

Ordinary Council Meeting

Business Paper

Pursuant to section 9 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Council Meeting of Parkes Shire Council will be held in the Parkes Council Chamber, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes, on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 3:00 PM.



Kent Boyd PSM
GENERAL MANAGER

Governing Body

Composition:	Ten (10) Councillors
Membership:	Councillor WP Jayet, Councillor KM McGrath, Councillor LA O'Leary, Councillor J Paddison, Councillor DJA Pout, Councillor GW Pratt, Councillor MK Scherer, Councillor GS Wilson
Quorum:	6 Councillors
Chairperson:	Chairperson, Councillor NC Westcott
Deputy Chairperson:	Deputy Chair, Councillor MA Applebee

Pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the role of Parkes Shire Council's governing body is:

- To direct and control the affairs of Parkes Shire Council in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, in consultation with the General Manager.
- To provide effective civic leadership to the local community.
- To ensure as far as practicable the financial sustainability of the Council.
- To ensure as far as practicable that the Council acts in accordance with the principles set out in Chapter 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and other strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the Council.
- To determine and adopt a rating and revenue policy and Operational Plans that support the optimal allocation of the Council's resources to implement the strategic plans (including the Community Strategic Plan) of the Council and for the benefit of the local area.
- To keep under review the performance of the Council, including service delivery.
- To make decisions necessary for the proper exercise of the Council's regulatory functions.
- To determine the process for appointment of the General Manager by the Council and to monitor the General Manager's performance.
- To determine the senior staff positions within the organisation structure of the Council, following consultation with the General Manager.
- To consult regularly with community organisations and other key stakeholders and keep them informed of the Council's decisions and activities.
- To be responsible for ensuring that the Council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately.

Matters determined by meetings of Parkes Shire Council's governing body will include all those non-delegable functions identified in section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council Chambers

Seating Plan

ANNALISE TEALE

Director Planning
and Community
Services

ANTHONY MCGRATH

Director Customer,
Corporate Services
and Economy

KENT BOYD PSM

General Manager

NEIL WESTCOTT

Mayor

LOGAN HIGNETT

Director
Operations

ANDREW FRANCIS

Director
Infrastructure and
Sustainability

COUNCILLOR
George Pratt

COUNCILLOR
Kenny McGrath

COUNCILLOR
Doug Pout

COUNCILLOR
Joy Poddison

COUNCILLOR
Matthew Scherer

COUNCILLOR
Glenn Wilson

COUNCILLOR
Bill Joyet

DEPUTY MAYOR
Marg Applebee

COUNCILLOR
Louise O'Leary

PUBLIC GALLERY

Guiding Principles

In accordance with section 8A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Councillors are reminded of the guiding principles applicable to decision-making by local councils:

Councils should recognise diverse local community needs and interests.

Councils should consider social justice principles.

Councils should consider the long-term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.

Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Council decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with clause 3.22 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Oath or Affirmation of Office

The Oath or Affirmation is taken by each Councillor whereby they swear or declare to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Parkes Shire and Parkes Shire Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

Conflicts of Interest

All Councillors must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Council meetings in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. Where a Councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the Councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting will be suspended or terminated for the time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or at any time during which Council is voting on the matter.

Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of Council's Code of Conduct in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

In the spirit of open, accessible and transparent government, meetings of Parkes Shire Council are video recorded and webcast, consistent with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council accepts no liability for any defamatory, discriminatory or offensive remarks or gestures made during the course of meetings. Opinions expressed or statements made by individual participants are the opinions or statements of those individuals, and do not imply any form of endorsement by Council.

Closed sessions of Council meetings are not video recorded or webcast.

Recordings and webcasts are protected by copyright and owned by Council, and published to Council's website. No part may be copied, recorded, reproduced or transmitted without the prior written consent of the General Manager. Any recording or webcast is not, and shall not, be taken to be an official record of Council or discussion depicted therein. Only the official minutes may be relied upon as an official record of the meeting.

Authorised media representatives are permitted to record meetings provided written notice has been lodged. A person may be expelled from a meeting for recording without notice. Recordings may only be used for the purpose of accuracy of reporting and are not for broadcast, or to be shared publicly. No recordings of any private third-party conversations or comments of anyone within the Chamber are permitted.

Please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or are in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

Under Council's Code of Meeting Practice, individuals acting in a disorderly manner can be asked by the Chairperson to leave the meeting.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri People who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal peoples from other nations who are present.

3 PRAYER

4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

In accordance with clauses 5.3, 5.5 and 5.7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, apologies must be received and accepted from absent Councillors and a leave of absence from the Council Meeting may be granted.

5 APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

In accordance with clauses 5.19 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors may attend and participate in meetings by audio-visual link with the approval of the Council where they are prevented from attending the meeting in person because of ill-health or other medical reasons or because of unforeseen caring responsibilities.

Requests by Councillors for approval to attend a meeting by audio-visual link must be made in writing to the General Manager prior to the meeting in question and provide reasons why the Councillor will be prevented from attending the meeting in person.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link are reminded that they must ensure that no other person is within sight or hearing of the meeting at any time that the meeting is closed to the public under section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Note: Consistent with clause 5.45 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, attendance by Council staff at meetings of the Council by audio-visual link shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**6.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2026****IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.**Strategy:** Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.**Annexures:** **A. Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 17 March 2026****RECOMMENDATION**

That Ordinary Council Meeting:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17 March 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.

Ordinary Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday 17 March 2026



Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday, 17 March 2026 at the
Parkes Council Chamber, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes

Present:

Cr Neil Westcott	Councillor (Chairperson)
Cr Marg Applebee	Councillor (Deputy Chair)
Cr William Jayet	Councillor
Cr Ken McGrath	Councillor
Cr Doug Pout	Councillor
Cr George Pratt	Councillor
Cr Matthew Scherer	Councillor
Cr Glenn Wilson	Councillor

Council Officers in Attendance:

Mr Kent Boyd PSM	General Manager
Mr Andrew Francis	Director Infrastructure and Sustainability
Mr Logan Hignett	Director Operations
Mr Anthony McGrath	Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy
Mr Jaco Barnard	Chief Financial Officer
Mrs Veronica Shaw	Manager Governance, Risk and Corporate Performance
Mrs Nikki Bevan	Procurement, Contracts and Insurance Coordinator (Minute Secretary)

NOTES

The meeting commenced at 3.00pm and concluded at 4.31pm.

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 17 March 2026 open and welcomed Councillors, Council Officers and members of the public attending and listening to the meeting.

The Mayor advised attendees that the meeting was being recorded and streamed live on the internet, to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Parkes Shire community, and that the recording will be archived and made available on Council's website.

The Mayor asked that attendees ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices were turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

The Mayor further advised that all care would be taken to maintain privacy, however, as a visitor in the public gallery, members of the public should be aware that their presence may be recorded.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Wiradjuri Country and recognises and respects their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the lands and rivers of the Parkes Shire.

Council pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extends this respect to all First Nations peoples in the Parkes Shire.

3 PRAYER

The General Manager read the Prayer:

O God,
Guide the Council in the way of Thy divine wisdom,
We Pray through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,

AMEN

A moment's silence was observed for Peak Hill community member and friend of Parkes Shire Council, Danny O'Leary, following their recent passing. Council also extended their condolences to Councillor Louise O'Leary and their family at this time.

4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Louise O'Leary and Cr Joy Paddison are apologies for this meeting and were previously approved for leave at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 17 February 2026 (OCM 033/26).

5 APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2026

MOTION

Moved: Cr Doug Pout

Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Ordinary Council Meeting receive and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17 February 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.

7 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

The Mayor reminded Councillors and Council Officers of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting, and invited Councillors and Council Officers to disclose any such interests.

Cr Marg Applebee disclosed a significant non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 18.2 Request for temporary suspension of Alcohol-Free Zone Cooke Park: Homegrown and Light up Parkes Events. No action was required as the item was passed as part of 9.1 Adoption of Multiple items of Business The reason provided was: Event Organiser.

8 URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor advised that the following urgent item of business had been submitted by Council Officers, and invited a motion to enable the addition of the late items to the meeting agenda.

1. 18.2 – Request for Temporary Suspension of Alcohol-Free Zone Cooke Park: Homegrown and Light up Parkes Events

8.1 URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED OCM 056/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout

Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Accept the urgent report 18.2 – Request for Temporary Suspension of Alcohol-Free Zone Cooke Park: Homegrown and Light up Parkes Events on the basis that the event organisers need support from Council to assist with timely planning for the events.

CARRIED

9 ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business, as recommended in the report, by way of a single resolution. The Chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the Chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the Business Paper, or that they wish to speak on (13.2).

At 3:07 pm, Cr Glenn Wilson joined the meeting.

9.1 ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council adopt the recommendations as listed in the Agenda for the following items and that the order of business be adjusted accordingly.

10.1 Meetings, Functions and Events Attended by Mayor and Councillors

13.1 Minutes of the Audit, Risk And Improvement Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2026

13.2 Minutes of the Extraordinary Road and Place Naming Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2026

13.3 Minutes of the Plant Procurement Advisory Committee Meeting held on 10 March 2026

13.4 Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council Meeting held on 10 March 2026

15.2 Request for Financial Assistance - Trundle Town Improvement Reserve - Trundle CWA Insurance

15.3 Request to Use Trundle Town Improvement Reserve to Support a Community Movie Night at the Trundle Pool

15.4 Request for Financial Assistance - Peak Hill Town Improvement Reserve - Peak Hill AIF Hall Electricity

15.7 Adoption of Council Policies

17.2 Transfer of Crown Road - Morrissey Way and Henderson Street, Parkes

18.1 February 2026 Building Statistics Update

18.2 Request for temporary suspension of Alcohol-Free Zone Cooke Park: Homegrown and Light up Parkes Events

19.3 Reappointment of Independent Member to Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

10 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

10.1 MEETINGS, FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED OCM 057/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Note the report on the Meetings functions and events attended in an official capacity, by the Mayor and Councillors during the period 13 February to 11 March 2026.

CARRIED

10.2 COMING KNOWN EVENTS FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED OCM 058/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Note the known upcoming meetings, functions and events for the Mayor and Councillors for the period 12 March 2026 through to 15 April 2026:

CARRIED

11 NOTICES OF MOTION/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

12 COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)

Nil

13 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

13.1 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED OCM 059/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 25 February 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.
2. Receive and note the Chairperson's summary of key points as follows:
 - (a) In relation to the Waste to Energy project that has been proposed, notwithstanding the current formal position of Council regarding the matter, ARIC's advice is that management:
 - (i) Formally identify the project as a strategic risk on its risk register, and subsequently
 - (ii) Take steps to risk-assess the situation if the project should ultimately go ahead: both in terms of impacts to be managed and opportunities to be explored.
 - (b) Financial Improvement Plan (FIP) development at this stage would support good governance
 - (c) An Internal Audit on Rangers Services has been completed
 - (d) Internal Audit Contract is due for renewal in June

CARRIED

13.2 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY ROAD AND PLACE NAMING COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED OCM 060/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Road and Place Naming Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26 February 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.

CARRIED

13.3 MINUTES OF THE PLANT PROCUREMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED OCM 061/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Plant Procurement Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.

CARRIED

13.4 MINUTES OF THE PARKES SPORTS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED OCM 062/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.

CARRIED

14 REPORTS OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

14.1 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MCGRATH

RESOLVED OCM 063/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr Ken McGrath

That Council:

1. Grant Councillor Kenny McGrath a leave of absence from Saturday 21st March to Saturday 18th April 2026 as he will be away on annual leave.

CARRIED

14.2 SUNRISE MINE PROJECT VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT (VPA) VARIATION

RESOLVED OCM 064/26

Moved: Cr William Jayet
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the report.
2. Supports the Draft Deed of Variation in principle.
3. Places the Draft Deed of Variation (*Annexure A*) and the Explanatory Note on public exhibition for not less than 28 days, in accordance with the EP&A Act and Regulation.
4. Receive a future report on any public submissions before adopting the Draft Deed of Variation.
5. Agrees that Lachlan Shire Council and Forbes Shire Council must also have resolved to adopt and sign the same Deed before it is executed.
6. Authorises the Mayor and General Manager to execute the Deed upon completion of exhibition, consideration of submissions, and after confirmation that Lachlan Shire Council (LSC) and Forbes Shire Council (FSC) have also adopted the Deed.

CARRIED

14.3 INVESTMENTS AND BORROWINGS REPORT AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED OCM 065/26

Moved: Cr George Pratt
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Statement of Investments and Borrowings as at 28 February 2026.

CARRIED

14.4 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED OCM 066/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Council:

1. Receive and note the year-to-date financial reports for the period up to 28 February 2026.

CARRIED

15 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMY

15.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMY - FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED OCM 067/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr Ken McGrath

That Council:

1. Receive and note the status report of Major Projects within Parkes Shire Council's Customer, Corporate Services and Economy Directorate.

CARRIED

15.2 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - TRUNDLE TOWN IMPROVEMENT RESERVE - TRUNDLE CWA INSURANCE

RESOLVED OCM 068/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information from the Trundle Progress Association.
2. Provides public notice of its intention to provide \$1,595.58 in financial assistance to the Trundle Branch of the CWA for their Building and Contents Insurance.
3. Approve the allocation of \$1,595.58 from the Trundle Town Improvement Fund Reserve to support the purchase of an honour board for the Trundle CWA, subject to no formal submissions being received that do not support the allocation.

CARRIED

15.3 REQUEST TO USE TRUNDLE TOWN IMPROVEMENT RESERVE TO SUPPORT A COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT AT THE TRUNDLE POOL

RESOLVED OCM 069/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Approve the allocation of up to \$700 from the Trundle Town Improvement Fund Reserve to support a movie night at the Trundle Pool.

CARRIED

15.4 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - PEAK HILL TOWN IMPROVEMENT RESERVE - PEAK HILL AIF HALL ELECTRICITY

RESOLVED OCM 070/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information from the Peak Hill CCC.
2. Provides public notice of its intention to provide \$1,200 in financial assistance to the Peak Hill CCC for the electricity costs of the Peak Hill AIF Hall for a period of 12 months and purchase of fire safety equipment up to \$500.
3. Approve the allocation of \$1,700 from the Peak Hill Town Improvement Fund Reserve to support the Peak Hill CCC to cover the electricity costs and fire safety equipment for the Peak Hill AIF Hall, subject to no formal submissions being received that do not support the allocation.

CARRIED

15.5 2027 PARKES ELVIS FESTIVAL - PLANNING UPDATE

RESOLVED OCM 071/26

Moved: Cr George Pratt
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information about the planning for the 2027 Parkes Elvis Festival.

CARRIED

15.6 PARKES CBD VIBRANCY STRATEGY 2026 – FINAL ENDORSEMENT AND PUBLIC FEEDBACK OUTCOMES

RESOLVED OCM 072/26

Moved: Cr William Jayet
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Council:

1. Endorse the Parkes CBD Vibrancy Strategy 2026, included as *Annexure A*, as the final adopted strategy following the conclusion of the public feedback period.
2. Note the Summary of Public Feedback and Council Responses, acknowledging that while feedback has been considered in full, no amendments to the Strategy are recommended.

CARRIED

15.7 ADOPTION OF COUNCIL POLICIES

RESOLVED OCM 073/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Adopt the Fraud and Corruption Prevention, Business Continuity and Contractor Management Policies included as *Annexure A-C* to this report.
2. Publish the adopted policies on Council's Website and intranet if required.

CARRIED

16 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

16.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY - FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED OCM 074/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Infrastructure and Sustainability Major Projects and Current Works Report for February 2026, appended at *Annexure A*.

CARRIED

17 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

17.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - OPERATIONS - FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED OCM 075/26

Moved: Cr William Jayet

Seconded: Cr George Pratt

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Operations Major Projects and Current Works Report for February 2026, appended at *Annexure A*.

CARRIED

At 4:03 pm, Cr Doug Pout left the meeting.

At 4:06 pm, Cr Doug Pout rejoined the meeting.

17.2 TRANSFER OF CROWN ROAD - MORRISSEY WAY AND HENDERSON STREET, PARKES

RESOLVED OCM 076/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout

Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That:

1. Council supports the transfer of the crown section of Forbes Road, between Morrissey Way and Henderson Street, Parkes to Council.
2. The seal of council be affixed to the appropriate documentation as required.

CARRIED

17.3 CLOSURE OF PART OF ROAD RESERVE OF SALEYARDS ROAD, PARKES

RESOLVED OCM 077/26

Moved: Cr Neil Westcott

Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That:

1. Council endorse the closure of part of the road reserve of Saleyards Road, Parkes, (as shown in figure 1 below), subject to confirmation of the land being road reserve through a Historical Land Tenure Search.
2. That after acquisition the land be amalgamated into the larger ~15ha lot shown in Figure 1 below.
3. That the seal of Council be affixed to the appropriate documentation to facilitate the recommendation as required.

CARRIED

18 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

18.1 FEBRUARY 2026 BUILDING STATISTICS UPDATE

RESOLVED OCM 078/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and note the February 2026 Building Statistics Report.

CARRIED

18.2 REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE COOKE PARK: HOMEGROWN AND LIGHT UP PARKES EVENTS

RESOLVED OCM 079/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report by Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy on the temporary suspension of the alcohol-free zone in Cooke Park for the events taking place in March and April 2026.
2. Suspend the alcohol-free zone from Cooke Park between 9am to 2pm on the Saturday 21 March 2026, for the Homegrown Parkes event.
3. Suspend the alcohol-free zone from Cooke Park between 5pm to 9:30pm on the Saturday 18 April 2026, for the Light Up Parkes event.
4. Provide a public notice of the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in Cooke Park between 9am to 2pm on the Saturday 21 March 2026 and 5pm to 9:30pm on the Saturday 18 April 2026.

CARRIED

RESOLVED OCM 080/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr George Pratt

That Ordinary Council Meeting:

1. Moves into Closed Session to deal with the matters below, which are classified as confidential under section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* for the reasons specified:

19.1 PSC2026/015 – SUPPLY AND PLACEMENT OF ASPHALT

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

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

19.2 2026/017 - SUPPLY OF ASPHALT - BOGAN ROAD & MCCLINTOCKS LANE, PARKES

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

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

19.3 REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - a of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

2. Exclude the media and public from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified as confidential, pursuant to 10A(1), 10(2) and 10A(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
3. Withhold reports and correspondence relevant to the subject business be withheld from the media and public as provided by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
4. Make public resolutions made by the Council in Closed Session after the conclusion of the Closed Session, and record such resolutions in the minutes of the Council meeting.

CARRIED

At 4.14pm, the Meeting went into Closed Session.

RESOLVED OCM 081/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Ordinary Council Meeting:

1. Resume in Open Session and note the Mayor's report on Confidential Resolutions.

CARRIED

At 4.29pm, the Council in Closed Session returned to Open Session.

20 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

19.1 PSC2026/015 – SUPPLY AND PLACEMENT OF ASPHALT

RESOLVED OCM 082/26

Moved: Cr Ken McGrath
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That:

1. Accept the quotation submitted by Civil Independence Industries Pty Ltd for Contract PSC2026/015 – Supply and Placement of Asphalt, for the sum of \$209,420.00 (GST exclusive).

CARRIED

19.2 2026/017 - SUPPLY OF ASPHALT - BOGAN ROAD & MCCLINTOCKS LANE, PARKES

RESOLVED OCM 083/26

Moved: Cr Ken McGrath
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That:

1. Accept the quotation submitted by Civil Independence Industries Pty Ltd for the supply and placement of asphalt at the intersection of Bogan Road and McClintock's Lane, Parkes, for the sum of \$792,000.00 (GST exclusive) under the LGP 213.3 contract.

CARRIED

19.3 REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED OCM 084/26

Moved: Cr Doug Pout

Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Confirm the reappointment of Mr Tony Harb as an Independent Voting Member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a term of four (4) years, commencing 01 June 2026 and concluding 31 May 2030 subject to continuing to meet eligibility requirements prescribed under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

CARRIED

21 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 4.31pm.

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 18 pages numbered 1 to 18 of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 March 2026 and confirmed on Tuesday, 21 April 2026.

MAYOR

7 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

In accordance with Part 16 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, all Councillors must disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting.

Council's Code of Conduct deals with pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interest and political donations, and provides guidance on how these issues should be managed.

Councillors, and where applicable, other Council Officials, must be familiar with Council's Code of Conduct and their obligations to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest that they may have in matters being considered at this Council Meeting.

Note: Councillors and staff who declare an Interest at the Council Meeting are also required to complete a Declaration of Interest form.

Obligations	
Pecuniary Interests	<p>A Councillor who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the Council at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting.</p> <p>The Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) At any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed, or (b) At any time during which the Council is voting on any question in relation to the matter.
Non-Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest	<p>A Councillor who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter, must disclose the relevant private interest in relation to the matter fully and on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to the matter.</p>
Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest	<p>A Councillor who has a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in relation to a matter under consideration at a Council meeting, must manage the conflict of interest as if they had a pecuniary interest in the matter.</p>
Less than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests	<p>A Councillor who determines that they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is not significant and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest must also explain why conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.</p>

8 URGENT BUSINESS**9 ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

The Council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business, as recommended in the report, byway of a single resolution. The Chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the Chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the Business Paper, or that they wish to speak on (13.2).

10 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

10.1 MEETINGS, FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Advocate and provide strong representation for our community at the regional, state, and federal levels.

Author: **Cr Neil Westcott**

Annexures: **Nil**

MOTION

That Council:

- Note the report on the Meetings functions and events attended in an official capacity, by the Mayor and Councillors during the period 12 March to 15 April 2026.

REPORT

Table 1: lists the Meetings, functions and events attended by the Mayor and Councillors during the period 12 March to 15 April 2026:

Table 1: Meetings, Functions and Events attended by Mayor and Councillors	
Date	Function
Thursday 12 March	Library Ambassador Induction, Parkes Library Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Cr Bill Jayet Branding Reference Group Cr Bill Jayet and Cr Joy Paddison
Saturday 14 March	Official Launch – Promise Faith Centre Churches International Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee Apology: Mayor Neil Westcott Trundle Back in Time, Trundle Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee
Tuesday 17 March	Ordinary Council Meeting, Council Chambers All Councillors and Directors Apology: Cr Louise O’Leary and Cr Joy Paddison

Table 1: Meetings, Functions and Events attended by Mayor and Councillors	
Date	Function
Wednesday 18 March	Elvis Visit to Bracken House Nursing Home, Dubbo Mayor Neil Westcott and Cr Bill Jayet along with Mayor Josh Black (Dubbo City Council)
Friday 20 March	Launch of Henry's Community Pantry, Parkes Mayor Neil Westcott and Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee Central West Zone Meeting Lithgow, Online Cr Bill Jayet
Saturday 21 March	Homegrown Parkes Mayor Neil Westcott
Monday 23 March	Peak Hill Community Consultative Committee meeting Apology: Cr Louise O'Leary
Thursday 26 March to Saturday 28 March	ALGWA Conference, Blacktown Cr Joy Paddison
Thursday 26 March	Country Mayors Association Financial Sustainability Workshop, Parliament House Sydney Mayor Neil Westcott Trundle Community Consultative Committee meeting Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee
Friday 27 March	Country Mayors Association General Meeting, Parliament House Sydney Mayor Neil Westcott
Saturday 28 March	Parkes Public School Easter Fete Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee
Sunday 29 March	Fly'n for Fun, Parkes Airport Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee

Table 1: Meetings, Functions and Events attended by Mayor and Councillors	
Date	Function
Monday 30 March	Little A's Presentation Night Cr Joy Paddison
Tuesday 31 March	Central West Police District Awards Ceremony Mayor Neil Westcott and Cr Bill Jayet
Wednesday 1 April	Floodplain Management Committee Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee Trundle Community Consultative Committee Special Meeting Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee
Thursday 2 April	Parkes High School Term 1 Recognition Assembly for 2026 Cr Bill Jayet Rene Britt's 100th Birthday Mayor Neil Westcott
Tuesday 7 April	Village Visit – Peak Hill All Councillors and Directors Apology: Cr Doug Pout, Cr Kenny McGrath and Cr Glenn Wilson Councillor Workshop, Council Chambers All Councillors and Directors Apology: Cr Kenny McGrath and Cr Glenn Wilson Extraordinary Workshop, Council Chambers All Councillors and Directors Apology: Cr Kenny McGrath and Cr Glenn Wilson
Thursday 9 April	Sports Grants Selection Committee Cr Louise O'Leary and Cr Doug Pout

Table 1: Meetings, Functions and Events attended by Mayor and Councillors	
Date	Function
Saturday 11 April	2026 Parkes and District Kennel Club Agility and Jumping Trial Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee Parkes Visitors Information Centre & Henry Parkes Museum Open Day Mayor Neil Westcott and Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee
Monday 13 April	Bogan Gate Community Memorial Hall Inc. Committee Meeting Cr George Pratt Parkes Shire Australia Day Committee Meeting Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee, Cr Doug Pout and Cr Louise O'Leary Apology: Mayor Neil Westcott
Tuesday 14 April	EfW Inquiry - Witness invitation, Parkes Leagues Club Mayor Neil Westcott and Cr Joy Paddison Super Tag Gala Day Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee Sports Council Meeting Cr Louise O'Leary and Cr Doug Pout



Pictured Back Row: Cr Bill Jayet, Annalise Teale, two students chosen for Library Ambassador, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Debbie Gould

Pictured Front Row: Students chosen for Library Ambassador at the Library Ambassador Presentation on Thursday 12th March.



Pictured: Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee at the Promise Faith Centre Churches International official opening in Alectown on 14th March 2026.



Pictured: Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee with local tractor enthusiast at Trundle Back in Time in Trundle on 14th March 2026.



Mayor Neil Westcott (AKA Elvis), Brenda Rich (Activity Officer Bracken House Dubbo), Cr Bill Jayet and Mayor Josh Black (AKA Elvis) visiting the residents at Bracken House in Dubbo who were unable to attend the 2026 Parkes Elvis Festival



Mayor Neil Westcott (AKA Elvis) and Mayor Josh Black (AKA Elvis) entertaining the residents at a visit to Bracken House, Dubbo on 18 March 2026



Pictured: Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Mr Philip Donato MP (State Member for Orange) with volunteers and community members at the Launch of Henry's Community Pantry on 20th March 2026.



Pictured: Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee at the Parkes Public School Easter Fete on 28th March 2026.



Pictured: Cr Joy Paddison presenting at the Little A's Presentation Night on 30th March 2026.



Pictured: Councillors, Council Staff and Peak Hill community members at the Peak Hill Pool during the Village Visit to Peak Hill on 7th April 2026.



Pictured: Councillors, Council Staff and Peak Hill community members at the Bogan Gate Weir during the Village Visit to Peak Hill on 7th April 2026.



Cr Neil Westcott

MAYOR

10.2 COMING KNOWN EVENTS FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Advocate and provide strong representation for our community at the regional, state, and federal levels.

Author: **Cr Neil Westcott**

Annexures: **Nil**

MOTION

That Council:

1. Note the known upcoming meetings, functions and events for the Mayor and Councillors for the period 16 April 2026 through to 13 May 2026:

REPORT

Table 1 below, lists the upcoming meetings, functions and events requiring the attendance of the Mayor or Councillors in relation to community or civic matters during the period 16 April 2026 through to 13 May 2026:

Table 1: Known upcoming Meetings, Functions and Events for Mayor and Councillors	
Date	Function
Saturday 18 April	Light Up Parkes, Cooke Park Invited: All Councillors
Monday 20 April	Peak Hill Community Consultative Committee Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Cr Louise O’Leary

Date	Function
Tuesday 21 April	<p>Arts Advisory Meeting Invited: All Councillors and Directors</p> <p>Community, Liveability & Access Advisory Committee Meeting Invited: All Councillors and Directors</p> <p>Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Invited: All Councillors and Directors</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting Invited: All Councillors, General Manager and Directors</p>
Thursday 23 April	<p>Trundle Community Consultative Committee meeting Invited: Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee</p>
Friday 24 April	<p>Meeting with the NSW Agriculture Commissioner Invited: Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and General Manager Kent Boyd</p>
Saturday 25 April	<p>ANZAC Day Services around the Shire</p> <p><u>Alectown</u> 6:00 am Dawn Service - Soldiers Memorial Hall Attending: Cr Louise O'Leary</p> <p><u>Bogan Gate</u> 5:50 am – 7:20 am Dawn Service - Hutton Street Attending: Cr George Pratt</p> <p><u>Parkes</u> 5:30 am Dawn service - Memorial Hill Attending: Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee, Cr Bill Jayet and Cr Doug Pout</p> <p>8:30 am Commemorative Service - Cooke Park Cenotaph</p>

Date	Function
	<p>Attending: Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee, Cr Bill Jayet and Cr Louise O’Leary</p> <p><u>Peak Hill</u> 6:00 am Dawn Service - AIF School of Arts Memorial Gates</p> <p>10:30 am Civic Ceremony - AIF School of Arts Memorial Gates Attending: Cr Louise O’Leary</p> <p><u>Trundle</u> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon March and Memorial Service - Trundle War Memorial Hall Attending: Cr Joy Paddison</p> <p><u>Tullamore</u> 6:00 am Dawn Service - Tullamore Memorial Park</p> <p>10:45 am Commemorative Service - Tullamore Memorial Park Attending: Cr Kenny McGrath</p> <p>Invited: All Councillors, Staff and general public</p>
Wednesday 29 April	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Invited: Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee with Cr Joy Paddison (as alternate) and General Manager Kent Boyd
Saturday 2 May	Trundle ABBA Festival Invited: All Councillors
Tuesday 5 May	Council Workshop Invited: All Councillors and Directors
Wednesday 6 May	Local Traffic Forum Invited: Mayor Neil Westcott, Cr George Pratt and Cr Kenny McGrath

Date	Function
Thursday 7 May to Friday 8 May	Country Mayors Association Workshop & General Meeting, Parliament House, Sydney Invited: Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and General Manager Kent Boyd



Cr Neil Westcott

MAYOR

10.3 ENERGY FROM WASTE (EFW) - OPPOSITION ACTION PLAN**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Community**Goal:** Our community is safe, active and healthy.**Strategy:** Deliver and support services, programs, and initiatives to promote community safety including safeguarding all children, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.**Author:** **Cr Neil Westcott****Annexures:** **A. Draft EfW Opposition Action Plan** [↓](#)

MOTION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Energy from Waste (EfW) Opposition Action plan in principle as a guide for Councils actions opposing the EfW facility.

REPORT

On 17 February 2026 Council resolved to oppose the Energy from Waste (EfW) Facility proposed for the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. Part of that resolution was to develop an action plan to guide Councils actions in opposing the facility.

The draft action plan is attached; it is a guide only and subject to implementation costs not burdening the budget to a significant extent. The plan is not exclusive and if other actions are considered beneficial, then they will be included.

**Cr Neil Westcott**

MAYOR

Parkes Shire Council – Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Opposition - Draft Action Plan

Parkes Shire Council has prepared this Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Objection Action Plan in response to the proposed development of an EfW facility within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP).

No.	Action	Steps to Implement the Action (& Comments)
1.0	As formally resolved 17-2-2026	
1.1	Formally rejects and objects in the strongest possible terms to the proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) displaying our clear opposition to any Energy-from-Waste (EfW) within the Parkes Shire.	Publish a Council resolution and public statement; Write to NSW Government and the proponent; Update Council communication channels. Advise Chairperson of Parliamentary Inquiry. All correspondence in relation to EfW to include Council objection.
1.2	Lobby the NSW Government in the strongest possible way to prevent the Energy from Waste facility progressing in the Shire.	Seek meetings with Ministers; Prepare briefing papers; Provide written submissions; Present to the Parliamentary Inquiry.
1.3	Reiterates its request to the Minister for Planning, that the proposal be urgently called-in as a State Significant Development (SSD) and be referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) at the earliest possible stage.	A number of requests were made to the Premier and Minister requesting the matter be called in as a State Significant Development and have the IPC as the approval body, to ensure independence in the approval process. The Minister has since formally actioned the matter as above, this action is therefore considered complete.
1.4	Pursue all lawful and reasonable avenues available to it within its statutory powers to oppose the proposal, including, but not limited to, the seeking of independent legal advice and the exploration of	Obtain legal advice; Monitor procedural steps; Identify challenge opportunities; Report legal implications/opportunities and potential costs to Council.

judicial or administrative review mechanisms available under State legislation, ensuring that any costs incurred are proportionate and do not place an unreasonable financial burden on Parkes Shire ratepayers.

- 1.5 Call upon the NSW Government to immediately impose a moratorium on the approval of new thermal Energy-from-Waste facilities across New South Wales pending the completion of an independent, statewide cumulative environmental and public health impact assessment, and to review the permissibility of such infrastructure within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. Write to/meet the Premier and Ministers to advocate accordingly

2.0 Other Initiatives to oppose the Development

- 2.1 Establish an Energy-from-Waste Community Working Party Working Party Members to include:
- a. The Mayor.
 - b. Interested Councillors.
 - c. Traditional Owners including, but not limited to, Parkes and Peak Hill representatives, as nominated by the respective Aboriginal communities.
 - d. Representatives of directly affected neighbouring landholders.
 - e. Representatives of local business and industry.
 - f. Representatives of agricultural stakeholders, including NSW Farmers and other relevant bodies.
 - g. Representatives of recognised community groups.

The Working Party will:

- a. Provide a structured forum for information exchange and community concerns.
- b. Consider independent expert advice commissioned by Council.
- c. Identify environmental, health, infrastructure and emergency preparedness considerations.
- d. Provide recommendations to Council for formal consideration.

The Working Party will operate under a clearly defined and publicly available Terms of Reference adopted by Council and will function in an advisory capacity only, without replacing or duplicating statutory planning processes.

- 2.2 Lobby for the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation to establish a Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Lobby the relevant Minister for the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation (RGDC) to establish a Community Consultative Committee.

The CCC would;

Facilitate formal consultation with the various stakeholders, including Parkes Shire Council and the local community regarding the strategic direction of the Parkes Special Activation Precinct, and a review of permissible land uses within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct to better reflect the economic, agricultural and community priorities of the region, with particular emphasis on value-adding agricultural processing, advanced manufacturing and complementary regional industries.

- 2.3 Baseline Monitoring
- As a matter of priority, install baseline air monitoring equipment strategically to ensure independent measurements establish pre/post development air-quality.
- 3.0 Council emphasises that the inclusion of the following clauses does not constitute support for the proposed Energy-from-Waste project. These measures are provided solely to safeguard the community should the NSW Government proceed despite Council's stated opposition**
- 3.1 Prior to any progression of the current proposal or future proposals Council seeks legally binding conditions and agreements requiring the proponent and/or the State Government to fund and implement:
- Councils response to DA to identify these matters if not fully and satisfactorily addressed. Many have been identified in the SEAR's. The main reference in the SEAR's is set out below...
- a. Independent baseline and ongoing ambient air quality monitoring, with publicly accessible real-time reporting. SEAR's - #5
 - b. Independent soil, water and agricultural impact monitoring with publicly accessible real-time reporting. SEAR's - #7, #6
 - c. Independent public health baseline and longitudinal health impact studies with publicly accessible reporting. SEAR's - #14
 - d. Road, transport and heavy vehicle impact on existing infrastructure with assurity for upgrades and maintenance protections. SEAR's - #10
 - e. Water security protections and enforceable limits on water usage at Council's discretion. SEAR's - #14
 - f. Transparent publicly accessible emissions reporting on all monitoring exceeding minimum statutory requirements. SEAR's - #4 – dot point 4

- g. An independent assessment, be provided to Council within one (1) month of the completion of any report, of regional emergency response capacity, including
- Fire and Rescue,
 - Rural Fire Service,
 - ambulance services,
 - hospital capacity and
 - hazardous materials response capability,
- detailing any required upgrades, specialised equipment, training and contingency arrangements for ongoing funding necessary to manage industrial, fire, toxic release or transport-related emergencies associated with the EfW facility to be fully funded by the proponent and the State Government.
- h. Assurance from NSW Government for all monitoring, safeguards, infrastructure protections, and emergency preparedness measures to be fully funded by the proponent and the NSW State Government.
- i. The establishment of a Community Consultative Committee, with an independent Chairperson, similar to that required by most Mining approvals. SEAR's - #4
- 3.2 If the current proposed project is approved by the NSW Government, contrary to Council's formal and clear opposition, Council requires the establishment of a mandatory, legislated community-hosting levy payable by the NSW Government directly to the Parkes Community, in line with the waste hierarchy and the Council strongly advocates for a hosting-levy equivalent to 50% of the Sydney landfill levy.
- The proposed hosting levy reflects the principles of the waste hierarchy, which prioritises waste management strategies from

NSW landfill waste levy, indexed annually and imposed at the point of waste generation, with all revenue directed to the Parkes Community.

most to least preferred: avoidance, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and landfill.

Ideally this levy will be:

- a. Enshrined in legislation rather than subject to discretionary agreement.
- b. Structured to reflect the long-term environmental, health, infrastructure and reputational impacts associated with thermal Energy-from-Waste infrastructure.
- c. Fully directed, transparently, to the Community for environmental monitoring, infrastructure resilience, agricultural protection, health safeguards, and community wellbeing initiatives.
- d. Be fully allocated to the Community at no cost to the Community.

- 3.3 Critical review of Development application when lodged to ensure it is comprehensive, that it fully addresses all the matters raised in the SEAR's, and if there are grounds to challenge the application.

Budget \$50,000 for consultant's expert in the field to review DA

Under the NSW planning system, the proper and lawful mechanism for considering and, if warranted, opposing a proposed development such as the EfW facility is through the statutory development assessment and approval process, including any formal rights of review or legal challenge that arise from that process. This is, in effect, the only legally sustainable pathway available to Council to seek to prevent or modify the proposal. However, any challenge must be based on clear, substantive planning or legal grounds. If the development application is assessed as technically sound, compliant with the

applicable planning framework, and supported by adequate environmental and technical studies, the prospects of a successful challenge are reduced.

DRAFT

10.4 SUPPORT FOR CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT**IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is sustainable and plans for the future.**Strategy:** Operate in a financially sustainable and responsible manner.**Author:** Cr Neil Westcott**Annexures:** A. Invest in us so we can invest in them - Campaign Material [↓](#)

MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes the Country Mayors Association of NSW "Invest in Us" campaign advocating for increased Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments. The campaign seeks to restore at least 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue for local Councils across Australia
2. Recognises the critical role Local Government plays in delivering essential services and infrastructure that underpin community wellbeing, economic vitality, and national resilience.
3. Supports the campaign's core message: 'Invest in us so we can invest in them.'
4. Commits to participating in the campaign by:
 - a. Sharing campaign materials through Council communication channels
 - b. Engaging with local media and community stakeholders to raise awareness.
 - c. Lobbying Federal representatives to support the funding increase.
5. Requests the Mayor to write to the relevant Prime Minister, Treasurer, Federal Minister for Local Government, the Shadow Minister for Local Government, our local Member of Parliament and Senator expressing Council's support for the campaign and urging their commitment to the proposed funding increase.

REPORT**Purpose**

This Mayoral Minute seeks Council endorsement of the Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) 'Invest in Us' campaign, set against the context of severe and worsening financial pressures facing local government, including the loss of key State and Commonwealth funding programs.

Financial and Sector Context

Recent sector-wide analysis demonstrates that NSW local government faces significant and unsustainable financial pressure:

- 71% of NSW Councils reported General Fund operating deficits (before capital income) in 2024/25.
- NSW Councils collectively recorded General Fund operating deficits of approximately \$570 million, a blow out of \$266M from YE 23/24.
- Depreciation expenses have increased by more than \$1 billion over the past five years.

Impact of Withdrawal of Key NSW and Commonwealth Grants

In addition to structural funding pressures, Council has been materially impacted by the withdrawal and discontinuation of several significant NSW and Commonwealth Government grant programs that were previously allocated on a recurring basis. These programs were critical to Council's capital works and asset renewal programs, and their removal has had a devastating impact on Council's capital capacity.

The last round of these key grants were;

- Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 5: \$1,420,467
- Resources for Regions Program: \$4,037,244
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Round 3: \$2,675,226

Based on the last Round of funding, the total withdrawn capital funding was \$8,132,937.

Consequences for Councils, Residents and Businesses

As funding pressures intensify, councils across New South Wales are facing an increasingly constrained set of financial choices. After exhausting discretionary expenditure and reviewing all available revenue sources, councils are often required to reassess the scope and level of services they provide. Compounding this pressure, local government is frequently the supplier of last resort, meaning that when State services are reduced or withdrawn, councils must either advocate for their continuation or absorb those responsibilities themselves, often without additional funding.

Ultimately, and as a last resort, many councils are being driven to consider Special Rate Variations. The cumulative effect is a growing transfer of costs for essential services and infrastructure onto local communities, underscoring the need for stronger and more reliable intergovernmental funding support.

“Invest in us so we can invest in them” Campaign

As a consequence of the significantly deteriorating financial circumstance of Local Government, the Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) is inviting all its member Councils to participate in a vital campaign advocating for the restoration of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments.

The campaign seeks to restore at least 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue for local Councils under the rallying call: 'Invest in us so we can invest in them.'

Over recent years, councils have faced unprecedented increases in operational costs at the same time as successive Australian Governments have progressively reduced Financial Assistance Grants from their original benchmark of one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue to close to half that level. There are other federal funding programs accessed by rural, remote and regional Councils in NSW but they are project-based and do not help to keep the lights on.

Local Governments are the backbone of our communities, delivering essential services and infrastructure that shape the daily lives of Australians. Despite this, funding constraints continue to limit our ability to meet growing demands. This strategy outlines a comprehensive communications approach to raise public awareness, build coalitions, and influence Federal policymakers.

Lobbying has been undertaken by your CMA, Local Government NSW (LGNSW), Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and more. This is a different, positive approach and strong backing is encouraged at local levels. Some typical campaign material attached.

Councils don't ask much from our communities - now is the time to help us help you.



Cr Neil Westcott

MAYOR



Invest in us
so we can
invest
in them

Restore Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of total taxation revenue

Everyday, across Australia, councils are creating and maintaining the communities you, your family and your friends live, work and play in.

Our children and grandchildren are playing on sports fields provided by their local council, running on grass cared for by council staff, using change rooms and bathroom facilities built and maintained by council and disposing of their post-match ice cream wrappers in bins that will be collected by council.

Local Government.
Invest in us, so we can invest in our communities.

SUPPORT the return of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to
Local Government to **1% of total taxation revenue**



Discover more: nswcountrymayors.com.au



10.5 NSW COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION HONOUR PAST LEADERS**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Strong relationships**Strategy:** Work in partnership with other Councils, regional organisations and State and Federal Governments.**Author:** **Cr Neil Westcott****Annexures:** **A. CMA Media Release** [↓](#)

MOTION

That Council:

1. Note the information in the report.
2. Write a letter to Emeritus Mayor Ken Keith OAM congratulating him on receiving the honour of Patron of the Country Mayors Association.

REPORT

At the March General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association (CMA), the Board and its members resolved to bestow the honour of Patron on three of its former Chairmen, Emeritus Mayor Ken Keith OAM being one of those receiving this honour.

Ken Keith OAM has been invited to receive the insignia of his role at a reception at Parliament House in Sydney on 7 May 2026 where Legislative Council President Mr Ben Franklin is hosting the function and the guest speaker will be General The Hon. Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Retd).

See attached Media Release from the Country Mayors Association regarding this honour for Emeritus Mayor Ken Keith OAM, Emeritus Mayor Katrina Humphries (Moree Plains Shire) and Jamie Chaffey MP (Gunnedah Shire).

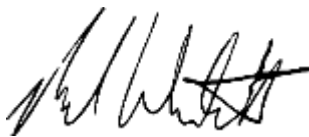
On behalf of Parkes Shire Council, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to our previous Mayor Ken Keith OAM on receiving this honour from the CMA.



Mayor Rick Firman OAM JP (Chairman of CMA & Mayor Temora Shire Council), Emeritus Mayor Ken Keith OAM and Mr Jamie Chaffey MP (Gunnedah Shire)



Emeritus Mayor Katrina Humphries (Moree Plains Shire)



Cr Neil Westcott
MAYOR



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

MEDIA RELEASE

15/04/2026

NSW Country Mayors honour past leaders

The Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) Board and Members recently resolved to bestow the honour of Patron on three of its' former Chairmen.

Emeritus Mayors in Katrina Humphries (Moree Plains Shire), Ken Keith OAM (Parkes Shire) and Jamie Chaffey MP (Gunnedah Shire) were proposed by the CMA Board, and unanimously endorsed by its 89 rural, remote and regional Member Councils.

Mrs Humphries is the longest serving past CMA Chairman, having served from 2016-2020. Mr Keith was the leader from 2020-2022 with Mr Chaffey elected in 2022 and retired in 2024.

Current CMA Chairman, Mayor Rick Firman OAM (of Temora Shire) said "the CMA Board, Members and Staff are very proud to bestow such an honour on three outstanding leaders of NSW Local Government".

"The time, vision, dedication and effort that goes into the role of Mayor is large enough, however, to be elected by your peers across rural, remote and regional NSW to lead a state organisation is a significant commitment," he said.

Former Mayor Humphries was Mayor of Moree Plains Shire from 2008-2021 and did not seek re-election in 2021. Former Mayor Keith held the Mayoral role for an impressive 17 years and stood down at the 2024 election. Former Mayor Chaffey was Mayor for eight years, retiring from local government at the 2024 general elections. Mr Chaffey went on to be elected as the Federal Member for Parkes.

"The CMA has evolved and grown to 89 full Member Councils and five Associate Members. This has occurred – to a large extent - due to the tremendous leadership these three provided us. Their contributions are highly valued and we are very pleased to honour them as our inaugural patrons of the CMA," Mayor Firman added.

An appropriate presentation will be made to the three Local Government luminaries at a CMA Members' meeting or function, later in the year.

--- ENDS ---

Captions: CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM (Temora Shire), with the CMA's inaugural Patrons, Emeritus Mayor Ken Keith OAM (Parkes Shire), and Emeritus Mayor Jamie Chaffey MP (Gunnedah Shire) at Emeritus Mayor Keith's final CMA meeting.

Second photo (for inset): Emeritus Mayor Katrina Humphries (Moree Plains Shire).

Media Contact:

Mayor Rick Firman OAM, CMA Chairman: 0429 204 060

Page 1 of 2



THE **COUNTRY MAYORS** **ASSOCIATION** OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

Mr Gary Fry, CMA Secretariat: 0427 008 572
Email: admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au

11 NOTICES OF MOTION/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

12 COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)**12.1 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD) LUNCHEON HELD IN SYDNEY ON 6 MARCH 2026****IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Advocate and provide strong representation for our community at the regional, state, and federal levels.**Author:** Marg Applebee, Deputy Mayor**Authoriser:** Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager**Annexures:** Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the information provided by Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee following her attendance at the LGNSW International Women's Day (IWD) Luncheon in Sydney on 6 March 2026 representing the Parkes Shire Community.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) hosted its annual International Women's Day (IWD) Lunch at the Shangri-La Sydney, Grand Ballroom, on Friday 6 March 2026, as part of NSW Women's Week. The event celebrated the leadership, achievements and contribution of women in local government across New South Wales and provided a high-profile networking and professional development opportunity for the sector.

I attended this event along with over 400 guests including Mayors, Councillors, General Managers, Council staff and State and sector leaders from across New South Wales.

The event was fully booked out, with tickets and tables selling out before the event. This year's IWD theme adopted by LGNSW was "Balance the Scales", focusing on:

- Celebrating women's leadership in Local Government.
- Promote Gender equity and inclusion.
- Encourage participation and advancement of women in elected and executive roles.
- Provide a visible platform for sector-wide advocacy aligned with IWD principles.

The keynote speaker was Kerri Pottharst OAM OLY – three time Olympian and Olympic Gold Medallist, Author and Sports Commentator. Her keynote addressed leadership, resilience, high performance and balancing professional and personal commitments, drawing parallels between elite sport and leadership in public roles.

Many may remember Kerri and Natalie Cook winning Gold on Bondi Beach in 2000. It was so lovely to hear her speak about that experience.

As much as it was exciting to hear about her wins, it was even more interesting to hear about her fails, the times she didn't think she could recover and did recover.

Official Speakers and Hosts included:

- Mayor Darcy Byrne, President of LGNSW and Mayor of Inner West Council.
- Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM, Past President of LGNSW.
- David Reynolds, CEO of LGNSW.
- Senior women leaders from NSW Government and the sector more broadly.

In Mayor Darcy Byrne's address – he highlighted:

- That women made up around 41% of elected Councillors in NSW.
- That while representation had improved since previous elections, Local Government still lagged behind State and Federal Parliaments.
- The need to address structural issues such as Councillor and Mayoral remuneration to support diversity in Council Chambers.

IWD is a acknowledged to raise awareness in general about discrimination and gender equity.

I am grateful to Parkes Shire Council for the opportunity to attend this Luncheon, allowing me to network with other Councillors and women from across NSW and to represent the Parkes Shire Community. I left the Luncheon feeling inspired and encouraged. I shared lunch with Councillors and staff from Cumberland City Council.

For all those who attended the various IWD events across the Shire and wider communities, I hope you all had an enjoyable day like I did. Happy International Women's Day 2026.





Cr Marg Applebee
DEPUTY MAYOR

12.2 ALGWA CONFERENCE NSW HELD IN BLACKTOWN ON 26 - 28 MARCH 2026**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Advocate and provide strong representation for our community at the regional, state, and federal levels.**Author:** **Joy Paddison, Councillor****Authoriser:** **Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager****Annexures:** **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the information provided by Cr Paddison following her attendance at the ALGWA Conference in Blacktown on 26 – 28 March 2026 representing the Parkes Shire Community.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

I had the privilege of attending the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Conference NSW in Blacktown on 26 – 28 March 2026.

Cr Penny Pedersen, ALGWA NSW President attended and provided a Welcome to all those that attended the Conference.

The following speakers were in attendance:

- Sandra Sully, News Anchor, Journalist, MC and Host.
- Lucy Bingle, LinkedIn Expert.
- Amy Stewart, Emotional Intelligence and Critical Thinking Expert.
- Elfa Moraitakis, CEO SydWest.
- Dee Brooks, The Jeder Institute.
- Fiona Miller, The Jeder Institute.
- Cr Kylie Spears, National ALGWA President.
- Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM, Past LGNSW President.
- Cr Darriea Turley AM, Past LGNSW President.
- Cr Julie Griffiths AM, Councillor Blacktown City Council.
- The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government.
- The Hon. Jodie Elizabeth Harrison MP, Minister for Women.
- Mayor Darcy Byrne, President LGNSW.

These speakers were very informative to listen to about their careers and experience that they have gained over the years. There were also a number of workshops that I attended that were very enjoyable.

It was really a great couple of days being involved in the ALGWA NSW Conference which focuses on connecting with women in Local Government from across NSW.

Sandra Sully did a fantastic job as MC (who knew newsreaders could have such a cheeky sense of humour?)

It was also lovely to spend time with Forbes Shire Council's Mayor Phyllis Miller, Councillors Michele Herbert, Marg Duggan and Sarah Sweeney; as well as to meet many other women doing great work in their communities.

It's always interesting to hear the different experiences from Councillors across the State.

I also caught up with Kath Roach, Managing Director of SINC Solutions and Sinconline, who recently presented to our Councillors on the Code of Conduct.

I'm also grateful to Parkes Shire Council for the opportunity to attend this Conference, allowing me to network with other Councillors and women from across NSW and to represent the Parkes Shire community.



Cr Joy Paddison, Cr Jenny Ellis (Griffith City Council), Cr Marg Duggan, Cr Sarah Sweeney and Cr Michele Herbert and Manager Engineer Brianna Duncan (all from Forbes Shire Council) attending the ALGWA Conference on 26-28 March 2026



Deputy Mayor Julie Griffiths AM (Blacktown Council & Secretary of ALGWA), Cr Tammy Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor Orange City Council), Mayor Phyllis Miller (Forbes Shire Council) and Cr Joy Paddison at the ALGWA Conference on 26-28 March 2026



Kath Roach (Sinc Solutions) and Cr Joy Paddison at the ALGWA Conference on 26-28 March 2026



Attendees at the ALGWA Conference on 26 – 28 March 2026

Joy Paddison
COUNCILLOR

13 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**13.1 MINUTES OF THE RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2026****IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.**Strategy:** Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.**Author:** **Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator****Authoriser:** **Logan Hignett, Director Operations****Annexures:** **A. Rural Roads Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 26 March 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26 March 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.
-

Rural Roads Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday 26 March 2026



Minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee**Held on Thursday, 26 March 2026 at the****Bogan Gate Pub, 45-47 Station Street, BOGAN GATE NSW 2876****Present:**

Mr Andrew Field

Mr Robert Mortimer

Mr Graeme Hunter

Mr Gary Langley

Mr Ron Umbers

Mr Gavin Tom

Council Officers in Attendance:

Logan Hignett Director Operations

NOTES

The meeting commenced at 6:05pm and concluded at 8:04pm.

Order Of Business

1	OPENING OF MEETING	4
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	4
3	APOLOGIES	4
4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	4
	4.1 Minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee held on 30 October 2025.....	4
5	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	4
6	LATE BUSINESS	4
7	OFFICERS' REPORTS.....	5
	3.1 National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) Conditions 3 Month Trial Update	5
	3.2 Safer Local Roads & Infrastructure Program Tranche 3 - Cookamidgera and Lake Endeavour Road - Successful Outcome	5
	3.3 UPDATE - 2025/2026 Roads Program	5
	3.4 UPDATE - Committee Customer Request.....	5
8	REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS	6
9	CONCLUSION OF MEETING.....	6

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chairperson declared the Rural Roads Advisory Committee of Thursday, 26 March 2026 open and welcomed Council Officials in attendance.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Wiradjuri Country and recognises and respects their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the lands and rivers of the Parkes Shire.

Council pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extends this respect to all First Nations peoples in the Parkes Shire.

3 APOLOGIES

Cr. Neil Wescott, Cr Ken McGrath, Cr Louise O'Leary, Cr Glenn Wilson, Mrs Marisa Malherbe
Cr George Pratt (no response),

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2025
--

RECOMMENDATION

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available for confirmation at the meeting. The minutes were subsequently distributed to Committee members following the meeting and will be confirmed at the next meeting.

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

The Chairperson reminded Council Officials of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting, and invited Council Officials present to disclose any such interests.

Nil interests were disclosed.

6 LATE BUSINESS

The Chairperson advised that no late items of business had been submitted to the meeting.

7 OFFICERS' REPORTS**7.1 NATIONAL HEAVY VEHICLE REGULATOR (NHVR) CONDITIONS 3 MONTH TRIAL UPDATE****RESOLVED RRA 001/26**

That:

1. That the information contained within the report be received and noted.

CARRIED**7.2 SAFER LOCAL ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM TRANCHE 3 - COOKAMIDGERA AND LAKE ENDEAVOUR ROAD - SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME****RESOLVED RRA 002/26**

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information within the report.

CARRIED**7.3 UPDATE - 2025/2026 ROADS PROGRAM****RESOLVED RRA 003/26**

That:

1. The information and verbal update from Council be noted by the Rural Roads Committee

CARRIED**7.4 UPDATE - COMMITTEE CUSTOMER REQUEST****RESOLVED RRA 004/26**

That:

1. That the information contained within the report be received and noted.

CARRIED

8 GENERAL BUSINESS**8.1 GARRY LANGLEY****DISCUSSION**

1. Discussion about Graddle Creek Bridge further information required on the culverts at the approach on the Tullamore side of the bridge.
2. Thanked Council for putting the fire break back on Letterbox Lane
3. Wattlebank Lane – suckers need spraying
4. Suckers need spraying in the Tullamore area

COUNCIL RESPONSE

3. RD2026/0107
4. RD2026/0106

8.2 ANDREW FIELD**DISCUSSION**

1. 200m back from Nanardine Lane on Back Trundle Road there is a Culvert that needs to be inspected/repaired
2. The Welcome Road sheeting – commended Council on a job well done.
3. Along Plains Road, The Welcome and Pipeclay Road there is illegal dumping with items such as washing machines, mattress and rubbish which needs collection.
4. Plains Road sign is missing at the intersection of Back Yamma Road.

COUNCIL RESPONSE

1. RD2026/0103
3. WA2026/0189
4. SI2026/0034

8.3 RON UMBERS**DISCUSSION**

1. Burrawang Park – at Bogan Gate needs signage in accordance with new wayfinding strategy.
2. Tubby Lees Road - reports of speeding, review the traffic counts for results and advise community members of the outcome.
3. Carlachy Bridge on Condobolin Road needs treatment, rough surface.
4. Discussion on the Community Consultation of the renaming of Marta Lane

COUNCIL RESPONSE

1. PK2026/050 - In accordance with Councils wayfinding strategies funding will need to be sourced – check with Tim G
2. RD2026/0104
3. RD2026/0105

8.4 GAVIN TOM**DISCUSSION**

1. Giveaway sign missing to Pipeclay Road
2. At the intersection of The Welcome Road and Pipeclay Road there is a tree that is blocking sight distance to the west when giving way to Pipeclay.

COUNCIL RESPONSE

1. SI2026/0033
2. TR2026/0075

8.5 ROBERT MORTIMER**DISCUSSION**

1. Alagala Road the bitumen is in poor condition and needs some work
2. Alagala Road needs spraying for Myall Trees and suckers, including mop up spraying for those suckers that were missed.
3. Middlefield Road – there are washout and is in need of maintenance
- 4.. Discussion on the truck parking and the community does not want the restrictions on the truck parking

COUNCIL RESPONSE

1. RD2026/0108
2. RD2026/0109
3. TD2026/0110

8.6 GRAEME HUNTER**DISCUSSION**

- 1.. Victoria Street - near the cricket nets is in need of repair/reseal
- 2.. Taylors Lane – causeways are in poor condition
- 3.. May Street – just past the new carpark (Services Club) needs repair
- 4.. Middle Trundle Road is in need of a turning lane
- 5.. Along the Henry Parkes Way past Cooks Myalls the is a small depression in the road
- 6.. East of Bogan Gate along Henry Parkes Way approx. 4km rough surface / culvert

COUNCIL RESPONSE

- 1.. RD2026/0111
- 2.. TD2026/0112
- 3.. RD2026/0113
- 4.. RD2026/0114
- 5.. RD2026/0115
- 6.. RD2026/0116

9 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

10 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 8:04pm.

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee held on Thursday, 26 March 2026 and confirmed on .



Logan Hignett

CHAIRPERSON

13.2 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LOCAL TRAFFIC FORUM MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2026

IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Leadership

Goal: Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.

Strategy: Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.

Author: **Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator**

Authoriser: **Logan Hignett, Director Operations**

Annexures: **A. Extraordinary Local Traffic Forum Meeting Minutes - 31 March 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Local Traffic Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 31 March 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.

Extraordinary Local Traffic Forum Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday 31 March 2026



Minutes of the Extraordinary Local Traffic Forum Meeting**Held on Tuesday, 31 March 2026 at the****Via Email****Sent Via Email:**

Cr Ken McGrath	Councillor
Mr Jason Nicholson	Transport for NSW
Mr Mitchell Gage	NSW Police
Mr Chris McQuie	Western Road Liners

Council Officers in Attendance:

Logan Hignett	Director Operations
Ben Coultas	Senior Design Engineer
Melanie Suitor	Road Safety Prevention Officer
Sue McGrath	Business Support Coordinator

NOTES

The meeting commenced via email at 3.45pm on Tuesday 31 March and concluded at 3.00pm on Friday 10 April 2026.

Order Of Business

1	OPENING OF MEETING	4
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	4
3	APOLOGIES	4
4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	4
	4.1 Minutes of the Local Traffic Forum Committee held on 4 February 2026.....	4
5	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	4
6	LATE BUSINESS	4
7	OFFICERS' REPORTS.....	5
	7.1 Light Up Parkes Event and Firework Display - Saturday 18 April 2026.....	5
	7.2 2026 Inkredible Fundraiser and Flash Day - Closure of Clarinda Street from Court Street to the Intersection of Welcome and Clarinda Street, Parkes.....	5
	7.3 National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) Conditions 3 Month Trial Update	5
8	REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS	5
9	CONCLUSION OF MEETING.....	6

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chairperson declared the Extraordinary Local Traffic Forum Meeting of Tuesday, 31 March 2026 open and welcomed Council Officials in attendance.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Wiradjuri Country and recognises and respects their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the lands and rivers of the Parkes Shire.

Council pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extends this respect to all First Nations peoples in the Parkes Shire.

3 APOLOGIES

Cr Ken McGrath Councillor

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC FORUM COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That these minutes have previously been confirmed at Council Meeting held on 17 February 2026.

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

The Chairperson reminded Council Officials of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting, and invited Council Officials present to disclose any such interests.

Nil interests were disclosed.

6 LATE BUSINESS

The Chairperson advised that no late items of business had been submitted to the meeting.

7 OFFICERS' REPORTS

7.1 LIGHT UP PARKES EVENT AND FIREWORK DISPLAY - SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026

FORUM RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. That the Local Traffic Forum review and endorse the proposed temporary road closures and traffic management arrangements for the "Light Up Parkes" event scheduled for Saturday 18 April 2026, as detailed in this report.

7.2 2026 INKREDIBLE FUNDRAISER AND FLASH DAY - CLOSURE OF CLARINDA STREET FROM COURT STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF WELCOME AND CLARINDA STREET, PARKES

FORUM RECOMMENDATION

Council Responsibilities:

That:

1. The Local Traffic Forum review and endorse the proposed temporary road closure and associated traffic management arrangements for the "2026 Incredible Fundraiser and Flash Day" event scheduled for Sunday 3 May 2026, as detailed in this report.

7.3 NATIONAL HEAVY VEHICLE REGULATOR (NHVR) CONDITIONS 3 MONTH TRIAL UPDATE

FORUM RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Note the outcomes of the trial period relating to the removal of the NHVR time of day access condition for Class 2 vehicles.
2. Amend Council's NHVR road manager consent conditions to remove the restriction: "No access 7:30 - 9:00 am and 3:00 - 4:30 pm on school days"

DISCUSSION

3. No objections to council's application to amend consent conditions with NHVR. Recommend that should the changes occur, ongoing monitoring and community feedback is considered. Reconsideration in the future if risks are evident. In communication with local operators perhaps make it known that the matter can be reconsidered if safety issues occur.

8 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

9 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 3.00pm Friday 10 April 2026.

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Extraordinary Local Traffic Forum Meeting held on Tuesday, 31 March 2026 and confirmed on Tuesday, 17 April 2026.

CHAIRPERSON

13.3 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2026**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.**Strategy:** Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.**Author:** **Veronica Shaw, Manager Governance, Risk and Corporate Performance****Authoriser:** **Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy****Annexures:** **A. Extraordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 7 April 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7 April 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday 7 April 2026



Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday, 7 April 2026 at the
Parkes Council Chambers, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes

Present:

Cr Neil Westcott	Councillor (Chairperson)
Cr Marg Applebee	Councillor (Deputy Chair)
Cr William Jayet	Councillor
Cr Louise O'Leary	Councillor
Cr Joy Paddison	Councillor
Cr Doug Pout	Councillor
Cr George Pratt	Councillor
Cr Matthew Scherer	Councillor

Council Officers in Attendance:

Mr Kent Boyd PSM	General Manager
Mr Logan Hignett	Director Operations
Mr Anthony McGrath	Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy
Mrs Annalise Teale	Director Planning and Community Services
Mr Jaco Barnard	Chief Financial Officer
Mrs Veronica Shaw	Manager Governance, Risk and Corporate Performance

NOTES

The meeting commenced at 4:02pm and concluded at 4:09pm.

Order Of Business

1	OPENING OF MEETING	4
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	4
3	PRAYER.....	4
4	APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	4
5	APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK	4
6	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	5
7	URGENT BUSINESS	5
8	ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS.....	5
9	REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY	5
	8.1 Lachlan Duplication Pipeline Procurement Pre-Approval.....	5
10	REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS	6
11	CONCLUSION OF MEETING.....	6

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 7 April 2026 open and welcomed Councillors, Council Officers and members of the public attending and listening to the meeting.

The Mayor advised attendees that the meeting was being recorded and streamed live on the internet, to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Parkes Shire community, and that the recording will be archived and made available on Council's website.

The Mayor asked that attendees ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices were turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

The Mayor further advised that all care would be taken to maintain privacy, however, as a visitor in the public gallery, members of the public should be aware that their presence may be recorded.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Wiradjuri Country and recognises and respects their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the lands and rivers of the Parkes Shire.

Council pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extends this respect to all First Nations peoples in the Parkes Shire.

3 PRAYER

The General Manager read the Prayer:

O God,
Inspire Council to make wise decisions,
Grant Integrity to face the truth,
Courage to make difficult choices,
And compassion for the needs of others,
We pray through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

AMEN

4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Ken McGrath is an apology for this meeting and was previously approved for leave at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 17 March 2026 (OCM 063/26).

Cr Glenn Wilson is an apology for this meeting.

5 APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

Nil

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

The Mayor reminded Councillors and Council Officers of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting, and invited Councillors and Council Officers to disclose any such interests.

Nil interests were disclosed.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor advised that no urgent items of business had been submitted to the meeting.

8 ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business, as recommended in the report, by way of a single resolution. The Chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the Chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the Business Paper, or that they wish to speak on (13.2).

9 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

9.1 LACHLAN DUPLICATION PIPELINE PROCUREMENT PRE-APPROVAL

RESOLVED ECMCC 001/26z

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr George Pratt

That Council:

1. Note the report on the procurement of pipe for the Lachlan Pipeline Duplication Project
2. Note that a reduced tender period has been considered
3. Resolve that because of the extenuating circumstances set out in the report a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders to submit a price and then await the outcome of the submission.
4. Note that the reasons for the decision of the Council in resolution 3 are as follows:
 - (a) The product with respect to which the tender relates can only be provided by larger manufacturers
 - (b) Council has received expert advice that due to the nature of the relevant market, offers from those manufacturers which will be made in response to the request for tender will only be open for acceptance for a period of 48hours
 - (c) Even if the tender period was shortened to 7 days as permitted under the Regulations, some if not all the relevant tenders would expire prior to Council being able to undertake an assessment of tenders, report the matter to Council and resolve to accept or reject any tenders.
 - (d) This would result in Council either having no valid tenders which it is able to accept, or it would not be able to consider for acceptance all of the tenders lodged in response to the request for tender.

(e) This would not be a satisfactory result for Council.

5. Delegate the authority to execute the contracts for the supply of the pipe for the Lachlan Pipeline Duplication Project to the General Manager.
6. Provide a report to a future Council meeting on the outcome of the procurement process.

CARRIED

10 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

11 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 4:09.

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 7 April 2026.



MAYOR

13.4 MINUTES OF THE PARKES SPORTS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2026

IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Leadership

Goal: Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.

Strategy: Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.

Author: **Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy**

Authoriser: **Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager**

Annexures: **A. Minutes of the Northparkes / Parkes Shire Sports Grants Sub-Committee held on 9 April 2026** [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council Meeting held on Thursday 9 April 2026 (Sports Grants Selection Sub-Committee) appended at *Annexure A*.

13.5 MINUTES OF THE PARKES SPORTS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2026**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.**Strategy:** Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.**Author:** **Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy****Authoriser:** **Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager****Annexures:** **A. Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council Meeting held on 14 April 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.
 2. Review the situation with lack of suitable public toilets at Woodward Oval and advise whether there is funding for temporary facilities until a new facility can be built and that a new facility be prioritised.
-

14 REPORTS OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

14.1 FUEL SECURITY – BUSINESS CONTINUITY PREPAREDNESS

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is contemporary, effective and efficient.

Strategy: Ensure compliance with statutory requirements and ensure Council's operations are supported by good corporate governance and effective risk management.

Author: Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy

Authoriser: Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager

Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the national fuel security context and associated risks to local government operations.
2. Notes that Council has developed a Fuel Disruption Action Plan as part of its Business Continuity Planning framework.
3. Notes the financial and operational impacts associated with rising fuel costs and potential fuel supply disruption.
4. Acknowledges that Council is prepared to implement fuel reduction and continuity measures should fuel availability or supply reliability deteriorate.

BACKGROUND

Australia continues to experience heightened risk in relation to national liquid fuel security, driven by global supply chain instability, geopolitical factors, refinery constraints, shipping capacity, and price volatility. These pressures have increased the likelihood of fuel supply disruption and ongoing upward pressure on fuel prices, particularly for diesel and other distillate fuels essential to local government operations.

The Commonwealth has established legislative and operational frameworks to manage serious fuel supply disruptions, including the **Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984** and the **National Liquid Fuel Emergency Response Plan (NLFERP)**. These frameworks recognise that all levels of government, including local government, play an important role in preparedness and demand management during periods of fuel disruption.

In response to the evolving national context and recognising Council's reliance on liquid fuels to deliver essential services, Council has proactively developed a **Fuel Disruption Action Plan** to support business continuity and operational resilience.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Council operations are highly fuel dependent, with diesel and petrol forming a critical input to services such as infrastructure maintenance, waste management, water and sewer operations, fleet services, parks and open space maintenance, emergency response support, and community facilities.

Council's **Fuel Disruption Action Plan** has been developed as a practical, scalable response framework under Council's broader Business Continuity Planning (BCP) arrangements. The plan is designed to be activated quickly should fuel availability deteriorate or supply delays occur, and to be adjusted in line with the severity and duration of the disruption.

Key impacts to Council under a worsening fuel security scenario include:

- Service delivery disruption
- Rising fuel costs impacting operational budgets and service delivery.
- Increased costs of goods and services procured by Council where fuel is a component cost.
- Project cost variations and delays associated with higher transport and construction input costs.
- Broader inflationary pressures affecting contracted services and supplier pricing.

Key elements of Council's preparedness include:

- Identification of critical services and operations that are fuel-dependent.
- Clear prioritisation protocols for fuel allocation to essential services.
- Pre-identified operational actions that can be rapidly implemented if fuel supply becomes restricted.
- Scenario planning for short-term supply delays and more prolonged disruption events.
- Internal coordination arrangements to support rapid decision-making if required.

As part of its immediate preparedness actions, Council has already implemented and promoted a range of fuel reduction strategies, including:

- Encouraging carpooling and reduced non-essential vehicle travel.
- Limit non-essential travel, particularly to meeting that can be attended online.
- Reviewing work practices to minimise unnecessary fleet usage.

Council has also maintained regular internal communications to staff regarding the current fuel security situation. These updates are intended to:

- Keep staff informed of emerging risks and Council's preparedness position.
- Recommend fuel efficiency strategies across the organisation.
- Actively seek staff suggestions for additional fuel reduction and efficiency initiatives.

This approach ensures that fuel security is managed as a whole-of-organisation issue, supports cultural awareness, and enhances Council's ability to respond quickly if conditions worsen.

At present, Council does not face an immediate fuel supply shortfall. However, Council's preparedness ensures it is well-positioned to manage escalating risks in a controlled and coordinated manner, consistent with good governance and risk management principles.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Council's fuel security preparedness is informed by the following legislative and policy frameworks:

- **Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 (Cth)**, which provides powers and arrangements to manage national liquid fuel emergencies and promote coordinated demand restraint.
- **National Liquid Fuel Emergency Response Plan**, which outlines roles and responsibilities of governments during fuel supply disruptions and emphasises early demand management measures.
- **Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)**, which requires councils to exercise sound financial, asset and risk management and ensure continuity of essential services.

- Council's **Risk Management Framework** and **Business Continuity Planning Framework**, developed in accordance with the NSW Office of Local Government *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government*.

These frameworks support Council's proactive planning and its emphasis on early mitigation and preparedness rather than reactive response.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the development of the Fuel Disruption Action Plan, as it has been prepared using existing internal resources.

However, ongoing fuel price increases and any future supply disruption may have financial impacts for Council, including:

- Increased operational expenditure for fuel-dependent services.
- Higher costs for capital projects and maintenance works due to fuel-related cost escalation.
- Flow-on increases in the cost of supplies, materials, and contracted services.

These impacts will be monitored as part of Council's regular financial management and reported to Council as required.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Fuel disruption represents a **high operational and financial risk** to Council if unmitigated. Potential consequences include service disruption, budget overruns, project delays, and reputational impacts.

The Fuel Disruption Action Plan mitigates this risk by:

- Establishing clear operational priorities.
- Identifying early fuel reduction and demand management measures.
- Supporting timely, coordinated decision-making during disruption events.
- Enhancing organisational resilience and continuity of essential services.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

14.2 INVESTMENTS AND BORROWINGS REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is sustainable and plans for the future.

Strategy: Operate in a financially sustainable and responsible manner.

Author: Luke Nash, Executive Manager Finance

Authoriser: Jaco Barnard, Chief Financial Officer

Annexures: A. Investment Register - 31 March 2026 [↓](#)
B. Loans Register - 31 March 2026 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Statement of Investments and Borrowings as at 31 March 2026.

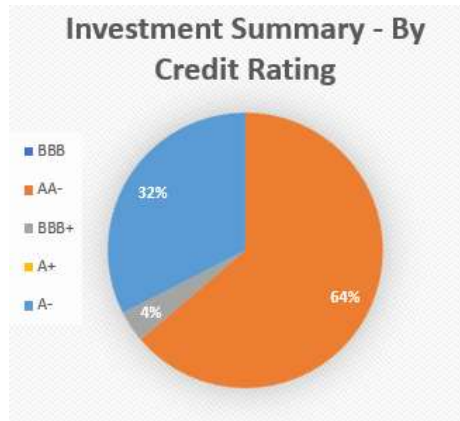
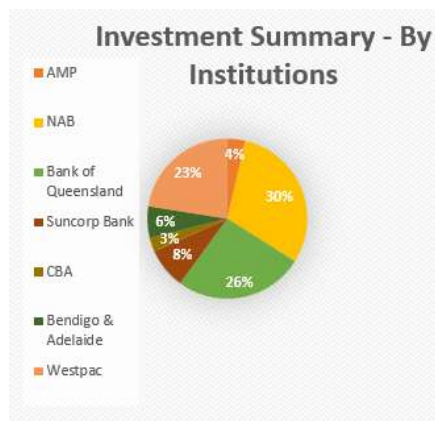
BACKGROUND

In accordance with clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (“the Regulations”), the Responsible Accounting Officer must provide Parkes Shire Council (“Council”) with a monthly written report setting out details of Council’s investments under section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 (“the Act”). The report must also include certification that these investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council’s Investment Policy.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

The balance of Council’s investments as of 31 March 2026 stands at \$54,517,229 and the principal outstanding on council's borrowings at \$19,363,714. Investment holdings increased by \$1.67 million during March following the receipt of grant funding payments.

On 31 March 2026, Council’s investment portfolio continued to yield 4.47 per cent per annum. The strong performance over longer-term timeframes continues to be driven by the handful of the longer-dated deposits that were originally invested beyond 9-12 months, as well as the FRN portfolio. Council’s investments cover externally restricted cash reserves and internal restricted cash reserves. The following charts depict a summary of the investments held by Council based on the individual institutional exposure and credit rating of the institutions with which they are held.



LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Council's investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy which accords with the requirements of the:

- Local Government Act 1993 ("the Act") - Section 625
- Local Government Act 1993 - Order (of Minister) dated 16 November 2020
- The Trustee Amendment (Discretionary Investments) Act 1997 - Sections 14A(2), 14C(1) and (2); and
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 ("the Regulation") - Clauses 212 and 215.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All returns on investments are included in Council's Operating Budget. Any amendment to budgeted interest income is affected through the Quarterly Budget Review process. Both the average level of funds invested, and the rate of return determine returns. In accordance with the Australian equivalent of International Accounting Standards, securities that are classified as held for trading are required to be valued at market value at each balance date. Investments in the form of cash or cash equivalents and held to maturity investments are valued at cost. Floating Rate Notes acquired on the secondary market are valued at cost. Where the purchase consideration is different to face value, the resulting premium or discount are amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the Note.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's investments are managed in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. As at the end of March all counterparties were within the Policy limits. Overall, the portfolio is diversified amongst the investment grade spectrum with no exposure to unrated ADI's.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

The Chief Financial Officer has certified that the investments listed in the Investment Summary have been made in accordance with section 625 of the Act, clause 212 of the Regulation and Council's Investment Policy. Council's investments continue to focus on capital protection, as well as compliance with the Investment Policy, whilst actively seeking the best return allowable within these parameters. It is recommended that Council receive and note the Statement of Investments and Borrowings as on 31 March 2026.

14.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2026**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is sustainable and plans for the future.**Strategy:** Operate in a financially sustainable and responsible manner.**Author:** **Luke Nash, Executive Manager Finance****Authoriser:** **Jaco Barnard, Chief Financial Officer****Annexures:** **A. Director's Report - March 2026** [↓](#)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receive and note the year-to-date financial reports for the period up to 31 March 2026.

BACKGROUND

The NSW Local Government Act section 8B establishes principles of sound financial management as follows:

- a) Council spending should be responsible and sustainable, aligning general revenue and expenses.
- b) Councils should invest in responsible and sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of the local community.
- c) Councils should have effective financial and asset management, including sound policies and processes for the following:
 - (i) performance management and reporting,
 - (ii) asset maintenance and enhancement,
 - (iii) funding decisions,
 - (iv) risk management practices.
- d) Councils should have regard to achieving intergenerational equity, including ensuring the following:
 - (i) policy decisions are made after considering their financial effects on future generations,
 - (ii) the current generation funds the cost of its services (which also means the current generation should not bear costs for benefit of future generations)

This report monitors the progress of the 2025-26 operational budget, which programs the plan to achieve the actions, and strategic objectives set within Council's delivery plan.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Council has achieved a favourable consolidated net operating result of \$498k at the end of March which is \$3.3m under budget. The general fund reflected a loss of \$1.1m, the water fund reflected a profit of \$1.5m while the sewer fund reflected a profit of \$1.4m. The year-to-date income was \$10.5m more than budgeted, while the cash expenses were \$2.3m more than budgeted.

Depreciation was \$4.8m more than budget mainly due to the road assets revaluation which was done in the 2024/25 financial year.

Annexure A provides more detailed commentary into the financial performance of the organisation for the period ending 31 March 2026 compared to the adopted budget.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Local Government Act (section 8B)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The monthly financial report presented a comparison between actuals vs. budget for the period ending 31 March 2026.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's budgets are monitored in accordance with the adopted operational plan and long-term financial plan. It is essential for council to monitor programs against budget to avoid depending on savings from other programs and to utilise reserves that had been set aside for other specific purposes.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

15 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMY

15.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMY - MARCH 2026

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.

Author: Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy

Authoriser: Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy

Annexures: A. Major Projects Report - DCCSE - March 2026 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the status report of Major Projects within Parkes Shire Council's Customer, Corporate Services and Economy Directorate.

BACKGROUND

A monthly status report of Major Projects within Parkes Shire Council's Customer, Corporate Services and Economy Department is tabled to keep Council abreast of projects being undertaken across the Parkes Shire.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

This report presents an update on the current major projects within the Parkes Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Customer, Corporate Services and Economy Directorate. The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month, together with work to be done in the next month and is provided for the information of Councillors.

The Directorate Major Projects and Current Works Report is appended at *Annexure A*.

Projects listed include:

Project	Status	Comment
Parkes Elvis Festival (PEF) 2026		<i>Post event report completed</i>
Parkes Elvis Festival (PEF) 2027		<i>Event planning underway</i>
The Community Improvement District (CID) Pilot Program		<i>The community event will have been held. Work continues with the new Brand.</i>
Fresh Start Program – New Cadets, Apprentices and Trainees		<i>8 of the 18 new positions approved remain filled. Last grant round is early 2027.</i>
CiA Live Corporate Software System Upgrade.		<i>Initial planning has commenced</i>

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects have been allocated funding either from grants or Council funds as provided in the Operational Budget and indicated in the report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Project risk status is indicated by the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) indicators as shown against each project in the report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Each project may have its own requirements for community consultation or notification in relation to the delivery of the project works.

15.2 DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2026-2027 FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.**Author:** **Teresa Cooper, Corporate Planning and Performance Coordinator****Authoriser:** **Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy****Annexures:** **Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Endorse the [Draft Operational Plan and Budget 2026-2027](#) for public exhibition, pursuant to section 4.9 of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines.
2. Place the [Draft Operational Plan and Budget 2026-2027](#) on public exhibition for 28-days.
3. Report to Council after the public exhibition period advising any submissions received, including a recommended response, before the report is finally adopted by Council.

BACKGROUND

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must develop and adopt an Operational Plan before each financial year. This plan outlines the activities and actions for the year to achieve the commitments in the Delivery Program, developed each election cycle.

The Operational Plan must address the activities in the Delivery Program and identify the services, projects, programs, and events for the financial year. It must be prepared according to the IP&R Guidelines, updated in 2021 and available on the Office of Local Government's website. The Local Government Act and IP&R Guidelines provide robust direction on the elements to be included in this document to ensure it meets community need.

The draft Operational Plan for 2026-2027 details the services, projects, programs, and events Council proposes to undertake to meet the objectives in the Delivery Program, aligned with the four strategic outcomes in the Community Strategic Plan. The Operational Plan and Budget 2026-2027 are part of the Parkes Shire 2035+ Delivery Program, outlining the specific projects, actions, and budget for the year. Council reports on these measures every six months.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

The draft Operational Plan and Budget 2026-2027 ("the draft Operational Plan") has been prepared to ensure compliance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines.

Consistent with the legislative requirements, the draft Operational Plan and Budget comprise the proposed:

1. Operational Plan,
2. Budget, and
3. Statement of Revenue Policy ("Revenue Policy").

Commentary on each component is detailed below:

[Draft Operational Plan and Budget 2026-2027](#)

Each action programmed for delivery has a clear measure and target and has been assigned to a Council Officer for delivery. Progress on delivering each action will be reported to Council and the Parkes Shire community via 6-monthly progress reports.

Council is proposing to undertake 450 actions in 2026-2027. Highlights include:

- An emphasis on core function delivery and project management to ensure financial sustainability of Council in the long-term.
- 13 Core Functions of Council
- Improvement of Liveability through Continued operation of our four libraries and four swimming pools across the Shire and support for childcare with our Family Day Care operations.
- Improved residential housing accessibility through planned development and sales.
- Maintenance and development to Council operations through Business Systems and Technology and Fleet capital works investments.
- Enhancing liveability vibrancy through place-based initiatives.
- Deliver and support major festivals, and smaller community activations.
- Parkes Wetlands development to enhance Parkes' environmental attractions.
- Environment and sustainability differentiated as a core function encompassing Biosecurity, Climate Change, Biodiversity and Urban Greening and Net Zero and Carbon Neutrality.
- Parkes CBD flood mitigation works and urban stormwater drainage.
- Maintenance across a full range of critical facilities, such as our water infrastructure, to ensure our water quality and security is improving, and ensure sustainable wastewater use.
- Road improvements with grants assistance to upgrade rural assets, such as the Bogan Road upgrade, Peak Hill Road, Baldry Road and Graddle Creek Bridge.

The draft Operational Plan is currently being professionally designed. As such, the version of the document provided to Council for adoption will be styled differently to what is appended to this report.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Council is required under the [Local Government Act](#) and [IP&R Guidelines](#) to review and develop the Operational Plan and Budget annually prior to the commencement of each financial year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report proposes a draft for Council's budget for the 2026-2027 Financial Year.

The 2026–27 Budget has been prepared in an increasingly constrained fiscal environment in which service demands, and community expectations continue to grow, while revenue growth remains structurally limited by State-imposed rate-pegging and declining intergovernmental funding support.

For 2026–27, Council is forecast to generate \$69.55 million in operational revenue, receive \$71.38 million in capital grants and contributions, and invest \$90.94 million in capital works, noting that delivery of part of this program is reliant on securing further external grant funding. Council's capital works program includes \$50.84 million in investment focused on water security and asset restoration projects, funded through government grants. Council's Operating Result from Continuing Operations is projected to be a deficit of (\$8.81) million, largely attributable to non-cash depreciation budgeted expenses of \$27.74 million, a significant increase from \$20.41 million in the previous financial year budget, reflecting valuing methodology imposed by the Office of Local Government.

The Budget has been developed to protect Council's short-term cash position and overall financial liquidity, and from a cash perspective no material decline in Council's net financial position is anticipated. However, this approach is achieved through a highly disciplined expenditure framework which, in the current funding environment, necessarily constrains Council's ability to fully fund asset

maintenance and renewal to optimal levels. Over time, the ongoing escalation of costs continues to outpace constrained revenue growth, increasing pressure on Council's capacity to sustainably manage its asset base. As a consequence, and after the exhaustion of efficiency measures and discretionary expenditure, an increasing number of councils across New South Wales are being compelled to pursue Special Rate Variations on a recurring basis as a practical response to structural revenue shortfalls and to support the continuation of essential services, infrastructure renewal and long-term financial sustainability.

The financial challenges outlined in this report are not unique to this Council but reflect a widespread and deepening structural issue across local government in New South Wales and nationally. The sector is facing sustained operating deficits, escalating asset renewal backlogs and declining real revenue, compounded by the withdrawal of once-recurring State and Commonwealth grant programs. For this Council alone, the loss of over \$8.13 million in capital funding from the most recent rounds of key programs has had a material impact on capital delivery and long-term asset sustainability. In this context, continued reliance on short-term, project-based funding is insufficient to address the growing gap between community expectations and councils' capacity to deliver essential services and infrastructure. There is a clear and pressing need for coordinated, sector-wide advocacy to restore Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to their former benchmark of at least one per cent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue, providing local government with a stable, predictable and equitable funding base. Endorsement of the CMA's *'Invest in Us – so we can invest in them'* campaign represents a practical and unified step toward addressing these systemic challenges in the interests of Council, its community and regional New South Wales.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of the [draft Operational Plan and Budget](#), as recommended, ensures Council complies with its legislative requirements under section 405 of the Act.

Failure to review and adopt this Plan and Budget could have potentially major risk implications for Council.

Robust Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) frameworks play a crucial role in mitigating the risks of misuse and mismanagement of public funds. By ensuring that all activities and expenditures are transparently planned and reported, these frameworks help maintain accountability and trust within the community.

Aligning the annual Operational Plan and Budget with the Delivery Program, Resource Strategy and Community Strategic Plan is essential to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively towards achieving the community's priorities and goals.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Prior to adoption, Council's [Draft Operational Plan and Budget](#) must be publicly exhibited for at least 28 days, and any submissions received during that period must be considered by Council before the final Operational Plan and Budget is adopted.

The exhibition period will be publicised on Council's website, and social media channels, as well as by direct correspondence to Council's various Community Consultative Committees. Hard copies will be available at the Council's Administration Centre and the four Shire libraries.

15.3 CIVIC RECEPTION - NSW PSSA U12 BOYS RUGBY LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Community**Goal:** Our community is safe, active and healthy.**Strategy:** Enhance recreation and culture, provide sport, recreation and play space facilities that encourage participation, connection and support for healthy and wellbeing lifestyles.**Author:** Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy**Authoriser:** Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager**Annexures:** A. Email - Paul Faulkner - Requesting Civic Reception - U12 PSSA Rugby League Championships [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. That Council approve the hosting of a Civic Reception on Wednesday 17 June 2026 to welcome the captains and coaches attending the NSW Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) U12 Boys Rugby League State Championships to be held in Parkes from 15–18 June 2026.

BACKGROUND

Parkes has been selected to host the NSW Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) Under 12 Boys Rugby League State Championships. The competition will be conducted over four days from **15 to 18 June 2026** at **Pioneer Oval and Spicer Oval**.

Major sporting events of this nature generate a significant influx of visitors to Parkes, including players, officials, families and supporters, and deliver a positive social and economic benefit to the local community.

The event convenor, **Mr Paul Faulkner**, has formally written to Council (*Annexure A*) requesting that a **Civic Reception** be held on Wednesday 17 June 2026 to officially welcome the team captains and coaches to Parkes as the host community.

Council has a history of acknowledging and welcoming visiting sporting participants, including hosting civic receptions for captains and coaches attending previous PSSA championships, such as the U12 AFL boys and U11 Rugby League Boys championships hosted in Parkes in recent years.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Hosting a Civic Reception provides an opportunity for Council to formally recognise the significance of the NSW PSSA U12 Boys Rugby League State Championships and the role of Parkes as the host location.

Such receptions contribute to strengthening Council's reputation as a welcoming regional centre capable of successfully hosting major state-level sporting events. They also enhance relationships with state sporting organisations and schools, supporting future event attraction outcomes.

The proposed Civic Reception would be modest in scale and consistent with previous receptions hosted by Council for comparable sporting events. It would acknowledge the contribution of organisers, officials, coaches and players, and reinforce the positive profile of Parkes across NSW.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of hosting the Civic Reception is not expected to exceed **\$1,500**. This expenditure can be accommodated within the existing **Civic Events budget** and does not require any additional or unbudgeted funding.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The risks associated with hosting a Civic Reception for this event are considered **low** and consistent with similar events previously delivered by Council.

Potential risks include low attendance or minor budget overruns; however, these can be effectively managed through appropriate planning, cost control measures and confirmation of attendee numbers in advance.

The reputational benefits of supporting a major state sporting event are considered to outweigh any minimal operational risks.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

15.4 INTERNAL COMMITTEE CHANGES - SPORT AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SPORTS COUNCIL

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.

Author: Veronica Shaw, Manager Governance, Risk and Corporate Performance

Authoriser: Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy

Annexures: A. Internal Committee Details [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Internal Committee delegates and amendments in the Internal Committee Details document attached at Annexure A.
2. Approve the removal of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee and that its functions be incorporated into the Sport Council as set out in the Internal Committees at Annexure A.
3. Communicate the Internal Committee changes to relevant parties.
4. Advertise to seek community representatives for appointment to the various advisory committees as required.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 1993 ("the Act") provides that Parkes Shire Council ("Council") may establish committees to inform its strategy-setting and decision-making processes and provide a mechanism for community involvement in the provision of Council facilities and services.

Council traditionally reviews the appointment of Councillors to its Internal and External committees annually with the Committee Framework Policy reviewed each council term or as required by legislative or Council changes.

As noted above, the Act provides that Council may establish committees to support its decision-making processes and involve community members in the management of Council facilities and provision of Council services. Committees operated by Council can broadly be grouped into the four (4) following categories:

Committee	Purpose
Standing	Established under Clause 20 of the Model Code of Meeting Practice, comprising the Mayor and Councillors, for a specific purpose. Such committees are comprised entirely of Councillors.
Statutory	Established to achieve compliance with Council's legislative obligations under an Act of Parliament (e.g., Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee; Local Traffic Committee). Such committees may comprise Councillors, as well as community representatives and other stakeholders, depending on the applicable legislation.
Advisory	Established to provide specialist advice to Council with respect to opportunities and challenges pertaining to a certain issue or oversee the implementation of a

	strategy or major plan of Council. Such committees may include community representatives, Councillors and/or members of Council staff.
Section 355	Established under section 355 of the Act to exercise a function of the Council (e.g., management of a Council facility or service). Such committees may include community representatives, Councillors and/or members of Council staff.

Parkes Shire Council’s Code of Meeting Practice provides that Council may appoint or elect Committees as it considers necessary with Council reviewing all appointments annually.

Council must specify the functions of each of its committees when the Committee is appointed or elected but may from time to time amend those functions.

Committees are an important part of community engagement and in executing a Councillors' responsibility.

The Internal Committees attached at *Annexure A* were last amended at the December 2025 Council meeting in response to the new Model Code of Meeting Practice.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Council recommend that the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee be dissolved and that its functions be incorporated with the Sports Council. This move is recommended due to the well-established and effective discharging of responsibilities of the Sports Council that substantially overlap with the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee’s intended purpose. In relation to this move, it is recommended that the current composition, administration, sponsor and meetings dates of the Parkes Sports Council are unchanged. Council also recommends that “use of shire pools” is not included under the Sports Council’s objectives as all pool related issues are better addressed direct to Council.

Current Committee

The below two tables are the currently established details of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Parkes Sports Council as they currently separately stand.

Strategic Advisory Committees (last adopted 17 December 2024 [OCM 386-24])							
Advisory Committees engage with community representatives to seek advice and provide guidance on the development and implementation of Council’s strategic plans, priorities and programs.							
Committee	Objective	Strategic Oversight	Committee Composition	Members	Administrator	Sponsor	Meeting Dates
Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference: 1705651	Provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to upcoming major sporting projects, sporting and recreation facilities, including pools, and the prioritisation and implementation of sporting projects and programs in the Parkes Shire.	Sporting Facility & Precinct Masterplan	Councillor Delegates: Three (3) Councillors Mayor (ex officio)	Councillor Delegates: Cr Bill Jayet Cr Louise O’Leary Cr Doug Pout Cr Matthew Scherer (Alternate)	Business Support Coordinator	Director Operations	Meeting dates are scheduled quarterly February 2026 April 2026 July 2026 October 2026 Quarterly dates to be confirmed
		2025-26 Strategic Asset Management Plan					
		2025-26 Operational Plan & Budget	Community Representative One (1) community representative	Community Representative Peter Bristol			

Section 355 Committees (last adopted 17 December 2024 [OCM 386-24])						
Under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council can delegate certain functions to committees to provide these on behalf of Council.						
Committee	Delegated Function	Committee Composition	Members	Administrator	Sponsor	Meeting Dates
Parkes Sports Council	Hire and use of sports fields and facilities, the selection of the Ron Harrison Bursary Award, management of the Sports Life Member Honour Board, the selection of the Parkes Shire Sports Awards recipients, the management of the Legends of Sport honour roll and the management and selection of projects under the Northparkes/Parkes Shire Council Sports Grants scheme.	Representatives include: Two (2) Councillors One (1) delegate from each of the sporting groups that use the sports fields and facilities.	Councillor Delegates: Cr Louise O'Leary Cr Doug Pout Cr Matthew Scherer <i>(Alternate)</i>	Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy	Director Operations	Meeting dates are scheduled monthly February 2026 March 2026 April 2026 May 2026 June 2026 August 2026 September 2026 October 2026 November 2026 December 2026

Proposed Committee

The below table reflects the recommendation to dissolve the Sport and Recreation Committee and incorporate its objectives, apart from "Use of Shire Pools" into the Parkes Sports Council with no changes to the committee's composition, administrator, sponsor or meetings dates. The below changes are reflected in the Internal Committee document attached at *Annexure A*.

Section 355 Committees (last adopted 17 December 2024 [OCM 386-24])							
Under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council can delegate certain function to committees to provide these on behalf of Council.							
Committee	Delegated Function	Strategic Oversight	Committee Composition	Members	Administrator	Sponsor	Meeting Dates
Parkes Sports Council	Resolve disputes regarding hire and use of sports fields and facilities, the selection of the Ron Harrison Bursary Award, management of the Sports Life Member Honour Board, the selection of the Parkes Shire Sports Awards recipients, the management of the Legends of Sport honour roll and the management and selection of projects under the Evolution Mining – Northparkes Operations / Parkes Shire Council Sports Grants scheme. Provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to upcoming major sporting projects, sporting and recreation facilities, and the prioritisation and implementation of sporting projects and programs in the Parkes Shire.	Sporting Facility & Precinct Masterplan 2025-26 Strategic Asset Management Plan 2025-26 Operational Plan & Budget Open Space Strategy <i>(in draft)</i>	Representatives include: Two (2) Councillors One (1) delegate from each of the sporting groups that use the sports fields and facilities.	Councillor Delegates: Cr Louise O'Leary Cr Doug Pout Cr Matthew Scherer <i>(Alternate)</i>	Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy	Director Operations	Meeting dates are scheduled monthly February 2026 March 2026 April 2026 May 2026 June 2026 August 2026 September 2026 October 2026 November 2026 December 2026

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Council Advisory Committees are established under section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993, which enables Council to appoint committees and determine their functions, membership and terms of reference. Council may also amend or dissolve such committees by resolution, provided governance arrangements remain consistent with the Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. Advisory committees operate in an advisory capacity only unless specific delegations are provided, with Council retaining ultimate decision-making responsibility.

The proposed dissolution of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee and the transfer of its advisory functions to the Sports Council section 355 committee is consistent with Council's powers under the Act. Consolidating advisory functions within a single section 355 committee supports

streamlined governance, reduces duplication, and provides a clearer and more efficient advisory structure for matters relating to sport and recreation.

The proposal also aligns with Council's Committee Framework Policy, which provides guidance on the types, establishment, operation, review and disbandment of Council committees. Implementation of the changes will require a formal Council resolution and updates to the Sports Council Terms of Reference to reflect the expanded advisory role.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Endorsement of the Committee Structure and appointment of Councillor Committee members, as recommended, ensures compliance with legislative requirements under section 355 of the Act.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report. However, committees are an important way of consulting with the community and fostering participation in Council activities. The Act provides that Council may establish committees to support its decision-making processes and involve community members in the management of Council facilities and provision of Council services.

**15.5 ADOPTION OF COUNCIL POLICY - PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK****IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is contemporary, effective and efficient.**Strategy:** Ensure compliance with statutory requirements and ensure Council's operations are supported by good corporate governance and effective risk management.**Author:** Veronica Shaw, Business Support Officer**Authoriser:** Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy**Annexures:** A. Draft Council Policy - Procurement and Contract Management Framework [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Procurement and Contracts Management Framework included as *Annexure A* to this report.
 2. Publish the adopted policy on Council's Website and intranet if required.
-

BACKGROUND

As part of Council's commitment to continuous improvement, all Council policies receive minor amendments from time to time as required and are on a review schedule to ensure that they comply with current legislation and local government best practice. In addition, the Office of Local Government (OLG) recommends that council's review all relevant policies in the first twelve months of office.

The following policy has been reviewed and is presented at *Annexure A* for Council's adoption:

- Council Policy – Procurement and Contracts Management Framework (*Annexure A*)

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

The method of development and amendments for consideration of the Council Policy appended at *Annexure A* is described below.

Procurement and Contracts Management Framework (*Annexure A*)

The Procurement and Contract Management Framework has been developed to provide a structured and consistent approach to the acquisition of goods and services, and the management of associated contracts across Council.

Following a review of current practices, including a Contract Management Audit conducted in 2022, a business decision was made to combine procurement and contract management functions. This approach recognises the interconnected nature of procurement and contract management and supports stronger governance, clearer accountability, and improved management of risk across the full lifecycle of procurement activities.

The Framework is intended to promote consistency, transparency, and value for money, while ensuring procurement and contract management activities are conducted in an efficient, ethical, and legally compliant manner. It supports Council's strategic objectives and aligns procurement practices with relevant legislation, regulatory requirements, and organisational policies.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

The key legislation and regulation for all council policies is the [Local Government Act 1993 No 30](#) and [Local Government \(General\) Regulation 2021](#).

Additional legislation considerations for this policy include:

[Government Information \(Public Access\) Act 2009 No 52](#)

[Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

[Work Health and Safety regulation 2017](#)

[Tendering Guidelines for NSW Local Government 2009](#)

[Model Code of Conduct and Procedures 2020](#)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Adoption and adherence to the attached reviewed policy ensures Council is compliant with Acts and Regulations.

Failure to adopt and adhere to the attached policy could result in serious consequences, including increased risk of damage to Council's reputation, and breaches of legislation that may lead to regulatory penalties or disciplinary action.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report. However, the adopted policy will be placed on Council's website.

16 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY**16.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY - MARCH 2026****IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.**Author:** Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator**Authoriser:** Andrew Francis, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability**Annexures:** A. Major Projects and Current Works - Infrastructure & Sustainability [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Infrastructure and Sustainability Major Projects and Current Works Report for March 2026, appended at *Annexure A*.
-

BACKGROUND

A monthly status report of Major Projects and Current Works within Parkes Shire Council's Infrastructure and Strategic Futures directorate is tabled to keep Council abreast of projects being undertaken across the Parkes Shire.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

This report presents an update on the current major projects within the Parkes Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Infrastructure and Strategic Futures Department. The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month and is provided for the information of Councillors. The Major Projects and Current Works Report is appended at *Annexure A*.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects have been allocated funding either from grants or Council funds as provided in the 2025/2026 Operational Budget.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Project risk status is indicated by the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) indicators as shown against each project in the report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Each project may have its own requirements for community consultation or notification in relation to the delivery of the project works.

CONCLUSION

The Major Projects and Current Works Report, appended at *Annexure A*, provides Council with a briefing on major projects and works underway within the organisation's Infrastructure and Strategic Futures directorate. It is recommended that Council formally resolve to receive and note the report.

16.2 WASTE EDUCATION UPDATE OCTOBER 25 TO MARCH 26**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Environment**Goal:** Our community reduces, reuses and recycles waste**Strategy:** Partner with stakeholders and the Community on campaigns and events.**Author:** **Sharyn Ware, Waste Management Coordinator****Authoriser:** **Andrew Francis, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability****Annexures:** **Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Note and receive the information contained within the report.

BACKGROUND

Commitment to waste and resource recovery education is regularly occurring throughout Council. Best outcomes are achieved via a range of delivery methods to reach maximum residents.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Waste education is provided by Envirocom as part of the Netwaste Contract between Council and JR Richards. Various initiatives and events including bin audits, waste facility audits, surveys, pop up information displays, workshops, information fact sheets and flyers eg. Bin Collection Calendars, and in-school education are carried out annually.

Some education initiatives and results from October 2025 to March 2026 are highlighted for your interest:

- **Council Impact Report – Plastic Free July**

In 2025, 47 councils across Australia became official Council Members of Plastic Free July, representing a mix of urban, rural, and regional areas. General population research found that 517,000 residents from these councils actively participated, choosing to refuse single-use plastics.

Parkes Shire Council's participation in Plastic Free July provided some favourable statistics:

- 1853 Shire residents participated in the survey
- 371 residents formally pledged to consistently reduce plastic use and avoid single use plastics
- 804 residents became aware and made changes to current use
- Overall, an estimated 5.6% behaviour change in our Shire

It is of interest that eight Netwaste Councils became Council Members reaching 26,334 residents from Blayney to Mudgee to Cobar.

- **Bin Inspection Program (Yellow) – Parkes**

Envirocom carried out a yellow bin inspection program in Parkes over five days. 725 properties were inspected with 506 presenting a recycling bin for collection (70%). Of all recycling bins presented 80% showed nil or low levels of contamination, while 6% showed high or gross levels of contamination. Soft plastics were the most common contaminant (32%), followed by tissues (13%), non-recyclable plastics (11%), composite paper (5%) and bagged material (5%).

Inspection periods were inclusive of two hours of visual inspection and kerbside resident engagements in each area. Inspectors recorded the observations of each household along the inspection route using a tailored app. Recycling bins were assigned a contamination rating based on the quantity and severity of contamination observed.

The bin tags used for providing feedback to residents feature a ‘5-star’ rating system, which succinctly describe the correctness of their bin’s contents. Having only one tag design helps to provide anonymity to the inspection results amongst neighbouring residents, which helps to mitigate feelings of being ‘singled-out’ by inspectors. The 5-star system also encourages residents to improve their rating by correcting their recycling behaviours. Recycling bin with no observable contamination received ‘5 stars’ on their tag, while recycling bins with contamination received 1 to 4 ‘stars’, with 1 star representing the poorest result (‘Gross’). Bins that contained soft plastics also received a round ‘No Soft Plastics’ sticker on the lid, as an additional reminder to residents about this particular contaminant.

Visual inspections can only observe materials at or near the top of a kerbside bin, thus limiting the inspector’s ability to observe and accurately determine the composition of materials. Nevertheless, in some cases the sub-surface could be observed by moving certain items around inside the bin where it was safe and possible to do so.

Five different areas of town were chosen as below:

Table 1. 2025 Recycling BEE targeted areas and schedule.

Inspection Day	Inspection Area	Streets Inspected
Monday 20 October	Area 1	Hill St, High St, Goobang St, Clarinda St, East St, Thurlstone St, Mill St, Oswin St, Weston St
Tuesday 21 October	Area 2	Church St, Phillip St, Rees Av, Talbot St, Victoria St, Ward St, Elizabeth St, Mitchell St, Coleman Rd, Rose St, Phoenix St, Tichborne St, Rawson St, Carrington St, Clarinda St
Wednesday 22 October	Area 3	Middleton St, Pearce St, Melbourne St, Captain Wilson Av, Kingsford Av, Close St, Dalton St, Grenfell St, Armstrong St
Thursday 23 October	Area 4	Close St, Best St, Koala St, Cedar Cr, Carinya St, Guillan Pl, Glengowrie Cl, Molong Rd
Friday 24 October	Area 5	Moor St, Bowditch Cr, Barton St, Danilenko St, Camellia Pde, Acacia Cct, Hydrangea Av, Ulmus Pl

The majority of households presented a recycling bin that was 80%, 90% or 100% full (56.52%). This indicates that there is limited scope for additional material diversion without household behaviours changing. The changes required may include (but would not be limited

to) further compaction of containers, flattening of cardboard boxes and changes in purchasing habits.

In the future, it might be beneficial to extend the reach of the program throughout the LGA so more households can receive direct feedback on their bins or specifically address the geographical areas which present higher levels of contamination through a targeted education campaign.

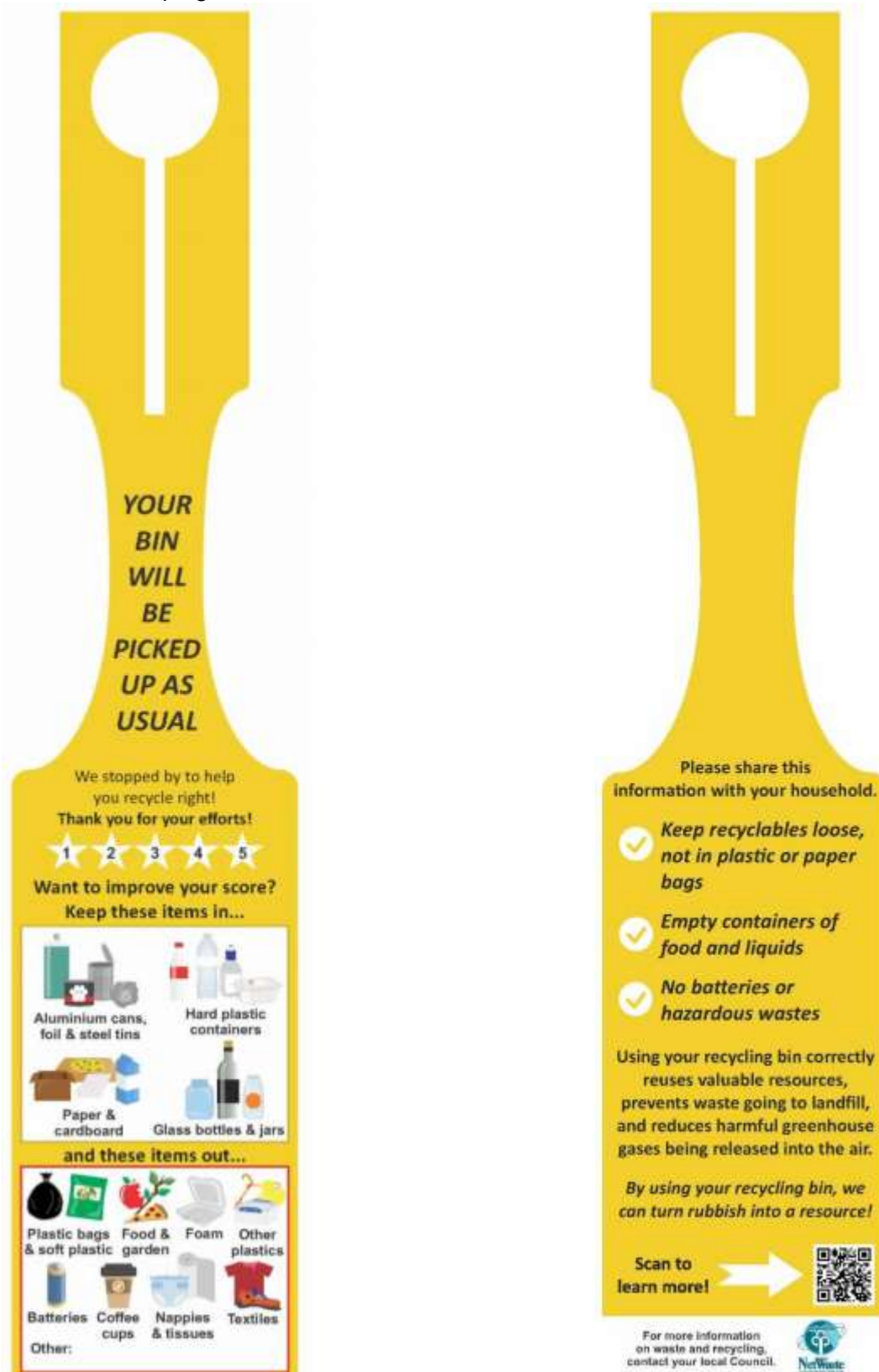


Figure 1. Contamination ratings of observed recycling bins (all areas combined)

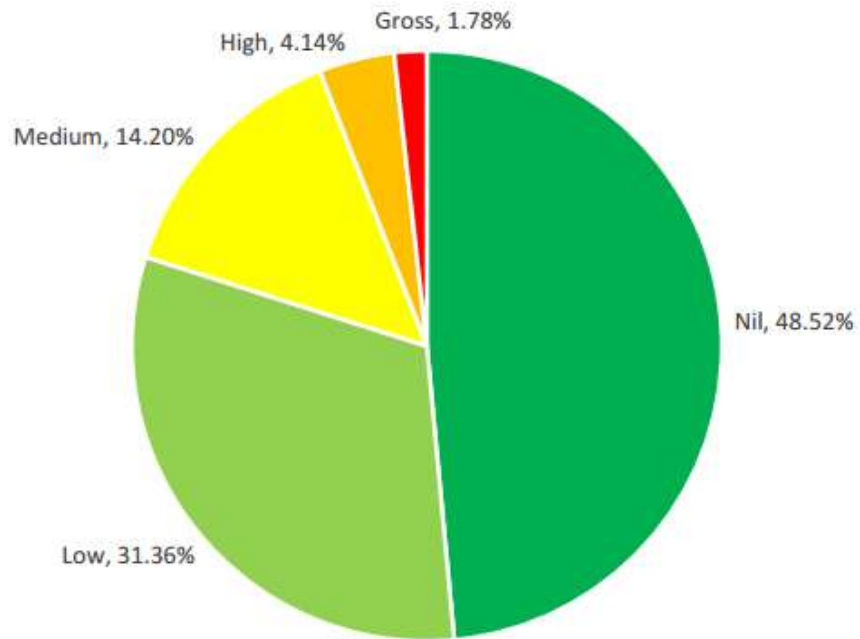
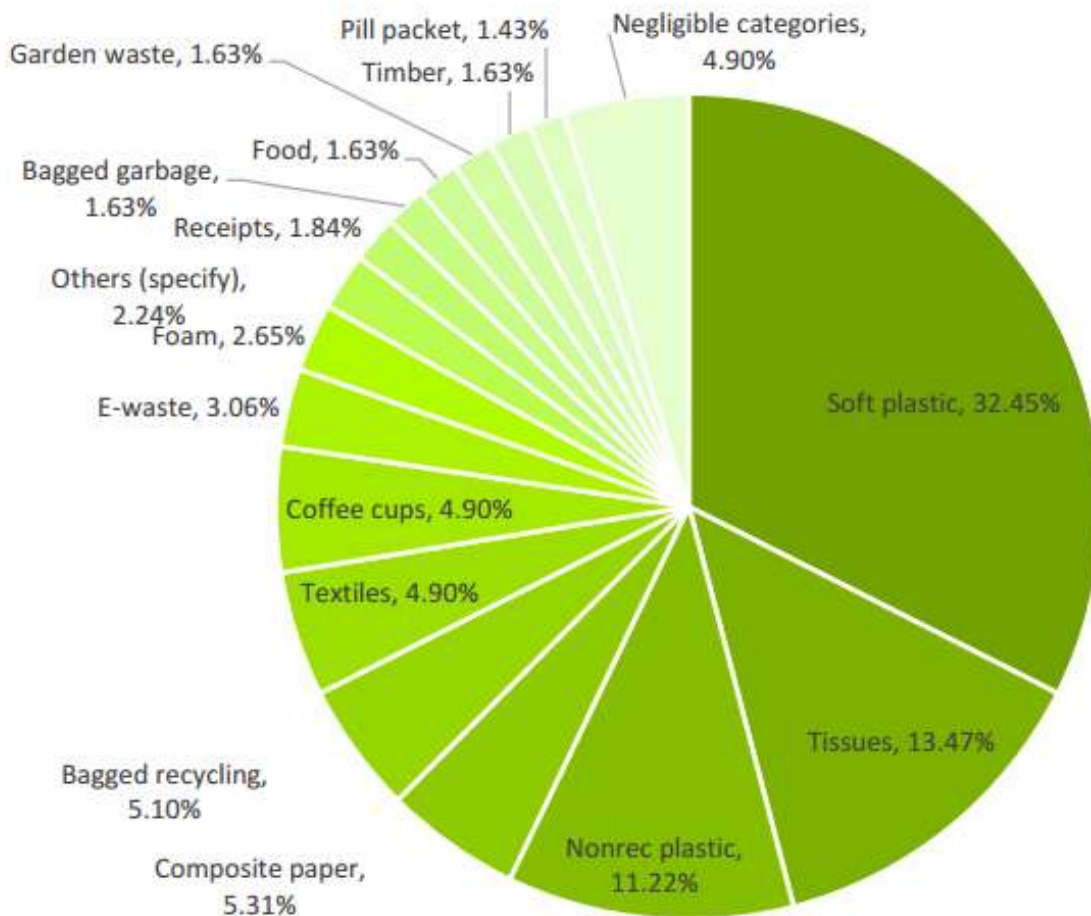


Figure 2. Types of contamination observed (combined areas)



- **Scrap Together Grant – Information Tent at Parkes Open Gardens**

The Waste Management Coordinator and Envirocom manned a Scrap Together stall at the October Open Gardens at Parkes Racecourse. Despite wet weather, good attendance resulted in sharing information regarding changes to the green bin inputs and highlighted a “greener green bin”. Various other waste questions were also answered, including receiving favourable feedback on the yellow bin audit held the week before.

All stoppers won a raffle ticket which resulted in 3 happy winners of a heavy duty composting tumbler, a complete worm farm kit and a bee hotel. These prizes were funded by Scrap Together Grant monies.



- **Garage Sale Trail Impact Report**

Garage Sale Trail is a community-powered waste education and behaviour change program that brings people together to buy and sell second-hand over two weekends every November.

Favourable weather and good registrations (33) resulted in a well visited list of sites in our local community. It also reworked goods that would otherwise go to landfill. Overall responses referred to the fun of the community/family activity, prompt to declutter and enjoying others valuing their items.

Some recommendations were stronger local promotion and improvements to on-line maps and listings to help buyers find nearby sales. I also believe the “group” sale held the previous year was beneficial in engaging more sellers.

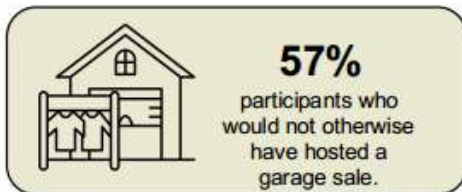
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



ITEMS REUSED



BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

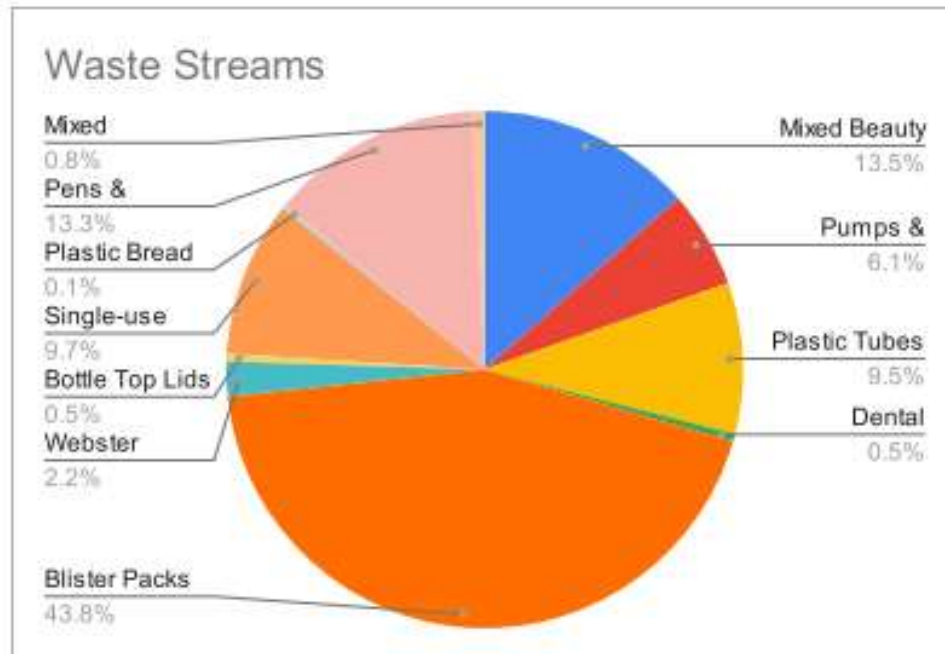


ECONOMIC



- **Brad Box Impact Report (Parkes Library)**

2998 items with a total weight of 11.7 kgs was collected at Parkes Library BRAD box over a 5 month period to November 2025. A breakdown of items recycled is shown below:



- **Recycling Workshop, Alectown**

The Waste Management Coordinator and Envirocom held a Recycling Information Workshop and Transfer Station Question Time at Alectown Hall in February. This was held one week after closure of the Alectown Landfill to keyholders.

This workshop aimed at providing information to those who had not previously separated items for recycle and would benefit from the cost-save when attending Parkes Waste Facility prior to their Transfer Station being operational.

Give-aways and afternoon tea was provided via EPA Landfill Consolidation Grant funding. A total of 14 locals attended the afternoon.



Pop Up Display – Parkes – 13.3.26

Envirocom held our last event for the 25/26 year with a 4 hour pop-up display in Clarinda Street, Parkes. Locals had the opportunity to ask questions regarding waste and recycling.



Homegrown – Environment, Waste & Sustainability Information Kiosk

Another successful Homegrown Event enabled an opportunity to present the last education component of the Scrap Together Grant. A large group of interested people took the opportunity to ask questions, discuss any changes to bin inputs and take advantage of a free raffle with a compost bin, terracotta compost pots and bee-friendly seed shakers as prizes. Local kids were very pleased with ‘the compost worm’ and give away wheely bins for pen holders.



LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Utilising funding from Netwaste and Envirocom. The allocated budget for all 6 participating Netwaste Councils in 2024/25 was \$244,900.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Opportunities above were advertised throughout the community.

17 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

17.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - OPERATIONS - MARCH 2026

IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.

Author: **Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator**

Authoriser: **Logan Hignett, Director Operations**

Annexures: **A. Operations - Major Projects & Current Works - March 2026** [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Operations Major Projects and Current Works Report for March 2026, appended at *Annexure A*.

BACKGROUND

A monthly status report of Major Projects and Current Works within Parkes Shire Council's Operations Department is tabled to keep Council abreast of projects being undertaken across the Parkes Shire.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

This report presents an update on the current major projects within the Parkes Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Operations Department. The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month and is provided for the information of Councillors.

The Major Projects and Current Works Report is appended at *Annexure A*.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects have been allocated funding either from grants or Council funds as provided in the 2025/2026 Operational Budget.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Project risk status is indicated by the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) indicators as shown against each project in the report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Each project may have its own requirements for community consultation or notification in relation to the delivery of the project works.

CONCLUSION

The Major Projects and Current Works Report, appended at *Annexure A*, provides Council with a briefing on major projects and works underway within the organisation's Operations Department. It is recommended that Council formally resolve to receive and note the report.

17.2 ROAD CLOSURE AND SALE TO ADJOINING OWNER - COUNCIL ROAD BETWEEN ANDREW STEWART ROAD AND EMERTON ROAD

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.

Author: Taylah Burt, Business Support Officer

Authoriser: Logan Hignett, Director Operations

Annexures:

- A. Map showing the unformed Council Road Corridor between Andrew Stewart and Emerton Road [↓](#)
- B. Road corridor map showing the water supply line between Andrew Stewart Road and Emerton Road. [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the closure and sale of the unformed road reserve between Emerton Road and Andrew Stewart Road.
2. Require a four (4)-metre-wide easement for stormwater along the full length of the road reserve, adjacent to Lots 123 and 21 DP 750179.

BACKGROUND

.Council has been approached by an adjoining landowner to purchase the unformed road reserve between Emerton Road and Andrew Stewart Road.

The road reserve is unformed and not used for public access. It provides a corridor for overflow from an upstream dam. A 4-metre-wide easement for reticulated water and stormwater is proposed.

The adjoining landowner has indicated they are happy to proceed with the easement.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

The road reserve is surplus to current road network requirements but provides the only practical corridor for overflow from an upstream dam. Selling the land without an easement would remove the option to manage future drainage.

A 4-metre-wide easement for stormwater along the full length of the road, adjacent to Lots 123 and 21 DP 750179, ensures the drainage path is preserved. The adjoining landowner has agreed to the easement.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

The road closure and sale are governed by the *Roads Act 1993* and Council's policies on road closures and the sale of surplus land. Easements will be created under the *Conveyancing Act 1919* to provide for drainage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report. All costs related to the road closure, easement creation and sale will be borne by the applicant.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

If the land is sold without an easement, Council would lose the only practical corridor to manage future drainage from the upstream dam. This could result in ongoing overflow across private properties and potential liability.

The proposed 4-metre-wide easement mitigates this risk by protecting the water supply line and preserving the drainage corridor.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation will be undertaken as part of the statutory road closure process in accordance with the *Roads Act 1993*. Adjoining landowners and relevant authorities will be notified, and any submissions received will be considered before finalising the closure and sale.

17.3 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Community**Goal:** Our community is liveable, growing and connected.**Strategy:** Provide vibrant and welcoming town centres, streetscapes, public spaces and meeting places.**Author:** Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator**Authoriser:** Logan Hignett, Director Operations**Annexures:**
A. **Pocket Parks - Letter** [↓](#)
B. **Pocket Parks - Map** [↓](#)
C. **Pocket Parks - Have Your Say Survey Questions** [↓](#)
D. **Pocket Parks - Survey Results** [↓](#)
E. **Masterplans - Survey Results** [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council notes the [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Review of Submissions Report 2026](#) and the finalised [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026](#).
 2. Council resolves to adopt the finalised Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026, including the changes to Section 13.2 Reclassification of Open Space that removes Ken Turner Park and includes the statement 'Any proceeds from Reclassification of Open Space is to be reinvested in open spaces and initiatives in the Parkes Shire.'
 3. Council publishes notice of its adoption of the Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026, along with a link to the adopted Strategy and the Parkes Shire Open Spaces Review of Submissions Report 2026.
 4. Council supports the reuse of the name 'Beryl Logan' at an appropriate open space location within the Parkes Shire at a future time, subject to the relevant naming processes.
-

BACKGROUND

Parkes Shire Council received funding under the NSW Resources for Regions grant program for the preparation of an Open Spaces Strategy to apply to the whole of the Parkes Shire.

The aim of the Strategy is to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing open space network to ensure that public open spaces are safe, functional, attractive, accessible and manageable in the local context.

The draft Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy has been informed by a review of best practice guidelines, as well as local data and advice from sporting associations and park user groups. Open Space Hierarchy Maps have been prepared for Alectown, Bogan Gate, Cookamidgera, Parkes, Trundle and Tullamore, categorising open spaces as destination, local or low-scale parks. The Strategy also identifies opportunities to better align open space provision with community needs, including consideration of alternative uses where there is limited demand or duplication within the network, with some of these proposed for potential reclassification to operational land for alternate use or sale.

A series of masterplans has also been prepared for key destination parks to guide future improvements and investment, supported by a Priorities and Actions Table to establish a consistent framework for open space management across the Shire.

At its Ordinary Meeting held on 26 November 2024, Council resolved to endorse the draft Strategy for public exhibition, undertake direct consultation with relevant stakeholders and receive a further report following exhibition for final adoption.

Since that time, Council has undertaken a comprehensive community engagement process, including targeted consultation with affected residents and broader engagement with the community. This process has generated a significant volume of feedback, providing valuable insight into community values, expectations and concerns in relation to the future of open space across the Shire.

In response to the submissions received, an Issues Paper has been prepared to consolidate the feedback and demonstrate how the Strategy addresses the matters raised by the community. In addition, minor amendments have been made to the Strategy to better reflect community input while maintaining the overall strategic intent of the document.

This report presents the final Strategy for Council's consideration following completion of the exhibition and consultation process.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Recognising that many residents located near the identified pocket parks may have limited access to digital engagement platforms, Council undertook a targeted mail out to approximately 1,700 households. This included background information, mapping and clear instructions on how to provide feedback.

Community consultation was undertaken from September to October 2025, with submissions invited through Council's Have Your Say platform, paper-based surveys and written submissions. Surveys closed on 24 October 2025.

In addition to direct engagement, Council facilitated broader community awareness through public exhibition in the Administration Building foyer, the availability of materials at Council's front counter and township libraries, and communication via social media, media releases and local advertising.

The consultation process identified a range of views across the community. There was clear support for improving the quality, amenity and level of investment in larger destination parks and recreation facilities, as well as recognition of the need for Council to prioritise resources and manage the open space network in a sustainable manner. At the same time, concerns were raised regarding the potential loss of local green space and neighbourhood access, particularly in relation to smaller parks that support passive recreation and local use.

Submissions also highlighted the environmental and social value of open space, including its role in urban cooling, tree canopy and community wellbeing. The importance of smaller parks for local access, particularly for children and residents with limited mobility, was also a recurring theme. In addition, several submissions noted the significance of parks named after local individuals and the importance of retaining this recognition.

An Issues Paper has been prepared to consolidate these submissions and provide a structured response to the matters raised. This document demonstrates how the Strategy addresses the feedback received and outlines where refinements have been made.

In response to community feedback, a number of refinements have been incorporated into the finalised Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026. Greater consideration has been given to Aboriginal cultural heritage and built heritage across relevant sections of the document, along with improved recognition of road network capacity, traffic impacts, safety and active transport connections. Language within the Strategy has also been refined to ensure it appropriately reflects the value of open space within the community.

As a direct response to feedback, Ken Turner Park has been removed from the proposed reclassification list. In addition, Council has included a clear commitment within Section 13.2 that any proceeds from the reclassification of open space will be reinvested into open spaces and related initiatives within the Parkes Shire.

The Strategy also recognises the importance of local identity and community history. In this regard, Council supports the reuse of the name 'Beryl Logan' at an appropriate open space location, subject to the relevant naming processes.

Further refinements have been made to mapping, masterplans and supporting content to reflect submissions received, while maintaining the overall strategic direction of the document.

The [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Review of Submissions Report 2026](#) documents all 'Have Your Say' comments and written submissions received from members of the community, with a planning response and recommendation provided for each submission. A track change version of the finalised [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026](#) is also available to allow comparison between the exhibited draft and finalised documents.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

The Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026 sits in a wider legislative and policy framework as outlined in Section 7 of the finalised Strategy.

In particular, the finalised Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026 complements the Parkes Shire Council Plan of Management (POM) Framework for volumes 1 Sportsgrounds, 2 Sportsgrounds, 3 Natural Areas and 4 General Community Use in the POM Framework.

The finalised [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026](#) only provides strategic guidance on Council's administration of its responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1993 and POM Framework.

Any reclassification of land is subject to the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, including public consultation and, where required, a public hearing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The finalised [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026](#) provides a robust framework for the ongoing management of open spaces in the Parkes Shire under a hierarchy approach.

Greater efficiencies will be derived from the improved management strategies, priorities and actions proposed in the finalised Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026.

Where land is ultimately reclassified and disposed of, any proceeds are intended to be reinvested into open space improvements, as detailed in Section 13.2 of the finalised Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are risks associated with the implementation of the Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026, primarily relating to community perception, environmental considerations and delivery.

Community consultation has identified a level of concern regarding the potential loss of Low Scale Open Space. This risk has been mitigated through targeted engagement with affected residents, careful consideration of submissions received and refinement of the finalised Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy to address key issues raised.

Environmental considerations have also been acknowledged, particularly in relation to the role of green space in urban cooling and biodiversity. The finalised Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026 responds to these matters through its focus on improving the quality and functionality of retained open spaces.

Failure to adopt the finalised Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy 2026 presents a risk of continued inefficiencies, duplication of assets and increasing pressure on Council's operational and financial capacity.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

At its Ordinary Meeting held on 26 November 2024, Council resolved to endorse the draft Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy for public exhibition, undertake direct consultation with relevant stakeholders and receive a further report following exhibition for final adoption.

Community consultation was undertaken in September to October 2025, with submissions invited through Council's 'Have Your Say' platform, paper-based surveys and written submissions. Surveys closed on 24 October 2025.

In addition to direct engagement, Council facilitated broader community awareness through public exhibition and the display of exhibition material at Council's Administration Centre and town libraries, including the display of exhibition notice, maps and hard copies of the survey. Regular updates and reminders were shared through social media, a media release and advertising in the Champion Post, including Council's regular column.

The consultation process identified a range of views across the community. There was clear support for improving the quality, amenity and level of investment in larger destination parks and recreation facilities, as well as recognition of the need for Council to prioritise resources and manage the open space network in a sustainable manner. At the same time, concerns were raised regarding the potential loss of local green space and neighbourhood access, particularly in relation to smaller parks that support passive recreation and local use. Submissions also highlighted the environmental and social value of open space, including its role in urban cooling, tree canopy and community wellbeing. The importance of smaller parks for local access, particularly for children and residents with limited mobility, was also a recurring theme. In addition, several submissions noted the significance of parks named after local individuals and the importance of retaining this recognition.

As a result of the public exhibition of the draft [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Strategy](#), Council received 182 completed surveys and nine (9) written submissions.

The [Parkes Shire Open Spaces Review of Submissions Report 2026](#) documents all 'Have Your Say' comments and written submissions received from government agencies and members of the community, with a planning response and recommendation provided for each submission.

17.4 NATIONAL HEAVY VEHICLE REGULATOR (NHVR) CONDITIONS 3 MONTH TRIAL UPDATE

Author: Ben Coultas, Senior Design Engineer
Authoriser: Logan Hignett, Director Operations
Annexures: A. [Letter - Community Consultation](#) ↓
B. [Written Submission - Opposing the NHVR Trial](#) ↓
C. [Online Submissions](#) ↓

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information contained in this report; and
2. Endorse the amendment to the time-of-day operating condition applied to NHVR permits for Class 2 vehicles on Council roads; and
3. Note that Council will continue to monitor heavy vehicle operations and may review conditions if required.
- 4.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 September 2025, Council resolved to undertake community consultation regarding the potential removal of the following condition applied to heavy vehicle access permits on Council roads:

“No access 7:30 - 9:00 am and 3:00 - 4:30 pm on school days.”

This condition historically applied to heavy vehicles operating under National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) permits and was originally introduced in response to concerns regarding potential interactions between heavy vehicles and school transport services during peak school travel periods.

Following community consultation, Council resolved to undertake a trial removal of the time of day condition for Class 2 vehicles in order to assess whether the restriction remained necessary to manage safety outcomes on the local road network.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

The trial was undertaken to assess the ongoing relevance of the time-of-day restriction in the context of current freight operations and observed road use.

Heavy vehicle transport practices have evolved, with higher-capacity vehicle combinations enabling greater freight efficiency and reducing the overall number of vehicle movements on rural roads. The trial provided an evidence-based assessment of operational impacts under current conditions.

During the trial period, Council received no reports of incidents or safety concerns associated with heavy vehicle movements during the previously restricted time periods. No concerns were raised by bus operators, schools or NSW Police.

Heavy vehicles continued to operate under existing NHVR permit conditions, including applicable speed restrictions and route controls. Based on these outcomes, the trial did not identify evidence that the time-of-day restriction remains necessary to manage safety risks on Council roads.

Following completion of the trial, the results were presented to the Rural Roads Advisory Group on 26 March 2026. The Group supported the proposed removal of the time-of-day condition, noting that appropriate controls remain in place through the NHVR permit framework, existing speed restrictions and Council's role as road manager.

The trial outcomes were also circulated through an Extraordinary Local Traffic Forum meeting conducted electronically via email from 31 March 2026 to 10 April 2026. The Local Traffic Forum noted the results of the trial and the proposed change to permit conditions. As a technical advisory forum, the Local Traffic Forum does not endorse or determine heavy vehicle access conditions on Council roads.

The absence of adverse outcomes during the trial, together with the continued operation of existing controls and the support and noting provided through the relevant advisory bodies, indicates that the condition is no longer required to manage safety risks on Council roads.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) must obtain consent from the relevant road manager prior to issuing a permit for restricted access vehicles on local roads.

As the road manager, Council is responsible for determining appropriate access conditions to ensure the safe and efficient use of the road network, protect infrastructure, and manage public safety outcomes.

Council has the authority to apply, amend or remove local conditions where supported by evidence and operational experience. The proposed removal of the time-of-day condition reflects the outcomes of the trial and Council's ongoing monitoring of heavy vehicle operations.

Advisory bodies, including the Rural Roads Advisory Group and the Local Traffic Forum, provide input to inform Council's decision-making; however, they are not the determining authority for NHVR permit conditions on Council roads.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with amending the condition.

Minor staff time will be required to update NHVR mapping systems and adjust existing permit conditions where applicable.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The primary risk associated with modifying the condition relates to community perception that the change may reduce safety during school travel periods.

However, several controls remain in place to manage safety risks, including:

- The existing 80 km/h heavy vehicle speed limit
- Continued regulation of heavy vehicle access through the NHVR permit system
- Council retaining its role as road manager under the Heavy Vehicle National Law
- Ongoing monitoring of heavy vehicle operations on Council roads

General access heavy vehicles are already permitted to operate on many Council roads during these time periods.

The trial period did not result in any reported incidents attributable to the temporary removal of the condition

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Prior to implementing the trial, Council undertook consultation with key stakeholders, including bus operators, schools and Community Consultative Committees. An online survey was also made available to the broader community.

A total of 40 submissions were received, comprising online responses and one written submission.

Survey results indicated mixed community views:

- 29 respondents supported removal of the condition
- 11 respondents opposed the proposal

Submissions opposing the proposal primarily raised concerns relating to:

- Safety of school bus passengers during school travel periods
- Heavy vehicle behaviour and compliance with speed limits
- Dust generation and reduced visibility on unsealed roads
- Perceived impacts of heavy vehicles on rural road conditions

These concerns were considered as part of the trial monitoring process. Many of the issues raised relate to broader heavy vehicle operations and road conditions rather than the specific time-of-day restriction.

Council monitored heavy vehicle operations during the trial period and did not observe, nor receive reports of, incidents or safety issues attributable to the removal of the condition.

CONCLUSION

The trial removal of the time-of-day restriction has not resulted in any identified safety or operational issues. The evidence indicates that the condition is no longer required to manage risk on Council's road network.

The proposed change represents an evidence-based adjustment to permit conditions, consistent with Council's role as road manager under the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

Council will proceed to remove the condition from applicable NHVR permits for Class 2 vehicles and continue to monitor operations. Should future issues arise, Council retains the ability to review and amend conditions as required.

17.5 BUSHMAN'S DAM FLOOD REPAIR PROJECT - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Community**Goal:** Our community is safe, active and healthy.**Strategy:** Enhance recreation and culture, provide sport, recreation and play space facilities that encourage participation, connection and support for healthy and wellbeing lifestyles.**Author:** **Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator****Authoriser:** **Logan Hignett, Director Operations****Annexures:**
A. Letter Community Consultation - Bushman's Dam [↓](#)
B. Map - Letter drop to affected residents [↓](#)
C. Bushman's Dam - Survey Data [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council note the outcomes of the community consultation process for the Bushman's Dam Flood Repair Project and endorse the revised design approach, including modification to excavation depth and removal of the existing island, to balance flood mitigation outcomes with visual amenity and environmental considerations.

BACKGROUND

Following the Natural Disaster in November 2022, which resulted in widespread flooding and damage across the Shire, Council submitted funding applications for impacted community assets. Bushman's Dam was successfully approved for funding of approximately \$670,000 to undertake restoration works, including cleaning of the dam, retaining wall repairs and footpath reinstatement.

In addition to essential restoration works, the project presents an opportunity to enhance the aesthetics and functionality of the area. These improvements are intended to complement the recent upgrades to the Splash Park and playground, contributing to a cohesive, accessible and inclusive recreational precinct for the community.

The proposed works are aimed at improving the long-term resilience of the site during significant rain events, while also enhancing safety, accessibility and overall usability of the space.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Council undertook community consultation in February 2026 through a targeted letter drop to affected residents, supported by online and paper-based survey options. Submissions closed on 24 March 2026.

The consultation process confirmed that Bushman's Dam is a highly valued community asset, with a significant proportion of respondents regularly visiting the site. There was strong overall support for the project and clear recognition of the importance of improving flood resilience. At the same time, feedback highlighted the importance of maintaining the existing visual amenity of the waterbody and preserving environmental values associated with the site.

A key theme arising from submissions was the perceived value of the existing waterbody as a visual and recreational feature, with respondents expressing concern that significant changes to the depth and configuration of the dam may impact its character. In particular, the island and surrounding vegetation were identified as contributing to habitat and the overall appeal of the space.

The original concept design proposed excavation of the dam to a depth of approximately 2.5 metres below existing sediment levels to maximise storage capacity and hydraulic performance. While this approach provides a strong engineering outcome, it introduces a higher likelihood of fluctuating water levels and a reduced ability to maintain a consistent waterbody, which would directly impact the visual amenity of the site.

In response to community feedback, Council has reviewed the proposed design and is adopting a more moderate dredging approach. Excavation depths will be reduced to approximately 0.75 metres, which provides a more balanced outcome by improving functionality while maintaining a more consistent and visually appealing waterbody.

As a result of the reduced excavation depth and associated storage volume, it becomes necessary to optimise the available capacity within the basin. In this context, removal of the existing island is required to maximise the effective storage volume and ensure the basin performs its intended function in managing stormwater and mitigating flooding impacts.

In recognising the environmental considerations raised through consultation, Council will incorporate design elements to maintain and enhance habitat opportunities within the broader waterbody, including edge treatments and vegetation where appropriate.

Council will also continue to investigate opportunities both upstream and downstream of the site to further improve the performance of the wider drainage network and provide a more holistic approach to flood mitigation.

The revised design represents a balanced outcome that responds directly to community feedback, maintains the visual amenity of the site and ensures the infrastructure continues to perform its primary flood mitigation function.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

The works are being delivered under approved disaster recovery funding arrangements and are consistent with Council's obligations to restore essential public assets and improve resilience to future events.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The project is funded under approved disaster recovery funding of approximately \$670,000. Council is currently refining the detailed cost estimate in line with the revised design approach to ensure the project remains within the available funding allocation.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The primary risks associated with the project relate to community perception, environmental considerations and delivery outcomes.

Community feedback has identified sensitivity around changes to the existing character of the dam, particularly in relation to the island and habitat values. These risks have been mitigated through refinement of the design to maintain a consistent waterbody and incorporate habitat considerations within the broader basin.

There is also a risk that reduced excavation depth may limit storage capacity. This has been addressed through optimisation of the basin footprint, including removal of the island, and consideration of complementary upstream and downstream improvements.

Failure to proceed with the works presents a risk of continued flood impacts, asset deterioration and reduced functionality of the site.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council undertook community consultation in February 2026 through a targeted letter drop to affected residents, supported by online and paper-based survey options. The consultation period commenced on 16 February and closed on 24 March 2026.

The consultation process generated a strong level of engagement, with a high volume of responses received. Feedback confirmed that Bushman's Dam is a well-used and valued community space, with many respondents identifying a strong connection to the site.

Key themes emerging from the consultation included the importance of maintaining the visual amenity of the waterbody, preserving habitat values associated with the island and surrounding vegetation, and ensuring the project delivers meaningful improvements to flood resilience. Suggestions were also received regarding additional amenities and enhancements to the broader reserve.

Council has carefully considered the feedback received and has refined the project design accordingly. In particular, the proposed excavation depth has been reduced to better maintain a consistent waterbody, and the design has been adjusted to balance flood mitigation outcomes with visual amenity and environmental considerations.

While not all suggestions can be incorporated within the scope of the current project, the feedback has informed a more balanced and context-sensitive design outcome.

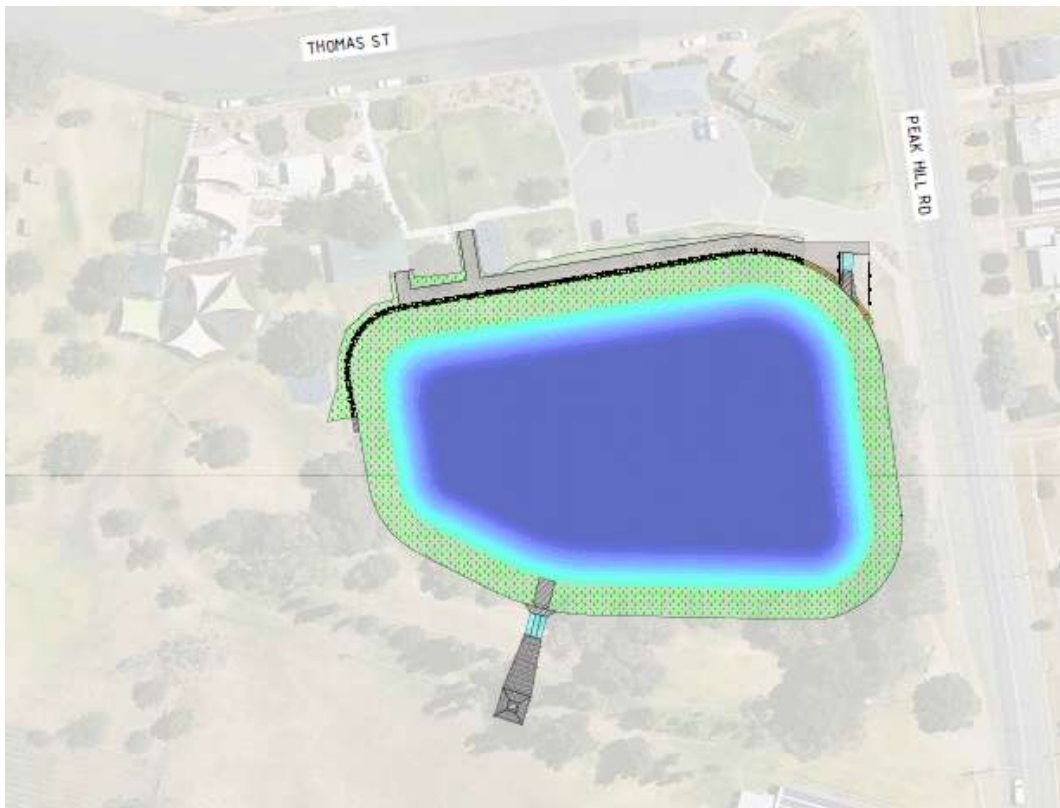


Figure 1 - Aerial view of Bushman Dam Concept layout

18 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**18.1 MARCH 2026 BUILDING STATISTICS UPDATE****IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Environment**Goal:** Our built environment is functional, sustainable and meets the needs of our growing community.**Strategy:** Manage our built environment in line with the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and relevant legislation.**Author:** **Cordelia Moon, Development-Certificates Coordinator****Authoriser:** **Annalise Teale, Director Planning and Community Services****Annexures:** **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the March 2026 Building Statistics Report.
-

BACKGROUND

The Building Statistics Report is furnished to Council on a monthly basis and provides a snapshot of development activity in the Shire during that period.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

During the month of March 2026 there were ten (10) Development Applications received totalling \$503,540.00 and five (5) consents were issued. There was one (1) Private Certifier Complying Development Certificates received totalling \$0.00 and one (1) Private Certifier approval issued.

The figures shown Table 1 below are for Development Applications received during February 2026 with respect to the specified building types and a comparison to the February 2025 figures.

Table 1: Development Applications				
Development Category	March 2026		March 2025	
	No.	Estimated Value	No.	Estimated Value
Commercial	1	\$1.00	1	\$1,963,069.00
Community Facilities	-	-	-	-
Industrial	1	\$56,100.00	1	\$330.00
Infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Tourist Development	-	-	-	-
Single Dwelling-house	-	-	-	-
Residential Alterations and Additions inc. ancillary / outbuildings	7	\$414,158.20	5	\$210,684.41
Residential Other	-	-	-	-
Multi-Residential	-	-	-	-
Seniors Living	-	-	-	-
Subdivision only	-	-	-	-
Secondary Dwelling	1	\$33,280.80	-	-
Other inc. demolition, earthworks, advertising structure	-	-	-	-
Mixed Development	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	\$503,540.00	7	\$2,174,083.41
FYTD Totals	78	\$22,165,398.60	71	\$16,569,434.81

Table 2, below, lists the Development Consents that were issued in the month of February 2026.

Table 2: Development Consents		
Application No.	Address	Description
DA2026/0006	2 Elizabeth Street, PARKES NSW 2870	Alterations to Existing Dwelling
DA2026/0008	7126 Eugowra Road, PARKES NSW 2870	Additions to Recreation Facility (Major)
DA2026/0009	24 Boori Street, PEAK HILL NSW 2869	Manufactured Home (Relocatable)
DA2026/0012	127 Clarinda Street, PARKES NSW 2870	Change of Use - Indoor Recreation Facility (Pilates Studio)
DA2026/0022	8 Bollinger Street, PARKES NSW 2870	Demolition of Existing Shed

The figures shown in Table 3, below, are for Complying Development Certificates received during February 2026 with respect to the specified building types and a comparison to the February 2025 figures.

Table 3: Complying Development Certificates				
Development Category	March 2026		March 2025	
	No.	Estimated Value	No.	Estimated Value
Commercial	-	-	-	-
Community Facilities	-	-	-	-
Industrial	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Tourist Development	-	-	-	-
Single Dwelling-house	1	\$0.00	-	-
Residential Alterations and Additions inc. ancillary / outbuildings	-	-	2	\$194,504.55
Residential Other			-	-
Multi-Residential	-	-	-	-
Seniors Living	-	-	-	-
Subdivision only	-	-	-	-
Secondary Dwelling	-	-	-	-
Other inc. demolition, earthworks, advertising structure	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	\$0.00	2	\$194,504.55
FYTD Totals	15	\$9,124,896.90	8	\$1,402,121.32

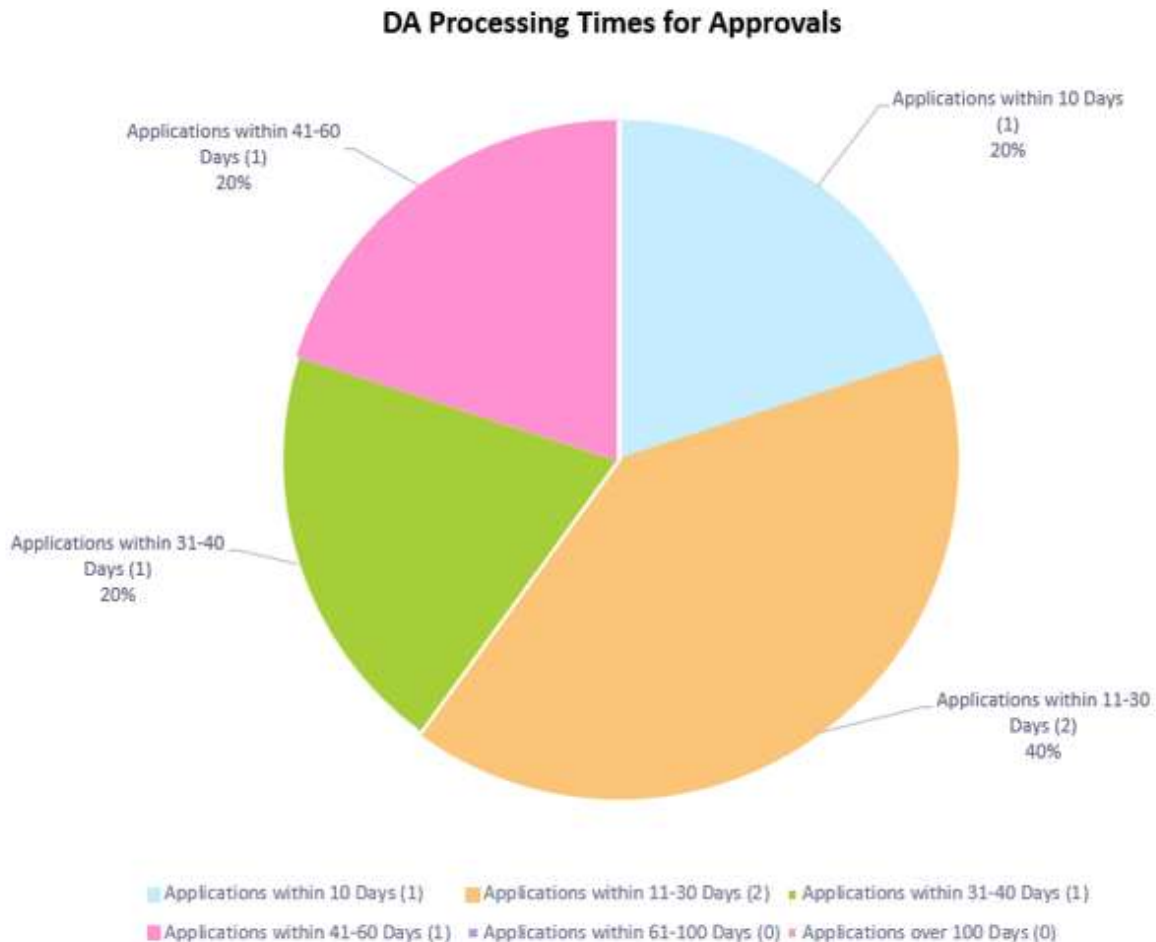
Table 4, below, provides a list of Complying Development Certificates which were issued in the month of February 2026.

Table 4: Complying Development Certificates			
Application No.	Address	Description	Certifying Authority
CDC2026/0003	2 Fossickers Drive, PARKES NSW 2870	Dwelling house with Attached Double Garage, Alfresco & Porch	Private

DA Processing Times for Determinations

The information shown in the pie chart below is Development Application determinations issued for the period 1 March 2026 to 31 March 2026. It should be noted that a total of five (5) Development Applications have been determined with an average of 22.16 days.

The average timeframe in which the internal referrals to the Technical Services and/or Infrastructure Departments were completed was 21.23 days.



Activation Precinct Certificate Determinations

There were no new Activation Precinct Certificate determinations.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications for Council associated with this report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Where a Development Application or Modification Development Application is required to be publicly exhibited, the application was made available for inspection at the Parkes Shire Council Administration Centre commencing from the date on which the public notice was placed in the local newspaper. The application was also included on the Parkes Shire Council website.

For Development Applications requiring neighbour notification, written notification of the proposed development was provided to the owner(s) of land immediately adjoining or adjacent to the subject land (as shown on Council's Property and Rating System at the time of notification) including land that is separated from the subject land by watercourse, road, pathway, driveway, railway or similar thoroughfare.

Where more than one person is listed as the owner, written notification to one of the owners, is taken to be a notice to all of the registered owners.

CONCLUSION

During the month of March 2026 there were ten (10) Development Applications received totalling \$503,540.00 and five (5) consents were issued. There was one (1) Private Certifier Complying Development Certificates received totalling \$0.00 and one (1) Private Certifier approval issued.



Development Activity Report

March 2026

Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates lodged and approved in the Parkes Shire.



LODGED

10

Development Applications

1

Complying Development Certificates



DETERMINED

5

Development Applications

0

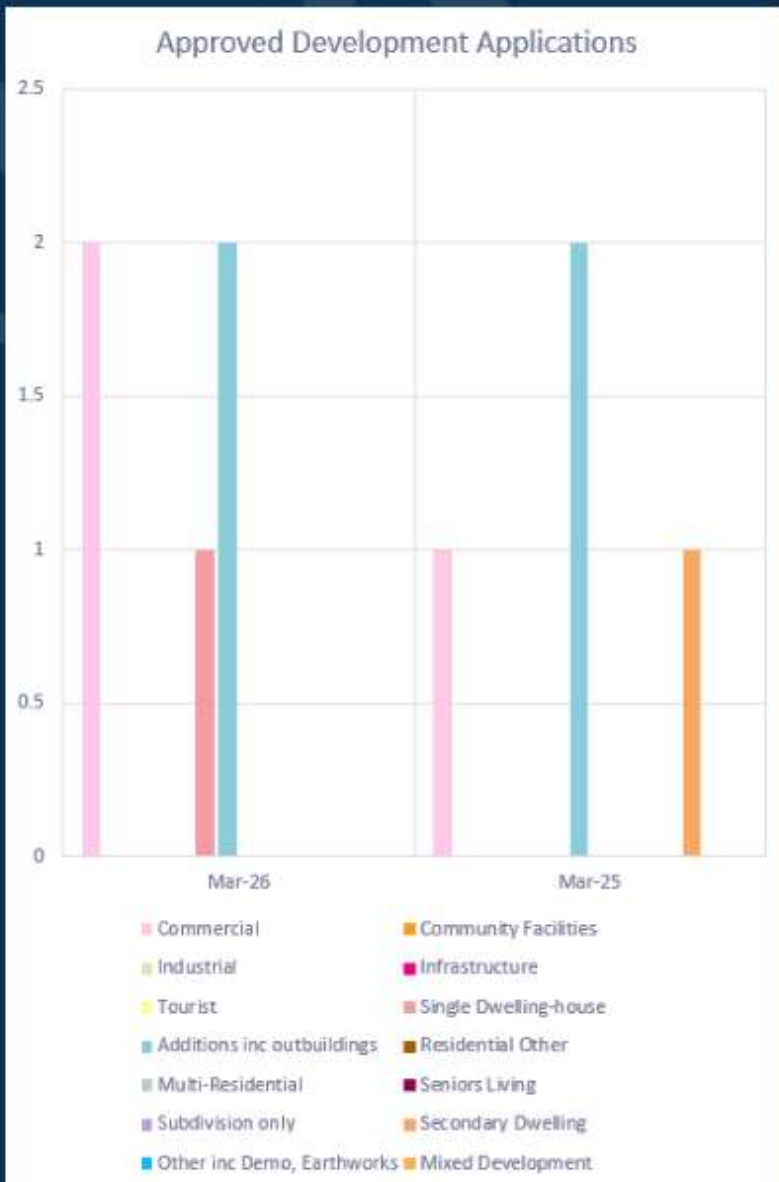
Complying Development Certificates

1

Private Certifier Complying Development Certificates



AVERAGE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME THIS MONTH
22.16



VALUE OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
\$503,540.00

18.2 PEAK HILL PRESCHOOL - EXEMPTION OF 7.12 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.**Author:** **Annalise Teale, Director Planning and Community Services****Authoriser:** **Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager****Annexures:** **A. Request for fee waiver** [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. That Council support request from the Peak Hill Preschool Kindergarten Incorporated to waive the 7.12 Developer Contributions.

BACKGROUND

Development Application No. DA2025/0060 was approved by Council on 6 November 2025 for the Alterations and Additions to Existing Building and Change of Use – Centre Based Child Care Centre at Frazer Avenue, Peak Hill. Condition 19 of the Development Consent requires Peak Hill Preschool Kindergarten Inc a 7.12 Developer Contribution of \$15,891.53, in accordance with Council's 7.12 Developer Contribution Plan 2016.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

The Peak Hill Preschool Kindergarten Incorporated has requested via formal letter (attached) a request that Council waive the 7.12 Developer Contribution of \$15,891.53 as required by Condition 19 of the Development Consent for the Alterations and Additions to Existing Building and Change of Use – Centre Based Child Care Centre at Frazer Avenue, Peak Hill.

The request is supported by an attached letter which confirms that the proposed preschool development is a community-led, not-for-profit service. The preschool and long day care service will deliver clear social benefits to the Peak Hill community.

On this basis, it is considered that the proposal is consistent with the type of exemptions within the 7.12 Developer Contribution Plan 2012 and can be supported.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Section 3.13 of Council's 7.12 Developer Contribution Plan 2016 sets out certain types of developments that are exempt from 7.12 Developer Contributions, such as community infrastructure. The plan states that exemptions may be permitted *'where Council considers an exemption is warranted, and the decision is made by formal resolution of Council at an Ordinary Council meeting.'*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Not required.

18.3 SHOPPING TROLLEYS- TOWN PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Environment**Goal:** Our natural environment is preserved and enhanced for current and future generation.**Strategy:** Effectively manage our public lands, reserves and cemeteries.**Author:** **Scott Brakenridge, Executive Manager Planning and Certification****Authoriser:** **Annalise Teale, Director Planning and Community Services****Annexures:** **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information contained within the report.
-

BACKGROUND

A motion was raised at the February 2026 Council meeting in relation to community concerns regarding the increasing number of abandoned shopping trolleys throughout Parkes, including residential areas, roadways and public spaces.

As an outcome, it was requested that Council staff engage with local retail supermarkets and major retail operators including Coles, Woolworths and BIG W, to discuss:

- Current trolley retrieval systems
- Potential containment measures such as coin return systems, geo fencing, or wheel lock technology
- Retailer responsibility for proactive management and retrieval

It was requested that a report be presented to Council following engagement, outlining:

- Feedback from retailer engagement
- Available containment and management options
- Potential enforcement and cost recovery mechanisms available to council should voluntary measures prove insufficient
- Any relevant legislative considerations

ISSUES AND COMMENTARYFeedback from retailer engagement

Council staff have engaged with the abovementioned retail operators to discuss the concerns relating to the increased number of abandoned shopping trolleys.

All retail outlets consulted advised that they have trolley retrieval systems in place but did acknowledge that they were aware of an increased number of shopping trolleys being taken from their respective sites.

Woolworths Supermarket:

- Woolworths supermarket staff currently retrieve trolleys within property boundaries of their site on a regular basis. Work Health and Safety (WHS) policies prohibit staff from leaving the site to collect trolleys.
- They do have dedicated delivery drivers that are also employed to collect trolleys external from site. These collections occur for 1 hour 5 days a week.
- Members of the public can report an abandoned trolley through the “Trolley Tracker App” where an alert is sent to the store advising of the abandoned trolley location. Woolworths supermarket actively promotes the Trolley Tracker App by placing pamphlets in mailboxes to the area where trolleys are collected which also provides an opportunity to win \$1000 through the promotion.
- Acknowledged that whilst other larger areas have measures such as wheel locks etc to prohibit trolleys being stolen, it is currently seen as a competitive disadvantage to introduce in Parkes.
- Trolley numbers have reduced from 190 trolleys to 118 within the last 12 months.
- Woolworths have committed to priority collection upon reports directly from Council.

Coles Supermarket:

- The Cleaning team is responsible for trolley collection within close proximity to the store on a regular basis.
- Coles Supermarket engage a contractor to collect abandoned trolleys. Collections occur for a 2 hour period 2 days per week.
- Members of the public can report an abandoned trolley through the “Count and Collect App” where an alert is sent to the store advising of the abandoned trolley location.
- No plan to incorporate any measures to restrict trolleys being stolen at this time. Similar to Woolworths, it is viewed as a competitive disadvantage to introduce the measures.
- Coles have committed to priority collection upon reports directly from Council.

Big W:

- The Cleaning team are also responsible for trolley collection which is restricted to the property boundaries of the site.

- Big W engage a contractor to collect abandoned trolleys. Collections occur 3 days per week over varying hours.
- Members of the public can report an abandoned trolley through the “Trolley Tracker App” where an alert is sent to the store advising of the abandoned trolley location.
- Neither coin nor wheel lock systems were being considered at this time.

Aldi Supermarket:

- Currently have a coin operated trolley system.
- Engages a contractor to collect abandoned trolleys for 2 hours, 2 days per week.
- Noted that damage occurs to trolleys through coins being removed. Often where trolleys are stolen, multiple trolleys are stolen still “linked together”.
- Stolen trolleys are still an issue despite the coin operated system being in place.
- Members of the public can report an abandoned trolley through the Aldi website.

Feedback received during the consultation confirmed that whilst stolen trolleys were becoming a bigger problem, the introduction of any additional containment measures were not currently being considered by any of the local supermarkets or retail operators. Consideration would only be given where a significant increase in the number of abandoned trolleys were reported through the relevant Apps. Statistics could then be provided to regional and/or state management to review.

It was also mentioned that the number of stolen trolleys has increased significantly with trolleys having to be retrieved from the Return and Earn Site within the Woolworths Carpark and throughout residential “hotspots”. It is believed that some residents use the trolleys to transport bottles and cans as well as other household items.

Available containment and management options

Council is governed by the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 (Act), which requires Council to take “reasonable steps to notify the owners of the shopping trolley”.

Once notified, a minimum notice period of 4 days is to be provided prior to Council impounding the shopping trolley. However, where the shopping trolley is found to be obstructing access to a public place or is a risk to a person, the shopping trolley may be impounded immediately.

Whilst Council can suggest or recommend geo fencing, coin return systems or wheel lock technology, Council does not have any regulatory authority to enforce such systems to be implemented.

Enforcement and cost recovery mechanisms

Following the shopping trolley being impounded, the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 (Act) states it may then be sold and the proceeds kept. However, the Act does allow for the

shopping trolley owner to claims the proceeds up to 3 months from the date of sale (excluding any costs incurred by Council relating to the sale). Historically, trolleys have been disposed without sale.

Council currently require a \$37 release fee (per trolley) in accordance with Council's 2025/26 Fees and Charges. A review of other regional councils has revealed that release fees vary:

- Orange City Council - \$292.90
- Cowra Council - \$73.00
- Hilltops Council - \$240.00
- Bathurst Council - \$67.00
- Forbes Council - \$85.00
- Dubbo Council - \$99.00

Consideration is needed around release fees, as a higher fee may discourage collection.

The Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 allows for fines of \$1320 to be issued for leaving the shopping trolley in a public place.

Legislative considerations

Council's role as a regulatory authority for abandoned shopping trolleys is limited to the legislative requirements under the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 (Act).

Conclusion

Dumped trolleys significantly reduce the amenity of our neighbourhoods and in some instances create a public hazard, particularly when dumped on pedestrian or cycle paths. Visual pollution, obstruction to pedestrian thoroughfare, safety of pedestrians and motorists, public nuisance, environmental impact and use of trolleys as tools for vandalism.

The following actions are proposed to address this:

- Increase community awareness of the Trolley Tracker App through social media as well as meeting regularly with the businesses to monitor the matter and partner to identify areas to reduce the number of abandoned trolleys.
- Update Council's website with information about how the community can report an abandoned trolley.
- Actively engage with the local retailers, sharing information and monitor the issue.
- Council could consider raising the release fee, to incentivise retailers to direct more resources to collect abandoned trolleys.
- Update to Council's Customer Request Management (CRM) system, specific for reporting abandoned trolleys.
- Enforce the issuing of fines for ongoing non-compliance.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

As above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

19 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

20 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.
