



**murray river
council**

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 22 April 2025

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

Date: Tuesday, 22 April 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

Nil

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**6 DEPUTATIONS****7 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)**

Nil

8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.1.1 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - RESOLUTION TRACKER & INFOCOUNCIL ACTION REPORTS

File Number: -

Author: Bernie Carne, Executive Services

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) included 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. The minutes are completed and approved as draft minutes by the Mayor prior to being placed on the website and actions are distributed.

- **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. **Open Actions Report as at 15/04/2025 (under separate cover)** [⇒](#)
2. **Completed Actions Report - 01/02/2025 to 15/04/2025 (under separate cover)** [⇒](#)

9.1.2 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NSW CONFERENCE

File Number: -

Author: Jan Donald, Executive Administration Officer

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) NSW Conference on 1-3 May 2025.
2. Consideration be given to attending the conference.

BACKGROUND**DISCUSSION**

Griffith is set to welcome over 100 delegates as it hosts the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) NSW Conference from Thursday, 1 May to Saturday, 3 May 2025.

This highly anticipated event will bring together leaders, councillors, and professionals from across New South Wales, highlighting Griffith on the state's map as a hub for leadership, innovation, and community engagement.

As the peak body dedicated to empowering women in local government, ALGWA plays a crucial role in fostering dynamic leadership and ensuring women remain informed, connected, and inspired. The conference will feature key speakers and essential topics, sparking important discussions on regional issues and furthering the organisation's commitment to supporting women's participation in local democracy.

The conference is expected to generate a significant economic impact of approximately \$195,000 for Griffith. With delegates staying in local accommodation, dining at restaurants, shopping, and exploring the region, this event presents a valuable opportunity for local businesses to benefit from increased spending and exposure. Businesses will have the chance to showcase their branding and products to a broad audience of influential leaders.

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

The cost of travel, accommodation and attendance will need to be considered. Registration costs range from \$200 to \$1100.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Murray River Council Councillor Expenses & Facilities Policy (POL103). 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

This conference aims to provide training and support for councillors and local government staff. The event offers attendees the chance to gain valuable insights from guest speakers, participate in professional development, and network with peers from across NSW.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **ALGWA 2025 Griffith - Draft Program** [↓](#)

ALGWA NSW 2025 CONFERENCE

TASTE THE INSPIRATION

Thursday 1 May – Saturday 3 May 2025

| Ex-Servicemen's Club, Griffith NSW

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Griffith's Water Tank Mural 2024
Credit: Vince Bucello





INTRODUCTION

The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) is the premier organisation supporting and representing women in local government. ALGWA was formed to promote women's participation in local government, both as elected officials and employees. The organisation provides support, networking opportunities, and advocacy for women across Australia and initiatives include leadership programs, mentoring, and efforts to address issues like bullying and harassment in the workplace.

The 2025 ALGWA NSW Annual Conference aims to provide comprehensive training and support for councillors and local government staff. This event offers attendees the chance to gain valuable insights from guest speakers, participate in professional development, and network with peers from across New South Wales. Griffith City Council is honoured to host this significant event, continuing its commitment to fostering excellence and inclusivity in local government.

The conference theme, "Taste the Inspiration," is designed to motivate and empower our delegates, encouraging them to embrace new ideas and approaches to their roles as councillors. This conference offers a unique opportunity for new and returning councillors to reset and develop new ideas and perspectives. By fostering creativity, delegates will be motivated to think outside the box and develop innovative solutions to the challenges faced by local government.



Thursday 1 May

Registrations Open @ Griffith Regional Theatre 4.00 pm

Welcome Function at Griffith Regional Theatre 5.00 pm

Performance by: **Puka Pukan Dance Group**

The Griffith Pukapukan community have been in Griffith over 25 years. Their dance group consist out of 12 dancers and 10 drummers. Their performance will take you on a journey across the 15 islands of the Cook Islands.

Welcome by Cr Mayor Doug Curran
Welcome to Country

Guest Speaker: **Emma Norbiato – Calabria Wines**

Emma Norbiato is an accomplished figure in the Australian wine industry, known for her expertise in winemaking. Emma's work emphasizes sustainable practices and producing award-winning wines.

Music by Belle Madden

Free Evening 7.00 pm



Friday 2 May

Registrations at Griffith Ex-Servicemen's Club Function Room 8:00 am

MC Welcome - Alicia McKay 8.30 am
Welcome to Country - To Be Announced
ALGWA President Welcome - Penny Pedersen

ILG NSW President Phyllis Miller - Insights in Local Government 9.00 am

Alicia McKay - Guest Speaker & MC 9.15 am
 Alicia McKay is a vibrant policy analyst and management consultant turned author, speaker, and trainer. Specialising in strategic planning and organisational change, she has worked with over 100 councils and agencies across Australia and New Zealand. Founder of the Not An MBA program, Alicia blends expertise with a no-nonsense approach to leadership.

Morning Tea 11.00 am

PANELLISTS INTRODUCTION & KEY MESSAGE TO DELEGATES: 11.30 am
Zara Lowien - National Irrigation Council (NIC)
 Zara lead NIC through the negotiations and input into the Australian's Government' Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023 and was appointed CEO in early 2024.

Helen Dalton - Member for Murray
 Helen Dalton is Griffith's Local Member for Murray. Known for her commitment to rural communities, Helen champions issues like water rights, agricultural sustainability, and local infrastructure.

The Hon Sussan Ley MP - Member for Farrah
 The Hon. Sussan Ley is an experienced Australian politician, currently serving as Minister for the Environment and Water. She has a strong focus on sustainable environmental practices and regional development.

Panel Discussion - Water Challenges 12.00 pm

Lunch 12.30 pm



Friday 2 May, continued

PANELLISTS INTRODUCTION & KEY MESSAGE TO DELEGATES

1:00 pm

The Hon. Minister Rose Jackson

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast

Carolyn Doherty – Argyle Housing

Argyle Housing is a not-for-profit organisation providing affordable housing and support services to people in need across New South Wales and the ACT.

Serena Hardwick – Business NSW

The Housing Now initiative by Business NSW focuses on addressing housing affordability and availability across New South Wales. It collaborates with industry, government, and communities to meet growing demand.

Panel Discussion – Housing Challenges

1.15 pm

Bus departs to De Bortoli Wines

2.00 pm

Tour at De Bortoli Winery Gardens – “Why is Water so important”

2.15 pm

Message delivered by Margot & Melissa De Bortoli

Networking, Antipasto and Drinks

3.30 pm

Bus Return to Griffith

5.00 pm

Free evening to Explore Griffith

VOTING TIMETABLE

8:15 am: Office Bearer Nomination Open

9:00 am: Officer Bearer Nomination Close

10:30 am: Office bearer voting Open

12:30 pm: Office bearer voting closes

4:00 pm: Returning Officer presents election for Front Bench



Saturday 3 May

Morning Activity: Banna Murals Walk/CBD Activation

7:00 am

A vibrant walking tour showcasing Griffith's unique murals and public art. Delegates will experience the creativity of the Her Way Program, which aimed to make public spaces around transport hubs feel safer for everyone, especially women, girls and gender diverse people. Starting point in Kooyoo Street Mall, Griffith.

Morning Tea @ Griffith Ex-Servicemen's Club

10:00 am

Emma Broomfield – Councillor Wellbeing Session

10:30 am

Emma had a vision to provide a niche consultancy with a focus on working with the local government sector. Since then, she has established a reputation for a down-to-earth, community-centred approach and has had the privilege of working across over 40 local government areas in NSW.

Shirine Nehme (TEDx Griffith)

11:30 pm

Shirine Nehme, a passionate Griffith local, advocates for rural Australia through her involvement in the Griffith Youth Advisory Group and public speaking. She won the 2025 Australia Day Award for Young Citizen.

2026 ALGWA NSW Conference Update from
Blacktown City Council

12:30 pm

Bidding Host 2027

12:45 pm

Lunch

1:15 pm

ALGWA Hotspots

2:00 pm

ALGWA NSW General Meeting – Returning Officer to announce election of Executive team – followed by Afternoon Tea

3:00 pm

Meet in Exies Foyer for bus transfer

6:00 pm

Gala Dinner at Piccolo Family Farm

6:30 pm

Announcement: The 2027 Conference Host Council

Bus departs for transfer back

10:30 pm

VOTING TIMETABLE

8:15 am: Executive Team Nomination Open

10:30 am: Executive Team Nomination Close

11:30 am: Executive Team Voting Open

1:45 pm: Executive Team Voting closes

3:00 pm: Returning Officer presents election for Executive Team

9.1.3 RAMJO MEMBERSHIP 2025/2026**File Number:** -**Author:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer**Authoriser:** Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Endorse continued membership of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) for the 2025/2026 financial year:
2. Agree to the revised membership contribution in accordance with the RAMJO funding model of \$1.60 per capita for the first 10,000 residents and \$0.60 per capital thereafter, which a minimum annual contribution of \$30,000;
3. Note the value of the RAMJO membership in supporting regional advocacy, collaboration, project delivery, and strategic planning across key areas including energy transition, infrastructure funding, waste management and regional development.

BACKGROUND

Joint Organisations (JOs) are statutory local government entities established under the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* to deliver strategic regional priorities through collaboration, advocacy, and coordinated planning.

RAMJO consists of 11 member councils across the Riverina and Murray region, with potential future expansion to include Balranald and Wentworth Shire Councils. It represents a diverse area of over 81,000 square kilometres and a combined population of more than 150,000.

Membership is made up of the following LGAs:

- Albury City
- Berrigan Shire
- Carrathool Shire
- Edward River
- Federation
- Griffith City
- Hay Shire
- Leeton Shire
- Murray River
- Murrumbidgee Shire
- Narrandera Shire

The strategic priorities identified by RAMJO Councils are as follows:

1. Improve water security

2. Improve energy security and affordability
3. Improve transport connectivity for freight and people
4. Improve digital connectivity
5. Better mental health services to changing needs
6. Boost industry, workforce and jobs
7. Improve housing in the area.

DISCUSSION

Murray River Council has directly benefited from RAMJO membership through:

- **Advocacy & Policy Influence**

RAMJO provides a collective voice to State and Federal Governments on issues such as infrastructure funding, energy transition policy, disaster resilience, and the protection of local water utilities.

- **Project Collaboration & Cost Savings**

Council has participated in joint initiatives, including

- **Southern Lights Program** – 1,580 LED streetlights installed in the LGA as part of a region-wide rollout.
- **Regional Energy Strategy** – Including energy audits, tariff reviews, and power purchase agreements.
- **Waste Management Reform** – Including 3-bin education programs and policy submissions on single-use plastics and FOGO mandates.
- **Transport Planning and Disaster Resilience Projects** – Supporting cross-council solutions in areas of mutual concern.

- **Access to Funding and Business Cases**

RAMJO has led the development of externally funded business cases to position member councils for grants and pilot programs, including the Community Energy Upgrades Fund.

- **Shared Knowledge and Networking**

RAMJO enables collaboration with neighbouring councils, facilitates joint procurement opportunities, and provides professional development and peer support for elected members and executive staff.

Membership Contribution

The 2025/2026 funding model sets contributions at \$1.60 per capita for the first 10,000 residents and \$0.60 thereafter, with a minimum annual contribution of \$30,000. This cost is a 25% increase on 24/25 fees.

Financial Sustainability of RAMJO

The projected 2025/2026 RAMJO budget indicates a modest surplus of \$16,293, assuming rebate income and administration recoveries are realised. While small councils such as Carrathool have opted to withdraw, the broader value and intergovernmental presence of RAMJO remains strong, particularly as additional member councils may join pending legislative approval.

Council may consider the following:

- **Continue as a full member** (recommended): Retain influence, project access, and intergovernmental presence.

- Request withdrawal: This would require legislative amendment and forfeit future collaborative opportunities.
- Seek associate status: Would require negotiation and legislative change, and could reduce Council's influence.

Continued participation in RAMJO positions Murray River Council to influence regional decision-making, access collaborative funding opportunities, and deliver value through shared service models.

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

25% increase for membership fees (increase of \$5,970 on 24/25 fees).

Total cost for 25/26 membership, \$30,000.

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

Continued participation in RAMJO positions Murray River Council to influence regional decision-making, access collaborative funding opportunities, and deliver value through shared service models. With a strong track record of project outcomes and advocacy, RAMJO remains a key partner in delivering sustainable outcomes for our community.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.1.4 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

File Number: -

Author: Jan Donald, Executive Administration Officer

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Murray Darling Association National Conference and AGM from 29 September to 2 October 2025 in Griffith NSW.
2. Seeking interest from Councillors in attending the conference.
3. Consider motions for submission to the AGM on 1 October 2025 (due date not yet confirmed).

BACKGROUND

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is a membership-based peak representative organisation representing local government and communities across the Murray Darling Basin. Their purpose is to provide effective representation of local government and communities at State and Federal level in the management of Basin resources by:

- Providing accurate, relevant and timely information
- Facilitating informed debate
- Seeking to influence government policy

Council became a member of the MDA in October 2023.

The Murray Darling Association has announced its 81st National Conference will be held in Griffith, NSW, from 29 September to 2 October 2025 with the AGM being held on 1 October.

This year the National Conference will be focussing on collaboration in the Basin, the communities and the environment, delving into pressing issues that have been identified by MDA members as key points of concern with a risk of impacting Basin communities and industries in the years ahead.

Further information is available at www.mda.asn.au/events/2025natcon

DISCUSSION

With the Murray-Darling Basin Plan set to be reviewed, representation of Communities and Community Groups, Councils, and Businesses and Industries is vital in ensuring the socio, economic, and environmental balance in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Offering the opportunity for communities, councils, education entities, as well as businesses and industries across multiple days, the Murray Darling Association's National Conference provides the pivotal platform to engage in discussion with Government and representatives from across the Murray- Darling Basin, to advocate to, and inform, Government policy and to develop the foundations for meaningful collaboration across communities, Government Areas, and States for the betterment of the Basin and its communities.

The Murray Darling Association has engaged State and Federal Water Ministers, their Shadow Minister counterparts, as well as Government Departments, and leaders in Science and Education fields to speak at its National Conference and engage with attendees.

Focussing on Basin Collaboration in our communities and our environment, Speakers will be presenting on topical issues that affect the Murray-Darling Basin water resources and communities.

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

The cost of travel, accommodation and attendance will need to be considered. Registration costs range from Early Bird tickets \$790 (Member price) and full price (Member price) tickets at \$890.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**RISK ANALYSIS**

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

CONCLUSION

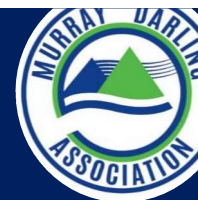
The National Conference is an incredible opportunity for local leaders to come together from across the Murray-Darling Basin to be part of the solution, to join the conversation, to inform future policy, and to engage with leading innovators scientists, educators, and leaders.

Council also to consider any Submission of Motions to the 2025 Murray Darling Association AGM (due date yet to be advised).

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Murray Darling Basin Conference & AGM** [↓](#)

lamb@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au
(03) 5480 3805
F: 64 636 490 493
P.O. Box 1268
Murrumbidgee VIC 3564



Release Date: 7/04/2025

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

GRIFFITH TO HOST 2025 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Murray Darling Association is excited to announce that its 81st National Conference will be held in Griffith, NSW, from 29th September until 2nd October 2025.

We need to inform ourselves. This year the National Conference will be focussing on collaboration in our Basin, our communities, and our environment, delving into pressing issues that have been identified by our Members as key points of concern with a risk of impacting Basin communities and industries in the years ahead.

We need to ensure our views are being heard.

- Cr Shari Blumer, Chair Region 9,
MDA National President

REAL BASIN ISSUES. REAL BASIN DISCUSSIONS.

With the Murray-Darling Basin Plan set to be reviewed, representation of Communities and Community Groups, Councils, and Businesses and Industries is vital in ensuring the socio, economic, and environmental balance in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Speaking to ABC Radio Riverina, Cr Shari Blumer noted that “[while] LGAs in Queensland may be different from LGAs in New South Wales, we have the same issues.” Cr Blumer identified that “...by having a consolidated, principles-based approach, [Basin communities] can speak to Government”

Offering the opportunity for communities, councils, education entities, as well as businesses and industries across multiple days, the Murray Darling Association’s National Conference provides the pivotal platform to engage in discussion with Government and representatives from across the Murray-Darling Basin, to advocate to, and inform, Government policy and to develop the foundations for meaningful collaboration across communities, Government Areas, and States for the betterment of the Basin and its communities.

The Murray Darling Association has engaged State and Federal Water Ministers, their Shadow Minister counterparts, as well as Government Departments, and leaders in Science and Education fields to speak at its National Conference and engage with attendees.

Focussing on Basin Collaboration in our communities and our environment, Speakers will be presenting on topical issues that affect the Murray-Darling Basin water resources and communities.

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N: 64 636 490 493
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Murrumbidgee VIC 3564



Release Date: 7/04/2025

JOIN THE CONVERSATION IN GRIFFITH, NSW

The Murray Darling Association invites you to consider attendance to the 81st National Conference, to **collaborate, and be a part of the Basin's water solution** – to join the conversation, inform future policy, and to engage with the scientists, educators, and leaders of our time.

Join us in engaging and networking with Businesses, Industry, Local, State, and Federal Government from across the Basin and tackle the big issues of the Basin!

Engage in discussion and network with State and Federal Government, Departments heads, Agencies, Authorities, Educators, and Basin Leaders!

INFORM FUTURE POLICY!

EARLYBIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

The 81st National Conference is a ticketed event, with registrations handled through the Murray Darling Association's webpage.

Join us and engage with local, technical, and political leaders to forge a future for councils, catchments, and communities.

Engage with the innovators, scientists, educators, and leaders of our time to tackle the big issues of the Basin, and network with peers and experts over dinner and discuss technical issues with industry and department heads at our Conference exhibition booths.

The Murray Darling Association is a membership-based peak representative organisation representing local government and communities across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Building towards a healthy Murray-Darling Basin, supporting thriving communities, economic development and sustainable productivity, the Murray Darling Association provides effective representation of Local Government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by providing information, facilitating debate, and seeking to influence government policy.

COLLABORATE, AND BE A PART OF THE BASIN'S WATER SOLUTION!

To find out more, and to register, go to www.mda.asn.au/events/2025natcon.

To find out more about the Murray Darling Association, go to www.mda.asn.au or follow us on social media.

9.1.5 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 31 March 2025 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 February 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.**

Finance

- The 2025-26 Budget is underway and has been completed by budget officers. All operational and capital expenditure is currently being reviewed by ELT and Council.
- The 2024-25 Interim Audit has been completed by our external auditors, and we are waiting for the close out report.
- Vacant Finance Officer Position: the successful applicant has been appointed and will commence with Council on 22 April 2025. This is a critical role that support the Finance Controller to complete reporting, audit and backup to Account Payable/Receivable.

Information Management

- TechnologyOne: Extra training being provided to Development Services team, Lunch and Learns to be rolled out as well, covering specific topics.
- Asset Discovery Project: CT to do a full audit of all MRC locations with possible IT Infrastructure to better support our business objectives. This project has kicked off and 'Discovery' is in progress by CT. Remote discovery done. Some sites need to be visited to confirm remote findings.
- Infrastructure and Cyber Security Roadmap: This project saw the team complete an audit of our IT infrastructure and security strength and roadmap improvements to obtain an industry standard level of compliance. The first-year recommendations have been approved. The whole plan will be presented to council shortly. Work on Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) continues and is almost complete.
- Chief Information Officer (CIO) has spent March focusing on IT contract renewals with our contracted partners that have to go to council resolution. Making sure the new contract expiration dates align with going to tender in 2027. Doing work to lower the budget and make possible scenarios to cut some items off the plan.
- Finalising all ICT policies for review by ELT, including an AI policy.
- We have done major preparations to secure our SCADA water network & CCTV network, these are due to be rolled out in April. We have also secured our wireless networks across council. The staff / corporate network now requires your username and password to connect to the WiFi, and now when an account is disabled you can no longer connect to the Staff WiFi.

Economic Development and Tourism

- Distributed Community, Business, and Visitor newsletters, highlighting grant opportunities, upcoming events, business resources, and local success stories (e.g. Murray Darling Scenic Flights).
- Promoted the Campaspe Murray Business Connect networking event (40+ registrations), with targeted email campaigns and ongoing marketing.
- Supported the planning and delivery of community and business events including River Daze (Barham), Wakool Show & Sheep Races, and NextGen Connect's upcoming resilience event.
- Progressed tourism development initiatives, including an Indigenous tour at The Pollack with Uncle Ron and Western Murray Land Improvement Group, and early NAIDOC Week engagement with South West Arts and local schools.
- Advanced public art and placemaking projects as part of the River Country Art Trail, with artwork underway in Moulamein (Heesco) and completion in Barham (Gus Eagleton).
- Delivered the "Grants Guy" workshops in Moulamein and Barham, providing grant-writing support to community groups, with strong interest in future capacity-building sessions.
- Facilitated the Museum Workshop "Murray River Collections and their Keepers," supporting heritage groups with exhibition planning and interpretation—advancing the Arts and Culture Strategy.
- Initiated the Autumn-Winter regional tourism campaign across Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Google Ads; March social media reached over 125,000 users on Facebook alone.
- Continued to grow and promote the 'Live, Work, Invest' website and directory, with new business success stories and increased social engagement.
- Progressed multiple grant applications across environmental, tourism, infrastructure, and community programs, submitting 5 projects totalling \$605,395 and awaiting outcomes on a further 10+ applications worth \$5.25 million.
- Continued collaboration on regional workforce initiatives, including planning for the Skilled Migration Pathways Workshop (29 May 2025) and budgeting workshops for small businesses.
- Maintained regular engagement with economic development stakeholders, including Service NSW, Regional Touring, DPI, and hotel chains to explore future investment and events.

Legal and Procurement

- The VendorPanel system is now live and staff are undergoing purchaser training. Suppliers will be invited to join prequalified supplier panels. A reporting mechanism will be established once full staff take-up is completed. The expectation is that all staff will be using the VendorPanel system for requesting all quotes from 1 July 2025. The first of the local business sessions will be scheduled in late May (run by the Eco Dev team). Procurement will attend to help explain the VendorPanel system and Council's requirements for tendering, as well as allow an opportunity for new entrants to the local market to introduce themselves and ask questions. The implementation of VendorPanel will be reviewed intermittently once it is rolled out to the organisation, to assess its success in improving compliance and efficiency.
- A contract management system will be implemented to centralise Council's contract documents and data and assist contract owners to better manage contracts under their area of accountability.
- The leasing module (Compliance) in Ci Anywhere is now live and all Council leases will be entered into the system (one by one). Expected completion is mid-year.

- A number of tenders are in the pipeline or underway this month. A large number of longer-term service contracts and panel of suppliers' contracts will also need to go to tender in the next few months.
- Procurement compliance issues are being investigated on an ongoing basis. It is envisaged that with an updated policy and procedures underpinning the policy (using streamlined and centralised systems and documentation), compliance will be increased across the organisation. The endorsed Procurement Policy is currently on public display. The Procurement Procedure will be developed in line with same.

Commercial Plant and Property

- Old Moama Preschool building was auctioned on March 15, 2025, as part of a Multi-Auction through the local Real Estate Agent with a successful bid received. Contracts have been exchanged and settlement date is May 14, 2025.
- The Moulamein Aerodrome settlement was completed on 11 March 2025.
- Contract of sale with Edward River Gardens for the residential property at part 21 Morago Street, Moulamein has been exchanged in March and settlement is expected by early May 2025.

Strategic Assets

- Final revaluation of Buildings, Land and Waste assets complete, awaiting signoff from interim audit.
- The TechOne build of asset details and asset books continues to progress in conjunction with BAU.
- Mapping of buried assets now loaded into Before You Dig (BYD) platform for auto-generation of external service requests, with 314 referrals provided in the Month of March.

Community Services

- During March 2025 the Community Services team delivered the following supports:
 - Social Support – 1389 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 – 328
 - Home Maintenance – 189 hours
 - Home Modifications – \$2000
 - Transport – 1123 One-Way trips
- To celebrate Seniors Week, on Tuesday 18 March our Barham, Moulamein and Tooleybuc staff and clients enjoyed a day out aboard the PYAP at Swan Hill for a leisurely 1-hour cruise along the river– 28 attended and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. On Wednesday 26th March our Moama and Mathoura staff and clients boarded the MV Mary Ann and enjoyed a 1.5-hour cruise up and down the river taking in the sights and enjoying a light lunch coffee and cake whilst cruising. We had 45 attendees.
- Community Services staff recently attended the Ageing Persons Expo held at the Barham Hall on Thursday March 6. We had more than 80 attendees from our local area to gain information about Aged Care Services available to them locally. In attendance were 15 Service Providers from a wide range of services, the day was organised as a joint project with Murray Haven Homes Barham, Murray River Council Community Services and the Barham LHAC Committee. A morning tea was provided free of charge to all that attended.

The day was a great success, with lots of good feedback. We plan to host another event in 18 months.

Customer Service

- Snap Send Solve customer response project rollout was completed in March 2025. This will see all customers who make a report through Snap Send Solve be contacted with updates on their reports.
- Power Apps data tracking project commenced in March 2025, with expected completion in April/May 2025. This will provide more accurate data to help inform and better plan for service provision for external agencies, staffing levels, opening hours, and budgeting purposes.
- New office signage is underway, to reflect updated open hours and times at each location.
- BankWAW has made the decision to withdraw face-to-face banking services from Moulamein, effective 26 June 2025.
- Jason Clymo (Customer Service Operations Coordinator) has been awarded the LG Professionals Customer Experience Scholarship.
- Duress alarms for each Customer Service centre and library are being tested, and Manager Customer Service is updating protocols and procedures.
- 'Unattended Children at the Library' Procedure is being created to provide clarity for staff around the extent and limitations of Council's responsibilities to library visitors.
- 3CX phone system functionality to receive additional functions to enable staff training, quality control, and improved reporting.
- Venue bookings procedure is being reviewed to create a more streamlined approach.
- Staff have reported that customers are still not used to new opening days and times. Customers are arriving on days that centres are closed and/or prior to opening, and are "disgruntled".
- Compliment received regarding customer service officers who work on cemetery administration.

Development Services

- 2025 is off to a strong start with Dan Tayles, Jack Rogerson and Anna Schroeter all achieving Accreditation Status as Building Surveyors and Inspectors. Council now has Seven Accredited Certifiers which is incredible for a regional centre. Well done to all staff on their dedication to their studies and on the job training!
- Staff have completed the scope and brief for the Local Housing Strategy Review with intent to produce a clear, practical document that; clearly identifies areas for growth including priority areas; relates to other Strategic Plans; is adequately consulted with relevant agencies and; clearly outlines the Strategic Planning future for housing at MRC.
- Staff are also working on the Moulamein Master Plan which has evolved from a Main Street Master Plan into a full township Masterplan which recognises the potential opportunities relative to the REZ which are located within the region.

Local Connections (Section 355s and Community Recovery)

- Manager of Local Connections and Community Recovery Officer continue to meet and support all Section 355 Committees.
- Community meeting to form a band of volunteers to periodically open the old Moulamein Courthouse to visitors has been held.

- Aboriginal Community Connections: Established connections through events at Njernda, Moama and Cummeragunja LALCs, Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation, Victoria and NSW Local Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers and Cummeragunja community members.
- Girls on Fire Events: Two Girls on Fire events were successfully facilitated on March 17 and 18, in collaboration with Campaspe Shire Council and Headspace. The program provided young people with hands-on firefighting and emergency response training, helping to build their confidence, leadership skills, and awareness of career opportunities in emergency services. Participants engaged in practical drills and emergency response scenarios, guided by trained personnel. The events also included discussions on community resilience, mental health support, and pathways into emergency service roles.
- Seniors Events: Two Seniors Recovery Events were facilitated to help older community members reconnect, share experiences, and celebrate resilience in the aftermath of recent challenges. There was an Echuca-based event and a Swan Hill-based event to capture different areas. The events offered seniors the opportunity to socialise, reflect on their recovery journeys, and access support services in a relaxed setting. Local service representatives attended both events to provide guidance on recovery resources, helping to strengthen community bonds in a supportive environment.
- Grant Writing Workshops: Two Grant Writing Workshops were supported in Moulamein and Barham, facilitated by Keith Whelan, "The Grants Guy". These workshops aimed to equip community groups, volunteers, and local organisations with the skills needed to apply for funding to support recovery and resilience initiatives.
- Youth Hub Support: Funded activities and projects for the Moulamein Youth drop-in hub.

Parks, Gardens, Open Spaces and Biosecurity

Highlights:

- Working on "Private Property Inspection Pack" to hand out to landowners and encourage more engagement with council regarding biosecurity inspections.
- Biosecurity team attended Echuca/Moama discovery day to provide biosecurity education at the event.
- Recruitment- Team Leader position internally filled in Barham. Parks Attendant FTE in Barham advertised to refill and complete team.
- Recruitment- Business Unit Support Officer position filled. Position will provide support to Sport and Recreation services bookings and general administration.
- Wakool Recreation Reserve- Events preparation-Show and Sheep races.

Threats:

- Continued dry conditions impacting services due to extended irrigation periods.
- Water Lettuce being sold at Bunnings Echuca and Swan Hill. Spoke to stores and advised them that it is illegal to sell plant into NSW.
- Ongoing reduction in volunteers on Recreation Reserves. Moulamein South S355 request to hand back grounds maintenance to MRC.
- Negative feedback in relation to Parks Operational Service Delivery Plan introduction due to some service reductions in accordance with adopted plans.

Waste and Compliance

- The Return and Earn facility has had 1.2M containers processed through the facility and the largest volume to date was 29,000 in a day thus far.
- There have been over 90 animals through the Moama and Barham pounds to date this financial year.

- The Moama Landfill Push Pit project redesign has been finalised, a bill of quantities received, and tender schedules developed. The Planning and Building Department are now reviewing all documentation before progressing the project through a Complying Development Consent process. The waste and project management team met to review documentation and designs to ensure the documents are clear and tender-ready. A number of points were raised, and a list of changes have been received back from the consultant and a fire services consultant has now been engaged to certify the designs to satisfy the building team requirements.
- 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. The team is likely to push this project back due to budgetary constraints and investigate grant funding opportunities with NSW EPA.
- Council has finalised and submitted an application for the NSW EPA Landfill Consolidation and Rehabilitation grant to apply for funding to help rehabilitate the Koraleigh Landfill and applied for polystyrene and cardboard bailing systems for Moama Waste facility.
- Enclosures have been installed at the Barham and Mathoura Transfer Station to collect polypropylene bags which are used heavily in the agriculture industry for seed, fertiliser and stock feeds. This service will allow community to drop off the bags at these two sites free of charge if they are listed under the branding scheme. Signage and education materials have arrived to advertise the new collection scheme.
- Secondary meeting has occurred with Campaspe to determine the viability of utilising their Animal Shelter Facility in lieu of a new facility in Moama. Awaiting costings from Campaspe to enable Business Case to be compiled.

Buildings and Facilities

- Goodnight Hall: Restoration of the hall floor underway. Rotted and damaged sections have been replaced. Full sand and clear coat scheduled for coming months.
- Koraleigh Hall: Full upgrade of the buildings electrical wiring has been completed to ensure the building is electrically safe.

Works

- Stage 1 of Kyalite Road works have commenced, thanks to Barham staff undertaking these works and working away from home.
- Reseal works have commenced, with the Contractor progressing on schedule. Regional and Local Roads are scheduled first, followed by Urban Roads.
- Joint Planning Assessment completed with TfNSW for future works on Cobb Highway and Yanga Way.
- Attendance to the Municipal Work Conference in Bendigo.
- Great progress made on Barmah Road works, nearing completion.
- Centre Road works underway. Works will be divided into five (5) stages due to location with Cobb Highway, Hillside Road and Moama Waste Facility.
- Planning for Cobb Highway and Centre Road intersection upgrade with TfNSW. TfNSW will be funding deep lift asphalt works.
- Culvert maintenance on Cobb Highway for TfNSW.
- Cobb Highway and Yanga Way shoulder works currently being scope with TfNSW.
- The deadline for flood recovery works has been extended by TfNSW by 12 months to 30 June 2026.

- Continued to deliver routine maintenance and operational activities including the below recordings and accomplishments:
 - Asset inspections – 81 in total
 - Correct surface defect (crack) – 3,425m².
 - Correct surface shape (shoves) – 140m².
 - Edge break repair – 25,920m.
 - Edge drop repair – 3,675m.
 - Guidepost maintenance – 3 in total
 - Maintain signs – 2 total
 - Repair pothole – 261 in total.
 - Replace signs – 2 in total
 - Safety barrier maintenance – 132m.

Major Projects

- Tooranie Road/Yarrein Creek Bridge: Contractor is engaged and has commenced works with a planned completion date of June 2025. Piles driven with works commencing on pile caps. Construction is two weeks behind the original schedule, due to difficulties created by waterlogged creek bed, this delay is compounded by company shutdown over Easter. Contractor to provide updated program demonstrating acceleration of tasks to achieve end of June deadline. Tender for construction of bridge approaches has closed and submissions evaluated.
- Design for Barham Sewage Treatment Upgrade: Design being undertaken by NSW Department of Public Works. Pump station Review of Environmental Factors has been completed. Design and specification for pump station nearing completion and will then be seeking funding to proceed to tender. Investigations including Review of Environmental Factors and Cultural Heritage Assessment are in progress for the Sewerage Treatment Plant upgrade, along with design packages for the rising mains, ponds, and decommissioning of the current STP.
- Mathoura and Picnic Point flood study: Tender closed 7 March 2025. Evaluation in progress to progress to contract award. Clarifications sought from interest suppliers.
- Concept design for Moama Sewerage Scheme Upgrade: Option study review and concept design has been completed by NSW Department of Public Works. Council has selected two of the options provided to progress further in design and investigation phase.
- Murray Downs Foreshore Access Road: *Completed Works*: Survey and location of underground services (including physical location via potholing), clearing and grubbing of access road, design updates, culvert and subgrade installation, pavement installation. *Upcoming works*: box culvert in swale drain, guidepost and signage, As-Built survey and documentation.
- The 'Major Projects' MOR should be read in full for other project updates.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Monthly Operational Report - March 2025 (under separate cover)** [⇒](#)

9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.2.1 PRIVATE ROAD NAMES WITHIN DISCOVER PARKS MNUFACTURED HOMES ESTATE, MOAMA (LOT 2 DP 577744) AT 80 MEROOL ROAD, MOAMA, NSW 2731

File Number: -

Author: Rebecca Ward, Assets Officer

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve to endorse the road names Alexander Street, Britannia Street, Canally Street, Industry Lane, Ranger Lane, and Success Street, within the Discovery Parks Moama West (Lot 2 DP 577744), at 80 Merool Road, MOAMA NSW 2731.

BACKGROUND

Council has received a request from the developers of "Discovery Parks" to name the private roads within the Manufactured Home Estate within Lot 2 DP 577744, at 80 Merool Road, Moama NSW 2731.

DISCUSSION

For the purposes of the Geographical Names Board NSW Address Policy Council are responsible for endorsing the authoritative road name of private roads and ensuring they are approved by the Geographical Names Board.

The suggested names are based around local heritage paddle steamers in the surrounding area and the names comply with the requirements of the Geographical Names Board. The names have been checked against the Victorian Geographical Names Board within our border community. The suggested names are as follows. Their location is shown in Attachment 1, 2 & 3.

- **Alexander Street** – Alexander Arbuthnot Operates in Echuca
- **Britannia Street** - Privately Owned in Echuca
- **Canally Street** - Built in Echuca, fastest paddle boat built in Australia
- **Industry Lane** - Currently Located at Renmark, operated from Goolwa to Wentworth, Built the Lock System in the Murray River, 1 of only 6 remaining paddle steamers not to have been sunk.
- **Ranger Lane** - Located in Echuca, once used in the Conner family fishing fleet.
- **Success Street** – Being reconstructed in Echuca

These roads will remain as Private Roads within the Discovery Parks Manufactured Homes Estate and Council will NOT have any responsibilities for the operation, maintenance or renewal of these assets.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.10 - Strategic planning which produces consistent, strategic, transparent outcomes - Streetscaping / Master Planning / Placemaking.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Roads Act 1993.

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**
The roads remain unnamed.
- **How can it happen?**
Road names not endorsed.
- **What are the consequences of the event happening?**
Difficulty identifying property,
- **What is the likelihood of the event happening?**
Medium to high
- **Adequacy of existing controls?**
Good in that Council staff are available to carry out the formality of naming and endorsing the private roads.
- **Treatment options to mitigate the risk?**
Council to pass a resolution to endorse the names the private roads.


CONCLUSION

The proposed private road names comply with the Geographical Names Board guidelines for the naming of roads and are therefore supported.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Location of Lot 2 DP577744 - Discovery Parks Manufactured Homes Estate** [↓](#)
2. **Proposed Site Layout of Discovery Parks Estate** [↓](#)
3. **Location of Streets to be Named within Discovery Parks Estate** [↓](#)






murray river
council

1300 087 004
<https://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au>

Murray River Council Mapping

Printed
15/04/2025
Scale
1:4514



IMPORTANT NOTICE
This map is not a precise survey document. Accurate locations can only be determined by a survey on the ground.
This information has been provided for Council's external purposes and for no other purpose. No statement is made about the accuracy or suitability of the information for any purpose (whether the purpose has been notified to Council or not). While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, neither the Murray River Council nor the Department of Lands makes any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason. © The State of New South Wales (Department of Lands) 2009, © Murray River Council 2026.





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DKJ projects.architecture
Darwin - Alice Springs - Gold Coast - Adelaide - Perth

DRAWING TITLE: SITE PLAN			
PROJECT NAME: MOAMA WEST		CLIENT NAME: DISCOVERY PARKS	
PROJECT NUMBER: 240006	SCALE: @A3 As indicated	DRAWING NUMBER: SK00	DATE: 01/08/24
		REVISION	



 <p>1300 087 004 https://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Murray River Council Mapping</p> <p>Printed 14/04/2025 Scale 1:1129</p>	 <p>IMPORTANT NOTICE This map is not a precise survey document. Accurate locations can only be determined by a survey on the ground. This information has been provided for Council's external purposes and for no other purpose. No statement is made about the accuracy or suitability of the information for any purpose (whether the purpose has been notified to Council or not). While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, neither the Murray River Council nor the Department of Lands makes any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason. © The State of New South Wales (Department of Lands) 2009, © Murray River Council 2026.</p>
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9.2.2 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE MEMBER TO THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC)

File Number: -

Author: Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Murray River Council (Council) resolve, in keeping with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, to appoint Ms. Leanne Mulcahy as the third independent member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).

DISCUSSION

The Local Government Act 1993 ('LG Act'), and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 ('LG Regulation') require each Council in NSW to have:

- ▶ an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) that continuously reviews and provides independent advice to Council on how it is functioning and managing risk;
- ▶ a robust risk management framework that accurately identifies and mitigates the risks facing the council and its operations; and
- ▶ an effective internal audit function that provides independent advice as to whether the council is functioning effectively and the council's internal controls to manage risk are working.

These three mandatory governance mechanisms are key to ensuring that Councils are doing things the best way they can for their communities and are on track to delivering their community's goals and objectives.

If implemented effectively, ARIC's risk management and internal audit will lead to Councils:

- ▶ achieving their strategic objectives in the most efficient, effective and economical manner;
- ▶ having better and more efficient levels of service delivery;
- ▶ having increased accountability and transparency;
- ▶ achieving better decision-making and having the confidence to make difficult decisions;
- ▶ having increased financial stability;
- ▶ achieving and maintaining compliance with all laws, regulations, internal policies and procedures; and
- ▶ better safeguarding their public assets.

In light of these recent changes to the LG Act and Regulations, Council adopted a new Audit, Risk and Improvement Framework, a Terms of Reference and an Internal Auditor Charter at its March 2024 meeting that encapsulated all the required changes.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee's run for the same term as Council's governing body.

In December 2024, Council appointed the Joint Chairs/Committee Members – M/s. David Kortum and Jarrah O'Shea.

Council advertised the role of the 3rd independent member of ARIC, with the recruitment closing on 5th March 2025 and received 21 applications.

After initial shortlisting by internal staff and a further shortlisting by the already appointed ARIC members, three (3) interviews for this position were conducted on Wednesday 2nd April 2025, with

the interview panel chaired by the current ARIC Chair Mr. Kortum. Ms. Leanne Mulcahy was identified as the preferred candidate.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.2.3 FINANCIAL REPORT - UNAUDITED FY 24/25 PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 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 March 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 - March 2025** [↓](#)
2. **Financial Statements (Unaudited) for period to 31 March 2025** [↓](#)

Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 March 2025



BACKGROUND

This report provides the unaudited financial performance and position of Murray River Council for the period as at 31 March 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 \$(6.1)M after charging depreciation (What We Set-aside for Asset Renewals) of \$15.5M.

Net earnings are \$(1.4)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	25,166	20,981	83%
What We Invoiced our Customers	12,940	12,581	9,538	76%
What We Rcvd. as Grants & Subsidies	20,155	22,410	9,140	41%
What We Rcvd. as Interest from Investment	3,026	3,086	2,444	79%
Our Other Revenue	1,965	1,664	1,606	97%
Our Total Recurrent Earnings	59,640	64,907	43,710	67%
What We Spent on Our Staff	21,181	21,435	16,892	79%
What We Spent on Our Suppliers	21,493	29,348	17,411	59%
Our Total Direct Spend	42,674	50,783	34,304	68%
What We Paid Our Bankers	348	34	39	114%
What We Set-aside for Asset Renewals	20,884	20,344	15,501	76%
Our Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,265)	(6,255)	(6,133)	98%
Our Capital Revenue	54,202	13,219	4,925	37%
Our Capital Expenses	9,203	(201)	230	-
Our Capital Surplus/(Deficit)	44,999	13,421	4,695	35%
Our Net Earnings	40,733	7,166	(1,438)	-20%

Monthly Financial Report

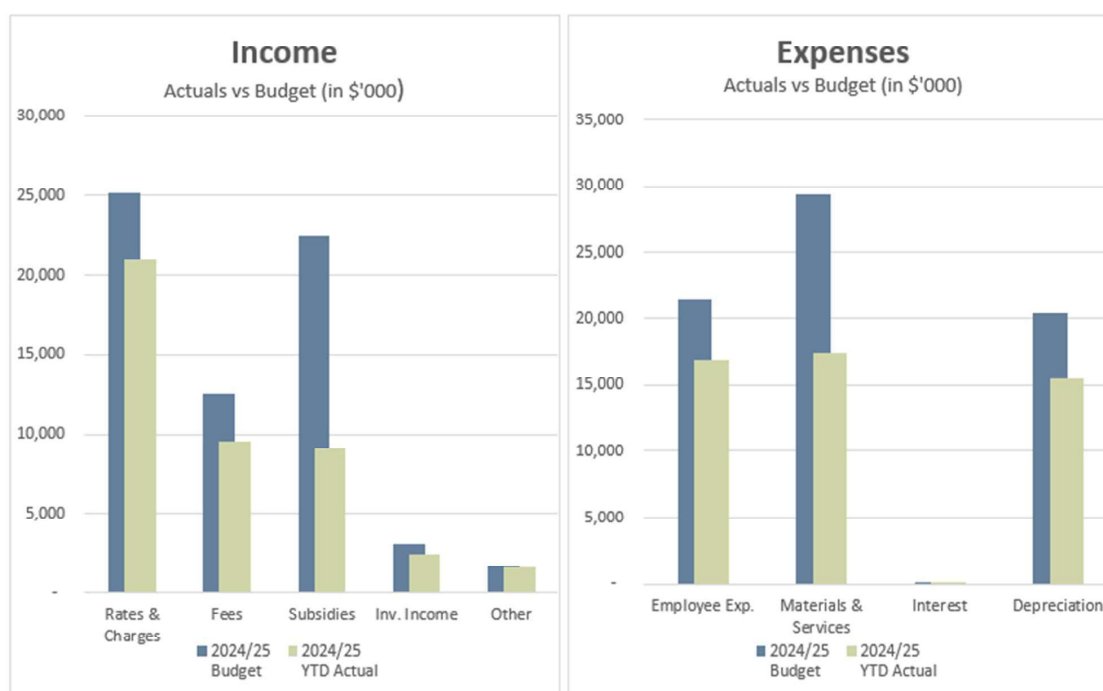
FY 2024-25, to 31 March 2025



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 now issued Water Notices for the period ended 28 February 2025, this is reflective in the percentage of budget achieved for 'What We Invoiced our Customers' aligning with what period of the year we are at (ie. we are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the financial year or 75%).
- Majority of the other revenue items have tracked on target or above.
- Expenses paid to our Suppliers are slightly lower than expected. YTD % is sitting at 79% with most areas slightly under spent due to the timing of the end of March invoices not yet received. Some expenses are not payable until the later part of the financial year.
- 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 couple of months with the 3rd quarterly budget review.

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 March 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 \$1.158B.

Table 2 : Statement of Financial Position

	2023/24 Audited	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 YTD Actual
What We Own	1,102,004	1,130,590	1,111,549
Inventory We Hold	3,600	1,810	3,567
What We are Owed	14,995	11,319	12,966
What We Have in Bank	59,611	58,331	57,073
Our Total Assests	1,180,210	1,202,050	1,185,154
What We Owe Our Suppliers	10,168	14,216	6,255
What We Owe Our Lenders	5,753	2,895	5,743
Other Liabilities	14,648	15,089	14,654
Our Total Liabilities	30,569	32,200	26,652
Our Community Wealth	1,149,641	1,169,850	1,158,502

- What We Own relates to our capitalised assets, as is detailed below under 'Capital Delivery' we appear to be slightly behind on our Capital Program, however it is expected the later end of the financial year will see an increase in works (due to work program schedules). Therefore we expect to see this gap narrow over the coming months.
- The increase of approx. \$2.8m 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 slightly lower than expected (Budget) which is expected due to the timing of final rates instalment still to be received. We also expect the Financial Assistance Grant to be received in late June 2025 and will bump the cash balances up for the end of the financial year. The cash balances remain at satisfactory levels, noting that a sizeable portion of the investments are restricted for specific purposes. (see investments report).

Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 March 2025

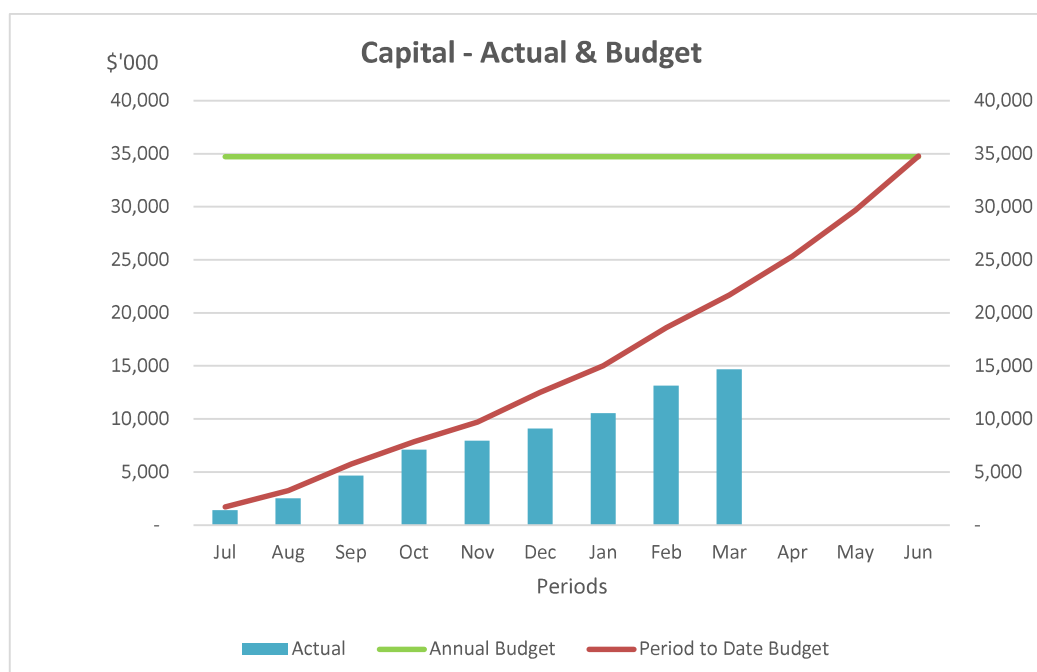


CAPITAL DELIVERY

Council's approved budgeted capital allocation is \$34.75M for 2024/25 after approval of the 2nd quarterly budget review. As at 31 March 2025, Council has spent approx. \$14.67M on its capital program, which is 42% of the annual capital budget excluding commitments for 2024/25, including commitments 56% of the annual capital budget has been expended & committed.

Based on the estimated timing of projects in the capital program, as at 31 March 2025 Council was estimated to have delivered \$21.6M of the capital budget, with current year to date actual expenditure of \$14.67M Council has delivered 68% of its capital budget program.

The below graph summaries monthly spending (Actual) over our estimated expenditure (Annual Budget & Period to Date Budget)



Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 March 2025



LIQUID ASSETS & RESERVES

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

Table 3: Movement of Liquid Assets

DETAILS	JANUARY 2025	FEBRUARY 2025	MARCH 2025
Cash Book Balance B/Fwd	\$1,592,482	\$624,871	\$1,802,702
Add income for month	\$4,030,220	\$7,160,228	\$7,206,552
Deduct expenditure for month	\$4,997,830	\$5,232,396	\$6,986,724
CASH AVAILABLE	\$624,871	\$2,552,702	\$2,022,531
Redeem/(Purchase) Investments	(\$0)	(\$750,000)	(\$1,000,000)
CASH BOOK BALANCE	\$624,871	\$1,802,702	\$1,022,531
Add on-call account	\$2,577,519	\$2,534,566	\$1,041,285
Add investments - Deposits	\$51,750,000	\$52,500,000	\$52,500,000
Add investments - Shares	\$2,010	\$2,010	\$2,010
CASH POSITION	\$54,954,400	\$56,839,278	\$54,565,826
As per Bank Statements	\$3,202,390	\$4,337,268	\$2,063,816

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

Table 4: Breakdown of Reserves

Fund	General	Water	Sewer	Waste	Total
January 2025	\$23,722,012	\$ 7,075,383	\$ 20,032,211	\$ 4,124,794	\$54,954,400
February 2025	\$31,305,287	\$ 5,676,441	\$ 15,029,198	\$ 4,828,341	\$56,839,267
March 2025	\$27,355,618	\$ 7,217,214	\$ 15,064,335	\$ 4,928,658	\$54,565,825

Breakdown of Cash & Restricted Assets (Reserves) by Fund

Funds	General	Water	Sewer	Waste	Total
Unrestricted	\$408,596	-	-	\$10,325	\$418,921
Internally Restricted	\$9,776,133	\$3,447,836	\$11,318,253	\$2,572,492	\$27,114,714
Externally Restrictcd	\$17,170,889	\$3,769,378	\$3,746,082	\$2,345,841	\$27,032,190
Total	\$27,355,618	\$7,217,214	\$15,064,335	\$4,928,658	\$54,565,825

Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 March 2025



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

Table 5: Details of Internally Restricted Reserves

Internal Restricted Assets	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Waste Fund	Total
	10	20	30	40	
Buildings	\$237,040	-	-	-	\$237,040
Bushfire Services	\$45,278	-	-	-	\$45,278
Caravan Parks	\$242,473	-	-	-	\$242,473
Carryover Works	\$376,174	-	-	-	\$376,174
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	\$1,552,735	-	-	-	\$1,552,735
Financial Assistance Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage Buildings	\$18,495	-	-	-	\$18,495
Infrastructure Works	\$1,067,972	\$3,447,836	\$11,318,253	-	\$15,834,061
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	\$4,350,921	-	-	-	\$4,350,921
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	-	-	-	\$2,572,492	\$2,572,492
	\$9,776,133	\$3,447,836	\$11,318,253	\$2,572,492	\$27,114,714

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	-	\$303,711	-	-	\$303,711
Waste Management Ext	-	-	-	\$2,055,349	\$2,055,349
Other	\$64,287	-	-	-	\$64,287
	\$17,170,889	\$3,769,378	\$3,746,082	\$2,345,841	\$27,032,190

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.

Julie Moller
Chief Financial Officer and
Responsible Accounting Officer

Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 March 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

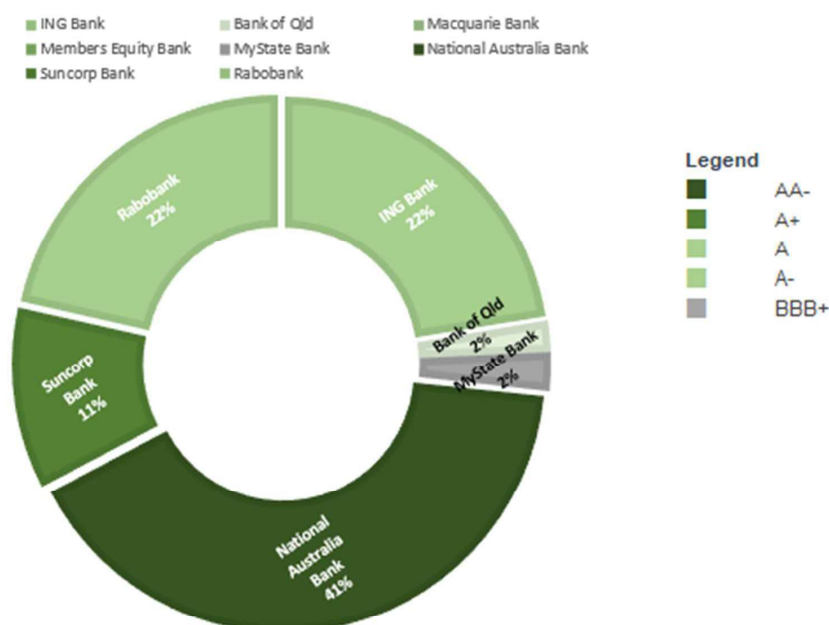
As per the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Reg212(1)(b), all investments have been made in accordance with the Act, applicable Regulations, and council's investment policy.

Julie Moller
Chief Financial Officer and
Responsible Accounting Officer

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	\$ 12,000,000	22.43%
Bank of Qld	\$ 1,000,000	1.87%
MyState Bank	\$ 1,250,000	2.34%
National Australia Bank	\$ 21,750,000	40.65%
Suncorp Bank	\$ 6,000,000	11.21%
Rabobank	\$ 11,500,000	21.50%
	\$ 53,500,000	100.00%



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FY 2024-25, to 31 March 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 4.51% to 4.75%	-	-	\$5,750,000	\$1,000,000		\$6,750,000
from 4.76% to 5.00%	\$8,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$7,000,000	-		\$19,000,000
from 5.01% to 5.25%	\$7,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,000,000	-	\$1,250,000	\$16,250,000
from 5.26% to 5.50%	\$6,750,000	-	\$4,750,000	-		\$11,500,000
	\$21,750,000	\$6,000,000	\$23,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$53,500,000

Please note, the BBB Investments is a carry over Investment and is due to mature in May 2025



Monthly Financial Report

FY 2024-25, to 31 March 2025



The maturity profile of the investments are as follows.

Table 9: Maturity Profile

Maturity Dates	AA-	A+	A	A-	BBB	Total
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	\$2,000,000	-	-	-	\$5,000,000
October 2025	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	\$4,000,000
November 2025	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	-	-	-	\$3,000,000
December 2025	\$1,000,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$3,750,000
January 2026	-	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	-	-	\$3,000,000
February 2026	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000	-	-	-	\$4,000,000
March 2026	-	\$4,000,000	-	-	-	\$4,000,000
	\$21,750,000	\$23,500,000	\$6,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$53,500,000

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 March 2025

CY Budget	\$'000	Notes	CY Actual YTD	PY Actual Audited
	Income from continuing operations			
25,166	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	20,981	21,554
12,581	User charges and fees	B2-2	9,538	12,940
1,078	Other revenue	B2-3	1,143	1,363
22,410	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	9,140	20,155
13,219	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	4,925	54,202
3,086	Interest and investment income	B2-5	2,444	3,026
585	Other income	B2-6	463	602
78,126	Total income from continuing operations		48,635	113,843
	Expenses from continuing operations			
21,435	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	16,892	21,181
28,193	Materials and services	B3-2	16,714	20,393
34	Borrowing costs	B3-3	39	348
		B3-4		
20,344	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets		15,501	20,884
1,155	Other expenses	B3-5	697	1,100
(201)	Net losses from the disposal of assets	B4-1	230	9,203
70,960	Total expenses from continuing operations		50,073	73,109
7,166	Operating result from continuing operations		(1,438)	40,733
7,166	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		(1,438)	40,733
(6,053)	Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes		(6,363)	(13,469)

Murray River Council

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2025

from period 01 July to 31 March 2025



CY Budget	\$'000	Notes	CY Actual YTD	PY Actual Audited
ASSETS				
Current assets				
12,203	Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	1,427	14,862
44,584	Investments	C1-2	54,705	43,205
11,319	Receivables	C1-4	12,966	14,995
497	Inventories	C1-5	464	497
1,313	Current assets classified as held for sale	C1-7	3,103	3,103
1,544	Other	C1-11	941	1,544
71,460	Total current assets		73,606	78,206
Non-current assets				
2	Investments	C1-2	2	2
26	Receivables	C1-4	26	26
	Inventories	C1-5		
1,118,464	Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	1,099,431	1,089,886
12,098	Intangible Assets	C1-10	12,089	12,089
	Investments accounted for using the equity method	D2-2		
1,130,590	Total non-current assets		1,111,549	1,102,004
1,202,050	Total assets		1,185,154	1,180,210
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
14,216	Payables	C3-1	6,255	10,168
1,285	Contract liabilities	C3-2	3,706	3,697
180	Lease liabilities	C2-1	294	180
267	Borrowings	C3-3	271	267
2,855	Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	4,533	4,249
1,394	Provisions	C3-5		
20,196	Total current liabilities		15,059	18,560
Non-current liabilities				
8	Lease liabilities	C2-1	254	188
1,155	Borrowings	C3-3	1,218	1,422
372	Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	94	372
10,469	Provisions	C3-5	10,027	10,027
12,004	Total non-current liabilities		11,594	12,009
32,200	Total liabilities		26,652	30,569
1,169,850	Net assets		1,158,502	1,149,641

Murray River Council

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2025

from period 01 July to 31 March 2025



CY Budget	\$'000	Notes	CY Actual YTD	PY Actual Audited
	EQUITY			
7,166	Current years surplus		(1,438)	40,733
786,468	Accumulated surplus		786,468	745,735
376,216	IPPE revaluation reserve		373,472	363,173
<u>1,169,850</u>	Council equity interest		<u>1,158,502</u>	<u>1,149,641</u>
<u>1,169,850</u>	Total equity		<u>1,158,502</u>	<u>1,149,641</u>

9.2.4 DRAFT CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY V#1

File Number: -

Author: Sandra Gordon, Manager Governance & Risk

Authoriser: Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the DRAFT Concessions for Concealed Water Leaks Policy V#1 be adopted and placed on public display.

BACKGROUND

Council has not previously had a Concessions for Concealed Water Leaks Policy.

DISCUSSION

Council provides both raw and filtered water services in selected areas within its region. Council's practice has been to install water meters for each of its connections and to levy a Water Consumption Charge (whether raw or filtered) based on the quantity of water registered on the meter for a given period of time.

On occasion, plumbing within a property may experience a leak that is not readily detectable (concealed water leak) due to its nature and or location, resulting in an unusually high Water Consumption Charge.

The objectives of this Policy are:

- ▶ To provide a financial concession to property owners who have received an unusually high Water Consumption Charge due to a concealed water leak, resulting in the said property owner(s) experiencing a hardship.
- ▶ To guide Council Officers in their decision-making on the extent of, and the conditions under which, financial concessions on Water Consumption Charges will be extended.

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

Minimal budgetary implications.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**RISK ANALYSIS**

- What can happen?

The Policy and the associated smartmeters/MiWater system will assist the ratepayers better manage their water accounts. Potential water leaks can be identified in a timely fashion resulting in less disgruntled ratepayers.

- **How can it happen?**

Changes in water consumption patterns may indicate an issue.

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

Possible

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

Low

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Adequate

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

Continue with the public messaging about the benefits of registering for the MiWater app.

CONCLUSION

The property owner(s) is responsible for managing their water consumption. This includes registering on MiWater to monitor their water consumption and set up alerts for water leaks.

This Policy gives ratepayers advice on managing a concealed water leak and what concessions they can apply for from Council and the conditions in which a concession will be granted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **DRAFT Concessions for Concealed Water Leaks Policy V#1** [↓](#)

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL
COUNCIL POLICY

DRAFT
**CONCESSIONS
FOR
CONCEALED
WATER
LEAKS
POLICY**

POL-316.V#1



CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

POL-316

1. INTRODUCTION

Council provides both raw and filtered water services in selected areas within its region. Council's practice has been to install water meters for each of its connections and to levy a Water Consumption Charge (whether raw or filtered) based on the quantity of water registered on the meter for a given period of time.

On occasion, plumbing within a property may experience a leak that is not readily detectable (concealed water leak) due to its nature and or location, resulting in an unusually high Water Consumption Charge.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Policy are:

- ▶ To provide a financial concession to property owners who have received an unusually high Water Consumption Charge due to a concealed water leak, resulting in the said property owner(s) experiencing a hardship.
- ▶ To guide Council Officers in their decision-making on the extent of, and the conditions under which, financial concessions on Water Consumption Charges will be extended.

3. SCOPE

This Policy is applicable to property owner(s) who are issued with a Water Notice containing a Water Consumption Charge, in keeping with Council's Revenue Policy, who will experience financial hardship due to a larger than usual Water Notice resulting from a concealed water leak.

This policy also applies to Council Officers delegated to consider applications for concessions due to a concealed water leak.

4. LEGISLATION

- ▶ Local Government Act 1993
- ▶ Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1. PRINCIPLES

- ▶ The property owner(s) is responsible for managing their water consumption. This includes registering on MiWater to monitor their water consumption and set up alerts for water leaks.
- ▶ The property owner(s) is responsible for repairing water leaks, in a timely manner, in the water infrastructure carrying water from the water meter:
 - Into the premises;
 - In any internal pipes or plumbing fixtures within the premises; and/or
 - In any irrigation piping or garden watering systems.

In keeping with Clause 159 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 and other relevant Legislation and Regulations.

- ▶ Subject to any concessions under this Policy, the property owner is responsible for the payment of the Water Notice in full, including consumption related to leaks, by the due date identified in the Water Notice, unless prior arrangements have been made for the payment of the Water Notice in instalments.



CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

POL-316

- ▶ Any concessions, extended in keeping with this Policy, will be at the sole decision of Council. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will make the final decision under his delegated authority from Council.
- ▶ Where Council becomes aware of a potential water leak at a property, Council will make best efforts to notify the property owner(s). Such notification is provided as an added service and the lack thereof, does not alter the availability or non-availability of concessions under this Policy.
- ▶ Where a property owner(s) is not satisfied with the decision of Council, in relation to their application for a concession due to a concealed water leak, they may appeal the decision in keeping with Council's Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy.

Any appeals of decisions made under this Policy must be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the decision being communicated to the property owner(s).

5.2. ELIGIBILITY

Council will only consider a request for concession on a Water Notice due to a water leak where:

- ▶ the leak was a concealed water leak; and
- ▶ where a Smart Meter is installed at the property, the property owner(s) has registered on MiWater and has active leak alerts in place, and
- ▶ the property owner(s) took all reasonable steps to ensure that the concealed water leak was repaired within a reasonable period of time; and
- ▶ the concealed water leak was repaired by a licensed plumber.

5.3. CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING OF CONCESSIONS

- ▶ A reduction in water consumption charges will be granted only once per property per property owner for each two-year period.
- ▶ Concessions may be applied over two billing periods, as a single concealed water leak can affect the consumption over two billing periods.
- ▶ A concession will only be available if the consumption for applicable billing period is above the Tier 1 Allocation Limit (pro-rated where applicable).
- ▶ Interest will accrue on all applicable overdue amount, in accordance with Council's Revenue Policy and related practices, while an application for a concession due to a concealed water leak is being assessed unless prior arrangements have been made for the payment of the Water Notice in instalments.

5.4. CALCULATION OF CONCESSIONS

Hourly Data Available

(where detailed hourly consumption data is available through a Smart Meter, for number of days the concealed water leak existed or 30 days, whichever is lower)

$$\text{Excess consumption due to Concealed water leak} = \sum_{1 \text{ through } n} \left[\text{Minimum consumption rate (for a given day)} \times \text{Number of leak hours} \right]$$

Where:

1 = first day of concealed water leak; and

N = day the concealed water leak, became apparent or the day on which the concealed water leak ceased, whichever is earlier.



CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

POL-316

No Hourly Data Available

(where no Automated Meter Reader (AMR) is installed, or no detailed hourly consumption information is available)

Excess Consumption
due to Concealed water leak X Concession Rate

Where:

Excess consumption due to Concealed water leak = Consumption for applicable Billing Period - Non-concession consumption

and,

Concession Rate = Tier 2 Water Consumption Charge rate - Tier 2 Water Consumption Charge rate

and where,

Non-concession consumption = The greater of:

- average consumption for property, or
- Tier 1 Allocation Limit (pro-rated where applicable)

If use of either of the above methods is deemed inappropriate by Council, under a given circumstance, then an alternate methodology may be adopted.

The decision whether to use an alternative methodology, and the alternative methodology to be used, will be at the discretion of the CEO or a Council Officer delegated to consider applications for concealed water leaks under this Policy. Such decisions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

5.5. LIMITATIONS OF CONCESSION

- ▶ For purposes of calculating the concession, the concealed water leak volume will be capped at 1,000 kilolitres per property connection for single residential properties and all non-residential properties.
- ▶ Where the property is a multi-dwelling property, the concealed water leak volume will be capped for purposes of calculating the concession at 500 kilolitres per unit or assessment, subject to an overall limit for the multi-dwelling property of 5,000 kilolitres.
- ▶ Where a residential property is the principal place of residence of an eligible pensioner, there will be no cap applied to the concealed water leak volume, in calculating the concession.

5.6. APPLYING FOR A CONCESSION

- ▶ The property owner(s) must apply in writing for a reduction of water consumption charges due to a concealed water leak using the Application for a "Concession on Water Account due to a Concealed Water Leak" Form and completing all sections of the Form.
- ▶ The application must be made, no later than the date on which payment for the consumption charge, on which the concession is being sought, falls due for payment.

Application made after this date but before the next Water Notice, may be considered at the discretion of the delegated decision-maker. Where such an application is considered, the concession granted will be 50% of the concession as identified in "Section 5.4 - **CALCULATION OF CONCESSIONS**" of this Policy.

An application received after the issuance of the next Water Notice will not be considered for relief.

- ▶ The application must be accompanied by a detailed plumber's report, using the Plumber's Report on

CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

POL-316

Repair of Concealed Water Leak Form, from the licensed plumber who carried out the repair work, certifying:

- the property on which the concealed water leak was discovered;
- the concealed water leak was repaired by the licensed plumber;
- the date the concealed water leak was repaired; and
- the details of the plumbing repairs undertaken; including:
 - that the concealed water leak was in the main water supply pipe from the water meter to the primary constructed structure on the property; and
 - that the concealed water leak was in a location and/or a nature which contributed to it not being evident.

5.7. SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS

Murray River Council (MRC) will not provide concessions for leaks that occur in:

- ▶ internal pipework (under floor or within walls), water fittings and appliances including taps, toilets, showers, sinks, hot water systems and appliances with water connections such as dishwashers, washing machines and fridges; or
- ▶ water tanks that are plumbed to the potable water supply, including solar water heaters and pipework related to such tank; or
- ▶ external water taps, hoses, sprinklers and irrigation systems; or
- ▶ swimming pools, spas and other water features including fittings and the pipework that supply such fixtures; or
- ▶ firefighting equipment and systems.

Concessions will also not be available for water loss:

- ▶ during construction, renovation, excavation or similar activity; or
- ▶ due to theft, vandalism, and inadvertent use (e.g. tap/hose left running due to an oversight).

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Position	Responsibility
Mayor	To lead Councillors in their understanding of, and compliance with this Policy.
CEO	To lead staff (either directly or through delegated authority) in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy and related procedures.
Directors, Managers and Supervisors	To communicate, implement and comply with this Policy and related procedures.
Council Officer(s)	To be aware of and ensure compliance with this Policy. To make decision in keeping with this Policy (for officers with authority to make decisions on concessions for concealed water leaks).
Council Committees	To be aware of and adhere to this Policy.



CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

POL-316

7. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Manager Water Services with the assistance of the Chief Financial Officer, to monitor the adequacy of this Policy and recommend appropriate changes.

This Policy will be formally reviewed every four (4) years or as needed, whichever comes first.

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS, DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS

External:

- ▶ NSW Ombudsman - Better Service and Communication – Guidelines for Local Government
- ▶ NSW Ombudsman - Good Conduct and Administrative Practice Guidelines (2nd Edition)
- ▶ NSW Ombudsman - Unreasonable Complainant Conduct
- ▶ Australian Standard - AS/NZS 3500.1:2021 Plumbing and Drainage Part 1: Water Services

Internal:

- ▶ MRC Policy - Revenue Policy (applicable for the relevant financial year).
- ▶ MRC Policy - Customer Feedback and Complaints Management
- ▶ MRC Charter - Customer Service Charter
- ▶ MRC Strategy – Customer Service Strategy
- ▶ MRC Form – Concession on Water Notice due to a Concealed Water Leak Application Form (Appendix 1)
- ▶ MRC Form - Plumber's Report on Repair of Concealed Water Leak Form (page 2 of above form) (Appendix 2)

(or any amended or replacement Policy).

Definitions:

Term	Definition
AMR	Automated Meter Reader
Billing Period	shall mean the time between meter readings, used to calculate the consumption and therefore the <u>Water Consumption Charge</u> for the relevant period, and does not refer to the issue date or the payment due date on the <u>Water Notice</u> .
Council	Murray River Council (MRC)
Concealed Water Leak	<p>A leak within a property's main water supply pipe from the water meter to the primary constructed structure, that is not apparent and could not reasonably be expected to be apparent, as determined by Council (i.e. hidden from view and no visible signs indicative of a leak due to it being at a considerable depth, underneath a building, footpath or concrete drive or similar reasons).</p> <p>A leak shall be considered to have been made apparent and as such cease to be a concealed water leak from that point of time onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ if and when, Council provides a notification to the property owner(s) of the existence or the possible existence of a leak or an alert of high water consumption, whether such alert is delivered via post, email, phone call or as a short messaging service (SMS); or ▶ the property owner(s) receive a high than usual <u>Water Notice</u>.



CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

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	<p>Concealed water leak will not include leaks that are caused by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the use of incorrect materials; b) workmanship which is not consistent with applicable sections of AS/NZS 3500.1; c) internal infrastructure being of excessive age and/or in a poor state of repair; d) as a result of any form of construction activity, including landscaping and gardening activities; e) vandalism, theft or carelessness; <p>or where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) the leak occurred in pipework, fittings or appliances located within or on a building or structure; g) the leak occurred in a swimming pool, spa or other water feature, or the fittings or pipework supplying them; h) the leak occurred in pipework, fittings or appliances used in garden watering or irrigation.
Council Officer(s)	<p>A Council Officer is defined as being one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ an employee, or ▸ a contractor or subcontractor, or ▸ an employee of a contractor or subcontractor, or ▸ an employee of a labour hire company who has been assigned to work in the person's business or undertaking, or ▸ an outworker, or ▸ an apprentice or trainee, or ▸ a student gaining work experience, or ▸ a volunteer.
Kilolitre or kl	1,000 litres
MiWater	Council's customer portal for customers with a water connection, among others, for accessing detailed water consumption information, setting up alerts for water leaks and high consumption and obtaining periodic water consumption reports.
Principal Place of Residence	A single dwelling where the registered owner (ratepayer) resides for more than 80% of the relevant financial year, as evidenced through the electoral roll, taxation, pension records or other document acceptable to Council.
Policy	This "Concession for Concealed Water Leaks" Policy
Property Owner(s)	The owner(s) of a property within Murray River Council, as documented in Council's property database, which has a metered Filtered Water connection, where such property owner(s) have been issued a <u>Water Notice</u> containing a <u>Water Consumption Charge</u> .
Smart Meter	Water meters that have capability transmit periodic (hourly, daily) meter readings to a centralised Council system, enabling detailed consumption information to be made available to property owner(s) through a customer portal, and the issuance of leak and high consumption alerts to property owner(s), provided such owner(s) have created an account for themselves on the customer portal.



CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

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Tier 1 Allocation Limit	The maximum volume on which the <u>Tier 1 Consumption Charge</u> rate will be applicable as identified within the Revenue Policy as adopted by Council each financial year. Where <u>Tier 1 Allocation</u> is defined as an annual allocation and calculations are for a Billing Period, a pro-rated <u>Tier 1 Allocation</u> limit will be used.
Water Consumption Charge	A charge levied on properties with a metred water connection, based on the water supplied through the said meter. These charges are detailed in Council's annual <u>Revenue Policy</u> .
Water Notice	A Notice issued to property owner(s) detailing consumption charges related to the water supplied to the relevant property.

9. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version No.	Details	Dates	CM9 Reference	Resolution No.
1	Initial Issue	DRAFT	VF/24/1970	

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy at any time
This Policy is scheduled for review before 2029

NOTE:

This is a controlled document. If you are reading a printed copy please check that you have the latest version by checking it on Council's Electronic Document system. Printed or downloaded versions of this document are uncontrolled.

DISCLAIMER:

This document was formulated to be consistent with Murray River Council's legislative obligations and with the scope of Council's powers. This document should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation, guidelines and codes of practice. In the case of any discrepancies, the most recent legislation should prevail. This document does not constitute legal advice. Legal advice should be sought in relation to particular circumstances and liability will not be accepted for losses incurred as a result of reliance on this document.

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Business Unit, position title or a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. When such changes are made the version number will be amended, and an extension added (e.g. V#1.1)

INTERPRETATION GUIDE

Hourly Data Available

Property A has had a concealed water leak. The total consumption for billing period in which the concealed water leak occurred was 250 kl. As hourly meter reading data is available for Property A, the meter data management system will calculate the exact quantum of the leak on a weekly basis as in Table 1:

Table 1

Week	Leak (kl)
1	30.0
2	103.7
3	90.2
Total	223.9

Table 2

Tier	Rate (\$)
2	2.70
1	1.40
Difference	1.30

Table 3

Total Quantum of Leak (Calculated)	223.9 kl
Total Consumption for billing Period	250.0 kl
Tier 1 Allocation	* 75.0 kl
Consumption above Tier 1 Allocation	175.0 kl
Max Consumption Eligible for Concession (lower of 223.9 kl and 175.0 kl)	175.0 kl

** Annual Tier 1 Allocation Limit of 225 kl pro-rated into 3 Billing Periods per annum*

The rate per kl applicable in calculating the concession is the difference between the Tier 2 Consumption Charge Rate and Tier 1 Consumption Charge Rate as depicted in Table 2.

Even though the quantum of the leak is calculated as 223.9 kl, only the quantum used above 75 kl (pro-rated Tier 1 Allocation Limit) for the Billing Period will be eligible for concession. Therefore, the maximum quantum eligible for concession is 175 kl (the consumption for the Billing Period of 250 kl less the pro-rated Tier 1 Allocation of 75 kl). See Table 3.

The concession for Property A therefore would be 175 kl multiplied by the difference between the rates applicable to the two Tiers (\$1.30 as shown in Table 2), which amounts to \$227.50.

No Hourly Data Available

Property B has had a concealed water leak. Property B is not receiving hourly data through the AMR device installed on its water. The total consumption for Property B for the billing period of the concealed water leak was 400 kl. The Tier 1 Allocation Limit for the Billing Period is 75 kl (Annual Tier 1 Allocation limit of 225 kl pro-rated for the Billing Period, based on three Billing Periods per annum).

In this instance, the non-concession consumption for Property B will be calculated as the average consumption of the three previous corresponding billing periods.

Table 1

Period	Consumption (kl)
1	100
2	80
3	150
Average	110

Table 2

Tier	Rate (\$)
2	2.70
1	1.40
Difference	1.30

For the purposes of calculating relief under this policy, the non-concession consumption for Property B will be 75 kl. (pro-rated Tier 1 Allocation Limit of 75 kl).



CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

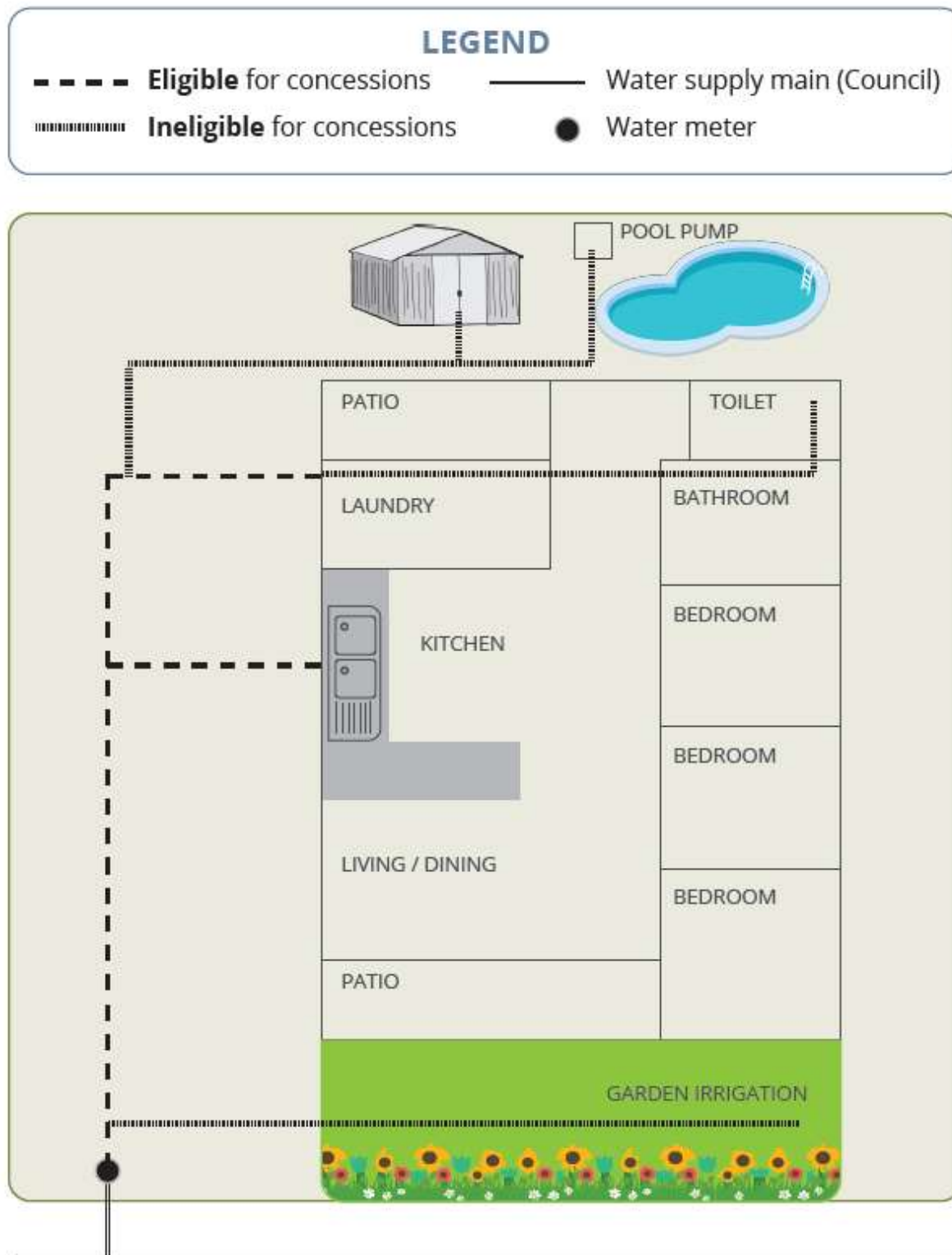
POL-316

Therefore:

- the excess consumption due to concealed water leak will be 400 less 110; i.e. 290 kl.
- the concession for Property B would be 290 kl multiplied by the difference between the rates applicable to the two Tiers (\$1.30 as shown in Table 2) which amounts to \$377.

DRAFT

Inclusions and Exclusions Diagram







CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY
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Concession on Water Notice Due to a Concealed Water Leak Application Form



SECTION 4: PLUMBER INFORMATION (to be filled in by Plumber undertaking repair)

Business Name																														
ABN/ACN																Licence No.														
Contact Details	Mobile	0	4													Telephone														
	Email																													
Details of Work Undertaken: Provide information on location of leak and repair details. Attach separate report if required.																														
Signature																		Date												



CONCESSIONS FOR CONCEALED WATER LEAKS POLICY

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Concession on Water Notice Due to a Concealed Water Leak Application Form



SECTION 5: INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Murray River Council will only accept this application once all sections have been completed (see checklist below). Incomplete applications will be returned to applicant, causing delays in processing any eligible concessions. Any overdue amounts, until the application has been processed and any concession confirmed, will accrue overdue interest as per NSW Gazette Notification.	
I have completed the following mandatory sections:	
Section 1:	<input type="checkbox"/> Property Owner Details (mandatory information)
Section 2:	<input type="checkbox"/> Property details for which Concealed Leak has occurred (mandatory information)
Section 3:	<input type="checkbox"/> Leak Details & Property Owner Signature (mandatory information)
Section 4:	<input type="checkbox"/> Plumber's Report (mandatory information)
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Are you registered on Council's customer portal MiWater? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> If No, sign up to MiWater (clicking on the name). Not eligible for concession unless registered on MiWater. See Council's Concession for Concealed Leaks Policy for details.
Attachments	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of plumber's invoice (mandatory)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Leak Details Attachment (if applicable)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plumber's Report Attachment (if applicable)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Declaration (If applicable)

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Receiving Officer:	
Date Received:	Application No:
Documents Complete: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Processing Officer:	
Eligible for Concession: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Concession (\$):

Attach completed form to Credit Note, where applicable.

[illegible]

9.3 DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.3.1 MENINYA STREET - DECISION ON ECHUCA STREET INTERSECTION

File Number: -

Author: Matthew Sherman, Project Manager Meninya Street Precinct Project

Authoriser: Daniel Hughes, Acting Director Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive the information contained in this report regarding the Meninya Street Precinct Project; and
2. Adopt **Option 1** to prioritise parking provided at the Echuca Street Intersection.

BACKGROUND

The Meninya Street Precinct Project is one of Murray River Council's largest projects that will transform Moama into a vibrant precinct of social and economic activity.

Reshaping Meninya Street from a transport thoroughfare into an innovative and sustainable precinct, this project intends to position Moama as a key tourist destination through place-making to complement surrounding economic markets.

Strategically investing in infrastructure, open spaces and surrounding points of interest, Council aims to create a 'sense of place' and support high intensity developments including multi-level and multi-function spaces for business and the community to thrive.

Delivered in a staged approach, the multi-year project will enhance not only Meninya Street, but the surrounding precinct to create stronger connections to points of interest including the Horseshoe Lagoon, Moama Beach and the surrounding natural environment.

Spiire Australia Pty Ltd is currently engaged to complete a detailed design for the Meninya Street Precinct Project. The design has substantially progressed and is currently on hold pending a decision on options for the Echuca Street intersection.

DISCUSSION

The two options for the Echuca Street intersection are outlined in the following section.

Note that plans shown were prepared prior to Council resolving to include angle parking bays rather than parallel. Once a decision is made on the Echuca Street intersection option, the plans will be updated to reflect angle parking.

Option 1 – Prioritise on-street parking supply – Preferred Option:

This option involves removal of the existing turning lane as per Figure 1. The design prioritises parking and traffic calming within the precinct to support increased pedestrian visitation and length of stay. The removal of the turning lane at Echuca Street will discourage heavy vehicles from utilising Meninya Street to access the industrial estate and will instead **encourage the use of the new bridge and access via Nicholas Drive**. Light vehicles requiring access to Echuca Street can complete a U-turn at the Maiden Street roundabout, adding approximately 26 seconds to their trip.

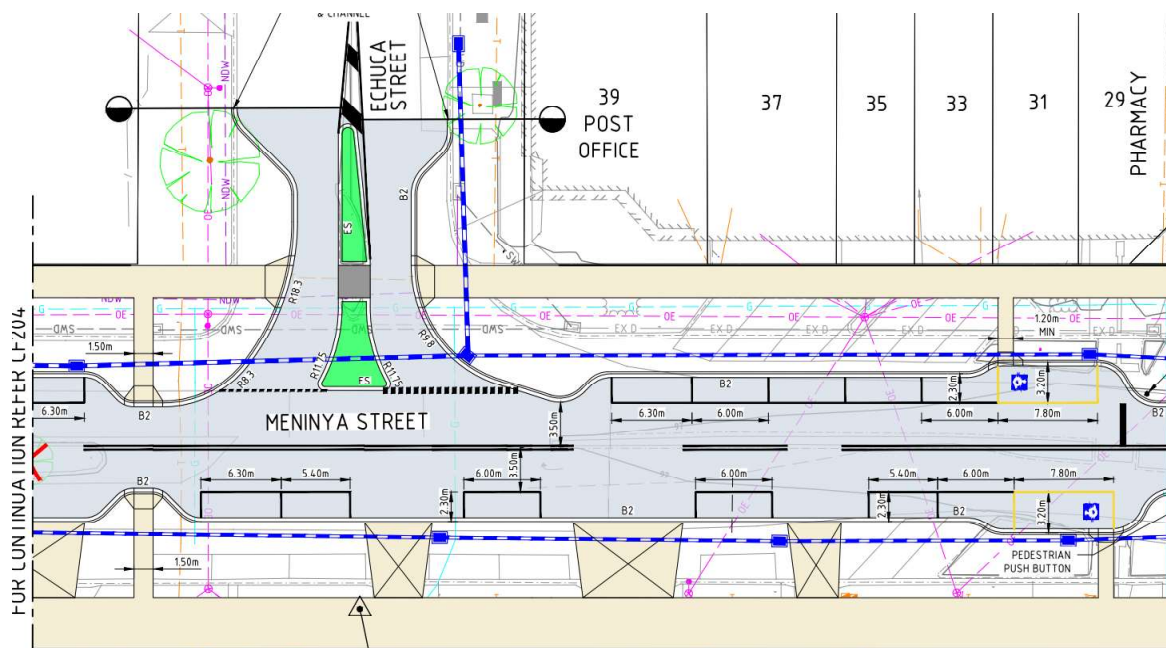
Benefits:

- Provision of parking in front of businesses
- Additional pedestrian crossing facilities
- Traffic calming
- Truck and service vehicle deterrence in Meninya Street and encourage use of new Echuca Moama Bridge, Nicholas Drive and Blair Street (noting this is not preferred due to additional turning movements).

Cons:

- For those vehicles wishing to access Echuca Street, a U-turn at Maiden Street will result in a 26 second or less delay.

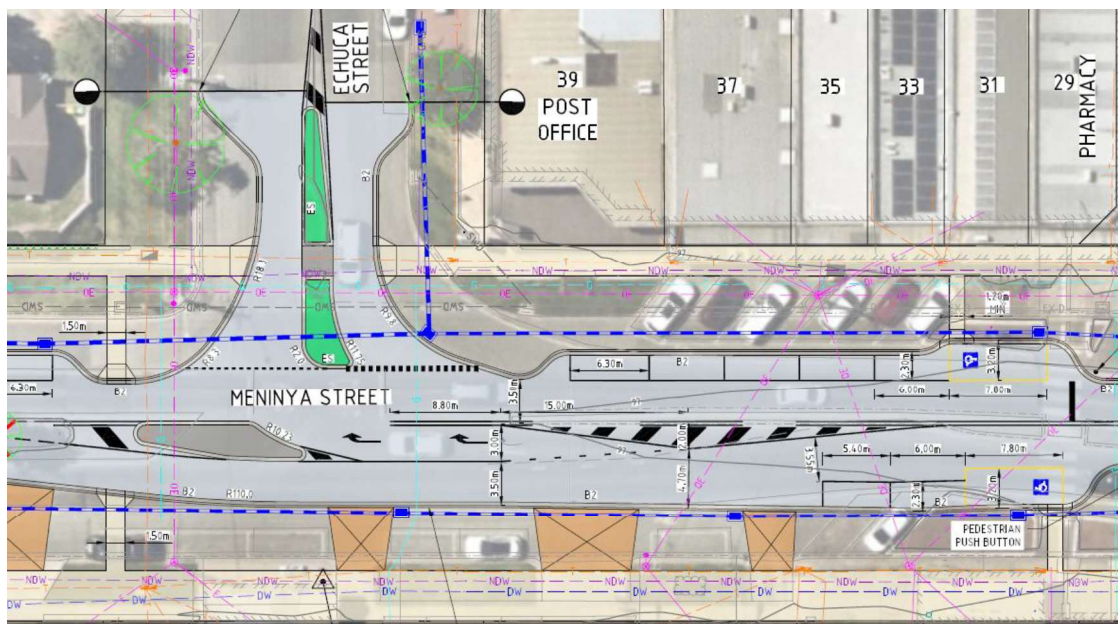
Figure 1 – Option 1 Arrangement



Option 2 – Retain a Right-Hand Turning Lane

This option includes provision of a turning lane into Echuca Street as per Figure 2. This design prioritises traffic movement within Meninya Street and will continue to allow vehicles to access the industrial estate via Echuca Street. The provision of a turning lane at Echuca Street will impact the supply of parking bays adjacent to Echuca Street and decrease pedestrian appeal due to noise and vehicular traffic. An estimated 4 bays are impacted by retaining a turning lane in this location.

Figure 2 – Option 2 Arrangement



Consultation Process

Officers have reported the Echuca Street intersection to Council in the months of November and December 2024 with Councillors deferring a decision to gather further information on the Project. As a result, officers have undertaken the following steps to provide Council with additional information regarding the Meninya Street Precinct Project in addition to the report regarding the Echuca Street intersection. The Project team completed the following activities in response to Councillor feedback:

- 02/12/2024 - 1 hour briefing on the history and progress of the project since 2019. Presentation focused on the justification for the project, feedback received during consultation, timelines, car parking and disbenefits and benefits related to two options provided at Echuca Street.
- 17/12/2024 - 2.5-hour workshop including an onsite walkthrough of the streetscape including a focused discussion relating to on-street and off-street parking and the Echuca Street Intersection.
- Business Consultation (from 13/12/2024 – 17/01/2025) to gain feedback and preferences between Option 1 and Option 2 to report back to Council to assist decision making.
- 21/01/2025 - 3-hour workshop with Councillors including presentations from Spiire Australia and a review of feedback received on the Echuca Street Intersection following business consultation. This workshop also covered a deep dive on car parking, place score assessment of the streetscape and enabled business owners to address Council.

Business Consultation

In December 2024, businesses in Meninya Street received a digital and physical copy of the Meninya Street Detail Design Plans including Option 1 and Option 2 for the Echuca Street Intersection. Businesses were instructed to provide feedback by the 17th of January 2025 outlining a preference between the two options at Echuca Street to assist decision making. Letter drops included a summary of the two options as well as benefits and disbenefits of each option. Businesses were advised to provide any feedback via email so it could be recorded to assist in Project decisions.

A total of 12 responses were received, with 7 providing support for Option 1. Other responses did not provide direct preference for Option 1 or Option 2, however provided feedback on other items related to the Meninya Street Precinct Project (refer to attachments).

Following the consultation feedback, officers are therefore recommending selection of Option 1 for the Echuca Street Intersection. This option is in line with the recommendation from the project team as it supports the objectives of the project in relation to heavy vehicle deterrence, traffic calming and supporting a pedestrian environment.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

3. Strategic Theme 3: A place of Liveable Communities

3.10 - Strategic planning which produces consistent, strategic, transparent outcomes - Streetscaping / Master Planning / Placemaking.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

No budgetary implications are associated with the approval of this report or selecting a preferred option as outlined in the discussion section. The selection of a preferred option will enable the detailed design to be completed and cost estimates to be developed for the future works.

Spiire has not sought any additional fees from Council to date for placing the completion of detailed design on hold.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

Project Delays – A decision on the Echuca Street intersection is not achieved and the project remains on hold.

Traffic Movement – Option 1 and Option 2 both have impacts to traffic movement. Option 1 will calm traffic movement within Meninya Street to support a pedestrian environment by directing vehicles via Nicholas Drive to the industrial estate. Option 2 will maintain high traffic counts through Meninya Street by encouraging the use of Echuca Street for heavy vehicles and service vehicles.

Business Concerns – Option 1 directly responds to business feedback within the precinct by prioritising car parking bay provision over a turning lane. Car parking provision has been made a priority for the project. Pursuing Option 2 will likely trigger concerns from Meninya Street businesses losing parking provisions in an area which experiences high parking demand.

- **How can it happen?**

Project Delays: Triggered if a decision is not made.

Traffic Movement: Retaining a turning lane at Echuca Street will continue to encourage vehicles to utilise Meninya Street including vehicles accessing the industrial estate such as service vehicles. The objectives of the streetscape projects are to discourage trucks utilising Meninya Street under normal driving conditions to support visitation and length of stay.

Business Concerns for parking provisions – Triggered if option 2 is pursued as this will reduce parking provisions by 4 bays which is not preferred based on feedback received.

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

Failure to achieve project objectives: The Meninya Street Precinct Project is a multi-million-dollar project, and it is critical to achieve the design outcomes conveyed by council and the community. During consultation it was identified that the community was seeking a pedestrian

environment and decreased heavy vehicle traffic through the precinct. Failure to deliver this outcome may result in dissatisfaction from the end user in the long term.

Project Timelines: Delaying a decision will delay the project completion date and potentially result in Spiire seeking additional costs to complete the design.

Opportunity Costs: Until a detailed design and costings are complete, there is no opportunity to apply for any relevant grant funding that becomes available for future staged implementation of works.

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

Dependent on the resolution for this report.

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Controls are acceptable.

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

Treatment options are to endorse the recommendation outlined in the report.

CONCLUSION

The recommendation is to proceed with Option 1 which is in line with feedback from businesses. The recommended option complies with relevant Australian Standards, Austroads Guidelines and support the objectives outlined in the Meninya Street Master Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Meninya Street - Echuca Turning Lane - BAP Feedback - Confidential (under separate cover)**
2. **Meninya Street - Echuca Turning Lane - Bridges on Meninya Feedback - Confidential (under separate cover)**
3. **Meninya Street - Echuca Turning Lane - CLRS Feedback - Confidential (under separate cover)**
4. **Meninya Street - Echuca Turning Lane - EM Physio - Confidential**

9.4 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

Nil

9.5 DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

9.5.1 SECTION 355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AS AT MARCH 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 March 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.

Council's 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

The scope of the Committees' financial transactions varies.

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. **Barham School of Arts - Meeting Minutes - March 2025** [↓](#)
2. **Koraleigh Recreation Reserve & Hall Meeting Minutes - March 2025** [↓](#)
3. **Murray Shire Hall Meeting Minutes - February 2025** [↓](#)
4. **Wakool Memorial Hall Meeting Minutes - March 2025** [↓](#)

SECTION 355 LGA BARHAM SOA HALL REPORT 10th March 2025.

Commenced: About 8-33pm.

Chair: B Rash.

J Boyd, B Campbell, A Millar, R Millar, M Hatty, J Carney, S Carney, J Whelan, G Barker,
L Sheldrick, G Minnis, R Lynas, D Agelakis, A Mathers.

Apologies: R Daws, G Cook, T Barker.

Council Representatives: None present.

J Boyd* 1-Riverdaze and the Elderly Persons Expo used the Hall and Reception Room.

2- Table Tennis and Yoga to be held in the Hall.

3-Still not sure what is happening with the Dance Group.

4- Very pleased that the carpet in the Reception Room is being replaced, be the 3rd carpet laid in 20 plus years.

5- He thanked those that cleaned the Hall after the Aged Persons Expo.

6- Lawn Sprinklers- Came on during Bingo on the 5th March, very distracting and annoying for the Bingo Players with the noise of the water hitting parked cars and pathway, lawn area was saturated. Hopefully the timer will be reset to avoid this recurring in the future.

7- Doors- Having trouble with doors sometimes not closing properly. New striker plates for electronic locks are thicker and cause doors to jam a bit.

Financial Report: Attached.

Meeting Closed: About 8-44pm.



Koraleigh Hall and Rec. Reserve Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/time of meeting	26/03/2025 7.08 pm
Location of meeting	Koraleigh Rec Reserve
Attendees	Brian Hoare Mary Hoare Liam Hoare Sandra Andrews Peter Thompson Nerida Hoare
Apologies	Cassie Andrews Bev Thompson Gina Bailey Greater Wakool Ward Cr. Gary Pappin Greater Wakool Ward Cr. Neil Gorey Karen Buckley Manager Local Connections
Guests	Nil
Approval of Previous Minutes	Moved: Nerida Hoare Seconded: Liam Hoare

Business arising from previous minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The MRC Asset Visit deemed to be successful. Acting CEO, Mayor, Councillors and other Council officers attended with a good number of community members. The Community Centre Masterplan was on display and was well received by all. Good discussions and positive feedback were had regarding its implementation. * Committee discussed and decided that the temporary netball goal post to be put in place on the south side of the far tennis court near the shade shelter. Luke Keogh will let us know when contractor organised. * A written apology to the Koraleigh Rec Reserve and Hall was received by Kim Burke. * Still waiting on replacement of shed at Rec Reserve. * Measurements taken for replacement of storm damaged shade sail at Rec Reserve. * Cassie received Origin electricity A/C, this has been forwarded to Luke Keogh. * Additional kitchen cupboards in Hall. Dan to contact builder to see if worth doing. <p>Moved: Liam Hoare</p> <p>Seconded: Sandra Andrews</p>
Treasurers Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hall a/c balance: \$10,520.92 Maintenance Allowance: \$1,000 Interest: + 0.06 * Rec Reserve a/c balance: \$42,963.35 Maintenance Allowance \$1,000 Interest: + 0.05 Resilience NSW \$34,789.33 <p>Moved: Mary Hoare</p> <p>Seconded: Brian Hoare</p>

Correspondence	<p>IN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 12/4/25: Cassie Andrews- electrician working on Hall upgrade. * 28/2/25: MRC: CommunityNewsletter; Grants Guy Roadshow. * 3/3/25: Elle Brain: Grants Guy Roadshow. * 14/3/25: Gary Pappin: Asset Visit 19/3/25 * 14/3/25: Cassie: \$34,789.33 deposited into Rec Reserve A/C on 10/3/25 * 18/3/25: Kim Burke apology to Committee. * 18/3/25: Karen: MRC Asset Visit. * 25/3/25: Karen apology. <p>OUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 21/2/25 emailed Luke the Community Centre/RFS plans. * 24/2/25: emailed meeting minutes to Committee, Crs and Karen * 17/3/25: email to Committee regarding MRC Asset Visit on 19/3/25. * 23/3/25: reminder email of meeting on 26/3/25. <p>Moved: Peter Thompson Seconded: Sandra Andrews</p>
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Thank you to Nerida and Mary for providing afternoon tea and Gina for helping to set up the kitchen for the MRC Asset Visit at the Koraleigh Hall. * Looking forward to feedback and correspondence from the MRC regarding their decision on the Koraleigh Community/ RFS centre and whether it will be included in the upcoming budget. * Koraleigh Hall needs indoor toilet-has been planned for many years. Waiting for MRC response. * The \$34,789.33 deposit into Rec Reserve A/C was made in error, bank in process of returning funds to Resilience NSW.
Meeting Closed	7.40 pm
Next Meeting	<p>Date: Wednesday April 23, 2025 Time: 7pm Venue: Koraleigh Rec Reserve</p>

MURRAY SHIRE HALL COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting Held on 17th February 2025

Present; Betty Murphy, Ian Fisher, Heidi Glenn, Cr Kylie Berryman

Apologies; Alison McLean, Bronwyn Eddy, Karen Buckley

Minutes of Previous Meeting; Moved Heidi, seconded Ian that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2024 are true and correct. Carried

Business Arising; Nil

Treasurers Report; Bank Balance as at 31st January 2025 is, \$6908.76.

Moved Heidi, seconded Betty, that the Treasurers Report be accepted. Carried

General Business;

1. Margaret Watson; Heidi advised that she had sent a spray of flowers to Margaret in the last week before she died. Moved that Heidi be reimbursed the \$114 cost for the flowers. Carried
2. Council \$1000 Allocation; Council has provided an Invoice for \$1000 given to the Committee to assist with day to day operational expenses.
3. Emergency Double Doors; Ian advised that he had spoken with David Dundee regarding the dust and leaves getting into the Hall under the double doors. David to attend to.
4. Hall Chairs, Australia Day; The Mathoura Events Committee were appointed by Council to organise the recent Australia Day ceremony in Mathoura, however there was confusion within Council as to ownership and responsibility for the chairs. Ian ultimately provided the Hall key to Pam Fitzpatrick who arranged collection and return of the chairs.

Next Meeting, Monday 13th May 2025

Meeting closed 5.06pm

Wakool Memorial Hall Meeting**17th December 2025****7:00pm****Wakool Memorial Hall**

President Ian Troy welcomed everyone and declared meeting opened at pm

Present: Ian Troy, Alana Lester, Irene Coote, Elle Brain, Brian Pilcher, Dennis Gleeson, Brian Pilcher

Apologies: June Lowry, Darryl Coote, Catherine Troy

Correspondence Inward:

Email from Karen Buckley re: Maintenance payment of \$1500.00 to be given to hall. Alana sent invoice to Karen.

Outward:

Alana Emailed Karen Buckley the \$1500.00 invoice.

Minutes from last meeting read by and moved by Alana Flight. 2nd Irene Coote.

Business Arising:

Kitchen Upgrade – David Dundee is still getting quotes.

Hire of Hall – Candice is running her business out of the hall. All seems to be doing well. Alana needs to catch up with her to get usage dates and send a bill for hire costs. We will look into getting Rory Chalmers to clean the carpets.

Maintenance – Karen Buckley emailed that the council had some funds available and have allocated the hall committee \$1500.00. Alana has emailed Karen the Invoice.

Financial Report

Previous balance \$11,455.94

Deposited - \$426.95

G Treweek chairs \$121.95

Hall Hire Progress \$165.00

Peter Lowry Hire \$140.00

Expenses - \$446.92

Origin \$446.95

BALANCE \$11,435.97 as at 17/03/2025

Moved Irene Coote 2nd Alana Lester

General Business

Grants – Elle advised of a grant workshop in Barham and Moulamein. There is a MRC \$3000 grant available. We were thinking of getting quotes to upgrade the sound system. Alana to look into it. Elle may be able to provide a company name.

Power- Power bill has gone up quite a bit. Elle will check what is happening with power through the shire and let us know.

Watering System / Gardening – Lawns are not looking great. Possible problems with the power and watering system. Hopefully gardening picks back up soon. Trees were pruned recently.

New secretary – Alana is relocating to the NT so a new secretary will be needed in the coming weeks/month's so we need to keep a look out for a new secretary.

Meeting Closed at 7:41pm

Next Meeting – Monday 2nd June at 6:30pm

9.5.2 MOAMA PRESCHOOL - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

File Number: -

Author: Beck Hayward, Acting Director Community & Economic Development

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having observed the public notice period in accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993, resolve to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, in the amount 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.

BACKGROUND

Council and the Moama and District Preschool (MDPS) collaborated closely over several years to facilitate the opening of their new facility in Term 1, 2024. Situated on Moama Recreation Reserve, the new preschool was funded through a successful grant application under Round Five of the Building Better Regions Fund, securing \$2,902,469, alongside a \$1.5 million contribution from the NSW Government's Start Strong Capital Works Grant Program. Council also committed \$1.5 million to the project.

The project underscores the dedication of both Council and the MDPS to enhancing early education access. This initiative highlights Council's ongoing efforts to foster economic growth, improve community infrastructure, and ensure a sustainable future for the region.

In November 2024 the MDPS wrote to Council seeking financial assistance to cover the maintenance costs associated with running the new facility.

Council previously resolved to:

1. 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, in the amount 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 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.

DISCUSSION

The proposal to *pass a resolution to grant financial assistance to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, in the amount of **\$14,925.05** including GST* has been placed on public display for the required notice period and no submissions were received.

Council is now able to resolve to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, in the amount of **\$14,925.05** including 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 proposed financial assistance in the amount of **\$14,925.05** will come from Council's building maintenance allocation, in which there are sufficient funds.

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)

RISK ANALYSIS

- **What can happen?**

Council may choose *not* to resolve to grant financial assistance to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, in the amount of **\$14,925.05** including GST.

- **How can it happen?**

Council does not resolve to grant financial assistance to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, in the amount of **\$14,925.05** including GST.

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

If Council does not resolve to grant financial assistance to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, in the amount of **\$14,925.05** including GST, it will be going against a previous Council resolution.

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

Unlikely

- **Adequacy of existing controls?**

Adequate

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

Ensure Council understands the background to this report and the previous resolutions.

CONCLUSION

The proposal to pass a resolution to grant financial assistance to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, in the amount of **\$14,925.05** including GST has been placed on public display for the required notice period and no submissions were received.

Council is now in apposition to resolve to reimburse the Preschool for its operational maintenance costs for the year 2024, in the amount of **\$14,925.05** including GST.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.6 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

9.6.1 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

File Number: -

Author: Jan Donald, Executive Administration Officer

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:

- Celebrating 44 years of Tidy Towns
- Letter of thanks from Moulamein Football & Netball Club
- The Hon Rose Jackson MLC - Water pricing and environmental water recovery

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Swan Hill District Health letter of support
- The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC - Review of SW REZ

ATTACHMENTS

1. Celebrating 44 years of Tidy Towns [↓](#)
2. Letter of thanks - Moulamein Football Netball Club Inc. [↓](#)
3. Water pricing & environmental water recovery - The Hon Rose Jackson [↓](#)
4. Swan Hill District Service - letter of support [↓](#)
5. The Hon Penny Sharpe - Inquiry into the Impact of REZ on Rural & Regional Communities [↓](#)

From: Deborah Kelly <dkelly@kabnsw.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 March 2025 10:59 AM
To: Admin <admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: ATTN: John Harvie - Join Us in Celebrating 44 Years of Tidy Towns!

Dear Cr Harvie

In 2025, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) proudly celebrates the 44th year of the iconic Tidy Towns program, and we would love to have your council involved.

Tidy Towns is a fantastic opportunity to recognize and celebrate the efforts of community groups, volunteers, organizations, schools, and individuals who are making a positive impact in your unique regional area.

This year's award categories highlight key environmental challenges and opportunities, ensuring we continue to support and showcase innovative projects that enhance the future sustainability of towns across regional NSW. The category awards will once again contribute to the selection of the prestigious **Overall KAB NSW Tidy Town Award for 2025**.

Attached are the **2025 Tidy Towns Entry Kit + Flyer**, which provide details on the entry process.

Join us in this exciting journey and connect with regional towns across NSW as we celebrate the incredible environmental work happening in our communities!

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We would love to see the great work Murray River Council is doing in their community.

With best regards
Deborah



In the spirit of reconciliation Keep Australia Beautiful NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



Moulamein Football Netball Club Inc

PO Box 58
Moulamein 2733 NSW
(Affiliated with the Central Rivers League)
1 Endeavour Drive Moulamein 2733

ABN 56 368 843 513

Luke Keogh
Murray River Council
Tuesday, 8 April 2025

To Luke Keogh and the Murray River Council,

I am writing to extend a deep and heartfelt thank you to you, Luke Keogh, and the Murray River Council for funding the project for the truly exceptional upgrade and repairs to the Moulamein netball courts. This project reflects the strength of a shared vision, the unwavering dedication, and the remarkable cooperation of all those involved.

The project team—Luke, Kirsty Atkins, and Kathy Munro—poured significant diligence and commitment into this endeavour. From planning and execution to the final touches, each individual demonstrated incredible skill and tireless effort to bring this vision to life. Every detail speaks volumes about their professionalism and passion for creating a space that profoundly serves our community.

The restored netball courts now stand as a shining example of what can be achieved when unity, hard work, and mutual respect come together. They are not just a place for sports and recreation—they represent a revitalised hub for connection and celebration, where individuals of all ages can gather, engage, and grow. The impact of this upgrade is immeasurable, as it goes beyond infrastructure; it contributes to the fabric of our community.

Your leadership has been instrumental in driving this project forward, and the support and commitment from the Murray River Council were nothing short of inspiring. Your focus on the well-being of our community, along with the exemplary project team's attention to detail and dedication, ensured the success of this initiative and set a standard for what can be accomplished through collaboration.

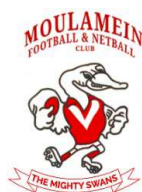
Additionally, we extend our gratitude to the hardworking individuals who took on the labour-intensive tasks involved in this project. Their efforts and expertise brought the plans and vision to fruition. The remarkable craftsmanship, quality of work, and determination of these individuals are evident in every aspect of the courts' upgrade, and it is truly appreciated.

This achievement reminds us of the power of cooperation and the incredible results that can emerge when people work together for a common goal. It has rejuvenated the physical space and the spirit of the Moulamein community, creating an environment that will be cherished for years to come.

Once again, thank you, Luke Keogh, the Murray River Council, Kirsty Atkins, Kathy Munro, and everyone who contributed to this project. Your commitment to excellence and your genuine care for the community has made a profound and lasting difference.

With immense gratitude,

Ron Doran
Secretary MFNC
M: 0409 431 464
E: mfnc2023@outlook.com



The Hon Rose Jackson MLC
Minister for Water, Minister for Housing,
Minister for Homelessness
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth
Minister for the North Coast



Our ref: MF25/449

Cr John Harvie
Mayor
Murray River Council
PO Box 906
MOAMA NSW 2731

By email: jharvie@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Harvie

Thank you for your letter of 28 February 2025, about water pricing and environmental water recovery. I note that you have also written to the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, NSW Treasurer, on this issue.

Increases in rural water bills are being proposed as part of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) and WaterNSW rural bulk water price reviews.

WAMC and WaterNSW submitted pricing proposals to IPART, setting out proposed services to be delivered between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2030. Both submissions are proposing significant increases in the efficient costs of delivering services to meet their legal obligations and customer and community expectations.

IPART is responsible for setting water prices for WaterNSW's bulk water services and WAMC's water management services. This involves a detailed assessment of proposed costs, ensuring customers do not pay more than is necessary.

When setting prices, IPART will ensure that costs are efficient and will consider the impacts of prices on customers. In doing so IPART will make decisions about the proportion of efficient costs to be recovered from customers, and the proportion that should be paid by government.

As part of IPART's review process it provides several opportunities for customers and stakeholders to make their voices heard and for IPART to take their views into account. IPART conducted public hearings in November 2024 for its WAMC and WaterNSW reviews. Customers were given the opportunity to voice their concerns to IPART, and direct to the businesses. The next and final opportunity for customers to participate in IPART's review process will be to make a submission to IPART's Draft Report in early April 2025.

I understand the concerns you have raised around the price increases proposed and the impacts this may have on farming families, especially alongside the potential social and economic impacts of the Australian Government's water recovery efforts. I encourage all impacted customers and other stakeholders to participate in IPART's review and make their concerns heard.

52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

02 7225 6190
nsw.gov.au/ministerjackson

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Please refer to IPART's website for more information:

<https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/review/water-rural-water/prices-water-administration-ministerial-corporation-wamc-1-july-2025>, and WaterNSW:

<https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/review/water-rural-water/prices-water-nsw-regional-and-rural-bulk-water-1-july-2025>.

Thank you again for raising your concerns with me.

Yours sincerely



Rose Jackson MLC

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast

Date: 17-3-23

Thanks for writing.
I hope this information
is useful. We will
continue to work
on options and
IPART has
completed their
work.
R.



Murray River Council
PO Box 906
Moama NSW 2731
p 1300 087 004
e admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
w www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

8 April 2025

Peter Abraham
Chief Executive Officer
Swan Hill District Health
PO Box 483
Swan Hill VIC 3585
Email: communications@shdh.org.au

Dear Peter,

RE: Support for the Swan Hill District Health MRI Appeal

Thank you for your letter dated 26 March 2025 regarding support for the Swan Hill District Health MRI Appeal. We acknowledge the importance of this initiative and the significant benefits that local access to MRI services would bring to our shared communities.

In response to your request, our Acting Manager of Economic Development and Tourism, Julia Druitt, has spoken directly with your Communications team to discuss how we can best support the campaign.

We are pleased to contribute in the following ways:

- Sharing information about the MRI Appeal with our community through various Council communication channels, to help raise awareness and encourage local support.
- Providing your Communications team with details of our Quick Response Grant, which may offer a potential funding opportunity.

We value the collaborative spirit of this initiative and are glad to support improved health outcomes for our communities.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything further we can do to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SR", is placed above the name Sarah Ryan.

Sarah Ryan
Acting CEO

JD










Correspondance Out - Swan Hill District Health - Sarah Ryan - 8 April 2025

Final Audit Report

2025-04-08

Created:	2025-04-08
By:	Melinda Gwin (mgwin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAOYEKw1OwHT5m1gsu1QqKZXNF8fQK91zP

"Correspondance Out - Swan Hill District Health - Sarah Ryan - 8 April 2025" History

-  Document created by Melinda Gwin (mgwin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)
2025-04-08 - 2:08:41 AM GMT
-  Document emailed to Sarah Ryan (sryan@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au) for signature
2025-04-08 - 2:08:44 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Sarah Ryan (sryan@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)
2025-04-08 - 2:49:51 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sarah Ryan (sryan@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)
Signature Date: 2025-04-08 - 2:50:20 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-04-08 - 2:50:20 AM GMT





Murray River Council
PO Box 906
Moama NSW 2731
p 1300 087 004
e admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au
w www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

5 March 2025

The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC
Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Email: office@sharpe.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister Sharpe,

Re: Urgent Review of South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW Rez) Regulations and Equitable Benefit Distribution for Murray River Council Communities.

Murray River Council strongly supports the transition to renewable energy and acknowledges the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW Rez) as a significant driver of regional economic development, clean energy objectives, and long-term sustainability. However, the unique geographic structure of the SW Rez boundary—unlike other Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) that align with Local Government Area (LGA) borders—creates serious inequities that undermine the potential benefits for many affected communities.

Following our recent correspondence with EnergyCo, we acknowledge their direction to consider alternative community benefit-sharing opportunities. However, this response does not address our core concerns:

- Communities outside the SW Rez boundary are still bearing substantial impacts from renewable energy projects but remain ineligible for direct funding, infrastructure investment, and long-term economic participation.
- Existing benefit-sharing programs are inadequate in addressing the scale of local government challenges, particularly in infrastructure strain, housing shortages, and service pressures.
- A once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver fair and lasting benefits across the entire region is at risk of being squandered due to restrictive boundary and funding rules

Document ID:

Murray River Council urgently requests a review of the SW Rez framework to ensure fairness, inclusivity, and equitable economic distribution for all impacted communities within our LGA.

Key Issues That Require Immediate Government Action

1. The Need to Expand SW Rez Boundaries to Include Affected Communities

The arbitrary boundary definitions of the SW Rez exclude many communities within the Murray River LGA that are directly impacted by renewable energy projects. Transmission lines, workforce movement, and infrastructure pressures do not stop at the Rez border, yet affected communities outside the Rez border have no formal access to benefits.

Murray River Council calls for an urgent review of the REZ boundary model, with consideration of:

- Applying a Local Government Area (LGA)-wide approach to ensure all communities experiencing Rez-related impacts are included in funding eligibility.
- Creating a mechanism for communities outside the current Rez to access direct financial and infrastructure support.

Without these changes, we risk deepening regional disparities where some communities gain economic uplift while others experience long-term burdens with no compensation.

2. Clarification on EnergyCo's Authority to Fund Projects Outside the Boundary

EnergyCo's current position regarding funding eligibility remains unclear for communities outside the SW Rez boundary.

Murray River Council formally requests:

- A clear determination from EnergyCo on whether funding from the Community and Employment Benefit Program can be allocated to affected communities outside the Rez boundary.
- A pathway for adaptation, should legislative or regulatory amendments be necessary to ensure fair and flexible funding eligibility for impacted regions.

If EnergyCo lacks the authority to approve funding for these communities, the NSW Government must take immediate action to rectify this regulatory oversight.

3.Ensuring Equitable Distribution of SW Rez Benefits

Renewable energy development is not confined to mapped Rez zones; its impact extends across LGAs, affecting roads, housing, emergency services, and local economies. Yet, funding allocations remain strictly tied to the Rez boundary, rather than the real-world distribution of challenges.

To achieve a fair and balanced transition, we urge the government to:

- Implement a funding model that distributes benefits in proportion to regional impact, rather than just geographic inclusion within the Rez.
- Ensure local councils receive direct support to address infrastructure degradation, housing affordability, and economic pressures caused by the rapid influx of Rez-related development.
- Establish a regional impact assessment framework that considers cumulative effects on non-Rez communities and adjusts funding distribution accordingly.

Next Steps and Urgent Government Action Required

The urgency of this issue cannot be overstated. The decisions made now will define the economic and social landscape of Murray River Council's communities for decades to come.

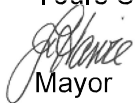
We therefore request:

1. A formal review of SW Rez boundary regulations to expand eligibility for affected communities within the Murray River LGA.
2. Clarification from EnergyCo on its authority to fund projects outside the Rez boundary and, if necessary, state intervention to amend regulations.
3. Immediate steps to ensure funding is distributed based on regional impact rather than strict boundary lines.

Murray River Council remains committed to collaborative engagement with the NSW Government and EnergyCo to achieve a fair and sustainable solution. We request a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss these concerns in detail.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this critical issue and look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely



Mayor
Murray River Council

CC: Hon. Tara Moriarty
Hon. Christopher Minns

9.7 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT

9.7.1 SUNDRY DELEGATES REPORT

File Number: -

Author: Bernie Carne, Executive Services

Authoriser: Sarah Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Sundry Delegates Report of the Mayor and Councillors for the period 1 March 2025 through to 31 March 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:

- 1 March 2025 Attended the re-opening of the Roxy Theatre in Leeton
- 3 March 2025 Attended the Murray Darling Association Region 2 Extraordinary Meeting via Microsoft Teams
- 4 March 2025 Monthly meeting with Helen Dalton MP. Cr Campbell attended
- 4 March 2025 Attended sod turning event on-site the new Moama Police Station (Police Minister Jasmin Catley MP, Member for Murray Helen Dalton MP, Southern Regional Commander Joe Cassar, Local Area Commander Paul Smith)
- 5 March 2025 Weekly meeting with Acting CEO
- 5 March 2025 Campaspe Port Enterprises, Visitor Experience Masterplan forum
- 7 March 2025 Attended International Women's Day Function at Barham
- 10 March 2025 Meeting with Regional Australia Institute via Teams
- 11 March 2025 Council Workshops
- 12 March 2025 Weekly meeting with Acting CEO
- 12 March 2025 Regular meeting with Telstra Area General Manager Stephen Tinker
- 13 March 2025 Meeting with Acting CEO, Interim Director of Planning and local developer
- 13 March 2025 Meeting with Swan Hill Rural City Mayor, Stuart King and CEO Scott Barber re Swan Hill Murray Downs Bridge in Swan Hill
- 14 March 2025 EMFM Radio Program
- 19 March 2025 Tour of Murray River LGA over two days
- 21 March 2025 Country Mayors Association Meeting with Police Minister Catley re Youth Crime in regional NSW
- 21 March 2025 Attended the Festival of Small Halls at Caldwell
- 24 March 2025 Murray Regional Strategy Group meeting via Teams
- 25 March 2025 Councillor Pre-briefing and Ordinary Meeting of Council
- 26 March 2025 Weekly meeting with Acting CEO
- 26 March 2025 Travel to Sydney for meetings and Country Mayors Association meetings
- 27 March 2025 Meeting with DPIE
- 27 March 2025 Meeting with President and CEO of LG NSW

- 28 March 2025 Country Mayors Association Meeting in Sydney

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

- 11 March 2025 Councillor Workshop
- 13 March 2025 Meeting with Mayor, Acting CEO and Swan Hill Regional City Council regarding Swan Hill Bridge
- 19&20 March 2025 Councillor Bus Tour – MRC LGA
- 25 March 2025 Councillor Workshop and Council meeting

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

- 5 March 2025 Campaspe Port Enterprise Visitor Experience Strategy- Moama
- 11 March 2025 Councillor Workshop- Moama
- 11 March 2025 Moama Lions Committee meeting- Moama
- 12 March 2025 Moama Pre School Delegate meeting- Moama
- 19&30 March 2025 Councillors Bus Tour – MRC LGA
- 20 March 2025 Moama Solar Farm Community Evening
- 25 March 2025 Council Pre-briefing and Ordinary Council Meeting- Moama

Councillor Joy Allan reported on her attendance at the following meetings and functions:

- 7 March 2025 International Womens Day – Barham
- 11 March 2025 Councillor Workshop – Moama
- 19&20 March 2025 Councillors Bus Tour - MRC LGA
- 25 March 2025 Pre-briefing & Council meeting

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

- 17 February 2025 Councillor Workshop
- 17 February 2025 Botanical Gardens Committee Meeting & Mathoura Hall Committee meeting
- 18 February 2025 Mathoura Retirement Units Committee meeting
- 24 February 2025 CEO Selection Meeting
- 25 February 2025 Council Pre-briefing and Ordinary Council Meeting – Moama
- 26 February 2025 Council Budget Meeting - Moama
- 11 March 2025 Councillor Workshop – Moama
- 19&20 April 2025 Councillors Bus Tour – MRC LGA
- 25 March 2025 Council Pre-briefing and Ordinary Council Meeting - Moama

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

- 4 March 2025 Meeting with MRC CEO, Mayor & Helen Dalton MP
- 4 March 2025 Yasmin Catley Sod Turning \$7.9m Moama Police Station
- 5 March 2025 Campaspe Port Enterprise Visitor Experience Strategy
- 11 March 2025 Councillor Workshop – Moama
- 11 March 2025 CEO RAMJO Yvonne Lingua

- 19&20 March 2025 Councillors Bus Tour – MRC LGA
- 25 March 2025 Council Pre-briefing and Ordinary Meeting of Council
- 27 March 2025 The Grants Guy Roadshow - Barham

Councillor Dennis Gleeson did not supply a report on his attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

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

Councillor Gary Pappin did not supply a report on his attendance to meetings and functions for this time period.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - THAT A REPORT ON CURRENT CONDITION AND STATUS OF PROPOSED UPGRADE WORKS FOR CALDWELL LINE ROAD BE PREPARED AND TAKEN TO THE APRIL ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

File Number: -

I, Councillor Dennis Gleeson, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 22 April 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That a report on the current condition and status of any proposed upgrade works for Caldwell Line Road, between the intersection of the Barham/Deniliquin and Wakool/Deniliquin Roads, be prepared by the responsible officer and submitted to the April Ordinary Meeting of Council.

OFFICERS COMMENTS**Purpose**

To provide Council with an update on the current condition of Caldwell Line Road, between the intersection of Barham Road and Wakool Road, and to outline any proposed upgrade works or maintenance considerations for this section of road.

Background

At the February 2025 Council Meeting, Council resolved that a report be brought back regarding the condition and upgrade status of Caldwell Line Road between Barham Road and Wakool Road intersections. This section of road serves as a key link for rural residents and agricultural operations.

Current Road Classification

In accordance with POL-300.V#2 Asset Management (Transport) Policy and the Council roads asset database, the unsealed section of Caldwell Line Road is a Local Collector Road. The sealed section of Caldwell Line Road, between Bunnaloo Road and Barham Road, is a Local Arterial Road.

Current Road Condition

Site inspections and desktop review of maintenance records have been undertaken during March and April 2025. Key points to note are as follows:

Surface Type: Unsealed rural road (gravel / sand formation).

Length: Approximately 12.8 kilometres.

Surface Condition: Moderate, with areas of corrugation and loose material noted. Recent roughness readings (refer to attachment) found 80% of the road surface was rated fair to very good.

Drainage: Vegetation is located in table drains however is not impacting on drainage from the road pavement. Loose material from the road surface and sediment is visible in table drains.

Traffic Use: Predominantly local traffic with a high seasonal heavy vehicle component or local intensive agricultural machinery. Traffic counters have been installed to gather further traffic data and are still in location. The most recent counts show 68 vehicles per day with 21.3% classified as heavy vehicles. This count location was 100m south of Wakool Road.

Recent Maintenance Activity

Routine grading has been completed in December 2024 and March 2025. Based on the road classification and traffic volumes, maintenance grading is typically completed 1-2 times per year.

Spot gravel patching has been occurring between November 2024 and March 2025.

No major capital works have been undertaken in the past 5 years.

Recent maintenance expenditure is as follows:

- YTD FY24/25 – \$115,728.14
- FY23/24 – \$36,699.76
- FY22/23 – \$26,271.84

The increased expenditure for FY24/25 has been due to the following reasons:

- A specialist (Unsealed Roads) was engaged to review current work / maintenance methodologies on unsealed roads. Caldwell Line Road was one road included in this engagement, which involved rebuilding a section of road and working through the process of mixing, shaping, compacting and trimming.
- After a significant rain event, rework on various sections was required. The damage was intensified by heavy vehicles continuing to use the road prior to rectification work being undertaken.
- Increased gravel patching.

Funding & Program Options for Upgrade Works

Current Budget Allocation: No funding is currently allocated in the 2025/26 Capital Works Program for resheeting of Caldwell Line Road. Resheeting priorities for 2025/26 currently include Perricoota Road and Murrabit Road. Maintenance grading will continue, which will include reclaiming lost material from the table drains. Culvert cleaning and maintenance will also be completed as required.

There are currently no plans for the future sealing of the unsealed section of Caldwell Line Road. A paper will be prepared for a future Council meeting which will outline the extent of the unsealed road network, the costs involved in sealing an unsealed road, the criteria typically used for making decisions to seal a road and the current priorities for improvement.

External Grants: Any future upgrade works may be eligible under Roads to Recovery or Fixing Country Roads programs. Grant funding of upgrade works is typically dependent on road classification, aligning with Council's Asset Management (Transport) Policy and a favourable cost benefit ratio.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Asset Management (Transport) Policy POL-300.V#2** [↓](#)
2. **Caldwell Line Road - Roughness Readings** [↓](#)

MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL
COUNCIL POLICY

**ASSET
MANAGEMENT
(TRANSPORT)
POLICY**

POL-300.V#2





ASSET MANAGEMENT (TRANSPORT) POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate that Council has a systematic and documented approach for reducing risks associated with the operation and maintenance of transport assets. This is to ensure that Council's transport assets are maintained at an agreed level that optimises service and safety in consideration with the resources available. Council's transport asset network has been classified into clearly defined classes with due consideration of classification traffic volumes, vehicular type, usage and associated safety standards. Murray River Council's Road Classifications are identified in Appendix 1. This Policy excludes State Roads as managed by Transport for NSW.

The progressive implementation of Asset Management Plans for various asset types is one of the objectives of Murray River Council ('Council').

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Policy are to:

- ▶ Apply the principles of identification, evaluation and treatment of risks to transport asset maintenance.
- ▶ Implement a formal system of transport asset inspections which record identified risks including defined hazards.
- ▶ Maintain a risk register for buildings through inspections and incorporated reports of transport asset hazards received from the public and/or employees.
- ▶ Implement a method of prioritising the risks identified by the various sources.
- ▶ Establish reasonably practicable response times, in which to effect repairs or provide temporary warnings, for the risks identified based on resources available.
- ▶ Provide an objective, defensible and repeatable approach to the maintenance of Council's transport assets.
- ▶ Establish a documented system and process to allow ongoing review.

3. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all Murray River Council transport infrastructure.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy demonstrates that Council has a systematic and documented approach for reducing risks associated with the maintenance of transport assets and provides clear guidance when performing operational and maintenance activities.

Paper Roads

Under the Roads Act 1993 roads are identified as either Public Roads, Freeways or Crown Roads. Council is the responsible authority for Public Roads, other than public roads for which some other public authority is declared by the regulations to be the road authority

- ▶ State Roads are the responsibility of Transport for NSW.
- ▶ Crown Roads are the responsibility of Crown Land in NSW.

Historically there are numerous paper roads within Council's boundary.

Council reserves the right to name/gazette and classify any section of these paper roads which have been identified as public roads under Council control in accordance with the Roads Act 1993. Classification of the named/gazetted section of road will be in accordance with this policy. Until this classification occurs, the paper road will not be included in Council's maintenance program.

Council also reserves the right to close a section of paper road in accordance with the Roads Act 1993.



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Inspections – Road Hazard and Risk Identification

1. Purpose

Road inspections are undertaken to allow the systematic identification of risks on the road network.

An inspection program has been developed (Table 1), and the information gathered by this program shall be used as the main method of identifying all the known hazards and risks associated with the road network.

Inspections are a formalised assessment of sections of the road network, looking for hazards that may require repair and maintenance.

There are three (3) major types of inspection

- ▶ Formal (planned)
- ▶ Requests /Feedback Received from Road Users
- ▶ Service Requests from Council Employees

Formal (planned):

The purpose of formal inspections is to identify:

- ▶ Those assets that have defects;
- ▶ The location of the defect;
- ▶ Action required to correct the defect; and
- ▶ Severity of defect and hence priority for action.

Requests/Feedback Received from Road Users:

Requests or feedback from road users are a valuable source of knowledge about the state of the transport network between inspections.

Each request/feedback is registered via a Service Request and then assigned to an Operations staff member who will then arrange an inspection of the request/feedback.

Service Requested from Council Employees:

Council's staff regularly travel the road network on the way to and returning from work locations at various points throughout the Council area. During this travel, Council staff are encouraged to report defects encountered within the Maintenance Management Software.



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Inspection Intervals

Roads maintained by Council shall be inspected generally in accordance with the intervals listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Inspection Intervals

Road Category	Inspection Timeframe
Regional	3 monthly
Arterial/Collector	6 monthly
Local; Link Road / Road, Dwelling Access (L1/L2)	Annual
Local Road, Property Access (L3)	Biennial
Urban	Annual
Path (Low Risk)	Biennial
Path (Medium Risk)	Annual
Path (High Risk)	6 monthly
Kerb & Gutter	Annual
Bus Shelters	Annual
Bridges & Major Culverts	As per the associated road category

2. Night Inspections

All bitumen roads and streets shall be inspected in each direction for sign, pavement and guide- post reflectivity and street light functionality every two (2) years

3. Inspection Staff

The inspections will be undertaken by appropriately trained and experienced personnel who understand road-related hazards and defects. These may be the Works Foreman, Engineers, Gangers, Soil Technicians, Road Safety Officer or other staff members considered suitable to undertake inspections and accredited by the Manager Strategic Assets, Manager Transport Services or Director Operations and Major Projects.

All inspectors will be trained in the systems, hazard analysis, and recording methods which support this procedure.

4. Inspection Process

Inspectors shall record risks/defects using the Maintenance Management Software.

Where works are required to remove the risk/defect, a report will be generated and given to the appropriate staff detailing the action required and the action date in accordance with the Council's procedures and intervention levels (Appendix 2).

The program shall be maintained and monitored to ensure risks/defects are actioned within specified timeframes.

Control

Control of risk exposure requires control measures to be implemented. Some of the control measures the Council will be able to use to lessen its exposure to risk are as follows:

- ▶ Effecting repair of the damaged or substandard asset.
- ▶ Effecting temporary repairs and hence lowering the priority for future action.



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- ▶ Use of warning signs and lights to alert road users of the potential hazard that exists ahead.
- ▶ Erection of temporary barriers or barricades and lights around the area until it can be repaired.
- ▶ Planning and allocating resources for the long-term replacement of the road network or structures.

Unavoidable Risk

Where an identified risk is unable to be eliminated due to the lack of Council resources, a summary report is to be provided to the CEO detailing the risk and costs associated with eliminating the risk. A detailed risk rating assessment shall be undertaken, which will assist Management to program and prioritise funds to undertake necessary works.

5. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Manager Strategic Assets to monitor the adequacy of this Policy and recommend appropriate changes.

This Policy will be reviewed every four (4) years or sooner if required

6. LEGISLATION, ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND DEFINITIONS

Legislation

- ▶ Roads Act 1993

Associated Documents

- ▶ MRC Policy – Risk Management
- ▶ MRC Procedure – Risk Management
- ▶ MRC Policy – Asset Management Policy
- ▶ MRC Strategy - Asset Management Strategy

Definitions

Term	Definition
Transport Assets	The total constructed width of a carriageway or formation including sealed and unsealed pavements, table drains, structures across roads, delineation and signage, and includes streets, footpaths, bike paths, shared paths, street lights, kerb & gutter, bus shelters, major culverts and bridges.
Paper Road	Land identified as a public road under Council control in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 which is yet to be named/gazetted and therefore is not an operation road.
State Roads	Cobb Highway and the Yanga Way (Tooleybuc to Balranald) from the Murray River to the Sturt Highway are managed and financed by Transport for NSW (TfNSW).



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7. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version No.	Details	Date	Resolution No.	CM9 Reference
1	Initial Issue	13 Dec 2016 – 19 Jan 2021	271216	VF/17/102860
2	Changes made to reflect the new organisational structure	19 Jan 2021 to	120121	VF/17/102860

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy at any time

This Policy is scheduled for review in September 2025

Disclaimer:

This document was formulated to be consistent with Murray River Council's legislative obligations and with the scope of Council's powers. This document should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation, guidelines and codes of practice. In the case of any discrepancies, the most recent legislation should prevail. This document does not constitute legal advice. Legal advice should be sought in relation to particular circumstances and liability will not be accepted for losses incurred as a result of reliance on this document.



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APPENDIX 1



ROAD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

CLASSIFICATIONS

MRC Classification	NAASRA* Class	Description
S – State Roads	2	Cobb Highway (SH21), from the bridge over the Murray River at Moama to Council boundary to the north. Tooleybuc – Balranald (SH694), bridge over Murray River at Tooleybuc via Kyalite to the Sturt Highway (HW14) south of Balranald TfNSW controlling authority.
R – Regional Roads	3	Are roads of secondary importance to State Highways and which provide the main connections to and between towns and districts.
A – Local Arterial Road	4	A safe all-weather sealed surface for higher volumes of through traffic of various types of vehicles
C – Local Collector Road	5	A safe all-weather gravel or sealed surface for moderate volumes of predominantly local through traffic with a high seasonal heavy vehicle component or local intensive agribusiness. These roads have a design speed of 90kph.
L1 – Local Link Road	6	A safe all-weather gravel or sealed surface for moderate volumes of predominantly local through traffic at moderate speeds. It has a design speed of 80kph. This is the recommended minimum standard for school bus routes and are the minimum standard for a sealed road.
L2 – Local Road, Dwelling Access	7	A safe all-weather gravel surface for low volumes of local vehicular access traffic at moderate speeds, with dry weather travel for all types of vehicles. It has a design speed of 80kph.
L3 – Local Road, Property Access	8	A dry weather surface only for non-dwelling property access
U – Urban	4 - 9	Sealed or Unsealed Roads within the town extents

*NAASRA: National Association of Australia State Road Authorities, now Austroads.

Note: The same length or width of public road may have more than one classification under this Policy and will be inspected/maintained in accordance with the respective classification.



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CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

Four (4) general factors form the basis for the design standards:

- ▶ Volume of traffic expected;
- ▶ Composition of vehicles using the road;
- ▶ Travel speeds of the expected traffic; and
- ▶ Percentage of heavy vehicles.

Table A: Traffic volumes and likely composition for various classes of road

Road Classes	R	A	C	L1	L2	L3	U
Interstate Traffic							
Tourist Traffic							
School Bus Routes							
Commercial Traffic							
Local Traffic							
Traffic Volumes	>1000	200-1000	80-200	30-80	10-30	<10	<10 - >1000

Please note: Shaded area indicates appropriate vehicular use
Based on the above constraints the same length or width of public road may have more than one classification under this Policy and will be inspected/maintained in accordance with the respective classification

Table B: Construction standards for each road classification:

Road Classes	R	A	C	L1	L2	L3	U
Formation Width	12m	12m	12m	10m	8m	6m	As per Subdivision Guidelines
Pavement Width	10m	10m	10m	8m			
Seal Width	8m	8m	6m	6m			
Gravel Pavement Width			7m	7m	5m		
Gravel Thickness			100mm	75mm	75mm		
Shoulder Width	1m	1m	1m	1m	1m		
Type of Material	Gravel	Gravel	Gravel	Gravel	Natural		
Centre Line Marking	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Fog Line Marking (on roads > 8m width)	Yes	Yes					
Guide Posting	Full length	Full length	Curves only	Where critical	Where critical		
Signage	RMS Standard	RMS Standard	Advisory	Warning	Warning	Hazard only	
Design Speed	100kpm	100kpm	90kpm	80kpm	80kpm		



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MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

The following maintenance standards have been developed in order to meet the demands and expectations of the various road users, in accordance with the minimum requirements that are considered necessary, to keep the road system functioning in a satisfactory manner. Road maintenance will be managed using a systematic approach based on:

- ▶ Regular inspection of the road network;
- ▶ Recording defects;
- ▶ Determination of defects hazard; and
- ▶ Performing a planned action.

The routine maintenance service level will differ between the different road classifications because of variations in the functional characteristics and usage of each classification.

Table C: Maintenance procedure standards each road classification:

Road Classes	R	A	C	L1	L2	L3	U
Surface Type	Sealed	Sealed	Unsealed	Sealed	Gravel	Natural	Mixed
Maintenance Procedure	Frequency						
Shoulder Grade	5 years	10 years		10 years			
Pavement Grade			Yearly		Every 2 nd year	As required	As required
Reseal	15 years	15 years	20 years	15 years			12 years
Reshape			3 years		7 years	15 years	As required
Resheet(Avg)			30 years		30 years		As required
Centre Line Marking	3 years	3 years		5 years			1 year
Fog Line Marking (on roads > 8m width)	3 years	3 years		5 years			1 year
Guideposts/Signs	As required	As required	As required	As required	As required		As required

SCHEDULE

The current schedule of Murray River Council transport assets is stored within Council's corporate asset register. This schedule will be updated as additional assets are created. Classification of new transport assets will be in accordance with the standards in this policy.



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APPENDIX 2



INSPECTION PROCEDURES & INTERVENTION LEVELS

ROADS

ROAD CATEGORY							
Abbreviation	R	A	C	L1	L2	L3	Urban
Surface Type	Sealed	Sealed	Gravel or Sealed	Gravel	Gravel	Natural	Mixed

1. INSPECTION FREQUENCY

Road Category	Inspection Timeframe
Regional	3 monthly
Arterial/Collector	6 monthly
Local; Link Road / Road, Dwelling Access (L1 & L2)	Annual
Local Road, Property Access (L3)	Biennial
Urban	Annual
Kerb & Gutter	Annual
Bus Shelters	Annual

2. PROCEDURE

A roof-mounted flashing amber light shall be operating on the vehicle when Council's staff are undertaking rural road inspections on bitumen roads which require frequent stopping and travel speeds of less than 75km/hr.

Defects are to be recorded via the appropriate medium. Information collected will be uploaded either automatically or manually by Council's staff into the Maintenance Management Software.



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3. DEFECTS (INSPECT FOR)

Pavement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edge drop offs (shoulders) ▪ Shoves ▪ Rutting ▪ Edge breaks ▪ Crocodile cracking ▪ Potholes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stripping seal ▪ Seal bleeding ▪ Cracking ▪ Oxidation of aggregate ▪ Corrugations
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growth causing blockage of visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overhang growth causing damage to trucks
Regulatory Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give Way, Stop, Speed that are damaged, faded/non reflective, missing or out of date ▪ Speed restriction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roundabout ▪ No Stopping
Warning & Other Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Warning Signs (yellow and black) that are damaged, faded/non reflective or missing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Street/Road signs that are damaged, faded/non reflective or missing
Pavement Line Marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Double lines/Single lines ▪ Stop and Give Way lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raised pavement markers ▪ Pedestrian Crossing
Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drainage structure failure that has potential to cause hazard on road way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ponding of water on/near road way
Guide Post and Reflectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Critical locations such as culverts, crests and curves that are missing or in need of repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Debris on Carriageway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fallen limb, etc. that could cause damage to a vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Kerb and Gutter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raised gutter more than 30mm at the seal, more than 50mm at the back of kerb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Street Lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Illumination or flickering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Bus Shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Glass panel damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structural defect



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4. INTERVENTION LEVELS

Identified defects are to be rectified/made safe in accordance with the intervention levels shown below:

Intervention Periods	Road Category					
	R	A/C	L1	L2	L3	Urban
Edge Drop Offs/Edge Breaks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor < 200mm Major > 200mm 	30days 14days	60days 30days	6mths 60days			
Shoves (Measured from top to bottom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor < 250mm Major > 250mm 	30days 14days	60days 30days	6mths 60days			30days 14days
Crocodile Cracking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor < 20m²/100 lin.m Major >20m²/100 lin.m 	60days 30days	90days 60days	120days 90 days			30days 14days
Pot Holes > 300mm wide and, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50mm deep 75mm deep 100mm deep 	10days 5days 5days	20days 10days 5days	30days 20days 10days	6mths 3mths 3mths	12mths 12mths 12mths	20days 10days 5days
Seal Stripping/Bleeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 10m²/ lin.m 	6mths	6mths	6mths			12mths
Cracking (longitudinal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0-5mm 5mm – 10mm 	3mths 1mth	6mths 3mths	12mths 6mths			3mths 1mth
Corrugations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 100mm deep (medium) > 100mm deep (large) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3mths 3mths 				
Debris on Carriageway	1day	1day	2days	5days	5days	1day
Visible Obstruction - Vegetation	1mth	1mth	3mths	3mths	3mths	1mth
Signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory/Warning missing 	5days	5days	1mth	2mths	2mths	5days
Signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other missing Regulatory/Warning poor condition Other poor condition 	1mth for all					
Line Marking	1mth	3mths	6mths			1mth
Guide Posts	1mth	3mths	6mths	12mths	12mths	
Guard Rail (make safe)	5days	2wks	1mnth	2mnths	2mnths	
Drainage	2mths	3mths	6mths	12mths	12mths	1mth
Kerb & Gutter						12mths
Street Lighting		Reported to Appropriate Authority within 10 days				
Bus Shelters		1mth				1mth



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FOOTPATHS, BIKE PATHS AND SHARED PATHS

1. INSPECTION FREQUENCY

Road Category	Inspection Timeframe
Path (Low Risk)	Biennial
Path (Medium Risk)	Annual
Path (High Risk)	6 monthly

► **Low Risk Areas**

Low volume pedestrian activity; minimal community infrastructure nearby.

► **Medium Risk Area**

Frequent volume of pedestrian activity; in close proximity to community infrastructure (playground, community hall, aged care centres, medical facilities, public transport, etc).

► **High Risk Areas**

High volume of pedestrian activity; directly adjacent to community infrastructure (CBD area, tourist facility, playground, etc).

2. PROCEDURE

A visual survey will be carried out by an appointed Council staff officer to identify defects/risks.

The path defects are to be recorded via the appropriate medium. Information collected will be uploaded, either automatically or manually, by Council's staff into the Maintenance Management Software (Reflect).

Once a path defect has been identified, the path is assessed to determine its risk and potential for causing injury to a path user. This assessment takes into consideration the path location category and the environmental risk (lighting/shadows).

The following **Risk Assessment Criteria** is used to determine the path Risk Rating (defect score) and hence, priority for repair.

Footpath Hierarchy			
Council Location Category	Description	Location Score	Inspection Frequency
LOW	Low volume of pedestrian activity, minimal community infrastructure nearby	2	Biennial
MEDIUM	Frequent volume of pedestrian activity, in close proximity to community infrastructure (playground, community hall, corner shops)	6	Annually
HIGH	High volume of pedestrian activity, directly adjacent to community infrastructure (CBD area, tourist facility, playground, etc)	10	6 Monthly



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Physical Description – Environmental Risk (Lighting/Shadow)		
Physical Description	Physical Score	Position in Location
Lighting adequate – no shadows	1	On path
Lighting excellent – little shadow	2	On path
Lighting good – some shadow	3	On path
Lighting inadequate – medium shadow	4	On path
No artificial lighting – heavy shadow	5	On path

DEFECT SCORE = Location Score + Physical Score + Position Score

Note: Position in location details and associated position score offers additional assessment detail and weighting value to the defect score calculation – this field is to be further developed once detailed assessment data becomes available (default value currently set at 1)

Footpath Risk Rating (from Defect Score above)		
Defect Score	Priority	Response Time (Days)
3	Low	360
4	Low	360
5	Low	360
6	Medium	90
7	Medium	90
8	Medium	90
9	Medium	90
10	Medium	90
11	High	30
12	High	30
13	High	30
14	High	30
15	High	30
16	Very High	2
17	Very High	2
18	Very High	2
19	Very High	2
20	Very High	2



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3. DEFECTS (INSPECT FOR)

- ▶ Trip hazards - pavement drop/lift
- ▶ Uneven surface
- ▶ Cracked surface
- ▶ Vegetation obstruction - branches from shrubs/trees obstructing footpath

4. INTERVENTION LEVELS

Determine rating from Defect Score calculated above.

Rating	Control Procedure	
LOW	Consideration should be given whether action should be taken	As resources permit
MEDIUM	Program into Maintenance works	Same year if resources permit, next year if not.
HIGH	Make safe (as soon as practicable) Temporary or permanent repairs	Within 1 to 2 months as resources permit
VERY HIGH	Make safe (as soon as possible) Repair or replace	Within same day Within the week

Caldwell Line Road Roughness Readings

09 April 2025

Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good
4 %	16 %	43 %	35 %	2 %



10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - RESCISSION, COUNCIL BUSINESS PAPERS

File Number: -

I, Councillor Kylie Berryman, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 22 April 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That Council:

1. Rescind Resolution 291122, Council business papers in printed version should only include the open council papers, confidential papers will be provided electronically only;

And

2. Endorse the following recommendation:

- Endorse the provision of Council business papers and confidential business papers in printed version to Councillors upon request, to support their ability to effectively discharge their duties; and
- Reaffirm Councillors' obligations under the Code of Conduct and relevant legislation regarding the appropriate handling and protection of confidential information.

OFFICERS COMMENTS

At present, confidential business papers are provided to Councillors electronically, in line with a previous Council resolution intended to reduce printing costs and support environmentally sustainable practices. While this remains appropriate for many, some Councillors have expressed a need for printed copies to better engage with and understand complex or lengthy confidential material.

This Notice of Motion proposes a structured, accountable process for those requesting printed copies by watermarking them with the individual Councillor's name—enhancing transparency and traceability.

Pros:

- Supports Councillors who find printed papers more accessible for review and annotation.
- Encourages more thorough engagement with confidential materials.
- Watermarking provides a governance safeguard, enabling traceability and accountability.
- Reinforces personal responsibility under the Code of Conduct.

Cons:

- Reintroduces printing and paper handling, which may have resource and environmental implications.
- Slightly increased administrative effort to prepare watermarked versions.
- Absence of a formal process for returning papers post-meeting could elevate risks if not managed responsibly.

This resolution aims to strike a fair and pragmatic balance—supporting Councillors in their duties while introducing governance measures to mitigate associated risks.

Enhanced Governance Protocols:

Council should consider implementing additional confidentiality safeguards, such as:

- Arrange for any requested printed copies to be watermarked with the requesting Councillor's name to support accountability and traceability;
- The secure collection and disposal of printed confidential papers at the conclusion of the Council meeting to further strengthen governance practices and reduce the risk of inadvertent disclosure.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - SUPPORT FOR MATHOURA POLICE STATION PETITION

File Number: -

I, Councillor Kylie Berryman, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 22 April 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That Council:

1. Acknowledge and support the community-led petition, signed by over 300 residents, calling for the NSW Government to fund the development of a new police station in Mathoura.
2. Promote the petition through Council's communication channels, including:
 - Publishing information and a link to the petition on Council's website and social media platforms;
 - Displaying promotional materials at Council customer service centres, libraries, and community facilities across the Murray River Council area;
 - Including details in Council's upcoming community newsletters and media releases.
3. Write to the NSW Minister for Police, local Members of Parliament, and the NSW Police Force supporting the petition and advocating for increased police infrastructure and resourcing in Mathoura.

OFFICERS COMMENTS

The community of Mathoura has expressed strong concern regarding the lack of permanent policing infrastructure and presence within the township. A petition signed by over 300 residents highlights a collective call for improved safety, response capability, and visible policing.

Council's support in promoting the petition will amplify community voices and demonstrate a unified local government commitment to securing the necessary resources for regional public safety.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING