



BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING

Thursday 20 August 2026

10:00 AM

Council Chambers

COUNCIL'S VISION

To build and maintain sustainable communities while retaining the region's natural beauty.

COUNCIL'S MISSION

To provide services and facilities to enhance the quality of life and economic viability within the Council area.

COUNCIL'S AIMS

To perform services in a cost efficient, effective and friendly manner in order to achieve Council's Mission in meeting the annual objectives and performance targets of the principal activities Council undertakes on behalf of the community.

NOTICE OF MEETING

13 August 2026

Councillors

Dear Members

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Notice is hereby given that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will take place on **Thursday 20 August 2026** in the **Council Chambers** commencing at **10:00 AM**.

Your presence is requested.

Yours faithfully



Alex Waldron
Chief Executive Officer
Upper Lachlan Shire Council

AGENDA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“I would like to Acknowledge and pay our respects to the Aboriginal Elders both past and present, as well as emerging leaders, and Acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Land on which we meet today.”

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UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Chief Executive Officer
Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Spring Street
CROOKWELL NSW 2583

Dear Madam

I wish to apply for leave of absence from the Council Meeting to be held on

Date:

I will be absent for the following reason/s:

.....
.....
.....

Yours faithfully

.....
(Councillor Signature)

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A GUIDING CHECKLIST FOR COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

THE TEST FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS

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

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

AGENCY ADVICE

Officers of the following agencies are available during office hours to discuss the obligations placed on Councillors, Officers and Community Committee members by various pieces of legislation, regulation and Codes.

Contact	Phone	Email	Website
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	(02) 4830 1000	council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au	www.upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au
ICAC	(02)8281 5999 Toll Free 1800463909	icac@icac.nsw.gov.au	www.icac.nsw.gov.au
Office of Local Government	(02) 4428 4100	olg@olg.nsw.gov.au	www.olg.nsw.gov.au
NSW Ombudsman	(02) 9286 1000 Toll Free 1800451524	nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au	www.ombo.nsw.gov.au

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS DISCLOSURE OF A PECUNIARY INTEREST

PURSUANT TO PART 4 PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(THE DISCLOSURE AND MANAGEMENT OF A PECUNIARY INTEREST IS PRESCRIBED UNDER THE
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL COUNCILS IN NEW SOUTH WALES)

To the Chief Executive Officer

I, _____

Declare a Conflict of Interest, being a PECUNIARY Interest.

Name of Meeting: Ordinary Meeting of Council

Date of Meeting:

Page Number:

Item Number:

Special disclosure of pecuniary interests by *[full name of councillor]*

in the matter of *[insert name of environmental planning instrument]*

which is to be considered at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council *[name of council or council committee (as the case requires)]*

to be held on the _____ day of _____ 20 .

Pecuniary interest

Address of the affected principal place of residence of the councillor or an associated person, company or body (the identified land)

Relationship of identified land to councillor
[Tick or cross one box.]

- ☐ The councillor has an interest in the land (e.g. is the owner or has another interest arising out of a mortgage, lease, trust, option or contract, or otherwise).
- ☐ An associated person of the councillor has an interest in the land.
- ☐ An associated company or body of the councillor has an interest in the land.

Matter giving rise to pecuniary interest¹

Nature of the land that is subject to a change in zone/planning control by the proposed LEP (the subject land)²

[Tick or cross one box]

- ☐ The identified land.
- ☐ Land that adjoins or is adjacent to or is in proximity to the identified land.

Current zone/planning control

Proposed change of zone/planning control

Effect of proposed change of zone/planning control on councillor or associated person
(tick box that applies)

☐ Appreciable financial gain

☐ Appreciable financial loss

[If more than one pecuniary interest is to be declared, reprint the above box and fill in for each additional interest.]

Councillor's Signature:

Date:

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS DISCLOSURE OF A NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

**PURSUANT TO PART 5 NON PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(THE DISCLOSURE AND MANAGEMENT OF A NON PECUNIARY INTEREST IS PRESCRIBED UNDER THE
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL COUNCILS IN NEW SOUTH WALES)**

To the Chief Executive Officer

I, _____

Declare a Conflict of Interest, being a NON-PECUNIARY Interest.

☐ Significant

☐ Non Significant

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Name of Meeting _____

Date of Meeting _____

Page Number _____ Item Number _____

Subject _____

Reason for Interest _____

As a result of my non-pecuniary interest, my involvement in the meeting will be as follows:

☐ **Option A** – Make a declaration, stay in the Chamber, participate in the debate, and vote.

☐ **Option B** – Make a declaration, stay in the Chamber, participate in the debate, but not vote.

☐ **Option C** – Make a declaration, stay in the Chamber, participate in the debate, but leave the Chamber for the vote.

☐ **Option D** – Make a declaration, stay in the Chamber, not participate in the debate, but vote.

☐ **Option E** – Make a declaration, stay in the Chamber, not participate in the debate and not vote.

☐ **Option F** – Make a declaration, do not participate in the debate, leave the Chamber upon making the declaration, and not return until the matter is resolved.

Signature

Date

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The following minutes are submitted for confirmation -

5.1	Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council of 16 July 2026.....	12
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UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 16 JULY 2026

PRESENT: Mayor P Culhane (Chairperson), Cr R Cameron, Cr V Flanagan, Cr G Harris, Cr A Meggitt, Cr S Peirce, Cr S Reynolds, Cr J Searl, Cr T Yallouris, Ms A Waldron (Chief Executive Officer), Mr S Arkinstall (Director of Environment & Planning), Mr A Croke (Director Finance and Administration), Mrs M Selmes Executive Assistant to Director of Finance and Administration) and Mrs K McCarthy (Executive Assistant)

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING OPEN AT 10:02am

SECTION 1: NOTICE OF WEBCASTING/AUDIO RECORDING OF MEETING

Mayor Culhane read an Acknowledgement of Country and notice of meeting/webcast to the meeting.

Mayor Culhane also welcomed the public gallery and noted that no public forum had been held today.

SECTION 2: APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE

110/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Peirce and Cr Searl

1. That the apology of Mr K Mahmud (Director Infrastructure) be received and a leave of absence granted.
2. The late apology for attendance of Cr A Meggitt be received and accepted.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

SECTION 3: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Rob Cameron declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in Confidential Item 19.1 Crookwell & District Art Gallery Complaint Outcome as his wife is the secretary of the Crookwell District Art Gallery Section 355 committee, and will make a declaration, leave the chamber, not participate in the debate and not vote on this item.

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
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SECTION 4: CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Nil

A minutes silence was observed for Mr Peter Smith, who recently passed. Peter was a former Upper Lachlan Shire Council employee serving from 2008 - 2024.

SECTION 5: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ITEM 5.1 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan
111/26

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 June 2026 be adopted.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

SECTION 6: PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL/PUBLIC

A Presentation on Gunning Solar Farm from Development Manager Matilda Wachsmann of Zero E Australia.

SECTION 7: MAYORAL MINUTES

ITEM 7.1 **MAYORAL MINUTE**
112/26 **RESOLVED** by Mayor Culhane and Cr Flanagan

That Council receive and note the activities attended by the Mayor for June and July.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
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ON 16 JULY 2026

SECTION 8: CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM 8.1 CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY
113/26 RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Reynolds

That Item 8.1 - Correspondence/Information listed below be received:

1. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-08 Consultation on Councillor Conduct reforms.
2. Office of Local Government – Circular GC155 - 2026-2027 Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) – Advance Payment.
3. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-09 - The Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026.
4. The Hon. Kristy McBain MP – New Disaster Recovery Funding Framework.
5. Rural Fire Service - Transition of the Red Fleet firefighting fleet from local councils to the RFS

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

Cr Gregory Harris left the meeting, the time being 10:51am
Cr Gregory Harris returned to the meeting, the time being 10:55am

SECTION 9: LATE CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
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ON 16 JULY 2026

Mayor Culhane moved a motion that Council move Item 17.1 Notice of Motion Green Waste Collection Service and Waste Review be moved up in Council order of business.

On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

114/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Culhane and Cr Peirce that –

1. That Council move Item 17.1 Notice of Motion Green Waste Collection Service and Waste Review be moved forward in Council order of business.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl, and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

ITEM 17.1 **NOTICE OF MOTION - GREEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE AND WASTE REVIEW**

115/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Culhane and Cr Peirce that

1. Council reinstate the Green waste collection service from 1 September 2026 with an annual pause from 1 June to 31 August;
2. All waste services be examined once the waste review has been finalised, including but not limited elements like whether green waste should be limited to urban areas and whether accessibility to transfer stations in some rural localities such as Bigga can be extended.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds and J Searl

Councillors who voted against:- Cr T Yallouris

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
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An amendment was moved by Cr Yallouris and Cr Cameron that -

1. That ULSC reinstate the Green waste collection service as soon as practicable, but no later than 1 September 2026 and
2. All waste services be examined once the waste review has been finalised, including but not limited elements like whether green waste should be limited to urban areas and whether accessibility to transfer stations in some rural localities such as Bigga can be extended.

**NOTICE OF MOTION - GREEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE
AND WASTE REVIEW**

MOVED by Cr Yallouris and Cr Cameron that

1. That ULSC reinstate the Green waste collection service as soon as practicable, but no later than 1 September 2026 and
2. All waste services be examined once the waste review has been finalised, including but not limited elements like whether green waste should be limited to urban areas and whether accessibility to transfer stations in some rural localities such as Bigga can be extended.

- LOST

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs R Cameron, S Reynolds and
T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:-

Crs P Culhane, V Flanagan, G
Harris, S Peirce and J Searl

Cr Peirce left the meeting, the time being 11:20am

Cr Peirce returned to the meeting, the time being 11:22am

SECTION 10: INFORMATION ONLY

ITEM 10.1

DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS REPORT

116/26

RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Reynolds

1. Council receives and notes the report as information.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V
Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S
Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:-

Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
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ITEM 10.2-10.6 INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS 10.2-10.6
117/26 RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Peirce

1. Council receive and notes Items 10.2–10.6 in the reports as information.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V
Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S
Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

REPORTS FROM STAFF AND STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 11: ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

ITEM 11.1 KERBSIDE GREEN WASTE COLLECTION
118/26 RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

1. Council note Green waste collection service will be reinstated from 1 September 2026 with an annual pause from 1 June to 31 August;
2. Council notify the public of the recommencement of the kerbside green waste collection service; and
3. Council reinstate the gate charge for green waste disposal at all transfer stations.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V
Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S
Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
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ITEM 11.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT (STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS) ORDER 2026

119/26 RESOLVED by Cr Reynolds and Cr Flanagan

1. Council receives and note the report as information only.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

SECTION 12: INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

Nil

Council took a short break at 11:59am and paused live streaming to the public.

Council resumed at 12:25pm live streaming returned to the public

SECTION 13: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

ITEM 13.1 DELIVERY PROGRAM BI-ANNUAL REVIEW 2025/2026

120/26 RESOLVED by Cr Reynolds and Cr Flanagan

1. Council adopt the Delivery Program Actions Report review for the six month period ended 30 June 2026.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
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ITEM 13.2 **REVIEW OF USE OF COUNCIL LOGO AND SEAL POLICY**
121/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Peirce

1. Council adopts the reviewed Use of Council Logo and Seal Policy.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, G Harris, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Cr V Flanagan

Abstained:- Crs S Peirce and S Reynolds

An amendment was moved by Cr Flanagan and Cr Harris that –

1. Council undertake a review of ‘Use of Council Logo and Seal Policy’ which includes the removal of portions of the policy relating to use of the Council seal.

On being put to the meeting the motion was lost.

MOVED by Cr Flanagan and Cr Harris that -

1. Council undertake a review of ‘Use of Council Logo and Seal Policy’ which includes the removal of portions of the policy relating to use of the Council seal.

- LOST

Councillors who voted for:- Crs V Flanagan, G Harris and S Peirce

Councillors who voted against:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, J Searl and T Yallouris

Abstained:- Cr S Reynolds

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
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ITEM 13.3 **Review of Code of Practice for Section 355 Committees**
122/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Peirce –

1. Council adopts the reviewed Code of Practice for Section 355 Committees.

-CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V
Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S
Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and
T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

Cr Meggitt arrived to the meeting, the time being 12:53pm.

<https://upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/policies/>

ITEM 13.4 **REVIEW OF SECTION 355 COMMITTEE POLICY**
123/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

1. Council adopts the reviewed Section 355 Committee Policy.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V
Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S
Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and
T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

<https://upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/policies/>

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
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ITEM 13.5 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - LIMERICK WINDFARM AND OTHER SSD - PRELIMINARY RISK ASSESSMENT

MOVED by Cr Reynolds and Cr Flanagan

1. Council receive and note the report and consider the reports preliminary review and adopt option 2 in the report.

- LOST

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, V Flanagan, S Peirce and J Searl

Councillors who voted against:- Crs R Cameron, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Reynolds and T Yallouris

SECTION 14: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM 14.1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR LEASE OF CAFE AT THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE CROOKWELL

124/26 RESOLVED by Cr Peirce and Cr Flanagan

1. Endorse the commencement of an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the commercial lease of the café located within the Crookwell Visitor Information Centre, 208 Goulburn Street, Crookwell, with the EOI to be publicly advertised for a minimum period of 28 days.
2. Receive a further report following the EOI process for Council's consideration of the preferred respondent and proposed lease arrangements.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
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ON 16 JULY 2026

ITEM 14.2 COUNCIL FUEL SUPPLY UPDATE

125/26 RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

126/26 RESOLVED by Mayor Culhane and Cr Flanagan that -

1. Council extend the meeting in line with Council's Code of Meeting Practice in accordance with time limits.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

SECTION 15: LATE REPORTS

Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
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SECTION 16: REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES, SECTION 355
COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES

ITEM 16.1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND
JULY

127/26 RESOLVED by Cr Peirce and Cr Flanagan

That Items - Minutes of Committee/Information listed below be received:

1. Collector Wind Farm Community Fund Committee – Minutes from meeting held 15 June 2026.
2. Taralga Wind Farm Community Fund Committee – Minutes from meeting held 15 June 2026.
3. Rye Park Wind Farm Community Fund Committee – Minutes from meeting held 15 June 2026.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

128/26 RESOLVED by Cr Flanagan and Cr Searl that -

1. Council write to successful applicants for the 2026/2027 Collector Wind Farm Community Fund Committee

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
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129/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan that -

1. Council write to successful applicants for the 2026/2027 Taralga Wind Farm Community Fund Committee

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

130/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Peirce and Cr Flanagan that -

1. Council write to successful applicants for the 2026/2027 Rye Park Wind Farm Community Fund Committee

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

SECTION 17: NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEM 17.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - GREEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE AND WASTE REVIEW

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.

SECTION 18: QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
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ON 16 JULY 2026

CLOSED COUNCIL ITEMS

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in 10A (2a), 10 (2c), (2d) and 10 A (2d(ii)) of the Act and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the public and the media.

Note: Pursuant to Clause 25(1) of the Local Government (Meetings) Regulation, Council invites verbal representation by members of the public about whether the items listed below should not be considered by Council in a Closed Meeting. The items are:

131/26

RESOLVED by Mayor Culhane and Cr Searl

1. That Council move into closed Council to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. That pursuant to of the Local Government Act 1993: the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A (2) as outlined above.
3. That the report relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

Council closed its meeting at 13:24pm and the public, staff and press left the chambers and live streaming ceased.

Council took a short break, the time being 13:25 – 13:35pm.

132/26

RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

That Council move out of closed Council and into open Council.

- CARRIED

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 16 JULY 2026

Open Council resumed at 13:57pm live streaming returned to the public prior to the meeting closing.

Resolutions from the Closed Council Meeting

The following resolutions of Council, while the meeting was closed to the public, were read to the meeting by the Mayor.

Cr Cameron left the meeting, the time being 13:35pm in line with his declaration.

Cr Reynolds left the meeting, the time being 13:36pm
Cr Reynolds returned to the meeting, the time being 13:37pm

SECTION 19: CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

ITEM 19.1 CROOKWELL & DISTRICT ART GALLERY COMPLAINT OUTCOME

133/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

1. Council receive and note the report as information

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

Cr Cameron returned to the meeting, the time being 13:46pm.

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 16 JULY 2026

ITEM 19.2
134/26

CROOKWELL VIC POWER SUPPLY

RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

1. Council allocate up to \$150,000.00 from Section 7.11 reserves – Community Facilities to enable the completion of connecting the VIC power supply.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 13:58pm

Minutes confirmed 20 AUGUST 2026

.....
Mayor

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

The following items are submitted for consideration -

7.1	Mayoral Minute	30
7.2	Mayoral Minute - Community Benefit Payments for Humelink host Councils	31

Mayoral Minutes - 20 August 2026

ITEM 7.1 Mayoral Minute

FILE REFERENCE I26/218

July 2026

16 July 2026	Council Meeting – July 2026
17 July 2026	Channel 10, Informal interview
19 July 2026	ABC regional (Wagga) Radio interview
21 July 2026	Meeting with CEO
22 July 2026	2GN Radio interview ABC Orange Radio interview Origin Kerrawary Power Station – Drop in session
27 July 2026	Gunning and District Association Meeting
29 July 2026	2GN Radio Interview
30 July 2026	CEO Performance Appraisal with Christian Morris from LGNSW and panel members – Deputy Cameron, Cr Yallouris and Cr Searl

August 2026

4 August 2026	Meeting with CEO and Director Finance and Administration
5 August 2026	2GN Radio Interview Draft Upper Lachlan Housing Strategy and Draft Upper Lachlan Development Control Plan Drop in session – Collector
6 August 2026	Draft Upper Lachlan Housing Strategy and Draft Upper Lachlan Development Control Plan Drop in session - Crookwell
12 August 2026	Quarterly Catch Up - SNSWLHD, local government, federal & state MPs 2GN Radio Interview
17 August 2026	Could We Process Livestock Locally? — Community Info Session at Crookwell RSL Club with CEO
19 August 2026	2GN Radio Interview
20 August 2026	Council Meeting – August

Mayoral Minutes - 20 August 2026

ITEM 7.2

Mayoral Minute - Community Benefit Payments for Humelink host Councils

FILE REFERENCE I26/249

1. Note that in September 2025, Snowy Valleys Council, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Yass Valley Council, Wagga Wagga City Council and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council resolved to advocate for an annual, indexed community benefit payment of \$10,000 per kilometre of HumeLink transmission infrastructure within each host local government area inline with compensation already granted to adjacent landowners;
2. Note that during the same period, the NSW Government has announced substantial community and legacy funding for communities within declared Renewable Energy Zones, including:
 - a. an initial \$128.4 million for the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone;
 - b. an initial \$60 million for the New England Renewable Energy Zone;
 - c. an initial \$60 million for the South West Renewable Energy Zone; and
 - d. ongoing community and employment benefit funding generated through access fees over periods of up to 33 years;
3. Reaffirm its call for the NSW Government to establish a HumeLink Host Council Community Benefit Program providing:
 - a. an annual payment of \$10,000 for every kilometre of HumeLink transmission infrastructure located within each host local government area;
 - b. payments for a period of 33 years, commencing no later than the date HumeLink becomes operational;
 - c. annual indexation in line with the Consumer Price Index; and
 - d. untied funding that allows each council to invest in locally determined infrastructure, services and community priorities;
4. Request that the Mayor write to the Premier and Minister Sharpe seeking a formal written response or meeting regarding this proposal within 30 days;
5. Seek the renewed support of the Australian Energy Regulator, Canberra Region Joint Organisation, Local Government NSW, relevant State and Federal Members of Parliament, Transgrid and regional industry and community organisations; and
6. Authorise the Mayor to undertake media and community advocacy highlighting the inequity between HumeLink host communities and communities located within declared Renewable Energy Zones.

BACKGROUND

In September 2025, the five impacted Councils including Upper Lachlan Council adopted a Mayoral Minute seeking joint advocacy by the five councils affected by HumeLink.

Mayoral Minutes

MAYORAL MINUTE - COMMUNITY BENEFIT PAYMENTS FOR HUMELINK HOST COUNCILS cont'd

The resolution called for an annual community benefit payment of \$10,000 per kilometre of transmission line, indexed over the life of the infrastructure. It also sought the support of the Australian Energy Regulator, the NSW Government, Transgrid and the other HumeLink host councils. It is noted this payment is equivalent to the payments already agreed to by HumeLink to adjacent land owners. We simply seek an extension of that compensation to all residents whose amenity is unquestionable impacted permanently.

Almost twelve months later, no ongoing payment scheme has been established and no commitment has been provided to the affected councils.

In the meantime, construction of HumeLink has continued to advance. The project is expected to be completed in 2027. Time is running out to secure a fair agreement before the infrastructure becomes operational. With over 100km of the line in Upper Lachlan and construction now well under way the impact is stark and undeniable.

If a benefit-sharing arrangement is not established now, our communities risk carrying the permanent impacts of HumeLink for decades without receiving any corresponding long-term payment.

Renewable Energy Zone funding

The treatment of HumeLink communities stands in stark contrast to the substantial benefits being provided within the NSW Renewable Energy Zones.

Since Council's September 2025 resolution, the NSW Government has continued to announce major funding commitments for REZ communities.

The Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone has received an initial commitment of \$128.4 million. This has included \$11.25 million for each of four host councils to deliver legacy infrastructure projects.

The NSW Government has also announced initial community benefit commitments of \$60 million for the New England Renewable Energy Zone and \$60 million for the South West Renewable Energy Zone.

These are not simply one-off construction grants. Renewable Energy Zone access fees will generate continuing funding for community and employment benefits over periods of up to 33 years.

The Government has even expanded eligibility in the South West REZ to include communities outside the formal REZ boundary where they are affected by or supporting the delivery of new energy infrastructure.

This demonstrates that the NSW Government already accepts the principle that communities affected by energy infrastructure should receive meaningful and long-term benefits.

Yet the HumeLink councils remain excluded because they are not located within a declared Renewable Energy Zone.

That distinction is increasingly difficult to defend.

Mayoral Minutes

MAYORAL MINUTE - COMMUNITY BENEFIT PAYMENTS FOR HUMELINK HOST COUNCILS cont'd

A line on a government map does not lessen the height of a transmission tower, repair a damaged road, restore a rural view or reduce the pressure on a small council.

Our communities are hosting infrastructure that is every bit as important to the State's energy transition as the infrastructure within the Renewable Energy Zones. We should not be treated as second-class host communities.

Broad Community Benefit

The funding being sought could support roads, bridges, drainage, water and sewerage infrastructure, emergency services, swimming pools, sporting facilities, community halls, childcare, health services, tourism infrastructure, parks and other essential community assets.

Across the approximately 365-kilometre HumeLink alignment, the proposal would provide around \$3.65 million annually before indexation. Over 33 years, it would deliver approximately \$120.45 million in nominal investment across the five council areas.

For the NSW electricity system, this is a modest amount. Spread across electricity customers, it would represent substantially less than one cent per customer per day.

For the small regional communities being asked to host this infrastructure, it would mean the world.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council have participated in meetings, supported joint advocacy and allowed time for the matter to be considered.

There has been no outcome.

Meanwhile, construction continues, the completion date moves closer and generous funding continues to flow to Renewable Energy Zone communities.

Our councils cannot continue to attend meetings that produce no decision. We now need a clear response from the NSW Government.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the Minns Government to create a fair and lasting legacy for the communities enabling the State's energy transition.

We are asking Premier Chris Minns and Minister Penny Sharpe to act before it is too late.

The electricity transported through HumeLink will support New South Wales for decades. The communities carrying the impact deserve to share fairly in its benefits for decades as well.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8 CORRESPONDENCE

The following item is submitted for consideration -

8.1	Correspondence for the months of July and August	35
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Correspondence - 20 August 2026

ITEM 8.1

Correspondence for the months of July and August

RECOMMENDATION:

That Item 8.1 - Correspondence/Information listed below be received:

1. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-10 - End of Year Reporting Requirements.
2. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-11 – Procurement guidance for local government.
3. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-12 - Annual CPI adjustment - Filming Application Fees and Companion Animal Fees for 2026/2027.
4. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-13 - Annual Reporting of Labour Statistics.
5. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-14 - Local Government asset valuation discussion paper.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ↓	Office of Local Government council-circular-26-10-end-of-year-reporting-requirements	Attachment
2. ↓	Office of Local Government - Circular-26-11 - Procurement-Guidance for Local Government	Attachment
3. ↓	Office of Local Government - council-circular-26-12-annual-cpi-adjustment-filming-application-fees-and-companion-animal-fees-for-2026-27	Attachment
4. ↓	Office Of Local Government - Council Circular 26-13-Annual Reporting of Labour Statistics	Attachment
5. ↓	Office of Local Government - council-circular-26-14-local-government-asset-valuation-discussion-paper	Attachment

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	End of Year Reporting Requirements
Circular Details	Circular 26-10 / 1 July 2026 / A1006587
Previous Circular	<u>25-16 End of Year Reporting Requirements</u>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Performance Team – 02 4428 4100 – olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Councils and Joint Organisations to implement

What's new or changing?

- End of year reporting information for the 2025-26 financial year
- Financial Data Return (FDR) for 2025-26 financial year
- Annual Report checklist for 2025-26 financial year
- Calendar of Compliance for 2026-27 financial year
- Permissible Income Workpaper for 2026-27 financial year
- Local Government Grants Commission Roads and General 2025-26 return
- National Local Road Data System Survey 2025-26

What will this mean for council?

- 2025-26 end of year reporting information is now available for councils and Joint Organisations (JOs). Details of when the returns are due and where to send them:

Date Return due by	Return / Report	Where to submit
31 July 2026	GST Compliance Certificates	finance@olg.nsw.gov.au
31 August 2026	Local Government Grants Commission Roads and General 2025-26 return (Financial Assistance Grant return)	gen@olg.nsw.gov.au

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au



Date Return due by	Return / Report	Where to submit
31 October 2026	Financial Statements	finance@olg.nsw.gov.au
31 October 2026	Financial Data Returns	fdr@olg.nsw.gov.au
31 October 2026	Permissible Income Workpapers	permissibleincome@olg.nsw.gov.au
30 November 2026	National Local Road Data System Survey	nlrds@olg.nsw.gov.au
30 November 2026	Annual Report	olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

- Councils and JOs should familiarise themselves with the reporting timeframes when submitting their 2025-26 financial statements, FDR, and Financial Assistance Grant return.
- Councils can access and download the 2025-26 FDR, Financial Assistance Grant return, the 2025-26 Annual Report Checklist, the 2026-27 Permissible Income Workpaper and the 2026-27 Calendar of Compliance from the Office of Local Government (OLG) website.
- Councils and JOs can use the respective annual report checklists to ensure that the information required under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, and other relevant legislation and guidelines, is included within their annual report and annual performance statement.
- Councils should use the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2026-27 to assist in planning strategic and operational tasks throughout the year.

Key points

GST Compliance Certificate

- The GST Compliance Certificate requires the signatures of the General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer.
- The Certificate is to be emailed to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au by **31 July 2026**.
- The Certificates are collected by OLG on behalf of NSW Treasury.

Financial Assistance Grants general return

- The Financial Assistance Grants general return is to be submitted by **31 August 2026**.
- The National Local Roads Return is due by **30 November 2026**.



Financial Statements and FDR

- The financial statements and FDR are to be sent electronically to OLG by 31 October 2026.
- Annexure 1 provides information to assist councils submit their 2025-26 financial statements and FDR.
- Annexure 2 provides information to assist JOs submit their 2025-26 financial statements and FDR.
- The FDR is available on the OLG Website Council Portal, *Councils Surveys and data returns* [here](#) (noting you will need to login to the Portal to access) and the Circular is available [here](#).

Permissible Income Workpapers

- The Permissible Income Workpapers are to be emailed to permissibleincome@olg.nsw.gov.au (please note this is a new email address) by 31 October 2026.

Annual Report

- Under the Act, councils must prepare an annual report and JOs an annual performance statement **within 5 months** of the end of the financial year (i.e. by 30 November 2026). An annual report checklist is available [here](#).
- Councils and JOs must upload a copy of the annual report to their website and provide a copy to the Minister for Local Government and such other persons and bodies as regulations require. Councils and JOs should notify the Minister by providing a URL link to OLG (olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).
- Councils should ensure they report performance against targets, outcomes, efficiency and cost effectiveness over time.
- JOs should ensure they report as to their progress in implementing strategies and plans for delivering strategic regional priorities.
- Councils are reminded of the importance of addressing the labour statistics requirements to ensure there is clear data on permanent full and part time, casual and fixed term contract employees.

Calendar of Compliance

- The Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2026-27 includes key statutory and other reporting deadlines for councils.



- Councils' statutory and other reporting deadlines are not limited to those included in the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2026-27.
- Councils are required to submit the permissible income working papers following the auditing process.
- Instructions on where to email the returns are included on the cover sheet of the respective returns and in the table above.
- Councils are reminded that they must place their Operational Plan, Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges on council's website within 28 days of adoption, with the Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy and Delivery Program.

Where to go for further information

- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (the Code) for 2025-26 is available on OLG's website [here](#).
- The 2025-26 annual report checklist is available [here](#).
- The 2026-27 Calendar of Compliance can be accessed at [here](#).
- The FDR, Financial Assistance Grant returns and Permissible Income Workpapers can be sourced from the Council Portal (noting you will need to login to the Portal) [here](#).
- The GST Compliance Certificate template can be sourced from the Council Portal (noting you will need to login to the Portal) [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica van den Honert'.

Erica van den Honert
A/Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government



Annexure 1: Information to assist councils prepare 2025-26 Financial Reports

Submission of Financial Statements

- The general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial reports, special schedules, and the Auditor's Reports are to be formatted into a single PDF document, with the title name format: "Council name – Financial Statements – 2025-26".
- All Councils, County Councils and Joint Organisations must lodge their financial statements by **31 October 2026**.
- The financial statements should be emailed to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au.
- Statements received after this date will be considered as being submitted late and not in accordance with the Act.
- Should council require an extension to lodge their financial statements, these should be requested in writing by the General Manager prior to 16 October 2026 and are to be forwarded to olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

The Code – Update 2025-26

- The Code must be used to prepare the annual financial statements in accordance with the Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation).
- The Code and supporting materials are available on the OLG website [here](#)

Communications during the preparation of financial statements and audit process

- Finance professionals are encouraged to communicate with the Audit Service Providers / Audit Office representatives in relation to any matters that may arise.
- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees may consider engaging committee members early to review the financial statements, key accounting estimates and accounting issues prior to audit.

Financial Data Return (FDR)

- This is to be submitted by **31 October 2026** to fdr@olg.nsw.gov.au in Excel format only.
- The FDR should be accurate and align with the audited financial statements. The FDR will be returned to council should there be any errors, discrepancies or worksheets not completed.
- The return can be accessed via the Council Portal on the OLG website.
- Information/data from the FDR is published in the Time Series Data, Your Council website and for the monitoring of council's performance. Data is also used in the calculation of councils FA grants.

Asset valuations and fair value assessments

- Councils should ensure early commencement and completion of asset revaluations.
- Adequate documentation, including position papers need to be readily available for the auditors, if requested.



- The necessary documentation should be agreed to with the auditor prior to year-end.
- Restrictions on asset use, especially for community land and land under roads, should be considered when assessing valuation.
- NSW Valuer General's valuations may be used to represent the fair value of community land.
- Councils will need to separately consider any improvements made to community land in the overall fair value assessment.

Council Borrowings

- Councils must advise the Deputy Secretary, Local Government of amounts borrowed within 7 days when loans are drawn, in accordance with section 230 of the Regulation. Notification can be emailed to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au.
- Councils are also reminded of the need to complete the capital expenditure review requirements, as per OLG Circular 10/34, prior to the commencement of projects greater than \$1 million or 10% of council ordinary rating revenue. Please contact OLG's Performance Team if you have any questions in relation to this review on (02) 4428 4100.



Annexure 2: Information to assist JOs prepare 2025-26 Financial Reports

Submission of Financial Statements

- The general purpose financial statements and the Auditor's Reports are to be formatted into a single PDF document, with the title name format: "JO name – Financial Statements – 2025-26".
- All JOs must lodge their financial statements by **31 October 2026**.
- The financial statements are to be sent to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au.
- Statements received after this date will be considered submitted late and not in accordance with the Act.
- Should the JO require an extension to lodge their financial statements, these are to be requested in writing by the General Manager prior to 16 October 2026 and must be forwarded to olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

JOs Supplement to Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Supplement)

- The Supplement must be used to prepare the annual financial statements in accordance with the Act and the Regulation.
- The Supplement is available on the OLG's website at [here](#)

JO Financial Data Return (FDR)

- This is to be submitted by **31 October 2026** to jofdr@olg.nsw.gov.au in Excel format only.
- The JO FDR should be accurate and align with the audited financial statements. The FDR will be returned to the JO should there be any errors, discrepancies or worksheets not completed.
- The return can be accessed via the Council Portal on the OLG website.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Procurement Guidance for Local Government
Circular Details	Circular No 26-11/ 13 July 2026 / A995578
Previous Circular	<u>Council Circular 25-19 Procurement Guidelines for NSW Local Government</u>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council procurement staff
Contact	Council Governance / (02) 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- The Procurement Guidelines for NSW Local Government (Guidelines) are now available on the Office of Local Government's (OLG) website <https://olg.nsw.gov.au/>.
- The OLG has established the Procurement Working Group (Working Group) to provide input into the development of a range of additional comprehensive supplementary guidance materials and other procurement resources for councils.

What will this mean for council?

- The Guidelines are issued under section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). Local councils, or entities acting on behalf of local councils, are required to consider the Guidelines when conducting procurement or procurement-related activities.
- Users should refer to the Guidelines together with the Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation).
- The Guidelines outline principles and processes that represent best practice in procurement. These principles and processes enable delivery of quality outcomes that provide value for money while effectively managing risks, that help to support NSW local councils to serve their communities.

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
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- OLG will be consulting further with councils on the content of the supplementary guidance materials as and when they are developed with the Working Group.

Key points

- The Guidelines provide clarification on the interpretation and application of the Act and the Regulation as they apply to procurement activities.
- OLG looks forward to working closely with the Working Group to develop supplementary guidance and consulting with the sector further.
- OLG would like to thank everyone who provided feedback and contributed to the Guidelines.

Where to go for further information

- The Guidelines are available on the OLG website at <https://olg.nsw.gov.au/>. For further information, please contact OLG's Council Governance Team by telephone on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

A blue ink signature of Brett Whitworth.

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary
Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Annual CPI adjustment - Filming Application Fees and Companion Animal Fees for 2026/27
Circular Details	Circular No 26-12/ 08 July 2026/ A1005725
Previous Circular	<u>25-14 Publication of Filming Protocol</u> <u>25-12 Annual CPI adjustment to companion animal fees for 2025/26</u>
Who should read this	Councillors, General Managers and Finance Staff, as well as: For Filming Application Fees: Council Film Contact Officers, Events staff For Companion Animal Fees: Companion Animal Enforcement and Administration staff
Contact	Filming Applications: (02) 4428 4100 or olg@olg.nsw.gov.au – attention Sector Policy & Frameworks Companion Animals: (02) 4428 4100 or pets@olg.nsw.gov.au – Pet Helpline
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

Filming Application Fees

- The maximum fees councils may charge for filming applications and approvals under the NSW Local Government Filming Protocol (Protocol) have been adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- The new fee schedule, effective from 1 July 2026, is as follows:

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au

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Fee Type	No impact	Low impact	Medium impact	High impact
Application assessment fee	No fee	Maximum fee: \$105 (payable at application and non-refundable)	Maximum fee: \$105 (payable at application and non-refundable)	Maximum fee: \$105 (payable at application and non-refundable)
Additional maximum application processing fees – on approval	Not applicable	\$188	\$402	\$700
Late application maximum assessment fee	Not applicable	\$470	\$1,006	\$1,749
Traffic Management Plan (TMP) assessment – maximum fees	Not applicable	\$147	\$418	As per council's standard road closure fees

- Councils may wish to revise their fee structure for filming applications for the 2026/27 financial year to account for this fee adjustment in line with CPI.
- As maximum fees associated with filming applications and approvals are set by the State, councils are not required to exhibit and adopt the applicable fees as part of their annual Revenue Policy.

Companion Animal Fees

- The 2026/27 fees payable for registration and permits for companion animals have been adjusted for inflation under clauses 18 and 27 of the Companion Animals Regulation 2018 based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- The new fees are effective from 1 July 2026.

Some fee categories have changed

- Category names have been amended to reflect the implementation of current legislation relating to registration that has been enabled by the new functionality of the Companion Animals Register (CAR) and NSW Pet Registry, which allows for the individual payment of registration fees under the CA Regulation, being:

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Office of Local Government



- Dog - Registration fee (by 12 weeks or when sold if earlier than 12 weeks of age)
- Registration fee due at 12 weeks of age or when first sold (even if it is less than 12 weeks (clause 14 - CA Regulation)
- Dog - Additional Fee (dog not desexed by 6 months)
- Additional fee for a dog that is not desexed and not exempt from desexing by 6 months (clause 18 - CA Regulation)
- Cat - annual fee for a permit for a cat not desexed and not exempt from desexing by 4 months (clause 27 - CA Regulation)
- A Registration late fee will apply to an animal not registered by 12 weeks of age (plus 28 days).

Online and in person payments

- While we work to expand the NSW Pet Registry, the following fees must be paid at council:
 - Dog – Additional Fee (dog not desexed by 6 months)
 - Cat (not desexed by four months of age)
 - Dangerous dog permit
 - Restricted dog permit
- The fees above will incur a late fee if not paid after an additional 28 days.

What will this mean for council?

- Councils must apply the adjusted 2026/27 financial year companion animal registration, additional fee and annual permit fees from 1 July 2026.
- Council staff need to be aware of the new payment categories.
- Councils must continue to register eligible pound/shelter and approved rehoming organisation animals through the CAR. Free registration for these animals does not mean that registration is not required. The established process of ‘flagging’ an animal as being purchased from an eligible pound/shelter is required to validate a free registration.
- Councils can encourage members of the public to establish a NSW Pet Registry account via Service NSW to pay registration fees and receive push notifications.
- Councils must enter the registrations in a two-stage process as all combined fees are no longer available due to the implementation of the fee structure.

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Office of Local Government



Key points

- The NSW Pet Registry will be updated to include the new fees for online registration and permit payments made by pet owners from 1 July 2026.
- Both the old and new fee structures will be maintained on the CAR to allow councils to correct registration details for existing records and catch up on data entry backlogs (i.e. where fees have been receipted before 1 July 2026 but not entered on the Register).

Registration Category	New fee
Dog – Registration fee (by 12 weeks or when sold if earlier than 12 weeks)	\$84
Dog – Additional Fee (dog not desexed by 6 months)	\$198
Dog – Registration (by eligible pensioner)	\$37
Dog – Desexed (sold/ transferred from pound/shelter or rehoming Organisation)	\$0
Dog – Registrations (desexing not recommended)	\$84
Dog – Registration (desexing not recommended eligible pensioner)	\$37
Dog – Registration (recognised breeder)	\$84
Dog – Working	\$0
Dog – Service of the State	\$0
Assistance Animal	\$0
Cat – Registration fee (by 12 weeks or when sold if earlier than 12 weeks)	\$74
Cat – Registration (eligible pensioner)	\$37
Cat – Desexed (sold/ transferred from pound/shelter or rehoming Organisation)	\$0
Cat – Registration (desexing not recommended)	\$74
Cat – Registration (desexing not recommended - eligible pensioner)	\$37
Cat – Registration (recognised breeder)	\$74
Registration late fee	\$25
Annual permit category	New fee
Cat (not desexed by four months of age)	\$104
Dangerous dog	\$247
Restricted dog	\$247
Permit late fee	\$25

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Office of Local Government



Where to go for further information

Filming Application Fees

- The Local Government Filming Protocol is issued under Section 119D of the *Local Government Act 1993* and sets out requirements for both councils and filmmakers associated with filming related activity approvals.
- The Protocol prescribes the maximum fees a council may charge for filming applications and approvals.
- The Protocol was reviewed and updated in June 2025 and included changes to prescribed maximum fee structures and annual adjustments in line with CPI
- A copy of the Protocol as well as an updated table of fees is available on the OLG website at: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/infrastructure-and-services/services-to-communities/events-management-and-filming>

Companion Animal Fees

- A list of registration categories, the new fees for 2026/27 is provided on the Office of Local Government's (OLG) website at
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pets/nsw-pet-registry/registration-and-permit-fees/pet-registration-fees#registration-fees-for-dogs-and-cats>
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pets/nsw-pet-registry/registration-and-permit-fees/non-desexed-cat-and-dog-fees>
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pets/nsw-pet-registry/registration-and-permit-fees/annual-pet-permit-fees>
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pets/nsw-pet-registry/breeders/register-breeding-animal>
- Information relating to the processing of registration fees is available in Companion Animals Guideline 1 – Registration Agents, available on OLG's website at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2026-02/companion-animals-guideline-1-registration-agents.pdf>
- Information on the new functionality and separate payments for registration and the additional fee for non-desexed animals that are not exempt can be found by contacting Pet Helpline 02 4428 4100.
- Contact pets@olg.nsw.gov.au for information about the fees.

A blue ink signature of Brett Whitworth.

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Annual Reporting of Labour Statistics
Circular Details	Circular No 26-13/ 9 July 2026 / A1009905
Previous Circular	25-15 Annual Reporting of Labour Statistics
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Human Resources Staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- **Wednesday, 4 March 2026** has been chosen as the “relevant day” for councils to report on their labour statistics in their annual reports under section 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation).
- OLG will extract labour statistics data from all NSW councils' annual reports. Councils must clearly record this data in their annual reports in line with the requirements of the Regulation.

What will this mean for council?

- In their 2025/26 annual reports, councils must publish a statement of the total number of persons who performed paid work for them on **Wednesday, 4 March 2026** including, in separate statements, the total number of the following:
 - the number of persons directly employed by the council:
 - on a permanent full-time basis
 - on a permanent part-time basis
 - on a casual basis
 - under a fixed-term contract
 - the number of persons who continue to be employed by the council as “senior staff” within the meaning of the now repealed provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), under the transitional arrangements in the Act

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au



- the number of persons engaged by the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person
- the number of persons supplied to the councils, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee.

Key points

- Section 217 of the Regulation requires a "relevant day" to be fixed after the end of each financial year for the purpose of reporting councils' labour statistics and must be a different day to the one fixed for the previous year.
- The collection of labour force data across the sector assists in developing and evaluating programs to deliver the Government's election commitment of increasing the number of apprentices and trainees in councils.

Where to go for further information

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Whitworth".

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Local Government Asset Valuation Discussion Paper
Circular Details	Circular 26-14 / 17 July 2026 / A993337
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council finance staff
Contact	Sector Policy and Frameworks / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Response to OLG

What's new or changing?

- In March 2024, the Legislative Council's State Development Committee undertook a review into the ability of councils to fund infrastructure and services (the Inquiry) and provided recommendations on a way forward.
- The Government's response supported 15 of the Inquiry's 17 recommendations and committed to examine alternate asset valuation methodologies.
- The Office of Local Government (OLG), in consultation with the Expert Advisory Panel, has developed the *Local Government Asset Valuation Discussion Paper* (the Discussion Paper) which seeks feedback from the sector on the preferred model of asset valuation for the local government sector in NSW.

What will this mean for council?

- OLG produces the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (the Code) to prescribe the financial reporting requirements of councils in NSW. This includes mandatory reporting requirements for asset valuation measurement.
- OLG is reviewing whether the current asset valuation methodology continues to be the most appropriate for NSW councils.

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www.olg.nsw.gov.au



- The Discussion Paper has been developed to provide information, outline options and generate discussion and feedback from the local government sector and key stakeholders.
- OLG will assess all submissions as part of the review process and feedback received will inform the next steps of the review.

Key points

- Local governments across NSW manage diverse portfolios of assets critical to community wellbeing, including roads, parks, buildings, and sewerage and water infrastructure. In 2024, the State's 128 general purpose councils recorded \$235 billion in assets including \$209 billion in Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment.
- The Discussion Paper considers the following options for asset valuation methodology:
 - **Option 1** – continue with the revaluation model,
 - **Option 2** – transition to the cost model, or
 - **Option 3** – use a mixed approach with different models for different asset classes.
- The Discussion Paper contains information and discussion questions on the three options and is seeking feedback from the local government sector and other key stakeholders on these options.

Where to go for further information

- The Discussion Paper is available on the OLG 'Financial Sustainability' webpage at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/programs-and-initiatives/financial-sustainability-reforms>.
- Feedback is welcome from councils, individual councillors, council staff and key industry stakeholders, and is due by **5pm 11 September 2026**.
- Written feedback can be provided via the online Feedback Form or by downloading a copy of the Feedback Form and sending to OLG:
 - **By Email:** olg@olg.nsw.gov.au OR
 - **By Post:** Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541.
- Submissions should be clearly labelled '**Asset Valuation Methodology Feedback**'.

A blue ink signature of Brett Whitworth.

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

10 INFORMATION ONLY

The following items are submitted for consideration -

10.1	Development Statistics Report	56
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Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.1 **Development Statistics Report**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/222**

AUTHOR **Manager Planning & Regulatory Services**

ISSUE

This report provides Council with an overview of the development application consents that have occurred in the period of 1 June 2026 – 30 June 2026, and an update on the status of the Planning and Development Control Department.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receives and notes the report as information.

BACKGROUND

A standard monthly report providing Council with a summary of the development control activities that have occurred in the period 1 June 2026 – 30 June 2026.

REPORT

This report provides Council with an overview of the development control activities that have occurred in the period of 1 June 2026 – 30 June 2026, this report contains information detailing Upper Lachlan Shire Councils performance in relation to the NSW Planning Ministers Expectations for Development Application Assessments.

As identified in Figure 1, Council achieved the NSW Planning Ministers expectation of 105 days for 78% of applications determined in the month of June 2026. (Note: A monthly delay remains on this data, as it still relies on NSW Planning Portal).

For the reporting period 2025 – 2026 Upper Lachlan Shire Council had an average assessment period of 69 days with 81% of the applications assessed meeting the Minister expectations. This is a drop from an average assessment period of 137 days for the 2024-2025 reporting period and only 54% of applications assessed meeting the Ministers' expectations.

Figure 1. Comparison of Applications Lodged/Assessed/Meeting Expectations (June 2025 - June 2026)

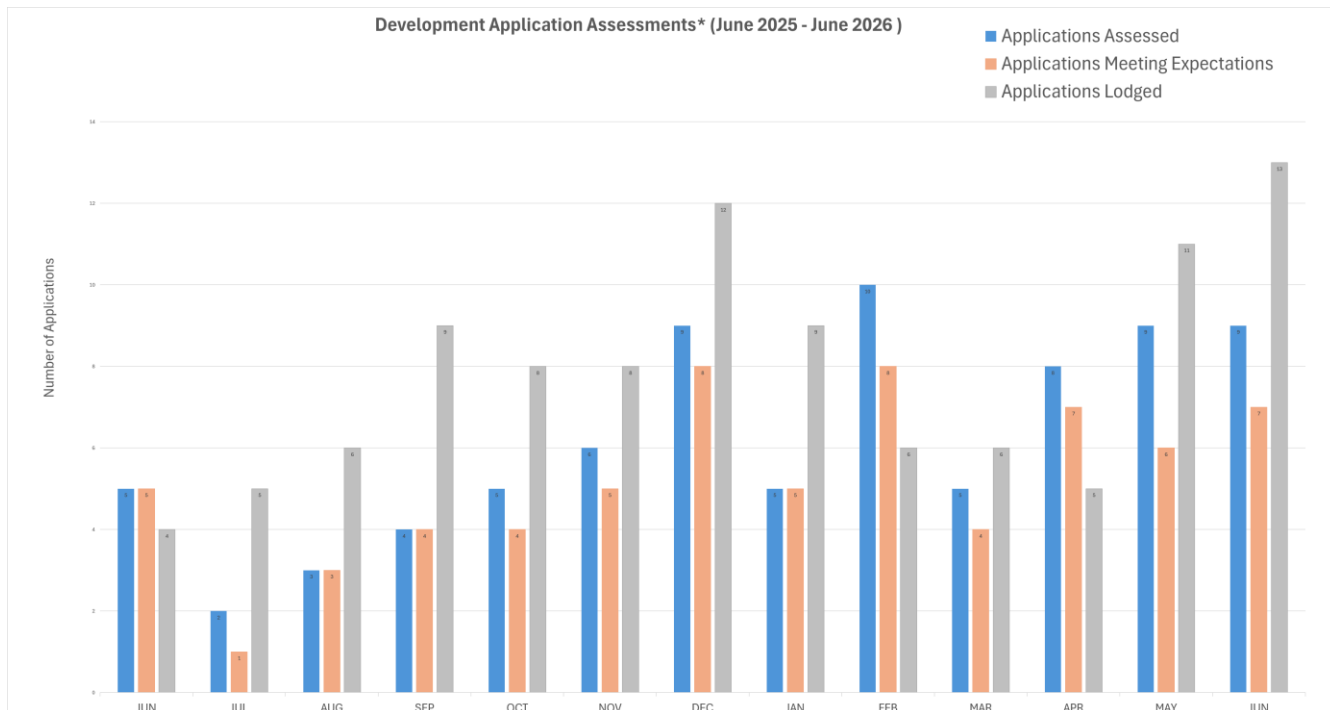
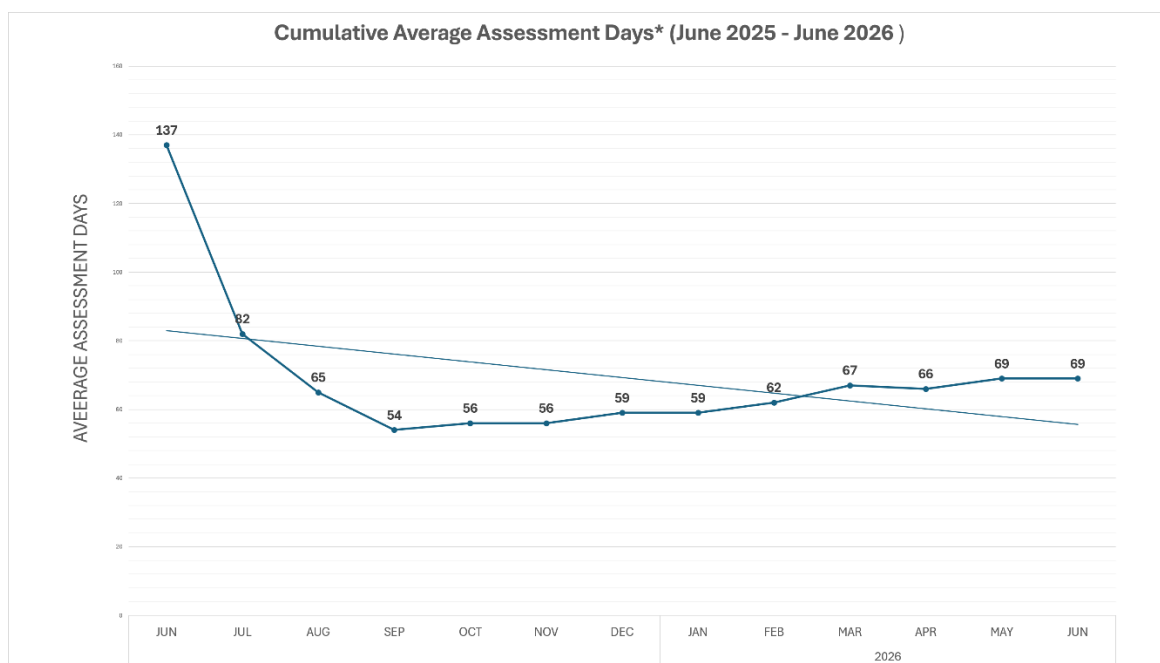


Figure 2. Cumulative Average Assessment Days (June 2025 - June 2026)



Information Only
DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS REPORT cont'd

Figure 3. Actual Per Month Average Assessment Days (June 2025 - June 2026).

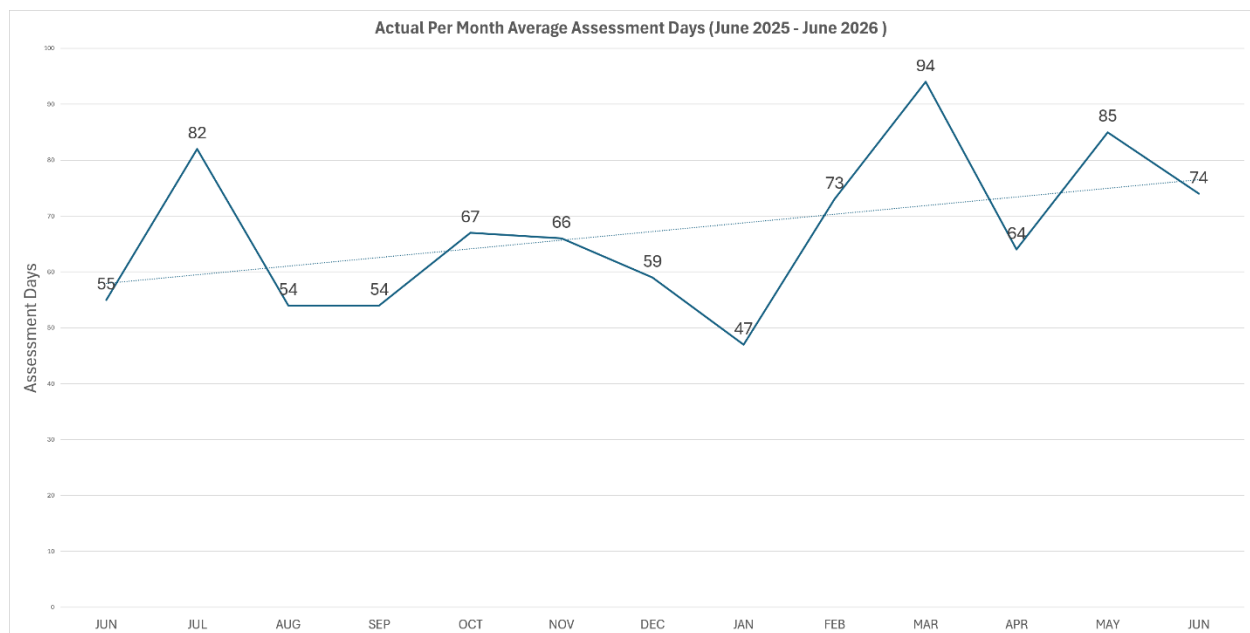
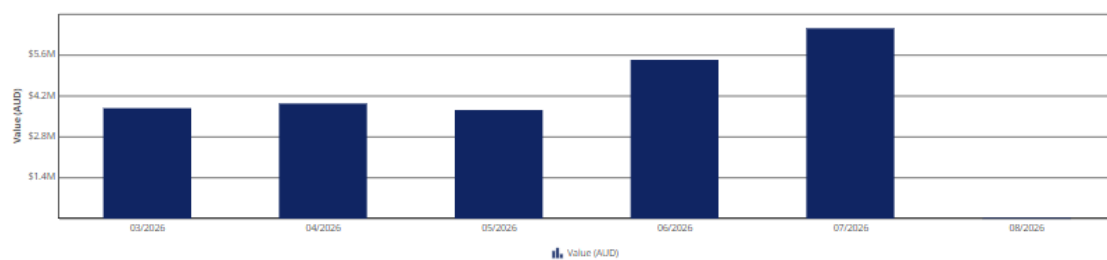


Figure 4. Total Estimated Cost of Development (March 2026 to Present)

~ Total estimated cost of development

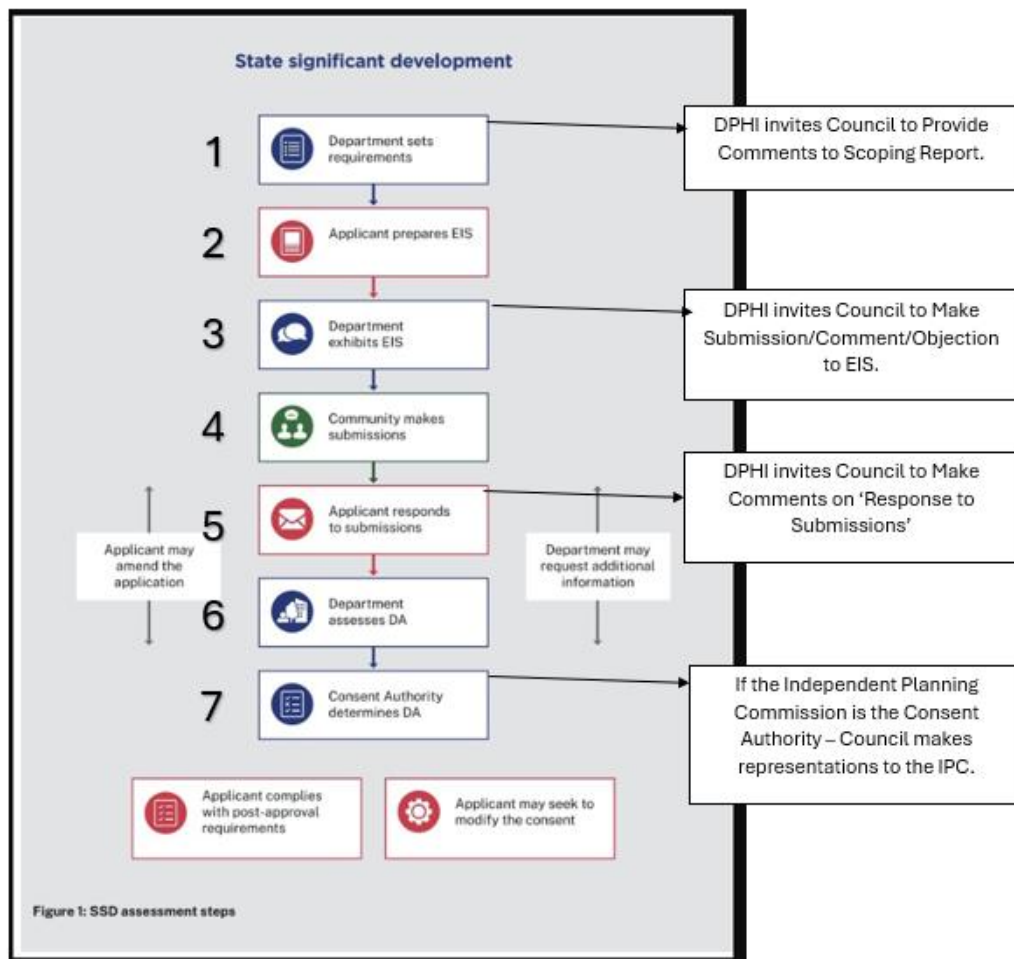


Information Only
DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS REPORT cont'd

Figure 5. State Significant Developments – Under Assessment by NSW DPHI (June 2026)

Project Name	Case ID	Engagement Type	Start Date	ULSC Status	Stage
Marulan Gas-Fired Power Station Project Modifications	MP07_0176-Mod-4	-	-	SEARS Issued – 14 May 2026	2
Willvale Park Battery Energy Storage System	PAE-99882208	Advice on SEARS	19/11/2025	EIS Advice Provided – 19 February 2026.	3
Merino Solar Farm	PAE-102554206	Provide Advice	18/12/2025	DRAFT EIS Response - 19 March 2026.	1
Langley Vale Solar Farm	PAE-100680966	Advice on SEARS	28/11/2025	DRAFT SEARS Response - 19 March 2026.	2
Modification 3 Quarry Continuation and Stockpile Area Extension	PAE-92072963	Advice on Modification Report	27/08/2025	RTS Provided. – 19 February 2026. (Road Response Provided 6/7/2026)	5
Wattle Creek Battery Energy Storage System	PAE-83708956	Advice on EIS	8/05/2025	EIS Response Provided - 24 July 2026. (Request for information 2/7/2026)	5
Wattle Creek Solar Farm	PAE-83706707	Advice on EIS	8/05/2025	EIS Response Provided - 24 July 2026.	5
Bannaby Battery Energy Storage System	PAE-78998968	Advice on SEARs	6/01/2025	Advice on SEARs provided – 13 January 2026.	2
Hanworth Battery Energy Storage System	PAE-78219019	Advice on SEARs	27/11/2024	SEARS Response Provided – 11 February 2026.	2
Swallow Tail Battery Energy Storage System	PAE-78056497	Advice on SEARs	21/11/2024	SEARs Response Provided – 17 December 2024.	2
Humelink	PAE-71046964	Advice on RTS	21/05/2024	Determined.	7
Gunning Solar Farm	PAE-64586467	Advice on EIS	15/11/2023	Determined. (VPA Offer)	7

Figure 6. State Significant Development – Opportunities for Local Government Input



Information Only
DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS REPORT cont'd

Development Applications

The current level of development application assessment for this period is summarised in the tables below:

Determined Development/Planning Applications

Determined from 1/07/2026 to 31/07/2026

Application Number	Date Submitted	Address	Proposal	Date Determined	Determination
Development Application					
10/2026/88/1		Orchard Street TARALGA	Alterations and Additions to Commercial Building	22 Jul 2026	Returned
10/2026/8/1	28 Jan 2026	120 Greenwich Meadows Road GREENWICH PARK	Alterations and Additions Outbuilding	23 Jul 2026	Approved by Delegation
10/2026/83/1	30 Jun 2026	16 Green Avenue GUNNING	Dwelling	31 Jul 2026	Approved by Delegation
10/2026/61/1	19 May 2026	Arthur Street BINDA	Dwelling	13 Jul 2026	Approved by Delegation
10/2026/67/1	04 Jun 2026	412 Jerrawa Road JERRAWA	Outbuilding	16 Jul 2026	Approved by Delegation
10/2026/62/1	18 May 2026	Woodhouselee Road WAYO	Outbuilding	03 Jul 2026	Withdrawn
10/2026/70/1	09 Jun 2026	Dalton Road GUNNING	Alterations and Additions	10 Jul 2026	Approved by Delegation
10/2026/74/1	26 Jun 2026	10 Richardson Street CROOKWELL	Outbuilding	28 Jul 2026	Approved by Delegation
10/2026/89/1		4 Elizabeth Street CROOKWELL	Outbuilding	21 Jul 2026	Returned

Total Applications: 9

Information Only
DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS REPORT cont'd

Outstanding Development/Planning Applications

Lodged since 1/01/2010

Application Number	Submitted	Address	Proposal	Status	Net Days
Development Application					
10/2026/23/1	05 Mar 2026	12 Barry Place CROOKWELL	Detached Dual Occupancy and Strata Subdivision	Request for Information	109
10/2026/36/1	10 Apr 2026	600 Felled Timber Road DALTON	Dwelling	Request for Information	91
10/2026/50/1	05 May 2026	Hanworth Road, BANNABY	Two (2) Lot boundary Adjustment Subdivision	Under Assessment	91
10/2026/59/1	26 May 2026	11 Carrington Street CROOKWELL	Alterations and Additions to Commercial Buidling	Under Assessment	68
10/2026/65/1	29 May 2026	1798 Towrang Road GREENWICH PARK	Secondary Dwelling	Under Assessment	58
10/2026/68/1	04 Jun 2026	Wheeo Road GRABBen GULLEN	Two (2) Lot Torrens Title Subdivision	Under Assessment	7
10/2026/71/1	13 Jun 2026	Pucketts Lane LERIDA	Swimming Pool	Under Assessment	38
10/2026/72/1	25 Jun 2026	939 Pejar Road CROOKWELL	Alterations and Additions	Under Assessment	37
10/2026/73/1	11 Jun 2026	778 Sylvia Vale Road BINDA	Three (3) Lot Torrens Title Subdivision	Under Assessment	51
10/2026/75/1	22 Jun 2026	388 Alps Road BIGGA	Dwelling	Under Assessment	42
10/2026/76/1	22 Jun 2026	8 Tait Street CROOKWELL	Dual Occupancy and Strata Subdivision	Request for Information	41

Information Only
DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS REPORT cont'd

10/2026/79/1	24 Jun 2026	1121 Rhyanna Parish MUMMELL	Secondary Dwelling	Under Assessment	39
10/2026/80/1	29 Jun 2026	1 Chapel Street DALTON	Five (5) Lot Torrens Title Subdivision	Under Assessment	24
10/2026/82/1	03 Jul 2026	14 Graham Crescent CROOKWELL	The proposed development is a 4-bedroom single level residential	Under Assessment	24
10/2026/85/1	03 Jul 2026	36 Peelwood Road LAGGAN	Thirty (30) Lot Torrens Title Subdivision	Request for Information	5
10/2026/86/1	30 Jun 2026	4759 Junction Point Road TUENA	Three (3) Lot Torrens Title Subdivision	Under Assessment	33
10/2025/69/2	9-Jul-26	103 Collecot Road GUNNING	Modification	Under Assessment	26
10/2026/90/1	22 Jul 2026	622 Jerrong Road WIARBOROUGH	Dwelling	Under Assessment	5

Total Applications: 18

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receives and notes the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.2 **Biosecurity Update**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/242**

AUTHOR **Coordinator Parks & Biosecurity**

ISSUE

This report is to provide Council with a summary of Biosecurity (weed) control activities undertaken throughout the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

The standard quarterly report summarising weed control activities conducted between and May 4 2026 to August 5 2026.

REPORT

The Biosecurity Act 2015 applies equally to all land whether publicly or privately owned. All occupiers of land are required to manage weeds according to their General Biosecurity Duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise the Biosecurity Risk posed or likely to be posed by priority weeds and any legislated requirements identified in the Act or the Regulation.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council's Biosecurity Officers conducted a total of 810 inspections for the 25/26 financial year. From 1 July 2026 to 5 August 2026, 151 inspections were completed with a target of 550 inspections for the financial year being set when applying for the WAP Funding.

Upper Lachlan will continue to focus on carrying out the bulk of future inspections in areas that pose a high risk or potential threat of new and emerging weeds. Biosecurity Officers are currently focusing on two areas; one officer is working through the Parish Yewrangara into Bigga and Grabine and across to Yarraman and the second officer working from Warborough parish through into Bubalahla Leighwood and Sherwood.

Biosecurity Officers will be looking to ramp up education around priority weeds and control of widespread weeds throughout this financial period. Where possible, officers will attend the Crookwell, Taralga and Gunning Shows with information and answers to questions. Officers will also look at attending community talks to help with transparency, hold talks at the local libraries, and letter box drop identified areas with targeted weed information.

Biosecurity Officers are reviewing how they manage enquiries, complaints and requests. Officers are looking at how to triage resources to balance this alongside the Weeds Action Program requirements. Officers are developing an annual calendar of events, spray periods and inspections. Inspections are booked 2 weeks prior to allow time for the

Information Only
BIOSECURITY UPDATE cont'd

landholder to respond. Once these inspections are booked, enquiries, complaints and request will be scheduled around this.

The budget for chemicals and general materials for 26/27 is \$8,912. This will be used towards some general weed control roadside as well as general weed control.

Officers are looking for prohibited matter such as Parthenium Weed. Pictures below. (Photos, DPI Weed Wise <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weed/PartheniumWeed>)



OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.3 **Water, Waste and Sewer Quarterly Report**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/224**

AUTHOR **Manager Water, Waste and Sewer**

ISSUE

This quarterly report advises Council of Water, Waste and Sewer activities.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

Quarterly report on Water Sewer and Waste activities from May 2026 to end of July 2026.

REPORT

Sewer

There was an increase in sewer flows for Crookwell and Taralga for the months of June and July due to an increase in rainfall and subsequent infiltration. Gunning's flows remained consistent for the period.

Crookwell STP has again experienced minor issues with aeration and aging components. The required repairs were made and treatment has been restored to business as usual.

Gunning sewage treatment plant pump upgrades and power upgrades have been delayed due to staff availability and contractors to close out the works.

Sewer chokes encountered have been a combination of roots infiltrating the sewer mains and foreign material choking up the network.

Sewer Treatment									
Township	MAY 2026			JUNE 2026			JULY 2026		
	Total Effluent Treated (kl)	Average Daily Flows (kl)	Rainfall (mm)	Total Effluent Treated (kl)	Average Daily Flows (kl)	Rainfall (mm)	Total Effluent Treated (kl)	Average Daily Flows (kl)	Rainfall (mm)
Crookwell	17296	557.9	64.5	26697	889.9	100.5	27463	885.9	45
Gunning	4176	134.7	74.5	4226	140.9	51.5	4055	150.2	53
Taralga	3260	112.4	70	4372	145.7	53.2	5333	183.9	62

Information Only

WATER, WASTE AND SEWER QUARTERLY REPORT cont'd

Water

Council's water filtration/treatment plants produce volumes of water that are consistent with levels over the same reporting period last year. The Crookwell storage dam is sitting at approximately 100% capacity; Taralga is constant at the reduced level of 30% and the Gunning storage dam at 93% with challenges associated with extracting water from the Lachlan River.

Water meter maintenance has continued with 47 meters replaced across the shire. There was a spike in water main breaks in July resulting from aging pipe network and cold weather. Elizabeth Street Crookwell which has been a hotspot for mains breaks over the past three years had 180m of new water mains and water services replaced. Restoration works for removed driveways and concrete footpath will be completed in the upcoming months.

The Gunning raw water pump positioned in the Lachlan River well will be replaced in the next quarter to restore pumping to the off-river storage dam in preparation for the upcoming predicted dry spell.

Water supplied from Council mains associated with project works has reduced due to location and status of the works.

Water Treatment

Township	MAY 2026			JUNE 2026			JULY 2026		
	Average Dam Level (%)	Average Daily Consumption (kl)	Total Production (kl)	Average Dam Level (%)	Average Daily Consumption (kl)	Total Production (kl)	Average Dam Level (%)	Average Daily Consumption (kl)	Total Production (kl)
Crookwell	94	676.4	20293	100	595.3	17859	100	618	19157
Gunning	94	226.8	6803	96	196.7	5902	94	216.9	6723
Taralga	31	75.9	2353	30	89.2	2675.9	30	91.5	2837

Information Only**WATER, WASTE AND SEWER QUARTERLY REPORT cont'd**

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Works				
Town	Crookwell	Gunning	Taralga	Dalton
Water main breaks	4	1	0	1
Water main flushing				
Water meter repairs	7	4	2	1
Water meter replacements/new installs	47	6	0	5
Water Service repairs/replacements				
Stop valve/Hydrant inspections/repairs				
After hours calls - Water & Sewer	3	0	1	1
After Hours call outs Other	1			
Sewer chokes	5	2	0	N/A
Sewer access chamber inspections				N/A
Access chamber lid/conversion slab replacement				N/A
Bore inspections/maintenance/repairs				

Waste

Waste volumes collected and disposed of at Council's waste transfer stations has reduced for the period. The domestic waste (red bin) presentation frequency has increased to greater than 90% collections, yellow bins (recycling) presentation has also increased throughout the reporting period.

The collection of green bin (green waste) is to recommence on 1 September 2026 and council staff are preparing to resume operations from this date.

A total of ten complaints were received during the reporting period, with the majority relating to the temporary pause of the green waste collection service. The key issues raised through these complaints included access to green waste disposal at transfer stations; whether ratepayers should receive a rates adjustment while the service was paused; clarification of fees and charges for green waste disposal, including what material could be disposed of free of charge; and concerns from lawn mowing and gardening businesses regarding the disposal of grass clippings.

Missed bin collection has improved significantly for the period with an average of 2.6 bins per month missed for the quarter compared to 9.6 bins for the previous February to April quarter.

Information Only

WATER, WASTE AND SEWER QUARTERLY REPORT cont'd

WASTE COLLECTIONS AND TRANSFER STATIONS									
	MAY 2026			JUN 2026			JUL 2026		
	Loads	Tonnes		Loads	Tonnes		Loads	Tonnes	
Waste disposal at Woodlawn (Veolia)	24	279.26		23	267.78		25	271.74	
KERB SIDE COLLECTIONS	BIN COUNT	%	TONNES	BIN COUNT	%	TONNES	BIN COUNT	%	TONNES
(Red Lid) Waste bins collected	8005	82.36	74.26	8519	77.91	85.32	9038	82.65	77.17
(Yellow Lid) Recycle bins collected	3555	73.15	30.12	3546	72.96	33.8	3515	72.33	33.65
(Green Lid) Garden organics bins collected	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0
Missed bins	2			3			1		
Bins too heavy for collection	1			0			1		
WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS	NO. VISITS	VOLUME		NO. VISITS	VOLUME		NO. VISITS	VOLUME	
Crookwell	649	33.93		505	31.05		533	40.54	
Taralga	372	11.84		285	11.27		297	19.39	
Gunning	263	15.27		187	20.41		208	15.02	
Bigga	174	4.46		142	6.33		146	5.56	
Collector	58	2.86		46	6.2		50	2.23	
Tuena	Unknown	3.11		Unknown	6.46		Unknown	4.46	
TOTAL	1516	71.47		1165	81.72		1234	87.2	

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.4 **Waste Strategy Review - Update**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/225**

AUTHOR **Manager Water, Waste and Sewer**

ISSUE

This report advises Council of the current progress on the Waste Strategy review.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

This report provides an update on the development of Upper Lachlan Shire's waste strategy, which commenced following a Council resolution from meeting of 20 November 2025.

REPORT

Talis Consultants (Talis) were engaged by Upper Lachlan Shire Council to assist in the development of a waste strategy. The overall aim of the strategy was to review current services, identifying potential efficiencies and guide future service provision, infrastructure, regulation and education in line with best practice.

The project commenced in April 2026 after Talis Consultants were engaged through a tender process. Council Water, Sewer and Waste Staff have issued Talis data on current services offered by council and levels of service as per current operations, including but not limited to the domestic waste service, waste transfer station services and costs associated with Council's waste management services.

In summary the waste strategy aims to provide the following deliverables;

Waste collection

Review of existing services to determine the extents of such service and whether efficiencies be gained through realigning service areas and investigating collection delivery methods.

Waste transfer stations

Review of current operations and whether efficiencies are able to be delivered through design and the manner in which the waste is managed.

Information Only
WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW - UPDATE cont'd

Resource recovery

Review existing services provided to the community and investigate options for improvement in recycling in both the short and long term that may address disruptions to Council services as experienced after the fire at the ACT Materials Recovery Facility on boxing day 2022. This section will also incorporate a review of FOGO services in line with the State Governments mandate to introduce this service across NSW by 2030.

Domestic Waste Service

Review of current costs associated with waste management and consider impacts against the current DWM charge including rural waste cards.

A strategic direction workshop with Talis and Council Officers was held in July 2026, which included an inspection of all waste transfer stations and confirming the options and initiatives to be considered as part of the waste strategy.

These options are currently under development and will be workshopped with Council in the upcoming workshop, date to be confirmed.

The following table outlines a summary of the work completed so far and the anticipated timelines for the completion of the Waste Strategy project.

Project Milestone	Status	Completion / Anticipated Completion Timing
Stage 1 Project Commencement	Completed (100%)	28/04
Stage 2 Desktop and Performance Review	Completed (100%)	05/06
Waste Site Inspections	Completed (100%)	02/07
Stage 3 Future Strategic Direction	Completed (100%)	26/06
Strategic Direction Workshop	Completed (100%)	03/07
Stage 4 Assessment of Options	In Progress (50%)	August
Options Workshop	To be scheduled	Mid-August
Evaluation of Finalised Options	To begin	September
Stage 5 Community Consultation	To begin	October
Stage 6 Develop Waste Strategy	In Progress (20%)	November
Stage 7 Develop Action Plan	To begin	November - December
Stage 8 Councillor Briefing	To be scheduled	December

Information Only

WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW - UPDATE cont'd

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.5 **Works In Progress - Construction & Maintenance**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/239**

AUTHOR **Manager of Infrastructure Delivery**

ISSUE

This report provides Council with details regarding major construction and maintenance works in progress or recently completed.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

REPORT

Building Assets

Crookwell Administration Buildings – Exterior Painting

The Council administration buildings required exterior repainting. Timber window repairs have been completed. Painting works has been completed in July 2026.

Crookwell Council Chambers – Solar, Battery and EV charges (CEUF Grant)

Council was successful in obtaining funding for this project through the Community Energy Upgrade Fund (CEUF). The approved grant includes 30kW Solar, 30kWh battery. Project is in preliminary stages of design.

Crookwell Depot – Solar, Battery and EV Chargers (CEUF Grant)

Council was successful in obtaining funding for this project through the Community Energy Upgrade Fund (CEUF). The approved grant includes 25kW Solar, 20kWh battery. Project is in preliminary stages of design.

Crookwell Library – Solar and Battery (CEUF Grant)

Council's application for the Public Libraries Infrastructure Grant (PLIG) was unsuccessful. Council was successful in obtaining funding for this project through the Community Energy Upgrade Fund (CEUF). The approved grant includes 25kW Solar, 30kWh battery. Project is in preliminary stages of design.

Crookwell Memorial Hall – Install Access to Roof Cavity

The ceiling cavity of the Crookwell Memorial Hall requires safe access for servicing of air-conditioning units and cabling. The contract for the works was awarded on 27 March 2026, and the works started on 7 April 2026, and now have been completed. Currently awaiting final certification by structural engineer.

Fire Safety Upgrades – Multiple Sites

All class 1b and class 2-9 buildings in NSW must have essential fire safety measures inspected and tested in accordance with AS 1851-2012. Environment and Planning have advised that they are unable to assist to complete the necessary inspections and will need to be conducted by a contractor.

Gunning Showground – Solar, Battery and Solar Lighting (CEUF grant)

Council was successful in obtaining funding for this project through the Community Energy Upgrade Fund (CEUF). The approved grant includes 30kW Solar, 50kW battery and solar lighting. Project is in preliminary stages of design.

Taralga Memorial Hall – Electrical Meter Board Upgrade

The meter board at the Taralga Memorial Hall is the next priority within Council's ongoing switchboard upgrade program. The existing asbestos-containing board includes outdated switchgear. Quotations are being sourced, with works anticipated for August/September 2026.

Capital Works

Construction Projects

Rugby Road Blackspot

In early 2026 Council received Federal Blackspot funding to address safety on a 3km section of Rugby Road (south from Bulley's Crossing Road) that has had motor vehicle accidents. Works commenced last financial year after design and environmental studies were undertaken. Council's construction crew have completed most of the drainage and earthworks as of July 2026 and are planning to leave the project at its current stage and complete gravel re-sheeting on other roads through early August to align final pavement construction and sealing of Rugby Road in ideal seasonal conditions (September/October).

Wombeyan Caves Road Upgrade

Council has received grant funding from Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (Round 3) to upgrade the remaining unsealed section (8.7km) of MR258 Wombeyan Caves Road. Works involve vegetation control, minor road widening, drainage improvements, pavement construction, bitumen sealing, guardrail and signposting. Environmental studies, survey and design and road safety audits have all been undertaken. Works are expected to start in November/December 2026

Reids Flat Road Upgrade

Utilising a portion of annual Roads to Recovery funding allocation, Council plan to upgrade an unsealed section (approximately 2km) of Reids Flat Road between Grabine Road and "Boiler Hill". Boiler Hill was upgraded in the past 5 years, and this proposed section is now an unsealed gap between the two sealed sections with motor vehicle accidents reported to Council. Works will involve drainage improvements, road widening and shaping, pavement construction and bitumen sealing. Design yet to be finalised. Works are scheduled to start in November/December 2026 and carry over into early 2027.

Pavement Rehabilitation

Hay and Prell Street, Crookwell

This project involves the upgrade of the existing unsealed sections of Hay and Prell Streets to a sealed pavement, supporting Council's strategic objective of progressively

Information Only

WORKS IN PROGRESS - CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE cont'd

sealing all unsealed urban roads within the township. Hay Street also provides access to the Crookwell Dog Park, and the upgrade will improve accessibility, road safety, and overall amenity for residents and visitors.

The scope of works includes pavement reconstruction, drainage improvements where required, and bitumen sealing. Construction is currently scheduled to commence in February/March 2027.

King Road, Crookwell

Pavement rehabilitation and minor widening along King Road, Crookwell to tie in with stormwater works on King Road delivered in 2025/2026 Financial Year and further stormwater works scheduled in this financial year. Works scheduled for February/March 2027.

MR256 (Taralga-Oberon Road)

Rehabilitation of dilapidated section of road between Craigs Road and Curraweela Bridge. Work involves drainage improvements, pavement rehabilitation, bitumen sealing and line marking. Works currently scheduled for January/February 2027.

Bigga Road

Rehabilitation of approximately 2km of Bigga Road from Greenmantle Road to Mulgowrie Street, Bigga to address pavement failures and road safety at intersections. Works scheduled to start September 2026.

Blakney Creek North Road

Rehabilitation of approximately 1.2km, heavily damaged section of Blakney Creek Road North Road between Little Plains Road and Pudman Creek Road. Works to involve drainage improvements, shoulder reconstruction and widening, pavement rehabilitation, intersection realignment, bitumen sealing, line marking and signage. Works scheduled for November 2026.

Stormwater

King Road Crookwell

Works are planned to continue along King Road from last year's work to Crown Street. Works will involve subsurface stormwater, kerb and gutter and landscaping. Works will be followed by the pavement rehabilitation of King Road. Stormwater works are planned to commence November 2026 and run through School Holidays into January/February 2027.

Kerb and Gutter Capital Renewal Program

Capital Renewal of Kerb & Gutter driven by staff inspections, customer requests and risk ratings. Works delivered as required/prioritised throughout the year.

Court Street Taralga

Funds have been allocated for the initial investigation and design into stormwater issues along Court Street, Taralga. Stormwater management will be the first step towards fixing the dilapidated pavement along Goodhew Park. Works will progress after design is completed and estimates have been undertaken.

Information Only

WORKS IN PROGRESS - CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE cont'd

Warrataw Street, Gunning

Stormwater works are delivered as part of the Gunning Levee Grant Project to improve overland flow in Warrataw Street, Gunning. Detailed design has been completed. Works involve subsurface drainage along Warrataw Street, new kerb and gutter, shoulder restoration, landscaping, bitumen sealing and line marking. Works are scheduled for August/September 2026.

Footpath and Cycleway

Traffic & Transport Cycleway Program

Capital renewal of footpath and cycleway, driven by staff inspections, customer requests and risk ratings works delivered as required/prioritised throughout the year.

Lin Cooper footpath, Crookwell

Council has received funding under the Road Safety Program to complete a strategic link of footpath identified in Council's Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP). The section joins Lin Copper and Todkill sporting fields to existing footpath on Goulburn Street and therefore back to town centre. Works commence in July 2026 and are planned to be completed by the end of August 2026.

Warrataw Street, Gunning footpath

Council has received funding under the Road Safety Program to complete a strategic link of footpath identified in Council's Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP). The footpath is along Warrataw Street to join the main street to the Gunning Showground. Works are scheduled after Warrataw Street stormwater project for September to November 2026.

Other Projects

Bannister Lane Bus Shelter

Council has received grant funding to install a bus pullover and shelter on Bannister Lane. The pullover lane was constructed last financial year and was sealed in late July 2026. Works will continue with the erection of a bus shelter in August/September 2026.

Road Maintenance Contract (RMCC) – State Main Road 54

Council holds a RMCC contract with TfNSW to maintain 108km of State Road MR54 from Goulburn to the shire boundary at the Abercrombie River (north of Tuena). The contract covers all routine maintenance associated with MR54, funding a four man work crew and other associated staff and resources. Additionally, every year Council may receive Work Orders to deliver works outside of routine maintenance. These works can include design, heavy patching, bitumen resealing, guardrail programs, shoulder widening, culvert works and complete road rehabilitation etc.

Routine Maintenance

The RMCC routine maintenance budget for 2026-2027 has been released. Maintenance works are progressing in the new financial year and are largely reactive through winter.

Work Orders

Vehicle Activated Signage

The installation of five vehicle activated signs in areas of windy road between Bigga Road and the Abercrombie River is underway with completion anticipated by mid-September. The TfNSW workorder for these works has been approved.

Information Only

WORKS IN PROGRESS - CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE cont'd

Abercrombie River Landslip

Council have chosen a suitable contractor to deliver remediation of the landslide area on the southern approach to Abercrombie River. This specialist work includes slope stabilisation with horizontal drains to be installed. The work is expected to be completed by January 2027. Works will be managed by Council and Council crews will be conducting supporting works pre and post remediation. A TfNSW work order has been approved.

Woodhouselee Road Intersection – Asphaltting

Outstanding work remains to asphalt the intersection at Woodhouselee Road under an existing work order. Works were carried over at the end of last financial year to align with warmer temperatures. Works are roughly scheduled for September/October 2026.

Design of Boorowa Road Reconstruction and Widening

Design of road widening and rehabilitation of MR54 from Boorowa Road intersection (including intersection) to 1km south of Crookwell River bridge. Design works are close to completion.

Design of Culvert Extension – Segment 293

Work Order issued for investigation and design of culvert extension required as part of above project. Geotechnical investigation has been completed and Council is awaiting delivery of structural design from external consultant.

Investigation and Design of Road Widening South of Binda

Council has received a Work Order to complete Geotechnical Investigations, Survey and Design for Road Widening of a 2.5km section of MR54 just south of Binda (continuing on from previous works near Rylstone Road).

Maintenance Works

Routine Maintenance

Recently Completed

Pre-Mix Patching

- Biala Road
- Collector Road
- Breadalbane Road
- Gundaroo Road (MR52)
- Cooks Hill Road
- Taralga Road (MR256)
- Bannaby Road

Drainage Works

- Repair concrete causeway on Bevendale Road

Tree Maintenance on Rural Roads

- Jerrong Road
- Pudman Creek Road
- Blakney Creek North Road

Information Only

WORKS IN PROGRESS - CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE cont'd

Maintenance Grading

Council has over 1,200 kilometers of unsealed maintained road network. Maintenance grading is essential for the ongoing upkeep and usability of this network. Council has three maintenance grading crews and uses contractors as required. Maintenance grading is scheduled logically, however can be largely reactive and priorities are constantly shuffling, driven by changing weather patterns, CRM's, staff inspections and Road Management Policy for intervention frequency.

North Maintenance Grading -

Recently Completed Grading

Fullerton Road
Millsvale Road
Tyrl Tyrl Road
Sylvia Vale Road
Kangaloolah Road
Cuddyong Road
Rhyanna Road

Upcoming Grading

Lost River Road
Mulgowrie Road
Woodville Road
Peelwood Road
Wangalo Road

South Maintenance Grading -

Recently Completed Grading

Berrebanglo Creek Road
Elms Road
Chain O Ponds Road
Rye Park Road (MR214)
Little Plains Road
Flacknell Creek Road
Dawes Road
Coolalie Road

Upcoming Grading

Bannister Lane
Learys Lane
Prices Lane
Pomeroy Road
Breadalbane Road
Lerida North Road
Old South Road
Old Sydney Road

Planned Maintenance

Gravel Re-sheeting

Council's gravel re-sheeting program for the 2026/2027 financial year comprises of funding from Section 7.11 Contributions, Regional Emergency Roads Repair Fund and Roads to Recovery grant. Some works are scheduled with some funds being left unallocated for reactive purposes throughout the year.

Road

Peelwood Road
Rugby Road
Grabine Road
Abbey Coillins Road
Berrabanglo Road
Others roads

Status

Complete – July 2026
Scheduled – March 2027
Complete – July/August 2026
Scheduled – August 2026
Scheduled – August 2026
To be determined

Vegetation

A program for vegetation control (tree trimming and grubbing) has been completed and Request for Quotation (RFQ) circulated to contractors. Works are aimed at dangerous overhanging trees and encroaching vegetation on priority roads. The program includes tidying up of trees along Collector Road (from highway into Collector). It is hoped that all works on the program will be delivered prior to Christmas 2026.

Information Only

WORKS IN PROGRESS - CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE cont'd

Heavy Patching

A program for all heavy patching on Local Regional Road is being developed and refined against operational budget.

Bitumen Resealing

Urban Sealed Roads

A program for bitumen sealing urban streets is being developed and refined against budget.

Local Rural Roads

A program for bitumen sealing urban streets is being developed and refined against budget.

Regional Roads

A program for bitumen sealing urban streets is being developed and refined against budget.

Line Marking

Line Marking Program to be delivered to include all projects and resealing completed throughout the year.

Guardrail

A program for Guardrail replacement/installation is being developed and refined against operational budget.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.6 **Investments for the month of July 2026**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/213**

AUTHOR **Director of Finance and Administration**

ISSUE

Council Investment Portfolio Register as at 31 July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

The investment portfolio register is provided for the information of Council.

REPORT

Investments to 31 July 2026

Investment Institution	Type	Investment Face Value	Interest Rate	Term Days	Maturity Date	Interest Due
CBA BOS	Call	\$880,000	2.85%	30	31-07-26	\$2,061.37
Bank of Qld	TD	\$1,000,000	4.95%	141	05-08-26	\$19,121.92
Bendigo Bank	TD	\$1,000,000	4.70%	77	05-08-26	\$9,915.07
IMB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.85%	147	12-08-26	\$19,532.88
Bendigo Bank	TD	\$1,000,000	4.80%	89	12-08-26	\$11,704.11
NAB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.98%	84	12-08-26	\$11,460.82
NAB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.10%	364	19-08-26	\$40,887.67
IMB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.85%	84	19-08-26	\$11,161.64
CBA	TD	\$300,000	4.91%	84	19-08-26	\$3,389.92
Bendigo Bank	TD	\$1,000,000	5.05%	154	26-08-26	\$21,306.85
CBA	TD	\$900,000	4.93%	84	26-08-26	\$10,211.18
CBA	TD	\$1,500,000	4.01%	364	02-09-26	\$59,985.21
NAB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.15%	365	09-09-26	\$41,500.00
IMB	TD	\$600,000	4.90%	89	09-09-26	\$7,168.77
NAB	TD	\$2,500,000	4.95%	84	16-09-26	\$28,479.45

Information Only**INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2026 cont'd**

IMB	TD	\$2,000,000	4.90%	84	16-09-26	\$22,553.42
NAB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.20%	301	16-09-26	\$34,635.62
NAB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.20%	364	23-09-26	\$41,884.93
Bank of Qld	TD	\$1,000,000	4.80%	85	23-09-26	\$11,178.08
Bank of Qld	TD	\$1,600,000	4.85%	98	14-10-26	\$20,835.07
NAB	TD	\$1,000,000	5.10%	91	28-10-26	\$12,715.07
CBA	TD	\$500,000	4.99%	96	04-11-26	\$6,562.19
Bendigo Bank	TD	\$1,000,000	5.20%	224	11-11-26	\$31,912.33
CBA	TD	\$1,500,000	5.02%	133	18-11-26	\$27,438.08
Bank of Qld	TD	\$1,000,000	4.30%	371	09-12-26	\$43,706.85
CBA	TD	\$1,076,000	4.58%	364	06-01-27	\$49,145.78
CBA	TD	\$1,000,000	4.52%	370	13-01-27	\$45,819.18
Bank of Qld	TD	\$500,000	4.50%	364	20-01-27	\$22,438.36
NAB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.70%	364	27-01-27	\$46,871.23
CBA	TD	\$1,100,000	4.72%	362	27-01-27	\$51,493.26
Bendigo Bank	TD	\$1,000,000	4.55%	364	03-02-27	\$45,375.34
Bank of Qld	TD	\$1,100,000	4.75%	371	10-02-27	\$53,108.90
Bendigo Bank	TD	\$1,000,000	4.60%	371	17-02-27	\$46,756.16
Bank of Qld	TD	\$1,000,000	4.80%	371	24-02-27	\$48,789.04
CBA	TD	\$1,000,000	4.75%	378	03-03-27	\$49,191.78
NAB	TD	\$500,000	4.80%	378	10-03-27	\$24,854.79
IMB	TD	\$1,000,000	4.80%	378	17-03-27	\$49,709.59
Bank of Qld	TD	\$1,500,000	4.97%	385	24-03-27	\$78,634.93
		\$40,056,000				\$1,163,496.85

TD: Term Deposit**CBA BOS:** Commonwealth Bank Business Online Saver

Information Only

INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2026 cont'd

Council Investment Performance:

Budget Comparison to 31 July 2026

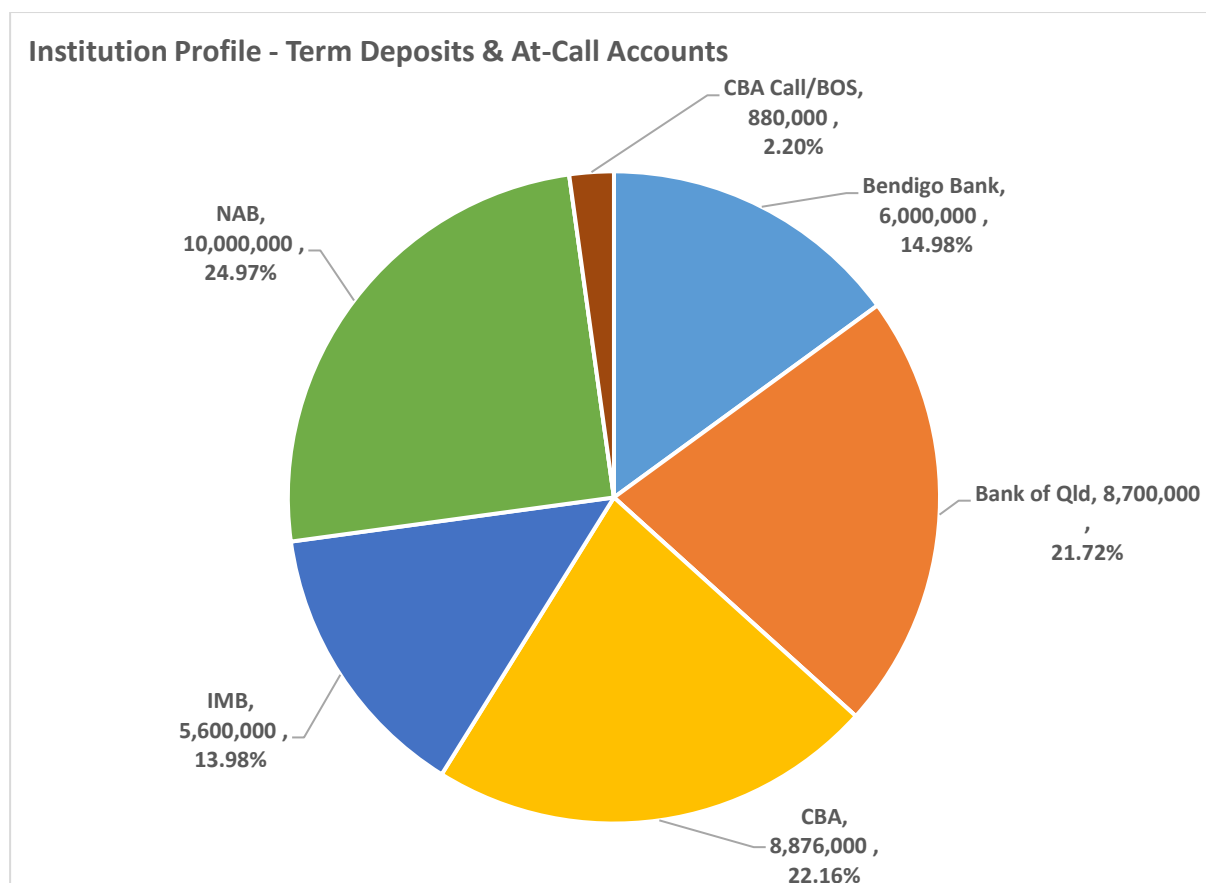
Interest on Investments Received YTD	\$158,261
Annual budgeted amount for all funds	\$1,390,500
Percentage of Interest Received YTD	11.38%
Percentage of Year Elapsed	8.49%
Average market interest rate (90-day BBSW)	4.50%
Average return on all investments	4.67%

The above investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Local Government Regulations, the Ministerial Investment Order, and the Council's Investment Policy.

Financial Institution Investments Profile as at 31 July 2026

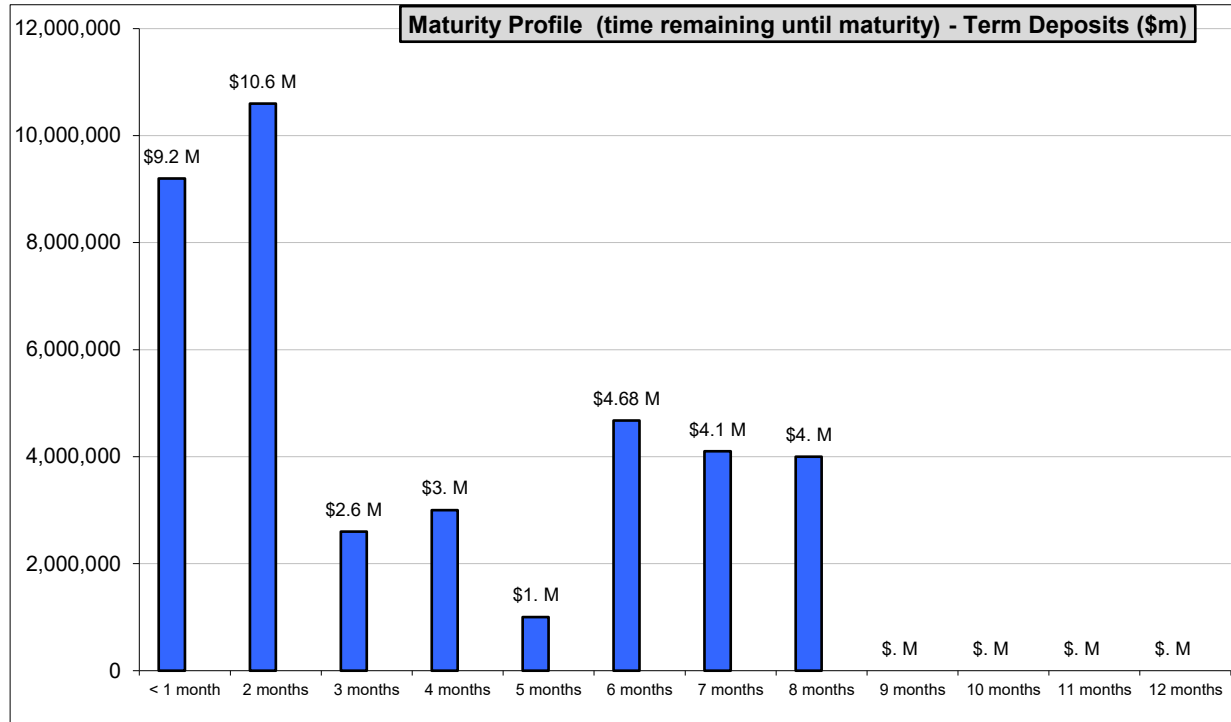
The following chart shows the current distribution of Council's investment portfolio between the authorised financial institutions used. The current distribution of funds between institutions complies with Council's Investment Policy which states:

"The maximum percentage that may be held in term deposits with any one financial institution is 25% of the portfolio, and the maximum to be held in at-call accounts be no more than 15%."



Information Only**INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2026** cont'd**Investments - Maturity Profile as at 31 July 2026**

The following chart illustrates the maturity profile of investment portfolio showing the amount of time remaining until current term deposits mature. This demonstrates that Council's investing activities should meet future cash flow requirements.

**Summary of Available Cash as at 31 July 2026**

Total Investments: \$40,056,000

Investments By Fund (Includes Restricted and Unrestricted Cash):

Funds	(\$)
General Fund Reserves	\$22,679,049
Water Supply Fund Reserves	\$5,293,757
Sewerage Fund Reserves	\$9,227,960
Domestic Waste Management Fund Reserves	\$2,852,880
Trust Fund Reserves	\$2,355

Information Only

INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2026 cont'd

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.7 **Bank Balance and Reconciliation - July 2026**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/214**

AUTHOR **Director of Finance and Administration**

ISSUE

Statement of Bank Balance and Reconciliation as at 31 July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

Nil

REPORT

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCE & RECONCILIATION

General Ledger Balance brought forward 30 June 2026	322,059.74
Add: Receipts for July 2026	<u>9,185,234.28</u>
	9,507,294.02
Deduct: Payments for July 2026	<u>9,316,772.17</u>
Balance as at 31 July 2026	<u>190,521.85</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement 31 July 2026	751,919.76
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>619.90</u>
	752,539.66
Less: Unpresented Cheques/ EFTs	<u>562,017.81</u>
Balance as at 31 July 2026	<u>190,521.85</u>

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.8 **Rates and Charges Outstanding for the month of July 2026**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/215**

AUTHOR **Director of Finance and Administration**

ISSUE

Rates and Charges Outstanding Report to 31 July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

A Summary report of the Rates and Charges outstanding at 31 July 2026 is detailed.

REPORT

There is an attached report titled "Rate Collection 2027 Year" for the 2026/2027 financial year. A comparison of the rates and charges outstanding percentage to previous financial years is highlighted in the below table:

Description	31/07/2026	31/07/2025	31/07/2024
Total % Rates and Charges Outstanding	84.24%	85.58%	86.64%
Total \$ Amount Rates and Charges Outstanding	\$15.15 million	\$14.48 million	\$13.92 million

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ↓	Rate Collection by Category - August 2026	Attachment
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Rate Collection 2027 Year

Rating Categories	Levy Raised 2 August 2026	Rates Received to 2 August 2026	Rates Outstanding to 2 August 2026	% Rates Outstanding 2 August 2026
Farmland	6,507,544.78	904,480.83	5,603,063.95	86.10%
Residential	1,812,560.58	272,965.20	1,539,595.38	84.94%
Rural Residential	1,015,710.12	177,712.34	837,997.78	82.50%
Business	893,493.49	129,142.41	764,351.08	85.55%
Mining	2,487.40	-	2,487.40	100.00%
Water	1,536,352.00	256,737.55	1,279,614.45	83.29%
Sewerage	2,296,317.90	374,717.49	1,921,600.41	83.68%
Domestic & Comm Waste	2,025,118.00	342,795.61	1,682,322.39	83.07%
Rural Waste	1,083,449.40	174,532.85	908,916.55	83.89%
Storm Water	51,325.00	7,147.87	44,177.13	86.07%
**Arrears	757,034.91	193,920.95	563,113.96	74.38%
Credits		49,313.62	-49,313.62	
Overall Total Rates	17,981,393.58	2,883,466.72	15,097,926.86	83.96%

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Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.9 **Library Services 4th Quarter Report 2025/2026**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/210**

AUTHOR **Library Manager**

ISSUE

This report provides a summary of the activities in the Upper Lachlan Shire Council libraries for the 4th Quarter 2025/2026 as at 30 June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

Nil

LIBRARY USAGE:

	Crookwell	Gunning
Loans*	2,651	1,191
New Members	50	21
Internet Sessions	830	142
Wi-Fi Hours	1,124	390
Visitors	4,998	2,540
Hours open per week	31.5	19

*Quarterly loans do not include e-book, e-audio or e-magazines which are calculated annually.

OVERVIEW:

- Both Libraries ran a variety of activities this quarter, including collaborating with groups such as the Department of Aged Care, the Cancer Council, and the Sydney Writer's Festival. Important community dates such as Anzac Day, Mother's Day, Easter, and Pride month were also recognised through Library events.
- The new member drive focused on 'refer a friend' was completed in June, with a good increase in membership as a result. The NSW State Library will continue to promote library membership over the next several months, and our Libraries will link with this initiative.

Feedback

- Library staff received positive feedback from the public this quarter, including:
 - "What a lovely little library"
 - "We are very grateful to our staff and educational community including ... Crookwell Town Library ... for joining us for this event (Crookwell Public School Education Expo). We loved having you with us!"
 - "Our students love these exciting learning opportunities provided by the library, engaging their creative and critical thinking and letting them explore new and

interesting stories, deepening their love of reading. Thank you as always to Susan for your constant support and encouragement of our students, and for braving the wet weather on Tuesday morning to make sure our students wouldn't miss out!"

- "It's a great library with the updated technology. You're lucky to have it!"
- "This (Sydney Writer's Festival Live & Local) was great, thanks"
- "This (Sydney Writer's Festival Live & Local) was a great opportunity here. Thank you for bringing this to us"
- "The Library is an oasis of civility!"
- "I could spend hours here! It's a charming little library with an incredible selection of books, helpful resources, and something new to discover every visit"
- "Thank you again for another wonderful recommendation, I read this book in two days"
- "This is such a lovely, quaint library. It has a warm, welcoming atmosphere, and the collection of books and resources is truly amazing."
- "Your school holiday classes look great, my daughter is going to love coming along"
- "That was a great author talk (Penelope Janu), she's so interesting. And you were a good interviewer too!"

EVENTS AND PROMOTION:

Online:

- The monthly Library email newsletter has continued this quarter, being sent to more than 1,500 people each month.
- The Library's Facebook page was used to engage and inform members, with 165 posts on the page and local groups reaching almost 28,000 people on topics such as Library services and resources, new arrivals, events and activities, community engagement and outreach, and service interruptions.
- The Library continued to post to our Instagram page, with 38 posts made during the quarter reaching more than 600 people.
- The Library webpage displayed Recent Fiction, and New eBooks to Borrow from Home, as well as special displays on upcoming events and school holiday activities.

Crookwell and Gunning Libraries:

- The weekly Gunning Library Crafternoon had 49 people attending during the quarter to take part in a structured program of craft activities, including papercraft, knitting, crochet, and watercolour painting.
- Crookwell Library hosted the monthly Scrabble and Chat program, supported by the Friends of the Library. 12 people took part in this activity.
- Crookwell Library hosted three visits from the Digital Mentor, with 12 participants. Visits to Gunning Library started in May, with seven people taking part.
- The Library's 'refer a friend' membership drive was completed in June, with 22 new members signing up. The prizes for signing up a new member will continue to be offered through July, and culminate with the 'Open Doors, Open Books, Open Minds' day at the end of July.
- Both Libraries hosted virtual talks streamed from the Sydney Writer's Festival as part of their Live and Local program. Authors included Stephanie Alexander, Trent

Dalton, and Yann Martel. A total of five people attended, with hopes of increased audiences if the program is offered in future.

- Gunning Library hosted an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event, in collaboration with community members. 72 people attended the event, which raised \$3,021.50.
- Gunning Library hosted a session on My Aged Care with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. 13 people attended this session.
- Crookwell Library hosted an author talk with Penelope Janu, in conversation with the Library Manager. Seven people attended this event.
- Both Libraries hosted a Pride Month event for teens and adults. Five people took part at Gunning, with six taking part at Crookwell.
- Both libraries displayed new Library items in 'new book' displays throughout the Library, including on face-out shelving. Gunning Library also had special displays on various topics.
- Promotional articles and columns were published in the Upper Lachlan Gazette, Upper Lachlan Library Service Facebook page, Council Website, Council's Facebook page, the Library email newsletter, and local school newsletters.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

- In this quarter 113 people attended Read and Rhyme at Gunning Library, with 91 people attending at Crookwell Library.
- Both Libraries hosted special storytimes this quarter, including Sensory Storytime, Simultaneous Storytime, Anzac Day Storytime, Easter Storytime, and Nourishing Little Minds. At Gunning Library this quarter 51 people attended, with 48 people taking part at Crookwell Library.
- In this quarter 42 people attended the weekly Lego Club at Gunning Library, with 66 people attending Lego Club at Crookwell Library.
- Crookwell Library ran weekly Dungeons and Dragons sessions for teens and young adults with a total of 97 participants across the quarter.
- Both Libraries hosted activities during the school holidays
 - Manga Drawing workshop at Gunning with eight participants
 - Temporary Tattoo workshop at Gunning with eight participants
 - Youth Week Dungeons and Dragons activity at Gunning with six participants
 - Dragon Egg creation workshop at Crookwell with one participant
 - Mini Birdhouse craft at Crookwell with nine participants
- Crookwell Library hosted an Easter craft session, with five participants.
- Both Libraries hosted a Mother's Day craft session, with five participants at Crookwell and four at Gunning.
- The following schools either visited the Library or had a visit from Library staff to read a book on robots and make their own balancing robot in term 1, and to read a book on astronauts and light and make a magic jar in term 2:
 - Bigga Public School
 - Binda Public School
 - Breadalbane Public School
 - Collector Public School
 - Crookwell Public School
 - Dalton Public School
 - Gunning Public School
 - Laggan Public School
 - St Marys Primary School

- Taralga Public School
- SDN Preschool also brought students each fortnight to visit the Library and read a book and complete a craft activity. A total of 427 children engaged with the Library as part of outreach visits this quarter.

COLLECTIONS, RESOURCES AND FACILITIES:

Collections

- New items were purchased based on patron suggestions, and to replace or obtain additional copies of popular titles. A suite of books aimed at older children with low literacy were also purchased.
- Weeded the Biography collection at Gunning with intentions to swap the locations of Biography and Local Studies in the near future.

Resources

- Volunteers completed 47 hours of work in the Crookwell Library. This quarter volunteers assisted with shelving, stock rotation, creating children's craft examples, shredding, sorting children's activity resources, and the reservation pick list.
- The quarterly staff meeting was held on 14 May.
- Staff completed training in Verbal Judo, Trove resource sharing, and AI & Libraries.
- In this quarter the Library Manager:
 - Attended Meetings
 - Attended the Senior Management and Executive meeting
 - Attended the Strategic Network Committee meeting with the NSW State Library and secretaries of other Zone groups across NSW
 - Attended a BCP simulation exercise
 - Attended the South East Zone meeting at Queanbeyan, including providing secretariat services
 - Organised and chaired the South East Zone BorrowBox consortia meeting to make final decisions on spending for 2026/27
 - Organised to attend the NSW State Library's "Foundations and futures: Building Strong Public Libraries in NSW" seminar in August, to better understand how to meet the new Library Standards
 - Attended the Crookwell Memorial Hall Committee meeting
 - Managed Library Finances, Administration and Reporting
 - Reviewed spending against budgets
 - Liaised with Goulburn Mulwaree Library to confirm breakdown in spending across Collections
 - Confirmed breakdown in spending across Collections with Goulburn Mulwaree library
 - Advised and promoted changes to Library charges in the 2026/27 year.
 - Organised Programs and Outreach, and Promotions
 - Attended the Crookwell Public School Education Expo to promote the Library's offerings
 - Organised for purchase of MetaCat therapeutic robotic cats for use in aged care outreach in the new financial year

- Organised to partner with the Sydney Writer's Festival for their 'Live and Local' program, which gives access to livestreamed talks from the Festival
- Organised various activities and outreach visits, as well as a range of promotional materials and content
- Coordinated and advised staff of activities to be undertaken as part of the state-wide 'Open Doors, Open Books, Open Minds' initiative
- Arranged for Library information to be included on the new Visitor Information noticeboard
- Organised June 'refer a new member' membership drive activity and items
- Organised for the Crookwell Library listing on the NSW State Library's public library map to link to the correct webpage
- Managed Library Systems and Technology
 - Completed testing and issue resolution for the Spydus LMS, including updating staff and the LMS vendor
 - ACMA SMS registration was completed, to maintain compliance with SMS Sender ID register
- Managed WHS
 - Duress alarms were tested at both locations, and the procedure sent to all staff to remind them of the process
 - Followed up expiring WWCCs
 - First Aid kits were checked and replenished
 - Flu Vaccinations and Skin Check program were offered to all staff

Facilities

- Various IT issues were resolved, with some issues remaining under investigation.
- Staff printers were upgraded at Crookwell and Gunning.
- Carpet and upholstery cleaning was completed at Crookwell and Gunning.
- Issues with doors and shelving at Gunning Library were resolved.

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.10 **Community Outreach Meetings 2026**

FILE REFERENCE I26/238

AUTHOR **Director of Finance and Administration**

ISSUE

Advising Councillors of the schedule for Community Outreach Meeting dates to be held in the Shire in October and November 2026.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

Nil

REPORT

Council meet annually with the communities in four towns/villages in the Shire as part of the community engagement and consultation process as outlined in Council Community Outreach Meetings Policy. The pre-arranged scheduled dates for the Community Outreach Meetings in 2026 are as follows:-

Locality	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Big Hill	Tuesday	13 October 2026	6:00pm	Big Hill Fire Shed
Crookwell	Tuesday	20 October 2026	6:00pm	Crookwell Memorial Hall
Gunning	Tuesday	27 October 2026	6:00pm	Gunning Shire Hall
Taralga	Tuesday	3 November 2026	6:00pm	Taralga War Memorial Hall

POLICY IMPACT

This report is in accordance with the Council's Community Outreach Meetings Policy.

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Information Only - 20 August 2026

ITEM 10.11 **Action Summary - Council Decisions**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/207**

AUTHOR **Chief Executive Officer**

ISSUE

Details are provided of action taken to implement Council Meeting decisions.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

BACKGROUND

Details are provided of action taken with respect to Council decisions.

REPORT

Summary sheet includes the following Council Resolutions:-

Council Meeting: 18 September 2025

165/25	1. That Council undertake a review of Section 355 Committees to ascertain the scope and relevance of each committee's function in regard to exercising the functions of Council, and governance in relation to the Code of Meeting Practice, reporting to Council and any areas for improvement in compliance and operation.	DFA	Section 355 Committee Policy and Code of Practice adopted at 16 July 2026 Council Meeting. Committees will be considered for endorsement at 17 September 2026 Council Meeting.
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Council Meeting: 19 February 2026

26/26	Councils Environment and Planning directorate review the following 4 items and report back to Council on the practical implementation of the following proposed changes, noting quarterly changes as a quarterly report: 1. Expand the current Council provided DA report to include a live, dynamic Infrastructure and Services Capacity Matrix Report. Capacity is a question	DEP	A review to occur and come back to future Council Meeting in line with the quarter.
-------	--	-----	---

	that is asked during every assessment and would certainly be of valuable to us all if we have a live and dynamic version that would highlight all aspects that need to be considered and recorded. 2. That the report quantify current and committed capacity as a percentage (%), identify remaining capacity and trigger points for upgrades, and address any risks. 1. Sewerage and wastewater 2. Water supply 3. Electricity and power 4. Council infrastructure and services, including roads, stormwater, waste, community facilities, and emergency RFS access. 3. That the assessment accounts for cumulative impacts, including approved and pending developments and both major and minor subdivisions. 4. That this information be recognised as vital for Councillors and Council officers when assessing Development Applications, to ensure capacity thresholds and associated risks are identified early in the assessment process.		
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Council Meeting: 16 April 2026

57/26	1. Resolve to subdivide a portion of the road reserve located at the intersection of Hume Street and Grovenor Street, Gunning, to create a separate lot and deposited plan. 2. Retain ownership of the newly created lot following subdivision. 3. Permit the use of the land by the NSW Rural Fire Service for the purpose of constructing and operating a fire station, subject to appropriate agreements being executed between the parties. 4. Classify the newly created lot as Operational Land pursuant to Section 31 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), noting that the land is to	DOI	The requisition raised by NSW Land Registry Services (LRS) has been responded to, and the surveyors are awaiting LRS's assessment of the response. 31 August 2026: Anticipated successful lodgement of the plans with LRS. 30 October 2026 (approx.): Completion of the
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Information Only**ACTION SUMMARY - COUNCIL DECISIONS cont'd**

	be used for a specific operational purpose associated with the construction and ongoing operation of a fire station, and that Council will undertake all necessary administration and statutory processes to give effect to this classification.		statutory 60-day gazettal period. 30 November 2026 (approx.): Finalisation of the matter by Council's lawyer.
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Council Meeting: 21 May 2026

72/26	1. Council notes the Upper Lachlan Housing Strategy and Development Control Plan Review of Submissions Report 2026. 2. Council resolves to support the revisions to the Draft Upper Lachlan Housing Strategy and Draft Upper Lachlan Development Control Plan (with the exception of the removal of the preamble at Part D7) for further public exhibition. 3. Council place the Draft Upper Lachlan Housing Strategy, Draft Upper Lachlan Development Control Plan and Upper Lachlan Review of Submission Report 2026 on public exhibition for a minimum period of 56 days. 4. Upon completion of the exhibition period, a further report be provided to Council outlining any submissions received. 5. Accept the Fee Proposal of \$12,500 plus GST from Currajong – Planning, Property & Project Management Services to undertake the associate work for Re-exhibiting the Upper Lachlan Housing Strategy and Development Control Plan. 6. Approve the Allocation and Expenditure of \$12,500 plus GST of funding from Councils Section 7.11 Developer Contribution Plan (Upper Lachlan Development Contributions Plan 2007) – 'Plan Administration' reserves to fund the associated works.	DEP	The Draft Upper Lachlan Development Control Plan have been re-exhibited. The submission period closes at 5.00pm on Wednesday 26 August 2026. This is available on Councils website and social channels.
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Council Meeting: 18 June 2026

100/26	1. Council under Section 252, of the Local Government Act 1993, review	DFA	Policy reported to 20 August 2026
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Information Only**ACTION SUMMARY - COUNCIL DECISIONS** cont'd

	the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy. 2. Council under Section 253, of the Local Government Act 1993, gives public notice of its intention to adopt and amend the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy allowing 28 days public exhibition period for members of the community to make public submissions.		Council Meeting for adoption.
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Council Meeting: 16 July 2026

115/26	1. That ULSC reinstate the Green waste collection service from 1 September 2026 with an annual pause from 1 June to 31 August; 2. All waste services be examined once the waste review has been finalised, including but not limited elements like whether green waste should be limited to urban areas and whether accessibility to transfer stations in some rural localities such as Bigga can be extended.	DEP	Waste strategy review to come back to a future Council Meeting .
119/226	1. Council note Green waste collection service will be reinstated from 1 September 2026 with an annual pause from 1 June to 31 August; 2. Council notify the public of the recommencement of the kerbside green waste collection service; and 3. Council reinstate the gate charge for green waste disposal at all transfer stations.	DEP	Communication through Councils website, social channels and local gazette has occurred regarding the reinstatement.
120/26	1. Council adopt the Delivery Program Actions Report review for the six month period ended 30 June 2026.	DFA	Delivery Program Actions will be included in the Council 2025/2026 Annual Report.
121/26	1. Council adopts the reviewed Use of Council Logo and Seal Policy.	DFA	Policy placed on Council website.
122/26	1. Council adopts the reviewed Code of Practice for Section 355 Committees.	DFA	Code of Practice placed on Council website. Section 355 Committees of Council notified.

Information Only**ACTION SUMMARY - COUNCIL DECISIONS** cont'd

123/26	1. Council adopts the reviewed Section 355 Committee Policy.	DFA	Policy placed on Council website. Section 355 Committees of Council notified.
124/26	1. Endorse the commencement of an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the commercial lease of the café located within the Crookwell Visitor Information Centre, 208 Goulburn Street, Crookwell, with the EOI to be publicly advertised for a minimum period of 28 days. 2. Receive a further report following the EOI process for Council's consideration of the preferred respondent and proposed lease arrangements.	CEO	EOI guidance /documentation being developed prior to release of EOI.
128/26	1. Council write to successful applicants for the 2026/2027 Collector Wind Farm Community Fund Committee	CEO	Successful Applicants notified.
129/26	1. Council write to successful applicants for the 2026/2027 Taralga Wind Farm Community Fund Committee	CEO	Successful Applicants notified.
130/26	1. Council write to successful applicants for the 2026/2027 Rye Park Wind Farm Community Fund Committee	CEO	Successful Applicants notified.
134/26	1. Council allocate up to \$150,000.00 from Section 7.11 reserves – Community Facilities to enable the completion of connecting the VIC power supply.	CEO	Funds internally restricted for the project works – Ongoing process.

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

There were no items submitted for this section at the time the Agenda was compiled.

12 INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

The following item is submitted for consideration -

- | | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 12.1 | Road Boundary Adjustment - Intersection Hanworth &
Bannaby Roads | 102 |
|------|---|-----|

ITEM 12.1 **Road Boundary Adjustment - Intersection Hanworth & Bannaby Roads**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/217**

AUTHOR **Design Engineer**

ISSUE

Council has received a request from the landowner through KMJ Surveying, seeking Council's support to correct the alignment of the road reserve associated with Brayton Road from the intersection of Bannaby Road and Hanworth Road.

The proposal seeks to close the existing unused road corridor and create a new road reserve over the existing formed section of Brayton Road, correcting the historical misalignment between the legal road reserve and the physical road.

RECOMMENDATION That –

1. Resolve to proceed with the road closure and road opening process required to realign the road reserve associated with Brayton Road.
2. Resolve to transfer the closed road corridor to the adjoining landowner, at no cost, in recognition that the landowner will dedicate a greater area of land to Council for the creation of the new road reserve.
3. Require all costs associated with surveying, legal documentation, registration, gazettal and any other costs associated with the road closure and road opening process to be borne by the landowner.

BACKGROUND

Council was approached by KMJ Surveying on behalf of the landowner regarding a proposal to correct the alignment of the road reserve associated with Brayton Road, from the intersection of Bannaby Road and Hanworth Road.

The existing cadastral road reserve does not align with the location of the constructed roadway. As a result, the formed section of Brayton Road currently traverses private property, while the dedicated road reserve occupies land where no road has been constructed.

The proposed works will correct this historical issue by closing the unused road corridor and dedicating a new road reserve over the existing formed roadway. This will ensure the legal road reserve accurately reflects the location of the road currently used by the public.

The landowner has indicated that they wish to undertake the boundary correction prior to progressing future development of the property. As part of the proposal, the landowner will dedicate a greater area of land to Council for the new road reserve than the area of road reserve proposed to be closed.

REPORT

Brayton Road is currently constructed and maintained in a location that differs from the existing legal road reserve. The proposed road closure and road opening process will rectify this discrepancy by closing the unused road corridor and creating a new road reserve over the existing formed road.

The proposal represents an administrative correction to the road reserve and cadastral boundaries rather than a change to the existing road network. Following completion of the process, the public will continue to use Brayton Road in its current location, with no changes to traffic movements, road function or access to adjoining properties.

As the landowner is dedicating a greater area of land to Council than the area of road reserve proposed to be closed, it is proposed that the closed road corridor be transferred to the landowner at no cost. This will result in an overall increase in Council's road reserve while correcting the historical boundary discrepancy.

The primary benefit to Council is the correction of an existing road reserve issue, ensuring that the legal road reserve accurately reflects the location of the existing public road. This will improve the accuracy of Council's land records and reduce the potential for future land tenure and development issues.

There are no anticipated costs to Council associated with the proposal. All costs relating to surveying, legal documentation, registration, gazettal and any other requirements necessary to complete the road closure and road opening process will be borne by the landowner.

Should Council resolve to proceed with the proposal, staff will commence the statutory road closure and road opening process in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 and any other relevant legislative requirements.

ROAD BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT - INTERSECTION HANWORTH & BANNABY ROADS cont'd

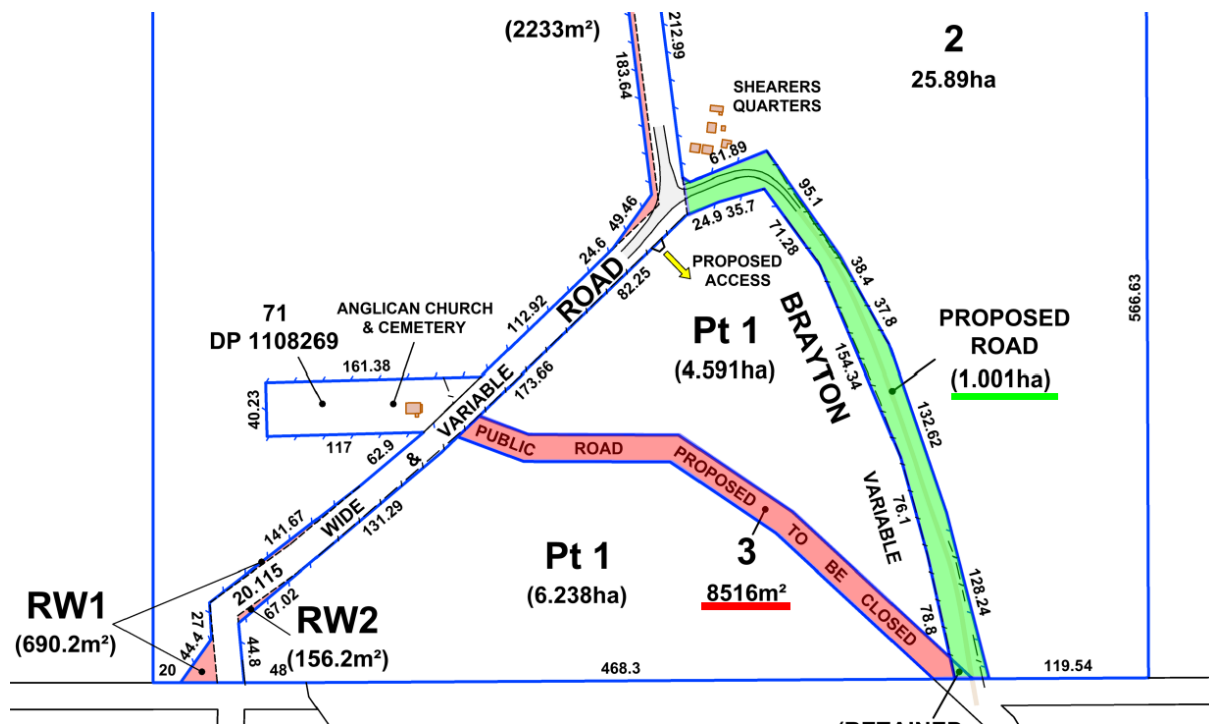


Figure 1: Proposed Linen Plan Indicating closure and opening areas

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Proceed with the road reserve realignment (Recommended)

Council resolves to proceed with the road closure and road opening process to correct the alignment of the road reserve associated with Brayton Road. This option will rectify the historical discrepancy between the legal road reserve and the existing formed road at no cost to Council.

Option 2 – Do not proceed with the road reserve realignment

Council resolves not to proceed with the road closure and road opening process. This would leave the existing discrepancy between the legal road reserve and the physical road unresolved, resulting in Brayton Road continuing to traverse private property and potentially creating complications for future development of the adjoining land.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no anticipated financial implications for Council arising from the recommended option. All costs associated with the proposal, including surveying, plan preparation, legal documentation, valuation, registration, gazettal and any other costs required to complete the road closure and road opening process, will be borne by the landowner.

Infrastructure Department

**ROAD BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT - INTERSECTION HANWORTH & BANNABY
ROADS cont'd**

Upon completion of the proposal, Council will receive a greater area of dedicated road reserve than the area being closed, resulting in a net increase in Council owned road reserve at no cost to Council.

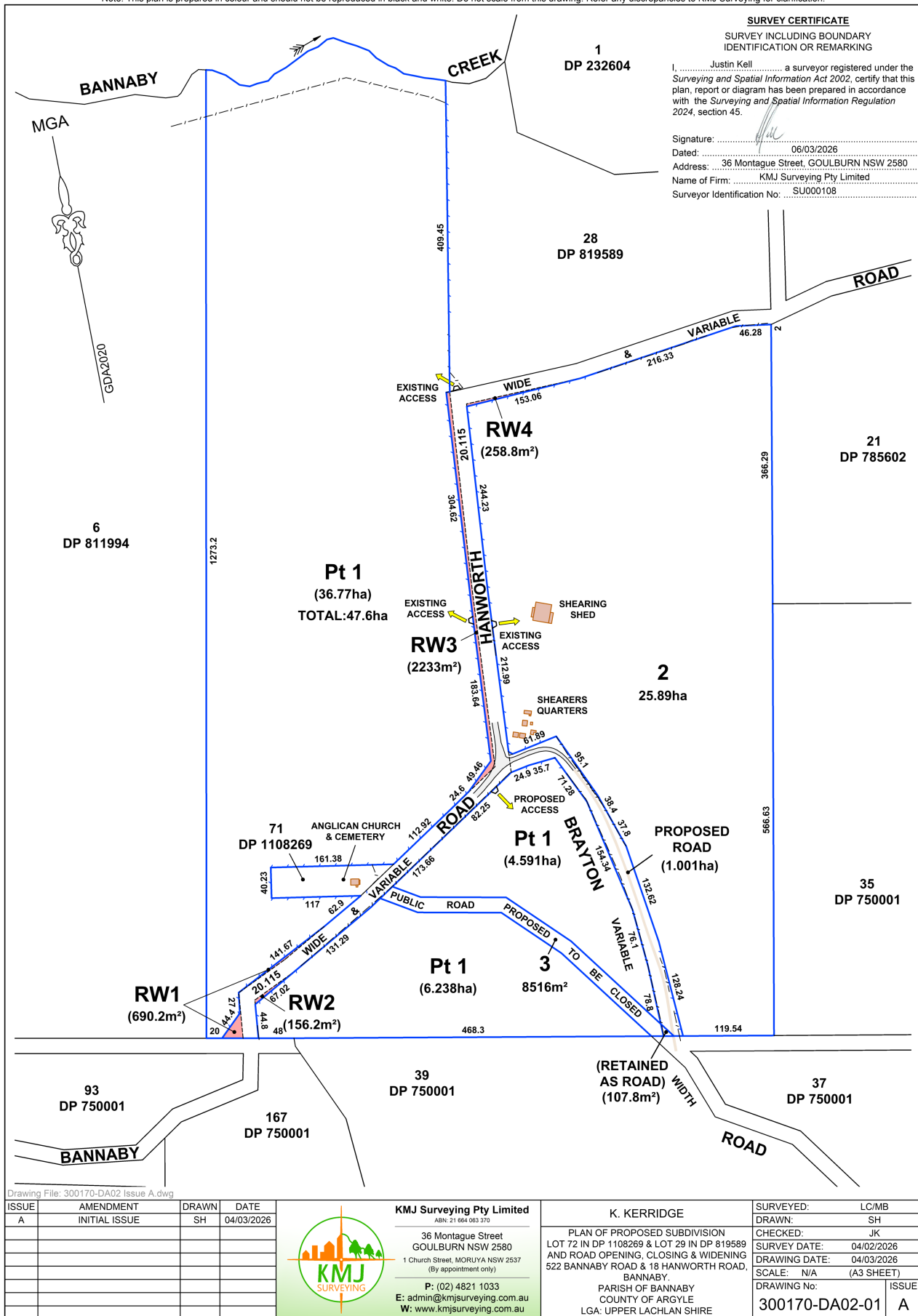
RECOMMENDATION That –

1. Resolve to proceed with the road closure and road opening process required to realign the road reserve associated with Brayton Road.
2. Resolve to transfer the closed road corridor to the adjoining landowner, at no cost, in recognition that the landowner will dedicate a greater area of land to Council for the creation of the new road reserve.
3. Require all costs associated with surveying, legal documentation, registration, gazettal and any other costs associated with the road closure and road opening process to be borne by the landowner.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ↓	KMJ SURVEYING PTY LIMITED - Preliminary Engineering Drawings - -	Attachment
2. ↓	KMJ SURVEYING PTY LIMITED - Other - -	Attachment

Note: This plan is prepared in colour and should not be reproduced in black and white. Do not scale from this drawing. Refer any discrepancies to KMJ Surveying for clarification.



[illegible]

NOTE: DIMENSIONS AND AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO SURVEY



SURVEYED: LC/MB	
DRAWN: SH	
CHECKED: JK	
SURVEY DATE: 04/02/2026	
DRAWING DATE: 04/03/2026	
SCALE: N/A (A3 SHEET)	
DRAWING No: 300170-DA02-02	ISSUE A

Ordinary Meeting held on 20 August 2026
Page 107

KMJ Surveying Pty Limited

ABN: 21 664 063 370



Our Ref: 300170

16 April 2026

The General Manager
Upper Lachlan Shire Council
PO Box 42
GUNNING NSW 2581

Attention: Hugh Waters

Dear Sir,

**RE: TWO (2) LOT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT SUBDIVISION
18 HANWORTH RD & 522 BANNABY RD, BANNABY**

I refer to our meeting of 20th January 2026 to discuss the subject proposal. I'm pleased to report the plans and reports are now completed and submitted as a development application for your consideration.

I write to highlight the background of the application and seek Council's balanced assessment with regards conditions. The primary driver for the application is to resolve the major encroachment of Brayton Rd through my client's land Lot 29 DP819589. I've had a long association with attempts to rectify this in the past 15 years with Council that didn't progress.

In recent times negotiations with Council as a proposed partner in the application have again not progressed. The situation is now at the point where my client is restricted in making commercial decisions with the land with an encroachment of this scale. As a result, my client is taking on the full cost to rectify the encroachment of a public road on the land.

The opportunity is being taken to undertake boundary adjustments between the two subject lots for improved land management, i.e. Lot 29 (proposed Lot 2) being bounded by one side only of Hanworth & Brayton Roads and those residual parts being adjusted into Lot 72 (proposed Lot 1). These lots continue to be for agricultural use and not attract a dwelling entitlement due to lot size.

Further, we're seeking the redundant public Brayton Road being supported to be closed as part of the application. For this application we seek only Council's support of the road reserve being closed and the final closing to be progressed independent of this proposal. Nonetheless the final plan would identify the road being 'proposed to be closed' and allocated a lot number to assist in the subsequent stages of closure and transfer.

Finally, it is our expectation the application will not include any obligation of physical improvements to Brayton Rd or its intersection with Bannaby Rd. We have included four (4) road widenings along Bannaby/Hanworth Roads to make those boundaries coincidental with road fencing. We are open to discuss with council engineers the final boundary location/width for Brayton Rd that has been largely based on fencing and banks.

36 Montague Street
GOULBURN NSW 2580

1 Church Street
MORUYA NSW 2537 (By appointment only)

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

P: (02) 4821 1033
E: admin@kmjsurveying.com.au
W: www.kmjsurveying.com.au



KMJ Surveying Pty Limited
ABN: 21 664 063 370



Our Ref: 300199

16 April 2026

Page 2 of 2

With substantial survey and planning costs we consider any further financial burden on my client is not justified or equitable and would appreciate your consideration with the assessment.

Please contact our office on (02) 4821 1033 if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully,

KMJ Surveying

Justin Kell

Director | Registered Surveyor NSW (No.SU000108)

13 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The following items are submitted for consideration -

13.1	Review of Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy	112
13.2	Disclosure of Interest Returns by Councillors and Designated Persons under the Code of Conduct	134
13.3	2025/2026 Budget Revotes to carry forward to internal restricted reserve	136
13.4	Review of Council's Investment Policy	138

Finance and Administration - 20 August 2026

ITEM 13.1 **Review of Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/212**

AUTHOR **Director of Finance and Administration**

ISSUE

This report provides a recommendation for adoption of the reviewed Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy for Councillors after a public exhibition period.

RECOMMENDATION That –

1. Council in accordance with Sections 252-254, of the Local Government Act 1993 adopts the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy as publicly exhibited.

BACKGROUND

Council previously adopted the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy at the Ordinary Meeting, held on 21 August 2025, under Council Resolution Number 131/25:-

1. *Council in accordance with Section 252-254, of the Local Government Act 1993, adopts the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy.*

REPORT

Providing details of a review of the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy after public exhibition. Section 252, of the *Local Government Act 1993*, states that a Council must adopt a Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy. A copy of this policy is attached to this report and has been reviewed and had amendments made to the policy as outlined in the policy cover page prior to public exhibition.

The policy was placed on public exhibition for 28 days. There were zero public submissions received with respect to the revised Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy during the public exhibition period.

POLICY IMPACT

This is a review of an existing Council policy.

Finance and Administration

REVIEW OF PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES POLICY

cont'd

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor fees and expenses are outlined in the attached Council policy and are budgeted for and included within the Council's 2026/2027 Operational Plan.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council in accordance with Sections 252-254, of the Local Government Act 1993 adopts the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy as publicly exhibited.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ↓	Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities - Date Adopted 20 August 2026 - Resolution XXX-26 - Review 2027	Attachment
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Upper Lachlan Shire Council

Policy Update Cover

Date: 20 August 2026	Policy Title: Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy
This cover sheet provides a summary of the proposed amendments to the attached Policy. Council initially adopted this policy on 24 March 2005. The policy was last updated on 21 August 2025.	
Sponsor: Director Finance and Administration	Action required: Approval by Council
Reason for review/update: Council regularly review and update policies to ensure that they are current, fit-for-purpose and relevant to Council's operations. The attached policy has been reviewed and updated in line with this practice and the sponsor is now seeking your approval to implement this policy.	
Summary of the changes: The following amendments have been made to this Policy: - Removed references to amended legislation or non-related legislation to this policy. - Increase ICT telecommunication allowance for each Councillor per month from \$93 to \$96. - Increase to sustenance for attending conferences and seminars or while in the Shire for meal expenses per day increase by \$20 to \$140 per day. - Increased Accommodation expense maximum per night by \$48 to \$388. - Carers expense per hour increases from \$30 to \$35 per hour. - The general vehicle travel expenses reimbursement will increase by the maximum per kilometre rate set by the Local Government (State) Award announced in July 2026. - Public Exhibition Period Public Exhibition 22 June - 20 July 2026no submission. therefore changes from the above	
Consultation(s): N/A	
Internally cleared by	
Position: Chief Executive Officer	Position: Director Finance and Administration

ULSC Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

POLICY:-	
Policy Title:	Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy
File Reference:	F10/618-016
Date Policy was adopted by Council initially:	24 March 2005
Resolution Number:	67/05
Other Review Dates:	25 August 2005; 24 August 2006; 23 August 2007; 28 August 2008; 20 August 2009; 19 August 2010; 16 August 2011; 20 September 2012; 18 July 2013; 21 August 2014; 20 August 2015; 17 August 2017; 21 September 2017, 20 September 2018, 15 September 2022, 14 December 2023, and 21 August 2025
Resolution Number:	231/05; 237/06; 258/07, 259/08; 334/09; 313/10; 315/11; 318/12; 226/13; 247/14; 227/15; 255/16, 259/17; 301/17, 277/18, 208/22, 246/23, and 131/25
Current Policy adopted by Council:	20 August 2026
Resolution Number	XXX/26
Next Policy Review Date:	2027

PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES:-	
Date procedure/guideline was developed:	N/A
Procedure/guideline reference number:	N/A

RESPONSIBILITY:-	
Draft Policy developed by:	Director of Finance and Administration
Committee/s (if any) consulted in the development of this Policy:	N/A
Responsibility for implementation:	Chief Executive Officer
Responsibility for review of Policy:	Director of Finance and Administration

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Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

Policy Summary

This policy enables the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors to assist them undertake their civic duties.

It ensures accountability and transparency, and seeks to align payment of Councillor expenses and facilities with community expectations. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.

The policy has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation), and complies with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Mayors and Councillors in NSW.

The policy sets out the maximum amounts Council will pay for specific expenses and facilities. Expenses not explicitly addressed in this policy will not be paid or reimbursed.

The main expenses and facilities are summarised in the table below. All monetary amounts are exclusive of GST.

Expense or facility	Maximum amount	Frequency
General travel expenses	Councillors: Vehicles under 2.5 litres - \$0.83 per/km Vehicles over 2.5 litres - \$0.98 per/km As calculated on a per kilometre basis by the rate set by the Local Government (State) Award.	Per month
Accommodation	As per the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, adjusted annually (require tax invoice payment evidence)	Maximum up to \$388 per night
Sustenance (Meals) associated	\$140 per Councillor (Includes 3 meals)	Per day
Sustenance within Shire	\$140 (Includes 3 meals)	Per day
Professional development	\$2,000 per Councillor	Per year
Superannuation Guarantee Contribution to Nominated Fund	12% of Members Fee and Mayoral Fee	Per month

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

Expense or facility	Maximum amount	Frequency
Conferences and seminars attendance	\$140 per Councillor sustenance (Council will pay cost of conference / seminar)	Per day
ICT telecommunication allowance	\$96 per Councillor	Per month
ICT Laptop (Council owned)	Provided to all Councillors	Not relevant
Carer Expenses	Reimbursement of \$35 per hour up to maximum of 5 hours on each occasion (require tax invoice payment evidence)	Per hour rate paid monthly
Access to facilities in the Council Chambers	Provided to all Councillors	Not relevant
Council motor vehicle and fuel card	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant
Reserved parking space at Council offices	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant
ICT smart phone device (Council expense)	Provided to the Mayor	Per month
Executive Assistant to support Mayor and Councillors	Provided to the Mayor and Councillors	Not relevant

Additional costs incurred by a Councillor in excess of these limits are considered a personal expense that is the responsibility of the Councillor.

Councillors must provide claims for reimbursement each month and no later than within three months of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved.

Detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors will be publicly tabled at a Council Ordinary Meeting every twelve months as part of Council's Annual Report and it is published on Council's website.

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

Part A - Introduction

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The provision of expenses and facilities enables Councillors to fulfil their civic duties as the elected representatives of Upper Lachlan Shire Council.
- 1.2. The community is entitled to know the extent of expenses paid to Councillors, as well as the facilities provided.
- 1.3. The purpose of this policy is to clearly state the facilities and support that are available to Councillors to assist them in fulfilling their civic duties.
- 1.4. Council Chief Executive Officer is empowered to question or refuse a request for payment from a Councillor when it does not accord with this policy.
- 1.5. Expenses and facilities provided by this policy are in addition to fees paid to Councillors and Mayor fees. The minimum and maximum fees a Council may pay each Councillor are set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal as per Section 241 of the Act and reviewed annually. Council must adopt its annual fees within this set range.

2. Policy Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of this policy are to:-
 - Enable the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses incurred by Councillors while undertaking their civic duties.
 - Enable facilities of a reasonable and appropriate standard to be provided to Councillors to support them in undertaking their civic duties.
 - Ensure accountability and transparency in reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors.
 - Ensure facilities and expenses provided to Councillors meet community expectations.
 - Support a diversity of representation.
 - Fulfil the Council's statutory responsibilities.

3. Principles

- 3.1. Council commits to the following principles:-
 - **Proper conduct:** Councillors and staff acting lawfully and honestly, exercising care and diligence in carrying out their functions.
 - **Reasonable expenses:** providing for Councillors to be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred as part of their role as Councillor.

ULSC Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

- **Participation and access:** enabling people from diverse backgrounds, underrepresented groups, those in carer roles and those with special needs to serve as a Councillor.
- **Equity:** there must be equitable access to expenses and facilities for all Councillors.
- **Appropriate use of resources:** providing clear direction on the appropriate use of Council resources in accordance with legal requirements and community expectations.
- **Accountability and transparency:** clearly stating and reporting on the expenses and facilities provided to Councillors.

4. Private or Political Benefit

- 4.1. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.
- 4.2. Private use of Council equipment and facilities by Councillors may occur from time to time. For example, telephoning home to advise that a Council Ordinary Meeting will run later than expected.
- 4.3. Such incidental private use does not require a compensatory payment back to Council.
- 4.4. Councillors should avoid obtaining any greater private benefit from Council than an incidental benefit. Where there are unavoidable circumstances and more substantial private use of Council facilities does occur, Councillors must reimburse the Council.
- 4.5. Campaigns for re-election are considered to be a political benefit. The following are examples of what is considered to be a political interest during a re-election campaign:-
 - Production of election material.
 - Use of Council resources and equipment for campaigning.
 - Use of official Council letterhead, publications, websites or services for political benefit.
 - Fundraising activities of political parties or individuals, including political fundraising events.

Part B - Expenses

5. General Expenses

- 5.1. All expenses provided under this policy will be for a purpose specific to the functions of holding civic office. Allowances for general expenses are not permitted under this policy.
- 5.2. Expenses not explicitly addressed in this policy will not be paid or reimbursed.

6. Specific Expenses

General travel arrangements and expenses

- 6.1. All travel by Councillors should be undertaken using the most direct route and the most practicable and economical mode of transport.
- 6.2. Each Councillor may be reimbursed in accordance with their authorised expenditure per year, and the Mayor may be reimbursed in accordance with his/her authorised expenditure per year, for travel expenses incurred while undertaking official business or professional development or attending approved conferences and seminars within NSW. This includes reimbursement:
 - For public transport fares
 - For the use of a private vehicle or hire car
 - For parking costs for Council and other meetings
 - For toll charges
 - For Cab charge card or equivalent
 - For documented ride-share programs, such as Uber, where tax invoices can be issued.
- 6.3. Allowances for the use of a private vehicle will be reimbursed by kilometre at the rate contained in the Local Government (State) Award.
- 6.4. Councillors seeking to be reimbursed for use of a private vehicle must keep a log book recording the date, distance and purpose of travel being claimed. Copies of the relevant log book contents must be provided with the claim.

Interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate travel expenses

- 6.5. Given Council's location near an interstate border, travel to the Australian Capital Territory will be considered as general travel.
Arrangements and expenses for this travel will be governed by Clauses 6.1 - 6.4.

ULSC Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

- 6.6. In accordance with Section 4, Council will scrutinise the value and need for Councillors to undertake overseas travel. Councils should avoid interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate trips unless direct and tangible benefits can be established for the Council and the local community. This includes travel to sister and friendship cities.
- 6.7. Total interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate travel expenses for all Councillors will be reimbursed by a resolution of Council only per year. No amount is set aside in Council's annual budget.
- 6.8. Councillors seeking approval for any interstate and long distance intrastate travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, the Chief Executive Officer prior to travel.
- 6.9. Councillors seeking approval for any overseas travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, a full Council Ordinary Meeting prior to travel.
- 6.10. The case should include:-
 - Objectives to be achieved in travel, including an explanation of how the travel aligns with current Council priorities and business, the community benefits which will accrue as a result, and its relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.
 - Who is to take part in the travel?
 - Duration and itinerary of travel.
 - A detailed budget including a statement of any amounts expected to be reimbursed by the participant/s.
- 6.11. For interstate and long distance intrastate journeys by air of less than three hours, the class of air travel is to be economy class.
- 6.12. For interstate journeys by air of more than three hours, the class of air travel may be premium economy.
- 6.13. For international travel, the class of air travel is to be premium economy if available. Otherwise, the class of travel is to be economy.
- 6.14. Bookings for approved air travel are to be made through the Chief Executive Officer's office.
- 6.15. For air travel that is reimbursed as Council business, Councillors will not accrue points from the airline's frequent flyer program. This is considered a private benefit.

Travel expenses not paid by Council

- 6.16. Council will not pay any traffic fines, speeding fines, parking fines or administrative charges for road toll accounts.

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

Accommodation and meals

- 6.17. In circumstances where it would introduce undue risk for a Councillor to travel to or from official business in the late evening or early morning, reimbursement of costs for accommodation and meals on the night before or after the meeting may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer. This includes where a meeting finishes later than 9.00pm or starts earlier than 7.00am and the Councillor lives more than 50 kilometres from the meeting location.
- 6.18. Council will reimburse costs for accommodation and meals while Councillors are undertaking prior approved travel or professional development outside the Upper Lachlan Shire Council local government area.
- 6.19. The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses within Australia are to be consistent with those set out in Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually. For accommodation expense above daily limits threshold for Councillors, the approval of the expense shall be by the Chief Executive Officer prior to a booking confirmation.
- 6.20. The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses outside NSW or Australia are to be determined in advance by the Chief Executive Officer, being mindful of Clause 6.19.
- 6.21. Councillors will not be reimbursed for alcoholic beverages and minibar expenses.

Refreshments for Council related meetings

- 6.22. Appropriate refreshments will be available for Council Ordinary Meetings, approved Council committee meetings, Councillor Workshops, approved meetings and engagements, and official Council functions as approved by the Chief Executive Officer.
- 6.23. As an indicative guide for the standard of refreshments to be provided at Council related meetings, the Chief Executive Officer must be mindful of Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.

Professional development

- 6.24. Council will set aside funds per Councillor annually in its budget to facilitate professional development of Councillors through programs, training, education courses and membership of professional bodies.
- 6.25. In the first year of a new Council term, Council will provide a comprehensive induction program for all Councillors which considers any guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG). The cost of the induction program will be in addition to the ongoing professional development funding.
- 6.26. Annual membership of professional bodies will only be covered where the membership is relevant to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties, the Councillor actively participates in the body and the cost of membership is likely to be fully offset by savings from attending events as a member.

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

- 6.27. Approval for professional development activities is subject to a prior written request to the Chief Executive Officer outlining the:-
- Details of the proposed professional development.
 - Relevance to Council priorities and business.
 - Relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.
- 6.28. In assessing a Councillor request for a professional development activity, the Chief Executive Officer must consider the factors set out in Clause 6.27, as well as the cost of the professional development in relation to the Councillor's remaining budget.

Conferences and seminars

- 6.29. Council is committed to ensuring its Councillors are up to date with contemporary issues facing Council and the community, and local government in NSW.
- 6.30. Council will set aside funds annually, in its budget to facilitate Councillor Attendance at conferences and seminars. This allocation is for all Councillors. The Chief Executive Officer will ensure that access to expenses relating to conferences and seminars is distributed equitably.
- 6.31. Approval to attend a conference or seminar is subject to a written request to the Chief Executive Officer. In assessing a Councillor request, the Chief Executive Officer must consider factors including the:-
- Relevance of the topics and presenters to current Council priorities and business and the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.
 - Cost of the conference or seminar in relation to the total remaining budget.
- 6.32. Council will meet the reasonable cost of registration fees, transportation and accommodation associated with attendance at conferences approved by the Chief Executive Officer. Council will also meet the reasonable cost of meals when they are not included in the conference fees. Reimbursement for accommodation and meals not included in the conference fees will be subject to Clauses 6.18 - 6.21.

Information and communications technology (ICT) expenses

- 6.33. Council will provide Councillors with a telecommunications allowance for expenses associated with appropriate ICT devices and services per annum for each Councillor. This includes expenses related to personal mobile phones and tablets, data, associated services and home internet costs.
- 6.34. Reimbursements will be made only for communications devices and services used for Councillors to undertake their civic duties, such as:-
- Receiving and reading Council business papers.
 - Relevant phone calls and correspondence.
 - Diary and appointment management.
- 6.35. Councillors may seek reimbursement for other applications on their mobile electronic communication device that are directly related to their duties as a Councillor as approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

Special requirement and carer expenses

- 6.36. Council encourages wide participation and interest in civic office. It will seek to ensure Council premises and associated facilities are accessible, including provision for sight or hearing impaired Councillors and those with other disabilities.
- 6.37. Transportation provisions outlined in this policy will also assist Councillors who may be unable to drive a vehicle.
- 6.38. In addition to the provisions above, the Chief Executive Officer may authorise the provision of reasonable additional facilities and expenses in order to allow a Councillor with a disability to perform their civic duties.
- 6.39. Councillors who are the principal carer of a child or other elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family member will be entitled to reimbursement of reasonable carer's expenses for attendance at official business, plus reasonable travel from the principal place of residence.
- 6.40. Child care expenses may be claimed for children up to and including the age of 16 years where the carer is not a relative.
- 6.41. In the event of caring for an adult person, Councillors will need to provide suitable evidence to the Chief Executive Officer that reimbursement is applicable. This may take the form of advice from a medical practitioner.

Home office expenses

- 6.42. Each Councillor may be provided with minor items of consumable stationery for the maintenance of a home office, such as a ream of plain paper, on request and approval by the Chief Executive Officer.

7. Insurances

- 7.1. In accordance with Section 382, of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is insured against Public Liability and Professional Indemnity claims. Councillors are included as a named insured on this Policy.
- 7.2. Insurance protection is only provided if a claim arises out of or in connection with the Councillor's performance of his or her civic duties, or exercise of his or her functions as a Councillor. All insurances are subject to any limitations or conditions set out in the policies of insurance.
- 7.3. Council shall pay the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim accepted by Council's insurers, whether defended or not.
- 7.4. Appropriate travel insurances will be provided for any Councillors travelling on approved interstate and overseas travel on Council business.
- 7.5. Council is insured against Councillors' and Officers liability claims. Councillors are included as a named insured on this Policy.
- 7.6. Council is insured against Personal Accident liability claims. Councillors are included as a named insured on this Policy.

8. Legal assistance

- 8.1. Council may, if requested, indemnify or reimburse the reasonable legal expenses of:-
 - A Councillor defending an action arising from the performance in good faith of a function under the Local Government Act provided that the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor.
 - A Councillor defending an action in defamation, provided the statements complained of were made in good faith in the course of exercising a function under the Act and the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor.
 - A Councillor for proceedings before an appropriate investigative or review body, provided the subject of the proceedings arises from the performance in good faith of a function under the Act and the matter has proceeded past any initial assessment phase to a formal investigation or review and the investigative or review body makes a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor.
- 8.2. In the case of a code of conduct complaint made against a Councillor, legal costs will only be made available where the matter has been referred by the Chief Executive Officer to a conduct reviewer and the conduct reviewer has commenced a formal investigation of the matter and makes a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor.
- 8.3. Legal expenses incurred in relation to proceedings arising out of the performance by a Councillor of his or her functions under the Act are distinguished from expenses incurred in relation to proceedings arising merely from something that a Councillor has done during his or her term in office. For example, expenses arising from an investigation as to whether a Councillor acted corruptly would not be covered by this section.
- 8.4. Council will not meet the legal costs:-
 - Of legal proceedings initiated by a Councillor under any circumstances.
 - Of a Councillor seeking advice in respect of possible defamation, or in seeking a non-litigious remedy for possible defamation.
 - For legal proceedings that do not involve a Councillor performing their role as a Councillor.
- 8.5. Reimbursement of expenses for reasonable legal expenses must have Council approval by way of a resolution at a Council Ordinary Meeting prior to costs being incurred.

Part C - Facilities

9. General facilities for all Councillors

Facilities

- 9.1. Council will provide the following facilities to Councillors to assist them to effectively discharge their civic duties:-
 - Use of the Council Chambers, when and where available, appropriately furnished to include telephone, desk and appropriate refreshments (excluding alcohol).
 - Postage of official correspondence – all mail is to be directed through the Council's own mailing system and records management EDMS.
 - Use of a Council owned laptop for official business use and councillor specific corporate email address.
 - Personal protective equipment for use during site visits.
 - Use of a Council owned Computer or Tablet, if required.
 - Minor items of consumable stationery.
 - A name badge which may be worn at official functions, indicating that the wearer holds the office of a Councillor and/or Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
- 9.2. Councillors may book meeting rooms for official business in a specified Council building at no cost. Rooms may be booked through the Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer or other specified staff member.
- 9.3. The provision of facilities will be of a standard deemed by the Chief Executive Officer as appropriate for the purpose.

Stationery

- 9.4. Council will provide the following stationery to Councillors upon request:-
 - Business cards.

Administrative support

- 9.5. Council will provide administrative support to Councillors to assist them with their civic duties only; i.e. booking training and associated accommodation. Administrative support is provided by Council's Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate.
- 9.6. As per Section 4, Council staff are expected to assist Councillors with civic duties only, and not assist with matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.

10. Additional facilities for the Mayor

- 10.1. Council will provide to the Mayor a maintained motor vehicle to a similar standard of other Council vehicles, with a fuel card. The vehicle will be supplied for use on business, professional development and attendance at Civic, community and Committees of Council events.
- 10.2. The Mayoral Fee allowance will be reduced to cover the cost of any private travel recorded in a log book, calculated on a per kilometre basis by the rate set by the Local Government (State) Award.
- 10.3. A parking space at Council's offices will be reserved for the Mayor's Council-issued motor vehicle for use on official business, professional development and attendance at the Council office.
- 10.4. Use of a Council mobile telephone and Council user email address for official business use.
- 10.5. In performing his or her civic duties, the Mayor will be provided with administrative and secretarial support, including support from Council's Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer and other support as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.
- 10.6. As per Section 4, Council's Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer provides support to the Mayor's office for work on official Council business only, and not for matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.

Part D - Processes

11. Approval, payment and reimbursement arrangements

- 11.1. Expenses should only be incurred by Councillors in accordance with the provisions of this policy.
- 11.2. Approval for incurring expenses, or for the reimbursement of such expenses, should be obtained before the expense is incurred.
- 11.3. Up to the maximum limits specified in this policy, approval for the following may be sought after the expense is incurred:-
 - Local travel relating to the conduct of official business.
 - Carer costs.
- 11.4. Final approval for payments made under this policy will be granted by the Chief Executive Officer.

Direct payment

- 11.5. Council may approve and directly pay expenses. Requests for direct payment must be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer for assessment against this policy using the prescribed form, with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.

Reimbursement

- 11.6. All claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred must be made on the prescribed form, supported by appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices and be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer.

Advance payment

- 11.7. Council may pay a cash advance for Councillors attending approved conferences, seminars or professional development.
- 11.8. The maximum value of a cash advance per day of the conference, seminar or professional development will be approved by the Chief Executive Officer.
- 11.9. Requests for advance payment must be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer for assessment against this policy with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.
- 11.10. Councillors must fully reconcile all expenses against the cost of the advance within one month of incurring the cost and/or returning home. This includes providing to Council:-
 - A full reconciliation of all expenses including appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices.
 - Reimbursement of any amount of the advance payment not spent in attending to official business or professional development.

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy

Notification

- 11.11. If a claim is approved, Council will make payment directly to the supplier or reimburse the Councillor through accounts payable.
- 11.12. If a claim is refused, Council Chief Executive Officer will inform the Councillor in writing that the claim has been refused and the reason for the refusal.

Reimbursement to Council

- 11.13. If Council has incurred an expense on behalf of a Councillor that exceeds a maximum limit, exceeds reasonable incidental private use or is not provided for in this policy:-
- Council will issue a tax invoice to a Councillor for the expense required to be paid.
 - The Councillor will reimburse Council for that expense within 14 days of the tax invoice date.
- 11.14. If the Councillor cannot reimburse Council within 14 days of the tax invoice date, they are to submit a written explanation to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer may elect to deduct the amount from the Councillor's monthly member fee allowance.

Timeframe for reimbursement

- 11.15. Unless otherwise specified in this policy, Councillors must provide all claims for reimbursement within three months of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved.

12. Disputes

- 12.1. If a Councillor disputes a determination under this policy, the Councillor should discuss the matter with the Chief Executive Officer.
- 12.2. If the Councillor and the Chief Executive Officer cannot resolve the dispute, the Councillor may submit a Notice of Motion to a Council Ordinary Meeting seeking to have the dispute resolved.

13. Return or retention of facilities

- 13.1. All unexpended facilities or equipment supplied under this policy are to be relinquished immediately upon a Councillor or Mayor ceasing to hold office or at the cessation of their civic duties.
- 13.2. Should a Councillor desire to keep any equipment allocated by Council, then this policy enables the Councillor to make application to the Chief Executive Officer to purchase any such equipment. The Chief Executive Officer will determine an agreed fair market price or written down value for the item of equipment.
- 13.3. The prices for all equipment purchased by Councillors under Clause 13.2 will be recorded in Council's Annual Report.

14. Publication

- 14.1. This policy will be published on Council's website.

15. Reporting

- 15.1. Council will report on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors as required in the Act and Regulations.
- 15.2. Detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors will be publicly tabled at a Council Ordinary Meeting every twelve months as part of the Annual Report and published in full on Council's website. These reports will include expenditure summarised as a total for all Councillors.

16. Auditing

- 16.1. The operation of this policy, including claims made under the policy, will be included in Council's audit program and an audit undertaken annually.

17. Breaches

- 17.1. Suspected breaches of this policy are to be reported to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 17.2. Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by following the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code.

PART E - Appendices

Appendix I: Related Legislation, Guidance and Policies

Relevant Legislation and guidance

- Local Government Act 1993, Sections 252 and 253.
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Clauses 217 and 403.
- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999;
- Crimes Act 1900;
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;
- Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009;
- Independent Commission against Corruption Act (ICAC) 1988;
- Ombudsman Act 1974;
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998;
- Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022;
- State Records Act 1998;
- Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992;
- Office of Local Government – Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW, 2017;
- ICAC publication “No Excuse for Misuse, preventing the misuse of Council resources”.

Related Council policies

- Bribes, Gifts and Benefits Policy;
- Code of Business Practice;
- Code of Conduct;
- Code of Meeting Practice;
- Councillor Training and Development Policy;
- Designated Person Disclosing Interests Returns Policy;
- Digital Information Security Policy;
- Disclosures of Interest at Meetings Policy;
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy;
- Government Information (Public Access) Policy;
- Interaction between Councillors and Staff Policy;
- Internet and Email Policy;
- Media Policy;
- Privacy Policy;
- Public Interest Disclosures Policy;
- Records Management Policy;
- Social Media Policy;
- Privacy Management Plan.

Appendix II: Definitions

The following definitions apply throughout this Policy.

Term	Definition
accompanying person	Means a spouse, partner or de facto or other person who has a close personal relationship with or provides carer support to a Councillor
appropriate refreshments	Means food and beverages, excluding alcohol, provided by Council to support Councillors undertaking official business
Act	Means the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW)
clause	Unless stated otherwise, a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause of this policy
Code of Conduct	Means the Code of Conduct adopted by Council or the Model Code if none is adopted
Councillor	Means a person elected or appointed to civic office as a member of the governing body of Council who is not suspended, including the Mayor
Chief Executive Officer	Means Chief Executive Officer of Council and includes their delegate or authorised representative
incidental personal use	Means use that is infrequent and brief and use that does not breach this policy or the Code of Conduct
long distance intrastate travel	Means travel to other parts of NSW of more than three hours duration by private vehicle
maximum limit	Means the maximum limit for an expense or facility provided in the text and summarised in Appendix 1
NSW	New South Wales
official business	Means functions that the Mayor or Councillors are required or invited to attend to fulfil their legislated role and responsibilities for Council or result in a direct benefit for Council and/or for the local government area, and includes: • Ordinary meetings of Council and committees of the whole • Meetings of committees facilitated by Council • Civic receptions hosted or sponsored by Council • Meetings, functions, workshops and other events to which attendance by a Councillor has been requested or approved by Council
professional development	Means a seminar, conference, training course or other development opportunity relevant to the role of a Councillor or the Mayor
Regulation	Means the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i> (NSW)
Year	Means the financial year, that is the 12 month period commencing on 1 July each year

Finance and Administration - 20 August 2026

ITEM 13.2 Disclosure of Interest Returns by Councillors and Designated Persons under the Code of Conduct

FILE REFERENCE I26/216

AUTHOR Director of Finance and Administration

ISSUE

This report provides tabling of the Disclosure of Interests Return by Councillors and designated persons in accordance with the Council Code of Conduct requirements.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receives the report on the tabling of the Disclosure of Interests Returns by Councillors and Designated Persons for year ending 30 June 2026 and notes they are made publicly available to view on Council's website.

BACKGROUND

To comply with Clause 4.8, 4.14 and 4.21(b) of the Code of Conduct, a Councillor must make and lodge with the Chief Executive Officer, a written return in accordance with Schedule 2, of the Council's Code of Conduct.

In accordance with Clause 4.24 to 4.27 of the Council Code of Conduct, all councils are required to table the submitted Disclosure of Interests Returns of all Councillors and designated persons to an Ordinary Meeting of Council. Information contained in the returns is to be made publicly available in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* in a public register of returns and available on Council's website.

In accordance with the Clause 4.8, 4.21 and 4.24, of the Code of Conduct, Upper Lachlan Shire Council has received Disclosure of Interests Returns by the elected Councillors and designated persons, to 30 June 2026, as follows:-

- ◆ Councillor Paul Culhane (Mayor);
- ◆ Councillor Rob Cameron (Deputy Mayor);
- ◆ Councillor Alexandra Meggitt
- ◆ Councillor Vivienne Flanagan
- ◆ Councillor John Searl
- ◆ Councillor Gregory Harris
- ◆ Councillor Susan Reynolds
- ◆ Councillor Simon Peirce
- ◆ Councillor Terry Yallouris
- ◆ Designated Senior Staff, including the CEO and Department Directors
- ◆ Council staff who exercise regulatory functions or contractual functions; including Managers, Coordinators and other relevant staff.

Finance and Administration

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST RETURNS BY COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT cont'd

The Disclosures by Councillors and designated persons are available for inspection and are made publicly available to view on Council's website.

POLICY IMPACT

Council is complying with the Council Code of Conduct and *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

Note: *Sections 441 to 459, of the Local Government Act 1993*, were repealed and replaced by Part 4 - Pecuniary Interests in the Council Code of Conduct.

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council receives the report on the tabling of the Disclosure of Interests Returns by Councillors and Designated Persons for year ending 30 June 2026 and notes they are made publicly available to view on Council's website.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Finance and Administration - 20 August 2026

ITEM 13.3 **2025/2026 Budget Revotes to carry forward to internal restricted reserve**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/220**

AUTHOR **Chief Financial Officer**

ISSUE

This report recommends the revote to carry forward 2025/2026 prepayment of Financial Assistance Grants and carry forward expenditure allocations and uncompleted works projects into Council's internal restricted reserve fund.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council approves the 2025/2026 transfers to the Council internal restricted reserve fund totalling \$7,740,320 including revote of uncompleted works projects and prepayment of the 2026/2027 Financial Assistance Grants.

BACKGROUND

Nil

REPORT

Budget allocations for works not completed under the 2025/2026 Operational Plan are required to be carried forward into 2026/2027, with the associated funds transferred to Council's internally restricted reserves. In addition, Council must restrict the 80% advance payment of its 2026/2027 Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) for use during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The internally restricted budget revotes listed below exclude unspent cash relating to specific purpose grants that are subject to acquittal to external funding bodies. These funds are externally restricted under the relevant funding agreements and may only be used for their specified purposes. Examples include the Roads to Recovery Program, the Transport for NSW Regional Road Block Grant and other specific purpose programs funded by the Australian and NSW governments.

Also excluded are externally restricted cash balances relating to section 7.11 developer contributions, section 64 developer contributions, trust funds, Wind Farm Community Enhancement Program funds, the stormwater management service charge, and Council's water supply, sewerage and domestic waste management activities.

The following amounts, funded from recurrent revenue under the 2025/2026 Operational Plan, are proposed to be transferred to Council's internally restricted reserves and revoted in 2026/2027. These amounts comprise Council funded incomplete works and unspent business unit allocations, as follows:

Finance and Administration**2025/2026 BUDGET REVOTES TO CARRY FORWARD TO INTERNAL RESTRICTED RESERVE cont'd**

Description	Revote
2025/2026 - Internal Reserves - Uncompleted Works	(\$)
Governance	30,000
IT - Authority Asset Management System	10,500
Crookwell Pound Upgrade	17,300
Emulsion Tank	46,100
Authority financial systems upgrade	41,500
Authority procurement system implementation	110,000
IT – Content Manager (records management) upgrade	20,000
Biala Street Gunning Boundary Realignment	36,700
Uncompleted Works - Total	412,100
2025/2026 - Internal Reserves Movement	
Financial Assistance Grant 2026/2027 Prepayment	5,844,495
Plant and Equipment Replacement	668,400
Buildings and Infrastructure Improvements (includes net proceeds for the sale of Taralga Post Office)	815,325
Internal Reserves Movement - Total	7,328,220
Total internal restriction allocations at 30 June 2026	7,740,320

POLICY IMPACT

Nil

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The resulting balances of internally restricted cash, cash equivalents (internal allocations) and investments will be disclosed in Note C1-3 of Council's 2025/2026 Financial Statements. The Financial Statements will be independently audited and presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting in October 2026.

As at 30 June 2026, Council held cash and investments totalling \$40.6 million, an increase of \$3.9 million from \$36.7 million as at 30 June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council approves the 2025/2026 transfers to the Council internal restricted reserve fund totalling \$7,740,320 including revote of uncompleted works projects and prepayment of the 2026/2027 Financial Assistance Grants.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Finance and Administration - 20 August 2026

ITEM 13.4 **Review of Council's Investment Policy**

FILE REFERENCE **I26/221**

AUTHOR **Chief Financial Officer**

ISSUE

A review of Council's Investment Policy has been completed for Council endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION That –

1. Council adopts the reviewed Investment Policy.

BACKGROUND

Nil

REPORT

This report details a review of Council's Investment Policy. The policy is attached with proposed amendments advised on the cover page.

POLICY IMPACT

This is a review of an existing Council policy in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Office of Local Government Investment Guidelines and Ministerial Investment Order.

OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION That –

1. Council adopts the reviewed Investment Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ↓	Investment Policy - Date Adopted 20 August 2026 - Resolution XXX - 26 - Review 2029	Attachment
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Upper Lachlan Shire Council

Policy Update Cover

Date: 16 July 2026	Policy Title: Investment Policy
This cover sheet provides a summary of the proposed amendments to the attached Policy. Council initially adopted this policy on 28 April 2005. The policy was last updated on 16 June 2022.	
Sponsor: Director Finance & Administration	Action required: Approval by Council
Reason for review/update: Council regularly reviews and update policies to ensure that they are current, fit-for-purpose and relevant to Council's operations. The attached policy has been reviewed and updated in line with this practice and the sponsor is now seeking your approval to implement this policy.	
Summary of the changes: The following amendments have been made to this Policy: • A Scope section has been included clarifying the Council funds, officers and other parties covered by the Policy. • Updated references to relevant legislation, regulatory requirements and the NSW Office of Local Government Investment Policy Guidelines. • Removed all references to General Manager and replaced them with Chief Executive Officer to describe the head of a local government agency in NSW. • Clarified delegated investment responsibilities and reaffirmed documented investment decisions and approval by two appropriately delegated officers. • Clarified that placing Council funds under section 625 of the Local Government Act is not procurement, while investment advisory and related services remain subject to Council's Procurement Policy. • Updated the term-to-maturity limits, including increasing the exposure permitted within three months from 40% to 75% and reducing the three-to-five-year exposure from 10% to 5%. • Added requirements for managing and reporting temporary portfolio-limit breaches. • Introduced minimum credit-rating requirements and portfolio exposure limits including a minimum BBB- rating, no investment with unrated ADIs and requirements for managing credit-rating downgrades. • Strengthened investment register, monthly reconciliation, compliance monitoring and statutory reporting requirements. • Made minor terminology, formatting and administrative updates throughout the Policy.	

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

- Renamed the Objectives section to Purpose to better reflect the intent and function of the Policy. - Added a framework allowing preference for environmentally responsible investments where legislative and policy compliance, security, liquidity and an equal or higher return are maintained.	
Consultation(s): N/A	
Internally cleared by	
Position: Chief Executive Officer Director Finance and Administration	Position: Chief Financial Officer

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

POLICY:	
Policy Title:	Investment Policy
File Reference:	F10/618-03
Date Policy was adopted by Council initially:	28 April 2005
Resolution Number:	111/05
Other Review Dates:	22 March 2007, 27 September 2007, 16 June 2009, 22 September 2010, 8 March 2011, 15 December 2011 and 19 December 2013, 15 October 2015, 20 July 2017 18 July 2019 and 16 June 2022
Resolution Number:	84/07, 280/07, 258/09, 407/10, 104/11, 489/11, 413/13, 303/15, 226/17 and 187/19,126/22
Current Policy adopted by Council:	20 August 2026
Resolution Number:	XXX/26
Next Policy Review Date:	2029

PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES:-	
Date procedure/guideline was developed:	
Procedure/guideline reference number:	

RESPONSIBILITY:-	
Draft Policy developed by:	Director Finance and Administration
Committee/s (if any) consulted in the development of this Policy:	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee
Responsibility for implementation:	Chief Executive Officer
Responsibility for review of Policy:	Chief Financial Officer

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Investment Policy is to establish a framework for the investing of Council's funds at the most favourable market rate of interest available 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 shall be given to the preservation of capital, liquidity, and the return on investment. Objectives include:

- Preservation of capital is the principal objective of the investment portfolio. 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. In setting these limits Council is determining the general level of risk that is acceptable for public monies managed for the Upper Lachlan Shire community;
- Investments should be allocated to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet all reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements, as and when they fall due; and
- To establish a framework for monitoring the investments and comparing performance to appropriate benchmarks. Investments are expected to achieve a rate of return in line with the Council's risk tolerance.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all Council money available for investment, including unrestricted funds and funds subject to external or internal restrictions within the General, Water and Sewer Funds. Investments may be pooled for operational purposes, provided the source of funds, applicable restrictions and allocation of investment earnings remain identifiable in Council's records.

This Policy applies to Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer, the Responsible Accounting Officer, officers with delegated investment authority, relevant finance staff, advisers, relevant Council committees, brokers and custodians involved in the governance, selection, approval, placement, settlement, custody, recording, monitoring or reporting of Council's investments.

POLICY STATEMENT

An Investment Policy is a governing document that guides a Council's investment process including; risk philosophy, investment strategy, and investment objectives and expectations.

It is essential that a policy be adopted to promote good governance and prudent decision making, incorporating the provisions of *Section 625, of the Local Government Act 1993*, the Local Government Regulations, and the Ministerial Investment Order.

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following legislation, Council policies, and other documents relevant to the operation of this policy include:

- Local Government Act 1993;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021;
- Ministerial Investment Order;
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (the Code);
- Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009;
- State Records Act 1998;
- Trustee Act 1925;
- Council's Internal Controls and Procedures Manual;
- Office of Local Government (OLG) Circulars;
- Investment Policy Guidelines 2010 - NSW Office of Local Government.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Authority for implementation of this Policy is delegated by Council to the Chief Executive Officer, being Council's General Manager for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act).

The Chief Executive Officer may in turn delegate the day-to-day management of Council's Investment to the Responsible Accounting Officer or senior staff, subject to regular reviews.

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

The Council Officers with delegated authority to invest funds on behalf of Council are the Chief Executive Officer, the Director Finance and Administration and the Chief Financial Officer.

The placement of Council funds in investments under section 625 of the Act is not procurement of goods or services. The procurement of investment advisory, brokerage, custodial or related services remains subject to Council's Procurement Policy.

An investment form will be completed for all investments to ensure appropriate documentation of the investment decision. All decisions require approval by two Officers who have the appropriate delegation from the Chief Executive Officer.

PRUDENT PERSON STANDARD

Councils have a fiduciary responsibility when investing. The investment will be managed with the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons.

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

As custodians of public funds, officers must safeguard Council's investment portfolio, comply with applicable legislation, the Ministerial Investment Order and this Policy, and must not invest for speculative purposes.

For each term deposit placement or renewal, the Council Officer must obtain at least two competitive quotations from eligible authorised deposit-taking institutions, where reasonably practicable. Where two quotations cannot be obtained, the reason must be documented in the investment form. Selection must consider security, liquidity, diversification, maturity and return and is not required to be based solely on the highest interest rate quoted.

ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Council 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 Chief Executive Officer.

The Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee members and the independent investment advisors are required to declare that they have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

APPROVED INVESTMENTS

New investments are limited to those allowed by the most current Ministerial Investment Order and include:-

- 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; (< 200 days duration), guaranteed by an authorised deposit-taking institution;
- 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.

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

Note: All investments must be denominated in Australian Dollars.

PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS

All investments outside the Ministerial Investment Order guidelines are prohibited.

This policy also prohibits the use of leveraging (borrowing to invest) of an investment.

RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

When exercising the power of investment Councils should consider, but not be limited by, the risk of capital or income loss, 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, anticipated market changes and interest rate movements, 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 (*from Ministerial Investment Order 12 January 2011*).

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

- Preservation of Capital – the requirement for preventing losses in an investment portfolio's total value (considering the time value of money);
- Diversification of Financial Institution – the requirement to place investments in a broad range of institutions so as not to be over exposed to a particular organisation within the investment market and to reduce credit risk;
- Credit Risk - the risk that an investment that Council has made fails to pay the interest and/or repay the principal of an investment;
- Market Risk - the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of an investment will fluctuate due to changes in market prices;
- Liquidity Risk - the risk an investor is unable to redeem the investment at a fair price within a timely period; and
- 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.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

An Investment Strategy will run in conjunction with the Investment Policy. The Investment Strategy will be reviewed by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee of Council.

The Investment Strategy will outline:

- Council's cash flow expectations;
- To identify the most appropriate mix of investment classes for the next reporting period;
- Optimal target allocation of investment types, credit rating exposure of financial institutions and funding instrument and term to maturity exposure; and

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

- Appropriateness of overall investment types for Council's portfolio; i.e. term deposit and call accounts.

INVESTMENT ADVISOR

If an investment advisor is engaged they must be approved by Council and licensed by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC). The NSW Government has provided a waiver to certain provisions within OLG's Investment Policy Guidelines to allow councils to engage NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) in the provision of investment advice.

The advisor must be an independent person who has no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to investment products being recommended. The investment advisor may recommend the most appropriate product within the terms and conditions of the Investment Policy.

The independent advisor is required to provide written confirmation that they do not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to the investments they are recommending or reviewing, including that they are not receiving any commissions or other benefits in relation to the investments being recommended or reviewed.

PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE, DIVERSIFICATION AND MATURITY LIMITS

The performance of the investment portfolio, including interest income and the portfolio rate of return against the benchmark specified in Council's Investment Strategy, must be measured monthly and reported to Council by the Responsible Accounting Officer or delegate.

The features of an investment security are to be consistent with the time horizon, risk and liquidity parameters of Council as set out in its Investment Strategy. The maximum percentage that may be held with a financial institution is 25% of Council's total investment portfolio at a point in time. Related entities and trading names operating under the same ADI licence or corporate group must be aggregated.

The investment portfolio is to be invested within the following term to maturity constraints. The Council Investment Portfolio Term to Maturity limits are:

Remaining Term to Maturity	Maximum Portfolio Exposure
≤ 3 Months	75%
> 3 Months ≤ 1 Year	60%
> 1 Year ≤ 3 Years	25%
> 3 Years ≤ 5 Years	5%
> 5 Years	0%

These are maximum exposure limits for each maturity band and are not intended to total 100%.

Council must maintain sufficient funds in at-call accounts to meet forecast cash flow requirements and a reasonable operational contingency. At-call balances must comply

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

with the applicable credit-quality and counterparty limits and be reviewed monthly. The operational target for at-call funds will be established in Council's Investment Strategy.

Any breach of this Policy, including a temporary breach arising from operational cash receipts, investment maturities or a credit rating downgrade, must be reported promptly to the Responsible Accounting Officer and Chief Executive Officer. The breach, its cause and the corrective action taken or proposed must be reported to Council at the next ordinary meeting. The breach must be rectified as soon as reasonably practicable, having regard to the security and liquidity of Council's investments.

CREDIT QUALITY

Credit ratings are an important risk indicator but must not be relied upon in isolation, particularly given differences in the structure and complexity of investment products.

Council's portfolio credit-quality guidelines adopt the S&P long-term rating framework. Where an S&P long-term rating is available, that rating will be used for determining compliance with the portfolio credit limits. Where an S&P rating is not available, the Fitch rating will be used, followed by the Moody's rating converted to its S&P/Fitch equivalent.

Note: Any rating issued by another recognised rating agency that would place the institution in a lower portfolio credit category, together with any downgrade, negative outlook or credit watch, must be considered and documented before an investment is made or renewed.

Where a credit-rating downgrade or withdrawal causes a breach, no additional or renewed investment may be made with that counterparty. The investment must be reviewed promptly, reported in accordance with the breach-reporting requirements of this Policy and managed at the earliest prudent opportunity.

The maximum holding limit in each rating category for Council's portfolio shall be:

Long Term Rating Range	Maximum Portfolio Exposure
AAA category	100%
AA category	100%
A category	70%
BBB category	30%
Unrated ADIs	0%

BENCHMARKING

Performance benchmarks are to be provided for comparative purposes only. The benchmark is not an investment return target. The rate of return on Council investments will be dependent on Council's risk tolerance.

The 90 day ASX BBSW Rate is considered an appropriate benchmark for this purpose.

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

REPORTING AND REVIEWING OF INVESTMENTS

All investments are to be appropriately recorded in Council's financial records and reconciled at least on a monthly basis. The Responsible Accounting Officer must ensure that the investment register contains complete, accurate and current information sufficient to monitor compliance with this Policy, applicable legislation, the Ministerial Investment Order and the Code.

Documentary evidence must be held for each investment and details thereof maintained in the Investment Register, which shall be available for public viewing.

In accordance with the Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, a monthly report will be provided to Council. The report will detail the investment portfolio, including interest returns, maturity dates and changes in market value. The report must also include a certificate as to whether the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulation and Council's Investment Policy. Any material deterioration in the investment portfolio must be reported to Council at the next ordinary meeting.

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. The documentary evidence must provide Council legal title to the investment.

This Policy will be reviewed at least every three years and earlier where required by legislative, regulatory or operational change. Any amendment to, or revocation of, this Policy must be approved by Council resolution.

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

Council may give preference to environmentally responsible investments, including eligible green investments and investments with financial institutions that publicly disclose that they do not finance new fossil-fuel projects.

Any such investment must first comply with all legislative requirements, the Minister's Investment Order and this Policy, including credit, counterparty, diversification, liquidity and maturity limits. Security and liquidity must not be compromised.

Where two or more investments are otherwise comparable, preference may be given to the environmentally responsible option where it provides an equal or higher rate of return. The basis for the selection must be documented in the investment form.

VARIATION

Council reserves the right to vary or revoke this policy.

ULSC Investment Policy
Adopted 20 August 2026

APPENDIX A

Ministerial Investment Order dated 12 January 2011, issued under *section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993*.

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.

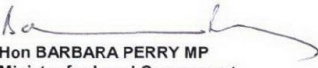
All councils should by resolution adopt an investment policy that is consistent with this Order and any guidelines issued by the Chief Executive (Local Government), Department of Premier and Cabinet, from time to time.

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 12th day of January 2011


Hon BARBARA PERRY MP
Minister for Local Government

14 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

There were no items submitted for this section at the time the Agenda was compiled.

16 REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES, SECTION 355 COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES

The following item is submitted for consideration -

16.1	Reports from Committees for the months of July and August	154
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Reports from other Committees, Section 355 Committees and Delegates – 20 August 2026

ITEM 16.1

Reports from Committees for the months of July and August

RECOMMENDATION:

That Items - Minutes of Committee/Information listed below be received:

1. Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes – Upper Lachlan Shire Council – 30 June 2026.
2. Collector Oval Committee – General Meeting – 1 July 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ↓	ARIC Meeting Minutes - ULSC - 30 June 2026.docx	Attachment
2. ↓	Collector Oval Committee - General Meeting - 1 July 2026	Attachment



**CANBERRA REGION
JOINT ORGANISATION**

Regional leadership connecting our communities

AUDIT RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 30 June 2026
10am to 1pm
Microsoft Office Teams

Upper Lachlan Shire Council



Upper Lachlan Shire Council ARIC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 30 March 2026

10am to 1pm

Microsoft Office Teams

Voting Members	
Independent Member	Stephen Coates (Chair)
Independent Member	Rachel Harris
Independent Member	Bryce McNair
Non-Voting Members	
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Cr Rob Cameron, Deputy Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council Representatives	
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Alex Waldron, Chief Executive Officer
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Andrew Croke, Director Finance and Administration
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Kazi Mahmud, Director of Infrastructure
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Simon Arkinstall, Director Environment & Planning
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Ashan Hewage, Chief Financial Officer (Internal Audit Coordinator)
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	John Abakah, Manager Governance
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	David Johnson, Manager Information Technology
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Joanne Mouthier, Manager Human Resources
Audit Office NSW Representatives	
Audit Office NSW	Reiky Jiang, Director Financial Audit Services
Audit Office NSW	Robert Hayek, Audit Leader - Financial Audit
Ernst & Young	Irene Tzavaras, Partner
Ernst & Young	Lee Hartwig, Director
Ernst & Young	Kemy Shoukat, Manager Assurance
Internal Audit Representatives	Internal Audit Representatives
Crowe Australasia	Amir Mousa, Senior Manager
Crowe Australasia	Brenton Maddock, Manager
Canberra Region Joint Organisation	
Canberra Region Joint Organisation	Sharon Houlihan, Executive Officer (CRJO shared arrangements officer and internal audit contract manager)



Upper Lachlan Shire Council ARIC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 30 March 2026

10am to 1pm

Microsoft Office Teams

Attendance:

Quorum achieved with the required minimum of two independent committee members in attendance being Chair Stephen and member Rachel

1. Opening Meeting

The chairperson, Stephen Coates opened the meeting at 10:02am

2. Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

The chairperson welcomed members and guests and made an acknowledgment of country.

“The Upper Lachlan Shire acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to elders both past and present. We acknowledge the vital contribution that First Nations people and cultures have made and still make to the nation that we share, Australia.”

3. Attendance and Apologies

The chairperson called for any apologies. The following apologies were noted:

- Irene Tzavaras, Partner, Ernst and Young
- Ricky Jiang, Director Financial Audit Services, NSW Audit Office
- Ashan Hewage, Chief Financial Officer, Upper Lachlan Shire Council
- Joanne Mouthier, Manager Human Resources, Upper Lachlan Shire Council

The following representatives did not attend:

- Brenton Maddock, Manager, Crowe Australasia
- Kemy Shoukat, Manager Assurance, Ernst and Young

4. Disclosures of Interests

With reference to Chapter 14 Local Government Act 1993 and CRJO’s Code of Conduct, attendees are required to declare any conflicts of interest in the matters under consideration by the audit, risk and improvement committee at this meeting.

Independent member Rachel noted that council receives a grant from the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water and Rachel disclosed that she is employed by the same department but has no involvement in the grant process. The chairperson confirmed that there is no conflict of interest.

Member Cr Rob Cameron noted that in the governance report there is reference to an investigation of a Section 355 committee of which Cr Cameron’s spouse is a member. If there is any discussion on this matter, Cr Cameron will remove himself from the meeting for the duration of that item.

Chair Stephen reminded the committee of the difference between disclosing an interest and there being a conflict of interest and will consider how best to reflect this on future agendas.



Upper Lachlan Shire Council ARIC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 30 March 2026

10am to 1pm

Microsoft Office Teams

Attendance:

Member Bryce entered the meeting at 10:06am

5. Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 01

The minutes of the audit, risk and improvement committee held on 30 March 2026 were accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.



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5.2 Outstanding Actions Register

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 02

The outstanding actions were noted, with actions reported as complete to be removed, and outstanding actions followed up prior to next meeting.

The committee reviewed progress of outstanding actions from previous meetings and asked to remove completed or ongoing actions, as follows:

Meeting Date	Description	Responsible Person	Target Date	Completion Date / Status Update
1/7/25 29/9/25 1/12/25 31/3/26 30/6/26	In future infrastructure project status reports include identification of projects at risk of non-/late/over budget delivery	Director Infrastructure	September 2025 ARIC meeting	29/9/25: This report will be included to the 1 December 2025 ARIC meeting 1/12/25: hold over to March 2026 ARIC meeting 31/3/26: Capex project work to be provided at June 2026 ARIC meeting Works in Progress report has been included in 30 June 2026 ARIC meeting agenda for information and capital works program table has been included in agenda Complete, remove from actions list
1/7/25 29/9/25 1/12/25 31/3/26 30/6/26	Provide updated ARIC and internal audit shared arrangements agreement reflecting new outsourced internal audit function for CEO/Directors consideration and signing	Sharon Houlihan, CRJO	Out of session	Will be updated following RFQ process and confirmation of budget for shared IA function 31/3/26: CRJO has prepared updated 2025-26 forecast and proposed 2026-27 budget to be reviewed with Director Finance and Administration 30/6/26: CRJO met with Director Finance and Administration in May regarding new budget and shared arrangements agreement from 2026-27 onwards, CRJO to provide new shared arrangements agreement, incorporating reduced member contributions out of session



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Meeting Date	Description	Responsible Person	Target Date	Completion Date / Status Update
31/3/26 30/6/26	Provide new appointment letters for independent committee members	Sharon Houlihan, CRJO	Out of session	30/6/26: CRJO met with corporate services directors of all councils participating in the shared arrangements agreement in May 2026 to confirm new budget inclusive of independent committee members fees, CRJO to provide updated appointment letters out of session
31/3/26 30/6/26	Provide internal audit report for ARIC meetings with input from CRJO contract manager and Crowe Australasia internal audit provider	CFO (internal audit coordinator)	From June 2026 ARIC meeting onwards	Internal Audit Coordinator report provided to 30 June 2026 ARIC Meeting and to be provided ongoing as standard agenda item Complete, remove from actions list
31/3/26 30/6/26	Include section on auditee's satisfaction in all internal audits and reviews reports	Brenton Maddock, Crowe	Ongoing	Crowe Australasia completed the Payroll Review internal audit, including client satisfaction survey, and report included at 30 June ARIC meeting, Crowe has also completed Strategic Internal Audit Plan Complete, remove from actions list
31/3/26 30/6/26	Provide risk management reports to ARIC meetings from June 2026 onwards incorporating copies of MANEX risk management reports and status of risk management of risks listed in the Office for Local Government's Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW Guidelines	Governance Manager	From June 2026 ARIC meeting onwards	Risk Management Policy, Risk Appetite Statement and Enterprise Risk Registers provided to 30 June 2026 ARIC meeting and Self-Assessment of Risk Management Framework is completed Commenced and will continue ongoing as standard agenda item, remove from actions list
31/3/26 30/6/26	Ask CRJO ICT joint working group to map 'Essential 8' compliance targets of all councils and report to ARIC	Sharon Houlihan, CRJO	June 2026 ARIC meeting	30/6/26: Request to be made to chair of CRJO ICT Joint Working Group out of session



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6. Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Business

6.1 ARIC Business Report (verbal)

6.2 Outstanding Recommendations Tracker (Consolidated Corrective Actions)

6.2.1 Attachment 1 Internal Audit Findings

6.2.2 Attachment 2 External Audit Findings

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 03

The audit, risk and improvement committee noted status of committee business actions included in the verbal report from Canberra Region Joint Organisation Secretariat.

Discussed:

- Sharon Houlihan, CRJO advised that all committee actions are complete as reported in written report at previous meeting except those remaining in the meeting's outstanding actions list
- Corrective actions trackers, for internal and external audit and for improvements, will in future meetings' agendas be included under the Business Improvement standing agenda item
- Review of internal audit corrective actions tracker:
 - Accounts Payable internal audit – budget has been allocated in 2026-27 for introduction of Civica Altitude with implementation to commence October 2026 and to be completed June 2027
- Review of external audit corrective actions tracker:
 - Confirmed that all items on the tracker relate to the 30 June 2025 management letter as that picked up all outstanding prior year matters

Action: Add a column to the corrective actions and improvements tracker indicating expected completion date for all internal audit and external audit corrective actions and improvement actions

7. Chief Executive Officers Report

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 04

The audit, risk and improvement committee received and noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Report.

Discussed:

- Alex Waldron, ULSC spoke to written report, highlighting:
 - Significant vacant positions filled including Manager Human Resources, commenced start June, and Manager Information Technology, commenced mid-June
 - Visitor Information Centre grant acquittal complete, currently moving in and official opening soon



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- Crookwell Aquatic Centre: will remain open next season with temporary amenities facilities following unsuccessful federal grant application
- State Significant Developments (SSDs): significant number (11) SSDs currently being assessed, traditionally SSDs have been wind farms but now seeing solar farms and battery energy storage projects, reputational risk to council with community generally no longer in favour of these developments due to lack of local benefits, high workload for planning and other council resources
- Humelink East transmission lines project: council has negotiated a road maintenance agreement, outside of planning consent conditions requirements
- Member Bryce queried as to whether council now has the staff it needs Response: number of vacancies has dropped both due to organisational structure changes and successful recruitment to key positions
- Chair Stephen asked if road condition assessments are undertaken pre-development Response (Kazi Mahmud, ULSC): yes, for Humelink East project assessment undertaken by AGJV and the intention is that developer will pay for road damage rectification works that council needs to do as a result of the development

8. Financial Management

8.1 Finance CFO – DFA Report

8.2 Quarterly Budget Review Statement Briefing

8.3 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

8.4 Long Term Financial Plan

8.5 Operational Plan KPI 3rd Quarter

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 05

The audit, risk and improvement committee:

1. received and noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Chief Financial Officer and Director Finance and Administration Report regarding council's financial situation, and

2. noted the quarterly budget review statement and related briefing, long-term financial plan, and operational plan 3rd quarter key performance indicators report.

Discussed:

- Andrew Croke, ULSC spoke to written report, as read
- Member Rachel asked if the cash balance increase between December 2025 and March 2026 was permanent or timing-related Response: second quarter increase was due to state road works contract payment, anticipating year end cash to exceed \$40 million, that increase is mostly due to 80% pre-payment of 2026-27 federal financial assistance grants
- Member Bryce commended council on having a communications positions given the difficult task of communicating council's financial position and budget to community Response: council prepares a budget summary and mayoral message and is also considering an infographic report card-style snapshot report for community communications



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- Chair Stephen queried about outcome of interim audit of financials response: council is awaiting interim audit management letter and EY confirmed there were no new audit findings
- Chair Stephen asked if 55% delivery of capital program had improved since issuing of reports included in ARIC meeting papers Response: no, anticipating maximum delivery as 60% of capital program however roads grant-funded projects have met delivery requirements, all undelivered projects to carry over to 2026-27 capital program for delivery
- Chair Stephen asked about unrestricted cash Response: \$133k increase in fuel costs March to June 2026 was funded mainly from unrestricted cash reserves, however \$1.5 million balance of unrestricted cash is projected to remain up to 30 June 2027 as reported to council
- Chair Stephen asked about council's status with respect to infrastructure renewals Response: fundamental concern with council's financial position is operating result which is worsening due to the cost of depreciation, without an operating revenue increase via special rates variation or grants income injection council will not be able to deliver additional asset renewal works to those works contained in the delivery program
- Chair Stephen, noting long-term financial modelling scenario, observed that special rate variation is a necessity not an option Response: the scenario selected for budget was the base case scenario out of three scenarios modelled by AEC Group and no other scenario can be implemented without additional sources of cash

9. External Audit Update

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 06

The audit, risk and improvement committee noted the verbal reports from the external auditors and NSW Audit Office.

Discussed:

- Lee Hartwig, EY advised that given prior year matters are on track for implementation and no new matters identified in the interim audit process, no interim management letters will be issued
- Member Bryce commended council's accounting staff for the interim audit result
- Robert Hayek, NSW Audit Office advised with regards the 2026 Local Government Sector Report:
 - NSW Audit Office has commenced data collection process for the three focus areas of conflict of interest, artificial intelligence and cyber security
 - For the fourth focus area of long-term financial planning, review is only being undertaken for selected councils, not Upper Lachlan Shire Council, and findings will be reported to all councils to inform self-assessment of their own practices
 - Chapter 3 of the report contains key insights and is recommended for all councils to read



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10. Internal Audit

10.1 CFO and DFA Report – Internal Audit

10.2 ULSC Strategic IA Plan and Assurance Map

10.3 Internal Audit Report – ULSC Payroll

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 07

The audit, risk and improvement committee:

- 1. received and noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Chief Financial Officer and Director Finance and Administration Finance Report regarding the internal audit function,**
- 2. approved the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Assurance Mapping and Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2026/27 to 2029/30, and**
- 3. noted the Internal Audit Report – Upper Lachlan Shire Council Payroll, dated June 2026.**

Discussed:

- Andrew Croke, ULSC spoke to the written internal audit report, highlighting:
 - 4-year internal audit program has been developed based on risk and considering assurance mapping
 - Payroll internal audit complete resulting in 11 observations rated as medium or low risk, in light of staff shortages in Payroll function this is a good result
 - Client satisfaction survey completed for Payroll internal audit
- Member Rachel, referring to observation relating to overtime, were shift penalties and overtime found to be being paid correctly? Response (Amir Mousa, Crowe): internal auditor ran some analytics as part of audit and then tested with management with no findings of under or over payment against awards resulting from samples analysed and testing
- Member Rachel asked if council is ready to implement pay day superannuation payments in line with new requirements Response: yes, superannuation has been paid on pay day for last two pay runs of the financial year
- Member Bryce commended council and internal auditor on already seeing benefits of outsourced internal audit arrangements identifying improvements for action
- Chair Stephen observed that other benefits of outsourcing are for councils to access internal audit provider knowledge of other councils, publications of interest and templates
- Committee satisfied with the mature assurance mapping approach and resulting 4-year internal audit plan with planned internal audits for first year being grants management, assets and infrastructure planning and ICT and cyber security, noting that the 4-year plan will be reviewed and updated annually
- Sharon Houlihan, CRJO contract manager of the Crowe Australasia contract on behalf of councils in the shared arrangement for delivery of internal audit program, advised that all contract requirements for 2025-26 have been met including delivery of assurance mapping, 4-year internal audit plan, payroll audit and attendance at ARIC meetings, Crowe will now be paid



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11. Risk & Compliance

11.1 Risk Management Self-Assessment

11.2 Risk Appetite Statement – June 2026

11.3 Risk Management Policy – August 24 Resolution 137-24

11.4 Enterprise Risk Register – Finance

11.5 Enterprise Risk Register – Human Resources

11.6 Enterprise Risk Register – Infrastructure

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 – 08

The audit, risk and improvement committee:

- 1. noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council risk & compliance verbal report,**
- 2. noted council's adoption of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Risk Management Policy, and**
- 3. noted the Risk Management Framework Annual Self-Assessment, Risk Appetite Statement, and the Enterprise Risk Register – Finance, Enterprise Risk Register – Human Resources and Enterprise Risk Register – Infrastructure.**

Discussed:

- John Akabah, ULSC spoke to written report, highlighting:
 - Significant improvement in risk management with updated of risk management policy and introduction of enterprise risk management components:
 - Adopted risk appetite statement
 - Risk registers for finance, human resources and infrastructure, including identification of risk owners and risk treatment actions owners
 - Standing risk management item on agenda for executive meetings
 - Automated risk management business system 'RelianSys' has been procured and loading of risks and user training underway, system can allocate actions to officers
 - More work to be done but council is getting on top of risk management process and a higher level of risk management maturity will be achieved over the next 12 months
- Committee commended council on very impressive uplift in risk management, the structure that is now in place and new risk management documents that give a really good indication of council's risk position that is now in place, acknowledging that the challenge is always embedment and ownership of risk mitigation across the council organisation
- New ICT Manager highlighted need for and commenced work on ICT-specific risk register
- Chair Stephen reminded council that as risk management matures, the executive needs to be prioritising risk mitigation action against risk appetite



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12. Governance Report

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 – 09

The audit, risk and improvement committee received and noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Governance Report.

Discussed:

- John Abakah, ULSC spoke to written report, as read
- Chair Stephen asked, with respect to active supreme court matters, if council has adequate provision for costs of process and outcomes Response: insurance is in place for this and will incorporate any additional ongoing costs arising into future budgets
- Member Cr Cameron asked the dates of upcoming appeal for Chamberlain v Kiloren matter response: timelines not yet known nor determination of costs, supreme court appeal is set for hearing end of July 2026
- Chair Stephen asked if s.355 committee matter relates to committee member or office bearer Response: it relates to office bearers of the committee
- Chair Stephen noted that the new risk management system 'RelianSys' may also assist with a compliance register in addition to risk registers

13. People & Culture

13.1 Human Resources Report

13.2 Workforce Plan 2026/27

13.3 Health & Safety Report

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 09

The audit, risk and improvement committee received and noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Human Resources Report.

Discussed:

- Andrew Croke, ULSC spoke to written report, highlighting:
 - 10 full time and 2 part time vacancies
 - Full contingent of executive and manager positions filled
 - Code of conduct training to be undertaken upon completion of current review of councillor code of conduct provisions of model code by the NSW Office of Local Government
- Member Rachel enquired as to rewards and recognition practices in place at council Response: traditional length of service awards currently in place, Culture Committee established which will review and recommend reward and recognition practices for consideration
- Member Bryce commended the Director Finance and Administration and CEO on human resources management maturity in work force plan despite long-term vacant Manager Human Resources position

**Upper Lachlan Shire Council ARIC Meeting Minutes**

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14. ICT & Cyber Security**14.1 Information Technology (ICT) Report****14.2 Essential 8 Status Report****14.3 Essential 8 Maturity Level 1 Project Plan****RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 10****The audit, risk and improvement committee:**

- 1. received and noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Information Technology Report, and**
- 2. noted the Essential 8 Status Report and Essential 8 Maturity Level 1 Project Plan.**

Discussed:

- David Johnson, ULSC spoke to written report, highlighting and adding:
 - Essential 8 maturity initial review undertaken with council at level 3 in some areas and level 0 in others, more comprehensive review will be undertaken once ICT risk register is in place
 - Cyber security policy drafted
 - Working on improving gateway security, some performance issues
 - End user and stakeholder training is a key need, initially for management and for elected representatives
- Member Bryce encouraged accessing resources from other councils Response: accessing ICT network, for example Dubbo and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Councils as well as working closely with Cyber Security NSW, Australian Signals Directorate and Cyber Security Centre
- Member Cr Cameron welcomed the new ICT Manager and his experience and industry networks

**Upper Lachlan Shire Council ARIC Meeting Minutes**

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15. Infrastructure & Assets**15.1 Infrastructure Report****15.2 Works in Progress – Construction & Maintenance****RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 11**

The audit, risk and improvement committee received and noted the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Director Infrastructure Report and noted the Works In Progress – Construction and Maintenance Report.

Discussed:

- Kazi Mahmud, ULSC spoke to written report, highlighting:
 - Rugby Road (Black Spot Program-funded project) to be rolled over for 2026-27 capital work s program, status: delivery is in initial stages but not appropriate to commence construction in wet winter months
 - Wombeyan Caves (Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program-funded project) to be rolled over for 2026-27 capital work s program, status: design works undertaken and sent to funding body for review, some issues re accommodating traffic during build
 - Civica Authority upgrade project on track to complete by August 2026
 - HumeLink East road user agreement signed with developers
- Chair Stephen asked when Crookwell water treatment plant estimates will be complete Response (Simon Arkinstall ULSC): currently developing consultant's brief for design work and construction cost estimate
- Member Bryce noted that council has been successful with energy upgrades grant funding and asked if proposed electric vehicle charging was for council or public use Response: provision of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure is a condition of energy upgrades grant funding
- Member Rachel asked about delivery risks for new capital works program Response: 12 capital works projects rolled over to 2026-27 capital works program and workforce needs to be maintained as well as grants application need to be successful in order to fully deliver program



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16. Business Improvement

16.1 2026-2027 Operational Plan

RESOLUTION ULSC 06/26 - 12

The audit, risk and improvement committee noted the 2026-2027 Upper Lachlan Shire Council Operational Plan.

Discussed:

- Committee observed the very broad delivery areas of council

17. ARIC Business (if any)

The chair discussed with the ARIC any other matters related to the good administration of the committee:

- Update on Report Calendar / Workplan deferred to next meeting following out of session distribution by the chair

ARIC has the following items to report to council in the ARIC quarterly report in additional to provision of a copy of the ARIC meeting minutes:

- *Any formal resolutions of the audit, risk and improvement committee:* **Nil beyond what is contained in these minutes**
- *The committee's assessment of any audits conducted, including any breaches or deficiencies in controls that require an immediate response from the council:* **Nil beyond what is contained in these minutes**
- *Progress on the implementation of corrective actions:* **Nil beyond what is contained in these minutes**
- *Opportunities for longer-term improvement:* **Nil beyond what is contained in these minutes**
- *Any key opinions or 'take-outs' from the committee's meeting:* **Nil beyond what is contained in these minutes**

18. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held Monday 29 September 2026, at Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

19. Confidential Closed Session

The ARIC is required to move into closed session to deal with any items under s10 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

No closed session was held.

20. Close

The chairperson closed the meeting at 11:55am.

COLLECTOR OVAL COMMITTEE

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA 01/07/26

Date: 01/07/2026	Meeting Time: 5:30pm	Venue: Memorial Hall
Type of meeting	General Meeting	
Chairperson	Keith Fincham	
Secretary	Holly Fincham	
Treasurer	Charlie Reardon	
Returning Officer	John Searl	
Attendees	Keith Fincham, Holly Fincham, Charlie Reardon, John Searle, Michael Duck	
Apologies		

Presidents Report

- No quorum reached previous meeting.

Treasurer Report

- \$200 purchase of Paddock Trees.
- No other activity on statement.

Read Previous Minutes

No previous minutes

Agenda Item 1: - Draft Plan of Management

Update			
Discussion	• Draft response provided to council February 18th.		
Conclusions	• Seek updates.		
Resolution –	<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline	

COLLECTOR OVAL COMMITTEE

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA 01/07/26

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Agenda Item 2: - Hydrology Report			
Update			
Discussion	- Favorable outcome from Lyall & Associates. No impact. - Expect official letter next week.		
Conclusions	Chase		
Resolution –		<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline

Agenda Item 3: - Cricket Nets			
Update			
Discussion	- Nets have arrived. - Need some volunteers to assist with erecting.		
Conclusions	Working with Charlie to have cricket team do an erection event.		
Resolution –		<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline

Agenda Item 4: - Rabbit Issues			
Update			
Discussion	- Identify burrows on and around sports precinct. - Partnering with CCA and GDL for solutions.		
Conclusions	Charlie to identify rabbit warrens around oval.		
Resolution –		<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline

COLLECTOR OVAL COMMITTEE

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA 01/07/26

Agenda Item 5: - Master Plan – Oval Precinct			
Update			
Discussion	• Updates from Tennis Club?		
Conclusions	Update attached		
Resolution –		<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline

Agenda Item 6: External Lighting			
Update			
Discussion	• This Agenda Item needs to be resolved. • Look to funding opportunities for Motion Flood Lighting. • Health and Safety Issue.		
Conclusions	• Will use Charlies lights. Will liaise with Matt for install.		
Resolution –		<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline

Agenda Item 7: Mower Blower			
Update			
Discussion	• Purchase of blower approved. • Purchase not yet made.		
Conclusions	• Just need to head out to Bunnings and buy one.		
Resolution –		<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline

COLLECTOR OVAL COMMITTEE

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA 01/07/26

Agenda Item 8: Storage Shed New Key		
Update		
Discussion	- Broken key currently stuck in Shed Roller Door. - Need to remove and get a new one cut.	
Conclusions	Michael will fix this up.	
Resolution –	<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline

Agenda Item 9: General Business?		
Update		
Discussion	Seek approvals from council to have paraglider land at oval.	
Conclusions		
Resolution –	<u>Person Responsible</u>	Deadline

Date for Next Meeting	
Date: 2 nd September	5:30pm
Meeting closed: 6:00 pm	

17 NOTICES OF MOTION

The following items are submitted for consideration -

17.1	Notice of Motion - Crookwell Aquatic and Visitor Information Centre Funding	176
17.2	Notice of Motion - Consideration of Senate Inquiry Report on Renewable Energy Impacts	179
17.3	Notice of Motion - Minutes for Developer Meetings	187
17.4	Notice of Motion - Infrasound Acoustic Report be required as part of SEARS for all renewable energy projects	191

Notices of Motion - 20 August 2026

ITEM 17.1

Notice of Motion - Crookwell Aquatic and Visitor Information Centre Funding

I, Councillor Paul Culhane hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

1. That Upper Lachlan Shire Council authorise the Mayor and CEO to seek grants to complete the Crookwell Aquatic and Visitor Information Centre or stages thereof incorporating up to \$2.5m in loan funding.
2. That Upper Lachlan Shire Council allocate \$50k from the building reserve to fund amended architectural plans to decouple the amenities block and indoor pool building.

BACKGROUND

The key unfunded components of the Crookwell Aquatic and Visitor Information project are the amenities block and indoor pool. ULSC has been seeking 100% funding however this has proved challenging because of the limited funding streams available to ULSC as well as the fact that the project has substantially commenced. Further, the lack of a Council contribution rules out a number of potential funding options. Ongoing cost escalation makes this project more challenging as time passes.

With the project currently in hiatus there are a number of risks and costs to Council. The temporary amenities block is leased on a monthly basis and also the pumps and equipment already installed for the indoor pool are inactive with the risk of deterioration from lack of use. If we agree in principal to accept a \$2.5m level of debt we can go to higher levels of government and funding bodies with a much stronger case to seek funding to complete the project. Another impediment to flexibility is that currently the amenities block and indoor pool are engineered with a common roof and structure making them dependant on each other from a construction perspective. By reworking the architectural and engineering design to allow the prospect of building the amenities block first we again open up extra funding options that may potentially allow a stage 1(amenities) and stage 2(indoor pool) approach.

A number of Councils in the CRJO area have taken on much greater levels of borrowing to get their own Aquatic Centres built or revamped. It should also be noted that the existing expenditure on the incomplete project must be amortised at some point meaning we are facing a significant cost already with no current benefit to ratepayers. While this type of infrastructure will undoubtedly be a significant loss making service it is a service our residents have repeatedly demanded with many currently travelling to adjoining Councils for swimming lessons and the like. The increased revenue streams from usage can be estimated but is unknown. We will continue to advocate for permanent income streams from development projects such as the Transgrid transmission line as a possible community contribution grant to help offset the ongoing operational costs.

Notice of Motion

CROOKWELL AQUATIC AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE BUILDING cont'd

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S COMMENT

Council finance staff have prepared indicative loan repayment scenarios for borrowings of \$2.5 million.

Based on current indicative rates, a 10-year borrowing period would require annual repayments of approximately \$332,000, while a 20-year borrowing period would require annual repayments of approximately \$222,000.

These repayments would be in addition to the \$219,000 Council already pays annually in relation to existing swimming pool borrowings of \$2.2 million.

In considering any further borrowing, Council must also have regard to other significant and currently uncertain funding requirements. In particular, there remains uncertainty regarding the final costs and funding arrangements associated with the waste centre remediation and transfer station projects. Borrowing capacity within the General Fund may be required to support these works, while borrowing within the Water and Sewer Funds may also be necessary to deliver future Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Water Treatment Plant (WTP) upgrades.

Accordingly, committing a significant proportion of Council's available borrowing capacity to the swimming pool project at this time may constrain Council's ability to respond to these and other emerging infrastructure priorities. It may also create significant cash flow and operational impacts over the proposed life of the loan, with implications for Council's longer-term financial sustainability.

Should Council determine to progress the project with a total value exceeding \$5 million, there are also a number of additional requirements that will need to be considered. These include:

- (a) completion of the project assessment requirements under the Office of Local Government's *Capital Expenditure Guidelines*, which apply to major capital projects of this nature; and
- (b) an application to the Office of Local Government for an increase to Council's borrowing limit for 2026/2027, noting that the proposed borrowing and project are not currently incorporated within Council's adopted Integrated Planning and Reporting documents, including the Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

From a financial perspective, further borrowing to deliver the facility in its current form is not considered prudent at this stage.

While borrowing can be an appropriate mechanism for financing long-lived infrastructure, as it enables future ratepayers who benefit from an asset to contribute towards its cost, the swimming pool facility already requires a significant annual operating subsidy and there is currently no identified additional revenue stream sufficient to service the proposed new debt.

Council and future ratepayers would therefore be required to fund not only the loan repayments, but also the ongoing operating subsidy, maintenance, depreciation and future renewal of the facility from Council's available revenue. This would reduce

Notice of Motion**CROOKWELL AQUATIC AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE BUILDING cont'd**

Council's financial capacity to fund other essential services, asset renewal and infrastructure priorities over the life of the proposed loan.

Notwithstanding these considerations, it is agreed that Council should continue to consider alternative options for the delivery of the remaining swimming pool complex, either in whole or through a staged approach.

This could include prioritising the delivery of the amenities and changeroom facilities as an initial stage, with the indoor pool component considered as a subsequent stage should sufficient funding become available and Council determine that it remains financially sustainable to proceed.

The current architectural design, however, provides for the amenities/changerooms and indoor pool to be accommodated within a single integrated building and roof structure.

Consequently, progressing the components independently would require the existing architectural and associated design documentation to be reviewed and amended to effectively decouple the amenities component from the proposed indoor pool building.

It is therefore considered prudent for Council to allocate up to \$50,000 from the Building Reserve to undertake the necessary architectural redesign and associated preliminary work including staged project component costings.

This would provide Council with greater flexibility to properly cost and consider staged delivery options without committing at this stage to the full construction cost or significant additional borrowings.

The revised design and costing information would also provide a stronger basis for future grant applications and enable Council to make an informed decision regarding the scope, timing and affordability of each component of the project.

Council should exercise caution before approving a \$2.5 million loan for construction of the full facility at this time, particularly given the absence of a confirmed funding offer and the need to ensure a sustainable funding source for both loan repayments and the ongoing operation of the facility.

Instead of proceeding with the motion as outlined, the advice to Council from senior management is that Council should progress the redesign necessary to enable staged delivery of the project and continue to pursue external funding opportunities for both the amenities/changeroom and indoor pool components. This approach would allow Council to retain flexibility in the timing and scope of delivery, while ensuring that any future investment decisions are based on updated accurate project costing, confirmed funding sources and a clear understanding of long-term operational impacts. It would also assist in protecting Council's borrowing capacity and maintaining its longer-term financial sustainability.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Notices of Motion - 20 August 2026

ITEM 17.2

Notice of Motion - Consideration of Senate Inquiry Report on Renewable Energy Impacts

I, Councillor Alexandra Meggitt hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

That Council -

1. Receive and note the final report of the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee Inquiry into the Impacts of Renewable Energy Projects on Rural and Regional Communities.
2. Have regard to the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry in the preparation and review of the Upper Lachlan Shire Development Control Plan and Housing Strategy, where relevant to renewable energy and transmission developments.

BACKGROUND

The Senate Environment and Communications References Committee has released its final report into the impacts of renewable energy projects on rural and regional communities. The Inquiry identified concerns regarding the adequacy of community consultation processes, impacts on rural landholders and agricultural production, transmission infrastructure, inconsistencies in compensation arrangements, limitations in environmental assessment processes, and the need for improved strategic planning to better coordinate renewable energy development with local infrastructure, housing and community needs. These matters are relevant to current and future renewable energy and transmission proposals within the Upper Lachlan Shire and warrant consideration by Council.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S COMMENT

Over a two-year period, the Upper House Committee held an inquiry that examined every Renewable Energy Zone in New South Wales. The report has been released a which recommends changes to planning, coordination, community engagement and regional support while reaffirming the importance of Renewable Energy Zones to the state's energy transition.

The inquiry by Portfolio Committee No. 4 visited each of the state's five Renewable Energy Zones, including Central-West Orana, New England, Hunter-Central Coast, Illawarra and the South West, before handing down a report containing 25 findings and 16 recommendations.

The committee found Renewable Energy Zones remain an essential part of New South Wales' energy transition but concluded their rollout should be accompanied by stronger coordination, more meaningful community engagement and greater support for the communities hosting the infrastructure.

Notice of Motion

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE INQUIRY REPORT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IMPACTS cont'd

While acknowledging that each Renewable Energy Zone faces different circumstances, the committee found many of the challenges raised by communities were common across all five regions. These included coordination between government agencies, consultation processes, cumulative impacts, pressure on local infrastructure and services, and how the benefits of Renewable Energy Zone development are shared.

Among its findings, the committee concluded that improvements are needed to the planning framework supporting Renewable Energy Zones and found that roles around coordinating projects should be strengthened, particularly in relation to cumulative impact management, sequencing of development and coordination of infrastructure and services. The report also found local councils have been left managing increasing demands on local services and infrastructure without sufficient authority, resources or strategic direction.

The committee further found that consultation processes undertaken by government agencies and renewable energy developers had not always enabled affected communities to meaningfully influence project outcomes.

The committee recommended the NSW Government publish a detailed implementation plan within three months for any recommendations it accepts, identifying lead agencies, delivery timeframes and measurable performance measures, followed by progress reports to Parliament every six months. If adopted, the recommendations would shape the next phase of Renewable Energy Zone delivery for government agencies, infrastructure proponents and regional communities across New South Wales.

This report is not about whether renewable energy should exist. It is about how Renewable Energy Zones have been planned, coordinated and delivered.

The recommendations from the NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No.4 final report on the impact of renewable energy zones are attached for Council's information.

Section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Development Control Plans do not formally apply to State Significant Development. While local council DCPs provisions are excluded as statutory controls, the assessment process still considers local context, council submissions and broader local planning policies. Under Section 2.10 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*, statutory requirements of DCPs do not apply to state significant development.

'2.10 Application of development control plans to State significant development

(1) Development control plans (whether made before or after the commencement of this Chapter) do not apply to—

- (a) State significant development, or***
- (b) development for which a relevant council is the consent authority under section***

4.37 of the Act.

After a Legislative Council committee completes and tables a report in Parliament, the chamber moves to debate, and the government is required to formally respond to the committee's recommendations within a strict three-month timeframe. The NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No.4 tabled its final report on the impact of

Notice of Motion

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE INQUIRY REPORT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IMPACTS cont'd

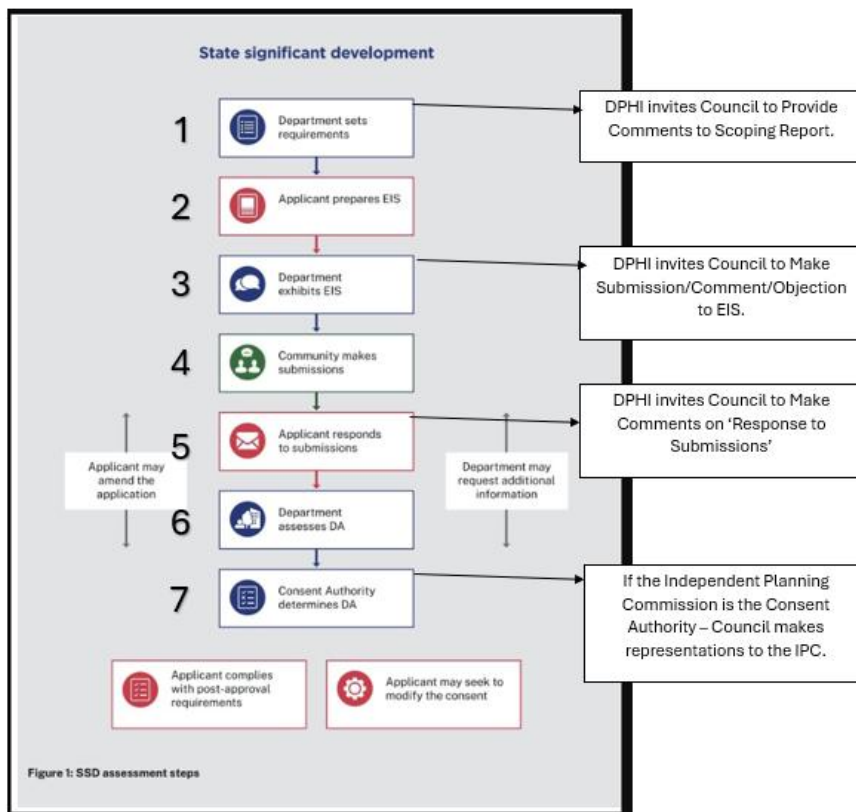
renewable energy zones on 29 July 2026 with the NSW Government having until October 2026 to respond.

Given that the provisions of Council's DCP are not required to be formally addressed through the State Significant Development assessment process, and that the NSW Government is yet to consider and respond to the final report of the NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 4 inquiry into the impacts of Renewable Energy Zones, Council staff do not consider it necessary or appropriate to incorporate any or all of the Committee's recommendations into the DCP.

While it is acknowledged that the level and extent of consultation associated with State Significant Development applications can, at times, be inadequate, Council staff reiterate that responsibility for overseeing and administering the State Significant Development assessment process rests with the NSW Government, through the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Council participates in this process as a stakeholder and referral authority where relevant but does not control the statutory assessment process or the consultation framework established by the State Government.

The process associated with an application for State Significant Development is legislated by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which is supported by appropriate guidelines as developed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

A summary of the process associated with State Significant Development is captured in the below figure;



Notice of Motion**CONSIDERATION OF SENATE INQUIRY REPORT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IMPACTS** cont'd

Throughout the process Councils have an opportunity to provide comments on matters to be addressed by an applicant through the Secretary's environment assessment requirements (SEARs) and review of the Environmental Impact Statement.

As Councillors are aware, Council's formal responses at both the SEARs and EIS stages are prepared by Council staff and presented to Councillors for consideration prior to finalisation and submission, ensuring Councillors have the opportunity to consider and inform Council's position throughout the State Significant Development assessment process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 	Senator Enquiry Report - recommendations	Attachment
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Recommendations

- Recommendation 1** **57**
That the NSW Government review each Renewable Energy Zone and the impacts on each regional community affected while each zone is rolled out.
- Recommendation 2** **58**
That the NSW Government seek to amend the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* to expand and clarify EnergyCo's statutory mandate to include explicit responsibility for cumulative impact management, cross-agency coordination, and regional infrastructure and service planning, with enforceable obligations.
- Recommendation 3** **58**
That the NSW Government ensure that EnergyCo is subject to formal performance and accountability requirements including:
- statutory reporting on cumulative impacts in each Renewable Energy Zone
 - public reporting on mitigation measures and outcomes
 - independent audit of its coordination role.
- Recommendation 4** **59**
That the NSW Government require all relevant agencies to operate under a coordinated Renewable Energy Zone delivery framework, led by EnergyCo, with:
- defined roles and responsibilities
 - mandatory data sharing
 - joint planning obligations.
- Recommendation 5** **59**
That the NSW Government provide recurrent funding to local councils in each Renewable Energy Zone to assist with resourcing pressures.
- Recommendation 6** **61**
That the NSW Government expand the compensation and benefit-sharing framework to:
- include non-host neighbours
 - address land value and insurance impacts
 - ensure the equitable distribution of benefits
 - publish clear eligibility criteria for all community benefit and compensation programs
 - provide annual public reporting on the allocation and expenditure of community benefit funding within each Renewable Energy Zone.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales

Recommendation 7**64**

That the NSW Government seek to find ways to ensure the consultation process where possible:

- occurs prior to key planning decisions
- demonstrates measurable influence on project design
- includes independent auditing of engagement outcomes
- requires proponents to publish a response explaining how community feedback has influenced project design or, where it has not, the reasons why.

Recommendation 8**64**

That the NSW Government review the use of non-disclosure agreements in renewable energy project negotiations as they restrict community-wide transparency and inhibit effective consultation.

Recommendation 9**64**

That the NSW Government review the State Significant Development framework with a view to:

- consider landholder rights
- ensure consultation timeframes are adequate
- consider independent peer review of impact assessments.

The review should specifically consider:

- cumulative impact assessment across multiple projects within a Renewable Energy Zone
- opportunities for earlier strategic planning prior to project assessment
- procedural fairness for directly affected landholders and neighbouring properties
- consistency in assessment requirements across Renewable Energy Zone projects.

Recommendation 10**65**

That the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure review the Social Impact Assessment process so assessments are standardised, independently verified, and expanded to include consideration of:

- cumulative impacts
- social cohesion
- long-term regional effects.

Social Impact Assessments should be completed before transmission corridors and Renewable Energy Zone boundaries are finalised and should be updated as projects progress through the planning system.

Recommendation 11**66**

That the NSW Government seek to establish a statutory Community Advocate for Renewable Energy Zone regions to:

- represent landholders
- provide independent advice
- participate in planning and assessment processes.

Recommendation 12**67**

That the NSW Government undertake an urgent review of the role of the Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW in renewable energy infrastructure with a view to significantly expand its powers regarding:

- binding dispute resolution
- systemic investigations
- proactive monitoring.

The review should include an assessment of the effectiveness of cumulative impact management, community engagement, regional economic outcomes, housing impacts and the delivery of community benefit commitments.

Recommendation 13**107**

That the NSW Government seek to strengthen the land acquisition process by:

- applying the principles of the Private Agreement Guideline so:
 - agreements are tailored to the specific landholder and project
 - agreements are fair, reasonable, and written in plain language
 - reasonable landholder costs associated with entering into or understanding the agreement are paid for by the applicant.
- developing a suite of standard documents, prescribed by regulations, that are required to initiate and complete the acquisition process
- providing an urgent update regarding the review of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*
- including minimum standards for:
 - independent legal advice funded by proponents
 - valuation processes
 - mediation prior to compulsory acquisition
 - transparent compensation principles.

Recommendation 14**108**

That the NSW Government reconsider their position regarding decommissioning bonds and consider applying mandatory bonds to new renewable energy developments including requirements for periodic review of financial assurance to reflect actual costs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales**Recommendation 15****110**

That the NSW Government provide additional funding to the local Aboriginal land councils in each Renewable Energy Zone to assist with complex land analysis and negotiations with large-scale developers together with requirements for early engagement in strategic planning, cultural heritage assessment and route selection before project locations are finalised.

Recommendation 16**111**

That the NSW Government publish a detailed implementation plan for all accepted recommendations of this report within three months. The plan should set out relevant timelines, responsible agencies and measurable outcomes, with the government reporting to New South Wales Parliament every six months on the progress of its implementation plan. The implementation plan should:

- identify the lead agency responsible for each recommendation;
- specify implementation timeframes;
- include measurable performance indicators;
- provide annual public progress reports until implementation is complete.

Notices of Motion - 20 August 2026

ITEM 17.3

Notice of Motion - Minutes for Developer Meetings

I, Councillor Alexandra Meggitt hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

That Council -

1. Reaffirms its commitment to good governance, transparency and informed decision-making in relation to renewable energy and transmission projects within the Upper Lachlan Shire.
2. Notes that a previous Council resolution requires meetings held with developers to be advised to councillors and acknowledges that recent notifications have been provided in general terms.
3. Requests that, to support councillors in carrying out their statutory responsibilities, a brief written record be prepared for all meetings held with renewable energy or transmission developers, including:
 - the date and location of the meeting;
 - the names of attendees;
 - a clear statement of the purpose of the meeting;
 - a short summary of matters discussed; and
 - any follow-up actions identified.
4. Requests that such records be retained as official Council records in accordance with Council's record-keeping obligations.
5. Clarifies that this information is sought to ensure councillors have consistent access to relevant background material and to strengthen Council's governance practices, rather than to revisit or question past actions.
6. Requests that future meeting records be circulated to councillors within 10 business days of the meeting.

BACKGROUND

At a recent Council meeting, the Mayor's Minute included advice that the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer had met with a renewable energy developer and provided Council with an overview of the meeting. While that advice was appreciated, this highlights the importance of ensuring Council maintains a consistent and transparent process for recording and sharing information arising from meetings with renewable energy and transmission proponents.

This motion is intended to reaffirm Council's commitment to good governance, transparency and informed decision-making by ensuring councillors have access to consistent information regarding such meetings and that appropriate records are maintained.

Notice of Motion

MINUTES OF DEVELOPER MEETINGS cont'd

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S COMMENT

Council will note that this matter has previously been considered, with Council resolving on 21 August 2025 as follows:

142/25 Resolved by Cr Cameron and Cr Yallouris that:

- 1. All meetings — formal or informal — between Council representatives, specifically the Mayor and/or Chief Executive Officer, and developers regarding a current or proposed State Significant Project, be accurately reported.*
- 2. These reports shall be made accessible to all Councillors to ensure transparency and accountability.*
- 3. Such meetings must be disclosed within the reports of the relevant Council representative, in accordance with current local government policy on transparency and documentation.*

CARRIED

Councillors who voted for: Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris.

Councillors who voted against: Nil.

Council has complied with Resolution 142/25. Meetings falling within the scope of the resolution have been reported and, as acknowledged within the current Notice of Motion, the Mayor has provided information to Councillors following relevant meetings. The current Notice of Motion represents a significant expansion of Resolution 142/25. The existing resolution applies specifically to meetings involving the Mayor and/or Chief Executive Officer and developers of State Significant projects. The proposed motion would extend this requirement to all meetings involving renewable energy or transmission developers, potentially capturing routine interactions involving Council officers, while also prescribing the information to be recorded and requiring its circulation to Councillors within 10 business days.

While the objectives of transparency, good governance and informed decision-making are supported, the proposed requirements need to be considered in the context of the respective roles of Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and Council staff.

Council's role in relation to State Significant Development (SSD) is generally that of a stakeholder rather than the consent authority. Developers routinely engage with Council officers to provide information about proposed projects, introduce project and engagement personnel, discuss community consultation, seek factual information regarding Council infrastructure and services, identify potential infrastructure impacts and discuss processes associated with potential planning agreements.

Council officers may also engage with NSW Government agencies, consultants and proponents as projects progress through the SSD process.

Importantly, not all such interactions constitute formal meetings. Engagement can range from scheduled project briefings and substantive discussions through to preliminary conversations, online discussions, technical enquiries and routine information sharing. The nature and significance of these interactions varies considerably depending on the stage and complexity of a proposal.

Notice of Motion

MINUTES OF DEVELOPER MEETINGS cont'd

These interactions are a normal and necessary component of Council's administrative, technical and stakeholder functions. Their occurrence should not be interpreted as Council supporting, opposing or participating in the determination of a particular development proposal.

As Council is not the consent authority, Council officers do not determine the permissibility of SSD proposals or the adequacy of environmental or social impact assessments. These matters are addressed through the NSW Government planning framework, including Scoping, the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and subsequent assessment processes.

Any formal submission or position of Council relevant to the assessment of an SSD must be provided through the appropriate NSW Government planning process. Matters requiring a formal position of Council, including Council submissions and relevant planning agreements, are reported to Councillors for consideration and resolution. This provides Councillors with appropriate visibility and the opportunity to determine Council's formal position.

Council officers are already subject to statutory and organisational record-keeping requirements. Relevant business records are created and retained in accordance with Council's records-management obligations and established administrative practices. Council staff do not routinely prepare transcripts or detailed minutes of all interactions with a developer. Where an interaction is preliminary, technical, informal or primarily for information sharing, the creation of formal minutes may neither be necessary nor proportionate to the purpose of the engagement.

Where notes, file notes or meeting summaries are prepared, they generally capture key matters, relevant information and identified actions. They are not intended to constitute formal minutes or a verbatim, Hansard-style record of everything said. Records held by Council may also be subject to access under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, with any application considered in accordance with the requirements of that legislation.

The proposed Notice of Motion goes considerably further than these existing obligations by requiring a prescribed written record following all meetings with renewable energy or transmission developers and its circulation to all Councillors within 10 business days.

Requiring the creation and circulation of a prescribed meeting record for every such interaction would effectively convert routine administrative and technical engagement into a formal reporting process, irrespective of the significance, purpose or relevance of the interaction to Councillors' statutory and decision-making responsibilities. A technical discussion between Council engineers and a proponent regarding road infrastructure, for example, could attract the same reporting requirements as a substantive meeting involving the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and senior representatives of a developer, this is not considered to be a proportionate or effective governance mechanism.

There is an important distinction between ensuring Councillors have access to information reasonably necessary to undertake their statutory responsibilities and

Notice of Motion

MINUTES OF DEVELOPER MEETINGS cont'd

prescribing the administrative processes by which routine interactions undertaken by Council employees are documented and reported.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day-to-day management of Council's operations and the management and direction of Council staff. Care should therefore be exercised in establishing resolutions that prescribe detailed administrative requirements for routine interactions undertaken by Council employees in performing their duties.

The proposed requirements would also create an additional administrative and resource burden. Major projects can involve numerous interactions over an extended period between Council officers, proponents, consultants and government agencies. Requiring a prescribed record following each interaction and circulation to all Councillors within 10 business days would consume additional staff resources without necessarily providing information material to Councillors' decision-making responsibilities.

In effect, such an approach risks drawing Councillors into the day-to-day operational management of Council activities, which sits outside their strategic governance role and may be considered an encroachment into operational matters properly managed by the Chief Executive Officer and Council administration.

It is also unclear why such a reporting framework should apply specifically to renewable energy and transmission developers. Council officers routinely engage with proponents associated with subdivisions, extractive industries, telecommunications infrastructure, commercial and industrial development, government infrastructure and other significant proposals. Council's governance and record-keeping arrangements should, as far as practicable, operate consistently rather than establish different administrative requirements according to the type of development involved.

Council's existing Resolution 142/25 provides a mechanism for transparency in relation to meetings involving the Mayor and/or Chief Executive Officer and developers of State Significant projects. Council has complied with that resolution and will continue to do so.

Council's existing reporting, records-management, Code of Conduct and statutory planning processes provide further mechanisms for governance, accountability and transparency. Formal submissions, planning agreements and other matters requiring a formal position of Council will continue to be presented to Councillors for consideration and resolution.

For these reasons, the Chief Executive Officer and senior management do not support the Notice of Motion as proposed. The motion unnecessarily extends the existing reporting requirement into the operational management of Council, duplicates existing governance and record-keeping arrangements, imposes disproportionate administrative requirements on routine officer interactions and would create additional resource requirements without a demonstrated corresponding governance benefit.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Notices of Motion - 20 August 2026

ITEM 17.4

Notice of Motion - Infrasound Acoustic Report be required as part of SEARS for all renewable energy projects

I, Councillor Susan Reynolds hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

That -

“Upper Lachlan Shire Council require from all proposed renewable energy projects, as part of their SEARS application, an independent acoustic report for infrasound and low frequency noise, to identify local levels of infrasound and to determine an infrasound baseline, prior to approval.

BACKGROUND

The potential effects of infrasound on the human body were first identified and documented in the 1960s and 1970s during the space race, when jet pilots were affected.

Infrasound is low-frequency sound below 20 Hertz (Hz), not usually audible and has a peculiar ability to permeate a building, through the walls, doors and windowpanes or through open apertures and has been measured up to 90 kilometres, depending on weather and topology, from its source. The behaviour of infrasound in the built environment is very different from the behaviour of audible sound. Audible sound becomes uniformly softer with distance, losing energy to the atmosphere and obstacles and dispersing its energy as it expands to larger volumes. This is not the case with infrasound, which can get stronger over certain distances.

Scientific studies across the world over the past 15 years has identified that *the impact of consistent exposure to infrasound waves has a cumulative effect on the human body and on animals that affects tissue at the capillary level*, with impact on organs, resulting in many ailments, including high blood pressure, hardening of heart muscle, tinnitus, anxiety, mental and emotional health affecting quality of life.

It is further known that industrial wind turbines emit infrasound that consists of acoustic waves with frequencies falling below 20 Hertz (Hz).

With the expansion of ‘green’ energy generation, infrasound from wind turbines will increase and it is important to understand and ameliorate its adverse effects on people. Infrasound from wind turbines is particularly annoying because the sound signature contains short, frequent episodes and it persists over extended periods, compared with other short-duration sources (such as trains). Most people can ‘tune out’ repeated sounds but in some, the [central nervous system](#) becomes sensitized and they suffer the symptoms of chronic [noise stress](#) such as anxiety, depression, [cognitive dysfunction](#) and disrupted sleep.

Notice of Motion

INFRA SOUND ACOUSTIC REPORT BE REQUIRED AS PART OF SEARS FOR ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS cont'd

Vibroacoustic Disease (VAD) and Wind Turbine Syndrome (WTS) occur in people living near wind turbines and having long-term exposure to infrasound. VAD is associated with thickening of cardiovascular structures together with depression, irritability and decreased cognitive skills. WTS symptoms include sleep disturbance, headache, tinnitus, ear pressure, [dizziness](#), [vertigo](#), nausea, visual blurring, [tachycardia](#), irritability, problems with concentration and memory and panic episodes. Well documented research with children, on the spectrum, where fixation of blade flicker, it was demonstrated that infrasound can cause an escalation of behavioural issues.

Attachment: Please refer to attached 2023 scientific paper published in the Journal of Biosciences and Medicines: Impairment of the Endothelium and Disorder of Microcirculation in Humans and Animals Exposed to Infrasound due to Irregular Mechano-Transduction by Ursula Maria Bellut-Staeck, Independent Scientist, Berlin, Germany.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S COMMENT

Council raised a question in relation to infrasound at its meeting of 18 June 2026 with Council officers providing the below response.

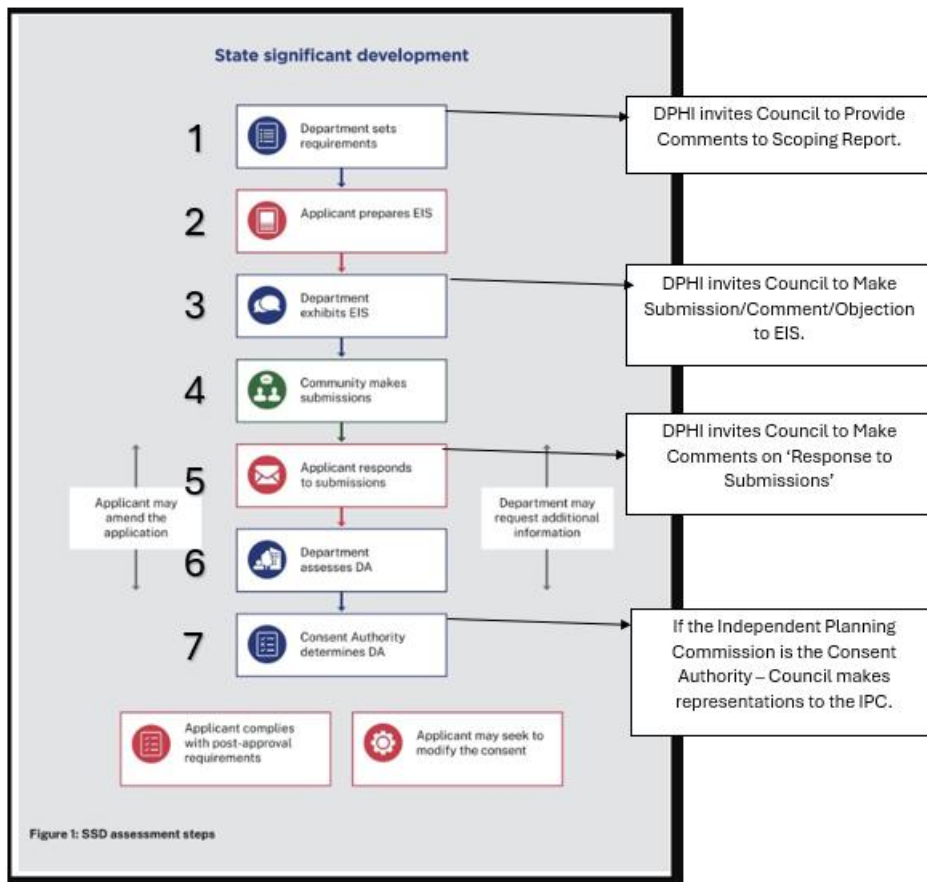
The NSW Government is responsible for overseeing the process associated with applications for State Significant Development, which is managed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The process associated with an application for State Significant Development is legislated by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which is supported by appropriate guidelines as developed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

A summary of the process associated with State Significant Development is captured in the below figure;

Notice of Motion

INFRA SOUND ACOUSTIC REPORT BE REQUIRED AS PART OF SEARS FOR ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS cont'd



Throughout the process Councils have an opportunity to provide comments on matters to be addressed by an applicant through the Secretary's environment assessment requirements (SEARs) and review of the Environmental Impact Statement.

As Council is aware, responses at both the SEARs and EIS stage as prepared by Officers are presented to Council for consideration prior to final submission.

With no recent State Significant Development applications incorporating wind farms being submitted within Upper Lachlan Shire, current staff are unable to advise as to whether applicants were requested to consider baseline infrasound levels as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Wind Energy Guideline (Technical Supplement for Noise Assessment) provides guidance for applicants, consent authorities, acoustic specialists and the community to understand the process and requirements for assessing noise impacts of wind energy development in NSW.

The current Wind Energy Guideline (Technical Supplement for Noise Assessment) does not require the assessment of infrasound as part of the noise impact assessment.

Accordingly, while Council can request that infrasound impacts be considered when invited to provide comments, it appears unlikely that the State would require such an assessment where it is not mandated under its own technical guidelines.

Notice of Motion**INFRASOUND ACOUSTIC REPORT BE REQUIRED AS PART OF SEARS FOR ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS cont'd**

'The scientific findings of the National Health and Medical Research Council and the advice of NSW Health continue to inform the NSW Government's position on potential health impacts of wind energy projects. The government does not require applicants to conduct a health impact assessment in relation to wind energy development and very low frequency sound known as infrasound. This is based on the findings of the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2015 that concluded that there is no direct evidence that exposure to wind farm noise affects physical or mental health, and there is currently no consistent evidence supporting a link between wind energy projects and adverse health outcomes in humans. More specifically, the council concluded that although exposure to environmental noise is associated with health effects, these effects occur at much higher levels of noise than people living in close proximity to wind farms in Australia are likely to experience.'

ATTACHMENTS

1. ↓	Scientific Research Publishing Infrasound	Attachment
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Impairment of the Endothelium and Disorder of Microcirculation in Humans and Animals Exposed to Infrasound due to Irregular Mechano-Transduction

Ursula Maria Bellut-Staeck

Independent Scientist, Berlin, Germany
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Open Access

Abstract

The microcirculation of mammals is an autoregulated and complex synchronised system according to the current demand for nutrients and oxygen. The undisturbed course of vital functions such as of growth, blood pressure regulation, inflammatory sequence and embryogenesis is bound to endothelial integrity. The sensible vasomotion is particularly dependent on it. Mechano-transduction signalling networks play a critical role in vital cellular processes and are the decisive physiological mechanism for an adequate NO-release, main responsible for the autoregulation of vessels. Disturbed endothelial integrity, originating, e.g., from chronic oxidative stress and/or mechanic (oscillatory) stress, leads to disturbance of vasomotion as well as a disequilibrium of redox systems, recognized as main cause for the development of chronic inflammation diseases such as atherosclerosis and corresponding secondary illnesses, possibly cancer. The endothelial cytoskeleton, which corresponds to a viscoelastic “tensegrity model”, offers the possibility for mechano-transduction via its special construction. The rapidly growing knowledge about mechanical forces in cellular sensing and regulation of the last years (that culminated in the Nobel Prize award for the decoding of pressure/vibration sensing ion channels), led us to the following hypothesis: The external stressor “Noise” produces under certain conditions an oscillatory stress field in the physiologically laminar flow bed of capillaries, which is able to lead to irregular mechano-transductions. Findings provide a strict dependence on frequency in mechano-transduction with determination of thresholds for a 1:1 transmission. The knowledge, recently gained on endothelial mechano-transduction, sheds a new light on the importance of low frequencies. This could indicate the long-sought pathophysiological way in which infrasound can exert a stressor effect at the cellular level. Noise-exposed citizens, who live near infra-

U. M. Bellut-Staack

two capillaries with a consequently reduced diffusion distance for oxygen and nutrients. The regulation of local blood flow (so-called vasomotor function) is extremely complex and “orchestrated” [4]. It is controlled by intrinsic and extrinsic factors (e.g., autonomic nerve system and vasoactive hormones, e.g., *adrenaline*, *vasopressin*, *angiotensin*, *serotonin*) which modulate intrinsic activity [1], dependent also on vessel size and the distribution of adrenergic receptors to a given organ.

One basis for *intrinsic* regulation is formed by the Bayliss effect [7]. Blood flow is kept constant: If blood flow increases, vasoconstriction occurs, if blood flow falls, vasodilation occurs. A second basis is metabolite factors according to the classical theory, in which local hypoxia leads to an increased release of vasodilatory active substances (e.g., *NO*, *ATP*, *prostaglandins*), causing an increase in local blood flow. Accumulating metabolites such as *lactate*, *hydrogen ions*, *potassium* and *adenosine* maintain this effect [1]. One of the most important and mainly responsible prerequisites for the *NO bioavailability* is the classical laminar shear stress response due to mechanical forces according Chien 2007 [8]. *NO* is triggered in the classical way by blood flow causing a mechanical change at the endothelial cell membrane and formed from its precursor L-arginine via *NO-synthetase (NOS)*. *NO* mediates vascular relaxation by activation of the soluble guanylyl cyclase (sGC) which catalyses the conversion of guanosine triphosphate (GTP) into 3'-5'-cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP).

The latter is extraordinarily typical for the microcirculation, but one of the least explained phenomena: *vasomotion*.

Vasomotion was first observed in the classical example of a bat vein and described as a rhythmic contractility that accelerates blood flow forward via fine and synchronised pulsations [9]. The causes and control of which have not yet been fully elucidated. Current state of knowledge is that *vasomotion* depends on the integrity of the endothelium and apparently serve to optimise the nutrient support [10]. *Vasomotion* can be directly observed *in vivo* in SDF-video microscopy. Quote from Aalkjaer C. Mulvany MJ 2020) [10] in cap. 1.3 page 7: “*Perhaps the only feature related to vasomotion which is agreed by everybody is that an oscillation of the smooth muscle cell membrane potential is the background for the oscillation of the individual smooth muscle cell tone and also for the synchronization of the smooth muscle cells [...] This strongly suggests that [Ca²⁺] in the smooth muscle cells is also oscillating in a synchronized manner—and this is indeed the case. [...]*”. There is deeper insight in the original article [10].

The extent of endothelial involvement in clinical syndromes is immense, as are the potential factors that can influence microcirculation in both positive and negative ways. The most important potential influences arise from vital functions such as oxygen and nutrition supply, growth, embryogenesis, blood coagulation, immune regulation, etc. The main causes of dysfunction are those that can disrupt the integrity of the endothelium, in particular an excess of oxidative and oscillatory stress.

1.2. Redox System Homeostasis

Crucial for both, a synchronised blood flow regulation and the maintenance of vascular health, is the adequate release of *NO* with the right amount, right quantity, at the right place and to the right time [11]. *As strong antioxidant, it plays a decisive role in the homeostasis of the entire redox metabolism with interruption of lipid peroxidation and therefore decrease of aggressive free oxygen radicals (ROS) ([11] [12] Table 1).* As free radical (in a gaseous state), it can diffuse freely through the membranes. The vascular effects of *NO* are presented *as vascular protective, regulatory or as deleterious* [11] [13]. How the reaction really turns out, depends according to Laurindo F. *et al.* [11] on several factors. According to these authors, the unfavourable properties usually are associated with an *excessive* *NO* production, the *protective NO effects* are attributed to a steady and *for the specific situation adequate NO production*. Not only *NO*, but also its three isoenzymes of endothelial *NO*-Synthetase are involved in redox signalling pathways. Depending the kind of isoenzyme and surrounding conditions, they have likewise either protective effects or such that are deleterious as shown in **Table 1**.

As a result, the dependence of an adequate *NO*-provision on physical forces leads to a sensitivity to external stressors that would be capable of leading to irregular mechano-transduction, possibly leading to an increased and inadequate *NO* supply. More details to the whole theme in articles from [11] [12] [13] [14].

Table 1. The different possible effects of Nitric Oxide as protective, regulatory and deleterious.

Protective effects:

- Antioxidant
- Inhibits leucocytes and platelets adhesion
- Protects against toxicity and peroxidation

Regulatory effects:

- Vascular tone
- Cell adhesion
- Vascular permeability
- Neurotransmission
- Bronchodilation
- Inflammation regulation
- Regulation renal function

Deleterious effects

- Inhibits enzymatic function
- Induces DNA damage
- Induces lipid peroxidation
- Increases susceptibility for radiation, alkylating substances, toxic metals
- Depletes reservations of antioxidants

After Original source [13] FIG 1 in WINK AA. MITCHELL J (1998) CHEMICAL BIOLOGY OF NITRIC OXIDE: INSIGHTS INTO REGULATORY, CYTOTOXIC, AND CYTOPROTECTIVE MECHANISMS OF NITRIC OXIDE, Radiation Biology Branch, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA from Book Free Radical Biology & Medicine, Vol. 25, Nos. 4/5, pp. 434-456, 1998. Published by Elsevier Science Inc. 0891-5849/98 \$0.00 1.00 reference FIG 1 Page 435.

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In the area of the microcirculation, further vasodilating substances play a decisive role. Vascular segments in arterioles respond to endothelial autacoids such as angiotensin, serotonin, eicosanoids [2] and to agonists such as acetylcholine, bradykinin, or substance P as well as to transmural pressure changes. They do this not as isolated entities, but in a *coordinated manner*. This is attributed to the *Endothelium-derived-hyperpolarising-factor (EDHF)* [11]. *EDHF* has a long-distance effect, as its locally triggered formation can also trigger a rectified vascular response up- and downstream. The calcium-dependent activation of potassium efflux by *EDHF* is followed by hyperpolarisation with transmission of electron transfer within the vessel wall via the *gap junctions* and without loss of time [15]. The transmission reaction is comparable to a *school of fish*, very fast and synchronised [5]. The possibilities of microtactile stimulation compared to triggering via acetylcholine, were experimentally tested and confirmed [5].

1.3. Inflammation and Fibrosis Homeostasis

All sequential series of reactions here depend on the *integrity* of the endothelium and involve the endothelial cytoskeleton. Since it is a *vital endothelial function*, the complex process of inflammation can be disrupted at any level according to Suthahar [16]. In line with its high relevance to the topic of our work, we present a more detailed description to show how sensible the whole process, e.g., *for mechanic stress*, is: An inflammatory response is essential as a physiological defence mechanism against, e.g., bacteria, viruses, injuries. Point of no return is the diapedesis of leucocytes. The further course leads in the favourable case to a *restitutio ad integrum*, in the unfavourable to a *chronic inflammation* with fibrosis, defect healing and possible organ damage.

Important works on the state of the science come from Ley *et al.* (2007) [17] and Serhan *et al.* (2007) [18], related work in particular from Nussbaum and Sperando (2011) [19] and [1] [20]. According to Ley [17], the orderly process in all phases is crucial for its outcome. Here is presented the undisturbed course:

The circulating leukocytes move passively in the blood stream. In the postcapillary venules, local changes near sites of inflammation in the hemodynamics lead to a reduced blood flow rate. This increases the likelihood of leukocytes coming into contact with endothelia. The endothelium is in an activated state for a few hours and expresses adhesion molecules that lead to leukocyte binding. The “*slow rolling*” of leukocytes is also made possible by another inducible endothelial *E-Selectin*, which is based on a partial activation of *Integrins* on the leukocytes [17] (compare **Figure 1**). The actin cytoskeleton is as well actively involved in this process. Further chemokines, partly from the endothelium and partly from the extracellular space (ECR), activate tight binding and then amoeboid passage of leukocytes into the ECR. Selective changes in permeability (gatekeeper-function of the endothelial cell) allow cellular components such as neutrophils and monocytes, to move from the intravascular space to the ECR. More details to the sequences in *leucocytes diapedesis* are presented in standard works [1] [19]. There is an intensive interplay between endothelial secreted mediators

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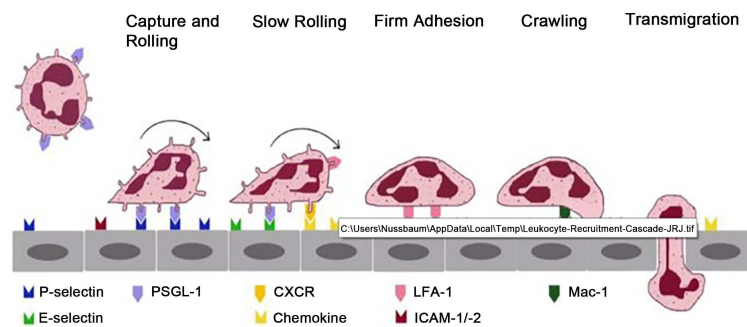


Figure 1. Original description: Schematic overview of the leukocyte recruitment cascade using the example of a neutrophil leaving a postcapillary venule. Capture and rolling are mediated by interaction of selectins with PSGL-1 on the neutrophil surface. During rolling, the neutrophil is activated by chemokines presented on inflamed endothelium leading to firm adhesion through binding of neutrophil integrins (LFA-1 and Mac-1) to endothelial adhesion molecules (e.g., ICAM-1 and -2). Upon firm adhesion, the neutrophil spreads and begins to crawl along the endothelial lining in search of an appropriate site for transmigration. States of leucocytes diapedesis: Capture and rolling, Slow rolling, Firm adhesion, Crawling, Transmigration Original source [19] Nussbaum, C., Sperando, M. (2011): Innate immune cell recruitment in the foetus and neonate. J Reproduction. Immunol 2011; 90(1): 74-81. (IF 2, 966). Page 2 FIG 1 With permission.

(cytokines) and such of the ECR [1] [16]. Anti-inflammatory signals such as *corticosterone* mitigate the severity and limit the duration of the early phase [16].

In summary, the process of inflammation is a complex interplay between a temporally and spatially defined process of mutual influence and activation between factors of the intra- and extra-vascular space. At the centre of the process is the adequate *gate-keeper-function* of an endothelium in an integrity state. After diapedesis of the leucocytes, an orderly process depends on the absence of increased oscillatory and oxidative stress, in order to lead to a *restitutio ad integrum*. In the other case, defect healing can occur due to a shift of the equilibrium in the direction to chronic inflammation and fibrosis. In the clinical medicine shifts to a chronic inflammation and the prevention of themselves play a big role [15].

The standard works by Buckley *et al.* (2014) [21] and Serhan *et al.* (2007) [18] describe the sequences after the leukocyte diapedesis: Appropriate “*checkpoints*” and “*stop signals*” prevent further leukocyte entry. *Lipoxins*, *resolvins* and *prostaglandins* act in an active pro-resolving process. This paves the way for the migration and differentiation of monocytes to phagocytosis, for the chemokine gradient normalisation (which allows the leukocytes to undergo apoptosis) and for exiting the tissue via the draining lymphatic vessels. Failure of such regulatory mechanisms can lead to a state of *chronic inflammation*, causing continuous tissue damage and progressive fibrosis. A classic example is the chronic heart failure by “remodelling” of heart [16].

At heart, immunocompetent myofibroblasts and factors of the ECR actively

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modulate the development of initially perivascular and later progressive fibrosis. Starting points can be the development of myocarditis into a chronic form, state after myocardial infarction and/or *chronic mechanic pressure load on the heart* (systemic high pressure or pulmonary hypertension). The consequence is the increase in diffusion distance, the decrease in capillary density, an impaired electroconductive system with cardiac arrhythmia, disruption of angiogenesis, leading again to a deteriorated substrate and oxygen supply with a self-reinforcing process: *a vicious circle* [16].

1.4. Hemodynamic Forces

Physiologically physical forces constantly act on the organism, e.g., gravity, pressure, shear stress, vibration. The major ones are tangential forces (e.g., laminar shear stress) or stretching forces (e.g., pulsatile distention) from the blood according to Fernandes, C.D. *et al.* (2018) [3] and Mazzag *et al.* (2014) [22]. As described above, internal oscillatory stressors are physiologically limited by the vessel size which is a critical factor in maintaining vital functions [3]. The regulation of several vital cellular processes via mechano-transduction and signalling networks including growth, differentiation, migration, angiogenesis and apoptosis, is essential [1] [3]. During morphogenesis shear stress directs the formation of the vascular tree according to Hahn and Schwartz (2009) [23]. Changes in shear stress determine instantaneous vasomotor changes which are regulated on a “beat-to-beat” basis [3] in order to maintain a constant laminar stress and optimize the conductance artery flow distributive function. At the same time, it is important to rely on sufficient NO release [3]. An overview of the different effects of shear stress is given in Figure 2.

1.5. Tensegrity Structure of the Endothelial Cytoskeleton

The viscoelastic structure of the endothelial “tensegrity”-structure offers the foundation for mechano-transduction of forces. The term “tensegrity” was coined by R. Buckminster Fuller (1975) [24], architect of the geodesic dome, where discontinuous compression and continuous tension were used to achieve the highest possible stability combined with lightness. Additional anchorage points are used to transfer mechanical forces to the individual compression and tension elements [25]. The equivalents at the endothelial cell level are the three intercommunicating networks of protein filaments and their anchor points.

Actin filaments as the elastic part, serve to maintain the cell shape by forming a ring under the cell membrane [25] with a communication network to flow sensors (*mechano-sensors*) and membrane focal adhesion points (*FAS*)—the “*anchor points in the tensegrity model*”—as well as the intercellular *gap junctions* (*CCAP*) [25]. According to Dudek *et al.* [26], over 80 actin-binding proteins are critical participants in the generation of tensile forces. The original article [25] provides a deeper insight into this complex topic. In response to contractile stimuli, *actin- and myosin filaments* form membrane-bound, parallel organised units, called “*stress fibres*” that stimulate the sliding of myosin along

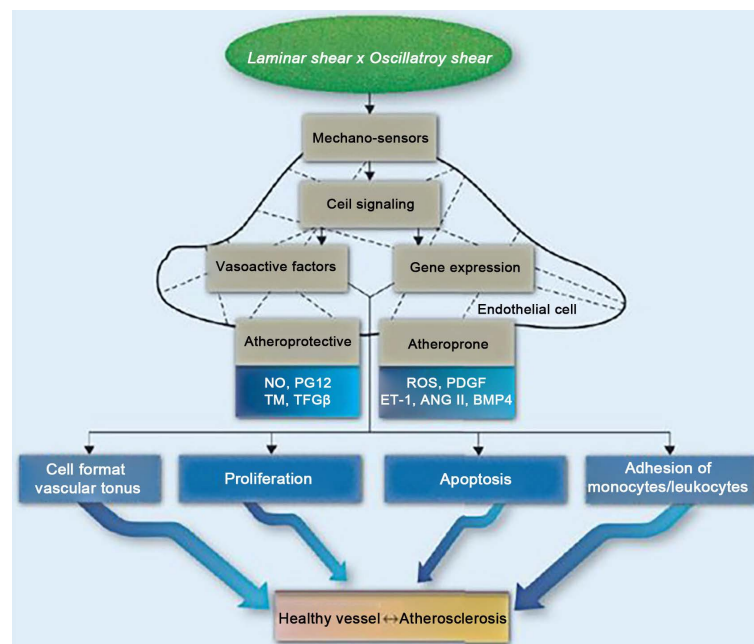


Figure 2. Original description: Different effects of laminar and oscillatory shear on cell function and atherosclerosis. The *dotted lines* represent the endothelial cell cytoskeleton. Laminar and oscillatory shear forces are recognized in endothelial cells by mechanosensors and the mechanosignals initiate signalling cascades that regulate the production of vasoactive factors, and the balance between these factors. While laminar shear stimulates the production of atheroprotective factors, oscillatory shear stimulates the production of atherogenic factors and the balance of these factors determines the vessel tendency to stay healthy or to develop atherogenic plaques. PGI2, prostacyclin; TM, thrombomodulin; TGFβ, Transforming Growth Factor beta; PDGF, Platelet-Derived Growth Factor; ET-1, Endothelin-1; BMP4, Bone Morphogenetic Protein 4. Adapted from Jo H, Song H, Mowbray A. Role of NADPH oxidases in disturbed flow- and BMP4-induced inflammation and atherosclerosis. *Antioxid Redox Signal* 2006; 8: 1609-19. Overview over the different effects of laminar and oscillatory shear stress on cell function and atherosclerosis. Original source [3] Fernandes CD, Araujo Thai's S, Laurindo FRM, Tanaka LY. Hemodynamic Forces in the Endothelium. Mechanotransduction to Implications on Development of Atherosclerosis. In: *ENDOTHELIUM AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES. Vascular Biology and Clinical Syndromes*. Edited by PROTASIO L. DA LUZ, PETER LIBBY, ANTONIO C. P. CHAGAS, FRANCISCO R. M. LAURINDO. Publisher: Mica Haley. Sao Paulo. (2018) ISBN 978-0-12-812348-5 Cap. 7 FIG 7.3, p 90. With permission.

the actin filaments. This leads to an increase in intracellular tension and thus cell contraction according Wang *et al.* (2009) [27] and Lee *et al.* (2003) [28]. The closing and opening of the paracellular gaps in response to inflammation, ischemia and invading substances (*gate-keeper-function*) is essential according to Patrick Belvitch *et al.* (2018) [29]. Actin filaments also make up the so-called *microvilli*. These contain a central bundle of actin filaments, also anchored to the cytoskeleton. Microvilli are found in various organs (e.g. intestine) where they have re-sorptive properties.

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Microtubules constitute the compression element with pressure-resistant hollow rods, consisting of α - and β -tubulin [25]. They are connected to the ECR by integrins (*transmembrane proteins*) and support the cellular structure in communication with actin filaments and intermediate filaments as well as the formation of spindles for mitosis.

1.6. Mechanical Force Transmission via “Biophysical” Mechano-Transduction

The observation that many processes obviously take place much faster than the *mechano-chemical* pathway via gene expression and protein synthesis would allow (namely minimum some seconds), led to an intensive research in the “tensegrity” structure and to the definition of the “*biophysical pathway*”. This relies on direct physical links between specific mechano-sensors of the endothelial surface and cytoskeleton elements. It allows cells to transfer mechanical stimuli over long distances and very important, a spatially heterogenic excitation to transform information in a desired reaction [27]. Crucial work with important relevance to our work, is the research on the dynamics and distribution of transmission in response to “noisy flow” from Bori Mazzag *et al.* 2010 [30] and Mazzag B, Gouget C, Hwan Y, Barakat AI 2014 [22]. By “noisy” flow, the authors mean an “*oscillating or turbulent flow under conditions with random fluctuations in the flow properties of pressure and velocity*”, Quote Mazzag, Barakat 2010 page 912 [30].

Predecessors in the exploration of the “biophysical pathway” in the early 2000’s were Wang *et al.* [8] and Davies *et al.* (2005) [31]. Significant works have been contributed in this context by Helmke *et al.* [32], Hsu, H. J., Lee, C.F, Locke, A. *et al.* (2010) [33]; Hwang, Y., Gouget, C. L. M and Barakat, A. I. (2012) [34].

To better understand the dynamics of force transmission via cytoskeletal filaments, a number of mathematical models have been developed. The authors Mazzag and Barakat present an overview (possibilities and limitations) in [22].

The Temporal Network Model, as presented in (2010) [30] and (2014) [22] is based on a viscoelastic structure of a tensegrity model, in order to develop insight of “noisy” flow transmission and to define which transmission structures are sensible to “noisy” flow. This model is shown in **Figure 3**.

The results show that the amplitude of the *oscillations* in the “noisy” flow will be answered more strongly than its duration. Another significant implication is that *FAS* (Focal adhesion points - equal anchoring points to ECR), due to their high sensitivity to noise, are prime candidates for acting as cellular “Noise detectors” [30].

A summary assessment follows in Mazzag 2014 [22] with further developments of models, e.g., for the spatial distribution of mechanical forces during transmission such as the **Spatial temporal network Model**; according to the authors [22], there were important contributions from the original articles from [34] and Mazzag and Barakat (2011) as well as Mazzag *et al.* (2003).

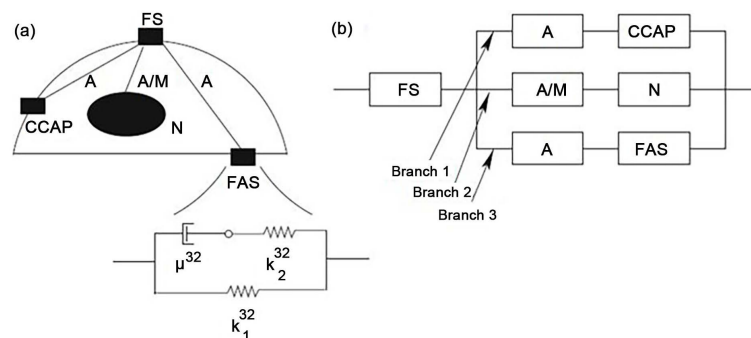


Figure 3. *Original description:* Schematic representation of an EC consisting of a mechanosensor (MS), cytoskeletal elements (either actin stress fibres (a) or microtubules (M)), a nucleus (N), cell-cell adhesion proteins (CCAP), and focal adhesion site (FAS). The inset shows a TPMM (or Kelvin body) representation and the viscoelastic parameters for FAS. The superscripts '32' on the parameters indicate that this element is the second element on the third branch (see text). (b) Branching network representation of the EC components in panel A. Each cell component corresponds to a TPMM, coupled to other components according to the diagram shown. Actin stress fibre and CCAP connected in series are referred to as Branch 1, actin stress fibre/microtubule in series with the nucleus is Branch 2, and actin stress fibre in series with the FAS is Branch 3. (a) Schematic representation of an endothelial cell consisting of a flow-sensor (FS), cytoskeletal elements actin filament (a) or microtubules (b) and the connections (N), (CCAP), (FAS). (b) Mathematical representation. Original source [22] [30]: Temporal Network Model FIG 1 *Bori Mazzag, Cecile L. M. Gouget, Yongyun Hwang and Abdul I. Barakat* (2014) [22] Cap. 5. Page 98 [30] Mechanical Force Transmission via the Cytoskeleton in Vascular Endothelial Cells. In *Endothelial Cytoskeleton*. Editors Juan A. Rosado and Pedro C. Redondo Department of Physiology, University of Extremadura Cáceres, Spain. With permission.

In summary, *the results provide the strong frequency dependence of force transmission with definition of a threshold value for actin filaments (more sensible) and microtubules.*

Another issue for the authors was the saturation behaviour when the signal persists and an explanation, as to why the natural frequencies, generated by organs of the organism itself, do not lead to a long propagation of transmission. We cite the authors Mazzag and Barakat 2014 p. 107 [22]:

“In the case of oscillatory forcing, the deformation-related stress as in the case of constant forcing, exhibits an initial transient before it eventually saturates to a time-periodic steady state response. Importantly the saturation amplitude of the deformation-related stress at the nucleus is found to be strongly dependent on the forcing frequency. Figures 3D and E illustrate the saturation amplitude of deformation-related stress at the nucleus as a function of forcing frequency for transverse and axial forcing, respectively. In both the axial and transverse directions, a low-frequency (<0.1 Hz) mechanical stimulus is transmitted to the nucleus without decay in its amplitude, whereas a high-frequency mechanical stimulus undergoes significant decay in amplitude. This implies that individual stress fibres act as low-pass filters of mechanical forcing. Interestingly, transverse motion exhibits a much broader filter width than axial motion: the filter width

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for transverse motion extends to $f \sim 1000$ Hz whereas the one for axial motion extends to only $f \sim 1$ Hz" [...] (Remarks: citation italic letters).

Second important quote page 101 [22]:

"As already described, oscillatory flow has been reported to induce EC dysfunction and to correlate with the development of early atherosclerotic lesions. Therefore, we also investigated the response of the simple networks described in the previous paragraph to oscillatory flow. The results revealed that the peak deformation (defined as the largest deformation within a period after the asymptotic time-periodic behaviour is attained) of each of the structures in the network (mechano-sensor, actin stress fibres, microtubules and nucleus) is strongly frequency-dependent. At sufficiently low oscillatory frequencies, the peak deformations match those for constant forcing; however, above a threshold frequency, the peak deformations drop significantly. The analysis demonstrated that this threshold frequency is in the range of 10^{-5} - 10^{-4} Hz for microtubules and 10^{-3} - 10^{-2} Hz for actin stress fibres, suggesting that stress fibres can effectively transmit force over a wider frequency range." [...] (Remarks: Italic letters from me)

Experimental researches by Na *et al.* (2008) [35] were experimentally comparing the velocity of mechano-transduction via the *bio-physical* and via the *mechano-chemical* pathway (*growth factor and gene expression*). The authors used comparable physical exposures for Infrasound (0.3 Hz), duration 30 s, sound pressure 1.8 Pa (studies with 1.8 Pa up to about 20 Pa). The most important results were the confirmation that the speed was 40 times faster than by mechanical-chemical means (confirming the above results), namely 300 ms (milliseconds). Beyond this, the findings were that the "*Stress-Induced Src Activation depends on Integrin Activation, Substrate Stiffness, Prestress and F-Actin Integrity*" [35], quote from Na *et al.* page 1. Remarks: in italic letters (from me) [35].

1.7. The Mechano-Sensors of the Endothelial Cell

According to [3] the cytoskeleton itself is a mechano-sensor. On the side facing the vessel (luminal), mechano-sensors are especially the *glycocalyx*, *integrins*, *cell-cell junctions* (CCAP), *caveolae*, *lipid rafts*, *G-protein coupled receptors* and *ion channels*. They are activated according to their location via shear stress [3] (Figure 4). According to the author [3], endothelial mechano-sensors are altered in their microenvironment by shear stress and can activate intracellular signalling pathways in this new formation. The fluidity of microdomains in the plasma membrane is altered [3]. This leads according to [3] to a spatial rearrangement of various proteins and thus to the activation of signalling pathways. The *transmission of forces* takes place via the three intercommunicating networks of the cytoskeleton to the basal region of cytoskeleton (e.g., Integrins) [3] [22] [30].

One of the most important mechano-sensors is the *glycocalyx* ([1] [3] Figure 4). In critically ill patients the extent of the *glycocalyx* damage (so called *shedding*) correlates with the severity of disease and mortality [1] [36] [37].

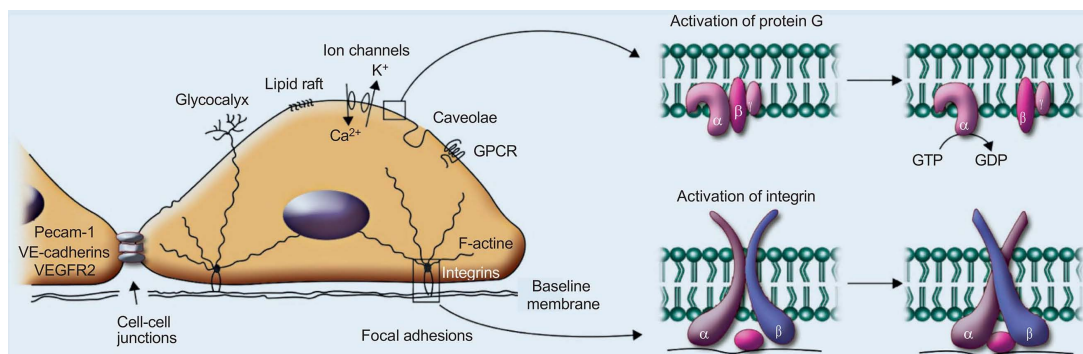


Figure 4. *Original description:* Endothelial cell mechanosensors. Location of mechanosensors such as cytoskeleton, integrins, cell-cell junctions, caveolae, lipid rafts, cell surface glycocalyx, G protein-coupled Receptors (GPCR), and ion channels. While mechanosensors in the apical region (luminal) are activated directly by shear stress (such as G proteins), the cytoskeleton (represented by actin fibres, F-actin) is responsible for transmitting forces to the mechanosensors at the basal region of endothelial cells (such as integrins). G protein activation occurs due to local changes in plasma membrane fluidity, therefore directly due to shear stress and independent from an agonist, causing hydrolysis of GTP into GDP. On the other hand, the structure of mechanosensitive integrins is changed from inactive to active when submitted to shear stress, possibly due to transmission of the mechanical force to the cytoskeleton. In active conformation, integrins have higher affinity for cognate proteins in the extracellular matrix. Mechano-sensors of the endothelial cell (status 2019) Original source [3] Fernandes CD, Araujo Thai's S, Laurindo FRM, Tanaka LY. Hemodynamic Forces in the Endothelium. Mechanotransduction to Implications of Development of Atherosclerosis. In: ENDOTHELIUM AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES. Vascular Biology and Clinical Syndromes. Edited by PROTASIO L. DA LUZ. PETER LIBBY ANTONIO C. P. CHAGAS. FRANCISCO R. M. LAURINDO. Publisher: Mica Haley. Sao Paulo (2018) ISBN 978-0-12-812348-5. Cap. 7 FIG 7.2, p. 89. With permission.

Like identified to date, mechano-sensors are presented in **Figure 4** (status 2019).

1.8. PIEZO-1-Channels

Additional recently defined endothelial mechano-sensors, the PIEZO-1 channels, have been clearly established as a *sensory system of internal organs* by the receptors for pressure and vibration in all vessels. Due to the great importance of their breakdown, Ardem Patapoutian received the Nobel Prize in Medicine 2021. According to Rode *et al.* (2017) [38], Piezo-1 is responsible for flow-sensitive, non-inactivating, non-selective cationic channels which depolarize the membrane potential: Ca^{2+} permeable Piezo-1 channels are activated by physical force on the cell membrane (compare **Figure 5**). PIEZO-1 sense whole body's physical activity to reset cardiovascular homeostasis and enhance performance. They are critical for lymphogenesis and homeostasis and are important shear stress mechano-sensors [39]. PIEZO-channels are crucial in all multicellular organisms, *i.e., also invertebrates such as flies and vertebrates (fish)* [40]. A schematic representation of an embedded PIEZO-1 channel is shown in **Figure 5**.

2. Noise, Sound and Infrasound

In the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) (2010), published by the World Health Organization (WHO), "Noise exposure" (item W42) is listed

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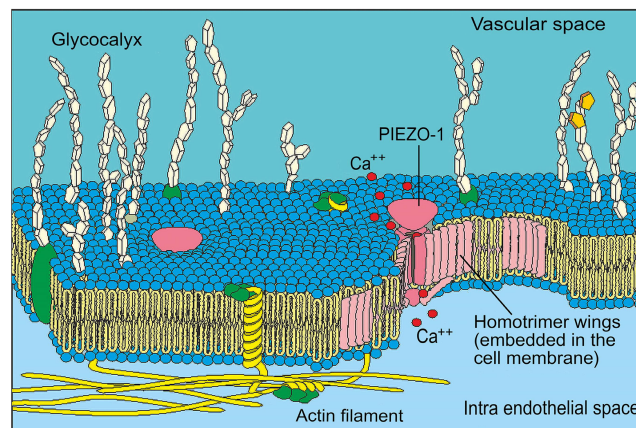


Figure 5. Schematic presentation of a PIEZO-1-channel, embedded in the endothelial cell membrane with a triggered Ca^{2+} -inflow. The actin ring (intra-endothelial) is indicated. The wings are moved by mechanical forces on the membrane and release the channel in an opening movement. Blue/Yellow: endothelial bio membrane with lipid bilayer structure. Schematic presentation of a PIEZO-1-channel.

under the heading of “Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces” (items W20-W49) [41]. Indeed, airborne propagating pressure waves (*i.e.*, sound) impact the *viscoelastic tissue* of biological organisms as external mechanical forces.

In the more recent ICD-11 (2020), additional Extension Codes (Section X) have been established and “noise exposure” (item XE7Y1) now falls under the categories of “External causes/Exposure to other mechanism” [42]. The condition “Vertigo from infrasound” (item T75.2 in the ICD-10) under the heading “Effects of vibration” now falls under the category of “Other specified effects of vibration” (item NF08.2Y).

Infrasound is defined as sound with frequency below 20 Hz. Low frequency noise (IFLN), not clearly defined, according to DIN 45680, draws the line at 125 Hz. The lower the frequency, the greater the wavelength. Infrasound can only be minimally dampened, is less attenuated by propagation through the atmosphere as well as through roofs and walls than the audio spectrum. For example, sound propagation in air with a wave length of 0,1 Hz is about 3,3 km (standard condition 20-degree Celsius), that of 1000 Hz is about 34 mm. Infrasound is generated by heavy moving masses as well as by resonance phenomena/vibration. Its exposure can be occupational or residential, can be emitted from natural (e.g., earthquakes) or technical sources (trains, airplanes, occupational or residential sources). The emitters differ in frequency, sound pressure P (Pa), time/effect profile (impulsiveness) and duration. According to increasing numbers and size of IWT rotors, therefore complaints increase especially [43]. The larger the rotor, the lower the emitted frequency. Infrasound of IWT's is meanwhile with big parts in the range of 0.1 to 10 Hz according to [44] [45]. Its infrasound emission is impulsive in the effect/time profile according to Roos W, Vahl, CF (2021) [45] and Vanderkooy [46], as shown in **Figure 6**.

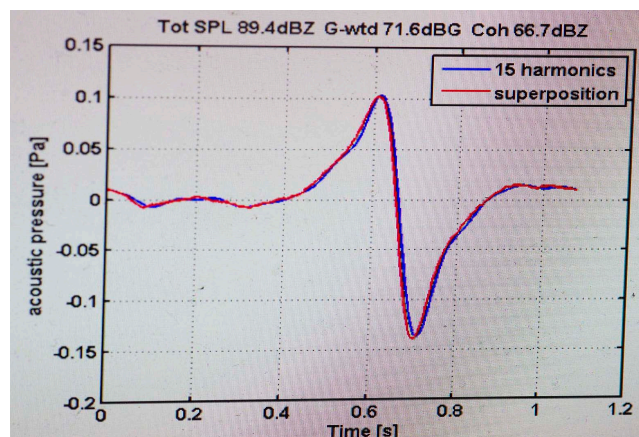


Figure 6. An infrasonic pulse extracted from the emission of a wind turbine. The fluctuations of sound pressure measurable near a wind installation usually contain noise, *i.e.* irregular sound events of different origin. Noise removal is possible by averaging the sound pressure over a large number of mast-blade passages (here 4100), which reveals their common element (red line). The red peak thus visualized from the time sequence coincides with the blue peak, which shows the fundamental pulse as reconstituted in the frequency domain from 15 (very sharp) harmonic lines by Fourier analysis. The result is the coherent fundamental peak of this turbine of 0.9 Hz frequency, according to 1.08 seconds required per blade passage. Extracted infrasonic pulse of a wind turbine showing the relation between sound pressure (P) and time (s). Original source [46] corresponding to **Figure 7** Vanderkooy¹ J, Mann², R Measuring Wind Turbine Coherent Infrasound Department of Physics and Astronomy 1, Department of Computer Science 2 University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada, N2L3G1 jv@uwaterloo.ca, mannr@uwaterloo.ca Date posted: 2 October, 2014. With permission.

The physical laws of wave theory apply to the propagation of sound, *e.g.*, as longitudinal or transverse wave and with different velocities of propagation (in fluid medium about three times as fast as in gas). The propagation behaviour depends on the various elastic media, whether liquid, gaseous, solid or a mixture thereof; the same applies to the viscoelastic organism. Since sound is a mechanical wave, the propagation can be refracted, reflected, can interfere and can be transmitted [47]. The propagation of a wave is a transport of energy, but not a transport of material. During propagation, particles are set into oscillation. Furthermore, in indoor spaces of buildings, interferences of airborne sound pressure and structure-borne sound are possible, which can lead also to relevant amplifications or attenuations of the total impacting sound [48].

3. The Hypothesis/Theory

3.1. The Difference from Current Thinking

The existing epidemiological studies almost exclusively consider the audio-vestibular organ, respectively the involvement of individual brain structures [49], as organs, possibly affected by exposure to noise in low-frequency ranges. In comparison with electromagnetic fields, everybody accepts that impacts on

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organism are not depending on a perception. Why not here? This question has already been asked in 2007 [50]. Many health disorders or manifest clinical symptoms cannot be explained with purely audio-vestibular impact. Since around 2015, the author noticed many complaints worldwide by the residential situation. They are corresponding to functional microcirculatory disorders according to a reduced and uncoordinated *NO-bioavailability*.

These are, e.g., dizziness, school performance disorder, fatigue, tinnitus, muscular weakness and headaches as signs of a disturbed and inadequate support with nutrients and O₂. With chronic exposure, symptoms occur such as increased blood pressure, cardiac arrhythmia, breathing disorders, immune deficiencies, late-onset epilepsy [50]. In a second step a working hypothesis was developed that tested the prerequisites for a direct stressor effect on both, the endothelial cell level and the technical side. The results, available to date from epidemiological studies, experimental and animal experimental studies, were included in the considerations.

In a third step the currently available literature on molecular endothelial physiology and pathophysiology was reviewed with regard to the possibility of mechano-transmission of mechanic forces if outgoing from an extern acting stressor. The identification of PIEZO-1-channels 2021 as important mechano-sensors for sound and vibration strengthened the evidence for our hypothesis. Extensive literature on pathohistological findings in occupational exposure to infrasound from the 1980s [50], later from the 2000s on exposure of residents to wind turbines [51] and the reassessment of these findings were included.

Due to the audio-acoustic approach, the changed conditions for sound propagation in the viscoelastic organism did not have been considered in the past. We do now. *For the same reason, it makes the so-called perception threshold irrelevant as this only refers to audible sound and air transmission.*

3.2. The Hypothesis Is Based on the Evidence for:

- Noise is a mechanical force, therefore subject to physical laws;
- The existence of numerous mechano-sensors for sound and vibration at the membrane/endothelial level with newly identified, in particular endothelial PIEZO-1-channels, is state of the science;
- Mechano-transduction of mechanical forces is crucial for many vital vascular regulations;
- The mechanical transmission of forces via the structures of the endothelial cytoskeleton is state of the science;
- Proven microtactile excitability of endothelial cells with rapidly propagated conduction up- and downstream.

3.3. Our Hypothesis

- Noise, when it affects organisms, is under certain conditions in frequency, sound pressure, effect/time profile, duration, able to change the physiological laminar flow situation in the capillary bed in the sense of an oscillatory envi-

ronment. In this case, the transition of mechanical forces might take place in an uncontrolled manner;

- In consequence vasomotor functions and in particular vasomotion could be disturbed;
- The expected effects of chronic impact could lead to a chronic inadequate nutrient supply and therefore to a shift of equilibria to disequilibria, especially for the redox systems and for the responses to inflammation processes.

4. Evaluation of the Hypothesis

The first basic condition that applies to our hypothesis is the question, of whether exposure to “Noise”, in the sense of an oscillatory stressor, causes an oscillatory field in the capillary bed in turn.

4.1. Positive Support for Evidence

The evidence for this is supported by the responsiveness of endothelial mechanosensors for external influences such as gravity, pressure, swelling, noise [1] [3] [22] [30] as well as the microtactile excitability of endothelial cells [5]. There is also evidence that infrasound interacts with cell metabolism and leads to perivascular fibrosis in *Infrasound induces coronary perivascular fibrosis in rats* according to Lousinha (2018) [52]. Similar findings are presented in [53] [54] [55]. Empirical data's in experimental studies show clear indications that exposure to IFLN leads to an ROS-increase [56]. Positive evidence also indicates the study of Chaban *et al.* [57] and very noteworthy, the direct cell effect is shown in *Effect of infrasound on the growth of colorectal carcinoma in mouse* [58]. In clinical medicine, there are currently considerations about the possible benefits of infrasound in the therapy of human colon carcinoma. High evidence for a direct cell and membrane effect are the results of the review of Roos, W and Vahl, CF (2021) [45] which focus on the evidence for interaction of cellular structures, resp. sensible membrane structures, in a stress reaction. A possible disturbance of microcirculation is discussed. A positive evaluation in this direction is also the meta-analysis Dumbrille, A *et al.* (2021) [59]: This evaluation results in the causality of adverse health effects (ADH's) and the stressor in all “Bradford Hill criteria”. Reported were adverse effects on animals which revealed not only stress reactions but also negative effects on fertility, development and reproduction [60]. With regard to the Bradford-Hill criterion dose response, analyses showed a demonstrable deterioration in mental performance from residents, living within 1.4 km of wind turbine(s) to those living outside this radius [61]. Increased complaints raised when the frequencies approach deeper ones (in the mentioned example 0.2 Hz) [62].

Positive evidence for the frequent occurrence of atrial fibrillation is presented in the “nurse cohort study” [63]. My statement here: The development of atrial fibrillation in the absence of hypoxemia corresponds with structural changes and therefore conditions for disturbances of the electromechanics.

4.2. Reassessment of Pathohistological Findings

Research [50] on the symptomatology of occupationally with IFLN confronted groups in the 1980s showed wall thickening of vessels. According to the authors animal studies showed abnormal amount of fibrosis/collagen in trachea, lungs and pleura; damaged (sheared) tracheal and bronchial cilia; fused actin-based microvilli of tracheal and bronchial brush cells. Thickening of the pericardial wall has been observed in occupationally exposed persons to ILFN [50] and in persons living in the vicinity of large IWT plants [51] as a specific alteration. **Figure 7** shows pericardial wall thickening in chronic occupationally exposed persons in the eighties (so called *Vibroacoustic Syndrome* “VAD-syndrome”) in comparison to non-exposed.

Figure 8 is the presentation of a non-exposed bronchial epithelium of a rat in comparison to an exposed one in **Figure 9**. The figures are showing the changes in the microvilli (actin) before and after exposure. The interpretation of these findings suggests a shift in the homeostasis of the redox system towards chronic inflammation and fibrosis.

4.3. Possibly Negative Support for Evidence

The choice of sound pressure levels (SPL) in dB in experimental studies, is often higher than expected from IWT's installations.

Objection:

a) The SPL in dB(A) can only map airborne noise in the frequency part of hearing (compare cap. 2).

b) The effect of the steady drip when living nearby emissions must be considered as strong factor [64], the exposure time in reality often can be (also for sensitive groups) 24/7 hours/a day. In contrast, the time in animal experimental studies is limited for practical reasons. Similar applies to the higher sound pressures in the context of occupational exposure: Here, the times of exposure are limited; sensitive groups have no access.

However, the decisive factor is that the frequency of Noise was not recognised in its significance (e.g., use of 8 Hz in Chaban *et al.* [57]). Added to this: The behaviour of sound propagation in the viscoelastic organisms differs in that way, that a decodable information about the lowpass filters becomes conceivable (compare cap. 2) [22] [30] [35].

Exemplum Poulsen-Study [65]: As result, he found no statistically significant association between exposure to infrasound and the incidence for cardiovascular diseases. A relativization of the study took place by the author himself (e.g., study on relatively little IWT's).

4.4. Evaluation on Computational Studies

Important parts of the statements from Mazzag and Barakat 2010 [30] and 2014 Mazzag *et al.* [22] are based on computational models. As already mentioned, the authors themselves refer to possible limitations and results.

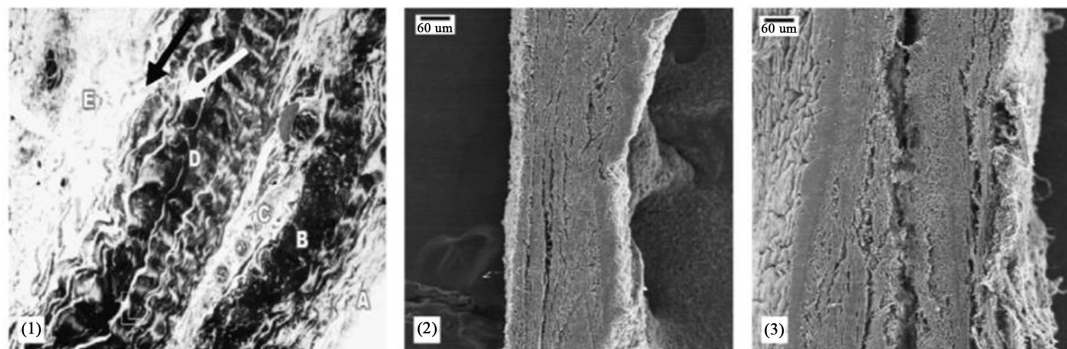


Figure 7. *Original description:* Light microscopy (100×)—VAD patient pericardium, with pericardial sac on right. Five (instead of the normal three) layers are identifiable: (A) mesothelial, (B) internal fibrosa, (C) loose tissue, (D) external fibrosa, and (E) epipericardium. The loose tissue is rich in vessels. No inflammatory cellularity was identified in any of the five layers. In both fibrous layers, wavy collagen bundles are visible, however the wave length of fibres in layer B (internal fibrosa) is smaller than that in layer D (external fibrosa). Taking together the increased amount of collagen bundles, in wavy, accordion-like arrangements, with different orientations in relation to each other, and with more than one elastic fibre accompanying the bundles at seemingly perpendicular angles (seen through electron microscopy, not shown), seems to suggest a pneumatic-like structure, designed to absorb abnormally large external forces. Similarly, this functional arrangement also explains why there is no diastolic dysfunction, despite the thickened pericardial walls. (2) SEM of non-VAD patient pericardium. Normal three layers are visible: mesothelium (white arrow), fibrosa (black arrow) and epipericardium. (3) SEM of VAD patient pericardium. Fibrosa has split into two halves (arrows) that sandwich a newly formed layer of loose tissue (L). Note that the scale in both (2) and (3) is the same. The wavy form of collagen bundles is a mechanically energy-efficient method to deal with the movement that the fibrosa must constantly undergo to follow the rhythm of the cardiac cycle. Similar to an accordion, collagen bundles will extend and contract in diastole and systole, respectively. However, during an episode of sudden and violent tachycardia (common in VAD patients), this rhythm can be greatly increased (up to 200 beats per minute, in a matter of seconds) and the mechanical stress imposed on the MC monolayer may threaten its structural integrity. One of the functions of the loose tissue layer must certainly be blood and nutrient supply to this much larger organ. Remarks: ultrastructure micrographs, obtained with scanning (SEM) and transmission (TEM) electron microscopy. Pericardial wall in exposed and non-exposed persons 1) exposed (Light microscopy) 2) non-exposed (SEM) and 3) exposed (SEM) [50] Alves-Pereira M., Branco C. (2007) Vibroacoustic disease: biological effects of infrasound and low-frequency noise explained by mechanotransduction cellular signalling <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0079610706000927>. Page 11 FIG 2. With permission.

Quote from authors [22] Page 96: “Therefore, it is essential for models to be validated to the extent possible against experimental data. It is only after such validation is performed that mathematical models can potentially fulfil their promise of providing powerful and predictive tools for studying the dynamics and spatiotemporal organization of mechanically-induced responses in cells”.

My statement: Several predecessors [27] [33] [34] [35] have done essential preparatory work over years with high evidence; the whole process of mechano-transmission is highly dynamic with numerous pathways interlocking. Computational models are necessary to achieve the best possible approximation of dynamic processes to improve understanding of cellular mechano-transduction. The further work from Na (2008) [35] as an experimental study is one of the required experimental studies, which confirms the mathematical models. Studies in this direction have not taken place on infrasound emitting technical sources.

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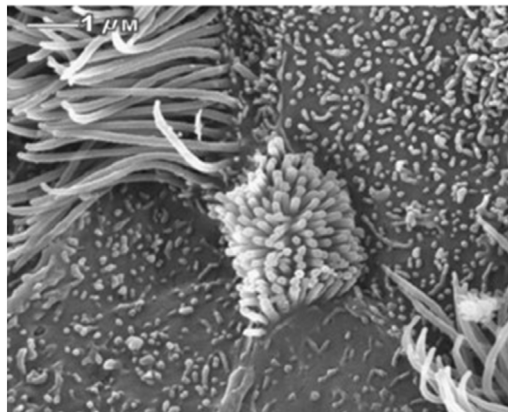


Figure 8. *Original description* (SEM) Non-exposed bronchial epithelium. The BC in the centre of the image exhibits a tuft of microvilli that are individually identifiable, uniformly distributed, and sprouting upward into the airway. Surrounding the BC are SC with microvilli of different sizes. Tufts of cilia featuring vesicles are also visible. No sheared, shaggy or wilted cilia are visible SEM). No oedema is present. *BC* (*brush cells*), *SC* (*Secretory cells*). Rat bronchial epithelium, exposed to 2160 h of continuous IFLN.

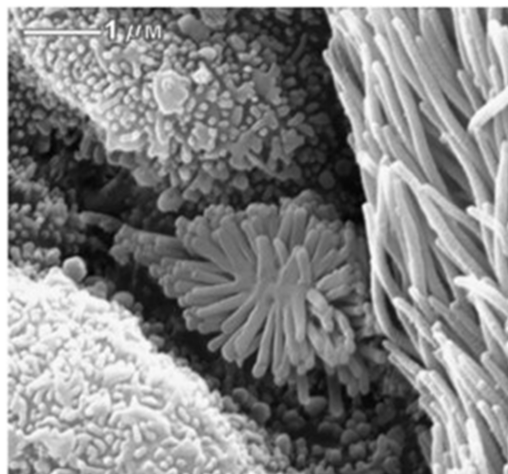


Figure 9. *Original description* (SEM) Rat bronchial epithelium exposed to 2160 h of continuous IFLN. A BC is in the centre of the image. Its *microvilli* are not sprouting upward and, instead, have fused, forming a central indentation that seems to be spreading outward. The prominent SC that surround the BC are swollen forming deep valleys at the intercellular junctions. SC microvilli are very irregular. Ciliary vesicles are visible. *Ultra-structure micrographs, obtained with scanning (SEM) and transmission (TEM electron microscopy. BC* (*brush cells*), *SC* (*Secretory cells*). Rat bronchial epithelium, exposed to 2160 h of continuous IFLN.

4.5. Additional Extrinsic Regulation of Microcirculation

The influence of the extrinsic part on vasomotor function via the autonomic nervous system is the variable part that strongly depends on the individual abili-

ties to compensate for stress factors. It is an additional influencing factor that is probably the reason why people in the same environment do not react in the same way in their symptomatology. The following can be expected when comparing a short-term stressor load with a permanent one: After an individual period of time, the compensation possibilities of biological systems are exhausted.

4.6. Proposed First Research and Methods

For further confirmation, we propose an experimental design with a determined number of infrasound exposed probands in comparison to non-exposed subjects. The positive group is exposed to a defined infrasound stressor in frequency, sound pressure p in (Pa), time/effect profile (impulsiveness) and duration. The design is double-blinded, in on/off design under SDF-video-microscopy technique, examining the *sensible vasomotion* via oral mucosa. Corresponding animal experiments are conceivable with regard to the assessment of direct vasomotor changes under infrasound (e.g. in hamsters via the cheek). The indications of changes in animal behaviour as well as reproductive behaviour in vertebrates and non-vertebrates would be a meaningful addition and extension of further scientific clarification.

4.7. Importance of Our Research

Vascular health is strictly combined with *NO bioavailability*. Of great importance for its maintaining, is the classification of possible damaging environmental factors. The particularly sensitive population groups must be the bench. Our hypothesis can help to define sensitive stages for mechano-transmission of deep frequencies of “Noise”.

5. Established Methods to Assess and Visualize Microcirculatory Processes

The microcirculation can be visualised *in-vivo* on new-born babies via the skin, on adults via the oral mucosa [1]. Changes, especially in *vasomotion*, can be detected immediately and are reproducible. Appropriate techniques are video microscopy techniques such as *SDF (side stream dark field)* imaging. A better visualization of the microcirculation *in-vivo* has become possible [66]. The microcirculation in the context of diseases can be visualized and quantified immediately after exposure to the stressor, as well in its absence. Parameters that can be specifically observed include:

- *The intact vasomotion in first order*
- *An instantaneously changing in vasomotion under defined stressor effect*
- *The functional blood vessel density (FVD) (mm/mm^2)*
- *The red blood cell flow velocity (RBCV)*
- *The number of perfused capillaries (N/A) (n/mm^2)*
- *The capillary vessel diameter (DM)*
- *The glycocalyx thickness in μm (conceivable for further research projects)*

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6. Proposed Research Avenues; Questions Regarding Target

- Under which defined conditions does noise with certain properties affect the mechanical transduction of signals at the cellular level (e.g. membrane components, cytoskeleton) and/or the cell-cell interaction?
- Which mechano-sensors, defined structures, are specifically sensitive? Which role play PIEZO-1-channels?
- Which sound pressure is required at a certain frequency to obtain a transfer response?
- Which specific role plays resonance effects?
- What is the specified role of PIEZO-2-channels for the perception of deep frequencies?
- Which parameters can be found to demonstrate the emerging imbalance of the redox system and at the same time distinguish the aggravation of atherosclerosis in its causes?

7. Conclusions

For the first time, the symptomatology of chronically infrasound exposed humans and animals can be classified pathophysiologically in a coherent hypothesis. This was made possible by the progress in knowledge of endothelial mechano-transduction, essential as vascular function of vital character in response to mechanical forces. Crucial cellular processes such as growth, differentiation, migration, angiogenesis, redox homeostasis and inflammation, are simultaneously dependent on mechanical forces and the integrity of the endothelium.

Normally, the flow in the mammalian microcirculation is laminar and not variable. This is achieved by the upstream connection of the resistance vessels in the arterioles. Persistent changes in shear stress patterns, particularly oscillatory flow, have been associated with decreased bioavailability of NO, an increase in reactive oxygen species (ROS), higher lipoprotein oxidation rates, increased endothelial apoptosis, pro-atherogenicity, chronic inflammation and possible development of cancer. We have positive evidence for our hypothesis that a chronically acting oscillating stressor with certain conditions in frequency, time/effect profile, sound pressure and duration might induce an oscillatory stress field and therefore trigger a stress reaction on the cellular level. With the crucial basics of mechano-transduction, there is now a strong evidence with obvious indicators for a possible interaction of infrasound, especially with deep frequencies and impulsive character, as have, e.g., IWT's or heat pumps. The elucidation for the strong dependency on mechano-transduction from the frequency of "Noise" and the identification of actin filaments and microtubules as "low-pass filters", support our hypothesis. In this way, the propagation of sound wave in the viscoelastic organism could become a decodable information. Regeneration, as would occur with a one-time or infrequent exposure, could not take place with chronic impact. Initially functional disturbances of the orchestrated vasomotor system, respectively of sensible *vasomotion*, can be expected, with longer exposure fixed

anatomically recognisable pathological damages in endothelial integrity. Important in this context are the structural changes that tend to be self-reinforcing, as described in the example of remodelling of the heart. By probably elucidating the pathophysiological pathway of how infrasound/IFLN could lead to the main health disorders, it will be possible to make steps forward in defining safe distances for living or working with emitting technical installations. Many scientific questions remain to be answered, but there is sufficient evidence to suggest that, as precautionary measurements, further technologies, involving very low frequencies and/or impulsive emissions with potential impact on living organisms, should be limited or better avoided until all issues are scientifically resolved. The possible effects on insects, which have not been clarified yet, could be of great importance, e.g., for the biodiversity and for co-affection of pollinators and thus nutrition.

The decoding of the PIEZO-1-channels should have already alerted public to the potential risks. Inner organs are sensitive for sound and vibration. The current state of knowledge on mechano-transduction together with known oscillatory and oxidative stress effects, point in the direction of our hypothesis and should be reason for urgent precautionary actions and further research.

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Disclaimer

For the author there are no conflicts of interests. The author would like to clarify that: Alternative forms of renewable energy such as industrial wind turbines are considered as worthwhile additions at suitable locations. The same is valid for bio-gas installations, heat pumps, block-type thermal power stations. The data reported herein have been scrutinized under one, and only one agenda, that of pure scientific inquiry. There are no commercial, financial or professional agreements.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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18 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

The following items are submitted for consideration -

18.1	Question with Notice - Water Security	222
18.2	Question with Notice - Weed Education	225

Questions With Notice - 20 August 2026

ITEM 18.1 **Question with Notice - Water Security**
AUTHOR **Councillor Susan Reynolds**

BACKGROUND

I, Cllr Susan Reynolds ask the following questions:

1. Is Council planning to charge developers for ground water/dam water taken within our Shire for renewable projects?
2. Where will the water be sourced? Surface water, groundwater, dam water?
3. What strategy is being developed, if any, to ensure reserves of water will be available for our farming community given El Nino is upon us?
4. What impact will the loss of massive amounts of water over a relatively short period, from all proposed renewable projects (wind, solar and battery) affect our environment?

Renewable energy projects of wind, solar and battery storage is growing exponentially across our Shire. There are currently 10 projects under development or being implemented and others preparing documentation for submission over the coming months.

There is concern regarding possible depletion of our natural resources, particularly water. Ground water is the lifeline of agricultural pursuits, and it is requested that Council please explain how our Shire will manage the demands placed upon this valuable resource and avoid negative impacts to primary production and our constituents depending on local water.

During the construction of a proposed 150 x 300-metre-high wind turbine project, each reinforced concrete foundation pad requires an estimated 1,000 cubic metres of concrete. A staggering 150,000-200,000 litres of water is required for the concrete base of **each turbine** and a further 200-250 litres of water per cubic metre of concrete for curing over the first few weeks. If only 100 turbines are installed, over 17,000,000 litres of water could be demanded.

Additional water would be required for extensive road works resulting from 80 to 140 concrete agitator truckloads per turbine rumbling across roads designed for lighter rural traffic.

Battery storage facilities require reinforced concrete pads to support the battery housing units each weighing over 8 tonnes and onsite water supply for cooling, 24-hour air-conditioning units, fire control and site preparation. An estimated minimum of 5 cubic metres of concrete per housing unit is required.

Our Shire is already a water catchment area for Sydney and with expected housing growth locally, what measures are at foot to manage our precious water supply.

Questions with Notice

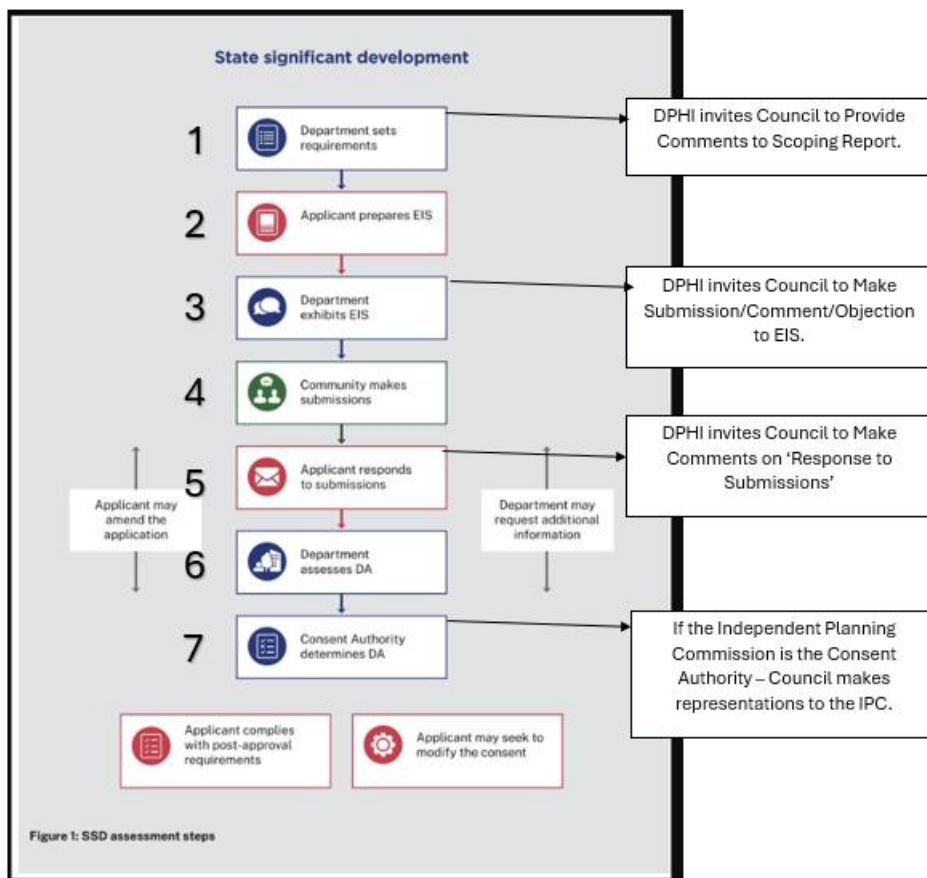
WATER SECURITY cont'd

Response from Council CEO

The NSW Government is responsible for overseeing the process associated with applications for State Significant Development, which is managed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The process associated with an application for State Significant Development is legislated by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which is supported by appropriate guidelines as developed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

A summary of the process associated with State Significant Development is captured in the below figure;



Throughout the process Councils have an opportunity to provide comments on matters to be addressed by an applicant through the Secretary's environment assessment requirements (SEARs) and review of the Environmental Impact Statement.

With no recent State Significant Development applications incorporating wind farms being submitted within Upper Lachlan Shire, current staff are unable to advise the level of detail considered around water usage as part of the prior Environmental Impact Statement.

Questions with Notice
WATER SECURITY cont'd

Recent responses from Council Officers through the SEARs and EIS consultation process associated with renewable energy projects requested that the impact of the development on water usage be considered. The Council responses have included;

- that the EIS clearly identify the proposed source of construction water, along with the total volumes required for all construction phases;
- that Council has limited capacity to supply potable or construction water and that there is no capacity during periods of drought;
- where the proponent intends to access Council water sources this must be formally negotiated and agreed with Council in advance; and
- that the EIS quantify water demand, identify water sources (surface and groundwater), including any licensing requirements, and determine whether an adequate and secure water supply is available for the development.

The applicant is required to detail matters in relation to the water source, usage and quantities through the EIS process, which forms part of the assessment process completed by the NSW State Government.

Where access to a Council water supply is requested, prior approval must be obtained and all applicable fees paid in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges. Where water supplies are constrained or subject to restrictions, access for these developments may be limited or not approved to ensure Council can continue to meet essential community and operational needs.

Council's ability to regulate water use is more limited where water is obtained from an alternative private source, such as a privately owned dam or bore, or directly from a river or creek. In these circumstances, the use and availability of the water may be subject to separate regulatory requirements outside Council's direct control.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Questions With Notice - 20 August 2026

ITEM 18.2 **Question with Notice - Weed Education**
AUTHOR **Councillor Susan Reynolds**

BACKGROUND

I, Cllr Susan Reynolds ask the following:

To assist our whole Shire to be aware of targeted weeds, can we include a simple, double-sided A4 sheet with photo, description and how to deal with and manage weeds, be included with the Upper Lachlan Shire annual Rates Notice?

Issue:

Weed identification and management is one of the challenging issues across our Shire. With the reduction of State Government funding for targeted weed management, our team is stretched to cover the basics across the Shire.

Weed education is paramount if we, as a responsible community, are to protect our environment, unique fauna and flora, investments, and farmland.

Traditional farming is changing and weed infestation is pressing our borders with the introduction of feed stock grown outside of our shire, movement of stock and recreation vehicles that can carry seed, birdlife droppings and absent landowners may not be familiar with or aware of local targeted weeds.

The inclusion of the information with the Rate Notice will go directly to the landowner and will certainly assist with knowledge, emerging weed threats, landowner responsibilities and workable solutions.

Our local Upper Lachlan Landcare held an informative session last week and believe that they would be pleased to work with our staff to highlight three target species Gorse, Silverleaf Nightshade, Coolatai Grass, as part of the Southeast Region Weeds found in our region.

To assist with identification, a free colour Southeast Region 'glovebox guide' identifying weeds, and how to manage is available from Local Land Services or NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Response from Council CEO

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, as the Local Control Authority, has obligations to manage biosecurity risks posed, or likely to be posed, by priority weeds to human health, the economy, the community and the environment.

Council meets these obligations through a range of activities including weed inspection programs, weed containment and control activities, management of high-risk pathways and, where resources permit, community education and awareness.

Questions With Notice

QUESTION WITH NOTICE - WEED EDUCATION cont'd

Council's priority weed activities are guided by the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and the *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023–2027*, with available resources directed primarily towards priority weeds and identified high-risk pathways.

As previously advised to Council, funding received through the NSW Government's Weeds Action Program has been reduced, affecting the level and range of activities Council is able to undertake. As a consequence of this reduction, the previous funding allocation specifically available for weed education activities was removed.

Council officers acknowledge that weed identification and management remains an ongoing challenge across the Shire and that landholder education and awareness can play an important role in supporting Council's broader weed management responsibilities.

Officers have considered the suggestion of preparing a simple information flyer focusing on locally relevant priority weeds, potentially including Gorse, Silverleaf Nightshade and Coolatai Grass. It is estimated that approximately \$2,500 would be required to develop and produce an appropriate flyer containing photographs, identification information, landholder responsibilities and practical information regarding management and control.

If distributed directly, it would be appropriate to target properties classified as farmland and rural residential, representing approximately 3,955 properties across the Shire.

A number of potential distribution methods have been considered. Inclusion with Council's rates notices would provide a relatively cost-effective means of distributing the information directly to relevant landowners. However, as the current annual rates notice cycle has already commenced, introducing the flyer during the current rating year would only reach those ratepayers receiving subsequent instalment notices and would therefore not provide comprehensive coverage. There would also be a minor additional cost associated with Council's external provider inserting the flyer with rates correspondence.

Alternatively, Council could undertake a separate direct mail-out to the identified properties. Based on approximately 3,955 properties, the estimated cost of a separate mail-out would be approximately \$6,328, in addition to the cost of producing the material.

Distribution of unaddressed material through Australia Post has also been considered. This would be less targeted, would not necessarily capture absentee landowners or properties outside normal delivery runs, and is estimated to cost approximately \$12,000.

Given the relative costs and limitations of these options, a separate mail-out is not considered the most cost-effective approach at this time.

In the interim, Council officers will continue to make greater use of Council's website, social media platforms and Council offices to promote information regarding priority weeds, identification and landholder responsibilities. Opportunities to make relevant material available through appropriate local organisations and businesses can also be explored, including promotion of existing resources such as the South East Regional weed identification material.

Questions With Notice**QUESTION WITH NOTICE - WEED EDUCATION cont'd**

The suggestion of including a targeted weed information flyer with Council's annual rates notice is supported as a practical means of improving landholder awareness. Council officers will therefore investigate the development of an appropriate weed education flyer for inclusion with the next annual rates notice cycle, subject to available operational budgets and the practical requirements of Council's rates notice distribution process.

This approach will allow the information to be distributed more efficiently as part of an existing Council communication process, while interim education activities continue through Council's existing communication channels.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Chief Executive Officer's Statement

Confidentiality

Councillors and staff are reminded of their obligations in respect to the need for confidentiality and not disclose or otherwise misuse the information which is about to be discussed, failure to do so could result in a reference to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal and/or result in a prosecution in accordance with Sec. 664 of the Act for which the maximum penalty is \$5,500.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 provides that Council may, by resolution, close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of matters as listed in that section, or for any matter that arises during the course of business during the meeting that should be treated as confidential in accordance with Section 10(2) of the Act.

Council's Agenda for this meeting contains reports that meet the criteria specified in Section 10A(2) of the Act. To consider these reports in confidential session, Council can adopt the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION

That, in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the Public and the Press be excluded from the meeting to enable Council to determine Item 19.1 in confidential session for the reasons indicated:

Item 19.1 CEO Performance Review 2025/2026

This report is considered to be confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2a) of the Local Government Act, 1993, as it relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals.

19 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

The following item is submitted for consideration -

19.1 CEO Performance Review 2025/2026