

COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL

BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Date: Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Time: 9.00 am

**Location: Shire Chamber
Coonamble**

The Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath / Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of Coonamble Shire and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities, and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act or any other Act, to the best of their skill and judgement. It is also a requirement that the Mayor and Councillors disclose conflicts of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the Agenda or which are considered at this meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.

**Daniel Keady
Mayor**

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Shire Chamber, Coonamble on Wednesday, 11 February 2026 at 9.00 am.

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1 OPENING MEETING

- The meeting is being livestreamed and/or recorded for on-demand viewing via Council's website and a person's image and/or voice may be broadcast;
- Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and /or voice being webcast (time will be allowed by the Chairperson for people to leave the meeting before it starts);
- All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent;
- Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending the meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments;
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- Individuals acting in a disorderly manner can be asked by the Chairperson to leave the meeting under the Council's Code of Meeting Practice;
- The meeting must not be recorded by others without the prior written consent of the Council in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting Practice

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet today, the Wailwan people and the Gamilaroi people and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 10 December 2025 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Thursday, 22 January 2026 be confirmed as a correct records of the proceedings of the meetings.

COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 10 December 2025**

**MINUTES OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE
ON WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2025 AT 9.00AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Daniel Keady, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler, Cr Karen Churchill, Cr Paul Fisher, Cr Margaret Garnsey, Cr Phillipa Goldsmith – via teams link, Cr Ahmad Karanouh.

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager), Bruce Quarmby (Director Corporate Services), Kerrie Murphy (Director Infrastructure), Lesley Duncan (Acting Director Community Development, Planning & Environment), Jennifer Maundrell (Executive Manager Corporate Governance), Marina Colwell (Executive Support Officer),

1 OPENING MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9.03 am, advising the attendees of the following:

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3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION 2025/295

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That the apology from Cr Adam Cohen be noted and approved.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2025/296

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 12 November 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

6 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Phillipa Goldsmith declared a less than Significant Non-pecuniary declaration with:

Item 3.2 Appointment of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Independent Member as she is the Councillor representative on the ARIC, she indicated that she would leave the room and not partake in the discussion or vote in the item.

Cr Margaret Garnsey declared a less than Significant Non-pecuniary declaration with:

Item 2.1 Compulsory acquisition of land for a Bore Bath Facility as she is the Secretary / Treasurer for the Coonamble Racecourse Recreation Land Manager, she indicated she will leave the room for the discussion and voting on the item.

7 MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE

RESOLUTION 2025/297

Moved: Mayor Daniel Keady

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That the Mayoral Minute for December 2025 be noted.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

SECTION A - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

At 9:14 am, Cr Margaret Garnsey left the meeting.

2.1 COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR A BORE BATH FACILITY**RESOLUTION 2025/298**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

1. That Council proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the land described as Lot 1 DP 1290114 and easement labelled 'X' shown in DP 1290114, shown attached as AT-1, for the purpose of creating a bore bath facility in accordance with sections 186 and 187 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.
2. Council makes an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire the land described as Lot 1 DP 1290114 and easement labelled 'X' shown in DP 1290114, by compulsory process under section 186(1) and 187 of the *Local Government Act 1993* of creating of a bore bath facility in accordance with the requirements of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.
3. Council does not acquire the mineral rights over the land and easements to be acquired.
4. The land is to be classified as operational land in accordance with section 31 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
5. For the purposes of section 30 of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*, the Council agrees to the land being acquired for compensation, set at the market value of the land, as agreed by the General Manager and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands.
6. Council delegate to the General Manager or his delegate the power to do anything further as necessary to give effect to the compulsory acquisition including obtaining any necessary approvals and publishing any necessary notices in the Gazette.
7. Authority be granted to the General Manager to affix the Common Seal of the Council to any documentation required to give effect to this resolution.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

At 9:16 am, Cr Margaret Garnsey returned to the meeting.

At 9:16 am, Cr Phillipa Goldsmith left the meeting.

**3.2 APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
INDEPENDENT MEMBER****RESOLUTION 2025/299**

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh
Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council appoints Mr Ross Earl as an independent member for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

At 9:17 am, Cr Phillipa Goldsmith returned to the meeting.

**4.3 FINALISATION OF PLANNING PROPOSAL PP001/2025 TO RECLASSIFY
40 CALGA STREET AND 34-46 HICKEY STREET, COONAMBLE FROM
COMMUNITY LAND TO OPERATIONAL LAND****RESOLUTION 2025/300**

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh
Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council:

1. Notes the public hearing report prepared by Ward Planning and Consulting relating to the reclassification of 40 Calga Street and 34-46 Hickey Street, Coonamble
2. Endorse the final planning proposal and request the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure make the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan 2011 to:
 - (a) Reclassify 40 Calga Street, Coonamble (Lot 10 DP238281, Lot 11 DP238281, Lot 1 DP4230, Lot 2 DP4230, Lot 3 DP4230, Lot 4 DP4230, Lot 11 DP4230 from Community land to Operational Land.
 - (b) Reclassify 34-46 Hickey Street, Coonamble (Lot 4 DP4918, Lot 5 DP4918, Lot 6 DP4918, Lot 7 DP4918, Lot 10 DP4918, Lot 11 DP4918, Lot 14 DP4918, Lot 15 DP4918, Lot 1 DP1118478 (closed road).

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

5.4 COUNCILLOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2026

RESOLUTION 2025/301

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler

That Council:

1. **Endorse engagement of Locale Learning's 2026 Professional Development Package for councillors at a cost of \$4,650 (ex GST).**
2. **Authorise the General Manager to finalise arrangements with Locale Learning.**
3. **Note that participation will be reported in Council's Annual Report in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

6.5 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLUTION 2025/302

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That the Correspondence Report for November 2025 be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

7.6 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2025/303

Moved: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That Council note the Council resolutions report and status.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

8.7 OVERSIGHT OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLUTION 2025/304

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That Council note the NSW Ombudsman's *Oversight of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022 Annual Report 2024/25*.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

9.8 COMMUNITY, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

RESOLUTION 2025/305

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler

That Council note the report on the activities of the Community, Planning, Development and Environment Directorate.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

10.9 CORPORATE SERVICES - PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLUTION 2025/306

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher
Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That Council note:

1. The information contained within the Corporate Services Progress Report.
2. The investments from 1 November 2025 to 30 November 2025 and that these investments comply with section 625(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

11.10 UPDATED DONATIONS POLICY

RESOLUTION 2025/307

Moved: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler
Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council notes the information in this report and adopts the minor changes in the Donation Policy as presented.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

12.11 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS

RESOLUTION 2025/308

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler

That Council note the report on the works in progress within Council's Infrastructure Directorate.

That Council approve the reallocation of funds within the operational budget of the Gulargambone Sewer mains maintenance vote of up to \$14,000, and up to \$52,000 additional vote from the existing Capital works budget for Gulargambone Sewer main replacements, to allow for the required works to be done for the improvements at the Gulargambone STP as indicated by the EPA notices received.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

8 COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS - OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/309

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That Council note:

1. The minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 October 2025.
2. The draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on Thursday 27 November 2025.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

8.2 CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL (CMCC) - MINUTES/REPORT**RESOLUTION 2025/310**

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey
Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That the Annual Report and Minutes of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council held 27 October be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL**9.1 PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE POLICY/SHORT TERM ROAD LEASE POLICY****RESOLUTION 2025/311**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher
Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

1. **That Council notes the information in this report.**
2. **That Council place the draft policies on public exhibition for a period of 28-days, with a report to the February Ordinary Council Meeting for consideration and adoption of the policies with or without change.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

9.2 REVIEW LOCAL PREFERENCE PURCHASING POLICY

RESOLUTION 2025/312

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

1. That Council notes the information in this report.
2. That Council places the revised Local Preference Purchasing Policy, as attached to the report, on public exhibition for a period of 28 days for the purpose of inviting submissions and allow 42 days after exhibition.
3. That, in the event of any submissions being received, that the Manager of Finance and Procurement presents a further report, together with the contents of those submissions received, to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the revised Local Preference Purchasing Policy (with or without changes) at its March 2026 Ordinary Meeting.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

9.3 ANNUAL CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS STATISTICS

RESOLUTION 2025/313

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That Council notes the annual Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics Report for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

9.4 ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLUTION 2025/314

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That Council note completion of the 2024/2025 Annual Report, including publication on Council's website and notification to the Minister for Local Government.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE/RESCISSON MOTIONS

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

12 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 10.07am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council held on 11 February 2026.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Extraordinary Council Meeting
Thursday, 22 January 2026**

**MINUTES OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE
ON THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026 AT 9.00AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Daniel Keady, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler via teams link, Cr Adam Cohen, Cr Paul Fisher, Cr Margaret Garnsey, Cr Phillipa Goldsmith, Cr Ahmad Karanouh, Cr Paul Wheelhouse

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager), Bruce Quarmby (Director Corporate Services), Kerrie Murphy (Director Infrastructure), Marina Colwell (Executive Support Officer)

1 OPENING MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9.00 am, advising the attendees of the following:

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2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS**APOLOGY****RESOLUTION 2026/1**

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

Seconded: Cr Adam Cohen

That the apology from Cr Karen Churchill be noted and approved.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

5 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Margaret Garnsey declared a Pecuniary declaration with:

Item 7.1 Expression of Interest – Reuse 100ml plus up to 50ml non-guaranteed water from the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths as she is the secretary / treasurer for the Coonamble Racecourse Recreation Land Manager, she indicated she will stay in the room for the discussion and voting on the item.

Cr Wheelhouse declared a Pecuniary declaration with:

Item 7.2 tender 20251107km Tooraweenah Road upgrade stage 2, as he owns the business sub-contracting to supplying concrete for the project.

MOTION**RESOLUTION 2026/2**

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

Seconded: Cr Adam Cohen

That council will move into closed session.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

SECTION A - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

1.1 COUNCILLOR AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM TRAINING PROGRAM

RESOLUTION 2026/3

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the delivery of a joint training program for councillors and the Executive Leadership Team to support positive interactions and communication.**
- 2. Approve councillor participation in the program, noting the cost of approximately \$1,500 is within the adopted professional development budget.**
- 3. Commit to formally adopting the Charter developed through the program.**
- 4. Note that the proposed date for the training is either 24 or 25 February 2026, to be negotiated by the Mayor and General Manager.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

6 REPORTS TO COUNCIL**6.1 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO THE GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE REVIEW PANEL****RESOLUTION 2026/4**

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh
Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council:

1. Appoint Mayor Keady, Councillors Butler, Churchill, Cohen, Fisher, Garnsey, Goldsmith, Karanouh and Wheelhouse, to constitute the General Manager Performance Review Panel in accordance with Section 441A of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
2. Note that, following the employment of the General Manager, the Performance Review Panel is required to develop and agree on the General Manager's Performance Plan within three (3) months of commencement, consistent with Office of Local Government guidelines;
3. Note that Mr Mark Anderson from NSW Local Government Management Solutions has been engaged to independently facilitate the Performance Review Panel;
4. Endorse that the General Manager's Annual Performance Review be undertaken following the Wednesday 11 February Council meeting; and
5. Note that the outcomes of the performance review will be reported to Council, with confidential matters dealt with in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

7 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**RECOMMENDATION**

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

7.1 Expression of Interest - Reuse 100ML plus up to 50ML non-guaranteed water from the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths

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.

7.2 TENDER 20251107KM TOORAWEEAH ROAD UPGRADE STAGE 2

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.

7.3 Request for additional resources to delivery Statutory Planning Documents.

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.

7.4 Australia Day Award Recipients 2026

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).

7.1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - REUSE 100ML PLUS UP TO 50ML NON GUARANTEED WATER FROM THE COONAMBLE ARTESIAN BORE BATHS

RESOLUTION 2026/5

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith
Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council.

- 1. Notes the process undertaken for the Expression of Interest process.**
- 2. Place AM & GD Hall trading as Lilydale Partnership on the short list to receive reuse water.**
- 3. Receive a future report once water reuse volumes are quantified.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

Both Margret Szanto - Independent Probity Advisor and Jacob Tuxford - Project Manager joined the meeting for the discussion on Item 7.2 Tender 20251107KM Tooraweenah Road Upgrade Stage 2

7.2 TENDER 20251107KM TOORAWEEAH ROAD UPGRADE STAGE 2

RESOLUTION 2026/6

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council award Tender 20251107KM Tooraweenah Road Upgrade to MAAS Civil Pty Limited for their Schedule of Rates.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

At 9:26 am, Cr Paul Wheelhouse left the meeting.

At 9:50 am, Cr Paul Wheelhouse returned to the meeting.

7.3 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO DELIVERY STATUTORY PLANNING DOCUMENTS.

RESOLUTION 2026/7

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

- 1. That Council notes the information contained within this report.**
- 2. That Council endorse management decision to appoint LGIQ for the development and delivery of statutory planning Documents.**
- 3. That Council resolve to allocate the costs associated with the delivery of this project, with this allocation to be funded from savings within the Corporate Services and Economic Development salaries budget.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

7.4 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/8

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That the information in this report be noted.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

RESOLUTION 2026/9

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

8 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 10.03am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council held on 11 February 2026.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

6 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

7 MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE

File Number: M3

Author: Daniel Keady-Mayor

Authoriser: Daniel Keady, Mayor

Annexures: Nil

I am pleased to deliver the Mayoral report for February 2026, covering a period of two (2) months since our last meeting in mid-December.

Christmas Markets

The Coonamble Christmas Markets, held on Saturday 13 December 2025, proved to be a true testament to our community spirit. Despite an unexpected storm rolling in at the start of the evening, the event bounced back quickly once the skies cleared. Residents and visitors soon filled the main street, eager to enjoy the festive atmosphere and explore the wide range of stalls.

Stallholders showed remarkable resilience, braving the challenging weather and continuing to welcome shoppers with genuine warmth. With everything from handcrafted gifts to delicious food and festive treats, there was something to delight everyone.

Thanks to the perseverance of stallholders and the strong support of the community, the night transformed into a joyful celebration—full of smiles, laughter, and Christmas cheer shared by all who attended.

Australia Day Celebrations

Our celebrations across the Australia Day long weekend were a wonderful reflection of the spirit, unity, and pride within our community. From formal ceremonies to family-friendly activities, each event highlighted the many ways we come together to recognise our shared values, honour outstanding local contributions, and celebrate what makes Coonamble such a vibrant place to live.

Coonamble's Australia Day Ambassador, Katryna Robinson, is the founder of the Australian charity *Every Little Bit Helps*. Since establishing the organisation in 2014, she has worked to provide essential hygiene products and care packs to people experiencing homelessness, collecting unused toiletries from hotels and other donors to support those in need across Australia.

I was fortunate to attend the Coonamble dinner alongside Australia Day Ambassador Katryna Robinson, the nominees, Jamie Chaffey MP, and Mrs Judy Chaffey. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Jamie and Mrs Chaffey for their attendance at the weekend's celebrations in Coonamble. Their presence was truly appreciated and contributed to the strong sense of community and occasion felt throughout the event.

Deputy Mayor Steve Butler attended the Gulargambone dinner that offered insight into the strong initiative, drive and deep sense of pride demonstrated by the members of the Gulargambone community. He thanked all nominees for the work they do in the community on Councils behalf.

Monday's highlight was the presentation of our Australia Day Awards, and I congratulate all nominees and thank them for contributing their time and effort to improving our community.

Thanks also to the Rotary Club of Coonamble and the Coonamble CWA for providing refreshments on the day. I also extend my thanks to our Council teams who work hard behind the scenes to make these events happen, particularly the Events Management team and the Parks and Urban Services crews.

National Day of Mourning to honour victims of the Bondi terrorist attack

On Thursday, 22 January, Australians came together for a National Day of Mourning to honour the victims and all those affected by the Bondi Beach terrorist attack.

Under the theme chosen by the Chabad Community in Bondi, "*Light will win – a gathering of unity and remembrance*", the day offered a message of hope and solidarity as our nation reflects and moves forward together.

A national commemorative installation, "*15 Pillars of Light*", was also illuminated in locations around the country. This visible tribute will stand as a symbol of remembrance, mourning, and national unity.

You are invited to observe one minute of silence in memory of the 15 innocent lives tragically lost on 14 December 2025. Together, we pause to remember and reaffirm our shared determination that light will triumph over darkness.

Victorian Bushfires and Queensland Floods

Queensland Floods

Our thoughts are with the communities across Queensland who continue to endure devastating flooding brought on by ex-Tropical Cyclone Koji. Many towns remain isolated as major river systems—including the Fitzroy, Mackenzie, Connors and Isaac—experience moderate to major flooding, causing widespread damage and significant livestock losses, which are expected to exceed 100,000 head. We stand with the families, producers, and emergency personnel who are facing ongoing challenges amid road closures, power disruptions, and difficult weather forecasts. Our community extends its heartfelt support as Queenslanders work through the long recovery ahead.

Victorian Bushfires

We also hold the people of Victoria in our thoughts as they confront severe and destructive bushfires that have prompted a State of Disaster declaration across multiple regions. More than 500 structures, including homes, farms, and community assets, have been destroyed, with major fires still burning around Longwood, Walwa and the Alpine areas.

Our community acknowledges the immense courage of those who have evacuated, those who have suffered losses, and the emergency workers who continue to battle unpredictable fire conditions. We send our strongest support as Victoria continues its recovery, backed by emergency assistance programs and coordinated relief efforts now underway.

Water supply

With hot temperatures across January, the demand on Coonamble's water supply has been very high, to the point where demands on the network started to exceed the ability of our water treatment plant to meet them.

I thank Coonamble residents for their responsiveness to Council's appeals to reduce water usage and to adopt more water-wise behaviours. This response resulted in a significant drop in demand and gave the water treatment plant the chance to refill the water tower reservoirs.

Water Restrictions

The water restrictions currently in place in Coonamble are regrettably the result of ongoing issues affecting the town's water filtration system. While these circumstances are not ideal, the restrictions are necessary to carefully manage water demand and maintain supply while essential repair and maintenance works continue. These measures are being implemented to ensure the continued safety, quality and reliability of our drinking water. Council staff are actively working to rectify the issue as quickly and efficiently as possible, and every effort is being made to minimise disruption to the community.

I sincerely acknowledge and thank our residents and local businesses for their continued patience, cooperation and understanding during this time. The community's responsible approach to water use is greatly valued and is instrumental in supporting efforts to resolve these issues as promptly as possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Minute for December 2025 and January 2026 be noted.

SECTION A - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

2.1 ACCESS TO PAEDIATRIC SERVICES IN COONAMBLE SHIRE

File Number: 75210

Author: Lee O'Connor-Manager Economic Development & Growth

Authoriser: Tony Payne, Director Sustainability Community & Planning

Annexures: Nil

PURPOSE

This report is provided so that Council can consider its role in facilitating the delivery of a paediatric service to local children.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is proposed that Council actively advocate and facilitate a collaborative, locally driven, solutions-focused approach to filling critical gaps in local health services. The lack of access to these services has both short and long-term impacts on the wellbeing of local residents and on the sustainability and wellbeing of the community as a whole.

BACKGROUND

Council was approached by Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service (CAHS) in October 2025 and again on 28 January 2026. They have described the enormous need for local children to have access to paediatric services and the persistent barriers, due to widespread shortage of paediatricians willing to service inland NSW.

The nearest paediatricians are based in Dubbo, and their books are either closed to new clients, or they are not accepting referrals for particular issues. Many families are having to travel to Orange, the Hunter region or even Sydney to access an appointment with private paediatricians but even these are becoming increasingly difficult to find. The additional costs, which can include travel, accommodation and time away from work, are out of reach of many of our local families.

A two-year plus wait is commonplace. There are children in local upper primary classes who have been waiting since kindergarten, or before, to see a paediatrician. This is unacceptable and can have significant impacts on their development, progress in learning, socialisation, and behaviour in both the short and long term.

CAHS have been in contact with Little Wings, a medical charity, who have indicated that they can provide a qualified paediatrician for one day per month on an ongoing basis at a cost of just \$18,000 per year.

CAHS have advised that they will manage referrals, provide clinic space and work with Little Wings to co-ordinate and support the visiting paediatrician and patients. They also advise that they have no additional funding to contribute at this time.

Council staff have:

- contacted the office of Roy Butler MP who have agreed to approach the relevant Minister and/or Premier regarding potential funding from 2026 / 27 financial year.

- contacted the NIAA (National Indigenous Australians Agency for support in securing funding.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

C1.2 – Improve support for physical, mental and spiritual health and wellbeing.

E1.4 - Attract investment and funding to improve our infrastructure, community, economy, events and environmental care.

L1.1 - Find opportunities to use our skills, and work with others to build a united, vibrant and service - oriented community

(b) Financial Considerations

Funds can be allocated from unspent Economic Development 2025 / 2026 vote as a one-off initial contribution.

COMMENTARY

Council can continue to provide an advocacy and facilitation role to lead or support efforts to secure a visiting paediatric service.

If Council supports a financial contribution to secure the service as soon as possible, the following options are proposed:

1. Council contributes \$9,000 (half year) or \$18,000 (first 12 months) as initial one-off seed funding.
2. Council contributes a lesser amount and seeks to establish a partnership with local service clubs and community organisations potentially including Rotary, Lions, Quota, and CWA.
3. Council continues to explore potential funding from NSW Government, Australian Government and/or other external agencies.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Council endeavours to inspire our community shared civic pride by valuing and protecting our unique environment, both natural and built, for current and future generations.

(b) Legal Implications

Nil

(c) Social Implications

Council is committed to tackling important social issues and improving the quality of life for the people of Coonamble. Key components to success in this space are by putting customers at the centre of everything we do and endeavouring to break the cycle of disadvantage.

(d) Environmental Implications

Nil

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Nil

(f) Risk Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

Council recognises the importance of local access to a paediatrician for the wellbeing of the local community and will determine its role in securing a service in 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That Coonamble Shire Council actively supports the establishment of a regular visiting paediatric service through Aboriginal Health Service in partnership with the charity Little Wings.**
2. **That Council contributes initial seed funding of \$9,000 and seeks matching funding from government or community sources for the first 12 months of service to commence as soon as practicable.**
3. **That Council, in partnership with CAHS and other local organisations, continues to advocate for the ongoing funding and delivery of local paediatric services by the NSW Government.**

SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

3.2 CORRESPONDENCE

File Number: C20

Author: Marina Colwell-Executive Support

Authoriser: Greg Hill, General Manager

Annexures: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE

Each month a list of correspondence is sent out in the Business Paper to Councillors to ensure that they have not missed any information since the last Business Paper was produced.

Date	Information Sent	Author	In	Out	Sent
10/12/25	YEP - end of Year celebration invitation	M Colwell		✓	✓
11/12/25	New from the Barwon Electorate	M Colwell		✓	✓
15/12/25	Draft Minutes	M Colwell		✓	✓
15/12/25	Bore Bath Workshop	M Colwell		✓	✓
15/12/25	Staff Christmas Party Invitation	M Colwell		✓	✓
16/12/25	Jamie Cahffey Newsletter	M Colwell	✓	✓	✓
17/12/25	Artesian Bore Baths Additional workshop	G Hill		✓	✓
13/01/26	Jamie Cahffey Newsletter	M Colwell	✓	✓	✓
13/01/26	Formal Notification – Extra Ordinary Meeting	M Colwell		✓	✓
15/01/26	Australia Day Itinerary	M Colwell		✓	✓
16/01/26	Business Paper – Extraordinary Meeting	M Colwell		✓	✓
24/01/26	Australia Day Program	M Colwell		✓	✓
27/01/26	Roys' Roundup	M Colwell	✓	✓	✓
27/01/26	Possible Water Restrictions	G Hill		✓	✓

28/01/26	Possible Water Restrictions commencing	G Hill	✓	✓
28/01/26	Possible Water Restrictions commencing	G Hill	✓	✓
29/01/26	Possible Water Restrictions commencing	G Hill	✓	✓
29/01/26	Possible Water Restrictions – Media release	G Hill	✓	✓
31/01/26	Artesian Bore Bath Concept Plans	G Hill	✓	✓
02/02/26	Email notification – forward letter to R Butler MP	M Colwell	✓	✓

RECOMMENDATION

That the Correspondence Report for December 2025 and January 2026 be received and noted.

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICES - PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: Corporate Services - 20411

Author: Imogen Pawley-Finance Assistant

Kylie Fletcher-Revenue Officer

Deborah Tatton-Manager Finance & Procurement

Authoriser: Greg Hill, General Manager

Annexures:

1. Imperium Investments December 2025 (under separate cover)
2. Imperium Investments January 2026 (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on operations and activities currently in progress within Council's Corporate Services Directorate for the past month.

BACKGROUND

The progress report focuses on the performance of Council's Investment portfolio and its efforts in the collection of outstanding rates and charges for the past month.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

I.5.3 Develop and implement strategies and operations which deliver quality and well managed Council assets and infrastructure to the community.

L.1.3.2 Adopt the eight elements of good governance practices at the essence of operations and decision making.

L1.3.4 Achieve organisational decision making which is strategic and not ad hoc.

(b) Financial Considerations

Investments – Investment levels and interest rates are currently on par with the revised estimate calculations.

Rates & Charges – The annual rate charges are set out within Council's adopted Revenue Policy and 2025 / 26 Operational Plan.

COMMENTARY

Investment Status January 2026

The attached Investment Report was calculated on 29 January 2026 after all maturing dates for investments had passed.

The total Capital Value of Investments is \$24,750,000. This is broken down with \$22,750,000 invested in term deposits as shown in the attached report, and \$2,000,000 in an at call savings account.

Cash And Investment Account Summary

Account	Current Month Balance	Prior Month Balance	Movement	Interest Rate	Current Month Interest Received	YTD Interest Received
Operating Account*	\$966,534.76	\$1,114,935.71	-\$148,400.99	2.6%pa	\$3,269.90	\$24,150.57
Online Saving Account	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	3.55%pa	\$3,308.36	\$27,091.91
Term Deposits	\$22,750,000	\$24,500,000	-\$1,750,000	4.19%pa (avg)	\$62,232.88	\$577,152.47

*Balances exclude overdraft facility

Interest Rate

The average interest rate for Council's investments currently sits at approximately 4.19% reflecting three base rate cuts by the Reserve Bank Australia (RBA) so far this calendar year. While this represents a notable decline compared to last year's rates, the introduction of Council's new investment policy has provided greater flexibility, allowing investments to be strategically placed to secure the most competitive returns available. With indications that the RBA may increase interest rates in the near future, Council will endeavour to invest additional funds at improved rates when opportunities arise.

Available Working Funds

Restricted funds are reserves set aside by Council or external parties for specific purposes to meet identified future expenses. Unrestricted funds represent the portion of Council's cash holdings that are available to meet all other operational and financial obligations.

Based on the recently completed December Quarterly Budget Review for 2025 / 2026, the balance of unrestricted cash has been calculated at \$1,799,000.

Cash Outflows

The main areas of expenditure for December and January are in the below table:

Transport – Includes various sealing works and hire of plant, Tooraweenah Road project, state road work.	\$407,462.00
Plant Purchase plant, fuel, CTP fleet.	\$217,540.00
Urban Services Chemicals, tree management, Cble pool contract	\$129,330.00
Waste Asbestos removal	\$49,000.00

Corporate services Electricity, sale of land, audit, contributions for CMCC and Warren Shire.	\$478,320.00
Quarry Blasting contract works, repair plant equipment and replace parts.	\$311,969.00
Special projects Bore baths, common fencing maintenance, aerodrome fence.	\$205,354.00

Of these areas totalling \$1,832,818 it is expected \$230,135 will be either funded through Grants or reimbursed to Council.

Rates and Charges Collections – January 2026

The below table summarises the Rates and Charges levied and paid which provides a total amount which remains outstanding at the end of the reporting period. This is compared to the same period last year.

	31 January 2026	24 January 2025
Rates and charges in arrears as at 30 June 2025	\$1,627,752.89	\$1,431,587.79
Rates/charges levied & adjustments for 2025/26	\$9,221,228.67	\$8,590,938.49
Pension Concession	-\$ 100,669.97	-\$ 100,702.83
Amounts collected as at 31 January 2026	-\$ 5,965,831.86	-\$5,272,387.91
Total Rates and Charges to be Collected	\$4,782,749.73	\$4,649,435.54

The amount levied for rates and charges for 2025 / 26 includes the current year's annual rates and charges and any interest added since the date the rates notices were issued. The amount received as of 31 January 2026 includes receipts for both arrears and the current year's amounts outstanding.

It should be noted that the rates and charges 2025 / 26 levied amount is reduced by the pensioner concession of \$100,669.97; reducing the amount of income derived from these rates and charges. Of this concession, Council's contribution is 45%, which represents an amount of \$45,301.48.

The rates and charges as of 31 January 2026 represent 44.08% of the total annual rates and charges levied and outstanding (compared with 46.39% on 24 January 2025).

Water Consumption Charges

	31 January 2026	24 January 2025
Water Consumption Charges and arrears as at 30 June 2025	\$1,442,815.84	\$621,860.35
Water Consumption charges & adjustments 2025 / 26 year to date	\$ 209,516.24	\$ 64,124.56

June 25 Adjustments	-\$ 298,580.44	-\$ 77,123.00
Amounts collected as at 31 January 2026	-\$1,108,465.32	-\$425,331.96
Total Water Consumption Charges to be Collected	\$ 245,286.32	\$183,529.95

The water consumption charges as of 31 January 2026 represents 18.12% of the total water consumption charges outstanding (compared to 30.14% on 24 January 2025). Council will note the main variation between the two financial years is directly associated with the delay in generation of the water consumption charges for the 2025 / 26 year.

Debt Recovery Agency

Council staff have continued to consult with Council's debt recovery agency with a view to continuing Council's process outlined within Council adopted Debt recovery policy. For Council's information during December and January,

- 26 cases were closed due to full payment which equated to \$138,542
- 12 payment arrangements were entered
- 159 cases under various stages of action

Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates Update

Notice of the intended Sale of Land appeared in the Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales Number 495 - Local Government Friday, 28 November 2025 and in the Coonamble Times, 10 December 2025 with the advertised date of the sale as Thursday, 5 March 2026.

A further letter of demand has been sent to the relevant ratepayers by SR Law on behalf of Council in December 2025.

SR Law has engaged with several persons including relevant ratepayers and other persons having an interest in the designated properties. Owners of the properties have been invited to enter payment arrangements agreeable to Council.

As at the date of this report, one ratepayer had entered an arrangement with Council. However, that ratepayer defaulted on the terms agreed to in the arrangement.

The 31 properties advertised in the Government Gazette remain on the list for sale.

To maximise the likelihood of a successful outcome from the auction, Council will be rescheduling the public auction with a new proposed date in May 2026. Additional preliminary work will be undertaken and further options for the sale will be brought back to Council in April. Section 715 (1A) Local Government Act allows for the time fixed for the sale must be no later than six(6) months after the date on which an advertisement is first published.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Council staff comply with the directions provided by Council's suite of policies that governs this function of Council.

(b) Legal Implications

Council staff have complied with all regulatory and legislative requirements required for this function of Council.

(c) Social Implications

Council funds are used to provide services and infrastructure to the community, and, as a result, well managed funds maximise the level of financial resources available to support the community.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Sound economic management includes maximising Council's return on funds and the timely collections of monies owed to Council. These actions seek to ensure that Council maintains its ongoing ability to meet both its operational costs as well as any planned asset maintenance and renewal.

(f) Risk Implications

Council policies governing these areas are structured to guide staff in implementation of risk mitigation strategies.

CONCLUSION

This report provides updated information from the operations of the Corporate Services Department for Council's information.

RECOMMENDATION**That Council note:**

1. The information contained within the Corporate Services Progress Report.
2. The investments from 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026 and that these investments comply with section 625(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.
3. The change of the Public Auction for Unpaid Rates from Thursday, 5 March 2026 to a date to be decided in May 2026.

5.4 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS UPDATE

File Number: C17; C20

Author: Marina Colwell-Executive Support

Authoriser: Greg Hill, General Manager

Annexures: Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to keep track of important Council resolutions.

BACKGROUND

Important and significant Council resolutions will be added to the list of items below, and an update on the status will be provided by the responsible officer.

Updates will be based on the resolution across a monthly, quarterly, six monthly or annual range. By way of example, a Council resolution to construct a new Pound, with no funds approved, will be referred to the following year budget deliberations with a single comment. Similarly, a Council resolution seeking a quarterly financial report will be aligned with the mandatory quarterly financial reporting cycle and closed.

The agenda for Council Meetings close two weeks after the prior meeting resulting in some monthly updates not being provided due to priority being given to actioning the prior meeting resolutions.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Adopted Council resolutions should ideally link in with Council's suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework documents.

(b) Financial Considerations

The financial considerations relating to each item mentioned below would have been considered by Council as part of the original report that dealt with the matter.

COMMENTARY

The outstanding Council resolutions' status and actions are detailed in the attachment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Council resolutions report and status.

6.5 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS**File Number:** **Folder 20419****Author:** **Kerrie Murphy-Director Infrastructure Services****Authoriser:** **Greg Hill, General Manager****Annexures:** **Nil****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on operations and other works in progress within Council's Infrastructure Directorate.

BACKGROUND**(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework**

- I1.1 Employ a strategic approach to the management of our critical road network.
- I1.2 Strengthen our strategic approach to the management of our water infrastructure and services.
- I1.3 Improve our strategic approach to the management of our sewerage infrastructure and services.
- I1.4 Strengthen our strategic approach to the management of our urban drainage infrastructure and services.
- I1.5 Adopt successful strategies which maximises our community's access to quality infrastructure and assets.
- P3.1 Provide support to our sporting, recreation and community organisations which drives improved sporting and recreational opportunities for our community.
- P3.2 Improve the quality of our parks, open spaces, sporting, and recreational facilities, including the MacDonald Park Precinct.

(b) Financial Considerations

Provision is made within the 2025 / 2026 Operational Plan and Budget to fund the associated works and programs listed in this report.

COMMENTARY

This report aims to inform Council of the works in progress in the Infrastructure Directorate. Updates are provided for each Departmental area which includes Roads, Water and Sewer, Quarry and Urban Services.

UTILITIES

The Utilities team have undertaken the following work since the December Council meeting:

- Number 3 bore has been recommissioned with replacement motor, cabling and hose.
- Several water main breaks and leaking services have been repaired in and around Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.
- Sewer Pump station blockages cleared in Coonamble, due to materials being flushed that don't break down.
- Have done investigations on the pipeline feeding the Racecourse turkey nest (from STP) and have found that there are extreme blockages which has reduced the flow to 60%. Currently liaising with contractors on how to best scour/clear the line.
- Installation of a new flow meter at the Gulargambone STP.
- REF for Gulargambone STP has been completed. Currently seeking quotations for vegetation removal and desilting of the primary pond.

As Council would be aware, water restrictions were implemented on 27 January 2026 and a Boil Water Alert for the Coonamble town water supply was issued on 29 January 2026.

The primary cause was the inability to backwash the filters that form an integral part of the treatment at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The lack of backwashing caused the filters to become blocked and impeded the flow of water through the plant which resulted in low reservoir levels and poor quality of water. This also had an effect on the water pressure around town.

The reservoir at the WTP is approximately 1ML in capacity and 22m high. This full 22m of head pressure is required to undertake a backwash of the filters. Less than the 22m of head pressure in the reservoir reduces the ability to undertake a backwash. When a back wash is done, it uses approximately 4.9m of the water in the reservoir, which equates to approximately 22% of water in the reservoir.

Flow of up to 70L/s can be expected through the filters when they are backwashed regularly. Given the backwash has not been able to take place for over a week, the flow had been reduced to less than 30L/s. This reduced flow, combined with the additional demand in the hot weather has meant that the reservoir could not fill to allow for backwashes. This in turn meant that the water was not being treated adequately.

After consulting with NSW Health and Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW), it was determined that the best course of action was to issue a boil water alert.

This has allowed Council to direct the bore supply from bores 4 and 5 direct into the reticulation to ensure an adequate supply to the community. At the time of writing this report, the following is anticipated to occur over the coming weeks:

- Thursday 29 January 2026 – issue of Boil Water Alert. Bores 4 and 5 isolated to feed direct into the reticulation system. This needs to occur to ensure that the pressure throughout the reticulation system is maintained to supply to community. It is anticipated that directing the bore water into the reticulation will also assist in filling Reservoir 4.

- *Sunday 1 February 2026* - Supply of non-potable (river) water to community members. This will be available from the Showground from 7am to 12 pm and will be limited to 1,000L per household. This supply will be until Friday 6 February 2026.
- *Monday 2 February 2025* – overhead feed to be installed at Reservoir number 4 which will allow direct filling of the reservoir from Bore 4. It is expected that this work will take two (2) days. As it currently stands, the water from Bore 4 must go through the WTP prior to going into the reservoir and reticulation system. Additional pipework will be installed which will allow for the direct feed to occur from Bore 4 to the reservoir. It is hoped that the direct filling of the reservoir will allow for the reservoir to fill to a sufficient level to allow for a backwash to occur. Council will also be providing bottled water to residents from 8am to 12pm, until Friday 6 February 2026.
- *Tuesday 3 February 2026* – the filter media in the filtration tank will be inspected and any rectifications required will be programmed.
- *Wednesday 4 February 2026* – Pending receipt of replacement cabling, Bore 3 will be brought back online. Once this has occurred, it will be fed direct to the reticulation system. Once Bore 3 is connected to the reticulation, Bore 4 will then be isolated from the reticulation in an effort to further fill the reservoir to undertake backwash activities. Several of these backwashes may be needed to allow the water to pass through the filters at a higher rate than current. Bore 5 will continue to feed direct into the reticulation system.
- *Friday 6 February 2025* – installation of chlorine dosing system to be installed at Bores 4 and 5 to allow for direct disinfection at the Bore. This will provide chlorination at the boreheads. Once this is complete, Council will have some redundancy in the system to provide chlorinated water to the community, separate to the WTP. The boil water alert will need to remain in place until the necessary testing of the drinking water has been undertaken successfully.

Further to this work, Council is working towards the installation of backwash pumps which will allow for backwashes to occur when the reservoir is lower than desired level. Investigations are also underway into the potential for installation of a clear water tank onsite at the WTP which will provide further redundancy to the system.

Council has been fortunate that recent summers have had adequate rainfall to supplement the peak water demand at this time. Unfortunately, this was not the case this summer. It is anticipated that the work currently being undertaken will assist Council in improving redundancy in the water supply in conjunction with other longer-term solutions that are currently being scoped. These include an additional reservoir at the sports ground, rising main from the WTP to Reservoir 5, telemetry upgrades and additional bores.

Upcoming works:

- *Overhead feed installation at Reservoir 4;*
- *Additional pipework and chlorination system to be installed at Bore 4;*
- *Bore 3 to be recommissioned;*
- *Filter arms at the Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) to be installed.*
- *Installation of flow meter at head of sewer treatment plant works in Coonamble.*

URBAN SERVICES

Continuing of mowing including Ovals, Parks, Town approaches and urban streets, tree trimming, and removals as requested by the community and for safety reasons.

The fence at the Gulgambone park has been reinstated after it was damaged in motor vehicle accident.

The Pioneer Cemetery fencing is virtually complete. The turnstiles have been repaired by a contractor and have been sent away to be powder-coated. They will be installed when they return.

Pools

Holiday activities were held at all Council pools, including inflatables at Coonamble and Gulgambone pools.

Aerodrome

Work has commenced on the construction of the animal exclusion fence. It is expected to take approximately two (2) weeks to complete.

ROADS

Natural Disaster Work

Work has been complete on Beanbah, Back Avoca, Nortongong, Goorianawa and Memsie Roads.

Unsealed Roads Maintenance

Staff have been busy over the last month carrying out maintenance on Shanklins, Willow Downs, Vatua Lane, Merryoula, Wilbur and Kensington Roads. The focus has been on natural disaster restoration works during December. Extensive work has also been done on reforming and reshaping Wingadee Road. There is more work to be done here, however, lack of access to water is making this difficult.

RMCC

Heavy patching has been undertaken on the Castlereagh highway through Coonamble and south of town. Maintenance is being completed in accordance with the Routine Maintenance Annual Plan (RMAP), (agreed schedule with TfNSW). This includes potholes patching, rest area cleaning, routine inspections, sign repairs and roadside slashing. Council has also commenced heavy patching work on the highway which is also included in the RMAP.

Tooraweenah Road

Council resolved to engage Maas Civil Pty Limited as the successful tenderer for the project at an Extraordinary meeting held on 22 January 2026. Council is working with the contractor on finalising their construction schedule with construction commencing once this has been finalised.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Maintenance of Council's infrastructure assets is carried out in accordance with Council's adopted management plans.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

(c) Social Implications

Maintenance works are programmed where practical, to minimise social impacts.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Works are scheduled in accordance with Council's adopted 2025 / 2026 Operational Plan and Budget.

(f) Risk Implications

Maintenance works are programmed to minimise the risk to Council and the public.

CONCLUSION

This report provides updated information on the projects and planned works within the Infrastructure Department for Council's information.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on the works in progress within Council's Infrastructure Directorate.

7.6 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE REPORT

File Number: 81991

Author: Tony Payne-Director Sustainability Community & Planning

Authoriser: Greg Hill, General Manager

Annexures: Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the Sustainable Communities and Planning Directorate.

BACKGROUND

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

OC1.3 – Implement programs and plans that balance our waste disposal expectations with the resources and capacity available to us

C1.3 – Help build and maintain safe, supportive homes and spaces

OC1.1 – We balance land use interests and minimise risks by following planning framework and regulations

C1.1 – Initiate and/or participate in community programs that improve access, connection, wellbeing, unity, vibrancy, learning and skills

E.2 – Develop a visitor economy through the provision of related infrastructure, services and experiences

L2.3 – Proactively communicate decisions, and the processes to reach them, to relevant stakeholders.

(b) Financial Considerations

Provision is made within the 2025 / 2026 Operational Plan and Budget to fund the associated works and programs listed in this report.

COMMENTARY

Waste Management Services

The table below provides the income and revenue of all waste disposal facilities in the Coonamble Shire.

Waste Disposal

Income	November	December	Year to Date
Gate Fees – Domestic	3,625	2,877	20,943
Gate Fees – Commercial	9,429	9,734	79,738
Sales – New Bins	190	190	2,616
Return & Earn Commission	3,308	4,337	20,460
Sales – Recyclables	0	0	31,242
Private Works	5,691	2,984	19,648
Total Revenue	22,244	20,121	174,647

Expenditure	November	December	Year to Date
Insurance	0	0	2,909
Electricity	0	0	1,816
Telephone & Communications	331	263	1,985
Rates and Charges	0	0	523
General Expenses	358	121	1,363
Plant & Equipment Maintenance	0	0	1,067
Waste Depot Operations	43,263	15,802	241,715
Waste Depot Wages	56,489	31,959	242,733
Building Maintenance	2,792	0	4,311
Private Works	686	4,673	10,935
Plant & Equipment	1,033	344	1,958
Total Expenditure	104,954	53,162	511,315

Return and Earn – 2025/2026

Site	November		December		Year to Date	
	Items	Amount	Items	Amount	Items	Amount
Coonamble	71,005	\$7,100.50	66,952	\$6,695.20	419,346	\$41,934.60
Quambone	10,026	\$1,002.60	8,648	\$864.80	47,048	\$4,704.80
			TOTAL	466,394	\$46,639.40	

Planning, Regulatory and Compliance Services

Regulatory Services

The Regulatory Officer's Report is provided for December 2025 and January 2026.

The following is a summary of companion animal statistics as at 30 January 2026:

Seizure Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Seized	4	0
Returned to Owner	5	0

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	4 dogs, 9 pups	0
Incoming Animals	Dogs	Cats
Transferred from seizure activities	4	0
Abandoned or Stray	7	5 kittens
Surrendered	34	0
Total Animals in Pound	45	5

Outgoing Animals	Dogs	Cats
Released to Owner	6	0
Euthanised	7	0
Released to Rehoming Organisation	29	5 kittens
Sold	0	0
Died at Pound	0	0
Stolen from Pound	0	0
Escaped from Pound	0	0
Total Animals Leaving Pound	29	5
Animals in Pound at end of Month	3	0

Dog Attacks

There were three (3) dog attacks reported to Council up to 30 January 2026.

Development Applications

The following is a summary of applications determined under delegated authority.

November – December 2025 and January 2026			
Application Number	Description of Works	Address of Proposed Works	Approved Date
Development Applications			
DA029/2025	Outdoor Patio	Lot 500, DP 1296231 7 Munnell Street GULARGAMBONE	04/12/2025
DA030/2025	Transportable Rural Workers' Dwelling	Lot 891, DP 595119 2717 Wingadee Road WINGADEE	06/01/2026
DA033/2025	New Swimming Pool	Lot 12, Sec 24, DP 758282 12 Park Street COONAMBLE	07/01/2026
DA002/2026	Private Cemetery	Lot 17, DP 754246 237 Quanda Road QUANDA	08/01/2026
DA003/2026	Shade Structures	Lot 212, DP 754199 Coonamble Jockey Club Caswell Street COONAMBLE	21/01/2026
DA032/2025	Rural Subdivision One (1) lot into two (2) lots	Lot 3, DP 1032957 Quambone Road QUAMBONE	23/01/2026
Construction Certificates			
CC037/2024/2	Open Shed over Stock Handling Facility	Lot 113 & 119, DP 754199 701 Quambone Road COONAMBLE	26/11/2025

CC029/2025	Outdoor Patio	Lot 500, DP 1296231 7 Munnell Street GULARGAMBONE	08/12/2025
CC013/2025	Core & Cluster Building (Temporary Accom). Rejected as there was insufficient information on the plans lodged on the Planning Portal for Council to conduct a thorough assessment against the NCC.	Lot 11, DP 238281 40 Calga Street COONAMBLE	16/12/2025 REJECTED
CC033/2025	New Swimming Pool	Lot 12, Sec 24, DP 758282 12 Park Street COONAMBLE	07/01/2026
Occupation Certificates			
OC004/2024	Cants Feed Shed	Lot 1, DP 188788 & 321836 49 Castlereagh Street COONAMBLE	17/12/2025
OC006/2024/2	Alterations and Additions	Lot 11, DP 754199 Coonamble Bowling Club Aberford Street COONAMBLE	17/12/2025

Saleyards

During December 2025, the Coonamble Regional Livestock Market conducted one (1) cattle sale, with a total of 2,429 cattle sold.

	December	Year to Date
Income	(22,682)	(128,819.09)
Expenditure	40,032	116,404
Total	17,350	(12,415.09) Surplus

Truck Wash

	December	Year to Date
Income*	(4167)	(41,488.07)
Expenditure	14,700	48,616.45
Total	10,533	7,128.38 deficit

* Please note that income for the Truck Wash is not reconciled until after the end of each month.

Community Development

Staffing and Human Resources

The Community Development Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Amanda Daniels as the new Community Development Officer. In this role, Ms. Daniels will oversee the delivery of services for youth, children, and seniors. Her primary focus will include direct community engagement and the coordination of holiday programming across the Coonamble Local Government Area (LGA).

Facilities and Infrastructure

Significant progress has been made regarding the Gulargambone Youth Centre. The facility has undergone necessary repairs and is now fully compliant with Work Health and Safety (WHS) standards.

The next phase involves the recruitment of casual staff to facilitate the commencement of the After School Care program, targeted for the start of the upcoming school year. This initiative is expected to provide substantial support to local families and children.

Youth Engagement Program – Premier's funding initiative through the Summer Holiday Program

The Premier's office has announced additional funding to support extended youth engagement programs for the 2025/2026 summer holiday period. The rationale for this initiative is based on the understanding that the holiday season often sees an increase in risky behaviours and youth offending. The program aims to keep young people engaged, safe, and supported through enhanced programming.

The NSW Government is coordinating this response with local communities across four towns: Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke, and Coonamble.

Amidst extremely tight timeframes, and in partnership with local service providers, the **2025–2026 Summer Holiday Program** has so far, achieved record coverage and engagement.

- Extended Duration: For the first time, additional funding secured a comprehensive seven-week delivery window.
- Operational Success: Despite the challenges of extreme heat, tight deadlines, and reduced staffing due to seasonal leave, the program maintained a safe and inclusive environment. This was achieved through high-level collaboration between the Council and external service providers.
- Fortnightly flyers were uploaded on the Council's social media pages and that of the respective services.
- Participant Welfare: All hosted events provided, at minimum, light refreshments, with the majority offering full meal options to ensure participant wellbeing.

Program Highlights

The following are a few examples of the activities successfully implemented to support youth wellbeing and skill development during the school holiday program to 30 January 2026. A comprehensive final report will be compiled upon the conclusion of the program.

Activity	Provider	Impact / Outcome
Pool Inflatables	Council	High utilisation across Coonamble (2 weeks) and Gulargambone (1 week).
Christmas & New Year Pool Parties	Lee and Co	Resounding success with high attendance. Families expressed appreciation for the provided lunch and activities. The facility remained open on New Year's Day, providing vital recreational opportunities.
Extended Pool Hours	Council / Lee and Co	Provided critical heat relief for residents, with operating hours extended to 8:00 PM during peak temperatures.
Totem Skateboard Workshop	Council / Totem Skateboarding	Highly popular, with 70 participants across two sessions.
White Card Training	JobLink Plus	Enhanced local job readiness by providing essential workplace qualifications.
Songwriting Workshop	JobLink Plus	Facilitated creative expression; student work was featured on local community radio via Lovesick Studios.
Girls Glow Up Program	CAHS / CNC	Focused on confidence-building and holistic wellbeing for young women.
3x3 Basketball & Boxing	Liddiard / Headspace	Promoted physical activity and teamwork; sessions were conducted in both Gulargambone and Coonamble.

Upcoming Activities (Final Two Weeks ending 8 February)

The program will conclude with the following scheduled activities:

- Health & Wellness: Walkabout Barber and Smoothie Bikes.
- Social & Arts: All-ages Disco at the Plaza, organised in partnership with Outback Arts.
- Recreation: Return of pool inflatables and organised pool games.
- Education & Culture: Movie Day at the Library and Family History Day in collaboration with the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).
- Ongoing Initiatives: The Gym Program and extended pool operating hours will remain in effect through the end of the period.

Library Services

Professional Engagement – Council's Librarian attended the quarterly Northwestern Library Managers Meeting, supporting ongoing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and regional service planning across the network.

Summer Holiday Activities – During the 2026 summer holiday period, the library delivered a range of activities for children and families, including two craft sessions and four movie days, which were well received by the community.

Holiday Program Planning – Council's Librarian has been working closely with the Community Development Manager to support and facilitate the planning of an expanded January–February 2026 school holiday program, ensuring alignment with broader Council initiatives and community needs.

Seniors Week Planning – Council has been advised of the library's successful Seniors Week Grant application, which will support the delivery of a community excursion. Planning for this activity, along with the Annual Seniors Luncheon, is currently underway.

Service NSW Outreach – Service NSW has now established a regular visiting service at the Coonamble Library, improving local access to essential government services for community members.

Library Statistics

Service	November 2025		December 2025	
	Coonamble	Gular	Coonamble	Gular
Loans	360	31	286	16
New Memberships	13	0	5	0
Wi-Fi (People)	45	151	32	191
Internet (people)	100		65	
Internet (hours)	88.4		62.8	
Kids Comp (children)	67		25	
Junior Visits	100		64	
Adult Visits	445		208	

Manual Statistics

Coonamble	# of People – Nov 2025	# of People – Dec 2025
Library Visits	545	272
Reference Enquiries	16	14
Technology Enquiries	54	52
Local History	5	4

Activity Statistics

Coonamble	# of People – Nov 2025	# of People – Dec 2025
Senior Craft	17	8
Pre-School Visits/Storytime	43	0
Seniors Tech	0	0
Seniors Cinema	9	12
Other	11	6

Economic Development and Growth

The role of Manager, Economic Development & Growth had been vacant since August / September 2025. The new MEDG began on 12 January 2026 and is working to become familiar with existing activities and projects. The Tourism Officer is currently on maternity leave with backfill options currently being investigated.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

E6 – We support a resilient local economy by increasing its diversity and boosting opportunities for entrepreneurship and business.

E.2 – Develop a visitor economy through the provision of related infrastructure, services and experiences

L2.3 – Proactively communicate decisions, and the processes to reach them, to relevant stakeholders.

(b) Financial Considerations

Activities undertaken as described in this report are within approved operational budget allocations for tourism and economic development activities, and capital projects or are funded through grant monies.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

This report provides Council with opportunities to understand governance and policy implications across the Community, Planning, Development and Environment Directorate. There may be risk implications depending on the nature of the activity.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no current legal implications arising from this report.

(c) Social Implications

Providing information that is open and transparent to the community will provide positive social implications for the community to understand the work that Council does.

(d) Environmental Implications

The progress report allows for environmental management to be an area of focus for Council and subsequently providing positive environmental benefits. This specifically relates to the area of public health, environmental sustainability, and waste management.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

There may be asset management implications depending on the nature of the issue.

(f) Risk Implications

There may be risk implications depending on the nature of the issue.

CONCLUSION

This report provides updated information on the core activities of the Sustainable Communities and Planning Directorate for Council's information.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council note the report on the activities of the Sustainable Communities and Planning Directorate.**

8 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - DECEMBER 2025

File Number: Financial Quarterly Review - 64876

Author: Bruce Quarmby-Director Corporate Services

Deborah Tatton-Manager Finance & Procurement

Authoriser: Greg Hill, General Manager

Annexures:

1. Quarterly Budget Review Report December 2025 (under separate cover)
2. Quarterly Budget Review December 2025 Attachment (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a quarterly budget review statement in accordance with Regulation 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (the Regulations). Please refer to the Annexure relating to this report.

BACKGROUND

Regulation 203 of the Regulations states that:

(1) Not later than 2 months after the end of each quarter (except the June quarter), the responsible accounting officer of a council must prepare and submit to the council a budget review statement that shows, by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the statement of the council's revenue policy included in the operational plan for the relevant year, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year.

(2) A budget review statement must include or be accompanied by:

(a) a report as to whether or not the responsible accounting officer believes that the statement indicates that the financial position of the council is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure, and

(b) if that position is unsatisfactory, recommendations for remedial action.

(3) A budget review statement must also include any information required by the Code to be included in such a statement.

The Code referred to above is the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. While earlier versions of the Code had an appendix that listed minimum requirements, these were removed a few years ago as they are of no relevance to the financial statements (which is the main purpose of the Code). In the absence of any instructions in the Code, the Quarterly Budget Review Statement publication issued in 2010 by the then Division of Local Government, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, details the minimum requirements and these requirements have been met in the preparation of the Quarterly Budget Review Statements (QBRs).

The quarterly review should act as a barometer of Council's financial health during the year, and it is also a means by which Councillors can ensure that Council remains on track to meet its objectives, targets and outcomes as set out in its Operational Plan.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

L1.4.10 Maintain long term financial viability.

(b) Financial Considerations

The December budget review as tabled for Council's consideration contains several variations to the originally adopted 2025/26 Operational Budget. Most of these variations represent the necessary accounting treatment to align grant funded income and expenditure programs to their anticipated levels for the current financial year.

COMMENTARY

Appendix A contains further detailed information about Cash and Investments, Contract and Consultancy Expenses and its progression towards achieving adopted Key Performance Indicators as of 31 December 2025.

Council commenced the 2025-26 financial year with the original operational budget surplus of \$9,452. At the completion of the December 2025 review, Council's estimated budgeted result for the 2025-26 Financial Year has as expected weakened to anticipated operational deficit of \$3,526,346. Council's position after non-operating expenditure has been considered has also declined to a \$481,913 draw down of working funds.

Council has undertaken several adjustments across the water and sewer funds to align asset valuations as at 30 June 2025. These valuation updates have resulted in increased depreciation expenses for the affected assets. The higher depreciation charges have been incorporated into the revised December budget, contributing to a decline in the non-operating financial position for the period.

As in the past with the preparation of budget reviews, where increases in expenditure have been identified, management has also identified potential savings in the budget to offset these increases. Some of these adjustments are as follows:

- Bad & Doubtful Debts Water Fund – (P.10) An additional \$25,000 has been allocated to this expenditure vote. The allocation has been increased due to the unlikely recovery and reversal of income associated with water consumption charges.
- Bad & Doubtful Debts Sewer Fund – (P.11) An additional \$15,000 has been allocated to this expenditure vote. The allocation has been increased due to the unlikely recovery and reversal of income associated with water consumption and sewer discharge charges.
- Quarry Sales – (P.14) Due to the quarry only recently returning to full operational capacity, adjustments have been made to ensure revenue

forecasts reflect current production realities. As a result, projected public sales have been reduced by \$1,500,000, while projected internal sales have been reduced by \$500,000. These revisions provide a more accurate and realistic outlook for the reporting period and align expectations with current operational capabilities.

- Bridge Maintenance – (P.15) Inspections of the local and regional road bridges were carried out to identify and plan a future works program. Additional funding of \$25,000 was reallocated from the Local Sealed Roads (\$15,000) and Local Unsealed Roads (\$10,000) votes to cover the costs for these inspections.
- Fixed Plant Quarry – (P.19) An additional \$50,000 has been allocated to ensure the full cost of repairs to the crusher jaw is covered. This adjustment ensures the asset can return to reliable service within the planned maintenance timeframe.
- Transport Grants – (P.20) Further works programming undertaken during the period has identified \$778,255 in planned works that are eligible to be funded through various grants available in the current financial year.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

There are no governance or policy implications arising from this report.

(b) Legal Implications

The December budget review has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Regulations 2005* – Regulation 203

(c) Social Implications

There are no social implications arising from this report.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

During the 2025-26 financial year, a review of the programmed asset maintenance and capital renewals will be undertaken to ensure Council is working towards satisfying Key Performance Indicators.

(f) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Coonamble Shire Council for the Quarter ended 31 December 2025 indicates that Council's financial

position at 30 June 2026 to be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Adopt the variations to votes as listed in the budget review documents distributed under separate cover.**
- 2. Note that in the opinion of the Responsible Accounting Officer based on the information as presented in the September Budget review, that Council will be in a satisfactory financial position as at 30 June 2026.**
- 3. Note the classification and position of Council's estimated restricted (reserve) funds as at 31 December 2025.**

9.2 COONAMBLE ARTESIAN BORE BATHS (COONAMBLE ARTESIAN AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE)

File Number: 2025CF004

Author: Greg Hill-General Manager

Authoriser: Greg Hill, General Manager

Annexures: 1. Master Plan - Artesian Bore Baths and Facilities (under separate cover)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is progressing the development of the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths, as a major tourism and community infrastructure initiative for the Shire.

The project is supported by \$5.5 million in NSW Government funding under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund, together with a \$1.25 million Council co-contribution. Under the executed Funding Deed, the project is required to be completed by December 2026. Advice received from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet indicates that, subject to Council demonstrating a clear and ongoing commitment to the project, an extension of time may be considered to June 2027.

The project has progressed through feasibility, site investigations and master planning. Following planning and rezoning delays associated with the previously acquired River Road site, Council resolved to relocate the project to the Racecourse Reserve precinct, incorporating land associated with the Coonamble Jockey Club and adjoining facilities. Council has since been formally appointed as the Crown Land Manager for the site, providing the statutory authority necessary to progress planning, construction and ongoing operations.

In November 2025, Council engaged GHD Group Pty Ltd to prepare the concept design and masterplan that forms the basis of this report. The masterplan outlines a staged tourism precinct comprising artesian bathing pools, camping and cabin accommodation, service infrastructure, constructed wetlands and water reuse systems.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the Masterplan Concept and approval to proceed to the next phase of detailed design, cost planning and statutory approvals in order to meet funding milestones and progress the project toward construction

BACKGROUND

The concept of establishing an artesian bore bathing facility in Coonamble has been under consideration for many years as a strategic tourism and economic development initiative for the Shire. The project seeks to leverage the region's artesian water resources to create a destination wellness and cultural tourism facility, delivering economic, social and community benefits.

Extensive community consultations from 2008 were followed by site investigations, feasibility assessments, and approvals completed between 2010. Land was identified in the Smith Park precinct, and the project was shovel-ready in 2016 but languished due to lack of funding.

In 2022, Council progressed the concept through renewed feasibility investigations and a business case, identifying the project as a priority regional tourism opportunity

aligned with Council's Community Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy.

In November 2022, Council was successful in securing \$5.5 million in NSW Government funding under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund (RTAF), administered by the Department of Regional NSW. This funding represents the primary external financial contribution to the project and is subject to milestone delivery, governance and reporting requirements. Council also resolved to provide a co-contribution of \$1.25 million.

During 2023, Council undertook further site investigations and due diligence to support the project, including environmental, geotechnical and infrastructure servicing assessments. As part of this process, Council purchased the allotment at 36 River Road, Coonamble (Lot 118 DP 754227) as the intended project site.

Throughout 2025, the project experienced delays associated with planning and rezoning processes relating to the River Road site. These delays put pressure on the delivery program required to meet RTAF funding's strict milestone timeframes.

To address these challenges and progress the project, Council resolved to return the development to the Racecourse Reserve precinct (Lot 212 DP754199) incorporating land associated with the Coonamble Jockey Club and adjoining facilities. This location aligns with the site considered during early project planning (2017-2022) and provides a practical pathway to advance approvals and delivery.

In November 2025, Council entered into formal agreements with the Racecourse Reserve Trust, Coonamble Jockey Club and Coonamble Golf Club to facilitate land use, access and operational arrangements. These agreements also support the beneficial reuse of treated wastewater generated by the facility, with the Jockey Club and Golf Course identified as key reuse partners.

Council was advised in late December that its application to be appointed as the Crown Land Manager for the proposed Bore Baths site had been approved. As the appointed land manager, Council now has the statutory authority to manage the land, approve land use activities and facilitate the construction and ongoing operation of the facility in accordance with the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Council updated its bore licence application on 3 September 2025 to reflect the new site adjacent to the Coonamble Jockey Club and Golf Course. Following discussions with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in December 2025, Council was advised that all technical components of the assessment had been completed, with the exception of a final hydrogeological referral.

DCCEEW advised that, due to resourcing constraints and high assessment workloads, the referral process was experiencing delays. At that time, the technical referral was expected to be completed in January 2026. However, at the time of preparing this report, formal approval has not yet been received. In recent correspondence, DCCEEW has advised that the hydrogeologist's assessment has now been completed and is in the final stage of internal determination, with an outcome anticipated shortly, a verbal update can be provided at the meeting.

The Racecourse Reserve location is now the preferred site for the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths project and is critical to meeting the NSW Government funding milestones and progressing the project to construction.

The project scope has been carefully refined as council doubles down on key community priorities to create a sensibly-stage workplan that is achievable within a reasonable timeframe and available resources.

Link to Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

The Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths project directly supports the strategic direction of the Coonamble Shire Community Strategic Plan, including the past 2022–2032 plan and the 2025–2035 update CSP. The Strategic Plan identifies economic diversification, tourism growth and investment attraction as key community priorities, and recognises the need to leverage Coonamble's unique natural assets to create new employment and economic opportunities. The Bore Baths project responds to these objectives by delivering destination wellness and tourism facility that enhances Shire's profile, strengthens the visitor economy, improves livability, and contributes to long-term economic resilience for the community.

Report

In November 2025, Council engaged GHD Group Pty Ltd, a global employee-owned professional services firm, to assist with the preparation of the project concept design for the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths.

The scope of the engagement includes the development of preliminary design documentation and will be extended, subject to Council approval, to provide:

- cost and quantity survey estimates,
- development application documentation and submission, and
- potential tender documentation, contract administration and project management services during the construction phase.

This engagement provides Council with access to specialist technical, design and project delivery expertise to support progression of the project through to construction and operation.

PROJECT SCOPE AND CONCEPT DESIGN

This section outlines the concept design elements and proposes operational systems for the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths and associated tourism precinct.

1. Bore, Baths and Water Cycle

The project will be supported by a new artesian bore and pump system designed to deliver a consistent yield of 16 litres per second during the daily operational period (assumed 9 hours, 6.00am to 4.00pm). Existing hydrogeological documentation identifies an average water temperature of approximately 36.5°C at the bore head.

Water will be conveyed to two purpose-built bore bathing pools:

- One 12 metre diameter pool with a depth of 1.2 metres, holding approximately 126,000 litres.
- One 10 metre diameter accessible pool with a beach entry and an average depth of 0.4 metres, holding approximately 24,000 litres.

Both pools are designed to operate year-round.

To maintain water quality and temperature, the baths will operate on a three-times-daily water turnover regime, consistent with operating precedents at Burren Junction and Lightning Ridge. Based on this regime, total daily water turnover is approximately 0.45 megalitres per day.

The pools are designed to automatically fill from 6.00am each day, with a fill time of approximately 2.5 hours.

Waste and residual water will be conveyed to a cooling pond and then to a constructed wetland for treatment. The wetland will provide approximately 10 days of storage. From the wetland, treated water will flow to an open storage dam, with an estimated annual inflow of approximately 150 megalitres, accounting for rainfall and evaporation losses.

Treated water from the open storage dam will be pumped for reuse to:

- A new caravan park irrigation tank
- The Coonamble Jockey Club & Golf Course Pond
- Other local users, including farms, subject to agreement

Where the baths are not operating, particularly in summer, the bore will continue to supply the wetland system to maintain hydraulic function and water reuse capacity.

2. Bore Bath Precinct

The bore bath precinct will include:

- Two artesian bathing pools as described above
- A shared amenities building containing:
 - Male amenities (2 basins, 2 showers, 2 pans, 1 urinal)
 - Female amenities (2 basins, 2 showers, 3 pans)
 - One accessible bathroom with shower
 - Administrative and storage areas
- A camp kitchen with air-conditioning and capacity for future conversion into a function space
- Two BBQ shelters and two picnic shelters
- External area lighting
- Concrete pedestrian pathways connecting all infrastructure

3. Camping Precinct

The camping area will include:

- 27 unpowered sites
- 42 powered standard sites
- 4 powered dog-friendly fenced sites
- 6 powered drive-through sites
- 4 powered sites with private ensuites
- 2 powered sites with private accessible ensuites

An amenities building will service the camping area and include:

- Male amenities (4 basins, 4 showers, 4 pans, 2 urinals)
- Female amenities (4 basins, 5 showers, 5 pans)
- One accessible bathroom with shower
- Laundry facilities

Additional features include a playground and an internal access road, constructed in Stage 1 (Bitumen sealing subject to funds) and Stage 2.

4. Service and Operations Area

The service precinct will include:

- Bore pump infrastructure
- Tool and storage sheds
- Irrigation tank
- Sewer pump stations and rising main connection to the authority sewer
- Waste drop zone
- Vehicle wash bay
- Sewer waste dump point
- Chlorine storage on a sealed and bunded pad

5. Cabin Precinct

The cabin area will comprise:

- 6 standard cabins (including the manager's residence)
- 8 accessible cabins

Each cabin will include a kitchen, living and dining area, bathroom, two bedrooms and a private bath. Sealed internal access roads will service the precinct.

6. Internal Roads, Parking and Access

The project includes:

- A new upgraded site entry and intersection
- Internal access roads (7 meters wide), bitumen sealing either stages 1 or 2 subject to cost.
- Car parking comprises:
 - 33 standard spaces
 - 4 accessible spaces
 - 20 RV spaces

External lighting will be installed along main roads, pedestrian paths, car parks, bore bath precinct, service areas and amenities.

7. Security

- The camping and cabin precinct will be fenced with a single controlled entry point.
- The bore bath precinct and wetland will be separately fenced.

8. Landscaping and Wetland

Landscaping will be incorporated:

- Selected grass areas
- Endemic reed and low-growing plant species
- Shade trees

The constructed wetland will occupy approximately 1 to 1.5 hectares and will include pedestrian pathways through and around the wetland area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths project is supported by a \$5.5 million grant from the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund (RTAF), with Council having committed a co-contribution of \$1.25 million.

Under the executed RTAF Funding Deed, the project is required to be completed by December 2026. Council has been advised through discussions with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet that, subject to Council demonstrating a clear and ongoing commitment to the project, an extension of time may be considered to June 2027. Any extension remains subject to formal approval by the funding authority and compliance with grant conditions.

The concept design includes significant civil, hydraulic, electrical and building infrastructure across multiple precincts, including the bore system, wetland and water reuse network, bathing pools, camping and cabin facilities, internal roads, sewer pump stations and public amenities. Detailed cost planning will be required during the next phase of design to confirm total capital costs, staging requirements and funding sufficiency.

The RTAF funding is subject to strict milestone, reporting and delivery conditions. Failure to meet these requirements may result in withdrawal of funding or a requirement to repay funds already expended. Council must therefore ensure that project governance, procurement, planning approvals and construction programs are fully aligned with the Funding Deed timeframes.

Ongoing operational costs will include staffing, utilities, water and wastewater management, chemical supply, routine maintenance, asset renewal, security and regulatory compliance. These recurrent costs will be partially offset through user fees from the bore baths, camping and cabin accommodation. A detailed operational business model will be required to confirm long-term financial sustainability.

The project also presents opportunities to reduce operating costs elsewhere through the beneficial reuse of treated water for irrigation at the Racecourse Reserve, Golf Course and other approved users, reducing demand on potable water supplies.

Below table is Income (grant funding) and Expenditure to date, excluding Council contribution of \$1.25 Million.

Grant Funding		
Milestone 1	1,375,000.00	Received 6 July 2023
Milestone 2	1,375,000.00	Date Activity to be completed 30/6/25
Milestone 3	1,375,000.00	Date Activity to be completed 30/11/25
Milestone 4	1,375,000.00	Date Activity to be completed 28/2/26
Milestone 5		Date Activity to be completed 31/12/26
Total Funding	5,500,000.00	
Expenditure		
2023/2024	28,419.15	
2024/2025	-	
2025/2026	148,210.00	
	176,629.15	
	1,198,370.85	Available Balance on hand
	5,323,370.85	Available Balance

Below table is the breakdown of expenses to date, which has been recorded against the grant funding for the project. The cost to purchase the River Road site and “in-kind” time on project has not been recorded against the project.

Expenditure Prior Years 2021-24			
Creditor	Description	Date	Total
Coonamble Times	Advert Bore Baths Survey	29/04/2021	405.07
TP Catering	Catering Community Consultation	13/04/2021	412
Corporate Scorecard	Financial Assessment	1/07/2021	565.47
Western Survey Pty Ltd	Site Survey	18/11/2021	3061.76
OConnor Marsden & As	Project Fees	13/01/2022	3837.6
Conseth	Geotech Analysis	1/07/2024	22321.48
			30603.38
Expenditure Current Year			
Standards Australia	Aust Standards	23/09/2025	420.09
Proterra Group	Water Reuse Plan	1/07/2025	23,784.20
Lands Advisory	Claim 1 Professional fees	8/10/2025	733.59
GHD	Scope Define Proposal	1/09/2025	5,225.00
GHD	Design and Specs	1/12/2025	50,385.59
GHD	Phase 2 Draft Concept	17/12/2025	67,008.54
Coonamble Times	Recycled Water Plans	26/11/2025	97.85
CBA Credit Card	undefined	27/10/2025	50.22
			147,705.08
		Adjustments	-
			1,679.31
			176,629.15

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Failure to meet RTAF completion deadline (Dec 2026) resulting in loss or clawback of funding	High	Medium	Maintain a detailed delivery program aligned to the Funding Deed, provide regular milestone reporting, and formally seek a deed extension where required. Progress procurement, approvals and construction concurrently where possible.
Extension not approved by funding body (beyond Dec 2026)	High	Medium	Demonstrate Council's commitment through resolutions, budget allocations, signed contracts and commencement of works to support an extension request to June 2027.
Planning and approval delays	High	Medium	Early engagement with planning authorities, staged approvals and dedicated internal project governance.
Capital cost escalation	High	Medium	Independent cost planning, value engineering, staged delivery and early contractor engagement.
Insufficient operational revenue	High	Medium	Prepare a detailed Operational Business Model, including pricing strategy and marketing plan prior to

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Water system performance or bore yield failure	High	Low	construction.
Environmental or regulatory non-compliance	High	Low	Detailed hydrogeological investigations, monitoring systems and contingency supply arrangements.
Community or stakeholder opposition	Medium	Low	Completion of all environmental assessments, approvals and compliance management plans.
Security and vandalism	Medium	Medium	Ongoing engagement, transparent communication and formal stakeholder agreements.
Crown land governance risk	Medium	Low	Fencing, lighting, CCTV, controlled access and on-site management.
			As Council is now the Crown Land Manager, it will exercise statutory authority, manage land use and facilitate construction and operations in accordance with the Crown Land Management Act 2016.

CONCLUSION

The Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths project represents a significant opportunity to deliver a landmark tourism, wellness and community facility for the Shire. It is underpinned by substantial NSW Government investment and is strongly aligned with Council's strategic objectives for economic development, tourism growth and community wellbeing.

Endorsement of the Masterplan Concept will provide a clear pathway to advance detailed design, planning approvals and procurement, while ensuring compliance with funding obligations and statutory requirements. Progressing the project at this time is critical to securing the State Government funding and positioning Coonamble as a key destination within the artesian tourism network of western New South Wales.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Endorse the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths Masterplan concept as the preferred framework for progressing the Coonamble Artesian and Cultural Experience project.**
2. **Note the project is supported by \$5.5 million in NSW Government funding under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund, together with councils \$1.25 million co-contribution, subject to the conditions of the executed funding deed.**

3. **Approve progression to the next stage of the project, including detailed design development, cost planning, and preparation and lodgment of Development Application documentation.**
4. **Authorise the General Manager to finalise and enter into further service agreements with GHD Group Pty Ltd, to deliver detailed design, cost estimates, statutory approval documentation, tender documentation and project management services.**
5. **Request the preparation of a detailed Operational Business Model, including pricing strategy and marketing plan prior to construction to confirm long-term financial sustainability.**
6. **Request regular progress reports be provided to Council outlining project milestones, financial status, risk management and compliance with funding conditions.**

**10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH
NOTICE/RESCISSION MOTIONS**

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RECOMMENDATION

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

11.1 Closed (Public Excluded) Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council - 22 January 2026

11.2 Write off of Council Debts

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).

11.3 TENDER 20260109DHS TALLEGAR CREEK CAUSEWAY UPGRADE

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.

12 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING