:april.marshall@crowmland.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "April Marshall".

April Marshall  
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure - Crown Lands





## **Proposed Road Disposal Section 152D *Roads Act 1993***

---

In accordance with section 152D of the *Roads Act 1993*, notice is hereby given of the proposed sale of the Crown public roads listed in Schedule 1. If a sale proceeds, the road(s) will cease to be a public road upon transfer of the road to freehold land in accordance with section 152H of the Act.

### **Schedule 1:**

- Crown roads at Nyngan, within and adjoining 183 Rutherglen Road, 898 Pangee Street, and property Komoorra at 619 Temples Lane. (File Ref: 24/15224, Cluster: 675179)

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands, PO Box 2215, DANGAR NSW 2309 within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of this advertisement.

Any person is entitled to make submissions with respect to the sale or disposal of the road. Please note that submissions may be referred to third parties (such as council or the applicant) for consideration in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

**For the Manager, Divestments**

**For further enquiries please visit the website**  
roads.crownland.nsw.gov.au or contact April Marshall  
by email at april.marshall@crownland.nsw.gov.au or on  
(02) 6883 5433 quoting file references above.

### 13.3 TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present the discussions of the Traffic Committee meeting held on Thursday 13 March 2025 and for Council to consider any recommendations.

#### 2. Background

The Traffic Committee meets quarterly to discuss traffic and pedestrian facilities and related issues, and to make recommendations to Council.

#### 3. Discussion

The following issues were discussed:

##### Request for Signage along Barrier & Mitchell Highway

Correspondence received requesting more signage on Mitchell and Barrier Highway to raise awareness of Speeding, Fatigue and speed cameras. TfNSW are planning a statewide campaign in relation to fatigue management.

##### Crossing/bus stop Girilambone

This was a follow up from a meeting in 2021 where a member of the community suggested a crossing in Girilambone at the bus stop. The committee noted that there was no new information to warrant further investigation.

##### Speed Limit Canonbar Road

This item was initially raised in approx. 2019. Correspondence received requesting an update on the assessment of the speed limit northeast of Wambiana Street, due to the increased development in the area.

Due to the time elapsed TfNSW requested updated traffic count/classification data from Council.

##### Parking – Pangee street

Complaint received regarding business employees parking all day in Pangee Street and taking up parking spaces. The committee had insufficient information on which to base a recommendation. Anecdotal evidence did not support the complaint.

##### Entoure Bicycle Event

Correspondence received seeking approval for a bicycle charity event which is held across local shires. Within Bogan Shire the route was confined to TfNSW roads.

Due to the cross-shire boundary nature of the request, TfNSW propose to lead the response and advise on the outcome.

##### The role of Local Traffic Committee Meetings

TfNSW provided a copy of presentation slides outlining the role of Local Traffic Committees.

**4. Attachments**

Nil

**5. Recommendation**

That the Traffic Committee Meeting Report be received and noted.

**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	Under Assessment
2024/004	Mr I Bennett	60 Nymagee Street, Nyngan	New Awning	\$35,000	Additional Information Required
2024/026	Mrs C Watt	7 Derrybong Street Nyngan	New Transportable home	\$182,820	Approved
2025/001	Mr G Irving	2-4 Old Warren Road, Nyngan	Subdivision	\$5,000	Referred to NSW Rural Fire Service and on Public Exhibition

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	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	\$76,100.00
January 2025	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	\$191,820.00
February 2025	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	\$5,000.00
March 2025								
April 2025								
May 2025								
June 2025								
<b>Total 2024/25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$3,346,599.00</b>
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 LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution from Council to publicly exhibit the draft Bogan Shire Local Housing Strategy (LHS).

### 2. Background

The Bogan Shire Local Housing Strategy (LHS) has been prepared in accordance with the *NSW Local Housing Strategy Guideline and Template* produced by the (then) NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The preparation of the LHS has been funded by the NSW Government through the NSW Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund. Council was awarded the funds in early 2024.

The purpose of the LHS is to establish the strategic framework for the provision of housing within the Shire over the next 20 years. It links Council's visions for housing to the various Federal, State, Regional and Local strategic planning documents that apply to the Shire and establishes actions that are required to achieve the visions.

### 3. Discussion

The key components of the LHS are:

- Community and stakeholder engagement undertaken to identify the community's views on the Shire's housing challenges and opportunities and to set the vision for the Strategy.
- Consideration of Federal, State, Regional and Local strategies and legislation relevant to planning, housing and infrastructure in the Shire, and the relationship of those to the LHS.
- Consideration of the characteristics of the Shire, including its facilities, its geographical context and its history.
- Examination of the recent Australian Census data available for the Shire, as well as data held by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and other State departments which provides numerical evidence of the way that the Shire's residents live and work.
- An overview of the Shire's demographics and examination of the NSW Government's projections for the Shire's population and household types.
- Consideration of constraints to the development of residential land including infrastructure constraints, natural hazards and biodiversity constraints.
- Consideration of housing demand (both effective and underlying demand), housing affordability and housing supply.
- Analysis of the evidence base to identify housing supply gaps and identification of areas with development capacity.
- Identification of the objectives and priorities for housing in the Shire, including the options for achieving the objectives and the land use planning approaches that are available. Mechanisms to deliver the options are also considered.

- Evaluation of the options, an implementation and delivery plan and a monitoring and review schedule.

These are discussed in more detail below.

### **Community and stakeholder engagement:**

Community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken during the preparation of the LHS. A survey was made available on Council's website to ask the community for their views on the housing pressures being experienced in the Shire. The survey was advertised widely via traditional media and social media and hard copies were available at the Council administration office, medical centre and library.

The forty four (44) stakeholders noted in **Attachment 1** were contacted directly to seek their input via either email or a letterbox drop.

Most stakeholders and the community responded using the survey, with 51 survey responses received. The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) responded by letter. The correspondence received during the community engagement period, as well as the survey results are included in the Stakeholder Engagement Report at Attachment A of the LHS, which includes a full description, and the outcomes, of the engagement stage.

Two stakeholder workshops were held in June 2024 at the Bogan Shire Youth and Community Centre. A common theme was the current shortage of housing in the Shire, with a secondary issue being the cost of rental accommodation and lack of land available to build houses. Both issues are linked to competition for available housing from major employers, the age of the current housing stock, and the perceived complexity and costs associated with planning approvals. Participants in the workshops also put together the following vision for the LHS:

*Our vision for housing in the Bogan Shire is of a vibrant inclusive community, that offers a variety of sustainable, affordable, and flexible living options for everyone. With access to essential services and facilities, our homes are fit-for-purpose for all life stages. Our housing encourages a connected, safe and welcoming environment whether for the short, medium or long-term.*

The public exhibition of the draft LHS will give the community and relevant stakeholders further opportunity to consider housing issues relevant to the Shire and to contribute to the final LHS.

### **Federal, State, Regional and Local strategies and legislation:**

Consideration of higher-level strategies and legislation is important for ensuring that the LHS is developed within the planning and policy context of the day. The LHS demonstrates strong alignment with higher-level strategies, and in particular, alignment of the LHS with the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041* provides a good basis for seeking future funding and support for the LHS's recommended actions.

**The characteristics of the Shire:**

The LHS considers the indigenous and non-indigenous history and the rich cultural and built heritage of the Shire. The LHS notes that heritage helps to create a special sense of place, which can lead to attachment to place. Both tangible and intangible heritage are integral parts of engendering a sense of place identity and of belonging and cohesion. Culture and heritage tourism also plays a critical role in building the visitor economy, particularly in Western NSW. The LHS notes that the Shire would benefit from a Cultural Heritage Strategy to promote and improve its sense of place and thus its liveability.

**Census data and numerical evidence:**

The data used in the LHS was sourced from:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing.
- NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 2022 Projections.
- NSW Department of Communities and Justice Local Government Housing Kit.

Although the population of the Shire is predicted to slightly decline (consistent with other rural areas in NSW), other, more complex, housing pressures have been identified in the LHS. These include growth in local industry, resulting in significantly fluctuating worker numbers that require temporary housing and associated low rental vacancy numbers, an ageing housing stock, a lack of diversity in housing and constraints to the development of some residential zoned land.

**Development constraints:**

Constraints to the development of housing in the Shire include both financial constraints, environmental constraints and natural hazards. Although there appears to be a suitable amount of residential zoned land available for the foreseeable future, the provision of infrastructure, planning restrictions, the cost of development and exposure to natural hazards provide barriers to the efficient delivery of lots and houses in the Shire.

A flood study update (Attachment B of the LHS) was undertaken to understand the flood risk constraints affecting residential development in the Shire in the context of current flood planning policy and best practice. The update indicates that land within the Nyngan levee will remain flood free up to the probable maximum flood level, however some residential zoned land outside of the levee is flood prone and likely to pose a risk to life and property if developed for residential purposes. The LHS makes recommendations for updates to the Bogan Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 and Development Control Plan (DCP) to manage flood risk and provide a more efficient system for assessing residential development proposals on flood-prone land.

A biodiversity study (Attachment C of the LHS) was undertaken to determine the ecological sensitivity of remaining residential zoned land. Biodiversity credit obligations required by current environmental legislation can make development of land financially unviable. The majority of land identified as suitable for further residential development was found to have a low likelihood of significant credit obligations, however a small number of

parcels were identified with varying levels of environmental sensitivity which may make them unsuitable for development.

### **Housing supply, demand and affordability:**

Analysis of the census data and demographic trends indicates that the Shire has an ageing population and a high number of temporary residents who stay in the Shire for work, primarily mining.

House and land prices have remained relatively stable in the Shire over the last three years, with housing supply and demand issues related more to a lack of housing diversity, low rental vacancies and high rental prices. The data shows however that there is a relatively low level of rental housing stress and no records of purchase stress.

The LHS has demonstrated that housing affordability in the Shire is a more complex set of inter-related issues caused by factors such as temporary worker fluctuations, access to trades, housing condition, natural hazards and the financial feasibility of development.

### **Housing supply gaps and identification of areas with development capacity:**

Analysis of the data tells us that:

- The demand for housing in the Shire is likely to fluctuate in line with industry expansion and contraction.
- There is a current shortfall in housing supply, though the demand is expected to reduce over time as the permanent population reduces (if projections are correct).
- The average age of the population is increasing and there is a large proportion of lone person households within the Shire. The current housing supply and type does not match the needs of the community as there is a lack of smaller dwellings.
- Residential house and land prices indicate relative housing affordability and a lack of mortgage stress, however there is a significant lack of rental housing available.
- There is currently enough residential zoned land in the Shire to meet the forecast demand.
- The flood study shows that large areas of land zoned R5 Large Lot Residential are flood-prone and cannot be developed without further investigation and appropriate controls.
- The biodiversity study shows that some areas of residential land are constrained by biodiversity requirements, in particular the payment of credits for clearing.

### **Objectives, options and priorities:**

Using the evidence presented in the LHS the following objectives have been identified:

- A greater diversity of housing to accommodate people of different ages, family composition and demographics.
- Better planning and approval pathways for temporary workers to manage spikes in housing demand so that housing is available for everybody at all times.

- Remove houses that are no longer habitable, to free-up residential land for new homes.
- Manage the risks of flooding on residential land.
- Encourage infill development and repurpose land for residential purposes in appropriate locations.
- Address the financial feasibility barriers to residential development.

From the objectives the following options have been identified:



The LHS evaluates each of the options in terms of alignment with relevant strategic plans and community and stakeholder priorities, as well as the outcomes that would be achieved, to form the following mechanisms to deliver the options:

- Identification of suitable public land for community housing.
- Community education campaign to encourage dual occupancies and secondary dwellings (thus increasing the diversity of housing).
- Update of DCP 2012 residential development controls.
- Continuation of Council's demolition fund to progress the removal of uninhabitable homes. This fund is available in exceptional circumstances to recover unpaid rates via sale of the land.
- Additional local provision in the LEP for temporary worker's accommodation subject to a socio-economic impact assessment.
- Flood planning provisions in the LEP and DCP.
- Extension of essential services when funds are available.

- Removal of Urban Release Area (URA) layer on residential zoned land in the southern part of Nyngan.

**Implementation, delivery, monitoring and review:**

Each of the mechanisms has been allocated a timing based on the significance of the benefits that would be achieved by the action combined with a realistic assumption of Council’s likely ability to deliver the action. All of the actions require funding, some significant, therefore all of the actions are at risk of not being delivered if funding is not available.

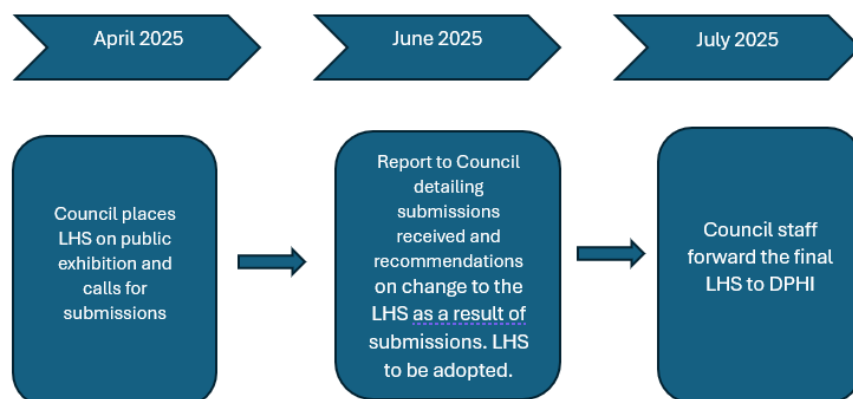
The LHS will need to be reviewed periodically to ensure that it is being applied and is on target to achieve the objectives. At the ten-year mark, a full review of the LHS will be required, including re-engagement with the community and stakeholders to ensure that the vision and objectives are still aligned with the goals of the community and that the evidence base and planning contexts are still relevant.

The recommendations in the LHS will guide future amendments to the LEP and the DCP, as well as other actions to encourage and facilitate residential development when and where it is required.

The LHS makes it clear that no single organisation can resolve the complexity of local housing issues in isolation. However, Council can work in partnership with key stakeholders and agencies to take a lead role in advocacy initiatives and in ensuring that planning controls contribute to good housing outcomes and do not create barriers to the provision of appropriate housing.

The LHS will contribute to informing budget and investment decisions by Council regarding the funding of infrastructure, LEP and DCP updates and opportunities for partnerships, as well as providing Council with a strong strategic advantage for competitive grant programs that support increased housing supply, affordability, diversity, and resilience in regional NSW.

The process chart below shows the next steps involved.



A full copy of the draft Bogan Shire Local Housing Strategy, which comprises 301 pages is available from the office of the Director Development and Environmental Services on request. The body of the report which totals 78 pages is to be posted or emailed to Councillors for information. Once the recommendation below has been adopted a copy will be available on the Bogan Shire Council website.

**4. Attachments**

1. Stakeholders Contacted Directly

**5. Recommendation**

That the draft Bogan Shire Local Housing Strategy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with a further report to Council for its amendment and/or adoption.



Attachment 1 – Stakeholders contacted directly via email or letter to seek their input into the LHS.

<p>Utility providers:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential Energy</li> <li>• NBN Co</li> <li>• NSW Water</li> <li>• Telstra</li> <li>• Energy Co</li> </ul>
<p>Government agencies and organisations and emergency services:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Development Australia</li> <li>• NSW Local Health District</li> <li>• Nyngan Police</li> <li>• Ambulance NSW</li> <li>• NSW Fire and Rescue</li> <li>• NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)</li> <li>• NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</li> <li>• AusIndustry (Industry, Science and Resources)</li> <li>• Transport for NSW Western Region</li> <li>• Regional Organisation of Councils</li> <li>• Bogan Shire Councillors</li> <li>• Elected State and Federal representatives</li> <li>• Aboriginal Housing Office</li> <li>• Local Aboriginal Land Council</li> </ul>
<p>Educational institutions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAFE Western / Verto</li> <li>• Nyngan High School and Public School</li> <li>• St Joseph’s Catholic School</li> <li>• Bogan Bush Mobile</li> <li>• Hermidale Public School</li> <li>• Girilambone Public School</li> <li>• Nyngan Preschool</li> <li>• BSC Early Learning Centre</li> </ul>
<p>Peak industry groups and community organisations and charities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Farmers</li> <li>• Community Housing providers</li> <li>• Agricultural Show Society</li> <li>• Race Committees</li> <li>• Museums</li> <li>• Sporting clubs</li> <li>• Hobbies groups and clubs</li> <li>• Resident’s committees</li> <li>• St Vincent DePaul Society</li> <li>• Churches</li> <li>• CanAssist</li> </ul>
<p>Businesses and business organisations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Unity</li> <li>• Local solicitors</li> <li>• Aeris Resources</li> <li>• Nyngan RSL</li> <li>• Local hotels and motels</li> <li>• Nyngan Solar farms</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nyngan Riverside Tourist Park</li> <li>• Nyngan Health Service</li> <li>• Local supermarkets and retailers</li> <li>• Newsagent</li> <li>• Post Office</li> <li>• Chemist</li> <li>• Bowling Club</li> <li>• Golf Club</li> <li>• Community Hub</li> <li>• Bus companies</li> <li>• Rural supplies</li> <li>• Doctor's surgery</li> <li>• Dental surgery</li> <li>• Charter flight companies</li> <li>• Real estate agents and property consultants</li> <li>• Funeral companies</li> </ul>
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nyngan Observer</li> <li>• Radio 2WEB</li> </ul>

## **14.3 AWNINGS OVER PUBLIC LAND**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present the Awning Over Public Land Policy, which is recommended for Council adoption.

### **2. Background**

Planning Circular, *Safety of awnings over public lands* was issued in 2013 and again in 2017 by the Department of Planning and Environment, highlighting potential safety issues related to awnings over public lands. Planning Circular, *Safety of awnings over public lands 2017* (Attachment 1) states “*to address the safety of awnings across the state, Councils need to adopt a strategy of progressively requiring inspection, certification and where required, upgrading of existing awnings*”.

### **3. Discussion**

The building awnings located in the Nyngan Central Business District (CBD) are generally old and many appear to be in need of repairs to maintain their structural integrity.

Awnings, even when located over a public space are the responsibility of the building owner. It is the building owner’s responsibility to maintain and ensure that awnings are kept in a structurally sound and safe condition.

Council received funding to complete structural engineering reports for the awnings located in the Nyngan CBD. In May 2019, a contractor was engaged to carry out the structural adequacy inspections on 21 awnings. The reports contained the condition of the awnings, any defects found on the awnings and any modification/improvement requirements if needed. The structural engineering reports were provided to the building owners on 12 June 2019.

To ensure public safety and prevent further deterioration, building owners were subsequently issued reminder letters in January 2025, urging them to address any necessary repairs and reminding them of their obligations as the building owner to maintain a structurally sound awning.

The proposed policy (Attachment 2) will assist both Council and the building owners to meet their legislated requirements as stated in the attached Planning Circular BS17-001.

### **4. Attachments**

1. Planning Circular BS17-001
2. DDES 010 - Awning Over Public Land Policy

### **5. Recommendation**

That Council adopts the Awning Over Public Land Policy DDES 010



## Planning circular

Building System

Building regulation advisory note

Circular	BS 17-001
Issued	10 May 2017
Related	BS 13-001

# Safety of awnings over public lands

The purpose of this Circular is to remind councils about the potential safety issues related to awnings over public lands (e.g footpaths) and provide advice on appropriate triggers to consider the assessment of existing awnings.

### Introduction

This circular is issued to highlight the potential safety issues related to awnings over public lands and should be read in conjunction with the previous circular issued by the then Department of Planning and Infrastructure dated 8 March 2013.

Awnings are part of the buildings to which they are attached and are the responsibility of the owner of the building, even when an awning is located over a public footpath.

The *Roads Act 1993* clarifies in section 142(1) the responsibility for awnings over roads (including footpaths) by requiring that a person having a right to control the structure must maintain it in a satisfactory state of repair.

To address the safety of awnings across the state, councils need to adopt a strategy of progressively requiring inspection, certification and where required, upgrading of existing awnings. An awning safety program is considered a practical and appropriate way of addressing the existing awning stock.

Planning Circular BS 13-001 dated 8 March 2013 raised the awareness of the safety of awnings and provided advice about components of a program. However, any awning safety program may not be limited to these components only.

In addition to, or as part of, an awning safety program, there are various triggers to consider the safety of an existing awning over public lands, such as the lodgement of a development or license application for a proposed commercial outdoor dining area, or a proposed change of use of a premises. These examples are expanded on below.

### Outdoor dining and associated awning safety

Outdoor dining can lead to an intensification of the use of public space under or near an awning.

Councils could utilise the lodgement of an application for proposed outdoor dining as part of a broader strategy to address the adequacy of existing awning stock.

Outdoor dining licenses are dealt with in *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* ("Codes SEPP"). The use of a footway or public open space as an outdoor dining area associated with a lawful food and drink premises can be carried out as exempt development under Part 2 Division 1 Subdivision 20A of the Codes SEPP. A person may carry out exempt development without obtaining development consent if the person complies with the development standards that apply to the development. The development standards for this type of activity appear in clause 2.40B and include having an approval under section 125 of the *Roads Act 1993*, and any required approval under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Councils can impose conditions on outdoor dining approvals issued under section 125 of the *Roads Act 1993* and in relation to any approval granted under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

A proposed use of a footway or public open space as an outdoor dining area associated with a lawful food and drink premises which does not comply with the development standards in the Codes SEPP may require the lodgement of a development application. If so, Section 79C of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ("EP&A Act") deals with the matters for consideration for a consent authority in determining a development application, including the likely impacts of the development, the suitability of the site and the public interest.

Section 80A of the EP&A Act deals with the imposition of conditions on development consents generally and provides that a condition may be imposed if it relates to a matter in section 79C, including a condition requiring the carrying out of works.

In considering a license application under section 125 of the *Roads Act* and or in determining a development application for the use of the footway or public open space as an outdoor dining area, consideration should be given to the imposition of an appropriate condition to address the safety of any associated awning.

A condition could be imposed to require certification by a structural engineer that the associated awning is structurally adequate and complies with Section B of Volume 1 of the Building Code of Australia.

### Change of use of a premises and awning safety

A change of use of premises can be carried out as exempt development under Part 2, Division 1, Subdivision 10A of the Codes SEPP. Provided that the current use is lawful and the development standards in clause 2.20B are met, the change of use can be carried out without development approval.

A change of use of premises can also be carried out as complying development under Part 5, Subdivision 2 of the Codes SEPP. If the development complies with the development standards set out in clause 5.3, a certifier can issue a complying development certificate (CDC) approving the change of use.

A change of use of a premises which does not comply with the development standards in the Codes SEPP may require the lodgement of a development application. As discussed above, section 79C of the EP&A Act deals with matters for consideration in determining a development application. In addition, section 80A of the EP&A Act deals with the imposition of conditions on development consents.

In determining a development application for the change of use of a premises, consideration should be given to the imposition of an appropriate condition to address the safety of any associated awning. A condition could be imposed to require certification by a structural engineer that any associated awning is structurally adequate and complies with the technical standard referred to above.

### Council powers regarding public safety

As stated in the previous circular dated 8 March 2013, legislation provides councils with powers to carry out inspections of, or require repairs to, unsafe structures (where considered necessary) by the issue of orders in the following circumstances:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ("EP&A Act"); section 121B, Order No 2 or 4, when a "building is or is likely to become a danger to the public" or a "building is so dilapidated as to be prejudicial to its occupants or to persons or property in the neighbourhood";
- *Local Government Act 1993*; section 124, Order 21 or 29, when "the land or premises are not in a safe or healthy condition"; or where it is necessary to "alter or repair a work or structure on, over or under a public place", because "it is in the public interest to do so".

Other related powers are available to councils under the *Roads Act 1993*.

- Councils, as the relevant authority, are provided with powers under sections 98, 142, 164 and 165, to take any necessary action required to secure the safety of the general public in their use of public footpaths, from dangerous or potentially dangerous awnings.

These powers are available to councils to assist in achieving timely and required outcomes regarding the safety of awnings.

### Further Information

For further information please contact the Department of Planning and Environment's information centre on 1300 305 695.

More [building circulars](#) can be found on the Department of Planning and Environment website.

### Authorised by:

**Carolyn McNally**  
Secretary

**Important note:** This circular does not constitute legal advice. Users are advised to seek professional advice and refer to the relevant legislation, as necessary, before taking action in relation to any matters covered by this circular.

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Planning and Environment [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

**Disclaimer:** While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of publication, the State of New South Wales, its agencies and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.

**COUNCIL POLICY DDES-010  
AWNING OVER PUBLIC LAND**



Bogan Shire Council Policy DDES 010 (Awning Over Public Land)

**Contents**

Policy Outcomes Statement ..... 3

Overview..... 3

Applicability/Responsibility..... 3

Policy ..... 4

Legal Context ..... 4

Approval Requirements ..... 4

Policy Implementation ..... 5

Specific Provisions ..... 5

    Public liability insurance ..... 5

    Access to premises ..... 6

    Ongoing and routine maintenance, upgrading, repair or demolition ..... 6

Authority ..... 6

Policy Owner / Further Assistance..... 6

Related Documents ..... 6

Related Information ..... 7

Review Date ..... 7

Revision History..... 7

**Bogan Shire Council Policy DDES 010 (Awning Over Public Land)****Policy Outcomes Statement**

The Bogan Shire Council Local Government area has many shops and commercial buildings that have awnings which project over public footpaths and public areas.

It is not compulsory for shops and commercial buildings to have awnings. However, they provide many benefits to the public, including protection from heat and rain, shading the premises and providing opportunities for advertising.

Some awnings are supported by steel tension rods connected to the building's fascia. These rods can fail over time for various reasons including corrosion, adverse wind and weather conditions, poor maintenance, illegal use and loading, build-up of debris inside the structure, failure at the façade or awning connection, impact by a motor vehicle, demolition of an adjoining building or awning and other reasons. The failure of a tension rod can result in awnings collapsing which can cause property damage, personal injury or death.

Many modern awnings are constructed with cantilevered beams which are integral to the structure of the building. Cantilevered awnings are much less likely to suffer catastrophic collapse. However, the legal obligations of the owner are identical to those of awnings with tension rods.

**Overview**

This policy is to:

- raise awareness of the need for owners to regularly monitor the safety of their awnings;
- implement an awnings awareness program framework for owners of awnings within the Bogan Shire Local Government Area;
- promote an increased level of protection of public health and safety by reducing the risk of harm, injury or death which may result from the failure of an awning overhanging public spaces.

**Applicability/Responsibility**

The policy applies to all land within the Bogan Local Government Area.

The responsibility of this policy lies with the Bogan Shire Council's Director of Development and Environmental Services.

Awnings are part of the buildings to which they are attached and are the responsibility of the owner of the building, even when an awning is located over a public footpath. The Roads Act 1993 clarifies in Section 142(1) the responsibility for awnings over



## Bogan Shire Council Policy DDES 010 (Awning Over Public Land)

roads (including footpaths) by requiring that a person having a right to control the structure must maintain it in a satisfactory state of repair.

### Policy

#### Legal Context

Awnings are regulated under the following –

- *Roads Act 1993 (Roads Act)*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*
- *Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act)*
- *NSW Planning Circular entitled "Safety of Awnings Over Public Lands", dated 10 May 2017.*

#### Approval Requirements

Approvals required for an awning may include a:

- consent for the purposes of complying with Section 138 of the Roads Act,
- development consent under the EP&A Act for the erection or future continued use of an awning where required by the applicable planning controls, and
- building information certificate under the EP&A Act for existing awnings for which there is no record of a development consent for the erection of the awning.

An application for a new awning is to comply with:

- Australian Standard 1170.0 – Structural Design Actions – General Principles,
- Australian Standard 1170.1 – Structural Design Actions – Permanent, Imposed and other Actions,
- Australian Standard 1170.2 – Structural Design Actions – Wind Action

Where upgrading, repair or demolition works are required to be undertaken on an awning, development consent may be required. Owners must ensure that development consent is obtained where necessary, prior to the commencement of any works.

It is recommended that the owner of an awning obtain and provide to Council a report from a suitably qualified structural engineer that states that the awning is structurally sound and safe every five (5) years.

Further, Council may require an owner to obtain structural certification from a suitably qualified structural engineer following a severe storm event, flood, fire or accident or other event which damages the awning and in the opinion of the Council is likely to be unsafe.

### Bogan Shire Council Policy DDES 010 (Awning Over Public Land)

Awning owners are encouraged to comply with Practice Note 18 '*Inspection and Assessment of Existing Tied Awnings*' issued in July 2008 by the Association of Consulting Structural Engineers of NSW.

Council recommends that the gutters and downpipes of awnings be cleaned of all leaf debris on a regular basis. Awning owners should reference the Safe Work Australia publication entitled "*Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces*" prior to undertaking any work at height in association with the cleaning of awnings.

The owner of an awning is to bear the cost of any inspection of the awning for the purposes of this policy.

Council will make a notation on section 10.7 (2) & (5) planning certificates under the EP&A Act for those properties that contain an awning, noting that:

- Awning owners are encouraged to comply with Practice Note 18 '*Inspection and Assessment of Existing Tied Awnings*', issued in July 2008 by the Association of Consulting Structural Engineers of NSW; and
- all owners must comply with the provisions of this policy.

As stated above, all owners have the responsibility of maintaining the awning and are also responsible for any improvement works that are deemed to be required.

### **Policy Implementation**

The Council -

- intends to establish a 'base-date' record (Register) of all awnings over public footpaths and public areas
- will identify the location and ownership of all existing awnings over public land by searching the available records and undertaking street and other inspections where necessary or desirable; and
- will send a letter every two (2) years to all awning owners informing them of their responsibility to regularly inspect and maintain the awnings over public land, ensuring that they remain structurally sound.

### **Specific Provisions**

#### **Public liability insurance**

The owner of an awning that overhangs a public footway, road reserve or space is required to maintain appropriate insurance coverage with a minimum value of \$20 million in respect of an awning noting the Council's interest as a party on the certificate of currency.

**Bogan Shire Council Policy DDES 010 (Awning Over Public Land)****Access to premises**

Council may enter premises supporting an awning to inspect and assess the structural adequacy and safety of the awning.

Council has the power to enter premises for this purpose under Section 191 and 192 of the Local Government Act.

Council may authorise persons other than Council officers for this purpose.

**Ongoing and routine maintenance, upgrading, repair or demolition**

The ongoing and routine maintenance of awnings is the responsibility of the owner. Routine maintenance includes, but is not limited to, inspection of awning structures, painting, and replacement of light fittings.

Prior to undertaking maintenance works, upgrading, repairs or demolition works, owners should contact Council to ensure that such works do not require development consent or other approvals and to ensure that such works are in keeping with applicable council requirements.

Any proposed upgrading, repair or demolition works must take into consideration the character and streetscape values of the subject awning or balcony.

The demolition of an awning or balcony will only be considered where the structure has been assessed by a professional engineer and Council and is found to be beyond repair and poses a danger to the public.

In this event the building owner will be required to replace the awning unless otherwise stipulated by Council. Development consent will be required for any new structure, and it must be designed to take into consideration the character, streetscape, and any heritage values of the building and surrounding area.

**Authority**

Council resolution no XXXXX dated XXXXXX.

**Policy Owner / Further Assistance**

Director Development and Environmental Services

**Related Documents**

- *Roads Act 1993 (Roads Act)*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EPA Act)*
- *Local Government Act 1993 (LGA Act)*

**Bogan Shire Council Policy DDES 010 (Awning Over Public Land)**

- *NSW Planning Circular entitled "Safety of Awnings Over Public Lands", dated 8 March 2013*

**Related Information**

- Australian Standard 1170.0 – Structural Design Actions – General Principles,
- Australian Standard 1170.1 – Structural Design Actions – permanent, Imposed and other Actions,
- Australian Standard 1170.2 – Structural Design Actions

**Review Date**

March 2028

**Revision History**

Date	Description of Change	Sections Affected
17/03/2025	New policy drafted	All

**15      PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**15.1    DUCK CREEK PICNIC RACE COMMITTEE INC**

Correspondence received from Duck Creek Picnic Race Committee Inc.

**Attachments**

1.    Correspondence from Duck Creek Picnic Race Committee Inc.

**Recommendation**

For Councils Consideration.

## Duck Creek Picnic Race Committee Inc.

duckcreekraces@gmail.com

PO Box 105

Nyngan NSW 2825

Mr Derek Francis

The General Manager

Bogan Shire Council

13/03/2025

Dear Derek,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Duck Creek Picnic Races. There are four items that we would like Council to consider.

1. The DCP Committee request that a concrete slab be laid outside the western wall of the Wye pavilion. We can then operate a bar from this area. The current slab of concrete along the wall is in disrepair and a work health safety issue for all patrons and visitors to the showground.
2. The DCP Committee would like to have a Duck Creek Week in Nyngan leading up to the DCP event. Will the Bogan Shire Council support this?
3. The Duck Creek Committee would like to place approximately 20 Glamping tents at the No 2 Oval to help accommodate DCP visitors in Nyngan over the weekend of the races. We propose that this accommodation be sold as a complete unit to one group of visiting adults. Security and parking to be discussed with Bogan Shire Council to meet their requisites and rules.
4. The DCP Committee would like to extend the South Eastern Security fence behind the Wye Pavilion to be able to enlarge the luncheon area at the DCP races.

The Duck Creek Picnic Race Committee would appreciate some financial contribution from Bogan Shire Council toward these projects. The Duck Creek Picnic Races bring a large crowd of visitors into our town of Nyngan. We aim to use local businesses to purchase our needs for putting on this event. Hence there is a very beneficial financial input into the local Nyngan economy.

Yours Sincerely,

Rowen Cleaver

Duck Creek Picnic Races President

**15.2 WESTERN NSW LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT HEALTH COUNCIL - RAW WATER CONNECTION FOR THE NYNGAN HEALTH SERVICE**

Correspondence received from Western NSW Local Health District Health Council.

**Attachments**

1. Correspondence from Nyngan Health Council

**Recommendation**

For Council's Consideration.

Western NSW Local Health District



3 March 2025

**Derek Francis**  
**General Manager**  
**Bogan Shire Council**  
**81 Cobar St**  
**Nyngan NSW 2825**

---

**Re: Raw Water connection for the Nyngan Health Service**

Dear Derek,

I am writing on behalf of Nyngan Health Council to request a raw water connection for the Nyngan Health Service. As you would be aware Nyngan Health Service has extensive gardens and grounds with a large area of grass. Currently there is no access to raw water, so treated water is being used on the gardens and grounds.

There is now access to raw water at the stand pipe near the railway line off Pangee Street. The Nyngan Health Council would like the Bogan Shire Council to consider providing access to raw water access to the Nyngan Health Service. This would reduce the need to use treated water for extensive ground and garden watering.

Nyngan Health Council understand that some time ago a raw water connection was provided to the local schools in order to reduce their use of treated water. If you require any more information please contact me – hoping to hear of a positive outcome to this request in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Bourke".

**Sue Bourke**  
**Nyngan Health Service Health Council Chair**  
**Nyngan Health Service**

15 Hoskins Street, Nyngan, NSW, 2825  
PO Box 96, Nyngan, NSW, 2825  
ABN 50 629 556 404

02 6835 1700  
[www.nsw.gov.au/health/wnswlhd](http://www.nsw.gov.au/health/wnswlhd)

Page 1 of 1



**15.3 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SEATING AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT O'REILLY PARK**

Correspondence received from Dione Bright, requesting additional seating and safety improvements at O'Reilly Park

**Attachments**

1. Correspondence from Dione Bright

**Recommendation**

For Councils Consideration.

Dione Bright

71 Warren Street  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

16/02/2025

Bogan Shire Council

Nyngan, NSW

Subject: Request for Additional Seating and Safety Improvements at O'Reilly Park,  
Nyngan

Dear Mayor, General Manager and Bogan Shire Councillors,

I am writing to request some improvements to O'Reilly Park, including the installation of adequate seating within the soft-fall playground at O'Reilly Park, additional undercover seating around the park and an additional gateway between the two playgrounds.

As a frequent visitor to the park, I have noticed that there is a lack of seating for parents and carers who are supervising their children while they play. O'Reilly Park is a well-used community space, and the playground is particularly popular with families. However, the limited seating options inside the soft-fall area make it difficult for parents to comfortably watch their children, especially during longer visits. Providing more seating within the playground area would enhance the park's usability, ensuring that parents and carers have a comfortable place to sit while still keeping a close eye on their children.

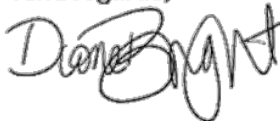
Additionally, I would like to request more undercover seating around the park grounds. With the extreme temperatures we often experience, shaded areas are essential for families who want to enjoy the park while staying protected from the sun. Installing more covered seating would make the park more accessible year-round and provide a much-needed respite for parents, grandparents, and other visitors.

Another suggestion would be the installation of a gate between the smaller and larger play equipment areas. At present, children often climb the fence to access both parks. Additionally, parents find it challenging to access both playgrounds quickly when they have multiple children playing in the separate playgrounds. A simple gate between these sections would allow easy access for families with children of different ages.

I appreciate the Bogan Shire Council's ongoing efforts to maintain and improve community spaces, in particular the recent improvements at O'Reilly Park to make them such an inviting space for families. I hope you will consider these requests and please let me know if there is any further information I can provide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dione Bright', written in a cursive style.

Dione Bright

**15.4 NYNGAN JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB**

Correspondence received from Nyngan Junior Rugby League Club

Director of Infrastructure Services Note: Minor maintenance to the photographed meter pit has since been undertaken, and an electrician has been contacted to remove the electrical cables from the dressing room.

**Attachments**

1. Correspondence from Nyngan Junior Rugby League Club

**Recommendation**

For Councils Consideration.

**From:** Nyngan JRLC <>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** Bogan Shire Council <[administrator@bogan.nsw.gov.au](mailto:administrator@bogan.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Request to Improve Junior Rugby League Oval

Dear Bogan Shire Council,  
I hope this message finds you well.

My name is Andrew Burley, and I am writing on behalf of the Nyngan Junior Rugby League. We are seeking funding to improve our junior rugby league oval, which is a vital part of our community and plays a significant role in promoting physical activity and teamwork among our youth.

Our current facilities are in need of several upgrades to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our players. Specifically, we are looking to:

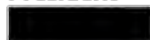
- Upgrade the playing surface to a more durable and safer material.
- Upgrade the canteen to better serve our community during events.
- Install accessible toilets and entry points to ensure inclusivity for all members of our community.
- Construct new dressing sheds for our growing number of girls' teams, providing them with a safe and comfortable space.
- Install water bubblers to keep our players hydrated during training and matches.
- Improve the old dressing sheds to comply with current standards.

These improvements will not only benefit our current players but also attract more young people to participate in rugby league, fostering a sense of community and healthy living. We believe that with your support, we can create a better environment for our junior players to develop their skills and enjoy the sport. We would be grateful for any assistance you can provide and are happy to discuss this request further at your convenience. **We hope that these improvements can be accommodated within this year's budget.**

For your reference, I have attached photos of our current facilities and the areas in need of improvement.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the possibility of working together to enhance our community's sporting facilities.

Warm Regards,  
Andrew Burley  
President



**NYNGAN JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB**











**15.5 BOGAN COFFEE SHOP**

Correspondence received from Bogan Coffee Shop.

Director of Infrastructure Services Note: The writer has verbally clarified that this correspondence is not seeking approval to use the footpath for outdoor dining but is requesting Council to invest in a mobile dining structure.

The image in the correspondence is of a modular system (rather than mobile) as it is clear that this structure is bolted down. There are a number of considerations:

- The number of shelters and seating in the adjacent Teamsters Rest Park and nearby Davidson Park.
- Mobile dining facilities tend to be similar to a large caravan.
- The location of the facility, such as to benefit all in Pangee Street, or would a facility be leased to a specific business.

**Attachments**

1. Correspondence from Bogan Coffee Shop

**Recommendation**

For Councils Consideration.

The General Manager  
 Bogan Shire Council  
 PO Box 221  
 Nyngan NSW 2825

BOGAN SHIRE COUNCIL	
FILE	R/N
14 MAR 2025	
ASSIGNEE	

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Dear Derek

I am writing to formally propose the addition of mobile seating outside the Bogan Coffee Shop, located in the heart of Nyngan. This initiative aims to create a welcoming space for both community members and tourists, particularly as they visit The Big Bogan — one of the town’s most popular attractions.

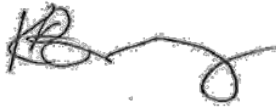
By providing a designated covered outdoor seating area, we can foster a vibrant, inclusive environment where residents and visitors alike can relax, socialize, and enjoy the town’s beautiful surroundings.

A key advantage of mobile seating is its flexibility. The introduction of mobile seating would not only enhance the overall visitor experience in the main street but could also support a variety of local community events held throughout the year, such as the Nyngan Show, Anzac Day ceremonies, and the Duck Creek Races. The seating can be transported to accommodate different events and gatherings and used for additional capacity during peak times or special occasions. This simple yet effective addition would undoubtedly contribute to both local community engagement and ongoing tourism efforts in Nyngan.

I have attached an example that I found in Parkes recently and felt something like this would be a great option. Of note is the disabled access ensuring this is very usable for all members of the community.

I respectfully request your consideration of this proposal and would be happy to discuss the details further at your convenience. Thank you for your time and support. I look forward to your positive response.

Warm regards,



Kirsty Burley

Bogan Coffee Shop

74 Pangee St

Nyngan NSW 2825

Mobile : [REDACTED]

Email : [nynganbogancoffee@gmail.com](mailto:nynganbogancoffee@gmail.com)



**15.6 GRIFFITHS PASTORAL ENTERPRISES - NYNGAN EMERGENCY BORE**

Correspondence received from Regional Business Lawyers regarding Griffiths Pastoral Enterprises – Nyngan Emergency Bore.

**Attachments**

1. Regional Business Lawyers - Griffiths Pastoral Enterprises - Nyngan Emergency Bore

**Recommendation**

For Noting.

**REGIONAL BUSINESS LAWYERS**

LEGAL AND CONSULTING

Our Ref: GR:20284

16 March 2025

The General Manager  
Bogan Shire Council  
PO BOX 221  
NYNGAN NSW 2825

Dear Mr Francis

**Griffiths Pastoral Enterprises and Bogan Shire Council - Nyngan Emergency Bore**

As you would be aware from previous correspondence we act for Marc and Ian Griffiths. We refer to your letter to our client dated 4 March 2025.

Our clients have at all times been willing to engage in meaningful consultation with Bogan Shire Council regarding a potential bore for emergency water supply.

Your letter of 4 March 2025 with a 2-week arbitrary deadline and threats of moving the bore outside the 200-metre radius is not a consultation in good faith with my clients or the neighbouring landholders. It is intimidatory and hostile and indicates a suggestion of a willingness to impose unduly unfavourable treatment on both my client and the other primary producers in the area. It is not consistent with the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (NSW Office of Local Government)*.

Our client's concerns with the proposed bore is that the bore as originally proposed in the application for the water supply work approval was of a capacity that substantially exceeds the stock and domestic bores in this area. A works approval drawing 37 litres/second will have a detrimental effect on my client's ability to draw water as well as a detrimental effect on most of their neighbours, all of whom use the water for critical livestock needs and many of whom use it for critical human needs. Our client is of the opinion that the proposed water supply work will cause harm to the aquifer and the Minister must refuse the application under section 97 of the *Water Management Act*. Our client remains of the view that the testing undertaken was inadequate

In relation to the resolution, it would be presumptuous of Bogan Shire Council to seek tenders for the Nyngan Emergency Bore Project as any new bore still requires approval under the *Water Management Act*. The relevant Water Sharing Plan provides that a water supply work approval must not be granted unless there are adequate arrangements in place to ensure that there will be no more than minimal effect on the ability of a person to take water using an existing water supply work. Any new application would have to be properly advertised (a failure within the original application) and include testing that meets the NSW DPIE Minimum requirements for pumping tests on water bores in NSW (which was also a failure within the original application).

Regional Business Lawyers Pty Ltd ABN 99 670 336 897  
Suite 2A, 77 Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
PO Box 328, Junee NSW 2663

[www.regionalbusinesslaw.com.au](http://www.regionalbusinesslaw.com.au)

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

**EXPERT ADVICE Paddock TO BOARDROOM**

In relation to the "concessions" being offered my client we note Council only has a 200ML water allocation so it could not extract more water than this annually. We reiterate our client's fundamental concern is the proposed size of the pumps and your letter does not address this issue.

We also note that Rose Jackson MLC wrote to council on 6 December 2024 advising you that there was to be a report from the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water by the end of April 2025. That report issued today and we note that the Department is undertaking further consultation.

That letter also pointed out that the NSW Government is also investigating other future water security options. We do not understand why Council is pursuing a new bore application in the face of the comments in Ms Jackson's letter.

We also understand that the funding supplied by NSW Public Works can be used by Bogan Shire Council on other drought/water saving measures. In terms of value for money using the available funding on lining the Albert Priest Channel would produce a much better outcome for the Shire.

We ask that Council withdraw their letter of 4 March 2025 and engage in proper consultation in good faith with my clients and their neighbouring landholders.

Yours faithfully,



**Georgiena Ryan**

Ph: 0429 380 398

E: [gryan@regionalbusinesslaw.com.au](mailto:gryan@regionalbusinesslaw.com.au)



**Copy to:**

Rose Jackson MLC

**16 MEETING CLOSURE**