



Agenda and Business Paper

Ordinary Meeting of Council

To be held on
Monday 9 March 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 Jenny McKinnon

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



Councillor Amelia Parkins

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



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

MONDAY 9 MARCH 2026

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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 - 23 FEBRUARY 2026

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Attachments

1 [↓](#). Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting - 23 February 2026 112

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

MOTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

NOM-1 NOTICE OF MOTION - IMPROVED RIVER ACCESS AND SAFETY AT "THE ROCKS" AT THE WAGGA BEACH PRECINCT

Author: Councillor Richard Foley

Summary: That Council investigate options to improve safe river access at The Rocks, Wagga Beach, following correspondence received from former Mayor Mr. Greg Conkey OAM regarding the matter.

Recommendation

That Council receives a report from Council staff investigating options to improve river access and safety at The Rocks, Wagga Beach, including:

- a potential physical improvements to access (such as installation of steel posts and chain handrails, additional cutting or hammering of steps into the rock surface, construction of a wooden step and handrail structure upstream of the existing rock formation, and any other suitable access treatments)
- b appropriate consultation requirements, including engagement with Wiradjuri Elders and representatives of the Wiradjuri community, and
- c an assessment of estimated costs, materials, feasibility and associated risks
- d appropriate signage measures, including warning of river hazards, advising that only competent swimmers should undertake the float back to the beach, provision of information in English and other relevant languages, and consideration of Wiradjuri language and/or cultural acknowledgements in consultation with Wiradjuri Elders
- e any relevant risk management, safety and policy considerations

Report

Wagga Beach is one of the City of Wagga Wagga's most popular recreational attractions, utilised by thousands of residents and visitors each year. Council staff maintain the area to a high standard, contributing to its reputation as a key community asset.

During the warmer months, hundreds of people, ranging from children to seniors, walk approximately 350 metres upstream to an area known as The Rocks and float back down the river to the main beach. This activity has been enjoyed by generations of Wagga Wagga residents and forms part of the city's cultural connection to the Murrumbidgee River.

The matter has been raised in correspondence received by Councillors from Mr. Greg Conkey OAM, former Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga (2016–2021) and longstanding community member. Mr. Conkey notes that while there are a few steps leading from the levee to the river, the rocks themselves are both difficult and dangerous to negotiate, particularly for older residents and children.

In his correspondence, Mr. Conkey proposed several low-cost options to improve access, including the installation of steel posts and chain handrails, cutting additional steps into the rock, or constructing a wooden step and handrail structure just upstream from the existing rocks. He also recommended the installation of signage warning of river hazards and advising that only competent swimmers should undertake the float back to the beach.

Cultural and Community Considerations

The Murrumbidgee River holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for the Wiradjuri people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Wagga Wagga is situated. Any works along the riverbank must be undertaken with respect for this enduring connection. Consultation with Wiradjuri Elders and community representatives will ensure that cultural heritage is protected and that the project proceeds in a spirit of reconciliation and mutual respect.

Furthermore, Wagga Wagga is home to a diverse multicultural community. Signage displayed in multiple languages will ensure that important safety messages are accessible to all visitors, including those from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Where appropriate, incorporating Wiradjuri language into signage would also represent a meaningful acknowledgement of the region's First Nations heritage. These concerns are consistent with Council's commitment to ensuring safe, accessible and well-maintained public spaces for all members of the community.

Improving access at The Rocks would enhance the experience of thousands of users each year and reduce the risk of injury associated with negotiating the current uneven rock surface.

It is appropriate that Council investigate the feasibility, costs and options for delivering these improvements, and report back to Councillors for further consideration.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Wagga Wagga City Council Code of Meeting Practice

Link to Strategic Plan

Vibrant

Our community feels safe.

Support public safety.

Risk Management Issues for Council

- **Public Safety:** Current rock access presents a potential risk of injury to users. Improvements would mitigate this risk.

- Council Liability: Improved access and appropriate signage may reduce Council's exposure to liability claims.
- Cultural Safety: Consultation with Wiradjuri Elders ensures cultural heritage is protected and strengthens Council's relationship with First Nations communities.
- Reputation: Responding positively to correspondence from a former Mayor and respected community member demonstrates Council's commitment to community engagement.

Internal / External Consultation

N/A

REPORTS FROM STAFF

RP-1 LEP25/0002 - HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENT - LAND RESERVATION ACQUISITION MAPS

Author: Matthew Yeomans

Executive: Fiona Hamilton

Summary:

A planning proposal has been prepared to update the 'Land Reservation Acquisition' maps in the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010.

The current maps contain properties that are identified for acquisition but require review because the properties:

- have been acquired by Council
- have been dedicated to Council
- are no longer required for operational needs following a review of remaining identified properties.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a endorse planning proposal LEP25/0002 to amend the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010, 'Land Reservation Acquisition' maps
- b write to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) requesting a gateway determination under s3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act 1979)
- c on receipt of a Gateway Determination under section 3.34 of the EP&A Act 1979, Council enact all the requirements of the Gateway Determination and requirements of Schedule 1, clause 4 of the EP&A Act 1979
- d delegate authority to the General Manager or their delegate of all functions under Section 3.36 of the EP&A Act 1979 to make the local environmental plan and put into effect the planning proposal
- e delegate authority to the General Manager or their delegate to make any variations to the planning proposal, to correct any drafting errors or anomalies to ensure consistency with the Gateway Determination or to address any other matter that may arise during the amendment process
- f should no objections be received, furnishes a copy of this report and other relevant information to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 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

Report

The Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 (LEP) includes various sets of legislated maps, which correspond to specific LEP clauses and assist with the implementation of the LEP. One of these map series identifies land for acquisition by

Council or other authorities ('Land Reservation Acquisition' (LRA) maps). There are six maps in this series.

The maps identify specific portions of land (whether whole or part lots) to be acquired. Acquisition may be for a variety of reasons, including for uses such as open space and infrastructure. Since the maps were last updated, Council has acquired land, been dedicated land, and has reviewed its operational requirements and determined that whilst previously identified the land is no longer required.

The review of the acquisition maps identified that the current LRA maps contain outdated acquisition information. For example, land at Copland St, East Wagga Wagga is identified for acquisition for open space purposes; however, this land is now surplus to open space planning requirements and is recommended to be removed from the LRA mapping.

A planning proposal is required to update the LRA maps as they form part of the statutory LEP instrument. A draft planning proposal has been prepared to amend the LEP (**Attachment 1**). The Planning Proposal seeks to remove 20 lots/part lots and retain 14 lots/parts within the maps. These lots are proposed to be removed from the LRA map as:

- The land has already been acquired by, or dedicated to, Council.
- The land is no longer required for public purposes.

Overall, the planning proposal seeks to remove approximately 20 areas identified for acquisition and retain 14 areas for acquisition.

It is critical to update the Land Reservation Acquisition maps to ensure they are accurate – this provides Council, industry, and community with a clear understanding of where land in the LGA has been identified for acquisition by Council or other government authorities.

Financial Implications

The planning proposal may create an economic impact for Council, as Council will be expected to acquire the remaining land parcels. However, no additional parcels have been identified that have not already been considered by Council in terms of likely financial impacts.

Land that was to be acquired by Council but is now surplus to operational requirements and therefore being removed from the Land Reservation Acquisition maps should result in reduced costs to Council (as Council will no longer be required to acquire the land).

Policy and Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991
Local Government Act 1993

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Good governance

Provide professional, innovative, accessible and efficient services.

Risk Management Issues for Council

An outdated Land Reservation Acquisition map series creates risks for Council. It may result in Council being required to acquire land that is no longer required for operational or community purposes. It may also make it more difficult for Council to acquire land for appropriate purposes, if the land is not clearly identified. Undertaking the proposed housekeeping amendments to correct the Land Reservation Acquisition map series mitigates these risks.

Council risks potential risks of ‘hardship claims’ under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act in relation to land that is identified by Council have not acquired.

Internal / External Consultation

To prepare the planning proposal, Strategic Planning consulted with relevant Council directorates to ensure operational needs were considered and achieved.

The planning proposal, if granted Gateway Determination, would be placed on public exhibition. The table below identifies the likely activities that would be undertaken during that public exhibition period. These activities are subject to change, depending on the requirements set by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure through the Gateway Determination.

	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"/>			
Consult				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other methods (please list specific details below)																

Attachments

- 1. Draft Planning Proposal - Land Reservation Acquisition Map Review

Land Reservation Acquisition Map Review

Planning Proposal
Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010



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

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date	Revision	Status	Author	Reviewed
21/01/2026	D	Updated draft	CB	MY
18/02/2026	E	Final draft for OCM	MY	MY

DRAFT

Overview

The Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 ('LEP') identifies land reserved for acquisition on the 'Land Reservation Acquisition Map'. This planning proposal seeks to amend the LEP to remove select land parcels from this map. The amendments are proposed following a review of the land currently identified on the Land Reservation Acquisition Map and an assessment of whether that land has been acquired by, or dedicated to, Council or is no longer required from an operational perspective.

The amendments proposed in this planning proposal are critical in ensuring Council's LEP mapping is accurate and useable by Council, community and industry.

Part 1 – Objectives and intended outcomes

The objective of this planning proposal is:

- to amend the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 to update the Land Reservation Acquisition Map to accurately reflect the acquisition needs of Council and other government organisations.

The intended outcome of this planning proposal is:

- to have an accurate Land Reservation Acquisition Map to guide Council, community and industry decision-making.

Part 2 – Explanation of provisions

To achieve the objective and intended outcome of the planning proposal, it is proposed to remove select land parcels from the existing Land Reservation Acquisition Map.

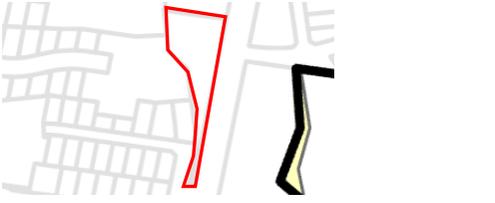
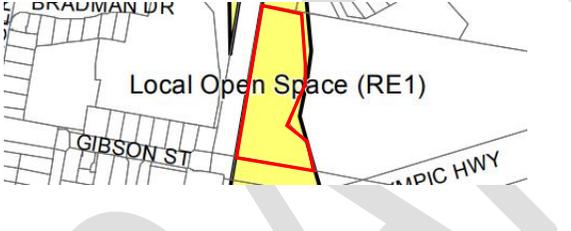
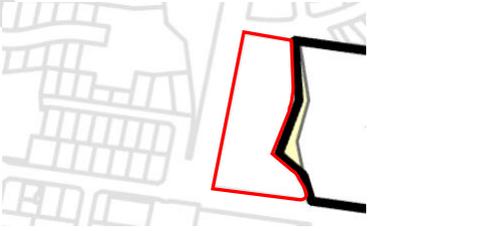
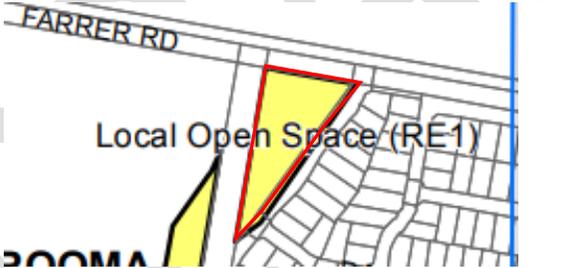
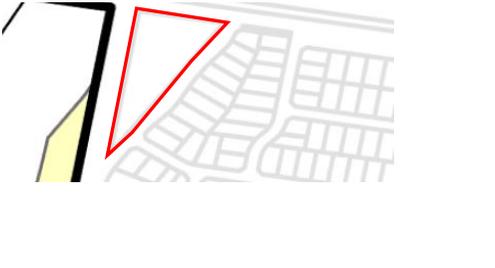
- Table 1 outlines the proposed changes to the Land Reservation Acquisition Map.
- Table 2 provides direction on the digitisation of the LEP maps.

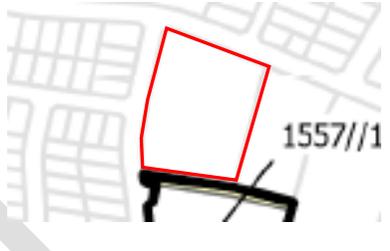
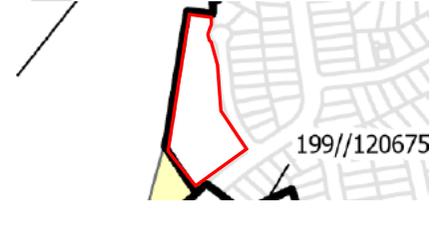
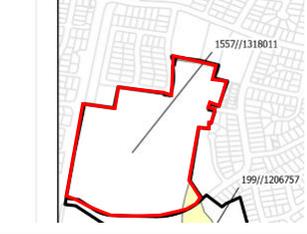
Complete versions of the proposed mapping are available at Appendix 1.

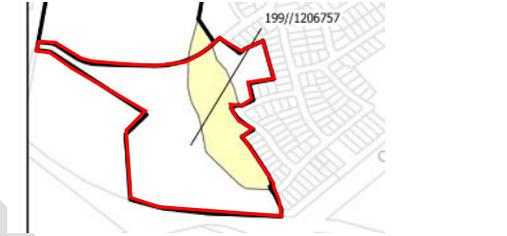
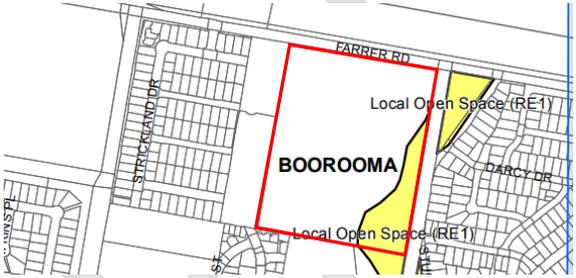
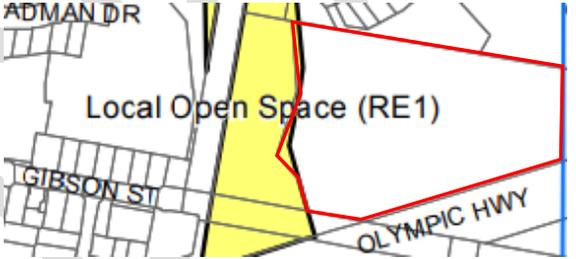
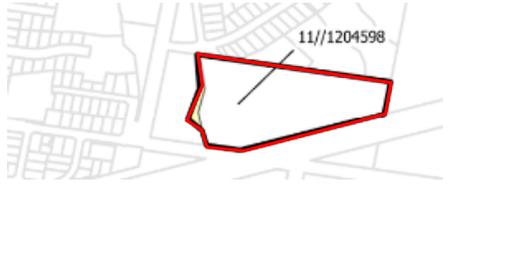
Note: Table 1 includes images of the existing .pdf mapping of the Wagga Wagga LEP 2010. The .pdf mapping may contain historical cadastre alignments which may present as a discrepancy with the updated and proposed mapping. No changes have been made to the extent of the land reservation acquisition on relevant parcels, changes only relate to whether the mapping continues to apply to the subject land or not.

Table 1 – proposed updates to the Land Reservation Acquisition maps in the LEP.

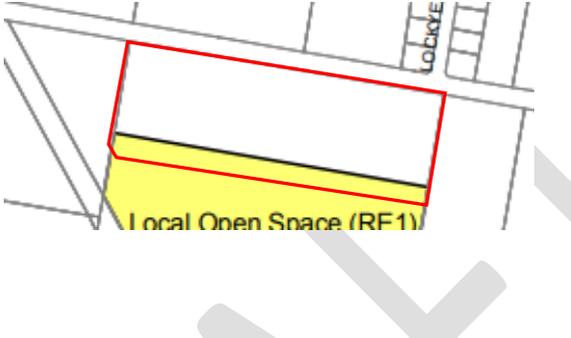
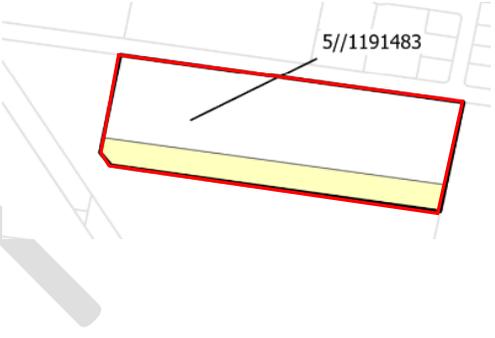
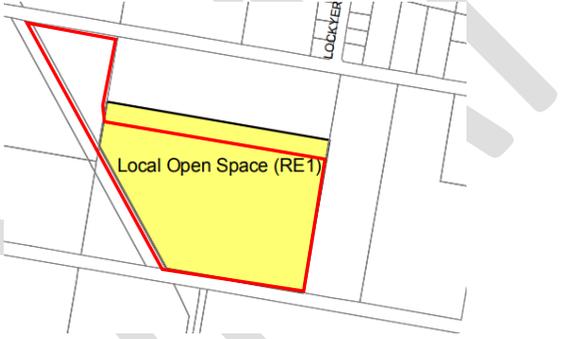
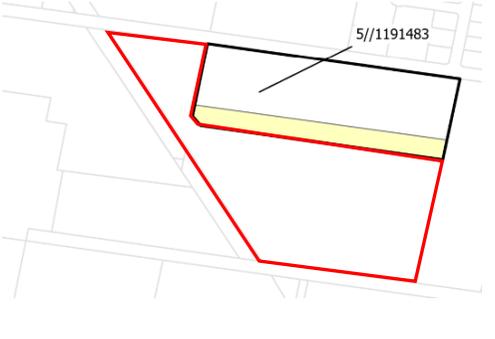
Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
47 in DP1179795	PUBLIC RESERVE 8A Kellerman Cres, Boorooma	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003A		
65 in DP1193816	Reserve Bradman Dr, Boorooma	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003C		
64 in DP1193816	RESERVE 59 Amundsen St, Boorooma	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003A		
14 in DP1204598	RESERVE 24 Breasley Cres, Boorooma	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003A		

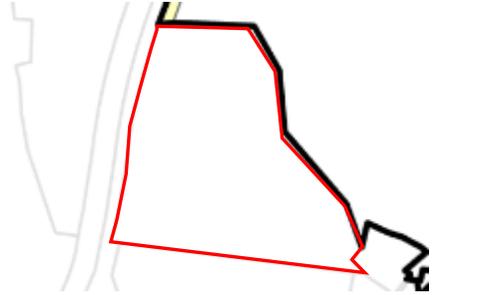
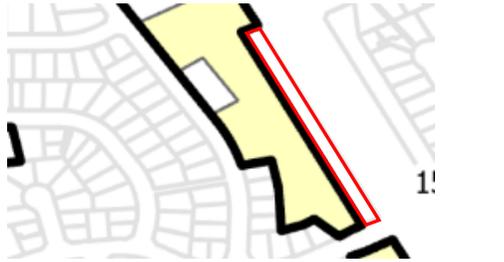
Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
12 in DP1204598	RESERVE 28 Gibson St, Boorooma	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003A		
10 in DP1204598	RESERVE 61 Amundsen St, Boorooma	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003A		
419 in DP1216112	Public Reserve Farrer Rd, Boorooma	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003A		

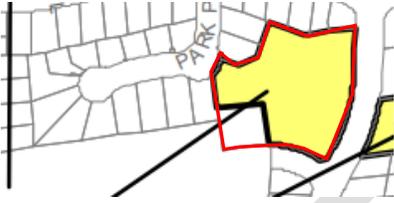
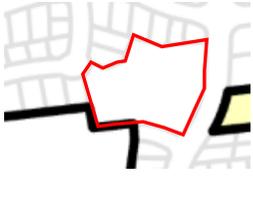
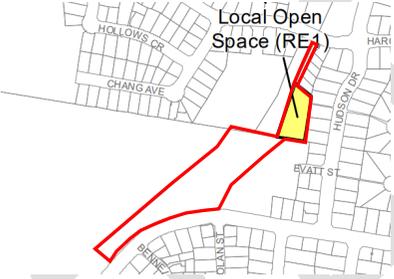
Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
1500 in DP1318011	81 Avocet Dr, Estella	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003A		
1556 in DP1318011	RESERVE 1 Comet Pl, Estella	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	003B		
1557 in DP1318011	Residue Lot Monarch Ave, Estella	No change – not yet acquired by Council.	003A & 003B		

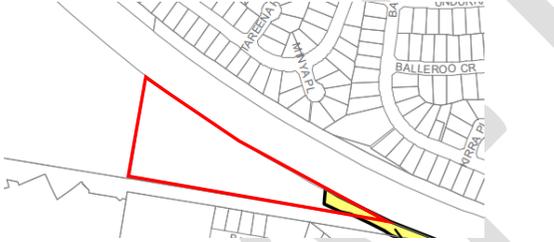
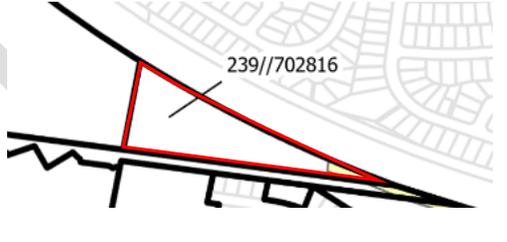
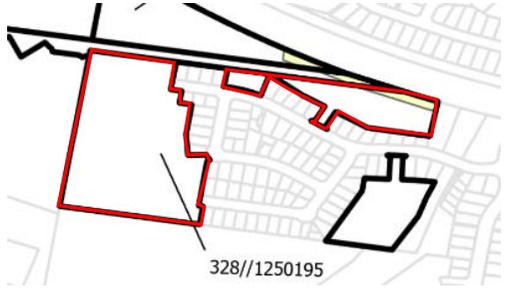
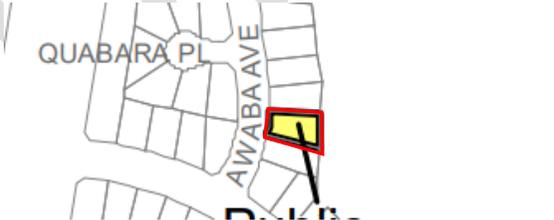
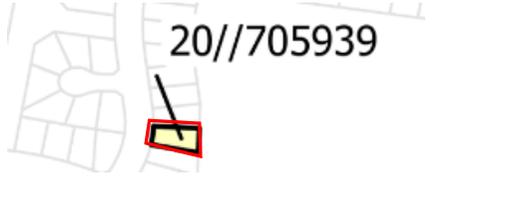
Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
199 in DP1206757	Residue Lot Maitland Dr, Estella	No change – not yet acquired by Council.	003B		
70 in DP751422	127 Farrer Rd, Boorooma	No change – not yet acquired by Council.	003A		
11 in DP1204598	60 Bradman Dr, Boorooma	No change – not yet acquired by Council.	003A		

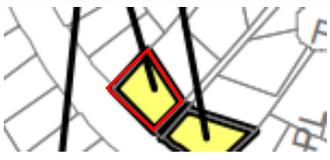
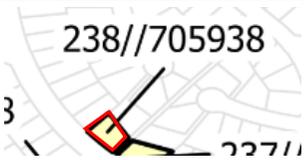
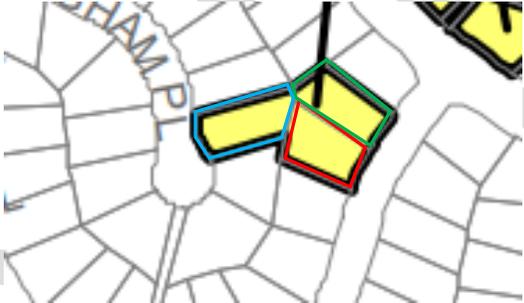
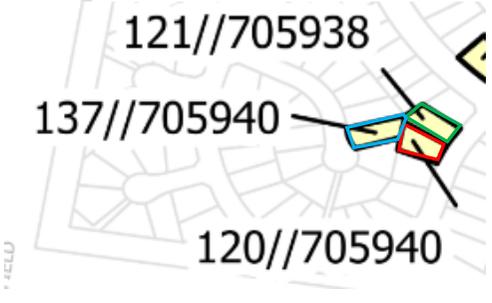
Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
1 in DP742224 (outlined in red)	Copland St, East Wagga Wagga	Remove acquisition layer as land is no longer required by Council. Land is surplus to open space planning requirements; the location is subject to access constraints.	004B		
2 in DP742224 (outlined in blue)	Copland St, East Wagga Wagga		004B		
31 in DP1063553 (outlined in green)	205 Koorngal Rd, East Wagga Wagga		004B		
15 in DP1260044	32 Riedell St, East Wagga Wagga	Remove acquisition layer as land is no longer required by Council. Land is surplus to open space planning requirements; the location is subject to access constraints.	004B		

Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
5 in DP1191483	198 Copland St, East Wagga Wagga	Remove acquisition layer as land no longer required by Council. Council has acquired the land identified in the acquisition plan.	004B		
6 in DP1209699	170 Copland St, East Wagga Wagga	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	004B		

Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
1 in DP1174668	RESERVE 108 Ross Smith Rd, Lloyd	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	004A		
58 in DP1177765	Reserve 120 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	004A		
57 in DP1177765	Road Reserve 500 Red Hill Rd, Lloyd	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	004A		

Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
85 in DP1229144	Reserve 2 Dupree Bvd, Lloyd	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	004A		
699 in DP1242827	Drainage Reserve 7 Barton Ave, Lloyd	Remove acquisition layer as land is in Council ownership.	004A		
151 in DP1281496	Residue Lot 80 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	No change – land not yet acquired by Council.	004A		

Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
43 in DP1261937	80 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	No change – land not yet acquired by Council.	004A		
239 in DP702816	80 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	No change – land not yet acquired by Council.	004A		
328 in DP1250195	Residue Lot Hollows Cres, Lloyd	No change – land not yet acquired by Council.	004A		
20 in DP705939	19 Awaba Ave, Tolland	No change – part of Tolland Renewal Project.	004A		

Lot & DP	Address	Proposed change	Map reference	Current mapping	Proposed mapping
238 in DP705938	134 Raye St, Tolland	No change – part of the Tolland Renewal Project.	004A		
237 in DP705940	132 Raye St, Tolland	No change – part of the Tolland Renewal Project.	004A		
120 in DP705940 (outlined in red)	6 Brooks Cct, Tolland	No change – part of the Tolland Renewal Project.	004A		
137 in DP705940 (outlined in blue)	7 Bingham Pl, Tolland	No change – part of the Tolland Renewal Project.	004A		
121 in DP705938 (outlined in green)	4 Brooks Cct, Tolland	No change – part of the Tolland Renewal Project.	004A		

The following lots abut land identified for acquisition in pdf map 004A. With the pdf boundaries sometimes overlapping cadastral boundaries, Council wishes to make clear that the land reservation acquisition layer does not affect the lots listed in Table 2.

Table 2 – direction regarding unaffected but adjoining lots.

Lot & DP	Address	Request
Lot 145 in DP220020	114 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	Digital land reservation acquisition mapping will align to the cadastre and does not impact these properties.
Lot 146 in DP1281496	112 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	
Lot 147 in DP1281496	110 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	
Lot 148 in DP1281496	108 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	
Lot 150 in DP1281496	104 Lingiari Dr, Lloyd	



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Part 3 – Justification of strategic and site-specific merit

This section provides a detailed assessment of the proposal's strategic and site-specific merit to determine whether the planning proposal should be supported. The assessment in this section has been undertaken in accordance with Table 3 of the *LEP Making Guideline (August 2023)*.

1. Matters for consideration

1.1. Is the planning proposal a result of an endorsed LSPS, strategic study or report?

No, the planning proposal is not the result of an endorsed Local Strategic Planning Statement, strategic study or report.

The planning proposal seeks to update existing mapping within the LEP to ensure it is accurate and reflects the land acquisition needs of Council and other government organisations.

1.2. 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 best means of achieving the objectives and intended outcomes. Table 3 identifies the other pathways which may enable the desired outcomes.

Table 3

Pathway	Comment
Development Application	A Development Application cannot alter the Land Reservation Acquisition maps within the LEP.
Section 3.22 expedited amendment	A Section 3.22 expedited amendment is intended to deal with small or otherwise minimal amendments to the LEP. The scale of change to the Land Reservation Acquisition Maps is not appropriate for a Section 3.22 expedited amendment.
Amending State Environmental Planning Policy	An amending State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) may sometimes be used to make updates to an LEP's maps. However, this is generally reserved for state-wide or wide-ranging amendments which need to be undertaken across multiple LEPs. This planning proposal relates only to the Wagga Wagga LEP 2010, making an amending SEPP inappropriate in scale.

Therefore, this planning proposal is the best means for achieving the objectives and intended outcomes.

1.3. 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)?

The *Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041* (Regional Plan) applies to the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area. There are no relevant objectives or strategies identified within the Regional Plan applicable to the planning proposal, due to the nature of the planning proposal.

1.4. Is the planning proposal consistent with a council LSPS that has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary or GCC, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?

Wagga Wagga Community Strategic Plan

The *Wagga Wagga Community Strategic Plan 2050* (CSP 2050) identifies the community's vision for the future, long-term outcomes, and strategies to get there and how Council will measure progress. The following actions are relevant to the planning proposal:

Regional leadership

- 3.1 Adopt a sound approach to strategic planning to ensure that we are preparing for future growth requirements of the city.

The CSP 2050 provides the overarching direction for Council's Operational and Delivery Plans required to be prepared under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Delivery of updates to the LEP are a core function of the Strategic Planning team and this amendment delivers on the commitment to ensuring the LEP is maintained and current.

Local Strategic Planning Statement

The planning proposal is consistent with the high-level principles of the LSPS. Given its intent is to update existing LEP mapping to ensure it is accurate, the planning proposal is policy neutral.

1.5. Is the planning proposal consistent with any other applicable State and regional studies or strategies?

There are no other applicable State or regional studies or strategies relevant to this planning proposal.

1.6. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable SEPPs?

There are no State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) considered relevant to this planning proposal, given its nature.

1.7. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (section 9.1 Directions) or key government priority?

This section considers the planning proposal's consistency with relevant section 9.1 Ministerial Directions.

Direction 1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans

This direction applies to a relevant planning authority when preparing a planning proposal for land to which a Regional Plan has been released by the Minister for Planning.

As outlined in section 1.3, there are no objectives or strategies in the Regional Plan relevant to this planning proposal, given its nature.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 1.1.

Direction 1.3 Approval and Referral Requirements

This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a planning proposal.

The planning proposal does not seek to impose additional requirements into the development application process. The planning proposal seeks to update existing LEP maps to ensure they are accurate and reflect the operational needs of Council and other government organisations.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 1.3.

Direction 3.1 – Conservation Zones

This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a planning proposal.

The proposed amendments to the Land Reservation Acquisition mapping incorporate some conservation zoned land. However, the planning proposal does not alter development standards applying to the land and does not seek to reduce the conservation standards applying to the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 3.1.

Direction 3.2 – Heritage Conservation

This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a planning proposal.

The updates to the Land Reservation Acquisition mapping do not impact any identified heritage items or areas.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 3.2.

Direction 3.5 – Recreation Vehicle Areas

This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a planning proposal.

The planning proposal does not seek to introduce recreation vehicle areas or enable development of the same.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 3.5.

Direction 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 relates solely to the acquisition of land and does not alter development standards applying to the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 4.1.

Direction 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 does incorporate some land in proximity to, or comprised of, bushfire prone land. However, the amendments relate solely to the acquisition of land, and not the development outcomes of the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 4.3.

Direction 4.4 – Remediation of Contaminated Land

This direction applies when a planning proposal authority prepares a planning proposal that applies to:

- (a) land that is within an investigation area within the meaning of the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*
- (b) land on which development for a purpose referred to in Table 1 to the contaminated land planning guidelines is being, or is known to have been, carried out.
- (c) the extent to which it is proposed to carry out development on it for residential, educational, recreational or childcare purposes, or for the purposes of a hospital – land:
 - i. in relation to which there is no knowledge (or incomplete knowledge) as to whether development for a purpose referred to in Table 1 to the contaminated land planning guidelines has been carried out, and

- ii. on which it would have been lawful to carry out such development during any period in respect of which there is no knowledge (or incomplete knowledge).

The planning proposal incorporates land that is adjacent to contaminated land identified by Council. However, the proposal relates solely to the acquisition of land, and not the development outcomes of the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 4.4.

Direction 5.1 – Integrating Land Use and Transport

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 urban land, including land zoned for residential employment, village or tourist purposes.

The planning proposal applies to urban land but relates solely to the acquisition of land and does not alter development standards applying to the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 5.1.

Direction 5.2 – Reserving Land for Public Purposes

This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a planning proposal.

The objectives of this direction are to:

- (a) facilitate the provision of public services and facilities by reserving land for public purposes, and
- (b) facilitate the removal of reservations of land for public purposes where the land is no longer required for acquisition.

The planning proposal is consistent with the objectives of this direction as it seeks to facilitate the removal of reservations where that land is no longer required for acquisition.

The following components of the direction have been considered in determining this planning proposal's consistency with direction 5.2:

Table 4

Direction	Assessment
(1) A planning proposal must not create, alter or reduce existing zonings or reservations of land for public purposes without the approval of the relevant public authority and the Planning Secretary (or an officer of the Department nominated by the Secretary).	Consistent Through this planning proposal, Council is seeking the approval of the Planning Secretary (or their delegate).
(2) When a Minister or public authority requests a relevant planning authority to reserve land for a public purpose in a planning proposal and the land would be required to be acquired under Division 3 of Part 2 of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, the relevant planning authority must: (a) reserve the land in accordance with the request, and (b) include the land in a zone appropriate to its intended future use or a zone advised by the Planning Secretary (or an officer of the Department nominated by the Secretary), and (c) identify the relevant acquiring authority for the land.	N/A

Direction	Assessment
<p>(3) When a Minister or public authority requests a relevant planning authority to include provisions in a planning proposal relating to the use of any land reserved for a public purpose before that land is acquired, the relevant planning authority must:</p> <p>(a) include the requested provisions, or</p> <p>(b) take such other action as advised by the Planning Secretary (or an officer of the Department nominated by the Secretary) with respect to the use of the land before it is acquired.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>(4) When a Minister or public authority requests a relevant planning authority to include provisions in a planning proposal to rezone and/or remove a reservation of any land that is reserved for public purposes because the land is no longer designated by that public authority for acquisition, the relevant planning authority must rezone and/or remove the relevant reservation in accordance with the request.</p>	<p>Consistent</p> <p>Council seeks to remove land that is currently reserved for public purposes because that land is no longer required or has been acquired and is no longer required to be identified on the maps.</p>

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 5.2.

Direction 6.1 – Residential Land

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.

The planning proposal applies to residentially zoned land but relates solely to the acquisition of land and does not alter development standards applying to the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 6.1.

Direction 6.2 – Caravan Parks and Manufactured Home Estates

This direction applies to all relevant planning authorities when preparing a planning proposal.

The planning proposal does not seek to introduce caravan parks or manufactured home estates.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 6.2.

Direction 7.1 – Employment 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 (including the alteration of any existing Employment zone boundary).

The planning proposal applies to employment zoned land but relates solely to the acquisition of land and does not alter development standards applying to the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 7.1.

Direction 9.1 – Rural Zones

This direction applies when a relevant planning authority prepares a planning proposal that will affect land within an existing or proposed rural zone (including the alteration of any existing rural zone boundary).

The planning proposal applies to rural zoned land but relates solely to the acquisition of land and does not alter development standards applying to the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 9.1.

- **Direction 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, that:

- (a) will affect land within an existing or proposed rural or conservation zone (including the alteration of any existing rural or conservation zone boundary) or
- (b) changes the existing minimum lot size on land within a rural or conservation zone.

The planning proposal applies to rural and conservation zoned land but relates solely to the acquisition of land and does not alter development standards applying to the land.

The planning proposal is considered consistent with direction 9.2.

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

There are no expected environmental impacts. The planning proposal seeks to update existing mapping within the LEP to ensure it is accurate and reflects the land acquisition needs of Council and other government organisations. The proposal does not alter development standards applying to the identified sites.

1.9. Are there any other likely environmental effects of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?

There are no expected environmental impacts. The planning proposal seeks to update existing mapping within the LEP to ensure it is accurate and reflects the land acquisition needs of Council and other government organisations. The proposal does not alter development standards applying to the identified sites.

1.10. Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?

The planning proposal is not expected to generate significant social and economic effects. There may be an economic impact on Council, as it will be required to acquire the remaining land parcels. However, no additional parcels have been identified that have not already been considered by Council in terms of likely financial impacts. By ensuring an up-to-date Land Reservation Acquisition Map, Council enhances industry and community understanding of impacted land. The land acquired will also likely produce a positive social effect, as it serves a purpose in Council's core business.

1.11. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?

There are no expected impacts in relation to public infrastructure, given the nature of the planning proposal.

1.12. What are the views of state and federal public authorities and government agencies consulted in order to inform the Gateway Determination?

Relevant consultation with state and/or federal authorities will be conditioned as part of the Gateway Determination. No pre-consultation has occurred due to the nature of the planning proposal.

Part 4 – Maps

The amended maps are requested to be digitised as part of this amendment, with the .pdf maps being superseded. The proposed maps (reflecting the changes in Table 1) are provided at Appendix 1.

Current map reference	Comment	Proposed map reference
LRA_003A	Amendments per Table 1.	To be digitised.
LRA_003B	Amendments per Table 1.	To be digitised.
LRA_003C	Amendments per Table 1.	To be digitised.
LRA_003D	No amendments required.	To be digitised.
LRA_004A	Amendments per Table 1.	To be digitised.
LRA_004B	Amendments per Table 1.	To be digitised.

Part 5 – Community Consultation

Community consultation will be identified at the Gateway Determination stage. Council will undertake public exhibition and engagement as required.

Part 6 – Project Timeline

The project timeline is based on the benchmark timeframes for a standard planning proposal.

Stage	Timeframe
Council decision	March 2026
Stage 3 - Gateway Determination	April 2026
Stage 4 – Post-Gateway	June 2026
Stage 5 – Public Exhibition and Assessment	July 2026
Stage 6 – Finalisation	October 2026
Gazettal of LEP amendment	November 2026

RP-2 PROCESS FOR A POTENTIAL FUTURE IPART APPLICATION SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Author: Peter Thompson

Summary:

At its meeting on 25 August 2025, Council requested a report outlining the process for a potential future Special Rate Variation (SRV) application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

This report responds to that resolution and outlines the financial context, strategic considerations and proposed next steps to commence a structured review and investigation into whether Council should pursue a future SRV application.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a note the information contained in this report regarding the Special Rate Variation (SRV) framework and requirements
- b acknowledge the emerging financial and service delivery challenges facing Council that may require consideration of a future SRV
- c endorse the commencement of a structured program of work to investigate the need, scope and implications of a potential SRV application, including:
 - i long-term financial modelling
 - ii service and infrastructure gap analysis
 - iii productivity and cost-containment review
 - iv benchmarking against comparable councils
 - v development of a community engagement strategy
- d receive a further report outlining the outcomes of this work and recommendations on whether to proceed to formal community consultation and a potential IPART application

Report

Council at its 25 August 2025 Council meeting resolved:

25/265 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors K Subedi and A Parkins

That Council:

- a **note the service level reductions across Council functions if a proposed 5% funding cut was adopted, which is in response to the road renewal funding Notice of Motion**
- b **reallocate \$79,097 from various areas of Council to end of life line marking**
- c **note the budget constraints faced by Council and request a report back from staff that details the process for a potential future IPART application for a Special Rate Variation**

CARRIED

This report addresses part (c) of that resolution and sets out the legislative framework, process requirements and strategic considerations for Council.

Financial context and emerging challenges

Like many councils across NSW, Council is operating in an increasingly constrained financial environment, driven by:

- rising costs associated with infrastructure renewal and maintenance
- increasing service expectations from the community
- regulatory and compliance obligations
- construction cost escalation and supply pressures
- limits imposed by the annual rate peg

While Council continues to pursue efficiency improvements and cost-containment measures, these pressures are placing increasing strain on long-term financial sustainability and Council's ability to maintain service levels and asset standards.

Council has previously undertaken detailed internal financial and service level modelling, including the 2025 budget review process, which examined the potential to redirect funding across Council operations.

That work demonstrated there is limited capacity to reallocate funding without directly impacting community services and confirmed increasing pressure on infrastructure renewal, maintenance budgets and long-term financial sustainability.

An SRV is one mechanism available to councils where existing revenue settings are insufficient to sustain service delivery, infrastructure renewal and long-term financial stability.

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV)?

The SRV process allows NSW councils to apply to IPART for approval to increase general rate income above the standard rate peg.

IPART assesses applications against strict criteria, including whether Council has demonstrated:

- a clear financial need
- strong community awareness and engagement
- reasonable impacts on ratepayers
- sound long-term financial planning
- evidence of productivity improvements and cost control
- transparent exhibition of relevant council documents

These pressures are not unique to Wagga Wagga; however, they highlight the need for Council to proactively review its long-term financial sustainability and funding settings rather than respond reactively in future years.

Potential focus areas for any future SRV

Should Council determine to further investigate a Special Rate Variation, the primary focus would be on supporting long-term asset sustainability and addressing infrastructure funding pressures.

Priority areas would include reducing the infrastructure renewal backlog and strengthening ongoing maintenance funding for critical assets such as roads, footpaths, stormwater systems and other core community infrastructure.

Council also has an increasing obligation to operate and maintain major community facilities delivered in recent years. This includes assets such as the Multi-Purpose Stadium and the Pomingalarna Cycling Centre, which require sustainable funding to ensure they remain safe, functional and fit for purpose over their full asset life.

Any future SRV proposal would be informed by detailed asset and financial modelling and would clearly identify how additional revenue would be applied to priority infrastructure and service outcomes before any community consultation or application to IPART.

Timeline and process requirements

An SRV application is a multi-year process requiring:

- detailed long-term financial planning
- service and infrastructure prioritisation
- extensive community engagement
- Council resolutions at key milestones
- formal application submission to IPART (typically February)

To meet IPART timeframes, preparatory work must commence well in advance, including financial modelling, engagement planning and internal analysis.



As can be seen in the timeline above, staff need to commence the process in the middle of a calendar year in order to undertake the required community consultation prior to the application due date which is in February of each year. A Council must first pass a resolution to proceed with the SRV application to IPART.

An SRV application is a comprehensive process, that would require additional staff resources across various departments. The input across the various departments would vary, with some areas requiring additional resources to complete the application, that would need to be funded.

For Councillors information, attached to this report are the last two financial year IPART media releases on the IPART applications and outcomes.

Early commencement ensures Council retains control over timing, scope and community engagement rather than being driven by financial pressure

Proposed approach — commencing the review

The findings of Council's previous financial and service level reviews indicate that structural funding pressures are emerging and warrant further investigation of long-term revenue options.

This report does not propose that Council proceed to an SRV application. Rather, it seeks to commence the preparatory work necessary for Council to make an informed decision at a future point.

- assess whether an SRV is required
- identify potential funding gaps
- test service and infrastructure scenarios
- review productivity and cost containment measures
- benchmark Council against comparable organisations
- develop a clear engagement framework for the community

This work will enable Council to make an informed, evidence-based decision about whether to proceed to community consultation and a future IPART application.

Resourcing implications

An SRV investigation and application process is resource-intensive and requires cross-organisational input, including:

- finance and modelling
- asset and infrastructure planning
- corporate strategy
- communications and engagement
- governance and policy

Resourcing requirements will be further detailed in a future report.

Financial Implications

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

Any future SRV proposal would be subject to detailed financial modelling, Council consideration and community consultation prior to any decision.

Policy and Legislation

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), Section 508(2) and Section 508A

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Ethical Leadership

Deliver accountable and transparent leadership.

Risk Management Issues for Council

Long-term financial sustainability

Without proactively reviewing revenue settings, Council may face increasing financial pressure over time, reducing its ability to maintain services, renew assets and respond to growth. Commencing an SRV review allows Council to understand its long-term financial position early and consider options before issues become critical.

This risk has already been identified through previous internal financial and service level reviews, which confirmed limited capacity to sustain existing service and asset commitments within current revenue settings.

Infrastructure and asset condition

Council manages a large and dispersed asset base that requires ongoing renewal and maintenance. If funding constraints continue, there is a risk of deferred works, increasing maintenance backlogs and declining asset condition, which can impact safety, reliability and community use of key infrastructure.

Service levels and community expectations

Community expectations for services and facilities continue to grow. Without sustainable funding, Council may need to reduce services, delay projects or reprioritise programs, which could affect community satisfaction and confidence in Council's ability to deliver.

Regulatory and compliance obligations

Council must meet a range of legislative and regulatory requirements. Financial constraints may limit Council's ability to respond to new obligations, undertake compliance works or maintain required standards, creating operational and governance risks.

Reputation and community trust

If financial challenges emerge without early planning and communication, Council may be perceived as reactive rather than strategic. Beginning the review process supports transparency and helps ensure any future decisions are informed and understood by the community.

Workforce and organisational capacity

Ongoing financial pressure can impact Council's ability to resource projects, retain skilled staff and sustain organisational capability, which in turn affects service delivery and long-term planning.

Strategic options and timing

IPART applications require significant preparation and lead time. If Council does not begin early investigation, it may have fewer options available in the future and may be forced into more reactive decisions under tighter timeframes.

Earlier financial modelling and service reviews demonstrate that Council has already explored internal efficiencies and reallocation opportunities, reinforcing the need to consider longer-term structural solutions.

Risks associated with commencing the review

Starting an SRV review may raise community concern about potential rate increases and place additional demands on staff resources. These risks will be managed through clear communication that this stage is exploratory and does not commit Council to submitting an application.

Internal / External Consultation

No community consultation is proposed at this stage.

If Council resolves to progress toward an SRV, a comprehensive engagement program would be undertaken, including:

- community forums and workshops
- rates communications and explanatory materials
- public exhibition and feedback processes
- Your Say engagement
- targeted stakeholder engagement

Attachments

- 1 [↓](#). 2024/25 SRV Applications Media Release.
- 2 [↓](#). 2024/25 SRV Outcomes Media Release.
- 3 [↓](#). 2025/26 SRV Applications Media Release.
- 4 [↓](#). 2025/26 SRV Outcomes Media Release.

Media Release

27 February 2024

Nine NSW councils apply for rate increases

Nine NSW councils have applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special variation to increase their income from rates above the rate peg.

IPART Chair Carmel Donnelly said the Tribunal is now seeking community feedback on applications from Blayney Shire, Goulburn Mulwaree, Griffith City, Kempsey Shire, Narrandera Shire, Randwick City, Snowy Valleys, Tamworth Regional and Willoughby City councils.

"Some councils have applied for large increases over one, two or three years", Ms Donnelly said.

"The Tribunal will assess each application against the criteria established by the Office of Local Government, which require councils to demonstrate the need for the additional revenue, provide evidence of community consultation and detail the impact on affected ratepayers.

"Community feedback is an important part of the Tribunal's assessment of special variation applications and we encourage affected ratepayers and community members to fill out the survey on the IPART website or lodge a submission in relation to any of the applications we've received."

IPART sets a rate peg annually for every council in NSW which caps the amount by which councils can increase the revenue they collect from rates. For 2024-25, the core rate pegs range from 4.5% to 5.5% across NSW. Some councils are eligible for an additional population factor.

Councils seeking to increase their rates revenue by more than the rate peg must apply to IPART for a special variation. In general, the councils that have applied this year have indicated they are applying for a special variation to improve financial sustainability and to maintain their current service levels.

"IPART recently highlighted ongoing stakeholder concern with the financial sustainability of councils and with the affordability of rising rates, and the NSW Government has recently accepted our recommendation for an independent inquiry into the current financial model of councils", Ms Donnelly said.

"IPART is also currently seeking feedback on a draft Terms of Reference for an investigation into the financial model for NSW local councils."

All special variation applications for 2024-25 are available for review on the IPART [website](#), along with a short survey and information about how to lodge a submission.

IPART will accept feedback on special variation applications until 11:59pm on Monday 18 March 2024, and on the draft Terms of Reference for the council financial model review until 15 March 2024. IPART will release the final decision on special variation applications in May 2024.

Media Contact: Mark O'Brien, 0427 105 865, media@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Media Release

Attachment 1 – List of special variation applications

Table 1 Special variation applications

Council	Cumulative increase	Reasons provided	Annual increases		
			2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Blayney Shire Council	33.1% over 3 years	To match growing costs and continue providing services at current levels.	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	51.2% over 3 years	To cover increasing costs and continue providing services and assets to meet growing demand.	22.5%	16.0%	6.4%
Griffith City Council	34.9% over 3 years	To ensure financial sustainability and to maintain existing services.	10.5%	10.5%	10.5%
Kempsey Shire Council	42.7% over 3 years	To improve financial sustainability, maintain existing services and service levels, address current and forecast infrastructure backlogs for asset renewals and meeting special cost pressures faced by the council.	7.9%	15.0%	15.0%
Narrandera Shire Council	48.1% over 2 years	To cover increasing costs and continue providing services at current levels. Commencement of the major capital works project, Narrandera CBD stormwater infrastructure duplication project.	25.5%	18.0%	-
Randwick City Council	11.67% in 1 year	To retain the Environmental Levy permanently in the rate base. The Levy has been subject to four separate approvals since 2004, each temporary for 5 years.	11.67%	-	-
Snowy Valleys Council	42.38% over 3 years	To improve council's financial sustainability by reducing the operating deficit, deliver existing services, adequately fund ongoing asset maintenance and renewal and reduce council's reliance grant funding for asset renewals.	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Tamworth Regional Council	36.3% over 2 years	To achieve financial sustainability and maintain fit for purpose infrastructure. A significant component of the proposed SV is to ensure that Council has sufficient funds to maintain and renew its road infrastructure.	18.5%	15.0%	-
Willoughby City Council	15.0% in 1 year	To recover from recent financial impacts, have a long-term financially sustainable future, maintain and renew community assets, maintain existing highly valued services and improve public area maintenance and urban tree canopy outcomes.	15.0%	-	-

Note: All proposed special variations are for permanent increases. An approved special variation typically replaces the rate peg applicable to a council for the approved year(s).

Media Release

14 May 2024

IPART Decisions on Council Special Variation Applications

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has released its decisions on 9 NSW council applications for special variations to increase their general income by more than the rate peg.

IPART Chair Carmel Donnelly said of the 9 Special Variation applications, the Tribunal had approved 5, approved a lower increase for 3 and declined one.

Two of the applications were combined with minimum rate increase applications. The Tribunal approved one of these applications and approved a lower increase for the other.

"These decisions are based on our assessment against the Office of Local Government criteria, taking into account the issues raised by stakeholders during our submission period," Ms Donnelly said.

"The councils with approved increases are encouraged to consult with the community to decide how best to implement the allowed increase.

"It's important to note that elected councillors can choose when they implement the approved increase in rates income, including deferring any increases for up to 10 years and also how they set rates across the rating categories."

Every year IPART sets a rate peg for each council in NSW which caps the maximum amount councils can increase the general income they collect from ratepayers (rates income). IPART set the core rate peg for 2024-25 between 4.5% to 5.5%. There is also an allowance for some councils that experienced population growth.

If the elected councillors agree that a council needs additional revenue, the council can apply to IPART for a special variation to increase rates income by more than the rate peg.

IPART assesses special variation applications and minimum rate increase applications against criteria set out in guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government.

Reports on each of the 9 council special variation decisions, 2 minimum rate decisions, and related documents are now available on the IPART website at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au

Media Contact: Mark O'Brien



0427 105 865



media@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Media Release

Table 1 Summary of IPART's decisions on councils' special variation applications

Council	Application	Decision	Approved annual Increases		
			2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Applications approved in full					
Blayney Shire Council	33.1% over 3 years	Approved	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Narrandera Shire Council	48.1% over 2 years	Approved	25.5%	18.0%	
Randwick City Council	11.67% in 1 year	Approved	11.67%		
Tamworth Regional Council	36.3% over 2 years	Approved	18.5%	15.0%	
Willoughby City Council	15% increase in 1 year	Approved	15.0%		
Applications approved partially					
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	51.2% over 3 years	Approved for 22.5% increase in 2024-25	22.5%		
Griffith City Council	34.9% over 3 years	Approved for 22.10% cumulative increase over 2 years	10.5%	10.5%	
Kempsey Shire Council	42.7% over 3 years	Approved for 24.09% cumulative increase over 2 years	7.9%	15%	
Application not approved					
Snowy Valleys Council	42.38% over 3 years	Not approved	Rate peg		

Table 2 Summary of IPART's decisions on councils' minimum rate applications

Council	Application	Decision	New Minimum Rates
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	Business rates only - \$300 increase over 3 years	Business rates only - Approved for \$132 increase in 2024-25	Business rates - \$722 in 2024-25
Narrandera Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for residential, business ordinary and farmland rates - \$245 increase over 2 years for business Narrandera rates - \$275 increase over 2 years 	Approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for residential, business ordinary and farmland rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$640 in 2024-25 - \$755 in 2025-26 for business Narrandera rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$715 in 2024-25 - \$845 in 2025-26

Media Release

25 February 2025

Six NSW councils apply for rate increases

Six NSW councils have applied to IPART for a special variation to increase their income from rates above the rate peg.

IPART Chair Carmel Donnelly said the Tribunal is now seeking community feedback on applications from Federation, Gunnedah Shire, Northern Beaches, North Sydney, Shoalhaven City and Upper Hunter Shire councils. Gunnedah Shire and North Sydney councils had also applied for minimum rate increases.

"Community feedback is an important part of the Tribunal's assessment of special variation applications," Ms Donnelly said.

"We encourage affected ratepayers and community members to fill out the survey on the IPART website or lodge a submission in relation to any of the applications we've received."

IPART sets a rate peg annually for each of the 128 councils in NSW which caps each council's increase in the income they collect from ordinary rates. For 2025-26, the core rate pegs range from 3.6% to 5.1% across NSW. 72 of the 128 councils also received an additional allowance to reflect an adjusted population factor of up to 3.8%.

In general, the councils that have applied this year have indicated they are applying for a special variation to improve financial sustainability and to maintain their current service levels.

Ms Donnelly said "IPART must assess Special Variation applications against criteria set by the Office of Local Government (OLG). Councils can only apply to IPART for a Special Variation if the elected councillors pass a resolution to go ahead with the application."

As set out in the OLG assessment criteria, IPART will consider whether councils have:

- demonstrated the need for the additional income
- provided evidence that the community is aware of the need for and extent of the proposed rate rise
- established that the impact on affected ratepayers is reasonable
- exhibited, approved and adopted relevant planning documents
- explained and quantified the council's productivity improvements and cost containment strategies.

IPART may also consider other relevant matters.

All Special Variation applications for 2025-26 are available for review on the IPART website, along with a short survey and information about how to lodge a submission. IPART will accept feedback on Special Variation applications until 11:59pm on Monday 17 March 2025.

Media Release

IPART will release the final decisions on Special Variation and Minimum Rate increase applications by May/June 2025.

Media Contact: Mark O'Brien

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Media Release

Attachment 1 - List of Special Variation and Minimum Rate Applications

Table 1 Special variation applications

Council	Cumulative increase	Purpose of the special variation (as advised in Council application)	Proposed annual increases		
			2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Federation Council	69.94% over 2 years	Improve financial sustainability, addressing infrastructure maintenance and renewal shortfalls and maintaining other legislated services and non-legislated services where possible.	52.01%	11.80%	Rate peg
Gunnedah Shire Council	37.67% over 2 years	Improve council's financial sustainability, maintain general fund assets, particularly roads, buildings, and open space assets, reduce reliance upon grant funding for asset renewals, address the backlog of asset maintenance and renewal works, particularly those related to roads and buildings, and address council's unrestricted cash position that is currently forecast to go into a negative balance in year three of long term financial plan.	18.00%	16.67%	Rate peg
Northern Beaches Council	39.6% over 3 years	Secure long term financial sustainability, address backlog in infrastructure and maintenance requirements, expand environmental and natural risk reduction programs and provide capacity to manage an increasing number of natural disasters and, provide additional funds to improve current services and undertake major asset renewals.	12.10%	11.70%	11.50%
North Sydney Council	87.05% over 2 years	To create financial strength and sustainability to support the delivery of essential services, infrastructure maintenance, and community priorities.	45.00%	29.00%	Rate peg
Shoalhaven City Council	12% over 1 year	Move towards achieving financial sustainability and maintaining a greater level of fit for purpose infrastructure. Have a long-term financially sustainable future, recover from recent financial impacts and be in a strong position to maintain and renew community assets and meet community expectations.	12.00%	Rate-peg	Rate peg
Upper Hunter Shire Council	33.10% over 3 years	To enable council to continue delivering essential services and to maintain infrastructure, continue to provide essential services such as road maintenance and community facilities without interruption.	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%

Note: All proposed special variations are for permanent increases. An approved special variation typically replaces the rate peg applicable to a council for the approved year/s.

Media Release

Table 2 Minimum Rates application

Council	Application	Purpose of Minimum Rate application (as advised in Council application)	Proposed annual increases	
			2025-26	2026-27
Gunnedah Shire Council	Residential and Farmland 2024-25: \$555 2026-27: \$733	To ensure an equitable allocation of the rating burden across Council's rating categories is maintained.	Residential and Farmland: \$83.00	Residential and Farmland: \$95.00
	Business 2024-25: \$544 2026-27: \$718		Business: \$81.00	Business: \$93.00
North Sydney Council	Residential 2024-25: \$715 2026-27: \$1,548	To improve Council's financial sustainability and to improve the equity between those on the minimum rate and those on the ad-valorem.	Residential: \$485	Residential: \$348
	Business 2024-25: \$715 2026-27: \$1,806		Business: \$685	Business: \$406

Media Release

16 May 2025

IPART Decisions on Council Special Variation Applications

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has released its decisions on 6 NSW council applications for special variations to increase the council's general income by more than the rate peg, and 2 applications to increase the minimum rates.

IPART Chair Carmel Donnelly said the Tribunal approved the special variation applications from Federation Council, Gunnedah Shire Council, Shoalhaven City Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council, partially approved the special variation application from Northern Beaches Council, and did not approve the special variation application from North Sydney Council.

The Tribunal also approved a minimum rate increase application from Gunnedah Shire Council and did not approve a minimum rate increase application from North Sydney Council.

"These decisions are based on our assessment against the Office of Local Government criteria, taking into account the issues raised by stakeholders during our submission period," Ms Donnelly said.

"The councils with approved increases are encouraged to consult with the community to decide how best to implement the allowed increase.

"It's important to note that elected councillors can choose when they implement the approved increase in rates income, including deferring any increases for up to 10 years and also how they set rates across the rating categories."

IPART sets a rate peg annually for each of the 128 councils in NSW which caps each council's increase in the income they collect from ordinary rates. For 2025-26, the core rate pegs range from 3.6% to 5.1% across NSW, and 72 of the 128 councils also received an additional allowance to reflect an adjusted population factor of up to 3.8%.

Reports on each of the 6 council special variation decisions, 2 minimum rate decisions, and related documents are now available on the IPART website.

Media Contact: Mark O'Brien

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Media Release

Table 1 Summary of IPART's decisions on councils' special variation applications

Council	Application	Decision	Approved Annual Increases		
			2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Approved in Full					
Federation Council	69.94% over 2 years	Approved	52.01%	11.8%	
Gunnedah Shire Council	37.67% over 2 years	Approved	18%	16.67%	
Shoalhaven City Council	12% over 1 year	Approved	12%		
Upper Hunter Shire Council	33.10% over 3 years	Approved	10%	10%	10%
Partially approved					
Northern Beaches Council	39.6% over 3 years	Approved first two years of the SV (25.2%)	12.1%	11.7%	
Not Approved					
North Sydney Council	87.05% over 2 years	Not Approved	Rate Peg Only		

Table 2 Summary of IPART's Decision on Minimum Rates Applications

Council	Application	Decision	Approved Minimum Rates
Gunnedah Shire Council	\$178 increase over 2 years for farmland and some residential ratepayers \$174 increase over 2 years for business - Gunnedah ratepayers	Approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For residential ordinary, rural, Gunnedah and farmland rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$638 in 2025-26 - \$733 in 2026-27 For business Gunnedah rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$625 in 2025-26 - \$718 in 2026-27
North Sydney Council	\$833 increase over 2 years for residential ratepayers \$1,091 increase over 2 years for business ratepayers	Not Approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate Peg Only

RP-3 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - MANAGED SHORT-STAY AND TRANSITIONAL CAMPING SOLUTIONS AT WILKS PARK

Author: Carly Hood

Summary: This report is presented to Council in response to NOM-2 Managed Short-Stay and Transitional Camping Solutions at Wilks Park adopted at the 9 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the report.

Report

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 9 February 2026 Council resolved the following in response to NOM-2 Managed Short-Stay and Transitional Camping Solutions at Wilks Park being:

NOM-2 NOTICE OF MOTION - MANAGED SHORT-STAY AND TRANSITIONAL CAMPING SOLUTIONS AT WILKS PARK

26/020 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council receive a report by 9 March 2026 on the current arrangements for the use and management of Wilks Park, including:

- a the rules, regulatory framework and restrictions that apply to the use of Wilks Park, including its operation as a 72-hour short-stay primitive camping area;**
- b how the site is monitored, patrolled and regulated, including the roles and responsibilities of Council staff and any partner agencies;**
- c Council's current approach to managing stays that exceed the 72-hour limit, including compliance processes and escalation pathways;**
- d how waste and rubbish are currently managed, including collection arrangements, service frequency, costs and any constraints or issues identified;**
- e existing engagement and coordination with the NSW Government and relevant agencies in relation to people experiencing homelessness at or around Wilks Park; and**
- f any identified operational, financial, legal or risk considerations arising from the current arrangements;**
- g a draft letter to the Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC expressing Council's concerns**

The following responses to the Notice of Motion are summarised or grouped in sections a) through to e) for ease of reference and repeated where there is crossover.

a the rules, regulatory framework and restrictions that apply to the use of Wilks Park, including its operation as a 72-hour short-stay primitive camping area;

The area known as Wilks Park is Crown land with a reserve purpose of camping and public recreation. Wagga Wagga City Council manages the reserve as a designated primitive camping ground. The site contains an amenities block (toilets only), a dump point facility for caravan waste, municipal waste bins for site users, a BBQ shelter, picnic tables and an electric BBQ which has been destroyed and not replaced.

The regulatory framework sits under the Activity approval AA24/0308 issued under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This consent is currently valid until October 2029. The general condition of use is as follows on the signage on the entry:

- The maximum period of use allowed at any one time by a self-contained vehicle is 72 hours.
- Camping is only permitted within self-contained vehicles only. No camping is permitted in tents or swags.
- A minimum distance of 6 metres is required to be maintained between self-contained vehicles, including any annex attached to the vehicle.
- Self-contained vehicles are not to be unoccupied for a period longer than 24 hours.
- Setting up portable showers and toilets is prohibited.
- Fires are permitted for cooking only in portable fire pits.

The Activities Approval also places a limit on the occupancy of the site, with a maximum of 74 self-contained vehicles at any one time. As of 20 February 2026, the exact number of individual occupants at Wilks Park is unknown, but at that point in time there were 16 caravans and 30 tents set up across the site.

b how the site is monitored, patrolled and regulated, including the roles and responsibilities of Council staff and any partner agencies; and
c Council's current approach to managing stays that exceed the 72-hour limit, including compliance processes and escalation pathways;

Council rangers attend the Wilks Park primitive campgrounds on a weekly basis, subject to priority callouts. The rangers remind campers that the site is for 72 hours use and that all campers must be self-sufficient. Regulatory enforcement options for non-compliance with conditions of use are issued under section 632 of the *Local Government Act 1993* which incurs a penalty of \$110 or, with court action, a maximum of 10 penalty units (\$1100).

If a person is identified as a travelling visitor, Council rangers will enforce the limited stay provisions by issuing a fine, however this has not been applied to anyone in the recent past, as visitors tend to move on of their own accord.

For persons in breach of this rule who are identified to rangers as being homeless, Council's approach for some time has been to lead with empathy. Council is aware that some occupants at the site have an identified need for support for homelessness and have been working closely with Homes NSW, which is the lead NSW Government agency regarding homelessness, as well as other agencies to support those community members. Staff do not issue them a fine, and Police generally do not issue a 'move on' order as there is a very high likelihood that they will have nowhere else more suitable to move on to. Council rangers do not have 'move on' powers.

The site has CCTV directed at the amenities/BBQ shelter and entrance near the bins, with signage indicating the use of CCTV on the amenities block. Footage can be requested through Council's security contractor and given to the Wagga Police if an incident occurs. In the past 12 months there have been six (6) requests to retrieve such footage.

The community are encouraged to call the Police if they have concerns over safety, anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.

d how waste and rubbish are currently managed, including collection arrangements, service frequency, costs and any constraints or issues identified;

There are eight 240L general waste bins located permanently at Wilks Park which are emptied three times per week. Council is charged approximately \$4,000 per annum for this waste collection service. The signage behind the bins states that the bins are for 'Wilks Park residents only' and needs to be replaced to create clearer enforcement avenues. Anecdotally, the types of rubbish left next to the bins would indicate that the items are not coming solely from the people inhabiting Wilks Park.

More adequate signage, routine reporting of illegal dumping and use of CCTV can allow better enforcement of illegal dumping under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. Fines for individuals can range from \$1,000 to \$22,500. Staff will progress with this action, as well as continue with plans to organise a site clean-up day in collaboration with other service agencies.

Council's Parks staff also visit the site every Monday and undertake an additional clean up around the bins, as well as picking up any rubbish that isn't located adjacent to a person's campsite. Staff have to be careful not to accidentally remove items that they may mistake for rubbish but which are actually a person's private belongings.

Private property can be removed by Council rangers in the following circumstances under the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021*, provided strict protocols are followed:

- Obstructing public access.
- Poses a risk to people or the environment.
- Interferes with an amenity.
- Has been in the same place for a certain period of time.

However, this is rarely enforced at Wilks Park. When action is taken, rangers proactively attempt to identify ownership and obtain compliance with the breach to prevent the Council from taking or impounding homeless individuals' possessions.

e existing engagement and coordination with the NSW Government and relevant agencies in relation to people experiencing homelessness at or around Wilks Park; and

Council is not a direct service provider but does play an active role collaborating with local non-profits, government agencies and community groups to raise awareness of homelessness and connect people with services. Council has a positive working relationship with NSW Police, which is the lead agency for crime management, and Homes NSW which oversee homelessness and housing services.

Wagga Wagga and surrounds have state-funded local service providers contracted to provide a range of homeless crisis and intervention support services.

Some of the key organisations that are specifically funded to provide services include:

- Homes NSW
- Edel Quinn (St Vincent de Paul)
- Sisters Housing Enterprises
- Eastern Murrumbidgee Youth Refuge (Mission Australia)
- Salvation Army and
- Marathon Health.

As homelessness is a very complex issue, other local social service providers such as Wellways, Wagga Wagga Recovery Hub, Verto and Legal Aid are also involved in wrap-around support services. Many charitable organisations also provide food, clothing, laundry services and other items to homeless people.

Homes NSW is the division in the Department of Communities and Justice that is responsible for:

- Delivering homelessness services
- Managing all social housing tenancies, allocations, and maintenance
- Building and repairing social and affordable homes
- Coordinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing
- Managing disaster welfare for housing

Homes NSW conduct assertive outreach at Wilks Park as a part of its core business activities. This is weekly, where staffing availability allows. Homes NSW also meets with rough sleepers weekly when providing outreach at Edel Quinn.

Edel Quinn provide breakfast, lunch and showers at their service, which is within walking distance of Wilks Park. Rough sleepers attend this service daily and often engage with staff who can provide information regarding housing options. Staff from Edel Quinn attend Wilks Park when they have some extra food, sometimes twice a week, and engage with rough sleepers, including encouraging them to keep the area clean.

There is an active roster across the funded services providing homelessness outreach and food relief to the Wilks Park area on a regular basis. Wilks Park is not the only hotspot for rough sleepers or people experiencing housing vulnerabilities, and these services provide outreach across the City and wider region.

A monthly barbecue is being conducted at Wilks Park by the Salvation Army and RivMed on a rotational basis, as well as providing Christmas Day lunch. The Salvation Army also provide dinner each Tuesday night at Wilks Park.

Council staff actively participate in and support the quarterly meetings of the 'Triple H Forum' (Housing, Homelessness and Human Services), which fosters collaboration and information sharing across these organisations. Organisations participating in the Triple H Forum include:

- Anglicare
- Argyle Housing
- BaptistCare

- Community Corrections
- Eastern Murrumbidgee Youth Refuge (Mission Australia)
- Edel Quinn (St Vincent DePaul)
- Generosity Church
- Homes NSW
- Intereach
- Justice NSW
- Karralika
- Legal Aid
- Marathon Health
- Medicare Mental Health
- Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network
- NSW Health
- Pathways Murrumbidgee
- Relationships Australia
- Salvation Army
- Services Australia
- Sisters Housing Enterprises
- Uniting Care
- Verto
- Wagga Women's Health
- Wellways

In consultation with local support agencies, staff have developed a *Can We Help* Emergency Supports campaign including the development of a website wagga.nsw.gov.au/services/support-services/can-we-help which details human dignity support services available for community members experiencing homelessness. The information includes the location of showering facilities, clothes washing facilities, food relief and hot meal services. It also outlines critical emergency service options for accommodation and mental health support.

f any identified operational, financial, legal or risk considerations arising from the current arrangements;

Wilks Park is set up as a primitive short-stay campground for travellers in self-contained vehicles. That means the site does not have appropriate infrastructure to support the growing congregation of people who are camping in tents or other means for long periods of time.

Maintenance of the wastewater management system attached to the toilet block at Wilks Park is becoming problematic. Staff report that the annual average cost since 2020 is approximately \$15,000 in maintenance response callouts and pump repairs. This has become more frequent and costly as long-stay inhabitants grow in numbers. In 2020 there were 20 callouts and in 2025 there were 31. The issues are generally related to clothes, syringes, rubbish, oils, fats and foreign objects being disposed of into the septic dump point, which is designed for caravan disposal only.

As mentioned in d), bins are provided for waste disposal, and this costs Council approximately \$4,000 per annum. Council staff also collect additional rubbish weekly and dispose of it at the landfill at a cost of approximately \$9,000 per annum.

Sharps collection bins for safe disposal of syringes are also provided in the amenities and collected as part of Council's overarching contract for this service.

Cleaning of the amenities and general maintenance for Wilks Park is indexed annually and is currently budgeted at approximately \$18,000 per annum. Actual expenditure over the past five years has averaged approximately \$24,000.

Currently, there are people living in Wilks Park who need support from the NSW Government to gain access to long-term accommodation. Council's current approach is not to try to move on those who don't have anywhere to go to. Attempting to do so can create scenarios that cause significant stress to both the homeless person and the ranger attempting to force the issue.

Often, people experiencing homelessness face complex challenges in addition to the cost-of-living and housing crisis, which can range from drug or alcohol addiction, mental health issues, being recently released from prison or escaping domestic violence.

Council is not a social services provider, and staff who interact with such persons do not have qualifications or training to undertake the social-welfare aspect, nor do they have power to force people to 'go elsewhere'. The expectation from some of the community to undertake this work, combined with previous hostile interactions that have occurred at the site are a risk that must be carefully managed to ensure staff are safe.

Staff from various social service agencies regularly attend the site and report to be generally well received, however these interactions are of a different nature, where they are offering friendly assistance, not acting in a regulatory capacity, which is far less welcome.

The overall perception that Wilks Park is 'not safe' is a contentious one. Council staff were advised by Wagga Police that in the most recent reporting period, there has been very minimal reporting from community of any criminal activities occurring at Wilks Park. North Wagga Wagga which is inclusive of Wilks Park is not an identified hot spot for crime according to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research data (BOCSAR, 2025) which is based on reports to Police.

It is however, important to note that many crimes are under-reported. Police strongly encourage community to call 000 if you or someone you know is in danger, witnessing suspicious or criminal activity. Community members can also report non-urgent criminal activity online through the NSW Police Reporting portal.

At a recent meeting with representatives from Wagga Police Local Area Command and Homes NSW, Council staff were advised that another key challenge faced by Homes NSW, which has funding to implement case-specific solutions, was the lack of temporary and short-term accommodation available in a competitive regional market like Wagga Wagga. This is a common barrier for local homeless services when a person decides to engage with their service, to not be able to find them immediate, stable accommodation solutions.

Everyone in our community has the legal right of self-determination, and therefore, although services may offer support, individuals have the right to refuse any service. Thus, some people are essentially electing to stay at Wilks Park even if another option is available. Regardless, local social services continue to attend Wilks Park regularly, offering support and options for people experiencing homelessness, which has resulted in some positive outcomes for those individuals agreeing to accept the services being offered.

Homes NSW (Southern & Western NSW District) has not historically received, and does not currently receive, dedicated Assertive Outreach funding, unlike some other districts. Rather, Assertive Outreach is expected to be delivered within existing operational resources.

This concern has been raised as an advocacy priority in the draft letter to Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth as part of the response to this Notice of Motion.

g a draft letter to the Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC expressing Council's concerns

A letter to the Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth, has been drafted by staff expressing Council's concerns on homelessness and seeking additional funding for dedicated assertive outreach services to be based at the Wagga Wagga office to service the City and wider region. This letter will be issued on Wednesday 11 March to ensure any further specific issues raised by Councillors at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday 9 March are included in this advocacy letter to the Minister.

Financial Implications

All services currently being undertaken by Council staff as detailed in this report are funded in endorsed operational budgets and this report is not requesting any allocation of additional funds.

Policy and Legislation

Primitive camping on Crown Lands in NSW is regulated under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

[NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025-2035](#)

Link to Strategic Plan

Vibrant

Reduce homelessness

Advocate for our community to access crisis accommodation and build capacity to prevent and respond to homelessness

Risk Management Issues for Council

As described in part f) of this report

Internal / External Consultation

Internal consultation was undertaken with staff from the Finance, Parks, Regulatory Services, Community Development, Facilities Management and Work Health and Safety teams to provide responses to this Notice of Motion. Staff also met with representatives from Homes NSW and Wagga Police Local Area Command to seek feedback and current advice on their service response at Wilks Park.

Attachments

1. [Draft Letter to Hon. Rose Jackson MLC](#)



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

The Hon Rose Jackson, MLC
Minister for Housing NSW
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Jackson

Re: Homelessness in Wagga Wagga

I write on behalf of Wagga Wagga City Council regarding the growing number of people experiencing homelessness in our city and the increasing pressure this is placing on public spaces.

As an example, Wilks Park is a Council-managed primitive camping area intended for short-term stays. In recent years, it has increasingly been used by individuals experiencing homelessness as a place of last resort due to the limited availability of crisis, transitional and affordable housing in the region.

Council acknowledges that homelessness is a complex social issue and that the responsibility for housing and specialist support services rests with the NSW Government. However, in the absence of sufficient accommodation options and funded outreach support, Council is often left managing the impacts of homelessness within community facilities and public reserves.

Local service providers continue to work tirelessly to support vulnerable people, but feedback from the sector indicates that demand significantly exceeds available resources. Assertive outreach, case management and housing placement pathways are constrained, and regional service capacity remains stretched.

The result is that people experiencing homelessness are increasingly residing in public spaces not designed for long-term occupation. This raises concerns for the wellbeing and safety of those individuals, as well as amenity and operational pressures for Council and the broader community.

Council is seeking:

1. Increased investment in crisis and transitional accommodation in Wagga Wagga;
2. Funded assertive outreach services specific to the region;
3. Clear coordination between Homes NSW and local service providers to support individuals currently residing in public reserves;
4. Engagement with Council to identify sustainable, regionally appropriate housing responses.

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Po Box 20 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

Wagga Wagga is a key regional centre and service hub. Without strengthened housing supply and agency support, the pressures currently being experienced will continue to escalate.

Council remains committed to working constructively with the NSW Government and local service providers to support vulnerable members of our community and to ensure that responses are compassionate, coordinated and sustainable.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your representatives to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Cr Dallas Tout
Mayor

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RP-4 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - IMPACTS OF SYNTHETIC TURF IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Author: Joshua Walsh

Executive: Fiona Piltz

Summary:

This report responds to the Notice of Motion of 7 August 2023 in relation to the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer's review of synthetic turf in public open spaces and the NSW Government Guidelines for Synthetic Turf Sports Fields in Public Open Space and how these apply to Wagga Wagga City Council.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note this report.

Report

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 7 August 2023, a Notice of Motion was raised requesting that Council receive a report outlining the implications of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer's review into the design, use and impacts of synthetic turf in public open spaces for Wagga Wagga City Council.

For background, this matter was formally considered by Council in August 2023 following the Notice of Motion. At that time, Council resolved to note the Chief Scientist's report and to wait for the release of the NSW Government Guidelines before considering any change in approach. Council did not resolve to prohibit synthetic surfaces, nor did it adopt a position in favour of their removal or expansion. The NSW Government Guidelines for Synthetic Turf Sports Fields in Public Open Space were released in 2025.

The NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer's review was commissioned to assess potential risks to the environment and human health from the use of synthetic turf in public open spaces and to consider alternative approaches and technologies. The review does not recommend the removal or banning of synthetic turf, or recommend the widespread installation of synthetic surfaces, rather it highlights the need for better planning to manage the identified risks. Key issues raised include:

- the makeup of synthetic materials,
- the long-term breakdown of plastics and infill, microplastic pollution through runoff and "walk-off", chemical leaching into soils and waterways
- heat-related impacts for players.

The NSW Government Guidelines are similar and do not promote broader replacement of natural turf with synthetic surfaces. They provide a practical decision-making framework focusing on making site-specific decisions based on community need, environmental risk, safety, maintenance requirements and whole-of-life costs. The Guidelines only apply to outdoor public sports fields and do not cover residential areas, streetscapes or playgrounds.

The main focus and the higher-risk scenarios identified in the Chief Scientist's review relates to large-scale 3G or 4G full synthetic football or rugby fields with rubber infill. Council does not have any facilities of this nature so Council's exposure to the higher-risk forms of synthetic turf identified is relatively low.

Council's existing synthetic sporting infrastructure is limited and largely sport-specific. Current assets include synthetic cricket pitches, synthetic water-based hockey fields and synthetic tennis courts.

When reviewed against the Guidelines, it is not recommended to make any changes to Council's existing synthetic facilities. For cricket, there is currently a significant strain on resources to prepare and maintain the existing turf wickets. Replacing existing synthetic pitches with turf would have a substantial impact on the sport's sustainability in the city. Synthetic pitches also allow for high levels of use without the wear and tear and risk of surface damage associated with turf wickets.

Synthetic water-based hockey fields are now standard for the sport, with hockey played almost exclusively on synthetic surfaces at both community and elite levels. This is acknowledged in both the NSW Guidelines and the Chief Scientist's review noting that some sports effectively require synthetic surfaces to meet participation and competition requirements.

Synthetic tennis courts are also very common, primarily due to their durability, lower ongoing maintenance and ability to support high levels of community use throughout the year.

The NSW Chief Scientist's review and the NSW Government Guidelines highlight key risks associated with synthetic turf across environmental, health and safety, and economic considerations. From an environmental perspective, the Chief Scientist identifies risks such as microplastic pollution from turf fibres and infill, movement of materials into stormwater systems, chemical leaching into the environment, and disposal challenges at end of life. As noted above, Council's existing facilities present limited risk in this area due to the type of synthetic surfaces used, which are generally shorter pile and do not include rubber infill.

The reports also highlight safety considerations related to surface temperatures, with synthetic fields capable of reaching much higher temperatures than natural turf, particularly in large, open synthetic fields. Council's existing synthetic surfaces are generally smaller, sport-specific facilities so these risks are limited.

In relation to economic considerations, both the Chief Scientist's review and the NSW Guidelines note that while synthetic fields may offer operational benefits, they also involve significant whole-of-life costs. These include specialised maintenance, infill replacement, environmental compliance, and full surface replacement typically every eight to fifteen years.

The only future synthetic sports field currently identified in Council's Long Term Financial Plan is Rawlings Park North, listed as a synthetic soccer facility for delivery in 2029/30. However, in recent times Council officers have been working with Football Wagga and discussions have shifted towards the delivery of two natural turf soccer fields rather than a synthetic facility (primarily due to the upfront capital cost associated with their construction). Preliminary site investigations, including soil testing and indicative cost estimates, have commenced and Football Wagga has established a project group to support planning and future delivery. Once the scope and direction of the project are confirmed, a further report will be brought to Council to update the Long Term Financial Plan. Staff are also in the early stages of reviewing the Recreation, Open Space and Community Strategy and Implementation Plan 2040 (ROSC) which originally identified the project and this will be updated as required.

Council does not currently have a standing commitment either for or against synthetic playing surfaces, which is consistent with the approach supported by the NSW Government reports. Decisions around surface type have historically been made on a case-by-case basis, informed by participation demand, field capacity, safety, heat, environmental impacts, maintenance capability and whole-of-life cost. It is recommended that this approach continue to guide future decision-making and planning of open spaces.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Recreation, Open Space and Community Strategy and Implementation Plan 2040

Link to Strategic Plan

Vibrant

Vibrant and activated spaces and opportunities

Plan for and provide suitable open spaces within our community

Risk Management Issues for Council

N/A

Internal / External Consultation

N/A

Attachments

1. NSW Government - Synthetic turf sports fields in public open space - Guideline for decision makers - Provided under separate cover.
2. NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer - Independent review into the design, use and impacts of synthetic turf in public open spaces - Provided under separate cover.
3. Synthetic Turf Study in Public Open Space - Provided under separate cover.

RP-5 **RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON LAKE ALBERT ROAD**

Author: Henry Pavitt

Summary:

This report provides a final update on actions undertaken in response to the 25 May 2020 Notice of Motion – Pedestrian Crossing on Lake Albert Road. Since that time, investigations have been completed and a range of safety and visibility improvements have been implemented at the pedestrian crossing outside Sacred Heart Primary School. Broader planning work has also progressed to address safety at similar multi-lane crossing locations across the city.

It is recommended that the Notice of Motion now be considered resolved, with any future improvements to be considered through Council's city-wide approach to pedestrian safety and crossability of multi-lane roads.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a note the actions undertaken in response to the original Notice of Motion
- b note that key safety and visibility improvements at the Lake Albert Road crossing have been implemented
- c note that any further improvements will be addressed through Council's broader city-wide pedestrian safety and active travel planning

Report

At its meeting of 25 May 2020, Council resolved:

NOM-5 NOTICE OF MOTION - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON LAKE ALBERT ROAD

20/180 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council receives a report exploring options to improve pedestrian safety on the Lake Albert Road pedestrian crossing at Sacred Heart Primary School during hours outside of the school zone times.

CARRIED

Following the resolution, Council officers undertook site investigations and broader assessments of pedestrian crossing safety across the local government area.

Site investigations and safety review

Investigations confirmed that the issues experienced at this crossing are similar to those encountered at a number of pedestrian crossings located on multi-lane roads across the city. As a result, the assessment of this location was considered alongside a broader review of pedestrian safety treatments across similar sites.

At the Lake Albert Road crossing specifically, investigations found:

- street lighting at the crossing is adequate and meets required standards
- line marking is compliant with relevant standards and has been renewed as part of resurfacing works
- signage with poor reflectivity has been replaced
- additional larger advance warning signs have been installed to improve driver awareness.

These improvements were implemented to enhance visibility and safety for both pedestrians and motorists.

Current status

Key visibility and safety improvements at the Lake Albert Road crossing have been implemented and the site has been assessed as meeting relevant standards.

Further improvements to pedestrian crossings across the city will be considered as part of Council's ongoing transport planning, Active Travel planning, and city-wide approach to improving safety at multi-lane crossing locations.

Given the investigations undertaken and works completed, the intent of the original Notice of Motion has been addressed.

Financial Implications

No direct financial implications arise from this report.

Any future pedestrian crossing upgrades or treatments will be subject to future budget consideration and external funding opportunities.

Policy and Legislation

Wagga Wagga City Council Code of Meeting Practice

Link to Strategic Plan

Vibrant

Our community feels safe.

Support public safety.

Risk Management Issues for Council

While improvements have been implemented at this location, pedestrian safety on multi-lane roads remains an ongoing consideration across the city.

Key considerations include:

- maintaining visibility and compliance of signage and line marking
- increasing traffic volumes across the road network
- ensuring consistent treatment of pedestrian crossings across similar locations
- balancing traffic efficiency with pedestrian safety outcomes.

These risks will continue to be managed through Council's maintenance programs, transport planning and future capital works prioritisation.

Internal / External Consultation

Internal consultation has occurred with Council's City Engineering and Traffic teams in relation to investigations and improvements undertaken at the site and across similar locations.

Further consultation will occur where required as part of future pedestrian safety and active travel planning initiatives.

RP-6 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - REVIEW OF BOURKE STREET**Author:** Henry Pavitt**Summary:**

This report provides a final update on actions undertaken in response to the 28 October 2019 Notice of Motion – Review of Bourke Street. Since that time, a range of safety, traffic, lighting and road improvement initiatives have been completed or progressed. While significant works have been undertaken, it is recommended that the Notice of Motion now be considered resolved, with any further investigation or planning to be addressed through the development of a future corridor study for Bourke Street to guide long-term improvements.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a note the actions undertaken in response to the original Notice of Motion
- b note that further strategic work will be progressed through the development of a future Bourke Street corridor study to inform long-term planning, safety and amenity improvements

Report

At its meeting of 28 October 2019, Council resolved:

NOM-2 NOTICE OF MOTION - REVIEW OF BOURKE STREET**19/372 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council receive a report that provides:

- a **an overview of all current projects being explored for Bourke Street**
- b **options to improve the safety and amenity of the road for pedestrians and drivers**

CARRIED

Since that time, Council staff have undertaken extensive investigations and implemented a range of initiatives in consultation with Transport for NSW and Essential Energy, noting that Bourke Street is part of the regional road network and that street lighting infrastructure is under the control of Essential Energy.

Works and actions completed**Street lighting upgrades**

Essential Energy has completed upgrades to street lighting between Fernleigh Road and Red Hill Road, improving visibility and safety for motorists and pedestrians. These works formed part of the broader transition from suspended lighting to pole-mounted LED lighting across the city.

Road rehabilitation and traffic improvements

Several road rehabilitation and safety improvement works have been completed along Bourke Street, including:

- rehabilitation and widening works adjacent to Jubilee Park;
- installation of new channelised right-turn lanes at Bourkelands Drive and Jubilee Park access points;
- updated line marking and traffic arrangements to improve vehicle movements and safety.

Council has also secured funding under Transport for NSW programs to support rehabilitation of sections of Bourke Street over multiple years.

Pedestrian safety and crossability

A number of initiatives have been investigated and progressed to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility, including:

- implementation of a 40km/h school zone along key sections of Bourke Street;
- investigation of pedestrian crossing improvements, including concept designs for signalised crossings near the Tolland shopping centre;
- development of concept designs through the Active Travel planning process aimed at improving crossability of four-lane roads such as Bourke Street;
- engagement with Transport for NSW regarding corridor safety and crossing opportunities.

Traffic and safety investigations

Council officers have undertaken investigations and engagement with road users and stakeholders regarding safety concerns along the corridor, including accessibility improvements to median refuges and broader traffic movement and signage improvements.

Planning and investigation work has also been incorporated into broader strategic transport planning, including the Wagga Wagga Transport Plan and associated action items relating to corridor safety reviews and improved crossability.

Future corridor planning

While substantial works and investigations have been undertaken since 2019, Bourke Street remains a key south-north arterial corridor with ongoing traffic growth and safety considerations.

Future improvements, particularly in relation to pedestrian crossings and broader corridor functionality, will benefit from a holistic corridor study approach. A future Bourke Street corridor study would enable Council to:

- assess traffic, pedestrian and cyclist movements along the full corridor;
- identify and prioritise safety upgrades and crossing improvements;
- consider urban design, amenity and access outcomes; and
- inform future funding advocacy and capital works programming.

This work will be progressed as part of Council's forward transport planning and capital works prioritisation.

Significant investigation and improvement works have been undertaken in response to the 2019 Notice of Motion, addressing key safety, lighting and traffic concerns raised at that time.

It is therefore appropriate that the Notice of Motion now be considered resolved, with any further strategic planning and improvement works to be addressed through future corridor planning and capital works programs, including the preparation of a Bourke Street corridor study.

Financial Implications

No direct financial implications arise from this report. Any future works associated with the preparation of a Bourke Street corridor study or implementation of identified improvements will be subject to future budget consideration and external funding opportunities.

Policy and Legislation

Wagga Wagga City Council Code of Meeting Practice

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Vision for the future

Adopt a sound approach to strategic planning to ensure that we are preparing for future growth requirements of the city.

Risk Management Issues for Council

While a number of safety and infrastructure improvements have been delivered along Bourke Street since 2019, the corridor continues to function as a major north-south arterial road carrying significant traffic volumes.

Key ongoing risks and considerations include:

- pedestrian safety and crossability across multi-lane sections of the corridor;
- increasing traffic volumes associated with growth in surrounding residential areas;
- the need to balance traffic efficiency with safety and accessibility outcomes; and
- dependency on Transport for NSW and other external agencies for approval and delivery of certain treatments on the regional road network.

These matters will be more comprehensively considered through the preparation of a future Bourke Street corridor study and through Council's broader city-wide approach to improving safety at four-lane pedestrian crossing locations.

In the interim, Council will continue to monitor safety and operational matters and implement improvements where feasible through existing maintenance and capital works programs.

Internal / External Consultation

External consultation has occurred progressively since 2019 with Transport for NSW and Essential Energy in relation to lighting, traffic management and corridor safety improvements along Bourke Street. Further consultation will be undertaken as part of any future Bourke Street corridor study.

RP-7 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - TURVEY PARK AND MT AUSTIN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**Author:** Henry Pavitt

Summary: This report provides an update on actions undertaken in response to the Notice of Motion regarding pedestrian safety improvements in Turvey Park and Mt Austin and outlines further work proposed to improve pedestrian crossing safety at key locations and across the wider road network.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a note the pedestrian safety improvements delivered to date in Turvey Park and surrounding areas, including new pedestrian refuge islands and accessibility upgrades
- b note that further pedestrian safety enhancements will be considered through the development of Council's new Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP)

Report

At the Council Meeting on 26 July 2021, Council resolved the following:

NOM-1 NOTICE OF MOTION - TURVEY PARK AND MT AUSTIN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**21/220 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council receive a report outlining:

- a **any possible pedestrian safety improvements along Mitchelmore Street and Northcott Parade**
- b **investigate improvements for pedestrian access to the Botanic Gardens facilities along Macleay Street from Urana Street and Hodson Avenue**
- c **consideration of any improvements to be included in any grant or funding opportunities and additions to future works plans**

CARRIED

Since adoption of the Notice of Motion, staff have undertaken investigations and progressively implemented a range of pedestrian safety improvements across Turvey Park and surrounding areas, with a focus on Mitchelmore Street, Fernleigh Road and key pedestrian routes to the Botanic Gardens and local shopping precinct.

Key actions delivered to date include:

- installation of two pedestrian refuge islands at the intersection of Mitchelmore Street and Fernleigh Road
- installation of 19 pram ramps across Turvey Park in July 2024, including along Blamey Street, to improve mobility access and pedestrian connectivity

- development of concept options for further pedestrian safety treatments, including an additional refuge at the Mitchelmore Street and Blamey Street intersection
- preparation of a broader plan identifying potential pedestrian refuge locations to support safer crossing of multi-lane roads across the city
- submission for State Government funding opportunities to support delivery of pedestrian safety infrastructure.

These works have improved accessibility and pedestrian safety outcomes within Turvey Park and have informed a broader, city-wide approach to identifying and prioritising crossing improvements.

Multiple site improvements have now been implemented in response to the original Notice of Motion. Further safety enhancements will be considered through the development of Council's new Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP), currently in preparation and due for completion in the 2025/26 financial year. The PAMP will identify, prioritise for delivery of future pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements across the local government area.

Financial Implications

Works delivered to date have been funded through existing capital works programs and external grant funding, including the State Government Local Small Communities Allocation.

Future pedestrian safety improvements will be subject to Council budget processes, prioritisation within the capital works program and identification of external funding opportunities.

Policy and Legislation

Wagga Wagga City Council Code of Meeting Practice

Link to Strategic Plan

Vibrant

Our community feels safe.

Support public safety.

Risk Management Issues for Council

Failure to continue improving pedestrian crossing safety may increase risk to community safety and expose Council to reputational and operational risks.

Progressive delivery of pedestrian infrastructure improvements and a coordinated, city-wide planning approach assists in mitigating these risks.

Internal / External Consultation

Internal consultation has been undertaken with City Engineering, Strategic Recreation, Property and Planning teams in developing concept options and identifying priority locations.

External consultation will occur as required for future design development, funding applications and delivery of pedestrian infrastructure works.

RP-8 DRAFT 2026/27 AIRPORT FEES AND CHARGES**Author:** Carolyn Rodney

Summary: The proposed Airport fees and charges for the 2026/27 financial year have been developed and are proposed to be placed on public exhibition. The Airport Fees and Charges are presented to the community earlier than other Council fees and charges, and this is due to the notification notice period required from airlines.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a place the draft 2026/27 Airport Fees and Charges on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 11 March 2026 to 7 April 2026 and invite public submissions during this period
- b receive a further report following the exhibition and submission period:
 - i addressing any submissions made in respect of the draft 2026/27 Airport Fees and Charges
 - ii proposing adoption of the 2026/27 Airport Fees and Charges unless there are any recommended amendments deemed to be substantial and requiring a further public exhibition period
 - iii proposing that the new Passenger Services Charges rates commence from 1 August 2025

Report

The Wagga Wagga Airport is a vital regional transport, economic, and social hub for NSW, with approximately 200,000 passengers passing through the regional airport annually.

Councils must adopt their fees and charges on an annual basis. This is a requirement mandated by legislation under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). This annual process also ensures transparency, accountability, and community consultation in the councils financial planning.

In order for airport users to be provided with adequate notice of the change in fees and charges for the 2026/27 financial year, a three (3) month notification period is required for airlines to enact this change.

The draft 2026/27 Airport fees were provided to the Airport Special Purpose Committee on 25 February 2026. At this Committee meeting, it was noted that a comprehensive review of all fees and charges at the Airport will be undertaken during the 2026/27 financial year, ready for commencement at the start of the 2027/28 financial year.

Financial Challenges at the Airport

- Current terminal is not fit for purpose and is in a very poor physical condition
- The draft lease document requires a Plan of Management to be adopted by Council and approved by Defence, which commits Council to initial capital works and major capital works. Neither of these capital works have been identified in

the lease this time. It serves to emphasize however the need for Council to have the financial resources to deliver the capital works anticipated by Defence.

For Councillors information, to assist with the financial sustainability of the Wagga Airport into the future, at the 13 February 2023 Council meeting, Council resolved to increase the passenger service charge by a minimum of \$2.00 (GST exclusive) each year.

That Council:

- a note the poor financial position of the Airport Reserve*
- b place the draft 2023/24 Airport Fees and Charges on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 14 February 2023 to 14 March 2023 and invite public submissions during this period*
- c receive a further report following the exhibition and submission period:*
 - i addressing any submissions made in respect of the draft 2023/24 Airport Fees and Charges*
 - ii proposing adoption of the 2023/24 Airport Fees and Charges unless there are any recommended amendments deemed to be substantial and requiring a further public exhibition period*
 - iii proposing that the new Passenger Services Charges rates commence from 1 August 2023*
- d note that due to the Airport passenger charge base rate fee being frozen for the past five (5) financial years, each future financial year increase will be set at a minimum \$2.00 GST exclusive amount, which will assist in the financial sustainability of the Wagga Wagga Airport into the future*

The proposed increases to the passenger service charge for the 2026/27 financial year are reflective of this previous resolution of Council.

Financial Implications

For the Airport business to return to surplus and to part fund any future capital spend at the Airport, the proposed yearly minimum increase in fees and charges is required.

There is uncertainty about the level of Council co-contribution required for any successful grant funding for capital projects at the Airport. The required terminal upgrade has identified that users of the Airport will be required to contribute more than their current fees and charges.

Further reports will be presented to both the Airport Special Purpose Committee and Council as staff progress with grant applications.

Policy and Legislation

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
POL 013 – Return on Investment Council Businesses Policy
POL 021 – Financial Reserves for Future Expenditures
POL 052 – Budget Policy

Link to Strategic Plan

Regional Leadership

Ethical Leadership

Deliver accountable and transparent leadership.

Risk Management Issues for Council

Without adequate revenue to cover the costs of operating the Wagga Wagga Airport, the Airport will not be financially sustainable into the future and will not meet the expectations of the community.

Internal / External Consultation

If Council resolve to place the draft Airport Fees and Charges on public exhibition, the following methods of consultation will be utilised:

	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"/>	<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"/>
Involve																
Collaborate																
Other methods (please list specific details below)																

After the public exhibition period and Council’s consideration of any public submissions received, direct correspondence will be provided to the Airport users outlining Council’s decision.

Attachments

- 1. 2026.27 Draft Airport Fees and Charges.

Item Number	Fee Name	Pricing Policy ID	Year 25/26 Last Yr Fee (incl. GST)	Year 26/27 Fee (excl. GST)	Year 26/27 GST	Total Fee (incl. GST)	Increase %	GST Applicable	Basis
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Wagga Wagga City Council

Council Facilities

Airport

0001	Airside Access Card – Initial	C	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$5.00	\$55.00	10.00%	Y	Initial Issue
0002	Airside Access Card – Re-issue	C	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$5.00	\$55.00	10.00%	Y	Replacement
0003	Authority to Drive Airside (ADA) – Initial	C	\$200.00	\$190.91	\$19.09	\$210.00	5.00%	Y	Initial Issue
0004	Authority to Drive Airside (ADA) – Re-issue	C	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$5.00	\$55.00	10.00%	Y	Renewal/Replacement
0005	Landing charge – fixed wing aircraft (non RPT)	D	\$17.35	\$16.56	\$1.66	\$18.21	4.96%	Y	Per tonne per landing (manufacturers MTOW)

Landing charges apply to non-resident aircraft landing at Wagga Wagga Airport, but excludes RPT aircraft and operators exempted by Council.

0006	Landing charge – rotary wing aircraft (non RPT)	D	\$8.69	\$8.30	\$0.83	\$9.12	4.95%	Y	Per tonne per landing (manufacturers MTOW)
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Landing charges apply to non-resident aircraft landing at Wagga Wagga Airport, but excludes RPT aircraft and operators exempted by Council.

0007	Landing Charge – Aircraft maintenance	D	Standard Rates per Tonne MTOW for first landing at Wagga. No landing fees for subsequent maintenance or test flights if pilots stated on CTAF that it a maintenance or test flight. Last year fee Standard Rates per Tonne MTOW for first landing at Wagga. No landing fees for subsequent maintenance or test flights if pilots stated on CTAF that it a maintenance or test flight.					Y	Each
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Where an aircraft is being serviced by a locally based MRO, Landing Charges will apply at the standard rate for the first landing only. No Landing Charges will be raised for subsequent maintenance or test flights.

Item Number	Fee Name	Pricing Policy ID	Year 25/26 Last Yr Fee (incl. GST)	Fee (excl. GST)	Year 26/27 GST	Total Fee (incl. GST)	Increase %	GST Applicable	Basis
0008	Resident Commercial and Pilot Training Aircraft – Annual Landing Permit	D	\$429.17	\$409.67	\$40.97	\$450.63	5.00%	Y	Per tonne per annum (manufacturers MTOW)
Annual permits apply to, and are valid for, the financial year commencing 1 July.									
0009	Resident Freight Aircraft – Annual Landing Permit	D	\$216.15	\$206.33	\$20.63	\$226.96	5.00%	Y	Per tonne per annum (manufacturers MTOW)
Annual permits apply to, and are valid for, the financial year commencing 1 July.									
0010	Private Aircraft – Annual Landing Permit	D	\$210.50	\$200.93	\$20.09	\$221.02	5.00%	Y	Per tonne per annum (manufacturers MTOW)
Annual permits apply to, and are valid for, the financial year commencing 1 July.									
0011	ILS Approach	C	\$35.98	\$33.85	\$3.39	\$37.24	3.50%	Y	Each
0012	ILS Precision Approach Charge > 400 approaches per year	E	\$25.91	\$24.38	\$2.44	\$26.82	3.51%	Y	Each
0013	Passenger Service Charge – Base rate for arriving and departing passengers	C	\$20.20	\$20.36	\$2.04	\$22.40	10.89%	Y	Passenger
New fee rate to commence from 1 August 2026.									
0014	Passenger Service Charge - Wagga/Sydney greater than 180,000 passengers threshold combined	E	\$10.10	\$10.18	\$1.02	\$11.20	10.89%	Y	Passenger
New fee rate to commence from 1 August 2026.									
0015	Passenger Service Charge - Wagga/Melbourne greater than 6,000 passengers threshold combined	E	\$10.10	\$10.18	\$1.02	\$11.20	10.89%	Y	Passenger
New fee rate to commence from 1 August 2026.									
0016	Angel Flights, Care Flight, Emergency Services and Other Not For Profit Charitable Organisation Flights	E					No Charge	Y	Each
							Last year fee No Charge		
0017	Screening Fees – Departing Passenger (excludes infants 0-24 months)	C	\$15.58	\$12.85	\$1.29	\$14.14	-9.24%	Y	Passenger
0018	Car Parking – Annual	D	\$1,985.00	\$1,895.45	\$189.55	\$2,085.00	5.04%	Y	Annual

continued on next page ...

Fees & Charges | Page 2 of 3

Item Number	Fee Name	Pricing Policy ID	Year 25/26 Last Yr Fee (incl. GST)	Fee (excl. GST)	Year 26/27 GST	Total Fee (incl. GST)	Increase %	GST Applicable	Basis
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Airport [continued]

0019	Car Parking – Weekly	D	\$70.00	\$68.18	\$6.82	\$75.00	7.14%	Y	Week
0020	Car Parking – Daily	D	\$14.00	\$13.64	\$1.36	\$15.00	7.14%	Y	Day
0021	Car Parking – Hourly	D	\$2.80	\$2.73	\$0.27	\$3.00	7.14%	Y	Hour
0022	Car Parking – Lost Ticket	D	\$140.00	\$136.36	\$13.64	\$150.00	7.14%	Y	Each
0023	Car Park Access Card – Initial	C	\$51.50	\$49.18	\$4.92	\$54.10	5.05%	Y	Initial Issue
0024	Car Park Access Card – Re-issue	C	\$51.50	\$49.18	\$4.92	\$54.10	5.05%	Y	Replacement
0025	Car Rental Operators - use of Car Park	C	\$0.51	\$0.48	\$0.05	\$0.53	3.92%	Y	Each Use
To be invoiced monthly for each time the issued swipe cards are used by individual car rental operators.									
0026	Replacement for lost parking permit	D	\$93.00	\$88.82	\$8.88	\$97.70	5.05%	Y	Each
0027	Vic Cards Issue	C	\$47.00	\$45.45	\$4.55	\$50.00	6.38%	Y	Card Issue
0028	Promotional Displays	D	\$190.00	\$181.82	\$18.18	\$200.00	5.26%	Y	Week
0029	Pavement Concession Application Fee	C	\$280.00	\$268.18	\$26.82	\$295.00	5.36%	Y	Each
Applicable to all aircraft with an ACN of more than 20 for which a Pavement Concession is to be granted prior to the intended landing.									
0030	Pavement Concession Above Weight Charge	C	\$13.93	\$13.29	\$1.33	\$14.62	4.95%	Y	Per tonne MTOW above 30 tonnes
0031	Quarterly Water Access Fee per leased site at Airport	C	\$50.00	\$52.50	\$0.00	\$52.50	5.00%	N	Per leased site

RP-9 REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SPORTSGROUND FEES**Author:** Ben Creighton**Executive:** Fiona Piltz

Summary: This report outlines Wagga Touch Association's request for a one-off waiver of the Winter Sportsground User Fee for the 2025/26 season.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a approve the request from Wagga Touch Association for a one-off waiver of the Winter Sportsground User Fee for the 2025/26 season valued at approximately \$15,000
- b note that Council officers have undertaken a review of the application of seasonal Sportsground User Fees, policies and procedures and a service review will be completed during 2026/27 to ensure best practice within Council's booking processes
- c approve the budget variation as noted in the financial implications section of this report

Report

Wagga Touch Association (WTA) is a long-standing not-for-profit sporting organisation that delivers touch football competitions and representative programs in Wagga Wagga.

Council applies Sportsground User Fees in accordance with Council's adopted Fees & Charges. The fees are charged on a seasonal basis (Summer and Winter), as outlined in the Sportsground Licence Agreement, and are calculated as a per-person, per-season fee. This approach is intended to provide a consistent and transparent way of managing sportsground access across sporting codes.

WTA has submitted a request under Council's Policy 1.4.2 – Waiving of Council Fees and Charges, seeking a one-off waiver of the Winter Sportsground User Fee for the 2025/26 season. The request is based on WTA's view that its competitions utilise Council sportsgrounds for only a portion of the winter season, while the Sportsground User Fee is applied as a full seasonal rate.

WTA has advised that part of its competitions extend approximately 5–6 weeks into the winter season due to factors such as school holidays, representative commitments and the need to avoid clashes with other sports, and Council acknowledges this overlap. It is also noted, based on Council booking records, that WTA competitions typically start around 5–6 weeks before the formal Summer season. As a result, WTA's use of sportsgrounds sits outside the defined Summer seasonal dates at both the start and end of the season.

In mid-2025, WTA enquired about the potential for a waiver of the Winter Sportsground User Fee and was advised that any such request would need to be submitted through Council's formal fee waiver process. Around the same time, Council officers, through a misinterpretation of how the fees should be applied, advised that a per-booking fee model may be an option and looked into this further.

At that point, the booking system was set up with multiple touch fields grouped together as a single bookable space. This produced an indicative cost that appeared significantly lower than the usual seasonal Sportsground User Fee. Based on the information provided by Council, WTA reasonably proceeded on the understanding that the per-booking model may apply and updated its seasonal bookings accordingly.

Following further internal discussion and review, it was clarified that under the current policies and processes this type of booking would require the seasonal Sportsground Licence Agreement rather than a per-booking fee model. It was also identified that this situation arose due to:

- errors in the existing booking system setup
- the booking function was transitioning from the Parks Operations to City Growth team at the time
- ambiguity in the wording of some of the fees and charges and booking documentation

WTA was advised of this clarification, including that incorrect advice had been provided during earlier discussions and that the seasonal Sportsground User Fee is the correct framework to apply. This occurred prior to any invoicing.

For clarity, the \$50,000 figure referenced in WTA's correspondence reflects the difference between the typical combined seasonal user fees and the indicative cost generated under the incorrectly configured per-booking model.

It is acknowledged that incorrect advice was provided during this process and that WTA acted in good faith based on the information available at the time. Given this it is recommend approving a fee waiver outside the adopted framework for the value of approximately \$15,000. This amount has been estimated based on the previous five years of seasonal user fees with consistent player numbers.

It is also acknowledged that sporting codes use facilities in different ways and that the sporting landscape continues to evolve. These differences may, over time, require greater flexibility in how Sportsground User Fees are applied.

To ensure best practice in the booking function some immediate changes will be made to policy and procedures to clarify any ambiguity, and a service review will be undertaken during 2026/27.

Financial Implications

The revenue received for sportsground usage fees is currently budgeted for in the annual budget.

If Councillors resolve to waive the \$15,000 in fees, the Parks & Recreation Reserve is suggested as a funding source, noting that this will reduce the funds available to improve recreational facilities across the local government area.

Policy and Legislation

POL 078 – Financial Assistance Policy

Link to Strategic Plan

Vibrant

Sport and recreational opportunities

Support participation in sport and recreation.

Risk Management Issues for Council

There is the potential to set a precedent for other sporting groups if this fee waiver was supported by Council.

Internal / External Consultation

Council staff have liaised with the Wagga Touch Association regarding this Fee Waiver request.

Attachments

- 1 [Wagga Touch Association - Request to Waive Fees.](#)

From: president@waggatouch.com.au <president@waggatouch.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 December 2025 8:11 PM
To: City of Wagga Wagga <Council@wagga.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Kirsty Wendt <secretary@waggatouch.com.au>; David Baggio <tournaments@waggatouch.com.au>; Evan Robertson <vicepresident@waggatouch.com.au>; Stuart Heine <treasurer@waggatouch.com.au>
Subject: Attention of the Chief Financial Officer - Wagga Wagga City Council

Chief Financial Officer
Wagga Wagga City Council
Civic Centre
Corner Baylis and Morrow Streets
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

RE: Request for Consideration – Waiving of Winter Sportsground User Fees

Wagga Touch Association (WTA) respectfully submits this formal request for the waiving of the **Winter Sportsground User Fee** applicable to our summer competition, in accordance with **Wagga Wagga City Council Policy 1.4.2 – Waiving of Council Fees and Charges**.

WTA is a long-standing **not-for-profit sporting organisation** that provides accessible, community-focused participation opportunities for thousands of local residents each year. As outlined in Policy 1.4.2, Council may consider waiving fees for not-for-profit sporting and recreation bodies on a **one-off basis**, including hire and lease fees for Council sporting facilities. Our request relates specifically to a **single, defined portion** of the 2025/26 season and is not an ongoing or recurring waiver request.

1. Basis of Request Under Council Policy 1.4.2

Under Section 1.4.2, Council may consider waiving fees for not-for-profit sporting organisations where:

1. The request is one-off
2. The organisation is not-for-profit
3. The fee relates to hire or lease of Council sporting facilities
4. The request is assessed for eligibility by the CFO or delegate
- 5.

Wagga Touch Association meets all of these criteria. Our request concerns only the Winter Sportsground User Fee applied to a six-week period at the end of our summer competition. This is a one-off request relating to the 2025/26 season.

2. Background and Grounds for Request

2.1 Seasonal Structure and Misalignment With Council's Billing Periods

Wagga Touch Association operates exclusively as a summer sport. Our competitions run within Council's Spring/Summer season (1 October – 31 March), with the exception of a six-week overlap caused by:

1. January school holiday interruptions
2. Junior State Cup field closures
3. The need to avoid clashes with other sports (e.g., baseball)

As a result, our Men's Over 35 summer competition extends five to six weeks into April and May. Despite this minimal overlap, Council currently requires WTA to pay the full six-month Winter User Fee, even though:

1. We use the fields for only 6 weeks, not 26
2. The fee structure does not reflect actual usage
3. The winter fee provides no proportional benefit to our members

2.2 Field Maintenance Issues During the Overlap Period

During April–May 2025, when our competition was still running:

1. Fields were not maintained to a safe or playable standard
2. Maintenance lapses were attributed to short weeks and equipment issues
3. Despite this, WTA paid the full winter fee

This further highlights the misalignment between the fee charged and the service received.

3. Chronology of Engagement With Council

16 July 2025 – Initial Request to Waive Winter Fee

WTA formally requested relief from the winter fee, outlining:

1. The impact of “season creep” across sports
2. The unavoidable scheduling constraints
3. The inequity of paying a full winter fee for minimal usage
4. The maintenance issues experienced during the overlap period

11 August 2025 – Council Response

Council advised that the winter fee could not be waived but suggested an alternative:

1. The per booking fee (\$145 per booking)
2. Council indicated this may be more cost-effective for WTA
3. Council invited WTA to explore this option

August 2025 – Council Confirms Per Booking Option

Over the following weeks:

1. WTA calculated that the per booking model would save approximately \$50,000
2. On 21 August, WTA submitted a full booking schedule
3. On 22 August, Council confirmed the booking system had been updated to apply the per booking model.

Based on this confirmation, WTA responsibly adjusted budgets and committed funds to representative programs for the upcoming season.

22 September 2025 – Council Reverses Position

Council advised:

1. The per booking fee was not applicable to WTA
2. The earlier advice was incorrect
3. The Sportsground User Fee must apply
4. The booking system had been incorrectly configured
5. WTA must revert to the User Fee model

This reversal occurred after WTA had already committed funds based on Council's confirmed advice.

Council then advised that if WTA sought relief from the winter fee, a formal fee waiver request should be submitted.

4. Impact on Wagga Touch Association

The reversal of the per booking option has resulted in:

1. A significant unexpected financial burden
2. Budget shortfalls due to commitments made in good faith
3. The need to recoup funds through other means
4. A direct impact on community programs, junior development, and participation initiatives

WTA acted transparently and responsibly throughout this process. The financial impact arose solely due to Council's initial advice and subsequent reversal, not through any action of WTA.

5. Request for Fee Waiver (One-Off)

In light of:

1. The clear eligibility under Policy 1.4.2
2. The one-off nature of the request
3. The minimal six-week winter usage
4. The misalignment between fee charged and service received
5. The financial commitments made based on Council's confirmed advice
6. The community benefit delivered by WTA as a not-for-profit sporting organisation.

Wagga Touch Association formally requests that Wagga Wagga City Council waive the Winter Sportsground User Fee for the 2026 winter season.

This request is consistent with the intent of Policy 1.4.2 and reflects a fair and reasonable outcome given the circumstances.

6. Request for Pro-Rata Fee Structure for Future Seasons

To prevent similar issues in future years, Wagga Touch Association also requests that Council consider implementing a pro-rata fee structure for any portion of a summer competition that extends marginally into the winter season.

This approach would:

1. Align fees with actual field usage
2. Ensure fairness and consistency across sporting codes
3. Reflect the realities of modern sporting calendars and "season creep"
4. Avoid unnecessary administrative burden for both Council and sporting organisations
5. Provide transparency and predictability for long-term budgeting

A pro-rata model would ensure that WTA are not required to pay a full winter fee for only a few weeks of field use, while still maintaining Council's seasonal framework.

7. Conclusion

Wagga Touch Association values its long-standing relationship with Wagga Wagga City Council and remains committed to delivering high-quality, inclusive sporting opportunities for the community.

We respectfully request that this application be assessed for eligibility under Policy 1.4.2 and, if eligible, be forwarded to Council or the General Manager for consideration. We are happy to provide any further information required. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marc Lawrence
President
Wagga Touch Association

RP-10 APPLICATIONS FOR SUBSIDY FOR WASTE DISPOSAL FOR CHARITY ORGANISATIONS

Author: Andrea Baldwin

Executive: Fiona Piltz

Summary:

This report has been prepared for an application submitted to Council by an individual seeking an extension of relief from fees for the disposal of waste at Council's Gregadoo Waste Management Centre (GWMC) for the 2025/26 financial year, on the basis that they are providing a benefit to the community.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the request for additional Financial Assistance funding, being supplementary to the previously approved grant allocation, to provide a further waste disposal subsidy of \$250 for the 2025/26 financial year to the individual listed below.

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 2025/26 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.

Council at its 23 June Council meeting resolved to provide \$5,700 in waste subsidies for nine (9) groups/individuals and at its 21 July Council meeting resolved to provide a further \$650 in waste subsidies for an additional two (2) groups/individuals for the 2025/26 financial year, leaving a remaining budget of \$3,950 for Council to consider further applications.

The applicant for additional financial assistance and associated subsidy requested are listed below:

No.	Name of Applicant	Approved Financial Year Subsidy	Current Spend Financial Year Spend	Additional Requested Subsidy
1	Peter Dolden	\$250	\$253	\$250

The above listed organisation is well known to Council for providing valuable charitable and social services that benefit the community of Wagga Wagga.

It is recommended to approve this extension application and given that there are over 150 registered charities listed in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area, it is proposed that a remaining budget amount of \$3,700 be retained to fund any further applications for subsidised fees that may be received during the 2025/26 financial year.

Financial Implications

An allowance of \$10,300 for subsidised waste disposal has been made in the Solid Waste budget for 2025/26, funded from the Solid Waste Reserve. \$5,700 was approved for waste subsidies at the 23 June 2025 Council meeting, leaving a budget remaining of \$4,600 and a further \$650 was approved for waste subsidies at the 21 July 2025 Council meeting, leaving a budget remaining of \$3,950. The approval of this report for \$250 will leave \$3,700 for Council to consider any further applications received for the remainder of the 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

The Environment

Objective: Wagga Wagga is sustainable, liveable, and resilient to the impacts of climate change

Educate and engage our community in sustainability

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-11 2026 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE - 21 - 24 APRIL 2026

Author: Kori West
Executive: Scott Gray

Summary: The purpose of this report is to nominate a delegate to attend and represent Council at the 2026 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference Gold Coast Queensland from 21 – 24 April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a attend the 2026 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference to be held at the Gold Coast from 21 to 24 April 2026
- b appoint one (1) Councillor as Council's delegate to the 2026 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference

Report

The 2026 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference will be held at Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) from 21 to 24 April 2026. The theme of the Conference is From Risk to Resilience: Advancing Flood Management.

The FMA Conference has been held annually for over 60 years and is the most respected flood risk management event held in Australia.

The Conference is for anyone interested in making our communities more flood safe. It will bring together over 400 flood professionals and community members with interests in flood risk management. Attendees will include Commonwealth, State and Local Government representatives, research organisations and education providers as well as consultants, engineers, land-use planners, emergency responders and community volunteer organisations.

The Conference will include outstanding Australian and International speakers, plenary and concurrent presentations, field trips addressing floodplain issues in the Gold Coast and surrounding areas, as well as great networking events. Optional Conference workshops on topical issues will be held on the Tuesday.

The 2026 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference Program is provided for your reference as an attachment to the report.

Financial Implications

The registration cost per delegate is \$1,350. Transport, accommodation and incidentals are estimated at approximately \$2,178 per delegate, bringing the total estimated cost to attend this conference to \$3,528 per delegate.

This conference will be funded from the Councillors' Development, Conference and Travel budget, which has a total allocation of \$8,000 per Councillor for the 2025/26 financial year.

The expenditure and remaining budget for each Councillor is detailed in the table below.

Councillor	Amount spent YTD 2025/26	Remaining budget 2025/26
Allana Condron	\$ 5,230.15	\$ 2,769.85
Georgie Davies	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,000.00
Richard Foley	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,000.00
Jenny McKinnon	\$ 5,784.99	\$ 2,215.01
Amelia Parkins	\$ 7,368.97	\$ 631.03
Karissa Subedi	\$ 1,543.60	\$ 6,456.40
Lindsay Tanner	\$ 3,991.22	\$ 2,438.24
Dallas Tout	\$ 999.31	\$ 7,000.69

Job number: 12080 – Councillor Development/Conferences/Travelling.

If Council resolves to appoint more than one (1) Councillor as a delegate, the additional costs will be met from the same Councillor Development, Conference and Travel budget allocation.

Policy and Legislation

Local Government Act 1993
 Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy (POL 025)
 Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy (POL 113)

Link to Strategic Plan

Growing

Education and skills

Enhance education and skill development offerings within our Local Government Area

Risk Management Issues for Council

N/A

Internal / External Consultation

N/A

Attachments

1. [2026 FMA National Conference Program](#)



Conference Program

(subject to change)

Tuesday 21 April 2026

8.30am – 5.00pm	Full Day Workshop: Simulating evacuations and life loss with LifeSim software <i>(additional cost)</i>
8.30am – 12.30pm	Morning Workshop: Multi-hazard planning in the built environment: pathways to preparedness <i>(additional cost)</i>
8.30am – 12.30pm	Morning Workshop: Modelling bridges and culverts in HEC-RAS <i>(additional cost)</i>
12.30pm – 5.00pm	Afternoon Workshop: Afternoon Room for the River Workshop <i>(additional cost)</i>
1.00pm – 5.00pm	Afternoon Workshop: Modelling dam breach in HEC-RAS <i>(additional cost)</i>
3.00pm – 5.00pm	YFM Mentoring Session <i>(additional cost)</i>
5.00pm – 6.00pm	Conference Registration & Welcome Reception <i>Trade Exhibition Area</i>
6.00pm – 8.00pm	YFM Function <i>(open to all delegates registered for the Conference)</i>

Sponsored by:



Wednesday 22 April 2026

7.30am	Conference Registration
8.30am – 10.05am	Session 1 – Opening Plenary Welcome to Country Conference Opening Address Welcome from Floodplain Management Australia Sue Ribbons , President, <i>Floodplain Management Australia</i> Welcome from Minister (TBC) Keynote Speaker Emeritus Professor Barbara Norman , <i>University of Canberra and Australian National University</i> Sponsor Address
10.05am – 10.35am	Morning Tea + Poster Presentations

Session 2 10.35am – 12.30pm	2A: Managing growth and land use planning	2B: Social sciences, human behaviour and communication	2C: Flood forecast and warning	2D: Flood case studies and stories
10.35am – 11.00am	Cumulative Impacts on Flood Behaviour: Policy Solutions for Resilient Development Melanie Schwecke <i>NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</i>	The Australian Flood, Weather and Society Survey 2025: policy and service implications of community responses Karen Hudson <i>Bureau of Meteorology</i>	Combining Operational Flood Intelligence, Response Planning and Community Awareness Systems in Ipswich Adam Berry, Synergy Solutions & Matthew Pinder, Ipswich City Council	From Historic Floods to Future Resilience: Maitland’s Case Study Prahlad Lamichhane <i>Maitland City Council</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
11.05am – 11.30am	Planning for flood hazard – Effective risk-informed decision making Nicole Prentice <i>Prentice Advisory Group</i>	Relationships towards Resilience: Industry and Community Education through the Resilient Homes Fund Sam Bowstead , QLD Department of Housing and Public Works	Critical Information Risk – Enabling Organisation-Wide Flood Intelligence Cameron Druery <i>Worley</i>	Beyond the ribbon cutting: lessons from a century of flood mitigation on the Richmond River Chrisy Clay <i>Rous County Council</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
11.35am – 12.00pm	Queensland: An Accommodating Climate Richard Sharp <i>Water Technology</i>	Community engagement at scale: Delivering flood information across Melbourne Andrew Mellor <i>Melbourne Water</i>	Super-fast and simplified – Implementing a reduced-physics hydraulic model in an operational forecasting system Angus Cannon <i>Sunwater</i>	River Scheme Sustainability in the Bay of Plenty Region, New Zealand Mark Townsend <i>Bay of Plenty Regional Council</i> <i>International presenter</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
12.05pm – 12.30pm	Integrating Flood Resilience and Urban Development: Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi Planning Lessons Sharyn Westlake <i>Greater Wellington Regional Council</i> <i>International presenter</i>	Wollondilly Flood Study; What happened to cause an unexpected community engagement explosion? Peter Nunn <i>Wollondilly Shire Council</i>	Floods Near Me: 10 years of developing a state-wide flood warning application Galen Lewis <i>MHL</i>	Flood Resilience for Three Far North Queensland Communities Eoghain O’Hanlon <i>JB Pacific</i>
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch + Poster Presentations			

Session 3 1.30pm – 2.55pm	3A: Flood policy, guidance and best practice	3B: Emergency preparedness, response and recovery	3C: Modelling and flood data	3D: 10 Minute Presentations
1.30pm – 1.55pm	Risk Informed Floodplain Management: A Transition Strategy for Increasing Flood Resilience Doug Bellomo AECOM <i>International presenter</i>	Shared Risks, Stronger Collaboration: Designing Australia's Flood-Intelligence Capability for the Next Decade Liza Gelt AFAC	Improving PMP and PMF Hydrology using Monte Carlo Methods Christopher Ryan <i>Catchment Simulation Solutions</i>	1.30pm – 1.40pm Dealing with engineering challenges arising from rapid development of residential precincts - Hill Road, Parramatta Monica Laut Haskoning 1.45pm – 1.55pm Building Coastal Resilience Together: Aligning Community Values and Investment Logic Steve Charlton-Henderson <i>Natural Capital and Climate</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
2.00pm – 2.25pm	What's next for risk-based planning in Queensland? Carrie Dearnley WRM Water and Environment	Property-level Flood Awareness Maps for Queenslanders Anna Zammit <i>Queensland Reconstruction Authority</i>	Are you aware of hidden instabilities in your RORB model? Yanni Wang SMEC	2.00pm – 2.10pm Minor Movements, Major Hydrological Moments: CSG-Induced Subsidence And Its Hydrologic Implications For Overland Flow Isaac Boehme <i>Water Technology</i> 2.15pm – 2.25pm The hidden connection – surface water meets groundwater Van Cuong Nguyen <i>Department of Water and Environmental Regulation WA</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
2.30pm – 2.55pm	Unlocking Innovation Through Risk-Based Planning: Why Collaboration Matters More Than Ever Alice Lisitsa BG&E	Developing staged emergency responses for sequential flood events using on-site water level monitoring Alireza Pouya BMT	A ready reckoner for initial calculations of flooding under climate change Michelle Ho HARC	2.30pm – 2.40pm Foundation Disaster Adaptation Plan: New approach to flood mitigation, resilience, and preparedness in Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Marcus Morgan, <i>NSW Reconstruction Authority</i>

				<p>2.45pm – 2.55pm Early results from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Palaeoflood Pilot Project Stephen Yeo <i>NSW Reconstruction Authority</i></p>
Session 4 - Field Trips				
<p>3.05pm – 5.30pm Field trips will depart from 3.05pm (sharp) and will return approximately 5.30pm, afternoon tea is included on all tours.</p>				
5.30pm	Close of Day One			
7.00pm – 10.00pm	<p>Casual Dinner - Sea World Gold Coast Return coaches will transfer from GCCEC Time TBC</p>			<p>Sponsored by</p> 

Thursday 23 April 2026					
8.00am	Conference Registration				
8.45am – 10.25am	Session 5 – Plenary Chair: Steve Allan				
Welcome to Day Two Sponsor Address Australia and New Zealand Updates 2026					
10.25am – 11.00am	Morning Tea + Poster Presentations				
Session 6 11.00am – 12.55pm	6A: Flood policy, guidance and best practice	6B: New technology	6C: Modelling - AR&R	6D: Infrastructure projects and asset management	6E: 10 Minute Presentations
11.00am – 11.25am	Building a national framework for smarter Flood Risk Management investment in New Zealand Graeme Campbell <i>Te Uru Kahika International presenter</i>	Flood AI for flood resilience - making every second and decision count Richard Crowder <i>Jacobs International presenter</i>	From Pre-burst to Resilience: NSW's New Design Flood Paradigm Mark Babister <i>WMAwater</i>	Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Program (FWIN): Building a Resilient Future for Australia's Flood Impacted Communities Ella Harrison <i>Bureau of Meteorology</i>	11.00am – 11.10am Lost floods: regulation and climate pressures on the Lowbidgee wetland system Jan Kreibich <i>UNSW Sydney & Alluvium Consulting</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
11.30am – 11.55am	NSW Flood Risk Valley Studies: next-generation flood information for a more resilient NSW Ainslie Frazer <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	Streamlining collaboration: connecting frontline agencies with Innovators to deliver flood impact data Scott Colefax <i>Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer</i>	Beyond Deterministic Uplifts: Navigating the Transition Toward Risk-Based Climate Guidance in ARR v4.2 Sina Akram <i>Melbourne Water</i>	Balancing Risk and Resilience: A Holistic Multi-Criteria Framework for Essential Floodplain Infrastructure Martin Boshoff <i>AECOM</i>	11.30am – 11.40am Great Northern Highway Upgrade-Fitzroy River Bridge to GoGo Station Section Sima Safarkhani <i>BG&E</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
					11.45am – 11.55am From Risk to Resilience: Strategic Levee Management for Victoria's Flood Future Andrea Collins, Mallee CMA & Shaun Morgan, <i>North Central CMA</i>

12.00pm – 12.25pm	Regulatory clarity & public visibility: refining 2025 NSW Shelter-in-Place guidance with lessons from Auckland 2023 Amir Montakhab <i>Stantec</i>	Flood Risk Indexing Made Simple: Toolkits for Current and Future Risks at Multiple Scales Markus Eder <i>WMAwater</i>	ARR 4.2: Does it Pass the Sniff Test? Dan Williams <i>Torrent Consulting</i>	Te Awa Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River – River Works Design Challenges William Veale <i>Damwatch Engineering Ltd International presenter</i>	12.00pm – 12.10pm Understanding the Uncertainties Embedded in Flood Vulnerability Functions for Residential Buildings Dilum Rajapaksha <i>RMIT University</i> 12.15pm – 12.25pm Application of climate change rainfall to an urban area - a case study for Canberra Patrick Paynter <i>ACT Government</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
12.30pm – 12.55pm	Managing uncertainty across multiple levels of decision making Richard Brook <i>BMT</i>	12.30pm – 12.40pm AI-driven development of automated direct-rainfall models Tom Ward <i>KBR</i> 12.45pm – 12.55pm Harnessing Digital Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Floodplain Management Matthew Piggott <i>Autodesk</i>	Which SSP Climate Change Scenarios to Model for Flood Mapping: Evidence Based Recommendation Sai Htin Aung & Pratheebh Sritharan, Engeny & Sina Akram, <i>Melbourne Water</i>	Floodways – closing the design gaps: safety, signage and structural stability Danielle Danielsson <i>Toowoomba Regional Council</i>	12.30pm – 12.40pm It's not you – it's your damage curve Katrina Smith <i>Water Technology YFM presenter</i> 12.45pm – 12.55pm Going beyond conventional damages assessment for flood management decisions Angus Chapman <i>SGS Economics and Planning</i>

12.55pm - 1.50pm Lunch + Poster Presentations					
Session 7 1.50pm - 3.15pm	7A: Flood policy, guidance and best practice	7B: Managing growth and land use planning	7C: Flood forecast and warning	7D: Modelling and flood data	7E: 10 Minute Presentations
1.50pm – 2.15pm	Complexities of entrance management in ICOLLS with highly modified entrances and highly engaged communities Emma Maratea <i>Rhelm</i>	Grid to ground: turning hydraulic model outputs into legislative planning for rural Floodplain Management Plans Matthew Russell <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	The art of delivering flood warning systems in remote communities Andy Sheehan <i>Stantec</i>	Adding to Geoscience Australia's Suite of Flood Vulnerability Models Ellen Zhao <i>Geoscience Australia</i>	<p>1.50pm – 2.00pm Queensland's \$49 million Flood Risk Management Program Greg Scroope <i>Queensland Reconstruction Authority</i></p> <p>2.05pm – 2.15pm Gympie – from one of Queensland's most flood risk regions to future flood resilience William Prentice <i>Prentice Advisory Group</i></p>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
2.20pm – 2.45pm	Beyond flood levels: data, design, and decision support for the Tuggerah Lakes Bronson Mcpherson <i>MHL</i>	Is the sky the limit? Metrics for quantifying a suitable defined flood event David Tetley <i>Catchment Simulation Solutions</i>	Implementing New From Calibration to Forecasting: Advancing Automated Flood Forecasting in Aotearoa New Zealand Blair Filer <i>JB Pacific</i>	Implementing New Climate Change Guidance – A Local Government's Perspective, Decision Dilemma and a way forward Bishwa Mishra <i>City of Parramatta Council</i>	<p>2.20pm – 2.30pm Convergent best practice in IFD data and Flood Modelling Giancarlo Bonotto <i>Queensland Reconstruction Authority</i></p> <p>2.35pm – 2.45pm Filling the Gaps in Rating Curves: Leveraging Space-Time Image Velocimetry to Improve Flood Forecasting Cam Turner <i>Melbourne Water</i></p>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
2.50pm – 3.15pm	When the Entrance Ground Moves: Insights from Lake Illawarra Muhammad Zain Bin Riaz <i>Shellharbour City Council</i>	What is an acceptable flood impact? Are we caught up with measuring the millimetres Chris Thomas <i>Worley Consulting</i>	Operational impact-based forecasting during a nocturnal flash flood in Texas: lessons for Australia Juliette Murphy <i>Floodmapp</i>	This Isn't Our First Climate Change: Insights on climate change from past studies Isabelle Testoni <i>Catchment Simulation Solutions</i>	2.50pm – 3.00pm Assessment of TUFLOW Layered-Loss Methods Against HEC-RAS for 2D Bridge Modelling Amir Abbasnia <i>Stantec</i>

					<p>3.05pm – 3.15pm Cyclone Ditwa: Lessons for Sri Lanka from Australia's Floodplain Management Systems Systems Muhammadh Khalid HARC</p>
3.15pm – 3.40pm	Afternoon Tea				
Session 8 3.40pm – 5.30pm	<p>FMA Annual General Meeting <i>All FMA Members please attend</i></p>				
5.30pm	Close of Day Two				
7.00pm – 11.30pm	<p>Conference Dinner & Floodplain Management Australia IAG Excellence Awards Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre</p>				<p>Sponsored by:</p> 

Friday 24 April 2026				
8.00am	Conference Registration			
8.30am – 9.50am	Session 9 – Plenary Chair: Steve Allan			
	Welcome to Day Three Presentation by Winner of FMA - IAG Flood Risk Management Project of the Year Award Sponsor Address Conference Keynote Address 2027 FMA National Conference Announcement			
9.50am – 10.20am	Morning Tea + Poster Presentations			
Session 10 10.20am – 12.15pm	10A: Flood policy, guidance and best practice	10B: Nature Based Solutions	10C: Emergency preparedness, response and recovery	10D: Flood Impacts
10.20am – 10.45am	A Guideline is a Guideline is a Guideline: Reclaiming Engineering Judgement in Flood Modelling Madeline Mead <i>SWM Consulting</i>	Nature-based Solutions for Flood Mitigation: Australian Guidelines Roslyn Prinsley <i>Australian National University</i>	Big Trouble in Little China Camp Gauge Andrew Thompson <i>Water Technology</i>	Flood Defence Fund – Investing in Australia’s Highest-Risk Areas Rhys Thomson <i>Rhelm</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
10.50am – 11.15am	Reconciling Bridge/Culvert Blockage Methodologies: Implications for Flood Modelling and Design Jonathon Schacht <i>Haskoning</i>	From Pilot to Policy: Governing Integrated Catchment Management in Murihiku Ella Lawton <i>Environment Southland</i> <i>International presenter</i>	Relocatable homes – turning a disaster into an opportunity for sustainable development and increasing resilience Karen McPaul <i>NSW Reconstruction Authority</i>	Understanding intangible impacts of floods Tariq Maqsood <i>RMIT University</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
11.20am – 11.45am	The Peak No One Calculates: How Pre-Burst Missteps Skew Flood Design Mehrdad Ahmadi <i>Rain Consulting</i>	Nature’s resilience dividend: How nature can strengthen flood and coastal hazard resilience in urban environments Alice Simpson-Young <i>AECOM</i>	Quantifying Potential Risks Posed to Occupants of Vehicles in Transit During Flood Events Barry Evans <i>University of Canterbury</i> <i>International presenter</i>	Estimating flood risk in NSW Craig Arthur <i>NSW Reconstruction Authority</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
11.50am – 12.15pm	Complete Storm Modelling Approaches: Preburst and Postburst Rainfall Callan Schonrock <i>Water Technology</i>	Power Play: Using Stream Power to Restore Resilient Stream Processes Nora Boylan <i>Wolf Water Resources</i>	Implementation of a locally-led, place-based decentralised community flood communication and monitoring network Jeremy Smith <i>ANU</i>	How Major Floods Drive Long-Term Socio-Economic Decline: Re-evaluating SEIFA’s Dynamic Utility Paul Fuller <i>NSW Reconstruction Authority</i>
12.15pm – 1.05pm	Lunch + Poster Presentations			

Session 11 1.05pm – 3.00pm	11A: Flood policy, guidance and best practice	11B: Managing growth and land use planning	11C: Infrastructure projects and asset management	11D: 10 Minute Presentations
1.05pm – 1.30pm	Greater Melbourne Flood Mapping Program – How peer review and community validation strengthen flood resilience Raghav Rana <i>Melbourne Water</i>	Assessing Risk to Create Resilient Open Spaces in a Changing Climate Nadia Guterres <i>Sunshine Coast Council</i>	Advancing Levee Risk Management: Integrated Flood Mapping and Automation Isaac Fowler <i>Jacobs</i>	1.05pm – 1.15pm Protecting Molong using the Boxwall® Mobile Flood Barrier. Cabonne Councils journey to reduced flood risk Paul Hart, Bluemont 1.20pm – 1.30pm Quantifying hydraulic losses of bridges during flood events Fabian Bodenlenz <i>KBR</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
1.35pm – 2.00pm	Risk-based flood policy – From flood study to developing bespoke community risk tolerance Kim Kirstein <i>Meridian Urban</i>	The Southbank Paradox: An agent-based modelling approach to understand changing risk with development intensification Carolyn Tsioulos <i>HARC</i>	Guidance on building weirs in Queensland Chris Nielsen <i>Department of Local Government Water and Volunteers</i>	1.35pm – 1.45pm Chasing your tail – Building Resilience while Recovering – A case study Daniel Wood <i>BG&E</i> 1.50pm – 2.00pm Establishing a community of practice to deliver flood information across Metropolitan Melbourne and Westernport Region Adelina Lawrence <i>Alluvium Consulting</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>
2.05pm – 2.30pm	Top down rather than bottom up: Governance-led floodplain management and Blacktown City Council's flood strategy Thanh Nguyen <i>Blacktown City Council</i>	Calming the Storm... A case study in successful community engagement for an urban flood map Glenn Ottrey <i>Engeny Water Management</i>	Building Flood Resilience in Remote Queensland: Quilpie Shire's Strategic Floodway Upgrade Program Eng Hwa Lim <i>Quilpie Shire Council</i>	2.05pm – 2.15pm The new levee guidelines - a definitive step forward for Queensland Levee Management Monishaa Prasad <i>Department of Local Government, Water, and Volunteers</i> 2.20pm – 2.30pm From Concept to Completion: Lessons from Delivering a Levee in South Australia Hassan Ranjbar <i>Department for Environment and Water</i>
5 minute	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>	<i>Changeover</i>

2.35pm – 3.00pm	Floods don't read policy: Why flexible and adaptive flood policy matters Philip Haines, Rhelm & Kerry Doss, Kerry Doss Consulting.	Evaluation of Blue-Green-Grey Measures for Enhanced Urban Flood Resilience Lea Dasallas <i>University of Canterbury International presenter</i>	Parramatta Big Ideas Alan Rotsey <i>Haskoning</i>	<p>2.35pm – 2.45pm Scenarios (huh) what are they good for? Actually, something Rob Swan <i>HARC</i></p> <p>2.50pm – 3.00pm Novel Approach to Classifying Flood-Related Health Risk Mitchell Kirby <i>JB Pacific</i></p>
3.00pm – 3.30pm Conference Wrap Up with Afternoon Tea – Foyer				

RP-12 CANCELLATION OF COUNCIL MEETING DATE - 27 APRIL 2026**Author:** Kori West**Executive:** Scott Gray**Summary:**

This report seeks Council's endorsement to cancel the Council Meeting scheduled for 27 April 2026 following the declaration of a new public holiday on that date. Having regard to operational impacts and the proximity of adjacent Council meetings, it is considered appropriate that the meeting be cancelled rather than rescheduled.

Recommendation

That Council cancel the Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, 27 April 2026, due to the declaration of a new public holiday on that date and determine that no alternative meeting date be scheduled.

Report

Council, at its meeting held on 27 October 2025, adopted the schedule of Ordinary Council Meetings for the period January 2026 to December 2026.

An Ordinary Council Meeting is currently scheduled for Monday, 27 April 2026.

Subsequent to the adoption of the meeting schedule, a public holiday has been declared for Monday, 27 April 2026. As a result, a clash now exists between the declared public holiday and the scheduled Ordinary Council Meeting. In light of this, it is proposed that the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, 27 April 2026 be cancelled.

Council will continue to meet in accordance with the adopted 2026 schedule, subject to any further resolution of Council.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Local Government Act 1993
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

	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"/>						
Consult										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Involve										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Collaborate										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Other methods (please list specific details below)																

RP-13 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.

Councillor L Tanner

Can Council explain how the prioritisation methodology for the Footpath Renewal Program is applied, specifically how the allocation of funding (including the \$200,000 renewal component) balances asset condition ratings (particularly paths rated Condition 4–5) against other prioritisation criteria such as proximity to schools, aged-care facilities, and areas of higher pedestrian vulnerability?

Further, how are these factors weighted or correlated to determine the final renewal program each year?

The approach taken integrates both quantitative asset condition data and qualitative risk-based criteria to ensure that renewal funding is allocated where it delivers the greatest community benefit and risk mitigation.

Asset condition, as captured through the Overall Condition Index (OCI), remains a major input. Footpath sections rated OCI 4–5 typically indicate defects or surface degradation of warranting renewal. However, condition alone does not fully capture the operational risk associated with each location, particularly where usage patterns and user vulnerability amplify the consequences of defects.

It is important to note that the OCI values currently on record for the network represent large areas of footpath, not a standardised footpath segment length.

Because these enlarged segments bundle multiple slabs and sometimes entire blocks into a single OCI score:

- The rating does not accurately reflect localised failures or trip hazards within the segment.
- Slabs with significantly different conditions are averaged into a single number, masking variability.
- This prevents true like-for-like comparison with other footpath assets across the network.

For these reasons, OCI data alone could not be used as the primary decision-making tool for this funding round, and additional risk-based criteria were required.

The \$200,000 footpath renewal allocation represents a new initiative introduced this financial cycle.

As this is the first year of targeted renewal funding of this nature:

- There was no pre-existing, dedicated prioritisation framework specific to this allocation.
- Staff were required to develop an interim approach using available data, best-practice asset principles, and risk-based assessment.
- Developing a fully standardised, detailed, repeatable process requires resourcing, time, and data improvements (including segment normalisation), which are planned but not yet available.

This resourcing constraint meant the prioritisation process had to rely on a combination of condition data, safety considerations, and network importance to produce a defensible and transparent program in the interim.

Locations near schools, aged care facilities, childcare centers, and recreational assets were prioritised due to:

- A higher proportion of vulnerable users (children, elderly residents)
- Increased likelihood of incidents during high-traffic periods (school drop-off/pick-up, aged-care movements)
- A need for a higher standard of serviceability in these environments

Even where individual slabs within these segments scored better on condition, the overall user-risk profile elevated the priority rating. Staff also considered whether the footpath forms part of a strategic pedestrian link, for example, connections to the CBD, schools, shopping centers, and community facilities. Paths with high network importance warrant proactive renewal to maintain functionality, continuity, and compliance with accessibility objectives.

Each of the selected locations has a documented history of customer requests relating to uneven surfaces, tripping hazards, or accessibility concerns. This indicates both:

- Confirmed defects not always fully reflected in OCI scores (as OCI assesses slabs, not holistic network performance)
- Demonstrated community impact and dissatisfaction.

In practice, the prioritisation involved correlating the three criteria, asset condition, pedestrian vulnerability, and network importance, to identify locations where the combination of moderate-to-poor condition and high user risk justified advancing renewal works.

For example:

- **Bardia Street / Ashmont Block** – Serves two schools, aged care, child-care, church and retail: very high user vulnerability and movement volumes.
- **Hampden Avenue** – Primary school frontage with concentrated daily foot traffic.
- **Urana St / College Ave** – Supports aged care and event precinct movements.
- **Menzies Ave** – High-school frontage with large student pedestrian flows.

- **Main St (Lake Albert)** – Key connector between school and recreation precinct.
- **Morrow St** – Strategic CBD link supporting high daily use.

Across these areas, condition was one factor, but not the sole determinant. Sections with some acceptable condition panels were still prioritised where the broader risk and network considerations significantly increased the likelihood or consequence of pedestrian incidents.

The renewal program represents a risk-based, evidence-driven process that blends asset condition data with community safety, network performance, and complaint history. This ensures limited funding is directed to locations where renewal will have the greatest impact on safety, accessibility, and community benefit.

Councillor R Foley

Does council have a written contingency plan or some form of plan that details the steps to be taken to recover funds or protect access to term deposits in the event of a bank collapse

The below response has been provided by Council's independent Financial Advisor:

As with any investment, in order to receive some form of return, investors need to take some form of risk. If an investor is strongly concerned about investing in term deposits issued by APRA regulated ADIs (authorised deposit-taking institutions), then it should simply just place its money on-call (overnight cash) and receive very little return on investment with little diversification.

Bank term deposits in Australia are issued by banks regulated by:

- Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA)
- Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)

Australian banks (including the domestic four major banks) are among the most tightly regulated in the world, with strict capital and liquidity requirements. The four major banks are considered systemically important and heavily supervised.

Government guarantee (Financial Claims Scheme)

Term Deposits are still currently protected under the Financial Claims Scheme (FCS). This scheme is administered by APRA and guarantees:

- Up to \$250,000 per account holder per authorised deposit-taking institution (ADI)

This means:

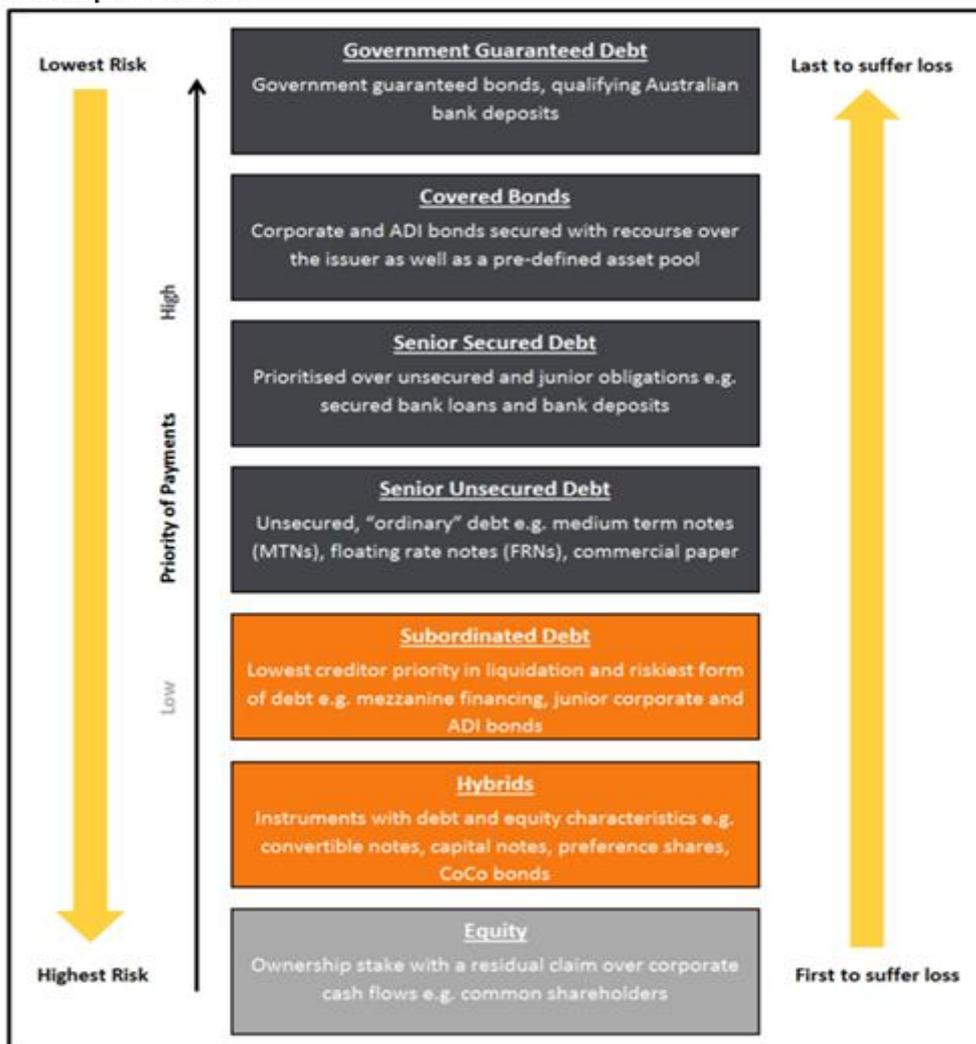
- If a bank collapses, the Australian Government guarantees deposits up to \$250,000 per person per bank
- Payments are typically made within days

What would have to happen for a collapse?

For a term deposit to fail and Council to lose money, all of the following would need to occur:

1. The government does not honour the Financial Claims Scheme (FCS) up to \$250,000 per ADI i.e. the government guarantee level
2. Referring to the Bank Capital Structure chart below, the order of payments in a bank failure would mean that all equity holders lose 100% of their money
3. All hybrid holders would lose 100% of their money
4. All subordinated debt holders would lose 100% of their money
5. All senior, unsecured debt holders would lose 100% of their money
6. Only then would senior secured debt (including term deposit) holders would incur some sort of loss

Bank Capital Structure



Regulators globally are ensuring that bank collapses are avoided, imposing strong capital requirements through ongoing severe stress tests e.g. pandemic period. In the very unlikely severe case of a bank failure, governments would manage these problems via mergers and well-managed exits.

Deposit and senior secured debt represent the highest ranked liabilities (ex-APRA) in a bank’s capital structure. The return payoff for bank liabilities will be dependent upon its position within the capital structure of a bank. While un-guaranteed exposures represent some risk, for Australia’s banks, this is completely offset by their strong capital position and robust prudential regulatory framework. Australia’s banks remain highly capitalised with strong balance sheets.

Councillor L Tanner

When will the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan be presented to Council?

The Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan is due to be reviewed at the end of this financial year and will then be presented to Council.

Councillor McKinnon

Would it be feasible for Wagga Council to conduct a trial of extended library opening hours on the same days that free pool entry is offered, with a view to making this a permanent arrangement on days of 41deg or more if the extended library service is well-received?

A response will be provided to Councillors at its next Ordinary Meeting held 23 March 2026.

Councillor Parkins

A tree recently fell outside the Conservatorium of Music and the Board were wondering if this tree can be replaced. They have requested one that does not drop limbs.

Council has assessed the site outside the Conservatorium of Music following the recent tree loss and determined that replanting in the same location is not feasible due to the substantial remaining root plate after stump grinding, and the tree's position above a stormwater drain. An alternative location was also considered, however as it operates as a loading dock and pedestrian crossing point, it is not suitable for planting. Council is committed to replacing trees wherever practicable although in this instance, existing infrastructure and site conditions prevent replanting at these particular locations.

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 - 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Author: Scott Gray

Summary: | This report presents the minutes of the Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee meeting held on 25 February 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee meeting held on 25 February 2026.

Report

The Minutes of the Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee meeting held on 25 February 2026 are presented to Council for consideration. A summary of the matters considered, and resolutions made is outlined below.

RP-1 2026/27 AIRPORT FEES & CHARGES

The Committee received a report regarding the proposed Airport fees and charges for the 2026/27 financial year.

RP-2 LEASE UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update from the General Manager regarding Council's initial response to the draft lease.

RP-3 INVITATION OF ADDITIONAL CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Committee agreed to invite representatives from Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) and the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) to participate as additional co-opted members of the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee, in an advisory capacity and consistent with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Committee changed the frequency of the meetings to Monthly.

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 [↓](#). Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee Minutes - 25 February 2026.

MINUTES of the **WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE** held on **Wednesday 25 February 2026**.

PRESENT

Councillor Amelia Parkins (Chairperson)
The Mayor, Councillor Dallas Tout
Geoff Breust
Rodney Cecchini
Rod Kendall
Suraj Mohamed

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Peter Thompson	General Manager
Mr Scott Gray	Chief Operating Officer
Mrs Carolyn Rodney	Chief Financial Officer
Ms Ruby Brodin	Business Support Officer (Minute Taker)

The meeting of the Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee commenced at 12:30pm.

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.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received accepted by the Committee for Councillor Jenny McKinnon, Councillor Richard Foley and Daniel Logan.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CM-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES WAGGA WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE 11 FEBRUARY 2026

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MINUTES of the **WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE** held on **Wednesday 25 February 2026**.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

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.

Suraj Mohamed declared a general interest in relation to his employment with Virgin Australia, effective from January 2026.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

RP-1 2026/27 AIRPORT FEES & CHARGES

Recommendation

That the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee receive the proposed Airport fees and charges for the 2026/27 financial year.

RP-2 LEASE UPDATE

Recommendation

That the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee receive and note this report and the verbal update to be provided by the General Manager regarding the draft lease.

RP-3 INVITATION OF ADDITIONAL CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Recommendation

That the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee invite representatives from Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) and the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) to participate as additional co-opted members of the Wagga Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee, in an advisory capacity and consistent with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

MINUTES of the **WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE** held on **Wednesday 25 February 2026**.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The frequency of future committee meetings was discussed following the receipt and review of the Wagga Wagga Airport Lease. The Committee determined that the fortnightly meeting schedule, which had been implemented initially, is no longer required and that meetings will revert to a monthly schedule.

It was recommended that the next Committee meeting be held following the General Manager's meeting with the Department of Defence.

The next meeting will be held in one month, on Wednesday, 25 March 2026.

Future meetings will be conducted on a monthly basis, with updated meeting dates to be distributed to Committee members accordingly.

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

No Questions with Notice were received.

The Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee rose at 1:28pm.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

CONF-1 VARIATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH INLAND RAIL - PART LOT 12 DP 1136467 - CASSIDY PARADE

Author: Matthew Dombrovski

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 PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LAND - 431B LAKE ALBERT ROAD,
WAGGA WAGGA**

Author: Matthew Dombrovski

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.

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 23 February 2026.**

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager	(Mr P Thompson)
Director Community (Acting)	(Ms C Hood)
Director Infrastructure Services	(Mr H Pavitt)
Chief Financial Officer	(Mrs C Rodney)
Chief Operating Officer	(Mr S Gray)
Director Economy, Business & Workforce	(Mrs F Piltz)
Executive Director Housing & Strategic Planning	(Mrs F Hamilton)
Manager Corporate Governance & Performance	(Mr D Galloway)
Manager Development Assessment & Building Certification	(Mr C Collins)
Development Assessor – SKM Planning and Design	(Mr K McNicol)
Corporate Governance Coordinator	(Mrs N Johnson)
Communications & Engagement Coordinator	(Mr M Casey)
Corporate Governance Officer	(Ms K West)

PROCEDURAL MOTION - SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

26/031 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and R Foley

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

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins
L Tanner

Against the Motion

This is page 1 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **23 FEBRUARY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 23 February 2026.

PROCEDURAL MOTION - REINSTATE STANDING ORDERS

26/032 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Tanner

That Council reinstate standing orders and continue with the Ordinary Council Meeting agenda, the time being 6.28pm.

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	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
L Tanner	

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.

This is page 2 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 23 FEBRUARY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 23 February 2026.

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.

PROCEDURAL MOTION - COUNCILLOR AUDIO-VISUAL ATTENDANCE

26/033 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Tanner

That Council approve the request from Councillor J McKinnon to attend the meeting by audio-visual link due to illness, in accordance with the provisions of Council’s Code of Meeting Practice.

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	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
L Tanner	

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Council noted that Leave of Absence was granted to Councillor K Subedi at the 15 December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting for the period 10 February 2026 to 10 March 2026.

This is page 3 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **23 FEBRUARY 2026**.

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 23 February 2026.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CM-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 9 FEBRUARY 2026

26/034 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and R Foley

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 9 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

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	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
L Tanner	

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Davies declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in M-1 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WAGGA WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - 11 FEBRUARY 2026 the reason being that a family member has a sub-lease hangar at the Airport, and vacated the chamber during consideration of the matter.

Councillor R Foley declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in NOR-1 - NOTICE OF RESCISSION - DA25/0067 - MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, INCLUDING MONOPOLE AND COMPOUND the reason arising from prior internal correspondence with fellow Councillors regarding the potential relocation of the proposed telecommunications facility to the area adjacent to the Rural Fire Service shed at Norman Duck Oval and vacated the chamber during its consideration.

Councillor L Tanner declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in RP-1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA23/0598 - LIVESTOCK PROCESSING INDUSTRY (ABATTOIR) - 2056 OURA ROAD, OURA the reason being that a volunteer who assisted with his local government election campaign resides in Oura, and remained in the chamber during consideration of the matter.

The Mayor, Councillor D Tout declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in RP-1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA23/0598 - LIVESTOCK PROCESSING INDUSTRY (ABATTOIR) - 2056 OURA ROAD, OURA the reason being that he is a resident of Oura, and vacated the chamber during consideration of the matter.

This is page 4 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 23 FEBRUARY 2026.

.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 23 February 2026.

PROCEDURAL MOTION - ENGLOBO

26/035 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

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-6 to RP-8 and CONF-1 to CONF-4 be adopted as recommended in the business papers.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u> D Tout G Davies A Condron R Foley J McKinnon A Parkins L Tanner	<u>Against the Motion</u>
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NOTICES OF MOTIONS OF RESCISSION

NOR-1 NOTICE OF RESCISSION - DA25/0067 - MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, INCLUDING MONOPOLE AND COMPOUND

Councillor R Foley declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest and vacated the Chamber the time being 6.35pm.

A Motion was moved by Councillors A Parkins and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a rescinds Resolution No. 26/019 from the 9 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, which reads as follows:
 - i *That the Council refuse DA25/0067 'Mobile Telecommunications Facility, Including Monopole and Compound' at Lot 2 DP 731292, 20 Kapooka Road, San Isidore for the following reasons. Issues have been raised about contamination of uncontaminated land by PFAS through stormwater flows. With knowledge that stormwater will be displaced by the structure it is not*

This is page 5 of the MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL of the Council of the CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA held on 23 FEBRUARY 2026.

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MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 23 February 2026.**

appropriate to approve the structure without the decision makers having the technical information that the environmental impact will be managed in a way that leads to approve the development. Unacceptable visual impact also forms part of the refusal.

- b defer determination of DA25/0067 'Mobile Telecommunications Facility, Including Monopole and Compound' at Lot 2 DP 731292, 20 Kapooka Road, San Isidore, pending a site inspection by available councillors.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor A Parkins and seconded by Councillor J McKinnon

That Council:

- a rescinds Resolution No. 26/019 from the 9 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, which reads as follows:
 - i That the Council refuse DA25/0067 'Mobile Telecommunications Facility, Including Monopole and Compound' at Lot 2 DP 731292, 20 Kapooka Road, San Isidore for the following reasons. Issues have been raised about contamination of uncontaminated land by PFAS through stormwater flows. With knowledge that stormwater will be displaced by the structure it is not appropriate to approve the structure without the decision makers having the technical information that the environmental impact will be managed in a way that leads to approve the development. Unacceptable visual impact also forms part of the refusal.
- b approve DA25/0067 for a 'Mobile Telecommunications Facility, Including Monopole and Compound' at Lot 2 DP 731292, 20 Kapooka Road, San Isidore, subject to the conditions outlined in the s4.15 Assessment Report.

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE AMENDMENT

For the Amendment
J McKinnon
A Parkins

Against the Amendment
D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
L Tanner

The AMENDMENT on being put to the meeting was LOST.

That Council:

- a rescinds Resolution No. 26/019 from the 9 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, which reads as follows:
 - i That the Council refuse DA25/0067 'Mobile Telecommunications Facility, Including Monopole and Compound' at Lot 2 DP 731292, 20 Kapooka Road, San Isidore for the following reasons. Issues have been raised about contamination of uncontaminated land by PFAS through stormwater flows. With knowledge that stormwater will be displaced by the structure it is not appropriate to approve the structure without the decision makers having the technical information that the environmental impact will be managed in a

This is page 6 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **23 FEBRUARY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 23 February 2026**.

way that leads to approve the development. Unacceptable visual impact also forms part of the refusal.

- b defer determination of DA25/0067 'Mobile Telecommunications Facility, Including Monopole and Compound' at Lot 2 DP 731292, 20 Kapooka Road, San Isidore, pending a site inspection by available councillors.

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

J McKinnon
A Parkins

Against the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
L Tanner

The MOTION on being put to the Meeting was LOST.

Councillor R Foley re-entered the chamber, the time being 7:08pm.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

RP-1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA23/0598 - LIVESTOCK PROCESSING INDUSTRY (ABATTOIR) - 2056 OURA ROAD, OURA

The Mayor, Councillor D Tout, declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest, vacated the Chair and the chamber at 7.08pm, and did not return to the chamber for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor G Davies assumed the Chair the time being 7:08pm.

26/036 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Parkins and R Foley

That Council approve DA23/0598 for a Livestock Processing Facility (Abattoir) at 2056 Oura Road, subject to;

- a the conditions contained within the attached s4.15 Assessment Report; and
- b the General Terms of Approval, including the livestock processing limit condition (Condition L6.1), as issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under Notice Number 1636833 dated 18 December 2024.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON DEVELOPMENT OR PLANNING MATTERS - SECTION 375A(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993

For the Motion

G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins

Against the Motion

L Tanner

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.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 23 February 2026.**

RP-2 DA25/0488 - MULTI DWELLING HOUSING (4 X 2 STOREY DWELLINGS), 2 X SWIMMING POOLS & COMMUNITY TITLED SUBDIVISION, LOT 69 DP 802097, 2 NEERIM CLOSE, KOORINGAL

26/037 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and A Parkins

That Council approve DA25/0488 for a 'Multi dwelling housing (4 x 2 storey dwellings), 2 x swimming pools & community titled subdivision' at Lot 69 DP 802097, 2 Neerim Close, Kooringal, subject to the conditions outlined in the attached 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> G Davies A Condron R Foley J McKinnon A Parkins L Tanner	<u>Against the Motion</u>
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RP-3 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - WAGGA WAGGA - KUNMING SISTER CITY INDUSTRY COOPERATION & INVESTMENT DELEGATION - REQUEST FOR REPORT

26/038 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council:

- a direct the General Manager to prepare a detailed package of goals and objectives to be achieved if a delegation to Kunming is pursued
- b request the General Manager seek advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding foreign policy alignment, engagement protocols and any risks associated with a proposed delegation
- c receive a further report at the second meeting in April outlining the outcomes of (a) and (b) and any implications for Council participation

CARRIED

This is page 8 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **23 FEBRUARY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 23 February 2026.**

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u> G Davies A Condron R Foley J McKinnon A Parkins L Tanner	<u>Against the Motion</u>
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RP-4 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026

26/039 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and A Parkins

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 December 2025**
- 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 31 January 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> G Davies A Condron R Foley J McKinnon A Parkins L Tanner	<u>Against the Motion</u>
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This is page 9 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **23 FEBRUARY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 23 February 2026.

RP-5 GRANT FUNDING FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT HUMULA

26/040 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Parkins and L Tanner

That Council:

- a authorise the General Manager or their delegate to negotiate to enter into a funding agreement with the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts to replace the Humula Bridge at Eight Mile Road
- b approve the budget variations as detailed in the financial implications section of this report
- c authorise the affixing of Council's Common Seal to all relevant documents as required
- d write to the Hon Catherine King MP to thank her for the grant funding provided to Wagga Wagga City Council and extend an invitation to visit Wagga Wagga

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins
L Tanner

Against the Motion

RP-6 RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS REGISTERS

26/041 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council receive and note the following registers:

- a Active Resolutions as of 6 February 2026
- b Active Notice of Motions as of 6 February 2026
- c Resolutions including Notice of Motions completed from 11 October 2025 to 6 February 2026

CARRIED

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.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 23 February 2026.**

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins
L Tanner

Against the Motion

RP-7 NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSION COUNT BACK PROCESS AND TIMEFRAME

26/042 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council:

- a note the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Tim Koschel effective from 31 January 2026**
- b note the legislated process and NSW Electoral Commission timetable for the countback election to fill the casual vacancy**
- c approve the budget variation/s as detailed in the Financial Implications section of the report**

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins
L Tanner

Against the Motion

This is page 11 of the **MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** of the Council of the **CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA** held on **23 FEBRUARY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL** held on **Monday 23 February 2026.**

RP-8 SUBMISSION OF MOTIONS - 2026 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

26/043 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council submit the motions outlined in the report to the 2026 National General Assembly.

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	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
L Tanner	

RP-9 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

26/044 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and R Foley

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
G Davies	
A Condron	
R Foley	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
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 **23 FEBRUARY 2026.**

.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 23 February 2026.

PROCEDURAL MOTION - ELECTION OF CHAIR

26/045 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and A Condron

That the Council appoint Councillor R Foley as the Chair for M-1 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WAGGA WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - 11 FEBRUARY 2026.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion
G Davies
A Condron
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins
L Tanner

Against the Motion

COMMITTEE MINUTES

M-1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WAGGA WAGGA AIRPORT SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - 11 FEBRUARY 2026

Councillor G Davies declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest and vacated the chamber, the time being 7:46pm.

26/046 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors L Tanner and A Condron

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Wagga Airport Special Purpose Committee meeting held on 11 February 2026.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion
A Condron
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins
L Tanner

Against the Motion

Councillor G Davies re-entered the chamber, the time being 7:47pm.

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.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 23 February 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

**CONF-1 MAJOR EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND FILMS SPONSORSHIP
ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERSHIP**

26/047 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council appoint two industry representatives to the Major Events, Festivals and Films Sponsorship Advisory Panel as contained 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 Condron	
R Foley	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
L Tanner	

CONF-2 PROPOSED WRITE OFF OF UNCOLLECTABLE RATES

26/048 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council authorise in accordance with Clause 131 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 the write off of \$75,200.22 in total for four (4) rates & charges debts deemed not cost effective to recover, as detailed in this confidential report.

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	
J McKinnon	
A Parkins	
L Tanner	

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.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Monday 23 February 2026.

CONF-3 FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION REPORTS - NSW FIRE COMMISSIONER

26/049 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council:

- a receive two (2) reports and recommendations dated 20 November and 19 December 2025 from the Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW, in accordance with Schedule 5, Part 8, Section 17 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- b note a further report will be provided at the Council meeting of 9 March 2026 including a recommendation as to whether Council should exercise its statutory duty to issue fire safety orders

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condrón
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins
L Tanner

Against the Motion

CONF-4 REQUEST TO WAIVE RATES AND CHARGES

26/050 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and L Tanner

That Council:

- a authorise in accordance with Clause 131 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 the write off of \$83,746.27 in rates and charges, as detailed in this confidential report
- b include the annual 50% fee waiver of rates in future Delivery Programs

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
A Condrón
R Foley
J McKinnon
A Parkins
L Tanner

Against the Motion

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.....MAYORGENERAL MANAGER

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THIS COMPLETED THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WHICH ROSE AT 7.50pm.

.....
MAYOR

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.....**MAYOR****GENERAL MANAGER**