



Agenda and Business Paper

Ordinary Meeting of Council

To be held on
Tuesday 9 June 2026
at 6:00 PM

Civic Centre cnr Baylis and Morrow Streets,
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 (PO Box 20)
P 1300 292 442
P council@wagga.nsw.gov.au

wagga.nsw.gov.au

NOTICE OF MEETING

The proceedings of all Council meetings in open session, including all debate and addresses by the public, are recorded (audio visual) and livestreamed on Council's website including for the purpose of facilitating community access to meetings and accuracy of the Minutes.

In addition to webcasting council meetings, audio recordings of confidential sessions of Ordinary Meetings of Council are also recorded, but do not form part of the webcast.



Peter Thompson
General Manager

WAGGA WAGGA CITY COUNCILLORS



**Councillor Dallas Tout
(Mayor)**

Councillor Dallas Tout was elected to Council in 2012 and was elected Mayor in 2022.



**Councillor Georgie Davies
(Deputy Mayor)**

Councillor Georgie Davies was elected to Council in 2021 and was elected as Deputy Mayor in 2024.



Councillor Allana Condron

Councillor Allana Condron was elected to Council in 2024.



Councillor Richard Foley

Councillor Richard Foley was elected to Council in 2021.



Councillor Mick Henderson

Councillor Michael Henderson was elected to Council in 2021 and 2026.



Councillor Jenny McKinnon

Councillor Jenny McKinnon was elected to Council in 2021 and was Deputy Mayor between 2022 and 2023.



Councillor Amelia Parkins

Councillor Amelia Parkins was elected to Council in 2021 and was Deputy Mayor between 2023 and 2024.



Councillor Karissa Subedi

Councillor Karissa Subedi was elected to Council in 2024.



Councillor Lindsay Tanner

Councillor Lindsay Tanner was elected to Council in 2024.

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under Section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993 and their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage Conflicts of Interest.

QUORUM

The quorum for a meeting of the Council, is a majority of the Councillors of the Council, who hold office for the time being, who are eligible to vote at the meeting.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL AGENDA AND BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2026

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

CLAUSE	PRECIS	PAGE
	<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</u>	2
	<u>REFLECTION</u>	2
	<u>APOLOGIES</u>	2
	<u>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</u>	
CM-1	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 25 MAY 2026	2
	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>	2
	<u>REPORTS FROM STAFF</u>	
RP-1	CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE	3
RP-2	LEP25/0001 - SECONDARY DWELLING AMENDMENTS - OUTCOMES OF EXHIBITION AND FINALISATION	6
RP-3	SECTION 3.22 EXPEDITED AMENDMENT - ESSENTIAL SERVICES CLAUSE	66
RP-4	LAKE ALBERT ALGAE MANAGEMENT TRIAL OUTCOMES	69
RP-5	INNOVATE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN 2026-2028	77
RP-6	APPLICATIONS FOR SUBSIDY FOR WASTE DISPOSAL FOR CHARITY ORGANISATIONS - 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR	116
RP-7	ADDITIONAL FEES & CHARGES FOR 2026/27	119
RP-8	QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	122
	<u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u>	
M-1	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WAGGA WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - 20 MAY 2026	130
	<u>CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS</u>	
CONF-1	LAKE ALBERT ALGAE MANAGEMENT	142
CONF-2	FUNDING AGREEMENT	143
CONF-3	NEW YEARS EVE	144

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradjuri and First Nations communities

REFLECTION

Councillors, let us in silence reflect upon our responsibilities to the community which we represent, and to all future generations and faithfully, and impartially, carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in us, to the best of our skill and judgement.

APOLOGIES

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CM-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 25 MAY 2026

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Attachments

1 [↓](#). Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting - 25 May 2026 145

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

REPORTS FROM STAFF

RP-1 CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Author: Nicole Johnson

Executive: Scott Gray

Summary:

This report recommends that Council rescind Resolution 25/412 adopting the 2025 Code of Meeting Practice following the disallowance of the Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025 by the NSW Legislative Council. The report also outlines advice received from the Office of Local Government regarding the continued application of the previously prescribed Model Code of Meeting Practice.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a rescind Resolution 25/412 adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 15 December 2025, which adopted the Code of Meeting Practice 2025
- b approve an amendment to the Ordinary Council Meeting commencement time to 5.30pm for the period June 2026 to December 2026

Report

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 December 2025, Council adopted a revised Code of Meeting Practice based on the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice prescribed by the Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025.

On 27 May 2026, the Legislative Council disallowed the Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025.

Subsequent advice received from the Office of Local Government (OLG) confirms that, pursuant to section 41(4) of the Interpretation Act 1987, the effect of the disallowance is that the amendments made by the Regulation cease to have effect and the provisions of the previously prescribed Model Code of Meeting Practice continue to apply.

The advice from OLG further notes that councils should rescind resolutions adopting the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice at the next available Council meeting to ensure consistency with section 360 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Accordingly, this report recommends that Council rescind Resolution 25/412, which adopted the revised Code of Meeting Practice based on the now disallowed 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice. As more than three months have passed since Council adopted the current Code of Meeting Practice, the signatures of three councillors are not required to rescind the resolution.

The effect of the disallowance is that the previously prescribed Model Code of Meeting Practice continues to apply, including the removal of restrictions introduced under the 2025 Model Code relating to councillor workshops and briefing sessions and mandatory in-person attendance requirements for councillors participating remotely in meetings.

A copy of the previously adopted Code of Meeting Practice, based on the 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice, is attached for Councillors' reference.

No other amendments to Council's Code of Meeting Practice are proposed as part of this report. Should Council wish to make further amendments to the applicable Code of Meeting Practice, including retaining supplementary provisions from the 2025 Code that are not inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Code, a draft amended Code would need to be publicly exhibited in accordance with section 361 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The Office of Local Government has also advised that the NSW Government is progressing a further updated Model Code of Meeting Practice, with formal advice to be provided to councils once drafting has been completed.

Council Meeting Commencement Time

Public participation through Public Address will now again be undertaken as part of the Ordinary Council Meeting rather than through a separate Public Forum held prior to the meeting. As a result, Council has the opportunity to reconsider the commencement time of Ordinary Council Meetings to better align with the revised meeting structure.

It is recommended that the commencement time of Ordinary Council Meetings be amended to 5.30pm for the period June 2026 to December 2026. This commencement time aligns with the start time of recent Public Forums and allows public participation to occur immediately prior to the consideration of Council business.

Should Council wish to retain the current 6.00pm commencement time, this may be resolved by Council through an amendment to the recommendation.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

Interpretation Act 1987

Wagga Wagga City Council Code of Meeting Practice

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Ethical Leadership

Deliver accountable and transparent leadership.

Risk Management Issues for Council

Failure to rescind the current 2025 Code of Meeting Practice may result in Council operating under provisions inconsistent with the mandatory requirements of the prescribed Model Code of Meeting Practice under section 360 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Reinstating the previous adopted Code of Meeting Practice ensures compliance with legislative requirements and provides certainty regarding meeting procedures for Council, committees and staff.

Internal / External Consultation

NSW Office of Local Government

Attachments

1. Code of Meeting Practice - Provided under separate cover

**RP-2 LEP25/0001 - SECONDARY DWELLING AMENDMENTS -
OUTCOMES OF EXHIBITION AND FINALISATION****Author:** Matthew Yeomans**Executive:** Fiona Hamilton**Summary:**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 23 June 2025, Council resolved to support a planning proposal to amend clauses 5.4(9)(b) and 5.5(a)(ii) of the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 to increase the maximum floor space area of secondary dwellings from 33% of the size of the principal dwelling to 65% of the size of the principal dwelling on both rural and non-rural land where secondary dwellings are a permissible land use.

A Gateway Determination approved the planning proposal to proceed subject to a public exhibition period.

The planning proposal was placed on exhibition from Monday 30 March 2026 to Friday 1 May 2026 and three (3) submissions were received.

The planning proposal is being reported back to Council detailing the outcomes of the exhibition recommending its finalisation.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a note the submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the planning proposal LEP25/0001
- b endorse the finalisation of the planning proposal to amend Clause 5.4(9)(b) and Clause 5.5(a)(ii) of the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010, the subject of this report under section 3.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- c delegate authority to the General Manager (or their delegate) to make any minor amendments and corrections of a non-policy and administrative nature that may arise during the plan finalisation process relating to the planning proposal

Report

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 23 June 2025 Council resolved to prepare and lodge a planning proposal seeking a Gateway Determination in accordance with section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. The resolution is outlined below:

25/166 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Parkins and T Koschel

That Council:

- a endorses the preparation of a Planning Proposal, as detailed in this report; and**
- i forwards it to the Minister for Planning seeking an Amendment to the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 and requests that a Gateway Determination be issued, including the delegation of Plan making powers, so as to enable the public exhibition of the Planning Proposal pursuant to the EP&A Act 1979; and**
 - ii upon receipt of a Gateway Determination under Section 3.34 of the EP&A Act 1979, Council places the Planning Proposal and any supporting material on public exhibition pursuant to any requirements of the Gateway Determination and Schedule 1, clause 4 of the EP&A Act 1979; and**
 - iii should no objections be received, furnishes a copy of this report and other relevant information to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and/or NSW Parliamentary Counsels Office, in accordance with the EP&A Act 1979, and requests the Minister for Planning (or a delegate on their behalf) undertake the appropriate actions to secure the making of the amendment to the WLEP 2010.**

CARRIED

The planning proposal is being reported back to Council based on the outcomes of the exhibition seeking finalisation of the Planning Proposal with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in accordance with section 3.36 of the EP&A Act.

Application details

Proposal:	Amendment to Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010: Clause 5.4 (9) & 5.5 – Secondary Dwelling Provisions
Applicant:	Wagga Wagga City Council

Planning Proposal

Council lodged the planning proposal (Attachment 1) with DPHI to amend the following clauses under the *Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 (LEP)*:

- Clause 5.4(9)(b) to increase the maximum floor area of a secondary dwelling on land other than land in a rural zone from 33% of the floor area of the principal dwelling to 65% of the floor area of the principal dwelling; and,
- Clause 5.5(a)(ii) to increase the maximum floor area of a secondary dwelling on land in a rural zone from 33% of the floor area of the principal dwelling to 65% of the floor area of the principal dwelling.

The planning proposal seeks to expand the options currently available to landowners in permissible zones for the development of secondary dwellings which may stimulate the supply of affordable and diversified housing, whilst encouraging efficient growth patterns through infill development where the majority of infrastructure services exist.

Gateway Determination

The Gateway Determination (Attachment 2) sets out the following conditions to be undertaken as part of the amendment process.

Condition	Response and Outcome
<p>Condition 1</p> <p>Public exhibition is required under section 3.34(2)(c) and clause 4 of Schedule 1 to the Act as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the planning proposal is categorised as standard as described in the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023) and must be made publicly available for a minimum of 20 working days; and (b) the planning proposal authority must comply with the notice requirements for public exhibition of planning proposals and the specifications for material that must be made publicly available along with planning proposals as identified in Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023). <p>No consultation is required with public authorities or government agencies under section 3.34(2)(d) of the Act.</p>	<p>Council placed the planning proposal on exhibition from Monday 30 March 2026 to Friday 1 May 2026.</p> <p>Three (3) submissions were received in response (Attachment 3). A response to submissions has been provided below.</p>
<p>Condition 2</p> <p>A public hearing is not required to be held into the matter by any person or body under section 3.34(2)(e) of the Act. This does not discharge Council from any obligation it may otherwise have to conduct a public hearing (for example, in response to a submission or if reclassifying land).</p>	<p>A public hearing was not required.</p>

Summary of Submissions

During the public exhibition period three (3) submissions were received. The submissions have been summarised and responded to in Attachment 4.

It is noted that future secondary dwelling assessment is subject to a development application or complying development pathway (CDC) and, despite the additional allowable size, are still required to address and satisfy all other planning considerations.

Based on the assessment of the submissions received this report recommends endorsement of the Planning Proposal as exhibited.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010

Link to Strategic Plan

Growing

Increase housing supply and diversity

Implement initiatives to deliver an increase in housing supply and diversity of housing options to meet the needs of our community.

Risk Management Issues for Council

If the proposed amendment was not finalised, the LEP would retain the existing controls of 60m² or 33% of the total floor area of the principal dwelling. This may impact additional housing supply in Wagga Wagga.

Internal / External Consultation

The planning proposal was placed on exhibition between Monday 30 March 2026 to Friday 1 May 2026 (inclusive) with engagement undertaken as per the table below.

	Mail			Traditional Media				Community Engagement				Digital				
	Rates notices insert	Direct mail	Letterbox drop	Council news	Media release	Media opportunity	TV/radio advertising	One-on-one meeting(s)	Community meeting(s)	Stakeholder workshop(s)	Drop-in session(s)	Survey/feedback form(s)	Have your Say	Email newsletter	Social media	Website
Inform				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consult				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Involve																
Collaborate																
Other methods (please list specific details below)																

The planning proposal and accompanying exhibition material were made available for viewing by the public on Council’s Have Your Say page and at Council’s Customer Service Counter in the Civic Centre during the public exhibition period. Public notices were placed in ‘Council News’ and Council’s website.

Attachments

- 1. [LEP25/0001 - Draft Planning Proposal](#)
- 2. [LEP25/0001 - Gateway Determination](#)
- 3. [LEP25/0001 - Redacted Submissions](#)
- 4. [LEP25/0001 - Response to Submissions](#)

habitat — Planning Proposal

Amendment to Wagga Wagga Local
Environmental Plan 2010

Clause 5.4(9) & 5.5 – Secondary Dwelling
Provisions

DECEMBER 2025

Submitted to NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure
On behalf of Wagga Wagga City Council

Contact

David Hunter, Director
Emily Hewitt, Consultant

Habitat Planning
63-65 Johnston Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
02 6921 8588
habitat@habitatplanning.com.au
habitatplanning.com.au

Habitat Planning Wagga Pty Ltd
ABN 74 679 917 009
ACN 679 917 009

Document Control

The information contained in this document produced by Habitat Planning is solely for the use of the person or organisation for which it has been prepared. No section or element of this document may be removed from this document, reproduced, electronically stored or transmitted in any form without the written permission of Habitat Planning.

PROJECT NUMBER
25456

REVISION NO	ISSUE DATE	VERSION STATUS	AUTHOR	APPROVED
1.0	27/11/2025	Draft	EH	DH
2.0	17/12/2025	Final	EH	DH

25456 Amendment to Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010

2

Contents

Executive Summary	4
1. Introduction	6
1.1. Overview.....	6
1.2. Background	7
1.3. Supporting Plans and Documentation.....	9
2. Application of the Planning Proposal	10
3. Planning Proposal	11
3.1. Objectives and Intended Outcomes	11
3.2. Explanation of Provisions	11
3.3. Justification.....	11
3.4. Section A – Need for the Planning Proposal.....	12
3.5. Section B – Relationship to Strategic Planning Framework.....	13
3.6. Section C – Environmental, Social and Economic Impact.....	38
3.7. Section D – State and Commonwealth Interests	38
4. Mapping	40
5. Community Consultation	41
5.1. Project Timeline.....	41
6. Conclusion	43
Appendix A – Council Resolution (23 June 2025)	44

List of Figures

No table of figures entries found.

List of Tables

Table 1 Executive Summary Table	5
Table 2 Accompanying Documents.....	9
Table 3 Comparative analysis of secondary dwelling development controls	12
Table 4 Consistency with Riverina-Murray Regional Plan 2041	14
Table 5 Consistency with Applicable SEPPs	21
Table 6 Consistency with Ministerial Directions	28
Table 7 Project Timeline (indicative)	41

Executive Summary

Overview

This Planning Proposal has been prepared on behalf of Wagga Wagga City Council and is submitted to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure ("the Department") in support of a Planning Proposal to amend the *Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010* ("the WWLEP").

The proposed amendment seeks to:

- Amend Clause 5.4(9)(b) to increase the maximum floor area of a secondary dwelling on land other than land in a rural zone from 33% of the floor area of the principal dwelling to 65% of the floor area of the principal dwelling; and,
- Amend Clause 5.5(a)(ii) to increase the maximum floor area of a secondary dwelling on land in a rural zone from 33% of the floor area of the principal dwelling to 65% of the floor area of the principal dwelling.

The Planning Proposal has been prepared to address the requirements of Section 3.33 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), as well as satisfying the requirements of the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure's guideline titled: *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline* (August 2023).

Strategic Merit

This Planning Proposal provides an analysis of the physical and strategic planning constraints and opportunities of the site and considers the relevant environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposal and its strategic merit.

The Planning Proposal has strategic merit and is in the public interest for the following reasons:

- The proposal is generally consistent with the strategic planning framework including State, Regional and local planning strategies for Wagga Wagga.
- The resultant development of the land will not create any unacceptable environmental or social impacts as it seeks to minorly amend an existing provision whereby statutory matters will still require consideration during a development application or applicability of the Housing SEPP.
- The development is proposed in response to increasing demands for diversified housing to meet demonstrated needs of the Wagga Wagga community over the short term.
- There will be a net benefit for the Wagga Wagga community through an uptake in secondary dwellings and diverse housing forms.
- The proposal supports 'aging-in-place' principles for older resident within family properties, multi-generational family living and opportunities to increase supply of rental housing in established areas.

Planning Proposal Summary

A summary table explaining the outcomes sought by the Planning Proposal is provided below.

Table 1 | Executive Summary Table

Item	Description
Land	R1 General Residential R3 Medium Density Residential R5 Large Lot Residential MU1 Mixed Use C4 Environmental Living RU1 Primary Production RU2 Rural Landscape RU4 Primary Production Small Lots RU5 Villages
Proposed Amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend Clause 5.4(9)(b) to increase the maximum floor area of a secondary dwelling on land other than land in a rural zone from 33% of the floor area of the principal dwelling to 65% of the floor area of the principal dwelling; and, • Amend Clause 5.5(a)(ii) to increase the maximum floor area of a secondary dwelling on land in a rural zone from 33% of the floor area of the principal dwelling to 65% of the floor area of the principal dwelling.
Planning Proposal category	Standard The proposal involves an alteration to one existing development standard in the LEP, but is not expected to lead to significant increase in demand for services or infrastructure. The proposal is considered to be consistent with District and Local Planning Policy, including the Local Strategic Planning Statement.

1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

The Planning Proposal has been prepared on behalf of Wagga Wagga City Council in and is submitted to the Department in support of a proposed amendment to the *Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010* ("the WWLEP"). The amendment seeks to change a development standard within the WWLEP which relates to the whole Local Government Area (LGA).

The proposal has been prepared to address the requirements of Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ("the EP&A Act"), as well as satisfying the requirements of the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure & Environment's guideline titled *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (August 2023)* ("the Guidelines").

This report demonstrates that the proposed amendment is consistent with the intent and objectives of the planning framework and strategic plans and policies including the recently endorsed Local Housing Strategy. Consequently, this will provide the Department with the confidence to endorse the proposed amendment as sought by this Planning Proposal.

It is requested that Council forward the Planning Proposal to the Minister for Gateway Determination in accordance with Section 3.34 of the EP&A Act. The Gateway Determination by the Minister will decide:

- Whether the Planning Proposal is supported to proceed or not.
- Any necessary technical studies or supporting studies (that have not already been completed).
- Whether the Planning Proposal needs to be amended (and possibly resubmitted to the Department) prior to exhibition.
- The duration and extent of community consultation.
- Whether consultation with State or federal authorities (if required).
- Whether a local contributions plan is to be exhibited at the same time as the Planning Proposal.
- Whether a public hearing is needed.
- The timeframes within which the various stages of the process for making of the proposed LEP are to be completed.
- Whether the council is to be authorised to make the proposed instrument as the Local Plan Making Authority (LPMA).
- Any other conditions.

1.2. Background

The growing impact of escalating housing and living costs on the local community is well documented and remains a significant issue affecting communities across New South Wales and Australia. Regional centres such as Wagga Wagga are experiencing acute demand for smaller 1-2 bedroom housing options driven by decreasing household sizes, an aging population, and major infrastructure projects requiring short-term accommodation for temporary workers.

In addition to the demographic changes documented within the region, there are a number of major infrastructure projects which will place increased pressure upon housing needs in Wagga. These include:

- Humelink - a new 500kV transmission line connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle.
- Inland Rail - a 1,600km freight railway connecting Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.
- Defence infrastructure upgrades - improvements and expansion of facilities at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Wagga, Blamey Barracks, Kapooka and the Albury-Wodonga Military Area.

In addition there are at least 6 SSD/SSI projects at various stages of assessment in Wagga Wagga that are expected to create additional housing pressures

Currently, the majority of housing supply in Wagga Wagga comprises traditional 3-4 bedroom, single-family homes, with limited availability of smaller dwellings. Secondary dwellings or 'granny flats' are generally 1-2 bedroom which allow for greater mix and diverse housing opportunities. They can provide a secondary income stream for some households and diversity in living accommodation for property owners.

In response to these challenges, Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 23 June 2025, resolved to prepare a Planning Proposal to expand options currently available to landowners in permissible zones for the development of secondary dwellings. The proposal aims to stimulate development of diversified housing supply and encourage efficient growth patterns through infill development where the majority of infrastructure is already in place.

Secondary dwellings are currently permissible in relevant non-rural zones under the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010. The size of secondary dwellings is regulated by Clause 5.4(9), a mandatory provision under the *Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006*. The maximum floor area is currently limited to the greater of 60m² or 33% of the total floor area of the principal dwelling. While this clause is mandatory, councils retain discretion to vary the maximum percentage, which is the subject of this Planning Proposal.

In rural zones, Clause 5.5 is an optional provision of the WWLEP 2010. Council has adopted only subsection (a) of this clause, which regulates floor area. Subsection (b), relating to separation distances between principal and secondary dwellings, was not adopted as these matters are controlled by Clause 8.3 of the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan which relates to Rural Dwellings.

Between 2010 and 2024, only 107 secondary dwellings were approved in Wagga Wagga which is an average of approximately 8 per annum. By comparison, 220 dual occupancy developments were approved during the same period, more than double the number of secondary dwelling approvals. This disparity suggests that current floor area restrictions may be limiting the attractiveness of secondary dwellings as a housing option.

Under current floor area controls, landowners with smaller established principal dwellings (up to 181.81m²) are limited to a maximum secondary dwelling size of 60m². This threshold effectively limits secondary dwellings to studio-style accommodation, constraining design flexibility and liveability. By comparison, the *Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide* establishes a minimum dwelling size of 60m² for dual occupancies and terrace houses (excluding studios), effectively recognising this as the baseline for functional residential accommodation. Increasing the maximum percentage to 65% would enable secondary dwellings on modest principal dwellings to exceed 60m², allowing for more diverse and liveable housing options including separate bedrooms, which better responds to identified demand for 1-2 bedroom accommodation.

Having regard to the above considerations, at its Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 June 2025, Council resolved to prepare a Planning Proposal to amend the WWLEP 2010. This Planning Proposal is classified as a council-initiated proposal prepared on behalf of Council.

While a formal scoping proposal was not required, Council has consulted with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, which provided written advice on the Planning Proposal. This advice is discussed below.

1.3. Supporting Plans and Documentation

The Planning Proposal has been prepared with input from a number of documents which have been prepared to accompany the application. These documents are included as appendices to this report and are identified in Table 1.

Table 2 | Accompanying Documents

No.	Document Name	Prepared by
A	Council Report and Minutes dated 25 June 2025	Wagga Wagga City Council

2. Application of the Planning Proposal

This Planning Proposal does not apply to a specific site but rather applies to all land within the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area where secondary dwellings are currently permissible under the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010.

The proposed amendments to Clauses 5.4(9)(b) and 5.5(a)(ii) will apply to the following land use zones.

Non-Rural Zones (Clause 5.4(9)(b)):

- R1 General Residential
- R3 Medium Density Residential
- R5 Large Lot Residential
- MU1 Mixed Use
- C4 Environmental Living

Rural Zones (Clause 5.5(a)(ii)):

- RU1 Primary Production
- RU2 Rural Landscape
- RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
- RU5 Village

No land is to be rezoned as part of this Planning Proposal. The amendments relate solely to development standards for secondary dwellings within existing permissible zones.

3. Planning Proposal

This section addresses the requirements of the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (August 2023) and Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ("EP&A Act"). It includes:

- Objectives and intended outcomes
- Explanation of provisions
- Justification
- Mapping
- Community consultation
- Project timeline

3.1. Objectives and Intended Outcomes

The objective of the Planning Proposal is to amend Clause 5.4(9)(b) and Clause 5.5(a)(ii) of the WWLEP to increase the maximum floor space area of secondary dwellings from 33% to 65% of the floor area of the principal dwelling.

The intended outcomes are to

- Increase housing diversity by enabling larger, more functional secondary dwellings
- Encourage lower-cost housing supply by improving the financial viability and attractiveness of secondary dwelling development
- Encourage efficient infill development that utilises existing infrastructure and services
- Respond to identified demand for 1–2 bedroom accommodation in Wagga Wagga

3.2. Explanation of Provisions

To achieve the intended outcomes, this Planning Proposal seeks to amend the following clauses of the WWLEP:

Clause 5.4 Controls relating to miscellaneous permissible uses

Amend Clause 5.4(9)(b) to increase the maximum total floor area of a secondary dwelling on land other than land in a rural zone from 33% to 65% of the total floor area of the principal dwelling.

Clause 5.5 Controls relating to secondary dwellings in rural zones

Amend Clause 5.5(a)(ii) to increase the maximum total floor area of a secondary dwelling on land in a rural zone from 33% to 65% of the total floor area of the principal dwelling.

Mapping

This Planning Proposal does not require amendment to any land zoning maps or other maps under the WWLEP.

3.3. Justification

This section demonstrates that the Planning Proposal:

- Is consistent with relevant strategic planning frameworks and directions
- Responds to an identified community need
- Will deliver measurable community benefits

- Is suitable for the land to which it applies

3.4. Section A – Need for the Planning Proposal

Q1. Is the Planning Proposal a result of an endorsed Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), strategic study or report?

While this Planning Proposal was not directly initiated by the Local Strategic Planning Statement or a standalone strategic study, it responds to evidence-based analysis of housing demand and community need identified through Council's ongoing monitoring of development trends and community enquiries. The need for greater housing diversity has also been acknowledged through the background analysis, gap analysis and community engagement completed to inform the Wagga Wagga Local Housing Strategy.

In support of the proposed change, and as a background assessment to this Planning Proposal, Council has undertaken comparative analysis of secondary dwelling development controls and subsequent dwelling uptake across several regional councils with similar characteristics to Wagga Wagga. It identified that Dubbo Regional Council and Orange City Council had more permissive floor space controls as outlined below.

Table 3 | Comparative analysis of secondary dwelling development controls

Council	Annual Secondary Dwellings Approved (2020-24)	Maximum Allowable Floor Area	Maximum % of Principal Dwelling (Non-Rural)	Maximum % of Principal Dwelling (Rural)
Dubbo	30	60m ²	65%	65%
Orange	34	60m ²	50%	50%
Wagga Wagga	8	60m ²	33%	33%

The analysis demonstrates a strong correlation between more permissive floor area controls and higher uptake of secondary dwelling development:

- Dubbo, with a 65% maximum, approves approximately 22 more secondary dwellings annually than Wagga Wagga
- Orange, with a 50% maximum, approves approximately 26 more secondary dwellings annually than Wagga Wagga
- Both councils have similar development assessment processes and minimum floor area requirements (60m²)

This data suggests that the current 33% limitation in Wagga Wagga is a significant barrier to secondary dwelling development, constraining supply despite identified demand for this housing type.

Increasing the maximum to 65% aligns with contemporary planning objectives by enabling greater housing diversity and choice. Larger secondary dwellings allow for a range of dwelling sizes and configurations beyond studio-style accommodation, providing practical housing options that better meet the needs of different household types. This supports housing affordability by creating lower-cost rental options while providing property owners with an additional income stream to offset mortgage or living costs. The increased flexibility also facilitates aging-in-place and multi-generational living arrangements, allowing elderly parents or adult children to live independently yet close to family support. This is particularly relevant in larger rural contexts, such as Wagga Wagga, which is experiencing an ageing

population¹. Furthermore, secondary dwellings represent an efficient form of development that capitalises on existing infrastructure and services associated with the primary dwelling.

The proposed 65% maximum mirrors Dubbo's approach and demonstrates a measured response to local housing needs. Analysis of principal dwelling sizes in Wagga Wagga indicates a typical range of 100m² to 450m². Under the current 33% control, all principal dwellings below 181.81m² are limited to the minimum 60m² secondary dwelling size. This threshold effectively restricts secondary dwellings to studio-style accommodation with limited capacity for separate bedrooms, adequate living spaces, or accessibility features. For example, a 150m² principal dwelling, common in established residential areas, is constrained to a 60m² secondary dwelling, whereas the proposed 65% control would permit a 97.5m² secondary dwelling on the same site.

The proposed amendment would provide meaningful changes to enable secondary dwellings as a more functional and attractive dwelling option. Importantly, the secondary dwelling would remain clearly subordinate to the principal dwelling, as it would comprise less than 65% of the principal dwelling's size.

This increased flexibility better responds to the identified demand for 1-2 bedroom accommodation while maintaining development standards that ensure secondary dwellings remain ancillary to principal dwellings. The cost to develop a secondary dwelling is generally recognised to be lower than a dual occupancy which provides greater flexibility for homeowners.

Q2. Is the Planning Proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intended outcomes, or is there a better way?

This Planning Proposal is the most appropriate and necessary means of achieving the intended outcomes.

The provisions governing secondary dwelling floor area are contained within mandatory clauses of the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Clauses 5.4(9)(b) and 5.5(a)(ii)), which derive from the Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006. Amendments to these LEP provisions can only be achieved through the plan-making process established under Part 3, Division 3.4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Alternative approaches have been considered but are not legally available or effective:

Development Control Plan (DCP) revisions – The DCP cannot override or modify mandatory LEP development standards. While a DCP could provide design guidance for secondary dwellings, it cannot alter the maximum floor area percentage established in the LEP.

State Environmental Planning Policy – The State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021 contains provisions for secondary dwellings, it does not override the percentage controls in LEP's where Councils have adopted specific standards. Council also has no control over the SEPP and any changes to provisions would require amendments at a Statewide level which would not be responsive to Wagga Wagga's specific local housing needs and context.

Variations to Development Controls – The current LEP provisions do not provide Council any discretion to exceed the maximum floor area percentage specified in the LEP, even where a proposal demonstrates merit. It is noted that Clause 4.6 (Exceptions to development standards) specifically excludes floor area standards for secondary dwellings.

Having regard to the above, the issue to be addressed through the Planning Proposal is a local issue specific to Wagga Wagga. The Planning Proposal process is the most mechanism as it allows proper LGA-specific analysis and consideration.

3.5. Section B – Relationship to Strategic Planning Framework

Q3. Will the Planning Proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicable regional, or district plan or strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?

¹ Refer to *Wagga Wagga Local Housing Strategy 2025*

The Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

The Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041 (RMRP) is the applicable regional plan for this Planning Proposal. The Plan establishes a 20-year vision for the Riverina Murray region and includes priorities that emphasise the need to increase the range and diversity of housing options within existing urban areas to accommodate demographic change and support regional growth.

The Planning Proposal aligns with the following themes of the Regional Plan:

- Part 2 – Communities and places
 This theme supports diverse housing options that accommodate changing household sizes and enable aging-in-place. The proposal directly responds to this priority by enabling larger, more functional secondary dwellings that can accommodate diverse household types including elderly residents, adult children, and multi-generational families.
- Part 3 – Economy
 This theme recognises the importance of housing diversity and affordability in attracting and retaining workers and supporting economic growth. Secondary dwellings provide lower-cost options for workers, including those employed on major infrastructure projects in the region, while generating additional income for property owners.

A detailed assessment of the Planning Proposal against the relevant goals, directions, and actions of the RMRP is provided below.

Table 4 | Consistency with Riverina-Murray Regional Plan 2041

Part, Objective and Actions	Relevance	Consistency
Part 1 – Environment		
Objective 1 – Protect, connect and enhance biodiversity throughout the region.	Relevant.	Consistent. The proposal does not directly seek to modify or reduce any biodiversity values throughout the region. It applies to zones that already permit secondary dwellings and subsequent development applications as a result of the LEP amendment will be required to assess biodiversity matters.
Objective 2 – Manage development impacts within riverine environments	Relevant.	Consistent. The proposal does not directly seek to modify or reduce any riverine values throughout the region. It applies to zones that already permit secondary dwellings and subsequent development applications as a result of the LEP amendment will be required to consider the riverine environment.
Objective 3 – Increase natural hazard resilience	Relevant.	Consistent. Future development as a result of the proposal is not expected to increase risk to natural hazards as secondary dwellings are permitted in existing zones with no major constraints given the residential use. Subsequent development applications as a result of the LEP amendment will be required to address any applicable natural hazard matters.

Part, Objective and Actions	Relevance	Consistency
Part 2 – Communities and places		
Objective 4 – Support Aboriginal aspirations through land use planning	Relevant.	<p>Consistent. The proposal does not directly seek to modify or reduce any cultural heritage values throughout the region.</p> <p>Subsequent development applications as a result of the LEP amendment will require be required to address any applicable cultural heritage matters.</p>
Objective 5 – Ensure housing supply, diversity, affordability and resilience	Relevant.	<p>Consistent. The Planning Proposal contributes to housing supply by enabling more secondary dwellings to be feasibly developed on existing serviced land without the need for new greenfield land release or costly infrastructure expansion. By allowing a more practical 65% cap, it encourages secondary dwelling approvals to incrementally increase.</p> <p>It promotes housing diversity by facilitating a broader range of dwelling types and sizes suited to different household structures and life stages appropriate with community needs. This includes opportunities for younger people entering the housing market, single-person households, retirees wishing to downsize and multi-generational families seeking to live close together.</p> <p>The proposal ensures more cost-effective development options for both landowners and occupants in the housing market. Homeowners can construct secondary dwellings to generate rental income or provide lower-cost accommodation for family members while tenants can benefit from access to smaller dwellings at lower price points than conventional dwellings. Increasing the range of attainable housing options assists with rental pressure and supports broader economic resilience.</p>
Objective 6 – Support housing in regional cities and their sub-regions	Relevant.	<p>Consistent. The Planning Proposal is consistent with this objective as it supports housing in regional cities and surrounding sub-regions by enabling more secondary dwellings on existing serviced land. This increases local housing supply without requiring new land release and provides opportunities for smaller, lower-cost housing forms within proximity to existing essential services.</p>
Objective 7 – Provide for appropriate rural residential development.	Relevant.	<p>Consistent. The Planning Proposal provides for appropriate rural residential development by allowing secondary dwellings that support intergenerational living and farm succession which is consistent with the character and function of rural areas. It enables older landowners to remain on</p>

Part, Objective and Actions	Relevance	Consistency
		their property while downsizing and allows families to provide mutual support for rural communities.
Objective 8 – Provide for short-term accommodation.	Relevant.	The Planning Proposal supports short-term accommodation opportunities, where permitted by the zone and local policy. This can help meet identified short-term needs, such as seasonal workforce or visitor accommodation, without relying on traditional short-term.
Objective 9 – Plan for resilient places that respect local character	Relevant.	The Planning Proposal maintains the subordinate and ancillary nature of secondary dwellings, ensuring that development remains compatible with existing residential and rural character. By allowing greater flexibility within the existing built form, it supports resilient communities that can adapt to demographic and economic change while preserving local character.
Objective 10 – Improve connections between Murray River communities	Not relevant, the proposal does not relate to connections between Murray River Communities	N/A
Objective 11 – Plan for integrated and resilient utility infrastructure	Relevant.	The proposal supports efficient use of existing infrastructure by promoting development within serviced areas. Secondary dwellings share access, utilities and services with the principal dwelling which minimises additional infrastructure demand while supporting the resilience and cost-effectiveness of local utility networks.
Part 3 - Economy		
Objective 12 – Strategically plan for rural industries	Not relevant, the proposal does not relate to rural industries.	N/A
Objective 13 – Support the transition to net zero by 2050	Not relevant, the proposal does not relate to energy use.	Notwithstanding, the Planning Proposal supports the transition to net zero by promoting more efficient and sustainable land use through infill development within existing serviced areas. Secondary dwellings typically have smaller footprints and lower construction and operational energy demands compared to standard detached houses.
Objective 14 – Protecting and promoting industrial	Not relevant, the proposal does not seek to achieve	N/A

Part, Objective and Actions	Relevance	Consistency
and manufacturing land	industrial or manufacturing outcomes.	
Objective 15 – Support the economic vitality of CBDs and main streets	Relevant.	The Planning Proposal supports this objective by providing lower-cost and diverse housing options proximate to town centres. This indirectly supports the economic vitality of CBDs and main streets through population increase and sustainment of local businesses, services and community facilities.
Objective 16 – Support the visitor economy	Not relevant, the proposal does not relate to tourism.	N/A
Objective 17 – Strategically plan for health and education precincts	Not relevant, the proposal does not relate to health and education precincts.	Notwithstanding, the Planning Proposal complements planning for health and education precincts by providing a wider range of nearby housing options for staff, students and families. Secondary dwellings contribute to a more flexible and lower-cost housing supply in areas with access to existing employment and health infrastructure.
Objective 18 – Integrate transport and land use planning	Relevant.	At a local level, the Planning Proposal is consistent with this objective as it promotes infill development that utilises and consolidates existing transport and utility infrastructure, reducing reliance on new greenfield land release.

In summary, the Planning Proposal is consistent with the relevant objectives of the RMRP by facilitating housing diversity, supporting infill development, and improving housing affordability within established urban areas serviced by existing infrastructure.

Wagga Wagga Local Housing Strategy 2025

The Wagga Wagga Local Housing Strategy (LHS) provides a 20-year strategic framework for residential development in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area. The Strategy identifies current and projected housing supply, demand, diversity, affordability needs and establishes preferred locations for future housing development.

The LHS was exhibited from June to August 2025 and subsequently endorsed at Council's Ordinary Meeting on 15 December 2025.

The Planning Proposal directly supports key initiatives and actions identified in the LHS.

The LHS specifically recognises secondary dwellings as an important component of housing diversity and includes actions to encourage uptake of secondary dwellings on existing residential lots. The Strategy identifies the need to examine opportunities and constraints around secondary dwelling development, including a review of current floor area controls. This Planning Proposal is a direct implementation of those strategic actions.

The LHS recommends prioritising infill development within established urban areas to maximise the use of existing infrastructure and services. Secondary dwellings represent an efficient form of infill development that adds housing supply without requiring rezoning or infrastructure expansion into greenfield areas.

25456 Amendment to Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010

The LHS emphasises the need for a greater mix of dwelling types and sizes to accommodate changing household structures, an aging population, and affordability pressures. Increasing the maximum floor area for secondary dwellings from 33% to 65% enables functional 1-2 bedroom dwellings that respond to identified gaps in the housing market.

The Planning Proposal is therefore consistent with key strategic directions of the LHS.

Draft Interim Affordable Housing Paper

The Draft Interim Affordable Housing Paper (IAHP) identifies multiple factors contributing to demand for social and lower-cost housing in Wagga Wagga, including:

- Rental affordability pressures and rent increases
- Growing social housing waitlists
- Aging social housing stock requiring replacement
- Demand for worker accommodation associated with major infrastructure projects
- Mismatch between household sizes and available dwelling types

The draft IAHP was exhibited with the draft LHS during June to August 2025 and Council is currently refining the paper into a comprehensive Affordable Housing Strategy.

The Planning Proposal supports the objectives of the draft IAHP.

Secondary dwellings may provide lower-cost housing options for those in the rental market, including key workers, students, and low-income households. The ability to build larger, more functional secondary dwellings makes them more viable and attractive as rental accommodation.

Increasing the maximum floor area from 33% to 65% allows secondary dwellings to move beyond studio configurations to functional 1-2 bedroom dwellings suitable for a wider range of household types, including small families, couples, and individuals requiring accessible housing. An analysis of secondary dwelling development applications in Wagga Wagga from 2014 found that the average number of bedrooms per dwelling was 1.35. Importantly, 2-bedroom secondary dwellings had an average floor area of approximately 80m² which demonstrates that meaningful increases in floor area are required to deliver layouts that meet contemporary living expectations.

Secondary dwellings provide property owners with rental income that can offset mortgage costs and living expenses, improving housing affordability for owner-occupiers while simultaneously adding to rental housing supply.

Larger secondary dwellings enable elderly relatives or adult children to live independently but close to family support, reducing demand aged care facilities. In a rural context, this also allows for succession planning, supporting continued productivity in rural enterprises. It is noted that this Planning Proposal does not seek to undermine agricultural operations and rural dwellings can have the potential to increase land use conflict with adjoining agricultural activities if not appropriately located or regulated. Secondary dwellings remain ancillary to the primary dwelling, do not create separate titles and are subject to clear controls regarding occupancy, scale, servicing and siting. These controls ensure that agricultural land use and farm layouts are not compromised and that incompatible land uses are not introduced.

The Planning Proposal is therefore consistent with the strategic directions of the draft Interim Affordable Housing Paper and will contribute to improving housing affordability outcomes in Wagga Wagga.

Q4. Is the Planning Proposal consistent with a Council LSPS that has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary or GSC, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?

The Planning Proposal is consistent with the Wagga Wagga Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

The Wagga Wagga LSPS establishes a 20-year strategic framework for planning and development within the Local Government Area. It sets a vision for Wagga Wagga to grow as an innovative, thriving, and connected regional city with a population target of 100,000, balanced with environmental sustainability and liveability. The LSPS is structured around three key themes:

- The Environment
- Growing Economy
- Community, Place and Identity

The Planning Proposal aligns with and supports the following planning principles of the LSPS.

Principle 3 – Manage growth sustainably

This principle applies the ‘protect, minimise, mitigate, offset’ hierarchy to ensure development in Wagga Wagga occurs sustainably while managing impacts on biodiversity and natural systems.

The Planning Proposal supports this principle by encouraging infill development on existing properties where infrastructure is already established or can be managed by on-site infrastructure in rural areas. Secondary dwellings represent a low-impact form of development without requiring infrastructure extension or environmental impacts associated with larger greenfield development.

Principle 7 – Growth is supported by sustainable infrastructure

This principle emphasises that utilizing existing infrastructure capacity is essential to achieving sustainable population growth and avoiding the burden of premature infrastructure expansion.

The Planning Proposal directly implements this principle by facilitating additional housing supply within established areas already serviced by infrastructure or in a ‘low-impact’ manner. Secondary dwellings add population and housing without resulting in significant infrastructure loads or requiring significant investment. By increasing the maximum floor area for secondary dwellings, the amendment improves their viability and attractiveness, encouraging property owners to maximise the capacity of existing infrastructure rather than driving demand for urban expansion.

Principle 10 – Provide for a diversity of housing that meets our needs

This principle recognises the need for diverse housing types to accommodate an aging and diversifying population while maintaining liveability, community cohesion, and local character. The LSPS identifies the need for increased medium-density housing and smaller dwelling options to improve diversity and affordability.

The Planning Proposal directly addresses this principle by enabling functional, liveable secondary dwellings that respond to identified gaps in the housing market. Under current controls, secondary dwellings are constrained to ‘studio-style’ accommodation (i.e. 60m²) on all lots with principal dwellings less than 182m². This limits their suitability for key demographic groups including:

- Older residents seeking to downsize while remaining close to family
- Adult children requiring independent accommodation near aging parents
- Small households and couples seeking lower-cost housing options
- Workers requiring short-term accommodation for major infrastructure projects

Increasing the maximum allowable floor area enables secondary dwellings to provide greater variety of accommodation with separate living spaces, improved accessibility features, and enhanced liveability. This expands housing choice within established areas, supporting diverse living arrangements including aging-in-place, multi-generational households, and lower-cost rental accommodation. The Planning Proposal responds to contemporary demographic trends and housing needs while maintaining the subordinate character of secondary dwellings relative to principal dwellings.

Q5. Is the Planning Proposal consistent with any other applicable State and regional studies or strategies?

This Planning Proposal is consistent with applicable State or Regional studies and strategies as outlined below:

Housing 2041 – NSW Housing Strategy

Housing 2041 is the NSW Government's long-term housing strategy, structured around four key pillars: Supply, Affordability, Diversity, and Resilience. The Planning Proposal aligns with and supports each of these pillars:

In relation to supply, the Planning Proposal facilitates additional housing supply by making secondary dwellings more feasible and attractive to property owners. By increasing the maximum floor area from 33% to 65%, the proposal removes a key constraint that currently limits secondary dwelling development. Analysis of comparable councils demonstrates that more permissive floor area controls result in significantly higher approval rates for secondary dwellings.

In relation to affordability, secondary dwellings provide a lower-cost housing option through smaller dwelling sizes, shared infrastructure costs with the principal dwelling, and opportunity for streamlined approval processes through complying development pathways. These considerations have flow on effects in the form of lower establishment and maintenance costs which reduce the ultimate costs of this housing type.

In relation to diversity, the Planning Proposal will expand housing choice by enabling a greater range of secondary dwellings suitable for diverse household types including elderly residents, young professionals, small families, and workers. This addresses the identified gap in Wagga Wagga's housing market, where more traditional 3-4 bedroom single-family homes dominate supply.

In relation to resilience, secondary dwellings support housing resilience by providing flexible accommodation options that can adapt to changing household needs over time. They enable aging-in-place, accommodate returning adult children, provide worker accommodation during major infrastructure projects, rural succession planning and also offer income stability for property owners facing cost-of-living pressures.

The Planning Proposal therefore directly implements and supports the strategic directions of Housing 2041 within the local Wagga Wagga context.

Regional Housing Taskforce

The NSW Government established the Regional Housing Taskforce in June 2021 in response to increasing pressures on housing supply and affordability across regional NSW. The Taskforce conducted extensive consultation throughout regional NSW, including a dedicated Riverina Murray roundtable session in August 2021 with 39 participants, and delivered findings in September 2021 followed by recommendations in November 2021.

The Taskforce findings confirmed that regional housing markets were experiencing acute pressures, with rents growing faster than in Greater Sydney, low rental vacancy rates, and relatively high house price growth. The Riverina Murray region was identified as one of the areas experiencing significant housing challenges requiring targeted policy responses. The Riverina Murray region has been identified as experiencing housing affordability pressures and supply constraints, particularly for smaller dwelling types and lower-cost rental accommodation².

The Taskforce findings report found that regional housing markets are particularly vulnerable to spikes in demand from seasonal or temporary workers, especially in the agriculture, mining, and construction sectors. This finding is particularly relevant to Wagga Wagga, where major infrastructure projects including Inland Rail, Humelink, Project Energy Connect, and Defence infrastructure upgrades are generating substantial temporary worker accommodation needs.

The Taskforce identified a widespread mismatch between housing needs and current housing provision across regional NSW, with the majority of housing stock comprising large, detached houses with three or more bedrooms, while growing demand exists for smaller dwellings due to rising numbers of lone person households, shrinking household sizes, and an aging population. This aligns directly with the housing analysis for Wagga Wagga outlined in the Background section of this Planning Proposal and has been a consistent theme in background work to the LHS.

² Refer to *Table 5 Top 5 issues raised in written submissions by region*

This Planning Proposal directly responds to the Regional Housing Taskforce's findings and recommendations through the following.

- Increasing the maximum floor area percentage from 33% to 65% removes a specific regulatory barrier that currently limits the feasibility and attractiveness of secondary dwellings as a diverse housing option.
- The findings of the Taskforce emphasised the need for smaller dwelling options (1-2 bedrooms) to accommodate demographic change. This Planning Proposal enables secondary dwellings on standard principal dwellings to exceed studio-style accommodation and provide functional separate bedroom configurations, while still retaining a secondary dwelling status.
- Larger and more functional secondary dwellings provide flexible accommodation options for seasonal or temporary workers on large infrastructure projects such as Inland Rail, Humelink, and Defence infrastructure upgrades, as well as other rural enterprises or growing industries.

The Planning Proposal therefore represents targeted implementation of the Regional Housing Taskforce's recommendations, tailored to Wagga Wagga's specific housing market conditions and aligned with the state-wide strategic response to regional housing challenges.

Select Committee on Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform

The Select Committee on Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform was set up by the NSW Parliament in 2025 and is expected to issue a full report in February 2026. It sits within the Legislative Council committee system and is operating as a time-limited enquiry.

The terms of reference direct the committee to look at reforms that would facilitate the building of second dwellings in rural zones, including potential amendments to State Environmental Planning Policies and local planning controls. The inquiry has been set up as a response to the pressure for rural and regional housing crisis and the difficulties farmers and other rural landowners face when trying to add another dwelling on their land for family or workers.

The inquiry submission released in October 2025 outlined several planning reform mechanisms to improve the delivery of secondary dwellings. While the work is ongoing, the Department is investigating potential amendments to the Housing SEPP that could encourage secondary dwellings to be approved through the CDC pathway. One proposed mechanism involves the removal or expansion of maximum floor area requirements for secondary dwellings which is an approach that aligns with this Planning Proposal to increase allowable floor areas.

Q6. Is the Planning Proposal consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies?

This Planning Proposal is consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs).

A detailed assessment against all SEPPs is provided below. The majority of SEPPs are not applicable to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area or to the circumstances of this Planning Proposal, which relates solely to development standards for secondary dwellings within existing permissible zones.

Where SEPPs are applicable, the Planning Proposal is consistent with their objectives and provisions.

Table 5 | Consistency with Applicable SEPPs

Policy	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021		
Chapter 2 – Vegetation in non-rural areas	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Policy	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
Chapter 3 – Koala habitat protection 2020	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 4 – Koala habitat protection 2021	Applies to relevant zones in the LGA.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 5 – River Murray lands	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 6 – Water Catchments	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 7 – 12	Repealed.	Not applicable.
Chapter 13 – Strategic conservation planning	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021		
Chapter 2 – Affordable housing	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 3 – Diverse housing	Applies to all land in the State.	This Part applies to development for the purposes of a secondary dwelling on land in a residential zone if development for the purposes of a dwelling house is permissible on the land under another environmental planning instrument. Under this SEPP, secondary dwellings can be constructed as complying development in an R1, R2,

Policy	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
		<p>R3, R4 and R5 Large Lot Residential under the following controls:</p> <p><i>(a) no dwellings, other than the principal dwelling and the secondary dwelling, will be located on the land, and</i></p> <p><i>(b) the total floor area of the principal dwelling and the secondary dwelling is no more than the maximum floor area permitted for a dwelling house on the land under another environmental planning instrument, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) the total floor area of the secondary dwelling is—</i></p> <p><i>(i) no more than 60m², or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) if a greater floor area is permitted for a secondary dwelling on the land under another environmental planning instrument—the greater floor area.</i></p> <p>The Planning Proposal is considered consistent with this chapter of the SEPP as it will continue to lawfully enable a greater secondary dwelling size through the LEP mechanism. The proposal continues to satisfy the SEPP's intent by allowing only one secondary dwelling that remains subordinate to the principal dwelling. In doing so, the amendment maintains consistency with State policy while enabling more practical and liveable secondary dwellings that respond to regional affordability and demographic trends.</p> <p>As discussed above, the <i>Inquiry Into Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform</i> has identified that DPHI is currently reviewing the scope of secondary dwelling controls. It is considering the amendment (or removal) of prescriptive floor space restrictions in the Housing SEPP to better support housing diversity and affordability outcomes across rural and regional NSW. The Planning Proposal is consistent with the direction of this review and aligns with emerging State policy objectives aimed at increasing flexibility.</p>
Chapter 4 – Design of Residential Apartment Development	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021		
Chapter 2 – Western Sydney employment area	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Policy	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
Chapter 3 – Advertising and signage	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021

Chapter 2 – State and Regional Development	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 3 – Aboriginal land	Applies to land owned by an Aboriginal Land Council.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 4 – Concurrences and consents	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Central River City) 2021

Chapter 2 – State significant precincts	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 3 – Sydney region growth centres	Not applicable to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
Chapter 4 – Homebush Bay area	Not applicable to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
Chapter 5 – Kurnell Peninsula	Not applicable to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.

Policy	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
Chapter 6 – Urban renewal precincts	Not applicable to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Eastern Harbour City) 2021		
Chapter 2 – State significant precincts	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 3 – Darling Harbour	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 4 – City West	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 5 – Walsh Bay	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 6 – Cooks Cove	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 7 – Moore Park Showground	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Regional) 2021		
Chapter 2 – State significant precincts	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 3 – Activation precincts	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 4 – Kosciuszko National Park and alpine resorts	Not applicable to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
Chapter 5 – Gosford city centre	Not applicable to the Wagga Wagga Local	Not applicable.

Policy	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
	Government Area.	
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Western Parkland City) 2021		
Chapter 2 – State significant precincts	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 3 – Sydney region growth centres	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 4 – Western Sydney Aerotropolis	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 5 – Penrith Lakes Scheme	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 6 – St Mary’s	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 7 – Western Sydney Parklands	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021		
Chapter 2 – Primary production and rural development	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 3 – Central Coast plateau areas	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021		
Chapter 2 – Coastal management	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 3 – Hazardous and offensive development	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP.

Policy	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
Chapter 4 – Remediation of land	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021

Chapter 2 – Mining, petroleum production and extractive industries	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters.
Chapter 3 – Extractive industries in Sydney area	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

Chapter 2 – Infrastructure	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 3 – Educational establishments and child care facilities	Applies to all land in the State.	The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the aims and functions of this SEPP. All development applications as a result of the amendment will continue to consider these matters if relevant.
Chapter 4 – Major infrastructure corridors	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 5 – Three ports – Port Botany, Port Kembla and Newcastle	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Chapter 6 – Moorebank Freight Intermodal Precinct	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Draft State Environmental Planning Policies

Environment SEPP	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
------------------	-----------------	-----------------

Policy	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
Corridor Protection SEPP	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

No inconsistencies with relevant SEPPs have been identified.

Q7. Is the Planning Proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (s.9.1 Directions)?

This Planning Proposal is consistent with applicable section 9.1 Directions issued by the Minister for Planning and Homes under the EP&A Act.

Section 9.1 Directions establish principles, aims, objectives, and policies that must be considered in the preparation of LEPs. A Planning Proposal must be consistent with the requirements of these Directions unless an inconsistency can be justified on the grounds that:

- The Planning Proposal is of minor significance, or
- The consent authority has considered a local environmental study that justifies the departure, or
- Other specific justification criteria within the Direction are met

A comprehensive assessment against all section 9.1 Directions is provided below. This assessment determines that the Planning Proposal is either consistent with the Direction, or where applicable, justifiably inconsistent in accordance with the criteria specified within the relevant Direction.

Table 6 | Consistency with Ministerial Directions

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
1. Planning Systems			
1.1	Implementation of Regional Plans	Applies to all Planning Proposals that apply to land where a Regional Plan has been prepared.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with the goals, directions and actions as contained within the <i>Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041</i> . A full response in relation to this Regional Plan has been provided above.
1.2	Development of Aboriginal Land Council Land	Not applicable, as the subject land is not identified on the Land Application Map of State Environmental Planning Policy (Aboriginal Land) 2019.	Not applicable.
1.3	Approval and Referral Requirements	Applies to all Planning Proposals.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction because it does not propose any referral or concurrence requirements or nominate any development as 'designated development'.

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
1.4	Site Specific Provisions	Not applicable, the Planning Proposal does not seek to introduce any site-specific provisions.	Not applicable.
1.4A	Exclusion of Development Standards for Variation	Not applicable, the Planning Proposal does not seek to introduce or alter an existing exclusion to clause 4.6 of a Standard Instrument LEP	Not applicable.

1. Planning Systems – Place Based

1.5	Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.6	Implementation of North West Priority Growth Area Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.7	Implementation of Greater Parramatta Priority Growth Area Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.8	Implementation of Wilton Priority Growth Area Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.9	Implementation of Glenfield to Macarthur Urban Renewal Corridor	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.10	Implementation of Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
1.11	Implementation of Bayside West Precincts 2036 Plan	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.12	Implementation of Planning Principles for the Cooks Cove Precinct	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.13	Implementation of St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 Plan	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.14	Implementation of Greater Macarthur 2040	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.15	Implementation of the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.16	North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.17	Implementation of Bays West Place Strategy	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.18	Implementation of the Macquarie Park Innovation Precinct	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.19	Implementation of the Westmead Place Strategy	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.20	Implementation of the Camellia-Rosehill Place Strategy	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.21	Implementation of South West Growth Area Structure Plan	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.
1.22	Implementation of the Cherrybrook	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga LGA.	Not applicable.

25456 Amendment to Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010

30

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
	Station Place Strategy		
Design and Place			
Nil	N/A	This Focus Area was blank when the Directions were made	N/A
Biodiversity and Conservation			
3.1	Conservation Zones	This direction applies to all Planning Proposals.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it does not seek to reduce the environmental protection standards that apply to any relevant land.
3.2	Heritage Conservation	This direction applies to all Planning Proposals.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it does not affect existing provisions relating to the protection of known European and Aboriginal heritage.
3.3	Sydney Drinking Water Catchment	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
3.4	Application of C2 and C3 Zones and Environmental Overlays in Far North Coast LEPs.	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
3.5	Recreation Vehicle Areas	This direction applies to all Planning Proposals.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction because it does not enable land to be developed for the purpose of a recreation vehicle area (within the meaning of the Recreation Vehicles Act 1983).
3.6	Strategic Conservation Planning	Not applicable, as the Planning Proposal does not relate to land under State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 identified as 'avoided land' or a 'strategic conservation area'.	Not applicable.

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
3.7	Public Bushland	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
3.8	Willandra Lakes Region	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
3.9	Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
3.10	Water Catchment Protection	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.

Resilience and Hazards

4.1	Flooding	This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities that are responsible for flood prone land when preparing a Planning Proposal that creates, removes or alters a zone or a provision that affects flood prone land.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it's only amending an existing LEP provision which already permits secondary dwellings on land zoned R1, R3, R5, MU1, C4, RU1, RU2, RU4, RU5. The proposal does not seek to alter any provisions related to flooding controls and further development on such land will be subject to assessment as necessary.
4.2	Coastal Management	Not applicable, Wagga Wagga Local Government Area is not considered coastal area.	Not applicable.
4.3	Planning for Bushfire Protection	This direction applies to all local government areas when a relevant planning authority prepares a Planning Proposal that will affect, or is in proximity to, land mapped as bushfire prone land.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it's only amending an existing LEP provision which already permits secondary dwellings on land zoned R1, R3, R5, MU1, C4, RU1, RU2, RU4, RU5. The proposal does not seek to alter any provisions related to bushfire controls and further development on such land will be subject to assessment as necessary.

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
4.4	Remediation of Contaminated Land	This direction applies to development for residential purposes whereby land contamination is incomplete or requires investigation.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it's only amending an existing LEP provision which already permits secondary dwellings on land zoned R1, R3, R5, MU1, C4, RU1, RU2, RU4, RU5. The Planning Proposal does not conflict with the SEPP Hazards and Risk provisions related to contaminated land matters and necessary investigations will be required during assessment of a development application.
4.5	Acid Sulphate Soils	Not applicable, the subject land is not identified as containing acid sulphate soils.	Not applicable.
4.6	Mine Subsidence & Unstable Land	Not applicable, the subject land is not within a Mine Subsistence District.	Not applicable.

Transport and Infrastructure

5.1	Integrating Land Use and Transport	This direction applies to a Planning Proposal that will create, alter or remove a zone or a provision relating to urban land, including land zoned for residential, employment, village or tourist purposes.	<p>The objective of this direction is to ensure that urban structures, building forms, land use locations, development designs, subdivision and street layouts achieve the following planning objectives:</p> <p><i>(a) improving access to housing, jobs and services by walking, cycling and public transport, and</i></p> <p><i>(b) increasing the choice of available transport and reducing dependence on cars, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) reducing travel demand including the number of trips generated by development and the distances travelled, especially by car, and</i></p> <p><i>(d) supporting the efficient and viable operation of public transport services, and</i></p> <p><i>(e) providing for the efficient movement of freight.</i></p> <p>The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it's only</p>
-----	------------------------------------	--	---

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
			amending an existing LEP provision which already permits secondary dwellings on existing urban zoned capable of achieving the above objectives.
5.2	Reserving Land for Public Purposes	This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a Planning Proposal that creates, alters or removes a zone or a provision to enable development on land reserved for public purposes.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction because it does not affect any land reserved for public purposes.
5.3	Development Near Regulated Airports and Defence Airfields	This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a Planning Proposal that will create, alter or remove a zone or a provision relating to land near a regulated airport which includes a defence airfield.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it's only amending an existing LEP provision which already permits secondary dwellings on land zoned R1, R3, R5, MU1, C4, RU1, RU2, RU4, RU5. The proposal does not seek to alter any provisions related to airport controls and further development on such land will be subject to Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) assessment as necessary.
5.4	Shooting Ranges	This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a Planning Proposal that will affect, create, alter or remove a zone or a provision relating to land adjacent to and/ or adjoining an existing shooting range.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it's only amending an existing LEP provision which already permits secondary dwellings on land zoned R1, R3, R5, MU1, C4, RU1, RU2, RU4, RU5. The proposal does not seek to rezone any land adjacent to or adjoining an existing shooting range.
5.5	High pressure dangerous goods pipelines	This direction applies when a Planning Proposal authority prepares a Planning Proposal that would permit development for one or more of the specified uses in the application area of relevant pipelines.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it's only amending an existing LEP provision which already permits secondary dwellings on land zoned R1, R3, R5, MU1, C4, RU1, RU2, RU4, RU5. Any existing pipeline and their easements will be considered during assessment of any relevant development applications.

Housing

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
6.1	Residential Zones	This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a Planning Proposal that will affect land within an existing or proposed residential zone (including the alteration of any existing residential zone boundary), or any other zone in which significant residential development is permitted or proposed to be permitted.	<p>A Planning Proposal must, in relation to land to which this direction applies:</p> <p>(a) contain a requirement that residential development is not permitted until land is adequately serviced (or arrangements satisfactory to the council, or other appropriate authority, have been made to service it), and</p> <p>(b) not contain provisions which will reduce the permissible residential density of land.</p> <p>The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it seeks to amend an existing LEP provision on existing residential land which already permits secondary dwellings and has adequate service infrastructure. The proposal provides opportunities to broaden the housing design type in the LGA and reduces the consumption of land for housing and associated urban development on the urban fringe.</p>
6.2	Caravan Parks & Manufactured Home Estates	This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a Planning Proposal	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it does not reduce the opportunities for caravan parks and manufactured homes estates on the subject land.

Industry and Employment

7.1	Business and Industrial Zones	This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a Planning Proposal that will affect land within an existing or proposed Employment zone.	The Planning Proposal is consistent with this direction as it does not reduce the opportunities for employment uses and related public services.
7.2	Reduction in non-hosted short term rental accommodation period	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable. This direction does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
7.3	Commercial and Retail Development along the Pacific Highway, North Coast	Not applicable, the subject land is not located within proximity to the Pacific Highway.	Not applicable.

Resources and Energy

8.1	Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries	Not applicable, the Planning Proposal does not impact on mining, petroleum or extractive industries.	<p>The subject Planning Proposal will not:</p> <p>(a) prohibit the mining of coal or other minerals, production of petroleum, or winning or obtaining of extractive materials, or</p> <p>(b) restrict the potential development of resources of coal, other minerals, petroleum or extractive materials which are of State or regional significance by permitting a land use that is likely to be incompatible with such development.</p>
-----	--	--	---

Primary Production

9.1	Rural Zones	Not applicable, the Planning Proposal is not rezoning land in accordance with 9.1(1)(a) nor is 9.1(1)(b) relevant to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.
9.2	Rural Lands	This direction applies when a relevant planning authority prepares a Planning Proposal for land outside the local government areas of lake Macquarie, Newcastle, Wollongong and LGAs in the Greater Sydney Region (as defined in the Greater Sydney Commission Act 2015) other than Wollondilly and Hawkesbury.	<p>The Planning Proposal affects land within an existing rural and conservation zone therefore 9.2(1)(a) is relevant. The proposal is considered consistent with this direction as it does not limit or alter any of the rural opportunities and activities on the land:</p> <p><i>(a) be consistent with any applicable strategic plan, including regional and district plans endorsed by the Planning Secretary, and any applicable local strategic planning statement</i></p>

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
			<p><i>(b) consider the significance of agriculture and primary production to the State and rural communities</i></p> <p><i>(c) identify and protect environmental values, including but not limited to, maintaining biodiversity, the protection of native vegetation, cultural heritage, and the importance of water resources</i></p> <p><i>(d) consider the natural and physical constraints of the land, including but not limited to, topography, size, location, water availability and ground and soil conditions</i></p> <p><i>(e) promote opportunities for investment in productive, diversified, innovative and sustainable rural economic activities</i></p> <p><i>(f) support farmers in exercising their right to farm</i></p> <p><i>(g) prioritise efforts and consider measures to minimise the fragmentation of rural land and reduce the risk of land use conflict, particularly between residential land uses and other rural land use</i></p> <p><i>(h) consider State significant agricultural land identified in chapter 2 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021 for the purpose of ensuring the ongoing viability of this land</i></p> <p><i>(i) consider the social, economic and environmental interests of the community</i></p> <p>The proposal also encourages these opportunities on rural land by enabling secondary dwellings that support landowners and their families in continuing their right to farm. This approach allows older generations to remain on their property while downsizing to a more suitable dwelling.</p>
9.3	Oyster Aquaculture	Not applicable as the subject site is not identified as a	Not applicable.

No.	Title	Applicable to Planning Proposal	Consistency
		'Priority Oyster Aquaculture Area' and is not identified in the <i>NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy</i> (2006)	
9.4	Farmland of State & Regional Significance on the NSW Far North Coast	Not applicable, does not apply to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	Not applicable.

No unresolved inconsistencies with section 9.1 Directions have been identified.

3.6. Section C – Environmental, Social and Economic Impact

Q8. Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected as a result of the proposal?

This Planning Proposal is not site-specific and any secondary dwelling applications as a result of the proposal that have the potential to impact critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats will continue to be assessed during the appropriate assessment pathway. The proposal will only amend development standards and does not rezone land, identify specific development sites, or authorise any particular development that is not already permitted.

The Planning Proposal does not alter existing environmental assessment requirements or processes.

Q9. Are there any other likely environmental effects as a result of the Planning Proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?

No significant environmental effects are anticipated as a result of the Planning Proposal.

The Planning Proposal amends maximum floor area percentages for secondary dwellings but does not change the land zoning or permissibility of secondary dwellings, site coverage, setback, height, or other development controls and does not change environmental assessment requirements.

Secondary dwellings will continue to be assessed against all applicable environmental planning controls and relevant matters for consideration on a case-by-case basis. The Planning Proposal does generally support environmental sustainability by encouraging infill development.

Q10. Has the Planning Proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?

The proposal is expected to have positive social and economic impacts by responding to community demand for diverse and lower-cost housing types. It has the potential to be a supplementary income for principal dwelling owners, increase rental housing stock and provide inter-generational accommodation, particularly for families on farming lots.

3.7. Section D – State and Commonwealth Interests

Q11. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the Planning Proposal?

It is considered that there is adequate infrastructure for the proposal. Infrastructure associated with the principal dwelling is deemed sufficient and connections will be in accordance with service provider requirements.

The proposal seeks to largely encourage infill development within existing urban zones where the majority of essential services and trunk infrastructure are already in place. In rural areas, secondary dwellings can typically be provided with appropriate on-site infrastructure, subject to appropriate assessment of sizing.

Any new secondary dwelling development will be required to comply with specific service provider requirements and development standards at the Development Application (DA) or Complying Development Certificate (CDC) stage, ensuring that local service standards are maintained.

Q12. What are the views of State and Commonwealth public authorities consulted in accordance with the Gateway Determination?

Initial consultation regarding this specific Planning Proposal for Wagga Wagga was undertaken with the Department in June 2025. The Department advised Council to ensure that the increased size maintains a clear functional and physical distinction between a secondary dwelling and a dual occupancy development.

The proposal aims to provide greater flexibility and functionality for secondary dwellings while ensuring they remain ancillary and subordinate to the principal dwelling. The proposed 65% maximum total floor area retains a proportional size limit rather than adopting a high fixed maximum. This design standard reinforces the relationship where the secondary dwelling must remain visually and functionally secondary in nature.

Unlike dual occupancy development, secondary dwellings must remain within the same title as the principal dwelling, which limits their market appeal (suitable for smaller, related households) and reduces potential impacts on essential services and infrastructure capacity compared to strata or Torrens title separation. This results in a more incremental increase in demand on local infrastructure compared to dual occupancies which are designed to operate as fully autonomous dwellings and may require separate or upgraded service connections to support independent occupation and future subdivision potential.

The proposal seeks to respond to demonstrated demand for more diverse housing options which is consistent with both the planning framework and contemporary standards of liveability.

Relevant public authorities, including the Department, will be formally consulted further in accordance with the requirements of the Gateway Determination and the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline.

4. Mapping

The Planning Proposal does not require any amendments to maps adopted under the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 (WWLEP 2010).

The proposed amendments relate solely to development standards (maximum total floor area) within existing land use zones where secondary dwellings are already permissible.

5. Community Consultation

The Planning Proposal will be exhibited in accordance with the requirements of Clause 4 of Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act, the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (August 2023), and any specific conditions imposed by the Gateway Determination.

It is anticipated to be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 20 working days, or as otherwise specified in Council's adopted Community Participation Plan (CPP).

Written notification of the community consultation will be published on Councils' website and the NSW Planning Portal. In addition to this, any Public Authorities, Government Agencies and other key stakeholders as determined by the Gateway Determination will be notified accordingly.

Written notification of the public exhibition will be provided through multiple channels, including the following.

- Public notices to be provided in on Councils' website and the NSW Planning Portal.
- Documents of the Planning Proposal and supporting material at Council's customer service counter;
- Electronic copies of all documentation being made available to the community free of charge (preferably via downloads from Council's website).
- Notification of all relevant State and Commonwealth public authorities, Government Agencies, and key stakeholders identified in the Gateway Determination.

The written public notice in relation to the above will contain all mandatory information required by the Guideline, including:

- A brief description of the Planning Proposal's objectives and intended outcomes.
- An indication of the land affected by the proposal (the relevant land use zones).
- Information on where and when the Planning Proposal can be inspected.
- The closing date for submissions.
- Confirmation of any delegation of plan-making powers from the Minister to Council.
- The name and address of Council for the receipt of submissions.

During the public exhibition period, the following documents will be made available to the community free of charge (electronically and in physical copies at Council public buildings):

- The Planning Proposal document
- The issued Gateway Determination
- Any technical information relied upon by the Planning Proposal (if applicable)
- Relevant Council reports endorsing the Proposal

At the conclusion of the public exhibition period, Council staff will consider, collate, and respond to all submissions received. A final report will then be prepared for Council to consider the submissions and endorse the final document for submission to the Department for gazettal.

5.1. Project Timeline

The project timeline for the Planning Proposal is indicative only and has been prepared based on the DPHI's LEP-making 'benchmark timelines'. It is noted that factors such as the volume of submissions received, the cycle of Council meetings, and resource availability may influence compliance with the proposed schedule.

Table 7 | Project Timeline (indicative)

Milestone	Description	Anticipated Timeframe
Lodgement	Lodge Planning Proposal with DPHI seeking Gateway Determination.	December 2025
Gateway Determination)	DPHI issues Gateway Determination.	6-8 Weeks
Public Exhibition	Undertake public exhibition of Planning Proposal in accordance with Gateway conditions.	4 Weeks (minimum 20 working days)
Consider Submissions & Finalise Planning Proposal	Consider and respond to submissions, and prepare a post-exhibition report to Council	4 weeks to collate, consider and respond to submissions received.
Council Resolution (Post-Exhibition)	Council considers the outcome of public exhibition and resolves to finalise the Proposal.	4 weeks to prepare council report and include on council agenda.
Submission to NSW DPHI/Parliamentary Counsel	Provide Planning Proposal to DPHI/Parliamentary Counsel (if delegated) for finalisation.	4 weeks.
Notification	Finalisation/gazettal of Planning Proposal	2 weeks.

6. Conclusion

The Planning Proposal seeks to amend Clause 5.4(9)(b) and 5.5(a)(ii) of the *Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2012* to increase the maximum total floor area of secondary dwellings from 33% to 65% of the principal dwelling's size.

The report has been prepared to address the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), as well as satisfying the requirements of Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (August 2023). It provides a comprehensive analysis of the proposal's strategic merit and demonstrates that the amendments are well justified and suitable.

The Planning Proposal has significant strategic merit and is demonstrably in the public interest for the following key reasons:

- The proposal is generally consistent with the strategic planning framework, actively supporting State, Regional and local planning strategies by promoting housing diversity, affordability, and efficient infill development.
- It provides a direct and responsive mechanism to the increasing demand for smaller 1–2 bedroom housing options on suitably serviced and zoned land.
- The amendment solely relates to a numerical development standard within existing permissible zones. The resultant development of the land will not create any environmental or social impacts as it seeks to minorly amend an existing provision whereby statutory matters will still require consideration.
- The development is proposed in response to increasing demands for housing diversity on suitably zoned land, including both urban areas with direct access to services and infrastructure and rural areas where secondary dwellings can be accommodated using existing servicing arrangements.
- There will be a net benefit for the Wagga Wagga community through a potential uptake in secondary dwellings.
- The proposal supports aging-in-place for residents within family properties, multi-generational family living and increases supply of lower-cost rental housing in established areas.

Based on the strategic merit, consistency with the planning directions, and the clear public benefit demonstrated in this report, the proposed amendment is appropriate and well-considered.

Appendix A – Council Resolution (23 June 2025)



Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Gateway Determination

Planning proposal (Department Ref: PP-2025-2534): Amend Clause 5.4(9) & 5.5- Secondary Dwelling Provisions of the Wagga Wagga LEP 2010 to increase the maximum floor area for secondary dwellings.

I, the Director, Southern, Western and Macarthur Region at the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, as delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, have determined under section 3.34(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act) that an amendment to the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 to Amend Clause 5.4(9) & 5.5 - Secondary Dwelling Provisions to increase the maximum floor area should proceed subject to the following

The Council as planning proposal authority is authorised to exercise the functions of the local plan-making authority under section 3.36(2) of the Act subject to the following:

- (a) the planning proposal authority has satisfied all the conditions of the Gateway determination;
- (b) the planning proposal is consistent with applicable directions of the Minister under section 9.1 of the Act or the Secretary has agreed that any inconsistencies are justified; and
- (c) there are no outstanding written objections from public authorities.

The LEP should be completed on or before 19 October 2026.

Gateway Conditions

1. Public exhibition is required under section 3.34(2)(c) and clause 4 of Schedule 1 to the Act as follows:
 - (a) the planning proposal is categorised as standard as described in the *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline* (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023) and must be made publicly available for a minimum of 20 working days; and
 - (b) the planning proposal authority must comply with the notice requirements for public exhibition of planning proposals and the specifications for material that must be made publicly available along with planning proposals as identified in *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline* (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023).

No consultation is required with public authorities or government agencies under section 3.34(2)(d) of the Act.

2. A public hearing is not required to be held into the matter by any person or body under section 3.34(2)(e) of the Act. This does not discharge Council from any obligation it may otherwise have to conduct a public hearing (for example, in response to a submission or if reclassifying land).

Dated 16 February 2026



Chantelle Chow
Director, Southern, Western and
Macarthur Region
Local Planning and Council Support
Department of Planning, Housing and
Infrastructure

Delegate of the Minister for Planning and
Public Spaces

PP-2025-2534 (IRF No 26/26)

LEP25/0001 - Redacted Submissions

Submission 1

Submission

Why just put a clause in to make them bigger? Why not allow a range of tiny houses that can go in quicker and help deal with the housing crisis in a faster and less expensive way? It might stop some of the growing camps at the river.

Submission 2

Submission

We currently have a dual occupancy nearing completion next door at [REDACTED], the idea that such developments could be larger in the future is disappointing and needs more thought with regards to the impact on neighbouring 'family friendly' dwellings.

Developers claimed in their DA "Views are minimal to the residence and its low impact appearance will make sure the residence will not impede on any surrounding neighbouring views" this has proven most inaccurate. The southern facade provides a daily assault to the senses given the massive roof looming large and hideously boring filling our northern boundary. The roof is far taller than other new developments in this area, such an expanse should be reviewed as to its necessity. It looks like an existing house design for newer suburbs squashed into the backyard rather than designed for the specific site. Gone are the lovely curated moments, opening your eyes in the morning to the changing hues of dawn over North Wagga, afternoons on our balcony enjoying the view over neighbouring trees to Rocky Hill and stretching to the Murrumbidgee. With daily reminders of the negatives it has been difficult to focus on any positives, perhaps that it wasn't a multi story dwelling?

However, the bright side came to us once the roof was fully installed, one would describe it as a particular blinding realisation! Given our elevation the sun reflects for many hours each day directly into our property, no longer can we comfortably spend time in our bedroom, verandah, balcony or backyard, the glare is unbearable. Even simple things like walking out the backdoor, glancing out the hallway doors or hanging out the washing becomes fraught as you contend with the sun and the roof glare, a double whammy! Our backyard has a

massive Pin Oak planted many years ago to provide shade and comfort to the house and yard through summer, this summer it was near impossible to enjoy the shade given that the glare and heat reflecting off the roof was directed under the tree into our yard (and house) limiting where we could spend time or entertain. We refer to it as 'our new roof' given that it has impacted our space, time and lives to such an enormous degree. There is just no 'unseeing' it, given it is to our North we can not block it, disguise it or minimise the impact. Planning should require fore thought around the impacts of secondary dwellings in relation to the roof structures, their pitch and neighbouring impacts. DA supporting comments should be questioned by Planners, the site plans provided with the non-conforming DA gave us no indication of exactly how it would affect us and how it would negate the carefully curated aspects of our property and the long term negative impacts on our family life. Our house was designed and built in the late 1940s to maximise light enabling easy outdoor to indoor living which we were sympathetic to in our renovation, that we can no longer utilise our surroundings or home in the same way is devastating. As are the changing circumstances with energy usage.

As the weather becomes hotter the loss of green space backyards and trees in traditional neighbourhoods only fuels temperature rises when they are replaced with buildings and concrete.

Oh, and did I mention the full moon? The reflection becomes like a flood light at night into our bedroom. Autumn has brought us a slight relief with, at times, a 'softer' glare, if that's even a thing!

I once again invite Council staff/members to visit our property to gain a valuable perspective which may assist when future developments come across their desks.

submission

To Whom It May Concern,

The Docutiser team is pleased to provide this submission regarding Amendment to Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 – Clause 5.4(9) & 5.5 – Secondary Dwelling Provisions.

Docutiser is an automatic document review tool that quickly assesses a document against a structured set of review criteria to identify likely gaps, issues and areas for improvement. Our intention in making this submission is to provide constructive feedback on the contents of the planning proposal and to demonstrate the value of Docutiser in saving your team time and resources.

Docutiser provides a practical new layer of confidence for people preparing, commissioning, and reviewing planning documentation. For this submission, we applied a basic planning proposal framework and have set out the issues identified through that assessment. The real value of Docutiser is that these frameworks can be adapted and improved by planning experts, councils, consultants, and agencies, and frameworks can be built to review any kind of document. It can help identify avoidable problems earlier, before they become costly or time-consuming.

Our review found only lower-level issues. These are generally drafting or quality-control observations, rather than issues that necessarily warrant amendment during exhibition. We believe Docutiser can provide a useful new layer of confidence for people preparing, commissioning, and reviewing planning documentation, and our goal is to demonstrate that constructively without wasting the valuable time of your planning team.

As demonstrated by this submission, we are confident that Docutiser will enhance your planning team's effectiveness. You can find out more about Docutiser by visiting www.docutiser.com, or contacting us directly at [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

The Docutiser Team

Proposal Feedback

Low Issues

1. Direction 4.1 — Textual Adequacy of Flood Risk Consideration

The proposal's discussion of flood risk appears to be brief, although it acknowledges that future development will remain subject to relevant flooding controls.

The proposal states that it does not seek to alter flooding controls and that further development on affected land will be assessed as necessary. However, it does not appear to expressly refer to key NSW Government flood policies or guidance, such as the Flood Prone Land Policy, Floodplain Development Manual 2005, or Considering flooding in land use planning guideline 2021.

This appears to be a minor clarification issue. The proposal could be strengthened by briefly identifying the relevant flood planning guidance and explaining how future secondary dwelling assessment will continue to manage flood risk.

2. Direction 4.3 — Adequacy of Bushfire Risk Consideration

The proposal's discussion of bushfire risk appears to be generally adequate at a high level, but may benefit from some additional detail.

The proposal notes that further development on bushfire-prone land will be subject to assessment as necessary and that it does not seek to alter bushfire controls. However, the discussion appears brief and does not expressly refer to Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 or consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

This appears to be a minor issue, but the proposal would be strengthened by briefly confirming how bushfire requirements will be addressed for future secondary dwellings in relevant locations.

3. Direction 1.1 — Adequacy of Regional Plan Consistency (Objective 12)

The proposal may benefit from a minor clarification in its assessment of Objective 12 of the Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041, which relates to strategically planning for rural industries.

The proposal identifies Objective 12 as not relevant because the proposal does not relate to rural industries. However, the proposed amendments appear to apply to secondary dwellings in several rural zones, including RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape and RU4 Primary Production Small Lots.

While the proposal does address agricultural operations and rural land use compatibility elsewhere, it could be strengthened by briefly explaining why the proposed changes are not expected to create land use conflict or adversely affect rural industries.

Submission Summaries and Responses

Community Submissions

Submission	Officer Response
<p>Why just put a clause in to make them bigger? Why not allow a range of tiny houses that can go in quicker and help deal with the housing crisis in a faster and less expensive way? It might stop some of the growing camps at the river.</p>	<p>All secondary dwelling regardless of size are subject to the same approval pathway. Approval pathways and exempt development are determined by the state government. The amendment to the WWLEP 2010 does not alter the approval pathway.</p> <p>The amendment allows for greater housing diversity for secondary dwellings. The amendment will enable larger secondary dwellings to be constructed but does not limit the ability for an applicant to build smaller secondary dwellings.</p>
<p>We currently have a dual occupancy nearing completion next door at (redacted), the idea that such developments could be larger in the future is disappointing and needs more thought with regards to the impact on neighbouring 'family friendly' dwellings. Developers claimed in their DA "Views are minimal to the residence and its low impact appearance will make sure the residence will not impede on any surrounding neighbouring views" this has proven most inaccurate. The southern facade provides a daily assault to the senses given the massive roof looming large and hideously boring filling our northern boundary. The roof is far taller than other new developments in this area, such an expanse should be reviewed as to its necessity. It looks like an existing house design for newer suburbs squashed into the backyard rather than designed for the specific site. Gone are the lovely curated moments, opening your eyes in the morning to the changing hues of dawn over North Wagga, afternoons on our balcony enjoying the view over neighbouring trees to Rocky Hill and stretching to the Murrumbidgee. With daily reminders of the negatives it has been difficult to focus on any positives, perhaps that it wasn't a multi story dwelling? However, the bright side came to us once the roof was fully installed, one would describe it as a particular blinding</p>	<p>This submission is not considered to address the planning proposal amendment as it relates to a development application that approved a dual occupancy and community title subdivision, and demolition of existing garage.</p>

Submission	Officer Response
<p>realisation! Given our elevation the sun reflects for many hours each day directly into our property, no longer can we comfortably spend time in our bedroom, verandah, balcony or backyard, the glare is unbearable. Even simple things like walking out the backdoor, glancing out the hallway doors or hanging out the washing becomes fraught as you contend with the sun and the roof glare, a double whammy! Our backyard has a massive Pin Oak planted many years ago to provide shade and comfort to the house and yard through summer, this summer it was near impossible to enjoy the shade given that the glare and heat reflecting off the roof was directed under the tree into our yard (and house) limiting where we could spend time or entertain. We refer to it as 'our new roof' given that it has impacted our space, time and lives to such an enormous degree. There is just no 'unseeing' it, given it is to our North we can not block it, disguise it or minimise the impact.</p> <p>Planning should require fore thought around the impacts of secondary dwellings in relation to the roof structures, their pitch and neighbouring impacts. DA supporting comments should be questioned by Planners, the site plans provided with the non-conforming DA gave us no indication of exactly how it would affect us and how it would negate the carefully curated aspects of our property and the long term negative impacts on our family life. Our house was designed and built in the late 1940s to maximise light enabling easy outdoor to indoor living which we were sympathetic to in our renovation, that we can no longer utilise our surroundings or home in the same way is devastating. As are the changing circumstances with energy usage.</p> <p>As the weather becomes hotter the loss of green space backyards and trees in traditional neighbourhoods only fuels temperature rises when they are replaced with buildings and concrete.</p> <p>Oh, and did I mention the full moon? The reflection becomes like a flood light at night into our bedroom. Autumn has brought us a slight relief with, at times, a 'softer' glare, if that's even a thing!</p> <p>I once again invite Council staff/members to visit our property to gain a valuable perspective which may assist when future developments come across their desks.</p>	

Submission	Officer Response
<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>The Docutiser team is pleased to provide this submission regarding Amendment to Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 – Clause 5.4(9) & 5.5 – Secondary Dwelling Provisions.</p> <p>Docutiser is an automatic document review tool that quickly assesses a document against a structured set of review criteria to identify likely gaps, issues and areas for improvement. Our intention in making this submission is to provide constructive feedback on the contents of the planning proposal and to demonstrate the value of Docutiser in saving your team time and resources.</p> <p>Docutiser provides a practical new layer of confidence for people preparing, commissioning, and reviewing planning documentation. For this submission, we applied a basic planning proposal framework and have set out the issues identified through that assessment. The real value of Docutiser is that these frameworks can be adapted and improved by planning experts, councils, consultants, and agencies, and frameworks can be built to review any kind of document. It can help identify avoidable problems earlier, before they become costly or time-consuming.</p> <p>Our review found only lower-level issues. These are generally drafting or quality-control observations, rather than issues that necessarily warrant amendment during exhibition. We believe Docutiser can provide a useful new layer of confidence for people preparing, commissioning, and reviewing planning documentation, and our goal is to demonstrate that constructively without wasting the valuable time of your planning team.</p> <p>As demonstrated by this submission, we are confident that Docutiser will enhance your planning team's effectiveness. You can find out more about Docutiser by visiting www.docutiser.com, or contacting us directly at (redacted).</p>	<p>This submission is not considered to address the planning proposal. This submission is promoting and Artificial Intelligence tool that reviews documents and gives feedback.</p> <p>The AI summary it provides notes issues that are already addressed in the draft Planning Proposal documentation.</p>

Submission	Officer Response
<p>Proposal Feedback</p> <p>Low Issues</p> <p>1. Direction 4.1 — Textual Adequacy of Flood Risk Consideration</p> <p>The proposal's discussion of flood risk appears to be brief, although it acknowledges that future development will remain subject to relevant flooding controls.</p> <p>The proposal states that it does not seek to alter flooding controls and that further development on affected land will be assessed as necessary. However, it does not appear to expressly refer to key NSW Government flood policies or guidance, such as the Flood Prone Land Policy, Floodplain Development Manual 2005, or Considering flooding in land use planning guideline 2021.</p> <p>This appears to be a minor clarification issue. The proposal could be strengthened by briefly identifying the relevant flood planning guidance and explaining how future secondary dwelling assessment will continue to manage flood risk</p> <p>2. Direction 4.3 — Adequacy of Bushfire Risk Consideration</p> <p>The proposal's discussion of bushfire risk appears to be generally adequate at a high level, but may benefit from some additional detail.</p> <p>The proposal notes that further development on bushfire-prone land will be subject to assessment as necessary and that it does not seek to alter bushfire controls. However, the discussion appears brief and does not expressly refer to Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 or consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service.</p> <p>This appears to be a minor issue, but the proposal would be strengthened by briefly confirming how bushfire requirements will be addressed for future secondary dwellings in relevant locations.</p> <p>3. Direction 1.1 — Adequacy of Regional Plan Consistency (Objective 12)</p>	

Submission	Officer Response
<p>The proposal may benefit from a minor clarification in its assessment of Objective 12 of the Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041, which relates to strategically planning for rural industries.</p> <p>The proposal identifies Objective 12 as not relevant because the proposal does not relate to rural industries. However, the proposed amendments appear to apply to secondary dwellings in several rural zones, including RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape and RU4 Primary Production Small Lots.</p> <p>While the proposal does address agricultural operations and rural land use compatibility elsewhere, it could be strengthened by briefly explaining why the proposed changes are not expected to create land use conflict or adversely affect rural industries.</p>	

RP-3 SECTION 3.22 EXPEDITED AMENDMENT - ESSENTIAL SERVICES CLAUSE**Author:** Matthew Yeomans**Executive:** Fiona Hamilton**Summary:**

This report seeks Council endorsement to prepare and submit a Section 3.22 expedited amendment to the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 to introduce an 'essential services' clause that would apply to all development except those where Part 6 Urban Release Areas (of the LEP) applies.

The amendment will align the LEP with standard NSW planning practice, strengthening statutory controls by ensuring essential infrastructure is available to support development, and reducing reliance on the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan 2010, where the control is currently contained.

The amendment will support orderly and sustainable development and provide a stronger framework for managing infrastructure capacity constraints across the Local Government Area.

Recommendation

That Council delegate authority to the General Manager or their delegate to prepare and lodge a section 3.22 application to amend the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 to introduce a new 'essential services' local clause under Section 3.22 and 3.36(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to prepare and submit a section 3.22 expedited amendment to insert an 'essential services' clause into the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 (LEP).

The amendment is prompted by ongoing investigations into sewer capacity to support the Southern Growth Area (SGA) Zone 1, which has identified capacity constraints at the Koorinal Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) to service development in this catchment area. While the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan 2010 addresses essential services, introducing the clause into the LEP will provide a stronger statutory framework to manage key sewer constraints where additional development occurs outside SGA Zone 1 but within the STP catchment.

In the broader context of development within the Local Government Area (LGA), the insertion of this clause will give statutory protection to manage essential services outside of the urban release areas and ensure adequate infrastructure capacity is available. It should be noted that Part 6 Urban Release Areas of the LEP has a similar clause however it only applies to land within an urban release area.

The majority of LEP's across the State have an 'essential services' clause that requires a consent authority to be satisfied that services that are essential for development (commonly the supply of water or electricity, disposal of sewage, etc.) are available or that adequate arrangements have been made to make the services available when

required. This clause is typically considered a core safeguard in the NSW planning framework, ensuring orderly development and protecting unexpected impacts on infrastructure capacity.

Since its gazettal in 2010, the LEP has never included an essential services clause which is unusual when compared with the majority of LEPs across the State. Instead, there has been a reliance on the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan (DCP) to address essential service requirements. However, a DCP cannot override or substitute for an LEP, and its provisions carry significantly less statutory weight. Given the significant growth occurring in Wagga Wagga, implementation of this clause to apply across the LGA (outside of urban release areas) will ensure that appropriate consideration of potential servicing capacity and availability is assessed as part of any development application.

Council staff have discussed with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on numerous occasions (including in meetings regarding SGA Zone 1) implementing this clause. DPHI have advised that the proposed amendment pathway is appropriate for this matter.

Operation of the clause

The clause will require the consent authority to consider whether essential services are:

- Available at the land, or
- Able to be made available when required through appropriate arrangements.

The clause is typically worded as outlined below.

Essential services

(1) This clause does not apply to land in an urban release area.

(2) Development consent must not be granted to development unless the consent authority is satisfied that any of the following services that are essential for the proposed development are available or that adequate arrangements have been made to make them available when required—

- (a) the supply of water,*
- (b) the supply of electricity,*
- (c) the disposal and management of sewage,*
- (d) stormwater drainage or on-site conservation,*
- (e) suitable road access.*

The Parliamentary Counsel Office will ultimately determine the drafting of the instrument wording in accordance with the instructions provided.

What is a section 3.22 expedited amendment?

A Section 3.22 amendment is an expedited amendment under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act). Section 3.22(1)(b) provides for an expedited amendment to 'address matters in an LEP that are of a consequential, transitional, machinery or other minor nature'. Given that this matter is currently addressed via the DCP, will align the LEP with statewide practice, strengthen statutory controls, and reduce Council's exposure to legal and infrastructure risks, it is considered appropriate to rely on section 3.22(1)(b) of the Act to progress this amendment.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979
Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010

Link to Strategic Plan

Sustainable

Sustainable built environment

Balance the built and natural environment in planning decisions.

Risk Management Issues for Council

Insertion of this clause into the LEP will give statutory protection to manage essential services outside of the urban release areas and ensure adequate infrastructure capacity is available. Whilst the provision exists within the DCP, a DCP cannot override or substitute for an LEP, and its provisions carry significantly less statutory weight. This clause also supports Council's ability to ensure orderly and sustainable development, coordinate infrastructure delivery and growth and implement long term strategic planning objectives.

Internal / External Consultation

The Strategic Planning team have consulted with internal Council departments and DPHI regarding the proposed changes.

RP-4 LAKE ALBERT ALGAE MANAGEMENT TRIAL OUTCOMES**Author:** Ben Creighton**Executive:** Fiona Piltz

Summary: This paper outlines the background of the Hydro2050 trial, and the results achieved to date in managing Blue Green Algae within Lake Albert.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the report

Report

Council has considered many reports in recent years with the view to identifying options for a possible algae treatment to either prevent or address algal blooms within Lake Albert and allow the lake to remain at the green alert level or better. At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 25 August 2025 it was resolved:

25/277 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and R Foley

That Council:

- a note the outcomes achieved to date of the Hydro2050 trial**
- b endorse proceeding with the trial for another six (6) months to gain additional data on the effectiveness of the units to manage Blue Green Algae within Lake Albert**
- c received a further report following the additional six-month trial period**
- d approve the budget variation as detailed in the Financial Implications section of the report**

CARRIED

To achieve the green alert level for Blue-Green Algae (BGA), counts must be <5000 cells/ml in water testing results. When achieved this means that there are no restrictions on the use of the lake for recreational purposes. Health guidelines also require that there are no visible algal blooms present in a water body if it is being used for recreational purposes.

No Alert Level Triggered	GREEN LEVEL Surveillance Mode	AMBER LEVEL Alert Mode	RED LEVEL Action Mode
Action Required			
No restriction.	No restriction. Routine monitoring to measure cyanobacterial levels.	No restriction. Increased sampling to enable risks to be more accurately assessed	WWCC and health authorities to warn the public that the water body is considered to be unsuitable for water contact activities, such as swimming, bathing, sailing, skiing or other direct water-contact sports.
<p><500 cells/mL <i>M.aeruginosa</i></p> <p>Biovolume <0.04 for the combined total of all cyanobacteria.</p>	<p>500 to <5000 cells/mL <i>M.aeruginosa</i></p> <p>Biovolume equivalent of >0.04 to <0.4 mm³/L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria.</p>	<p>5000 to <50,000 cells/mL <i>M.aeruginosa</i></p> <p>Biovolume equivalent of 0.4 to 4mm³/L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria where a toxic producer is dominantf in the total biovolume</p> <p>OR</p> <p>0.4 to < 10 mm³/L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria where known toxic producers are not present.</p>	<p>Level 1 guidelines</p> <p>10µg/L total microcystins OR</p> <p>50,000 cells/mL toxic <i>M.aeruginosa</i> or biovolume equivalent of 4mm³L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria where a known toxin producer is dominate* in the total biovolume</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Level 2 guidelines</p> <p>10mm³/L for total biovolume of all cyanobacteria material where the known toxins are NOT present.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Cyanobacteria scums are consistently present.</p>

Hydro2050 Background

In mid-2024, lake users had a discussion with a company regarding a possible oxygen/ozone treatment. Hydro2050 provided staff with a proposal for a trial on the remaining algae within the lake at the time. This offer proposed a 14-day trial. The proposal provided details on how the product works. It stated that:

- Oxygen is generated from the air with an oxygen generator. Oxygen is then pumped into the ozone generator to produce ozone. The Hydro2050 system generates oxygen/ozone from the atmosphere, so is fully self-contained without need of chemical/gas handling and storage. When ultrafine bubbles of ozone collapse in water, they create hydroxyl radicals which are the most effective and safe oxidising agent to destroy organic and oxidisable non-organic pollutants in water.
- The Hydro ultrafine bubble generator sits in the water body being treated and is connected to the oxygen and ozone generators that feed in the gas which are infused into the ultrafine bubbles.
 - The ultrafine bubbles are created by a patented shear process without moving parts.
 - The ultrafine bubble generator produces trillions of <1-micron bubbles, at a water volume throughput of 18,000L/hr.
- Hydro ultra-fine bubbles have unique properties.
 - They are so small they don't float and burst at the surface to provide maximum efficacy of disinfection and oxygenation.
 - They are negatively charged and disperse through the entire water column to disinfect and oxygenate all the water (not just the surface).
 - Hydro ultra-fine bubbles remain suspended in the water, providing a highly effective method for maintaining dissolved oxygen in the water longer than conventional bubbles.
 - Hydro ultra-fine bubbles have a very high surface area compared to normal bubbles to provide maximum contact of ozone and oxygen to disinfect and oxygenate the water.

Ultimately, staff recommended not proceeding with the 14-day trial as the environmental conditions at the time had resulted in a significant drop in the BGA count.

Hydro2050 then provided Council with a revised proposal for the summer months. Under this proposal Council was responsible for the water quality testing, power supply to the three units, warning signage, and the travel and accommodation costs during the set up and pull down of the equipment.

Following receipt of the proposal and a Councillor Workshop, Staff had several discussions with Hydro2050 representatives to clarify a number of points. Hydro2050 staff provided the following offer:

- 5 units, (covering the 3 points of Lake Albert and 2 units covering the central area of the lake) to provide better coverage of the lake for the nano-bubble/oxygen/ozone treatment with a 6-month trial with the option to either purchase or lease the units following the trial.

2024/25 Trial Outcomes

The installation of the Hydro2050 units commenced installation during January 2025. In May 2025 Hydro2050 provided an interim report on the outcomes of the trial.

Within this report it states:

- *The Hydro technology had demonstrated its ability to remediate Cyanobacteria at Lake Albert, even when it is present at heavy levels at the peak of hot summer which is conducive to Cyanobacteria blooms.*
- *Lake Albert has been able to remain open for recreational use over the key summer period and independent laboratory test confirm reduction in Cyanobacteria during the peak summer period.*
- *Lake Albert moved consistently into the green zone as Cyanobacteria levels reduced – not red zones as occurred in the 2023 and 20234 summers which forced the lake to be closed. The lake has visually improved and comments from many locals interested in the health of the lake when we have been onsite, have been positive.*
- *The initial Hydro Lake Albert Trial will conclude at the end of August 2025. We recommend that the hydro trial continue for another 6 months to have a full year in operation at the Lake and prepare for summer 2026.*

2024/25 Staff Summary

The fact that the lake during that season did not receive a Red Alert level count of BGA, despite some extremely hot prolonged conditions was a positive indication that the Hydro2050 solution does have some impact on the BGA levels. However, given a number of variable factors, including rainfall, the use of ultrasonic buoys and residual waterzyme treatment meant that it was not possible to definitively say that the primary reason for this was the nanobubble technology. To determine if this is the case the trial needed to continue to allow for additional evidence to be collected. Hydro 2050 offered 2 options on continuing the use of the Hydro2050 units. Ultimately Council resolved to continue the lease for the 25/26 summer season.

2025/26 Trial Outcomes

The BGA levels identified within the lake during the 2025/26 season are outlined below.

BGA	Lake West	01-Sep-25	428	0.0096	No Alert
BGA	Boat Club	01-Sep-25	822	0.01578	Green
BGA	Swim Area	01-Sep-25	376	0.00171	No Alert
BGA	Lake West	08-Oct-25	474	0.00651	No Alert
BGA	Boat Club	08-Oct-25	426	0.00804	No Alert
BGA	Swim Area	08-Oct-25	381	0.00387	No Alert
BGA	Lake West	23-Oct-25	43	0.00124	No Alert
BGA	Boat Club	23-Oct-25	406	0.0077	No Alert
BGA	Swim Area	23-Oct-25	599	0.0189	Green
BGA	Lake West	05-Nov-25	393	0.0114	No Alert
BGA	Boat Club	05-Nov-25	437	0.01244	No Alert
BGA	Swim Area	05-Nov-25	465	0.01135	No Alert
BGA	Lake West	17-Nov-25	608	0.0142	Green
BGA	Boat Club	17-Nov-25	941	0.0127	Green
BGA	Swim Area	17-Nov-25	513	0.0072	Green
BGA	Lake West	25-Nov-25	610	0.0033	Green
BGA	Boat Club	25-Nov-25	561	0.003	Green
BGA	Swim Area	25-Nov-25	700	0.0037	Green
BGA	Lake West	03-Dec-25	1,340	0.01625	Green
BGA	Boat Club	03-Dec-25	457	0.00565	No Alert
BGA	Swim Area	03-Dec-25	1,475	0.0797	Green
BGA	Lake West	10-Dec-25	6,890	1.605	Amber
BGA	Boat Club	10-Dec-25	3,572	0.523	Green
BGA	Swim Area	10-Dec-25	3,749	0.637	Green
BGA	Lake West	15-Dec-25	1,773	0.229	Green
BGA	Boat Club	15-Dec-25	461	0.0108	No Alert
BGA	Swim Area	15-Dec-25	1,274	0.2322	Green
BGA	Lake West	05-Jan-26	9,031	0.7443	Amber
BGA	Boat Club	05-Jan-26	1,827	0.108	Green
BGA	Swim Area	05-Jan-26	32,469	2.73	Amber
BGA	Lake West	12-Jan-26	47,088	3.957	Amber
BGA	Boat Club	12-Jan-26	14,371	1.222	Amber
BGA	Swim Area	12-Jan-26	448	0.0327	No Alert
BGA	Lake West	19-Jan-26	85,017	4.04	Red
BGA	Boat Club	19-Jan-26	182,385	9.677	Red
BGA	Swim Area	19-Jan-26	19,671	0.962	Amber
BGA	Lake West	27-Jan-26	12,513	1.05	Amber
BGA	Boat Club	27-Jan-26	17,729	1.5	Amber
BGA	Swim Area	27-Jan-26	3,264	0.2374	Green
BGA	Lake West	03-Feb-26	723	0.031	Green
BGA	Boat Club	03-Feb-26	936	0.0626	Green
BGA	Swim Area	03-Feb-26	455	0.0252	No Alert
BGA	Lake West	11-Feb-26	418	0.0114	No Alert
BGA	Boat Club	11-Feb-26	436	0.0176	No Alert
BGA	Swim Area	11-Feb-26	742	0.0295	Green
BGA	Lake West	19-Feb-26	636	0.01925	Green
BGA	Boat Club	19-Feb-26	583	0.0294	Green
BGA	Swim Area	19-Feb-26	1,044	0.0443	Green
BGA	Lake West	25-Feb-26	1,314	0.021	Green
BGA	Boat Club	25-Feb-26	2,204	0.0484	Green
BGA	Swim Area	25-Feb-26	1,518	0.03629	Green
BGA	Lake West	04-Mar-26	912	0.053	Green
BGA	Boat Club	04-Mar-26	798	0.051	Green
BGA	Swim Area	04-Mar-26	447	0.02	No Alert
BGA	Lake West	11-Mar-26	751	0.0346	Green
BGA	Boat Club	11-Mar-26	1,287	0.053	Green
BGA	Swim Area	11-Mar-26	855	0.023	Green
BGA	Lake West	18-Mar-26	1,701	0.10715	Green
BGA	Boat Club	18-Mar-26	1,531	0.06022	Green
BGA	Swim Area	18-Mar-26	1,293	0.07641	Green
BGA	Lake West	01-Apr-26	925	0.0245	Green
BGA	Boat Club	01-Apr-26	1,248	0.04	Green
BGA	Swim Area	01-Apr-26	741	0.0255	Green

Following completion of the trial in February 2026 Hydro2050 made the following observations:

- *There was a sustained reduction of BGA during peak summer conditions with predominate Green Status during both the previous 24/25 and 25/26 summers.*
- *There was a clear improvement relative to the previous 22-24 Red Alert Conditions*
- *There was visibly improved water quality*
- *There was healthier aquatic conditions supported by increased oxygen. Several Fishers reported best fishing near the hydro devices (which would be as a result of higher oxygen levels).*

Before-and-After Comparison

Indicator	Pre-Hydro2050 (2022–24)	With Hydro2050 (12 months)
Cyanobacteria status	Frequent Red Alerts	Predominantly Green Status
Recreational access	Repeated closures	Lake largely remained open
Management approach	Reactive	Proactive, continuous
Amenity	Poor during blooms	Visibly improved
Community confidence	Ongoing concern	Increased confidence
Council response burden	High	Low

- *Persistent algae bloom issues can be controlled*
- *Water bodies can be kept open and safe year-round*
- *A proactive model delivers better environmental, social, and economic outcomes*

Hydro2050 Recommendations:

- *Continue Hydro2050 under a full-service operational model*
- *Maintain 5 Unit configurations*
- *Continue independent monitoring*
- *Intergrate Hydro2050 as a core component of Council's long term lake management strategy*
- *Use Lake Albert as a case study for regional leadership:*
 - *A proven model for non-chemical lake rehabilitation*
 - *A reference site for other council and agencies*
 - *An opportunity for Wagga Wagga to position itself as a leader in Water innovation*

Community Stakeholder Views

During recent discussions with lake stakeholders, there was a general consensus that the Hydro2050 does have positive benefits in improving water quality, reducing the number of algal blooms and their duration when they occur.

Staff Comments

Lake Albert during the second season of the trial predominately experienced green alert conditions. Combined with the previous season where similar results were achieved, it appears that the Hydro2050 technology does have a positive impact on controlling BGA within Lake Albert although it should be noted the two-year sample is still a relatively short period and does not account for all variables. The 25/26 summer season was a particular testing summer with extremely hot weather conditions combined with low water levels within the Lake.

During the past two seasons there has only been one red alert level issued (January 26) with extremely high algae counts recorded. However, it was noteworthy that this bloom was significantly reduced within a week of first being recorded. This was significant because historically blooms of this scale and level would generally last several months and staff had never observed such a quick recovery. Also of note was that this bloom appeared following the occurrence of two events. The first being that the lake levels dropped where the operation of the units was limited and the second being that vandalism also rendered a unit inoperable. These issues were addressed concurrently with the identification of the bloom. The units were extended further into the water and repairs made to address the vandalism. The following week the algal count had reduced to an amber alert and the week after that had reduced to a green alert level.

For a comparison Staff monitored other water bodies within the region for BGA Alerts. During the high-risk summer period Lake Albert for much of the time was operating at a lower alert level than these other water bodies with many much larger bodies of water suffering much larger and longer algal blooms.

Previous discussions staff have had with expert organisations have highlighted that there are no “silver bullets” when looking at the prevention and treatment of BGA and that although these type of products may assist to reduce and manage blooms, there will always be a risk of a bloom occurring until nutrient levels can be addressed.

Financial Implications

Hydro2050 have offered Council options to continue the use of the technology. Given these are commercial in confidence they are considered in a confidential report at this Council meeting.

Policy and Legislation

Lake Albert Plan of Management
Recreation Open Space and Community Strategy

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Ethical Leadership

Provide strategic direction and leadership for our region to deliver key community priorities.

Risk Management Issues for Council

The risks associated with implementing the Lake Albert algae management trial relate to process, cost, environmental, WH&S and contractor performance. These risks will be mitigated as part of Council's project management and contractor performance management systems.

Environmental risks will continue to be assessed and managed using the product specific Review of Environmental Factors.

The risk of not continuing the trial is that Lake Albert will have a prolonged algae outbreak and Council may suffer reputational damage due to the community perception of inadequate attempts to address the problem.

Internal / External Consultation

Internal Consultation has been held with the City Growth, Environment and Finance divisions of Council.

Previous Councillor workshops and reports on possible treatments and the algae treatment outcomes.

Updates on the trial have been provided to lake users as part of broader consultation and updates on the Lake Albert Water Sport and Event Precinct project. Feedback on the units has been positive in that there is a belief that the units are having a positive impact.

RP-5 INNOVATE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN 2026-2028**Author:** Alexandra Osgood**Executive:** Christine Priest

Summary: This report advises Council on the outcome of the public exhibition process for the draft *Innovate* Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 - 2028. The Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 - 2028 is presented to Council for endorsement, following public exhibition.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a note that there were twelve (12) public submissions received during the exhibition period for the draft Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 - 2028
- b adopt the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 - 2028

Report

At the 23 March 2026 Ordinary Council meeting it was resolved to place the draft Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-2028 on public exhibition. During the public exhibition period from Wednesday 25 March to Monday 27 April 2026, 12 public submissions were received and are attached under separate cover for Councillors' reference.

1	Submission from Resident
	Supports the RAP initiatives and agrees with the intent. Advised that the use of two spellings of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri are confusing at times.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	This comment is noted. No amendments have been made to the draft RAP document as the two spellings of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri are clearly outlined on page 10 of the plan to explain that as a traditionally oral language, Uncle Stan Grant Senior has advised Council that the sound of the letter 'J' does not exist in the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language, instead the sound of the letter 'Y' is phonetically more accurate. Upon this advice and due to our commitment to protecting important language such as this and in the spirit of inclusion, Council will continue to include both spellings of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri.
2	Submission from Resident
	Submission containing racist and discriminatory comments.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	No amendments made to the draft RAP document.

3	Submission from Resident
	<p>Concerns raised in regard to the inclusion of artwork from non-Wagga based Wiradjuri artist and the hero artwork EOI process in general.</p> <p>Recommendations included prioritising local Aboriginal artists and businesses, measurable targets for employment and procurement, ensure transparent, culturally appropriate consultation processes that encompass various community groups to ensure non biased opinions and views.</p>
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	<p>The Wagga Wagga-based Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri artist who designed the hero RAP artwork was selected through an open Expressions of Interest process with the artist selected by eight (8) Wiradjuri/Wiradjuri and First Nations Elders during an Elders and Executive meeting in 2024.</p> <p>The graphic design of the document was selected via a Request for Quote process for a First Nations Design business to undertake this work. The illustrations were not commissioned as part of the RAP project, as they were already licensed to WWCC through another project which was Council’s First Nations People Employment & Retention Strategy 2024 – 2027.</p> <p>This Innovate RAP includes a new action around developing a provision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement in the Wagga Wagga City Council Procurement Manual.</p> <p>No amendments have been made to the draft RAP document, however the process and inclusion of artwork will be reviewed and strengthened for future activities.</p>
4	Submission from Resident
	Feedback on skate competitions and parks.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	This information was noted. No amendments made to the draft RAP document.
5	Submission from Resident
	Feedback on skate competitions and parks.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	This information was noted. No amendments made to the draft RAP document.
6	Submission from Resident
	“It’s great.”
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	This feedback is noted. No amendments made to the draft RAP document.

7	Submission from Resident
	Racist submission.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	No amendments made to the draft RAP document.
8	Submission from Resident
	Positive feedback on the draft RAP document congratulating WWCC on leading meaningful reconciliation and recognition of Wiradjuri Country and People in the community. Advised no request for changes.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	This feedback is noted. No amendments made to the draft RAP document.
9	Submission from Resident
	Positive feedback provided by a senior Wiradjuri Elder with no changes requested.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	This feedback is noted. No amendments made to the draft RAP document.
10	Submission from Resident
	Clarification required about Wiradjuri language in regard to the use of the 'y' and 'Wagadyi Wagadyi' and stated "Artwork not local artist". Participant also provided advice on statistics to be updated and how to obtain that information.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	Uncle Stan Grant Senior has provided Council advice in regard to the use of the 'y' which is outlined in the document on page 10. Council will continue to include both spellings of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri. The hero artwork is by a Wagga Wagga-based Wiradyuri artist and animator selected through an open EOI process. The graphic design work is by NSW-based Wiradjuri owned and operated design firm with connections to Narrandera and Dubbo. The illustrations were not commissioned as part of this graphic design request, as they were already licensed to WWCC through another project which was Council's First Nations People Employment & Retention Strategy 2024 – 2027. Council staff reached out to recommended Cultural Knowledge Holders as recommended during the public exhibition period to seek feedback on the draft plan.

11	Submission from Resident
	Feedback requested that the artist is acknowledged on the front cover, along with recommendations throughout the document.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	The artist of the hero artwork is acknowledged, and the artwork description can be found on page 51 of the document. Photo acknowledgement was updated to include name of young person on page 4. Dancers' acknowledgement was updated with expanded description on page 34 and 55.
12	Submission from Resident
	Request to deliver a young mothers cultural awareness program over 10 weeks run by the respondent and a local Elder.
	Recommended changes to Plan in response
	No amendments made to the draft RAP document. Community Development team will contact the respondent to advise of funding opportunities in the future to assist in developing this project idea.

The draft Innovate RAP commitments provides Council with a deeper understanding of its sphere of influence and establish the best approach to advance reconciliation as an organisation.

An Innovate RAP focuses on further developing and strengthening relationships with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations peoples, engaging staff, and stakeholders in reconciliation, and developing and piloting innovative strategies to empower Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations peoples. There are four key areas for Council's draft *Innovate* Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 – 2028 as follows:

1. Relationships
2. Respect
3. Opportunities
4. Governance

It is recommended that Council adopt the *Innovate* Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 - 2028.

Financial Implications

The updated draft *Innovate* Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 – 2028 will inform the development of strategies and planning processes undertaken by Council moving forward.

All items contained in the draft *Innovate* Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 – 2028 are either included in existing operational budgets and/or considered as part the Long-Term Financial Plan. Any unfunded items listed will require external funding to support their implementation.

Policy and Legislation

Community Strategic Plan 2050

Link to Strategic Plan

Vibrant

First Nations culture

Support and acknowledge the importance of Wiradjuri and First Nations people, culture, and place in our community.

Risk Management Issues for Council

Risk management will be addressed as part of implementation of each action and managed by the respective nominated area of Council.

Internal / External Consultation

In the review and update of the draft *Innovate* Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-2028 internal consultation was undertaken with relevant departments across Council and with Council’s executive team.

External consultation was undertaken through an online survey form along with targeted face to face place-based consultation sessions with community members. Council hosted five (5) community BBQ & Yarn sessions at community hubs and a park in Tolland, Ashmont (2), Koorungal and Forest Hill connecting with approximately 100 community members including Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders. In addition to this, the draft RAP document was presented at various Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations community meetings including Mawang Gaway and the Wagga Aboriginal Interagency Network.

While on public exhibition, staff contacted community members, including Elders and other First Nations stakeholder groups and interagency networks to ensure awareness of the public exhibition period, encouraging any further feedback to be provided.

	Mail			Traditional Media				Community Engagement				Digital				
	Rates notices insert	Direct mail	Letterbox drop	Council news	Media release	Media opportunity	TV/radio advertising	One-on-one meeting(s)	Community meeting(s)	Stakeholder workshop(s)	Drop-in session(s)	Survey/feedback form(s)	Have your Say	Email newsletter	Social media	Website
Inform						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consult				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Involve																

Collaborate																	
Other methods (please list specific details below)																	


Attachments

- 1. [Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026 - 2028](#)
- 2. [Public Exhibition Submission \(Redacted\)](#)
- 3. Public Exhibition Submissions


This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it deals with: personnel matters concerning particular individuals. - Provided under separate cover

Draft Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan

July 2026 - June 2028



City of Wagga Wagga



RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN INNOVATE

Contents

Remembering our Elders.....	3
Acknowledgement of Country	5
Message from local Senior Elder	6
Message from the Mayor.....	10
Message from Reconciliation Australia	11
Our Commitment to Reconciliation	12
Our Vision for Reconciliation	12
Wagga Wagga City Council - Our Business	14
Wagadyi Wagadyi, Wiradyuri Ngurambang	16
Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations History.....	20
Wagga Wagga City Council’s Mission, Vision and Values	26
Placement of the Reconciliation Action Plan	28
Highlights from the 2022-2024 RAP	32
Our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-2028.....	34
Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group.....	36
2026 – 2028 Action Plan	37
mawang dhuluyanha walking together	51
Cultural Illustrations.....	52
mandaang guwu	54



This document was written in consultation with local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples should be aware that this document contains images and names of people who have passed away.

Remembering our Elders



Wagga Wagga City Council respectfully honours the memory of all First Nations Elders and community members who have passed. We acknowledge the significance of kinship ties within First Nations communities, and the deep impact that the loss of any First Nations person has on their families and the broader community.

Wagga Wagga City Council recognises the profound cultural importance of Sorry Business and pays its respects to the First Nations communities during these times of loss. We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the community and stand in solidarity, honouring their traditions and the memory of those who have passed.

Uncle James Ingram

The Ingram family has provided permission to share the following passage.

Uncle James Ingram was a proud Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri man who grew up in Leeton. He and his family are local knowledge holders and it was a privilege to listen and learn from Uncle James about the stories of the waterways and many other Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri significant sites throughout Wagga Wagga.

Uncle James lived in Wagga Wagga for over 40 years and after working as a cultural expert for Local Land Services he ran his own business Bidyamarra, providing cultural tours of significant sites in Wagga Wagga.

Uncle James was an esteemed Senior Wiradyuri Elder and worked closely with Council staff and Councillors, as was the case for so many other organisations and community groups across our community.

Uncle James was highly respected for his contribution to many of Council’s projects and strategic plans from Council’s Biodiversity Strategy Maldhangilanha through to the Reconciliation Action Plan. He also led staff cultural awareness training, cultural burning and cultural site assessments, and contributed to many research, interpretation, oral history and exhibition projects over many years.

Uncle James words in our Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2024 identified his vision for Wagga Wagga to become a more inclusive society respecting Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language and culture and *“to reach true reconciliation we can’t do it alone – we need all the friends we can get!”*



Photo: Ryder McDonnell at National Apology Day 2025, Wollundry Lagoon.

Acknowledgement of Country

Wagga Wagga City Council yali gulbali-yanhi ngurambang Wiradyuri.

Walumaldhaany-galang bala mayiny Wiradyuri.

Yindyamali-yanhi mudyiganggalang-bu balumbambal-bu balugirbam-bu.

Yindyamali-yanhi bagaraygan ngurambang-guwal-i yandu murunwigi Wagga Wagga-dha.

Ngianhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinygulyalagu buyaa-bu giilaang-galam-bu.

Ngianhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinygulyalagu dhaagun-bu bila-galam-bu nganha Wiradyuri-giyalang bala burrambin-bu nurrnurra-bu.

Gulbali-yanhi Wiradyuri mayiny bagaraygan-guwal-bu bala yarruwala-bu waluwin-bu walanbam-bu dhirrangal-bu.

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri/ Wiradyuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present, and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs, and continuing connection with the land and rivers.

We also recognise the resilience, strength, and pride of the Wiradjuri/ Wiradyuri and First Nations Communities.

Message from Senior Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elder



Written by Aunty Isabel Reid

“Look at us now, keep moving forward!!”

Reconciliation is important for healing and mutual respect. I believe it means acknowledging the past wrongs that have happened, to understand and make strong relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. I see reconciliation as a pathway to harmony, where everyone can work together to create a better community for us all to live in as one.

Hello, my name is Aunty Isabel Reid. I was born in Quambone, NSW on 22 July 1932 and was raised in Dubbo, NSW from a baby. I am a proud and passionate Wiradyuri woman. I am a well-known Elder of the Wiradyuri community. I've worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the Stolen Generations throughout my years, and to help those and their families who survived. I currently live in Wagga Wagga and continue to support and advocate for my community here.

At 7 years old, two of my siblings (Betty, 5 and Jack, 11) and I were walking home from school one Friday afternoon when we were taken by authorities under the Aborigines Protection Act 1909-1969. We spent the night in the Dubbo police station gaol cells, cold and scared. We were then taken to the Dubbo train station where Betty and I were dropped off at the Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls, located at Cootamundra, NSW.

We were not allowed any contact or connection with our families or culture. Our parents and other siblings had no idea where we were or

what happened to us. This was at no fault of our parents – it was the authority's fault. Jack, our older brother, was sent to the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home, located at Kinchela, NSW. Jack still has not come home – we are still trying to find him to this day.

We were part of the cohort of Aboriginal people now known as the Stolen Generation. A system that supported the forcible removal of First Nations babies and children in NSW over a period of 60 years, in order to eliminate our people and culture from the stolen land.

I am now the oldest living survivor of the Cootamundra Girls Home who were forcibly removed under the Aborigines Protection Act 1909-1969.

Cootamundra Girls Home is where I lived and was taught “how to be white”, until I was released at the age of 16.

When I was released, I met my husband, John Robert Reid, who was a known acquaintance in the town. We married on 23 December 1950 at St Andrews Church in Dubbo. We had 11 children together in total, proudly raising eight of those children earthside: Buddy (John), Jenny, Bernadette, Brenda, Roslyn, Rodger, Max and Therese.

In 1972, we decided to move from our hut home in Galore, NSW where we carted water and firewood daily to cook and clean, to our first domestic house with four bedrooms and one bathroom at Ashmont, Wagga Wagga. We moved for John's work as a sheep shearer and for better housing and educational

opportunities for our five youngest children: Jenny, Roslyn, Rodger, Max, and Therese.

We didn't join in with much when we first moved here, we kept to ourselves. The kids went to school, and John worked to get us by. Leaving the Girls Home where I was ‘taught to be white’ made it feel normal for me to live in a white community as a black woman. There were no First Nations services here at that time and we attended a white doctor's office when needed.

We lived in Ashmont until my husband, John, passed away from a heart attack at the age of 49 in 1979. I then had to raise our five children all by myself. It was very tough doing it all on my own.

When the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) and the Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed) came along in 1988, providing First Nations specific services, I had to make the decision if it would be more appropriate for my children to be involved with these services, seeing other black faces regularly or not. I was used to living in a white man's world but because my husband was no longer here with me to make these decisions, I had to make these on my own. I felt comfortable and confident that my family and I were within our own community, being supported, loved and cared for from our own mob. So, I moved our family's health services to RivMed. They were incredibly supportive, trusting, and loving to my family and me for many, many years.

We were so very blessed to have the opportunity of First Nations services only, somewhere we could be culturally safe and ourselves, and not have to worry if we'd sit in the wrong seated section or lined up somewhere we shouldn't have. Especially when we had lived in times where we couldn't shop, take transport, or even share amenities with the white community.

After the struggles of raising our children on my own, they all slowly moved out of home to pursue their own families, careers, and educational aspirations, so I began volunteering at the tuckshop at Flowerdale School. I then moved on to working for St Vincent de Paul, Gumleigh Boys Home, and later taking on a full-time job for seven years at the Juvenile Justice Centre for boys. I went on to help young children read, gaining a full-time job at Wagga Wagga Public School, helping Koorie kids read. From there I left and was a founding member of the local Elders Group, along with non-Aboriginal allies from TAFE NSW from 1990-2010. To then being a founding member of the now well-known Aboriginal consultative group run by local Elders and community members, Mawang Gaway.

In 2013, along with other courageous Coota Girl survivors and descendants, I founded the Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation. The Corporation aims to address the complex healing needs of our Stolen Generations Survivors and their families who are impacted by forced removals under the Aborigines



Protection Act 1909-1969. I was made the inaugural Director of the Corporation, and in 2016 I was appointed as an inaugural member and Chairperson of the Stolen Generations Advisory Committee. In 2021 I was awarded NSW Senior Australian of the Year.

My strong leadership played a crucial role in the NSW Government's decision to offer a \$74 million reparation package to those who were forcibly removed under the Aborigines Protection Act 1909-1969.

For as long as I can, I will continue to teach the need to acknowledge the truth of this nation's post-colonial history, the devastating impacts it had and continues to have on First Nations people, and the continuing depth and breadth of work we must all remain committed to in order to build genuine reconciliation across our community and our Country going forward.

Throughout the years I've been here, and all the different Councillors and Mayors that have been through the Council, I have always had a great working relationship and friendship with them all. They have all been genuine in their actions and what they've promised to me.

I hope they continue to work with the same intention within our community through the Reconciliation Action Plan. Our community needs to learn to work together, respect one another, and understand we're all working for the same community, our community. Making it better for the future – for our children!

We need to take advantage of all the opportunities we now have today, that weren't there previously – look at how far we've all come! Our Wiradyuri language alone has come a significantly long way since 1997, with gratitude to Uncle Stan Grant Senior and Dr John Rudder. Our language has been publicly

documented, it's being taught in schools, we have language courses at the Charles Sturt University, and it's used regularly in signage and artwork surrounding the city. It's fantastic and makes our home and land, ours.

Keep moving forward. Look at what we can do! Working with the Council and equal access to public spaces. We previously never had any of those opportunities. Look at us now!!

We need to continue building relationships within our own community. There is no point wasting time, life is far too short. Look at what we will build - a better and stronger community for us all to live and work in. To raise our babies here and their babies' babies. Look at the talent we have out there!! The art, the sport, the culture - be proud!!

Be respectful to one another, as best you can, and remember Yindyamarra – respect, be gentle, polite, honour, do slowly.

Aunty Isabel Reid
Senior Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elder



Photo: Marrambidya Wetlands

Message from the Mayor



As Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations community Elders, cultural knowledge holders, community members, and Council staff for their invaluable ongoing contributions to Wagga Wagga City Council's (Council) Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

We are now ready to take the next step in our reconciliation journey by launching our third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. I would also like to thank Reconciliation Australia for their guidance and support in ensuring this plan reflects the intent of RAPs across our country, in government agencies, businesses, and other services.

Reconciliation is such an important process and essential when we look back and consider the atrocities of our Country's past. The loss of culture, family, and language, and the impact of government resettlements and forcible removal policies on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and families has been profound. The results of the intergenerational trauma, these policies and actions continue to affect First Nation peoples and their families today.

As Mayor, I believe that Council has a responsibility to address some of these inequities in line with the Council of Australian Government agreements, and to work alongside our colleagues in State and Federal Government to 'Close the Gap'.

The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) clearly demonstrates Council's commitment to working with local First Nations community members towards a better, brighter, and

stronger future. It outlines how Council will play its part in recognising and valuing Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri culture and heritage, how we will work to increase employment and business opportunities for all First Nations peoples, and how we will ensure we build relationships based on respect and transparency with our community.

You may also notice the inclusion of the Wiradjuri spelling with a 'Y'. As part of our ongoing commitment to reconciliation, we are ensuring we acknowledge Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language wherever possible and amend where advice has been offered. Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri is one of the largest nations and so there are many differences in how Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri is pronounced and written across Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Country. Traditionally an oral language, Uncle Stan Grant Senior has advised Council of this change in spelling because the sound of the letter 'J' does not exist in the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language, instead the sound of the letter 'Y' is phonetically more accurate. Upon this advice and due to our commitment to protecting important language such as this, Council will continue to include both spellings of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri.

Lastly, it is my hope that through this updated RAP, we will strengthen our city's commitment to value and respect our First Nations people and our local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri culture and heritage. The development of this document is a critical step forward in addressing the inequities of the past.

Councillor Dallas Tout
Mayor of The City of Wagga Wagga

Message from Reconciliation Australia



Reconciliation Australia commends Wagga Wagga City Council on the formal endorsement of its third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Since 2006, RAPs have provided a framework for organisations to leverage their structures and diverse spheres of influence to support the national reconciliation movement.

With over 5.5 million people now either working or studying in an organisation with a RAP, the program's potential for impact is greater than ever. Wagga Wagga City Council continues to be part of a strong network of more than 3,000 corporate, government, and not-for-profit organisations that have taken goodwill and transformed it into action.

The four RAP types — Reflect, Innovate, Stretch and Elevate — allow RAP partners to continuously strengthen reconciliation commitments and constantly strive to apply learnings in new ways.

An Innovate RAP is a crucial and rewarding period in an organisation's reconciliation journey. It is a time to build the strong foundations and relationships that ensure sustainable, thoughtful, and impactful RAP outcomes into the future.

An integral part of building these foundations is reflecting on and cataloguing the successes and challenges of previous RAPs. Learnings gained through effort and innovation are invaluable resources that Wagga Wagga City Council will continuously draw upon to create RAP commitments rooted in experience

and maturity. These learnings extend to Wagga Wagga City Council using the lens of reconciliation to better understand its core business, sphere of influence, and diverse community of staff and stakeholders.

The RAP program's emphasis on relationships, respect, and opportunities gives organisations a framework from which to foster connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rooted in mutual collaboration and trust.

This Innovate RAP is an opportunity for Wagga Wagga City Council to strengthen these relationships, gain crucial experience, and nurture connections that will become the lifeblood of its future RAP commitments. By enabling and empowering staff to contribute to this process, Wagga Wagga City Council will ensure shared and cooperative success in the long-term.

Gaining experience and reflecting on pertinent learnings will ensure the sustainability of Wagga Wagga City Council's future RAPs and reconciliation initiatives, providing meaningful impact toward Australia's reconciliation journey.

Congratulations Wagga Wagga City Council on your third Innovate RAP and I look forward to following your ongoing reconciliation journey.

Karen Mundine
Chief Executive Officer
Reconciliation Australia

Our Commitment to Reconciliation

Council's Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation was developed in response to a request from Uncle Hewitt Whyman as part of an Elders and Executive meeting in 2023. Following on from this request and in consultation with Elders, the statement has been strengthened as part of the updated RAP and is available for public viewing alongside the Acknowledgment of Country in the entry foyer of the Wagga Wagga City Council's Civic Centre.

The City of Wagga Wagga (Council) acknowledges and respects that Aboriginal people were the first people of this land and the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri people were the first custodians of the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA). This recognition includes acceptance of the rights and responsibilities of First Nations people to participate in decision making.

Council acknowledges the shared responsibility of all Australians to respect and encourage the development of an awareness and appreciation of each other's origin. In so doing, Council recognises and respects the heritage, culture, sacred sites and special places of First Nations people.

Council is committed to developing programs to improve the wellbeing of all City of Wagga Wagga residents as well as facilitating reconciliation between First Nations and non-First Nations people. Council recognises that social justice and reconciliation are fundamental to achieving positive changes.

Our Vision for Reconciliation

Our vision for reconciliation is to create a community where First Nations and non-First Nations people work together for a just, harmonious and progressive society. We will work together to be a city that celebrates the richness of First Nations cultures and promotes the values of social diversity within the community.

For the City of Wagga Wagga, this means active collaboration to increase positive outcomes for First Nations communities, celebrating culture, and investing in an inclusive and diverse workplace that is not just culturally safe, but culturally rich and proud.



Photo: Smoking Ceremony at National Sorry Day 2024



Wagga Wagga City Council - Our Business

Wagga Wagga City Council (Council) is a Local Government Authority which delivers and maintains a wide range of services, programs, and infrastructure required by the community within the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA). The LGA serves more than 68,000 residents that live in the urban area, the nine rural villages and districts including Collingullie, Currawarna, Galore, Humula, Ladysmith, Mangoplah, Oura, Tarcutta, and Uranquinty, spanning across 4,886 square km. When this document refers to 'community', it refers to the residents of Wagga Wagga LGA.

Council is responsible for making significant decisions that have a far-reaching impact on our community, delivering local services and infrastructure ensuring that our city is a great place to live, work and visit.

Key responsibilities include development and building applications, strategic land use

planning, maintaining public open spaces like parks, playgrounds, gardens, sports grounds, and natural areas, cemeteries, road, active travel path networks, as well as waste management, weed and environmental control, and public health services.

The Council also manages vital regional assets, including the local airport and livestock marketing centre, Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, and Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre. These vital services together contribute to the overall well-being and vibrancy of our community, establishing Council as a regional leader.

Council actively plans and collaborates with other levels of government, business, and industry sectors, along with non-government organisations to address local and regional needs.

Wagga Wagga City Council has 11 office locations:

- Civic Centre Precinct (inclusive of WWCC Administration Building, Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Museum of the Riverina (Historic Council Chambers site), Library, and Visitor Information Centre).
- Parks and Gardens Depot and Museum of the Riverina, located in the Botanic Gardens Precinct
- Cemetery (also includes rural cemeteries)
- Fernleigh Road Depot (includes Administration Building, Workshop)
- Oasis Aquatic Centre
- Gregadoo Waste Management Centre (GWMC) (WWCC is also responsible for rural landfill sites such as Mangoplah, Humula, Tarcutta, Uranquinty, Galore, Currawarna, and Collingullie)
- Livestock Marketing Centre (LMC)
- Glenfield Road Animal Shelter (GRAS) and Natural Areas Weed Management Depot
- Wagga Wagga Airport
- Bomen Industrial Site (RIFL project team working at this site)
- Bob Osborne Training Centre



Photo: Members of the First Nations Community Connections Group at the launch of Council's First Nations People Employment & Retention Strategy 2024 - 2027

Our Workforce

Council's workforce represents 2.26% of the total labour force within the LGA. Consisting of staff engaged on a permanent (full-time and part-time), casual, fixed term basis, or are participating in tertiary/vocational education programs.

As of March 2026, Council employs 793 staff members, consisting of:

- 440 Permanent (full-time and part-time)
- 272 Casual
- 49 Temporary
- 32 Trainees (including School-based Trainees, Apprentices, Cadets and Graduates)

Employment Type	Total
Permanent	440
Casual	272
Temporary	49
Trainees	32
Total:	793

Council's workforce is also supported by the valuable contributions of our volunteers across multiple service areas.

Noting that it is not mandatory for employees to disclose upon their commencement of work with Council, as of March 2026, Council employs 36 staff members who have identified as being a First Nations person.



Wagadyi Wagadyi, Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Ngurambang

Wagga Wagga Local Government Area

Located in southern New South Wales, Wagga Wagga is a regional city set on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River within the Riverina region. The Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA) encompasses a total land area of 4825 sq km¹ within Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Country and is situated about 450 kilometers south-west of Sydney and 460 kilometers north-east of Melbourne.

The Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri people are the Traditional Custodians of the land, the largest Nation in New South Wales. The word Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri means 'people of the three rivers', and traditionally these rivers (Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, and Macquarie) were the primary source of food for the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri people. Wagga Wagga continues to be the traditional home of many Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri people, and it is also home to First Nations people from many surrounding Nations.

Council follows the cultural direction received from local Senior Wiradyuri Elder and author of the first 'Wiradjuri Dictionary', Uncle Stan Grant Senior, that the name of the city was derived from Wiradyuri language, 'wagadyi' meaning a place to dance. The repetition of a word expresses plural or emphasis, so Wagga Wagga - wagadyi wagadyi – is understood to mean a place of many celebrations or a place of many dances.

As the largest inland city in New South Wales, Wagga Wagga currently has a population of around 68,716² people and serves as a vital service hub for the Riverina region. The city's economy is diverse, with strong sectors and amenities in agriculture, education, defence, arts and culture, recreation, and healthcare. Wagga Wagga is well-connected by road and rail, with the Sturt and Olympic Highways providing key transport links, and the Wagga Wagga Airport offering flights to major cities like Sydney and Melbourne.

Wagga Wagga has a vibrant community life with events and festivals held throughout the year, such as the Festival of W, FUSION Botanical, and a growing recognition for national First Nations days of significance such as National Apology Day, National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, and National NAIDOC Week.

The city has a thriving arts and culture scene, with galleries, theatres, and museums showcasing both local and national talent. Sport plays a significant role in the community, with the city boasting excellent sport and recreation facilities, including the Oasis Aquatic Centre, Multi-Purpose Centre, and the Multisport Cycling Complex at Pomingalarna Reserve.

Caring for Country through environmental and sustainability efforts is also a key focus in Wagga Wagga, centered on land care, conservation, and sustainable farming practices. Wagga Wagga City Council and community groups work collaboratively to preserve the natural environment, particularly the health of the Murrumbidgee River. This is enacted through plans such as the *Biodiversity Strategy: Maldhangilanha 2020-2030*, *Arboreal Mammal Management Plan 2023-2033*, and the *Marrambidya Wetland Plan of Management 2024-2034*, *Urban Cooling Strategy 2022-2052* which have had extensive consultation with Elders, cultural knowledge holders, and community.



This map is a visual representation of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Country within New South Wales in relation to Wagga Wagga and is not to scale.



1 "About - Wagga Wagga City Council - Organisations" Data.NSW, 2020. <https://data.nsw.gov.au/data/organization/about/wagga-wagga-city-council>

2 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) | Wagga Wagga City Council | Community Profile" n.d. Profile.id.com.au. <https://profile.id.com.au/wagga-wagga/population-estimate> and the Marrambidya Wetland Plan of Management 2024-2034, Urban Cooling Strategy 2022-2052 which have had extensive consultation with Elders, cultural knowledge holders, and community.

First Nations Data and Statistics for Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA)

Population:

4,469

First Nations population: 4,469 (6.6% of Wagga Wagga's total population, in line with NSW state average)³

<p>68,716 Population of Wagga Wagga Local Government Area⁴</p>	<p>82,605 The population is forecast to grow by 20.21% to 82,605 by 2046⁵</p>
--	---

Health and wellbeing:

As of 27 August 2024, RivMed have 3,002 active clients that attend their health services, consisting of:

<p>758 Children (0-11yrs)</p>	<p>777 Youth (12-25yrs)</p>	<p>1467 Adults (25+yrs)</p>
--	--	--

The Wagga Aboriginal Legal Service has supported **1,910** clients⁷

Median age:

**First Nations:
21 years old**

**Non-First Nations:
37 years old**

Education⁸:

<p>1,334 First Nation Students Enrolled in our 22 public schools, from Kindergarten to Year 12.</p>	<p>62 Staff Aboriginal Education Officer/Workers across local schools.</p>
--	---

- 138 Students**
Enrolled in the Clontarf Academy - Koorungal High School since Term 3, 2022.
- 220 Students**
Enrolled in the Girls at the Centre Program⁹ – Mount Austin High School since 2022, with 25 completing their schooling while being a part of the program since 2022.
- 242 Students**
Enrolled and completed a course with Riverina Community College (RCC) since 2022.¹⁰
- 264 Students**
Enrolled in the Clontarf Academy¹¹ - Mount Austin High School since 2022.
- 777 First Nation Students**
Between the Primary Industries Centre and Wagga Wagga Campus, 777 First Nations students enrolled and completed a course at TAFE Riverina¹² between Jan 2022 - April 2024.

5 Aboriginal Places declared¹³:

Declaring Aboriginal Places is a way of recognising and legally protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage.¹⁴

- Wollundry Lagoon and Tony Ireland Park
- Flowerdale Lagoon
- Bomen Axe Quarry
- Wiradjuri Reserve and Gobba Beach
- Bomen Lagoon

³ "Home | Wagga Wagga City Council | Community Profile." n.d. Profile.id.com.au. <https://profile.id.com.au/wagga-wagga>.

⁴ "Estimated Resident Population (ERP) | Wagga Wagga City Council | Community Profile." n.d. Profile.id.com.au. <https://profile.id.com.au/wagga-wagga/population-estimate>.

⁵ "Estimated Resident Population (ERP) | Wagga Wagga City Council | Community Profile." n.d. Profile.id.com.au. <https://profile.id.com.au/wagga-wagga/population-estimate>.

⁶ Data provided by Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation, August 2024

⁷ Data provided by Wagga Aboriginal Legal Service, August 2024.

⁸ Data provided by Wagga Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, April 2026.

⁹ Data provided by The Smith Family, facilitator of 'Girls @ The Centre' program in Wagga Wagga, July 2024.

¹⁰ Data Provided by Riverina Community College, September 2024.

¹¹ Data provided by Clontarf Academy, August 2024.

¹² Data provided by TAFE Riverina, July 2024.

¹³ "Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System | Heritage." 2024. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. June 19, 2024. <https://www2.environment.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-heritage-information-management-system>.

¹⁴ Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 2011a. Aboriginal Places Policy, see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/conservation/110608Abplacespolicy.pdf



Photo: Marrambidya Wetlands

Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations History

Wagga Wagga City Council values that Australia is home to the oldest continuing living culture in the world and acknowledges First Nations people for their knowledge and cultural practices.

In honouring and respecting Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri cultural heritage, beliefs, and their ongoing connection to the land, rivers and sky, Council continues to seek guidance from local Elders and cultural knowledge holders to learn and preserve the history, language, and culture of the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri land and its people.



The following content was written in consultation with local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and cultural knowledge holders.

Council would like to acknowledge that although the following content is historically important for our city, it includes sensitive information, storytelling, and contains statements that are racist.

Wagga Wagga is a resettlement area

In the early 1970s, the Whitlam Federal Government provided funding to State Governments to manage and administer a new initiative to relocate Aboriginal families from rural remote communities. In NSW, this led to the Aboriginal Family Voluntary Resettlement Scheme (AFVRS) being established in 1971¹⁵. The aim of the AFVRS was to improve the living standards of all Aboriginal people by improving their access to housing, education, health, and employment opportunities. Prior to this initiative, most of the Aboriginal people of the Wagga Wagga area could trace their heritage to approximately seven Aboriginal families.

The AFVRS offered incentives to Aboriginal people to move from remote areas and reserves that were outside of town centres to designated rural centres, such as Wagga Wagga. Other locations were Bathurst, Newcastle, Orange, and Albury.

The first approximately 13 families of Aboriginal people to resettle in Wagga Wagga were placed in the newly created suburb of Ashmont from the early 1970s. This was then extended as more families were resettled into the existing suburb of Koorinal, and a newly established suburb of Tolland.

There was a dramatic increase in the Aboriginal population in Wagga Wagga at this time, from just seven (7) identified families to more than 500 Aboriginal people from predominately the Yorta Yorta, Barkindji, and Gomerioi/Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi nations by 1982.¹⁶

Unfortunately, the AFVRS did little to address the health outcomes of Aboriginal people.

With the best intentions, schemes of this nature did not consider the culturally appropriate and sensitive needs of Aboriginal people and their families.

No consideration was given to where these Aboriginal families were re-located in relation to families from other Nations. This led to conflicts arising from cultural and language differences, a situation often described as lateral violence.

While these conflicts were occurring, the wider white community were not happy with the newly resettled Aboriginal people, with signs being erected around Ashmont with racist statements such as “you are now entering coon county” and “vegemite village”.

First Nations residents of Wagga Wagga have worked very hard over decades to establish Aboriginal-run and culturally appropriate support services, including childcare, legal, health, and education services.

¹⁵ “Aboriginal Housing Programs Begin.” 2022. Towards Truth. 2022. <https://www.towardstruth.org.au/themes/Country/living-on-Country/35-housing/sub0427-aboriginal-housing-programs-begin>.

¹⁶ Information kindly provided by Uncle Hewitt Whyman and Aunty Dorothy Whyman, July 2024

Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS)

The first Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) office opened on Regent Street, Redfern in early 1970. The ALS became a legal force to be reckoned with, and it did not take long for other Aboriginal Legal Services to follow the Redfern model and emerge across Australia.¹⁷

Uncle Hewitt Whyman was posted to Wagga Wagga as an Army recruit instructor in 1974, discharging in 1976. He was previously involved with the ALS while serving and it was known by the ALS that he still lived in Wagga Wagga.¹⁸

In 1977 the ALS expanded regionally to Wagga Wagga due to increasing community demands and contacted Uncle Hewitt offering him a field officer position. This service commenced work out of the home of Uncle Hewitt and Aunty Dorothy (Dot) Whyman. Uncle Hewitt agreed to take on this position on the condition that the ALS provided a landline phone and vehicle for their family to use as they did not have any transport at the time. Aunty Dot assisted Uncle Hewitt with the ALS as a voluntary secretary while raising their children at home.¹⁹

As funding became available, the ALS moved to an office space on Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga Wagga. Aunty Dot was offered a position as an inaugural secretary with full time pay at the new location. Later, the Aboriginal Redevelopment Centre from Canberra assisted in acquiring a two-story building on Docker Street in 1982. This building allowed Aunty Dot's mother, Aunty Val Weldon, to relocate her Aboriginal playgroup to the downstairs area. The Docker Street location also housed

a Youth Worker, a Community Support Worker, and Aboriginal Children's Services.

The ALS provided extensive support to the community beyond legal assistance. By utilising their broad network, they helped local Aboriginal people with a range of issues by referring them to appropriate organisations and agencies. The ALS played a crucial role in addressing significant local issues, such as the treatment of young men being transported for Juvenile Justice. These young men were often marched in handcuffs from the railway station to the police station along Baylis Street, a practice that the ALS worked to challenge and address.

Uncle Hewitt and Aunty Dot worked for the ALS for 36 years and retired together in 2013.²⁰

Today, the ALS operates out of Trail Street in Wagga Wagga, supporting over 1,910 clients as of August 2024. This includes work done by YBAP (Youth Bail Advocacy program) Officers and MHARS (Administration Officer, Mental Health Advocacy, and Referral Service) Mental Health Officers.²¹

¹⁷ Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited. (n.d.). Our History. [online] Available at: <https://www.alsnswact.org.au/history>

¹⁸ Information kindly provided by Uncle Hewitt Whyman, August 2024.

¹⁹ Information kindly provided by Uncle Hewitt Whyman and Aunty Dorothy Whyman, August 2024

²⁰ Information kindly provided by Uncle Hewitt Whyman and Aunty Dorothy Whyman, August 2024

²¹ Information reviewed and data provided by the Wagga Aboriginal Legal Service, August 2024.

Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed)

A major issue from the resettlement scheme was the ongoing poor health outcomes for Aboriginal people. By 1982, the burden placed on the Wagga Wagga Aboriginal Legal Service continued growing. Even though this service only had a solicitor and a field officer, it was increasingly acting on social welfare issues on behalf of the Aboriginal people of the area.

For this reason, in 1982 a public meeting was called by the community and held at the Ashmont Baptist Church. Representatives from government departments including the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the NSW Department of Aboriginal Health attended.

One of the outcomes of this meeting and the subsequent work and commitment of all people involved was the purchase by the Aboriginal Land Council of the premises at 159 Docker Street Wagga Wagga. The premises was rented to RivMed for a nominal amount.

In 1988, Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed) became an incorporated body. The Federal and NSW Governments over the coming years would fund the medical and dental services as well as the family health services, drug and alcohol services, and other primary health care services. It would not be until 1998 that RivMed had its first General Practitioner Registrar, Dr Elizabeth Tooth.

RivMed then moved to Trail Street in 1999. In 2000, it received a Wagga Wagga City Council Heritage Grant that enabled the service to undertake minor renovations to the building to help make it reflect the role it had in providing culturally appropriate primary health care

services to the Aboriginal people of the area.

Clinical services moved to Edward Street, with the Trail Street office continuing to house the dental services, family health services, and administration services until 2021 when it was replaced by the new Administration and Dental building on Docker Street.

This expansion of services demonstrates the position of strength that RivMed now operates from as a critical provider of primary health care services within the area for local Aboriginal people.²²

As of August 2024, RivMed had 3,002 active clients attending their health services, including:

- Children (0-11yrs) - 758
- Youth (12-25yrs) - 777
- Adults (25+yrs) - 1467²³

²² Information provided by Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed), July 2024.

²³ Data provided by Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed), July 2024.



Photo:
Murrumbidgee River
[Marrambidya]

Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council (WWLALC)

The Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council (WWLALC) was established in the early 1980s, following the passage of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 in NSW. The Act was a landmark piece of legislation that recognised the rights of Aboriginal people in NSW to claim Crown Land that was not being lawfully used or occupied. This was part of a broader movement to provide Aboriginal people with the means to regain their land and to promote their economic and social development.

The WWLALC has been active in lodging claims for Crown Lands within the Wagga Wagga region. Once a claim is successful, the land is transferred to the ownership of the Land Council, which holds it in trust for the benefit of its members.

Over the years, the WWLALC has worked to manage these lands, ensuring they are used in ways that benefit the local Aboriginal

community, whether through housing, cultural preservation, or economic development.

The WWLALC plays a role in preserving Aboriginal culture and heritage in the Wagga Wagga area. This includes protecting significant sites, conducting cultural education programs, and advocating for the rights and interests of Aboriginal people.

Like many Aboriginal organisations, the WWLALC faces ongoing challenges, including funding constraints, political changes, and the need to balance cultural preservation with economic development.

The WWLALC continues to be an important organisation within the community, working towards the advancement of Aboriginal people in the area, and contributing to the broader movement for Aboriginal land rights and self-determination in Australia.²⁴

²⁴ Information reviewed and approved by the Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council (WWLALC), August 2024.

Wiradjuri Language Revival

Uncle Stan Grant Senior has worked tirelessly to bring the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language back into community use after previous Government policies restricted Aboriginal people from speaking their language or practicing their culture. Uncle Stan has been working on the Wiradjuri Language Reclamation Project for over 20 years, and with the assistance of Dr John Rudder who joined the project in 1997, published two editions of 'A New Wiradjuri Dictionary and A Grammar of Wiradjuri Language' books.

Uncle Stan and the late Aunty Flo Grant (Uncle Stan's sister) were also instrumental in the development of the *Graduate Certificate in Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Language, Culture, and Heritage* that is taught at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, within the School of Indigenous Australian Studies. Since the courses began in 2013, they have taught Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language, culture, and heritage to hundreds of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri, First Nations, and allied people²⁵, helping to achieve Uncle Stan's dream of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language becoming a living language.²⁶

Graduates have proceeded to do many things with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language, such as writing children's books through to novels containing Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language, animations, board games, and teaching Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language in preschools, primary and secondary schools, and at TAFE NSW.

As of 9 August 2024, Charles Sturt University has had 36 students graduate from the Graduate Certificate in Wiradjuri Language, Culture and Heritage since 2022.

There is also a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Cultural Competency currently delivered at Charles Sturt University, with 4 students graduating since 2022.²⁷

²⁵ Murray, A. (n.d.). Helping recover the Wiradjuri language. [online] news.csu.edu.au. Available at: <https://news.csu.edu.au/latest-news/society/helping-recover-the-wiradjuri-language>.

²⁶ Bull, K. (2014). Wiradjuri Language and Cultural Heritage Recovery Project. [online] about.csu.edu.au. Available at: <https://about.csu.edu.au/community/initiatives/wiradjuri-language-and-cultural-heritage-recovery-project>.

²⁷ Data provided by Charles Sturt University, August 2024.

Wagga Wagga City Council's Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission

Contribute to a vibrant growing community by providing excellence in leadership, and delivery of 'best value' infrastructure and services, supporting quality living in an improving sustainable environment.

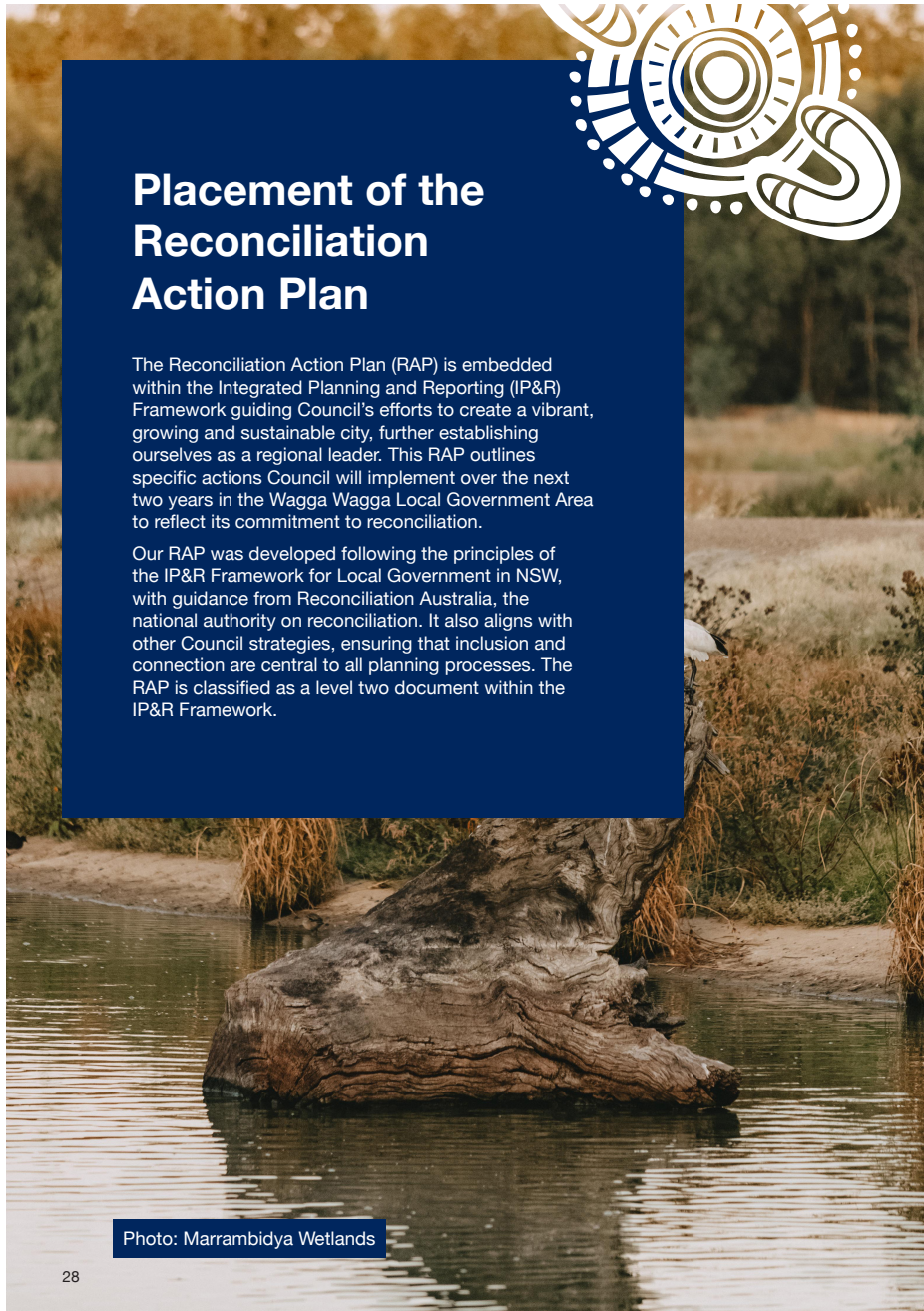
Our Vision

To be acclaimed by our community for our passion, professionalism and performance.

Our Values

Trust, Respect, Innovation, and Teamwork





Placement of the Reconciliation Action Plan

The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is embedded within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework guiding Council's efforts to create a vibrant, growing and sustainable city, further establishing ourselves as a regional leader. This RAP outlines specific actions Council will implement over the next two years in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area to reflect its commitment to reconciliation.

Our RAP was developed following the principles of the IP&R Framework for Local Government in NSW, with guidance from Reconciliation Australia, the national authority on reconciliation. It also aligns with other Council strategies, ensuring that inclusion and connection are central to all planning processes. The RAP is classified as a level two document within the IP&R Framework.

Photo: Marrambidya Wetlands

Our Planning and Reporting Framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework enables Council to engage with our community about funding priorities and service levels, including how these elements shape our local identity and contribute to a more sustainable future.

To comply with NSW Government legislation, Councils are required to prepare various plans outlining how they will deliver works and services both in the short and long term. These plans are grounded in the community's priorities, as identified in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), and provide a balanced approach to planning, ensuring resources are used effectively to achieve community outcomes.

These plans guide Council's policy development, decision-making, and program delivery each year and can be accessed on Council's website at wagga.nsw.gov.au.

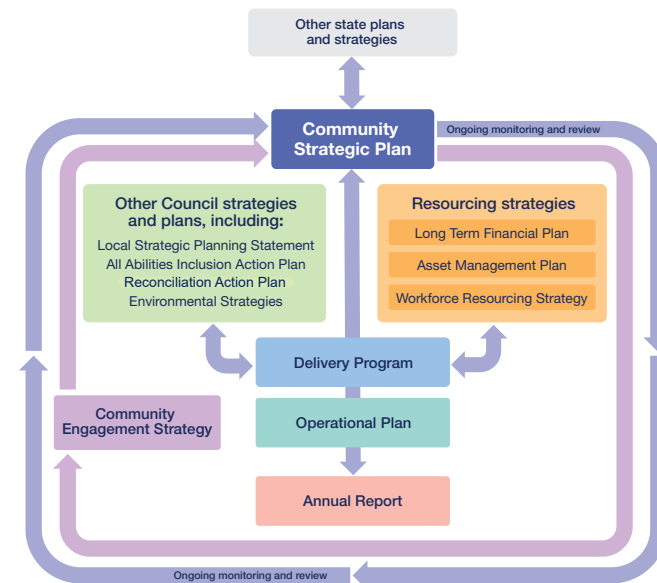


Figure 1.1 NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

**Key Strategic link:
Community Strategic Plan
2050**

**Our vision:
Wagga Wagga - a vibrant,
growing and sustainable regional
city.**

Wagga Wagga 2050, Community Strategic Plan (CSP) provides the direction and guidance for our community moving forward.

Wagga Wagga 2050 is designed to reflect the community's aspirations, and to ensure the outcomes are mapped in alignment with state, federal and, where appropriate, international policy directions and wellbeing frameworks.

**Focus area:
Vibrant**

Wagga Wagga is a vibrant place to live, work and visit. We foster a thriving cultural, social, and recreational scene, where creativity, diversity, and our rich cultural heritage are valued, and people feel safe and secure within our community.

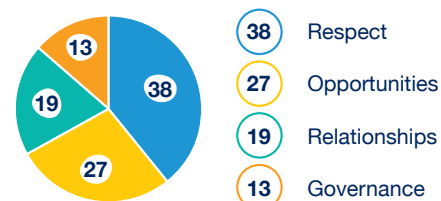
Strategy: [V06] First Nations culture - Value and celebrate local First Nations culture and provide opportunities to grow that knowledge within the community.

6.1 Support and acknowledge the importance of Wiradjuri and First Nations people, culture, and place in our community.

6.2 Pursue the creation of a Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations keeping place.

**Our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
2022-2024**

Council completed 98% of the 97 actions outlined in the 2022-2024 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. Some actions are ongoing and will be carried forward into the updated 2026-2028 action plan.



Number of Deliverables 97

The accomplishments achieved through the 2022-2024 RAP were reported to the Council, as well local Elders and community members, serving as evidence of significant progress toward reconciliation and collaboration with the First Nations community.

A key challenge and ongoing barrier to meaningful collaboration is communication and engagement fatigue. With an increase in engagement and requests for paid cultural service showing that knowledge is valued, it also means that local Elders, Cultural Knowledge Holders, and community members are expressing fatigue and cultural load as concerns.

Council regularly reflects on this and has reviewed the way in which we seek services and advice across various projects. This means reviewing the frequency and number of First Nations advisory meetings and ensuring that the agenda is led by First Nations community members and provide meaningful outcomes.

Wagga Wagga City Council is proud of the achievements and progress we have made toward reconciliation to date, however we recognise that there remains much work to be done, as reconciliation is an ongoing journey that requires our collective commitment and continued collaboration.

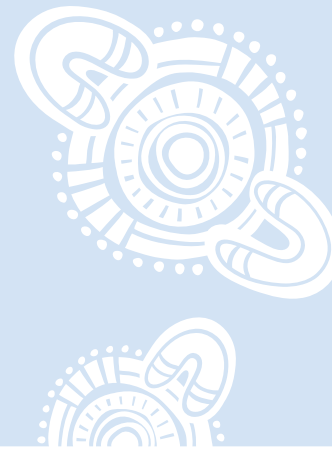
Highlights from the 2022-2024 RAP

Relationships

- 25% increase in community attendance and programming for national dates of significance such as National Apology Day, National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week activities, and NAIDOC Week.
- Council collaborated with local First Nations community groups and organisations to safely host the NAIDOC Week March and Flag Raising in 2023 and 2024 to commence NAIDOC Week celebrations in Wagga Wagga.
- Council engaged with a range of First Nations groups, actively participating in key interagencies, and participated on committees/working groups such as Elders and Executive meetings, RAP Working Group, Wagga Aboriginal Interagency Group to drive reconciliation outcomes across a number of key strategic projects. Consultation to inform key strategic planning work included the Wagga Wagga Destination Management Plan 2025-2034, *Biodiversity Strategy: Maldhangilanha 2020-2030*, *Arboreal Mammal Management Plan 2023-2033*, *Marrambidya Wetland Plan of Management 2024-2034*, *Urban Cooling Strategy 2022-2052*, along with the development of other key plans including housing, economic development, urban renewal and recreation.

Respect

- Opening of the Museum of Riverina Wiradyuri Gallery in consultation with local Elders
- The culturally informed and safe return of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri items that have been returned to Wagga Wagga and are currently being exhibited at the Museum of the Riverina's Botanic Gardens site.
- The Museum of the Riverina was successful in securing \$50,000 from the Community Heritage grant funding from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to research and record local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations oral histories. These oral histories have been produced as a podcast series and includes interviews with local families who were part of the resettlement scheme to Wagga Wagga from the early 1970s and 1980s.
- A memorial plaque was installed with a celebratory event acknowledging the late Wiradjuri Elder Aunty Violet Honeysett in September 2023.
- Two Walk of Honour plaques honouring senior Wiradjuri Elders, Aunty Isabel Reid and Aunty Kath Withers, were installed in 2023.
- The Roads and Suburbs Naming Policy (POL 047) was reviewed and endorsed to prioritise the naming of unnamed roads and locations within the Local Government Area with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri names.
- Development and delivery of meaningful and accessible First Nations annual programming across Council's cultural facilities, including the Wagga Wagga City Library, Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, and Museum of the Riverina, developed in collaboration with Elders and First Nations practitioners.



Opportunities

- Council's First Nations People Employment & Retention Strategy was launched in December 2024.
- 105 Council staff members completed Cultural Awareness training across 7 sessions in 2022/23, with 4 sessions completed in 2023/24.
- A First Nations 12-month artist-in-residence was held at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, supported by the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment grant.
- Recruitment of Aboriginal adult traineeships in the Community Development and Property Teams.

Governance

- Facilitated a 60% increase of participants attending the monthly Wagga Aboriginal Interagency Group meetings which has significantly strengthened collaboration and information sharing across local First Nations services.
- Council facilitated three Elders and Executive meetings and four RAP Working Group Meetings in annually.

Our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-2028

Wagga Wagga City Council's Reconciliation Action Plan is a strategic document that demonstrates to the local community Council's commitment to better practice when working in collaboration with First Nations people. This can be achieved by continuing and building upon its employment of First Nations people, acknowledging and recognising significant First Nations dates such as Apology Day, Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, and NAIDOC week, along with regularly consulting with Elders, local knowledge holders and community to inform Council's strategic planning work across all areas of the organisation.

Council values maintaining strong and collaborative relationships with local Elders, cultural knowledge holders, and the broader community. By strengthening these relationships, we aim to and enhance the development and implementation of community programs, events, strategic plans, urban planning initiatives, and natural resource management, ensuring the integration of First Nations' local knowledge and cultural values. This approach further embeds an organisation-wide commitment to best practices, prioritising early and meaningful engagement with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and First Nations communities.

The RAP Working Group, alongside Mawang Gaway and the Elders and Executive group, has been instrumental in shaping priorities for Council to undertake. The RAP Working Group consists of a range of members, including Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and community members, senior managers, and operational staff from all areas of the organisation. The RAP Champion at Wagga Wagga City Council is Scott Gray, Chief Operating Officer.

Photo: Ashmont Public School dancers 'Waganha biladha' at National Sorry Day 2018



34

Renewal

The Action Plan within this Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-2028 was updated by evaluating the work and achievements of the previous RAP, and consultation with the RAP Working Group, along with engagement with local Elders and community.

This engagement process included holding a series of yarns at community hubs located in the Wagga Wagga urban areas of Koorinal, Tolland, and Ashmont along with a number of key First Nations meetings and groups to seek insights and feedback, including: Mawang Gaway, RivMed, Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council, Wagga Wagga Aboriginal Interagency, and Aunty Jeans Program.

Key feedback included:

- Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities between the First Nations community across all areas of Council.
- More opportunities for First Nations cultural education and community connection, to support those in community who have been stripped of their culture, language and connections through generations of forced removal, institutional abuse and trauma.
- Increase distribution of information for existing Council service provision across the LGA using communication channels that are more accessible for the community, for example: printed collateral made available in the community hubs.

35



Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group

Our 2026-2028 RAP Working Group is made up of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations Elders, community members and Council staff, including:

Community Members

- Cultural knowledge holders and community members (4)
- Local First Nations Elders (4)

Wagga Wagga City Council Staff

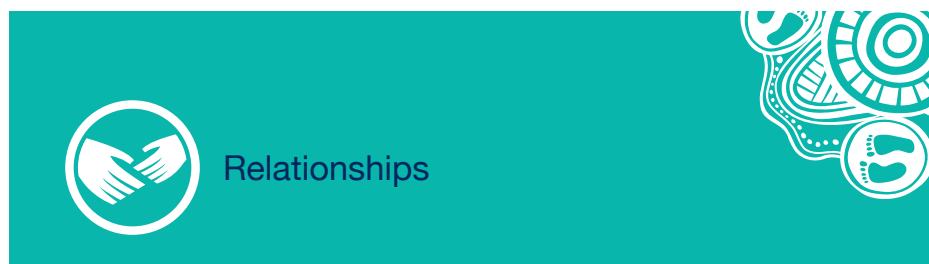
- Aboriginal Community Development Officer
- Property Officer
- Communications & Engagement Coordinator
- Manager, City Growth & Regional Assets
- Manager, Wagga Leisure
- Chief Operating Officer, RAP Champion
- Manager, Environment Sustainability
- Community Development Coordinator
- Director, Infrastructure Services
- Manager, Community Services
- Corporate Governance Officer
- People & Culture Coordinator



2026 – 2028 Action Plan

Relationships Respect Opportunities Governance

Photo: Marrabidya Wetlands



It is important for Wagga Wagga City Council to continue to strengthen the positive relationships with our local First Nations community, as this will ensure we work respectfully towards shared goals. Council will continue to build these relationships through trust, mutual respect, and the provision of supportive environments.

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
1. Establish, develop, and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations stakeholders and organisations.	1.1 Continue to engage with local First Nations Elders to ensure appropriate level of guidance is obtained around future engagement and community needs through Elders and Executive meetings held twice per year, consultation as part of major strategic planning projects and strategies.	April and October 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	1.2 Regularly engage and consult with First Nations stakeholders, community, and organisations on Council strategic plans, strategies, or programming.	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	1.3 Strengthen relationships between Council and key organisations in the areas of health, education and safety through regular engagement with First Nations students and teachers at local schools.	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	1.4 Engage with community and youth at the community hubs through regular youth programming.	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	1.5 Develop and implement a community engagement plan to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.*	July 2028	Chief Operating Officer
	1.6 Maintain consistent and accessible communication with local First Nations community members and stakeholders through a dedicated page on Council's website, and printed collateral located in community hubs.	July 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
2. Build relationships through celebrating National Reconciliation Week (NRW)	2.1 Circulate Reconciliation Australia's National Reconciliation Week resources and materials to staff.*	27 May - 3 June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	2.2 RAP Working Group members to participate in an external National Reconciliation Week event.*	27 May - 3 June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	2.3 Encourage and support staff and senior leaders to participate in at least one external event to recognise and celebrate National Reconciliation Week.*	27 May - 3 June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	2.4 Organise at least one National Reconciliation Week event each year.*	27 May - 3 June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	2.5 Register all our NRW events on Reconciliation Australia's NRW website.*	May 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
3. Promote reconciliation through our sphere of influence.	3.1 Develop and implement a staff engagement strategy to raise awareness of reconciliation across our workforce.*	May 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	3.2 Communicate our commitment to reconciliation publicly.* For example, on First Nations dates of significance.	May 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	3.3 Engage with local schools to promote Naraagunnawali: Reconciliation in schools.*	27 May - 3 June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	3.4 Explore opportunities to positively influence our external stakeholders to drive reconciliation outcomes.*	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	3.5 Collaborate with RAP organisations and key organisations to develop innovative approaches to advance reconciliation.*	October 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
4. Promote positive race-relations through anti-discrimination strategies	4.1 Review existing People and Culture policies and procedures to identify any updates required to be made to existing anti-discrimination provisions and future needs.*	December 2026, 2027, and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	4.2 Develop, implement, and communicate an anti-discrimination policy for our organisation.*	July 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	4.3 Engage with First Nations staff and/or First Nations advisors to consult on our anti-racism discrimination policy including culturally sensitive additions and/or amendments to policies, procedures, and processes.	June 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	4.4 Educate senior leaders on the effects of racism* and their role in eradicating racism in the workplace.	December 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce

* Actions stipulated by Reconciliation Australia as part of the Innovate RAP.



Wagga Wagga City Council aims to increase understanding, appreciation, pride, and respect of First Nations People cultures in order to create diverse, strong, and resilient communities.

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
5. Increase understanding, value, and recognition of First Nations cultures, histories, knowledge, and rights through cultural learning.	5.1 As guided by local First Nations Elders, engage with First Nations cultural knowledge holders to provide cultural immersion training opportunities for staff.	June 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	5.2 Continue the implementation of cultural awareness and sensitivity training across the organisation.	June 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	5.3 Conduct a review of current cultural learning needs within our organisation.*	June 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	5.4 Develop, implement, and communicate a cultural learning strategy document for our staff, in consultation with local First Nations Elders, Knowledge Holders and First Nations staff.*	June 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	5.5 Provide opportunities for RAP Working Group members and other key leadership staff to participate in formal and structured cultural learning.*	July 2026, 2027, and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
6. Recognise First Nations dates of significance and cultural events.	6.1 Include First Nations dates of significance in Council corporate calendar for internal use.	June 2026, 2027, and 2028	Chief Operating Officer
	6.2 Communicate the opportunity for staff to attend Council-run events of First Nations significance. For example, arts and cultural exhibitions, guest speakers, and sporting events.	June 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	6.3 Promote Council and community-led cultural events that recognise days of significance for First Nations people to wider community via existing communication channels.	June 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	6.4 Acknowledge the inequities of the past and the strength of First Nations people, communities and survival in formal speeches in Australia Day, Apology Day, Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, and NAIDOC Week events.	January, February, May and July 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
7. Demonstrate respect to First Nations peoples by observing cultural protocols.	7.1 Increase staff understanding of the purpose and significance behind cultural protocols, including Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country protocols.*	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	7.2 With permission from First Nations Elders, include a copy of the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations Community Cultural Protocols booklet, which includes protocols for Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country, in all new staff induction packages.	June 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	7.3 Update the Acknowledgement of Country in Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and English language, in Council's public spaces, such as the Civic Centre foyer in consultation with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language holders.	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	7.4 Invite a Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elder to conduct a Welcome to Country at significant events each year including, but not limited to, the first Council Meeting of the year, and any Council Meeting that takes place during a First Nations date of significance.	January 2027, and 2028	Manager Corporate Governance and Performance
	7.5 Develop and maintain a list on the intranet of Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and Knowledge Holders who can conduct a Welcome to Country or provide cultural services for staff reference.	July 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	7.6 Include an Acknowledgement of Country at the start of all formal Council Meetings and ensure it is captured in the Business Paper and Council Meeting minutes.	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Corporate Governance and Performance

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
8. Research and preserve the First Nations cultural heritage and histories in our Local Government Area in consultation with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders.	8.1 Investigate opportunities to create site-specific public art opportunities that share Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations stories in consultation with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders.	June 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	8.2 Include information about Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations people and histories in visitor attraction publications in consultation with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders.	June 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	8.3 Collaborate with key agencies to implement the Management Plans for recognised Aboriginal Nominated Places within the LGA, including the provision of onsite interpretive signage in consultation with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders.	June 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Environment Sustainability
	8.4 Work with NSW Local Land Services and Office of Environment and Heritage to investigate further declarations of Aboriginal Places in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	June 2028	Manager Environment Sustainability
	8.5 Include local Elders, Cultural Knowledge holders, and community in the consultation and planning for future strategic developments, open spaces, and recreational spaces.	June 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager City Growth & Regional Assets
	8.6 Undertake programs to record First Nations oral histories at the Museum of the Riverina and Wagga Wagga City Library in consultation with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders.	June 2028	Manager Community Services
	8.7 Promote Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations culture in Council's cultural facilities through cultural exhibitions and programs in consultation with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders.	June 2028	Manager Community Services

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
9. Support revitalisation and recognition of traditional Wiradjuri/ Wiradyuri placenames in the community in consultation with Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders.	9.1 Identify appropriate sites for re-naming/ naming of parks, roads, new suburbs, and significant places in Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri language, in consultation with the Wiradjuri/ Wiradyuri community, to reflect the history of the local area.	June 2028	Manager Development Assessment & Building Certification
	9.2 Update the Wagga Wagga City Council website with additional significant sites and declared Aboriginal Places within the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.	June 2028	Manager Environment Sustainability
10. Build respect for First Nations cultures and histories by celebrating NAIDOC Week.	10.1 RAP Working Group to participate in an external NAIDOC Week event.*	July 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	10.2 Continue leave provisions for Wiradjuri/ Wiradyuri and First Nations staff to participate in NAIDOC Week.	July 2026, 2027, and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	10.3 Facilitate NAIDOC Week events and support the promotion of community-led NAIDOC Week programming.	July 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	10.4 Promote and encourage participation in external NAIDOC events to all staff.*	July 2026, 2027, and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	10.5 Review HR policies and procedures to remove barriers to staff participating in NAIDOC Week.*	June 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce

* Actions stipulated by Reconciliation Australia as part of the Innovate RAP.



Wagga Wagga City Council will aim to establish and strengthen support toward employment, procurement, and professional development opportunities for First Nations groups and organisations to achieve increased participatory inclusion.

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
11. Improve employment outcomes by increasing First Nations recruitment, retention, and professional development.	11.1 Continue to maintain understanding of current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing to inform future employment and professional development opportunities.*	June 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	11.2 Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to consult on our First Nations Employment and Retention Plan.*	June 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	11.3 Review and implement the First Nations Employment and Retention Plan, including recruitment procedures and policies, remove identified barriers to First Nations participation in our workplace, and identify professional development opportunities for current staff.*	June 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	11.4 Advertise job vacancies to effectively reach First Nations stakeholders.*	June 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	11.5 Increase the number of identified First Nations positions employed at Council, including cadetships, traineeships, and apprenticeships, in line with the First Nations Employment Recruitment and Retention Plan.	June 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	11.6 Include a local Elder and/or senior community representative on recruitment and selection panels for identified positions.	June 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	11.7 Host a stall at local employment expos to highlight career opportunities at Council for First Nations community members.	June 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
	11.8 Promote work experience opportunities at Council for First Nations school students.	June 2027 and 2028	Director Economy, Business & Workforce

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
12. Increase First Nations supplier diversity to support improved economic and social outcomes.	12.1 Source corporate gifts from local First Nations businesses.	June 2027 and 2028	Chief Operating Officer
	12.2 Include a provision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement* in Section 2 (Procurement Strategies) of the Wagga Wagga City Council Procurement Manual.	June 2028	Chief Financial Officer
	12.3 Develop and communicate opportunities for procurement of goods and services from First Nations businesses to staff.*	June 2027 and 2028	Chief Financial Officer
	12.4 Review and update procurement practices to remove barriers to procuring goods and services from First Nations businesses.*	June 2027 and 2028	Chief Financial Officer
	12.5 Provide education opportunities for First Nations businesses to increase competitiveness of quotations and bidding for Council tenders.	June 2027 and 2028	Chief Financial Officer
	12.6 Feature Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations products at Council retail outlets, including the Wagga Wagga Visitor Information Centre and Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services

* Actions stipulated by Reconciliation Australia as part of the Innovate RAP.



Proper accountability is crucial for effectively implementing a reconciliation action plan, as it ensures transparency, builds trust within our community, and facilitates genuine progress towards reconciliation.

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
13. Establish and maintain an effective RAP Working Group (RWG) to drive governance of the RAP.	13.1 Maintain First Nations representation on the RAP Working Group.*	February, May, August and November 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	13.2 RAP Working Group to meet four times per year to drive and monitor RAP implementation. *	February, May, August, November 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	13.3 Review the Terms of Reference for the RAP Working Group.*	August 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
14. Provide appropriate support for effective implementation of RAP commitments. *	14.1 Review resources needs for RAP implementation.*	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	14.2 Engage our senior leaders and other staff in the delivery of RAP commitments.*	February, May August and November 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	14.3 Define and maintain appropriate systems to track, measure, and report on RAP commitments.*	June and January 2027, and 2028	Chief Operating Officer
	14.4 Contact Reconciliation Australia to request our unique link to access the online RAP Impact Measurement Survey.*	August 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	14.5 Appoint and maintain an internal RAP Champion from Executive/senior management.*	July 2026 and 2027	Chief Operating Officer

Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
15. Build accountability and transparency through reporting RAP achievements, challenges, and learnings both internally and externally.*	15.1 Contact Reconciliation Australia to verify that our primary and secondary contact details are up to date.*	June 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	15.2 Complete and submit the annual RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire to Reconciliation Australia.*	30 September 2026, 2027, and 2028	Manager Community Services
	15.3 Report RAP progress at quarterly RAP Working Group meetings.*	February, May, August, November 2026, 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
	15.4 Publicly report our RAP achievements, challenges, and learnings annually.*	November 2026, 2027, and 2028	Chief Operating Officer
15.5 Submit a 'traffic light' report to Reconciliation Australia at the conclusion of this RAP.*	15.5 Submit a 'traffic light' report to Reconciliation Australia at the conclusion of this RAP.*	June 2028	Manager Community Services
	15.6 Investigate participating in Reconciliation Australia's biennial Workplace RAP Barometer.	February 2027 and 2028	Manager Community Services
16. Continue our reconciliation journey by developing our next RAP.	16.1 Register via Reconciliation Australia's website to begin developing our next RAP 2028-2030.*	January 2028	Manager Community Services

* Actions stipulated by Reconciliation Australia as part of the Innovate RAP.



Photo: National Apology Day 2025

50

mawang dhuluyanha walking together

Artist statement by Bernard Higgins

This digital artwork illustrates a moment of cultural sharing and reconciliation. It portrays three young children approaching a Wiradyuri Elder engaged in a traditional smoking ceremony.

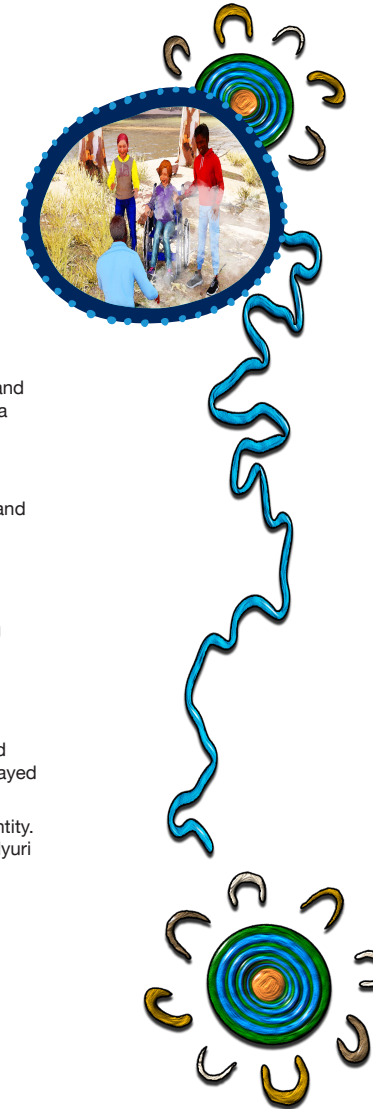
This scene reflects the growing acceptance and celebration of Wiradyuri culture by the community, especially our young people, in Wagga Wagga, as well as their efforts to include and welcome non-Indigenous and multicultural friends into their traditions.

The artwork depicts the Wiradyuri child helping their peers feel at ease during the ceremony. The artwork symbolises the broader process of reconciliation—where understanding and respect between cultures are fostered through shared experiences and mutual support.

Artist profile

Bernard Higgins is a Wagga Wagga based artist and a proud Wiradyuri man. His animations and artwork have been displayed in art galleries and museums throughout New South Wales.

A huge inspiration for Bernard is his culture and cultural identity. By using his skills, he hopes to preserve and promote Wiradyuri culture and language as well to the wider community.



Cultural Illustrations



Bila-Galang

The shape of the river depicted here reflects the Murrumbidgee, known for its significant movement and flow, enriched with the spirits of First Nations creator spirits and ancestors who travelled the land to form the waters, mountains, trees and surroundings. The river is represented by the meeting places in orange, connected by the flowing water lines, showing the intertwined relationship between people and Country.

History

Encircling the centre are knowledge sticks in orange, symbolising the act of sitting together, sharing stories, and passing on vital teachings. These sticks reflect the circular motion of knowledge exchange, where each person contributes to and enriches the collective wisdom of community. Encircling the centre are knowledge sticks in orange, symbolising the act of sitting together, sharing stories, and passing on vital teachings. These sticks reflect the circular motion of knowledge.



Leticia Anne Forbes is a proud Wiradjuri Torres Strait Islander yinaa 'woman' and Wiradjuri Artist. Leticia established her creative business, Leticia Anne Designs in March 2020 at the age of 23. Embracing the growth of her business and team, she launched Yirra Miya in February 2023 as her second business under her company Burralgang Enterprise Pty Ltd. Leticia uses her resilience and leadership qualities, reflecting from her lived experience growing up in the child protection system, to role model to other young entrepreneurs and youth. She represents the power of creating your own path, self-empowerment, and following your aspirations. Leticia was a youth worker for six years and was awarded the Indigenous Achievement Award for 7 News Young Achievers in 2022. In 2023 Leticia Anne Designs was a finalist for 7 News Young Achievers Creative Award and Small Business Award.

Connection

This cultural element represents the importance of connection between First Nations and non-First Nations people walking side by side in a non-linear journey. This element reflects reconciliation, mutual respect, shared responsibility of people in Wagga Wagga.



Education

This cultural element represents education for fostering understanding, respect, and inclusion in a diverse community between First Nations and non-First Nations. It reflects a process for fostering understanding, growth and reconciliation, and ensuring that First Nations culture and history is preserved and valued.



Respect

This cultural element reflects the importance of respect for people, Country, and community is deeply embedded as fundamental to identity and connection to Mother Earth and each other.





mandaang guwu
thank you

Wagga Wagga City Council is committed to meaningful reconciliation and welcomes any feedback to strengthen this commitment as detailed in our Reconciliation Action Plan.

If you have any questions regarding Wagga Wagga City Council's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-2028, please contact:

Wagga Wagga City Council

Community Development Team
Phone: 1300 292 442
Email: first.nations@wagga.nsw.gov.au



Photo: Ashmont Public School dancers 'Waganha bila-dha' at National Sorry Day 2025



Draft Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-2028

CONFIDENTIAL: Public Exhibition Submissions

#	Date Submitted	Channel	First Name	Last Name	First Nations
1	Apr 23, 2026, 10:54 AM	Have Your Say Online Platform			Yes
<p>I support the WWCC RAP initiatives and believe they are an important step towards recognising, respecting and working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. While I agree with the intent of the RAP, I do find it confusing at times with the different spellings used for Wiradjuri.</p>					
2	Apr 20, 2026, 09:19 PM	Have Your Say Online Platform			No
<p>Why is a local council involved in this? Once again catering for a minority. FFS Just do the jobs a council is meant to do!!!</p> <p>Roads falling apart, lake is a disease pit, and you clowns are worried about a woke apology.</p>					
3	Apr 14, 2026, 03:26 PM	Have Your Say Online Platform			Yes
<p>As a local Wiradjuri artist and designer who participated in the EOI process, I am concerned by the inclusion of non-local artwork within this Reconciliation Action Plan.</p> <p>By releasing a document that represents reconciliation on Wiradjuri Country without prioritising local Aboriginal artists, Council is overlooking and undervaluing the talent that exists within its own community. This decision does not align with the RAP's stated commitment to local engagement, cultural respect and community representation. Artwork in a RAP is not decorative (as inferred by Wagga City Council staff at community consultations) - it reflects Country, identity and voice, and should be grounded in place.</p> <p>There are also concerns regarding the transparency and integrity of the EOI and selection process. Given the significance of this document, the process should be reviewed to ensure it reflects appropriate community consultation, equitable access, and alignment with established local protocols.</p> <p>More broadly, when comparing this draft to previous RAPs, there is a noticeable shift away from direct, measurable outcomes toward internal policy and process. Earlier plans demonstrated clear commitments to local procurement, employment targets and direct engagement with Aboriginal businesses. In contrast, the current draft focuses more on reviewing policies and removing barriers, with less emphasis on tangible economic outcomes.</p>					

#	Date Submitted	Channel	First Name	Last Name	First Nations
<p>This represents a missed opportunity to deliver meaningful impact for local Aboriginal people. Reconciliation must extend beyond intent and be reflected in real economic participation, opportunity and investment in community.</p> <p>A stronger approach would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prioritise local Aboriginal artists and businesses through a clear local-first procurement approach - reinstate measurable targets for employment and procurement - ensure transparent, culturally appropriate consultation processes that encompass various community groups to ensure non biased opinions and views. <p>The RAP sets a precedent for how local Aboriginal creatives, community and businesses are engaged moving forward and this current draft falls short. Strengthening the connection between commitment and action will ensure the RAP delivers meaningful outcomes and not just lip service.</p>					
4	Apr 13, 2026, 03:32 PM	Have Your Say Online Platform			No
<p>I like too skate skate comps pretty cool need better parks in Wagga.</p>					
5	Apr 13, 2026, 02:54 PM	Have Your Say Online Platform			No
<p>I like the competitions being put on for skaters to be more apart of the community.</p>					
6	Apr 10, 2026, 12:26 PM	Have Your Say Online Platform			Prefer not to say
<p>It's great.</p>					
7	Mar 30, 2026, 03:00 PM	Have Your Say Online Platform			No
<p>Redacted comments</p>					
8	24/04/2026	Email			Yes
<p>Yiradhu Marang Alex,</p> <p>I thank you for sharing this draft RAP with me.</p> <p>I have viewed the document and I am pleased to see the great progress Wagga Wagga City Council has made and for leading meaningful reconciliation and recognition of Wiradjuri Country and our People with the community of Wagga Wagga.</p> <p>I must say it will be great when other local government agencies take this initiative. You are leading by example, so I say thank you.</p>					

#	Date Submitted	Channel	First Name	Last Name	First Nations
<p>I found no changes needing to be made and believe you all have done a great job in putting this together.</p> <p>Thank you again, please reach out to me if you need any further assistance regarding cultural appropriation or guidance.</p> <p>Ngargirri Dhunyal Guwayu (Will Speak Later), Erin Lamshead Yalmambirra Wiradjuri</p>					
9	8/05/2026	Phone			Yes
<p>"The Rap is Excellent! Never seen it better! you have it down pat! Well done Wagga Wagga City Council" via phone submission.</p>					
10	14/04/2026	Written Form Submission @ Ashmont Ngurra HubBBQ & Yarn			Yes
<p>Wagga Wagga is Waganha Waganha = dance. Wagadyi Wagadyi = dance. School statistics - I don't know we have 26 aboriginal support workers. 1371 students. Artwork not local artist. Contact Max Lyons and Erin Lanmshead for RAP language feedback.</p>					
11	23/04/2026	Written Form Submission @ Ashmont Community Recourse Centre BBQ & Yarn			Yes
<p>Front page -artist to be named. Page 4 - Ryder McDonald playing the didge acknowledge him. Page 5 - Can we crop Michaela out not here anymore. And state how many FN people work at WWCC. Page 34 name/acknowledge dancers (Ashmont PS). Page 55 - Ashmont Public School Dancers name them.</p>					
12	24/04/2026	Written Form Submission @ Ashmont			Yes

#	Date Submitted	Channel	First Name	Last Name	First Nations
		Community Recourse Centre BBQ & Yarn			
young mother cultural awareness program 10 wk course run by me + Donna Kirby.					

RP-6 APPLICATIONS FOR SUBSIDY FOR WASTE DISPOSAL FOR CHARITY ORGANISATIONS - 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

Author: Gillian Goodwin

Executive: Fiona Piltz

Summary: Applications have been submitted to Council by local charitable organisations, community groups and individuals seeking relief from fees for the disposal of waste at Council's Gregadoo Waste Management Centre (GWMC) for the 2026/27 financial year, on the basis that they are providing a benefit to the community.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the annual 2026/27 Financial Assistance Subsidy for waste disposal subsidy for the total amount of \$3,550 for the below listed charities.

Report

Council's Financial Assistance Policy (POL 078) along with the Delivery Program and Operational Plan contain a deliverable which refers to the waiving of Gregadoo Waste Management Centre Fees and outlines a budget allocation of \$10,300 for the 2026/27 financial year.

As part of this program, individuals, registered not-for-profit, non-government registered charities or community groups located in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area are eligible to apply for a waiver or subsidised waste disposal fees.

There are two types of waivers or subsidised waste disposal fees that may be applied for:

1. An annual waiver or reduction to a maximum value of \$1,000, or
2. A waiver or fee reduction for a single, specific project up to a maximum value of \$250. This may be for advertised events such as Clean-Up Australia Day or the Adopt-A-Road Program.

The following table outlines the applicants who have applied for a waiver under the 2026/27 program, along with the proposed subsidy amounts for consideration:

No.	Name of Applicant	Subsidy amount proposed
1	Peter Dolden	\$400
2	Erin Earth	\$200
3	Men's Shed Wagga Wagga	\$1,000
4	Riding for the Disabled (NSW) Wagga Centre	\$200
5	Classic & Historical Automobile Club of Australia - Wagga Wagga Region (CHACA)	\$250
6	South Wagga Anglican Church	\$200
7	The Salvation Army NSW	\$700

No.	Name of Applicant	Subsidy amount proposed
8	Lilier Lodge	\$200
9	Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga Inc	\$200
10	Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga Anglican Opportunity Shop	\$200
	Total	\$3,550

The above listed organisations/individual are well known to Council for providing valuable charitable and social services that benefit the community of Wagga Wagga.

It is recommended to approve these applications and given that there are many more registered charities listed in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area, it is proposed that the remaining budget amount of \$6,750 be retained to fund any further applications for subsidised fees that may be received during the 2026/27 financial year.

Financial Implications

An allowance of \$10,300 for subsidised waste disposal has been made in the Solid Waste budget for 2026/27, funded from the Solid Waste Reserve. The approval of this report will leave \$6,750 for Council to consider any further applications received for the remainder of the 2026/27 financial year.

Job consolidation 70035 - Charity Subsidies for Waste Disposal

Policy and Legislation

Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993
Financial Assistance Policy- POL 078.

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Engaged Community

Establish partnerships and relationships with community and foster opportunities for collaboration and action.

Risk Management Issues for Council

No risk management issues were identified in respect to the provision of subsidised waste disposal fees provided they are applied as per the Policy.

Internal / External Consultation

Internal consultation with the relevant sections within Council is undertaken to ensure the operators of the landfill and finance staff are advised of the subsidy to ensure it is applied correctly and monitored appropriately.

The applicants will be advised of the resolution of Council regarding their application for subsidised disposal fees, how the subsidy will be applied and the conditions of entry into the landfill.

RP-7 ADDITIONAL FEES & CHARGES FOR 2026/27**Author:** Rebecca Witenden**Executive:** Carolyn Rodney

Summary: This report proposes to add new fees for 2026/27 within the Gregadoo Waste Management centre, Hospitality and Partner Program categories.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a place the following new fees on public exhibition for a period for 28 days from 10 June 2026 to 8 July 2026:

Item Number	Fee and Charge Description	Pricing Policy ID	2026/27 Fee (exclusive of GST)	GST	2026/27 Fee (inclusive of GST)	Basis
NEW	Gregadoo Waste Disposal – Mixed Waste per Tonne – Out of Region (50% excess charge on top of the base fee)	C	\$259.09	\$25.91	\$285.00	Per Tonne
NEW	Council led Tourism Industry Development Programs	C	\$0 - \$3,500			Each
NEW	Tourism Partner Business	C	\$0 - \$3,500			Each
NEW	Regional Tourism Partner Council	C	\$0 - \$5,000			Each
NEW	Hospitality Catering	C	Market Value			Each
NEW	Hospitality Sales	C	Market Value			Each

- b invite public submissions on the new fees until 8 July 2026
- c receives a further report following the public exhibition period:
- i addressing any submission made in respect of the proposed new fee
 - ii proposing adoption of the new fee unless there are any recommended amendments that will require a further public exhibition period

Report**Introduction of new fee at the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre – General Waste - Out of Region**

This new fee will apply to any businesses or Council's that operate external to the Wagga Wagga City Council Local Government Area, whom are seeking to dispose of general waste material to landfill.

Introduction of new fees within Council's Visitor Economy Partner Program category

Council led Tourism Industry Development Programs - \$0 - \$3,500

This fee will fund the development and delivery of targeted sector training and capacity-building initiatives for the local tourism industry, including attendance at trade shows aligned with key themes identified in the Destination Management Plan.

Tourism Partner Business - \$0 - \$3,500

Regional Tourism Partner Council - \$0 - \$5,000

The above fees will fund campaign-specific tourism and event marketing buy-in opportunities for Tourism Partner members that align with the objectives of the Wagga Wagga Destination Management Plan. These opportunities may include additional social media/digital marketing, content creation such as photo and video packages, and partnering opportunities in major destination campaigns.

Formal adoption of fees in Council's Hospitality section

Council's Hospitality Section provide catering services for functions, meetings, workshops and other community events. The Hospitality Section also provides food and beverage services at the Airport Café, as well as through Council-operated food vans at the Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Charges for these services are applied on a market value basis and are designed to recover the cost of food, beverages, staffing and other related expenses.

The inclusion of these fees in our formal Fees and Charges document is for administrative purposes and was always the intent of the introduction of Council's Hospitality function which has previously been reported to Council.

Financial Implications

The introduction of new fees is intended to reflect the operational costs associated with providing these services.

Policy and Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

Chapter 15, Part 10, Division 1:

- Section 608 Council fees for services

Chapter 15, Part 10, Division 2:

- Section 610B Fees to be determined in accordance with pricing methodologies

Chapter 15, Part 10, Division 3:

- Section 610D How does a council determine the amount of a fee for service?
- Section 610F Public notice of fees

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Ethical Leadership

Deliver accountable and transparent leadership.

Risk Management Issues for Council

N/A

Internal / External Consultation

The proposed new fees will be publicly exhibited through Council News and on Councils website, seeking public submissions.

	Mail			Traditional Media				Community Engagement				Digital				
	Rates notices insert	Direct mail	Letterbox drop	Council news	Media release	Media opportunity	TV/radio advertising	One-on-one meeting(s)	Community meeting(s)	Stakeholder workshop(s)	Drop-in session(s)	Survey/feedback form(s)	Have your Say	Email newsletter	Social media	Website
Inform																
Consult				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involve																
Collaborate																
Other methods (please list specific details below)																

RP-8 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**Author:** Scott Gray

Summary: This report is to respond to questions with notice raised by Councillors in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the report.

Report

The following questions with notice were received prior to the meeting, in accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 May 2026, Council provided responses to twelve (12) Questions with Notice raised by Councillor R Foley regarding Homelessness Services and the Wagga Wagga Homeless Emergency Working Group. Provided below is a further update in relation to Question 8, for which additional information was being sought from Homes NSW.

Question 8 asked:

What is the current crisis accommodation bed capacity in Wagga Wagga, current demand, and the average wait time for placement?

The response provided at the 25 May 2026 Council Meeting was:

Council staff have forwarded this question to Homes NSW, the lead agency managing crisis accommodation in the city. When a response to this question has been received this information will be provided to Councillors for their awareness via Councillor SharePoint.

As above, at its meeting held on 25 May 2026, Council advised that this question had been referred to Homes NSW and that any response received would be provided to Councillors. The following response has now been received for Council's information. As further questions relating to homelessness services and the Wagga Wagga Homeless Emergency Working Group are also being considered within this report, it was considered appropriate to provide the Homes NSW response through the Council reporting process rather than via Councillor SharePoint. This approach ensures transparency and provides a formal record of the information received.

Attributable to a Homes NSW spokesperson:

It is noted that these crisis beds are consistently at or near full capacity. As a result, securing placements for new clients can be challenging due to the high level of demand. These beds are delivered by Specialist Homelessness Services and are funded through DCJ.

Location Local Government Area (LGA)	Property Purpose (& Priority cohort)	Number of Bedrooms
<i>SVDP – EMYS (Mission) Wagga Wagga</i>	<i>Crisis (SHS) (Youth)</i>	2
<i>SVDP – SHE Wagga Wagga</i>	<i>Crisis (SHS) (Women'/Women and Children Experiencing DFV)</i>	8
<i>SVDP Edel Quinn Wagga Wagga</i>	<i>Crisis (SHS) (Single men and/or women over the age of 18 years)</i>	6
<i>WWLALC Wagga Wagga</i>	<i>Crisis (Core and Cluster) (Women/Women with Children Experiencing DFV)</i>	10 <i>(16 by 2027)</i>

Councillor R Foley

Requested responses on the below twelve (12) questions regarding Wagga Wagga Homeless Emergency Working Group.

Governance & Decision-Making

Re: Working Group structure and Homes NSW authority

Q1. Who holds decision-making authority at Homes NSW within the Working Group, and what is the escalation pathway if meetings stall?

The Homelessness Encampments – Wagga Wagga Emergency Response Plan working group, is chaired by Homes NSW at the specific request of the Premier. The Minister for Housing and Homelessness has continuous oversight of this working group to ensure identified actions are progressed.

Q2. What formal mechanism ensures Council's perspective is represented at future weekly meetings given the Councillor's attendance was limited to today's ministerial visit?

The outcome of the emergency meeting convened between senior representatives of the New South Wales Government and Wagga Wagga City Council on 7 May 2026 was the establishment of a Homelessness Encampments – Wagga Wagga Emergency Response Plan. Council is a formal member of the working group tasked with developing and actioning this plan. Led by the GM, staff attend the weekly meetings of the working group to provide Council's perspective and any issues arising are considered as part of the planning and deliberations of the working group membership.

Pathways & Timeline

Re: Minister Jackson's confirmation that pathways will be made available for all encampment residents

Q3. The Minister confirmed pathways for all encampment residents, what is the specific timeline, and does it cover people who return after any clearance?

Specific timelines for housing solutions for people living in the identified encampments are dependent on the needs of the individual and their decision to accept accommodation services and options offered by Homes NSW. As confirmed by the Minister as part of the recent visit to Wagga on Thursday 21 May, all residents of the encampments will be offered accommodation options.

Q4. What are the defined pathway options (crisis accommodation, social housing, health referrals etc.) and which agency owns each one?

The working group includes representatives from Homes NSW, Police, Council, St Vincent de Paul (Edel Quinn), Crown Land, Murrumbidgee Local Health District and Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network, First Nations, Mental Health Providers, working together to achieve the pathway options for the homelessness cohort currently residing in the identified locations.

Legal Framework

Re: confirmation that legal advice is being sought across multiple plan components

Q5. Which organisations are seeking legal advice, on what specific questions, and by what date must it be received before the plan proceeds?

All members of the working group are responsible for seeking and working within the parameters of various legal frameworks, dependent on their service provision to be undertaken as part of the Homelessness Encampments – Wagga Wagga Emergency Response Plan working group. Council has sought legal advice to ensure all legal obligations are undertaken with regard to our work as a member of the working group, specifically signage, compliance orders and regulatory services.

Communications

Re: Minister's commitment to an open public comms plan

Q6. Who authors, approves and distributes the public comms plan and how does it reach people who are currently unhoused?

Homes NSW is responsible for the development of the overarching communication plan, with individual agencies for example Council ensuring that people who are unhoused living in the identified encampment locations, receive clear updates and advice through written and verbal conversations as part of any site visits and compliance notifications.

Housing Supply

Re: NSW Government media release dated 21 May 2026, 12 MMC homes available from June

Q7. Of the 12 MMC homes available from June, how many are immediately accessible to encampment residents versus already allocated to the waitlist?

Attributable to a Homes NSW spokesperson:

All vacant Homes NSW properties, including the 12 MMC homes becoming available from June, are allocated through the standard social housing process and are accessible to all eligible applicants. This includes individuals currently residing in encampments who are seeking social housing assistance.

It is important to note that there is a single, consolidated housing waitlist, which incorporates applicants from a range of circumstances, including those experiencing homelessness or living in encampments. As such, the MMC homes are not pre-allocated to a specific cohort but are instead offered based on assessed need, eligibility, and priority within this unified system.

Homes NSW is actively working to identify and provide appropriate housing solutions for residents of encampments. This may include allocation to MMC homes where they are assessed as suitable.

Mandate & Urgency

Re: the tragic incident at the Wagga Wagga riverside encampment, May 2026

Q8. Has the Working Group formally recorded the riverside tragedy as the trigger for urgency in its terms or mandate?

Yes this tragic incident is formally recorded as the trigger for the development of the Homelessness Encampments – Wagga Wagga Emergency Response Plan and has been referenced in recent public commentary from the Premier and Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

Accountability & Milestones

Re: the Working Group's commitment to ongoing weekly meetings and a plan still being "fleshed out"

Q9. What are the measurable four-week milestones the Working Group is committing to so progress can be publicly reported?

Homes NSW is developing the overall communications plan that will provide information updates on the progress of the working group.

Q10. What is the drop-dead date for a written plan, and who is accountable if that deadline is missed?

The plan has been developed and is being executed by the working group. As previously advised the Minister for Housing and Homelessness has continuous oversight of this working group to ensure identified actions are progressed.

Coercion, Consent & Legal Authority

Re: Minister Jackson's public statements that residents refusing support "will go with police" and that some "may need to go to drug and alcohol rehabilitation"

Q11. What is the specific legal authority for police removal of residents who refuse support, and has that advice been documented before any enforcement action proceeds?

Council is currently finalising legal advice on its own legal authority to issue compliance orders working with Police and other agencies. This approach is being led with empathy providing support and accommodation options in the first instance. No enforcement actions will proceed without all legal aspects finalised and confirmed to progress.

Q12. What safeguards guarantee pathways remain genuinely voluntary and how will the process ensure no resident is coerced through implied threat of police action or probation breach?

Please refer to question 11 response above.

Councillor M Henderson

Is Edison Road a private or public Road? If it is a public road, why this is locked on weekends?

Edison Road is a public road. However, the new section referred to forms part of an unfinished development and has not yet been formally handed over to Council or opened to the public. Access restrictions remain in place until the development is completed and all requirements for road dedication have been satisfied.

Councillor J McKinnon

Noted that Tweed Shire Council has implemented a range of initiatives in response to homelessness issues within their community, including training for outdoor staff focused on engaging and communicating with people experiencing homelessness. Councillor McKinnon asked whether Council is aware of these initiatives and whether similar training may be considered appropriate for outdoor staff who may come into contact with people experiencing homelessness in Wagga Wagga.

Council are aware that a number of local government authorities are exploring different approaches to supporting staff who engage with members of the community experiencing homelessness or other complex personal circumstances.

Council made enquiries with Tweed Shire Council to better understand the specific initiatives referenced. While general information was available publicly, further discussions with their organisation did not identify a specific, centrally coordinated training program delivered through their Learning and Development function at this time.

Wagga Wagga City Council has recognised the increasing complexity of interactions experienced by frontline and outdoor staff, and since 2023 has proactively implemented a range of training programs to build staff capability, resilience and safety when working in challenging environments.

Programs delivered to date include:

Operational Readiness Program - *Delivered: 2023, 2024 and 2025*

This bespoke program focused on psychological resilience training for Council Rangers, Animal Shelter and Customer Service staff. It supports staff to enhance performance, communication and resilience under pressure when engaging with members of the public.

Situational Safety and Tactical Communications

Target Groups: Frontline Customer Service Staff, Regulatory and Compliance Staff, and Frontline Outdoor Operations Staff

Delivery: Commenced 2026, continuing into 2026/27

This training equips staff with practical skills to carry out their duties safely, effectively and professionally, including engaging with individuals who may be experiencing distress, vulnerability, or complex personal circumstances.

The program goes beyond traditional de-escalation techniques and focuses on proactive non-escalation strategies, including:

- Mindset and professional awareness
- Situational awareness, assessment and planning
- Tactical communication techniques
- Managing difficult interactions
- Appropriate physical response options where required

Initial delivery of this program has already received strong positive feedback from participating staff, including Regulatory, Environmental and Compliance teams. The program is being adapted to suit different service areas and will be progressively rolled out across the organisation, including to operational staff such as Parks and Civil teams, as well as other frontline services.

Importantly, while this training supports staff in interacting with people experiencing homelessness, it is not limited to this context. It is designed to prepare staff for a broad range of complex and high-pressure interactions they may encounter in the course of their duties.

Council remains committed to ensuring staff are well equipped, supported and safe, while also fostering respectful and constructive engagement with all members of the community.

Councillor A Parkins

Is there anything council can do to upgrade or clean up the top of Willians Hill because the lower part, including the gardens and museum is beautiful however above is a mess.

Council will inspect the areas of concern mentioned and determine what maintenance and improvement works may be undertaken over the winter months, it should be noted that Willans Hill Reserve is a natural corridor, which limits the extent of works that can be carried out.

Councillor A Parkins

The disabled toilet at the Riverside Precinct is padlocked, is there a reason why this is padlocked and where do disabled people go to the toilet when they visit that precinct.

Council's Security contractor has guards manually unlocking and locking the public toilets at the Riverside Precinct on a daily schedule, the facilities are opened prior to 6am and secured after 9pm each day.

Recently, the disabled toilet door was vandalised as a result the facility was temporarily locked by Council whilst the door was repaired, repairs have now been completed and the toilet has returned to normal operation.

Further Council has obtained quotes to undertake a full security upgrade to this facility, including improved access control and the installation of security cameras, these works are currently scheduled for completion in the next financial year.

Councillor L Tanner

Can Council do what is necessary to refresh the Street furniture on Baylis Street as its looking particularly tired and gives a poor impression of our main street.

Council is currently exploring both internal and external options for refurbishing the benches, bins and bench and table combinations along Baylis Street and will commence in July 2026.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Code of Meeting Practice

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Good governance

Provide professional, innovative, accessible and efficient services.

Risk Management Issues for Council

N/A

Internal / External Consultation

N/A

COMMITTEE MINUTES

M-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WAGGA WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - 20 MAY 2026

Author: Fiona Piltz

Summary: This report presents the minutes of the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee meeting held on 20 May 2026 and recommends that Council extend the term of the Committee by a further six months, to 31 December 2026.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a receive and note the minutes of the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee meeting held on 20 May 2026
- b extend the term of the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee by a further six months to 31 December 2026
- c adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee, noting the extension of the Committee's term of office to 31 December 2026

Report

The Minutes of the Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee meeting held on 20 May 2026 are presented to Council for consideration. A summary of the matters considered, and resolutions made is outlined below.

Lease Update

Lease negotiations progressed following a meeting on 22 April 2026 with Defence, with updated terms expected. Feedback on the draft lease was considered during discussions. With only six weeks remaining before the current extension expires, there is increasing urgency to finalise the lease.

Once a new lease is signed, over 30 sub-leases will need to be aligned and reviewed. Preparations are underway, including communication with existing sub-lease holders and due diligence planning. A further update will outline outstanding matters and next steps, noting that securing the lease is critical for future airport planning.

Airport Masterplan Engagement and Planning

A structured workshop is to be undertaken with Committee members to strengthen engagement and inform the scope and tender specifications for the Airport Masterplan. The session will focus on identifying long-term priorities, opportunities, risks, and success measures for the airport, defining the scope of work including required analysis and stakeholder engagement, and clarifying expected deliverables and outputs. The workshop will capture key insights to shape a practical and targeted Masterplan, with a final summary consolidating priorities, scope, and deliverables.

Extension of Term of Office

The Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee was established by Council on 13 October 2025 to provide strategic advice and community input in relation to governance, lease negotiations, capital works planning and future strategic options for the Wagga Wagga Airport. The Committee operates in an advisory role only and does not have responsibility for operational matters relating to the Airport.

Under the current Terms of Office, the Committee will automatically dissolve on 1 July 2026 unless extended by resolution of Council. At its meeting held on 20 May 2026, the Committee discussed the conclusion of its current term and was advised that a report would be presented to Council seeking a further six-month extension of the Committee to enable it to continue in its advisory role.

Revised Terms of Reference reflecting the proposed extension of the Committee's term of office to 31 December 2026 are attached for Council's consideration and approval.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Wagga Wagga City Council Code of Meeting Practice

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Engaged Community

Establish partnerships and relationships with community and foster opportunities for collaboration and action.

Risk Management Issues for Council

No specific risks are identified in noting the minutes. Adoption of the updated Terms of Reference will strengthen governance clarity and reduce the risk of role ambiguity.

Internal / External Consultation

The Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee comprises Councillors, independent members and senior Council staff. Relevant internal and external stakeholders will continue to be consulted as required in relation to airport operations, strategic planning and future development.

Attachments

1. [Minutes - Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee meeting - 20 May 2026](#)
2. [Draft Terms of Reference - Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee](#)

MINUTES of the **WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE** held on **Wednesday 20 May 2026**.

PRESENT

The Mayor, Councillor Dallas Tout (Chairperson)
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Geoff Breust
Rodney Cecchini
Daniel Logan
Suraj Mohamed

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Peter Thompson	General Manager
Mrs Fiona Piltz	Director Economy, Business & Workforce
Ms Ruby Brodin	Business Support Officer (Minute Taker)

The meeting of the Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee commenced at 12:33pm.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received accepted by the Committee for Councillor Amelia Parkins and Rod Kendall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradjuri and First Nations communities.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CM-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES WAGGA WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE 22 APRIL 2026

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MINUTES of the **WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE** held on **Wednesday 20 May 2026**.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Geoff Breust declared a general declaration of interest due to his hangar lease at the Wagga Wagga Airport, aircraft ownership and operation and his role as a Director of the Wagga City Aero Club.

Rodney Cecchini declared a general declaration of interest due to his role as Director of Oz Airports, his background as a commercial pilot, aircraft ownership, regular use of Wagga Wagga Airport, and his business supporting airport operators.

Rodney Kendall declared a general declaration of interest due to his hangar sub-lease at the Wagga Wagga Airport, aircraft ownership and operation and his membership of Wagga City Aero Club.

Daniel Logan declared a general declaration of interest due to his aircraft ownership and operation and lease of privately owned hangar at Wagga Wagga Airport, his role as a commercial pilot for Regional Express and his residency in Forest Hill.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

RP-1 LEASE UPDATE

Recommendation

That the Committee receive and note this report.

RP-2 AIRPORT MASTERPLAN ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- a receive and note this report**
- b provide feedback in relation to the scope and brief for the Airport Masterplan and recommended workshop structure**
- c undertake a strategic discussion workshop at a subsequent meeting the date of which is to be determined**

MINUTES of the **WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE** held on **Wednesday 20 May 2026**.

GENERAL BUSINESS

GB-1 WAGGA WAGGA AIRPORT TERMINAL DRAFT DESIGNS

The Committee were advised that there were draft designs for the Wagga Wagga Airport, including preliminary concepts and future planning considerations. Members noted the importance of ensuring the development aligns with the long-term strategic direction of the Airport.

GB-2 EXTENSION OF COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The Committee discussed the conclusion of the current six-month term of the Committee and were advised by the General Manager that a report will be presented to Council to consider extending the term of the Committee. The report will seek Council's consideration of the Committee's extension of a further six months in an advisory role.

GB-3 AIRPORTS ACT CLARIFICATION

Committee Member Geoff Breust suggested that the Department of Infrastructure and relevant authorities be contacted to clarify the status of Wagga Wagga Airport under the Airports Act. In particular, clarification was sought as to whether Wagga Wagga Airport would be classified as a prescribed airport under the Act and any implications this may have for future planning and operations.

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

There were no questions with notice received.

The Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee rose at 1:46pm.

Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee

Terms of Reference



Civic Centre cnr Baylis & Morrow sts
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 (PO Box 20)
P 1300 292 442
E council@wagga.nsw.gov.au
wagga.nsw.gov.au

1. Status and Name

The Committee shall be known as the “Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee” (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”).

This Committee is a Committee of Wagga Wagga City Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

2. Established

The Committee was established by Council resolution 25/317 on 13 October 2025.

3. Purpose, Objectives and Operational Support

The Committee is established to provide structured oversight, expert advice and community engagement in relation to governance, lease negotiations, capital works planning and the strategic options for the future of Wagga Wagga City Airport.

The objectives of the Committee are to:

- Examine and make recommendations on compliance capital works and long-term redevelopment options.
- Provide advice to the elected Council body on lease negotiations with the Commonwealth Department of Defence and other stakeholders.
- Engage with airlines, freight operators, emergency services, Defence, and relevant government agencies in relation to strategic planning matters.
- Provide advice to the elected Council body in relation to the engagement of independent aviation consultants or project specialists to support decision-making.
- Consider all strategic options for the Airport, including retention, lease, partnerships, or divestment.
- Ensure decisions are transparent, evidence-based, and in the best interests of the community.

The committee is advisory and is not responsible for any operational matters in relation to the Airport.

4. Membership

The committee shall have a maximum of 12 members, with core membership of the Committee comprising of the following:

- o The Mayor
- o Three Councillors
- o Up to five community members with expertise in aviation, infrastructure, regional development, or community leadership.
- o The General Manager or their delegate as required

Additional Council staff may attend by invitation to provide specialist or technical advice but are not members of the Committee.

Selection of Members of the Committee

The Independent members, Organisation, Community and Interest Groups are appointed in accordance with the process detailed in Council's policy entitled "Appointment of Organisation, Community and Individual Citizen Members to Council Committees".

The Committee at its discretion, may co-opt additional members from time to time (referred to as co-opted members) to provide specialist advice or assistance in the Committee's deliberations of any matter, but such co-opted members shall serve on the Committee only for the period of time required by the Committee and will not, whilst serving as a co-opted member, have any voting rights.

The Committee may:

- Invite observers, citizens or other representatives to attend meetings of the Committee for the purpose of clarifying any matters under consideration by the Committee.
- From time to time, invite people to attend meetings of the Committee to make representations or provide expert advice on matters of interest to and under consideration by the Committee provided that such invited persons shall not have any voting rights.

5. Authorities

- The Committee is appointed under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and these Terms of Reference.
- The Committee is an advisory body established under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).
- It does not have decision-making powers but may make formal recommendations to Council.
- Council retains full authority to determine all final outcomes.
- Any authorities conferred upon the Committee under these Terms of Reference may be varied or revoked by resolution of the Council at any time.

6. Terms of Office

- The Committee will automatically dissolve on ~~4 July 2026~~ **31 December 2026**, unless extended by resolution of Council. Extension beyond this date may only occur by formal Council resolution.
- Council may dissolve the Committee at any time by resolution. The Committee and its members will otherwise operate in accordance with Council Policy POL117 – Appointment of Organisation, Community and Individual Citizen Members to Council Committees.

7. Vacation of Office

The office of an elected, appointed or representative member of the Committee shall become vacant upon:

- the dissolution of the Committee; or
- the next ordinary local government general election, whichever occurs first.
- At that time, all member appointments will lapse unless reappointed by Council resolution.

8. Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

- The Committee shall, at its first meeting following appointment, elect one of its voting members to be Chairperson of the Committee and one of its voting members to be Deputy Chairperson.
- The Deputy Chairperson shall act in the absence of the Chairperson.

9. Quorum

- A quorum shall comprise a majority of the appointed core members of the Committee (including any combination of Councillors and community members). Meetings can be held in person or by video conference.
- Should a quorum not be present at the start of, or during, any meeting, the members present may decide that the Agenda items continue to be discussed, however any agreement or decision so made shall be recorded in the Minutes as “No quorum - decision of the members present”, and not as a recommendation of the Committee.
- The names of the Committee members present, whenever a quorum is not present, shall be recorded in the Committee minutes, and the reason as to why a quorum was not present.

10. Meetings

- The Committee shall meet at least once every two months, or as required to meet deadlines for lease and capital works considerations.
- Attendance at meetings may be in person or remote via video conference at the discretion of the committee.
- Committee meetings will not normally be open to the general community; however the Committee may invite members of the community to attend meetings as observers or to provide relevant information as required.

11. Notice of Meetings and Agenda/Business Paper

- A Notice of, and an Agenda and Business Papers for, every meeting of the Committee shall be forwarded at least three (3) working days prior to the date of the meeting to:
 - Each member of the Committee both voting and non-voting
 - The Mayor and all Councillors
 - Council's General Manager and Directors
- Items submitted for inclusion on the agenda by any of the Committee members or representatives are to be lodged with the Committee's nominated secretary a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the meeting to allow time to prepare information and/or report on the matter.
- Provision will be made on each agenda for General Business to be raised at each meeting.

12. Conduct of Proceedings

- Proceedings at all meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Council's Code of Meeting Practice applicable to meetings of committees of Council. This includes disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.
- The Committee may determine other procedures for conduct of meetings so long as they are not inconsistent with this Constitution.
- Committee Members will be required to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct

13. Minutes

- Minutes from each meeting shall be made containing details of all matters considered and the Committee recommendations formulated.
- Within one (1) week of the meeting, a copy of the minutes is to be circulated to all members of the Committee and the Council.
- The Minutes and recommendations of the Committee will be submitted to a meeting of the Council before the next meeting of the Committee.
- The Minutes of all meeting shall record the names of:
 - All voting members present
 - All non-voting members present
 - Any co-opted, or invited non-voting people who attend the meeting
- The Minutes must be prepared in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

14. Reporting and Correspondence

- The agenda for meetings shall include:
 - Acknowledgement of Country
 - The Minutes of any previous meeting for confirmation as to accuracy of the proceedings and decisions of the meeting
 - Reports from Council officers on matters; and
 - any correspondence received in relation to the Airport

- The agenda shall not include any business which is, or the implementation of the business would be, unlawful.
- Any correspondence relevant to an item on the Agenda under the Committee's consideration may be included in the Agenda and Business Papers provided it is provided to the Committee with the Agenda and Business Papers.
- The Chairperson shall determine whether any correspondence tabled otherwise than in accordance with Clause 16(3) is to be considered by the Committee and then require a motion confirming the urgency of the item tabled.
- Any report, correspondence or material tabled and accepted at the meeting, which was not included in the agenda, must be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting and annexed to the minutes when distributed.
- The Committee will provide periodic reports and recommendations to Council through the General Manager, including a summary report prior to its dissolution.

15. Disclosure of Interests

- The first item on the agenda of all Committee meetings (after apologies and requests for leave of absence) shall be the declaring of any pecuniary interests or other conflicts of interest.
- All Committee members must comply with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW and Council's Code of Conduct in declaring and managing conflicts of interest.
- A member of the Committee shall not take part in the discussion of any matter in which that member or a relative of that member has, personally or by their partner, any pecuniary interest. Such interest shall be declared to the meeting at the earliest opportunity.
- When declaring a pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflict of interest at a meeting, the member, adviser, staff member or delegate must ensure that:
 - the declaration contains sufficient detail to enable other Committee members to understand in general terms the connection of the person with the matter under consideration;
 - the declaration does not reveal sensitive information which is irrelevant to the matter before the Committee;
 - the declaration does not reveal information that may unnecessarily damage the reputation of any person with whom the member is associated; and
 - the declaration does not unnecessarily prejudice any sensitive commercial or legal situation.
- After declaring a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the member must leave the meeting while the matter is being considered and must not be present during deliberation or voting on that matter.
- All declarations of interest made at a meeting of the Committee must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

16. Dissolution

The Committee may be dissolved by a resolution of Council at any time.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

CONF-1 LAKE ALBERT ALGAE MANAGEMENT

Author: Ben Creighton

Executive: Fiona Piltz

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following: -

- (d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

CONF-2 FUNDING AGREEMENT

Author: Cassandra Farquharson

Executive: Christine Priest

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following: -

- (d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

CONF-3 NEW YEARS EVE**Author:** Cassandra Farquharson**Executive:** Christine Priest

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following: -

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals; and
- (d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026.**

PRESENT

The Mayor, Councillor Dallas Tout
Councillor Allana Condron
Councillor Georgie Davies
Councillor Richard Foley
Councillor Michael Henderson
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Amelia Parkins
Councillor Karissa Subedi
Councillor Lindsay Tanner

IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager	(Mr P Thompson)
Chief Financial Officer	(Mrs C Rodney)
Chief Operating Officer	(Mr S Gray)
Director Community & Environment	(Mrs C Priest)
Director Economy, Business & Workforce	(Mrs F Piltz)
Director Infrastructure Services	(Mr H Pavitt)
Director Planning & Regulatory Services	(Mrs J Costa)
Manager City Growth & Regional Assets	(Mr B Creighton)
Manager Wastewater & Stormwater	(Mr R Graham)
Manager Development Assessment & Building Certification	(Mr C Collins)
Manager Community Services	(Ms M Scully)
Manager Environment & Sustainability	(Mrs C Hood)
Manager Strategic Planning	(Mr M Yeomans)
Senior Town Planner	(Mr S Cook)
Manager Plant, Fleet & Buildings	(Mr D Davey)
Recreation Coordinator	(Mr J Walsh)
Community Development Coordinator	(Ms A Osgood)
Property Coordinator	(Mr M Dombrovski)
Corporate Governance Coordinator	(Mrs N Johnson)
Cultural Officer	(Mrs L Reynolds)
Communications & Engagement Officer	(Mrs M Oldaker)
Corporate Governance Officer	(Ms K West)

This is page 1 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 25 May 2026.

PROCEDURAL MOTION - SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

26/147 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Parkins and J McKinnon

That Council suspend standing orders to permit approved Public Forum speakers who were unable to be heard due to time constraints to present their Public Forum addresses, the time being 6.00pm.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condrón	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

PROCEDURAL MOTION - REINSTATE STANDING ORDERS

26/148 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and A Condrón

That Council reinstate standing orders and continue with the Ordinary Council Meeting agenda, the time being 6.06pm.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condrón	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

This is page 2 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 25 MAY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 25 May 2026.

NOTICE TO MEETING

The proceedings of all Council meetings in open session, including all debate and addresses by the public, are recorded (audio visual) and livestreamed on Council's website including for the purpose of facilitating community access to meetings and accuracy of the Minutes.

In addition to webcasting council meetings, audio recordings of confidential sessions of Ordinary Meetings of Council are also recorded, but do not form part of the webcast.

Council Meetings are also subject to filming and photographing by media agencies which may form part of news and media broadcasts. Members of the gallery are also advised that recording the proceedings of the meeting of the council is prohibited without the prior authorisation of the council.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradjuri and First Nations communities.

REFLECTION

Councillors, let us in silence reflect upon our responsibilities to the community which we represent, and to all future generations and faithfully, and impartially, carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in us, to the best of our skill and judgement.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CM-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 11 MAY 2026

26/149 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and M Henderson

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

This is page 3 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026**.

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026.**

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condron	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Condron declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in CONF-1 RFT CT2026044 WHEEL LOADER GWMC the reason being that she has a relationship with a business mentioned in the report and vacated the chamber during its consideration.

Councillor M Henderson declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in CONF-1 RFT CT2026044 WHEEL LOADER GWMC the reason being that a close family member works for one of the companies that submitted a tender and vacated the chamber during consideration of the matter.

Councillor J McKinnon declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in CONF-1 RFT CT2026044 WHEEL LOADER GWMC, the reason being that a close relative works for one of the tenderers, and vacated the chamber during its consideration.

PROCEDURAL MOTION - ENGLOBO

26/150 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and G Davies

That the standing orders be varied for the meeting as set out hereunder:

- **Items where councillors wish to speak**
- **Items where no councillors wish to speak**
- **Confidential**
- **Matter of urgency**
- **Closure of Meeting**

That RP-7, RP-9, M-1 and CONF-4 be adopted as recommended in the business papers.

CARRIED

This is page 4 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026.**

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condron	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

REPORTS FROM STAFF

RP-1 DA25/0363 - SELF-STORAGE UNITS AT LOT 1 AND 2 DP 1064692, 20 AND 24 GEORGE STREET, NORTH WAGGA WAGGA

26/151 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Parkins

That Council refuse DA25/0363 for self-storage units at Lot 1 and 2 DP 1064692, 20 and 24 George Street, North Wagga Wagga, for the reasons contained in the s4.15 Assessment Report.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON DEVELOPMENT OR PLANNING MATTERS - SECTION 375A(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condron	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

This is page 5 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026.**

26/152 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council:

- a receive and note the report**
- b incorporate changes into the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan (DCP) review currently being undertaken to amend any relevant sections of the DCP to not require gas connections for new residential development (including subdivision),**
- c write to the petition organiser advising of the outcome of this report**
- d receive a further report following the release of the NSW Gas Decarbonisation Roadmap, expected late 2026, to consider whether any additional planning amendments are warranted in light of the State Government's formal position on the future role of gas in residential development**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
M Henderson
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

J McKinnon
A Parkins

PROCEDURAL MOTION - CHANGE OF STANDING ORDERS

26/153 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and K Subedi

That Council bring forward consideration of Public Forum Item RP-4, WAGGA WAGGA DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN AMENDMENT - SECTION 6 VILLAGES (NORTH WAGGA NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS), to follow RP-2.

CARRIED

This is page 7 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026.**

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condron	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

RP-4 WAGGA WAGGA DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN AMENDMENT - SECTION 6 VILLAGES (NORTH WAGGA NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS)

26/154 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Council:

- a place the draft amendments to Section 6 - Villages (North Wagga Non-Residential Development Controls) of the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan 2010, as shown in the Attachment (tracked changes version), on public exhibition in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan**
- b receive a further report following the exhibition period addressing any submissions received and recommending any necessary amendments for Council's consideration prior to finalisation of the Development Control Plan amendment**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condron	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

This is page 8 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 25 May 2026.

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
M Henderson
J McKinnon
A Parkins
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

R Foley

RP-5 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - WAGGA LAKE RUN AND RIDE

26/156 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Tanner

That Council:

- a enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Lake Run and Ride Incorporated to provide ongoing support of the event for a period of five years commencing in 2026/27**
- b allocate a \$2,500 annual funding contribution to Wagga Lake Run and Ride for the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding**
- c allocate funding for the provision of Council approved Traffic Services contractor to implement all traffic control measures and associated requirements on the day of the event, up to a maximum of \$11,000**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
M Henderson
J McKinnon
A Parkins
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

This is page 10 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 25 MAY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026.**

RP-6 DEACCESSIONING AND RELOCATION OF ARTWORKS FROM THE PUBLIC ART COLLECTION

26/157 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and L Tanner

That Council:

- a authorise the deaccessioning of the artwork #80 Cyclist Bike Rack from Council’s Public Art Collection register and the relocation of artworks #47 Salt and Pepper Bike Rack and #46 Hampden Bridge Bike Rack**
- b authorise Council Officers to dispose of the artwork #80 Cyclist Bike Rack as outlined in this report, and in accordance with POL 109 Public Art Policy**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condron	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

RP-7 WAGGA WAGGA RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2026-2038

26/158 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and G Davies

That Council:

- a note the submissions and feedback received during the public exhibition between 25 March 2026 and 22 April 2026 for the Wagga Wagga Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2026-2038**
- b adopt the Wagga Wagga Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2026-2038**

CARRIED

This is page 11 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026.**

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condrón	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

RP-8 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 30 APRIL 2026

26/159 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and L Tanner

That Council:

- a approve the proposed budget variations and note the balanced budget position as presented in this report**
- b approve the proposed budget variations to the Long Term Financial Plan Capital Works Program including new projects and timing adjustments**
- c approve the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ending 31 March 2026**
- d note the Responsible Accounting Officer's reports, in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Part 9 Division 3: Clause 203) that the financial position of Council is satisfactory having regard to the original estimates of income and expenditure and the recommendations made above**
- e note the details of the external investments as at 30 April 2026 in accordance with section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993**
- f accept the grant funding offers as presented in this report**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condrón	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

This is page 12 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 25 May 2026.

RP-9 APPROVAL TO PREPARE EXTRACTION LICENCES

26/160 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and G Davies

That Council:

- a authorise the General Manager or their delegate to negotiate with the quarry landowners to prepare extraction licence documentation for formalisation**
- b note that the extraction licence document records the terms and conditions upon which Council as the pit Operator has continued rights to conduct the quarry activities on the land and source gravel from site**
- c note that the extraction licence document addresses compensation arrangements for gravel royalties and the license fee for hosting the operations**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
M Henderson
J McKinnon
A Parkins
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

RP-10 2026 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE

26/161 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and A Parkins

That Council:

- a attend the 2026 Australian Local Government Women's Association National Conference to be held in Manly 20-22 August 2026**
- b appoint nominated Councillors as Council's delegates to the 2026 Australian Local Government Women's Association National Conference**

CARRIED

This is page 13 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 25 MAY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026**.

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
M Henderson
J McKinnon
A Parkins
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

Councillors J McKinnon, K Subedi, A Parkins self-nominated to attend the Conference.

Councillors J McKinnon, K Subedi and A Parkins were duly appointed to represent Council at the 2026 Australian Local Government Women's Association National Conference in Manly from 20 - 22 August 2026.

RP-11 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

26/162 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
M Henderson
J McKinnon
A Parkins
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

This is page 14 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026**.

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 25 May 2026.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

M-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM - 7 MAY 2026

26/163 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and G Davies

That Council:

- a receive the minutes of the Local Transport Forum Meeting held on 7 May 2026**
- b note the technical advice provided by the Local Transport Forum on the regulatory and event management matters considered**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
D Tout	
G Davies	
A Condron	
R Foley	
M Henderson	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
K Subedi	
L Tanner	

CLOSED COUNCIL

26/164 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Parkins and J McKinnon

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 7.45pm.

CARRIED

AT THIS STAGE OF THE MEETING THE PRESS AND PUBLIC GALLERY RETIRED FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING.

This is page 15 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 25 MAY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 25 May 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

CONF-1 RFT CT2026044 WHEEL LOADER GWMC

Councillors A Condrón, M Henderson and J McKinnon declared Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests and vacated the chamber, the time being 7:47pm.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a accept the submitted tender offer from WesTrac Pty Ltd (ABN: 63 009 342 572) for the Supply, Delivery & Servicing of one (1) Medium Articulated Wheel Loader with 4 in 1 bucket for Gregadoo Waste Management Centre for the lump sum of \$731,450.00 excluding GST**
- b authorise the General Manager or their delegate to enter into a contract with WesTrac Pty Ltd (ABN: 63 009 342 572) for the supply, Delivery & Servicing of one (1) Medium Articulated Wheel Loader with 4 in 1 bucket for Gregadoo Waste Management Centre**
- c authorise the affixing of Council's Common Seal to all relevant documents as required**

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

Against the Motion

- D Tout
- G Davies
- R Foley
- A Parkins
- K Subedi
- L Tanner

Councillors A Condrón, M Henderson and J McKinnon re-entered the chamber, the time being 7:49pm.

This is page 16 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 25 MAY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 25 May 2026.

CONF-2 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - LICENCE OF OFFICE SPACE AT 15 BLAKEMORE STREET, WAGGA WAGGA (NGURRA HUB)

26/165 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Parkins

That Council:

- a authorise the General Manager or their delegate to negotiate entry into a licence agreement with Directions Health Services Limited (trading as Pathways Murrumbidgee) ABN 93 699 256 195 for the licence of office space located within Ngurra Hub at 15 Blakemore Street, Wagga Wagga, being part Lot 406 DP 253311 for a period of up to three (3) years on the terms outlined in the body of this report**
- b authorise the affixing of Council's common seal to all relevant documents**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
M Henderson
J McKinnon
A Parkins
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

CONF-3 2025/26 LOAN FACILITY

26/166 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and R Foley

That Council:

- a authorise the General Manager or their delegate to enter into a Loan Facility with New South Wales Treasury Corporation for up to:
 - i \$2,839,334 to fund the projects identified in the body of the report****
- b authorise the affixing of Council's Common Seal to all necessary documents as required**

CARRIED

This is page 17 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 25 MAY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 25 May 2026.

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
M Henderson
J McKinnon
A Parkins
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

**CONF-4 PASSENGER & BAGGAGE SCREENING SERVICES WAGGA
WAGGA AIRPORT CONTRACT EXTENSION (RFT2017-20)**

26/167 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and G Davies

That Council:

- a extend the contract with MSS Security Pty Ltd (ABN: 29 100 573 966) for 12 months from 30 June 2026 to 30 June 2027 for passenger and baggage screening services**
- b authorises the General Manager or their delegate to enter into a contract with MSS Security Pty Ltd**
- c authorises the affixing of the Council Common Seal to all relevant documents as required**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
M Henderson
J McKinnon
A Parkins
K Subedi
L Tanner

Against the Motion

This is page 18 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 25 MAY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 25 May 2026.**

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

26/168 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and A Parkins

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 8.03pm.

CARRIED

THIS COMPLETED THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WHICH ROSE AT 8.05pm.

.....
MAYOR

This is page 19 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **25 MAY 2026.**

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER