



## **Ordinary Meeting of Council**

**Thursday 28 November 2024**

**4.00pm**

**Yass High School**

**Grampian Street, Yass**

**PRAYER:**

**All Stand:**

**Mayor:**

*Let us be still and remember the presence of God. As we commence our meeting let us together pray for guidance and help.*

**All say together:**

*Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon this Council.*

*Direct and prosper our deliberations to the true welfare of Australia and the people of Yass Valley Amen.*

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

**December 2024**

**Thursday 19th**

**4.00pm**

**Ordinary Meeting of Council**

# Ordinary Meeting of Council

## A G E N D A

Open Forum

Page No.

### Webcasting

This meeting is being webcast, a reminder to those in attendance that you should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

### Acknowledgement of Country

Yass Valley Council recognises the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land, water, and sky. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and future emerging leaders. We extend our respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in the Yass Valley Local Government Area.

#### 1. Prayer

#### 2. Apologies

#### 3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests/Special Disclosures

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	Nil	
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	Nil	

**Close of Meeting Time**

**Julie Costa**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

**Thursday 24 October 2024**

4.00pm

Yass High School

Grampian Street, Yass

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## **Open Forum**

### **Presentations to Council – Items on the Meeting Agenda**

- Item 6.1 - Plan of Management – Murrumbateman Old School House and Playground Site
  - Stephanie Helm
  - Marcayla Stopp
- Item 6.2 - Gateway Determination - Wee Jasper Fisherman's Shacks, heritage listing in Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013
  - Adrian King
  - Lisa Robinson (*Teams*)
- Item 6.6 - Development Application No DA230401 - Use of Existing Structure, 5 Ambleside Avenue, Murrumbateman
  - Muhammad Asfou (apology)
- Item 6.6 - Development Application No DA230401 - Use of Existing Structure, 5 Ambleside Avenue, Murrumbateman
  - Ian McCall
- Item 6.7 - Development Application No DA240052 - Boundary Adjustment and Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling, 8 and 10 Short Street, Yass
  - Rachel Doberer
  - Ben Scroope
- Item 6.8 - Development Application No DA240111 - Three Lot Subdivision, 4350 & 4338 Gundaroo Road
  - Rachel Doberer
  - Carol Hubert
- Item 6.8 - Development Application No DA240111 - Three Lot Subdivision, 4350 & 4338 Gundaroo Road
  - Phil Gaden
- Item 6.15 - Requests for Connections to Council's Water and Sewer Network - Outside the Service Area
  - Catherine Bennett
  - David Rowe

### **Council Meeting - The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5.00pm**

## **Present**

Councillors Jasmin Jones, Mayor, in the chair, Cecil Burgess, Kristin Butler, Adrian Cameron, David Carter, Alvaro Charry, Fleur Flannery (*Teams*), and David Rothwell.

Staff Present - Chief Executive Officer – Chris Berry, Director of Planning & Environment – Julie Costa, Director of Infrastructure & Assets – Nathan Cooke, Director of Corporate & Community – Lynette Safranek and Executive Support Officer – Katie Yeo.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

### **1. Prayer**

### **2. Councillor Request for Attendance via Audio-Visual**

The request for remote attendance by the following Councillors be approved for the Council meeting via audio-visual link and accept their reasons as listed:

- Cr Flanery: attendance at an event organised in Sydney prior to Council elections.

**RESOLVED that Councillor Flanery attend the Council meeting via audio-visual link.**

**(Butler/Cameron) 7**

**3. Apologies**

Allan McGrath – Leave of Absence

**RESOLVED that Councillor McGrath be granted a leave of absence**

**(Butler/Burgess) 8**

**4. Declaration of Interest/Disclosures**

**Cr Jones**, declared a non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest in *Item 6.3 2024/25 Local Heritage Grants Program* and stated that she would be leaving the Chambers.

**Reason:** Cr Jones declared an interest as an applicant is known to the Councillor through a working group and friendship.

**Cr Jones**, declared a non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest in *Item 10.1 Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee* and stated that she would be leaving the Chambers.

**Reason:** Cr Jones declared an interest as an applicant is known to the Councillor.

**Cr Burgess**, declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in *Item 6.13 Council Committees* and stated that he would be leaving the Chambers.

**Reason:** Cr Burgess declared an interest as he receives payments from the Bango Windfarm.

**Cr Butler**, declared a non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest in *Item 10.1 Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee* and stated that she would be leaving the Chambers.

**Reason:** Cr Butler declared an interest as an applicant is known to the Councillor.

**Cr Flanery**, declared a non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest in *Item 6.15 Requests for Connections to Council's Water and Sewer Network - Outside the Service Area* stated that she would be leaving the Chambers.

**Reason:** Cr Flanery declared an interest she is the Vice Chair of the Marchmont Racecourse Reserve Trust and; on the Aged Care Board in Yass.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 10 October 2024 covered by resolution numbers 1 – 6 inclusive, copies of which had been circulated to all Councillors, be taken as read and confirmed.**

**Butler/Carter) 9**

**FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones and D Rothwell**

**AGAINST: Nil**



## **6. Reports to Council**

### **6.1 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT – MURRUMBATEMAN OLD SCHOOL HOUSE AND PLAYGROUND SITE**

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#### **SUMMARY**

In August 2024 Council considered a draft Plan of Management for Old Murrumbateman School House, however since that time Council has been advised that Crown Reserve 97127 has had an additional use added as well as an expansion in the size of the reserve. The purpose of this report is to present the updated draft Plan of Management for the Old Murrumbateman School House and Playground Site reflective of these changes for endorsement in order that it may be placed on public exhibition.

***RESOLVED that consideration of the draft old Murrumbateman school house and playground plan of management be deferred until the November 2024 Council meeting to allow further discussions with the Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Murrumbateman Community Association.***

***(Butler/Cameron) 10***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

### **6.2 GATEWAY DETERMINATION - WEE JASPER FISHERMAN'S SHACKS, HERITAGE LISTING IN YASS VALLEY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2013**

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#### **SUMMARY**

At Council meeting of 24 April 2024 it was resolved that the Planning Proposal (PP-2024-419) to include nine cabins at Swinging Bridge Reserve, Nottingham Road, Wee Jasper in Schedule 5 of *Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013* be referred to the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure for a gateway determination. A gateway determination has been received by way of refusal.

***RESOLVED that it be noted that the gateway determination for the Planning Proposal (PP-2024-419) to include nine cabins at Swinging Bridge Reserve, Nottingham Road, Wee Jasper in Schedule 5 of the Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013 has been refused.***

***(Butler/Charry) 11***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, and J Jones

AGAINST: Councillor D Rothwell

*Mayor Cr Jones left the room at 5.32pm and Deputy Mayor Cr Butler took the Chair.*

**6.3 2024/25 LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY**

To present a report on the completion of the 2023/24 Local Heritage Grants and the recommendations for the 2024/25 Local Heritage Grants Program.

**RESOLVED that :**

- 1. The expenditure and reimbursement for the 2023/24 Local Heritage Grants Program be noted.**
- 2. The following funding be provided in the 2024/25 Local Heritage Grant Program:**

<b>Heritage Item Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project cost</b>	<b>Applicant's contribution</b>	<b>Local Heritage Grant Funding</b>
<b>16 Pritchett Street, Yass</b>	<b>Exterior Painting, including verandah boards and front fence</b>	<b>\$26,730</b>	<b>\$22,730</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>
<b>13 Adele Street, Yass</b>	<b>Replace damaged section of red brick boundary fence and remove trees which caused the damage</b>	<b>\$17,023</b>	<b>\$13,023</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>
<b>Bowning Hall 3-8 Short Street, Bowning</b>	<b>Repair 5 timber windows</b>	<b>\$5,300</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>
<b>110A Rossi Street, Yass</b>	<b>Repairs to Roof</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$12,000</b>

**(Cameron/Carter) 12**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

Mayor Cr Jones returned to the room and resumed the Chair at 5.35pm

#### 6.4 PLANNING PROPOSAL - 34 ISABEL DRIVE, MURRUMBATEMAN (PP-2024-765)

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##### SUMMARY

To present the outcome from the public exhibition of the Planning Proposal to include additional permitted uses in the *Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013* for 34 Isabel Drive Murrumbateman. Endorsement of the Planning Proposal is recommended.

##### **RESOLVED that :**

- 1. The Planning Proposal 34 Isabel Drive Murrumbateman (PP2024-765) be adopted.**
- 2. The amendment to the Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013 be made by Council as the local plan making authority.**

**(Butler/Burgess) 13**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

#### 6.5 APPLICATIONS UPDATE - AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2024

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##### SUMMARY

A list of applications that have been lodged, determined and under assessment for August and September 2024.

##### **RESOLVED that the report on applications for August and September 2024 be noted.**

**(Charry/Butler) 14**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

#### 6.6 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO DA230401 - USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURE, 5 AMBLESIDE AVENUE, MURRUMBATEMEAN

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##### SUMMARY

To present the assessment of Development Application No DA230401 for use of an existing structure as a workshop at 5 Ambleside Avenue, Murrumbateman. The application attracted six objections. Refusal is recommended.

##### **RESOLVED that Development Application No DA230401 for the use of an existing structure as a workshop at 5 Ambleside Avenue, Murrumbateman be refused on the following grounds:**

- 1. Council refused the Building Information Certificate (BIC) application (BP240176) due to the significant extent of non-compliance with the National Construction Code and other health and safety issues. Council is unable to issue consent for use without confirming that the structure will not cause a risk to its occupants.**

2. ***Insufficient information provided to characterise the structure for the purposes of the Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013 and therefore the merits and likely impacts of the proposed development cannot be properly assessed.***

***(Rothwell/Cameron) 15***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, and J Jones

AGAINST: Councillor D Rothwell

**6.7 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO DA240052 - BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO EXISTING DWELLING, 8 AND 10 SHORT STREET, YASS**

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**SUMMARY**

To present the assessment of development application DA240052 for a boundary adjustment between 8 and 10 Short Street, Yass and alterations and additions to an existing dwelling at 10 Short Street, Yass. The application has requested an exception to the 1,000m<sup>2</sup> minimum lot size development standard by 30% for one lot under clause 4.6 *Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013*. The application did not attract any submissions.

***RESOLVED that conditional Development Consent be issued for Development Application DA240052 for a boundary adjustment between 8 and 10 Short Street, Yass and alterations and additions to an existing dwelling at 10 Short Street, Yass***

***(Butler/Rothwell) 16***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

**6.8 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO DA240111 - THREE LOT SUBDIVISION, 4350 & 4338 GUNDAROO ROAD**

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**SUMMARY**

To present the assessment of Development Application No DA240111 for a three lot subdivision of 4350 and 4338 Gundaroo Road, Gundaroo. The application attracted seven objections and relevant concerns can be addressed by conditions. Approval is recommended.

***RESOLVED that conditional Development Consent be issued for Development Application No DA240111 for a three lot subdivision of 4350 and 4338 Gundaroo Road, Gundaroo.***

***(Carter/Charry) 17***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Councillor F Flanery

*Councillor Flanery left the meeting at 5.57pm*

## 6.9 UPDATE OF TfNSW SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF STEPHENS AND FITZROY STREETS, BINALONG

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### SUMMARY

To provide community feedback and a general update on TfNSW's safety improvements proposed for Stephens Street, Binalong.

#### **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The report on the update of the TfNSW safety improvements at the intersection of Stephens and Fitzroy Streets be noted.**
- 2. The additional submissions received from the community be referred to TfNSW and Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport & Roads for further consideration and consultation with the community in relation to the proposed works, prior to 18 November 2024.**

**(Butler/Rothwell) 18**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

## 6.10 TOWARDS ZERO SAFER ROAD PROGRAM GRANT

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### SUMMARY

To advise of a grant offer received under the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program to undertake safety improvements on Sutton Road.

#### **RESOLVED that :**

- 1. the Towards Zero Safer Road Program grant be accepted for \$393,000**
- 2. the 2024/25 Operational Plan and associated budget be updated to allow the Sutton Road Safety Improvements to progress.**

**(Burgess/Cameron) 19**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

## 6.11 COUNCIL CORPORATE UPDATE

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### SUMMARY

This report is to provide the new Council with an update on the Corporate area of Council.

**RESOLVED that the Council Corporate Update report be noted.**

**(Butler/Rothwell) 20**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones, and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Councillor A Cameron

## 6.12 INVESTMENT AND BORROWING REPORT

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### SUMMARY

In accordance with clause 212 *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, this report provides a summary of Council's investments for the period 1 to 30 September 2024. It also provides an update on the June, July, and August 2024 investment reports. In accordance with paragraph (1) (b), it can be certified that the investments listed have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

***RESOLVED that the Investment & Borrowings Report, covering the period 1 to 30 September 2024 not be noted; and this report be brought back to Council to acknowledge what the discrepancies are that the report notes and to explain and demonstrate how the ring fencing of monies drawn down against the Crago Mill loan facility happens; and where we currently sit in relation to the drawdown of funds against the build.***

***(Carter/Cameron) 21***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Councillor J Jones

*Council moved into Committee of the Whole to discuss item 6.13 Council Committees, at 6.57pm*

***(Butler/Cameron) 22***

*Councillor Burgess left the room at 7.15pm*

*Council moved out of Committee of the Whole at 7.17pm*

***(Carter/Charry) 23***

## 6.13 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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### SUMMARY

Council has a number of external and statutory committees that is requires Councillor representatives to be appointed.

***RESOLVED that appointments be made for the committees as follows:***

- ***CEO Performance Councillor nominated by Council: Cr Carter***
- ***Southern Tablelands Bushfire Service: Cr Burgess***
- ***Local Traffic Committee: Cr Rothwell***
- ***Southern Tablelands Regional Arts: Cr Charry***
- ***Coppabella, Rye Park, Bango Windfarm Community Enhancement Funds: Cr McGrath (TBC) with Cr Charry as alternate***
- ***Coppabella Windfarm Community Consultative Committees: Cr Charry with Cr Flanery (TBC) and Cr Butler as alternates***
- ***Rye Park Windfarm Community Consultative Committees: Cr Charry with Cr Flanery (TBC) and Cr Butler as alternates***
- ***Bango Windfarm Community Consultative Committees: Cr Charry with Cr Flanery (TBC) and Cr Butler as alternates***
- ***Humelink Consultative Committee: Cr Cameron***

***(Butler/Rothwell) 24***

FOR: Councillors K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Councillor Burgess returned to the room at 7.22pm*

#### 6.14 YASS POOL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT COMMITTEE

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##### SUMMARY

To recommend nominations for positions on the Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee.

***RESOLVED that Councillors Carter, Charry, and Flanery (TBC) be the nominated representatives.***

***Cameron/Burgess 25***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

***RESOLVED that this item is classified CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance contrary to the public interest.***

***(Butler/Cameron) 26***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

#### 6.15 REQUESTS FOR CONNECTIONS TO COUNCIL'S WATER AND SEWER NETWORK - OUTSIDE THE SERVICE AREA

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##### SUMMARY

Requests to access Council's water supply and sewer network for properties located outside the existing service areas are presented in this report for Council's consideration.

***RESOLVED that in-principle support be granted to the Seniors Villa proposal at 1 McIntosh Circuit Murrumbateman to investigate water and sewer servicing further.***

***Butler/Burgess 27***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Councillor A Cameron

***RESOLVED that In principle support be granted to the Marchmont Racecourse proposal for water supply connection in Gums Land based on 20kL per event and 520kL per annum for a maximum of 200 people attending an event (approximately 3 equivalent tenements) for toilet, change room and canteen use, until additional water supply is secured by Yass Valley. The water supply connection is not to be used for irrigation of the course/grounds.***

***(Carter/Cameron) 28***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

**6. Notice of Motion**

Nil

**7. Questions with Notice**

**8.1 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - MEMORIAL SEATING POLICY**

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**Question**

Councillor David Carter submitted the following Question with Notice:

*During the election, it emerged that the Memorial Seating policy, or more specifically, what was on the approved list for new seating, did not include cemeteries in our region. Can you advise what steps have been taken to update either the Memorial Seating policy or the approved list for new seating, so as to include the right for memorial seating to be installed in LGA cemeteries? My thanks to former Cr, Cayla Pothan for discussing this with me during the recent election campaign.*

**Response**

The *Memorial Seating Policy* is focused on open space areas. This policy is currently under review. Memorial seating for cemeteries are part of the cemetery plans of management.

***RESOLVED that the response to the question with notice on the Memorial Seating Policy be noted***

***(Rothwell/Butler) 25***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Councillor Cameron left the room at 7.42pm*

*Councillor Cameron returned to the room at 7.44pm*



## 8.2 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE - COUNCIL MEETING VENUES

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### Question

Councillor David Carter submitted the following Questions with Notice:

1. *Given the desire by a number of electors in the Yass Valley Local Government Area to have council meetings in different villages and towns around the region, can you provide any updates on the cost and capacity of the Yass Valley Local Council to hold meetings across the LGA?*
2. *Are you aware of any low-cost models or case studies around how other LGAs hold meetings in and around their broader LGA?*
3. *Are you aware of any official guidance provided by the OLG to hosting meetings in different venues across a LGA?*
4. *Is there any reason that would prevent the Yass Valley Council, given this advice from the OLG and from other case studies in NSW, from holding council meetings in Murrumbateman (perhaps at the Hive), in Gundaroo or Sutton or in Binalong, Bowning or other such places?*

### Response

All Council meetings must be live streamed and need to technology to record minutes/motions/voting into our system.

Staff investigated multiple alternate venue options for Council meetings as part of the Crago Mill Precinct development.

Council meetings at community halls in Gundaroo, Sutton, Binalong, Bowning and Murrumbateman do not have suitable technology or reliable internet to conduct a Council meeting that meets the Office of Local Government requirements. To hold a meeting at any of the community halls involves considerable support from ICT staff and mobile equipment but there is no guarantee internet support would be suitable. In addition, there are heating and cooling issues with the halls and halls are not always available for the entire period of construction of the new Council offices.

The only venue that meets the technology requirements and availability needs for Council meetings was the classroom at the Yass High School

I am not aware of any guidelines/directives from the Office of Local Government to host meetings in different venues.

Other Local Councils in our region do move their meetings between different communities. They have been able to do this as a result of amalgamations in which they inherited multiple Council offices e.g.

- Hilltops Council – include the former Harden, Young and Boorowa Council Chambers
- Upper Lachlan Council – include the former Gunning and Crookwell Council Chambers
- Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council – include the former Cootamundra and Gundagai Council Chambers
- Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council – current Queanbeyan Chambers and former Braidwood Council Chamber

***RESOLVED that the response to the question with notice on Council meeting venues be noted***

***(Rothwell/Butler) 26***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

## **8. Minutes and Recommendations of Council Committees**

### **9.1 MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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#### **REPORT**

The minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 25 September 2024 is included in **Attachment A**.

From the minutes there are no items which covers a matter that:

- Requires expenditure not provided for in the current Operational Plan
- Involves a variation to a Council policy
- Is contrary to a previous decision or position of Council
- Relates to a matter which requires Council to form a view or adopt a position
- Deals with a matter of specific interest

Accordingly, the minutes are presented for information.

***RESOLVED that the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 25 September 2024 be noted.***

***(Carter/Rothwell) 27***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, J Jones and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

## **9. Confidential Matters**

*Councillors Jones and Butler stepped of the room at 7.45pm*

*Councillor Carter nominated for Chair unopposed at 7.45pm*

***RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 10A of the Local Government Act, 1993 the following items on the agenda be classified as CONFIDENTIAL and considered in the Closed Meeting of Council in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act for the reasons as specified:***

#### ***10.1 Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee***

***Item 10.1 is confidential in accordance with section s10(A)(2)(a) of the Local Government Act because it contains personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance contrary to the public interest and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.***

***(Cameron/Charry) 28***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Closed Council commenced at 7.46pm.*

**RESOLVED that the meeting move into Open Council.**

**(Burgess/Rothwell) 29**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Open Council resumed at 7.56pm.*

**RESOLVED that the recommendations in Closed Council be adopted.**

**(Rothwell/Charry) 30**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Councillors Jones and Butler returned to the room at 7.57pm*

## **10.1 YASS POOL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT COMMITTEE**

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### **SUMMARY**

To consider nominations for positions on the Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee.

**RESOLVED that :**

- 1. The following Yass Swim Club nominations to the Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee be accepted:**
  - **Hugh Rainger**
  - **Donna Wullaert**
- 2. The following community nominations to the Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee be accepted:**
  - **Bec Duncan**
  - **Sarah Watson**
  - **Laurie Columb**
- 3. The remaining nominees be thanked for their interest and offers of assistance and encourage them to participate in the projects during any community consultation.**

**(Rothwell/Charry)**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

The meeting closed at 7.58pm



## **DRAFT Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council**

**Monday 25 November 2024**

5.00pm

Yass High School

Grampian Street, Yass

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DRAFT

**Extraordinary Council Meeting - The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5.07 pm.**

**Present**

Councillors Jasmin Jones, Mayor, in the chair, Cecil Burgess, Kristin Butler, Adrian Cameron, David Carter, Alvaro Charry, Fleur Flanery, Allan McGrath and David Rothwell

Also present were Julie Costa, Director of Planning & Environment, – Nathan Cooke, Director of Infrastructure & Assets, Executive Support Officer Katie Yeo and Kath Roach from SINC Solutions.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

**1. Prayer**

**2. Apologies**

Nil

**3. Declaration of Interest/Disclosures**

**Cr Charry**, declared a non-pecuniary, non-significant conflict of interest in *Chief Executive Officer's Contract of Employment* and can participate in the confidential meeting without compromising its integrity.

**Reason:** Cr Charry declared an interest relating to comments I made during my election campaign, particularly at meet-the-candidates forums. Since my election, I have worked diligently to uphold the highest standards of impartiality and professionalism expected of me as a Yass Valley Councillor. Recognising the importance of trust and collaboration, I proactively met with the CEO early in my term to address any potential misunderstandings, clear the air, and establish a strong, productive relationship. My actions since being elected demonstrate my unwavering commitment to serve our community with fairness, integrity, and a focus on outcomes that benefit all residents of the Yass Valley. Accordingly, I am confident that my impartiality and professionalism ensure I can participate in this confidential meeting without compromising its integrity."

**4. Reports to Council**

**4.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT**

---

**SUMMARY**

To consider a matter relating to the Chief Executive Officer's Contract of Employment.

***RESOLVED that this item is classified CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance contrary to the public interest***

**(McGrath/Rothwell)**

No representations were received from members of the public.

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

Motion to move into Closed session of Council was carried.

Closed Council commenced at 5.12pm

**RESOLVED** that the meeting move into Open Council.

**(Rothwell/Carter)**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

Open Council resumed at 8.06pm.

**The Resolutions of Closed Council were as follows:**

**4.1 *Mayoral Minute – Chief Executive Officer’s Contract of Employment***

That the matters pertaining to the subject of this item remain confidential until such time as the matters the subject of the resolution can be enacted, at which time the resolution will be made public.

**4.2 *Mayoral Minute – Personnel Matter***

That the matters pertaining to the subject of this item remain confidential until such time as the matters the subject of the resolution can be enacted, at which time the resolution will be made public.

The meeting closed at 8.09 p.m.

**27 November 2024 - Resolutions of Closed Council**

**4.1 *Mayoral Minute – Chief Executive Officer’s Contract of Employment***

**RESOLVED:**

That Council:

- 1. *Terminate the employment of Mr Christopher Berry as Chief Executive Officer of the Council with immediate effect***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

***Part 1 Carried unanimously***

- 2. *Pursuant to clause 10.3.1e) and 11.3 of the Employment Contract, make the payment equivalent to the required 38 week's pay, which accords with the employment contract.***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Councillors A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry and F Flanery

***Part 2 Carried 5/4***

- 3. *Delegates to the Mayor the authority to write to Mr Berry informing him of the Council's decision without delay.***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

***Part 3 Carried unanimously***

- 4. *Delegates to the Mayor the authority to make all relevant and reasonable decisions that are necessary to implement the decision to terminate the employment of Mr Berry.***

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

***Part 4 Carried unanimously***

- 5. *Takes all steps to ensure this recommendation, which will form the resolution, remains confidential until such time as points 1-4 detailed above have been enacted. Once enacted this resolution is to be made public and the termination letter is to remain confidential in accordance with the provisions of a matter pertaining to that of a personnel nature under the Act.***



FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Part 5 Carried unanimously*

#### 4.2 Mayoral Minute – Personnel Matter

RESOLVED:

##### **PART 1**

*That Council:*

- 1. Pursuant to sections 336 and 351 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), Council appoints Ms Julie Costa, Director Planning and Environment, to the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer effective immediately, and until the Ordinary Meeting of Council in December 2024 at which time it will be considered further.***

*(Cameron/Butler)*

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Part 1 – Carried unanimously*

##### **PART 2**

*That Council:*

- 1. Delegate to the Acting Chief Executive Officer all the functions, delegations and sub-delegations given to the Chief Executive Officer by the Council.***

*(Cameron/Butler)*

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Part 2 Carried unanimously*

##### **PART 3**

*That:*

- 1. The Mayor, Councillor Jones; the Deputy Mayor, Butler; Councillor Carter; and Councillor Burgess comprise the Recruitment and Selection Panel for the recruitment of a Chief Executive Officer.***

*(Jones/Rothwell)*

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, , D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: A Cameron

*Part 3 Carried 8/1*

**PART 4**

**That Council:**

- 4. Delegate authority to the Recruitment and Selection Panel, to do all needed to undertake a recruitment process, including ensuring that:**
  - a. they invite suitably experienced external recruitment consultants to submit proposals to assist the Council with the recruitment process to recruit a new Chief Executive Officer for the Council.**
  - b. to appoint a suitably experienced external recruitment consultant to assist the Council with the recruitment process to recruit a new Chief Executive Officer for the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and consistent with the Office of Local Government's publication Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of General Managers (August 2022) (Guidelines).**
  - c. The CEO's position description is current and evaluated in terms of salary to reflect the responsibilities of the position. This will be done in consultation with the recruitment provider.**
  - d. the proposed salary range reflects the responsibilities and duties of the position. This will be done in consultation with the recruitment provider.**
  - e. The position is advertised according to the requirements of the Act.**
  - f. The information packages are prepared.**
  - g. Applicants selected for interview are notified, and**
  - h. Present a preferred candidate(s) for determination at a meeting of full Council.**

*(Carter/Charry)*

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

*Part 4 Carried unanimously*

**PART 5**

**That:**

- 5. The Recruitment and Selection panel prepare a selection panel report addressing the matters referred to in the relevant section of the Guidelines, which is to be presented to a future meeting of the Council for consideration.**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

**Part 5 Carried unanimously**

At 7.45pm Kath Roach – SINC Solutions left the meeting.

**PART 6**

**That Council:**

- 6. Engage SINC Solutions Pty Ltd as an independent to advise and assist the Recruitment and Selection Panel; be the liaison point with Councillors throughout the process; liaise with the Recruitment provider including drafting a scope of works to be undertaken by the recruitment provider for the Panel's review and determination; be an Independent Advisor on the recruitment panel; and provide guidance to Council throughout the process, ensuring that governance responsibilities are met subject to a suitable proposal against the agreed scope be presented to and accepted by the Mayor.**

**(Carter/Flanery)**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

**Part 6 Carried unanimously**

At 7.55pm Kath Roach – SINC Solutions returned the meeting.

**PART 7**

**That Council:**

- 6. Takes all steps to ensure this recommendation, which will form the resolution, remains confidential until such time as points 1-6 detailed above have been enacted. Once enacted this resolution is to be made public and the termination letter is to remain confidential in accordance with the provisions of a matter pertaining to that of a personnel nature under the Act.**

**(Jones/Rothwell)**

FOR: Councillors C Burgess, K Butler, A Cameron, D Carter, A Charry, F Flanery, J Jones, A McGrath and D Rothwell

AGAINST: Nil

**Part 7 Carried unanimously**

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## 5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - FINACIAL STATEMENTS REVIEW

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### SUMMARY

Engagement of a consultant to review Council's financial statements.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That a consultant be engaged without delay to conduct an on-the-ground assessment into Council's financial information which informs the financial statements to verify Council's true financial situation*

### REPORT

A recent information session on governance and finance held by a consultant from Morrison & Low, Mr Greg Smith, deduced from a quick desktop analysis of information from Council's website that Council's true position is being masked by the waste funds sitting in our general revenue accounting noting as well that Council's narrow positive cash margin would likely change into the negative.

I believe Council needs to vigorously assess its information accuracy and can no longer rely solely on Council's internal skills base and external CFO contracted services.

I acknowledge a CFO hiring process is in place and could be ready to start in February 2025 however Council requires urgent assistance to verify its data is accurate and the assessment will assist the incoming CFO and help guide Council build a strategic roadmap to financial sustainability.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

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## 5.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - ADVOCACY FOR PARKWOOD DEVELOPMENT

---

### SUMMARY

To Inform Council of the advocacy for the NSW Government for dealing with the financial issues arising out of the development being brought forward into Yass Valley.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the letter the NSW Premier, Chris Minns MP regarding the fast tracking of the Parkwood development into Yass Valley and setting of deadlines for the completion of work to either move the NSW/ACT border or agreeing of a Ministerial agreement on a special rate for Parkwood be noted.*

### REPORT

I have written to the NSW Premier, Chris Minns MP, advocating for dealing with the financial issues arising out of the development being brought forward into Yass Valley (refer **Attachment A**).

I have indicated that Council is seeking the leadership of the Premier and Minister responsible of IPART in:

1. Setting a deadline of 12 months for an intergovernmental agreement and drafting of appropriate legislation to enact the shifting of the NSW-ACT Border to enable the seamless delivery of services to the Parkwood development proposal with appropriate compensation to NSW and Yass Valley Council (for a water pipeline from the ACT to Murrumbateman and a contribution to the full duplication of the Federal Barton Highway) for relinquishing taxes and rates in perpetuity.

or

2. If Parkwood is to remain in NSW setting a deadline of 12 months for an intergovernmental agreement to support Yass Valley Council's sustainability and a Ministerial agreement on a special rate for Parkwood into the future rather than an IPART decision. This would provide certainty for the procurement of service arrangements (particularly in the initial years) for these future new residents and provide certainty that other Yass Valley ratepayers will NOT subsidise this development. It is understood that a similar arrangement has been made in the Tweed.

I have also requested a meeting with the Premier.

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Letter to Premier - Parkwood 18 November 2024 [↔](#)

## 6.1 PARKWOOD FUNDING DEED OF AGREEMENT

### SUMMARY

The Parkwood Funding Deed of Agreement has been executed by Council and is presented for noting.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the Deed of Agreement between Council and Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd be noted.*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2024/25 Operational Plan provides for an income of \$345,000 and the equivalent in expenditure which is based on the terms of the agreement.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*
- Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan (Parkwood) 2020

### REPORT

#### 1. Background

At its meeting on 22 February 2024 Council noted a confidential report regarding an offer from the Riverview Group to fund a planning resource within Council to work on the Parkwood development.

The deed of agreement has now been executed (refer **Attachment A**).

#### 2. Deed of Agreement

The deed of agreement provides for a total payment of \$862,500 over 2.5 years (\$345,000/year) and it will fund planning work associated with the Parkwood development (rather than a planning resource). As advised in February 2024 the arrangement has been the subject of probity advice and the deed is inclusive of this.

Quarterly invoices for the work will be issued to the Riverview Group for actual work done on the project.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Environment
CSP Strategy Objective	EN3: We have a robust planning framework that considers our rural character and natural landscapes
Strategies	EN3.1 - Develop sustainably, integrates environmental, social and economic factors which are in the best interests of the community and the region
Delivery Program Action	Complete the comprehensive development control plan

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Parkwood Funding Deed of Agreement [⇨](#)

## 6.2 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT - OLD MURRUMBATEMAN SCHOOL HOUSE AND LIBRARY RESERVE

---

### SUMMARY

The draft Plan of Management for the Old Murrumbateman School House and Library Reserve has been revised following Council's decision at the October 2024 meeting requesting further discussions with the Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Murrumbateman Community Association. These discussions have now occurred and it is recommended that Council endorse the draft Plan of Management.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That:*

- 1. The draft Old Murrumbateman School House and Library Reserve Plan of Management be notified to Crown Lands, as the owner of the property.*
- 2. The draft Plan of Management be forwarded to the Minister for Crown Lands under clause 70B Crown Lands Management Regulation 2018 seeking approval to adopt.*
- 3. Upon advice of the Minister for Crown Lands that the draft Plan of Management may be adopted, Council place the draft Plan of Management on exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.*
- 4. Should no objections be received that require significant changes to the draft Plan of Management, then it be adopted pursuant to s40 Local Government Act 1993.*

---

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Crown Land Management Act 2016*
- *Local Government Act 1993.*

### REPORT

At its meeting on 24 October 2024 Council resolved that consideration of the Draft Plan of Management for the Old Murrumbateman School House (draft PoM) be deferred until the November 2024 Council meeting to allow further discussions with the Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Murrumbateman Community Association.

Council has met with the Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Murrumbateman Community Association. From the meeting with the Murrumbateman Community Association additional information has been added to the draft PoM where appropriate. Council has met with the Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding the Aboriginal Land Claim and Council has now been advised by NSW Crown Lands of the claim. Despite there being an unresolved land claim on the site Council is able to proceed with the process to adopt the draft PoM.

The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* came into force on 1 July 2018. As the appointed land manager, Council is required to prepare a Plan of Management (POM) for Crown land under its care and control as if they were Community Land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. A PoM outlines how the land can be used, developed and managed, how leases and licences or other interests are granted on Community Land and determines the scale and intensity of current and future use and development on the land.

Council has been previously advised at its meeting in August and October 2024 that on 20 April 2021 the Minister for Planning, Industry & Environment – Crown Lands approved the categorisation of Preservation of Historical Sites and Buildings for this Reserve being the Old Murrumbateman School House. An additional reserve purpose for community purposes was added 19 July 2024 and the reserve was expanded to include

the whole of Lot 55 DP754900 (refer **Attachment A**). This is consistent with the Crown Categorisation of ‘General Community Use’ of this reserve. All of the reserve is now under the care and control of Council.

A draft PoM has been prepared applying to all of Lot 55 DP754900 being the old Murrumbateman School House and Library Reserve and the approved location of the proposed all abilities playground in Murrumbateman (refer **Attachment B**). It provides direction for the asset management of the Old Murrumbateman School House, development of the playground, how the land can be used and provides the framework for Council to follow in relation to the leasing, licencing, and permit processes for the land.

Council has received Native Title Manager advice stating that:

*“Council may have confidence that in the event of any native title claim over Old Murrumbateman School House (R97127), the previous exclusive possession act (PEPA) that affects the whole of the Crown Land in Old Murrumbateman School House will be regarded for the purposes of the Native Title Act (Cwlth) and the Native Title Act (NSW) as having the effect of having extinguished native title rights over the land affected by the public works. The adoption of the plan of management will not have an effect on native title rights over the PEPA-affected whole of Old Murrumbateman School House (R97127) as the previous exclusive possession act (PEPA), being former freehold ownership by virtue of a Crown grant, has the effect of extinguishment on the affected land if subject to judgment in a native title claim. The adoption of the plan of management with proposed uses, developments and tenures that are in accordance with the reservation and the purpose of the Crown reserve is a valid future act.”*

Upon being advised of the additional reserve purpose of ‘Community Purposes’ and the expanded reserve area, Council needed to satisfy itself that the draft PoM was a valid act for the purposes of the *Native Title Act 1993*. In accordance with s24JA(1)(e)(i) and (ii) Council is satisfied that the expanded area covered by the reserve will have no greater impact on native title than the impact of any act that could have been undertaken on the reserve as it existed on 23 December 1996, being date nominated by the Act. Accordingly, Council may endorse the draft PoM as a draft for referral to the Minister administering the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

The draft PoM is considered suitable for public exhibition to seek feedback from the community on the proposed management of the reserve.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

CSP Theme	Our Infrastructure
CSP Strategy Objective	IN3: Our existing community infrastructure is maintained, and we plan for and support the development of infrastructure that meets community need
Strategies	IN3.2 - Our community infrastructure is accessible, adaptable and suitable for multiple user groups and fosters inclusive, healthy, and active recreation opportunities
Delivery Program Action	Construction of playground in Murrumbateman

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Locality Plan ⇨
  - B. Draft Plan of Management Old Murrumbateman Old Schoolhouse and Library Reserve ⇨



## 6.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO. DA240159 - DISTRIBUTION BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM - 3 TURTON PLACE, MURRUMBATEMAN

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### SUMMARY

To advise on the receipt of Development Application No. DA240159 for a 5 megawatts (MW) distribution battery energy storage system at 3 Turton Place, Murrumbateman. The Development Application is regionally significant development with the consent authority being the Southern Regional Planning Panel. The *Yass Valley Development Control Plan 2024* requires that an application to be determined by the Panel be reported to Council for noting.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That it be noted:*

1. *The receipt of Development Application No. DA240159 for a distribution battery energy storage system at 3 Turton Place, Murrumbateman.*
2. *The development application is regionally significant development with the consent authority being the Southern Regional Planning Panel in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021.*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Resources for development assessment are provided for in the current Operational Plan.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*
- *Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021*
- *Environmental Planning & Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021*
- *Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013*
- *Yass Valley Development Control Plan 2024*
- *Yass Valley Development Contribution Plan 2023*
- *Roads Act 1993*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *NSW Planning Circular PS 24-002 - Changes to how development costs are calculated for planning purposes*
- *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*

### REPORT

#### 1. Application Details

Date Received	-	4 June 2024
Land	-	3 Turton Place, Murrumbateman (the site)
Area	-	16.29ha
Zoning	-	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots

## 2. Site Description and Locality

The site is 16.29ha in size and is located on Turton Place, which is a cul-de-sac south of Murrumbateman Road, off Patemans Lane. The area is characterised by small-scale rural and rural lifestyle developments comprising dwelling houses, wineries, and other similar uses.

Existing on the site is a dwelling house and ancillary outbuildings, two dams, an overhead powerline (electricity easement) and a windbreak comprising eucalyptus trees.

A Locality Plan is included in **Attachment A**.

## 3. Proposal

The development application proposes:

- Installation of a 5 MW distribution battery energy storage system (DBESS), including 10 battery containers, occupying approximately 0.5ha of the site towards the northwest corner.
- Construction of an acoustic barrier (up to 4.5m high) and security fencing
- Landscaping around the perimeter of the development
- Electrical sub transmission lines
- New vehicular access from Turton Place and internal access road
- Removal of two native trees
- Associated earthworks

The proposed battery is intended to charge from the grid during period of low demand and discharge to the grid in periods of high demand.

Details of the proposal are included in **Attachment B**.

## 4. Public Exhibition

Public exhibition occurred in June-July 2023 and included notice to seven adjoining and nearby landowners and 37 submissions were received (refer **Attachment C**). Key issues raised in submissions include:

- Suitability of location
- Inconsistency with planning controls
- Fire risk and associated impacts in event of a fire
- Noise
- Visual impact
- Limited consultation
- Missing information from application (e.g. acoustic barrier details)

## 5. Referrals

The proposal has been referred to:

- Rural Fire Service (RFS) – comments received. No objection subject to conditions.
- Essential Energy

## 6. Assessment Pathway

The subject land is zoned RU4 Primary Production Small Lots (RU4 zone) under the *Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013 (Yass Valley LEP 2013)*. The proposed development is for a DBESS which is within the definition of 'electricity generating works' which is defined as:

*a building or place used for the purpose of—*

- (a) making or generating electricity, or*
- (b) electricity storage.*

Electricity generating works is a prohibited use in the RU4 zone under the *Yass Valley LEP 2013*. However, s2.36 *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* determines that electricity generating works are permitted with consent in a 'prescribed non-residential zone' which includes the RU4 zone. Clause 1.9 *Yass Valley LEP 2013* states that a State Environmental

Planning Policy (SEPP) prevails over an LEP. To this end, the proposed development is permitted with consent as enabled by the SEPP.

Development for electricity generating works is ‘regionally significant’ development where it has an estimated development cost (EDC) of greater than \$5 million in accordance with Schedule 6 *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*. The consent authority for regionally significant development is the panel. The assessment of the application is completed by Council staff and then presented to the panel for determination.

The original application was submitted as ‘local’ development (i.e. Council being the consent authority) with an estimated development cost (EDC) of less than \$5 million. Following preliminary assessment concerns were identified with how the EDC had been calculated, noting changes that had come into effect in NSW in March 2024. In this regard, the applicant was requested to provide a revised quantity surveyors report in accordance with the requirements outlined in NSW Planning Circular PS 24-002. The applicant’s revised quantity surveyor report indicated that the EDC was greater than \$5 million and therefore would make the application ‘regionally significant’ development.

As the revised EDC was within 10% of the \$5 million threshold, an independent quantity surveyor was engaged by council staff to conduct a peer review (as recommended by NSW Planning Circular PS 24-002). The peer review indicated an EDC of approximately \$5.8 million in comparison to the applicant’s \$5.4 million. The peer-reviewing quantity surveyor noted that both figures were reasonably close for a development of this nature and therefore can be considered accurate.

Additional information has been requested in October 2024 following detailed assessment and consideration of issues raised in the submissions received.

At the time of writing this report, the additional information has not yet been submitted and the application remains under assessment. Upon completion of an assessment, the application will then be considered by the panel at a date to be confirmed. Persons who have made a submission will be advised of these details, including for any opportunity to make representations to the panel.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

CSP Theme	Our Environment
CSP Strategy Objective	EN3: We have a robust planning framework that considers our rural character and natural landscapes
Strategies	EN3.1 - Develop sustainably, integrates environmental, social and economic factors which are in the best interests of the community and the region
Delivery Program Action	Complete the comprehensive development control plan

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Locality Plan [⇒](#)
  - B. Plans and Supporting Documents [⇒](#)
  - C. Submissions [⇒](#)

## 6.4 STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND ROUND 5 - WEE JASPER VARIATION

---

### SUMMARY

To provide an update on the outcome of the additional projects for delivery within Wee Jasper with unspent funds from the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council accepts the approved variation under round 5 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund for the demolition of the existing drop-pit public toilet and the installation of new composting public toilet facilities within Wee Jasper for a project value of \$120,000.*

---

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5 – Wee Jasper Carpark allocation \$200,000.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

Nil.

### REPORT

#### 1. Background

At its meeting on 22 February 2024 Council resolved that a report be presented to Council on projects in Wee Jasper that could be delivered with unspent monies from the Wee Jasper Carpark project funded under Round 5 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

The Wee Jasper Carpark project was allocated \$200,000 in funding. Council awarded the contract for these works and there was a balance of \$120,000 remaining.

Council at its meeting on 27 June 2024 resolved to endorse and deliver as their preference for funding up to the value of \$120,000 and subject to eligibility under the Stronger Country Communities Fund guidelines, the following projects:

1. Solar panels for the Community Hall
2. Generator for the Community Hall
3. Wee Jasper sign upgrade at bridge
4. Removal of pine trees at the tennis courts

Council submitted this variation in July 2024 and was advised on 30 August 2024 by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment – Regional Development that Council’s variation to transfer the unspent funds to projects at the Wee Jasper Community Hall was not supported as *“reallocation of the funding to another new project is not possible due to the competitive and merit-based assessment process undertaken. As the SCCF program closed on 23 September 2022, assessment of new projects is not possible”*.

#### 2. Stronger Country Communities Fund Eligibility

Council was able to identify and submit a new variation on 8 October 2024 which includes the demolition of the existing drop-pit public toilet and the installation of new composting public toilet facilities for a project value of \$120,000. Attachment A shows the location of the toilet.

Council received notification on 29 October 2024 the approval of this variation.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme                                      Our Infrastructure

CSP Strategy Objective                      IN3: Our existing community infrastructure is maintained, and we plan for and support the development of infrastructure that meets community need

Strategies	IN3.2 - Our community infrastructure is accessible, adaptable and suitable for multiple user groups and fosters inclusive, healthy, and active recreation opportunities
Delivery Program Action	Implementation of priority projects identified in the Yass Valley Open Space strategy

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Location of toilet to be replaced [⇒](#)

## 6.5 YASS WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE - IMPLEMENTATION

### SUMMARY

The Yass Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project is a challenging and very high priority project for Council. This report provides an update on the progress of implementation following the approval of the business case in May 2024 and the release of NSW Government ad-hoc election commitment funding of \$13.55M and Housing Infrastructure funding of \$6.6M.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That:*

1. *The updated report on the Yass Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project be noted*
2. *The executed funding deed for \$6.6M from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) be noted*
3. *Funding approval of \$13.55M by NSW Minister Rose Jackson through the NSW State Ad-hoc Election commitment be noted*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A budget has been allocated for Pre-design and Tender Management for the Yass WTP Upgrade in the Operational Plan FY2024-25 and for upgrades to the Yass water reticulation network funded by the ad-hoc election commitment fund.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) 2011
- Procurement Policy

### REPORT

#### 1. Background

The project to prepare a Design and Business Case for the upgrade of the Yass Water Treatment Plant commenced in November 2019. The Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF) funded this project at a cost of \$1.2M with a total commitment of \$10M for the WTP Upgrade. During this project, stakeholders required that Stage 1 - Early Works be carried-out in advance in December 2020. Stage 1 Works included the installation of a bubble plume aeration system at the Yass Dam, upgrade of the Raw Water Pump Station (RWPS), and urgent works at the Yass Water Treatment Plant. Stage 1 Works were completed at a cost of \$2.2M funded by HAF at the end of February 2023. The Final Business Case was endorsed by Council at its extraordinary Council Meeting on 9 May 2024.

An upgrade of the reticulation system is also required to enable treated water is able to reach customers without being impacted by the accumulated mineral deposits in the water mains.

#### 2. Funding

The Final Business Case identified the following funding commitments for the WTP Upgrade Project.

**HIF Grant Fund \$6.6M:** In the NSW State Budget FY2024-25, release of \$6.6M for the Yass WTP Upgrade was announced. The Funding Deed between Council and Housing Infrastructure Fund - HIF (formerly the Housing Acceleration Fund - HAF) was executed by the NSW Treasury on 2 October 2024. Release of funds to Council will be at the commencement of construction.

**NSW Ad-hoc Election Commitment Fund \$13.55M:** Council received a letter from the Minister informing of the funding approval on 17 October 2024. Following the July 2025 Council meeting the

Funding Deed was signed and the execution of the funding deed is in progress. Activities under this funding deed is to be completed within four years.

The ad-hoc election funding will be allocated to the Yass WTP Upgrade (**\$11.85M**) and for the Yass water reticulation upgrade (**\$1.7M**). The allocation of funds between WTP Upgrade and water reticulation upgrade is subject to change.

Upon the execution of the funding deed, funds will be released to Council and that will allow commencement of pre-construction activities for the WTP upgrade and reticulation upgrade.

**NSW Health Fluoridation Grant \$0.97M:** NSW Health provided a commitment to upgrade the existing fluoridation unit. The upgrade was paused to take place with the overall upgrade of the Yass WTP. Council has written to NSW Health to reconfirm this grant.

The Financial Analysis as part of the Final Business Case showed that without further grants, Council will be required to raise the typical water rates over three years by up to \$300 to finance the funding shortfall through loans. Council will continue to seek further grants especially the National Water Grid Fund round of June 2024 to lessen the impact on water supply customers.

**National Water Grid Fund Application:** The outcome of Council’s application to the National Water Grid Fund (NWGF) for the June 2024 round is expected in November 2024. Link to NWGF application process is: (<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/water-infrastructure-nsw/grants-and-funding/national-water-grid-authority/applications>).

### 3. Implementation

Following are major project milestones and key dates, which are subject to change:

a) Funding Deed Executed	Nov/ Dec 2024
b) Engage Owner’s Engineer	Mar/Apr 2025
c) Reference Design and Section 60 Approvals	Oct 2025
d) EOI & ETI (Early Tendering Involvement) Process	Jun 2025 – Mar 2026
e) D&C (Design and Construct) Tender Open	Apr 2026
f) D&C Contract Award	Oct 2026
g) Construction Commencement	Nov 2026
h) Commissioning of Main WTP	May 2028
i) Completion of Construction	Nov 2028
j) Project Completion	Nov 2028

During FY2024-25, the major activity is to prepare the reference design and tender documents. Funds to be released through the NSW Ad-hoc Election Commitment will cover this expenditure. Depending on the outcome of the NWG funding application, Council is to keep seeking additional funding prior to commencing construction in FY2025-26.

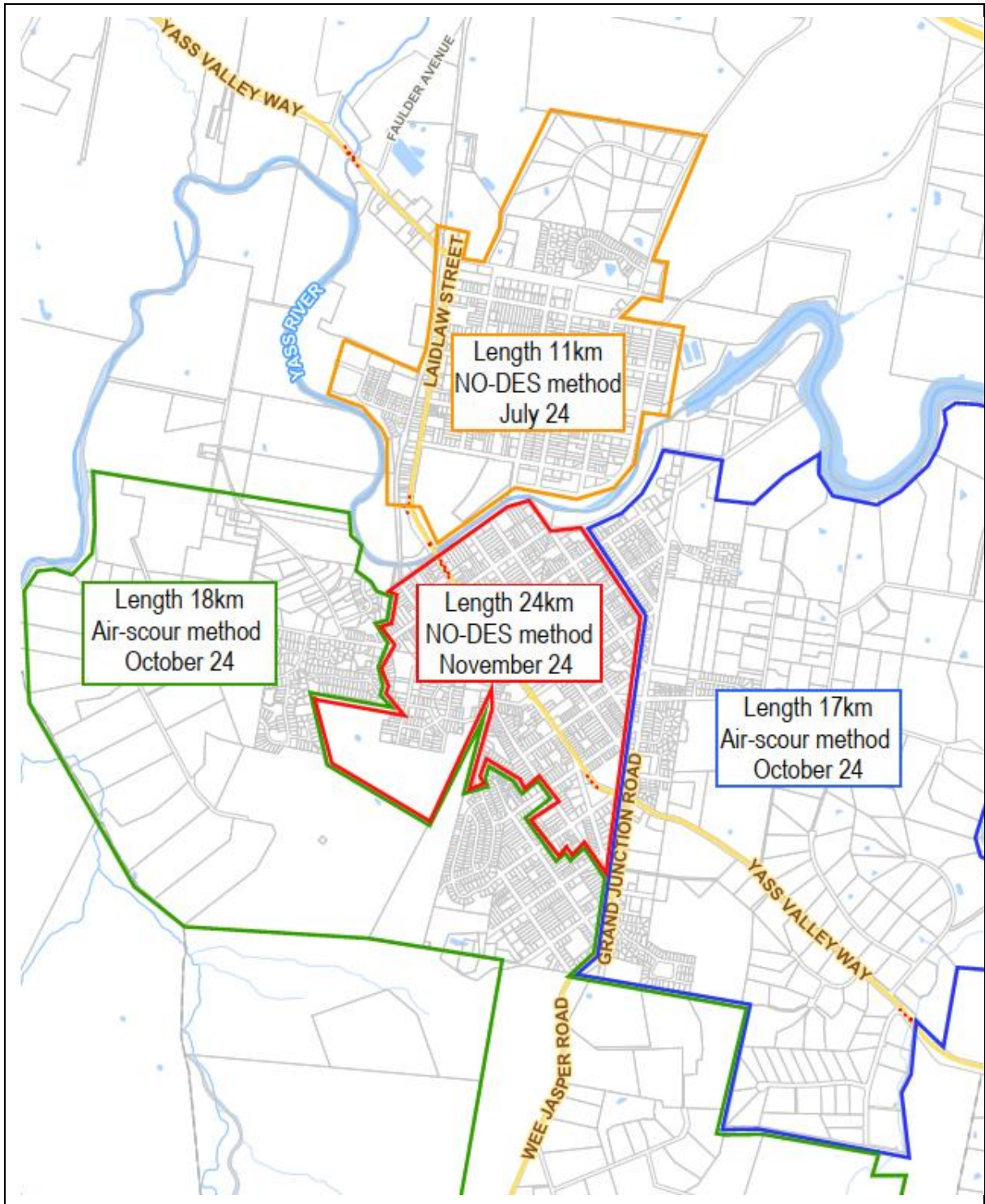
**Engage Owner’s Engineer:** A request for tender (YVC-IA-32-2024) was released on 16 October 2024, with tenders due to close on 19 December 2024. This tender is for a consultancy services provider to be engaged to prepare the Reference Design and Tender documents. Prior to tendering for the Design and Construct (D&C) contract, an Owner’s Engineer will be engaged to subsequently manage tendering, tender evaluation, construction supervision, commissioning and training.

Activities identified in the Final Business Case will commence as soon as the Funding Deed with Ad-hoc Election Commitment is executed.

### 4. Water Reticulation Improvement Project

**Water main cleaning:** Council implemented minor works to install valves and hydrants and also implemented pipe cleaning methods namely air-scouring and NO-DES method (<https://www.no->

[des.com.au/](https://www.yasswater.com.au/)). NO-DES does not impact water supply to customers during water main cleaning while air-scouring results in a disruption to the water supply. Choice of the method used for a particular area depended on the configuration of the existing reticulation network and the ability to isolate mains without impacting a large number of customers at a time. The length of water mains cleaned in each area and the method used is shown in the map below.



**Water Main Cleaning with Air Scouring and NO-DES Methods in Yass**

A total length of 70km of mains have been cleaned in Yass and all areas except those between Reddall Street along Yass Valley Way towards the Service Centre. Future cleaning will target problem areas and the experience gained through this implementation will be used to schedule regular cleaning to cover the reticulation in Yass, Bowning, Binalong and Murrumbateman. The total length of Councils water reticulation system including trunk water mains is approximately 192km.



## 5. Safety of Drinking Water Supply - PFAS

Council accepted the offer from NSW Health to test for PFAS in Councils treated water supplied from Yass WTP in July 2024. All parameters are below detection limits and results are published on Council's website (refer <https://www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au/Our-Services/Water-and-Wastewater/Water-Quality-Data>)

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has published proposed guidelines for consultation and results in July 2024 indicate compliance with the proposed guidelines. Council will continue to assess the risk within the drinking water catchment in consultation with NSW Health to inform future monitoring requirements for PFAS in the drinking water supply system. Any additional results will be reported to the community.

## 6. Project Delivery

The project delivery will be provided by Council through the internal appointment of a Project Director and Project Manager. The NSW DCCEE Water Group will perform a technical review role as part of the *s60 Local Government Act 1993* approval process. A third-party Owners Engineer for technical support and assistance throughout the design, procurement, construction and commissioning of the upgrade will be engaged by Council. The owners engineer will be undertaken in two stages – Stage 1 (Reference design and tender documents) and Stage 2 (Tendering, tender evaluation, construction supervision, commissioning and training).

## 7. Stakeholders

Steering Committee meetings were established during the business case development and continues to be held monthly with representatives of DCCEE Water, NSW Health, DPHI/HIF and Council. As the project progresses, liaison with stakeholders such as NSW EPA will commence.

## 8. Next Steps

The following activities are scheduled:

- Engage Owners Engineer and liaise with DCCEE Water.
- Commence Reference Design and preparation of tender documents.
- Commence survey and investigation for reticulation upgrades.
- Inform and engage with the community.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Infrastructure
CSP Strategy Objective	IN4: Water, waste and sewerage services meet the needs of our community
Strategies	IN4.1 - Ensure high quality water supply options for the towns in region
Delivery Program Action	Upgrade of Yass Water Treatment Plant

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

## 6.6 FINANCE REPORT

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### SUMMARY

This is a monthly report to provide current and ongoing information to effectively inform Councillor decisions.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the November 2024 Finance Report be noted.*

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### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial information contained within this report should assist Councillors to make informative decisions that have financial implications.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Australian Financial Standards
- Office of Local Government Guidelines

### REPORT

#### Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Recruitment

For almost 2.5 years Council has had to rely on financial contractors to fill the role due to difficulties in recruiting a suitable candidate. Since June 2023, Council has used the services of UHY Haines Norton Chartered Accountants. UHY are based in Adelaide and were chosen due to their familiarity with the electronic management system that Council currently uses, Magiq. This contract will continue until we can recruit a CFO, including a handover period.

We have placed the CFO role out for recruitment several times, interviewed some candidates, recruited one candidate who did not turn out to be the right person for the role. At the CFO position level, we have not been able to attract any further candidates due to our proximity to Canberra and level of salaries offered. A decision was made recently to increase the salary due to this role being an essential position and include more flexibility. The use of a regional employment agency has resulted in five applications and interviews are being scheduled.

#### Letter from Office of Local Government

The Chief Executive Officer and Director Corporate & Community met with the Office of Local Government (OLG) Deputy Secretary and Manager Performance on 2 October 2024. At this meeting we discussed concerns surrounding Council's financial situation; Council's inability to recruit a CFO; overview of work being undertaken by staff in relation to operational sustainability; Crago Mill build update and discussion around possible land sales to reduce the borrowings; update on the funding for the new Water Treatment Plant; and the border move or requirements to accommodate the Parkwood development and water negotiations with ACT and NSW Governments. At the end of this meeting it was agreed that Council's Director Corporate & Community and the OLG's Manager Performance will meet on a regular basis to ensure the OLG is kept up-to-date on matters at Council. A letter confirming the outcomes dated 24 October 2024 (and received on 25 October 2024) from the discussions with OLG is included in **Attachment A**.

Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary of the OLG will speak at the December 2024 Open Forum prior to the Council Meeting.

## Monthly Finance Report

We will be developing a monthly report to update Councillors and the OLG to demonstrate improvement. The report will include the following information:

- Actual expenditure, revenue, and net result against year-to-date budget
- Narrative around variances from adopted budget
- Current reserve balance for external restrictions, internally allocated, and unallocated funds with narrative on overall liquidity
- Current borrowings and investments
- Progress against budget for the Crago Mill project
- Funding updates for Yass Water Treatment Plant
- Update of capital expenditure against year-to-date budget
- 2025/26 budget progress.

This report may vary slightly when we present the Quarterly Budget Review Statements (QBRs). Below is an outline of the monthly reports and the financial information that will be reported:

- November 2024: developing report and presenting the first quarter QBRs for 2024/25FY
- December 2024: October data
- January 2025: November data
- February 2025: second quarter QBRs and December 2024 data
- March 2025: January data
- April 2025: February data
- May 2025: third quarter QBRs and March data)
- June 2025: April data
- etc.

The delay in financial data reporting in the monthly reports is due to the time required to reconcile the data after the close of month in Magiq.

## Monthly Budget Reconciliation

Each month, the Leadership Team receive a reconciliation of the current budget to review. Below is the template of the monthly report which will also include commentary on the main variances.



October 2024 Report

Income Statement	Budget 24-25		Actual 24-25	Budget 24-25 YTD x Actuals		Budget 24-25 Full Year x Actuals	
	Full Year	YTD		\$	%	\$	%
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>	<b>273,013</b>	<b>152,484</b>	<b>147,602</b>	<b>-4,882</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>	<b>-125,411</b>	<b>-45.9%</b>
Rates and Annual charges	106,883	106,629	108,811	2,182	2.0%	1,928	1.8%
User charges and fees	29,505	9,540	16,511	6,970	73.1%	-12,995	-44.0%
Other revenues	1,567	490	1,293	803	163.7%	-274	-17.5%
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	51,271	12,307	941	-11,366	-92.4%	-50,330	-98.2%
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	72,128	20,578	17,811	-2,767	-13.4%	-54,318	-75.3%
Interest and investment income	4,764	2,224	1,409	-815	-36.6%	-3,355	-70.4%
Other income	1,671	557	561	4	0.7%	-1,110	-66.4%
Net gain/loss from the disposal of assets	5,223	158	266	107	67.9%	-4,957	-94.9%
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>-223,485</b>	<b>-77,729</b>	<b>-62,096</b>	<b>15,633</b>	<b>-20.1%</b>	<b>161,389</b>	<b>-72.2%</b>
Employee benefits and on-costs	-69,844	-21,369	-20,403	966	-4.5%	49,441	-70.8%
Materials and services	-95,014	-36,897	-22,699	14,198	-38.5%	72,315	-76.1%
Borrowing costs	-7,405	-2,468	-1,824	645	-26.1%	5,582	-75.4%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	-46,604	-15,535	-15,711	-176	1.1%	30,893	-66.3%
Other Expenses	-4,617	-1,460	-1,459	1	0.0%	3,158	-68.4%
<b>Net Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>49,528</b>	<b>74,755</b>	<b>85,506</b>	<b>10,751</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>35,978</b>	<b>72.6%</b>
<b>Net Operating result before capital items</b>	<b>-22,601</b>	<b>54,177</b>	<b>67,695</b>	<b>13,518</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>90,296</b>	<b>-399.5%</b>

(not actual figures)

### Current Borrowings and Investments

The current borrowing and Investment position is provided as separate report on a monthly bases in the council meeting agenda.

### Crago Mill Loan

A draw down of the Crago Mill Loan is generally made based on an invoice from the builder for progress payments (usually monthly). The loan funding is tagged in the Council account for payment of the invoice. Due to a misunderstanding of the progress payments schedule a total of \$15M has been drawn down from the loan. A total of \$6.5M has been expended to date leaving an \$8.5M balance. \$5M of this balance is in a short term investment and the remaining \$3.5M is restricted to the Crago Mill project which will be use for the next schedule for the next builders progress payments. It is anticipated the short term investment will be expended on progress payments early in 2025 before any further draw down occur.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL1: Council is an effective, responsible and innovate organisation
Strategies	CL1.4 - Governance provides a sound basis for decision making
Delivery Program Action	Decisions made in accordance with Local Government Act and Regulations

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Letter to Council from Office of Local Government - 25 October 2024 [⇒](#)

## 6.7 INVESTMENT AND BORROWING REPORT

### SUMMARY

In accordance with clause 212 *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, this report provides a summary of Council's investments for the period 1 to 30 September 2024. It also provides an update on the June, July, and August 2024 investment reports. In accordance with paragraph (1) (b), it can be certified that the investments listed have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the Investment & Borrowings Reports, covering the period 1 July to 31 October 2024 be noted.*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The investment portfolio assists with Council's cash flow and funding of projects identified in the Operational Plan and is accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- s625 *Local Government Act 1993*
- Clause 212 *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*
- Council's Investment Policy

### REPORT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The investment portfolio assists with Council's cash flow and funding of projects identified in the Operational Plan and is accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- s625 *Local Government Act 1993*
- Clause 212 *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*
- Council's Investment Policy

#### 1. REPORT RBA Statement on Monetary Policy Decision

At its meeting today, the Board decided to leave the cash rate target unchanged at 4.35 per cent and the interest rate paid on Exchange Settlement balances unchanged at 4.25 per cent.

#### **Underlying inflation remains too high.**

Inflation has fallen substantially since the peak in 2022, as higher interest rates have been working to bring aggregate demand and supply closer towards balance. Headline inflation was 2.8 per cent over the year to the September quarter, down from 3.8 per cent over the year to the June quarter. This was as expected due to declines in fuel and electricity prices in the September quarter. But part of this decline reflects temporary cost of living relief. Abstracting from these effects, underlying inflation (as represented by the trimmed mean) was 3.5 per cent over the year to the September quarter. This was as forecast but is still some way from the 2.5 per cent midpoint of the inflation target. The forecasts published in today's *Statement on Monetary Policy (SMP)* do not see inflation returning sustainably to the midpoint of the target until 2026.

#### **The outlook remains highly uncertain.**

The forecasts published today are very similar to those published in August. The forecast path for underlying inflation reflects a judgement that aggregate demand remains above the economy's supply capacity, evidenced by the persistence of underlying inflation, surveys of business conditions and ongoing strength in the labour market.

Growth in output has been weak. Past declines in real disposable incomes and the ongoing effect of restrictive financial conditions continue to weigh on household consumption, particularly discretionary consumption. However, growth in aggregate consumer demand, which includes spending by temporary residents such as students and tourists, has remained more resilient.

A range of indicators suggest that labour market conditions remain tight, and while conditions have been easing gradually, some indicators have recently stabilised. Employment grew strongly over the three months to September, by an average of 0.4 per cent per month. The unemployment rate was 4.1 per cent in September, up from the trough of 3.5 per cent in late 2022. But the participation rate remains at record highs, vacancies are still elevated and average hours worked have stabilised. At the same time, some cyclical measures of the labour market including youth unemployment and underemployment have recently declined.

Wage pressures have eased somewhat but labour productivity is still only at 2016 levels, despite the pick-up over the past year.

Taking account of recent data and the updated forecasts, the Board's assessment is that policy is currently restrictive and working broadly as anticipated. But there are uncertainties. The central projection is for growth in household consumption to increase from the second half of this year as income growth picks up – and there is tentative evidence of an increase in spending in the September quarter. But there is a risk that any pick-up is slower than expected, resulting in continued subdued output growth and a sharper deterioration in the labour market. More broadly, there are uncertainties regarding the lags in the effect of monetary policy and how firms' pricing decisions and wages will respond to the slow growth in the economy and weak productivity outcomes at a time of excess demand, and while conditions in the labour market remain tight.

There remains a high level of uncertainty about the outlook abroad. Most central banks have eased monetary policy as they become more confident that inflation is moving sustainably back towards their respective targets. They note, however, that they are removing only some restrictiveness and remain alert to risks on both sides, namely weaker labour markets and stronger inflation. Public authorities in China have responded to the weak outlook for economic activity by implementing more expansionary policies, although the impact (and in some cases the specific details) of these measures remains to be seen. Geopolitical uncertainties remain pronounced.

**Sustainably returning inflation to target is the priority.**

Sustainably returning inflation to target within a reasonable timeframe remains the Board's highest priority. This is consistent with the RBA's mandate for price stability and full employment. To date, longer term inflation expectations have been consistent with the inflation target and it is important that this remains the case.

While headline inflation has declined substantially and will remain lower for a time, underlying inflation is more indicative of inflation momentum, and it remains too high. The November SMP forecasts suggest that it will be some time yet before inflation is sustainably in the target range and approaching the midpoint. This reinforces the need to remain vigilant to upside risks to inflation and the Board is not ruling anything in or out. Policy will need to be sufficiently restrictive until the Board is confident that inflation is moving sustainably towards the target range.

The Board will continue to rely upon the data and the evolving assessment of risks to guide its decisions. In doing so, it will pay close attention to developments in the global economy and financial markets, trends in domestic demand, and the outlook for inflation and the labour market. The Board remains resolute in its determination to return inflation to target and will do what is necessary to achieve that outcome.

## **2. Summary of movements in Council Investments**

Two investments totalling \$2M matured with two new term deposits totalling \$2M during the month of October 2024.

Council Cash, Cash Equivalent, and Term Deposit Investments at 31 October 2024

YASS VALLEY COUNCIL							
Cash, Cash Equivalent and Investments (Term Deposits) as at 31 October 2024							
Investment Type	Acc/Deal	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date	Term (Days)	Rate
<b>Cash Working Accounts</b>							
	Ref.						
NAB Working Account1	082-939 51-	10,527,320.51	A1+/AA-	n/a	n/a	at call	
Tcorp Strategic Cash	778	5,384,877.52	AAA	n/a	n/a	3 day call	
		<b>15,912,198.03</b>					
<b>Term Deposits &lt; 12 Months</b>							
Investment Type	Acc/Deal	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date	Term (Days)	Rate
AMP	CN069039	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	06/11/24	331	5.30%
NAB	10886904	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	25/11/24	273	5.10%
NAB	10916368	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/08/24	25/11/24	91	4.95%
NAB	10916956	1,000,000.00	A1+	28/08/24	26/11/24	90	4.95%
Judo Bank	CN078927	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	28/11/24	90	5.00%
MyState Bank	CN068869	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/12/24	369	5.40%
MyState Bank	CN068870	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	11/12/24	376	5.40%
NAB	10920644	1,000,000.00	A1+	12/09/24	11/12/24	90	4.95%
My State Bank	CN076018	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	20/12/24	170	5.30%
NAB	10916957	1,000,000.00	A1+	28/08/24	02/01/25	127	4.95%
AMP	CN076015	1,000,000.00	A2	03/07/24	03/01/25	184	5.05%
Bank of Queensland	CN079573	1,000,000.00	A2	03/10/24	15/01/25	104	4.70%
Bendigo	CN078929	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	29/01/25	152	4.78%
NAB	10919397	1,500,000.00	A1+	05/09/24	03/02/25	151	5.00%
Great Southern Bank	CN079336	1,000,000.00	A2	18/09/24	17/02/25	152	5.00%
NAB	10923110	1,000,000.00	A1+	19/09/24	17/02/25	151	5.00%
Judo Bank	CN078928	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	26/02/25	180	5.10%
NAB	10919400	1,200,000.00	A1+	05/09/24	04/03/25	180	5.20%
Great Southern Bank	CN079004	1,000,000.00	A2	04/09/24	05/03/25	182	5.04%
MyState Bank	CN079048	1,500,000.00	XX	05/09/24	06/03/25	182	4.95%
Great Southern Bank	CN079199	1,000,000.00	A2	11/09/24	11/03/25	181	4.90%
Bank of Queensland	CN079198	1,000,000.00	A2	11/09/24	11/03/25	193	4.90%
NAB	10906669	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	31/03/25	271	5.40%
AMP	CN079200	1,500,000.00	A2	11/09/24	09/04/25	210	5.30%
Bank of Queensland	CN068868	1,000,000.00	A2	09/10/24	16/04/25	189	4.95%
NAB	10906670	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.45%
Judo Bank	CN076032	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.10%
My State Bank	CN079005	1,000,000.00	XX	04/09/24	04/09/25	365	4.95%
		<b>30,200,000.00</b>					
<b>Total Short Term</b>		<b>46,112,198.03</b>					

### 3. Council Loans

Council has five loans with a balance of \$27.78M owing on 31 October 2024. Council commenced drawing down funds for the Crago Mill project during October 2024. Refer to the table below for details.

General Loan	Principal as at	Interest rate	Comment
Sewer - CBA Loan for Sewer Infrastructure	3,090,809.33	4.82%	20 years, repaid in 2035/36
Water - NAB Westpac Dam Wall	7,781,649.57	5.36%	20 years amortisation, 10 years term Aug 2032
Water - Yass to Murrumbateman water supply (Tcorp)	1,167,752.09	2.55%	10 years, full repaid in 2029
Water main and pump station upgrades (Tcorp)	638,050.12	2.55%	10 years, full repaid in 2029
Crago Mill funding facility (Westpac)	15,100,000.00	6.52%	20 years, full repaid 2043 - Variable rate (2.17%+BBSR)
<b>Total balance as at 31/07/2024</b>	<b>27,778,261.11</b>		

4. Amendment to Investment Reports from June and July 2024

**June 2024 Investments**

Original June Report was incorrect as the NAB balance was not updated to reflect the FAG received on the 28 June 2024, and one NAB term deposit had the incorrect number.

**Investment report submitted June 2024**

Investment Type	Acc/Deal	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date
<b>Cash Working Accounts</b>	<b>Ref.</b>				
NAB Working Account1	082-939 51	2,969,111.53	A1+/AA-	n/a	n/a
Tcorp Strategic Cash Facility	778	5,268,287.90	AAA	n/a	n/a
		<b>8,237,399.43</b>			
<b>Term Deposits &lt; 12 Months</b>					
AMP	CN069404	1,000,000.00	A2	03/01/24	03/07/24
Judo Bank	CN069780	1,000,000.00	XX	29/01/24	24/07/24
Judo Bank	CN069781	1,000,000.00	XX	24/01/24	07/08/24
NAB	10886903	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	26/08/24
Judo Bank	CN069782	1,000,000.00	XX	24/01/24	28/08/24
Great Southern Bank	CN067016	1,000,000.00	A2	04/09/23	04/09/24
My State Bank	CN068865	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/09/24
MyState Bank	CN067069	1,500,000.00	XX	06/09/23	05/09/24
NAB	10860338	1,200,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24
NAB	10860337	1,500,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24
Great Southern Bank	CN067017	1,000,000.00	A2	04/09/23	11/09/24
AMP	CN069038	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	11/09/24
Bank of Queensland	CN068866	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	11/09/24
NAB	10861610	1,000,000.00	A1+	13/09/23	12/09/24
Great Southern Bank	CN067018	1,000,000.00	A2	04/09/23	17/09/24
NAB	10862901	1,000,000.00	A1+	20/09/23	19/09/24
Bank of Queensland	CN068867	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	02/10/24
Bank of Queensland	CN068868	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	09/10/24
AMP	CN069039	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	06/11/24
NAB	10886904	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	25/11/24
MyState Bank	CN068869	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/12/24
MyState Bank	CN068870	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	11/12/24
		<b>24,200,000.00</b>			
<b>Total Short Term</b>		<b>32,437,399.43</b>			

**June 2024 Corrected Investment Report**

Investment Type	Acc/Deal	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date
<b>Cash Working Accounts</b>	<b>Ref.</b>				
NAB Working Account1	082-939 51	7,527,447.07	A1+/AA-	n/a	n/a
Tcorp Strategic Cash Facility	778	5,268,287.90	AAA	n/a	n/a
		<b>12,795,734.97</b>			
<b>Term Deposits &lt; 12 Months</b>					
AMP	CN069404	1,000,000.00	A2	03/01/24	03/07/24
Judo Bank	CN069780	1,000,000.00	XX	29/01/24	24/07/24
Judo Bank	CN069781	1,000,000.00	XX	24/01/24	07/08/24
NAB	10886903	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	26/08/24
Judo Bank	CN069782	1,000,000.00	XX	24/01/24	28/08/24
Great Southern Bank	CN067016	1,000,000.00	A2	04/09/23	04/09/24
My State Bank	CN068865	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/09/24
MyState Bank	CN067069	1,500,000.00	XX	06/09/23	05/09/24
NAB	10860338	1,200,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24
NAB	10860337	1,500,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24
Great Southern Bank	CN067017	1,000,000.00	A2	04/09/23	11/09/24
AMP	CN069038	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	11/09/24
Bank of Queensland	CN068866	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	11/09/24
NAB	10861610	1,000,000.00	A1+	13/09/23	12/09/24
Great Southern Bank	CN067018	1,000,000.00	A2	04/09/23	17/09/24
NAB	10862901	1,000,000.00	A1+	20/09/23	19/09/24
Bank of Queensland	CN068867	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	02/10/24
Bank of Queensland	CN068868	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	09/10/24
AMP	CN069039	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	06/11/24
NAB	10886904	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	25/11/24
MyState Bank	CN068869	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/12/24
MyState Bank	CN068870	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	11/12/24
		<b>24,200,000.00</b>			
<b>Total Short Term</b>		<b>36,995,734.97</b>			

**July 2024 Investments**

The details highlighted in yellow below have been amended as a result of a full review undertaken by staff in September 2024.



Investment report submitted July 2024

Investment Type	Acc/Deal Ref.	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date	Term (Days)	Rate
<b>Cash Working Accounts</b>							
NAB Working Account1	082-939 51	1,884,129.30	A1+/AA-	n/a	n/a	at call	
Tcorp Strategic Cash Facility	778	5,310,326.69	AAA	n/a	n/a	3 day call	
		<b>7,194,455.99</b>					
<b>Term Deposits &lt; 12 Months</b>							
Judo Bank	CN069780	1,000,000.00	XX	29/01/24	24/07/24	177	5.10%
Judo Bank	CN069781	1,000,000.00	XX	29/01/24	07/08/24	191	5.10%
NAB	10886903	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	26/08/24	182	5.10%
Judo Bank	CN069782	1,000,000.00	XX	29/01/24	28/08/24	212	5.10%
Great Southern Bank	CN067016	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/23	04/09/24	365	5.22%
My State Bank	CN068865	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/09/24	278	5.35%
MyState Bank	CN067069	1,500,000.00	XX	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.15%
NAB	10860338	1,200,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.20%
NAB	10860337	1,500,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.20%
Great Southern Bank	CN067017	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/24	11/09/24	6	5.22%
AMP	CN069038	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	11/09/24	275	5.30%
Bank of Queensland	CN068866	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	11/09/24	193	5.35%
NAB	10861610	1,000,000.00	A1+	13/09/23	12/09/24	365	5.20%
Great Southern Bank	CN067018	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/24	18/09/24	13	5.22%
NAB	10862901	1,000,000.00	A1+	20/09/23	19/09/24	365	5.25%
Bank of Queensland	CN068867	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	02/10/24	306	5.35%
Bank of Queensland	CN068868	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	09/10/24	313	5.35%
AMP	CN069039	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	06/11/24	331	5.30%
NAB	10886904	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	25/11/24	273	5.10%
MyState Bank	CN068869	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/12/24	369	5.40%
MyState Bank	CN068870	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	11/12/24	376	5.40%
My State Bank	CN076018	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	20/12/24	170	5.30%
NAB	10906670	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.45%
NAB	10906669	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	31/03/25	271	5.40%
AMP	CN076015	1,000,000.00	A2	03/07/24	03/01/25	184	5.05%
		<b>27,200,000.00</b>					
<b>Total Short Term</b>		<b>34,394,455.99</b>					

July 2024 Corrected Investment Report

Investment Type	Acc/Deal Ref.	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date	Term (Days)	Rate
<b>Cash Working Accounts</b>							
NAB Working Account1	082-939 51	1,884,129.30	A1+/AA-	n/a	n/a	at call	
Tcorp Strategic Cash Facility	778	5,310,326.69	AAA	n/a	n/a	3 day call	
		<b>7,194,455.99</b>					
<b>Term Deposits &lt; 12 Months</b>							
Judo Bank	CN069781	1,000,000.00	XX	29/01/24	07/08/24	191	5.10%
NAB	10886903	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	26/08/24	182	5.10%
Judo Bank	CN069782	1,000,000.00	XX	29/01/24	28/08/24	212	5.10%
Great Southern Bank	CN067016	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/23	04/09/24	365	5.22%
My State Bank	CN068865	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/09/24	278	5.35%
MyState Bank	CN067069	1,500,000.00	XX	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.15%
NAB	10860338	1,200,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.20%
NAB	10860337	1,500,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.20%
Great Southern Bank	CN067017	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/23	11/09/24	372	5.22%
AMP	CN069038	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	11/09/24	275	5.30%
Bank of Queensland	CN068866	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	11/09/24	193	5.35%
NAB	10861610	1,000,000.00	A1+	13/09/23	12/09/24	365	5.20%
Great Southern Bank	CN067018	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/23	18/09/24	379	5.22%
NAB	10862901	1,000,000.00	A1+	20/09/23	19/09/24	365	5.25%
Bank of Queensland	CN068867	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	02/10/24	306	5.35%
Bank of Queensland	CN068868	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	09/10/24	313	5.35%
AMP	CN069039	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	06/11/24	331	5.30%
NAB	10886904	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	25/11/24	273	5.10%
MyState Bank	CN068869	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/12/24	369	5.40%
MyState Bank	CN068870	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	11/12/24	376	5.40%
My State Bank	CN076018	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	20/12/24	170	5.30%
NAB	10906670	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.45%
NAB	10906669	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	31/03/25	271	5.40%
AMP	CN076015	1,000,000.00	A2	03/07/24	03/01/25	184	5.05%
Judo Bank	CN076032	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.40%
		<b>27,200,000.00</b>					
<b>Total Short Term</b>		<b>34,394,455.99</b>					

**August 2024 Investments**

There were no amendments in the August 2024 Investments Report

Investment Type	Acc/Deal	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date	Term (Days)	Rate
<b>Cash Working Accounts</b>	<b>Ref.</b>						
NAB Working Account1	082-939 51	8,671,231.68	A1+/AA-	n/a	n/a	at call	
Tcorp Strategic Cash Facility	778	5,332,428.33	AAA	n/a	n/a	3 day call	
		<b>14,003,660.01</b>					
<b>Term Deposits &lt; 12 Months</b>							
Great Southern Bank	CN067016	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/23	04/09/24	365	5.22%
My State Bank	CN068865	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/09/24	278	5.35%
MyState Bank	CN067069	1,500,000.00	XX	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.15%
NAB	10860338	1,200,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.20%
NAB	10860337	1,500,000.00	A1+	06/09/23	05/09/24	365	5.20%
Great Southern Bank	CN067017	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/23	11/09/24	372	5.22%
AMP	CN069038	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	11/09/24	275	5.30%
Bank of Queensland	CN068866	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	11/09/24	193	5.35%
NAB	10861610	1,000,000.00	A1+	13/09/23	12/09/24	365	5.20%
Great Southern Bank	CN067018	1,000,000.00	A2	05/09/23	18/09/24	379	5.22%
NAB	10862901	1,000,000.00	A1+	20/09/23	19/09/24	365	5.25%
Bank of Queensland	CN068867	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	02/10/24	306	5.35%
Bank of Queensland	CN068868	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	09/10/24	313	5.35%
AMP	CN069039	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	06/11/24	331	5.30%
NAB	10886904	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	25/11/24	273	5.10%
NAB	10916368	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/08/24	25/11/24	91	4.95%
NAB	10916956	1,000,000.00	A1+	28/08/24	26/11/24	90	4.95%
MyState Bank	CN068869	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/12/24	369	5.40%
MyState Bank	CN068870	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	11/12/24	376	5.40%
My State Bank	CN076018	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	20/12/24	170	5.30%
NAB	10916957	1,000,000.00	A1+	28/08/24	02/01/25	127	4.95%
AMP	CN076015	1,000,000.00	A2	03/07/24	03/01/25	184	5.05%
NAB	10906669	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	31/03/25	271	5.40%
NAB	10906670	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.45%
Judo Bank	CN076032	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.40%
Judo Bank	CN078927	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	28/11/24	90	5.00%
Judo Bank	CN078928	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	26/02/25	180	5.10%
Bendigo	CN078927	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	29/01/25	152	4.78%
		<b>30,200,000.00</b>					
<b>Total Short Term</b>		<b>44,203,660.01</b>					

**September 2024 Investments**

There were no amendments in the September 2024 Investments Report

Investment Type	Acc/Deal	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date	Term (Days)	Rate
<b>Cash Working Accounts</b>							
	Ref.						
NAB Working Account1	082-939 51	11,206,496.88	A1+/AA-	n/a	n/a	at call	
Tcorp Strategic Cash Facility	778	5,357,682.15	AAA	n/a	n/a	3 day call	
		<b>16,564,179.03</b>					
<b>Term Deposits &lt; 12 Months</b>							
Investment Type	Acc/Deal	Market Value \$	Credit rating	Date Lodged	Maturity date	Term (Days)	Rate
Bank of Queensland	CN068867	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	02/10/24	306	5.35%
Bank of Queensland	CN068868	1,000,000.00	A2	01/12/23	09/10/24	313	5.35%
MyState Bank	CN068869	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	04/12/24	369	5.40%
MyState Bank	CN068870	1,000,000.00	XX	01/12/23	11/12/24	376	5.40%
AMP	CN069039	1,500,000.00	A2	11/12/23	06/11/24	331	5.30%
NAB	10886904	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/02/24	25/11/24	273	5.10%
My State Bank	CN076018	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	20/12/24	170	5.30%
AMP	CN076015	1,000,000.00	A2	03/07/24	03/01/25	184	5.05%
NAB	10906669	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	31/03/25	271	5.40%
NAB	10906670	1,000,000.00	A1+	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.45%
Judo Bank	CN076032	1,000,000.00	XX	03/07/24	03/07/25	365	5.10%
NAB	10916368	1,000,000.00	A1+	26/08/24	25/11/24	91	4.95%
NAB	10916956	1,000,000.00	A1+	28/08/24	26/11/24	90	4.95%
NAB	10916957	1,000,000.00	A1+	28/08/24	02/01/25	127	4.95%
Judo Bank	CN078927	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	28/11/24	90	5.00%
Bendigo	CN078929	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	29/01/25	152	4.78%
Judo Bank	CN078928	1,000,000.00	XX	30/08/24	26/02/25	180	5.10%
Great Southern Bank	CN079004	1,000,000.00	A2	04/09/24	05/03/25	182	5.04%
My State Bank	CN079005	1,000,000.00	XX	04/09/24	04/09/25	365	4.95%
NAB	10919397	1,500,000.00	A1+	05/09/24	03/02/25	151	5.00%
NAB	10919400	1,200,000.00	A1+	05/09/24	04/03/25	180	5.20%
MyState Bank	CN079048	1,500,000.00	XX	05/09/24	06/03/25	182	4.95%
Great Southern Bank	CN079199	1,000,000.00	A2	11/09/24	11/03/25	181	4.90%
Bank of Queensland	CN079198	1,000,000.00	A2	11/09/24	11/03/25	193	4.90%
AMP	CN079200	1,500,000.00	A2	11/09/24	09/04/25	210	5.30%
NAB	10920644	1,000,000.00	A1+	12/09/24	11/12/24	90	4.95%
Great Southern Bank	CN079336	1,000,000.00	A2	18/09/24	17/02/25	152	5.00%
NAB	10923110	1,000,000.00	A1+	19/09/24	17/02/25	151	5.00%
		<b>30,200,000.00</b>					
<b>Total Short Term</b>		<b>46,764,179.03</b>					

In accordance with the relevant legislative requirements, all investments have historically been approved by the Director Corporate & Community in the absence of a Chief Financial Officer. Payments are subsequently authorised by two members of the Executive Management Team in alignment with our established payment processes.

For Crago Mill payments, the draw downs have been authorised by the Director Corporate & Community, with the second approval provided by the Director Planning & Environment. The CEO and the Director Infrastructure & Assets have not been involved in this aspect of the process due to their direct involvement in the project.

Following the departure of the Director Corporate & Community, we are actively working toward a suitable solution to ensure continuity and compliance with these processes.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

CSP Theme

Our Civic Leadership

CSP Strategy Objective	CL2: Council is a financially sustainable organisation that can meet community needs
Strategies	CL2.1 - Manage resources in a responsible manner that supports the ongoing viability of Council
Delivery Program Action	Actively manage investments

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

## 6.8 AUDITED 2023/24 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### SUMMARY

The Audit Office report on the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been received. Council is now required to adopt the annual financial statements and place the audited statements on public exhibition.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the audited 2023/24 Annual Financial Statements be adopted.*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial results determine Council's ability to provide goods, services, and facilities, and to carry out activities appropriate to the current and future needs of the local community.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- Australian Accounting Standards and Professional Pronouncements
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

### REPORT

The audit office has signed off the EY audit of the 2023/24FY Annual Financial Statements (refer **Attachment A**). The audited 2023/24 Annual Financial Statements were submitted to the OLG within the deadline.

After the presentation of the draft 2024 Financial Statements to the August 2024 Council Meeting, several adjustments recommended by the auditor have been made within the statements. The amendments to the draft 2024 general purpose financial statements referred to audit are summarised below.

#### 1. Amendments to General Purpose Income Statement

As the result of the audit, total operating income increased by \$9,636k and total operating expenses increased by \$546k respective, giving the net operating result for the year an increase by \$9,090k from the original \$9,591k reported in August is revised to \$18,681k.

<b>Continuing Operations (\$'000)</b>	<b>August 2024</b>	<b>Change +/-</b>	<b>November 2024</b>
Total Operating Income	53,493	9,636	63,129
Total Operating Expenses	43,902	546	44,448
<b>Net Operating Result for the Year</b>	<b>9,591</b>	<b>9,090</b>	<b>18,681</b>
Net Operating Result before Capital Income	(5,523)	1,054	(4,469)

The major changes of the revised result include the following items, which are reported in the audited Financial Statements:

- Total operating income increase of \$9,636k is mainly attributable to a \$9,503k increased in Note B2-4 non-cash contributions from the subdivision dedications of the infrastructure gifted assets due to the finalisation of the dedication fair values from Engineering completed after the August Council Meeting.

- Total operating expense increase of \$546k mainly attributable to:
  - \$1,684k decrease in Note B3-2 Materials and Services and transferred to Note C1-7 IPPE, as work in progress due to the amount related to the capital expenditure projects.
  - \$143k increase in Note B3-3 Depreciation Expense and \$834k increase in Note B4-1 Net Loss from Asset Disposals, after finalised the IPPE asset classes capitalisation according to the fixed asset register.
  - \$271k increase in Note B3-5 Other Expenses for the receivable’s impairment of water supply user charges.
  - \$1,027k increase in Note B3-5 Other Expenses, for the additional landfill assets (tips and quarries) remediation provision as recommended by the auditor.

## 2. Amendments to General Purpose Financial Position

As a result of the audit, total net assets increased by \$7,548k from the original \$603,063k reported to Council in August 2024, revised to \$610,611k which is summarised in the table below.

Financial Position (\$'000)	August 2024	Change +/-	November 2024
Current Assets	50,791	(6,993)	43,798
Current Liabilities	(18,127)	3,051	(15,076)
Net Working Capital	32,664	(3,942)	28,722
Non-current Assets	585,362	11,518	596,880
Non-current Liabilities	(14,963)	(28)	(14,991)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>603,063</b>	<b>7,548</b>	<b>610,611</b>

The major changes of the revised financial position include the following items, which are reported in the audited Financial Statements:

- Total current assets decrease of \$6,993k mainly attributable to:
  - \$4,000k decreased in Note C1-2 Current Investments and classified to C1-2 Non-current Investments due to the term deposits with an initial term more than 12 months.
  - \$2,995k decrease in Note C1-4 Receivables, mainly attributable to the update of a \$1,125k s64 water and sewerage developer contributions deferred to FY2025, a receipt of \$1,426k grant receivables carried forward from FY2023, a \$161k settlement for the council rates and water usage of Council own properties, and an increase of \$271k in the doubtful debt provision for the long outstanding water supply user charges.
  - \$386k net reduction to Note C1-6 Contract Assets due to the recovery of grant funded project works performed during FY2023 to FY2024 in compliance with AASB 15 and AASB1058.
  - \$380k increased in Note C1-9 Other Assets due to the adjustment of the prepaid insurance expense for FY2024/25 from Note B3-2.
- Total current liabilities decreased by \$3,051k mainly attributable to \$3,233k reduction in Note C3-2 Contract Liabilities resulting from the recognition of unspent grants in relation to FY2023 after the completion of performance obligation in compliance with AASB 15 and AASB1058.
- Total non-current assets increase of \$11,518k mainly attributable to:
  - \$4,000k increase in Note C1-2 non-current Investments classified from Note 1-2 current investments due to the term deposits with an initial term more than 12 months,
  - \$9,503k of the gifted assets recognised from the subdivision dedications to Note C1-7 IPPE as at the reporting date,

- \$143k increased in Note C1-7 IPPE accumulated depreciation to Note B3-3 Depreciation Expense,
- \$834k increased in Note C1-7 IPPE disposals due to the asset renewals and written off to Note B4-1 Net Loss from Asset Disposals after finalised the IPPE asset classes capitalisation update to the fixed asset register, and
- Council engaged the external valuer to perform the revaluation of the landfill assets (tips and quarries) rehabilitation provision and the underlying assets for the year and resulted a total amount of \$2,569k from previous provision of \$1,542k, given an additional provision of \$1,027k. The \$2,569k underlying assets of the landfill rehabilitation provision was initially recorded to Note C1-7 IPPE in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting 2023/24 Appendix F in the draft financial statements reported to Council in August. However, \$2,569k is reversed from Note C1-7 IPPE, that \$1,027k is revised to Note B3-5 Other Expenses and \$1,542k is revised to C4 IPPE Asset Revaluation Reserve as recommended by the auditor.

### 3. Summary of the audited Financial Statements

The Auditor-General NSW has expressed an unqualified opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report (page 60) of the audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

A representative from Council's external auditor, EY, will provide a presentation at the November 2024 Council meeting, and will be available to answer questions from Councillors.

A summary of the audited Annual Financial Statements is provided below:

	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
<b><i>Income Statement</i></b>		
Total income from continuing operations	63,129	55,151
Total expenses from continuing operation	44,448	40,885
<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>18,681</b>	14,266
<b>Net operating result for the year</b>	<b>18,681</b>	14,266
<b>Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>(4,469)</b>	(3,418)
<b><i>Statement of Financial Position</i></b>		
Total current assets	43,798	47,659
Total current liabilities	(15,076)	(15,885)
Total non-current assets	596,880	544,896
Total non-current liabilities	(15,076)	(13,809)
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>610,611</b>	562,861
<b><i>Other Financial Information</i></b>		
Unrestricted current ratio (times)	2.78	2.52
Operating performance ratio (%)	-7.12%	-2.72%
Debt service cover ratio (times)	4.75	5.45
Rates and annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	10.19%	9.27%
Infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	85.27%	230.76%
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	49.45%	49.84%
Cash expenses cover ratio (months)	12.58	11.78

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL2: Council is a financially sustainable organisation that can meet community needs
Strategies	CL2.1 - Manage resources in a responsible manner that supports the ongoing viability of Council
Delivery Program Action	Abide by Accounting Standards and Office of Local Government accounts regulations

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Audited 2023/24 Annual Financial Statements [⇒](#)



## 6.9 2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT

### SUMMARY

This report is to present the Council the 2023/24 Annual Report.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the 2023/24 Annual Report be noted.*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*

### REPORT

Under s428 *Local Government Act 1993* Council is required to prepare an Annual Report each year, reporting on its achievements during the previous financial year. This is reported against objectives and performance targets set out in the *Tablelands Regional Community Strategic Plan 2016-2036*, together with any other information required by clause 217 *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* or the integrated planning and reporting guidelines provided by the Office of Local Government.

Specifically, Council must report on its achievements in implementing its Delivery Program and Operational Plan, and the effectiveness of its principal activities in achieving the Program's objectives.

The 2023/24 Annual Report is included as **Attachment A, B and C**. Comprehensive comment is provided on all key initiatives and recurrent program/projects in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, together with key performance indicator data.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL1: Council is an effective, responsible and innovate organisation
Strategies	CL1.4 - Governance provides a sound basis for decision making
Delivery Program Action	Decisions made in accordance with Local Government Act and Regulations

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Audited Financial Statements FY2024 [⇒](#)
  - B. Disability Inclusion Action Plan [⇒](#)
  - C. 2023/2024 Annual Report [⇒](#)

## 6.10 WHS UPDATE

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### SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the WHS Incident that occurred on 27 September 2024.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the WHS Update report be noted*

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### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$11,000 for Gap Analysis Report

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- SafeWork NSW Improvement Notice

### REPORT

Following an incident at the Yass Waste Transfer Station, SafeWork NSW issued an Improvement Notice (refer **Attachment A**) in relation to psychosocial hazards in the workplace.

In response to the notice the following actions have been taken:

- Gap Analysis completed (refer **Attachment B**)
- Quotation being sought for implementing the findings of the Gap Analysis (this will not be completed prior to the 13 December 2024)
- Training for Managers across the organisation scheduled for 12 December 2024.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL1: Council is an effective, responsible and innovate organisation
Strategies	CL1.4 - Governance provides a sound basis for decision making
Delivery Program Action	Decisions made in accordance with Local Government Act and Regulations

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Improvement Notice [⇒](#)
  - B. Gap Analysis Report [⇒](#)

## 6.11 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

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### SUMMARY

With a new term of Council, staff are reviewing all policies. The Office of Local Government have developed a *Model Social Media Policy*. A revised *Social Media Policy* has been prepared in accordance with the Model Policy.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the draft Social Media Policy based on the Office of Local Government Model Social Media Policy 2022 be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days and if no substantial submissions are received the policy be adopted.*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Office of Local Government Model Social Media Policy 2022*

### REPORT

The Office of Local Government (OLG) finalised the *Model Social Media Policy* in 2022. While not mandatory, the policy reflects best practice, and all Councils are encouraged to adopt it. The Model Policy provides for two options i.e.

- General Manager Option
- Social Media Coordinator Model

The Social Media Coordinator Model is closest to the Council current policy (refer **Attachment A**). The OLG Model Policy has been amended based on the Social Media Coordinator Model and reflects the Council's staffing and financial resources (refer **Attachment B**). The changes have highlighted in the document.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL1: Council is an effective, responsible and innovative organisation
Strategies	CL1.4 - Governance provides a sound basis for decision making
Delivery Program Action	Decisions made in accordance with Local Government Act and Regulations

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Current Social Media Policy [⇒](#)
  - B. Revised Social Media Policy [⇒](#)

## 6.12 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REVIEW

### SUMMARY

The *Risk Management Framework* and *Risk Management Policy* have been reviewed for the Council to adopt.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period not less than 28 days and if no substantial submissions are received the policy be adopt*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Risk management is included in the current operational plan.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Office of Local Government: IP&R Guidelines
- International Standard ISO31000:2018

### REPORT

The *Risk Management Framework* (RMF) demonstrates risk management as an integral part of how business is conducted, including:

- Interrelationship with the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework for Councils.
- Relationships between corporate risk management and work, health, and safety (WHS)
- Internal arrangements and planning processes for projects, programs, procurement, contract management, events, and other business processes.
- Business continuity planning.
- Types and levels of insurance purchased.

There is only one change to the RMF being page 22 (refer **Attachment A**). The text removed relating to Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee, Risk Management, and Control Framework are procedures and not relevant for inclusion in the RMF.

Key to the RMF is Council's *Risk Management Policy* (refer **Attachment B**) The policy confirms Council's commitment to an integrated approach to risk management and outlines the risk principles to be embedded across Council.

This policy has been reviewed by the Director Corporate & Community and endorsed by the EMT. The only changes to the Risk Management Policy are title changes as it remains relevant.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL1: Council is an effective, responsible and innovate organisation
Strategies	CL1.4 - Governance provides a sound basis for decision making
Delivery Program Action	Decisions made in accordance with Local Government Act and Regulations

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Reviewed Risk Management Framework 2024-2028 [⇒](#)
  - B. Risk Management Policy Review [⇒](#)

## 6.13 DRAFT PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES POLICY

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### SUMMARY

There is a new public interest disclosure legislation in NSW which completely replaces the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*. This Policy incorporates the key components of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the new Public Interest Disclosures Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period not less than 28 days and if no substantial submissions are received the policy be adopt.*

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### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*

### REPORT

Below are the items that are included in the new Public Interest Disclosures (PID) Policy:

- The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2022 (PID Act 2022)* provides multiple pathways for public officials to report serious wrongdoing. This includes reporting to a disclosure officer, their manager, and other agencies able to accept public interest disclosures.
- Protections for whistleblowers are enhanced. The threshold for what is considered “*detrimental action against the person making a public interest disclosure*” has been lowered, and the penalties associated with detrimental action have been increased when compared to the 1994 Act.
- The *PID Act 2022* provides greater clarity with respect to what agencies are expected to do when they receive a public interest disclosure and how they must deal with the report once it is identified as a PID. This includes an obligation to communicate with the PID maker and, in some instances, with the Integrity agencies.
- Obligations are imposed upon agencies to ensure they have systems in place to manage confidentiality and to support a PID maker. Agencies are also required to assess the risk of detrimental action and implement risk mitigation strategies.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL1: Council is an effective, responsible and innovate organisation
Strategies	CL1.1 - Council practices and processes are undertaken in a safe and efficient manner that meets legislative requirements
Delivery Program Action	Review of Enforcement Policy and Compliance Framework

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Draft Public Interest Disclosure Policy [⇒](#)

## 6.14 COMMUNITY HALLS, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS & RATES

### SUMMARY

To provide an update in relation to rating of community halls and not-for-profit organisations run by volunteers.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That:*

1. *The charitable status of halls owned and operated by community associations be noted*
2. *No retrospective donations to community halls be granted*
3. *Any donations for not-for-profit organisations run by volunteers and who own property be considered under the current Financial Assistance, Grants & Donations Policy subject to being supported by a financial statement detailing income and expenditure.*

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Donations to not-for-profit community organisations run by volunteers that own their own property will be part of the *Financial Assistance, Grants & Donations Policy* reducing the amount available for other community group projects.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Financial Assistance, Grants & Donations Policy*

### REPORT

In July 2024 Council resolved that:

1. *Community Halls*
  - *A report be prepared for Council to consider an appropriate method to offer a donation back to Community Hall Associations should any not obtain charity status which is rate exempt.*
  - *All Community Hall Associations that register with Council their charity status within the 2024 calendar year be considered exempt of rates from July 2024.*
2. *Not-for-profit & Community Groups*
  - *A report be prepared for Council to consider an appropriate method to offer a donation back of a percentage of the General Rates charged to volunteer run not-for-profit groups that provide community benefit.*
3. *Bowning Hall*
  - *A 12 month retrospective donation of 50% of the 2023-24 rates bill be given back to Bowning Hall considering their difficulty in paying rates due to the ongoing excessive value given by the Value General.*

### Community Halls

Community owned and operated halls that have pursued charitable status include Gundaroo Hall, Gundaroo Literary Institute and Bowning Hall. All have received charitable status and have been reclassified as non-rateable properties in accordance with s555 *Local Government Act 1993*. There is no need to consider a donation to Community Halls with charity status as they are exempt from rates.

Bookham Hall are pursuing charitable status. Binalong Hall has achieved charitable status and are in the process of changing their status with Council. If they register their charitable status with Council during the 2024 calendar year, they will be exempt from paying rates from the 1 July 2024.

### **Bowning Hall**

Bowning Hall received 50% of the 2023/24 rates paid (paid prior to receiving charitable status) as per the July 2024 resolution of Council. They are now exempt from rates due to their charity status.

### **Not-for-Profit Community Groups**

Not-for-profit, community groups run by volunteers and who own property that do not qualify for charitable status are subject to paying business rates.

Under Council's *Financial Assistance, Grants and Donations Policy* community grants may include a financial donation towards rates or Council charges. However, the last review of the policy moved the focus away from donations for rates and charges for not-for-profit community groups that own their own property.

Since the change of focus, the financial assistant grants have been oversubscribed meaning some community groups either received a reduced contribution toward their projects or received no contribution at all. Adding donations for rates to not-for-profit community organisations run by volunteers that own their own property will further reduce the available funds for community group projects.

### **STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL2: Council is a financially sustainable organisation that can meet community needs
Strategies	CL2.2 - Seek out and pursue income generating opportunities
Delivery Program Action	Ensure rating is calculated and include as subdivisions are put on line

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

## 6.15 COUNCIL SURPLUS LAND

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### SUMMARY

To provide an update on Council owned land identified as surplus to needs and investment lands.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the following properties be placed on the market once the outstanding :*

1. *The former saleyards be placed on the market once the remediation has been completed and land set aside for existing and future water infrastructure*
2. *The Goodradigbee Centre be placed on the market once the staff have been relocated to the Crago Mill Precinct*
3. *Discovery Drive be placed on the market once the Development Application has been approved.*
4. *A Councillor Workshop be held in relation to options for 'Hawthorn'*

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### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Land sales can assist with improving Council's financial position.

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Property Acquisition & Disposal Policy

### REPORT

In November 2020 Council considered a report on its land assets to determine those properties that no longer meet Council's operational and strategic land needs, or which require additional work to be undertaken to allow the land to be re-developed, leased or sold (refer **Attachment A**).

The key sites considered as a priority for disposal are as follows:

1. ***Former Yass Saleyards, Yass Valley Way, Yass***

Remediation of the site has been budgeted for in FY2024/25. Once remediation has been completed then expressions of interest can be sought for the purchase of the site. A subdivision of the site will be necessary to accommodate existing and future water infrastructure.

2. ***67 Rossi St, Yass - (Goodradigbee Centre)***

The Goodradigbee Centre currently accommodates staff displaced by the demolition of the 'Nesbitt Building' (former service station) for the Crago Mill Precinct Development.

Staff are expected to vacate the building following the completion of the new Council offices in mid-late 2025, which allows the centre to be placed on the market.

3. ***Stage 3 Discovery Drive, Yass***

Staff are currently working on preparing a DA modification for this site. Once the DA modification is completed then the site can be placed on the market for sale.

4. ***'Hawthorn', Barton Highway, Murrumbateman***

'Hawthorn' was purchased following the sale of Council land to Woolworths. The purpose of the purchase was to provide Council with a future income for the development of the Crago Mill Precinct. Proceeds from any sale of the property can be directed to offsetting the expenditure with the current Crago Mill Precinct Development.

The strategy for 'Hawthorn' has been to reduce the risk for potential developers by:

- Undertaking constraints mapping to identify suitable areas for future development



- Prepare a Master Plan for the property
- Rezone the site based on the Master Plan work and including an arrangement for satisfactory arrangements for infrastructure
- Completing the biocertification for rezoning and resolving the current water supply constraints

In undertaking this work the landowner roles and regulatory roles of Council have been separated in accordance with a probity plan.

An option canvassed with DPHI for a Stage 1 rezoning of North Murrumbateman (including 'Hawthorn') based on available water supply (i.e. 600ETs) has not been supported by the Department despite the regional housing issues.

Taking into account the current challenges (e.g. recruiting skilled staff) in progressing the North Murrumbateman Plan the following options could be considered.

- Option 1 – seek expressions of interest for the sale of the property
- Option 2 – complete work for rezoning
- Option 3 – continue to hold land as an investment
- Option 4 – investigate the options for a joint venture

#### **Option 1**

Involves seeking an EoI for the purchase of the property from Council in its current condition with the currently available water entitlements (ie 600ETs) and the current constraints studies.

Council would not be bound to accept any EoI.

Any EoI for the purchase of the property should be based on:

- Value for money
- Best planning outcomes for the community
- Acknowledgement that Council is part of ongoing discussions on cross border water supply from the ACT

To ensure the achievements of Council's development expectations for the property, Council could withhold access to the available water supply pending:

- Preparation of a master plan (for approval by Council) based on consultation with the Murrumbateman community and State agencies
- Preparation of a Planning Proposal for rezoning the site with a satisfactory arrangements clause for service infrastructure

#### **Option 2**

Involves the progressing the master plan and rezoning the property (subject to satisfactory arrangements for servicing) prior to placing all or parts of the property on the market. This approach will add value by minimising the risks for any purchasers for all or part of the property.

This approach has been the focus of planning staff for some time but the loss of strategic planning staff and difficulties recruiting new staff has contributed to the delay in progress.

The challenge of securing skilled resources within the current budget continues to delay the project and in the current employment market has to be considered as a medium-term solution at best.

#### **Option 3**

Involves continuing to hold the property as a longer-term investment. This means that the current planning be placed on hold and any current resources directed to other Council priorities (i.e. budget savings).

The land will continue to appreciate in value. Resources for the completion of master planning and rezoning can be reconsidered in the future once Council is in an improved financial position.

**Option 4**

A joint venture between Council and a developer is likely to maximise the returns to Council. This will involve investigation into the requirements under the *Local Government Act 1993* and any guidelines for entering into a joint venture. This option would allow Council to maximise the returns on the investment whilst not needing to outlay large amounts of Council staff resources or upfront funding. The joint venture would look to engage with a suitably experienced developer to undertake the master planning, rezoning of the property and construction of the development. Council would retain a share in the added value to the property as well as be involved in the master planning decision process.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL2: Council is a financially sustainable organisation that can meet community needs
Strategies	CL2.1 - Manage resources in a responsible manner that supports the ongoing viability of Council
Delivery Program Action	Actively manage investments

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Council Surplus Land [⇒](#)

**6.16 COMMITTEE REVIEW**

**SUMMARY**

To present a discussion paper on Council committees for consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That the Guidelines for Advisory Committees and Committees of Council be reviewed to:*

- *Focus on project committees (eg Crago Mill Precinct, Yass Pool Redevelopment)*
- *Provided for annual user groups/focus group meetings (i.e. Murrumbateman Recreations Grounds, Public Art, Memorial Hall)*
- *Retain Youth Council and Aboriginal Consultative Committee*

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Streamlining the number and form of Committees will reduce the level of staff resource needed to provide support.

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Guidelines for Advisory Committees and Committees of Council (May 2022) (refer **Attachment A**)

**REPORT**

Council has adopted the following framework for Committees and grouped them into one of three categories i.e.

- Committees of Council
- Committees (including Advisory Committees, Focus Groups, Project Steering Committees)
- External Committees

Staff support at the meetings, preparation of agendas and minutes and with follow up actions has a considerable impact on staff time and their priority works. If we continue with the current format of Committees, I am unable to guarantee staff support for meetings, staff reports and staff responding to the information requests and/or issues not aligned with operational activities.

Having regard to Council’s financial position and the need for a more sustainable financial future, staff are reviewing their business activities into the following categories:

- Mandatory
- Like to do
- Need to park

This work will form the basis of the upcoming 2025/26 budget. Council needs to take a similar approach to Committees i.e.

<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>Like to have</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARIC</li> <li>• CEO Performance Review</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Community Enhancement Grants (VPAs)</li> <li>• External Committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory Committees</li> <li>• Focus Groups</li> <li>• Project Committees</li> </ul>

The role of elected Councillors (s232 *LG Act 1993*) includes:

- (d) to represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community
- (e) to facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body

This enables Councillors to engage with communities on issues how they consider fit and without the formality of advisory committees. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are currently organising weekly drop-in sessions and other Councillors organise their own community meetings. Councillors and staff also regularly attend community associations meetings.

It is suggested that committees be streamlined as follows:

- Focus on project committees (i.e. Crago Mill Precinct, Yass Valley Disability Inclusion Action Plan)
- Provided for annual user groups/focus group meetings (i.e. Murrumbateman Recreations Grounds, Public Art, Memorial Hall)
- Retain Youth Council and Aboriginal Consultative Committee

Streamlining the ‘like to have’ committees will provide savings with staff resourcing which is not specifically provided for within the budget.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Civic Leadership
CSP Strategy Objective	CL3: Our community is informed and engaged in decision making
Strategies	CL3.4 - We value the voice of our community, and their input informs our decisions
Delivery Program Action	Increased promotion of community input when items are put out for public comment and submissions

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Guidelines for Advisory Committees and Committees of Council (May 2022) [⇒](#)

**6.17 TENDER EVALUATION REPORT - NATURAL DISASTER (FLOOD) RECOVERY WORKS – PACKAGE 2 YVC.IA.28.2024.**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides advice and recommendations on the submissions received for the Natural Disaster (Flood) Recovery Works – Package 2 YVC.IA.28.2024 tender.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That this item be classified CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with Section 10A(2)(di) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.*

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

These works have been included in the adopted 2024/25 Operational Plan and are fully funded under the Natural Disaster Relief Assistance (NDRA) Program and requires no contribution from Council.

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

- Local Government Act 1993

**REPORT**

**1. Background**

Council manages an extensive road network of over 1,200km throughout the Local Government Area (LGA), including numerous bridges and causeways.

In November 2022 a significant rainfall event led to widespread flooding and subsequent damage to Councils Road network. Council has received funding under the NSW Government Natural Disaster Relief Assistance (NDRA) Program to reinstate damaged areas to their pre-existing condition.

Engineering Services is responsible for delivering 13 natural disaster projects in 2024/25.

These projects are being undertaken in 3 separate procurement packages.

Package 1 has been completed. Package 3 is currently being developed.

This tender forms Package 2 and includes the following projects:

- Cavan Road Segment 10 – culvert damage
- Cavan Road Segment 8 chainage 7.75– scouring
- Cavan Road Segment 8 chainage 7.25 – scouring
- Dick Creek Road Segment 2 – batter damage
- Henderson Lane Segment 1 - road bridge abutment damage
- Illalong Road Segment 5 - road bridge abutment damage
- McCarthy Road Segment 2 - landslide

**2. Tender**

Tenders were called on 14 October 2024 and closed on 11 November 2024. Two conforming tenders were received from the following organisations:

Organisation	Address
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Denrith Pty Ltd T/A Divalls Earthworks & Bulk Haulage	17090 Hume Highway, Goulburn NSW 2580
Lentro Earthworks Pty Ltd	342 Wallaroo Road NSW 2618

A report on the tender evaluation is included in the Closed Session of this meeting for consideration.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

CSP Theme	Our Infrastructure
CSP Strategy Objective	IN1: We have transport links that connect towns within the region and increase access to significant centres
Strategies	IN1.3 - Renew, upgrade and create new road assets to meet community needs
Delivery Program Action	Sealed road upgrade program (grant funding only)

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

**6.18 YASS POOL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT COMMITTEE - NOMINATION**

**SUMMARY**

To consider nominations for the vacated community position on the Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That this item is classified CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance contrary to the public interest.*

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Provision has been made in the 2024/25 Operational Plan for the engagement of a consultant to undertake any relative reports/assessments for development of the Yass Pool.

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

- Local Government Act 1993
- Committee Framework and Guidelines (February 2024).

**REPORT**

**1. Background**

At its meeting on 24 October 2024 Council resolved that the following community member (non-member of the Yass Swim Club) nominations be accepted onto the Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee:

- Bec Duncan
- Sarah Watson
- Laurie Columb

Council has received the resignation of Bec Duncan from the Committee which has left one community member (non-member of the Yass Swim Club) position vacant.

**2. Nominations**

Twelve nominations were received for the community members positions. A report on the nominations is included in the Closed Session of this meeting for consideration.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

CSP Theme	Our Infrastructure
CSP Strategy Objective	IN3: Our existing community infrastructure is maintained, and we plan for and support the development of infrastructure that meets community need
Strategies	IN3.5 - Management of community infrastructure is supported by strong relationships between Council and community groups
Delivery Program Action	Establishment and coordination of community infrastructure user groups to identify community uses and Council support requirements

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

## 9.1 MINUTES OF THE RESCUE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2024

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### REPORT

The minutes of the Rescue and Local Emergency Management Committee meetings held on 8 August 2024 are included in **Attachments A and B**.

From these minutes there are no items which covers a matter that:

- Requires expenditure not provided for in the current Operational Plan
- Involves a variation to a Council policy
- Is contrary to a previous decision or position of Council
- Relates to a matter which requires Council to form a view or adopt a position
- Deals with a matter of specific interest

Accordingly, the minutes are presented for information.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the minutes of the Rescue and Local Emergency Management Committee meetings held on 8 August 2024 be noted.*

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Rescue Committee Meeting Minutes 8 August 2024 [⇒](#)
  - B. LEMC Meeting Minutes 8 August 2024 [⇒](#)



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## 9.2 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2024

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### REPORT

The minutes of the Local Traffic Committee meeting held on 8 November 2024 are included in **Attachment A**.

From these minutes there are two items which covers a matter that:

- Requires expenditure not provided for in the current Operational Plan
- Involves a variation to a Council policy
- Is contrary to a previous decision or position of Council
- Relates to a matter which requires Council to form a view or adopt a position
- Deals with a matter of specific interest

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the minutes of the Local Traffic Committee meeting held on 8 November 2024 be noted and adopt the following recommendations:*

#### ***Item 9.1 Vehicle Load Limit Fairley Estate, Murrumbateman***

*That:*

- *The Committee does not support the implementation of vehicle load limits in Fairley Estate.*
- *Council work with the Abode Motel to encourage any heavy vehicle guests to minimise noise when arriving/leaving the area.*
- *Council consider installation of signs in the Fairley Estate area to encourage heavy vehicle drivers to minimise noise generation.*
- *Council and TfNSW continue to consider alter parking arrangements for heavy vehicles in the Murrumbateman village area*

#### ***Item 9.2 Safety Concerns with Parking at Intersection Laidlaw Street with Grampian and Mount Streets, Yass***

*That:*

- *Council install no parking signs and line marking pavement hatching on Laidlaw Street at the intersections with Grampian and Mounts Street as shown in the report.*
- *Undertake roadside vegetation clearance to improve intersection site distances*

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Local Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes 8 November 2024