



**murray river  
council**

# **AGENDA**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 25 February 2025**

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

**Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2025**

**Time: 1:00 PM**

**Location: Council Chambers  
Moama Administration Office  
52 Perricoota Road, Moama**

**Sarah Ryan  
Acting Chief Executive Officer**



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**1 OPENING MEETING**

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians of the Lands where we stand today,  
I acknowledge Elders past and present, the pioneers whose toil inspires us still;  
And those who gave their lives, that we many now,  
On this proud past, a vibrant future build.

**3 APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Questions without notice arising from minutes of previous meeting:

## 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2025

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council held on 28 January 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

#### DISCUSSION

Murray River Council held its Ordinary Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 28 January 2025, commencing at 1:00pm at the Council Chambers (Lower Level), Moama Administration Office, 52 Perricoota Road, Moama.

A copy of the draft minutes for the meetings are attached for ratification by the Council at this meeting.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. UNCONFIRMED\_MINUTES\_ORDINARY MEETING of Council 28 Jan 2025 [↓](#) 

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MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes28 January 2025

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**MINUTES OF MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MOAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 52 PERRICOOTA  
ROAD, MOAMA  
ON TUESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2025 AT 1:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr John Harvie (Mayor), Cr Neil Gorey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Joy Allan, Cr Kylie Berryman, Cr Gen Campbell, Cr Dennis Gleeson, Cr Bianca Hurn, Cr Gary Pappin, Cr Geoff Wise

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Ryan (Acting Chief Executive Officer), Lindy Leyonhjelm (Executive Assistant), Stephen Fernando (Director Corporate Services), Jack Bond (Director Infrastructure), Sandra Gordon (Manager Governance & Risk), Beck Hayward (Acting Director Economic Development & Community Services), Luke Keogh (Acting Director Planning & Environment)

**1 OPENING MEETING**

The Mayor held a short appropriate prayer.

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

**3 APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2024****RESOLUTION 020125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise  
Seconded: Cr Gen Campbell

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council held on 10 December 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

Cr Campbell brought up and asked that staff take speedy action in contacting rate payers who have an item brought up.

Questions without notice arising from minutes of previous meeting/s

<Enter time>

**5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Cr Gen Campbell declared a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 11.2 Award of Tender for supply of spray sealing and associated services in the Confidential Matters report to Council.

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Cr Gen Campbell declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Items 9.33 Response to Notice of Motion - Meninya Street Moama Decision on Parking in the Director Infrastructure Report and Supplementary Matters and 10.4 Notice of Motion - Meninya Street Moama decision on parking in the Notice of Motions section of the papers.

Cr Dennis Gleeson declared a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 11.2 Recommendation to Endorse Project Option - Barham River Estate Levee in the Confidential Matters section in the papers.

**6 DEPUTATIONS**

At this time, being 1:04pm, Mr Sean Slattery commenced his deputation to Council on Item 9.4.1 Review of Developer Contributions for DA 10.2024.154.1 – 72 Meninya Street Moama under the Director Planning & Environment Report and Supplementary Matters.

At this time, being 1:10pm, Mr David Wegener commenced his deputation to Council on the item of removal of angle parking in Meninya Street and right hand turn at Echuca street, Moama.

At 1:17 pm, Cr Gen Campbell left the meeting.

At 1:19 pm, Cr Gen Campbell returned to the meeting.

**BRING FORWARD ITEM 9.4.1 REVIEW OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DA 10.2024.154.1 - 72 MENINYA STREET MOAMA****RESOLUTION 030125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise  
Seconded: Cr Gary Pappin

That the Council brings forward Item 9.4.1 Review of Developer Contributions for DA 10.2024.154.1 – 72 Meninya Street Moama following the deputation made by Mr Sean Slattery.

**CARRIED**

At 1:26 pm, Cr Gen Campbell left the meeting.

**BRING FORWARD ITEM 10.4 NOTICE OF MOTION - MENINYA STREET MOAMA DECISION ON PARKING****RESOLUTION 040125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise  
Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That the Council brings forward Item 10.4 Notice of Motion - Meninya Street Moama decision on parking following the deputation made by Mr David Wegener.

**CARRIED**

At 1:45 pm, Cr Gen Campbell returned to the meeting.

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**7 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)****7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY AGISTMENT****RESOLUTION 050125**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council delegate authority to the Acting Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and sign any documents which might be necessary to give effect to a short term licence agreement with Elders Echuca for the vacant land at Mathoura Line Road, Moama (Lot 3, DP813704) , for a maximum period of six (6) months (unless ended earlier at Council's option) and for the sole purpose of providing temporary agistment for livestock from fire affected properties in the Grampians region of Victoria, at a cost of \$1 and on such other terms as the Acting Chief Executive Officer considers appropriate. Council takes up with Elders that they do not make any profit from the agistment cattle on the property. Elders make note that Council do not have a PIC number and Elders would have to make allowances for that case.

**CARRIED**

At 1:56 pm, Cr Dennis Gleeson left the meeting.

At 1:59 pm, Cr Dennis Gleeson returned to the meeting.

**7.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - CAMPAIGN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO RECIEVE INCREASED FUNDING TO A MINIMUM OF 1% OF COMMONWEALTH TAXATION REVENUE****RESOLUTION 060125**

Moved: Cr John Harvie

That Council authorise the Mayor and CEO to collaborate with regional councils to advocate for increased local government funding, including a minimum allocation of 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

**CARRIED****8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Nil

**9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL****9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.1.1 UPDATE - PLANNING PROPOSAL PP-2024-1477 RECLASSIFICATION OF 22 SITES IN BARHAM AND MOAMA FROM 'COMMUNITY' TO 'OPERATIONAL' LAND - DRAINAGE RESERVES.****RESOLUTION 070125**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

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Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council:

- a) notes the submission to the Public Hearing and the submission to the Public Exhibition and the commentary provided by the Independent Chair of the Public Hearing in response;
- b) proceeds with the Planning Proposal to reclassify 21 sites from 'Community' to 'Operational land, excluding one site (Lot 33 DP 1259774) from the original Planning Proposal; and
- c) resolves that the lots to be reclassified as Operational Land in this Planning Proposal must not be sold at any future stage unless their purpose or use is first amended.

**CARRIED**

In Favour: Crs John Harvie, Neil Gorey, Joy Allan, Kylie Berryman, Dennis Gleeson, Bianca Hurn and Geoff Wise

Against: Crs Gen Campbell and Gary Pappin

**CARRIED 7/2**

### 9.1.2 MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT

#### RESOLUTION 080125

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell

Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That the Monthly Operational Report as of December 2024 (covering the months of November & December) be received and the information noted by the Council.

**CARRIED**

### 9.1.3 SUBMISSIONS TO ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 24 - 27 JUNE 2025

#### RESOLUTION 090125

Moved: Cr Gary Pappin

Seconded: Cr Gen Campbell

That Council consider motions for submission to the National General Assembly (NGA) of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) conference being held in Canberra from 24 – 27 June 2025.

**CARRIED**

### 9.1.4 ATTENDANCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 24 - 27 JUNE 2025

#### RESOLUTION 100125

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Gary Pappin

That Council

1. Put forward names of delegates to attend the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly being held in Canberra 24 – 27 June 2025.

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2. Agree that the Mayor and CEO are two (2) of the nominated delegates attending the NGA and agree on the number of delegates attending, take into consideration the cost of travel, accommodation and attendance to the assembly.

**CARRIED**

Attendees:

Crs Campbell, Allen, Pappin, Gorey, Berryman, Hurn, Gleeson (TBC)

**BRING FORWARD ITEM 10.3 NOM THAT RESOLUTION 050624 IS REVISTED AT THE 28 JANUARY 2025 COUNCIL MEETING FOR DEBATE WITH THE VIEW TO RESCIND.**

**RESOLUTION 110125**

Moved: Cr Gary Pappin

Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That the Council brings forward Item 10.3 NoM That resolution 050624 is revisited at the 28 January 2025 council meeting for debate with the view to rescind.

**CARRIED**

**9.1.5 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - THAT RESOLUTION 050624 IS REVISITED AT THE 28 JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING FOR DEBATE WITH THE VIEW TO RESCIND**

**RESOLUTION 120125**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That the Officer's report on Response to Notice of Motion - That Resolution 050624 is revisited at the 28 January Council Meeting for debate with the view to rescind be received and the information noted by the Council.

**CARRIED**

**9.1.6 JOINT ADVOCACY FOR SOUTH WEST RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE (SW REZ)**

**RESOLUTION 130125**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council authorise the Mayor and CEO to write to councils within the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW REZ), seeking support for a joint advocacy initiative to promote regulatory flexibility in boundary definitions, ensuring equitable outcomes for communities impacted by renewable energy development.

**CARRIED**

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**9.1.7 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - RESOLUTION TRACKER & INFOCOUNCIL ACTION REPORTS****RESOLUTION 140125**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That the Council resolve to receive and note the status of previous resolutions of Council (in open and closed Council) contained in the Monthly Operation Report including the Resolution Tracker Reports.

**CARRIED****9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.2.1 DRAFT GRAFFITI POLICY - REVIEW****RESOLUTION 150125**

Moved: Cr Bianca Hurn

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That

1. The DRAFT Graffiti Policy V#2 be adopted and the Policy Register updated; and
2. The previous version of this Policy be rescinded.

**CARRIED****9.2.2 DRAFT WITHDRAWAL OF DEVELOPMENT & OTHER APPLICATIONS (REFUND OF FEES) POLICY - REVIEW****RESOLUTION 160125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Bianca Hurn

That

1. The DRAFT Withdrawal of Development & Other Applications (Refund of Fees) Policy V#2 be adopted and the Policy Register updated; and
2. The previous version of this Policy be rescinded.

**CARRIED**

At 3:26 pm, Cr Kylie Berryman left the meeting.

**9.2.3 DRAFT PLAQUES & MEMORIALS POLICY - REVIEW****RESOLUTION 170125**

Moved: Cr Bianca Hurn

Seconded: Cr Gary Pappin

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1. The DRAFT Plaques & Memorials Policy V#2 be adopted and the Policy Register updated; and
2. The previous version of this Policy be rescinded.

**CARRIED****9.2.4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS****RESOLUTION 180125**

Moved: Cr Gary Pappin  
Seconded: Cr Gen Campbell

That Council notes the Disclosure of Interest Returns by the newly elected Councillors have been tabled.

**CARRIED**

At 3:27 pm, Cr Kylie Berryman returned to the meeting.

**9.2.5 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY DRESS CODE POLICY - RESCIND****RESOLUTION 190125**

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell  
Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That the Citizenship Ceremony Dress Code Policy be rescinded.

**CARRIED****9.2.6 FINANCIAL REPORT - UNAUDITED FY 24/25 PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024****RESOLUTION 200125**

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell  
Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That Murray River Council (Council) Resolve to receive the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period to 31 December 2024 (FY2024/25) and noting that reporting of monthly financial statements is not a regulatory requirement but nonetheless is being provided in furtherance of finance transparency and in keeping with financial reporting best practice.

**CARRIED****9.3 DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.3.1 AWARD OF CONTRACT MRC 2438 - COUNCIL STRUCTURAL (BRIDGE) ASSESSMENTS****RECOMMENDATION**

That the Officer's report on Award of Contract MRC 2438 - Council Structural (Bridge) Assessments as at 28 January 2025 be received and the information noted by the Council.

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**Report has been withdrawn**

At 3:33 pm, Cr Dennis Gleeson left the meeting.

At 3:33 pm, Cr Gary Pappin left the meeting.

At 3:34 pm, Cr Bianca Hurn left the meeting.

At 3:36 pm, Cr Dennis Gleeson returned to the meeting.

At 3:36 pm, Cr Gary Pappin returned to the meeting.

At 3:37 pm, Cr Bianca Hurn returned to the meeting.

**9.3.2 MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE****RESOLUTION 210125**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council note the DRAFT minutes of the Murray River Council Local Traffic Committee meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2024.

**CARRIED****9.3.3 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - MENINYA STREET MOAMA DECISION ON PARKING****RESOLUTION 220125**

Moved: Cr Neil Gorey

Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That Council note and receive the Officer's response to the "Notice of Motion – Meninya Street Moama Decision on Parking".

That Councillors, acknowledge the advice provided in relation to car parking on Meninya Street, specifically the increased safety risks of angled car parking as stated in AS2890.5.

That Councillors acknowledge and accept the risks associated with the inclusion or retainment of angled car parking in Meninya Street.

**CARRIED****9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.4.1 REVIEW OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DA 10.2024.154.1 - 72 MENINYA STREET MOAMA****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council apply the total *Section 7.11 Development Contributions and Section 64 Water and Sewer Headworks Charges for Development Application (DA) 10.2024.154.1 (modification to be known as DA 10.2024.154.2)* of \$40,909.14.

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Note: This report and decision by Council is for the review of developer contributions only. The modifications to the DA for the plans have been determined by Council staff as acceptable under Delegated Authority.

**MOTION WAS LOST****RESOLUTION 230125**

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

Move Item # 4 stated in the body of the report to waive the total Contribution fees being \$40,909.14 as calculated under Council adopted Policy resulting in no fees payable to Council.

That Councils adopted policy be reviewed as a matter of urgency and in particular the contribution fees relating to extensions of existing buildings.

**CARRIED**

In Favour: Crs John Harvie, Neil Gorey, Joy Allan, Kylie Berryman, Gen Campbell, Dennis Gleeson, Bianca Hurn, Gary Pappin and Geoff Wise

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 9/0****9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS****9.5.1 EMPLOYMENT LANDS STRATEGY - FINAL ADOPTION****RESOLUTION 240125**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council adopt the Murray River Council Employment Lands Strategy.

**CARRIED****9.5.2 MOAMA PRESCHOOL - REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN RENT****RESOLUTION 250125**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman

Seconded: Cr Bianca Hurn

That Council:

1. agrees to proceed with the necessary steps to provide financial assistance to Moama and District Preschool ('the Preschool'), including public display and consultation.
2. in accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council will provide 28 days' public notice of a proposal to pass a resolution to grant financial assistance to the Preschool.
3. subject to the completion of the public notice period and consideration of any submissions received, Council resolves to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, up to a maximum of **\$14,925.05** including GST. This decision is

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made in good faith and does not alter or cancel any other terms of the lease or contribution agreement between the parties.

4. delegate authority to the Acting CEO to enter into a deed of variation to the existing lease to remove the \$5,000 crown land rental component incurred by the Moama Preschool.

**CARRIED****9.5.3 SOUTHERN RIVERINA REGIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN - PROJECT UPDATE****RESOLUTION 260125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That Council note the progress of the Southern Riverina Regional Drought Resilience Plan project.

**CARRIED****9.5.4 ONE BASIN CRC MEMBERSHIP****RESOLUTION 270125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Gary Pappin

That Council resolve to:

1. Provide 12 months' notice to withdraw from the One Basin Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) project, in accordance with the terms of the ten-year agreement.
2. Redirect the \$10,000 annual membership fee currently allocated to the One Basin CRC to the Western Murray Land Improvement Group (WMLIG) to support their continued involvement and activities within the One Basin CRC.
3. Adjust the Economic Development budget to reflect the reallocation of the \$10,000 annual membership fee to WMLIG.
4. Monitor and evaluate WMLIG's projects regularly to ensure they align with Council's objectives and deliver the expected benefits to the community.
5. Leverage WMLIG's active involvement in the One Basin CRC to maintain a level of regional influence in the research activities.

**CARRIED****9.5.5 ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE****RESOLUTION 280125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Gen Campbell

That Council:

- 1) nominate a Councillor to represent Council on the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (AIAC), and

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- 2) the nominated Councillor attends the bi-monthly meetings, including the first committee meeting, scheduled for Monday, 10 February 2025, at 2:00pm in the Moama Council Chambers.
- 3) note that the nominated Councillor's appointment will be reconsidered as part of the annual review and delegation of Councillors to committees, held each September.

**CARRIED**

Cr Berryman is happy to be the nominated delegate at the request to change the meeting time to 1pm due to external requirements.

**9.6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT****9.6.1 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT****RESOLUTION 290125**

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell

Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That the Correspondence Report be received and the information noted by the Council.

**CARRIED****9.7 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT****9.7.1 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT****RESOLUTION 300125**

Moved: Cr Bianca Hurn

Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That the Sundry Delegates Report of the Mayor and Councillors for the period 1 December 2024 through to 31 December 2024 be received and the information noted by the Council; and reasonable out of pocket expenses be met by Council.

**CARRIED**

An incorrect item was added to Deputy Mayor, Cr Neil Gorey. He stated he did not attend the Moama Preschool AGM on 11 Dec.

Cr Geoff Wise was not listed in the report, however he did not supply a report to Council on the meetings and functions he attended.

**10 NOTICE OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE****10.1 NOTICE OF RESCISSION - RESOLUTION 091024 FROM 8 OCTOBER EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL BE RESCINDED AND A NEW MOTION CARRIED****RESOLUTION 310125**

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Moved: Cr Gary Pappin  
 Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That

1. The resolution 091024 titled Setting the Dates, Times and Places for the Ordinary Council meetings including November 2024 through to September 2025 that was passed at the meeting of 8 October 2024 be rescinded.
2. That the new motion be;
  - (a) That Council meetings be held at 1pm on the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month commencing at 1pm at the Moama Administration Office, Council Chambers. The pre-briefing should commence as needed at 9:30am or 10am.
  - (b) That Councillor workshops be held at Moulamein, Barham, Wakool & Mathoura on one occasion annually up until September 2025 and an invitation be extended to community members to meet with Councillors at a suitable time on those days.

**CARRIED**

## 10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - TO DE-AMALGAMATE MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL AND RE-ESTABLISH THE FORMER TWO COUNCILS

### MOTION

Moved: Cr Gary Pappin  
 Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council initiate the process to de-amalgamate the Murray River Council under Section 218CC of the Local Government Act and re-establish the former Wakool Shire Council and Murray Shire Council.

To inform this decision, Council will:

1. Prepare an in-house business case outlining the financial, operational, and broader implications of de-amalgamation.
2. Consider conducting a poll of all voters in the area with the question:  
*"Do you support the de-amalgamation of Murray River Council to re-establish Wakool Shire Council and Murray Shire Council?"*

In Favour: Crs Kylie Berryman, Gen Campbell and Gary Pappin

Against: Crs John Harvie, Neil Gorey, Joy Allan, Dennis Gleeson, Bianca Hurn and Geoff Wise

**LOST 3/6**

## 10.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - THAT RESOLUTION 050624 IS REVISITED AT THE 28 JANUARY 2025 COUNCIL MEETING FOR DEBATE WITH THE VIEW TO RESCIND

### RESOLUTION 320125

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell  
 Seconded: Cr Gary Pappin

That Council revisit the resolution 050624 "That Murray River Council (MRC) resolve to instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to commence administrative arrangements from February 2025

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to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rates Variation" for the purposes of debate and a view to rescind.

That staff are to take no further action in relation to pursuing a Special Rate Variation.

**CARRIED**

In Favour: Crs John Harvie, Joy Allan, Kylie Berryman, Gen Campbell, Bianca Hurn, Gary Pappin and Geoff Wise

Against: Crs Neil Gorey and Dennis Gleeson

**CARRIED 7/2****10.4 NOTICE OF MOTION - MENINYA STREET MOAMA DECISION ON PARKING****RESOLUTION 330125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That Council:

1. Retain the current angle parking at the three existing sites on Meninya Street to preserve their integrity.
2. Direct Council staff to obtain an updated streetscape plan that incorporates and retains all existing angle parking spaces.

**CARRIED****11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS****RESOLUTION 340125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Dennis Gleeson

That Council moves out of Open Council into Closed Council at 4:45pm.

**CARRIED**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

**11.1 Recommendation to Endorse Project Option - Barham River Estate Levee**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**11.2 Award of Tender for supply of spray sealing and associated services**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

**11.3 Moama WTP Land Purchase**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**RESOLUTION 350125**

Moved: Cr Bianca Hurn

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 5:10pm.

**CARRIED****RESOLUTION 400125**

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council brings forward the resolutions from Closed Council into Open Council and these be read aloud.

**CARRIED**

At 4:46 pm, Cr Gen Campbell left the meeting.

**BRING FORWARD ITEM 11.2 AWARD OF TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF SPRAY SEALING AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES****RESOLUTION 360125**

Moved: Cr Dennis Gleeson

Seconded: Cr Bianca Hurn

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## MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

28 January 2025

That the Council brings forward Item 11.2 - Award of Tender for supply of spray sealing and associated services

**CARRIED****11.2 AWARD OF TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF SPRAY SEALING AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES****RESOLUTION 370125**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Rich River Asphalt Pty Ltd for the provision of road sealing works and asphalt surfacing at various locations across Murray River Council at a total cost of \$2,313,657.28 (inc. GST) for the 2024/25 program.
2. Authorises the Acting CEO to execute the contract and any associated documentation. Authorises the Acting CEO to approve a PO for the Contract value.
3. Delagate authority to the Acting CEO to approve variations to the contract provided such variations are within the allocated project budget

**CARRIED**

At 4:55 pm, Cr Dennis Gleeson left the meeting.

At 4:56 pm, Cr Gen Campbell returned to the meeting.

**11.1 RECOMMENDATION TO ENDORSE PROJECT OPTION - BARHAM RIVER ESTATE LEVEE****MOTION**

Moved: Cr Kylie Berryman

Seconded: Cr Geoff Wise

That Council:

1. Receive the information contained in this report regarding the Barham River Estate Levee Upgrade Project; and
2. Endorse Option B to complete the project in a staged approach, with Stage 1 to be completed within the existing approved budget.
3. Approves submission of a grant funding application to seek funding for the remaining works with a 6:1 funding ratio, noting that this will require additional Council funding of \$225,000 in a future financial year.

**MOTION WAS LOST****RESOLUTION 380125**

Moved: Cr Gen Campbell

Seconded: Cr Joy Allan

**FORESHADOWED MOTION**

That Council defer the motion until the next Council meeting (25 February 2025) to engage with Legal Counsel for further options to recoup costs.

**MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes****28 January 2025****CARRIED**

At 4:59 pm, Cr Bianca Hurn left the meeting.

At 4:59 pm, Cr Gary Pappin left the meeting.

At 5:00 pm, Cr Gary Pappin returned to the meeting.

At 5:01 pm, Cr Bianca Hurn returned to the meeting.

At 5:02 pm, Cr Gary Pappin left the meeting.

At 5:05 pm, Cr Dennis Gleeson returned to the meeting.

**11.3 MOAMA WTP LAND PURCHASE****RESOLUTION 390125**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Kylie Berryman

That Council resolve to amend the previous purchase price of resolution 431024 to the value listed in the report and delegate authority to the Acting CEO or her delegate to negotiate.

**CARRIED****12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:13pm.**

**The next Ordinary Meeting of Murray River Council will be held on Tuesday 25 February 2025, commencing at 1:00 PM, in Council Chambers, Moama Administration Office, 52 Perricoota Road, Moama.**

**THESE MINUTES ARE SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2025, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON 25 FEBRUARY 2025.**

.....  
**MAYOR**

.....  
**CEO**

**5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

**6 DEPUTATIONS**

**7 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)****7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON RAMJO SUB-COMMITTEES****File Number:** -**Author:** John Harvie, Mayor**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Consider appointing representatives to each of the RAMJO sub-committees and working groups identified in this Mayoral Minute.
2. Council inform the RAMJO executive of its nominees.

**INTRODUCTION**

Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) has recently provided a list of current formal and informal sub-committees as well as details of sub-committees currently in hiatus.

From reading the document it is apparent that current Murray River representation requires updating.

The document is attached to this report, and I ask all councillors to review it and consider if they would like to represent council on one or more or any of the following committees.

**Formal sub-committees**

- Digital Connectivity
- Energy Security and Affordability
- Housing
- Transport
- Water

**Informal working groups**

- Digital Working Group
- Local Water Utilities
- Shared Services
- Cyber Security and It Work Group
- Engineering

**Sub-committees in hiatus**

- Health
- Industry Workforce and Jobs

**Conclusion**

Councillors should consider nominating to represent council on sub-committees in which they have a particular expertise or interest.

Council staff will also be considered to represent council on sub-committees where it pertains to their area of interest or expertise.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **RAMJO Sub-committees and Working Groups** [!\[\]\(feb3ba362cbead28144bd29701a8048b\_img.jpg\)](#) 

**SUMMARY**

The below outlined sub-committee's and working groups are currently in place and meeting at varying intervals. RAMJO's currently established sub-committees, working on advancing RAMJO's 11 Strategic Priorities are:

**COLOUR KEY**

*Formal sub-committee's - Operating and meeting regularly*

*Sub-committees In hiautus - minimal resourcing*

*Infromal Working groups - Operating and meeting regularly*

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY SUB-COMMITTEES**

Water Security  
Energy Security and Affordability  
Transport  
Digital Connectivity  
Health Services  
Industry/Workforce/Jobs Growth  
Housing

RAMJO's currently established working groups, working on advancing projects and other focus areas are:

**WORKING GROUPS - CONTROL GROUPS - FOCUS AREAS**

Shared Services working group  
Local Water Utilities working group  
IT and Cyber Security working group  
Digital Connectivity Advocacy and Stakeholder engagement working group

Feedback is sought from member councils as to the current state of each sub-committee and working group, to ascertain and plan how RAMJO staff can better assist sub-committee and working group chairs and members in:

- Organising and running regular meetings;
- Assist with implementing action items, research tasks, seeking funds, etc; and
- Maintaining sub-committee and working group momentum.

## Digital Connectivity

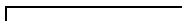
Name	Council	Email	Position	Column1
Mark Dalzell	Edward River	<a href="mailto:mark.dalzell@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">mark.dalzell@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	Manager Information Management	
Gerard Simms	Leeton	<a href="mailto:gerards@leeton.nsw.gov.au">gerards@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	Manager IT	
Michelle Evans	Leeton	<a href="mailto:michellee@leeton.nsw.gov.au">michellee@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	Director, Economic & Community Development	
Karina Ewer	Berrigan	<a href="mailto:karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au">karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au</a>	Chair - Berrigan CEO	
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer	

Terms of Reference from 2019

Meets quarterly

The Sub-committee also participates in the recently established Digital Connectivity Working Group, comprising a number of state MP's, cross border commissioners, Senior managers from Telstra, NBN, Essential Energy, etc

Latest updated Jan 2025 based on December meeting



## Energy security and affordability

Name	Council	Email	Position
Amber Rodd	Albury City	<a href="mailto:Amber.Rodd@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">Amber.Rodd@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	Energy and Sustainability Officer
Anthony Dufty	Albury City Council	<a href="mailto:anthony.dufty@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">anthony.dufty@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	Team Leader - Environment
Steven Millett	Albury City	<a href="mailto:Steven.Millett@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">Steven.Millett@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	Service Leader Assets Sustainability and Environment
Gary George	Berrigan	<a href="mailto:gary.george@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au">gary.george@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au</a>	Director infrastructure
Jason Nicholson	Carrathool Shire Council	<a href="mailto:jnicholson@carrathool.nsw.gov.au">jnicholson@carrathool.nsw.gov.au</a>	
Mark Dalzell	Edward River Council	<a href="mailto:mark.dalzell@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">mark.dalzell@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	Director infrastructure and assets
Jaymie Coleman	Edward River Council	<a href="mailto:jaymie.coleman@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">jaymie.coleman@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	
Angela Reidy	Federation	<a href="mailto:angela.reidy@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au">angela.reidy@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au</a>	Manager Environment, Facilities & Regulation
Bernie Maxwell	Griffith City Council	<a href="mailto:bernie.maxwell@griffith.nsw.gov.au">bernie.maxwell@griffith.nsw.gov.au</a>	Procurement Officer
Steve Croxon	Griffith City Council	<a href="mailto:Steve.Croxon@griffith.nsw.gov.au">Steve.Croxon@griffith.nsw.gov.au</a>	Fleet Manager
David Webb	Hay Shire Council	<a href="mailto:DWebb@hay.nsw.gov.au">DWebb@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager
Alison McLean	Hay Shire Council	<a href="mailto:amclean@hay.nsw.gov.au">amclean@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Manager - Economic Development and Tourism
Jack Terblanche	Hay	<a href="mailto:jterblanche@hay.nsw.gov.au">jterblanche@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	Director Infrastructure & Planning
Luke Tedesco	Leeton Shire Council	<a href="mailto:luket@leeton.nsw.gov.au">luket@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	Manager - Environmental Sustainability
Stephanie Punteoriero	Leeton Shire Council	<a href="mailto:Stephaniep@leeton.nsw.gov.au">Stephaniep@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	Projects Officer
Amanda Hetti	Leeton Shire Council	<a href="mailto:amandah@leeton.nsw.gov.au">amandah@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	Projects Coordinator
Tom Steele	Leeton	<a href="mailto:toms@leeton.nsw.gov.au">toms@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	Group Manager Operations
John Scarce	Murrumbidgee	<a href="mailto:johns@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">johns@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager
Kaitlin Salze	Murrumbidgee Council	<a href="mailto:kaitlins@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">kaitlins@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	Chief Financial Officer
Kellie Dissegna	Murrumbidgee council	<a href="mailto:kellied@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">kellied@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	
Stephen Fernando	Murray River Council	<a href="mailto:stephenf@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au">stephenf@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	
George Cowan	Narrandera	<a href="mailto:george.cowan@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">george.cowan@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager - Chair
Ian Draper (may change)	Narrandera	<a href="mailto:Ian.Draper@Narrandera.nsw.gov.au">Ian.Draper@Narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>	Engineer
Fred Hammer	Narrandera Shire Council	<a href="mailto:fred.hammer@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">fred.hammer@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>	Manager Projects and Assets
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer
Shumona Roy	RAMJO Project Manager	<a href="mailto:shumona.roy@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">shumona.roy@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	JONZA - Net Zero Project Manager
Lisa Miller	Sustainable Councils - DCCEW	<a href="mailto:Lisa.Miller@environment.nsw.gov.au">Lisa.Miller@environment.nsw.gov.au</a>	Senior Projects Officer -

Meeting regularly, currently focusing on implementing the Regional Energy Strategy and Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) project

Terms of Reference reviewed by the committee in 2021

Updated January 2025

## Housing

Name	Council	Email	Position
Frank Zaknich	Albury	<a href="mailto:frank.zaknich@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">frank.zaknich@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	CEO
Gary Arnold	Edward River	<a href="mailto:gary.arnold@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">gary.arnold@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	CEO
Brett Stonestreet - Chair	Griffith	<a href="mailto:brett.stonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au">brett.stonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM
David Webb	Hay	<a href="mailto:dwebb@hay.nsw.gov.au">dwebb@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM
Jackie Kruger	Leeton	<a href="mailto:jackiek@leeton.nsw.gov.au">jackiek@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer

*1st meeting held for 12 April 2023*

*Chair elected at February 2023 board meeting*

*Terms of reference adopted April 2023*

*Group meets quarterly*

*Committee compiling data/info for development of a Regional Housing Strategy*

*Updated Jan 2025*

## Transport

Name	Council	Email	Position	Column1
Brad Ferris	Albury		Deputy CEO IPE	
Gary Arnold	Edward River	<a href="mailto:gary.arnold@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">gary.arnold@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	CEO	
Cr. Doug Curran	Griffith		Mayor	
Brett Stonestreet	Griffith	<a href="mailto:brett.stonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au">brett.stonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM	
David Webb - Chair	Hay	<a href="mailto:dwebb@hay.nsw.gov.au">dwebb@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM	
Chris Lashbrook	Leeton		Manager for Roads / Drainage	
Tom Steele	Leeton		Director Operations	
	Leeton		Mayor	
Jack Bond	Murray River		Director Infrastructure	
	Murray River		GM	Terry Dodds
George Cowan	Narrandera Shire	<a href="mailto:george.cowan@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">george.cowan@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM	
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer	

This group meets quarterly

Chaired by David Webb at Hay

Is very efficient, runs well

ER were looking to include some transport hub/marina related projects in the RAMJO Regional Freight Transport Plan – there is an opportunity to include these when the plan is next updated, in a years time there abouts

## Water

Name	Council	Email	Position	Column1
Cr Julia Cornwell McKean	Berrigan	<a href="mailto:juliacornwellmckean@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au">juliacornwellmckean@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au</a>	Mayor	
Karina Ewer	Berrigan	<a href="mailto:karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au">karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au</a>	CEO	
Adrian Butler	Federation	<a href="mailto:adrian@federation.nsw.gov.au">adrian@federation.nsw.gov.au</a>		
Jackie Kruger	Leeton	<a href="mailto:jackiek@leeton.nsw.gov.au">jackiek@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager	
George Weston	Leeton Shire	<a href="mailto:georgew@leeton.nsw.gov.au">georgew@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	Mayor	
Cr Ruth McRae	Murrumbidgee	<a href="mailto:ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	Mayor	
John Scarce	Murrumbidgee	<a href="mailto:johns@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">johns@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager	
Cr Neville Krschenka	Narrandera	<a href="mailto:cr.kschenka@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">cr.kschenka@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>	Mayor	
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer	

- Currently Reviewing and updating the regional water position paper
- Terms of Reference from 2019

## Health

Name	Council	Email	Position
Gary Arnold	Edward River	<a href="mailto:gary.arnold@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">gary.arnold@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	CEO
David Webb	Hay	<a href="mailto:dwebb@hay.nsw.gov.au">dwebb@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager
Cr Carol Oataway	Hay	<a href="mailto:cr.oataway@hay.nsw.gov.au">cr.oataway@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	Mayor
	Leeton		Mayor
Jackie Kruger	Leeton	<a href="mailto:jackiek@leeton.nsw.gov.au">jackiek@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager
John Scarce - Chair	Murrumbidgee	<a href="mailto:johns@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">johns@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager
Cr Ruth McRae	Murrumbidgee	<a href="mailto:ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	Mayor
Cr Neville Kschenka	Narrandera	<a href="mailto:cr.kschenka@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">cr.kschenka@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>	Mayor
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer

Has not met since mid-2023

Limited resources means this has fallen off the radar

Still very much of interest, but the current structure of how we address the statement of strategic priorities makes it difficult to focus

Hoping to re-structure the SSRP's after the elections so can still address Health and its surrounding issues (Housing, workforce) as part of a bigger focus (less siloed approach)

Not updated Jan 2025

## INDUSTRY, WORKFORCE AND JOBS

REPRESENTATIVE	COUNCIL

- **Currently on hiatus - Referred to the Economic Development Officers group**
- Membership list 2021 – n/a
- Terms of Reference from 2019

## Digital Connectivity Political Advocacy &amp; Stakeholder Working Group (to be updated)

Name	Council/Org	Email	Position	Column1
Helen Dalton	Member for Murray			
Justin Clancy	Member for Albury			
Andrew Cottrill	NBN Co			
Jenny Gray	Telstra			
Yvonne Lingua	RAMIO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer	

Requires updating

## Local Water Utilities (To be updated)

Name	Council	Email	Position	Column1
Mark Dalzell	Edward River	<a href="mailto:mark.dalzell@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">mark.dalzell@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>		
David Webb	Hay	<a href="mailto:DWebb@hay.nsw.gov.au">DWebb@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	General Manager	
Jack Bond	Edward River	<a href="mailto:jack.bond@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">jack.bond@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	Incoming CEO	
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer	

Requires updating

**Shared Services Project Working Group**

Name	Council	Email	Position
Tracey Squire	Albury City	<a href="mailto:Tracey.Squire@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">Tracey.Squire@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	Deputy CEO
Karina Ewer - Chair	Berrigan Shire	<a href="mailto:karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au">karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au</a>	CEO
Gary Arnold	Edward River	<a href="mailto:gary.arnold@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">gary.arnold@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM
Adrian Butler	Federation	<a href="mailto:adrian.butler@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au">adrian.butler@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM
Brett Stonestreet	Griffith	<a href="mailto:brett.stonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au">brett.stonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM
David Webb	Hay	<a href="mailto:dwebb@hay.nsw.gov.au">dwebb@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM
John Scarce	Murrumbidgee	<a href="mailto:johns@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">johns@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	GM
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer

Met for the first time 21st January 2022

Terms of Reference adopted at November 2021 Board meeting

Focus on sharing services and pursuing joint procurement activities between the councils

A Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement project is in the works, with a project manager employed in January 2025

Last meeting August 2024 - reviewed Jan 2025

## Cyber Security and IT Working Group

Name	Council	Email	Position
Stuart Ross	Albury	<a href="mailto:Stuart.Ross@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">Stuart.Ross@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	Team Leader IT
Harin Perera	Berrigan	<a href="mailto:harin.perera@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au">harin.perera@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au</a>	
Jock Perrett	Edward River	<a href="mailto:jock.perrett@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">jock.perrett@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	IT Manager
Matthew Begg	Edward River	<a href="mailto:matthew.begg@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au">matthew.begg@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	ICT Coordinator
Kristie Richey	Federation	<a href="mailto:kristie.richey@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au">kristie.richey@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au</a>	Manager IT and Customer Service
Simon Allen	Federation	<a href="mailto:simon.allen@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au">simon.allen@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au</a>	IT & Security Administrator
Mike Gaze	Griffith	<a href="mailto:Mike.Gaze@griffith.nsw.gov.au">Mike.Gaze@griffith.nsw.gov.au</a>	IT Manager
Gerard Simms	Leeton	<a href="mailto:gerards@leeton.nsw.gov.au">gerards@leeton.nsw.gov.au</a>	Manager IT
Michael Thompson	Murray River	<a href="mailto:mthompson@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au">mthompson@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au</a>	
Kaitlin Salze	Murrumbidgee	<a href="mailto:kaitlins@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">kaitlins@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>	Director of Corporate Services
Nick Price	Narrandera	<a href="mailto:nick.price@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">nick.price@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>	Information Technology Manager
Col Thompson	Veritech	<a href="mailto:col@veritechcorp.com.au">col@veritechcorp.com.au</a>	Senior Consultant
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO	<a href="mailto:yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">yvonne.lingua@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>	Executive Officer
Adrian Lobbe	Hay Shire	<a href="mailto:ALobbe@hay.nsw.gov.au">ALobbe@hay.nsw.gov.au</a>	

possibly removed

Last updated Jan 2025 based on December meeting membership

## Engineering

Name	Council	Email	Position	Column1
Andrew Lawson	AlburyCity	<a href="mailto:ALawson@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">ALawson@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>		
Bridgett Leopold	AlburyCity	<a href="mailto:bridgett.leopold@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">bridgett.leopold@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	Deputy CEO	
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Theo Panagopoulos	Federation	<a href="mailto:theo.panagopoulos@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au">theo.panagopoulos@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au</a>		1
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Ricki Thompson	Murray River	<a href="mailto:rthompson1@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au">rthompson1@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au</a>		1
Justin W	Murrumbidgee	<a href="mailto:justinw@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au">justinw@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au</a>		1
Matt Voge	Narrandera	<a href="mailto:matt.vogele@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">matt.vogele@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>		1
Shane Wilson	Narrandera	<a href="mailto:shane.wilson@narrandera.nsw.gov.au">shane.wilson@narrandera.nsw.gov.au</a>		
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Updated Jan 2025

Last meeting June 2024

**8        REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Nil

## 9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

### 9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

#### 9.1.1 ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-35

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Zoe Croft, Manager Community Engagement

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Officer's report on Adoption of Community Strategic Plan 2025-35 be received and the information noted by the Council.

#### DISCUSSION

Council's 2025-35 Community Strategic Plan has been on public exhibition for the required 28-day exhibition period and during this time received 16 submissions.

The submissions received were primarily project or program-of-works focused, or suggestions that highlighted future advocacy opportunities. Therefore, the suggestions will be further investigated or undertaken within the Four-Year Delivery Program.

Reference to a potential SRV has been removed from the CSP as per Resolution 320125.

Some minor amendments were made within the strategic objectives to allow for better alignment with the projects and programs of works being suggested within the Delivery Program.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Strategic Plan 2025 - at 18 February v2 (under separate cover) 

**9.1.2 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - RESOLUTION TRACKER & INFOCOUNCIL ACTION REPORTS**

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council resolve to receive and note the status of previous resolutions of Council (in open and closed Council) contained in the Monthly Operation Report including the Resolution Tracker Reports.

**BACKGROUND**

All resolutions of Council in Open and Closed council, including completed actions within the previous 6 weeks, are attached to this report.

Resolutions of the Council that require action/s after each Council Meeting are automatically generated in InfoCouncil to the relevant Council officer for their action and comment.

**DISCUSSION**

The **Resolution Tracker Open Report** and the **Resolution Tracker Closed Action Report** contain 'active' resolutions respectively from open and closed meetings of the Council held since November 2018 that require action by Council's officers. The **Resolution Tracker Completed Actions Report** shows all actions that have been completed in the previous 6 weeks.

Resolutions that are reported by Council's officers as complete will drop off the 'active' list.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

2. Strategic Theme 2: A Place of Progressive Leadership

2.6 - Provide clear, concise and consistent information that is easily accessible to our customers - Improve externally provided information and communication.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**

Council's officers do not action the resolutions of the Council.

- **How can it happen?**

Resolutions from Council Meetings not being recorded in a systematic fashion.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

Actions, because of the resolutions of the Council, not being completed in a timely manner or at all.

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Low.

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Use of the report and minute system, InfoCouncil, which automatically forwards actions (as a result of the resolutions of the Council) from Council Meetings to the relevant Council officer (report writer) after the completion of the minutes of a Council Meeting. A report can then be generated on the status of incomplete/outstanding actions.



- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Due diligence undertaken by Council's officers (administration and report writers).

## **CONCLUSION**

The Resolution Tracker and Action Reports are presented to Councillors for information in this report.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Completed actions report 1 Jan - 17 Jan 2025 (under separate cover)** 
2. **Open Actions report 17 Feb 2025 (under separate cover)** 

**9.1.3 MOAMA LIONS COMMUNITY VILLAGE COMMITTEE - REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council delegate authority to the Moama Lions Community Village Committee of Management (the Committee) to initiate steps towards the construction of new independent living units at 10 & 12 Council Street Moama, subject to the Committee demonstrating to the satisfaction of the CEO their ability to fund ongoing future capital maintenance to avoid unexpected financial pressures on Council.

**BACKGROUND**

The Moama Lions Community Village Committee is a Section 355 Committee of Council responsible for managing and expanding affordable seniors' housing in the Moama area.

Council previously acquired and rezoned the land specifically for the development of additional independent living units.

No loan is required to fund the project, as the Committee has significant funds available to proceed with the construction.

In September 2023, Council resolved to accommodate the Committee's request to return loan monies that had been initially advanced for the construction of new housing units.

The project was deemed unviable at that time due to cost escalations, but the Committee now seeks to proceed with the development with the support of Council.

**DISCUSSION**

The Moama Lions Community Village Committee now requests that delegate authority to the Committee to initiate and manage the construction of the new units.

Allow the Committee to undertake procurement, appoint contractors, and manage the project, while ensuring compliance with Council's financial and governance frameworks.

Confirm Council's continued support for the project and its alignment with the Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

**Council should also consider its obligations for Long-Term Asset Maintenance Costs:**

The CTMG 10 Buildings Maintenance/Renewal Plan estimates a total maintenance cost of \$449,995 over 10 years, which includes:

- \$15,000 for a kitchen renewal at Blair Street.

- An annual maintenance provision of approximately \$45,000 shared across all 28 units within the Community Village.

This equates to approximately \$1,607 per unit per year.

With the proposed expansion of units, Council must ensure that long-term maintenance obligations are accounted for, including: identifying funding streams to cover increased maintenance obligations,

ensuring the Committee's financial model accounts for lifecycle costs and minimising any financial burden on Council's long-term asset renewal budget.

### **Long-Term Financial Sustainability**

The Committee is financially independent, with no loan required and significant funds available, but Council remains responsible for the long-term asset renewal and condition of the buildings.

Future rental income, operational surpluses, and sinking fund contributions must be structured to ensure ongoing asset renewal aligns with Council's Asset Management Strategy.

The Committee should demonstrate how future capital maintenance will be funded to avoid unexpected financial pressures on Council in the future.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.7 - Enable development of sustainable liveable communities - Housing Strategy.

## **BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

Funding to be allocated from Moama Lions Community Village Committee of Management reserves.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

## **LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

## **RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**

Insufficient funds held by the Moama Lions Community Village Committee of Management to construct new units

- **How can it happen?**

Subject to the Committee demonstrating their ability to fund ongoing future capital maintenance to avoid unexpected financial pressures on Council, they may not have sufficient funds to proceed with the construction of additional units.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

Delays in construction of new units until sufficient funds are raised.

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Possible.

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Adequate.

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

By delegating authority to the Committee of Management to initiate steps towards the construction of new independent units, research will be undertaken on options and determination of relative risk of options. A staged approach may be a possible compromise.

## **CONCLUSION**

This project represents a critical step towards increasing affordable retirement housing in Moama, aligning with both Council's strategic objectives and community needs. Delegating authority to the

Moama Lions Community Village Committee will streamline the development process while ensuring appropriate governance and oversight.

This recommendation ensures that the project is financially sustainable, asset management responsibilities are clearly defined, and Council's exposure to future financial risk is minimised.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Request from Moama Lions - Confidential**

**9.1.4 MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT****File Number:** -**Author:** Courtney Dean, Coordinator Communications**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Monthly Operational Report as of January 2024 be received and the information noted by the Council.

The details listed below are items of note/interest from several Business Unit reports in the January Monthly Operational Report. **To expand on any details listed here, or to read each report in full, please refer to the Monthly Operational Report document attached to this report.**

**Corporate Services Directorate**

- Q2 budget review being completed
- Business and process reviews being implemented
- Revaluation of assets for 24/25 underway.
- Update of asset information into TechOne continues.
- Asset Management Plans are being updated.
- Revised capitalisation process being implemented.
- Implementation of Vendor Panel for managing external procurement processes underway.
- Improvements to TechOne procurement processes ongoing.
- The Financial Sustainability of the Council remains the most significant risk for Council. Restoring the current operating deficit to a break-even position purely through cost saving measures will require significant service level adjustments that may not be palatable to the community.
- Significant work required to improve Cyber Security.
- New aerial photos uploaded into the GIS system.

**Finance**

- The 2024-25 Budget 2nd Quarter Review has been issued to Managers and due to be presented at the February 2025 Council Meeting.
- The 2025-26 Budget is underway and is currently being completed by budget officers.
- The 2024-25 Audit Office - Audit Plan is being developed and will go the ARIC meeting in early March.
- The 2024-25 Interim audit being conducted by our external auditors commences 24 March 2025.
- Vacant Finance Officer Position has been advertised and closes on 20 February 2025. This is a critical role that supports the Finance Controller to complete reporting, audit and backup to Account Payable/Receivable.

**Governance**

- Informal GIPA requests YTD – 61 (4 CCTV, 3 Other, 3 Council documents, 15 DAS/Planning, 36 Owner details)
- The Coordinator – Governance & Risk officer commenced on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**Information Management**

- Chief Information Officer (CIO) has spent December and January combining the budgets of the former Business Intelligence Departments and IT departments into one budget, auditing all ICT hardware and software, reconciling software license spend and calculating lifecycle costs into a 10 year asset management plan, to help plan for FY26 Budget and Projects. With this work completed, works on ICT Policy, and working on audits requested by Financial and Insurance Auditors are being done for February deadlines.

- In January, we have kicked off many of the cyber security year 1 changes for the roadmap council has approved with the last QBR. Multifactor Authentication is now almost fully rolled out across the business, bolstering our security posture. Simpler ways to login to computers has been rolled out, like using facial recognition, pin numbers and other Biometrics, while we increase our password complexity and are slowly working through resetting passwords to the new standard over the next 2 months to not impact productivity.
- We have now replaced almost all computers that were failing due to age and spec which has increased staff productivity, and almost all performance related tickets have gone. 20 machines remain to be replaced this financial year, and the rest should be good enough until next financial year. ICT Feedback recorded by CT reached an all-time high response rate (20% from January) which all had 100% positive feedback.
- Kishore Doddi our Systems Engineer passed his ISC2 cyber security exam.

### **Strategic Assets**

- Draft revaluation of Buildings, Land and Waste assets complete. The TechOne build of asset details and asset books continues to progress in conjunction with Business as usual.
- Mapping of buried assets now loaded into Before You Dig (BYD) platform for auto-generation of external service requests, with 231 referrals provided in the Month of January

### **Economic Development and Tourism**

- At its 28 January 2025 meeting, Council adopted the final Employment Lands Strategy, which will now be placed on Council's website and shared with relevant stakeholders.
- Distributed Community, Business, and Visitor Newsletters, promoting grants, resources, events, and tourism opportunities.
- Provided strategic and promotional support for local events, including Australia Day celebrations, fishing competitions, and the Southern 80 Boat Display.
- Progressed planning for major events including a music event, grey nomads' event, and world bowls event.
- Collaborated with stakeholders on potential winter activations and large-scale summer attractions.
- Enhanced online presence with social media growth, daily website updates, and targeted campaigns like the TV advertisements.
- Distributed brochures to key locations and supported local accommodation providers.
- Scheduled free Grants Writing Workshops in March across key locations.
- Collaborated with the Museums Advisor to organise a Museum Custodians Workshop, providing training and disaster readiness.
- Launched the Murray Workforce Series with a successful Trainee & Apprenticeship Workshop attended by 28 businesses and stakeholders.
- Completed the Regional Investment Prospectus and initiated ongoing meetings with investment partners.
- Advanced promotional efforts with the release of business success stories and plans for an upcoming Business Networking Event in April.
- Completed the Moama Water Tower mural, scheduled works for Barham and Moulamein, and finalised interpretative signage designs.
- Developed interpretive walk signage for Barham River Walk, Moulamein Big Tree, and Horseshoe Lagoon.
- Installed a new road sign for the Dharnya Centre and progressed the production of a new town entry sign for Murray Downs.

### **Customer Service**

- Changes to face-to-face customer service days and hours have seemingly had minimal impact on service delivery. Meanwhile, it has enabled Customer Service Officers to focus on alternative customer service channels, such as responding to online inquiries and assisting other departments in proactively updating customers on service requests.
- Implementation of Snap Send Solve project is underway. Continued roll-out through February and March 2025 to support all departments receiving service requests through Snap Send Solve.
- Library school holiday activities were successful across Mathoura, Barham and Moulamein.

- Power Apps Data Tracking: In order to better plan for service provision for external agencies, staffing levels, opening hours, and budgeting purposes, we have a need to accurately track the number of transactions and enquiries received by the Customer Service team, as well as the time taken to service those customers. Power Apps has been identified as the most economical and accurate solution to this. Manager Customer Service has received quote from CT to set this up and has submitted a QBR2 budget bid to complete this work prior to EOFY 24/25.
- 1 email complaint regarding the change of hours. Customer Service staff in Barham have reported informal complaints from customers regarding change of hours.

### **Community Services**

- We received 51 Client Satisfaction Surveys in 2024, compared to 39 in 2023. We were very pleased with the positive outcomes of the surveys. It is very clear that our Support Services make an enormous difference to the lives of clients. There were many words of appreciation expressed in the surveys. We have identified some individual issues in the survey responses and have followed up on these matters where names and phone numbers were provided.
- We will provide ongoing communication about the services available, including more information about each service type. We want our community to be fully informed about the types of things clients can use transport for, the maintenance options so that we reach and support everybody who is eligible and in need of our services.
- We will aim to be spreading the word about our services further into the community by delivering our newsletters more widely in the community, e.g. doctors surgeries.
- We will improve our collaboration with other community organisations to keep other allied health organisations informed about the services available at MRC Commonwealth Home Support Program. This will assist those organisations to refer people to use our services.
- **During January the Community Services team delivered the following supports:**  
Social Support – 911 hours - Social support consists of group activities, respite services, as well as 1:1 supports including wellness checks/phone calls and supported shopping etc.  
Meals – 234. Home Maintenance – 19 hours. Home Modifications – Nil jobs completed.  
Transport – 842 one-way trips.

### **Parks, Open Spaces and Biosecurity**

#### **Highlights:**

- Biosecurity Staff conducted joint inspections with Murray Local Land Services on TSR around Mathoura
- Multiple recruitment opportunities- Parks Team Leader West, Parks & Biosecurity Business Unit Support Officer, Apprentice Parks Attendant.
- Kerrabee Soundshell Playground Commenced
- Cat D works at Barham Tourist Caravan Park completed.

#### **Threats:**

- New Cape broom infestations found at Mathoura and Barham
- New Wheel cactus infestation found at Barham.
- Yellow Water Lily found on private property at Womboota and in Perricoota State Forest
- Negative feedback in relation to Parks Operational Service Delivery Plan introduction due to some service reductions in accordance with adopted plans.
- Climate- Storm events mainly high winds impacting on urban street trees, Parks and natural reserves.

### **Waste and Compliance**

- The Return and Earn facility is starting to attract some volume with over 520,000 containers processed through the facility and the largest volume to date was 29,000 in a day thus far.
- Council has received the methane gas pumping trial report from Run Energy following the 3-month gas pumping trial. Further recommendations have been made and a quote to install a permanent system based on the data from the trial has been received and reviewed. Information has been requested to investigate the viability of installing a small power generation unit to be able to pump power back into the grid using a generator unit that is run off methane gas.

- There have been over 80 animals through the Moama and Barham pounds to date this financial year.
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed for the Moama and Barham pounds and will be document controlled pending dissemination.
- Animal Destruction Policy, Compliance and Enforcement Policy, Companion Animal Policy and Firearms Policy all drafted and will be sent out for comment.
- Ongoing TechOne Environmental Health module testing continued during the month.

**Buildings and Facilities**

- Mathoura War Memorial Building: SALTO fob access system has been installed throughout the building (including the Preschool) and users given access fobs.
- The Buildings Asbestos register has been completed and loaded into TechOne.

**Local Connections (Section 355's)**

- Evaluation of the purpose of all committees continues in consultation with the committees.
- A suite of meeting templates with instructions have been developed and is available to all committees wishing to utilise.
- An administration timeline has been drawn up – this document will outline committees and councils' obligations and ensure all administration tasks are completed consistently.
- A tool to track all tasks/requests made by committees has been implemented and is now being used by all council officers who work with committees. This has increased effective communication between officers, Manager Local Connections and Committees.
- A suite of Volunteer documents has been developed in collaboration with the manager of Risk and the Work Health & Safety Specialist. These documents have been endorsed by council and are now in use to ensure council maintains clear oversight and sound governance in regard to all volunteers working for council.
- Work Health & Safety Officer has been engaged to work with ALL volunteers of Council, ensuring all requirements are met in regard to induction, training and ongoing safety.
- Registration of all volunteers has commenced.
- Volunteer Induction Manual has been prepared and is being distributed to all committees and groups of volunteers.

**Works**

- Flood recovery repairs: Council has completed 152 out of 160 damages.
- Heavy patching works completed on Yanga Way for TfNSW ahead of schedule. Thank you to the Moama & Mathoura staff members for making the journey to Tooleybuc to complete these works.
- North Barham Road reconstruction works nearing completion, well ahead of schedule.
- Small Mines Roadshow coming up in February.
- Continued to deliver routine maintenance and operational activities including regular road maintenance such as pothole repairs and grading of unsealed roads.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Monthly Operational Report - January 2025 (under separate cover)** 

**9.1.5 RECOMMENDATION FOR SALE OF LOT 1 DP 1313227 (FORMERLY PART 21 MORAGO STREET, MOULAMEIN) AS PER PREVIOUS RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL 1812224****File Number:** -**Author:** Chris Godfrey, Manager - Commercial, Plant & Property**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That, further to previous resolution of Council dated 10 December 2024 (Resolution 181224), Murray River Council (Council) resolve to formally accept the purchase offer received from Edward River Gardens (Moulamein Retirement Village Inc. ABN 63 848 623 948) and authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer to undertake all necessary activities including signing any documentation as may be necessary to effect the unconditional sale and transfer of the land identified as Lot 1 DP 1313227 (previously part Lot 1, DP Lot 1 DP 525866), otherwise referred to as Part 21 Morago Street, Moulamein (the Property).

**BACKGROUND**

**IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVENUE TASK FORCE, MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL HAS UNDERTAKEN TO IDENTIFY LAND AND BUILDING ASSETS THAT ARE SURPLUS TO CURRENT AND EXPECTED FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. IN ADDITION TO A ONE-OFF REVENUE GENERATION, SUCH RATIONALISATION REDUCES THE ONGOING OPERATING, MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL EXPENDITURE. IT ALSO GENERATES SOME ADDITIONAL RATES REVENUE.DISCUSSION**

In the December 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to undertake the sale of this land parcel using an Alternative Method of Disposal as identified in Council Policy No. POL-602 V#1 (the Policy) to achieve a specific policy objective of Council, namely, to promote the availability of adequate affordable retirement housing within Council's footprint.

**9.1.2 Recommendation for the sale of Part 21 Morago Street, Moulamein****Resolution 181224**

Moved: Cr Geoff Wise

Seconded: Cr Neil Gorey

**Cr Wise moved Alternate Resolution 2 – A, B, C (1 & 2)****Alternate Resolution 1**

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to:

A undertake the sale of the land currently identified as Lot 1 DP 525866 (Northern Section only) and the residential building situated on that part of the land (the Property), through an open market approach of Competitive Direct Sale, such sale to be at a price no less than the higher of the two valuations (excluding GST) obtained for the said Property, and

B authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to undertake the necessary activities, including the appointment of a suitable independent real estate agent to undertake the sale and

entering into & signing of the required contractual and other documents as necessary to give effect to the said sale.

Alternate Resolution 2

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to:

A undertake the sale of the land currently identified as Lot 1 DP 525866 (Northern Section only) and the residential building situated on that part of the land (the Property), using an Alternative Method of Disposal as identified in Council Policy No. POL-602 V#1 (the Policy), to achieve a specific policy objective of Council, namely, to promote the availability of adequate affordable retirement housing within Council's footprint, and

B in keeping with the requirements of the Policy, direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to appoint an independent probity officer to review the process and provide a report for final consideration by Council, and

C based on the request made by Edward River Gardens, invite Edward River Gardens to make an offer for the Property, and

1) if the final offer is at or above the valuation as identified in the valuation (excluding GST) conducted by Preston Rowe Paterson, authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to proceed to undertake the public display as required by the Policy for a period of 21 days, and on completion of the public display period, submit a report to council containing the feedback (if any) obtained through the public display, for a final determination by Council on the sale of the Property as a non-competitive direct sale to ERG, or

2) if ERG is not willing to meet the valuation as identified by PRP, authorise the Acting CEO to undertake the sale of the Property through an open market approach of Competitive Direct Sale, such sale to be at a price no less than the higher of the two valuations (excluding GST) obtained for the said Property, and undertake the necessary activities, including the appointment of a suitable independent real estate agent to undertake the sale and entering into & signing of the required contractual and other documents as necessary to give effect to the said sale.

In Favour: Crs John Harvie, Neil Gorey, Joy Allan, Kylie Berryman, Gen Campbell, Dennis Gleeson, Bianca Hurn, Gary Pappin and Geoff Wise

Against: Nil

**carried 9/0**

**Carried**

The further requirements of the Resolution and Policy have been completed as follows:

- a) Appoint an independent Probity Officer to review the process and provide a report for final consideration by Council and the Probity Plan and final Probity Report are attached.
- b) Invite Edward River Gardens to make an offer for the Property and a copy of the Offer document is attached.
- c) As the offer was above the valuation provided by Preston Rowe Paterson (attached), the proposed sale of property has been put on public display for the required period of 21 days (and a copy of the Public Notice is attached).

There was no feedback received from the community during the public display process, as per the attached report.

## STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

4. Strategic Theme 4: A place of inclusion, culture & wellbeing

4.11 - Facilitate and advocate for accessible health and wellbeing services based on local community needs - Community Health and Wellbeing Services including; Mental Health Services Health Services Aged Care Special care (disability housing / assisted living).

### BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Proceeds from the sale of the land and buildings will have a positive impact on the cash position of Council (at least in the short term).

If the sale to ERG is completed at or above market valuation, in addition to generating an additional cash flow, a social objective in keeping with Council's CSP will also be achieved.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Murray River Council Procurement Policy (POL205).

Murray River Council Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy (POL602).

### LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1993.

Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.

Conveyancing Act 1919.

### RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

No risks are associated with the approval of this report. No objections were received through the Public Notice process.

- **How can it happen?**

N/A

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

N/A

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

N/A

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

N/A






- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**


N/A

### CONCLUSION

Based on satisfying the minimum price and the Policy requirements of the previous Council Resolution 181224, it is recommended that Council resolve to proceed with the sale of the Property as a non-competitive direct sale to ERG and that Council delegate authority to the Acting Chief Executive Officer to sign a Contract of Sale for the sale of the Property for \$235,000 (GST exempt) and do all things necessary to facilitate settlement.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. **DMCCA Probity Report\_18022025\_FINAL** [↓](#) 
2. **Letter to Council offering to purchase 20 Carne Street Moulamein** [↓](#) 
3. **MRC 101224 Direct Sale Probity Plan Signed** [↓](#) 
4. **Nil Objections - Sale of Part 21 Morago Street Moulamein 18 February 2025** [↓](#) 
5. **Public Notice 21 Morago Street Moulamein** [↓](#) 

6. Valuation - Murray River Council Part 21 Morago Street Moulamein (under separate cover) 



18 February 2025

Ms Sarah Ryan  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Murray River Council  
52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731

Via Email

**FINAL PROBITY ADVISOR REPORT – PROPOSED SALE OF LAND – PART LOT 1, DP 525866, 21 MORAGO STREET MOULAMEIN**

This probity advisor report covers the proposed sale of land at 21 Morago Street Moulamein for the Murray River Council. The sale process is now considered complete and this Probity Advisor report covers the following issues:

**SCOPE**

1. We commenced providing probity services on the project from January 2025. The scope of our probity review primarily extended from the commencement of the sale process up to the recommendation of the Preferred Purchaser.
2. The objective of the review was to assess whether the sale process was in accordance with Councils Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy, Councils Procurement Policy and the Probity Plan developed for the sale process.
3. We completed the following activities and provided probity advice during the procurement:
  - We discussed probity requirements with the Project Team prior to seeking offers of sale via direct negotiation;
  - We reviewed the Probity Plan, Councils Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy and Councils Procurement, Conflict of Interest declarations, Council minute authorising the sale process and relevant correspondence;
  - We reviewed the Property Valuations; and
  - We reviewed the Council Recommendation for sale.
4. We met regularly with the Project team.
5. Our principal contact during this assignment was Mr Chris Godfrey, Manager Commercial, Plant and Property and in conducting our review of the sale process, we have received documentation and relied on representations about the sale process from this contact.

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

6. This report has been prepared solely for Murray River Council that the sale process was conducted in accordance with Councils Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy, Councils Procurement Policy and the Probity Plan developed for the sale process and our review has been conducted in accordance with this framework.
7. There are “inherent limitations” in any probity review process. It is possible that irregularities may occur and not be detected as evidence is gathered at particular points in the process, rather than continuously throughout the process.

**CONCLUSION**

8. The decision to recommend a purchaser for the sale of land at 21 Morago Street Moulamein is the responsibility of Murray River Council.
9. In all material respects, the sale process has been undertaken in accordance with the Probity Plan and Councils Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy and Councils Procurement Policy. We are not aware of any probity issues with the recommendation of the sale of land at 21 Morago Street Moulamein to Edward River Gardens as outlined in the Council Recommendation dated 18 February 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Geddes'.

Craig Geddes  
Probity Advisor



## EDWARD RIVER GARDENS

21 January, 2025

To: Mr Chris Godfrey, Properties Officer, Murray River Council

Mr John Harvie, Hon Mayor, Murray River Council

Mrs. Sarah Ryan, Acting CEO, Murray River Council

Dear Chris,

Thankyou for advising Edward River Gardens regarding our proposal to purchase 20 Carne Street, Moulamein.

We are pleased that Council support our initiative , to purchase a house , as a quality residence for the Care Manager of Edward River Gardens.

This will provide long term security for staff accommodation for our aged care facility.

We have researched the recent real estate sales in Moulamein.

Edward River Gardens will offer \$235,000 for the 20 Carne Street, Moulamein , house.

We trust this offering price meets current market value.

We look forward to a swift resolution, to enable a contract of sale to be drawn up.

Kind Regards,

Deidre Howard

Secretary

Governing Board of Edward River Gardens

Moulamein Retirement Village Inc.  
38 Tallow Street, Moulamein, NSW 2733

Hon. President: Mr. Neville Willox Hon. Secretary: Ms. Deidre Howard Phone: 03 5888 9555

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## Probity Plan – Sale of Land by Direct Negotiation

### Proposed Sale of Land – Part Lot 1, DP 525866, 21 Morago Street Moulamein

#### 1. Introduction

On 10 December 2024 Council resolved to sell the land identified as Part Lot 1 DP 525866 and residential building situated on that land parcel using an Alternative Method of Disposal as identified in Council's Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy POL-602 V#1 (the Policy) to achieve a specific policy objective of Council.

This site has been determined as surplus to Murray River Council's ('MRC' or 'Council') current and future requirements and is intended to be disposed of via a fair, transparent and robust process with the primary objective of generating optimal return. The end-to-end processes to be carried out in order to dispose of the land is herein referred to as 'the Project'.

#### 2. Objectives of this Probity Plan

The purpose of this Probity Plan is to ensure that the sale of Property by Council is conducted with integrity, transparency and in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and ethical standards.

In doing so, the following probity principles will be upheld:

- Maintaining public confidence in Council's decision making process;
- Preventing conflicts of interest;
- Ensuring accountability and transparency in processes;
- Acting in a manner consistent with Council's long term financial sustainability responsibilities: and
- Ensuring a best value outcome for Council and its ratepayers is achieved.

#### 3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

The relevant legislation and Policies include:

- *Local Government Act 1993.*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- *Murray River Council Procurement Policy (POL205).*
- *Murray River Council Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy (POL602)*
- *Conveyancing Act 1919*
- *Real Property Act 1900*

In addition, any direct negotiation carried out to complete the Project will need to comply with the principles set out in the *Independent Commission Against Corruption's Guidelines for Direct Negotiation*.

#### 3. Governance Obligations & Principles

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Chapter 6, Part 2), land which is classified as operational land may be sold by the usual process set out in the *Conveyancing Act 1919* and *Real Property Act 1900*. Sales of land in this manner are not required to be publicly tendered (s55, Local Government Act).

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Council's Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy sets out the manner in which Council land is to be disposed of, the considerations to be given to any process to be carried out in the particular circumstances..

#### **4. Separation of Duties of Council departments**

Council has a dual role as property owner and manager, and planning decision maker. It is important, therefore, for any concurrent development application process to follow the same independent application and assessment process as would apply to any third party person or organisation undertaking a development application process.

To that end, Council's Planning and Building (Development Application) function will at all times be separated from its Property function.

#### **5. Standard of Conduct**

Each person involved in process for the sale of the Property must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the standard of behaviour expected when transacting on behalf of and/or advising Council. All individuals, whether employed by Council or acting in an external advisory capacity, have a duty to avoid conflicts of interest and bias, act honestly and fairly and treat all information received throughout the process in the strictest confidence. At a minimum, staff are expected to adhere to the MRC Code of Conduct (Employees) Policy (POL-100.2) and Councillors must adhere to the MRC Code of Conduct (Councillors) Policy (POL-100.1).

#### **6. Conflict of Interest Management**

Where a staff member declares a conflict during any stage of the Project, the staff member will be prevented from having any further involvement in the Project, including being denied access to the documentation or relevant correspondence.

#### **7. Security and confidentiality**

Security and confidentiality of Project documentation and communications must be maintained to preserve the integrity of the Project.

All persons involved in the Project will be required to protect confidential information from unauthorised access or use and must take precautions at all times to preserve the secrecy and confidentiality of confidential information. This will be achieved in the following way:

- All Councillors and Council Staff are bound by the requirements of the Local Government Act and Code of Conduct.

Care should be taken to avoid breaches of Privacy Act provisions during negotiations or contract processes.

#### **8. Gifts, Benefits, Hospitality and Favours**

Council employees associated with the Project must **not** seek and/or accept any inducements, gifts, benefits, hospitality or favours from any third party person or organisation.

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No Council employees, either directly or indirectly solicit or accept gifts or presents from any member of the public involved with any matter that is connected with the duties of the Councillor or officer, or in which the Council is interested. Included in this category are gifts in kind, such as free accommodation or travel or entertainment vouchers whether for you or members of your family. The general principle to be followed is that you should "decline and declare" any favours or gifts offered by anyone who could benefit by influencing you.

All Council staff are required to act in accordance with Council's *"Fraud and Corruption Policy (POL-212)"* and Council's *"Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Procedure"*

Offers of bribes, commissions or other irregular approaches from organisations or individuals (no matter how flimsy the evidence available), must be promptly brought to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Legal Counsel.

Personnel involved in the Project must not accept gifts, hospitality or benefits in relation to the Project. You should immediately report to the CEO and Manager Commercial, Plant and Property any circumstances where an offer of a benefit or gift is made, regardless of whether it is accepted or not, if you feel that such circumstances involve an attempt to induce favoured treatment.

Where a gift is given without prior knowledge or consent or where a gift is given as a token of goodwill as defined by Council's policy, the person involved should inform the Project Owner (or delegate) as soon as possible. Gifts of more than token value must be reported in accordance with Council's policy.

Non-acceptance of an official gift that that may cause offence or embarrassment may be accepted and remains the property of Council.

Reasonable hospitality where there is clear value to the work of Council which does not advantage the gift giver in its dealings with Council or where it directly relates to the public duty of a Councillor may also be accepted.

## **9. Preventing patronage or favouritism**

Any involved staff member or Councillor must not use their position to obtain a private benefit for someone else. The person's decisions must not be improperly influenced by family or other personal relationships.

## **10. Public Comment**

All persons involved in this Project must comply with Council's Media Policy (POL-108).

Councillors and staff members, regardless of their involvement in the Project should not make any public statements or comments concerning the Project that may be prejudicial to achieving value for money in the potential sale, nor prevent compliance with the probity principles set out in this Plan.

## **11. Decision Making Process**

Pursuant to resolution of Council dated 10 December 2024, the Chief Executive Officer is authorised to authorise any sale of the land for a price which is equal to or exceeding market value, including signing any documents necessary to give effect to the sale

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MRC-2407 PROBITY PLAN

**12. Process**

- A) Sale of the Property using an Alternative Method of Disposal as identified in the Policy to achieve a specific policy objective of Council, namely, to promote the availability of adequate affordable retirement housing within Council's footprint, and
- B) In keeping with the requirements of the Policy, direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to appoint and independent probity office to review the process and provide a report for final consideration by Council, and
- C) Based on the request made by Edward River Gardens, invite Edward River Gardens to make an offer for the Property, and
  - 1) if the final offer is at or above the value as identified in the valuation (excluding GST) conducted by Preston Rowe Paterson, authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to proceed to undertake the public display as required by the Policy for a period of 21 days, and on completion of the public display period, submit a report to council containing the feedback (if any) obtained through the public display, for a final determination by Council on the sale of the Property as a non-competitive direct sale to ERG, or
  - 2) if ERG is not willing to meet the valuation as identified by PRP, authorise the Acting CEO to undertake the sale of the Property through an open market approach of Competitive Direct Sale, such sale to be at a price no less than the higher of the two valuations (excluding GST) obtained for the said Property, and undertake the necessary activities, including the appointment of a suitable independent real estate agent to undertake the sale and entering into & signing of the required contractual and other documents as necessary to give effect to the said sale.

**13. Project Guidelines**

Council must be able to continue to transact business during an evaluation process. Parties related to an entity involved in negotiations or any resulting sale of lands may contact staff (who may not have a direct involvement in the evaluation) as part of the normal day-to-day relationship. It is important that all staff follow the guidelines below throughout the entire process:

- No discussion should be held with any respondent about the Project in relation to any aspect of the proposed sale or decision-making process without the prior approval of the Manager Commercial, Plant and Property..
- Unusual or exceptional invitations from any party with a declared interest in the Project should not be accepted.
- Routine business meetings and social activities continue as usual, but Council Officials and employees must exercise caution, and must not discuss any aspect of the Project.
- Where any party in an unrelated business meeting or social situation seeks to raise issues in respect of the Project, the employee must indicate that it is not appropriate to discuss such matters.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MRC-2407 PROBITY PLAN

**14. Record keeping**

Appropriate records should be maintained throughout the Project, which must be sufficient to enable an independent review to be conducted. Records should be continually updated throughout the Project and capture all key information, including deliberations and assessments.

Property details	✓ Strategic planning documents/Business case documentation.
Market valuation details	✓ Probity Plan
Notice of meetings	✓ Conflict of interest declarations, where applicable.
Details of relevant offers to purchase	✓ Approval documents, including of any approval of a decision to reject an offer where applicable.
Evaluation of offer summary	✓ Communications with interested parties and successful purchaser.
Record of post-Proposal negotiations, if any	✓ Council reports and resolutions.
Implementation Plans	✓ Agreement/Contract

**15. Change of Process or Circumstances**

Prospective purchasers should be informed of any changes to the Project process or other factors which could reasonably be expected to affect a Prospective Purchaser's offer to purchase.

**16. Errors or Omissions**

The Manager Commercial, Plant and Property must promptly advise the CEO of any identified error or omission in the Project process. Subject to the nature or extent of the error or omission, Council should seek legal advice and any immediate communications with respondents should be limited pending an assessment of the options to address the identified concern.

**17. Process Compromised**

As Council undertakes the work required for Project completion including any resulting sale transaction, anyone who suspects a potential probity breach should discuss the potential breach with the Probity Advisor.

Anyone uncomfortable discussing a potential probity breach with the Probity Adviser, need to discuss their concerns with the Manager Commercial, Plant and Property who will then liaise directly with the Probity Advisor.

The Probity Advisor must record all potential breaches, review the matter and liaise with the Manager Commercial, Plant and Property to determine the most appropriate course of action.

It may be appropriate for the Probity Advisor to request that Council obtain legal advice regarding potential probity breach prior to them and should this occur, the Chief Legal Counsel will determine the most appropriate course of action.

All probity breaches, including any potential probity breaches, will be reported to the CEO.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MRC-2407 PROBITY PLAN

**18. Complaints**

Any complaints concerning the Project must be promptly directed to the Manager Commercial, Plant and Property or CEO.

**19. Roles and Responsibilities****19.1 Probity Advisor**

The probity advisor will review and provide advice on the Probity Plan including the proposed process to be undertaken, prior to the commencement of any direct negotiation with third parties. It shall not be the role of the probity advisor to provide advice as to the merits of the draft contract of sale, save where there are any probity concerns with same. The probity advisor will oversee any meetings or discussions throughout the process.

Should an offer be recommended for acceptance, the offer details will then be reviewed by the probity advisor prior to the finalisation and endorsement of the relevant recommendation report. At the conclusion of the negotiation process, the probity advisor will provide a report to Council as to the process carried out, any lessons learned and the overall effectiveness of the outcome and the report will be tabled for noting by the Executive Leadership Team.

Where the probity advisor has concerns as to the process, he shall first discuss these with the Manager Commercial, Plant and Property with a view to rectifying any issues. Where an issue cannot be resolved, it will be open for the probity advisor to end the engagement, report the matter to Council's Executive Leadership Team and/or Chief Legal Council and provide written recommendations where necessary.

**19.2 Manager Commercial, Plant and Property**

The role of the Manager Commercial, Plant and Property is to oversee the sale process, including drafting and finalising documentation, liaising with the probity advisor, facilitating meetings, dealing directly with potential purchasers as required and ensuring impartiality and proper process and overall conduct in the handling of submission information and dissemination to internal stakeholders.

The manager Commercial, Plant and Property will be specifically responsible for inviting the third party specified in the Council Resolution to make an offer for the Property, facilitate the completion of the required valuations by 2 independent Certified Practising Valuers as necessary, facilitate property inspections as required and provide information to inform responses to questions as appropriate, liaising with the probity advisor at all key stages. At the conclusion of the process, the Manager Commercial, Plant and Property will engage the external solicitor to assist in facilitating any sale transaction which may result.

**19.3 External Solicitor**

The role of the external solicitor is to prepare a draft contract of sale, incorporating any special conditions as may be required by Council. The external solicitor will not be involved in the evaluation of submissions or any recommendations made as a result of same. The external solicitor will facilitate any sale of land transaction which may result from the sale process and in that regard, will be given access to material information about the successful submission. No information pertaining to any unsuccessful submissions will be shared with the external solicitor.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MRC-2407 PROBITY PLAN


## ENDORSED

  
..... Date 21/01/2025  
**Chris Godfrey, Manager Commercial, Plant and Property**

Sam Rodriquez  
..... Date 22/01/2025  
**Sam Rodriquez, Chief Legal Counsel**

Craig Geddes  
..... Date 22/01/2025  
**Craig Geddes, Probity Advisor**

Sarah Ryan  
..... Date 22/01/2025  
**Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer**

Signature: 

Email: srodriquez@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Signature: 

Email: sryan@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Signature: *Craig Geddes*

Email: craiggeddes@dmcca.com.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MRC-2407 PROBITY PLAN












## MRC 101224 Direct Sale Probity Plan

Final Audit Report

2025-01-21

Created:	2025-01-21
By:	Chris Godfrey (CGodfrey@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA45t-Oarz50L3MKE1qqMpkGv4zr6XRT_8

### "MRC 101224 Direct Sale Probity Plan" History

-  Document created by Chris Godfrey (CGodfrey@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)  
2025-01-21 - 5:57:28 AM GMT
-  Document emailed to Sam Rodriquez (srodriquez@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au) for signature  
2025-01-21 - 6:01:16 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Sam Rodriquez (srodriquez@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)  
2025-01-21 - 8:33:04 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sam Rodriquez (srodriquez@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)  
Signature Date: 2025-01-21 - 8:33:27 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to sryan@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au for signature  
2025-01-21 - 8:33:29 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by sryan@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au  
2025-01-21 - 9:55:45 PM GMT
-  Signer sryan@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au entered name at signing as Sarah Ryan  
2025-01-21 - 9:56:50 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sarah Ryan (sryan@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)  
Signature Date: 2025-01-21 - 9:56:52 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to craig Geddes (craiggeddes@dmcca.com.au) for signature  
2025-01-21 - 9:56:54 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by craig Geddes (craiggeddes@dmcca.com.au)  
2025-01-21 - 10:05:15 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by craig Geddes (craiggeddes@dmcca.com.au)  
Signature Date: 2025-01-21 - 10:27:06 PM GMT - Time Source: server

**Adobe Acrobat Sign**



Agreement completed.

2025-01-21 - 10:27:06 PM GMT



**Adobe Acrobat Sign**

**Chris Godfrey**

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**From:** Lisa Stafford  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 February 2025 4:16 PM  
**To:** Chris Godfrey  
**Subject:** Nil Objections - Sale of Part 21 Morago Street Moulamein

Good afternoon, Chris.

Confirming that I have not received any objections to the admin. email as at 4:15pm @ 18 February, 2025, in relation to the sale of Part 21 Morago Street Moulamein.

Kind regards,

Lisa





murray river  
council

## Public Notice

---

**29 January 2025**

Council is advising Community members, under Section 5.3 of Council's Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy, Council will be disposing of Part Lot 1 DP 525866 – 21 Morago Street, Moulamein, including a residential building located on the block.

The property, Part Lot 1 DP 525866 – 21 Morago Street, Moulamein, is currently undergoing a subdivision which will be finalised prior to disposal.

Edward River Gardens is the proposed buyer of the property and disposal will be through a direct, non-competitive process. The residential property will be used to provide a permanent housing option for Edward River Gardens to accommodate employees to work in the Moulamein community.

The provision of a permanent housing option will assist Edward River Gardens to attract new employees and/or retain current employees. This will assist Council to achieve the policy objective to promote the availability of adequate affordable retirement housing within Council's footprint.

The property has been recently valued at \$215,000 (19 November 2024) and \$220,000 (16 January 2025) by 2 independent Certified Practising Valuers, with the disposal price being \$235,000.

Any objection to the proposed disposal must be received by Council by no later than 4pm AEDST on 18 February 2025. Objections can be provided to [admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)

## 9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

### 9.2.1 FINANCIAL REPORT - UNAUDITED FY 24/25 PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2025

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Nikki Chalmers, Financial Controller

**Authoriser:** Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Murray River Council (Council) Resolve to receive the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period to 31 January 2025 (FY2024/25), noting that reporting of monthly financial statements is not a regulatory requirement but nonetheless is being provided in furtherance of financial transparency and in keeping with financial reporting best practice.

#### DISCUSSION



This report provides the unaudited estimated financial performance and position of Murray River Council for the relevant period in the current financial year against the budget for the corresponding period.

This report is not a requirement under the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) nor the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation). However, it is provided to as an additional report to complement the existing financial reporting such as the quarterly budget reviews and the investments report.

The Monthly Financial Report (in community reporting format) appears as Attachment 1.

The Monthly Financial Statements (in formal reporting format) appears as Attachment 2.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Monthly Report - January 2025 [↓](#) 
2. Financial Statements (Unaudited) for period to 31 January 2025 [↓](#) 

# Monthly Financial Report

Financial Year: 2024-25

Period Ending: 31 January 2025



## BACKGROUND

This report provides the unaudited financial performance and position of Murray River Council for the period as at 31 January 2025 against the corresponding Budget for the full financial year.

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Details what was charged to our ratepayers and customers compared to what was spent in delivering our services.

For the period under review, Council's operating deficit stood at \$5.9M after charging depreciation (What We Set-aside for Asset Renewals) of \$11.9M.

Net earnings are \$(2.4)M when Capital Revenue is added to the operating deficit.

Table 1: Income & Expenditure Statement:

	2023/24 Audited	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 YTD Actual	% of Budget Achieved
What We Levied Our Ratepayers	21,554	24,952	14,716	59%
What We Invoiced our Customers	12,940	12,319	5,242	43%
What We Rcvd. as Grants & Subsidies	20,155	20,841	8,315	40%
What We Rcvd. as Interest from Investment	3,026	2,704	1,929	71%
Our Other Revenue	1,965	1,827	1,313	72%
Our Total Recurrent Earnings	59,640	62,644	31,516	50%
What We Spent on Our Staff	21,181	21,446	12,714	59%
What We Spent on Our Suppliers	21,493	28,220	12,730	45%
Our Total Direct Spend	42,674	49,666	25,444	51%
What We Paid Our Bankers	348	34	28	83%
What We Set-aside for Asset Renewals	20,884	20,344	11,997	59%
Our Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,265)	(7,401)	(5,954)	80%
Our Capital Revenue	54,202	13,390	3,435	26%
Our Capital Expenses	9,203	(2,591)	(92)	-
Our Capital Surplus/(Deficit)	44,999	15,981	3,526	22%
Our Net Earnings	40,733	8,580	(2,427)	-28%

## Monthly Financial Report

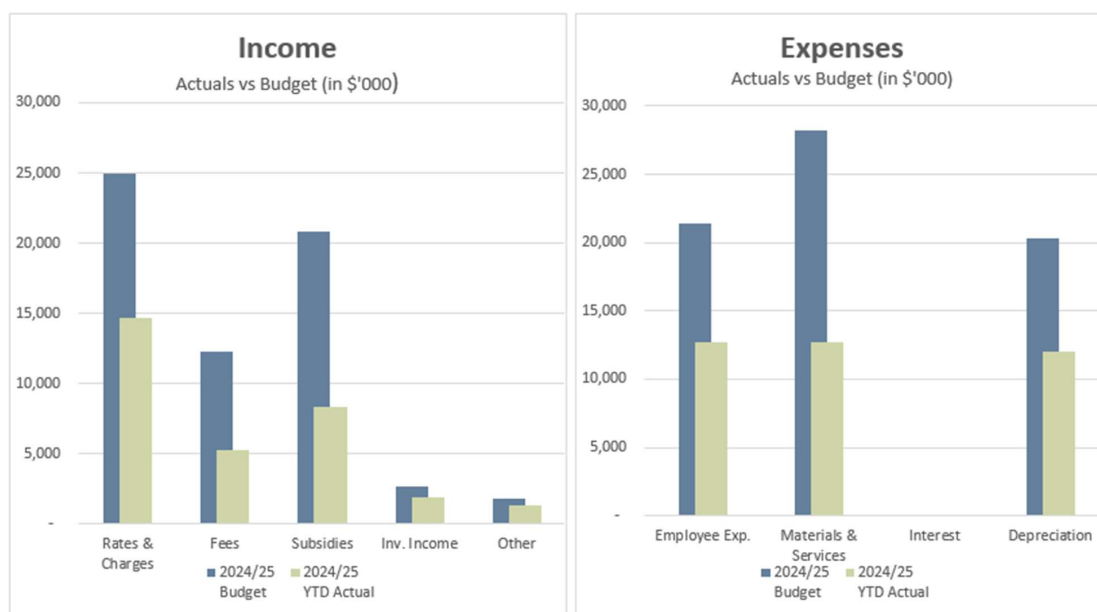
FY 2024-25, to 31 January 2025



### Income & Expenditure

- With the Financial Assistance Grant (being the primary source of operational grant revenue) received in late June, the actual v budget is below target.
- We have issued water billing invoices for the first 4 months in November 2024, the next invoices are due to be issued in March 2025, which is contributing to the lower than expected percentage of budget achieved for What We Invoiced our Customers.
- Majority of the other revenue items have tracked on target or above.
- Expenses paid to our Suppliers are slightly lower than expected.
- The budgeted and actual employee expenses (What we paid our Employees) will need to be reviewed and reconciled in detail to assess the impact of vacancies. This is expected to be carried out in the next 2 months.
- The unfavourable position of the Operating Deficit of \$(2.4)M in comparison to the budget is predominately due to the lower operating grants received at the date of the report being compiled.

Details of Revenue and Expenses, compared to the budget are graphically depicted in the two charts below.



## Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 January 2025



### COMMUNITY WEALTH

Details the value of resources Council has, to service our community. Net Community wealth at the end of the period stood at \$1.147B.

Table 2 : Statement of Financial Position

	2023/24 Unaudited	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 YTD Actual
<b>What We Own</b>	<b>1,102,004</b>	<b>1,102,796</b>	<b>1,100,725</b>
Inventory We Hold	3,600	537	3,586
What We are Owed	14,996	15,004	10,467
What We Have in Bank	59,611	52,320	57,854
<b>Our Total Assests</b>	<b>1,180,210</b>	<b>1,170,656</b>	<b>1,172,632</b>
<b>What We Owe Our Suppliers</b>	<b>10,168</b>	<b>10,168</b>	<b>4,286</b>
What We Owe Our Lenders	5,753	1,789	6,627
Other Liabilities	14,648	11,589	14,506
<b>Our Total Liabilities</b>	<b>30,570</b>	<b>23,546</b>	<b>25,418</b>
<b>Our Community Wealth</b>	<b>1,149,641</b>	<b>1,147,111</b>	<b>1,147,214</b>

- The increase of approx. \$4.5m between Budget and Actual for What We Owe our Lenders predominately relates to Contract Liabilities not being budgeted for. Contract Liabilities relates to Grant revenue received yet not able to be recognised as revenue until corresponding works to which the Grant revenue relates is completed.
- Cash balances (what we have in bank) is higher than expected (Budget) due to the Financial Assistance Grant being received in late June 2024. The cash balances remain at satisfactory levels, noting that a sizeable portion of the investments are restricted for specific purposes. (see investments report).

### CAPITAL DELIVERY

Council's approved budgeted capital allocation is \$38,402m for 2024/25 after approval of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly budget review. As at 31 January 2025, Council has spent approx. \$10.6m on its capital program, which is 28% of the annual capital budget excluding commitments for 2024/25, including commitments 42% of the annual capital budget has been expended & committed.

Council's year to date capital budget was estimated to have delivered \$18.4m as at 31 January 2025, based on current year to date actual expenditure Council has delivered 58% of its capital budget program.

## Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 January 2025



### LIQUID ASSETS & RESERVES

Shown below are the movements in liquid asset balances and investments for the period ending 31 January 2025.

Table 3: Movement of Liquid Assets

DETAILS	NOVEMBER 2024	DECEMBER 2024	JANUARY 2025
Cash Book Balance B/Fwd	\$565,262	\$2,715,185	\$1,592,482
Add income for month	\$4,944,991	\$7,924,453	\$4,030,220
Deduct expenditure for month	\$3,545,069	\$9,047,156	\$4,997,830
<b>CASH AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$1,965,185</b>	<b>\$1,592,482</b>	<b>\$624,871</b>
Redeem/(Purchase) Investments	\$750,000	(\$0)	(\$0)
<b>CASH BOOK BALANCE</b>	<b>\$2,715,185</b>	<b>\$1,592,482</b>	<b>\$624,871</b>
Add on-call account	\$1,406,709	\$2,721,706	\$2,577,519
Add investments - Deposits	\$51,750,000	\$51,750,000	\$51,750,000
Add investments - Shares	\$2,010	\$2,010	\$2,010
<b>CASH POSITION</b>	<b>\$55,873,904</b>	<b>\$56,066,198</b>	<b>\$54,954,400</b>
As per Bank Statements	\$4,121,894	\$4,314,188	\$3,202,390

The breakdown of the reserves by restriction and fund are as below:

Table 4: Breakdown of Reserves

Funds	General	Water	Sewer	Waste	Total
Unrestricted	(\$3,525,340)	\$968,831	\$5,908,798	(\$495,034)	\$2,857,255
Internally Restricted	\$10,076,463	\$2,413,029	\$10,377,331	\$2,273,987	\$25,140,810
Externally Restrictcd	\$17,170,889	\$3,693,523	\$3,746,082	\$2,345,841	\$26,956,335
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,722,012</b>	<b>\$7,075,383</b>	<b>\$20,032,211</b>	<b>\$4,124,794</b>	<b>\$54,954,400</b>

Additional details of internally restricted and externally restricted reserves are provided in the following tables.

## Monthly Financial Report

### FY 2024-25, to 31 January 2025



Table 5: Details of Internally Restricted Reserves

Internal Restricted Assets	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Waste Fund	Total
Buildings	\$237,040	-	-	-	\$237,040
Bushfire Services	\$45,278	-	-	-	\$45,278
Caravan Parks	\$242,473	-	-	-	\$242,473
Carryover Works	\$2,156,587	-	-	-	\$2,156,587
Cemeteries	\$80,676	-	-	-	\$80,676
Community Services	\$290,218	-	-	-	\$290,218
Council Contribution - Co Funding Grants	\$200,000	-	-	-	\$200,000
Economic Development	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Leave Entitlements	\$1,498,600	-	-	-	\$1,498,600
Financial Assistance Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage Buildings	\$18,495	-	-	-	\$18,495
Infrastructure Works	\$1,067,972	\$2,413,029	\$10,377,331	-	\$13,858,332
Internal Other	-	-	-	-	-
Levee Bank	\$339,764	-	-	-	\$339,764
Moama Lights	-	-	-	-	-
Office Equipment/ IT	\$178,727	-	-	-	\$178,727
Parks & Recreation	\$180,577	-	-	-	\$180,577
Plant Fund	\$2,924,973	-	-	-	\$2,924,973
Public Halls	\$91,554	-	-	-	\$91,554
Quarries	\$368,866	-	-	-	\$368,866
Risk Management	\$12,500	-	-	-	\$12,500
S355 Committees	\$26,748	-	-	-	\$26,748
Software	\$14,270	-	-	-	\$14,270
Staff Housing	-	-	-	-	-
Stormwater	\$101,145	-	-	-	\$101,145
Waste Management Int	-	-	-	\$2,273,987	\$2,273,987
	<b>\$10,076,463</b>	<b>\$2,413,029</b>	<b>\$10,377,331</b>	<b>\$2,273,987</b>	<b>\$25,140,810</b>

Table 6: Details of Externally Restricted Reserves

External Reserves	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Waste Fund	Total
Unspent Grants	\$12,439,495	\$72,970	\$22,849	\$90,356	\$12,625,670
Unspent Loan Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Section 64/94	\$4,407,849	\$3,392,697	\$3,723,233	\$200,136	\$11,723,915
Community Services Ext	\$124,620	-	-	-	\$124,620
Land Management	\$134,638	-	-	-	\$134,638
Water Purchase	-	\$227,856	-	-	\$227,856
Waste Management Ext	-	-	-	\$2,055,349	\$2,055,349
Other	\$64,287	-	-	-	\$64,287
	<b>\$17,170,889</b>	<b>\$3,693,523</b>	<b>\$3,746,082</b>	<b>\$2,345,841</b>	<b>\$26,956,335</b>

The Council's Bank Overdraft limit is \$400,000 which remains unutilised.

### Certification

I hereby certify that the balances of the various funds of Council have been reconciled with the bank statements and investment register as at the end of the reporting period.

Stephen Fernando  
Director of Corporate Services

## Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 January 2025



### INVESTMENTS

As required by Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 (the Regulation) and Section 625 of the Act, a summary of Council's surplus funds invested, together with an analysis thereof are detailed below.

#### Certification

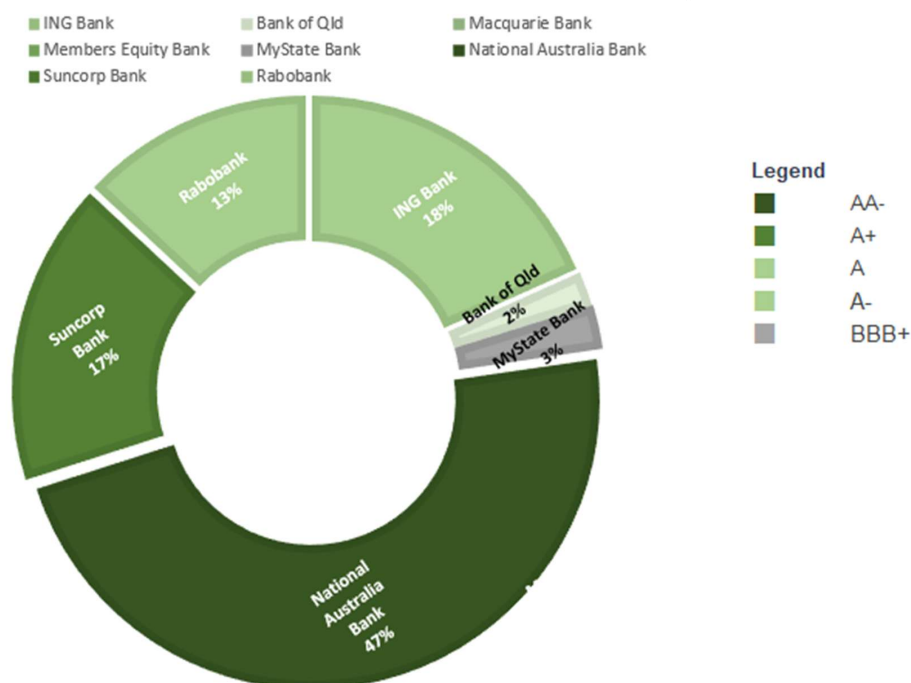
As per the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Reg212(1)(b), all investments have been made in accordance with the Act, applicable Regulations, and council's investment policy.

Stephen Fernando  
Director of Corporate Services

Council's investments are spread across several Australian Deposit Taking Institutions (ADIs) as detailed below.

Table 7: Investments by Deposit Taking Institution

Bank / ADI	Amount	%
ING Bank	\$ 9,500,000	18.36%
Bank of Qld	\$ 1,000,000	1.93%
MyState Bank	\$ 1,250,000	2.42%
National Australia Bank	\$ 24,500,000	47.34%
Suncorp Bank	\$ 8,750,000	16.91%
Rabobank	\$ 6,750,000	13.04%
	<b>\$51,750,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## Monthly Financial Report

### FY 2024-25, to 31 January 2025



The investment ratings of the investments and the returns thereon are detailed below.

*Table 8: Analysis of Risk Ratings and Returns*

Interest Rates	AA-	A+	A	A-	BBB	Total
from 4.76% to 5.00%	\$9,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$3,000,000	-		\$17,000,000
from 5.01% to 5.25%	\$7,750,000	\$3,750,000	\$8,500,000	-	\$1,250,000	\$21,250,000
from 5.26% to 5.50%	\$7,750,000	-	\$4,750,000	\$1,000,000		\$13,500,000
	<b>\$24,500,000</b>	<b>\$8,750,000</b>	<b>\$16,250,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>	<b>\$51,750,000</b>



## Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 January 2025



The maturity profile of the investments are as follows.

*Table 9: Maturity Profile*

Maturity Dates	AA-	A+	A	A-	BBB	Total
February 2025	\$1,500,000	-	\$2,750,000	\$1,000,000	-	\$5,250,000
March 2025	\$2,250,000	\$2,500,000	-	-	-	\$4,750,000
April 2025	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$5,000,000
May 2025	\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000	-	-	\$1,250,000	\$4,500,000
June 2025	\$3,000,000	\$3,750,000	-	-	-	\$6,750,000
July 2025	\$3,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$6,500,000
August 2025	\$4,000,000	-	-	-	-	\$4,000,000
September 2025	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	-	\$4,000,000
October 2025	\$1,000,000	-	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$2,000,000
November 2025	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	-	-	-	\$3,000,000
December 2025	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$3,000,000
January 2026	-	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	-	-	\$3,000,000
	<b>\$24,500,000</b>	<b>\$16,250,000</b>	<b>\$8,750,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>	<b>\$51,750,000</b>

The portfolio is well invested in reasonable interest rates and the maturity profile varies according to planned cash flow of the Council. The objective is to optimize the cash flow needs and maximize the return on investments while ensuring compliance with the Local Government regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

The current position is to only invest in ADI's that are rated AA- or better as per S&P's long term credit ratings, even though the Investment Policy permits some investments in ADIs with lower ratings.

## Murray River Council

## Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2025

from period 01 July to 31 January 2025



CY Budget	\$'000	Notes	CY Actual YTD	PY Actual Audited
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>				
24,952	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	14,716	21,554
12,319	User charges and fees	B2-2	5,242	12,940
1,216	Other revenue	B2-3	928	1,363
20,841	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	8,315	20,155
13,390	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	3,435	54,202
2,704	Interest and investment income	B2-5	1,929	3,026
611	Other income	B2-6	386	602
<b>76,034</b>	<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>34,951</b>	<b>113,843</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>				
21,446	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	12,714	21,181
27,065	Materials and services	B3-2	12,226	20,393
34	Borrowing costs	B3-3	28	348
20,344	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets	B3-4	11,997	20,884
1,155	Other expenses	B3-5	504	1,100
(2,591)	Net losses from the disposal of assets	B4-1	(92)	9,203
<b>67,454</b>	<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>37,378</b>	<b>73,109</b>
<b>8,580</b>	<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>		<b>(2,427)</b>	<b>40,733</b>
<b>8,580</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year attributable to Council</b>		<b>(2,427)</b>	<b>40,733</b>
<b>(4,810)</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>		<b>(5,862)</b>	<b>(13,469)</b>

## Murray River Council

## Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2025

from period 01 July to 31 January



CY Budget	\$'000	Notes	CY Actual YTD	PY Actual Audited
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current assets</b>				
9,131	Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	4,550	14,862
42,949	Investments	C1-2	51,955	43,205
15,004	Receivables	C1-4	10,467	14,996
537	Inventories	C1-5	483	497
	Current assets classified as held for sale	C1-7	3,103	3,103
239	Other	C1-11	1,349	1,544
67,861	<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>71,907</b>	<b>78,207</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>				
2	Investments	C1-2	2	2
493	Receivables	C1-4	26	26
325	Inventories	C1-5		
1,089,886	Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	1,088,607	1,089,886
12,089	Intangible Assets	C1-10	12,089	12,089
	Investments accounted for using the equity method	D2-2		
1,102,796	<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>1,100,725</b>	<b>1,102,004</b>
1,170,656	<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,172,632</b>	<b>1,180,210</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
10,168	Payables	C3-1	4,286	10,168
	Contract liabilities	C3-2	4,460	3,697
184	Lease liabilities	C2-1	356	180
272	Borrowings	C3-3	269	267
3,808	Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	4,335	4,249
1,394	Provisions	C3-5		
15,825	<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>13,706</b>	<b>18,560</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>				
184	Lease liabilities	C2-1	254	188
1,150	Borrowings	C3-3	1,287	1,422
398	Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	144	372
5,989	Provisions	C3-5	10,027	10,027
7,720	<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>11,712</b>	<b>12,009</b>
23,546	<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>25,418</b>	<b>30,570</b>
1,147,111	<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1,147,214</b>	<b>1,149,641</b>

## Murray River Council

## Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2025

from period 01 July to 31 January



CY Budget	\$'000	Notes	CY Actual YTD	PY Actual Audited
<b>EQUITY</b>				
8,580	Current years surplus		(2,427)	40,733
745,736	Accumulated surplus		786,468	745,735
392,795	IPPE revaluation reserve		363,173	363,173
<u>1,147,111</u>	<b>Council equity interest</b>		<u>1,147,214</u>	<u>1,149,641</u>
<u>1,147,111</u>	<b>Total equity</b>		<u>1,147,214</u>	<u>1,149,641</u>

**9.2.2 BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES**

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Nikki Chalmers, Financial Controller

**Authoriser:** Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to authorise:

- (a) Stephen Fernando in his capacity as Director Corporate Services and Sarah Ryan in her capacity as Acting Chief Executive Officer to act as dual Office Bearers for Council, enabling them to authorise and sign relevant forms relating to changes at Council's financial institutions in the interim until the permanent appointment of a Chief Executive Officer and Directors,
- and
- (b) upon permanent appointment of a Chief Executive Officer and Directors, any two (2) such persons to act as Officer Bearers for Council to authorise and sign relevant forms relating to changes of authorised signatories at financial institutions with whom Council undertake business transactions.

**BACKGROUND**

With a number of recent departures of Council's Senior Leadership team (CEO and Directors) we need to ensure we have delegated authorisation from Council to enable updates to signatories at relevant financial institutions.

**DISCUSSION**

Financial Institutions require authorisation from two (2) Office Bearers to sign off and authorise appointment of signatories or security changes. Technically, for a Local Government entity such Office Bearers would be Councillors, but this role is delegated to identified members of the senior leadership team.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

2. Strategic Theme 2: A Place of Progressive Leadership

2.7 - Provide clear, concise and consistent information that is easily accessible to our customers - Improve internal services to better support community needs.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Delegations of Authority Policy.

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS****RISK ANALYSIS**

- What can happen?

Audit risk as former staff are not able to be removed from financial accounts and Council may be impacted on securing investments in a timely manner.

- **How can it happen?**

Delay in time for approval of financial institutions changes to signatories & security.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

Not having the ability to update signatories & security measures with financial institutions

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Likely

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

None

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Formalise via a Council resolution

## **CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the authority to implement changes to authorised signatories, for purposes of dealing with financial institutions be delegated to any two persons of the Senior Leadership Team, consisting of the Chief Executive Officer and Directors.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Nil**

**9.2.3 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****File Number:** -**Author:** Hannah Ensink, Management Accountant**Authoriser:** Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolve to:

1. Adopt the budget variations as detailed within the report and any subsequent changes made to those votes, in Council's estimates of income and expenditure for 2024/2025 financial year, which includes changes to the 2024/2025 Capital Listing as updated per Attachment 3 and the following Reserve movements:
  - a. to fund Capital activities:
    - i. \$634,375 to General reserve
    - ii. \$1,851,223 to Water reserve
    - iii. \$123,523 to Sewer reserve
    - iv. \$319,676 to Waste reserve; and
  - b. from Operational activities:
    - i. \$1,496,043 to the General reserve
    - ii. \$52,623 to the Water reserve
    - iii. \$402,386 to the Sewer reserve
    - iv. \$66,423 to the Waste reserve.

**BACKGROUND**

Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulations) requires a Council's responsible accounting officer to prepare and submit a quarterly budget review statement to the governing body of Council. The quarterly budget review statement must show, by reference to the estimated income and expenditure that is set out in the operational plan adopted by council for the relevant year, a revised estimate of income and expenditure for that year.

It also requires the budget review statement to include a report by the responsible accounting officer as to whether they consider the statement indicates council to be in a satisfactory financial position (regarding its original budget) and if not, to include recommendations for remedial action.

Legislative requirements together with the implementation of a formal reporting mechanism will ensure that councils have a robust and transparent budget reporting framework.

**DISCUSSION****Budget Position as of 31 December 2024**

Overall budget working capital position has declined on the 2024/25 current approved budget of (\$1,266,479) to a 2024/25 revised budget deficit of (\$6,222,716) – an overall decline of \$4,956,237 at 31 December 2024.

**Income Statement - Consolidated**

The December 2024 quarter review has revised the estimated operating surplus as of June 2025 to \$7,178,466. This is a decrease of \$1,401,746 from the current approved budgeted operating surplus of \$8,580,213 predominately due to an adjustment in property sales not expected to settle in FY'25, partially offset by an overall revenue increase.

The information below shows the movements for the December 2024 quarter, as well as the net budget variances resolved by Council outside the quarterly review process.

### Murray River Council

Budget review for the quarter ended - 31 December 2024

Consolidated - Income & Expenses

	ORIGINAL Budget	CURRENT Budget	REVISED Budget	BUDGET VARIATIONS Via Council Resolutions	QUARTER BUDGET REVIEW Movement	TOTAL Quarterly Revisions Budget Improvement Budget Deterioration	YTD Actual
	2025	2025	2025	Outside QBR	2025		2025
<b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>							
Rates and Annual Charges	24,527,721	24,952,131	25,165,709		213,578	213,578	6,163,459
User Charges and Fees	12,015,133	12,319,121	12,581,191		262,070	262,070	1,713,295
Interest and Investment Revenue	1,639,413	2,704,483	3,086,049		381,566	381,566	810,396
Other Revenues	1,182,306	1,215,677	1,078,357	(129,500)	(7,820)	(137,320)	611,770
Grants & Contributions for Operational Purpose	19,090,959	20,841,286	22,410,056		1,568,770	1,568,770	3,454,022
Grants and Contributions for Capital Purposes	11,807,723	13,390,476	13,219,416		(171,060)	(171,060)	1,538,123
Other Income	1,127,987	611,057	585,217		(25,840)	(25,840)	157,121
Gain on Sale of Assets	-	-	-		-	-	19,646
<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>71,391,242</b>	<b>76,034,231</b>	<b>78,125,995</b>	<b>(129,500)</b>	<b>2,221,264</b>	<b>2,091,764</b>	<b>9,662,857</b>
<b>Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>							
Employee Benefits and On-costs	(21,054,961)	(21,446,497)	(21,422,719)		23,778	23,778	(5,400,585)
Borrowing Costs	(34,018)	(34,018)	(34,018)		-	-	(9,078)
Materials and Contracts	(26,470,474)	(27,064,984)	(28,192,983)	504,525	(1,632,524)	(1,127,999)	(4,999,007)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(20,344,178)	(20,344,178)	(20,344,178)		-	-	(2,254)
Other Expenses	(1,099,842)	(1,154,842)	(1,154,842)		0	0	(215,594)
Loss on Sale of Assets	3,015,798	2,590,500	201,211		(2,389,289)	(2,389,289)	46,529
<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>(65,987,676)</b>	<b>(67,454,019)</b>	<b>(70,947,529)</b>	<b>504,525</b>	<b>(3,998,035)</b>	<b>(3,493,510)</b>	<b>(12,982,478)</b>
<b>NET OPERATING RESULT FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>5,403,567</b>	<b>8,580,213</b>	<b>7,178,466</b>	<b>375,025</b>	<b>(1,776,771)</b>	<b>(1,401,746)</b>	<b>(3,319,621)</b>
<b>Other Funding Movements</b>							
Total Capital Expenditure	(31,838,739)	(38,401,999)	(34,795,689)		3,606,310	3,606,310	(4,573,804)
Total Transfers From / (To) Reserves	2,120,552	4,240,688	(705,584)		(4,946,272)	(4,946,272)	(1,544,666)
Sale Proceeds from Sale of Assets	4,237,100	4,237,100	2,022,571		(2,214,529)	(2,214,529)	26,883
Total Loan Borrowings	-	-	-		-	-	-
Total Loan Repayments	(266,658)	(266,658)	(266,658)		-	-	(66,060)
Deferred Debtor Advances Repaid	-	-	-		-	-	-
Depreciation Contra Reversal	20,344,178	20,344,178	20,344,178	-	-	-	2,254
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDING MOVEMENTS SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(5,403,567)</b>	<b>(9,846,691)</b>	<b>(13,401,182)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,554,491)</b>	<b>(3,554,491)</b>	<b>(8,557,881)</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,266,479)</b>	<b>(6,222,716)</b>	<b>375,025</b>	<b>(5,331,262)</b>	<b>(4,956,237)</b>	<b>(11,877,502)</b>
<b>NET OPERATING RESULT BEFORE CAPITAL ITEMS SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(6,404,156)</b>	<b>(4,810,263)</b>	<b>(6,040,950)</b>	<b>375,025</b>	<b>(1,605,711)</b>	<b>(1,230,686)</b>	<b>(4,857,744)</b>

**Income from Continuing Operations**

Projected 2024/25 financial year budgeted revenues are estimated to decrease by \$297,295 to \$78,327,206. Investment income driven by higher interest rates and Grants & Contributions for Operational Purposes are the main increases, exceeded by a decrease in property sales not expected to settle in FY'25. Detailed breakdown of each variation is shown in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.

**Expenses from Continuing Operations**

Projected 2024/25 financial year budgeted operating expenditures are estimated to increase by \$1,104,221 to (\$71,148,740), driven by an increase in materials & contracts for operational programs funded by third parties. Detailed breakdown of each variation is shown in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.

Employee Costs, especially the impact of vacant positions will be further reviewed in Quarter 3.

**Other Funding Movements**

Projected 2023/24 financial year budgeted capital expenditure and other funding movements are estimated to decrease by \$3,554,491 to a deficit of (\$13,401,182). This is predominately due to a decrease in the proceeds of sales of assets as well as transfers to reserves in the fleet and water funds, which has been partially offset by a reduction in the capital program. Detailed breakdown of each variation is shown in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2, Attachment 3 details the updated Capital Listing.

**Performance Ratios**

A summary of the Performance Ratios is provided in the table below. Please note the following regarding Ratios:

- Operating Performance Ratio has improved in the Revised Budget to (9.31%) from the Current Budget (11.81%), as it excludes adjustment on sale of properties.
- The Unrestricted Current Ratio has decreased from the Current Budget 3.37 to Revised Budget 3.00, due to an increase in externally restricted funds (largely driven by Water Fund).
- Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding has improved in the Revised Budget to 9.02% from the Current Budget 11.22%, due to QBR2 adjusting opening balances for Balance Sheet items (including debtors) to agree to FY'24 audited financial statements.

## Murray River Council

### Budget review for the quarter ended - 31 December 2024

	Benchmark Ratios	ORIGINAL Budget 2025	CURRENT Budget 2025	REVISED Budget 2025
<b>Performance Ratios</b>				
Operating Performance Ratio	> 0.00%	-10.75%	-11.81%	-9.31%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	> 1.50x	2.44	3.37	3.00
Own Source Revenue	> 60.00%	56.64%	53.17%	54.39%
Debt Servicing Cover Ratio	> 2.00x	46.48	51.78	47.68
Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding	< 10.00%	9.78%	11.22%	9.02%
Building and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio	> 100.00%	68%	83%	82%
Per Capita Operating Expense	Decrease Yearly	\$ 5,017	\$ 5,325	\$ 5,394

### ALL FUNDS STATEMENT

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

It is in my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Murray River Council for quarter ended 31 December 2024 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2025 will be satisfactory /~~unsatisfactory~~ at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure. This is on the basis that Council is continuing to reduce its projected Operating Deficit before Capital Grants & Contributions. However, it should also be noted that Council operations continue to result in an operating deficit, which if continued over the longer run will likely have a detrimental impact on asset quality and eventually the financial sustainability of Council.



Management Accountant, Murray River Council

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

2. Strategic Theme 2: A Place of Progressive Leadership

2.6 - Provide clear, concise and consistent information that is easily accessible to our customers - Improve externally provided information and communication.

### BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Refer to annual budget.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Local Government Act 1993




**RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**
  1. Inability to manage council financial resources.
  2. Long term financial sustainability of Council is compromised.
- **How can it happen?**
  1. Inadequate financial reporting and checks and balances.
  2. Operating deficits (before capital items) are not addressed urgently.
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
  1. Risk that council will not know if it is managing its financial resources effectively.
  2. Council unable to meet service obligations, deterioration of asset quality.
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
  1. Unlikely
  2. Likely
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
  1. Adequate
  2. Need Improvements
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
  1. Adequate and timely financial planning and reporting
  2. Addressing both cost and revenue side issues to improve operating deficit.

**CONCLUSION**

While Murray River Council's budget and financial performance is manageable as at the end of December 2024, ongoing operating deficits at current or higher levels will have significant impacts on the medium to long term financial sustainability.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Attachment 1 - December 2024 Quarterly Budget Review** [!\[\]\(f03d94f2c54d9744ed3771af3b829c57\_img.jpg\)](#) 
2. **Attachment 2 - Approved Variations Outside QBR Process Quarterly Budget Review** [!\[\]\(a593c591be73107f68872f3821562cce\_img.jpg\)](#)
3. **Attachment 3 - 2024/25 Capital Listing - Revision for the quarter ended 31 December 2024** [!\[\]\(21ae8f5d6a4f9ec86e79cbd0e5094d91\_img.jpg\)](#) 
4. **Attachment 4 - Dec 2024 Qtr Budget Review - Revised Financial Statements** [!\[\]\(08991d4640b718d38117237de821e912\_img.jpg\)](#) 

Attachment 1 - December 2024 Quarterly Budget Review

variations for the December 2024 quarter budget review

REVENUE						
Budget Group	Budget Item	Fund Allocation	Current Budget 2024/25 Year	Amended Budget 2024/25 Year	Movement	Further Details
Rates and Annual Charges	Rates & Annual Charges	Water Fund	\$8,394,081	\$8,448,338	\$54,257	Update Rates & Annual Charges budget based on review of actual and updated estimate for balance of year.
	Rates & Annual Charges	General Fund	\$13,157,553	\$13,316,874	\$159,321	Update Rates & Annual Charges budget based on review of actual and updated estimate for balance of year.
	Total Rates and Annual Charges		\$21,551,634	\$21,765,212	\$213,578	
User Fees and Charge	Development Certificate Fees	General Fund	\$391,600	\$501,600	\$110,000	Update budget based on improved estimates and actual to date.
	Commercial Waste Fees	Waste Fund	\$3,921,500	\$4,021,500	\$100,000	Update budget based on improved estimates and actual to date.
	State Roads Recoverable Works	General Fund	\$1,965,207	\$2,015,207	\$50,000	Increase budget estimate for Yanga Way project expected pre-June.
	GIPA Fees	General Fund	\$3,938	\$6,008	\$2,070	Update budget based on improved estimates and actual to date.
	Total User Fees and Charges		\$6,282,245	\$6,544,315	\$262,070	
Interest and Investment Revenue	Investment Income	General Fund	\$440	\$1,667	\$1,227	Updated interest income on deferred debtors to align with loan schedules.
	Investment Income	General Fund	\$1,139,596	\$965,224	(\$174,372)	Update budget based on actual investment income received to date and projection based on term deposit maturities.
	Investment Income	Water Fund	\$409,382	\$496,899	\$87,517	Update budget based on actual investment income received to date and projection based on term deposit maturities.
	Investment Income	Sewer Fund	\$675,065	\$1,093,221	\$418,156	Update budget based on actual investment income received to date and projection based on term deposit maturities.
	Investment Income	Waste Fund	\$227,441	\$276,479	\$49,038	Update budget based on actual investment income received to date and projection based on term deposit maturities.
	Total Interest and Investment Revenue		\$2,451,924	\$2,833,490	\$381,566	
Grants and Contributions - Operating	Rates Management Emergency Services Levy Contribution	General Fund	-	\$32,326	\$32,326	Update budget to reflect contribution received for upload of new Emergency Services Levy data requirements.
	Grants - Strong Start Cadet Program	General Fund	-	\$13,000	\$13,000	Estimated revenue based on successful completion of 4 x units by cadets in the planning department.
	Public Works Category D Funding regarding Natural Disaster	General Fund	-	\$350,000	\$350,000	Removal of temporary levee agreed to be funded via Public Works re 2022 Flood event. Not budgeted for due to uncertainty in receiving.
	Community Recovery Officer Program	General Fund	-	\$110,437	\$110,437	Update budget for expected operating contribution regarding Community Recovery Officer program funded by NSW Reconstruction Authority.
	Road Safety Officer Contribution	General Fund	\$73,064	\$145,749	\$72,685	Updated budget for contribution from Edward River Council as well as prior year funding received from Transport for NSW.
	Category B Natural Disaster Works - TfNSW	General Fund	-	\$117,884	\$117,884	Allocate budget from capital for operational works completed under EPAR.
	Murray Irrigation Network Bridge Load Assessments	General Fund	\$986,872	\$1,253,919	\$267,047	Updated to reflect expected increase in expenditure as 100% grant funded.
	Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy	General Fund	\$55,000	\$57,000	\$2,000	Budget was based on estimate, updated for actual received.
	Regional Tourism Activation Fund	Sewer Fund	-	\$621,082	\$621,082	Bring funds to account for project works expected to be completed during the financial year.
	Total Grants & Contributions - Operating		\$2,803,064	\$2,701,397	\$1,586,461	

Budget Group	Budget Item	Fund Allocation	Current Budget 2024/25 Year	Amended Budget 2024/25 Year	Movement	Further Details	
Grants and Contributions - Capital	Micro Abattoir Rectification Works	General Fund	-	\$107,743	\$107,743	Reflect in the budget required rectification works for Barham Micro Abattoir reimbursed by the original construction contractor.	
	Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre Public Toilets Upgrade	General Fund	\$187,926	-	(\$187,926)	MVBC Public Toilets moved to FY26 Capital bid. Unlikely to obtain grant due to lack of suitable opportunities. Will look to utilise funding in FY'26.	
	Meninya Street New Toilet Facility & Landscaping	General Fund	\$800,000	-	(\$800,000)	Amend budget for FY'26 estimated expenditure, lack of suitable grant programs to fund in FY'25. Will look to utilise funding in FY'26.	
	Stronger Country Communities Fund 5	General Fund	-	\$279,207	\$279,207	Bring into budget SCCF5 funds. Variation regarding Horseshoe Lagoon Enhancements approved post completion of budget.	
	Fixing Country Bridges - Drysdale Lane/Merran Creek	General Fund	-	\$105,747	\$105,747	Updated to reflect variation lodged with TfNSW to cover additional expense incurred in prior years, as a result of underspend and completion of audit on Sandys Bridge.	
	Fixing Country Bridges - Frasers Rd/Murrain Yarrein Creek	General Fund	\$179,237	\$532,426	\$353,189	Updated to reflect variation lodged with TfNSW to cover additional expense incurred in prior years, as a result of underspend and completion of audit on Sandys Bridge.	
	General Developer Contributions	General Fund	\$849,500	\$1,023,766	\$174,266	Updated budget to reflect actual and known development contributions for remainder of year.	
	Water Developer Contributions	Water Fund	\$900,000	\$610,583	(\$289,417)	Updated budget to reflect actual and known development contributions for remainder of year.	
	Sewer Developer Contributions	Sewer Fund	\$395,000	\$301,603	(\$93,397)	Updated budget to reflect actual and known development contributions for remainder of year.	
	Waste Developer Contributions	Waste Fund	\$82,000	\$118,641	\$36,641	Updated budget to reflect actual and known development contributions for remainder of year.	
	Gifted Assets - Roads	General Fund	-	\$234,784	\$234,784	Updated budget to reflect actual and known development contributions for remainder of year.	
	Gifted Assets - Water	Water Fund	-	\$216,920	\$216,920	Updated budget to reflect actual and known development contributions for remainder of year.	
	Gifted Assets - Sewer	Sewer Fund	-	\$178,640	\$178,640	Updated budget to reflect actual and known development contributions for remainder of year.	
	Category B Natural Disaster Works - TfNSW	General Fund	\$2,474,840	\$2,352,593	(\$122,247)	Allocate budget from capital for operational works completed under EPAR.	
	Roads to Recovery Program	General Fund	\$2,700,000	\$2,682,309	(\$17,691)	Update estimated wages reimbursed by R2R program.	
	Australian Government Black Spot Program	General Fund	-	\$50,000	\$50,000	Update the budget to recognise grant revenue for expected works on Moulamein Road Barham intersection this financial year.	
	Barham River Estate Levee	General Fund	\$540,252	\$24,643	(\$515,609)	Update budget as DPEI works behind original budget schedule - grant funding reflects expenditure.	
	Moulamein Ring Levee Disaster Relief Funding	General Fund	\$154,147	\$254,546	\$100,399	Update budget based on expenditure to date - grant funding reflects expenditure.	
	Total Grants & Contributions - Capital			\$9,262,902	\$9,074,151	(\$188,751)	
Other Revenue	Workers Compensation Insurance Rebate	General Fund	-	\$66,041	\$66,041	Update budget for Health & Wellbeing Rebate provided by Workers Compensation Insurance provider as at time budget was set, it was believed MRC would be ineligible this year, moving to a premium reduction instead, however this was not the case.	
	Plant & Fleet Insurance claims	General Fund	\$10,000	\$31,200	\$21,200	Update for allowance of newly registered vehicle commission and windscreen repairs to be claimed.	
	Scrap Metal Sales from Landfill	Waste Fund	-	\$20,000	\$20,000	Update budget based on quarterly scrap metal sales commencing at approx \$10k per quarter.	
	Moama Lights Revenue	General Fund	\$625,000	\$488,569	(\$136,431)	Update budget based on completion of Moama Lights event for 2024, noting that no further expense or revenue is expected.	
	Other Revenue - Buildings	General Fund	-	\$21,370	\$21,370	Contributions regarding repairs and maintenance at MRC owned Retirement & Community Villages.	
Total Other Revenue			\$635,000	\$627,180	(\$7,820)		
Lease Revenue	Staff Housing	General Fund	\$30,000	\$4,160	(\$25,840)	Update to reflect cessation of provision of staff housing and associated contributions. Budget figure reflects YTD.	
	Total Lease Revenue		\$30,000	\$4,160	(\$25,840)		
Total Revenue - Budget Adjustments			\$39,672,370	\$43,549,905	\$2,221,264		

Budget Group	Budget Item	Fund Allocation	Current Budget 2024/25 Year	Amended Budget 2024/25 Year	Movement	Further Details
OPERATING EXPENDITURE						
Employee Benefits and Oncosts	Fringe Benefits Tax	General Fund	(\$164,100)	(\$212,942)	(\$48,842)	Increased expected FBT expense based on position movements and additional tertiary studies.
	Vacancies & appointments	General Fund	(\$18,145,014)	(\$18,005,059)	\$139,955	Adjustment for vacancies and appointments to date.
	Fringe Benefits Tax	Water Fund	(\$3,500)	(\$14,160)	(\$10,660)	Increased expected FBT expense based on position movements.
	Vacancies & appointments	Water Fund	(\$1,540,577)	(\$1,594,629)	(\$54,052)	Adjustment for vacancies and appointments to date.
	Vacancies & appointments	Sewer Fund	(\$420,705)	(\$428,049)	(\$7,344)	Adjustment for vacancies and appointments to date.
	Fringe Benefits Tax	Waste Fund	(\$11,000)	(\$8,079)	\$2,921	Reduced expected FBT expense based on position movements.
	Vacancies & appointments	Waste Fund	(\$1,161,601)	(\$1,159,801)	\$1,800	Adjustment for vacancies and appointments to date.
	Total Employee Benefit & Oncost		(\$21,446,497)	(\$21,422,719)	\$23,778	
Materials and Contracts	Strategic Land Use Planning - Housing Strategy	General Fund	-	(\$50,000)	(\$50,000)	Update budget to include consultant costs to re-write Housing Strategy, funded from increase in development certification revenue.
	Statutory Planning - Consultants	General Fund	(\$254,600)	(\$165,100)	\$89,500	Adjust consultants funded by vacant positions, as positions filled from December 2024.
	Customer Services Software	General Fund	-	(\$8,500)	(\$8,500)	Update budget for development of tracking tool to capture over the counter service types & times data.
	Strategic Assetes - Plans of Management	General Fund	(\$50,000)	(\$85,000)	(\$35,000)	Additional costs to Plans of Management to support review of proposed activies regarding Part B Native title act.
	Plant & Fleet Fuel and Insurance	General Fund	(\$1,743,745)	(\$1,666,645)	\$77,100	Update the budget to reflect actual driven by reduction in vehicles held by council leased by staff, as we transition to travel allowances.
	Kerbside Waste Collections	Waste Fund	(\$2,352,000)	(\$2,268,000)	\$84,000	Reduce budget based on actual YTD average monthly contracted expenditure.
	Regional Tourism Activation Fund	General Fund	-	(\$621,082)	(\$621,082)	Bring funds to account for project works expected to be completed during the financial year.
	Waste Management Consultants	Waste Fund	(\$100,000)	-	\$100,000	Consultant costs not required FY'25 - Able to complete waste management works in house.
	Moama Lights 2024 Event Expenses	General Fund	(\$375,129)	(\$410,637)	(\$35,508)	Reflect budget expenditure for 2024 Moama Lights event, noting that the 2025 event will not be taking place.
	Plant Recovery	General Fund	\$1,348,613	\$1,370,819	\$22,206	Updates to plant recovery, mainly due to cessation of Moama Lights Event & movement to Capital Projects.
	Project Management Recovery	General Fund	\$77,965	\$84,510	\$6,545	Updates to project management internal charges, mainly due to cessation of Moama Lights Event and movement in capital projects.
	Procurement Document Suite	General Fund	(\$10,000)	(\$22,950)	(\$12,950)	Operational costs to implement and maintain new procurement document suite.
	Standards Australia Annual Royalty	General Fund	-	(\$2,100)	(\$2,100)	Update budget to reflect expected cost for Royalty as part of new procurement processes.
	Property Valuations	General Fund	(\$30,000)	(\$5,000)	\$25,000	Update to reflect no further expected propetrty sales this financial year.
	Staff Housing Costs	General Fund	(\$45,316)	(\$8,914)	\$36,402	Update to reflect cessation of provision of staff housing and associated costs to council. Budget figure reflects YTD.
	Probity Expenses (Legal Services)	General Fund	(\$40,000)	(\$20,000)	\$20,000	Reduction based on deprioritisation of property rationalisation project. (ie no longer reducing number of parks and open spaces).
	Planning proposals and public consultations re property disposals	General Fund	(\$50,000)	(\$10,000)	\$40,000	Reduction based on deprioritisation of property rationalisation project. (ie no longer reducing number of parks and open spaces).
	CS Director - Consultants	General Fund	(\$75,000)	(\$50,000)	\$25,000	Reduce budget based expected requirement to end of year.
	Little Forest Temporary Levy	General Fund	-	(\$350,000)	(\$350,000)	Update budget for costs expected to deconstruct temporary levy as a result of 2022 flood event, fully funded by Public Works Natural Disaster funding Category D.
	Private Works - State Roads	General Fund	-	(\$593,000)	(\$593,000)	Additional contracts for Yanga Way and Centre Road recoverable works.
	Category B Natural Disaster Works - TfNSW	General Fund	-	(\$62,850)	(\$62,850)	Allocate budget from capital for operational works completed under EPAR.
	Staff Training	General Fund	(\$283,674)	(\$280,634)	\$3,040	Slight adjustment to training budget based on movements in employees.
	Overland Flood Studies	General Fund	(\$171,247)	(\$179,424)	(\$8,177)	Update to include Barham & Mathoura Overland Flood Studies (grant funded) whilst reducing FY'25 expenditure estimates for Moama and Moulamein.
	Murray Irrigation Network Bridge Load Assessments	General Fund	(\$811,418)	(\$1,193,569)	(\$382,151)	Increase expenditure based on anticipated work completion to 30 June 2024.
	Total Materials and Contracts		(\$4,965,551)	(\$6,598,076)	(\$1,632,525)	
	Total Operational Expenditure - Budget Adjustments		(\$26,412,048)	(\$28,020,795)	(\$1,608,747)	

Budget Group	Budget Item	Fund Allocation	Current Budget 2024/25 Year	Amended Budget 2024/25 Year	Movement	Further Details
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
Reserve Funding	Replace security fence around Barham WTP	Water Fund	-	(\$13,000)	(\$13,000)	Unexpected capital renewal required due to damage.
Reserve Funding	Mathoura Transfer Station Connectivity Project	Waste Fund	-	(\$15,000)	(\$15,000)	Capital Bid to connect Mathoura Transfer Station to the internet via Starlink, enabling use of council software and efficiencies at the site.
Reserve Funding	Moama Landfill Gas Investigation & Trial	Waste Fund	(\$322,000)	(\$267,164)	\$54,836	Reflect in budget the reduced actual cost to complete the set up of gas capture.
Reserve Funding	Automated Depot Shed Construction	Waste Fund	(\$948,200)	(\$725,000)	\$223,200	Reflect in budget the actual cost to complete construction of the automated depot shed, as project completed.
Reserve Funding	Leachate Management (Cell5)	Waste Fund	(\$300,000)	(\$280,000)	\$20,000	Reflect in budget the actual cost to complete installation of the Cell 5 Leachate Pond Management System, as project completed.
Capital Contribution/Council Own Funding	Micro Abattoir Rectification Works	General Fund	-	(\$139,916)	(\$139,916)	Reflect in the budget required rectification works for Barham Micro Abattoir reimbursed by the original construction contractor.
Grant Funding	Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre Public Toilets	General Fund	(\$187,926)	-	\$187,926	MVBC Public Toilets moved to FY26 Capital bid. Unlikely to obtain grant due to lack of suitable opportunities.
Council Own Funding	Records - Software M365 Share Point Intranet Integration	General Fund	(\$94,460)	(\$20,000)	\$74,460	Reduced scope of project as MRC have been able to implement integration internally.
Council Own Funding	GoLive for Council On the Road meetings	General Fund	(\$35,000)	-	\$35,000	Decrease capital budget for GoLive meetings as Council Meetings are now to be held from Moama with remote workshops which are not Live Streamed.
Council Own Funding / Reserve Funding	ICT Device Replacements	General Fund	(\$150,000)	(\$301,000)	(\$151,000)	Urgent funding needed to replace failing ICT hardware, ensuring productivity, security compliance, and business continuity.
Council Own Funding	Network Renewals	General Fund	(\$150,000)	(\$180,000)	(\$30,000)	Urgent funding needed to replace failing ICT hardware, ensuring productivity, security compliance, and business continuity.
Council Own Funding	Mathoura Subdivision	General Fund	-	(\$49,000)	(\$49,000)	Mathoura Subdivision design, approved in 2021 for \$150k, with \$81k spent to 30 June 2024. Not brought in via carry over for FY'25 original budget, however \$30k spent YTD.
Council Own Funding / Grant Funding	Meninya Street New Toilet Facility & Landscaping	General Fund	(\$1,000,000)	(\$100,000)	\$900,000	Amend budget for FY'26 estimated expenditure, lack of suitable grant programs to fund in FY'25. Will look to utilise LRCI in FY'26.
Council Own Funding	Horseshoe Lagoon viewing Platform	General Fund	(\$35,000)	-	\$35,000	Horseshoe lagoon viewing platform works covered under SCCF5. Move budget to restore Moulamein netball courts prior to the netball season.
Council Own Funding	Moulamein Netball Courts Surface Renewal	General Fund	-	(\$35,000)	(\$35,000)	Netball courts required to be restored prior to the upcoming netball season.
Grant Funding	Stronger Country Communities Fund 5	General Fund	-	(\$163,726)	(\$163,726)	Bring to account grant funded carry on for SCCF5 projects (Barham Art Viewing Area and Moulamein Lake Upgrades) now completed.
Grant Funding	Category B Natural Disaster Works - TfNSW	General Fund	(\$2,474,840)	(\$2,352,593)	\$122,247	Allocate budget from capital for operational works completed under EPAR
Grant Funding	Moulamein Rd, Barham intersection upgrade	General Fund	-	(\$50,000)	(\$50,000)	Update the budget for expected works on Moulamein Road Barham intersection this financial year, funded by the Australian Government Black Spot Program.
Reserve Funding	Water Treatment PAC Dosing Plant	Water Fund	(\$2,445,000)	(\$445,000)	\$2,000,000	Adjust for works to be carried over via water reserve into next financial year.
Reserve Funding	Water Pump Motor Drives	Water Fund	-	(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)	Replace Motor Drives and Controller at Moama Raw Water Pump due to drives being burnt out during power surge.
Grant Funding	Fixing Country Bridges - Frasers Rd/Murrain Yarrein Creek	General Fund	(\$111,522)	(\$157,244)	(\$45,722)	Update based on actual costings to close out project. Note variation to cover expenditure approved by TfNSW.
Council Own Funding / Grant Funding	Barham River Estate Levee	General Fund	(\$578,333)	(\$419,752)	\$158,581	Removal of project for Koraleigh Landfill Rehabilitation as pushed to FY26.
Grant Funding	Moulamein Levees & Stormwater Backflow Prevention	General Fund	(\$155,597)	(\$120,974)	\$34,623	Amended costs for remainder of FY'25, as project payments expected later than originally budgeted.
Reserve Funding	Plant and Fleet Renewal Program	General Fund	(\$3,057,521)	(\$2,607,521)	\$450,000	Purchase of equipment budgeted for now has known 12 month lead time - will be included in FY'26 budget.
Grant Funding	Kyalite Road Widening & R2R Funded programs	General Fund	(\$840,807)	(\$813,006)	\$27,801	Transfer wages from capital to operational as a result of vacancies and staff movements.
Total Other Capital Expenditure			(\$12,886,206)	(\$9,279,896)	\$3,606,310	
Total Capital Expenditure - Budget Adjustments			(\$12,886,206)	(\$9,279,896)	\$3,606,310	

Budget Group	Budget Item	Fund Allocation	Current Budget 2024/25 Year	Amended Budget 2024/25 Year	Movement	Further Details
OTHER FUNDING MOVEMENTS						
Reserve Movement	Waste Reserves	Waste Fund	(\$49,536)	(\$435,635)	(\$386,099)	Reserve movements associated with capital & operational variations in Waste department.
	Kyalite Road Widening & R2R Funded programs	General Fund	\$1,015,755	\$1,003,331	(\$12,424)	Adjustment to reserve funding on capital works.
	Plant & Fleet Fund Reserve	General Fund	\$732,607	(\$1,211,121)	(\$1,943,728)	Reserve movements associated with capital & operational variations in the plant & fleet department to fund future purchases.
	Water Reserves	Water Fund	\$1,409,132	(\$494,714)	(\$1,903,846)	Reserve movements associated with capital & operational variations in the water department.
	Sewer Reserves	Sewer Fund	(\$1,895,987)	(\$2,421,896)	(\$525,909)	Reserve movements associated with capital variation in the sewer department.
	Developer Contributions	General Fund	(\$849,500)	(\$1,023,766)	(\$174,266)	Increase in developer contributions reserved for future use.
	Total Reserve Movements		\$1,211,971	(\$3,560,035)	(\$4,946,272)	
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	Cost of assets sold	General Fund	(\$922,000)	(\$1,121,360)	(\$199,360)	Update cost of assets sold to include part Morago Street Moulamein sale, original budget only included land.
	Proceeds of Sale of Real Estate	General Fund	\$3,512,500	\$1,295,000	(\$2,217,500)	Update budget to remove sale of Mathoura Line Road unlikely to sell this FY, as well as the Business Park lot not settling until FY'27.
	Proceeds from Road Closure (Sale)	General Fund	-	\$27,571	\$27,571	Baldon Road Closure and Sale - One off sale of property connecting road, reflect actual in budget.
	Total Proceeds from Sale of Assets		\$2,590,500	\$201,211	(\$2,389,289)	
Total Other Funding Movements - Budget Adjustments			\$3,802,471	(\$3,358,824)	(\$7,335,561)	

Attachment 2 - Approved Variations Outside QBR Process Quarterly Budget Review

ariations approved by separate Council resolution up to the September 2024 quarter budget review  
The amounts below are those Council resolutions that have a budget impact, for example, they have no budget or a current budget allocation is amended.

REVENUE						
Budget Group	Budget Item	Current Budget 2024/25 Year	Amended Budget 2024/25 Year	Movement	Council Resolution	Further Details
Other Revenue	Economic Development & Tourism - Discontinuation of Moama Lights Event	\$129,500	-	(\$129,500)	381024	Update budget to remove estimated 2025 CY Moama Lights revenue - budget reflects actual 2024 CY event revenue.
	Total Other Revenue	\$129,500	-	(\$129,500)		
Total Revenue - Outside QBR Review Process		\$129,500	-	(\$129,500)		
OPERATING EXPENDITURE						
Budget Group	Budget Item	Current Budget 2024/25 Year	Amended Budget 2024/25 Year	Movement	Council Resolution	Further Details
Materials and Contracts	Economic Development & Tourism - Discontinuation of Moama Lights Event	(\$430,780)	-	\$430,780	381024	Update budget to remove budgeted 2025CY Moama Lights materials & Contracts expenditure.
	SRV Preparations & Communications	(\$154,250)	(\$80,505)	\$73,745	320125	Update budget to remove expected expenditure regarding investigation of potential SRV. Balance refers to sustainability assessment projects in progress.
	Total Materials and Contracts	(\$585,030)	(\$80,505)	\$504,525		
Total Operational Expenditure - Outside QBR Review Process		(\$585,030)	(\$80,505)	\$504,525		

Outside QBR Review Process Budget Movement \$375,025

024/25 Capital Listing - Revision for the quarter ended 31 December 2024	Renew	New	Upgrade	Grand Total
<b>Theme 1 - A Place of Environmental Sensitivity</b>	<b>1,883,535</b>	<b>2,515,164</b>	<b>2,779,883</b>	<b>7,178,582</b>
<b>T1.Goal_2 - Protect, enhance &amp; sustance the natural environment</b>	<b>1,883,535</b>	<b>1,523,000</b>	<b>2,779,883</b>	<b>6,186,418</b>
<b>1.3 - Integrate water cycle management</b>	<b>1,883,535</b>	<b>1,143,000</b>	<b>2,779,883</b>	<b>5,806,418</b>
Active Leak detection bucket	120,000			120,000
Barham River Estate Levee Upgrade			471,713	471,713
Chemical dosing area rehab Wakool	75,000			75,000
Council St MH 1A5 and 1A6 remove and replace	30,000			30,000
Filtered water reservoir relining Moama	77,000			77,000
LGA Levee Program of works	451,670			451,670
Loose Tools - Water & Sewer - moved to operational	-			-
Mathoura WTP Chlorine scales			25,000	25,000
Moama WTP augmentation design		55,000		55,000
Moama WTP Saturator renewal	45,000			45,000
Moulamein Levees, Stormwater Backflow Prevention			136,651	136,651
PAC Dosing upgrade Moama WTP			445,000	445,000
Pipework for clearwell Moama WTP			9,000	9,000
Punt Rd river pump switchboard replacment	55,000			55,000
Replace BP1 switchboard Moama	50,000			50,000
Rural Stormwater Drainage			190,000	190,000
Sewer Infiltration detection		-		-
Sewer Investigation & Design Package		44,000		44,000
Sewer relining project - Barham	140,000			140,000
Site Rehab for New Reservoirs		-		-
SPS 1 pump replace Mathoura	20,000			20,000
SPS 7 pump replace Mathoura	20,000			20,000
Stormwater Drainage			250,000	250,000
Stormwater Drainage - Clark Court			268,500	268,500
SW basin Reservoirs	80,000			80,000
UPS Mathoura WTP			8,000	8,000
VSD Jacana Ave Sewer SPS			55,000	55,000
VSD Keily Road Sewer SPS			55,000	55,000
VSD Moulamein STP SPS			60,000	60,000
Wakool Filtered Mains additional valves			19,000	19,000
Wakool Reservoir stage 2	-			-
Water Investigation & Design Package		44,000		44,000
Water Mains Renewal Filtered	507,611			507,611
Water Mains Renewal Raw	162,254			162,254
Winbi 2 SPS rail replacement Moama	12,000			12,000
Purchase Land Moama Water Treatment Plant		1,000,000		1,000,000
Detailed Design Stage of the Proposed New Barham Sewage Treatment Plant			458,760	458,760
Moama Sewer Treatment detailed design			328,259	328,259
Replace security fence around Barham WTP	13,000			13,000
Replace Motor Drives and Controller at Moama Raw Water Pump due to drives being burnt out during power sur	25,000			25,000
<b>1.5 - Landfill rehabilitation works</b>		<b>380,000</b>		<b>380,000</b>
Koraleigh Landfill Rehabilitation		-		-
Landfill Investigation & Planning Requirement		100,000		100,000
Leachate Management (Cell5)		280,000		280,000
<b>T1.Goal_3 - Plan for the impacts of climate change</b>		<b>992,164</b>		<b>992,164</b>
<b>1.7 - Environmental sustainability program</b>		<b>992,164</b>		<b>992,164</b>
Moama Landfill Gas Investigation & Trial		267,164		267,164
Automated Depot		725,000		725,000
<b>Theme 2 - A Place of Progressive Leadership</b>	<b>3,088,521</b>	<b>1,632,140</b>		<b>4,720,661</b>
<b>T2.Goal_2 - Continue to be a trusted &amp; ethical leader that leads by example</b>	<b>2,607,521</b>	<b>13,000</b>		<b>2,620,521</b>
<b>2.5 - Leadership that is trusted, capable &amp; collaborative</b>	<b>2,607,521</b>	<b>13,000</b>		<b>2,620,521</b>
Asset Purchase for Replacement - All other Fleet	2,173,757			2,173,757
Asset Purchase for Replacement - Light Vehicle Fleet	433,764			433,764
Software Supplier Portal Implementation		13,000		13,000
<b>T2.Goal_3 - Provide clear, concise &amp; consistent information that is easily accessible to our customers</b>	<b>481,000</b>	<b>1,619,140</b>		<b>2,100,140</b>
<b>2.7 - Improve internal services to better support community needs</b>	<b>481,000</b>	<b>1,619,140</b>		<b>2,100,140</b>
Governance Software		79,750		79,750
ICT Device Replacements	301,000			301,000
ICT Network Renewals	180,000			180,000
Software TechOne Implementation - Compliance, CRM		1,539,390		1,539,390
<b>Theme 3 - A Place of Liveable Communities</b>	<b>2,404,717</b>	<b>2,669,770</b>	<b>1,618,685</b>	<b>6,693,172</b>
<b>T3.Goal_1 - Create &amp; maintain safe &amp; accessible community spaces that enhance healthy living &amp; promote active l</b>	<b>656,143</b>	<b>625,000</b>	<b>597,000</b>	<b>1,878,143</b>
<b>3.1 - Sports &amp; recreation facilities &amp; spaces</b>	<b>331,412</b>	<b>485,000</b>	<b>122,000</b>	<b>938,412</b>
Central Irrigation Management 4G Upgrade			-	-
Kerribee Playground (LRIC P4A)		485,000		485,000
Koraleigh Recreation Reserve Shed Renewal			22,000	22,000
Mathoura Common Fencing	11,000			11,000
Moama Cricket Club (MCC) Practice Facility Extension			75,000	75,000
Moama Rec Res Landscaping & Fencing			10,000	10,000
MRC Outdoor Pool Renewal	27,500			27,500
Picnic Point Caravan Park Timber Retaining Wall Renewal	145,621			145,621
Wakool Recreation Reserve Signage & Renewal			15,000	15,000
Riverside Caravan Park Flood Reparation	57,605			57,605
Moulamein Wharf Flood Reparations	23,536			23,536
Barham caravan Park Flood Reparations	31,150			31,150
Moulamein Netball Courts Resurfacing	35,000			35,000

024/25 Capital Listing - Revision for the quarter ended 31 December 2024	Renew	New	Upgrade	Grand Total
<b>3.2 - Public Buildings</b>	<b>324,731</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>914,731</b>
Asbestos Management & Remediation LGA wide	55,500			55,500
Caldwell Hall General Renewal	59,290			59,290
HVAC Replacement	30,000			30,000
Mathoura Council Offices	14,000			14,000
Mathoura Memorial Park Toilet Block	23,000			23,000
Meninya Street New Toilet Facility & Landscaping		100,000		100,000
MVBC Park Public Toilet Upgrade			-	-
MVBC Stage 1 - Security Upgrade & Library Renovation			410,000	410,000
Office Furniture			40,000	40,000
Old Courthouse Moulamein	25,041			25,041
Wakool Memorial Hall Genreal Renewal	40,900			40,900
Moama Office Ground Floor - Stage 1a	77,000			77,000
Site Office for Moama Water Treatment Plant		40,000		40,000
<b>3.6 - CCTV strategy</b>			<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
Security Upgrade (SALTO, Promaster, CCTV)			25,000	25,000
<b>T3.Goal_3 - Delivery best practise &amp; compliant waste &amp; recycling service &amp; infrastructure that meets community needs</b>		<b>974,270</b>		<b>974,270</b>
<b>3.9 - Kerbside, landfill &amp; waste collection services &amp; facilities</b>		<b>974,270</b>		<b>974,270</b>
Push Pit		974,270		974,270
<b>T3.Goal_4 - Strategic planing which produces consistent, strategic, transparent outcomes</b>		<b>971,500</b>	<b>1,021,685</b>	<b>1,993,185</b>
<b>3.10 - Streetscapint / Master Planning / Placemaking</b>		<b>971,500</b>	<b>1,021,685</b>	<b>1,993,185</b>
Meninya St Off Street Car Parking - Land Acquisition		971,500		971,500
Meninya Street Civil Design			1,010,685	1,010,685
Meninya Street Parking Trial - Blair, Echuca, Maiden Sts.			11,000	11,000
Meninya Street South Car Park - 23/24 Construction Update		-		-
<b>T3.Goal_5 - Update &amp; review our open spaces to reflect community wants &amp; needs</b>	<b>1,748,574</b>	<b>50,000</b>		<b>1,798,574</b>
<b>3.12 - Cemeteries / commemoration</b>		<b>50,000</b>		<b>50,000</b>
Moama Cemetery Expansion - Lawn Section Design		50,000		50,000
<b>3.13 - Upgrade, enhance &amp; maintain Parks &amp; Open Spaces that connect communities &amp; are accessible</b>	<b>1,748,574</b>			<b>1,748,574</b>
Horseshoe Lagoon viewing Platform	-			-
Passive Recreation Park Furniture Renewal	75,000			75,000
Murray Downs Riverside Boat Ramp	1,673,574			1,673,574
<b>T3.Goal_2 - Enable development of sustainable liveable communities</b>		<b>49,000</b>		<b>49,000</b>
3.7 - Housing strategy		49,000		49,000
Mathoura Development. \$130k total budget, \$81k spent to date = \$49k remaining for FY'25		49,000		49,000
<b>heme_4 - A Place of Inclusion, Culture &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<b>191,557</b>	<b>173,726</b>		<b>365,283</b>
<b>T4.Goal_1 - Develop community led strategy with a focus on social connections / social fabric and a sense of belonging</b>		<b>10,000</b>		<b>10,000</b>
<b>4.1 - Signage across Council</b>		<b>10,000</b>		<b>10,000</b>
Way finding & Directional Signage		10,000		10,000
<b>T4.Goal_2 - Foster &amp; develop strategy to recognise &amp; celebrate our rich heritage &amp; indigenous culture (in partners</b>	<b>191,557</b>			<b>191,557</b>
<b>4.6 - Regional History</b>	<b>191,557</b>			<b>191,557</b>
Interpretive Signage Riverwalk (Flood Damage)	191,557			191,557
<b>T4.Goal_4 - Supporting existing &amp; new art projects &amp; diverse community events</b>		<b>163,726</b>		<b>163,726</b>
4.9 - Regional Arts & Culture Projects		163,726		163,726
Barham Rec Reserve Art & Tourism Project & Moulamein Lake Upgrade (SCCF5)		163,726		163,726
<b>heme_5 - A Place of Prosperity and Resilience</b>	<b>139,916</b>	<b>122,432</b>	<b>13,146</b>	<b>275,494</b>
<b>T5.Goal_2 - Continue to develop strong &amp; resilient communities</b>		<b>122,432</b>		<b>122,432</b>
<b>5.6 - Increased educational opportunities</b>		<b>122,432</b>		<b>122,432</b>
Moama Pre-School - Project Retention		122,432		122,432
<b>T5.Goal_3 - Promote &amp; grow tourism across the region</b>			<b>13,146</b>	<b>13,146</b>
<b>5.10 - Growing Tourism across the LGA</b>			<b>13,146</b>	<b>13,146</b>
Liston Caravan Park			13,146	13,146
<b>T5.Goal_1 - Encourage &amp; support economic development across the region</b>	<b>139,916</b>			<b>139,916</b>
5.1 - Development of Business Parks / Industrial Expansion	139,916			139,916
Rectification works required on the Barham Micro Abattoir	139,916			139,916
<b>heme_6 - Connected Communities</b>	<b>8,891,285</b>	<b>351,814</b>	<b>5,652,833</b>	<b>14,895,932</b>
<b>T6.Goal_1 - Development strategies to deliver road &amp; shared pathway infrastructure that is accessible to all</b>	<b>6,461,593</b>	<b>351,814</b>	<b>3,112,309</b>	<b>9,925,716</b>
<b>6.1 - Cycle, foot &amp; other pathways</b>	<b>99,000</b>	<b>351,814</b>	<b>310,000</b>	<b>760,814</b>
Cycle Path - Five Mile (LRCI P4A)			180,000	180,000
Cycle Path - Solar Lights (LRCI P4A)			130,000	130,000
Kiely Rd Footpath Upgrad (LRCI P4A)		120,000		120,000
Mathoura Footpath Construction (LRCI P4A)		101,814		101,814
Mathoura Footpath Renewal Program (LRCI P4A)	69,000			69,000
Moulamein Construct Footpah (LRCI P4A)		130,000		130,000
Shared Pathway Renewals	30,000			30,000
<b>6.2 - Improved &amp; consistent road signage across the region</b>	<b>120,000</b>			<b>120,000</b>
Regional Roads Signs & Guardrails	120,000			120,000

024/25 Capital Listing - Revision for the quarter ended 31 December 2024	Renew	New	Upgrade	Grand Total
<b>6.4 - Local road &amp; drainage options</b>	<b>6,242,593</b>		<b>2,802,309</b>	<b>9,044,902</b>
Kerb & Gutter Renewals (LRCI P4)	200,000			200,000
Kerb & Gutter Renewals East	100,000			100,000
Local Road Reseals	650,000			650,000
Natural Disaster Recovery Works (EPARW)	2,352,593			2,352,593
Paved Footpath Renewals	90,000			90,000
Perricoota Rd - Roundabout design			120,000	120,000
Regional Road Reseals	1,100,000			1,100,000
Roads to Recovery			2,682,309	2,682,309
Survey & Design Package	150,000			150,000
Unselaed Rd Resheeting (FLR4)	-			-
Unselaed Rd Resheeting (LRCI)	400,000			400,000
Unselaed Rd Resheeting (RERRF)	500,000			500,000
Urban Roads Renewals	150,000			150,000
Urban Street Reseals	550,000			550,000
Adjustment for Plant & Employee costs	-			-
<b>T6.Goal_3 - Advocate for improved public transport</b>			<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>6.8 - Public Transport infrastructure</b>			<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>
Depot Improvements FY24/FY25			12,000	12,000
<b>T6.Goal_4 - Enable commercial transport &amp; connection opportunities</b>	<b>2,429,692</b>		<b>2,358,524</b>	<b>4,788,216</b>
<b>6.10 - Major Raods upgrades</b>	<b>2,429,692</b>		<b>2,358,524</b>	<b>4,788,216</b>
Kyalite Road Widening			2,247,125	2,247,125
Tooranie Rd / Yarrein Ck Bridge	2,429,692			2,429,692
Frasers Rd / Murrain Yarrein Ck Bridge			61,399	61,399
Drysdale Lane / Merran Ck Bridge			-	-
Moulamein Rd Barham Intersection Upgrade - AGBSP			50,000	50,000
<b>T6.Goal_2 - Advocate for &amp; facilitate reliable communications infrastructure</b>			<b>170,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>
6.5 - Digital connectivity & connumication infrastructure			170,000	170,000
Upgrade from 3G to 4G Modems prior to switch off of network			170,000	170,000
<b>heme_7 - Tomorrow's Technologies</b>		<b>646,565</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>666,565</b>
<b>T7.Goal_1 - Embed a geospatial driven system into Council processess, including public interface</b>		<b>303,230</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>323,230</b>
<b>7.3 - Apply data sources to improve corporate decision making</b>		<b>303,230</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>323,230</b>
Software M365 Share Point Intranet			20,000	20,000
Software Peppol E-Invoicing		47,230		47,230
Software TechOne - Project Lifecycle Management		256,000		256,000
<b>T7.Goal_2 - Explore technologies to forecast possible future opportunities</b>		<b>343,335</b>		<b>343,335</b>
<b>7.6 - Promote advanced technologies</b>		<b>343,335</b>		<b>343,335</b>
Solar Panels		232,710		232,710
GoLive for Council On the Road meetings		-		-
ICT Roadmap - Capital Component		95,625		95,625
Mathoura Transfer Station Internet Connectivity - Starlink Hardware & Installation		15,000		15,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16,599,531</b>	<b>8,111,611</b>	<b>10,084,547</b>	<b>34,795,689</b>

## Murray River Council

Quarterly Budget Review - 31 December 2024

Whole of Council



INCOME STATEMENT		Original Approved Budget	Current Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Budget Movement Current v Revised
Consolidated		2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
					Budget Improvement Budget Deterioration
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>					
Rates and annual charges	B2-1	24,527,721	24,952,131	25,165,709	213,578
User charges and fees	B2-2	12,015,133	12,319,121	12,581,191	262,070
Other revenue	B2-3	1,182,306	1,215,677	1,078,357	(137,320)
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	19,090,959	20,841,286	22,410,056	1,568,770
Grants and contributions provided from capital purposes	B2-4	11,807,723	13,390,476	13,219,416	(171,060)
Interest and investment income	B2-5	1,639,413	2,704,483	3,086,049	381,566
Other income	B2-6	1,127,987	611,057	585,217	(25,840)
	D2-1				
Net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method		0	0	0	0
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>71,391,242</b>	<b>76,034,231</b>	<b>78,125,995</b>	<b>2,091,764</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>					
Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	(21,054,961)	(21,446,497)	(21,422,719)	23,778
Materials and services	B3-2	(26,470,474)	(27,064,984)	(28,192,983)	(1,127,999)
Borrowing costs	B3-3	(34,018)	(34,018)	(34,018)	0
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets	B3-4	(20,344,178)	(20,344,178)	(20,344,178)	0
Other expenses	B3-5	(1,099,842)	(1,154,842)	(1,154,842)	0
Net gain / (losses) from the disposal of assets	B4-1	3,015,798	2,590,500	201,211	(2,389,289)
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>(65,987,676)</b>	<b>(67,454,019)</b>	<b>(70,947,529)</b>	<b>(3,493,510)</b>
<b>Net Operating result from continuing operations Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>5,403,567</b>	<b>8,580,213</b>	<b>7,178,466</b>	<b>(1,401,746)</b>
<b>Other Funding Movements</b>					
Total Capital Expenditure		(31,838,739)	(38,401,999)	(34,795,689)	3,606,310
Total Transfers From/ (To) Reserves		2,120,552	4,240,688	(705,584)	(4,946,272)
Sale Proceeds from Sale of Assets		4,237,100	4,237,100	2,022,571	(2,214,529)
Total Loan Borrowings		0	0	0	0
Total Loan Repayments		(266,658)	(266,658)	(266,658)	0
Deferred Debtor Advances Repaid		0	0	0	0
Deferred Debtor Advances Made		0	0	0	0
Depreciation Contra Reversal		20,344,178	20,344,178	20,344,178	0
<b>Total Other Funding Movements Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>(5,403,567)</b>	<b>(9,846,691)</b>	<b>(13,401,182)</b>	<b>(3,554,491)</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(1,266,479)</b>	<b>(6,222,716)</b>	<b>(4,956,237)</b>
<b>Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>		<b>(6,404,156)</b>	<b>(4,810,263)</b>	<b>(6,040,950)</b>	<b>(1,230,686)</b>
<b>Non recurring items</b>					
Net gain / (losses) from the disposal of assets		3,015,798	2,590,500	201,211	(2,389,289)
<b>Adjusted Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>		<b>(9,419,954)</b>	<b>(7,400,763)</b>	<b>(6,242,161)</b>	<b>1,158,603</b>

## Murray River Council

Quarterly Budget Review - 31 December 2024

Whole of Council



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		Original Approved Budget	Current Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Budget Movement Current v Revised
Consolidated		2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
					Budget Improvement Budget Deterioration
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	4,489,346	9,131,370	12,203,405	3,072,035
Investments	C1-2	49,644,000	42,948,683	44,584,205	1,635,522
Receivables	C1-4	13,292,640	15,496,933	11,318,993	(4,177,940)
Inventories	C1-5	537,160	537,160	497,118	(40,042)
Current assets classified as held for sale	C1-7	0	0	1,312,621	1,312,621
Other	C1-11	239,477	239,477	1,543,519	1,304,042
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>68,202,623</b>	<b>68,353,623</b>	<b>71,459,860</b>	<b>3,106,237</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Investments	C1-2	2,000	2,000	2,010	10
Receivables	C1-4	0	0	26,400	26,400
Inventories	C1-5	325,395	325,395	0	(325,395)
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (PPE)	C1-8	988,122,461	1,089,886,305	1,118,463,792	28,577,486
Intangible assets	C1-10	10,610,040	12,089,150	12,098,150	9,000
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>999,059,896</b>	<b>1,102,302,850</b>	<b>1,130,590,352</b>	<b>28,287,501</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,067,262,519</b>	<b>1,170,656,473</b>	<b>1,202,050,212</b>	<b>31,393,739</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Payables	C3-1	7,055,249	10,167,565	14,203,509	4,035,943
Contract liabilities	C3-2	0	0	1,285,197	1,285,197
Lease liabilities	C2-1	183,574	183,574	180,053	(3,521)
Borrowings	C3-3	272,401	272,401	266,658	(5,743)
Employee benefit provision	C3-4	3,807,638	3,807,638	2,854,559	(953,079)
Provisions	C3-5	1,393,984	1,393,984	1,393,984	0
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>12,712,846</b>	<b>15,825,162</b>	<b>20,183,959</b>	<b>4,358,797</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Lease liabilities	C2-1	183,574	183,574	7,774	(175,800)
Borrowings	C3-3	1,149,596	1,149,596	1,155,339	5,743
Employee benefit provision	C3-4	398,279	398,279	371,872	(26,407)
Provisions	C3-5	5,988,959	5,988,959	10,468,627	4,479,668
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>7,720,408</b>	<b>7,720,408</b>	<b>12,003,611</b>	<b>4,283,203</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>20,433,254</b>	<b>23,545,570</b>	<b>32,187,570</b>	<b>8,642,000</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>1,046,829,266</b>	<b>1,147,110,903</b>	<b>1,169,862,641</b>	<b>22,751,739</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>					
Current year surplus / (deficit)	C4-1	5,403,567	8,580,213	7,166,066	(1,414,147)
Accumulated surplus / (deficit)	C4-1	745,735,999	745,735,999	786,468,259	40,732,260
IPPE revaluation reserve		295,689,700	392,794,691	376,215,915	(16,578,776)
<b>Council equity Interest</b>		<b>1,046,829,266</b>	<b>1,147,110,903</b>	<b>1,169,850,240</b>	<b>22,739,338</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>1,046,829,266</b>	<b>1,147,110,903</b>	<b>1,169,850,240</b>	<b>22,739,338</b>

## Murray River Council

Quarterly Budget Review - 31 December 2024

Whole of Council



STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW	Original Approved Budget	Current Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Budget Movement Current v Revised
Consolidated	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
Rates and Annual Charges	24,399,720	23,970,268	28,841,620	4,871,352
User Charges and Fees	12,015,133	12,319,121	12,581,191	262,070
Interest and Investment Revenue	1,639,413	2,704,483	3,086,049	381,566
Grants & Contributions	34,212,483	34,231,762	32,095,027	(2,136,735)
Other Revenues	1,069,987	1,826,734	1,663,574	(163,160)
<b>Payments:</b>				
Employee Benefits and On-costs	(20,958,519)	(21,466,497)	(20,981,434)	485,063
Borrowing Costs	(34,018)	(34,018)	(34,018)	0
Materials and Contracts	(26,452,714)	(23,952,667)	(24,337,037)	(384,370)
Other Expenses	(1,099,842)	(1,154,842)	(1,154,842)	0
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>24,791,643</b>	<b>28,444,344</b>	<b>31,760,130</b>	<b>3,315,786</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	4,237,100	4,237,100	2,022,571	(2,214,529)
<b>Payments:</b>				
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	(31,838,739)	(38,401,999)	(34,795,689)	3,606,310
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities</b>	<b>(27,601,639)</b>	<b>(34,164,899)</b>	<b>(32,773,118)</b>	<b>1,391,781</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
Proceeds from Borrowings and Advances	0	0	0	0
<b>Payments:</b>				
Repayment of Borrowings and Advances	(266,658)	(266,658)	(266,658)	0
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities</b>	<b>(266,658)</b>	<b>(266,658)</b>	<b>(266,658)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Investments</b>	<b>(3,076,654)</b>	<b>(5,987,213)</b>	<b>(1,279,646)</b>	<b>4,707,567</b>
<b>Plus: Cash and Investments - Beginning of Year</b>	<b>57,212,000</b>	<b>58,069,266</b>	<b>58,069,266</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cash and Investments - End of Year</b>	<b>54,135,346</b>	<b>52,082,053</b>	<b>56,789,620</b>	<b>4,707,567</b>

**9.2.4 FY 2024/25 AUDIT ENAGEMENT PLAN****File Number:** -**Author:** Nikki Chalmers, Financial Controller**Authoriser:** Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services**RECOMMENDATION**

That Murray River Council (Council) receive and note the attached Audit Engagement Plan (including the cost estimate) for the FY 2024/25 Audit.

**DISCUSSION**

Council has received the attached FY 2025 draft Audit Engagement Plan from the NSW Audit Office, which includes a cost estimate. The plan will be presented to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee at the next meeting which at present is scheduled to be held in early March 2025.

The plan together with the cost estimate is being presented for councillor information only.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **FA1763 Annual Engagement Plan 2025 - MRC (under separate cover)** 

**9.3 DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS**

Nil

## 9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

### 9.4.1 REVIEW OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PAN-501667 - 40 PORTER STREET, MOAMA

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Vishal Chandra, Senior Town Planner

**Authoriser:** Luke Keogh, Acting Director Planning & Environment

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council apply the total *Section 7.11 Development Contributions and Section 64 Water and Sewer Headworks Charges for Development Application (DA) 10.2024.294.1* of \$15,660.68.

Note: This report and decision by Council is for the review of developer contributions only. The DA has been determined by Council staff as acceptable under Delegated Authority.

<b>DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION:</b>	DA 10.2024.294.1
<b>FOR:</b>	Demolition of existing carport, two sheds and internal alterations / additions for a home business.
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	40 Porter Street, Moama
<b>APPLICANT</b>	SAP Architecture

#### BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a request to review development contribution fees that have been applied to Development Application 10.2024.294.1 for demolition of existing carport, two sheds and internal alterations / additions for a home business at 40 Porter Street, Moama.

#### DISCUSSION

Development Application (DA) 10.2024.294.1 for demolition of existing carport, two sheds and internal alterations / additions for a home business at 40 Porter Street, Moama, was approved under Delegated Authority on 5 December 2024. As part of the conditions of consent there is a requirement for the payment of developer contributions of \$15,660.68. Details and a breakdown of the fees are noted in Table 1 below.

The applicant has since applied for a review of the developer contributions applied. Full details of the request have been included as Attachment 1. This report and decision by Council is for the review of developer contributions only.

Note the DA has been determined as acceptable under Delegated Authority.

#### Development contributions – Section 7.11 and Section 64 charges

Section 7.11 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) authorises councils and other consent authorities to require contributions from developers for local infrastructure as part of their development approvals. (Note: previously known as Section 94 contributions).

Section 64 charges refer to Section 64 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. This allows Councils as the relevant water supply authority to charge Section 64 water and sewer infrastructure developer contributions.

The payment of Section 7.11 Development Contributions and Section 64 sewerage and water headworks charges are applicable and must be paid to Council prior to the release of the

Construction Certificate as part of the DA approval process. The fees are charged and calculated in accordance with Council's Adopted Fees and Charges at the time the Development Application is determined.

Development Contributions are imposed under the former Murray Shire Council Section 94 Development Contributions Plan 2011 and the Water Directorate Section 64 Determinations of Equivalent Tenements Guidelines as adopted by Council's Fees and Charges.

Council staff do not have delegation to vary Council's adopted Contributions Policy, and any variations are required to be approved by Council.

The developer contributions applied to DA 10.2024.294.1 has been calculated as follows:

Table 1

Section 7.11 Development Contributions							
	CONTRIBUTIO N RATE (% OF Equivalent Tenement (ET))						
DEVELOPMEN T		Road Upgrade	Open Space	Communit y Facilities	Waste	Storm Water	Car parkin g
	Fee/ET for Moama	\$2,246.0 0	\$562.00	\$198.00	\$374.0 0	\$562.00	\$832.0 0
Chiropractor Practice (Medical Centres and Dentists)	50 trips per 50m2 GFA 50 x 50/131 = 19.08 trips 19.08/6.5 = <b>2.94 ET</b>  <b>Credit: 1ET</b> (residential use)  2.94ET - 1ET = <b>1.94ET</b>	\$4,357.2 4	\$1,090.2 8	\$384.12	\$725.5 6	\$1,090.2 8	N/A
<b>Total = \$7,647.48</b>							

Section 64 Servicing Charges				
	CONTRIBUTION RATE (% OF ET)	CONTRIBUTION (23/24 rates) AMOUNT		
DEVELOPMENT		SEWER	RAW WATER	FILTERED WATER
	Fee/ET for Moama	\$1,768.00	\$416.00	\$3,796.00
Chiropractor Practice (Medical Centre)	Water ET = 0.4/room = 0.4x5 = 2ET  <b>Credit: 1ET</b> 2ET - 1ET = <b>1ET</b>	\$3,801.20	\$416.00	\$3,796.00

	Sewer ET = 0.63/room = 0.63x5 = 3.15 ET  Credit: 1ET 3.15ET - 1ET = <b>2.15ET</b>			
<b>Total = \$8,013.20</b>				

As per the above contributions calculations break down, the original proposed development is subject to a **total contribution amount of \$15,660.68.**

The calculations are determined by ascertaining the defined category of development along with the development size and triggers such as gross floor area (GFA,), additional rooms etc, where relevant categories of development include:

- 'Medical Centres & Dentists' for Section 7.11's, and
- 'Medical Centre' for Section 64's.

Calculations are then applied to determine the fees.

In this calculation Equivalent Tenement (or ET) means the demand or loading a development will have on infrastructure in terms of the average water consumption or average sewage discharge for an average residential dwelling or house.

While the total contributions may be significant for the Applicant, this is calculated based on the adopted contributions plan and does not consider affordability to the Applicant.

Council's Contributions are charged by following an administrative framework which ensures adequate public facilities are provided for as part of any new development and to ensure the existing community is not burdened by the provision of public amenities and public services required because of future development. In turn, this results in Council being able to be publicly and financially accountable regarding the cost of development on infrastructure.

### Exemption and review process

As noted above, Council staff do not have delegation to vary Council's adopted Contributions Policy and any variations are required to be approved by Council.

It is noted Section 2.11 of Council's adopted Development Contribution Plan outlines the following:

#### 2.11 Exemptions

*There are no exemptions to this plan except where a Ministerial Direction has been issued directing such exemption. Applicants are to verify with Council whether exemptions are provided under these Directions.*

*Council will not consider exempting other developments, or components of developments from the requirement of paying a contribution except where in exceptional circumstances the development is being carried out by Council, a community or 'not for profit' organisation for the benefit of Council or the community for no commercial gain. A planning agreement may be negotiated in lieu of payment on contributions at the discretion of Council.*

Comment: The proposed development does not meet any of the above criteria for required Development Contributions to be exempt and therefore waived by Council. The development is not being carried out by Council or a community or 'not for profit' organisation for the benefit of Council or the community for no commercial gain.

### Request to review contributions by Applicant

Section 8.3 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* allows an Applicant to request a Review of Determination within 6 months of the Determination date.

The applicant's review request emphasizes that contributions should be based on actual data instead of assumptions from the adopted Development Contribution Plan. Attachment 1 contains this reasoning in detail supported with water consumption data for the past year. Data supplied is sourced from an existing business operating at Shop 2, 5-7 Echuca Street, Moama at a scale and intensity that matches the development approved under DA 10.2024.294.1.

No change is proposed to the approved development (DA 10.2024.294.1) as part of this review request.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

5. Strategic Theme 5: A place of Prosperity and Resilience

5.3 - Encourage and support economic development across the region - Economic development / Attraction of Businesses.

## **BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

The waiving of any Development Contribution fees will require Council to contribute, from public funds to the road upgrades and infrastructure in the area in the future in lieu of this contribution.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Murray Section 7.11 Development Contribution Plan 2011.

This Policy is required to be updated to reflect current trip generation calculation data. A wider review of the Policy is required due to its age (last adopted in 2011).

## **LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.

## **RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**

Council's Budget to be adversely affected by waiving of required Development Contributions.

- **How can it happen?**

If Council approves the complete or partial waiver of required Development Contributions as outlined in adopted Policy.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

The ongoing maintenance of Council's infrastructure would be required to be funded by other means instead of the developer generating additional demand on Council's infrastructure.

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

High if the contributions are waived or partially waived.

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

The current Development Contributions and Charges are a suitable and fair outcome for Council, the community and the developer. Note the adopted Development Contributions Plan has undergone community consultation and Council decision making.

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Council uphold the determination to charge required contributions triggered for an application of this nature.

**CONCLUSION**

Council to consider a request to review development contribution fees that have been applied to Development Application 10.2024.294.1 for demolition of existing carport, two sheds and internal alterations / additions for a home business at 40 Porter Street, Moama.

Should Council consider reducing or to waive the contributions, the following alternative recommendations have been provided which also includes the report recommendation:

*That Council notes and approves one of the following 3 (three) options in relation to applying Section 7.11 Development Contributions and Section 64 Water and Sewer Headworks Charges for Development Application (DA) 10.2024.294.1:*

- 1. To apply a 25% discount to the total Contribution fees, bringing the total fees payable to \$11,745.51;*
- 2. To apply a 50% discount to the total Contribution fees, bringing the total fees payable to \$7,830.34;*
- 3. To waive the total Contribution fees being \$15,660.68 as calculated under Council's adopted Policy, resulting in no fees payable to Council.*

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. PAN-501667 Waiver Request (Confidential) - Confidential**

## 9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

### 9.5.1 2025 AUSTRALIA DAY REPORT

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Melinda Barrett, Business Unit Support Officer - Eco Dev & Tourism

**Authoriser:** Beck Hayward, Acting Director Community & Economic Development

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the 2025 Australia Day post event report.

#### BACKGROUND

Australia Day was celebrated across the Murray River Council LGA with events held in Mathoura, Barham, Moulamein, Wakool, Tooleybuc, and Koraleigh. Council supported all six events both financially and through the attendance of Councillors. Each celebration was organised by a local community group or organisation.

In 2025, Council once again secured funding from the Australia Day Council, which was distributed amongst event committees to assist with their celebrations. Additionally, Council applied for an Ambassador through the Australia Day Council of NSW and was fortunate to host Gwenda Darling, who attended the Moulamein breakfast alongside Mayor Cr John Harvie.

Council ran its annual **Australia Day Awards** program to recognise individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the local community. The 2025 award recipients were:

- **Citizen of the Year:** Alan Fielding (Moulamein)
- **Young Citizen of the Year:** Katelyn Eddy (Mathoura)
- **Sportsperson of the Year:** Heath Moloney (Moulamein)
- **Young Sportsperson of the Year:** Connor Wilson (Mathoura)
- **Community Group of the Year:** Moulamein Automotive Club
- **Community Event of the Year:** Run Echuca Moama – Community Living and Respite Services
- **Arts and Culture Award:** Echuca Moama Theatre Company

**Photos from the events:**

**Moulamein**

Australia Day Ambassador Gwenda Darling delivering her speech to the crowd gathered at The Triangle.



Award Winners – Health Moloney (Sportsperson of the Year), Moulamein Automotive Club representative (Community Group of the Year) and Alan Fielding (Citizen of the Year) with Mayor Cr John Harvie and Gwenda Darling with her assistance dog, Redleigh.



Gwenda Darling presenting Alan Fielding with Citizen of the Year lapel pin.

## Barham



Cr Neil Gorey with members of the Barham Community and the Barham crowd gathered in Riverside Gardens.

## Mathoura



Young Citizen of the Year Katelny Eddy with Crs Hurn and Berriman and raising the flag at Soldiers Memorial Park.



Dottie Wilson accepted Young Sportsperson of the Year Award on behalf of her nephew Connor Wilson who was unable to attend due to a sporting commitment.



Community Living & Respite Services CEO Leah Taafe with Executive Assistant Gillian Noelker, accepted the Community Event of the Year Award for Run Echuca Moama.



Arts & Culture Award was accepted by the President of Echuca Moama Theatre Group, Darcy Elliott

## Koraleigh



Flag raising ceremony and a few of the crowd who gathered at the Koraleigh Tennis Club.

**Tooleybuc**

Cr Gary Pappin addressing the Tooleybuc crowd who gathered at Mensforth Park.

**Wakool**

Cr Dennis Gleeson addressing the Wakool Hall crowd with granddaughter Billie by his side.

**DISCUSSION**

All committees reported good attendance and conveyed their appreciation for the support Council provides.

Location	Attendance
Tooleybuc	120
Barham	190
Mathoura	150

Moulamein	Not advised
Koraleigh	72
Wakool	55

## STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

4. Strategic Theme 4: A place of inclusion, culture & wellbeing

4.4 - Develop community led strategy with a focus on social connections / social fabric and a sense of belonging - Provide programs for targeted community demographics.

## BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Each year, Council allocates funds to assist community groups in organising events.

In 2025, Council successfully secured a \$10,000 grant from the Australia Day Council. This grant was then distributed to various community groups through the Council's Annual Allocation application process in accordance with the requests that were submitted.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

## LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

## RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**  
N/A
- **How can it happen?**  
N/A
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**  
N/A
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**  
N/A
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**  
N/A
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**  
N/A

## CONCLUSION

Overall, feedback from Australia Day committees has been overwhelmingly positive.

A recurring theme is that the event fosters community spirit, allowing neighbours and friends to reconnect, and giving new residents a chance to meet and integrate with their community.

The Committees are very thankful to Council for funding their Australia Day events, provision of resources and Councillor attendance.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil



**9.5.2 AGM MINUTES - MOULAMEIN SOUTH RECREATION RESERVE S355 COMMITTEE**

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Karen Buckley, Manager of Local Connections

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Revoke existing members of the Moulamein South Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and
  - (a) Pursuant to Section 355 of the Local Government Act 193 appoint new committee members nominated at the November 2024 AGM

**BACKGROUND**

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOULAMEIN SOUTH RECREATION RESERVE S355 COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2024. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ARE ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT.DISCUSSION**

The Moulamein South Recreation Reserve Committee is a Section 355 (s355) committee of Council, responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of the Moulamein South Recreation Reserve. Regular users of the reserve include the Moulamein Football Netball Club, Moulamein Tennis Club and the Moulamein Community Gymnasium.

The committee attend to duties such as cleaning of facility, mowing of grounds, and general maintenance of building and grounds.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Moulamein South Recreation Reserve S355 Committee elections were held to appoint all committee positions and office bearers.

Present at this meeting were:

Rosalind (Rossy) Main, Karen Buckley, Amy Lolicato, Deborah (Debbie) Polkinghorne, Simone Treloar, Heath Moloney, Melanie Arthur, Shantal Sherman.

All positions were declared vacant, and the following elections were held:

President: Rossy Main

Secretary: Shantal Sherman

Treasurer: Simone Treloar

Grounds Keepers: Bill Wilson (Hooker)  
Ernie Booth

General Committee: Amy Lolicato, Deborah (Debbie) Polkinghorne, Heath Moloney, Melanie Arthur,

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.1 - Create and maintain safe and accessible community spaces that enhance healthy living and promote active lifestyles - Sports and recreation facilities and spaces.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

As part of their responsibilities as a s355 committee, the Moulamein South Recreation Reserve Committee provides Council with information regarding their financial status. Audited financial report supplied to the committee at the meeting. See attached.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Murray River Council Asset Management Policy (POL305).

Murray River Council Section 355 Committee Policy (POL119).

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Local Government Act 1993.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**

Council & Committee fail to meet their obligations.

- **How can it happen?**

Committees are generally unaware of the full extent of their roles and responsibilities particularly in relation to WH&S, operational procedures and systems, procurement, and financial reporting.

Council has a responsibility to provide requisite support and guidance to committees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and have necessary skills and capacity to fulfill obligations.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

Several Section 355 committees are very fragile and their medium to longer term viability is questionable.

Volunteers are a vital part of Councils operations and contribute immensely to Councils resources.

Council is under considerable pressure to comply with onerous obligations relating to the support and management of section 355 committees under the Local Government Act

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Likely

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Moderate

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Council needs to carefully consider the structure required to best support committees.

The role of Manager Local Connections has been created to work collaboratively with committees of Council to assist them to meet their obligations as required by S355 of the Local Government Act 1993 and to improve governance and risk mitigation.

Steps will be taken to optimise the viability of committees where appropriate; consider the scope of support council will provide to support committees; determine the criteria that will trigger council's intervention in the operations of Section 355 committees, and what the intervention will be; plan for contingency management options and fully recognise the cost of this in council's long term financial plans.

**CONCLUSION**

Advice of committee members has been received, and Council should endorse the Moulamein Recreation Reserve Committee's new committee members nominated at the November 2024 AGM. Through the Manager of Local Connections Council should continue to support this committee in regard to its delegation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Moulamein South Recreation Reserve AGM Minutes December 2025** [!\[\]\(24ea10722e23ff9318532d23a494940b\_img.jpg\)](#) 

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOULAMEIN SOUTH RECREATION  
RESERVE HELD AT THE MOULAMEIN SPORTING COMPLEX, MOULAMEIN ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024  
COMMENCING AT 5.42PM**

**Present:** Rosalind (Rossy) Main, Karen Buckley, Amy Lolicato, Deborah (Debbie) Polkinghorne, Simone Treloar, Heath Moloney, Melanie Arthur, Shantal Sherman

**Apologies:** None

**Confirmation of Minutes:**

Moved: Debbie Polkinghorne

Seconded: Amy Lolicato

That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023** as read be confirmed.

**Carried**

**Business arising from the previous meeting:**

Nil

**Financial Report**

Audited Financial Statement attached.

Moved: Simone Treloar

Seconded: Melanie Arthur

That the Audit Report as tabled be accepted.

**Carried**

**Election of Office Bearers**

All positions declared vacant and meeting handed to (Council Rep) to chair for the election process.

**President:** Rossy Main

Nominated by: Shantal Sherman

Nomination accepted

Moved: Simone Treloar

Seconded: Debbie Polkinghorne

That **Rosalind Main** be elected as President.

**Carried**

**Secretary:** Shantal Sherman

Nominated by: Amy Lolicato

Nomination accepted

Moved: Melanie Arthur

Seconded: Heath Moloney

That **Shantal Sherman** be elected as Secretary.

**Carried**

**Treasurer:** Simone Treloar

Nominated by: Heath Moloney

Nomination accepted

Moved: Debbie Polkinghorne

Seconded: Amy Lolicato

That **Simone Treloar** be elected as Treasurer.

**Carried**

**Grounds Keeper:**

Bill Wilson (Hooker)

Ernie Booth

Nominated by: Rosalind Main

Nomination accepted

Moved: Melanie Arthur

Seconded: Amy Lolicato

That **Bill Wilson and Ernie Booth** be elected as Grounds Keeper.

Block re election. No changes from previous AGM.

**General Business:**

**1. Signatories on WAW Account**

No changes are to be made to the WAW Bank Account

**Carried**

**1. Fees**

Membership & Hire Fees – To be discussed at the February General Meeting.

***Meeting Closes at – 6.00PM***

***Next AGM***

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**ROSSY MAIN  
HON PRESIDENT**

---

**SHANTAL SHERMAN  
HON SECREATARY**

***Minutes of the Moulamein XXXX - Annual General Meeting XXX***

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**9.5.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW DESTINATION AND VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE 2025**

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Julia Druitt, Grants Officer

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Agree to the attendance of interested Councillors at the Local Government NSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference in Kingscliff from 26 – 28 May 2025.
2. Nominate which Councillor(s) will attend the Local Government NSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference in Kingscliff from 26 – 28 May 2025.
3. That each attending Councillor provides a report to Council, highlighting key learnings, following attendance at the event.

**BACKGROUND**

The Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Destination and Visitor Economy Conference is an annual event that brings together local government staff and councillors, key industry stakeholders, and local operators to discuss insights and the ever-changing landscape facing future visitors.

The 2025 conference hosted by Tweed Shire Council in Kingscliff, from 26 May to 28 May 2025, will focus on a variety of topics related to tourism and local destinations.

This year, Murray River Council's Tourism Marketing and Events Officer has contributed to the conference program as an organising committee member.

Key themes include:

- **Smart Destinations:** Exploring AI tools and trends in tourism.
- **Drive Tourism:** Strategies to accelerate local destinations.
- **Creative Destinations:** The role of art, culture, and museums in tourism.
- **Rural & Regional Events:** Attracting tourism through local events.
- **Leveraging Tourism:** Utilising music and culture to boost tourism.

Additionally, the conference presents an opportunity for networking with other councils and local government stakeholders, fostering collaboration and sharing best practices. The event will feature keynote sessions, panel discussions, and site visits to showcase innovative tourism practices and local attractions.

Staff are in the process of submitting an expression of interest to host the 2027 LGNSW Visitor Economy Conference in the Murray River Council LGA.

**DISCUSSION**

Council has been represented by councillors and a member of the Economic Development and Tourism team at past conferences.

It would be valuable for interested Councillors to attend the conference alongside the Tourism Marketing and Events Officer to stay informed about industry developments and opportunities.

The cost to attend includes a registration fee of \$1,350 (as Murray River Council is a LGNSW member) plus flights and accommodation.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

5. Strategic Theme 5: A place of Prosperity and Resilience

5.10 - Promote and grow tourism across the region - Growing Tourism across the LGA.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

Funds have been allocated in the 2024/25 budget for conference fees, travel, and accommodation.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS****RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**  
n/a
- **How can it happen?**  
n/a
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**  
n/a
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**  
n/a
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**  
n/a
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**  
n/a

**CONCLUSION**

The Local Government NSW Tourism Conference is an annual opportunity to learn from and network with industry leaders.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **LGNSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference 2025 - Draft Program** [!\[\]\(cf55f208dc2b839e00f39d295e33d6a8\_img.jpg\)](#) 



## DESTINATION & VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

Mantra at Salt Beach, Kingscliff | 26-28 May 2025



Strategic Partner



Destination Host



### DRAFT - PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Document Date | 31 January 2025

DAY 1   MONDAY 26 MAY 2025			
Mantra on Salt Beach, Kingscliff			
1.00pm	Registration and Trade Area Open		
2.00pm	Conference Commences Day 1		
2.00pm	Welcome (10 mins)	Setting the Scene – Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, President LGNSW	
2.10pm	Keynote with Q&A Office of 24-Hour Economy Commissioner (40 mins including questions)	Michael Rodrigues, 24 Hour Economy Commissioner NSW	
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea Trade Area Sponsored by 		
3.30pm	WORKSHOPS - Delegates pre-booked concurrent workshop streams below		
3.30pm – 4.15pm	Stream 1 – Plantation Room 1	Stream 2 – Plantation Room 2	Stream 3 – Plantation Room 3
	Smart Destinations: AI Tools & Trends 70 pax Jess Quinlan, Trip Advisor Daniel Blicking, TRVLR.ai	Drive Tourism: Accelerating Local Destinations 70 pax Speaker, to be confirmed Speaker, to be confirmed Sponsored by 	Creative Destinations through Art, Culture and Museums 70 pax Speaker, to be confirmed Brett Adlington, CEO Museums & Galleries of NSW
4.15pm	Bus transfers to Welcome Reception venue – Botanica Plantation House (15-20 mins)		
4.45pm	Welcome Reception Botanica Plantation House 13 Duranbah Road, Duranbah <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction by LGNSW David Reynolds, CE LGNSW</li><li>• Welcome by Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, President LGNSW</li><li>• Premier Partner Address</li><li>• Entertainment</li></ul>		
6.45pm	Bus transfers from Botanica Plantation House to Mantra on Salt. Delegates are encouraged to pre-book at local restaurants for dinner		

**ONE VOICE  
FOR COUNCILS**

1/4



## DESTINATION & VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

Mantra at Salt Beach, Kingscliff | 26-28 May 2025



Strategic Partner



Destination Host



DAY 2   TUESDAY 27 MAY 2025		
Mantra on Salt Beach, Kingscliff		
8.00am	Registration/Information Desk and Trade Area open <b>Arrival tea and coffee</b>	
9.00am	<b>Conference Day 2 - Plenary Sessions</b>	
	<b>9.05am Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> (5 mins)	<b>Conference MC</b> , to be confirmed
	<b>9.10am Welcome to Country</b> (5 mins)	<b>Welcome to Country</b> , to be confirmed
	<b>9.15am LGNSW Welcome address</b> (10 mins)	<b>Cr Phyllis Miller OAM</b> , President LGNSW
	<b>9.25am Destination Host Council Welcome</b> (10 mins)	<b>Mayoral Welcome</b> <b>Speaker</b> , to be confirmed
	<b>9.35am</b> Panel session with Q&A <b>Focus: Rural &amp; Regional Events Attracting Tourism</b> (40 mins)	<b>Troy Green PSM</b> , General Manager, Tweed Shire Council <b>Michael Thurston</b> , General Manager, Destination North Coast <b>Speaker</b> , to be confirmed MC/Facilitator
10.15am	<b>Morning Tea</b> Trade Area Sponsored by 	
11.00am	<b>Keynote with Q&amp;A</b> (50 mins including questions)	<b>Gus Balbontin</b>  As the former Executive Director of Lonely Planet he led the company through significant cultural, structural and product transformation that put the company back in the black and ready to tackle a digital future. As a current investor founder and owner of a creative studio he is involved heavily in educating the next cohort of entrepreneurs and corporate innovators.  Gus is globally recognised for his influence in developing cutting edge products and technologies for companies including Google X, Nokia, Apple, Amazon ..... and the list is still growing.
11.50am	<b>Ministerial address</b> (10 mins)	<b>Ministerial Speaker</b> , to be confirmed
12.00pm	Award Presentation <b>NSW Top Tourism Town Awards</b> (30 mins)	<b>NSW Tourism Association</b> Presented by <b>Speaker</b> , to be confirmed
12.30pm	<b>Lunch</b> Trade Area	

**ONE VOICE  
FOR COUNCILS**

2/4



## DESTINATION & VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

Mantra at Salt Beach, Kingscliff | 26-28 May 2025



Strategic Partner



Destination Host



1.30pm	<b>Delegates Site Visits &amp; Bus Transfers</b> Please assemble at main entrance of Mantra on Salt Beach for bus transfers (site visit departures at least 5mins apart)	
<b>Site Visit 1</b>	<b>PEDALS, PASTURES AND PLATTERS:</b> NRRT Better Bikes, Hosanna Farmstay, Tweed Valley Cheeses Farmhouse	
1.30pm – 5.30pm	Bus transfer, 30 mins each way Walking & Bike tour – easy to moderate Comfortable clothing and walking shoes. You will be cycling a distance of 8.3 km on an E-Bike Capacity: Max 50 pax (2 groups of 25)	Embark on a journey through the scenic countryside on the Northern Rivers Rail Trail with Better By Bikes, showcasing active transport innovation. Then, soak in the rustic charm of Hosanna Farmstay, where you'll find wide open spaces and old-fashioned fun. Finally, indulge in a delectable tasting at Tweed Valley Cheeses, featuring locally crafted delights.
<b>Site Visit 2</b>	<b>COASTAL CHIC RETREATS:</b> Visit a Local Holiday Park, The Blue Water Motel, Halcyon House	
1.40pm – 5.30pm	Bus transfers, easy to moderate walking required at each site location however some climbing & descending of stairs may be required Capacity: Max 25 pax	Discover the perfect blend of beachfront bliss and boutique luxury. Tour a family-friendly Holiday Park, explore the retro vibes of the refurbished Blue Water Motel, and experience the sophistication of Halcyon House, where modern elegance meets coastal tranquillity.
<b>Site Visit 3</b>	<b>FRUITS, FERMENTS, AND FUN:</b> Tropical Fruit World & Ventura Brewing	
1.45pm – 5.30pm	Bus transfer, 30 mins each way Easy walking Capacity: Max 50 pax	Dive into a tropical adventure starting at Tropical Fruit World, a sensory haven of exotic flavours and lush landscapes. Wrap up your day with a refreshing alcoholic kombucha experience at Ventura Brewing, where innovation meets the art of brewing.
<b>Site Visit 4</b>	<b>SACRED SANDS AND STORIES:</b> Fingal Head Walk on Country, Mimi's Final Head SLSC & Minjungbal Museum	
1.50pm – 5.30pm	Bus transfer, 30 mins each way Easy walking Capacity: Max 50 pax	Immerse yourself in the natural beauty and cultural richness of Fingal Heads. This "Walk on Country" will connect you with the land through captivating stories, Indigenous heritage, and breathtaking coastal views.
5.30pm	Site visits return to Mantra on Salt Beach	
6.40pm	<b>Bus Transfer</b> from Mantra on Salt Beach to Husk Farm Distillery (20 – 25 mins)	
7.00pm – 10.00pm	<b>Conference Dinner</b> <b>Husk Farm Distillery</b> 1152 Dulguigan Road, North Tumbulgun Address by <b>Cr Phyllis Miller OAM</b> , President LGNSW Entertainment	
10.00pm – 10.30pm	<b>Bus Transfers</b> from Husk Farm Distillery to Mantra on Salt Beach	



## DESTINATION & VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

Mantra at Salt Beach, Kingscliff | 26-28 May 2025



Strategic Partner



Destination Host



DAY 3   WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2025		
Mantra on Salt Beach, Kingscliff		
8.15am	Registration/Information Desk and Trade Area open <b>Arrival tea and coffee</b>	
9.00am	<b>Day 3 Plenary Sessions</b>	
9.05am	<b>Welcome and Housekeeping</b> (5 mins)	
9.10am	Keynote Session and Q&A (30 mins + 15 mins questions) <b>International Market Update – Tourism Australia</b>	<b>Speaker</b> , to be confirmed
10.00am	<b>Morning Tea</b> Trade Area	
10.30am	Panel Session and Q&A <b>Leveraging Tourism through Music and Culture</b> (30 mins + 10 mins questions)	<b>Richard Everson</b> , GM, Destination Southern NSW – Value of Visitor Economy to Councils <b>Speaker</b> , to be confirmed <b>Speaker</b> , to be confirmed
11.10am	Keynote address and Q&A <b>Destination NSW</b> (45mins + 10 mins Questions)	<b>Speaker</b> , to be confirmed Destination NSW
12.05pm	Announcement Host Council 2026 (5 mins)	<b>Conference MC</b> , to be confirmed  <b>Cr Phyllis Miller OAM</b> , President LGNSW
	Closing remarks (5 mins)	
12.15pm	<b>Grab and Go Lunch</b> served in Trade Area	
12.45pm	<b>Conference concludes</b>	

**9.5.4 SECTION 355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AS AT JANUARY 2025**

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Karen Buckley, Manager of Local Connections

**Authoriser:** Beck Hayward, Acting Director Community & Economic Development

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the January Section 355 Committee Report

**BACKGROUND**

Council has 19 x Section 355 committees. These committees are delegated by Council to oversee the day-to-day management of facilities owned by council and provide advice to Council about such facilities.

The committees are made up of community volunteers who contribute freely to Council operations.

Councils Section 355 Committees are to provide minutes of each committee meeting to keep Council informed of the committee's activities.

**DISCUSSION**

It is vital to ensure that volunteers are well supported and managed from recruitment right through to execution of delegated responsibilities.

The role of Manager Local Connections is responsible for working collaboratively with committees to assist them to meet their obligations as required by S355 of the Local Government Act 1993 and to improve governance and risk mitigation.

Committee's Meeting Minutes are attached to this report for Council's information.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

2. Strategic Theme 2: A Place of Progressive Leadership

2.5 - Continue to be a trusted and ethical leader that leads by example - Leadership that is trusted, capable and collaborative.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

Scope of Committees financial transactions vary

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Murray River Council Asset Management Policy (POL305).

Murray River Council Section 355 Committee Policy (POL119)

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Local Government Act 1993.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**  
Council & Committee fail to meet their obligations.
- **How can it happen?**

Committees are generally unaware of the full extent of their roles and responsibilities particularly in relation to WH&S, operational procedures and systems, procurement, and financial reporting

Council has a responsibility to provide requisite support and guidance to committees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and have necessary skills and capacity to fulfill obligations.

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

Volunteers are a vital part of Councils operations and contribute immensely to Councils resources.

Several Section 355 committees are very fragile and their medium to longer term viability is questionable.

Council is under considerable pressure to comply with onerous obligations relating to the support and management of section 355 committees under the Local Government Act

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Likely

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Moderate

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Council needs to carefully consider the structure required to best support committees.

The role of Manager Local Connections was created to work collaboratively with committees of Council to assist them to meet their obligations as required by S355 of the Local Government Act 1993 and to improve governance and risk mitigation.

Steps will be taken to optimise the viability of committees where appropriate; consider the scope of support council will provide to support committees; determine the criteria that will trigger council's intervention in the operations of Section 355 committees, and what the intervention will be; plan for contingency management options and fully recognise the cost of this in council's long term financial plans.

## CONCLUSION

Through the Manager of Local Connections, Council should continue to support these committees and note the minutes of meetings attached.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Moulamein South Recreation Reserve meeting Minutes Nov. 2024 [↓](#) 
2. Barham School of Arts Meeting Minutes January 2025 [↓](#) 
3. Friends of Old Moama Meeting Minutes December 2024 [↓](#) 
4. Koraleigh Hall and Recreation Reserve Meeting Minutes January 2025 [↓](#) 
5. Mallan Hall Meeting minutes December 2024 [↓](#) 

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOULAMEIN SOUTH RECREATION RESERVE HELD AT THE COMPLEX ON THE 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 6.01PM.**

**Present:** Rossy Main, Karen Buckley, Amy Lolicato, Heath Moloney, Simone Treloar, Debbie Polkinghorne, Shantal Sherman, Melanie Arthur

**Apologies:** None

**Minutes of the previous meeting as tabled:** Minutes of the previous meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 as tabled be confirmed. Moved: Simone Treloar Seconded: Debbie Polkinghorne

**Business arising for the previous meeting:**

- Cool room – Cool room is going ok without the cage surrounding it.
- Electricity – Still in the process of transferring to Council. Caravans have been accessing our electricity. We need to lock the box or have a donation box.
- Mowing – Karen will be in touch early next year.
- Maintenance/Mowing allocations – Council are in the process of developing a policy, allocations are no longer a given. Council are looking at a process where we can apply for our allocation and a separate grant fund for larger costs. Mowing allocation is no longer granted as council pays for fuel and servicing.
- Lights – Still waiting on quotes for flood lights.
- Funding – ESP Grant was applied for under the footy club.
- Deep Fryer – Purchased. No longer an outstanding matter.
- Kitchen Handbasin – Purchased needs to be installed
- Infrastructure Sport & Rec Grant – On hold.

Moved: Melanie Arthur

Seconded: Rossy Main

**Correspondence:**

**Out:** Nil

**In:** Bank Statements, Invoices, Moulamein Youth Group Hire Request

**Treasurer's Report:**

Bank Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 \$6,933.61.

Moved: Simone Treloar

Seconded: Melanie Arthur

That the Treasurer's Report as tabled be accepted.

**User Group Reports**

Moulamein Football/Netball Club

AGM was successful, footy training has started.

Moulamein Tennis Club

Received the Community Grant from Council for shade together with money for BR & C. Will be concreted for accessibility.

Moulamein Community Gym

Gym received \$10,000 for Gym equipment replacement and new equipment. \$5000 from 200 club and \$5000 from Transgrid.

**General Business**

Management Agreement – Still on Hold

Moved:

Seconded:

Youth Group Request to Hire – Agreed that it would be very positive for the Youth Group to use the complex facilities.

Moved: Amy Lolicato

Seconded:

Heath Moloney

Minutes 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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Operation Funding – On Hold

Lifting of Sprinkler controllers – The control bases need to be lifted. Luke was going to get quotes. Very difficult for volunteers to access it in the position that it currently is in. It had been requested to be done years ago but still has not been completed.

Moved: Rossy Main

Seconded: Amy Lolicato

Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 5.30pm

Meeting Closed at 6.52pm.

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Rossy Main  
Hon. President

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Shantal Sherman  
Hon. Secretary

Minutes 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

P a g e | 2 of 2

**SECTION 355 LGA BARHAM SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL REPORT 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.****Commenced: About 8-06pm.****Due to the attendance of Elle Brain (MRC. Community Recovery Officer) President Rob opened the Meeting with the SOA Hall Report.****Chair:** R Daws. **Present:** G Barker, J Boyd, B Campbell, R Millar, A Millar, T Barker, J Whelan, B Rash, C Webster, G Webster, G Minnis, G Cook, P Williamson, A Mathers, R Dooley.**Guest:** Elle Brain (Council Community Recovery Officer).**Apologies:** Councillor N Gorey, D Agelakis, J Carney, S Carney, M Hatty.

**E Brain\*** Elle introduced herself and explained what her position with Council involves. The program comes off the back of the 2020 floods but doesn't have anything to do with that. She can help with funding for some events e.g. the Easter Mardi Gras. Can authorise up to \$2K. without approval.

**A Mathers\*** Australia Day Breakfast to commence at **8 am**, been no communication from Council.

**J Boyd\* Hall/Reception Room-** Not much happening, been 1 Funeral and 2 after Funeral functions.

Some minor repairs- kitchen door damaged, broken tile damage to repair, new blinds installed, trying to get carpet upgraded, a lot of Council Training Courses held in Reception Room. Unfortunately it seems some of the Outdoor Staff wear their dirty work boots into the Reception Room and have left tar residue well ingrained into the carpet. A "PLEASE REMOVE YOUR BOOTS" sign is urgently required. Some saucepans were recently purchased at a garage sale. Lions used to fund some improvements \$ for \$.

**Dance Group-** He questioned whether the Dance Group were up to date with their financial commitment for the use of the Hall, he is to enquire about the situation and then it will be decided as to what action to take.

**Other Council Matters:**

**A Mathers\*** Playground equipment in Riverview Park needs replacing as it is obsolete. Lions are willing to work with Council rectifying this. Historical Signs around the Town/District need updating.

**R Dooley\*** Be terrific to have multi coloured lighting along the Boardwalk, would really show it off.

**G Barker\*** Historical Tree on East Barham Rd needs some URGENT care.

**J Whelan\* Playground-** More shade sails are **urgently** needed over the seats/tables.

**Entrance Gate-** Needs permanent filling underneath such as concrete as Children crawl under it, I have witnessed it happening.

Rob Daws thanked Elle for her attendance.

**Financial Report: Attached.****Meeting Closed- About 8-30.**

## Friends of Old Moama

### MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at the Captain's Cottage in Chanter Street

TIME: 10.00 AM

**PRESENT:** Shirley Durrant, Brian & Val Ellis, Sue Shaw, Judy McCleary, Elle Brain

**APOLOGIES:** Mary Ledwidge, Eric McConachy, Karen Buckley, Kim Biggs, Nikki Cohen

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024** as circulated were taken as read.

**Moved by** Shirley Durrant and **Seconded by** Val Ellis **Carried**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING :**

1. MRC are developing an Arts and Culture Strategy in 2024 and 2025. To be discussed next year. FOOM has to write to them outlining what we are doing. **Ongoing.**
2. **Open Day for 2024. Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup>:** There was a lot of discussion about the success of the day in regard to the number of people attending, the viability of using a Saturday/ a long weekend/ the small number of market stalls, the OTS inside is not set up as an historic building now, whereas the Captain's Cottage is, and there are more stories attached to the latter. Suggestion that we think about opening the Cottage one Sunday a month. It is obvious that a new strategy is required. **For future discussion in 2025.**
3. **Mary and Eric have started documenting the items in the Captain's Cottage:** Have to contact Campaspe Shire Council and Heather Rendle. Still to be done. **Mary will contact Heather Rendle. Ongoing**
4. **Mission Statement and Collection Policy Draft Document:** We began working through this document distributed by Kim at the March meeting. **February, we hope to finalize this policy**
6. **Plans for the back garden at the Cottage: Previously** Eric had tabled detailed plans.  
Path a metre wide from back door to toilet  
Particularly important is the concrete path from the cottage to the toilet as at the moment it is an OH&S issue. Dave Dundee indicated that he would was trying to get a concreter to look at it. **Report**  
The toilet is an issue as it requires a lock and a hand washing tap and basin.  
The brick floor for shed, the pergola veggie garden requires further **ongoing** discussion.
7. **New Proposal:** The jinker could be housed at the Telegraph Station under the back partly enclosed veranda. It would require some repairs to the area and some additional wire security walls and doors. **It was decided that we would approach council early next year with the idea.** Nikki took some photos of the area to send to Sue for when we do approach the council. Mary and Eric measured the spot for the jinker and it will fit there.
8. **Creating an exhibition Trail across the shire: Kim Biggs.**  
Taking 2 or 5 objects from our collection to be photographed in February and linked to stories and people who are associated with the object. The intention is to create an interpretive

panel. Funding may be required. **Suggestions: Tapestry from Anglican Church Moama, Wooden Box Telephone, Piece of silverware from church, old sideboard in cottage.**

9. **Approach the Aboriginal Land Council** about getting some artifacts to display in the Cottage to acknowledge them as original land owners.
10. Two visitors came to the meeting after attending the Open Day; Warren and Mary Ann, who have purchased the Lyons Family Farm on Perricoota Road. They are interested in the history of the farm and Sue will do some research

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 1 November 2024 to 30 November 2024

Opening balance: \$ 3008.28

#### Income:

1 November Bank Interest \$ 0.03

2 November Open Day \$ 139.60

Total Income \$ 139.63

Bank Statement: Closing balance 30.11.2024 \$ 3147.91

Total finance report *moved by* Shirley Durrant and *seconded by* Judy McCleary *Carried*

#### CORRESPONDENCE: November 2024- Secretary

##### *Inward correspondence:*

##### *Outward Correspondence;*

*Moved by* and *Seconded* *Carried*

#### REPORTS:

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

1. None

MEETING CLOSED at 10.52 am.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am AT THE CAPTAIN'S COTTAGE.



## Koraleigh Hall and Rec. Reserve Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Date/time of meeting</b>	15/01/2025 7.07 pm
<b>Location of meeting</b>	Koraleigh RecReserve
<b>Attendees</b>	Brian Hoare Mary Hoare Liam Hoare Nerida Hoare Teresa Williams Dan Ledwidge Isabel Ledwidge
<b>Apologies</b>	Wakool Ward Cr. Neil Gorey Cassie Andrews
<b>Guests</b>	Greater Wakool Ward Cr. Gary Pappin
<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	Moved: Nerida Hoare Seconded: Gary Pappin

<b>Business arising from previous minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Urgent Electrical Repairs to Hall: unsure if have been completed by MRC.</li> <li>* Improvement to Netball/Basketball Court at Rec Reserve: not happy with MRC response.</li> <li>* Inappropriate response to Rec Reserve treasurer from MRC &amp; DCJ finance departments regarding their mistaken deposit into Rec Reserve Account. Caused unnecessary stress and anxiety.</li> <li>* Christmas Tree celebrations at Rec Reserve successful with approx. 40 children/100 adults and Santa. Great community event. Thanks to all that contributed. Santa Run around Koraleigh and district on Dec 22 also great success.</li> <li>* Koraleigh Rec Reserve &amp; Hall and RFS Community Centre proposal letters sent to MRC. Still waiting update.</li> <li>* Nerida, Mary and Liam attended MRC meeting at Tooleybuc.</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Mary Hoare</p> <p>Seconded: Nerida Hoare</p>
<b>Treasurers Report</b>	<p>Apology from Treasurer.</p>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<p>IN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 20/11/24: Karen Buckley- request from DCJ finance dept to transfer funds from Rec Reserve A/C to MRC.</li> <li>* 29/11/24: Luke Keogh requesting I forward his email to Isabel Ledwidge.</li> <li>* 3/12, 5/12, 9/12: Catherine McGovern-senior admin. Officer at DCJ; Kim Burke-finance co-ordinator MRC- regarding incorrect payment to Rec Reserve, and wanting immediate reimbursement to MRC A/C.</li> <li>* 7/01/25: Jack Bond informing of his move to Edward Shire on 28/01/25.</li> <li>* 11/01/25: MRC Community Newsletter: draft CSP 2025-35</li> <li>* 13/01/25: Neil Gorey/Cassie Andrews meeting apology.</li> <li>* 14/01/25: Gary Pappin meeting acceptance.</li> </ul> <p>OUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 23/11/24: Nov meeting minutes to committee.</li> <li>* 23/11/24: Secretary to Karen Buckley that committee will follow up DCJ/MRC request.</li> <li>* 12/01/25: Meeting reminder Jan 15, 2025.</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Teresa Williams</p> <p>Seconded: Dan Ledwidge</p>

<b>General Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* MRC CSP draft: Koraleigh Rec Reserve, Hall &amp; RFS will resubmit Community Centre application with appropriate documents.</li> <li>* \$3,000 grant for electricity repairs withdrawn after informed the committee was successful. Disappointed as completed electrical repairs therefore paid from Rec Reserve funds.</li> <li>* Committee were not informed or consulted that:  <i>In 2022 an independent audit was undertaken in relation to all Council sport and recreational assets which included the Koraleigh Recreation Reserve basketball/netball court. The audit determined at the time that the court was past it's useful life and maintenance to upgrade the courts based on the condition and demand for use was not recommended. Further to this the consultant recommended that Council should put together, in consultation with the local community a detailed master plan for future upgrades at Koraleigh Recreation Reserve, one suggested improvement was to include the removal of the existing full court and replace with a half court multi use asset for netball and basketball, unfortunately this master plan has not yet been completed.</i> </li> </ul> <p>Communication with the committee and community is a necessity and would be appreciated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Part of the Community Strategic Plan is to engage the youth. However, repairs to a netball/basketball court cannot be considered. Koraleigh youth will organise a petition to be presented to MRC.</li> <li>* Australia Day Breakfast to be held at Rec Reserve, commencing 7-7.30 am. Wakool Ward Cr Gary Pappin to attend.</li> <li>* Motion put forward at January 2025 KRR&amp;Hall Meeting.  <i>Motion: to hold an extraordinary meeting with MRC CEO, Sarah Ryan; MRC Mayor, John Harvie; Greater Wakool Ward Crs, Gary Pappin, Neil Corey and Dennis Gleeson; to discuss the Koraleigh Community Strategic Plan 2025.</i>  Moved: Brian Hoare  Seconded: Nerida Hoare  Passed Unanimously </li> </ul>
<b>Meeting Closed</b>	8.34 pm
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Date: Wednesday February 19, 2025 Time: 7pm Venue: Koraleigh Rec Reserve

**Mallan Recreation Reserve and Hall****Quarterly meeting****Sunday 15th December 2024****Opened at 4:00pm**

Present: N.Hall, M.Pearse, B.Pearse, M.Nalder, B.Hall, P.Kaylock, L.Kaylock, D.Willox,

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes read by Nathan Hall

**Business Arising:**

*Some* of the maintenance as discussed at last meeting has been completed, the old water

tank has been removed and water for the hall has been connected to the fire shed tanks.

The pressure pump has been fixed and is starting to reflect in power bills, monitor next quarter.

We applied for the Transgrid community grant to insulate the interior of the hall and are

awaiting an outcome. New tennis racquets and balls have been purchased

**Treasurers report:**

Tabled by Matt Pearse. Hall hire payments/donations were received from for hire of the hall:

Transgrid \$242

Local land services \$220

Local horse event \$200

**General Business:**

Tennis court powerboard & lights still to be addressed, contact council to organise tradesman.

The toilet block also needs to be connected properly as Bruce is no longer living at the school and the water had been switched off. Contact council to organise proper connection to the Mallan Hall as it is just a temporary job at the moment.

Air con splitter is missing, needs replacement.

Christmas party is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

Discuss insulation of the hall at next meeting pending grant outcome.

Meeting closed by Nathan Hall 4:20pm

President: Nathan Hall

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary & Treasurer: Matt & Brooke Pearse

  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9.5.5 MOAMA AND DISTRICT PRESCHOOL - DEED OF VARIATION TO LEASE**

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Beck Hayward, Acting Director Community & Economic Development

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolve to amend Item 4 of Resolution No. 250125 adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 January 2025 to read as “delegate authority to the Acting CEO to execute a deed of variation to the existing lease with Moama and District Preschool, reducing the \$5,000 per annum Crown Land rental component to the annual statutory minimum (currently \$604.00 + GST) to conform to the requirements stipulated in the Crown Lands Management Act 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

Council collaborated with the Moama and District Preschool ('the Preschool') over several years to secure grant funding, as well as provide Council funding and in-kind support to build a new preschool facility in Moama. The Preschool entered a ten-year lease with Council, agreeing to contribute towards capital, depreciation, rent, and operational expenses. The preschool has been successfully operating since Term 1, 2024, providing essential early education services to the community.

In November 2024, the Preschool requested a reduction in their maintenance liability under the Lease for the fourth quarter of 2024. They requested a reduction of \$14,925.05.

At the 28 January 2025 Council meeting, it was resolved:

That Council:

1. agrees to proceed with the necessary steps to provide financial assistance to Moama and District Preschool ('the Preschool'), including public display and consultation.
2. in accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council will provide 28 days' public notice of a proposal to pass a resolution to grant financial assistance to the Preschool.
3. subject to the completion of the public notice period and consideration of any submissions received, Council resolves to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, up to a maximum of **\$14,925.05** including GST. This decision is made in good faith and does not alter or cancel any other terms of the lease or contribution agreement between the parties.
4. delegate authority to the Acting CEO to enter into a deed of variation to the existing lease to remove the \$5,000 crown land rental component incurred by the Moama Preschool.

**DISCUSSION**

The process of entering a deed of variation to the existing lease has revealed that, under the Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (CLM Act), holders of leases, licences, and permits (tenures) to use Crown land are required to pay rent. Some tenure holders are eligible for rebates, waivers or concessions; however, rebates cannot reduce rent below the statutory minimum. As the Preschool is a non-profit community service they are eligible for a reduced rent. The current minimum annual rent (as set by Crown Lands and as of October 2024) is \$604.00 + GST.

Therefore, Council is obliged under the CLM Act to charge the Preschool the minimum annual rent (currently \$604.00 + GST).

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

5. Strategic Theme 5: A place of Prosperity and Resilience

5.6 - Continue to develop strong and resilient communities - Increased educational opportunities.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended change to the resolution will see an *increase* in the annual rent received by Council, from the Preschool, from \$0 to \$604.00.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Murray River Council Asset Management Policy (POL305).

Murray River Council Leasing and Licensing Policy

Legislative Implications

Local Government Act 1993. (Act)

Local Government (General) Regulations 2005. (Regulations)

Crown Lands Management Act 2016

**RISK ANALYSIS**

- **What can happen?**

If Council does not enforce the minimum annual rent required, it will be in breach of the Crown Lands Management Act 2016.

- **How can it happen?**

Council chooses not to amend its previous resolution (and not charge the Preschool the Crown Lands minimum annual rent).

- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**

Breaching the Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (CLM Act) by not charging the minimum annual rent can lead to several consequences. These may include financial penalties, legal action, and potential invalidation of the lease agreement. Additionally, non-compliance with statutory requirements can result in reputational damage and loss of trust with stakeholders

- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**

Unlikely

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Adequate

- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**

Council amend its previous resolution.

**CONCLUSION**

To comply with the Crown Lands Management Act 2016, Council must amend its previous resolution (which varied the lease agreement with the Preschool to waive the full amount of rent) to reflect the need to charge the Preschool the statutory minimum annual rent of \$604.00 + GST.

Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in financial penalties, legal action, and reputational damage for Council. By delegating authority to the Acting CEO to execute the necessary deed of variation, including the minimum rent, Council ensures compliance with the CLM Act and supports the continued operation of the preschool within the legal framework.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Nil**

## 9.6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

### 9.6.1 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Correspondence Report be received and the information noted by the Council.

#### DISCUSSION

Due to the volume of correspondence that Council receives from Government Agencies, each Councillor has been forwarded the emails directly. As per resolution 290921 at the September 28, 2021, Council meeting, incoming emails from Government Agencies will not be included in this report unless by exception, only outgoing correspondence to Government agencies and general correspondence is recorded in the report.

#### INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

- CMA - Member letter from Chairman 03 Feb 25
- CMA Media Release-FA Grants restoration appeal 10 Feb 2025
- Minister McBain response to motions submitted to LGNSW 2024 Conference 11 Feb 2025

#### OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nil

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. CMA - Member letter from Chairman 03-02-25 [↓](#) 
2. CMA Media Release-FA Grants restoration appeal Feb 2025 [↓](#) 
3. Minister McBain response 11 Feb [↓](#) 



# THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

*"What we want is nothing more than equity"*

**Chairman:** Cr Rick Firman OAM

PO Box 262, Temora NSW 2666

**Contact:** 0429 204 060

**Email:** [admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au](mailto:admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au)

3 February, 2025

Dear CMA Member,

Greetings!

As Members are well aware, Health in our Rural, Remote and Regional communities remains a high priority area for your Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA). The CMA's mantra has and continues to be, all we want is 'equity'. This is a fair and most reasonable request from both our Federal and State politicians.

To this end, I'd like to write to you and remind you we have what's referred to as the NSW Regional Health's Ministerial Advisory Panel (RHMAP). This Panel is chaired by a dear friend of the CMA's, Dr Richard Colbran PhD. Dr Colbran is well-known for his role as Chief Executive with Rural Doctors Network – NSW.

Dr Colbran is the Chairman of a Panel with 10 Members appointed by the Minister. I am honoured to also sit on this Panel. Other Panel Members include; Mrs Anna Barwick, Ms Karen Booth, Mrs Louise Fox, Ms Laura Hand-Ross, Mrs Christine Corby AM, Mrs Kelly Foran, Mr Scott Monaghan AM with one position to be filled, due to the resignation of Dr Jennifer May AM, who is now our National Rural Health Commissioner.

The Panel meets around four times per year at NSW Ministry of Health headquarters, a rural location or virtually. The key themes for the Panel to turn our minds to, as requested by the Minister for NSW Regional Health (The Hon. Ryan Park MP) include;

- Progress on the NSW Rural Health Inquiry
- Health Workforce
- Aboriginal health

This is a unique opportunity for rural, remote and regional communities to have a seat at the table with Minister Park, the Secretary of NSW Health (Mrs Susan Pearce AM), the Deputy Secretary of Regional Health (Mr Luke Sloane) among other key NSW Health Public Servants and Officials.

I too, am happy to receive requests from our Member Councils where they are experiencing a reduction in the provision of health services in your particular community. Also, the Panel would like to see the positive health-related initiatives that may be occurring in your LGA. It is most important we have the balance right of sharing concerns and potential solutions, together with the 'goals being kicked' across our CMA Family footprint.

I believe this Panel is a positive initiative (created by the inaugural Regional Health Minister, now retired, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor). The Panel is being continued with our current Minister, Mr Park, who seems most supportive.

If you have anything – positive or negative, please remember the Members of the Panel. We are here to assist our CMA Members, wherever we can.

Thank you very much. With my best wishes.

I remain yours sincerely,

MAYOR RICK FIRMAN OAM  
CHAIRMAN

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## THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

*"What we want is nothing more than equity"*

# MEDIA RELEASE

10 February, 2025

### COUNTRY MAYORS SEEK RESTORATION OF COMMONWEALTH FUNDING

Chairman of the NSW Country Mayors Association (CMA) Mayor Rick Firman OAM has called for the Australian Government and Opposition to commit to the restoration of Commonwealth funding for Local Government.

"Federal Governments of all persuasions have slowly but surely eroded the funding that is provided to Local Government. It is alarming that the annual Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) provided to Local Government by the Federal Government have decreased from 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue in 1996 to just 0.5% today."

Mayor Firman raised concerns that this falling revenue was a major contributing factor to the financial sustainability challenges that many Councils in rural and regional NSW currently face. "Declining Commonwealth contributions, coupled with rate pegging in NSW and increasing operating costs are making it very difficult for Councils, and particularly country Councils, to continue to deliver services and infrastructure at the levels our communities need he said"

CMA Deputy Chairman Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick said insufficient funding from the Australian Government hits country communities in the hip pocket. "The inadequate FAGs situation creates large rate rises across rural and regional NSW Local Government Areas during a cost-of-living crisis, as Councils struggle to remain financially sustainable. While country Councils know their communities are doing it tough, their operating costs have also risen much faster than their revenue over consecutive years. Special Rate Variations harm the relationship we have with our ratepayers but they have become a necessity in NSW," he said. "Grants are over 70 per cent of the revenue of some rural NSW Councils. Their rate base is stagnant. So, even rate hikes cannot help them much."

The CMA has written to the Prime Minister, The Hon Anthony Albanese, and both the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Peter Dutton MP and to the Leader of the National Party, the Hon David Littleproud MP requesting one on one meetings to discuss the issue. The Leaders have also been invited to address the 28 March meeting of CMA, which has a theme of Financial sustainability.

Country-based Councils in NSW face unique cost pressures, with many Local Government Areas being the size of small European countries and being responsible for close to 1,500kms of roads. Mayor Firman explained that Councils are required to deliver public services like administration, recreational facilities, pools, libraries and waste facilities in multiple locations in order to ensure equity of access, which increases the cost of Council operations.

"In many of our 87 Member Council LGAs there is little or no public transport; therefore it is almost impossible to consolidate service delivery in centralised locations to cut costs. Our Board and our Members are committed to

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## THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

*"What we want is nothing more than equity"*

ensuring that those who choose to live and work in country NSW have the services and infrastructure available that validates that choice. It's all about equity," Mayor Firman said.

"We are asking that the Commonwealth and Opposition to please - step up to the plate, to support our Members in providing the services and infrastructure that our communities need and deserve. A commitment to return FAGs funding to 1996 levels would substantially improve financial sustainability not just for NSW councils but for Local Government across Australia," concluded Mayor Firman.

**For further information, contact:** CMA Chairman - Mayor Rick Firman OAM: 0429 204 060

**Caption:** CMA Deputy Chairman and Bega Valley Shire Mayor Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick with CMA Chairman and Temora Shire Mayor Cr. Rick Firman OAM.

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**The Hon Kristy McBain MP**

Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories  
Member for Eden-Monaro

Ref: MC25-000038

Cr Phyllis Miller OAM  
President  
Local Government New South Wales  
Level 8 28 Margaret Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

via: [Policy@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:Policy@lgnsw.org.au)

Dear Cr Miller

*Phyllis,*

I am writing in response to the letter from Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW) of 16 December 2024, seeking my consideration of and response to resolutions from LGNSW's 2024 Annual Conference.

It was a real pleasure to represent the Australian Government and address the conference this year as Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories. I was struck again by how effectively LGNSW brings together the totality of concerns from your diverse membership to advocate coherently on behalf of urban and regional councils.

Please see enclosed my responses to the resolutions referred to me, noting that, where a resolution was also referred to a New South Wales minister, I have confined my remarks to those matters under the purview of the Commonwealth.

My thanks to LGNSW for taking the time to share with me the resolutions relevant to my portfolio responsibilities, I look forward to maintaining our partnership in service to the New South Wales community.

Yours sincerely

Kristy McBain MP

4/2/2025

Enc

*Congratulations on your elevation  
to the President's role.  
I look forward to  
working with you!*

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 Tel: 02 6277 7060 | Email: [minister.mcbain@mo.regional.gov.au](mailto:minister.mcbain@mo.regional.gov.au)  
Electorate Offices: PO Box 214, Queanbeyan NSW 2620 Tel: 02 6284 2442 | PO Box 1233, Bega NSW 2550 Tel: 02 6492 0542

OFFICIAL

**The Financial Assistance Grant and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport inquiry into local government sustainability**

**Resolutions: 5, 15, and 17**

The Australian Government's commitment to a strong and sustainable local government sector is as enduring as it is substantial, with the Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) as our primary mechanism for providing financial support to councils.

To ensure the Government's future support for local government is informed by objective and up to date evidence, the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government referred the issue of local government sustainability to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport, which was accepted for inquiry.

I am pleased to confirm that, based on more than 280 written submissions received and 16 public hearings to date, the Committee is considering the widest possible range of stakeholder perspectives on the issues that affect local government sustainability. The Government will consider its policies and programs that support local government sustainability in the context of findings and recommendations from the Inquiry.

**Constitutional recognition of local government**

**Resolution 14**

The Government recognises the importance of resilient, sustainable and democratically elected local councils. However, there are no plans to pursue constitutional recognition of local government at this time.

**Consistent councillor remuneration**

**Resolution 32**

The regulation of elected members of local government, including matters relating to their remuneration, is the exclusive purview of the establishing state or territory government. As such, and noting that this resolution has also been referred to my state counterpart the Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government (New South Wales), I defer to the New South Wales Government to respond to this resolution.

## 9.7 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT

### 9.7.1 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT

**File Number:** -

**Author:** Lindy Leyonhjelm, Executive Assistant

**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Sundry Delegates Report of the Mayor and Councillors for the period 1 January 2025 through to 31 January 2025 be received and the information noted by the Council; and reasonable out of pocket expenses be met by Council.

#### DISCUSSION

The **Mayor, Councillor John Harvie** reported on his attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 6 Jan: Meeting with F Crawley & CEO – Mock Council meeting program
- 7 Jan: Meeting with CEO
- 7 Jan: Meeting with Cr Gen Campbell
- 8 Jan: Weekly meeting with CEO
- 9 Jan: Media & photo at Lawry Park with Riverine Herald on New Police Station
- 13 Jan: Meeting with Cr Hurn regarding MRC Code of Meeting Practice
- 14 Jan: Mock Meeting and Councillor Workshop
- 15 Jan: Weekly meeting with CEO
- 16 Jan: Meeting with Lou Iannaconi and Izzy Rees on proposed event
- 21 Jan: Meninya St Workshop
- 21 Jan: Meeting with Campaspe Shire CEO and Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell
- 22 Jan: Weekly meeting with CEO
- 23 Jan: Meeting with CEO & Chair of Murrumbidgee Regional Health District and tour of Barham Multi-Purpose health Centre
- 23 Jan: Attended farewell evening for outgoing Director Infrastructure Jack Bond
- 25 Jan: Evening dinner with Australia Day Ambassador Gwenda Darling
- 26 Jan: Australia Day Celebrations at Moulamein, introducing the Ambassador Gwenda Darling & toured sites at Moulamein with Ambassador & community leaders.
- 28 Jan: Council pre-briefing and Ordinary Meeting of Council – Moama
- 29 Jan: 'Building the Future with your Community Workshop' Regional Australia Institute – Online
- 31 Jan: Weekly meeting with CEO
- 31 Jan: Meeting of CEO appointment sub-committee to shortlist candidates for interviewing purpose.

The **Deputy Mayor, Councillor Neil Gorey** reported on his attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 21 Jan: Councillor workshop
- 26 Jan: Australia Day Ceremony – Barham
- 28 Jan: Council Pre-briefing and Ordinary meeting of Council - Moama

- 31 Jan: CEO Recruitment meeting

**Councillor Bianca Hurn** reported on her attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 14 Jan: Councillor workshop
- 21 Jan: Councillor workshop attended via Team
- 26 Jan: Australia Day Ceremony & Awards – Mathoura
- 28 Jan: Council pre-briefing and Ordinary Meeting of Council – Moama

**Councillor Joy Allan** did not supply a report on her attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

**Councillor Kylie Berryman** reported on her attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 14 Jan: Councillor workshop
- 21 Jan: Councillor workshop
- 25 Jan: Dinner with Gwenda Darling, Australia Day Ambassador
- 26 Jan: Australia Day Celebrations Mathoura
- 28 Jan: Council pre-briefing and Ordinary Meeting of Council – Moama

**Councillor Gen Campbell** reported on her attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 14 Jan: Councillor workshop
- 21 Jan: Councillor workshop
- 28 Jan: Council pre-briefing and Ordinary Meeting of Council – Moama

**Councillor Dennis Gleeson** reported on his attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 2 Dec:

**Councillor Geoff Wise** did not supply a report on his attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

**Councillor Gary Pappin** reported on his attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 15 Jan: Koraleigh Rec Reserve & Hall General Committee
- 26 Jan: Australia Day Breakfast Tooleybuc & Koraleigh
- 28 Jan: Council pre-briefing and Ordinary Meeting of Council – Moama

Councillor Gary Pappin reported on his attendance at the following meetings and functions from a previous time period:

- 10 Dec: Council pre-briefing and Ordinary Meeting of Council – Moama
- 13 Dec: Meeting with Acting CEO in Barham
- 13 Dec: Barham High School presentations
- 15 Dec: Koraleigh Rec Reserve & Hall General Meeting
- 16 Dec: Tooleybuc Central School presentations
- 17 Dec: Councillor workshop

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil

**10 NOTICE OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

**11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council moves out of Open Council into Closed Council at [Enter time](#).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

**11.1 Moama WTP Land Purchase**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**11.2 Barham Micro Abattoir - Recovery of rectification costs**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - g of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with advice concerning litigation, or advice as comprises a discussion of this matter, that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

**11.3 Southern Cross Care - Offer to Purchase Council Land**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c and d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at [Enter time](#).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council brings forward the resolutions from Closed Council into Open Council and these be read aloud.

**12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**