



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 20 February 2024

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 20 February 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

**Location: Council Chambers, Estates Building Cressy Street
Deniliquin**

**Philip Stone
Chief Executive Officer**

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1. OPENING MEETING**2. ATTENDANCE****3. LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT**

Edward River Council wishes to advise members of the public that Council Meetings will be recorded and will be available after each meeting on Council's website [Councils Website](#). All care will be taken to maintain the privacy of those in attendance, however As a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded. By remaining In the public gallery, it is assumed your consent is given in the event your image is broadcast. This includes any filming by television cameras if attendance is approved by the Chief Executive Officer or Mayor.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Edward River Council acknowledges and embraces the Traditional Owners of the Lands within the Edward River Council area - the Wamba Wamba/Perrepa Perrepa Peoples – and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging. The Edward River Council also recognises the diversity of different cultures within our community and their contribution.

5. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

I have come here as a Councillor freely and without bias to:

- Represent the views of the community in considering the matters before us today
- To vote in a matter I consider to be in the best interest of the community
- To observe the Code of Conduct and respect the rule of the chair and views of my fellow Councillors.

6. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1. DRAFT MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 5 DECEMBER 2023

Author: Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 5 December 2023 as a true and correct record.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

5.2 Financially sustainable

5.3 Professional Workplace culture

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes Ordinary Council Meeting 5 December 2023

Attachment 1 - Draft Minutes for Ordinary Council Meeting 10-00 AM - Tuesday, 5 December 2023



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 05 December 2023

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 05 December 2023
Time: 10:00 AM
**Location: Council Chambers, Estates Building Cressy Street
Deniliquin**

Philip Stone
Chief Executive Officer

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023**

1. OPENING MEETING

The meeting opened at 10.02am

Mayor Cr Peta Betts congratulated Dr Robert Campbell on his recent award, and thanked all our medical practitioners.

Congratulations also to Conargo Public School on their Ruby Saltbush work and publication.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Cr Peta Betts, Deputy Mayor Paul Fellows, Cr Shirlee Burge, Cr Tarria Moore, Cr Shannon Sampson, Cr Linda Fawns, Cr Marc Petersen, Cr Pat Fogarty.

In attendance: Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate Services, Director Infrastructure, Acting Manager Risk, Safety and Governance, Executive Assistant

Gallery: 5

3. LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

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6. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

Moved: Cr Marc Petersen

Seconded: Cr Shannon Sampson

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/6

That the request for a leave of absence by Cr Harold Clapham be accepted.

CARRIED

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1. DRAFT MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2023

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Fellows

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/7.1

That Council accept the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 November 2023 as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

9. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

Nil

10. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Nil

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023**

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**11.1. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CONARGO MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND GENERAL MEETING HELD 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Fellows

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/11.1

That Council:

1. Receive the draft minutes of the Conargo Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Committee Annual General Meeting held on 8 November 2023 and note the resolutions of that meeting
2. Endorse the following nominations for appointment to the Conargo Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Committee:
 - a. Colin Bull - Chair
 - b. Michael Pisasale - Deputy Chair
 - c. Deb Stockton - Secretary and Bookings Officer
 - d. Ian Paton - Treasurer
 - e. Alistair McNamara
 - f. Lyn Hardcastle
 - g. Alan Hardcastle
 - h. Terry Dashwood
 - i. Scott Fullerton
 - j. Brett Jervis
 - k. Christie Jervis
 - l. Dave Woodhead
 - m. Bronwyn Chappell
 - n. Peri Chappell
 - o. Marg Bull
 - p. Allison Pearson
 - q. Brett Rose
 - r. Aileen Loader
 - s. Liz McNamara
 - t. Mick Loader
3. Receive the draft minutes of the Conargo Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Committee General Meeting on 8 November 2023 and note the resolutions of that meeting

CARRIED

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023

12. REPORTS TO COUNCIL**12.1. DISABILITY INCLUSION ACCESS PLAN 2023-2026 FOR ADOPTION**

Moved: Cr Marc Petersen

Seconded: Cr Shirlee Burge

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/12.1

That the recommendation be deferred until the February 2024 meeting.

CARRIED**12.2. DA2023/0066 - ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS - SOUTH WEST MUSIC - 241 CRESSY STREET, DENILIKUIN**

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Cr Shannon Sampson

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/12.2

That Council resolves to: -

1. APPROVE the development application DA2023/0066 for Alterations and Additions - South West Music (Community Facility) , on Lot 1 DP797598, 241 Cressy Street , Denilquin as shown on plan numbered DA000 - DA021 and described in details accompanying the Development Application, in accordance with section 4.16 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and subject to the following reasons:
 - a) The application complied with the applicable planning controls and has demonstrated to have a satisfactory effect on the environment.
 - b) The application is compliant with the key planning provisions contained within the DLEP 2013 and the Denilquin Development Control Plan 2016.
 - c) The proposal is appropriate on the site given the existing character of the area.
 - d) The development will have no significant adverse impacts on the natural or built environments.
2. Impose conditions in Attachment 1.

Division:

For: Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Fellows, Cr Shirlee Burge, Cr Marc Petersen, Cr Pat Fogarty, Cr Tarria Moore, Cr Shannon Sampson, Cr Linda Fawns, Mayor Cr Peta Betts

Against: Nil

8/0

CARRIED

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023

12.3. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT STATISTICS REPORT 2022-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Fellows

Seconded: Cr Linda Fawns

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/12.3

That Council:

1. receive and note the 2022-2023 annual report on Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics;
2. note that a copy of the report will be provided to the NSW Office of Local Government.

CARRIED

12.4. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

Moved: Cr Tarria Moore

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Fellows

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/12.4

That Council receive and note the November 2023 Development Services Report

CARRIED

12.5. RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Cr Shannon Sampson

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/12.5

That Council note the information in the Resolutions of Council as at 28 November 2023.

CARRIED

13. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil

14. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023**

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Moved: Cr Tarria Moore

Seconded: Cr Sampson

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/15

That Council close the meeting to the public at 10.26am to consider confidential items pursuant to Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

CARRIED**15.1. CONTRACT C2023/05 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION - JOINT COUNCIL SEALED ROADS - PACKAGE 2**

Moved: Cr Pat Fogarty

Seconded: Cr Shannon Sampson

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/15.1

That Council

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/05 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 2 for the lump sum tender price of \$1,023,774.50 + GST,
2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/05 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 2, and
3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum.

CARRIED**15.2. CONTRACT C2023/06 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION - JOINT COUNCIL SEALED ROADS - PACKAGE 3**

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Fellows

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/15.2

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Deni Civil & Construction for Contract C2023/06 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 3 for the lump sum tender price of \$461,550.00 + GST,

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023**

2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/06 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 3, and
3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the Contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum.

CARRIED**15.3. CONTRACT C2023/07 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION - JOINT COUNCIL UNSEALED ROADS - NORTHERN PACKAGE**

Moved: Cr Shannon Sampson

Seconded: Cr Marc Petersen

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/15.3

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/07 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Northern Package for the lump sum tender price of \$419,467.21 + GST,
2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/07 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Northern Package, and
3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the Contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum.

CARRIED**15.4. CONTRACT C2023/08 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION - JOINT COUNCIL UNSEALED ROADS - SOUTHERN PACKAGE**

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Cr Tarria Moore

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/15.4

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Andrew Goldman Excavation Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/08 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council unsealed Roads – Southern Package for the lump sum tender price of \$121,810.80 + GST,
2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/08 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council unsealed Roads – Southern Package, and
3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the Contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum.

CARRIED

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023

15.5. CONTRACT C2023/09 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION - JOINT COUNCIL UNSEALED ROADS - WESTERN PACKAGE

Moved: Cr Tarria Moore

Seconded: Cr Linda Fawns

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/15.5

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Civil and Earth Australia for Contract C2023/09 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Western Package for the lump sum tender price of \$150,969.08 + GST,
2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/09 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council unsealed Roads – Western Package, and
3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the Contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum.

CARRIED**15.6. CONTRACT C2023/10 - SCCF - SPORTS FACILITY LIGHTING UPGRADES**

Moved: Cr Shannon Sampson

Seconded: Cr Shirlee Burge

RESOLUTION 2023/0512/15.6

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by DeAraugo & Lea Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/10 - SCCF - Sports Facility Lighting Upgrades for the Lump Sumtender price of \$1,408,275.00 + GST for the installation of sport facility lighting at the Hardinge Street oval and netball courts, Memorial Park main oval and adjoining netball courts and Blighty Recreation Reserve oval and netball courts,
2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/10 - SCCF - Sports Facility Lighting Upgrades,
3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the contract up to a maximum value of 10% of the contract sum, and
4. Allocates \$600,000 from the Local Roads Community Infrastructure Round 4 program towards the Sports Facility Lighting Upgrade project.

CARRIED

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2023

16. OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Moved: Cr Tarria Moore

Seconded: Cr Linda Fawns

That Council reopens the meeting to the public at 10.39am and the resolutions of council considered in Item 15 Confidential Matters are read out to the public.

17. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10.45am

7.2. DRAFT MINUTES EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 13 DECEMBER 2023

Author: Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the draft minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held Wednesday 13 December 2023 as a true and correct record.

BACKGROUND

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes Extraordinary Council Meeting held Wednesday 13 December 2023

Attachment 1 - Draft-Minutes-for-Extraordinary-Council-Meeting-8-30-AM-Wednesday-13-December-2023



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

Date: Wednesday, 13 December 2023

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Council Chambers, Wanderer Street Deniliquin

MINUTES

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

**Philip Stone
General Manager**

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EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2023**

1. OPENING MEETING

Present: Mayor Cr Peta Betts, Cr Linda Fawns, Cr Shirlee Burge, Cr Tarria Moore, Cr Marc Petersen, Cr Pat Fogarty

Via Teams: Cr Harold Clapham, Cr Shannon Sampson

In Attendance: Executive Assistant

Gallery: 2 via video link

Meeting opened at 8.34am

2. LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

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- Represent the views of the community in considering the matters before us today
- To vote in a matter I consider to be in the best interest of the community
- To observe the Code of Conduct and respect the rule of the chair and views of my fellow Councillors.

5. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Cr Marc Petersen

RESOLUTION 2023/1312/5

That Council acknowledges and accepts the attendance of Cr Harold Clapham and Cr Shannon Sampson via Teams.

CARRIED

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTESWEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2023

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

7. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

8. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

Nil

9. REPORTS TO COUNCIL**9.1. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Moved: Cr Pat Fogarty

Seconded: Cr Shirlee Burge

RESOLUTION 2023/1312/9.1

That Council, in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021:

1. Note that the Mayor will assume the role of Returning Officer for the election
2. Determine that the method of voting for the election of Deputy Mayor be determined by open voting by a show of hands.
3. Elect a Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Council Term

Nominations received by:

Cr Linda Fawns - Nominated by Cr Peta Betts and Cr Tarria Moore

Cr Marc Petersen - Nominated by Cr Shirlee Burge and Cr Pat Fogarty

As the vote was equal, the names were placed in a container and a name drawn. Cr Marc Petersen was elected Deputy Mayor.

CARRIED**9.2. REQUEST TO MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT: CASUAL VACANCY**

Moved: Cr Marc Petersen

Seconded: Cr Pat Fogarty

RESOLUTION 2023/1312/9.2

That Council resolves to write to the Minister for Local Government seeking approval to dispense with a by-election to fill a casual vacancy on Council.

CARRIED

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2023

10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil

11. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

12. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

13. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.46am.

8. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

9. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

9.1. MAYORAL MINUTE - COST SHIFTING ONTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the findings of the LGNSW Cost Shifting report for the 2021/2022 financial year; and
2. A copy of the cost shifting report be placed on Council's website so that our communities can access it; and
3. Council write to the Premier, the NSW Treasurer and the NSW Minister for Local Government seeking that they urgently seek to address these costs through a combination of regulatory reform, budgetary provision and appropriate funding

REPORT

Councillors,

The pressure on councils to continue to provide services of appropriate standard to our communities is now extraordinary.

The unrelenting growth of cost shifting to councils, coupled with rate pegging, is increasingly eroding any possibility of financially sustainable local government and risking the capacity of councils to deliver tailored, grassroots services to their communities and properly deliver and maintain vital local infrastructure.

Alarmingly, the latest research commissioned by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) shows that the increase in cost shifting has been accelerated by various NSW Government policies.

As shown in the latest cost shifting report produced by independent consultants Morrison Low on behalf of LGNSW for the 2021/2022 financial year (www.lgnsw.org.au/costshifting), an amount of \$1.36 billion of expense has been passed on to councils to fund. This is an increase of \$540 million since the last report from the 2017/2018 financial year and represents lost services, lost opportunity and lost amenity for all our residents and businesses.

On average, this represents an additional cost of \$490.10 for every ratepayer across the state.

Applied to Edward River as a large rural Council, this increase represents an additional \$4m (approx.) per annum in shifted burden to our ratepayers.

With councils having to fund this ongoing subsidy for the State Government each and every year it means our communities get less or go without. They go without better roads, they go without better parks, they go without important community services that only councils provide, and they and their ratepayers are effectively paying hidden taxes to other levels of government.

Councillors, our communities deserve better, and this must stop. Prior to the most recent state election the then Minns Opposition wrote to LGNSW acknowledging that cost shifting had undermined the financial sustainability of the local government sector.

Now in 2024, it is important to councils and communities that the NSW Government urgently seek to address cost shifting through a combination of regulatory reform, budgetary provision and appropriate funding.

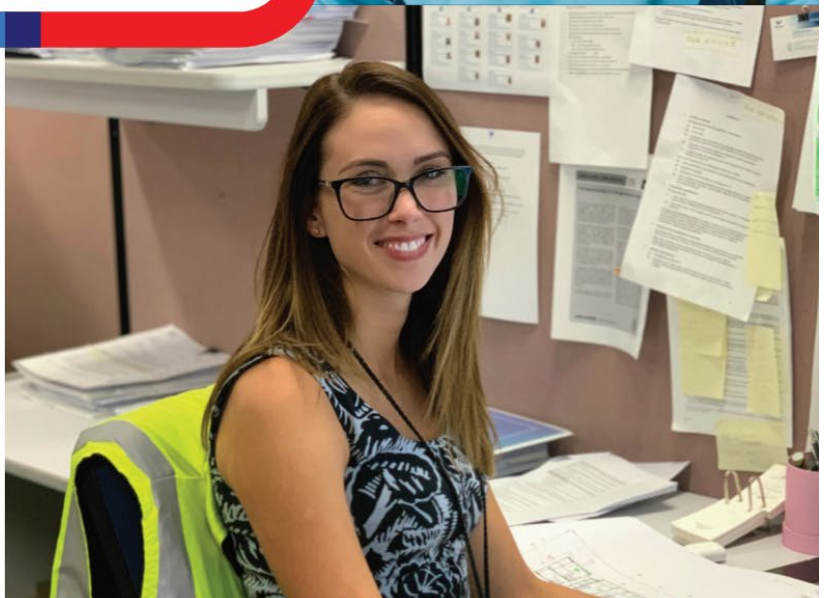
ATTACHMENTS

1. Summary and Highlights: Cost shifting 2023: How State Costs Eat Council Rates
2. Full Report: Cost shifting 2023: How State Costs Eat Council Rates.



Cost Shifting 2023: How State Costs Eat Council Rates

Report Summary and Highlights



**ONE VOICE
FOR COUNCILS**



President's Foreword



It is with great concern that I present to you Local Government NSW's latest commissioned research on one of the most significant problems facing NSW councils today.

Cost Shifting 2023: How State Costs Eat Council Rates, by independent consultants Morrison Low, reveals the heavy financial burden carried by NSW councils and communities forced to assume ever-greater responsibility for state government services and infrastructure.

That burden is now valued at more than \$1.36 billion per year, up 78 per cent from \$820 million per year in just over five years.

It's fair to say that all levels of government – like families – are doing it tough.

But the difference is that with cost shifting, the financial pressure flows downhill – from the federal level to state governments, onwards to councils.

And of course ultimately to ratepayers, because councils must divert rate revenue away from existing services and infrastructure in order to fund the unrecoverable cost of the services, programs and functions imposed by the State Government.

This new report calculates that the total amount of cost-shifting to councils now represents an average of around \$460 per ratepayer, per year.

Councils are the closest level of government to the community and we see firsthand the very real impact of this endless financial squeeze.

We carry the can, as other levels of government wipe costs from their budgets by eating into ours. And we face the community to answer for rate increases, reduced services or degraded local infrastructure.

It is, quite simply, unsustainable and cannot continue.

After decades of advocacy by the local government sector, I welcomed the Minns' Government acknowledgement that the current funding system is broken. And I am more encouraged than I can say by their commitment to undertake a review of the financial modelling of councils.

LGNSW looks forward to contributing to this review, and to ensure that one of its key focuses will be to address this damaging practice, and drive a more financially sustainable future for the people of NSW.

Cr Darriea Turley AM
LGNSW President

What is Cost Shifting?

Cost shifting occurs when state and federal governments force councils to assume responsibility for infrastructure, services and regulatory functions without providing sufficient supporting funding.

NSW councils are currently being asked to absorb cost shifting worth more than \$1.36 billion each year, with the practice imposing an estimated cumulative burden of more than \$10.15 billion over the last decade.

This now amounts to an average \$460.67 paid by each NSW ratepayer, each and every year.

As councils work to rebuild their communities in the wake of the COVID pandemic and repeated natural disasters, they also find themselves grappling with the same economic challenges and headwinds impacting the State and Federal Governments. The difficult economic climate, rising costs and severe skills and labour shortages are impacting council budgets and affecting service and infrastructure delivery in local communities. The continual shifting of the obligations and costs for State (or Federal) functions and services onto local government, coupled with a defective rate peg system, is only making the situation worse.

Cost shifting onto local government remains one of the most significant challenges facing NSW councils today. The unrelenting growth of cost shifting to councils is increasingly eroding any possibility of financially sustainable local government and risking the capacity of councils to both deliver tailored, grassroots services to their communities and properly maintain vital local infrastructure.

Alarming, the latest research commissioned by LGNSW shows that the increase in cost shifting has been accelerated by various NSW Government policies.



Analysis by independent consultants Morrison Low calculated the total cost shifted onto councils in the 2021/22 financial year at \$1.36 billion.



This is a dramatic increase of 78 per cent since the 2015/16 financial year, when the total cost shift was estimated at \$820 million.



In 2021/22, each NSW ratepayer had the equivalent of \$460.67 of their paid rates eaten by state government costs.



The proportion of council rates subsumed by cost-shifted obligations ranged from \$420.90 for ratepayers on the metropolitan fringes to \$590.80 for rural ratepayers.

\$1.36 Billion

Cost shift to councils per annum

\$460.67

Per ratepayer per year

What is eating council rates?

The largest direct cost shift to councils is from emergency service contributions and other emergency service obligations, totalling \$165.4 million. However, the cost of rate exemptions is higher still, representing a total of \$273.1 million of potential rates that are exempted and redistributed to other ratepayers to pay. An additional \$288.2 million in waste levies are passed onto the ratepayers through the waste collection fees in their rates bill.

A further \$156.7 million in costs for libraries is also being covered by councils to make up the difference between the committed funding for councils' libraries and the subsidies received.

Top Five Cost Shifts onto NSW Councils

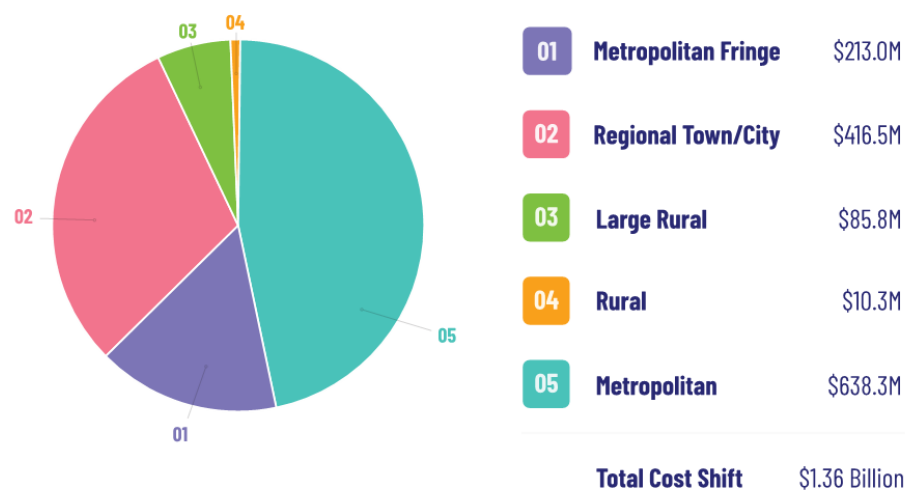




Cost shift per ratepayer per year by council classification



Total cost shift per year by council classification



Local Government NSW

GPO Box 7003 Sydney NSW 2001
L8/ 28 Margaret St. Sydney NSW 2000

☎ 02 9242 4000

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LGNSW Cost Shifting Report – How State Costs Eat Council Rates



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1 Executive Summary

Cost shifting remains one of the most significant challenges facing the NSW local government sector. As the peak organisation representing the interests of all 128 general purpose councils in NSW, as well as special purpose councils and related entities, Local Government NSW (LGNSW) regularly monitors the extent of cost shifting onto local government via its Cost Shifting Survey.

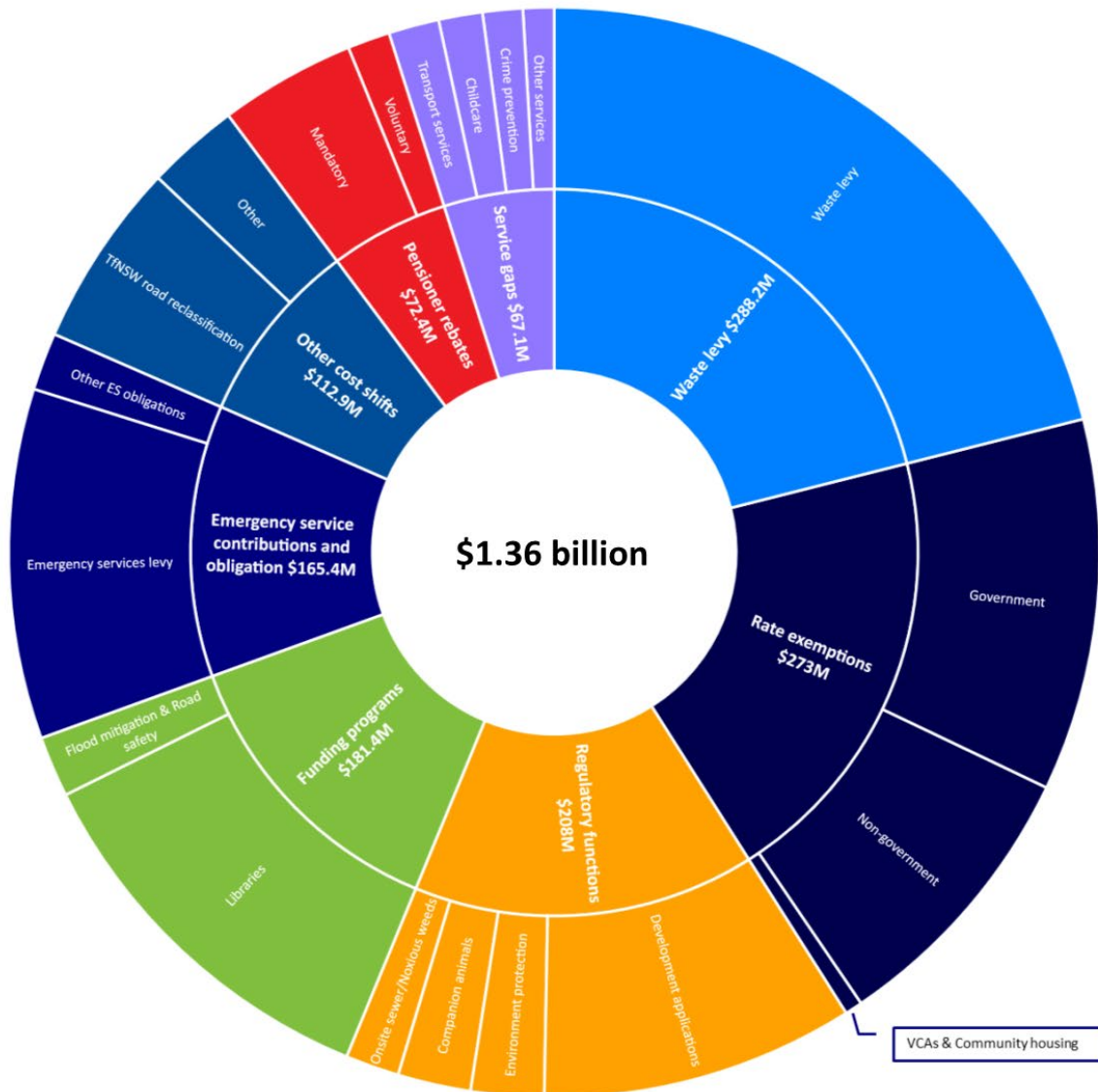
The 2021–22 Cost Shifting Survey has revealed that cost shifting totalled **\$1.36 billion** in 2021–22 (see figure on the next page), far exceeding historical records and representing an increase of \$540 million since the Cost Shifting Survey was last carried out in 2017–18. Alarming, the increase in cost shifting has been accelerated by various State Government policies, with the most significant examples of cost shifting in 2021–22 being:

- The **waste levy**, which remains the largest single contributor to cost shifting in NSW, totalling \$288.2 million, because the NSW Government did not fully reinvest the waste levy, paid by local councils, back into waste and circular economy infrastructure and programs.
- The **Emergency Services Levy** and associated **emergency service contributions**, which totalled \$165.4 million and represented the largest direct cost shift to local councils. In 2021–22, councils contributed \$142 million through the Emergency Services Levy, \$12.7 million through Rural Fire Service (RFS) obligations, and \$10.7 million in depreciation expenses on RFS assets.
- The NSW Government's failure to fully reimburse local councils for mandatory **pensioner rate rebates**, resulting in councils losing \$55.2 million.
- The NSW Government's failure to cover the originally committed 50 per cent of the cost of libraries operations, resulting in an additional \$156.7 million in costs to councils.

Local councils and their communities are facing unprecedented challenges. As they lead the recovery efforts from both the COVID pandemic and repeated natural disasters across much of NSW, local councils are also grappling with the same challenges affecting the State and Federal Governments, such as rising costs, increased economic uncertainty, and severe skills and labour shortages – all of which are impacting council budgets and affecting service and infrastructure delivery in local communities. The continual shifting of the obligations and costs for State and Federal functions and services onto local government coupled with a defective rate peg system, is only making the situation worse. In 2021–22, each ratepayer of NSW has approximately \$460.67 from councils' rates eaten by state government costs.



Figure 1 2021–22 cost shifting components





2 Background

2.1 What is cost shifting?

Cost shifting describes a situation where the responsibility for, or merely the costs of, providing a certain service, concession, asset, or regulatory function is imposed onto local government from a higher level of government (Commonwealth or State Government) without the provision of corresponding funding or the conferral of corresponding and adequate revenue raising capacity other than out of general rates.

As the council cannot raise or receive sufficient revenue to fund the imposed service concession asset or function, cost shifting forces councils to divert funding collected from ratepayers away from planned projects or services that the council has committed to the community to deliver in its Delivery Program.

In NSW, cost shifting has taken a number of forms including:

- **The Emergency Service contributions:** Councils are required to fund 11.7 per cent of the cost of Fire & Rescue NSW, Rural Fire Service (RFS) NSW and the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) through an Emergency Service Levy (ESL). 73.7 per cent of emergency services costs is funded through insurance premiums and the remaining 14.6 per cent from the NSW Government's treasuries. Councils provide additional financial contributions to emergency services agencies in addition to the ESL.
- **The waste levy:** The waste levy is not as much a cost shift to councils as an invisible tax levied on ratepayers through councils. The waste levy is a levy paid by all waste facilities to the NSW Government, the cost of this levy is recovered through the waste collection fees levied by councils, in effect shifting the burden of this tax on to ratepayers.
- **Forced rates exemptions:** Councils are required to exempt government and other organisations from paying rates in the local government area. These organisations utilise local government services and infrastructure. As they are exempt from paying rates, the burden of the costs they incur is shifted to the ratepayers to fund. Examples of exempt organisations include government departments, private schools, and non-government social housing providers.
- **Imposing additional regulatory functions:** State and Federal levels of government implement or increase regulatory requirements through legislation that is then administered by local government. The costs of this new or increased regulatory function is often not funded by the determining level of government and councils must fund this through their own revenue sources including rates.
- **Cutting or failing to adequately continue to fund programs for services that need to continue:** Many funding programs announced by State or Federal government are required to be delivered by local government but are either not fully funded from their initiation or, if an ongoing initiative, funding is reduced over time leaving councils with the decision to either continue the program and make up the burden of the cost or cease the program entirely. An example of this in Libraries, where the original commitment from State Government was to fund 50 per cent of libraries cost, it now covers approximately 8 per cent of the total costs, leaving councils to fund an additional \$156.7 million to make up the difference.



- **Pensioner rebates:** Councils are required to provide pensioner rebates on rates and other charges, for which the State government only subsidises 55 per cent of the cost, the remaining 45 per cent is funded by other ratepayers.
- **Councils absorbing the costs of service and market gaps that should have been provided by State or Federal governments:** This is particularly an issue in rural and regional NSW, where councils often must step in to provide or support a service that is traditionally delivered either directly or through subsidised private providers. This can be for a diverse range of services from aged, disability or childcare through to medical services, education, or public transport services.

2.2 Cost shifting and the rate peg

Cost shifting has been a term used for many years to describe the cost impact on local government of decisions made at the State and Federal level. It is particularly relevant in NSW where a rate pegging system is applied to restrict how local government can raise rates revenue.

The issue of State and Federal decisions having a direct financial impact on local government exists in all States and territories of Australia to some extent. In many cases, local government can be the best and most efficient partner for State and Federal government to deliver its programs or services.

Challenges arise with respect to how the State and Federal initiatives are, or continue to be, funded. In States where there is not a rate pegging system in place, local councils are able to better manage the financial impacts by adjusting rates or levying specific fees and charges to reflect the change in costs of providing the imposed service, concession, asset, or regulatory function.

The rate peg in NSW sets out the maximum amount that local councils can increase their rates by and is set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) each year. In determining the rate peg, IPART does not adequately consider the cost shifting impacts on councils. As a result, increases in the costs shifted to councils identified here are not covered by a commensurate increase in rates revenue. This means that councils have to divert funding from other commitments agreed with their communities in their Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program to fund the cost shift incurred. This has a direct impact on councils' ability to deliver services to the community and their overall financial sustainability.

2.3 This report

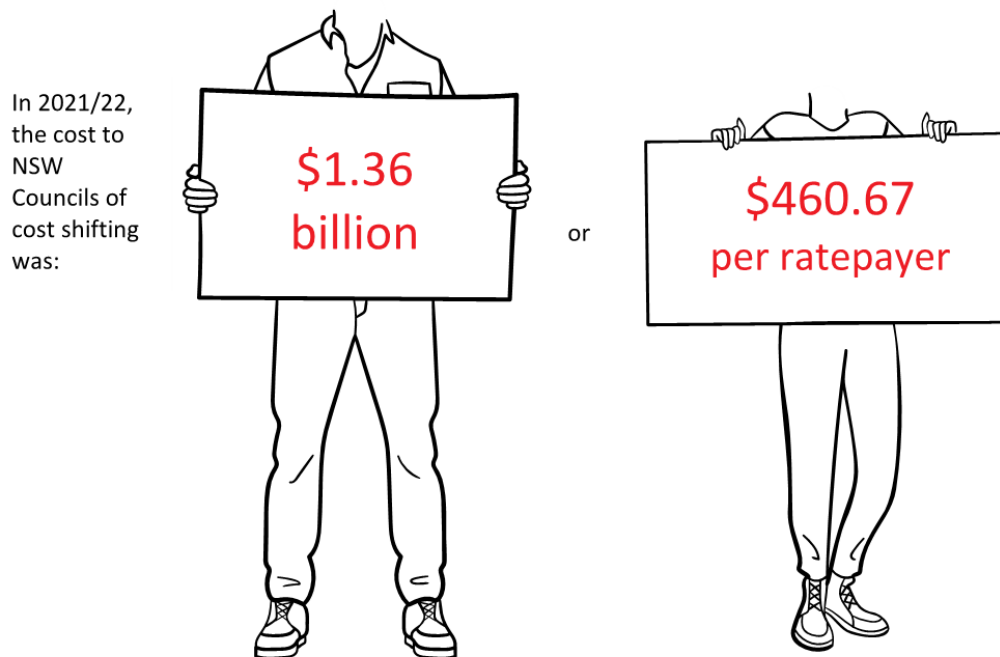
This report provides analysis and insights from the 2021–22 Cost Shifting Survey conducted in May 2023.

Section 3 of this report provides more detail on the findings from the survey, breaking down the findings into their key cost shifting areas, as identified in section 2.1 above, and Section 4 outlines the approach and methodology used in the survey and analysis.



3 Findings

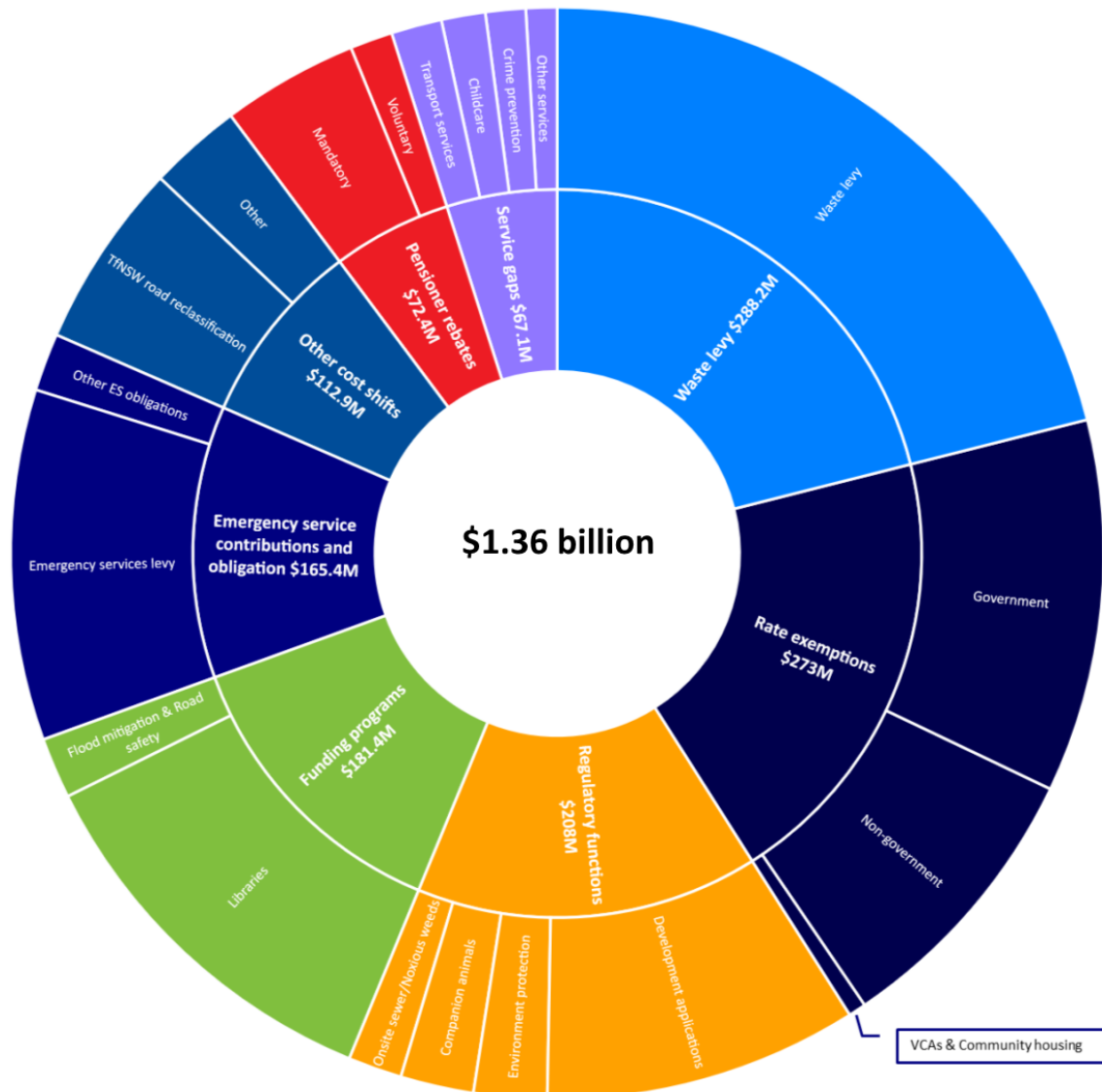
Our survey found that cost shifting cost NSW councils \$1.36 billion in 2021–22, which represents \$460.67 for each ratepayer. In effect, this is the average amount of rates that councils must divert from the services and infrastructure that council has committed to provide the community in order to fund the unrecoverable cost services, programs and functions that are imposed from the State or Federal governments.



Many services, programs, and functions that the State and Federal governments require local councils to deliver, in turn provide benefits to the local communities they serve. This report does not provide an assessment on the merit of these costs, only to bring them to light. Due to the nature of how the services, programs and functions are provided and funded, cost-shifting can be hidden from view. This analysis helps to quantify and highlight these costs for all tiers of government and the community.



Figure 2 2021–22 cost shifting components



The largest direct cost shift to councils is from emergency service contributions and other emergency service obligations, totalling \$165.4 million.

However, the cost of rate exemptions are higher still, representing a total of \$273.1 million of potential rates that are exempted and redistributed to other ratepayers to pay. An additional \$288.2 million in waste levies are passed onto the ratepayers through the waste collection fees in their rates bill. A further \$156.7 million



in costs for libraries has been covered by councils to make up the difference between the committed funding for councils' libraries and the subsidies received.

While in nominal terms the largest total cost shifts have been seen metropolitan councils, was on a per ratepayer basis rural and large rural councils have seen a greater impact, as the graphs below indicate.

Figure 3 Total cost shift by council classification

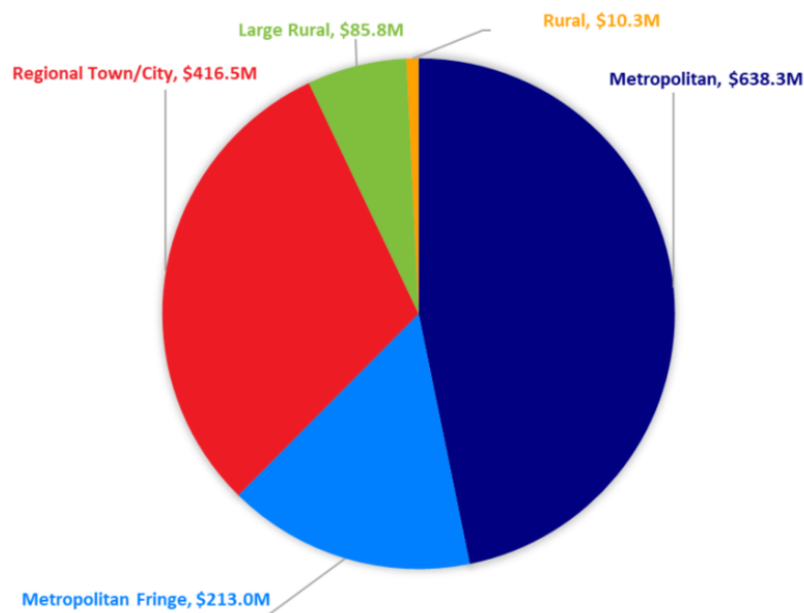
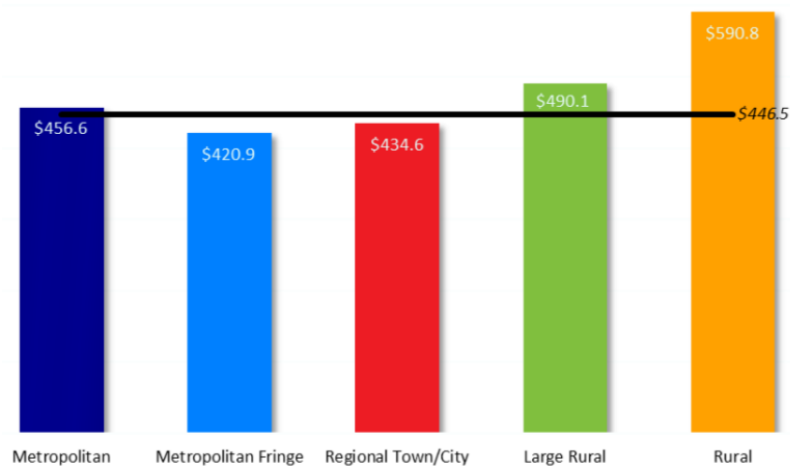


Figure 4 Cost shift per ratepayer by council classification





We will explore each component of rate shifting in the following sections.

3.1 Emergency service contributions and obligations

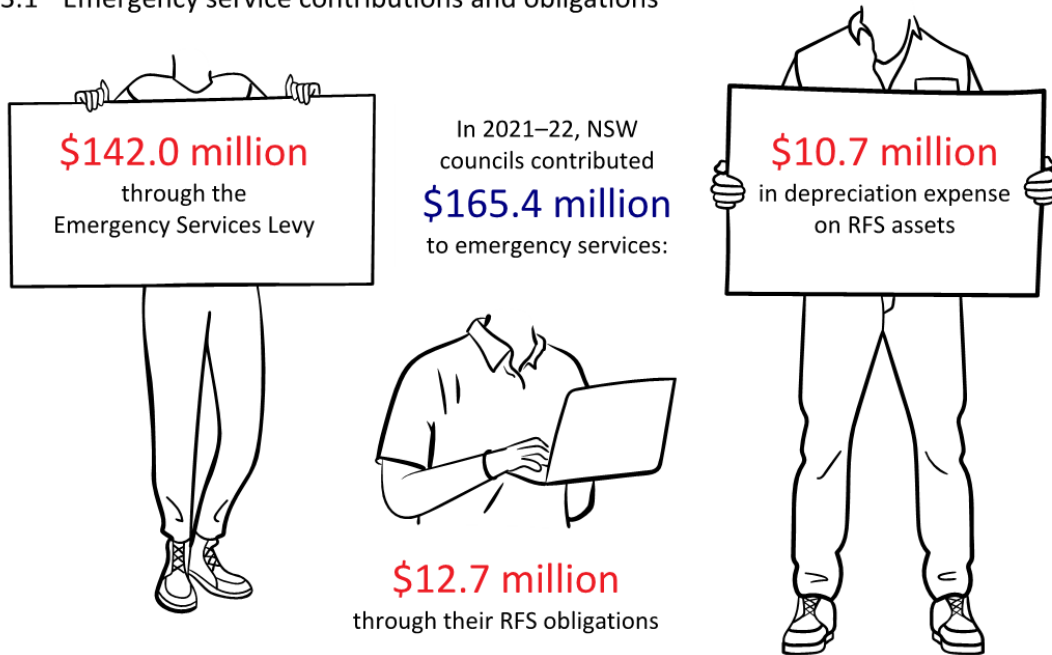




Figure 5 Emergency services contributions and obligations by council classification

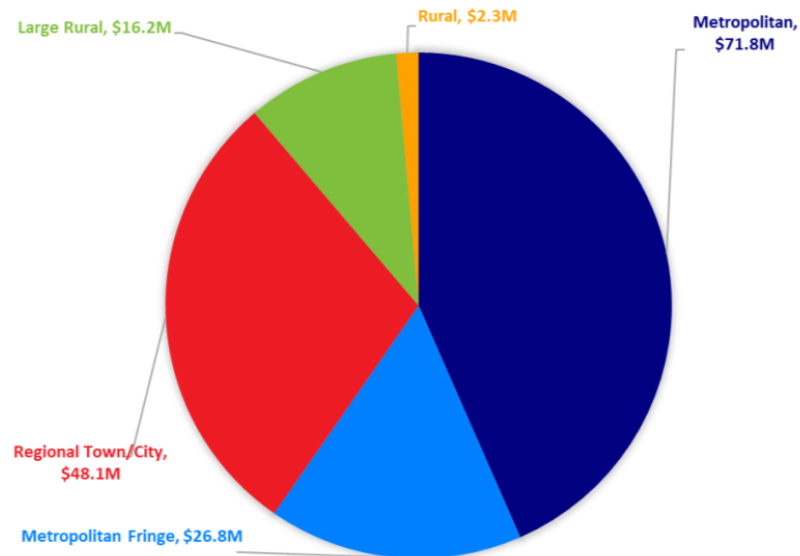


Figure 6 Respondent councils with the highest emergency services contributions and obligations burden

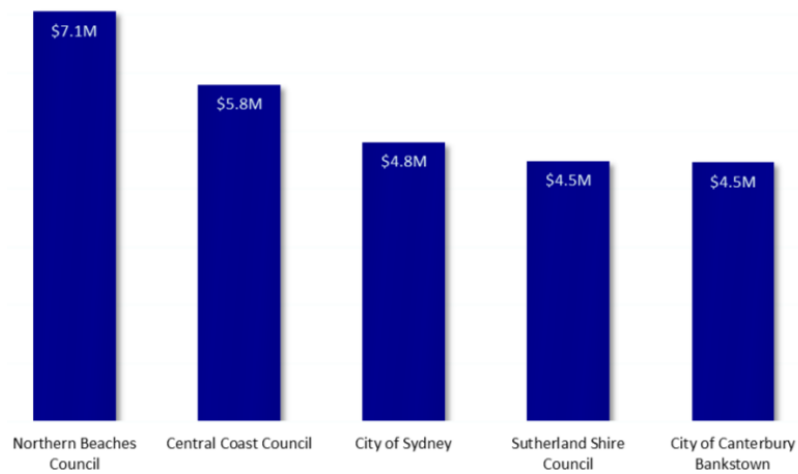
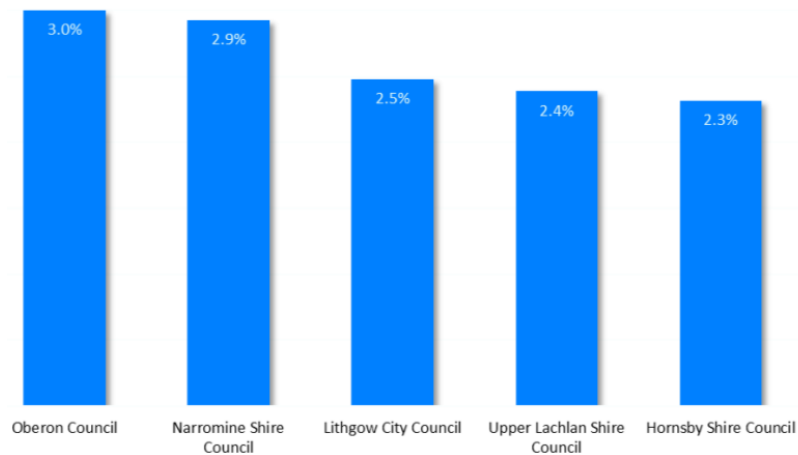




Figure 7 Respondent councils with the highest emergency services contributions and obligations burden as a proportion of total operating expenditure



NSW councils are required to fund 11.7 per cent of the NSW SES, NSW Fire and Rescue and NSW RFS budgets through a direct contribution levied each year by the State Revenue Office. This is funded directly from general revenue, primarily rates, as councils have no ability to raise revenue to fund this in any other way.

Councils also have no influence on the costs or budget setting of these organisations. This contribution of ratepayers' funds is in addition to the Emergency Services Insurance Contribution that is extracted through insurance companies, who cover 73.7 per cent of the agencies' budgets and results in higher insurance premiums for policy holders

The emergency service levy is estimated to have cost NSW councils overall \$142.0 million in 2021–22. That is a total of \$46.23 per ratepayer, which goes directly to the NSW Government as part of the emergency services contribution.



Figure 8 Respondent metropolitan and fringe councils with the largest ESL bill for 2021–22

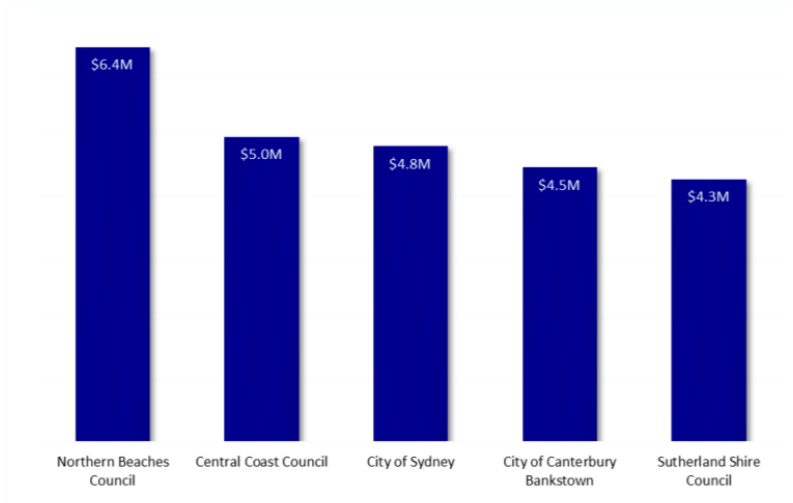


Figure 9 Respondent regional and rural councils with the largest ESL bill for 2021–22

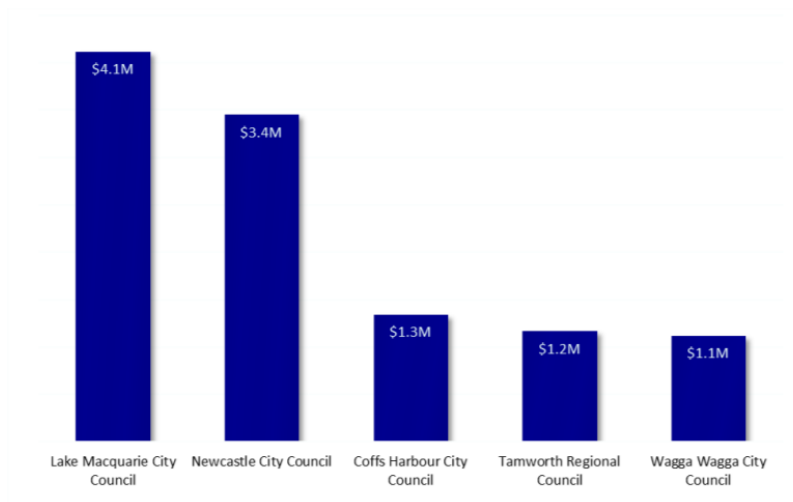
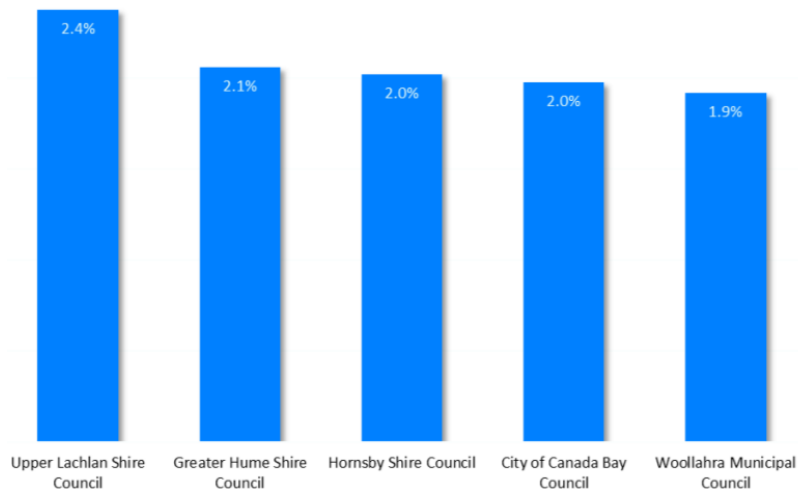




Figure 10 Respondent councils with the largest ESL bill as a proportion of total operating expenditure



In 2019, the NSW Government subsidised councils for the increase in Emergency Service Contribution costs, because of a large increase in the ESL resulting from large increase in workers compensation costs followed by the Black Summer Bushfires and the unfolding COVID pandemic. From the 2023–24 financial year, the NSW Government increased the budgets and therefore costs for the three relevant agencies and removed the subsidy at the same time. Councils were not advised of this change until after they had developed and put their 2023–24 budget on public exhibition as they are required to do. The increase represented a \$41.2 million cost increase from the prior 2022–23 financial year.

With the rate peg set at 3.7 per cent for the 2023–24 rating year, the increase in emergency services contributions has put substantial pressure on the financial sustainability of local government.

Figure 11 Top 10 councils with the highest ESL bill in 2023–24

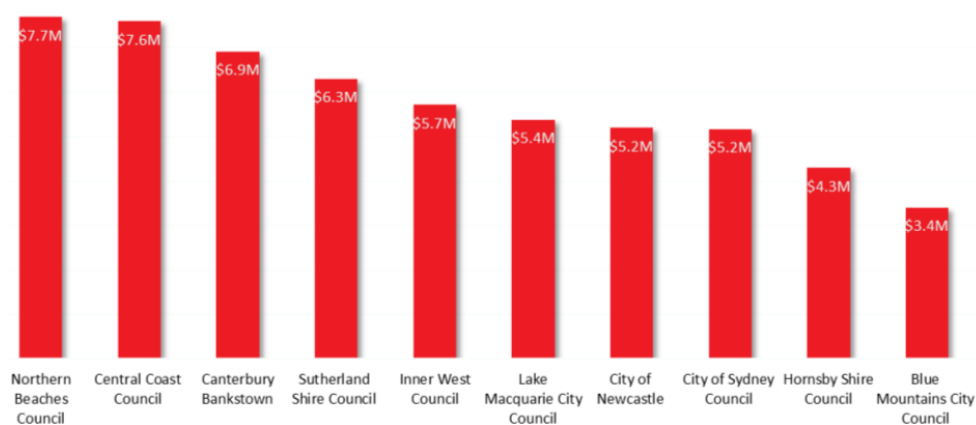
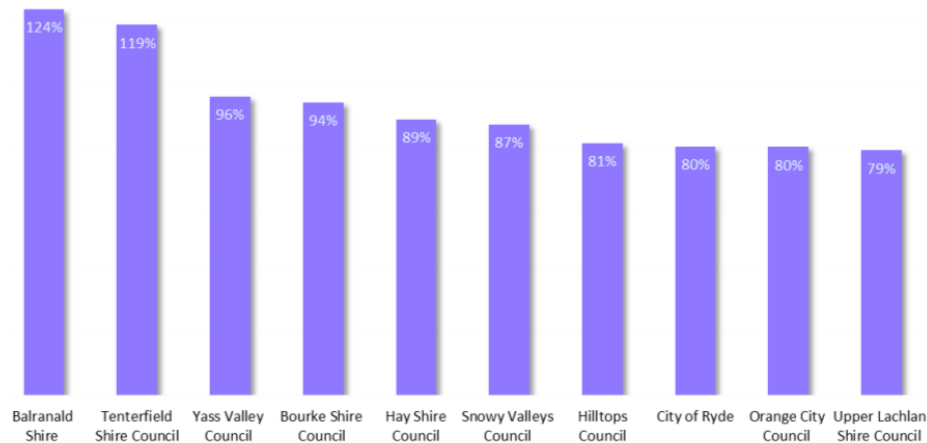




Figure 12 Top 10 councils with the highest 2023–24 ESL increase as a percentage of the rate revenue increase



The increases in emergency services contributions from councils have hit both the largest and smallest of councils.

“Two of the four biggest expense payments that Central Coast Council must make each year are for State government levies: the emergency services levy and the waste levy. They are in the millions each and are funded straight out of our rates and waste revenue.”

David Farmer, CEO, Central Coast Council



“Central Darling Shire is the largest shire in NSW covering an area of 53,000 square kilometres in Far Western NSW, but it has the smallest (and declining) population of less than 2000. CDS is not a typical shire as it consists of a series of isolated communities (Menindee, Ivanhoe, Wilcannia and White Cliffs) and large pastoral holdings. It borders the large unincorporated area of the Far West.

For Council, the Emergency Services Levy has increased by \$70,000 for 2023/24, bringing the total Council contribution to \$318,989. The increase is some \$70,000 which is more than double the increase in rates due to rate pegging.

For the 2023/2024 financial year the Council income from rates is budgeted to be \$913,000. This includes the rate peg increase of 3.7 per cent, which looks like being eaten up by the hike in the ESL.

For a Council like Central Darling this level of increase is simply unsustainable and will result in the further reduction of services to our residents.

There is a clear case for the NSW Government to fully fund this increase as part of its community service obligation as small rural councils with a limited rate base cannot afford to continue to pay.”

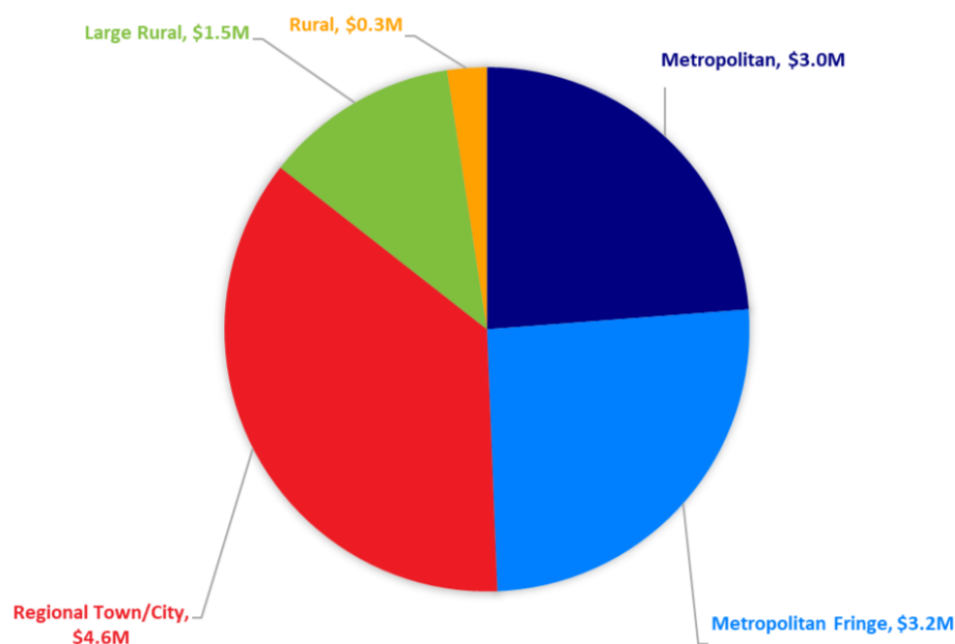
Bob Stewart, Administrator, Central Darling Council¹

¹ Figure 11 does not include Central Darling’s actual result as it was not provided to LGNSW.



In addition to the emergency service levy, local councils are required to support the RFS and SES in other ways. This commitment seems to be different for different Councils. For example, for some councils, when the RFS annual budget is allocated back to the districts, some of these funds are vested in councils through the Rural Fire Fighting Fund (RFFF). These funds are then administered by councils to deliver repairs and maintenance of buildings and a small amount of plant and equipment. In some cases, Councils also fund other functions such as training and provision of office supplies. If the RFFF is insufficient to provide these in any one year, some councils will then provide further financial support directly to the districts to meet the difference. In 2021–22, the cost of this additional support has been estimated at \$12.7 million.

Figure 13 Additional RFS contributions by council classification



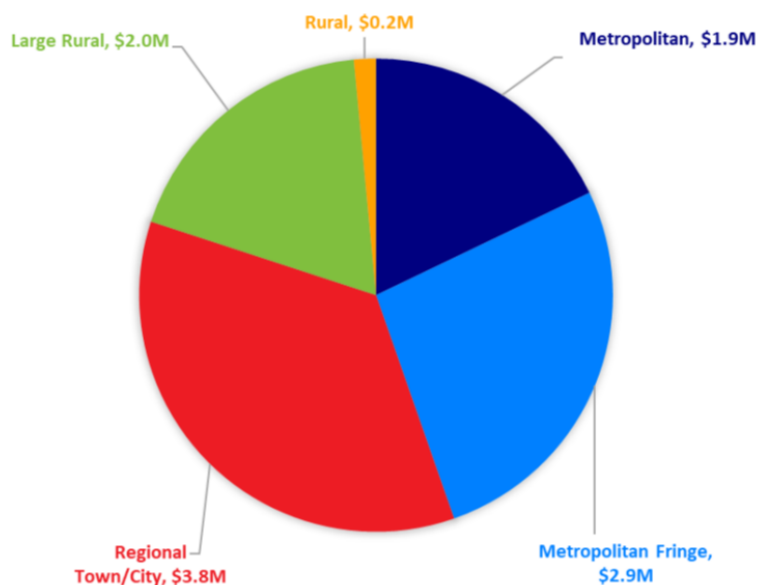
The RFS funding arrangements are the most complex of all the emergency services and creates challenges for both councils and the RFS. While councils are aware that their obligations to provide financial support to the RFS are generally over and above the RFFF, the costs at a district level are extremely volatile from one year to the next and dependent on whether there is a bushfire in the district (in which instance the district will fund some aspects of other districts' costs if they come to support the local bushfire response) or if the district comes to the aid of another district (in which instance they will receive additional funding which reduces the pressure on its own budget and therefore the financial support required from the local council).

What results is that councils have to bear the budget risk of the volatility of RFS costs and funding, while RFS districts don't have accountability for their own budgets and costs, and are not able to help to provide certainty because they don't know where the next emergency will be. Much of these volatility issues are resolved at a State level, when looking at the RFS services overall.



In addition to the direct repair and maintenance costs, councils are also required to recognise RFS red fleet assets and account for their depreciation expense in council financial reports. In 2021–22, this depreciation cost is estimated at \$10.7 million.

Figure 14 RFS Depreciation Expense by council classification



This has been a somewhat contentious issue in recent years and ultimately comes down to identifying where control of these assets lie. In summary, the NSW Government has concluded under the *Rural Fire Services Act 1997*, which states that these assets are vested to councils and therefore “on balance, councils control this equipment” under the Australian Accounting Standards². The NSW Audit Office has accepted this position in undertaking their audit function of local government.

Many councils, with the support of LGNSW, have refused to accept this position, which has resulted in 43 NSW councils receiving a qualified audit opinion of their 2021–22 financial reports. Their position is that control of these assets sits with the RFS, and therefore the NSW Government, based on the Australian Accounting Standards Board Conceptual Framework, which does not necessarily define control as a legal ownership right, but rather:

“... the present ability to direct the use of the economic resource and obtain the economic benefits that may flow from it. Control includes the present ability to prevent other parties from directing the use of the economic resource and from obtaining the economic benefits that may flow from it. It follows that, if one party controls an economic resource, no other party controls that resource.”³

² Audit Office of New South Wales (2023) *Regulation and monitoring of local government*, NSW Government, 23 May 2023.

³ Australian Accounting Standards Board (2022) *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*, AASB, 7 April 2022.



This issue is ongoing, and while depreciation itself is not a cash expense, the accounting for depreciation in local government has two key financial implications. Firstly, the increase in depreciation expense will reduce a council's overall surplus or increase its deficit, which has implication for a council's measures of financial sustainability. Secondly, for most local government assets, depreciation is used as the estimate of required renewal expenditure for councils to maintain assets at their current condition. In other words, councils must fund depreciation with a similar level of capital cashflow to ensure assets are kept at required standards, this is not the case for firefighting equipment, which is funded through the State Government's budget allocation to the RFS. This remains an ongoing issue at the time of writing this report.

3.2 Waste levy

The waste levy is a tax on landfill facilities and only applies to 42 metropolitan and 19 regional levy areas shown in Figure 18. Although, not technically a "cost shift" – as the cost of the levy is recovered through waste charges – it represents a somewhat "invisible tax".

The purpose of the waste levy is to provide economic incentive to alternative waste management processes, such as recycling and resource recovery. The funds raised by the waste levy go directly to NSW Government general revenue. Some funds do come back to communities and councils through grants for a variety of projects, but this only represents 10 to 15 per cent of the funds raised through the tax.

The metropolitan levy at \$147.10 per tonne in 2021–22 is nearly twice the amount per tonne of the regional levy at \$84.70 per tonne in 2021–22. Some councils, such as Central Coast and Newcastle, operate their own landfill facilities and pay the levy directly to the NSW Government. Not all councils operate landfills directly, many councils have their waste managed through contracts with private providers. While these providers will incur the levy directly, councils in the levy areas will collect waste charges that include the waste levy as a component of the waste fees. Depending on how their waste management contracts are structured, some councils have been able to provide an estimate of this levy collected in the waste fees while others have not.

Of the 51 councils surveyed who are in the levy area, 36 provided an estimate of the amount paid, which totalled \$287.8 million in 2021–22. Based on this data, we have estimated the total amount of the waste levy paid through waste collection fees in 2021–22 at \$292.9 million.



Figure 15 Waste levy by council classification

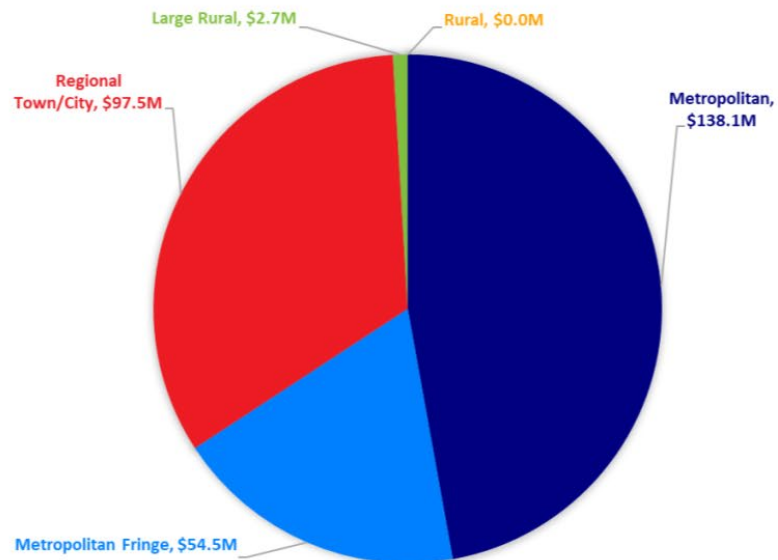


Figure 16 Respondent councils with the highest waste levy

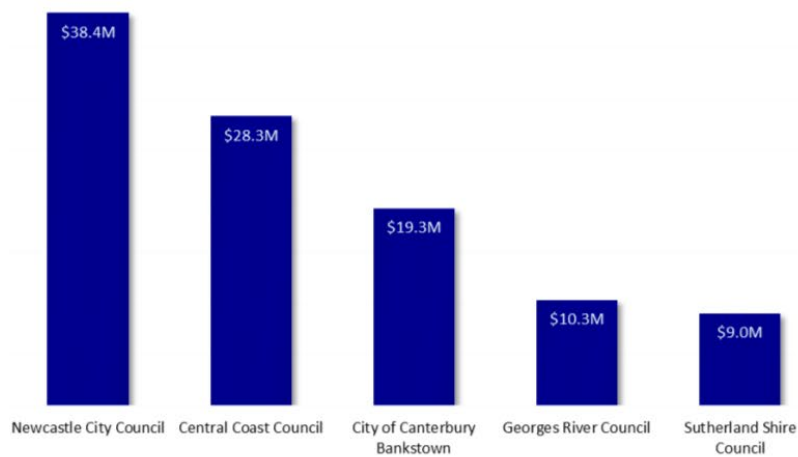
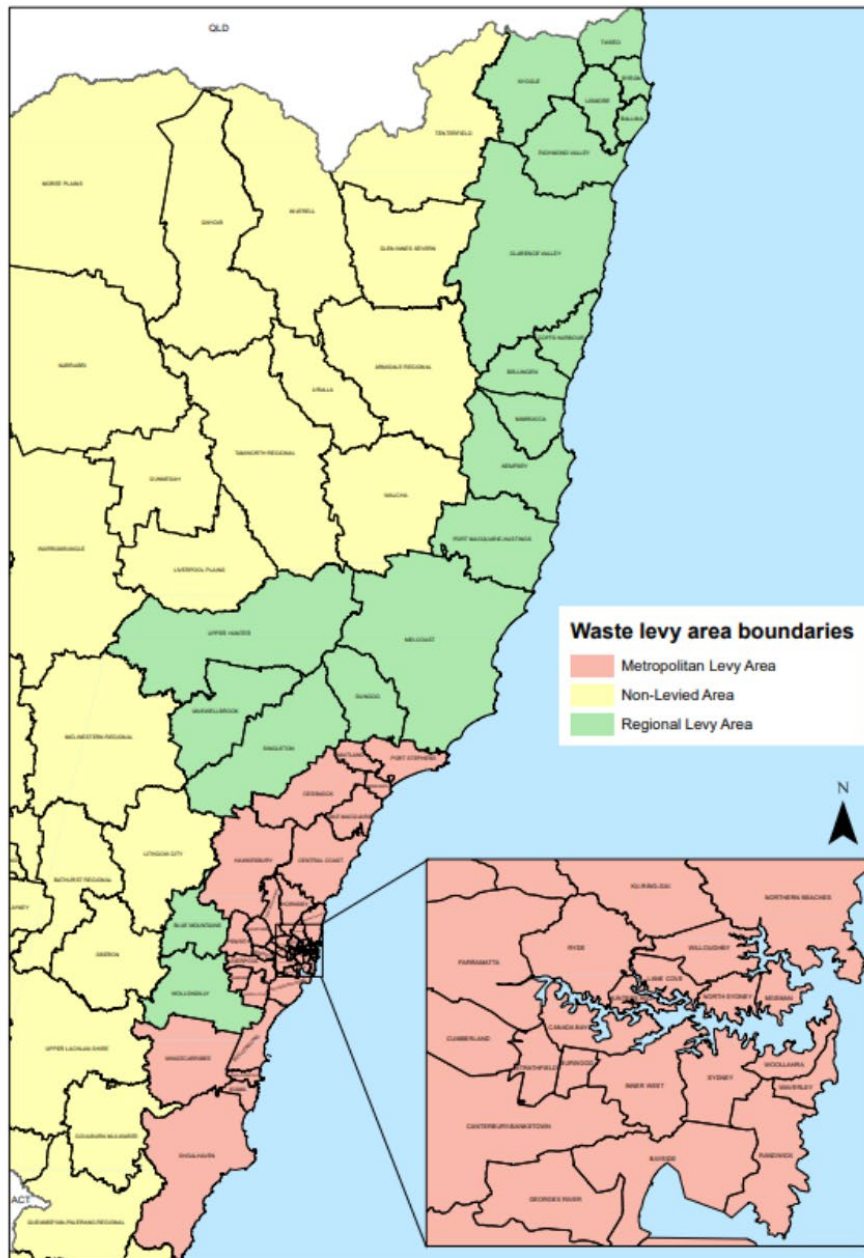


Figure 17 Waste levy area map⁴

⁴ <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/wasteregulation/levy-area-map.pdf?la=en&hash=C00135E31055627BB8A41EAE8222864C2655B186>.



3.3 Rate exemptions

Many government and private property owners in a local government area are exempt from paying rates to councils. Due to the way rates are calculated, this doesn't usually affect the total amount of revenue that councils are able to raise through rates. It does mean that the distribution of the rates burden falls more heavily on the existing ratepayer base.

For government-owned properties, rate exemptions are a part of a complex set of arrangements for exemptions of some taxes between the different tiers of government. State Owned Corporations (SOCs and GTEs) pay tax on lands owned and used for commercial purposes. This is provided for under competitive neutrality policy/National Competition Policy (a notable exception to this arrangement is the Forestry Corporation). Councils are exempt from most State and Federal taxes (for example land tax, payroll tax, stamp duty, and income tax). Councils are also involved in delivering a wide range of services or regulatory functions under various State and Commonwealth Acts and they receive a large number of different grants from State and Federal governments, including the untied Financial Assistance Grants that the States administer and distribute to councils.

Additionally, there are many non-government organisations that are also exempt from paying rates, including private schools, hospitals and retirement villages, as well as not-for-profit organisations such as religious organisations. While these organisations are exempt from paying rates; all expect and receive services and infrastructure from councils, the cost of which is funded by ratepayers.

Community housing was an area that we asked councils about specifically as the NSW government has been in the process of transitioning the ownership and management of public and social housing to non-government Community Housing Providers. Under past practice, social and public housing provided by State Government agencies paid rate equivalents on all their properties. CHPs are exempt from rates and more and more social and public housing is moving into this category. As a result, the rates exempt status seems to be moving with the community housing property.

The total amount of rate exemptions represented \$273.1 million, shifting approximately \$89.04 to each NSW ratepayer.



Figure 18 Rate exemptions by category

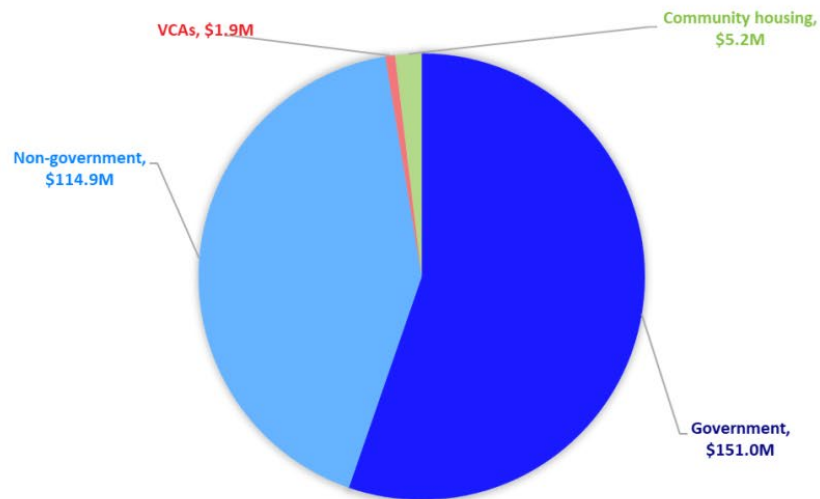


Figure 19 Rate exemptions by council classification

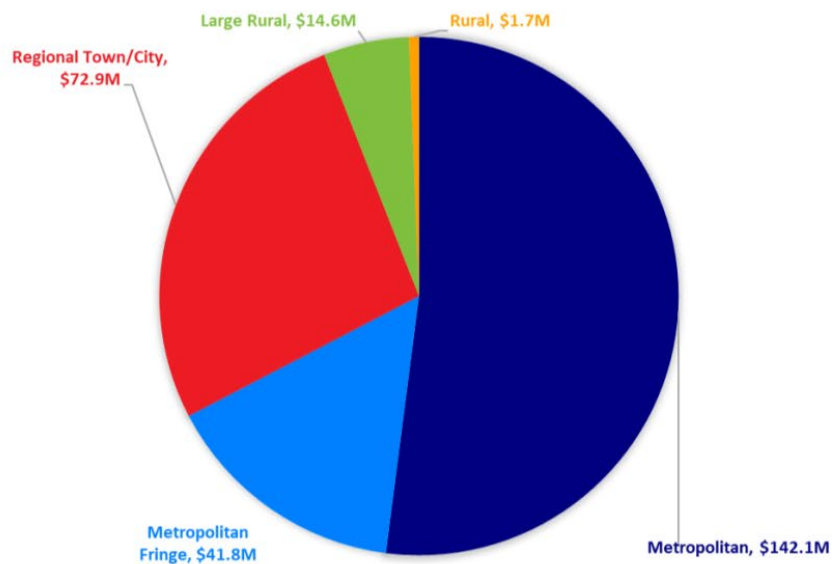




Figure 20 Average rate exemption for respondent councils as a proportion of rates revenue by council classification

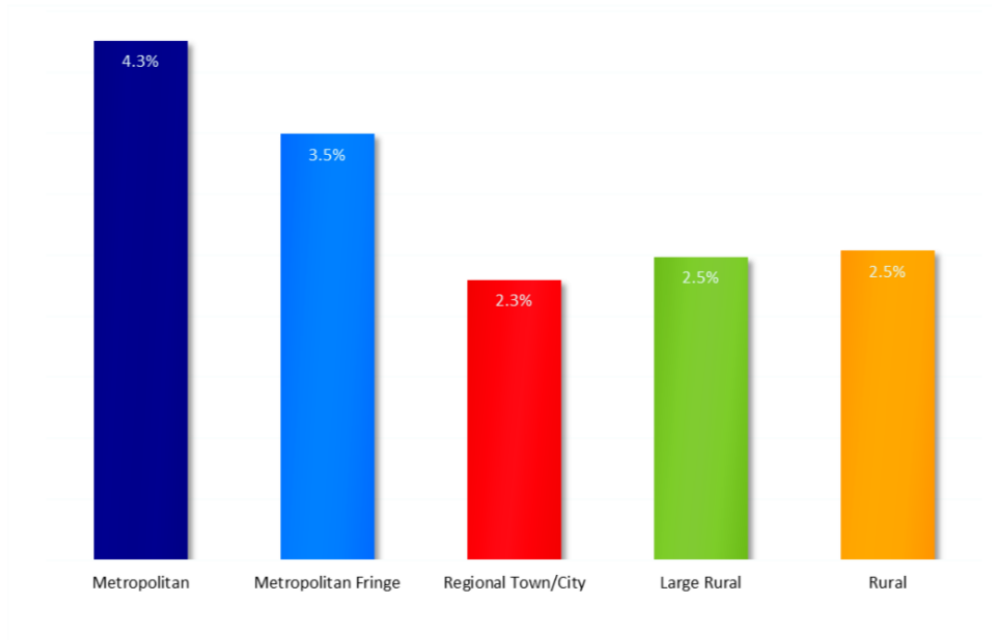


Figure 21 Respondent councils with the highest rate exemptions as a proportion of rates revenue

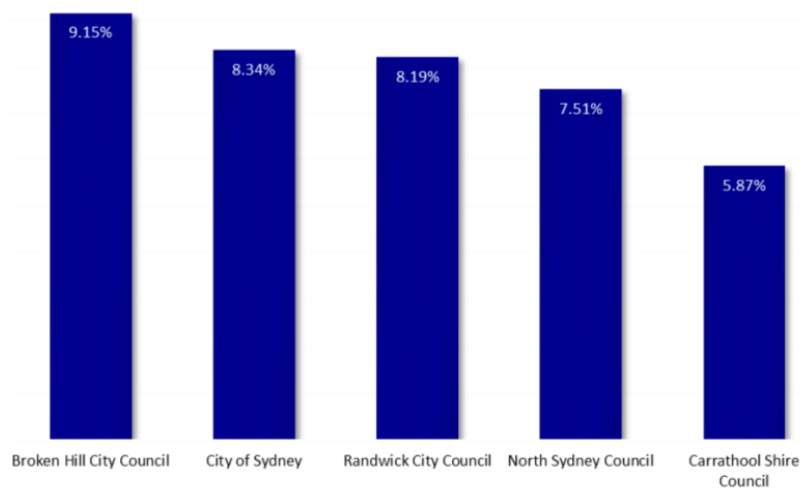




Table 1 Cost for rate exemptions

Rate exemption	Number of councils who responded to this question in the survey with a figure	Total amount of cost shift provided	Estimated total cost shift for all NSW Councils (based on population)
Government-owned property	62 (from which two councils put a figure of 0)	\$95.5M	\$151M
Non-government-owned property	61 (from which one council put a figure of 0)	\$72M	\$115M
Voluntary conservation agreements	47 (from which ten councils put a figure of 0)	\$1.2M	\$1.9M
Community housing	53 (from which 11 councils put a figure of 0)	\$3.3M	\$5.2M

3.4 Regulatory functions

In addition to the obligations under the *Rural Fire Services Act 1997*, *Fire and Rescue NSW Act 1989* and the *State Emergency Service Act 1989*, councils incur additional costs of increased regulatory responsibilities. These are additional functions or requirements that are not fully funded by increases in fees and charges.

In 2021–22, the unfunded costs for regulatory functions represented \$208.0 million.

Figure 22 Unfunded regulatory costs by category

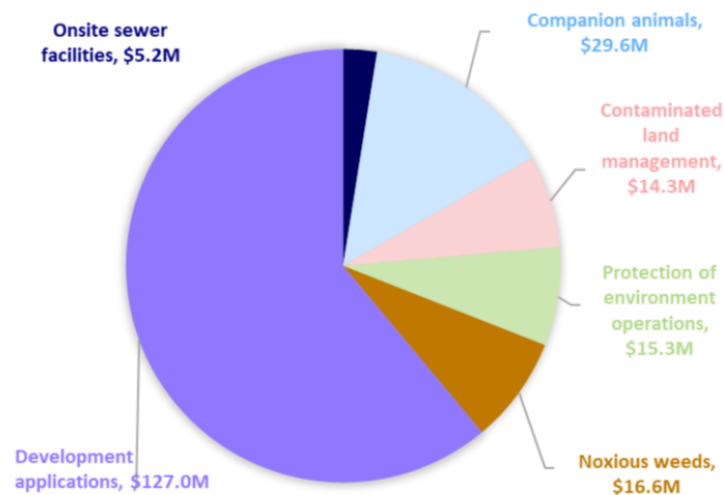




Figure 23 Unfunded regulatory costs by council classification

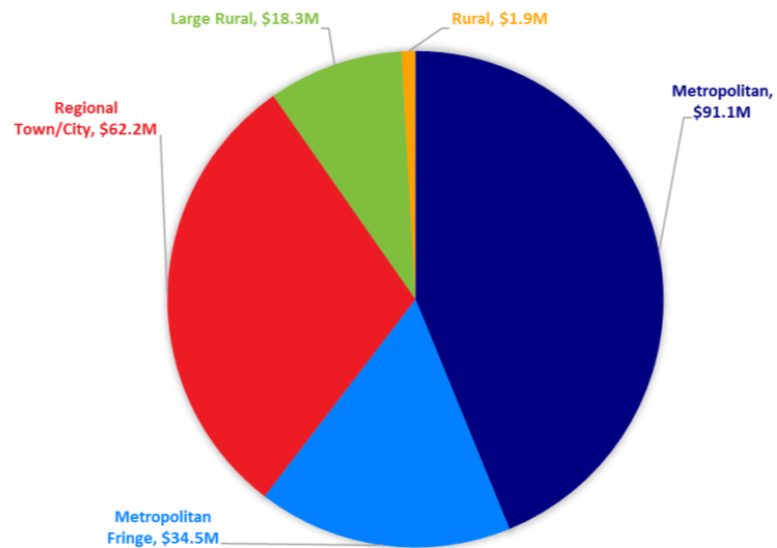
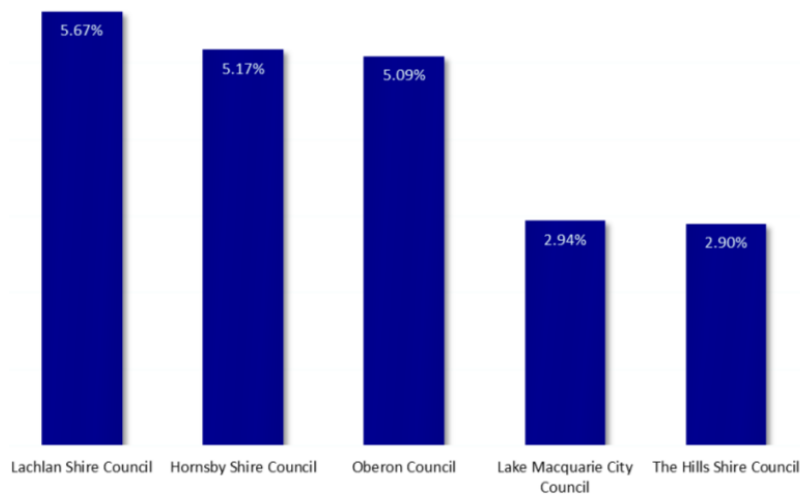


Figure 24 Respondent councils with the largest regulatory cost as a proportion of total operating expenditure



The function and total estimated costs from councils are outlined in the table below.



Table 2 Cost for increased regulatory functions that cannot be recovered through fees and charges

Regulatory function	Number of councils who responded to this question in the survey with a figure	Total amount of cost shift provided	Estimated total cost shift for all NSW Councils (based on population)
Onsite sewer facilities	35 (from which 15 councils put a figure of 0)	\$3.4M	\$5.2M
Companion animals	69 (from which four councils put a figure of 0)	\$19.6M	\$29.6M
Contaminated land management	45 (from which nine councils put a figure of 0)	\$7.2M	\$14.3M
Protection of environment operations	48 (from which four councils put a figure of 0 and one a negative amount)	\$9.9M	\$15.3M
Noxious weeds	64 (from which eight councils put a figure of 0)	\$11.1M	\$16.6M
Development applications	64 (from which five councils put a figure of 0 and one a negative amount)	\$86.7M	\$127.0M

3.5 Funding programs

Councils are occasionally required to fund the continuation of several funding programs that were instigated by the NSW Government, but for which funding commitments have, over time, either been reduced or removed entirely. The three main funding programs councils currently continue to fund are:

- Library subsidies: the original library funding subsidy was 50 per cent of the library services costs, however this has reduced over time. In 2021–22, councils paid an estimated \$156.7 million on library services that would have been covered by the originally committed 50 per cent State government subsidy.
- Flood mitigation: the program was originally established with the State and Federal governments providing 80 per cent of the costs and councils funding 20 per cent, the shortfall of this funding is estimated to be costing councils \$18.2 million in 2021–22.
- Road safety program: funding for programs and ongoing staff for education, however councils were not able to reduce the costs with the removal of the funding program. In 2021–22, councils have an estimated cost burden of \$6.4 million as result.

The total cost to council to continue to meet the funding shortfall of these programs was \$181.3 million, the vast majority which was the shortfall in the library subsidy of \$156.7 million.



Figure 25 Funding program costs shifted by category

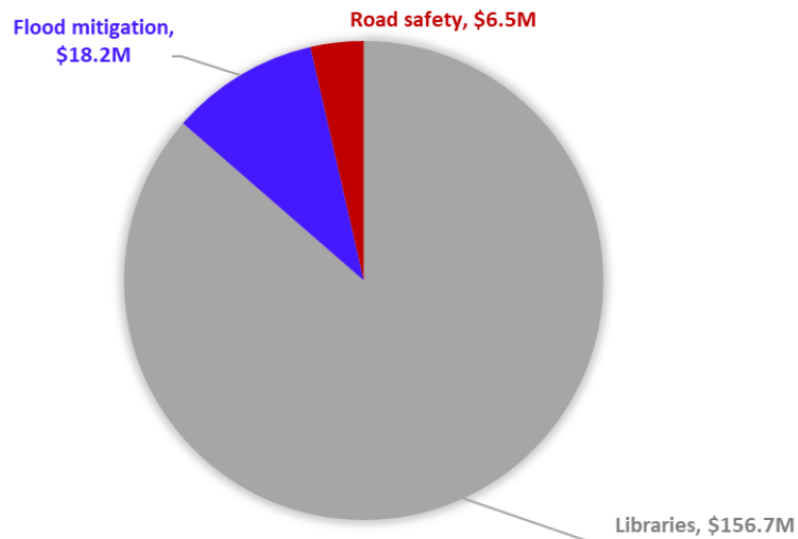


Figure 26 Funding program costs shifted by council classification

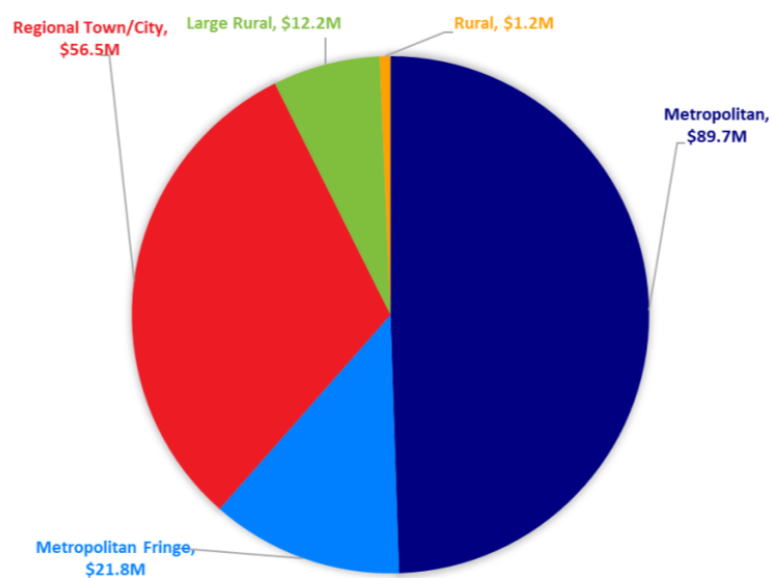
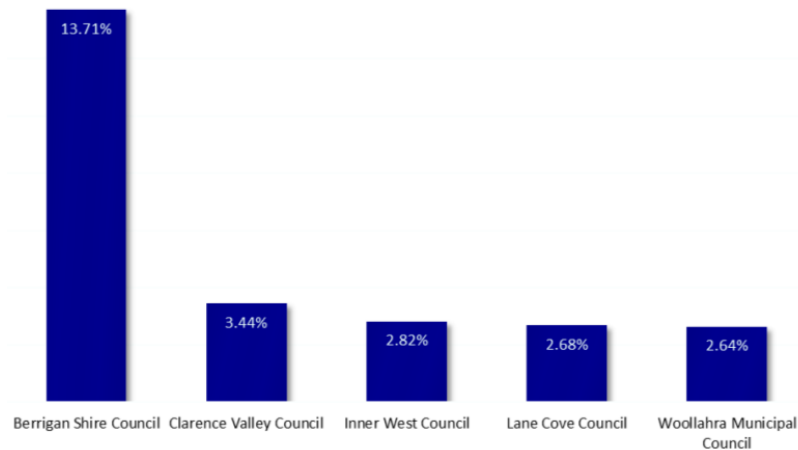




Figure 27 Respondent councils with the largest funding program costs shifted as a proportion of total operating expenditure



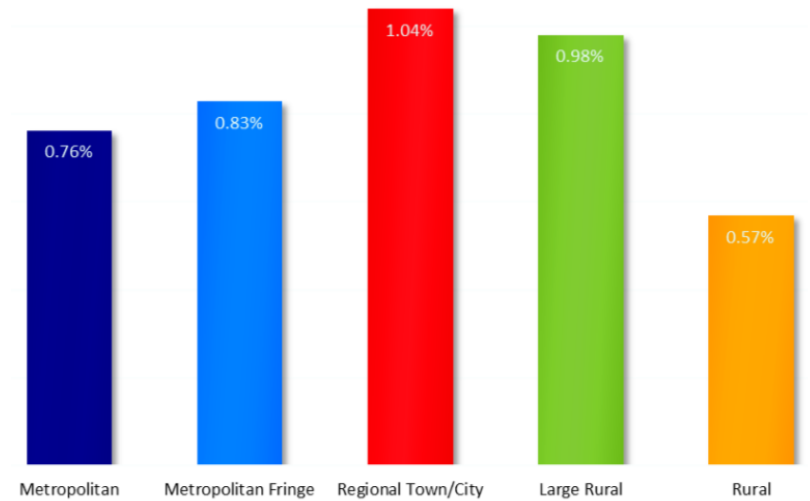
3.6 Pensioner rebates

Councils are required to provide rates rebates to pensioners, which are partially subsidised by the NSW Government. This mandatory pensioner rebate is an estimated net cost to councils of \$55.2 million. This does not include the cost of administering the mandatory pensioner rebates, as each pensioner claim needs to be registered and their details checked by the council.

The level of mandatory rebate has not risen substantially over many years, and therefore has not kept pace with inflation. As a result, many councils have elected to apply further voluntary rebates to ease the financial burden on pensioners. NSW councils incur an additional \$17.2 million in voluntary pensioner rebates. The total cost of pensioner rebates is estimated to be \$72.4 million.



Figure 28 Average total pensioner rebates as a proportion of total rates revenue by council classification





3.7 Service gaps

This section captures costs incurred by councils in providing services as a result of insufficient service provision by another level of government or a market failure of a subsidised or privatised public service. In 2021–22, it is estimated that councils spent \$66.6 million on filling these gaps.

Figure 29 Service gap costs by council classification

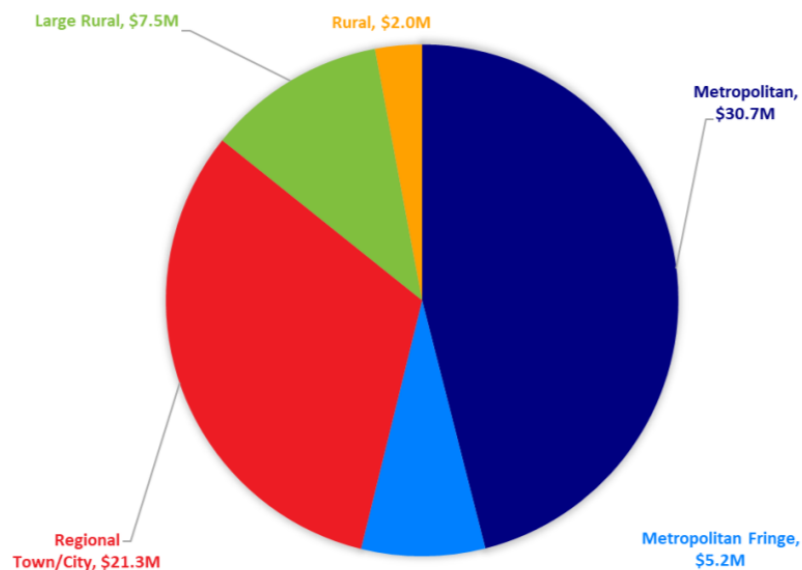
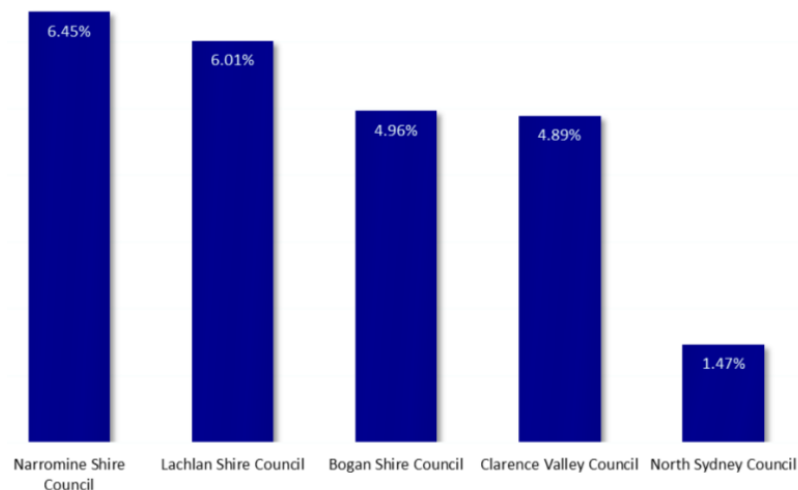


Figure 30 Respondent councils with the highest service gap cost as a proportion of total operating expenditure





The estimated costs are set out in Table 3, below.

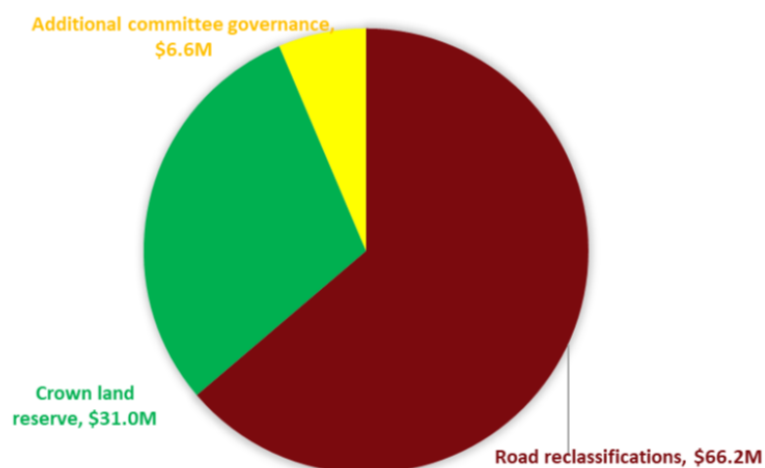
Table 3 Cost for services provided by Council as a result of a State or Federal service gap or market failure

Regulatory function	Number of councils who responded to this question in the survey with a figure	Total amount of cost shift provided	Estimated total cost shift for all NSW Councils (based on population)
Immigration and citizenship ceremonies	60 (from which ten councils put a figure of 0)	\$1.1M	\$1.6M
Crime prevention and policing	51 (from which 11 councils put a figure of 0)	\$10.2M	\$16.2M
Medical services	33 (from which 15 councils put a figure of 0)	\$2.2M	\$3.2M
Aged care services	36 (from which 19 councils put a figure of 0)	\$3.9M	\$5.6M
Disability care services	28 (from which 17 councils put a figure of 0)	\$1.4M	\$2.2M
Childcare services	49 (from which 19 councils put a figure of 0 and two councils a negative figure)	\$12.0M	\$17.8M
Transport services	37 (from which 20 councils put a figure of 0)	\$14.1M	\$20.5M

3.8 Other cost shifts

A number of other areas for cost shifting were identified and gathered in the survey and are outlined here.

Figure 31 Other cost shifts by category





Under the Transport for NSW (formerly RMS) road reclassification program in the 1990s, many roads were reclassified as local or regional road for councils to own and maintain. Of the 68 councils that responded to the survey, 32 were able to estimate the cost of this reclassification, 12 were not able to reliably estimate, and 24 stated that it was not applicable. The total estimate of costs provided by councils was \$26.7 million in 2021–22.

Under the Crown Lands Act 1989, councils have full responsibility to maintain crown reserves under council management and are expected to subsidise shortfalls in maintenance cost from general revenue. This is considered appropriate as the benefits from crown reserves under council management generally accrue to the local community. However, as a result, councils should also be entitled to any current or potential revenue from crown reserves that is required to cover maintenance and improvement cost (e.g., revenue from refreshment facilities, telecommunication facilities). The NSW Government will on occasion take over allowable revenue raising activities on council managed crown reserve land (not including national parks) or will require councils to transfer revenue from council managed crown reserve land to the State Government.

Of the 68 councils surveyed, 22 estimated the lost revenue at \$14.8 million in 2021–22. A further 27 councils were not able to reliably estimate the costs and 19 councils advised that this item didn't apply to them. This estimate does not represent the total net cost of managing (maintaining) crown lands. Nor does it include in transfers associated with the caravan park levy. Only any action by the State Government to limit revenue raising capacity or require the transfer revenue to the State Government has been considered cost shifting.

3.9 Future survey considerations

We asked councils what other areas that should be considered for future surveys. The key areas that respondents identified as costs to be captured in future surveys included:

- Monopoly services costs:
 - NSW Audit Office being the monopoly on local government external audits.
 - NSW Electoral Commission holding a near monopoly on council election administration.
- Cost of Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs) requirement to access councils DAs as per mandated policy.
- Costs of mandatory On-Line Planning Portal – Implementation and ongoing operational costs.
- The Sydney Regional Development Fund Levy.
- Costs associated with Forestry NSW and impact of logging on council owned infrastructure. Rates foregone on State Forest land.
- Capturing the additional cost of Emergency Services administration staff.
- Heritage advisor costs, whilst there is some grant funding towards this it still needs to be administered by council who hand out the grant funds and do general administration.
- Cost involved in Special Variations applications given that councils have to undertake this process to recover costs shifted. This is a lengthy and resource intensive process, which is particularly challenging for smaller councils.
- Net cost of Street Lighting (Less subsidy from Transport for NSW).



- Cost of ongoing maintenance associated with the Community Water Bore program from early 2000s (the program was in conjunction with NSW Office of Water).
- Cost of management of overabundant native species doing damage to infrastructure. This is a NSW government function which is not being undertaken by the State and therefore some councils are doing it.
- Crown Land right to native title compensation (falling to Councils instead of the State).
- Any costs imposed by Service NSW (e.g., disability parking).
- Costs of sharing of facilities especially with Department of Education (schools, parks, playgrounds etc).
- Costs of maintaining State facilities that are located on Crown land.
- Provision of stormwater trunk drainage.

These additional items will need to be validated in terms of the details of what is entailed and whether they are indeed cost shifts before inclusion in any future survey.

We also recommend that some items in the current survey be considered for exclusion in future survey on the basis that they are onerous for councils to quantify and do not materially contribute to the total estimated cost shift for councils, nor are they expected to increase over time. The following items should be reviewed for exclusion:

- Road safety program (Q7) – (0.5% of total cost shift estimate).
- Onsite sewer facilities (Q10) – (0.4% of total cost shift estimate).
- Immigration and citizenship services (Q16) – (0.1% of total cost shift estimate).
- Waste management license fee (Q29) – (0.03% of total cost shift estimate).



4 About the survey

This section outlines the methodology employed to develop and administer the 2021–22 cost shifting survey.

4.1 Development of the survey

The last cost shifting survey of NSW councils was undertaken with 2015–16 financial data. We have used this last survey as the starting point for the 2021–22 Cost Shifting Survey questions. We undertook a review of the previous questionnaire guided by the following guiding principles:

- Ensure that questions are still relevant.
- Where possible maintain questions so that there can be direct year on year comparisons if required.
- Ensure that interpretation of questions is understood and consistent across all councils.
- Identify new areas of cost shifting where required.

An initial review of questions was undertaken by the project team, consisting of Morrison Low and LG NSW staff. We also established a working group that included representatives of senior leaders and financial staff of a cross section of rural, regional, and metropolitan councils. The working group undertook a review of the questions and provided their feedback through a facilitated workshop and feedback gathering tool. We also asked two leading local government academics to provide their feedback through email and one on one meetings on the questionnaire and our approach to understanding cost shifting in local government.

4.2 Conducting the survey

The final survey was provided in a Microsoft Excel format to councils on 17 April 2023 along with a request of councils' 2021–22 Financial Data Return (FDR), which contained council's audited financial Statement information. The FDR was used to gather a small amount of cost shifting information, but predominantly for data validation purposes.

4.3 Responses to the survey

Councils were asked to return their survey responses and FDRs by 8 May 2023. Some councils requested extensions to this date, which were granted up to 19 May 2023. A total of 75 out of 128 councils provided completed surveys (a 58.6% response rate), although not all answers were completed by all responding councils. Only 72 councils provided their FDRs, as three councils were still finalising their 2021–22 financial Statements at the time of survey completion date.

4.4 Data validation and analysis

Data validation included review of outliers both in total terms as well as a proportion of the council's proportion of total operating expenditure. Where possible, we also compared survey responses with councils FDR data returns to understand if there may have been discrepancies or misinterpretations of questions. This



required us to seek further information and validation with some councils on their responses to some questions.

We also utilised State Government financial reports for the Emergency Services agencies to validate to estimate of the ESL against the contributions that these agencies reported in their financial Statements.

For most questions, we have used population as the basis for estimating the total cost shift to all NSW councils for the survey data received. For some we were able to directly estimate through published reports. For example, we used the State Library's 2021–22 report on local council libraries with included operating costs and subsidies received. For other questions, such as the waste levy, where it is not relevant to all councils and there are different levels of the levy between metropolitan and regional councils, we used populations within the relevant and group councils as a basis for estimating the total cost of the waste levy.

10. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

NOTE: Business may be considered at a meeting of the council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the councillors if:

- a. a motion is passed to have the business considered at the meeting, and
- b. the business to be considered is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the council.

Only the mover of a motion can speak to the motion before it is put.

A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairperson.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

11.1. DRAFT MINUTES EDWARD RIVER VILLAGE COMMITTEE MEETING 6 FEBRUARY 2024

Author: Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the draft minutes of the Edward River Village Committee meeting held 6 February 2024 and note the committee's resolutions.

BACKGROUND

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Shaping the Future
- 1.2 Quality built environment
5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration
- 5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes Edward River Village Committee Meeting 6 February 2024.

Attachment 1 - Minutes for Edward River Village Committee 14_00 PM - Tuesday, 6 February 2024(1)



MINUTES

Edward River Village Committee

Tuesday, 06 February 2024

Commencing at 2:00 PM

Council Chambers, Estates Building

Edward River Village Committee
Tuesday, 06 February 2024

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3. Actions Arising 3

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Edward River Village Committee

Tuesday, 06 February 2024

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Mayor Cr Peta Betts, Deputy Mayor Cr Marc Petersen, Cr Tarria Moore, Cr Shannon Sampson, Chief Executive Officer

In attendance: Cr Shirlee Burge, Executive Assistant

Meeting Opened at 2.03pm

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved: Cr Tarria Moore

Seconded: Cr Marc Petersen

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 17 October 2023 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

2.1. Minutes 17 October 2023

3. Actions Arising

Disclosure statement – final document has been received and General Enquiry Document is complete.

Potential buyers are to be provided with these two documents. Contract is being finalised this week.

4. Reports

4.1. Project Update

Moved: Cr Tarria Moore

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Marc Petersen

RESOLVED

The Edward River Village Committee noted the Project Update.

CARRIED

4.2. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 2.35pm.

12. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

12.1. DA2023/0082 - CHANGE OF USE TO A DUAL OCCUPANCY - 225 CRESSY STREET

Author: Planning Officer

Authoriser: Manager Development Services

DIVISION

In accordance with section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993, it is necessary for Council to call a division when voting of any resolution relating to a relevant planning application.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to: -

1. APPROVE the development application 2023/0082 for a Change of Use - Dual Occupancy on Lot 8 Section 13 DP758913, 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin as shown on plan numbered A100, A101, A102, A103, A104, A105, A200, A201 and described in detail accompanying the Development Application, in accordance with section 4.16 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and subject to the following reasons:
 - a) The application is generally compliant with the key planning provisions contained within the DLEP 2013 and the Deniliquin Development Control Plan 2016, subject to conditions of consent.
 - b) The proposal is appropriate on the site given the existing character of the area, subject to conditions of consent.
2. Impose the conditions as outlined in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

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Development application 2023/0082 (DA2023/0082) was lodged with Council on 7 November 2023. The DA relates to Lot 8 Section 13 DP758913, 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin and Figure 1 shows the location of the subject site.



Figure 1 Location of subject site

The subject site is located on the corner of Edwardes Street and Cressy Street. The site is occupied by an existing two-storey commercial building previously used as a bank. The site is zoned B2 Local Centre Zone and is within the Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area. The site is identified as Heritage Item No 113 being an item of local heritage significance. The heritage 'statement of significance' for Item No. 113 states the following –

One of the finest Interwar Free Classical bank buildings with attached residence in NSW. One of four buildings on the intersection of Cressy and Edwardes Streets, which is one of the two intersections in Deniliquin which give the shopping centre its focus.

The plans, heritage impact statement (Weir Phillips) and statement of environmental effects submitted with the development application explained the proposed development is for a change of use of the existing building to a 'dual occupancy' including the following works:

- internal building refurbishment to the ground floor and first floor;
- demolition of the existing one-storey brick garage and replace with a double garage with render Dulux "Ivory" paint finish (constructed on the Edwardes Street boundary with a width of approx. 17m);
- removal of fencing and replacement of fencing;
- removal of one on-street 45° angle car parking space and signage along Edwardes Street;
- construction of a small in-ground swimming pool with deck, fencing, pump enclosure, private open space areas and landscaping;
- reinstatement of original wooden window shutters with Dulux "Eau-de-nil" paint finish,
- repair of slate roof tiles, ridge capping, gutters and drainage joinery;
- reinstatement of render on existing building with Dulux "Ivory" paint finish; and
- repointing of brickwork on existing building

Note: since the DA was lodged the applicant has made it clear to Council that they intend to use the Dulux 'Surfmist', not the Dulux "Ivory" paint finish (as detailed in the Heritage Impact Statement) originally proposed for the double garage and render on existing building. They have also requested the reinstatement of the window shutters not be a requirement. See further comment below (see image 2 below).



Figure 2 3D image of development as proposed by applicant

A dual occupancy (attached) is a prohibited land use in the B2 Local Centre Zone. However, under the Heritage Conservation provisions of s.5.10.10 of the Deniliquin LEP 2013, Council may grant consent to a development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed in the zone if the proposal facilitates the conservation of the heritage item and is in accordance with a heritage management document. Council is satisfied that this provision is satisfied in this instance and is therefore able to consider the proposed use for a dual occupancy.

Attachment 2 shows the plans of the proposed development, Attachment 3 is the statement of environmental effects and Attachment 4 is the Heritage Impact Statement.

The DA was exhibited for a period of 14 days and no objections were received.

Council's planning department has been unable to negotiate a satisfactory compromise with the applicant to minimise the impact of the development on the heritage item and heritage conservation area, specifically regarding the impost of the proposed new garage facade and paint colors. Therefore, the DA is being reported to Council because the DA is seeking a variation to Clause 5.10 Heritage Conservation development standards of the Deniliquin LEP 2013 and Chapter 11 Heritage conservation controls of the Deniliquin DCP 2016 which would result in material adverse impact. The mayor has also requested the DA be reported to Council for determination.

To be clear Council's planning department is recommending approval of the DA subject to a condition of consent requiring amended plans identifying the following modifications to reduce the detrimental visual impact on the heritage item and conservation area, whilst still facilitating the adaptive reuse of the heritage bank building:

- setback to garage 2 by 700mm to create some articulation on the garage facade to reduce the detrimental visual impact on the heritage item.
- allow a render finish of the garage facade in Dulux 'surfmist' as requested by the applicant. Whilst this will not reduce any visual impact it is considered it will clearly delineate the new development for the heritage significance of the old bank building; and

- maintain the requirement to repaint the existing render of the bank building in Dulux 'ivory' rather than Dulux 'surfmist' as applicant proposes, it is considered important to maintain an appropriate heritage paint colour on the heritage listed building.



Figure 3 3D image showing indicative colour scheme as per Planning Department recommendation (note: shutters will not be required)

INTERNAL REFERRALS

Health and Building - no objection subject to conditions of consent requiring compliance with the BCA including fire separation.

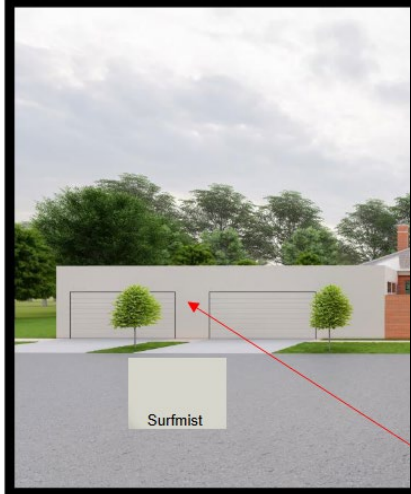
Infrastructure - no objection subject to conditions of consent


Heritage Advisor - the DA assessment has involved extensive consultation with Councils heritage advisor, with advice highlighted in the below timeline:




Action / Meeting	Date	Outcome
Pre-application meeting	-	No pre application meeting requested with Council planning staff or Council's heritage advisor.
DA Referral	8 Nov 2023	DA referred to Councils heritage advisor for comment.
Heritage Advisor response received	11 Dec 2023	Heritage Advisor's response received which concluded the main issue with the "Adaptive Reuse" to new 'Dual Occupancy' units is the impact the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area. It is noted that although the

Action / Meeting	Date	Outcome
		<p>proposed new garages are consistent with the historic position of the garage, the proposed demolition and replacement with two new rendered brick garages will have a major visual impact on the significance of the former bank.</p> <p>Recommendation is that redesign occurs to remove the proposed 'Robe' room addition and the construction of the new garages be 'articulated' with a setback to the second and they be constructed in brickwork (not 'Ivory' coloured render) so as to reduce the major visual impact on the significance of the former bank and the Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area.</p>
Additional information requested from applicant	12 Dec 2023	Additional information requested from applicant to address heritage advisors response
Meeting to discuss additional information request	18 Dec 2023	<p>Present: CEO, Manager Development Services, Planning Officer, Tom Carroll (owner) and Lachlan Macdonald (Precise Build - applicant)</p> <p>Outcome: Zoom meeting to be arranged with Councils heritage advisor to discuss the applicants options further</p>
Zoom meeting with Councils heritage advisor	9 Jan 2024	<p>Present: Councils Heritage advisor, Planning Officer, Tom Carroll (owner) and Lachlan Macdonald (Precise Build - applicant)</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p><u>Garage setbacks</u></p>

Action / Meeting	Date	Outcome
		<p>Applicant agreed to the following setbacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garage 2: 700mm setback • Garage 1: zero setback • Robe: 700mm setback <p><u>Garage façade finish</u></p> <p>Heritage advisor is not supportive of the proposed render finish of the garage façade. He is suggesting a brick finish as per his report. Applicant does not agree and wants to continue with the rendered finish in same cream colour as existing render on bank building. Compromised suggestions included some render and some brick work – Noel comfortable that the robe façade could be rendered. Suggested to the applicant to obtain a brick as recommended to have a look at the colour and better visualize the finish and update 3D plans to visualize the options. Applicant was not in agreeance - not resolved.</p> <p><u>Fencing</u></p> <p>Confirmed side and rear fencing to be of brick construction in same finish as garage facade (to be determined).</p> <p><u>Reinstatement of window shutters</u></p> <p>The statement of heritage impact submitted with the DA committed the applicant to the reinstatement of the window shutters on the existing building. The applicant had indicated that they have no desire to undertake this work. The heritage advisor agreed</p>

Action / Meeting	Date	Outcome
		that the shutters can be omitted from the design on the basis that that they have been removed for some time and in practicality are a maintenance and vandalism issue.
Additional information submitted by applicant	23 Jan 2023	<p>Brick and colour sample for garage provided to Council by applicant - the colour sample being Dulux 'surfmist' not the Dulux 'ivory' paint finish proposed in the original application.</p> <p>Council requested 3D images again to visualise the options.</p> <p>The applicant made it clear that the proposed rendered walls (of the new garage, fence and rendered sections of bank building) in Dulux 'Surfmist' will be the only option they will be proceeding with if this project is to progress (see image 4 below).</p>  <p>3D RENDERS- PROPOSED</p> <p>PRECISE BUILD</p> <p><small>3D IMAGES FOR DIAGRAMATIC PURPOSES ONLY. PLEASE REFER TO 2D ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FOR DIMENSIONS AND MATERIALS.</small></p> <p>New 'Artistic 3D Renders' for the proposed additions / new garage</p> <p><i>Figure 4 3D image with heritage advisors annotation</i></p>
Heritage Advisor response to additional information to paint		The heritage advisor makes the following compromises and

Action / Meeting	Date	Outcome
all rendered finishes in Dulux 'Surfmist', not Dulux 'Ivory' as originally applied for.		<p>recommendations to reduce the major visual impact of the proposed new garages on the former bank building and the heritage conservation area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repainting of the render on original bank building is to be in Dulux 'Ivory' paint as applied for originally, not Dulux 'Surfmist' (see image 5 below); garages can be constructed with a render finish as opposed to the brick finish of previous advice, with the recommendation for the render surfaces to be Dulux 'Candlebark' with a slightly darker colorbond 'Stone' garage doors not Dulux 'Surfmist' (see image 6 below); no requirement for the reinstatement of window shutters; and garage 2 to be setback 700mm, as per previous advice  <p><i>Figure 5 proposed and recommended paint colors for bank building rendered trim</i></p>

Action / Meeting	Date	Outcome
		<div> <div>PROPOSED</div> <div>    </div> <div> Surfmist - colobond "B&D Doors" Surfmist - painted walls Candle B painted walls </div> </div> <p><i>Figure 6 proposed and recommended paint colors for garage render</i></p>

EXTERNAL REFERRALS

There were no external referrals relating to this matter.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Development needs to be consistent with the Local Environmental Plan, especially in areas of interest such as the Local Heritage Area.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Shaping the Future
- 1.2 Quality built environment

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications regarding this matter.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The following assessment of the Development Application is in accordance with section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Provisions of Environmental Planning Instruments (s4.15(1)(a)(i))

Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013 (DLEP 2013)

The subject site is zoned B2 Local Centre under the DLEP 2013 and the proposed use is a 'dual occupancy (attached)' which is defined as '2 dwellings on one lot of land that are attached to each other'. The use is prohibited in the zone with development consent in the zone. However under the Heritage Conservation provisions of s.5.10.10 of the Deniliquin LEP 2013 Council may grant consent to a development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed in the zone if the proposal facilitates the conservation of the heritage item and is in accordance with a heritage management document. Council is satisfied that this provision is satisfied in this instance and is therefore able to consider the proposed use for a dual occupancy.

The following clauses of the DLEP 2013 apply:

Clause	Control	Response
5.10	Heritage Conservation	The proposed works to the heritage item trigger development consent.

Clause	Control	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for consent for certain works; Effect of proposed development on heritage significance - Council must consider the effect of the proposed development on heritage significance on the heritage item and/or heritage conservation area; Heritage assessment - the consent authority may before granting consent to any development related to a heritage item, heritage conservation area or within the vicinity of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area; Heritage conservation management plans - the consent authority may require after considering the heritage significance of a heritage item and the extent of the change proposed to it, the submission of a heritage conservation management plan before granting consent under this clause; Archaeological sites - the consent authority must before grant consent to carrying out of development on an 	<p>Pursuant to the Heritage Conservation provisions of s.5.10.10 of the Deniliquin LEP 2013 Council may grant consent to a development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed in the zone if the proposal facilitates the conservation of the heritage item and is in accordance with a heritage management document (heritage impact statement submitted). Council is satisfied that this provision is satisfied in this instance and is therefore able to consider the proposed use for a dual occupancy.</p> <p>As discussed above the main issue with the development application is the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area. It is noted that although the proposed new garages are consistent with the historic position of the garage, the proposed demolition and replacement with two new rendered brick garages with a length of approx. 17m will have a major visual impact on the significance of the former bank. Compromises to reduce the visual impact of the garages have been discussed at length with the applicant including incorporating articulation into the garage facade with varied setbacks and options for the render finish of the facade.</p> <p>It was also identified during the assessment process that the paint colors proposed in the</p>

Clause	Control	Response
	<p>archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act 1977 applies notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent and take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal places of heritage significance – the consent authority must before grant consent to the carrying out of the development in an Aboriginal place of heritage significance consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object known or reasonably likely to be located at the place by means of an adequate investigation and assessment (which may involve consideration of a heritage impact statement and notify local Aboriginal communities, in writing or in such other manner as may be appropriate, about the application and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent; • Demolition of nominated State heritage items – the consent authority must before grant consent for 	<p>original application of dulux 'ivory' for the garage, fence and existing rendered trim on the bank building was not what the applicant intended to use, with the intention to use dulux 'surfmist' on all painted surfaces. 'Surfmist' is not considered to be an appropriate heritage colour for the bank building and the heritage advisor has recommended the trim remain as dulux 'ivory'. It has also been recommended the garage be rendered in Dulux 'candlebark' paint finish with Colorbond 'stone' doors rather than 'surfmist' to better compliment the paint colour of the bank building.</p> <p>Through discussions with the heritage advisor and having consideration to the heritage provisions of the LEP the following is considered to be a reasonable compromise in an aim to minimise the detrimental visual impact whilst still facilitating adaptive reuse of the heritage item for a dual occupancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setback garage 2 by 700mm to create some articulation in the long garage facade to reduce the detrimental visual impact on the heritage item; • allow a render finish of the garage facade in dulux 'surfmist' as requested by the applicant. Whilst this will not reduce any visual impact it is considered it will clearly delineate the

Clause	Control	Response
	<p>the demolition of a nominated State heritage item notify the Heritage Council about the application and take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation incentives – the consent authority may grant consent to development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item or of the land on which such a building is erected, or for any purpose on an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed by the LEP, if the consent authority is satisfied that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of the heritage item or Aboriginal place of heritage significance is facilitated by the granting of consent; • The proposed development is in accordance with a heritage management document that has been approved by the consent authority; • The consent to the proposed development would require that all necessary conservation work identified in the heritage management document is carried out; 	<p>new development from the heritage significant old bank building; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain Councils requirement to use dulux 'ivory' to repaint existing render trim of the bank building rather than 'surfmist' as the applicant proposes, it is considered important to maintain a heritage paint colour on the heritage listed building.

Clause	Control	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item including its setting, or the heritage significance of the Aboriginal place of heritage significance; and • The proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area. 	
6.1	<p>Earthworks</p> <p>Before granting consent for earthworks (or development involving ancillary earthworks), the consent authority must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely disruption of, and any detrimental effect on, drainage patterns and soil stability in the locality of the development; • The effect of the development on the likely future use or redevelopment of land; • The quality of the fill of the soil to be excavated, or both; • The effect of the development on the existing and likely amenity of adjoining properties; • The source of any fill material and the destination of any excavated material; • The likelihood of disturbing relics; 	<p>The proposed development will involve minor earthworks for the footings associated with construction. It is considered any detrimental impact can be satisfactorily mitigated through appropriate conditions of consent.</p>

Clause	Control	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proximity to, and potential for adverse impacts on, any waterway, drinking water catchment or environmentally sensitive area; and Any appropriate measures proposed to avoid, minimise or mitigate the impacts of the development. 	
6.7	<p>Essential Services</p> <p>Development consent must not be granted to development unless the consent authority is satisfied that any of the following services that are essential for the development are available or that adequate arrangements have been made to make them available when required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supply of water; The supply of electricity; The disposal and management of sewage; Stormwater drainage or on-site conservation; and Suitable vehicular access. 	<p>Water – existing connection to Council mains</p> <p>Electricity – existing connection</p> <p>Disposal and management of sewage – existing connection to Council sewer</p> <p>Stormwater drainage – existing connection to kerb and gutter</p> <p>Suitable vehicular access – proposed new access</p>

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure)

N/A

State Environmental Planning Policy 55 Remediation of Land (SEPP 55)

N/A

Murray Regional Environmental Plan

N/A

Provisions of any draft Environmental Planning Instrument (s4.15(a)(ii))

Council has prepared planning proposal (2022-3030) to consolidate the Conargo Local Environmental Plan 2013, Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013 and Deniliquin Local Environmental plan 1997 into a single consolidated Edward River Local Environmental (RLEP) for all land in the Edward River Local Government Area. Consideration is required to be given to any

exhibited planning proposal in the assessment of a DA. This has been considered and the provisions relevant to the assessment of this DA will not be impacted by this planning proposal.

Provisions of any Development Control Plan (s4.15(a)(iii))

The following provisions of the DCP 2016 apply to this development:

Clause	Requirements	Comments
		<i>Chapter 3 Commercial Zones</i>
3.1 Infrastructure and services	Development must be connected to town water supply, electricity, telephone and sewerage services where available.	Considered satisfactory - existing connection to all services
	Development must be connected to Council's stormwater system or an alternative system approved by Council at cost to the developer and in accordance with Council's Development Manual.	Considered satisfactory - existing connection to Council's stormwater system
3.2 Access and parking	Carparking spaces to be provided in accordance with Chapter 12 of DCP 2016.	Considered satisfactory 2 double garages proposed (4 car spaces), 2 car spaces required. It should be noted that the proposed development requires the removal of 1 car space on Edwardes Street for the construction of driveway crossovers. Given the development will provide additional onsite car spaces this is considered acceptable in this instance.
	Required off street car parking provision is to include a minimum of 1 space for persons with a disability. An additional 1 space is to be provided per 33 spaces or part thereof.	n/a - not commercial development
	Car parking spaces must be clearly indicated on plans submitted with a DA for	Considered satisfactory

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	development within a commercial zone.	
	Car parking space must be sited in a safe and convenient location on site.	Considered satisfactory
	Legal vehicular access from a public road is required for all development.	Considered satisfactory
	Stacked car parking will only be permitted for staff parking.	n/a
	Car parking areas, access driveways and vehicle movement areas are to be constructed of impervious materials. This may include suitably compacted gravel or road base material.	Considered satisfactory
	The location of new access points must achieve adequate sight lines.	Considered satisfactory
	For development site with frontage to a classified road, access shall be provided from an alternative non-arterial road where possible.	n/a
	All vehicles must be able to enter and leave the site in a forward direction.	n/a
	For development sites located outside of the CBD, adequate area must be provided on site to allow for access and manoeuvrability of all vehicles likely to access the site for the operation of the proposed development.	n/a
	For development sites located outside the CBD, a dedicated area for loading and unloading must be provided on site where delivery vehicles will not conflict with customer vehicular movements. The size of the loading and unloading area must be suitable for the type	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	and size of vehicles that will be utilising the area.	
	A DA must include details of the frequency and types of vehicles that are likely to access the site during the operation of the proposed development.	n/a
	A Traffic Impact Study may be required for larger developments where adverse local traffic impacts may be generated by the development.	n/a
3.3 Building setbacks	Secondary setbacks for corner allotments will be considered on the merits of the site. Consideration will be given to the setback of existing buildings in the vicinity, the width of the road reserve and drivers line of sight.	n/a - see section 3.10 below 'Residential development in commercial zone'.
	Building setbacks from side and rear boundaries must comply with relevant provisions of the Building Code of Australia.	n/a - see section 3.10 below 'Residential development in commercial zone'.
3.4 Landscaping	A landscaping plan is to be submitted for new commercial development where the setback will be greater than a zero line setback.	n/a
	Larger commercial developments such as shopping centres, supermarkets etc must include landscaping to provide shade to car parking areas and to soften the appearance of hardstand areas.	n/a
	Due consideration must be given to plant species utilised in landscaping. Wherever possible drought tolerant plant species are to be utilised with preference given to drought tolerating species.	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	Where a proposed car parking will provide 10 or more spaces suitable landscaping must be provided within the car park.	n/a
3.5 Building appearance and design	The main building façade and entry must address the primary street frontage.	Considered satisfactory
	Building exteriors must use high quality non-reflective materials and finishes.	Considered satisfactory
	Proposed new buildings must not present large areas of blank walls to a public roadway. Visual interest can be incorporated through the use of varied materials and colours, windows or building articulation.	not consistent - The facade of the proposed new double garages will have a length of approximately 17m on the Edwardes Street boundary. Councils heritage advisor has suggested some articulation of this facade through a small 700mm setback of garage 2 to create some visual interest. This requirement will form a condition of consent which will ensure this DCP control is satisfied.
	The design of proposed new buildings, additions or alterations must give due consideration to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.	Considered satisfactory
3.6 Outdoor areas	Unightly materials on a site within view of a public road must be screened by either landscaping, appropriate fencing or decorative feature wall.	Considered satisfactory
	Outdoor storage work areas must be suitably surfaced to reduce dust being produced by vehicle movements.	Considered satisfactory
3.7 Waste and trade waste	A waste storage area must be provided on site for all developments.	n/a - not commercial development

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	The waste storage area must be in a location that is convenient for users and waste collection contractors.	n/a - not commercial development
	The size of the waste storage area must be appropriate for the nature and scale of the development.	n/a - not commercial development
	The waste storage area must be appropriately screened from view of the street by the use of attractive fencing or landscaping.	n/a - not commercial development
	A trade waste agreement must be made with Council where liquid waste will be disposed to Council's sewerage system.	n/a
3.8 Impacts on surrounding land	The proposed development must not unreasonably affect surrounding properties by way of any type of pollutant such as noise and vibration, air emissions, dust, water pollution or odour.	Considered satisfactory
	The hours of operation for a proposed development must not significantly impact the amenity of the neighbouring residential areas.	n/a
	Where a proposed development is likely to increase the amount of stormwater runoff from the site, the development must be carried out in accordance with Council's Development Manual.	n/a
3.9 Use of footpaths and public open space	The use of the public footpath for seating and/or display items will be considered on the merits of each case and in accordance with Council's policy.	n/a
3.10 Residential development in a commercial zone.	Residential development within a commercial zone must comply with car parking and	Considered satisfactory

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	access provision of Chapter 2 Residential Zones.	
	Residential development within a commercial zone must comply with the private open space, safety and security and privacy controls of Chapter 2 Residential Zones.	Considered satisfactory
	New buildings must be compatible with the scale and character of adjoining developments or the intended built character for the area.	Conditions of consent will require articulation of the garage facade and require the rendered trim of the bank building be re painted in dulux 'ivory'. This is considered to be required to ensure the development is compatible with the character of adjoining development and the intended built character of the area, as per the requirements of this DCP control.
	If the residential development forms part of a mixed development, separate entrances must be provided for the residential and non-residential components of the development.	n/a
3.11 Subdivision	The width of a proposed new road reserve and the construction standard of a new road must be in accordance with Council's requirements. Council will give consideration to established and preferred road, hierarchy, vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist safety, expected traffic volume of the new road and the nature of the subdivision and surrounding neighbourhood.	n/a
	A Drainage Management Plan must be provided by the developer for the subdivision of a greenfield site in a commercial zone. The Plan is	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	to detail any methods incorporated into the subdivision design to reduce the stormwater rate of flow, improve the quality of stormwater that will enter a waterbody and the re-use of stormwater.	
	Evidence that the proposed development will not exceed the capacities of the service networks must be provided to Council.	n/a
	A DA for the subdivision of land in a commercial zone may only be considered where all allotments are capable of being adequately serviced with electricity supply, water supply, sewerage disposal and telephone.	n/a
		<i>Chapter 10 Hazards</i>
10.1 Bushfire prone land	Development on land that is mapped as being bush fire prone must satisfy the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection.	BAL assessment provided - condition of consent will require construction to a BAL rating of 12.5
	Development on land that is mapped as being bushfire prone must satisfy the requirements of AS 3959: Construction of Buildings in Bush Fire Prone Areas	BAL assessment provided - condition of consent will require construction to a BAL rating of 12.5
10.2 Contaminated land	Contaminated land	not identified on Councils potentially contaminated land register
10.3 Flood liable land		not identified a flood liable land
		<i>Chapter 11 Heritage Conservation – Development Controls</i>
11.2.1 Introduction	N/A	N/A
11.2.2 Alterations and additions to heritage items	Avoid changes to the front elevation – locate new work to the rear of, or behind the original building section.	Considered satisfactory

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	Design new work to respect the scale, form, massing and style of the existing building, and not visually dominate the original building.	not consistent - Councils heritage advisor has raised concern with the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	The original roof line or characteristic roof elements are to remain identifiable and not be dwarfed by the new works.	Considered satisfactory
	Retain chimneys and significant roof elements such as gables and finials where present.	Considered satisfactory
	Ensure that the new works is recognisable as new, blending in with the original building without mimicking or copying.	Considered satisfactory - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	Complement the details and materials of the original roof including ridge height and slopes without compromising the ability to interpret the original form.	Considered satisfactory
	New materials are to be compatible with the existing finishes. Materials can differentiate new work from original building sections where appropriate.	Considered satisfactory - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	Retain front verandahs. Reinstating verandahs, and removing intrusive changes encouraged, particularly where there is physical and/or historic evidence.	n/a
11.2.3 Adaptive reuse of heritage items	The adaptive reuse of a heritage item should minimise alterations or interference with significant fabric. The changes are to enable the continued interpretation of the original use.	Considered satisfactory

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	Ensure that new services are sympathetically installed especially where upgrading is required to satisfy fire or Building Code of Australia requirements.	Considered satisfactory
11.2.4 Development in the vicinity of heritage items	Providing an adequate area around the heritage item to allow its interpretation and respecting the views to and from the heritage item.	not consistent - Councils heritage advisor has raised concern with the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	Development in the vicinity of listed heritage items shall respect and complement the built form character of those items in terms of scale, setback, siting, external materials, finishes and colour.	not consistent - Councils heritage advisor has raised concern with the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	New development shall have regard to the established siting patterns of the locality.	not consistent - Councils heritage advisor has raised concern with the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	New development should generally be set back from the line of the adjoining or adjacent heritage item.	not consistent - Councils heritage advisor has raised concern with the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	The sensitive selection of materials, colours and finishes is important in terms of	not consistent - Councils heritage advisor has raised concern with the proposed paint colors and finishes of both

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	achieving compatibility with the heritage items.	the new garage construction and paint colors on the original bank building - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	Height and scale of new buildings shall not obscure or dominate an adjoining or adjacent heritage item.	not consistent - Councils heritage advisor has raised concern with the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	Development in the vicinity of a heritage item may be contemporary in design, however discussions with Council's Heritage Advisor is recommended prior to preparing a DA.	not consistent - there were no pre application discussions with Council's heritage advisor
11.2.5 Demolition	Except where a building presents an immediate threat to public safety, the total demolition of a building shall not be permitted unless an application for a replacement building within a garden setting is approved. Where a development proposal is not an improvement over the original building, then there are no grounds for replacing the original building.	n/a
	Where in the opinion of the Council, neglect of a building has contributed to the building becoming structurally unsound so as to necessitate total demolition, redevelopment of the site shall not exceed the gross floor area of the building. Additions to a replacement building shall not be permitted within 3 years of completion of the replacement building.	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	The partial demolition of original external building fabric of buildings shall only be permitted in the context of permitted alteration or additions.	Considered satisfactory - demolition of existing brick garage proposed and considered appropriate in the context of the proposed development
	Demolition of a building may be carried out no earlier than 6 weeks prior to the commencement of construction of an approved replacement building.	n/a
	Alteration to, or demolition of, internal building fabric of buildings may be permitted provided the external building fabric of the building is not adversely affected.	Considered satisfactory - internal alterations proposed and considered acceptable
	<p>Total demolition of existing pre-1950 buildings shall not be permitted unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building is so structurally unsound as to be beyond reasonable economic repair. The application must include a professional structural assessment in support of demolition; or • The existing condition poses a significant health or safety risk that is beyond reasonable economic repair. The application must include a professional structural or health assessment in support of demolition; or • In the opinion of Council, the integrity of the built form and street elevations of an original building has been extensively and irreversibly diminished by unsympathetic alterations 	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	and additions and any replacement development conforms to this plan.	
11.3.2 Commercial development	Commercial development can be contemporary in design but, the scale, form and detail must not detract from the scale, form, unity cohesion and predominant character of buildings and development (ie streetscape/landscape elements) around it.	n/a - the proposed development is residential not commercial
	Commercial development in the vicinity of a heritage item must respect the visual curtilage of that item.	n/a - the proposed development is residential not commercial
	Commercial development must not visually dominate, compete with or be incompatible with the scale, (size, height and bulk) of existing buildings either on the site or in the vicinity of the proposal.	n/a - the proposed development is residential not commercial
	Commercial development must be sited to correspond with the existing patterns of relationships between buildings and their sites. Front setbacks are to be equivalent to those of neighbouring buildings. Side setbacks must be consistent with existing patterns.	n/a - the proposed development is residential not commercial
	Commercial design is to be integrated into established character of the area and, in particular, of heritage buildings, incorporating basic design elements such as the characteristic roof form and massing of the original development, proportions of windows, doors and verandahs.	n/a - the proposed development is residential not commercial
	Commercial design must not visually dominate, compete with or be incompatible with the	n/a - the proposed development is residential not commercial

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	form of existing buildings of heritage significance, either on the site or in the vicinity of heritage items.	
	New development must be in moderate conformity (without poor mimicry) with the best examples of historic buildings in the locality.	n/a - the proposed development is residential not commercial
11.3.3 Building characteristic and elements	Retain characteristic buildings from significant periods of development for the conservation area.	n/a
	Buildings are to be retained and demolition will not be considered unless it can be demonstrated that the building or structure is not a characteristic building, is of little heritage significance or is structurally unsound or beyond repair.	n/a
	Original features and materials of characteristic buildings are to be retained. Reinstating features that have been removed is encouraged including verandahs, decorative joinery, doors, windows and leadlights. Use of cladding (vinyl, metal, over timber weatherboards/brick work) is not supported.	Considered satisfactory - The statement of heritage impact submitted with the DA committed the applicant to the reinstatement of the window shutters on the existing building. The applicant had indicated that they have no desire to undertake this work. Council's heritage advisor agreed that the shutters can be omitted from the design on the basis that that they have been removed for some time and in practicality are a maintenance and vandalism issue.
	Changes that remove or obscure characteristic features are not supported.	not consistent - Council's heritage advisor has raised concern with the proposed paint colors on the original bank building - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.

Clause	Requirements	Comments
11.3.4 Alterations, additions and infill development	Retain original elements and features, including features that are above awning level.	Considered satisfactory
	Where original shopfronts, verandahs or awnings have been altered, the replacement is to be based on historic information and/or the interpretation of period details.	n/a
	Infilling original verandahs in not supported.	n/a
	Additional storeys can be considered if set well behind the front building line and designed to not impact detrimentally on the contribution of the original façade to the streetscape.	n/a
	Service elements (solar panels/heating, antennas etc) to be placed to the rear of the properties, preferably not visible from the street, or on rear outbuildings.	Considered satisfactory
	Rendering or painting face brick is generally not supported.	Considered satisfactory - proposed to repaint render of bank building only.
	Design infill and replacement buildings to reflect the general historic character of the precinct and nearby characteristic and heritage buildings.	not consistent - Councils heritage advisor has raised concern with the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area - see discussion above in Deniliquin LEP 2013 assessment.
	Maintain a two storey building height at the street frontage, constructed with a zero setback.	Considered satisfactory
	Where sites are amalgamated, use articulation is to reflect the former subdivision pattern.	n/a
	Maintain a balance of solid area over void. Large areas of plate	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	glass curtain walls are generally not suitable and will not be supported.	
	Use awnings and verandahs to reduce the bulk and scale of buildings.	n/a
	Use of articulation in facades such as string courses, cornices, pilasters and other features that break up the scale of facades is encouraged.	not consistent - the facade of the proposed new double garages will have a length of approximately 17m on the Edwardes Street boundary. Councils heritage advisor has suggested some articulation of this facade through a small 700mm setback of garage 2 to create some visual interest. This requirement will form a condition of consent which will ensure this DCP control is satisfied.
	Painting of facades in corporate colours is not supported and corporate identification should be established through appropriate signage.	n/a
	The height of buildings shall reinforce the desired scale and character of the area.	Considered satisfactory
	Service structures, plant and equipment should be an integral part of the development and shall be suitably screened.	Considered satisfactory
	Where the prevailing pattern of roof form assists in establishing the character of a townscape, new roof forms shall seek to be compatible with the shape, pitch and materials of adjacent buildings.	n/a
	Parapet heights and articulation shall be compatible with earlier surroundings buildings.	Considered satisfactory
	Lightweight materials such as ribbed coloured shall not be	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	used on vertical wall or parapet surfaces.	
	New verandahs shall be based on design principles of traditional verandahs with sloping roofs galvanised iron and regularly spaced columns.	n/a
	Car parking areas shall be located at the rear of buildings in the conservation area.	Considered satisfactory
	Provide landscaping where practicable to shade parked vehicles and screen them from public view.	n/a
	Provide for access off minor streets, and for the screening from public view of such parking areas from surrounding public spaces and areas.	Considered satisfactory
	Facilities for the loading and unloading of service vehicles shall be suitably screen from public view.	n/a
11.3.5 Shopfronts	Original shopfronts should be retained.	n/a
	To ensure that new shopfronts complement the significance and character of the existing building and surrounding area.	n/a
11.3.6 Colour schemes	Colour schemes are to reflect the period and detail of the building, particularly where it is a heritage item, or is a building identified as a streetscape reference building which contributes to the character of the commercial precinct/conservation area.	
11.3.7 Signage	<p><u>New Signs</u></p> <p>The scale, type, design, location, materials, colour, style and illumination of any sign shall be compatible with the design and character of the buildings and should not</p>	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	<p>intrude on the visual qualities of the townscape.</p> <p>The architectural characteristics of the building shall always dominate.</p>	
	<p><u>Above Awning Signs</u></p> <p>Simple in design and avoid a proliferation of advertising which can be confusing and detract from the building and conservation area.</p> <p>Locate flush with the wall surface.</p> <p>The use of fluorescent or internally illuminated is strongly discouraged.</p> <p>Signs adjacent to heritage items or older buildings in Conservation Areas shall be designed and located sympathetically.</p>	n/a
	<p><u>Colour</u></p> <p>Colours shall be sympathetic to the surrounding area and be related to the colours of the building.</p> <p>The use of entire glazed shopfronts for temporary notices is not considered appropriate, nor is the use of temporary fluorescent signwriting.</p> <p>The use of bright corporate colours and sign designs which are not related to the architecture or character of the area and building are not considered appropriate.</p>	n/a
	<p><u>Lettering Styles</u></p> <p>Traditional styles of lettering can be interpreted for modern buildings such as the use of raised lettering or traditional</p>	n/a

Clause	Requirements	Comments
	styles such as Clarendon, Ionic, Tuscan, Modern and Fat.	
11.3.8 Accessibility	Compliance with Australian Standard/Building Code of Australia	Considered satisfactory

Provisions of any Planning Agreement or Draft Planning Agreement (s4.15(a)(iia))

Not applicable.

Prescribed Matters in the Regulation (s4.15(a)(iv))

Not applicable

Likely Impacts of that Development (s4.15(b))

Heritage

As discussed above there are two issues key issue with the development application - the impost the new garage construction has on the heritage item and the heritage conservation area and the appropriateness of the paint colors proposed.

It is noted that although the proposed new garages are consistent with the historic position of the garage, the proposed demolition and replacement with two new rendered brick garages with a length of approx. 17m will have a major visual impact on the significance of the former bank. Compromises to reduce the visual impact of the garages have been discussed at length with the applicant including incorporating articulation into the garage facade with varied setbacks and options for the render finish of the facade.

It was also identified during the assessment process that the paint colors proposed in the original application of Dulux 'ivory' for the garage, fence and existing rendered trim on the bank building was not what the applicant intended to use, with the intention to use Dulux 'surfmist' on all painted surfaces. 'Surfmist' is not considered to be an appropriate heritage colour for the bank building and the heritage advisor has recommended the trim remain as dulux 'ivory'. It has also been recommended the garage be rendered in Dulux 'candlebark' paint finish with Colorbond 'stone' doors rather than 'surfmist' to better compliment the paint colour of the bank building.

Through discussions with the heritage advisor and having consideration to the heritage provisions of the LEP the following is considered to be a reasonable compromise in an aim to minimise the detrimental visual impact whilst still facilitating adaptive reuse of the heritage item for a dual occupancy:

- setback garage 2 by 700mm to create some articulation in the long garage facade to reduce the detrimental visual impact on the heritage item;
- allow a render finish of the garage facade in Dulux 'surfmist' as requested by the applicant. Whilst this will not reduce any visual impact it is considered it will clearly delineate the new development from the heritage significant old bank building; and
- maintain Councils requirement to use Dulux 'ivory' to repaint existing render trim of the bank building rather than 'surfmist' as the applicant proposes, it is considered important to maintain a heritage paint colour on the heritage listed building.

Suitability of Site for Development (s4.15(c))

The site is considered suitable for the adaptive re-use of the bank building to a dual occupancy residence, on the provision that appropriate conditions of consent are adhered to minimise detrimental visual impact on the heritage significance on the site.

Submissions (s4.15(d))

The DA was notified for 14 days and no submissions received

The Public Interest (s4.15(e))

N/A

Political Donations and Gifts Disclosure

The Applicant has advised that they have not made any reportable political donations to a Councillor and/or any gift to a Councillor or Council employees within a two (2) year period before the date of the application being submitted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Conditions
2. Plans
3. Statement of Environmental Effects
4. Statement of Heritage Impact

Attachment 1 - Conditions(1)

CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

DA2023/0082 – Change of Use Dual Occupancy – 225 Cressy Street

1. GENERAL / MISCELLANEOUS

1a Development as per Amended Plans

The development is to be carried out in accordance with the plans and documentation submitted with the application except as modified by the conditions of this development consent or as noted in red by Council on the approved plans referenced in Schedule 1 - List of approved plans attached to DA No. DA2023/0082

1b Amended Plans

Prior to issue of the construction certificate the Applicant must make the following additions and/or amendments to the approved plans, to the satisfaction of Council:

- Garage 2 to have a front setback of 700mm;
- Removal of window shutters from elevations of existing building;
- Repainting of existing rendered paint work on existing building in Dulux 'Ivory';
- Finish of garage façade and north east (rear) and south east boundary fence to be rendered brick work in Dulux 'surfmist'; and
- BASIX requirements to be shown on plans.

1c Color Scheme

All external paint work is to be undertaken in accordance with the following color scheme, to the satisfaction of Council:

- Repainting of external render of existing bank building: Dulux 'Ivory';
- Garage façade: Rendered brickwork in Dulux 'surfmist'; and
- North eastern (rear) and south eastern boundary fence: Rendered brickwork in Dulux 'surfmist'.

1d Construction Certificate Required

An application for a Construction Certificate is to be submitted to and approved by Council or an accredited Private Certifier prior to any building work commencing. The construction certificate plans are to be consistent with the approved development consent and shall include detailed plans and specifications to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of the National Construction Code Volume 2 2022 - Building Code of Australia (BCA).

1e Comply with the BCA

The structure(s) are to comply with the relevant requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

1f Building within Property Boundary

The constructed building and any associated utilities are to be contained wholly within the boundaries of the property. It is the responsibility of the owner/principal contractor to ensure compliance with the requirements of this condition. Where the building is proposed within 300mm of a boundary the property is to be surveyed by a registered land surveyor

with boundary pegs placed on each of the relevant corners. Prior to inspection of the footing / slab a survey identification plan is to be submitted to the Private Certifier / Council who has issued the construction certificate.

1g No Liability for Flooding

The land may be subject to flooding and the development has been assessed using best available information concerning the likelihood of flooding at the date of determination. If the land is flooded, Council will not, pursuant to Section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993, incur any liability in respect of the granting of this consent.

1h Plumbing to AS3500

All plumbing and drainage work to be carried out in accordance with AS3500 National Plumbing and Drainage Code.

1i BAL 12.5 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Construction shall comply with section 5 (BAL 12.5) Australian Standard AS3959-2018 "Construction of buildings in bush fire-prone areas" and "Planning for Bush fire Protection".

1j WATER, ELECTRICITY AND GAS COMPLY

Water, electricity and gas are to comply with section 4.2.7 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019.

1k Driveway Specification

A sealed / concrete / paved driveway is to be constructed from the Council kerb to the property boundary. The driveway shall have a profile conforming to Council's Standard Drawing DC-SD1 outlined in Council's Development Manual and AS 2890.

1l Removal of existing on street car parking space

Developer is responsible for costs associated with the removal of the existing on street car space on Edwardes Street. Developer is to liaise with Council to arrange this work, to be undertaken to the satisfaction of Council.

1m Gutter Layback Reinstatement

A new layback gutter crossing is to be provided and the existing layback gutter crossing removed with the kerb reinstated over the redundant layback to Council's specification as outlined in Council's Development Manual.

2 PRIOR TO ISSUE OF CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

2a Section 68 Approval required

Prior to the issue of the construction certificate an application for approval pursuant to Section 68 of the Local Government Act, 1993 to carry out water supply, stormwater and sewerage works is to be lodged with Council. The approval under Section 68 of the Local Government Act, 1993 is to be obtained prior to any works commencing on site.

2b Stormwater Plans

Prior to issue of the Construction Certificate, plans are to be submitted to Council for approval for the control of stormwater from the roof and hardstand areas.

3 PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS**3a Appointment of PCA and Notice of Commencement**

The erection of the building the subject of this development consent MUST not be commenced until:

- (a) detailed plans/specifications of the building have been endorsed with a construction certificate by:
 - (i) the Council, or
 - (ii) an accredited certifier, and
- (b) the person having the benefit of the development consent:
 - (i) has appointed a principal certifying authority, and
 - (ii) has notified the Council of the appointment, and
- (c) the person having the benefit of the development consent has lodged a notice of commencement form with Council. This is to be lodged at least two days prior to commencing the building work.

3b Notice of Commencement

The erection of the building the subject of this development consent must not be commenced until the person having the benefit of the development consent has lodged a notice of commencement form with Council as the Principal Certifying Authority for the work. This is to be lodged at least two days prior to commencing the building work.

3c Road Opening Permit

Prior to any works being undertaken in the road reserve a road opening permit is to be obtained from Council.

3d Site Protection

Prior to the commencement of works, the principal contractor is to ensure that the site has been appropriately protected and secured by a fence or hoarding to prevent access from the street and to prevent the possibility of any unauthorised access in accordance with WorkCover requirements.

3e K&G Protection

Timber planks having a minimum thickness of 50 mm shall be placed over all vehicular access points over kerbing and guttering and footpaths prior to the commencement of building work, such planks shall be strapped together with iron straps in the form of a mat. The ends of such planks shall be tapered at an angle not exceeding 30 degrees.

3f Erosion and Sediment Control

Prior to the commencement of any site works appropriate erosion and sediment control measures are to be implemented to prevent any sediment from leaving the site, these measures are to be maintained during the construction phase and can only be removed once appropriate stabilization has been completed.

4 DURING CONSTRUCTION**4a Comply with the BCA**

The structure(s) are to comply with the relevant requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

4b Inspections

The following inspections are required for 48 hours notice is to be given to Council or an accredited certifier to enable an inspection to be conducted.

- a) at the commencement of building work, and
- b) after excavation for and prior to the placement of, any footings, and
- c) prior to pouring any in-situ reinforced concrete building element, and
- d) prior to covering of the frame work for any floor, wall, roof or other building element
- e) Prior to covering all hot and cold water plumbing and sanitary plumbing and drainage.
- f) prior to waterproofing in any wet areas, and
- g) prior to covering any stormwater drainage connections, and
- h) after building work has been completed and prior to any occupation certificate being issued in relation to the approval.

Please note that failure to comply with this condition may result in the Occupation Certificate not being granted.

4c Waste Bins for Construction

The builder / developer is to provide on-site waste bins for waste materials generated during construction and a bin with a tight fitting lid for food scraps or they are to remove waste from the site to an EPA approved waste depot on a daily basis.

4d Hours of Operation (Demolition & Construction)

The hours of operation for demolition or building works on the site shall be limited to the daylight hours, between 7.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday inclusive, 8.00am and 5.00pm Saturdays. No work shall be carried out on Sundays and Public Holidays without the prior written consent of the Council.

4e Removal of Spoil

Any spoil deposited on public roads during the cartage of materials from or to the site shall be removed on the same day. The cartage of spoil shall cease, as directed by Council, if the Council determines that excessive deposition of spoil onto the road is taking place.

4f Excavation and Backfilling Safety

All excavations and backfilling associated with the erection or demolition of a building must be executed safely and in accordance with appropriate professional standards.

All excavations associated with the erection or demolition of a building must be properly guarded and protected to prevent them from being dangerous to life or property.

4g Excavation near Footings

If any excavation associated with the erection or demolition of a building extends below the level of the base of the footings of a building on an adjoining allotment of land, the person causing the excavation to be made

- (i) must preserve and protect the building from damage; and
- (ii) if necessary must underpin and support the building in an approved manner; and
- (iii) must, at least 7 days before excavating below the level of the base of the footings of a building on an adjoining allotment of land and furnish particulars of the excavation to the owner of the building being erected or demolished.

The owner of the adjoining allotment of land is not liable for any part of the cost of work carried out for the purposes of this condition, whether carried out on the allotment of land being excavated or on the adjoining allotment of land.

In this condition, allotment of land includes a public road and any other public place. Any damage caused is to be repaired to the satisfaction of Council prior to release of the Occupation Certificate.

4h Waste Disposal

Any waste or excavated material removed from the site is to be taken to an authorised site for disposal. No fill is to be deposited on other land without the prior consent of Council.

4i Removal and disposal of asbestos

If the building / demolition work involves the removal of material suspected of containing asbestos all waste shall be removed strictly in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the NSW Work Health & Safety Regulations 2011.

If this involves more than 10m² of waste this shall be by a NSW licensed asbestos removal contractor.

All waste containing asbestos shall be disposed of at Council's EPA approved landfill depot or other facility at which asbestos waste can be lawfully disposed. A minimum of 24 hours notice is to be given to the landfill operator (PH: 0418 572 167).

A copy of the tip disposal dockets for asbestos waste generated during the course of the demolition work is to be provided to Council's Environmental Services Department prior to the issue of an occupation certificate for the work.

Note: WasteLocate

The EPA has introduced WasteLocate, an online reporting tool that is required for the movement of any load over 100kg of asbestos waste, or 10m² or more of asbestos sheeting within NSW. It's similar in many ways to tracking parcels in the post. Transporters are required to register with WasteLocate and report movements of asbestos from the point of generation to the place of disposal, including disposal at Council's waste facilities. Transporters must scan the QR2id plate at Council's Waste Disposal Depot with their mobile device to complete the process at the point of disposal. The EPA recently wrote to all companies and individuals licensed to carry out asbestos demolition or removal, reminding them of their obligations to report movements of asbestos. WasteLocate can be found

as follows: <https://wastelocate.epa.nsw.gov.au> (See attached copy of information from the NSW EPA)

4j Earthworks

Earthworks are to be wholly contained within the property/site. It is the responsibility of the landowner and/or the principal contractor to ensure compliance with this condition

4k Worksite Safety

If the work involved in the erection or demolition of a building:

- (i) is likely to cause pedestrian or vehicular traffic in a public place to be obstructed or rendered inconvenient, or
- (ii) involves the enclosure of a public place, a hoarding or fence must be erected between the work site and the public place.

If necessary, an awning / fence is to be erected, sufficient to prevent any substance from, or in connection with, the work falling into the public place.

The work site must be kept lit between sunset and sunrise if it is likely to be hazardous to persons in the public place.

Any such hoarding, fence or awning is to be removed when the work has been completed.

4l Sign to be Erected on Building & Demolition Site

A sign must be erected in a prominent position on any work site on which work involved in the erection or demolition of a building is being carried out:

- (i) Showing the name, address and telephone number of the principal certifying authority for the work, and
- (ii) Showing the name for the principal contractor (if any) for any building work and a telephone number on which that person may be contacted outside working hours, and
- (iii) stating that unauthorised entry to the work site is prohibited.

Any such sign is to be maintained while the building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out, but must be removed when the work had been completed.

4m Toilet Facilities

Toilet facilities are to be provided, at or in the vicinity of the work site on which work involved in the erection or demolition of a building is being carried out, at the rate of one toilet for every 20 persons or part of 20 persons employed at the site.

The provision of toilet facilities in accordance with this condition must be completed before the commencement of construction works.

5 PRIOR TO OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE

5a Satisfy Conditions of Approval

Use of the site for the proposed development shall not take place until all conditions required prior to commencement of work for this approval have been satisfied.

5b No Use Until Occupation Certificate Issued

The use of the building is not to commence until such time as an "Occupation Certificate" is issued by Council / the Principal Certifying Authority responsible for the work.

5c Repair of Damage to Council Infrastructure

Prior to the issue of a Final Occupation Certificate any damage to kerb and gutter, road surfaces, infrastructure or landscaping outside of the property boundary that is a result of the proposed work, must be reinstated at total cost to the person having the benefit of the consent and to the satisfaction of Edward River Council.

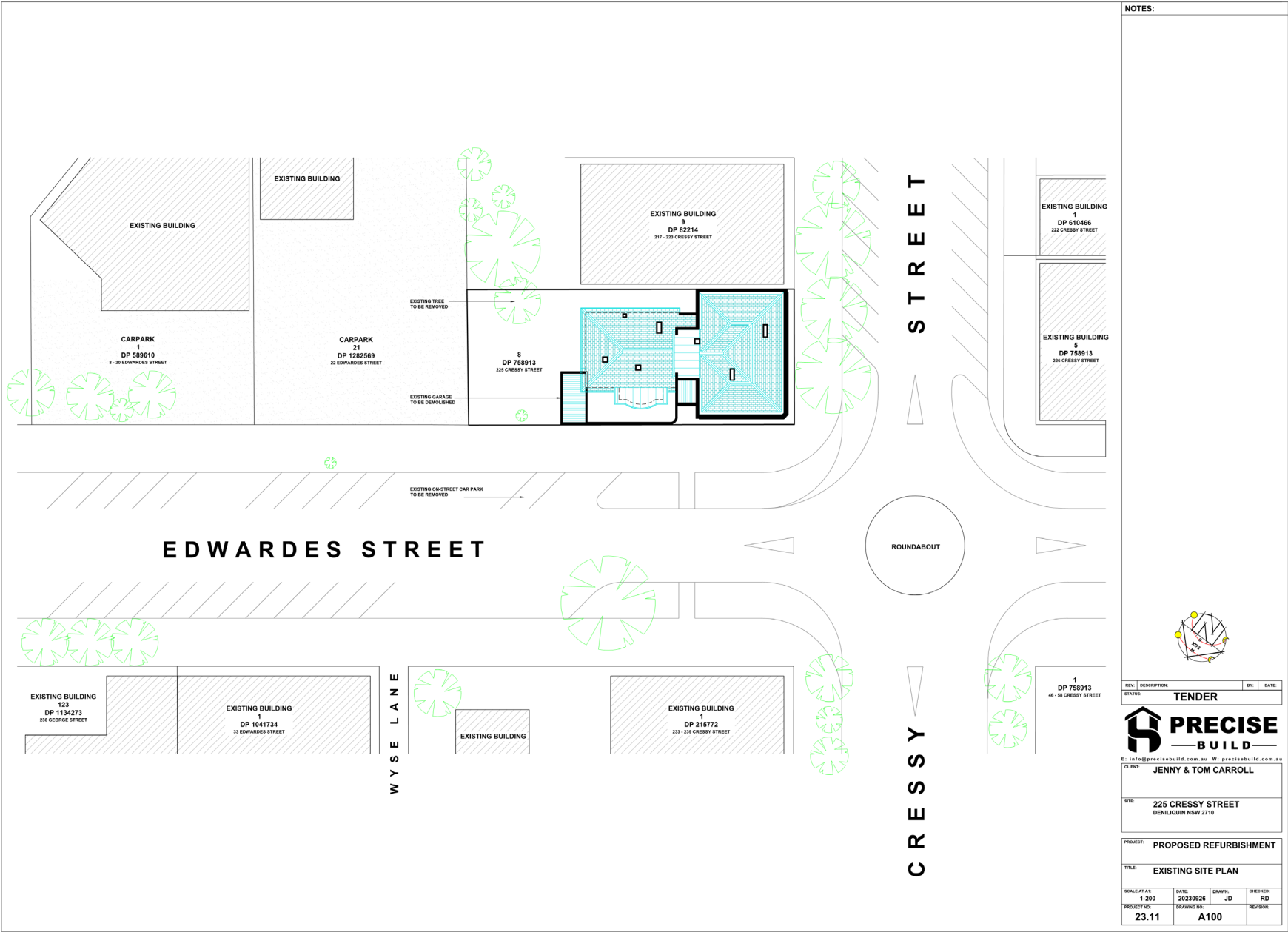
5d Public Utilities

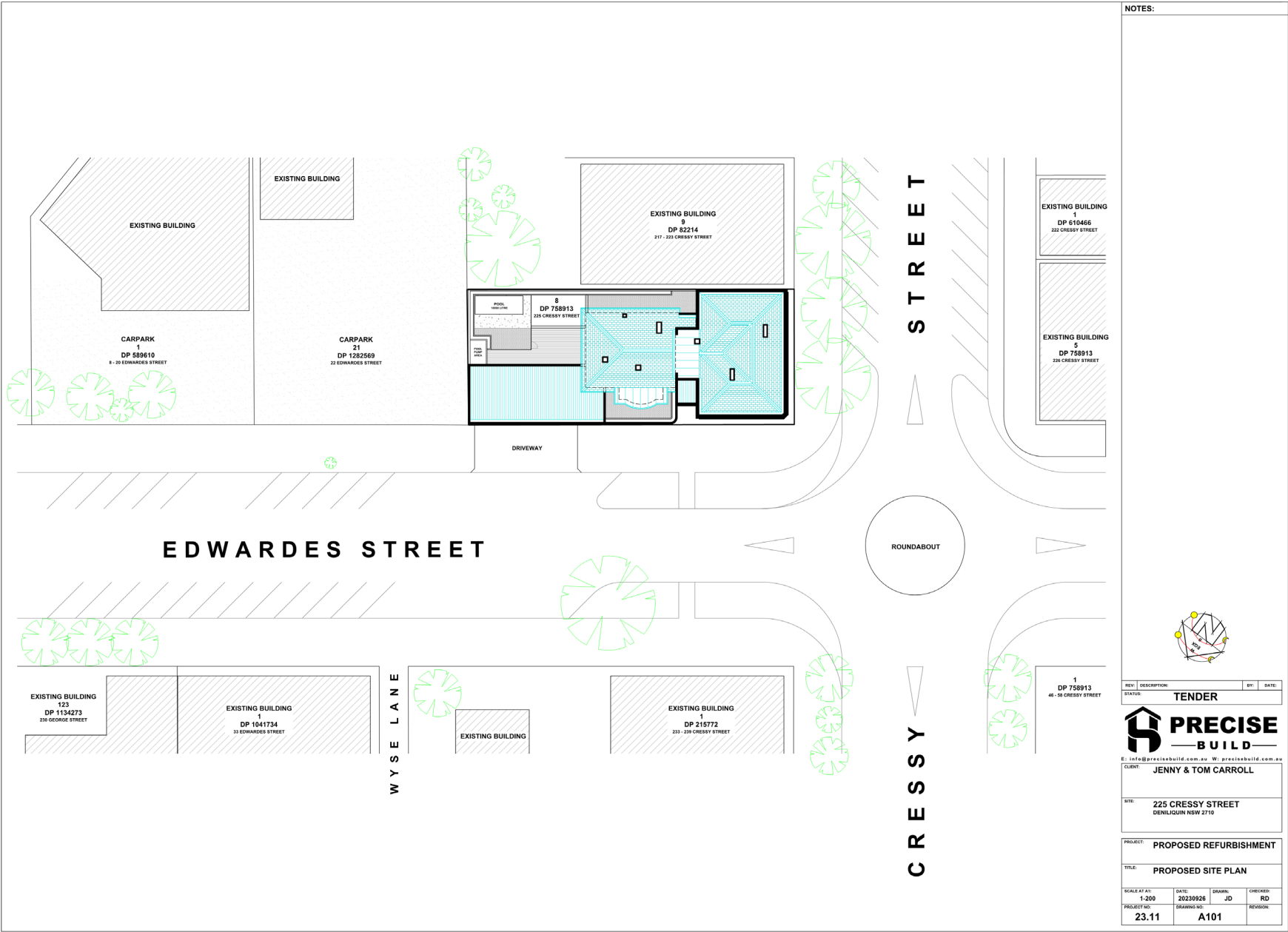
Adjustments to the public utilities necessitated by the development shall be completed prior to occupation of the development and in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority, all at no cost to Council.

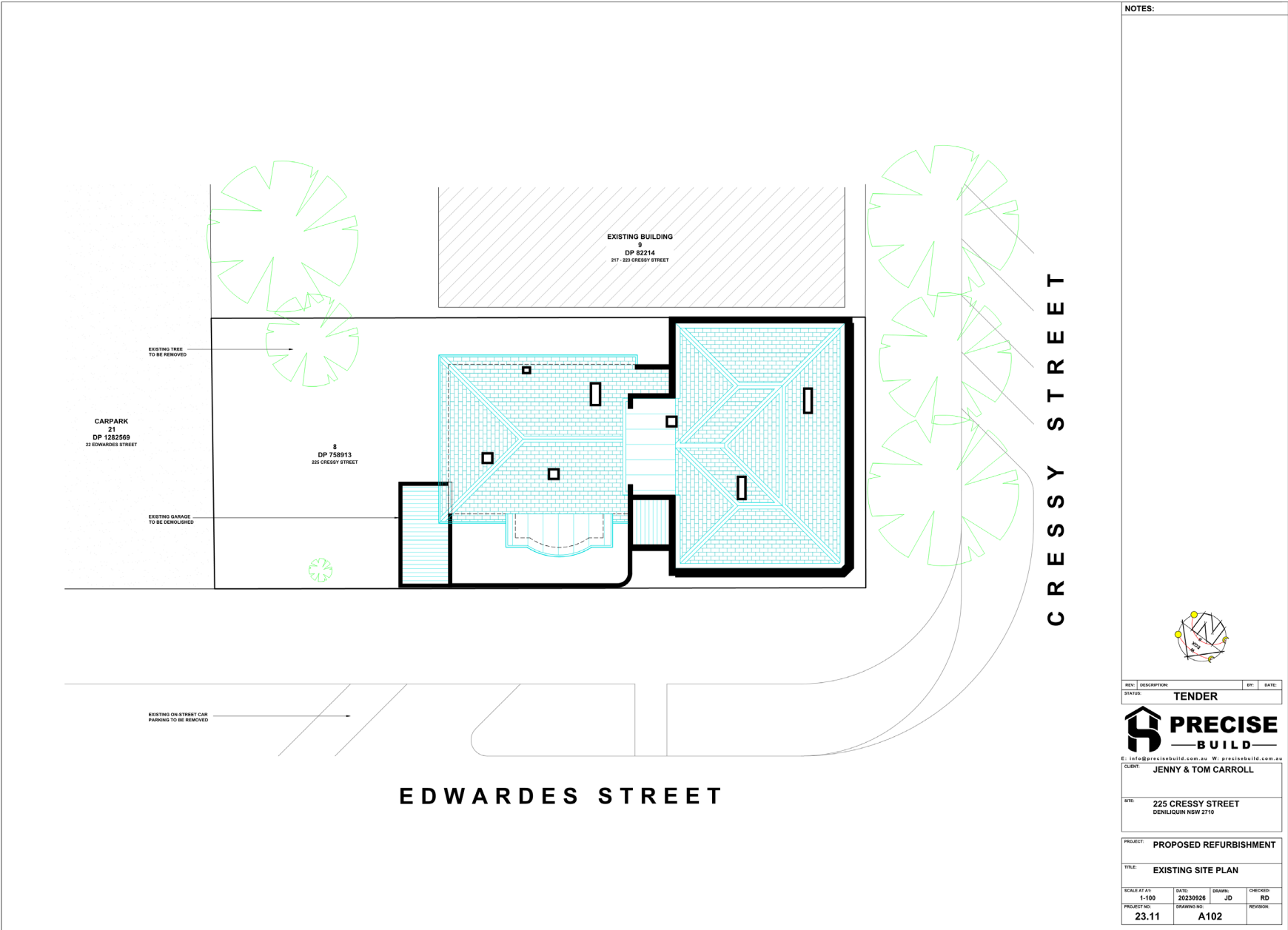
5e Street Number

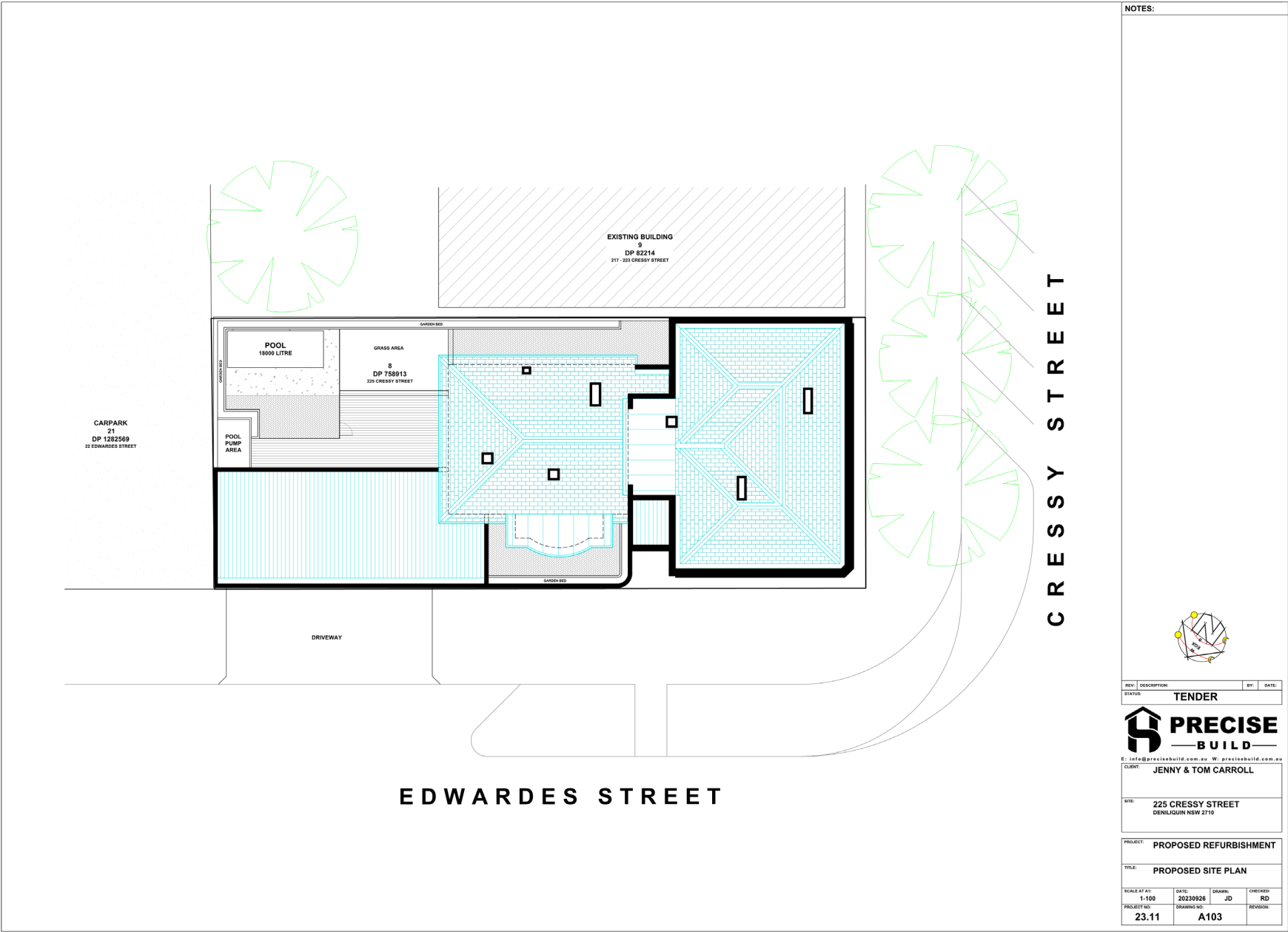
Prior to occupation of the dwellings the street number allocated to the premises is to be clearly displayed.

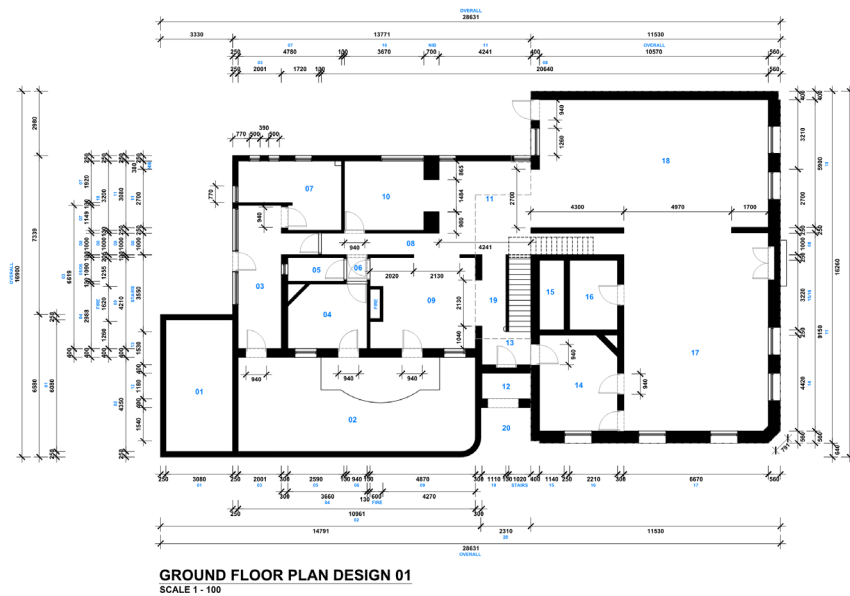
Attachment 2 - Plans 225 Cressy St(1)











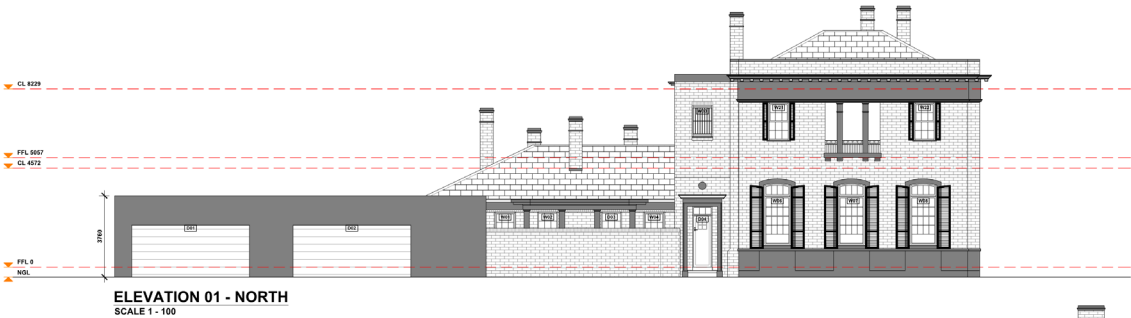
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SCALE AT: 1-100	DATE: 20230926	DRAWN: JD	CHECKED: RD
PROJECT NO: 23.11	DRAWING NO: A104		REVISION:







NOTES:


MATERIAL NOTES

NEW FACE BRICKWORK TO MATCH EXISTING TO ALL NEW WALLS INCLUDING NEW FENCE TO BACKYARD AREA

CORRUGATED IRON ROOF TO NEW GARAGE SECTION

EXISTING RENDER TO BE PAINTED IN DULUX "IVORY"

TIMBER WINDOW SHUTTERS TO BE PAINTED DULUX "EAU DE NIL"

REV:	DESCRIPTION:	BY:	DATE:
STATUS: TENDER			
			
E: info@precisebuild.com.au W: precisebuild.com.au			
CLIENT: JENNY & TOM CARROLL			
SITE: 225 CRESSY STREET DENILQUIN NSW 2710			
PROJECT: PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT			
TITLE: PROPOSED ELEVATIONS			
SCALE AT A1:	DATE:	DRAWN:	CHECKED:
1-100	20230926	JD	RD
PROJECT NO:	DRAWING NO:	REVISION:	
23.11	A201	A	

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PLANNING REPORT & STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

**Alterations and additions and change of use to residential dual
occupancy**

225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin NSW (Lot 8, Section 13, DP758913)

October 2023

Prepared by:

Blueprint Planning

For:

Precise Build

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T: 02 6023 6844
E: office@blueprintplanning.com.au
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Document Control

Ref.	Version No.	Date	Revision Details	Author
1686	1	04/10/2023	Final	JL

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- Figure 2: Aerial photograph of the Site and surrounding area
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- Table 1: Operational parameters during construction
- Table 2: Assessment Matters – Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013
- Table 3: Assessment Matters – Deniliquin Development Control Plan 2016
- Table 4: Statement of Environmental Effects



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide information in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regs), and relevant land use and development policies and guidelines to inform the statutory development application and development assessment process.

More specifically, this report has been prepared in accordance with section 24(1) of the EP&A Regs and is to be included in a development application (DA) to the Edward River Council (Council) seeking development consent.

Firstly, this report discusses the location of the proposed development and then an overview of surrounding land uses is provided. The statutory town planning development assessment framework applicable to the land and the development is then introduced, followed by a description of the land and the development. Then assessment responses to relevant land use and development planning policies and guidelines is provided followed by a Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) and a section summarising information set out in this report.

1.2 The Proposal

This DA, in general terms, is for alterations and additions to an existing heritage building and change of use to residential dual occupancy (the Proposal). The Proposal is more fully described at **Section 3**, and is shown in the **attached** concept plans (the DA plan set).

1.3 The Site

The land is located at the corner of Edwardes Street and Cressy Street, Deniliquin NSW and is otherwise known as 225 Cressy Street being Lot 8, Section 13, DP758913 (the Site).

A location map of the Site is shown at **Figure 1** and an aerial photograph is shown at **Figure 2**. A Title survey diagram of the Site is provided at **Appendix A**.

A description of the Site and surrounding land use and development context is provided at **Section 2**.

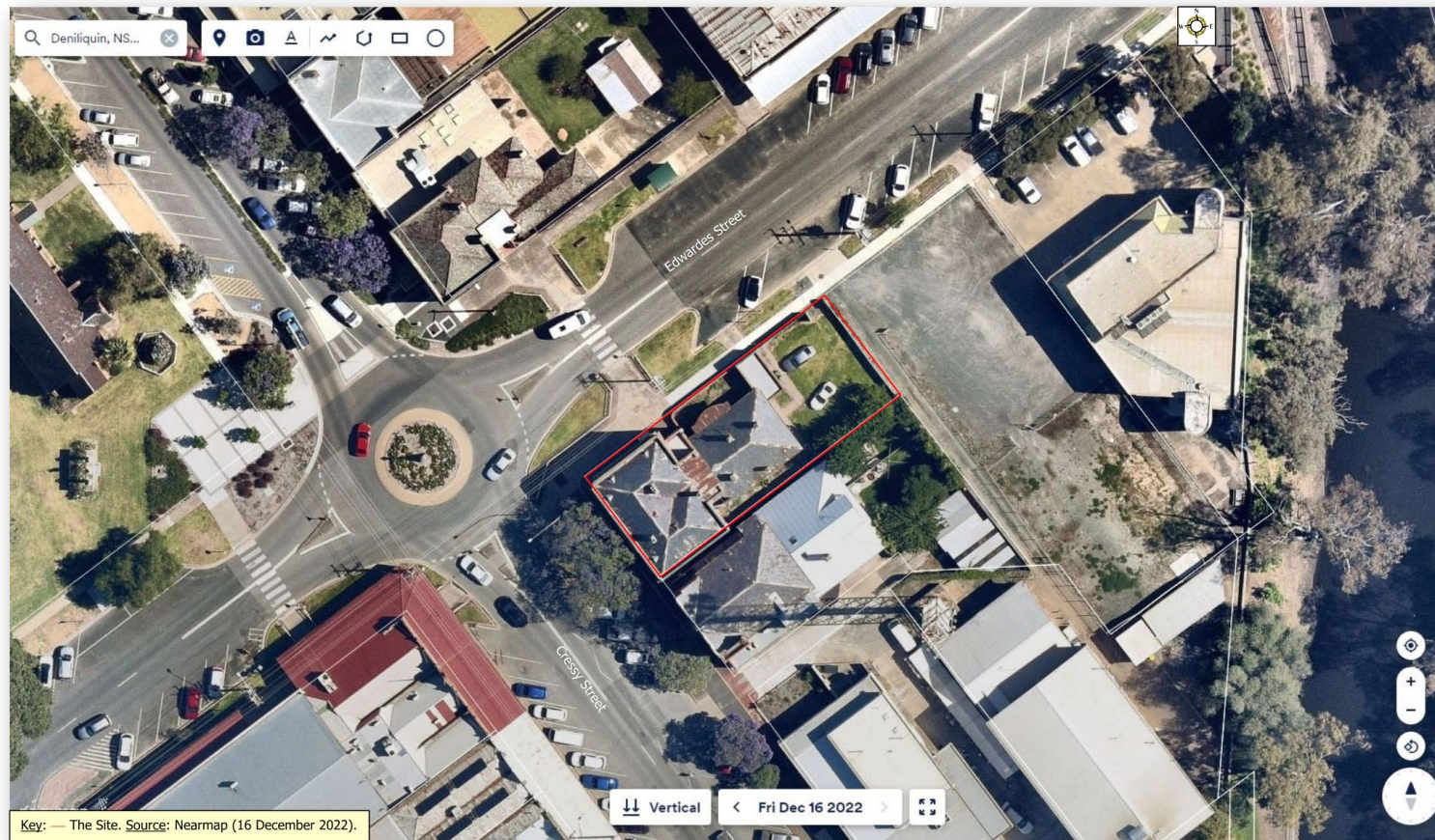
Figure 1: Location map



1.4 Current land use and background

The Site is occupied by an existing two-storey commercial building previously used as a bank as shown and/or described in **Figure 2, Appendix A**, the Heritage Impact Statement report at **Appendix C** and in the **attached** DA plan set.

Figure 2: Aerial photograph of the Site and surrounding area



1.5 Statutory land use and development assessment framework

1.5.1 Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Part 4 of the EP&A Act applies to the Proposal, and pursuant to sections 4.10 and 4.46 of the EP&A Act the Proposal is not respectively identified as “designated development” or “integrated development”.

State Environmental Planning Policy

The Proposal is affected by *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021*.

Local Environmental Plan

The Site is affected by considerations within the *Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013* (LEP).

1.5.2 Policy

State Environmental Planning Policy

State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 (and *Managing Land Contamination: Planning Guidelines* (DUAP & EPA, 1998)) generally requires that consideration be given to whether or not land proposed to be developed is contaminated and fit for use for its intended purpose. The Proposal is considered to comply with relevant considerations including in relation to relevant considerations under Part 10.2 of the *Deniliquin Development Control Plan 2016* (DCP).

Local Environmental Plan

The following provisions of the LEP are considered relevant to assessment of the Proposal—

- Land Use Table¹ – Zone B2 Local Centre: *Objectives of zone*,
- Clause 5.10: *Heritage conservation*, and

¹ LEP Land Use Table, Note 2—

Under the Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006, Schedule 1, clause 6(1), this Plan is, until 26 April 2025, taken to apply as if the Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Amendment (Land Use Zones) Order 2021, Schedule 3[1]–[4] had not commenced on 26 April 2023. As a result, until 26 April 2025, the Land Use Table is taken to include business and industrial zones that were in the Land Use Table immediately before 26 April 2023.

- Clause 6.7: *Essential services*.

An assessment table which lists the relevant content of these provisions and detailed responses are provided below at **Table 2**.

LEP definitions

For the purposes of this report and the Proposal the following definitions listed in the Dictionary of the LEP are considered relevant² –

residential accommodation means a building or place used predominantly as a place of residence, and includes any of the following—

- (a) attached dwellings,
 - (b) boarding houses,
 - (baa) co-living housing,
 - (c) **dual occupancies**,
 - (d) dwelling houses,
 - (e) group homes,
 - (f) hostels,
 - (faa) (Repealed)
 - (g) multi dwelling housing,
 - (h) residential flat buildings,
 - (i) rural workers' dwellings,
 - (j) secondary dwellings,
 - (k) semi-detached dwellings,
 - (l) seniors housing,
 - (m) shop top housing,
- but does not include tourist and visitor accommodation or caravan parks.

dual occupancy means a **dual occupancy (attached)** or a dual occupancy (detached).

dual occupancy (attached) means 2 dwellings on one lot of land that are attached to each other, but does not include a secondary dwelling.

Having regard to the proposed land use comprising the Proposal, the Proposal is considered best characterised as "dual occupancy (attached)". Further detail is provided at **Section 3**.

Land use zoning

The Site is zoned "B2 Local Centre Zone" (B2 zone) under the LEP, which is shown in the Land Zoning Map excerpt detailed below in **Figure 3**.

In the Land Use Table for the B2 zone, "residential accommodation" including "dual occupancy (attached)" is 'prohibited', however clause 5.10(10) overcomes this prohibition to make the Proposal permissible as significant conservation work to the existing heritage building is undertaken as part of the Proposal. Further comment is made in **Table 2**.

² Planning Circular: PS 13-001 – How to characterise development (Department of Planning & Infrastructure, 2013).

Figure 3: Excerpt of Land Use Zoning Map from the LEP



Heritage conservation

The Site is identified as Heritage Item No. I13 being an item of 'local' significance (as opposed to being of 'State' or other significance) and is located within the C1 Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area, which are shown in the Heritage Map excerpt detailed below in **Figure 4**, but is not known to be affected by a relic or tree of Aboriginal significance within the meaning of clause 5.10 of the LEP. Further comment is made in **Section 2.1**, **Table 2** and the Heritage Impact Statement report at **Appendix C**.

Height of buildings

The Site is not identified as having a maximum building height under clause 4.3 of the LEP.

Floor space ratio

The Site is not identified as having a maximum floor space ratio (FSR) under clause 4.4 of the LEP.

Figure 4: Excerpt of Heritage Map from the LEP



Flood prone land

The Site is not located within a “flood planning area” within the meaning of clause 5.21 of the LEP.

Terrestrial biodiversity

The Site is not located within a “biodiversity” area within the meaning of clause 6.3 of the LEP.

Riparian land and watercourses

The Site is not located within a “riparian land and watercourse” area within the meaning of clause 6.4 of the LEP.

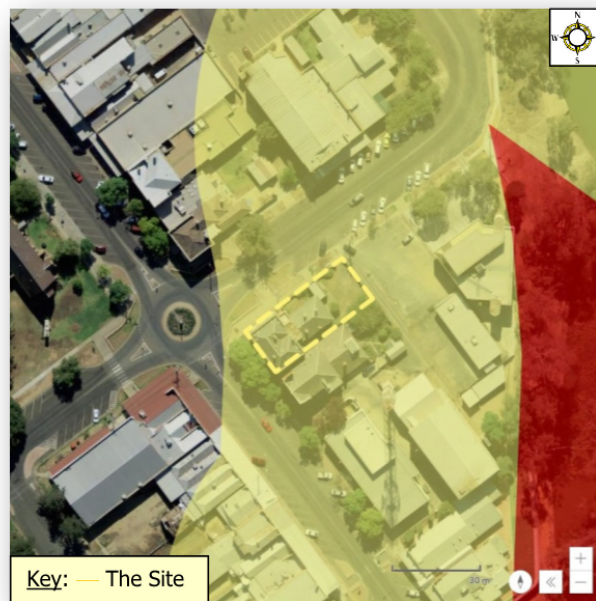
Salinity

The Site is not known to be located within a salinity area within the meaning of clause 6.5 of the LEP.

Bush fire prone land

The Site is located within "bush fire prone land" (bushfire buffer area) within the meaning of the EP&A Act, which is shown in the Bushfire Prone Land Map excerpt detailed below in **Figure 5**. Further comment is made at **Table 3**.

Figure 5: Excerpt of Bushfire Prone Land Map from the LEP



Development Control Plan

The Site is affected by the DCP and the following provisions are considered relevant to assessment of the Proposal –

- Chapter 3: *Commercial Zones*,
- Chapter 10: *Hazards*,
- Chapter 11: *Heritage Conservation*, and
- Chapter 12: *Car Parking*.

Similarly for provisions of the LEP, an assessment table is provided below at **Table 3**.

1.6 Other approvals or permits required

The Proposal requires a Construction Certificate under Part 6 of the EP&A Act and Plumbing Permit under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2.0 SITE CONTEXT

2.1 Site location, surrounding development, built form and existing character

The location of the Site was briefly described in **Section 1.3** and is graphically shown in the aerial photograph in **Figure 2** and in the photographs of the Site and surrounding area at **Appendix B**. The Site is located in a developed commercial area in the southeast area of the Deniliquin CBD. The Site has commercial land uses surrounding the Site on all sides.

Built form in the vicinity of the Site comprises mainly one to two-storey commercial buildings mostly consisting of attached commercial development.

The heritage 'statement of significance' for Item No. I13 provides³ –

One of the finest Interwar Free Classical bank buildings with attached residence in NSW. One of four buildings on the intersection of Cressy and Edwardes Streets, which is one of the two intersections in Deniliquin which give the shopping centre its focus.

And the 'assessment of significance' provides –

SHR Criteria (a) Historical Significance	<i>This Interwar Free Classical bank has been operating continuously on the site since its construction in 1935.</i>
SHR Criteria (b) Historical Association	N/A
SHR Criteria (c) Aesthetic Significance	<i>One of the finest Interwar Free Classical bank buildings with attached residence in NSW. One of four buildings on the intersection of Cressy and Edwardes Streets, which is one of the two intersections in Deniliquin which give the shopping centre its focus.</i>
SHR Criteria (d) Social Significance	N/A
SHR Criteria (f) Rare Assessment	N/A
SHR Criteria (g) Representative Assessment	N/A

³ <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1500009>

Integrity/Intactness | *Good*

Further extensive comment is provided in the Heritage Impact Statement report at **Appendix C**.

2.2 Future character

Given the location of the Site and adjoining land and their uses and development, it is not expected that the future character of the area will significantly change in the short to medium-term future.

2.3 Site description

2.3.1 Cadastre and topography

The Site is shown graphically in the Title survey plans at **Appendix A**, in the **attached** DA plan set, and in photographs at **Appendix B** (Site context descriptions provided).

The Site comprises one lot, has a rectangular shape, two road frontages, a southwest to northeast axis, and has dimensions of approximately –

- 40.6 metres along its northwest lot boundary with Edwardes Street,
 - 16.9 metres along its southwest lot boundary with Cressy Street,
 - 40.8 metres along its southeast lot boundary with adjoining land,
 - 16.9 metres along its northeast lot boundary with adjoining land,
- with an overall area of 683 square metres.

The Site is generally flat over its entire area with no discernible aspect.

2.3.2 Vehicle and pedestrian access

Pedestrian access to the Site is available via Edwardes Street and Cressy Street and vehicle access to the Site is available via Edwardes Street.

2.3.3 Existing improvements

The Site has existing improvements consisting of a two-storey former bank building and a one-storey attached dwelling and garage.



2.3.4 Easements, covenants, and restrictions

The Title survey plan at **Appendix A** show that the Site has no infrastructure easements, covenants, rights-of-way or restrictions within the meaning of the *Conveyancing Act 1919*.

2.3.5 Reticulated services and public road access

Reticulated water, sewer, stormwater, electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications services are connected to the Site. The Site has sealed public road access.

2.3.6 Vegetation

The Site contains some existing landscaping.

2.3.7 Site analysis

Site analysis plans are provided in the **attached** DA plan set.

2.4 The design response and concept

The design response and concept for the Proposal has generated following a thorough site analysis and investigation process: A process which has assisted design principals to comprehensively understand the nature of the Site and the area, and to provide a design response which responds to the land use and development policies and guidelines detailed in this report. In particular, the Proposal responds to heritage conservation advice provided to design principals arising from preparation of the Heritage Impact Statement report at **Appendix C**.



3.0 THE PROPOSAL

3.1 Development description

The DA is for development comprising building alterations and additions and a change of use to residential dual occupancy as described in further detail below.

3.1.1 External building demolition, vegetation removal and other works

External building demolition, vegetation removal and other work includes –

- demolition of the existing one-storey brick garage,
- removal of a fruit tree,
- removal of some existing brick and metal fencing, and
- removal on one on-street 45° angle car parking space and signage along Edwardes Street.

3.1.2 Internal building demolition and construction works

Internal building demolition and construction works include the work as shown in the **attached** DA plan set. In this regard, the Proposal can be considered as an almost complete ground-floor and first-floor internal building refurbishment, with work to provide for two separate dwelling houses comprising “dual occupancy (attached)” as defined in the Dictionary of the LEP. ‘Unit 1’ would comprise all of the ground-floor (except for the pedestrian entry and stairway to ‘Unit 2’) and ‘Unit 2’ would comprise all of the first-floor.

3.1.3 External building works and heritage conservation work

External building works include the work as shown in the **attached** DA plan set, including–

- construction of two one-storey double garages with render Dulux “Ivory” paint finish,
- construction of a small in-ground swimming pool with deck, fencing, pump enclosure, private open space areas and landscaping, and
- brick and metal fencing works.



The following heritage conservation work, informed from specialist heritage advice in regard to the two-storey building, includes the work as shown in the **attached** DA plan set –

- reinstatement of original wooden window shutters with Dulux "Eau-de-nil" paint finish,
- repair of slate roof tiles, ridge capping, gutters and drainage joinery,
- reinstatement of render with Dulux "Ivory" paint finish, and
- repointing of brickwork.

3.2 Operational parameters

Table 1 provides a summary of the operational parameters of the Proposal during construction.

Table 1: Operational parameters of the Proposal during construction

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Response</i>
• Days and hours of demolition/ construction:	in accordance with <i>AS 2436:2010–Guide to noise control on construction, maintenance and demolition sites</i> , namely 7:00am to 7:00pm, Monday to Saturday (excluding public holidays)
• Traffic management:	in accordance with a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for each stage of construction as relevant
• Car parking:	some onsite car parking provided in the 'construction zone'; temporary displacement of public car parking along Edwardes Street and Cressy Street during the various stages of construction
• Loading/ unloading:	onsite loading/unloading provided in the 'construction zone' and along Edwardes Street and Cressy Street frontages in accordance with the relevant TMP
• Waste management:	waste is stored in dedicated containers within the 'construction zone' and collected by licensed contractors for offsite disposal
• Safety and security:	relevant WH&S and WorkCover standards and guidelines; hoardings along road frontages designed to facilitate safe pedestrian movement
• Lighting:	standard security lighting
• Plant and machinery:	standard building industry construction equipment



<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Response</i>
• Noise, dust, and vibration:	standard building industry construction equipment; construction carried out in accordance with <i>AS2436:2010–Guide to noise control on construction, maintenance and demolition sites</i>
• Stormwater:	construction carried out in accordance with <i>Managing Urban Stormwater, Soils & Construction, Volume 1</i> (Landcom, 2004) and <i>Managing Urban Stormwater, Soils & Construction, Volume 2</i> (DECC, 2008)
• Visual:	hoardings and security fencing erected along all construction area boundaries

4.0 PLANNING ASSESSMENT MATTERS

4.1 Local Environmental Plan

Table 2: Assessment Matters – Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013

	Response
LEP Land Use Table - Zone B2 Local Centre: Objectives of zone	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a range of retail, business, entertainment and community uses that serve the needs of people who live in, work in and visit the local area. 	The Proposal does not derogate this objective.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage employment opportunities in accessible locations. 	The Proposal does not derogate this objective.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maximise public transport patronage and encourage walking and cycling. 	Complies – The Proposal is located in the Deniliquin CBD adjacent a public bus stop with linking pedestrian and bicycle accessways to local networks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage the development and expansion of business activity that will contribute to the economic growth of Deniliquin. 	Complies – The Proposal is located in the Deniliquin CBD and comprises a \$1.36M renovation, refurbishment and heritage conservation development of an important heritage building.
LEP: Clause 5.10 Heritage conservation	
(1) Objectives The objectives of this clause are as follows—	



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(a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Deniliquin,	Complies –
(b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,	<p>The Site is identified as Heritage Item No. I13 being an item of 'local' significance (as opposed to being of 'State' or other significance) and is located within the C1 Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area, which is shown in the Heritage Map excerpt detailed in Figure 4, but is <u>not</u> known to be affected by a relic or tree of Aboriginal significance within the meaning of clause 5.10 of the LEP.</p> <p>The Proposal has benefitted from specialist heritage conservation advice to inform the preparation of plans and conservation work as documented in the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.</p> <p>The proposed internal and external building works described in Section 3.1 will conserve the environmental heritage of Deniliquin as the Proposal will not detract from the significance of the item and conservation area, including associated fabric, settings and views. Further comment is made in the Heritage Impact Statement report at Appendix C.</p>
(c) to conserve archaeological sites,	Not relevant to the Site.
(d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.	Not relevant to the Site.
(2) Requirement for consent Development consent is required for any of the following—	

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(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)—	
(i) a heritage item,	Applies.
(ii) an Aboriginal object,	Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.
(iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,	Applies.
(b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,	Applies.
(c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,	Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.
(d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,	Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.
(e) erecting a building on land—	
(i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or	Applies.
(ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,	Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.
(f) subdividing land—	



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(i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or	Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.
(ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.	Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.
(4) Effect of proposed development on heritage significance The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause in respect of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item or area concerned. This subclause applies regardless of whether a heritage management document is prepared under subclause (5) or a heritage conservation management plan is submitted under subclause (6).	Complies – The Proposal has benefitted from specialist heritage conservation advice to inform the preparation of plans and conservation work as documented in the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C .
(5) Heritage assessment The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development—	
(a) on land on which a heritage item is located, or	Applies.
(b) on land that is within a heritage conservation area, or	Applies.
(c) on land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),	Applies.
require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.	Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C .
(6) Heritage conservation management plans The consent authority may require, after considering the heritage significance of a heritage item and the extent of change proposed to it, the submission of a heritage conservation management plan before granting consent under this clause.	Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C .



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<p>(7) Archaeological sites <i>The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act 1977 applies)—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and</i> (b) <i>take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.</i> 	<p>Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.</p>
<p>(8) Aboriginal places of heritage significance <i>The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development in an Aboriginal place of heritage significance—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object known or reasonably likely to be located at the place by means of an adequate investigation and assessment (which may involve consideration of a heritage impact statement), and</i> (b) <i>notify the local Aboriginal communities, in writing or in such other manner as may be appropriate, about the application and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent.</i> 	<p>Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.</p>
<p>(9) Demolition of nominated State heritage items <i>The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause for the demolition of a nominated State heritage item—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>notify the Heritage Council about the application, and</i> (b) <i>take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.</i> 	<p>Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.</p>
<p>(10) Conservation incentives <i>The consent authority may grant consent to development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item or of the land on which such a building is</i></p>	



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<p><i>erected, or for any purpose on an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed by this Plan, if the consent authority is satisfied that—</i></p>	
<p><i>(a) the conservation of the heritage item or Aboriginal place of heritage significance is facilitated by the granting of consent, and</i></p>	<p>Complies – The proposed heritage conservation work described in Section 3.1.3 is only possible if the proposed “dual occupancy (attached)” is approved by Council. This is because the Proponents are only prepared to undertake the costly conservation work if there is allowed to be two residential occupancies within the Site (which is normally prohibited) as opposed to one residential occupancy (which is permitted). On this basis, from either street frontage or otherwise, the average person would be not be able to reasonably discern that the Site was occupied by one or two residential occupancies, noting that it is not uncommon for residual land use to have two double garages.</p>
<p><i>(b) the proposed development is in accordance with a heritage management document that has been approved by the consent authority, and</i></p>	
<p><i>(c) the consent to the proposed development would require that all necessary conservation work identified in the heritage management document is carried out, and</i></p>	<p>Complies – The proposed heritage conservation work described in Section 3.1.3 would be carried out and completed prior to issue of an Occupation Certificate.</p>
<p><i>(d) the proposed development would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, including its setting, or the heritage significance of the Aboriginal place of heritage significance, and</i></p>	<p>Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.</p>
<p><i>(e) the proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area.</i></p>	<p>Complies – Refer to relevant DCP responses in Table 3.</p>
<p>LEP: Clause 6.7 - Essential services</p>	



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Development consent must not be granted to development unless the consent authority is satisfied that any of the following services that are essential for the development are available or that adequate arrangements have been made to make them available when required—

- (a) the supply of water,
- (b) the supply of electricity,
- (c) the disposal and management of sewage,
- (d) stormwater drainage or on-site conservation,
- (e) suitable vehicular access.

Complies – All reticulated services are currently connected to the Site and the Site has sealed road access with concrete footpaths.

4.2 Development guidelines

Table 3: Assessment Matters – Deniliquin Development Control Plan 2016

	Response
DCP Chapter 1.5 AIMS OF THIS PLAN	
<i>The general aims of this DCP are to:</i>	
<i>a. Promote growth and development to support and enhance the vitality of the Central Business District.</i>	Complies.
<i>b. Encourage development that responds to the needs of the community.</i>	Complies.
<i>c. Encourage residential development of a high standard to improve the quality of the urban environment.</i>	Complies.



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d. <i>Encourage development that respects and minimises the impacts on surrounding land and the wider environment.</i>	Complies.
e. <i>Encourage new development that will enhance streetscapes and vistas.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
f. <i>Ensure that development incorporates safe, effective and convenient pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle access, movement and parking areas.</i>	Complies.
g. <i>Encourage energy efficiency in building design.</i>	Complies – Refer to the attached BASIX certificates.
h. <i>Provide for effective and well-utilised open space with security and access for the community.</i>	The Proposal does not derogate this objective.
i. <i>Control and minimise the impact of stormwater run-off.</i>	Complies.
j. <i>Ensure that new development is fully integrated into Council's sewerage system wherever possible.</i>	Complies.
k. <i>Promote the orderly and efficient development of land to ensure that provision of services to that land is adequate.</i>	Complies.
DCP Chapter 3.10: Residential Development in a Commercial Zone	
<i>The following controls apply to 'residential accommodation' developments that are permissible with consent under the provisions of the LEP2013 within a commercial zone. The types of residential accommodation development permissible within a commercial zone include shop-top housing and dwelling houses within the B2 Local Centre zone.</i>	Although the Proposal is not either "shop-top housing" or "dwelling houses" it is considered that the intent is for this DCP Chapter to apply to the Proposal.
Objectives	



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a. Promote a diverse range of housing options.	Complies.
b. Enhance the vitality of the CBD by allowing compatible residential development.	Complies.
c. Promote mixed use development within close proximity to services and facilities.	Complies.
Controls	
1. Residential development within a commercial zone must comply with car parking and access provisions of chapter 2.	Complies (two car parking spaces per unit).
2. Residential development within a commercial zone must comply with the private open space, safety and security, and privacy controls in Chapter 2.	<p>Complies –</p> <p>DCP Chapter 2.1.5: Private Open Space</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ground floor dwellings must provide 16 square metres private open space with a minimum dimension of 3m. 2. Dwellings without direct access to ground level must provide a balcony with a minimum area of 8m² and a minimum dimension of 2m. 3. Private open space areas must have direct access from a living area of the dwelling. <p>In regard to privacy, there are no windows on the southeast building elevation at two-storey level and there are no changes to existing windows on the northeast building elevation.</p>



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3. <i>New buildings must be compatible with the scale and character of adjoining developments or the intended built character for the area.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
4. <i>If the residential development forms part of a mixed development, separate entrances must be provided for the residential and non-residential components of the development.</i>	Not relevant to the Proposal.
DCP Chapter 10.1: Bush Fire Prone Land	
Objectives	
a. <i>Minimise risk to life and property from bushfire attack through provision of adequate water supplies, defensible space, asset protection zones, safe access and egress and appropriate construction standards.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Bushfire Assessment report at Appendix D.
b. <i>Ensure development satisfies statutory requirements for development within bush fire prone areas.</i>	
Controls	
1. <i>Development on land that is mapped as being bush fire prone must satisfy the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 (or as amended).</i>	Complies – Refer to the Bushfire Assessment report at Appendix D.
2. <i>Development on land that is mapped as being bush fire prone must satisfy the requirements of Australian Standard 3959: Construction of Buildings in Bush Fire Prone Areas.</i>	Complies – BAL12.5 required.
DCP Chapter 11: Heritage Conservation	
DCP Chapter 11.1: Introduction	
DCP Chapter 11.1.2: Aims and Objectives	



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Heritage items, conservation areas and archaeological sites individually and collectively have profound importance as valuable links to the past. They provide a source of community identity, evidence of evolution of society's values, impetus and inspiration for new ideas and revival of the old. This section aims to ensure that all new development involving heritage items and buildings within the heritage conservation area are designed and built in a way that will maintain and enhance their heritage significance. This section provides design guidelines for buildings and lists streetscape elements that should be considered when planning new development. The key objectives of this section of the DCP are:

- a. *To assist in achieving the heritage conservation objectives and provisions within the local environmental plan.*
- b. *To ensure that new development is sympathetic in terms of form, scale, bulk, fabric, colours and textures without mimicking heritage style.*
- c. *To provide controls for the development of land in the vicinity of heritage items and the Conservation Area.*
- d. *To define types of work that would need a development application and the nature of the information that must be submitted with applications.*
- e. *To provide standards for the management, maintenance and conservation of heritage items.*

Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at **Appendix C**.

DCP Chapter 11.1.3: State Heritage Items

Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.

DCP Chapter 11.1.4: Local Heritage Items

Relevant.

DCP Chapter 11.1.5: Heritage Conservation Areas

Relevant.

DCP Chapter 11.1.6: Information for Heritage Applicants

Noted.

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DCP Chapter 11.1.7: Potential Heritage Items	Not relevant to the Site/Proposal.
DCP Chapter 11.2: Development Controls Related to Heritage Items	Noted.
DCP Chapter 11.2.1: Introduction	Noted.
DCP Chapter 11.2.2: Alterations and Additions to Heritage Items	
Objectives	
a. <i>Protect heritage significance by minimising impacts on the significant elements of heritage items.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C .
b. <i>Encourage alterations and additions which are sympathetic to the building's significant features and which will not compromise heritage significance.</i>	
c. <i>Ensure that alterations and additions respect the scale, form and massing of the existing building.</i>	
Controls	
1. <i>Avoid changes to the front elevation-locate new work to the rear of, or behind the original building section.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C .
2. <i>Design new work to respect the scale, form, massing and style of the existing building, and not visually dominate the original building.</i>	
3. <i>The original roof line or characteristic roof elements are to remain identifiable and not be dwarfed by the new works.</i>	
4. <i>Retain chimneys and significant roof elements such as gables and finials where present.</i>	



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5. <i>Ensure that the new work is recognisable as new, 'blending in' with the original building without unnecessarily mimicking or copying.</i>	
6. <i>Complement the details and materials of the original roof including ridge height and slopes without compromising the ability to interpret the original form.</i>	
7. <i>New materials are to be compatible with the existing finishes. Materials can differentiate new work from original building sections where appropriate, for example by the use of weatherboards where the original building is brick or by the use of "transitional" materials between old and new.</i>	
8. <i>Retain front verandahs. Reinstating verandahs, and removing intrusive changes is encouraged, particularly where there is physical and/ or historic evidence.</i>	
DCP Chapter 11.2.3: Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Items	
Objectives	
a. <i>Encourage heritage items to be used for purposes appropriate to their heritage significance.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
b. <i>To avoid facadism i.e. to avoid gutting the building and retaining only façade;</i>	
c. <i>To ensure that new work is not a poor imitation of the original historical style of the building;</i>	
d. <i>To propose a new use for the building that is compatible with its original use.</i>	
Controls	
1. <i>The adaptive reuse of a heritage item should minimise alterations or interference with significant fabric. The changes are to enable the continued interpretation of the original use.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.



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DCP Chapter 11.2.4: Development in the Vicinity of Heritage Items	Complies.
DCP Chapter 11.2.5: Demolition	Complies.
DCP Chapter 11.3: Development Controls For CBD	Complies.
DCP Chapter 11.3.4: Alterations, Additions & Infill Development	
<i>The quality and style of alterations, additions and new development in the commercial precincts within the conservation area is of great importance as they will have a significant impact on the streetscape and the works should take into account the following issues. In commercial areas, it is the consistency of parapets which make a significant contribution to the architectural character of the streetscape and conservation area.</i>	Noted.
Objectives	
a. <i>To ensure that new development in the conservation areas maintain the heritage significance of the area and minimise its impact on the streetscape.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C .
b. <i>Retain buildings and features that are characteristic of the conservation area, and encourage reinstatement of these features where they have been removed.</i>	
c. <i>Encourage new buildings to respond positively to the character of adjoining and nearby buildings.</i>	
d. <i>Ensure that new work is sympathetic to the bulk, mass and scale of characteristic buildings in the conservation area.</i>	
e. <i>Encourage infill development or the replacement of uncharacteristic buildings to reflect the historic character of the precinct and nearby characteristic buildings.</i>	



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f. <i>Encourage the service elements (solar panels, solar heating, antennas, satellite dishes and air conditioning units) to be placed to the rear of the properties, preferably not visible from the street.</i>	
Controls	
Facade Treatment	
1. <i>Retain original elements and features, including features that are above awning level.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
2. <i>Where original shopfronts, verandahs or awnings have been altered, the replacement is to be based on historic information and/or the interpretation of period details.</i>	Not relevant to the Proposal.
3. <i>Infilling original verandahs is not supported.</i>	
4. <i>Additional storeys can be considered if set well behind the front building line and designed to not impact detrimentally on the contribution of the original facade to the streetscape.</i>	
5. <i>Service elements (solar panels, solar heating, antennas, satellite dishes and air conditioning units) to be placed to the rear of the properties, preferably not visible from the street, or on rear outbuildings.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
6. <i>Rendering or painting face brick is generally not supported.</i>	
Infill Development	
7. <i>Design infill and replacement buildings to reflect the general historic character of the precinct and nearby characteristic and heritage buildings.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
8. <i>Maintain a two storey building height at the street frontage, constructed with a nil setback.</i>	



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9. <i>Where sites are amalgamated use articulation to reflect the former subdivision pattern.</i>	Not relevant to the Site.
10. <i>Maintain a balance of solid area over void. Large areas of plate glass curtain walls are generally not suitable and will not be supported.</i>	Not relevant to the Proposal.
11. <i>Use awnings and verandahs to reduce the bulk and scale of buildings.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
12. <i>Use of articulation in facades such as string courses, cornices, pilasters and other features that break up the scale of facades is encouraged.</i>	
13. <i>Painting of facades in corporate colours is not supported and corporate identify should be established through appropriate signage.</i>	Not relevant to the Proposal.
Building Heights	
14. <i>The height of buildings shall reinforce the desired scale and character of the area.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
Services	
15. <i>Service structures, plant and equipment should be an integral part of the development and shall be suitably screened.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
Roof Form, Parapet and Silhouettes	
16. <i>Where the prevailing pattern of roof forms assists in establishing the character of a townscape, new roof forms shall seek to be compatible with the shape, pitch, and materials of adjacent buildings.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
17. <i>Parapet heights and articulation shall be compatible with earlier surrounding buildings.</i>	



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18. <i>Lightweight materials such as ribbed coloured metals shall not be used on vertical wall or parapet surfaces.</i>	Not relevant to the Proposal.
19. <i>New verandahs shall be based on design principles of traditional verandahs with sloping roofs galvanized iron and regularly spaced columns.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
Design of Car Parking Areas	
20. <i>Car parking areas shall be located at the rear of buildings in the conservation area.</i>	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
21. <i>Provide landscaping where practicable to shade parked vehicles and screen them from public view.</i>	Not relevant to the Proposal.
22. <i>Provide for access off minor streets, and for the screening from public view of such car parking areas from surrounding public spaces and areas.</i>	Not relevant to the Proposal.
On-site Loading and Unloading	
23. <i>Facilities for the loading and unloading of service vehicles shall be suitably screened from public view.</i>	Not relevant to the Proposal.
DCP Chapter 11.3.5: Shopfronts	Not relevant to the Proposal.
DCP Chapter 11.3.6: Colour Schemes	Complies – Refer to the Statement of Heritage Impact report at Appendix C.
DCP Chapter 11.3.7: Signage	Not relevant to the Proposal.
DCP Chapter 11.3.8: Accessibility	Not relevant to the Proposal.
DCP Chapter 11.4: Development Controls for Residential Zones	Not relevant to the Site.



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DCP Chapter 11: Appendix 1: Heritage Conservation Area Character Statement	Noted.
DCP Chapter 11: Appendix 2: Sample of Heritage Colour Range	Noted.
DCP Chapter 11: Appendix 3: Common Building Styles in Deniliquin	Noted.
DCP Chapter 11: Appendix 4: Conservation Guidelines	Noted.
DCP Chapter 11: Appendix 5: Maintaining Old Buildings	Noted.
DCP Chapter 11: Appendix 6: Conserving Buildings	Noted.
DCP Chapter 11: Appendix 7: Reference Books	Noted.
DCP Chapter 12: Carparking	
DCP Chapter 12.1: CBD Parking Requirements	
DCP Chapter 12.2: General Parking Requirements	
DCP Chapter 12: Table 12-1 Car Parking Requirements	

4.3 Crime prevention through environmental design

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) is a multi-disciplinary approach to deter criminal behaviour through environmental design. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts. CPTED principles include⁴ –

- surveillance,
- access control,
- territorial reinforcement, and
- space management.

The application of these principles to the Proposal relates to the following design outcomes –

- good visual surveillance of building perimeters, pedestrian accessways and thoroughfares, and carpark areas and accessways,
- 'non-concealment' building and landscaping design, and
- security lighting and cameras.

Building and carpark design and pedestrian thoroughfares

The Proposal has been designed to provide acceptable CPTED outcomes. Relevant design features include: security lighting in accordance with *AS/NZS 1680.2.1:2008-Interior and workplace lighting-Specific applications-Circulation spaces* (AS/NZS 1680.2.1) and *AS/NZS 1158.3.1:2005-Lighting for roads and public spaces - Pedestrian area (Category P) lighting-Performance and design requirements* (AS/NZS 1158.3.1); good visual surveillance; and, non-concealment building internal perimeter and accessway design.

Landscaping

Landscaping has also been designed to provide acceptable CPTED outcomes, principally in relation to non-concealment opportunities.

Graffiti-prone areas

Security cameras will be installed. Carpark and pedestrian level construction materials and finishes have been selected for their durability and longevity. Generally, such materials have a low porosity and in graffiti-prone areas will be protected with a non-sacrificial protective coating that on application of graffiti can be easily removed with high pressure water (a new sacrificial protective coating would then need to be re-applied).

⁴ *Crime prevention and the assessment of development applications: Guidelines under section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (DUAP, 2001).

4.4 Suitability of the Site for the Proposal

The Site is suitable for the Proposal as Site attributes are conducive for development and the Proposal would fit into the area in accordance with the LEP and DCP, specifically –

- There are no constraints posed by adjacent developments which are unresolvable.
- There are adequate transport facilities in the area, including bus stops.
- Utilities and services are available to the Site and are adequate for the Proposal.
- There are no hazardous land uses or activities nearby which would prevent or limit the Proposal.
- The Site is not subject to natural hazards or land contamination, including subsidence, slip, mass movement, environmental or flooding constraints. Bushfire constraints are resolvable.
- Soil characteristics on the Site are appropriate for development.
- The Site is not subject to biodiversity constraints.

The Site is also suitable for the Proposal due to the Site being located in an established B2 zone area with adaptive reuse opportunities. The Site also has adequate setbacks to sensitive land uses.

Visual impacts from proposed building work and repainting to adjoining public domain along Edwardes Street and Cressy Street are also acceptable in the circumstances assessed. Heritage impact assessment has been discussed at **Appendix C**.

4.5 Public interest

The Proposal is considered to be in the public interest as the Proposal will not compromise the effective and ongoing operation and function of the commercial Deniliquin CBD or detrimentally impact heritage conservation.

The Proposal also complies with ecological sustainable (ESD) principles relating to building design and occupancy.

The Proposal will generate up to 10 temporary employment opportunities during the estimated 2-month construction period, with building construction works estimated at approximately \$1.36M.

The Proposal comprises the renovation, refurbishment and adaptive reuse of an existing important heritage asset in the Deniliquin CBD within walking distance of significant shopping and community service facilities and organisations with public transport access.

All impacts to the natural and physical environment can be avoided.

5.0 STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Table 4 provides a summary of the environmental effects of the Proposal.

Table 4: Statement of Environmental Effects

What are the considered environmental impacts of the development?	How have the environmental impacts of the development been identified?	What are the steps to be taken to protect the environment or to lessen the expected harm to the environment?	Are there any matters required to be indicated by any guidelines issued by the Planning Secretary and published on the NSW Planning Portal for the purposes section 24(1) of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021</i> ?
Construction works (i.e. potential for the generation of dust, noise, vibration, traffic, water quality and sedimentation, litter etc).	Site analysis; review of design documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary amenity impacts⁵ but only on and during acceptable days and hours in accordance with AS 2436:2010–Guide to noise control on construction, maintenance and demolition sites. Construction works carried out in accordance with – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing Urban Stormwater, Soils & Construction, Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004) and Managing Urban Stormwater, Soils & Construction, Volume 2 (DECC, 2008), and AS 2436:1981–Guide to noise control on construction, maintenance and demolition sites. Construction waste management in accordance with the Environmental Guidelines: Assessment, Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-liquid Wastes (EPA, 1999). 	No
Social and economic disruption to surrounding landowners/ leaseholders during relevant stages of construction works	Site analysis; review of design documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TMP to be implemented for all stages of construction. Hoardings along road frontages designed to provide a secure work environment and to facilitate safe pedestrian movement. 	No
Heritage conservation and visual (i.e. potential for heritage conservation and visual impacts arising from building and signage works)	Site analysis; review of design documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Proposal will match and integrate with existing conditions and will not adversely affect the heritage conservation values of the Site. The proposed ground-level building additions comply with the <i>Burra Charter</i>⁶ as the Proposal does not try to emulate or replicate any of the relevant heritage conservation built form character or fabric elements which are considered to be of heritage conservation significance. The Proposal, as a whole, will positively contribute to the streetscapes of Edwardes Street and Cressy Street through appropriate siting and design of building works and repainting. Further comment is made in the Heritage Impact Statement report at Appendix C. 	No

⁵ Which would not be out of character for the Deniliquin CBD area.

⁶ The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

This report concludes that the environmental impacts generated by the Proposal, whether considered individually or cumulatively in the context of the Site and the broader area, are not significant and therefore the Proposal warrants the support of Council and the issue of development consent. In particular, the following determinative issues have been resolved as follows –

Heritage conservation

The Site is identified as Heritage Item No. I13 being an item of 'local' significance (as opposed to being of 'State' or other significance) and is located within the C1 Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area. The proposed ground-level building additions comply with the *Burra Charter* as the Proposal does not try to emulate or replicate any of the relevant heritage conservation built form character or fabric elements which are considered to be of heritage conservation significance. A supporting Heritage Impact Statement report has been prepared at **Appendix C** with recommended significant conservation work to be completed as part of the Proposal under section 5.10(10) of the LEP to facilitate approval of the "dual occupancy (attached)" land use associated with the Proposal.

Approval of the Proposal is therefore considered justified and warranted.



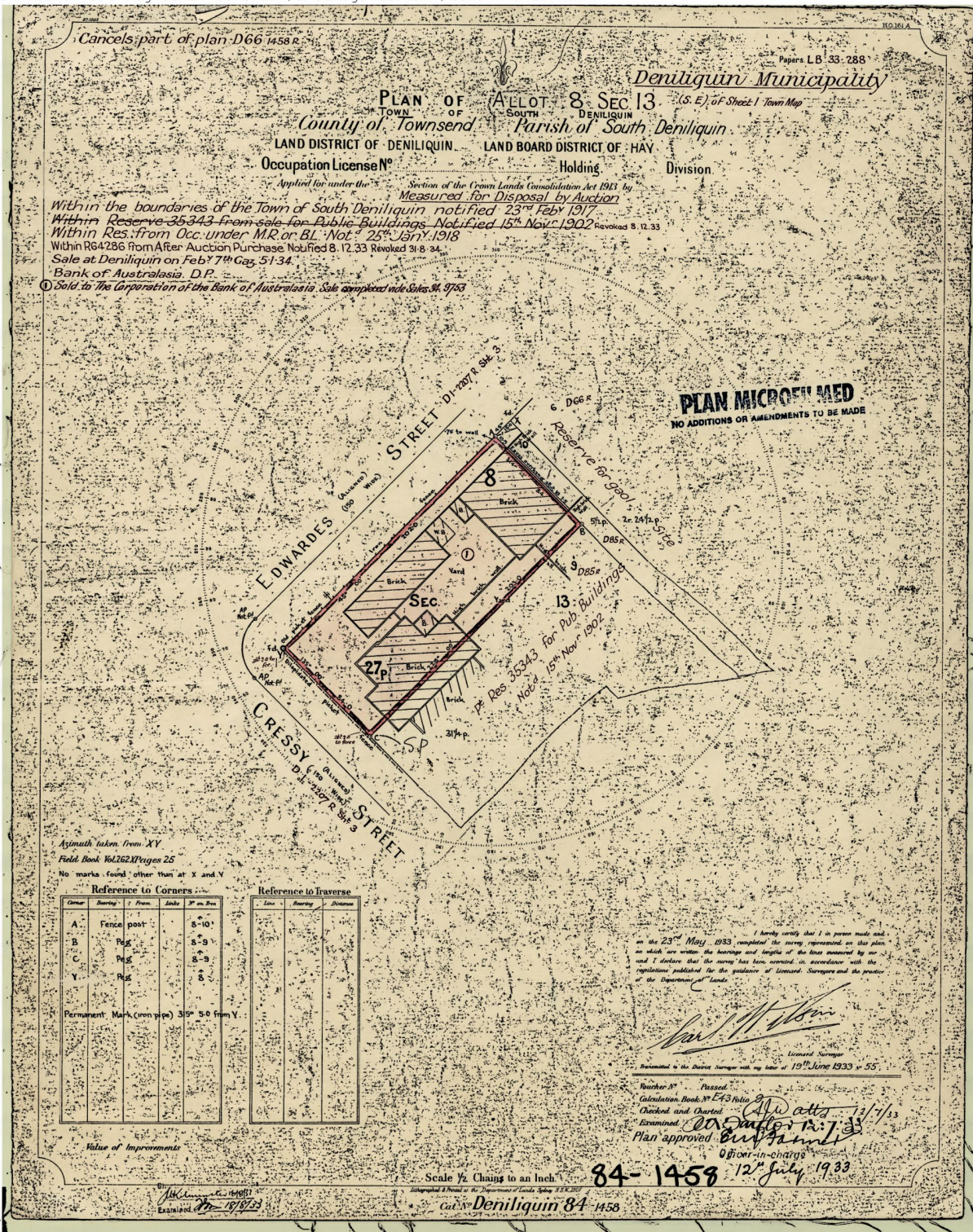
*Planning Report and
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APPENDIX A:

Title diagram

Development Application
Alterations and additions and change of use to residential dual occupancy –
225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin NSW (Lot 8, Section 13, DP758913)

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APPENDIX B:

Photographs of the Site and surrounding area

Development Application
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Photograph 1:

The Edwardes Street and Cressy Street frontages of the Site (looking east from the Edwardes Street and Cressy Street road intersection adjacent the Site).



Photograph 2:

The Edwardes Street frontage of the Site (looking southeast from the Edwardes Street and Cressy Street road intersection adjacent the Site).



Photograph 3:

The Edwardes Street frontage of the Site (looking east from the Edwardes Street and Cressy Street road intersection adjacent the Site).



Photograph 4:

The Edwardes Street frontage of the Site (looking northeast from the Edwardes Street and Cressy Street road intersection adjacent the Site).



Photograph 5:

The Cressy Street frontage of the Site (looking east from the Edwardes Street and Cressy Street road intersection adjacent the Site).



Photograph 6:

The Cressy Street frontage of the Site (looking southeast from the Edwardes Street and Cressy Street road intersection adjacent the Site).



Photograph 7:

The Edwardes Street frontage of the Site (looking northeast from the Edwardes Street and Cressy Street road intersection adjacent the Site).



Photograph 8:

The southeast lot boundary of the Site (looking northeast from Cressy Street adjacent the Site).



Photograph 9:

The Cressy Street frontage of the Site (looking northwest from Cressy Street adjacent the Site).



Photograph 10:
Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 11:
Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 12:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 13:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 14:

Existing building architectural features.



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Photograph 15:
Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 16:
Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 17:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 18:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 19:

Existing building architectural features.

Development Application

Alterations and additions and change of use to residential dual occupancy –
225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin NSW (Lot 8, Section 13, DP758913)

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Photograph 20:

The northeast lot boundary of the Site (looking southeast from Edwardes Street adjacent the Site).



Photograph 21:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 22:

The Edwardes Street frontage of the Site (looking southwest from Edwardes Street adjacent the Site).



Photograph 23:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 24:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 25:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 26:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 27:

Existing building architectural features.



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Photograph 28:
Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 29:

Existing building architectural features.



Photograph 30:

Existing building architectural features.



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APPENDIX C:

Heritage Impact Statement report

Development Application
Alterations and additions and change of use to residential dual occupancy –
225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin NSW (Lot 8, Section 13, DP758913)

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STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT



Development Application

Former ANZ Bank Item No. I13

No. 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin

October 2023 | J6390

**Weir
Phillips**
Heritage
and Planning

Level 19, 100 William Street, Sydney, NSW 2011
Phone: (02) 8076 5317

Report Preparation			
Principal	James Phillips B.Sc. (Arch.), B.Arch., M.Herit.Cons.(Hons)		
Senior Associate	Anna McLaurin B.Envs.(Arch.), M.Herit.Cons. MURP.		
Report Details			
Statement of heritage impact for:	Conversation of a historic bank into two apartments.		
Prepared For	Blueprint Planning		
Revisions			
Revision	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by
Draft 1	07.09.23	AM	JP
Final	03.10.23	AM	AM

We acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn and work as the traditional country of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge these traditional owners of this land and acknowledge their living cultures and the unique roles they have played in maintaining life, language, and culture in this region. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and all aboriginal people.

**Cover photo: Photo from the bank from the Cressy and Edwardes Street intersection.
Source: Supplied.**

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1 INTRODUCTION**1.1 Preamble**

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) accompanies Development Application (DA) for the site at No. 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin. The DA seeks consent for the conversion of the existing bank into two apartments.

The site is located within the Edward River Council Local Government Area. The principal planning control for the site is the *Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP 2013)*. The site, No. 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin is listed as a heritage item as 'Former ANZ Bank' by Schedule 5 Part 1 of the *LEP 2013* (Item No. I13). The site lies in the vicinity of other items listed by this Schedule, and items listed on the State Heritage Register under the auspices of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

Accordingly, under Part 5.10 of the *LEP 2013*:

(4) Effect of proposed development on heritage significance

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause in respect of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item or area concerned. This subclause applies regardless of whether a heritage management document is prepared under subclause (5) or a heritage conservation management plan is submitted under subclause (6).

(5) Heritage assessment

The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development:

- (a) on land on which a heritage item is located, or*
 - (b) on land that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
 - (c) on land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),*
- require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.*

In order to assess the potential impacts of the DA on heritage items, a heritage management document must be submitted with the DA. The appropriate heritage management document, in this instance, is a Heritage Impact Statement; and this document is submitted in satisfaction of this requirement.

Due to the current land zoning B2 Local Centre Zone lot under *Deniliquin LEP 2013* the attached dual occupancy is not permitted within this zone. Under the provisions of s.5.10.10 of the *Deniliquin LEP 2013* if the proposal facilitates the conservation of the item and as such Council has the authority to grant consent for the proposal that would otherwise not be allowed by this plan. As part of this requirement under 5.10.10(c) necessary conservation work is to be identified in the heritage management document. This document and accompany architectural plans satisfy this requirement.

This report has been prepared at the request of the owners and accompanies architectural drawings prepared by Precise Build.

1.2 Heritage listings

The following table addresses the relevant heritage listings for the site. For further information refer to Section 4.

Table 1: Statutory Heritage Listings

Listing Type	Item Name and Details	Listing Number
State Heritage Register under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW).	No	No
In the vicinity of items on the State Heritage Register under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW).	Yes	Yes
Listed as an item of local heritage significance by Schedule 5 of the Deniliquin LEP 2013	Former ANZ Bank	Yes. Item No. I1768
Located within the vicinity of local heritage items by Schedule 5 of Deniliquin LEP 2013	Yes.	Yes
Located within a heritage conservation area.	No Surrounded by Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area (C1)	No.

1.3 Methodology

A site inspection was undertaken in August 2023 for the preparation of this HIS by Weir Phillips Heritage and Planning. All photographs of the site were taken at this time unless otherwise noted.

This HIS has been prepared with reference to the Heritage NSW publications *Assessing Heritage Significance* (2023 update) and *Statements of Heritage Impact* (2023 update) and with reference to the planning documents listed under Section 8.2.

The historical information and assessments of significance contained in this HIS partly rely on existing studies (refer to Section 8.2 below). Acknowledgment of the authors of these studies is duly given.

1.4 Limitations

A detailed history of the site and a full assessment of significance to Heritage NSW standards were not provided with regards to the site. Section 3 of this HIS provides the established history and significance of the site. This was compiled from readily available sources.

An assessment of archaeological potential and archaeological significance, Aboriginal or historical, is outside the scope of this HIS.

Community consultation has not been undertaken as part of this Development Application.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Location

The site at No. 255 Cressy Street, Deniliquin is located within the town centre of Deniliquin, a town in the Riverina region of southern NSW.

The site is located north eastern corner of the Cressy Street and Edwardes Street intersection, with frontages to both streets. The site is legally known as Section 8 Lot 13 D.P. 521850

Figure 1 identifies the site.



Figure 1: The location of the subject site within the wider precinct.

SIX Maps 2023

2.2 The proposed works area

The below aerial photograph of the site indicates that most of the site is subject to the proposed works.



Figure 2: Location of proposed works.

2.3 General Setting

The area surrounding site is listed as the Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area. The DCP 2016. The DCP provides the following description of the area:

The streetscapes, views and setting of Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area are historically associated with the development of the commercial area of Deniliquin from late 19th Century until the early 20th Century which reached a peak during the 1920's.

Its town centre based around Cressy Street contains an impressive group of late Victorian civic and commercial buildings. They remain virtually intact and by virtue of their position in the town and street architectural qualities contribute significantly to the character of Deniliquin. These and other buildings in Napier Street make an important historic and urban design contribution to the town centre and Deniliquin's Heritage Conservation Area.¹

This statement is adopted for the purposes of this assessment.

2.4 The Site

The lot is rectangular in shape and is oriented to southwest to north east. The site occupies a corner block at the intersection of Cressy Street (primary frontage – western boundary) and

¹

Edwardes Street (secondary frontage – northern boundary). The rear frontage adjoins an open bitumen carpark (eastern boundary) and southern boundary adjoins the former State Bank Building. The overall site is generally flat with little to no cross slope.

The subject site contains two main building forms, being, the main former ANZ bank building and adjoining dwelling. There is a small rear yard to the east of the adjoining dwelling, which is fenced in by a Colourbond fence. There are no established trees or other gardens on site.



Figure 3: View of the rear yard.



Figure 4: View of the rear yard.

2.4.1 External envelope

2.4.1.1 Principal building form

The building presents as a two storey face brick and rendered Inter-war Classical style former Bank. The building has slate clad hip and valley roof hidden behind a corbelled parapet. The elevation fronting Cressy Street is symmetrically proportioned with two sets of multi-paned timber framed double hung sash windows across each level to either side of the central entry. The grand central entry is framed by a rendered portico and is accessed via a flight of three Trachyte steps which lead to a pair of decorative paneled timber double doors. Above the central entry is a recessed balcony supported by Ionic style rendered concrete columns.

The eastern elevation of the primary building has similar proportions to the Cressy Street elevations. At Ground Floor there are three multi-paned timber framed double hung sash windows with arched top lights. At First Floor are two smaller timber framed double hung sash windows to either side of a recessed balcony supported by Ionic style rendered concrete columns.

The rear elevation of the main building utilitarian in composition, with part of this section is connected to the secondary dwelling. There is a later double storey an addition to the rear of

the main section. At the upper levels there are timber framed double hung sash multi-paned windows with access to the rear via a timber door on the southern side.



Figure 5: View of the primary elevations from the intersection of Cressy Street and Edwardes Street.



Figure 6: View of the slate clad hip and valley roof taken via drone.



Figure 7: View of the primary elevation showing the grand central entry.



Figure 8: View of the secondary eastern elevation showing the rear of the primary building form.



Figure 9: View of the rear elevation providing access to the rear yard.



Figure 10: View of the wider rear elevation from Edwardes Street.

2.4.1.2 Secondary Dwelling

The secondary dwelling is attached to the eastern elevation of the main elevation. The dwelling is single storey and is constructed from face brick with a hipped slate clad roof. There are three face brick and rendered chimneys on each roof plane. The primary elevation is characterised by a curved half-moon flat roof veranda supported by the same concrete columns with Ionic capital. The front elevation has similar details to the former bank, with windows and doors in the same style. There is a small single car brick garage built to the street boundary on the eastern side of the dwelling.



Figure 11: View of the Edwardes Street elevation of the secondary dwelling.



Figure 12: View of the curved front verandah.



Figure 13: View of entry off the main building.



Figure 14: View of rear elevation of the dwelling.



Figure 15: View of the rear of the garages.

2.4.2 Interior

2.4.2.1 Ground Floor

The Ground Floor is best understood with reference to the following floor plans.



The Ground Floor layout of the main building is largely open plan with portioning removed at earlier dates. The flooring is timber with linoleum over the top. Some sections of the ceiling lining has been removed, exposing the timber roof structure. There appears to be some remnants of fireplaces, however most surrounds have been removed. There is a timber staircase with decorative balustrade and newel posts.



Figure 17: View of the open plan Ground Floor in the former banking chamber. Many of the original fixtures have been removed.



Figure 18: View of the Ground Floor former banking chambers.



Figure 19: View of the front doors from the interior.

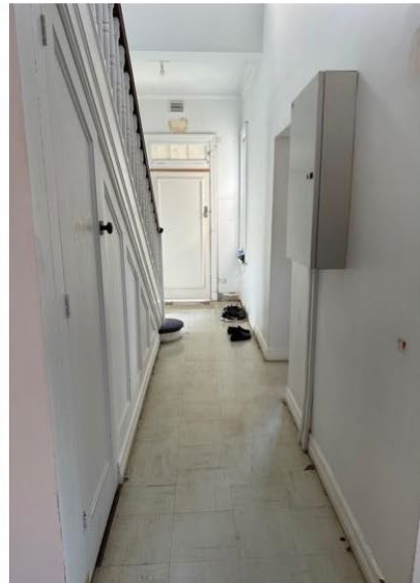


Figure 20: View of the corridor towards the secondary entrance off Edwardes Street.



Figure 21: View of the Staircase



Figure 22: View of the staircase leading to the First Floor.



Figure 23: View of the Ground Floor living room.

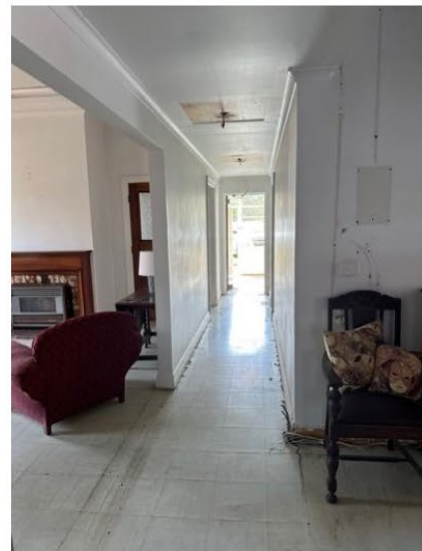


Figure 24: View of the corridor leading to the rear yard.

2.4.2.2 First Floor

The layout of the first floor is best understood with reference to the following floorplan.

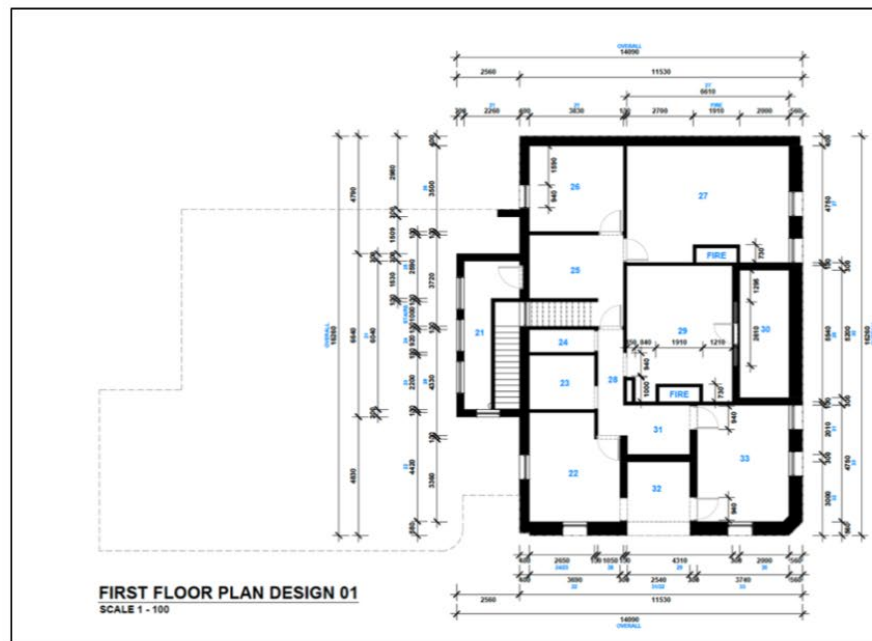


Figure 25: First Floor Plan.

The First Floor is divided up into several rooms which were originally used as bedrooms. Floors are timber with linoleum or carpet overlay. In the central room opening to the Cressy Street balcony there is a fireplace and with timber surround. Ceilings are simply detailed with a half moon cornice.



Figure 26: View of one of the former bedrooms.



Figure 27: View of the fireplace in the largest room.



Figure 28: View of the balcony on the Cressy Street.

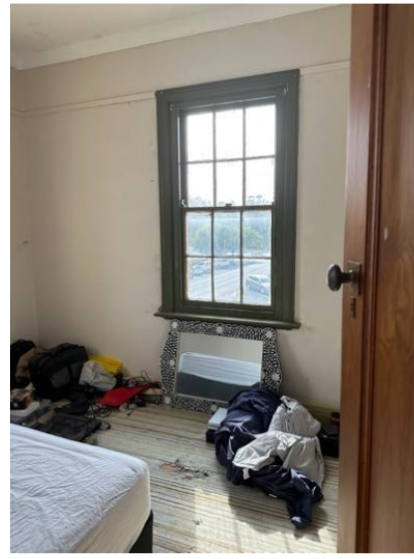


Figure 29: View of one of the former bedrooms.

3 HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

3.1 Aboriginal Background and Post-Contact History

The growth of Deniliquin as a township revolved around a crossing point situated on the Edward River. This river is situated within the territories of the Wamba Wamba and Perrepa Perrepa Nations. The traditional indigenous designation for the river is 'Kolety' (pronounced 'kol-etch'). The river acquired the name Edward in 1840 from 'overlanders' who were leading cattle en-route to Adelaide.

Numerous interpretations regarding the origins of the name 'Deniliquin' exist, although it is widely held that it stems from a modification of the name of a local Aboriginal Elder named 'Denilakoon'. This name was thought to signify 'big man' or 'Wrestler's Ground'.²

3.2 Development of the site

The town of Deniliquin was strategically founded at the confluence of major stock routes connecting the colonies of Queensland, New South Wales, and the gold rush hubs of Victoria. This positioning granted Deniliquin the status of a pivotal river crossing, prompting the construction of its first bridge over the Edward River in 1861. As the township developed there was an increasing need to oversee the enforcement of the law. The first courthouse completed in, October 1863, once stood at the crossroads of Edwardes and Cressy Streets. This courthouse was not designed as a permanent structure rather a provisional establishment designed to meet the needs of the era.

² Edward River Council (2021) Historic Deniliquin.



Figure 30: The original Courthouse on site during demolition.

Source: Edwards River Council

As part of this evolving infrastructure, the Deniliquin and Moama Railway Company undertook the construction of a private railway in 1879, creating a vital link to Moama, located across the Murray River from the bustling river port of Echuca, which was connected by rail to Melbourne.

With wool production emerging as a dominant industry, the Deniliquin region burgeoned with several Merino studs. The town's significance grew, and on December 19, 1868, Deniliquin was officially constituted as the Municipality of Deniliquin, culminating in its first municipal election on February 23, 1869. The subsequent passage of the Local Government Act (NSW) in 1993 led to the transition of the council's name from the Municipality of Deniliquin to the Deniliquin Council, reflecting evolving administrative dynamics.

The business core of Deniliquin originally gravitated around End Street, in proximity to coach stopping points. However, the arrival of trains in 1876 heralded a new era of prosperity along Cressy and Napier Streets, reinvigorating trade and urban activity.

By 1883, due to the increase in population, realisation of a new courthouse was already in motion. The chosen site for the new courthouse was intersection of Poitiers and Wellington Streets. The new courthouse didn't assume its operational role until 1889,, when completed the grand Neoclassical structure reflected the wealth of the township.



Figure 31: The newly completed Neoclassical designed Courthouse.

Source: Edwards River Council

The former courthouse, during the interim between its construction and eventual replacement, assumed diverse roles that mirrored the town's multifaceted character. It hosted the Country Women's Association (C.W.A), acting as a hub for meetings and discussions, while also accommodating the Conargo Shire Council's gatherings, serving as a suitable venue for civic assemblies.

A watershed moment arrived in 1934 when the Bank of Australasia (now ANZ Bank) acquired the site that once housed the old courthouse. This marked a shift in the site's utility, as it transitioned from a civic centre to a commercial domain. In 1935, the temporary courthouse was razed to make way for the construction of the Bank of Australasia. The Bank was designed by A. & K. Henderson and Partners in the Inter-war Free Classical Style.

A. & K. Henderson and Partners were a well-known architectural firm based in Melbourne. They focused on designing and building banks, hospitals, and other large commercial buildings in Australia and New Zealand. Some of their significant projects included the Bank of Australasia buildings in Melbourne and Brisbane, the Commercial Bank of Australia buildings in Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, and Hobart, as well as the National Bank of Australasia buildings in Melbourne and Brisbane. They also designed T. & G Society's buildings in cities across Australia and New Zealand, along with other notable structures in Melbourne and Sydney. The firm was also responsible for the Alfred Hospital and the first section of St. Andrew's Hospital in Melbourne, as well as hospitals in Geelong, Fairfield, Mooroopna, Orbost, and elsewhere.³

³ DEATH OF MR KINGSLEY HENDERSON" The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) 7 April 1942: 2. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8240831>>.



Figure 32: Photograph of newly completed bank in 1937 designed by A. & K. Henderson and Partners.

Source: Royal Institute of British Architects & Royal Victorian Institute of Architects. Vol. 35, No. 4 (September 1937) Journal of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Retrieved August 23, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-405875850>

The original configuration of the bank had the banking chamber, offices, and strong room on the Ground Floor of the principal building the dwelling to the rear and First Floor contained the bank managers residence. In the north western section of the building a separate tenancy with access via a second entrance off Cressy Street. This entry has now been bricked up and the internal wall has been demolished. To the rear an entry through the manager's office provided access to the residence. At Ground Floor there was a dining room, breakfast room, kitchen and laundry. The dining room opening onto the curved verandah facing Edwardes Street while a large enclosed verandah opened onto the rear yard.

The First Floor contained three bedrooms, a living room and a Maid's room. The balcony on the eastern elevation was also utilised as a sleep out. There were two fireplaces, one in the living room and one in the primary bedroom.

See Figure 33 and Figure 34.

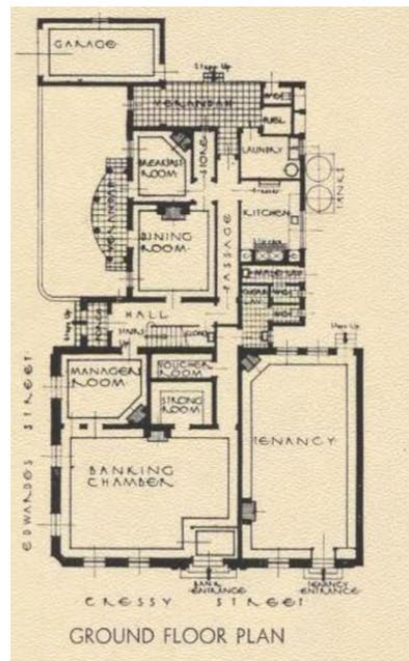


Figure 33: Plan of the original Ground Floor.



Figure 34: Plan of the First Floor.

In January 1976 major works were undertaken by ANZ Bank by Architects Joseland Gilling and Associates. By this time The Bank of Australasia had merged with the Union Bank of Australia to form the Australia and New Zealand Bank on 1 October 1951. These works included but were not limited to :

- Replacement of the separate tenancy entrance with a new window to match the existing windows.
- New larger windows introduced on the western elevation.
- Remove existing bank fittings.
- All Ground Floor Fire places and flues are demolished.
- Demolished all ceiling and replacement with new lighting and an evaporative cooling system.
- New bathrooms throughout.
- New vinyl laid throughout the site.
- A new landing constructed for the staircase.
- New timber paling fence and gate.

The plans below illustrate the changes.



Figure 35: Changes to the primary elevation at Cressy Street.



Figure 36: The Edwardes Street elevation with few changes.

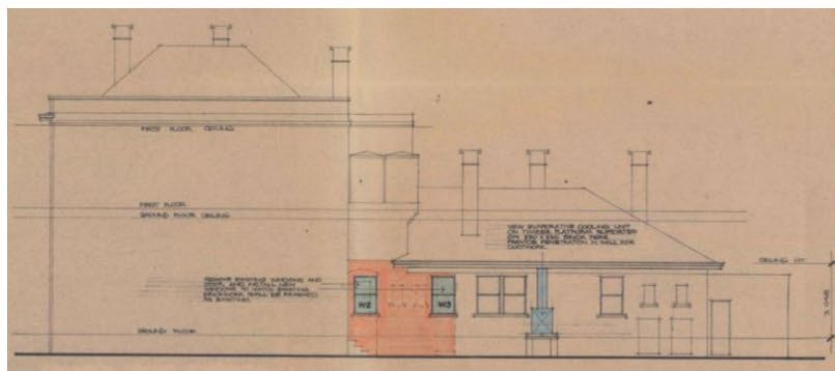


Figure 37: The western elevation showing changes to the windows.



Figure 38: The southern rear elevation showing the door bricked in.



Figure 39: Changes to the Ground Floor with new public counters, new teller units, and clerical areas.

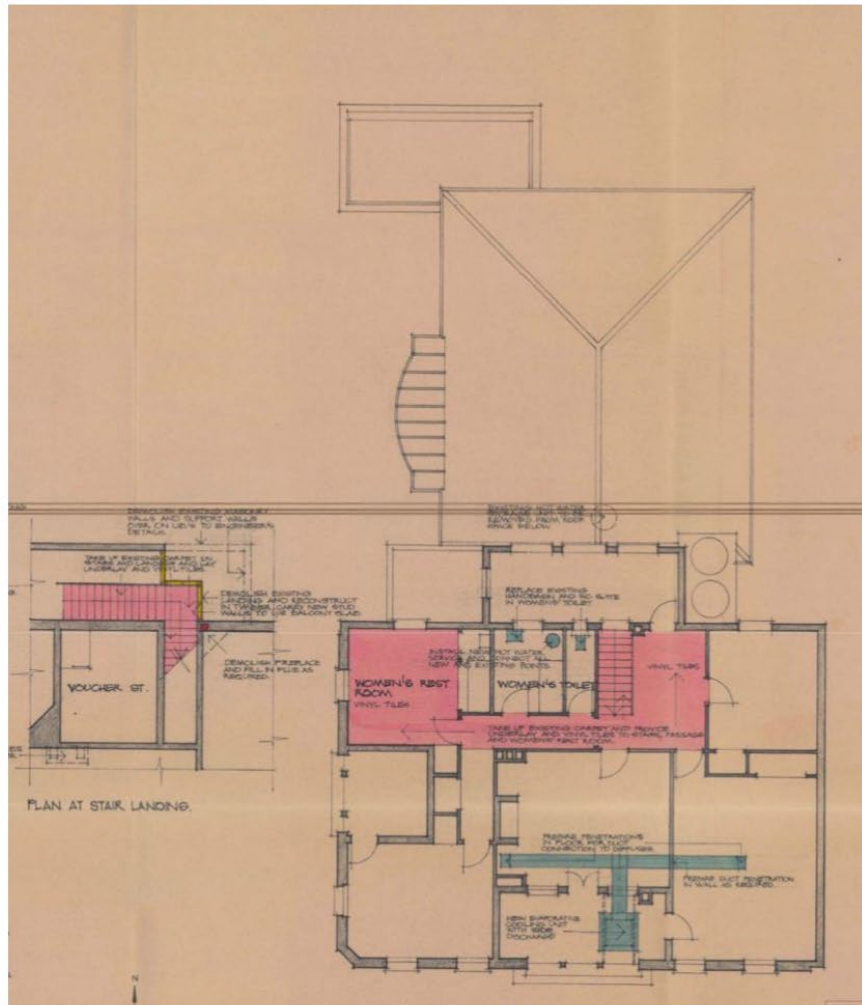


Figure 40: Changes to the First Floor, including changes to the stair landing and introduction of the new air conditioning system.

In 1996 the building was sold by ANZ for \$302,500.00. The building has changed hands several times since then and has had a variety of commercial uses.

4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Summary of Existing Citations and Listings for the Site

The following table addresses the relevant heritage listings for the site.

Table 2: Statutory Heritage Listings

Listing Type	Item Name and Details	Listing Number
State Heritage Register under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW).	No	No
In the vicinity of items on the State Heritage Register under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW).	Yes St Paul's Church and St Paul's Sunday School (Multi-Arts Centre)	SHR No. 00062
Listed as an item of local heritage significance by Schedule 5 of the Deniliquin LEP 2013	Former ANZ Bank	Yes. Item No. 11768
Located within the vicinity of local heritage items by Schedule 5 of Deniliquin LEP 2013	Yes.	Yes
Located within a heritage conservation area.	No Surrounded by Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area (C1)	No.

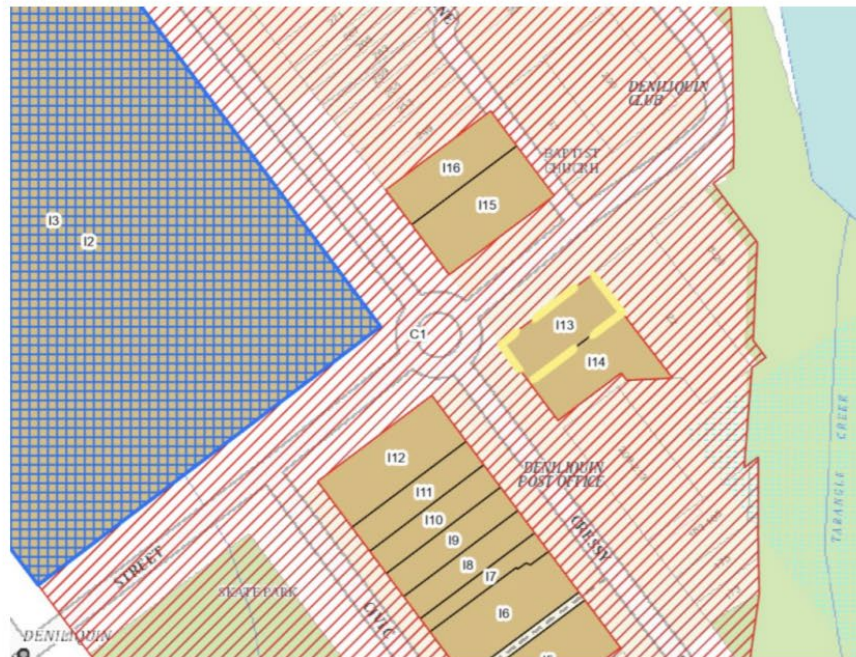


Figure 41: Detail, heritage map Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013.

The site is shown at centre right, hatched with yellow

BROWN - Local heritage items

BLUE - State heritage items

4.2 Additional information relating to the site's significance

4.2.1 Views

The site is located on a prominent corner in the Deniliquin CBD. The principal view corridors towards the site are obtained from both directions along both Cressy and Edwards Street. View corridors towards the Cressy Street is partially obscured by the bulk of the State Bank, adjoining the site to the south and street trees. The longer secondary elevation along Edwards Street is highly visible from the surrounding area. Views toward the rear of the site are partially obscured by boundary fence.



Figure 42: View of the site looking north along Cressy Street towards the site. Views are partially obscured by street trees.



Figure 43: View across the Edwardes/Cressy Street intersection towards the site. The Boer War Memorial is in the foreground.



Figure 44: Looking west along Edwardes Street towards the rear of the site.

4.2.2 Integrity

From the exterior of the building still exhibits a high degree of external integrity as an Inter-war era Free classical style bank. As outlined in the history of the site, the interiors of the building have undergone extensive renovations as a result of the bank refit in 1976. Much of the original interiors including ceilings, floors and other details such as fire places were removed. Much of the original floorplan is still discernible however, some walls have been removed. The below overlay of the original plans (black) and the latest floor plans (red) illustrate changes to the layout.

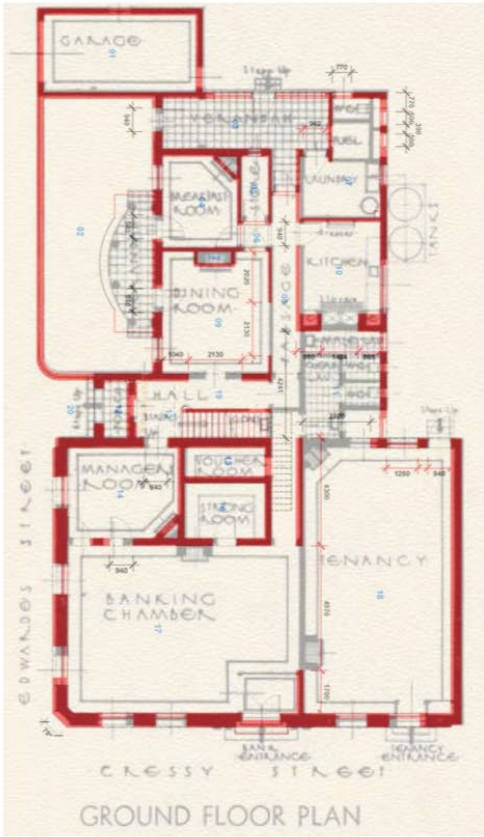


Figure 45: Changes to the Ground Floor.



Figure 46: Changes to the First Floor.

4.3 Statement of Significance

The following Statement of Significance for the site has been sourced from the NSW State Heritage Inventory.⁴

One of the finest Interwar Free Classical bank buildings with attached residence in NSW. One of four buildings on the intersection of Cressy and Edwardes Streets, which is one of the two intersections in Deniliquin which give the shopping centre its focus. This statement is adopted for the purposes of this assessment.

This statement is adopted for the purposes of this assessment.

4.4 Heritage Items in the Vicinity of the Site

4.4.1 Defining 'Vicinity'

There is no statutory definition of 'vicinity' in the context of heritage items. The concept of curtilage, however, is a related and useful concept that assists in understanding and assessing the impacts of development on nearby heritage items.

Considering the items around the subject site, listing sheets indicate that all have a heritage curtilage that is limited to their property boundary.

For the items near to the subject site, 'in the vicinity' has been determined with reference to physical proximity, existing and potential view corridors and the nature of the proposed works.

4.5 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

For the following, 'in the vicinity' has been determined by physical proximity to the site, existing and potential view corridors and the massing and scale of the proposed works.

Table 3: All heritage items within 100 metres of the site are shown in the table below.

Place ID	Name and Description	Address	Listing	Relationship to the site
Local and State Heritage items within 100m of subject site				
I14	Former State Bank	217-223 Cressy Street Deniliquin	Local	Adjoins the site to the south. Forms part of an impressive group of commercial buildings.
I15	Westpac Bank	233-239 Cressy Street Deniliquin	Local	Opposite the site to the north. Forms part of an impressive group

⁴ ANZ Bank | Heritage NSW . (2023). Retrieved 24 August 2023, from <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1500009>

Place ID	Name and Description	Address	Listing	Relationship to the site	
Local and State Heritage items within 100m of subject site					
				of commercial buildings.	
I2	00062	St Paul's Church and St Paul's Sunday School (Multi-Arts Centre)	46-58 Cressy Street Deniliquin	State	Located diagonally opposite the site. Forms part of its setting.
I4-I12		Shops	170-226 Cressy Street	Local	Located opposite the site, forms part of the commercial setting to the bank.

Other items greater than 100m away are not listed above, further information regarding their individual significance can be found on the NSW State Heritage Inventory.

5 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Scope of works

The following should be read in conjunction with the plans prepared by Precise Build. This includes:

- Undertake general restoration to the building, including reinstatement of original shutters on primary elevations.
- It is proposed to convert the existing commercial building into two apartments. One apartment will utilise the Ground Floor as one apartment and the First Floor as a second apartment with access via Edwardes Street entry.
- It is proposed to demolish the existing garage construct two rendered brick garages along the Edwardes Street.
- Construct a slightly higher boundary fence along Cressy Street to allow for increase privacy.
- Construct a new pool and associated landscaping in the rear yard.
- Ground Floor:
 - New kitchen/dining and living space within former banking chamber and separate tenancy.
 - The existing strong room will be utilised as a cellar.
 - The former managers office to be utilised as a study.
 - Three new bedrooms, bathroom and laundry.
- First Floor:
 - New living area within the former living area.
 - New kitchen and dining area in former bedroom and landing area.
 - Three new bedrooms in spaces of original bedrooms.
 - New Laundry in existing sunroom.

5.2 Method of Assessment

The following is a merit-based assessment. It does not consider compliance or otherwise with numerical controls unless non-compliance will result in an adverse heritage impact. Refer to the planning documents that accompany this application.

The proposal is assessed by consideration of:

- The relevant controls of the *Deniliquin LEP 2013*;
- The objectives and controls for new works to and in the vicinity of heritage items as per Deniliquin DCP 2016
- with an understanding of the requirements for Heritage Impact Statements provided by the Heritage NSW publication Statements of Heritage Impact (2023 update); and

6 EFFECT OF WORK

6.1 Matters for consideration

6.1.1 Fabric and spatial arrangements

The proposed conversion of the former bank into apartments will have a minor but acceptable impact on the significance of the former Bank for the following reasons:

- The proposal will undertake restoration works to the former Bank which will improve the contribution of the site to the wider locality but also ensure the building longevity into the future. The proposed reinstatement of the timber shutters on the primary elevation (see Figure 32 – a photograph of the site in 1932) will have the greatest impact in terms of the building's presentation to the primary elevation. The shutters will be painted in a sympathetic scheme, which are consistent with the Inter-war era character of the building. Other restoration works including repointing of brickwork, repainting of the rendered sections, repair of the roof and guttering will have a beneficial impact on the item as maintenance is an essential process in the retention of historic fabric.
- While the works involve alteration to the interior to facilitate this new use as demonstrated by the plans in Figure 35 to Figure 40 the bank refit in 1976 and subsequent internal works, removed almost all detail associated with A. & K. Henderson and Partners original design. Despite this, the original configuration of the former bank is still readily visible. As such, the design team has sought to work with the existing configuration of the former bank and retain as many of the original spaces as possible. This is demonstrated best on the Ground Floor where the original strong room will be utilised as a cellar, while the original bank managers office will be utilised as an office. To the rear of the dwelling, and at First Floor, the room configuration will remain essentially the same as the original Bank Managers residence, with bedrooms and living spaces proposed in their original position.
- The proposed introduction of items such as kitchens, new bathrooms and new bedrooms will not impact the integrity of the building as it much of the interior was removed in 1976 when the bank was refitted. In some areas, where the original timber flooring was covered over by linoleum, it is proposed to remove this covering and restore a timber finish.

- Where remaining fireplaces exist, they will be conserved in-situ and integrated into the new bedrooms.
- Entries to the both apartment will remain as per the via the existing bank entry off Cressy Street (Ground Floor Apartment) and via the doorway via Edwardes Street for the Second Floor apartment. This retains the spatial configuration of the former bank and managers residence.
- The proposed new garages are partially attached to former bank managers residence. This is consistent with the historic position of the garage. The garages will be rendered and painted to match the rendered and painted sections of the banks. This ensures they are integrated into the overall Edwardes Street composition of the building.

6.1.2 *Setting, views and vistas*

The proposed demolition of the garage and construction of two new rendered brick garages will have a limited visual impact on the significance of the former bank. The proposed garages will replace the original single car garage with two new brick garages. Their position away from the principal elevations, low scale and compatible brick materiality ensure that they do not detract from the more ornate facades of the former bank.

Outwardly the appearance of the bank, as part of the commercial centre of Deniliquin will remain and the building will continue to contribute to the historic streetscape.

6.1.3 *Use*

It is not feasible for the site to be utilised again as a bank. Many banks do not require brick and mortar stores due to the increased prevalence of online banking. The proposed new use as two separate apartments is compatible with existing fabric as the proposed new use requires very little change to the original configuration or remaining historic fabric.

6.1.4 *Conservation areas*

The impact on the Deniliquin Town Centre HCA is discussed in Section 6.1.6 below.

6.1.5 *Cumulative impacts*

The proposed adaptive reuse of the former bank does not form part of a wider proposal. Given the works are extensive, it is not anticipated any additional major works will be undertaken that could have an impact on the significance of the site.

6.2 **Effect of work on heritage items in the vicinity as per 11.2.4 Deniliquin DCP.**

Deniliquin DCP Control	Response
1. Providing an adequate area around the heritage item to allow its interpretation and respecting the views to and from the heritage item.	The only proposed external alterations are the construction of the two new garages and new wall along the secondary elevation of the site at Edwardes Street. The proposed heritage items surrounding the site are oriented to Cressy Street, as

	such the proposed addition will not detract from or obscure views from these items.
2. Development in the vicinity of listed heritage items shall respect and complement the built form character of those items in terms of scale, setback, siting, external materials, finishes and colour.	The proposed garages are respectful and complementary to the heritage items in the vicinity. Their position away from the primary view corridors of the items, low scale and compatible rendered materiality ensure that they do not detract from the more ornate facades of the items.
3. New development shall have regard to the established siting patterns of the locality.	The proposed garages are located to the rear of the site and along the site boundary. This is consistent with the established street wall height of the commercial area.
4. New development should generally be set back from the line of the adjoining or adjacent heritage item.	The proposed garages are located to the rear of the site away from the primary elevation of the heritage items.
5. The sensitive selection of materials, colours and finishes is important in terms of achieving compatibility with the heritage items.	The proposed garages will be constructed of rendered brickwork painted in the same colour as the rendered details of the former bank. This complements the materiality of the historic precinct.
6. Height and scale of new buildings shall not obscure or dominate an adjoining or adjacent heritage item.	The garages are single story and do not dominate the primarily two storey heritage items in the vicinity.
7. Development in the vicinity of a heritage item may be contemporary in design, however discussion with Council's Heritage Advisor is recommended prior to preparing a Development Application.	No pre-lodgement has been undertaken. It should be noted that all external details are traditional in style and will not have prominence in the wider locality.

6.3 Assessment against 11.3.4 Alterations, Additions & Infill Development

Deniliquin DCP Control	Response
1. Retain original elements and features, including features that are above awning level.	Original external features of the former bank are retained and conserved.
2. Where original shopfronts, verandahs or awnings have been altered, the replacement is to be based on historic information	The proposal will reinstate the replica timber shutters on the primary elevations of the building as seen in Figure 32 – a photograph of the site in 1932. The shutters will be painted “Eau de nil” a green

and/or the interpretation of period details.	colour, which is a traditional Inter-war era colour scheme.
3. Infilling original verandahs is not supported.	No verandahs are proposed to be infilled.
4. Additional storeys can be considered if set well behind the front building line and designed to not impact detrimentally on the contribution of the original facade to the streetscape.	No additional storeys are proposed.
5. Service elements (solar panels, solar heating, antennas, satellite dishes and air conditioning units) to be placed to the rear of the properties, preferably not visible from the street, or on rear outbuildings.	All services will be located to the rear of the building and will generally be obscured from the public domain.
6. Rendering or painting face brick is generally not supported.	No rendering or painting of brickwork is proposed.

6.4 5.10.10 Deniliquin LEP 2013

(10) Conservation incentives	
<i>The consent authority may grant consent to development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item or of the land on which such a building is erected, or for any purpose on an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed by this Plan, if the consent authority is satisfied that—</i>	
<i>a) the conservation of the heritage item or Aboriginal place of heritage significance is facilitated by the granting of consent, and</i>	The existing heritage item will be conserved as part of this proposal. Original details such as the timber shutters on the primary elevations will be reinstated. General restoration works, such as repointing brickwork, repainting, and general maintenance of the building will be undertaken as part of the DA.
<i>b) the proposed development is in accordance with a heritage management document that has been approved by the consent authority, and</i>	The proposed development is in accordance with the accompanying architectural plans which specify the conservation works.
<i>c) the consent to the proposed development would require that all necessary conservation</i>	It is proposed to carry out all of the conservation work as part of this consent.

<i>work identified in the heritage management document is carried out, and</i>	
<i>d) the proposed development would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, including its setting, or the heritage significance of the Aboriginal place of heritage significance, and</i>	The proposal will not adversely impact the heritage significance of the item. The conversion of the site into a dual occupancy is sensitive to the remaining heritage fabric and results in a sympathetic new use that conserves the former bank. The design of the new dwelling has been designed in consultation with Weir Phillips Heritage and Planning to minimise the heritage impact on the item.
<i>e) the proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area.</i>	The proposed attached dual occupancy for residential use will not be readily discernible from the surrounding area as the works are largely contained within the existing footprint of the former bank.

7 SUMMARY

This Heritage Impact Statement has considered the history and established the significance of the site at former ANZ Bank at No. 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin. The design by plans prepared by Precise Build provide for an appropriate adaptive reuse of the former bank.

Although much of the original detail from A. & K. Henderson and Partners' design was lost in the 1976 bank refit, the original layout remains recognizable. The design team aims to work within the existing framework, preserving original spaces, notably repurposing the strong room as a cellar and the bank manager's office as an office.

The introduction of new elements like kitchens and bathrooms will not compromise the building's integrity, as the interior was extensively modified in the past. Remaining fireplaces will be conserved, and original entries will be maintained for both apartments. The addition of two new brick garages, while replacing an older one, will be sympathetic with the building aesthetics without detracting from its historic significance. The bank's outward appearance will endure as part of Deniliquin's historic centre, contributing to its streetscape. Considering the shift in banking trends, repurposing the site as apartments aligns well with the existing fabric and minimal intervention is needed to adapt the space.

The proposed works will have no impact on heritage items in the vicinity or the wider Deniliquin Town Centre Heritage Conservation Area. The site complies with the relevant Heritage Conservation Controls in the Deniliquin DCP. The proposal is a valid use of the Conservation Incentive Clause (5.10.10) of the LEP in that it facilitates a stable and long-term conservation of the Heritage item while providing it with an appropriate ongoing use. This outcome satisfies the conditions of the Clause and its intent to provide conservation incentive.

8 REFERENCES AND DEFINITIONS (relocated from Section 1)

8.1 Definitions

Term	Meaning
Consent authority	The person or body with whose approval that act, matter or thing may be done or without whose approval that act, matter or thing may not be done.
Conservation	Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance (as defined in <i>The Burra Charter</i>).
Development	The erection of a building, carrying out work, use of or subdivision of land.
Heritage significance	Term used in the assessment and understanding of heritage items that have significance in relation to their historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value.
Moveable heritage	A moveable object that is not a relic.
<i>National construction code</i>	A code that sets minimum requirements for design, construction and performance of buildings, as well as plumbing and drainage systems throughout Australia.
Relic	Any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that is of state or local heritage significance.
Setting	The area around an item, which may include the visual catchment.
State Heritage Inventory	An online database containing heritage items and conservation areas on statutory lists in NSW. This includes the State Heritage Register and local government items.
State Heritage Register	The NSW State Heritage Register. A list of places and items of importance to the people of NSW. Only places of state heritage significance are listed on the State Heritage Register. The State Heritage Register protects these items and their significance.
State Heritage Register item	A term to describe a heritage item that is of state heritage significance and is listed on the State Heritage Register.

8.2 Documentary Evidence

8.2.1 General References

8.2.1.1 Guidelines

Australia ICOMOS Inc (2013a) 'The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance', Australian ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Inc, Burwood, accessed 9 June 2023.

Australia ICOMOS Inc (2013b) 'Burra Charter article 22 — new work', practice note, Australian ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Inc, Burwood, accessed 9 June 2023.

Heritage NSW (2019) Subdivision and NSW State Heritage Register items policy and procedure, Heritage NSW, NSW Government, accessed 9 June 2023.

Heritage NSW (2020) Material threshold policy, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Government, accessed 9 June 2023.

DPE (Department of Planning and Environment) (2023) Assessing heritage significance, DPE, NSW Government, accessed 9 June 2023.

8.2.1.2 Published Material:

Royal Institute of British Architects & Royal Victorian Institute of Architects. Vol. 35, No. 4 (September 1937) Journal of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Retrieved August 23, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-405875850>

The Grenfell Record and Lachlan District Advertiser. "TWO BANKS IN MERGER". Vol. 84, no. 151. New South Wales, Australia. 4 October 1951. p. 6. Retrieved 25 November 2018 – via National Library of Australia.

Edwards River Shire Council, *Historic Deniliquin Walking Tour* Pamphlet, July 2021.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) Death of Mr Kingsley Henderson 7 April 1942: 2. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8240831>>.

8.2.1.3 Planning Documents

- *NSW Heritage Act 1977.*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*
- Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval, 2009.
- *Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013.*



*Planning Report and
Statement of Environmental Effects*

APPENDIX D:

Bushfire Assessment report

Development Application
Alterations and additions and change of use to residential dual occupancy –
225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin NSW (Lot 8, Section 13, DP758913)

| 55

TEAR OUT AND ATTACH THIS BUSH FIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT WITH YOUR APPLICATION TO COUNCIL

SECTION TWO

BUSH FIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART A: Property details

Applicant name: Blueprint Planning

Contact phone numbers Home: 0260236844 Mobile:

Council: Edward River

Council reference (if known):

Lot: Lot 8, Section 13

DP: DP758913

Address to be developed: 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin NSW

My property is on Bush Fire Prone Land: Yes ☒ No ☐

PART B: Type of proposal

Type of Proposal: Alterations and additions and change of use from commercial premises to residential dual occ.

New Building ☐ Urban ☒ Isolated Rural ☐ Rural Residential ☐

Alteration/Additions to an existing building ☒

Proposal Description: e.g. two storey house with attached

One to two-storey residential dual occupancy, double garage and swimming pool

Copy of plans attached: Yes ☒ No ☐



PART C: Bush fire attack and level of construction

Step 1

Assess the vegetation hazard in all directions

Category	North	East	South	West
Keith vegetation group	Rainforest	Rainforest	Rainforest	Rainforest
	Forest	Forest	Forest	Forest
	Grassy and Semi-Arid Woodland	Woodland	Woodland	Woodland
	Forested Wetland	Forested Wetland	Forested Wetland	Forested Wetland
	Tall Heath	Tall Heath	Tall Heath	Tall Heath
	Short Heath	Short Heath	Short Heath	Short Heath
	Arid-Shrubland	Arid-Shrubland	Arid-Shrubland	Arid-Shrubland
	Freshwater Wetlands	Freshwater Wetlands	Freshwater Wetlands	Freshwater Wetlands
	Grasslands	Grasslands	Grasslands	Grasslands
	Managed Land	Managed Land	Managed Land	Managed Land

Copy of any relevant photos attached: Yes ☒ No ☐

Step 2

Determine the distance from the building to the bush fire vegetation hazard

Aspect	North	East	South	West
Distance	...N/A... m	<100m (~50m) m	...N/A... m	...N/A... m

Step 3

Determine the effective slope that will influence bush fire behaviour in each direction

Category	North	East	South	West
Slope under the hazard (over 100m) [in degrees]	upslope/flat	upslope/flat	upslope/flat	upslope/flat
	>0 to 5	>0 to 5	>0 to 5	>0 to 5
	>5 to 10	>5 to 10	>5 to 10	>5 to 10
	>10 to 15	>10 to 15	>10 to 15	>10 to 15
	>15 to 20	>15 to 20	>15 to 20	>15 to 20

Step 4

Determine the FFDI that applies to your local government area. Circle the relevant FFDI below

FFDI: 100 ☐ 80 ☒

Step 5

Match the relevant FFDI, vegetation, distance and slope to determine the required BAL.

Identify the BAL for each direction, select the highest level for the entire building and record below. Note BAL-12.5 is the lowest construction level within the scope of AS3959-2018.

Bush Fire Attack Level: BAL- FZ ☐ BAL- 29 ☐ BAL-12.5 ☒
BAL- 40 ☐ BAL-19 ☐ No requirement ☐

Step 6

Determining BAL construction requirements

Once the appropriate BAL has been determined in Step 5, AS3959-2018 and or/ the NASH Standard 2014 will be used to determine the construction requirements for the proposed design.

Does your proposal meet the construction requirements for the BALs required as per AS3959-2018 and the NASH Standard (2014):

Yes ☒ No ☐

Grassland Deeming Provisions Assessment N/A

This assessment is only required where the deeming provisions are to be used. Where the deeming provisions are not to be used, previous Steps 1 to 6 in Part C must be applied. Tick which box below applies to individual circumstances:

- ☐ An APZ of 50m or more can be provided – this can be considered to meet PBP 2019, no further bush fire protection measures are required
- ☐ An APZ of 20-49m can be provided – comply with Grassland Deeming Provisions requirements in the following Table
- ☐ An APZ of less than 20m is provided or the standard assessment process is proposed - use the assessment process identified in Steps 1 to 6 above

Grassland Deeming Provisions

BUSH FIRE PROTECTION MEASURE	GRASSLAND DEEMING PROVISIONS
APZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ limited to a maximum of 15 degrees downslope; ➤ minimum APZ of 20m is provided between the building and unmanaged grass; ➤ the APZ is wholly within the boundaries of the development site; and ➤ the APZ is maintained as a mown area with grass heights less than 100mm.
Construction	➤ construction in accordance with BAL-12.5 of AS3959-2018 and any additional construction requirements in PBP 2019.
Access	➤ comply with the property access provisions in Part G.
Water supply	➤ comply with the water supply provisions in Part E.
Landscaping	➤ comply with the relevant provisions in Appendix 4 of PBP 2019, noting that other vegetation bush fire hazards cannot be present if these provisions are to apply.



PART D: Flame zone

Provide details and justification for any additional bush fire protection measures required for a performance based solution.

PART E: Water supplies

Does your property have a reticulated water supply?; If so, please provide details on the distance to the nearest fire hydrant on your site plan.

Reticulated water supply is available: Yes ☒ No ☐

Distance<90m..... (m) to hydrant from house.

Do you have or do you plan to have a dedicated water supply for firefighting purposes?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Development Type	Water Requirement	Planned	Existing
Residential Lots (<1,000m ²)	5,000 l/lot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rural-residential Lots (1,000 – 10,000m ²) <1 ha	10,000 l/lot		
Large Rural/Lifestyle Lots (>10,000m ²) >1 ha	20,000 l/lot		
Townhouse/Unit Style (e.g. Flats including Dual Occupancy)	5,000 l/unit up to 20,000l maximum.		

Do you have or do you plan to have a static water supply (e.g. pool, tank or dam)?

Include approximate size in litres and also include tank material if using a tank:

Water supply type	Capacity	Construction material	Planned	Existing
e.g. pool	50,000l	Above ground rolled steel with plastic liner		
Swimming pool	18,000L	In-ground fibreglass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

NOTE: Check with your local council concerning their Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or their Development Control Plan (DCP) as this may dictate the type and size of tank.

PART F: Gas supplies

Do you have reticulated or bottled gas?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Type of gas:

Reticulated gas:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Bottled gas:

Yes ☐ No ☐

NOTE: When attaching development plans please ensure they clearly show location and details of electricity and gas (where relevant) on your property.

Part G: Access

Does the development proposal meet the requirements as defined in this document?

Yes ☒ No ☐

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT



Development Application

Former ANZ Bank Item No. I13

No. 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin

October 2023 | J6390

**Weir
Phillips**
Heritage
and Planning

Level 19, 100 William Street, Sydney, NSW 2011
Phone: (02) 8076 5317

Report Preparation			
Principal	James Phillips B.Sc. (Arch.), B.Arch., M.Herit.Cons.(Hons)		
Senior Associate	Anna McLaurin B.Envs.(Arch.), M.Herit.Cons. MURP.		
Report Details			
Statement of heritage impact for:	Conversation of a historic bank into two apartments.		
Prepared For	Blueprint Planning		
Revisions			
Revision	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by
Draft 1	07.09.23	AM	JP
Final	03.10.23	AM	AM

We acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn and work as the traditional country of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge these traditional owners of this land and acknowledge their living cultures and the unique roles they have played in maintaining life, language, and culture in this region. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and all aboriginal people.

**Cover photo: Photo from the bank from the Cressy and Edwardes Street intersection.
Source: Supplied.**

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1 INTRODUCTION**1.1 Preamble**

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) accompanies Development Application (DA) for the site at No. 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin. The DA seeks consent for the conversion of the existing bank into two apartments.

The site is located within the Edward River Council Local Government Area. The principal planning control for the site is the *Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP 2013)*. The site, No. 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin is listed as a heritage item as 'Former ANZ Bank' by Schedule 5 Part 1 of the *LEP 2013* (Item No. I13). The site lies in the vicinity of other items listed by this Schedule, and items listed on the State Heritage Register under the auspices of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

Accordingly, under Part 5.10 of the *LEP 2013*:

(4) Effect of proposed development on heritage significance

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause in respect of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item or area concerned. This subclause applies regardless of whether a heritage management document is prepared under subclause (5) or a heritage conservation management plan is submitted under subclause (6).

(5) Heritage assessment

The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development:

- (a) on land on which a heritage item is located, or*
 - (b) on land that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
 - (c) on land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),*
- require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.*

In order to assess the potential impacts of the DA on heritage items, a heritage management document must be submitted with the DA. The appropriate heritage management document, in this instance, is a Heritage Impact Statement; and this document is submitted in satisfaction of this requirement.

Due to the current land zoning B2 Local Centre Zone lot under *Deniliquin LEP 2013* the attached dual occupancy is not permitted within this zone. Under the provisions of s.5.10.10 of the *Deniliquin LEP 2013* if the proposal facilitates the conservation of the item and as such Council has the authority to grant consent for the proposal that would otherwise not be allowed by this plan. As part of this requirement under 5.10.10(c) necessary conservation work is to be identified in the heritage management document. This document and accompany architectural plans satisfy this requirement.

This report has been prepared at the request of the owners and accompanies architectural drawings prepared by Precise Build.

1.2 Heritage listings

The following table addresses the relevant heritage listings for the site. For further information refer to Section 4.

Table 1: Statutory Heritage Listings

Listing Type	Item Name and Details	Listing Number
State Heritage Register under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW).	No	No
In the vicinity of items on the State Heritage Register under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW).	Yes	Yes
Listed as an item of local heritage significance by Schedule 5 of the Deniliquin LEP 2013	Former ANZ Bank	Yes. Item No. I1768
Located within the vicinity of local heritage items by Schedule 5 of Deniliquin LEP 2013	Yes.	Yes
Located within a heritage conservation area.	No Surrounded by Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area (C1)	No.

1.3 Methodology

A site inspection was undertaken in August 2023 for the preparation of this HIS by Weir Phillips Heritage and Planning. All photographs of the site were taken at this time unless otherwise noted.

This HIS has been prepared with reference to the Heritage NSW publications *Assessing Heritage Significance* (2023 update) and *Statements of Heritage Impact* (2023 update) and with reference to the planning documents listed under Section 8.2.

The historical information and assessments of significance contained in this HIS partly rely on existing studies (refer to Section 8.2 below). Acknowledgment of the authors of these studies is duly given.

1.4 Limitations

A detailed history of the site and a full assessment of significance to Heritage NSW standards were not provided with regards to the site. Section 3 of this HIS provides the established history and significance of the site. This was compiled from readily available sources.

An assessment of archaeological potential and archaeological significance, Aboriginal or historical, is outside the scope of this HIS.

Community consultation has not been undertaken as part of this Development Application.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Location

The site at No. 255 Cressy Street, Deniliquin is located within the town centre of Deniliquin, a town in the Riverina region of southern NSW.

The site is located north eastern corner of the Cressy Street and Edwardes Street intersection, with frontages to both streets. The site is legally known as Section 8 Lot 13 D.P. 521850

Figure 1 identifies the site.



Figure 1: The location of the subject site within the wider precinct.

SIX Maps 2023

2.2 The proposed works area

The below aerial photograph of the site indicates that most of the site is subject to the proposed works.



Figure 2: Location of proposed works.

2.3 General Setting

The area surrounding site is listed as the Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area. The DCP 2016. The DCP provides the following description of the area:

The streetscapes, views and setting of Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area are historically associated with the development of the commercial area of Deniliquin from late 19th Century until the early 20th Century which reached a peak during the 1920's.

Its town centre based around Cressy Street contains an impressive group of late Victorian civic and commercial buildings. They remain virtually intact and by virtue of their position in the town and street architectural qualities contribute significantly to the character of Deniliquin. These and other buildings in Napier Street make an important historic and urban design contribution to the town centre and Deniliquin's Heritage Conservation Area.¹

This statement is adopted for the purposes of this assessment.

2.4 The Site

The lot is rectangular in shape and is oriented to southwest to north east. The site occupies a corner block at the intersection of Cressy Street (primary frontage – western boundary) and

¹

Edwardes Street (secondary frontage – northern boundary). The rear frontage adjoins an open bitumen carpark (eastern boundary) and southern boundary adjoins the former State Bank Building. The overall site is generally flat with little to no cross slope.

The subject site contains two main building forms, being, the main former ANZ bank building and adjoining dwelling. There is a small rear yard to the east of the adjoining dwelling, which is fenced in by a Colourbond fence. There are no established trees or other gardens on site.



Figure 3: View of the rear yard.



Figure 4: View of the rear yard.

2.4.1 External envelope

2.4.1.1 Principal building form

The building presents as a two storey face brick and rendered Inter-war Classical style former Bank. The building has slate clad hip and valley roof hidden behind a corbelled parapet. The elevation fronting Cressy Street is symmetrically proportioned with two sets of multi-paned timber framed double hung sash windows across each level to either side of the central entry. The grand central entry is framed by a rendered portico and is accessed via a flight of three Trachyte steps which lead to a pair of decorative paneled timber double doors. Above the central entry is a recessed balcony supported by Ionic style rendered concrete columns.

The eastern elevation of the primary building has similar proportions to the Cressy Street elevations. At Ground Floor there are three multi-paned timber framed double hung sash windows with arched top lights. At First Floor are two smaller timber framed double hung sash windows to either side of a recessed balcony supported by Ionic style rendered concrete columns.

The rear elevation of the main building utilitarian in composition, with part of this section is connected to the secondary dwelling. There is a later double storey an addition to the rear of

the main section. At the upper levels there are timber framed double hung sash multi-paned windows with access to the rear via a timber door on the southern side.



Figure 5: View of the primary elevations from the intersection of Cressy Street and Edwardes Street.



Figure 6: View of the slate clad hip and valley roof taken via drone.



Figure 7: View of the primary elevation showing the grand central entry.

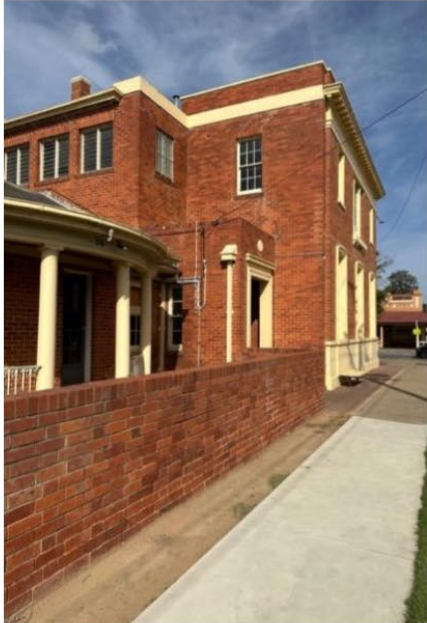


Figure 8: View of the secondary eastern elevation showing the rear of the primary building form.



Figure 9: View of the rear elevation providing access to the rear yard.



Figure 10: View of the wider rear elevation from Edwardes Street.

2.4.1.2 Secondary Dwelling

The secondary dwelling is attached to the eastern elevation of the main elevation. The dwelling is single storey and is constructed from face brick with a hipped slate clad roof. There are three face brick and rendered chimneys on each roof plane. The primary elevation is characterised by a curved half-moon flat roof veranda supported by the same concrete columns with Ionic capital. The front elevation has similar details to the former bank, with windows and doors in the same style. There is a small single car brick garage built to the street boundary on the eastern side of the dwelling.



Figure 11: View of the Edwardes Street elevation of the secondary dwelling.



Figure 12: View of the curved front verandah.



Figure 13: View of entry off the main building.



Figure 14: View of rear elevation of the dwelling.

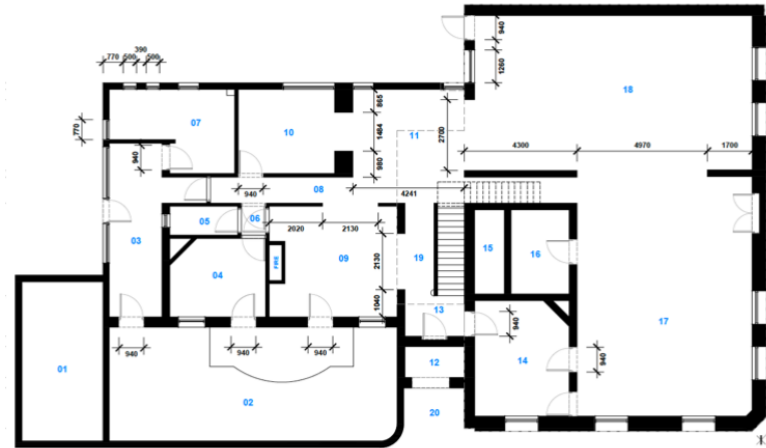


Figure 15: View of the rear of the garages.

2.4.2 Interior

2.4.2.1 Ground Floor

The Ground Floor is best understood with reference to the following floor plans.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN DESIGN 01
SCALE 1 : 100

Figure 16: The existing Ground Floor Plan.

The Ground Floor layout of the main building is largely open plan with portioning removed at earlier dates. The flooring is timber with linoleum over the top. Some sections of the ceiling lining has been removed, exposing the timber roof structure. There appears to be some remnants of fireplaces, however most surrounds have been removed. There is a timber staircase with decorative balustrade and newel posts.



Figure 17: View of the open plan Ground Floor in the former banking chamber. Many of the original fixtures have been removed.



Figure 18: View of the Ground Floor former banking chambers.



Figure 19: View of the front doors from the interior.



Figure 20: View of the corridor towards the secondary entrance off Edwardes Street.



Figure 21: View of the Staircase

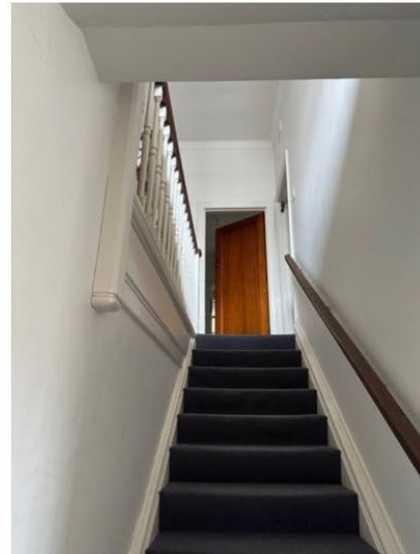


Figure 22: View of the staircase leading to the First Floor.



Figure 23: View of the Ground Floor living room.

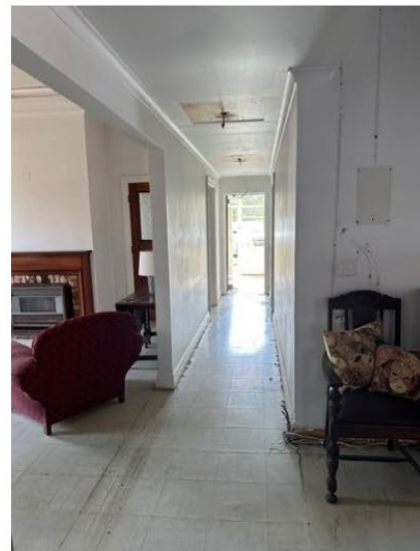


Figure 24: View of the corridor leading to the rear yard.

2.4.2.2 First Floor

The layout of the first floor is best understood with reference to the following floorplan.

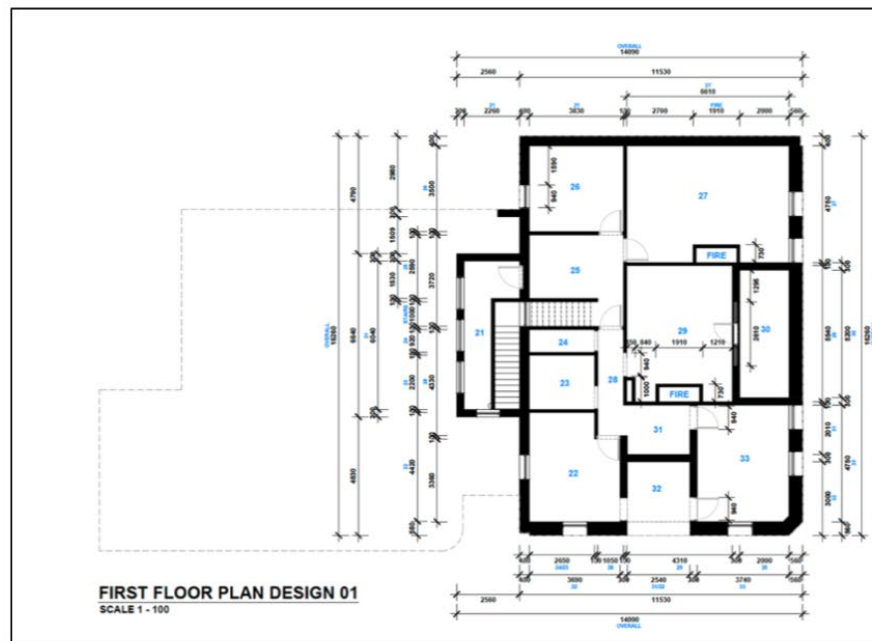


Figure 25: First Floor Plan.

The First Floor is divided up into several rooms which were originally used as bedrooms. Floors are timber with linoleum or carpet overlay. In the central room opening to the Cressy Street balcony there is a fireplace and with timber surround. Ceilings are simply detailed with a half moon cornice.



Figure 26: View of one of the former bedrooms.



Figure 27: View of the fireplace in the largest room.



Figure 28: View of the balcony on the Cressy Street.

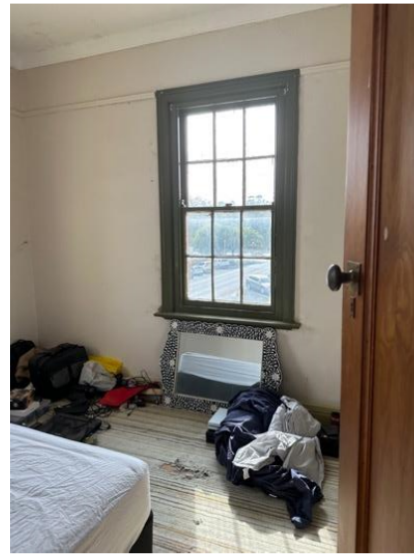


Figure 29: View of one of the former bedrooms.

3 HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

3.1 Aboriginal Background and Post-Contact History

The growth of Deniliquin as a township revolved around a crossing point situated on the Edward River. This river is situated within the territories of the Wamba Wamba and Perrepa Perrepa Nations. The traditional indigenous designation for the river is 'Kolety' (pronounced 'kol-etch'). The river acquired the name Edward in 1840 from 'overlanders' who were leading cattle en-route to Adelaide.

Numerous interpretations regarding the origins of the name 'Deniliquin' exist, although it is widely held that it stems from a modification of the name of a local Aboriginal Elder named 'Denilakoon'. This name was thought to signify 'big man' or 'Wrestler's Ground'.²

3.2 Development of the site

The town of Deniliquin was strategically founded at the confluence of major stock routes connecting the colonies of Queensland, New South Wales, and the gold rush hubs of Victoria. This positioning granted Deniliquin the status of a pivotal river crossing, prompting the construction of its first bridge over the Edward River in 1861. As the township developed there was an increasing need to oversee the enforcement of the law. The first courthouse completed in, October 1863, once stood at the crossroads of Edwardes and Cressy Streets. This courthouse was not designed as a permanent structure rather a provisional establishment designed to meet the needs of the era.

² Edward River Council (2021) Historic Deniliquin.



Figure 30: The original Courthouse on site during demolition.

Source: Edwards River Council

As part of this evolving infrastructure, the Deniliquin and Moama Railway Company undertook the construction of a private railway in 1879, creating a vital link to Moama, located across the Murray River from the bustling river port of Echuca, which was connected by rail to Melbourne.

With wool production emerging as a dominant industry, the Deniliquin region burgeoned with several Merino studs. The town's significance grew, and on December 19, 1868, Deniliquin was officially constituted as the Municipality of Deniliquin, culminating in its first municipal election on February 23, 1869. The subsequent passage of the Local Government Act (NSW) in 1993 led to the transition of the council's name from the Municipality of Deniliquin to the Deniliquin Council, reflecting evolving administrative dynamics.

The business core of Deniliquin originally gravitated around End Street, in proximity to coach stopping points. However, the arrival of trains in 1876 heralded a new era of prosperity along Cressy and Napier Streets, reinvigorating trade and urban activity.

By 1883, due to the increase in population, realisation of a new courthouse was already in motion. The chosen site for the new courthouse was intersection of Poictiers and Wellington Streets. The new courthouse didn't assume its operational role until 1889,, when completed the grand Neoclassical structure reflected the wealth of the township.



Figure 31: The newly completed Neoclassical designed Courthouse.

Source: Edwards River Council

The former courthouse, during the interim between its construction and eventual replacement, assumed diverse roles that mirrored the town's multifaceted character. It hosted the Country Women's Association (C.W.A), acting as a hub for meetings and discussions, while also accommodating the Conargo Shire Council's gatherings, serving as a suitable venue for civic assemblies.

A watershed moment arrived in 1934 when the Bank of Australasia (now ANZ Bank) acquired the site that once housed the old courthouse. This marked a shift in the site's utility, as it transitioned from a civic centre to a commercial domain. In 1935, the temporary courthouse was razed to make way for the construction of the Bank of Australasia. The Bank was designed by A. & K. Henderson and Partners in the Inter-war Free Classical Style.

A. & K. Henderson and Partners were a well-known architectural firm based in Melbourne. They focused on designing and building banks, hospitals, and other large commercial buildings in Australia and New Zealand. Some of their significant projects included the Bank of Australasia buildings in Melbourne and Brisbane, the Commercial Bank of Australia buildings in Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, and Hobart, as well as the National Bank of Australasia buildings in Melbourne and Brisbane. They also designed T. & G Society's buildings in cities across Australia and New Zealand, along with other notable structures in Melbourne and Sydney. The firm was also responsible for the Alfred Hospital and the first section of St. Andrew's Hospital in Melbourne, as well as hospitals in Geelong, Fairfield, Mooroopna, Orbost, and elsewhere.³

³ DEATH OF MR KINGSLEY HENDERSON" The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) 7 April 1942: 2. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8240831>>.



Figure 32: Photograph of newly completed bank in 1937 designed by A. & K. Henderson and Partners.

Source: Royal Institute of British Architects & Royal Victorian Institute of Architects. Vol. 35, No. 4 (September 1937) Journal of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Retrieved August 23, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-405875850>

The original configuration of the bank had the banking chamber, offices, and strong room on the Ground Floor of the principal building the dwelling to the rear and First Floor contained the bank managers residence. In the north western section of the building a separate tenancy with access via a second entrance off Cressy Street. This entry has now been bricked up and the internal wall has been demolished. To the rear an entry through the manager's office provided access to the residence. At Ground Floor there was a dining room, breakfast room, kitchen and laundry. The dining room opening onto the curved verandah facing Edwardes Street while a large enclosed verandah opened onto the rear yard.

The First Floor contained three bedrooms, a living room and a Maid's room. The balcony on the eastern elevation was also utilised as a sleep out. There were two fireplaces, one in the living room and one in the primary bedroom.

See Figure 33 and Figure 34.

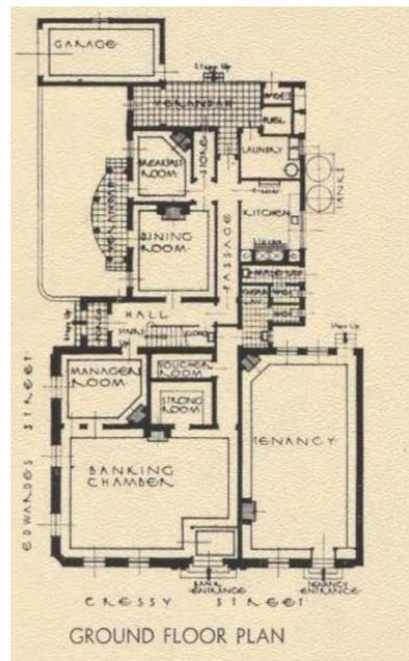


Figure 33: Plan of the original Ground Floor.



Figure 34: Plan of the First Floor.

In January 1976 major works were undertaken by ANZ Bank by Architects Joseland Gilling and Associates. By this time The Bank of Australasia had merged with the Union Bank of Australia to form the Australia and New Zealand Bank on 1 October 1951. These works included but were not limited to :

- Replacement of the separate tenancy entrance with a new window to match the existing windows.
- New larger windows introduced on the western elevation.
- Remove existing bank fittings.
- All Ground Floor Fire places and flues are demolished.
- Demolished all ceiling and replacement with new lighting and an evaporative cooling system.
- New bathrooms throughout.
- New vinyl laid throughout the site.
- A new landing constructed for the staircase.
- New timber paling fence and gate.

The plans below illustrate the changes.



Figure 35: Changes to the primary elevation at Cressy Street.



Figure 36: The Edwardes Street elevation with few changes.

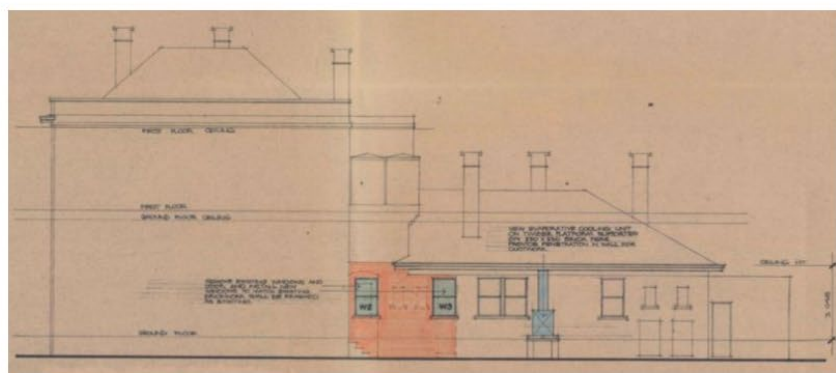


Figure 37: The western elevation showing changes to the windows.

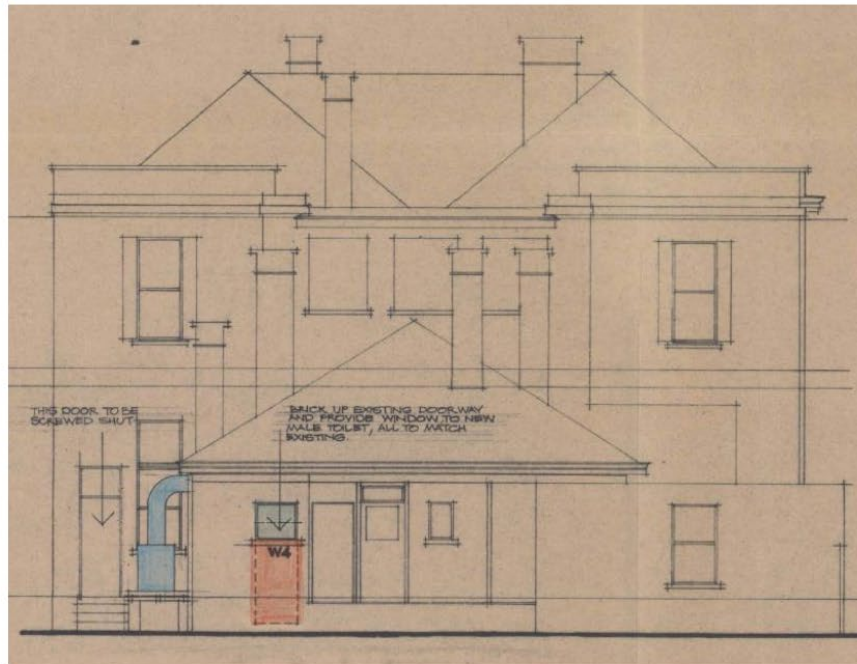


Figure 38: The southern rear elevation showing the door bricked in.



Figure 39: Changes to the Ground Floor with new public counters, new teller units, and clerical areas.

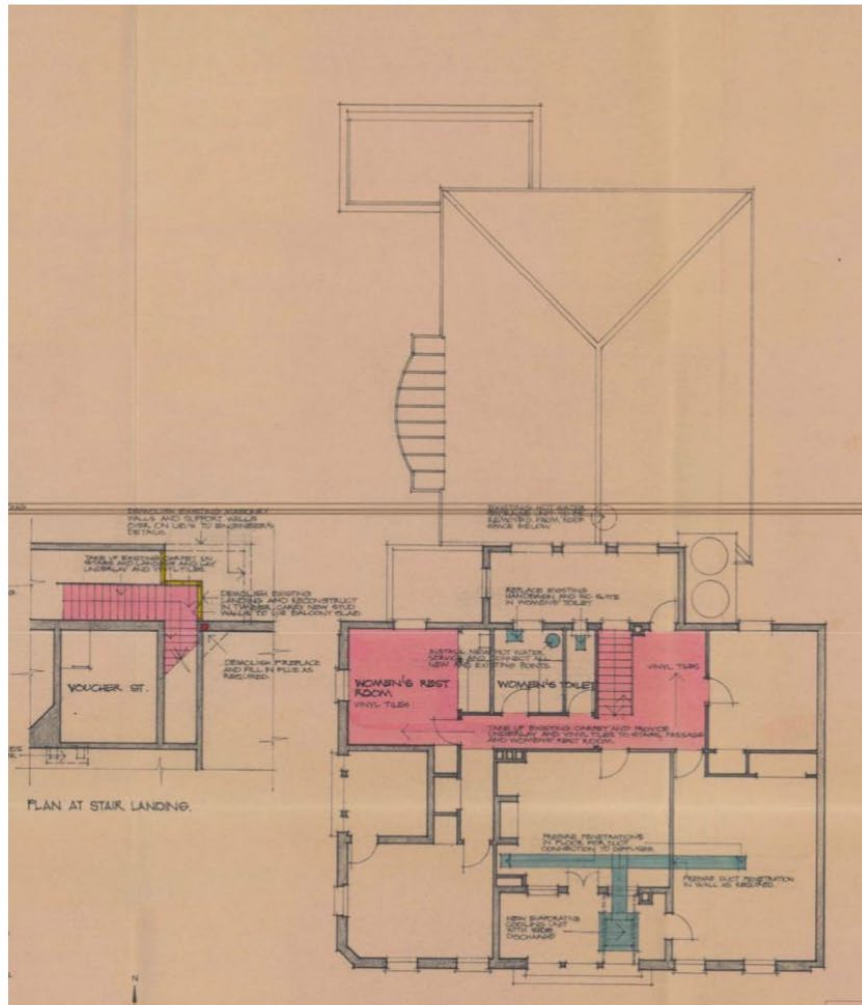


Figure 40: Changes to the First Floor, including changes to the stair landing and introduction of the new air conditioning system.

In 1996 the building was sold by ANZ for \$302,500.00. The building has changed hands several times since then and has had a variety of commercial uses.

4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Summary of Existing Citations and Listings for the Site

The following table addresses the relevant heritage listings for the site.

Table 2: Statutory Heritage Listings

Listing Type	Item Name and Details	Listing Number
State Heritage Register under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW).	No	No
In the vicinity of items on the State Heritage Register under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW).	Yes St Paul's Church and St Paul's Sunday School (Multi-Arts Centre)	SHR No. 00062
Listed as an item of local heritage significance by Schedule 5 of the Deniliquin LEP 2013	Former ANZ Bank	Yes. Item No. 11768
Located within the vicinity of local heritage items by Schedule 5 of Deniliquin LEP 2013	Yes.	Yes
Located within a heritage conservation area.	No Surrounded by Deniliquin Heritage Conservation Area (C1)	No.

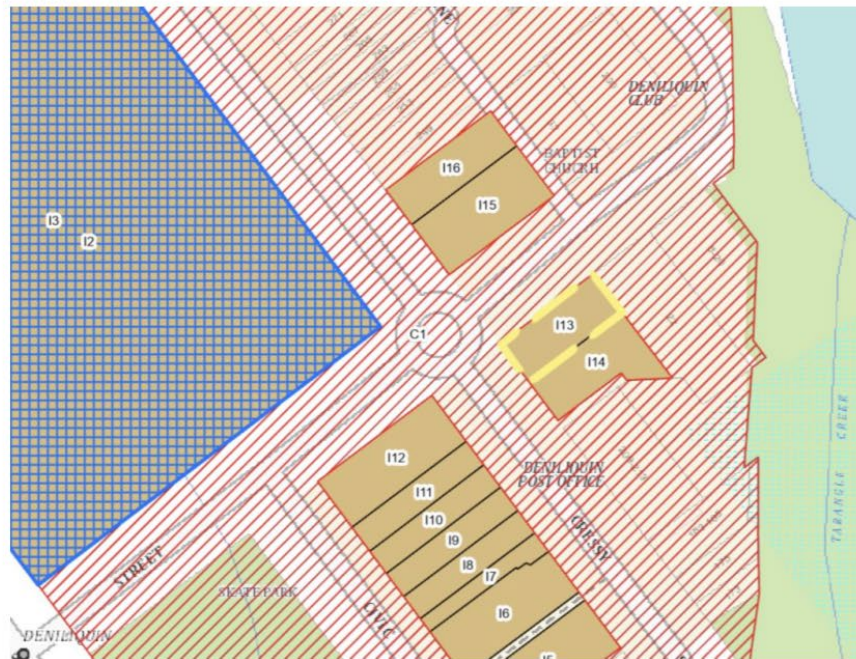


Figure 41: Detail, heritage map Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan 2013.

The site is shown at centre right, hatched with yellow

BROWN - Local heritage items

BLUE - State heritage items

4.2 Additional information relating to the site's significance

4.2.1 Views

The site is located on a prominent corner in the Deniliquin CBD. The principal view corridors towards the site are obtained from both directions along both Cressy and Edwards Street. View corridors towards the Cressy Street is partially obscured by the bulk of the State Bank, adjoining the site to the south and street trees. The longer secondary elevation along Edwards Street is highly visible from the surrounding area. Views toward the rear of the site are partially obscured by boundary fence.



Figure 42: View of the site looking north along Cressy Street towards the site. Views are partially obscured by street trees.



Figure 43: View across the Edwardes/Cressy Street intersection towards the site. The Boer War Memorial is in the foreground.



Figure 44: Looking west along Edwardes Street towards the rear of the site.

4.2.2 Integrity

From the exterior of the building still exhibits a high degree of external integrity as an Inter-war era Free classical style bank. As outlined in the history of the site, the interiors of the building have undergone extensive renovations as a result of the bank refit in 1976. Much of the original interiors including ceilings, floors and other details such as fire places were removed. Much of the original floorplan is still discernible however, some walls have been removed. The below overlay of the original plans (black) and the latest floor plans (red) illustrate changes to the layout.

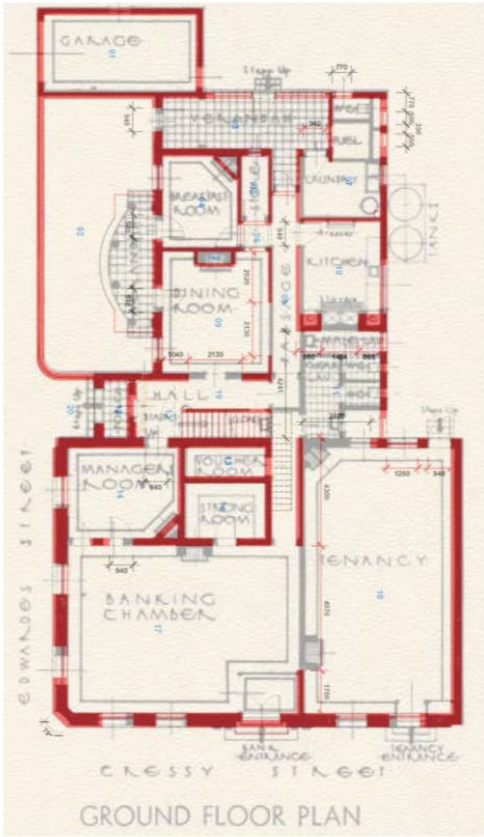


Figure 45: Changes to the Ground Floor.



Figure 46: Changes to the First Floor.

4.3 Statement of Significance

The following Statement of Significance for the site has been sourced from the NSW State Heritage Inventory.⁴

One of the finest Interwar Free Classical bank buildings with attached residence in NSW. One of four buildings on the intersection of Cressy and Edwardes Streets, which is one of the two intersections in Deniliquin which give the shopping centre its focus. This statement is adopted for the purposes of this assessment.

This statement is adopted for the purposes of this assessment.

4.4 Heritage Items in the Vicinity of the Site

4.4.1 Defining 'Vicinity'

There is no statutory definition of 'vicinity' in the context of heritage items. The concept of curtilage, however, is a related and useful concept that assists in understanding and assessing the impacts of development on nearby heritage items.

Considering the items around the subject site, listing sheets indicate that all have a heritage curtilage that is limited to their property boundary.

For the items near to the subject site, 'in the vicinity' has been determined with reference to physical proximity, existing and potential view corridors and the nature of the proposed works.

4.5 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

For the following, 'in the vicinity' has been determined by physical proximity to the site, existing and potential view corridors and the massing and scale of the proposed works.

Table 3: All heritage items within 100 metres of the site are shown in the table below.

Place ID	Name and Description	Address	Listing	Relationship to the site
Local and State Heritage items within 100m of subject site				
I14	Former State Bank	217-223 Cressy Street Deniliquin	Local	Adjoins the site to the south. Forms part of an impressive group of commercial buildings.
I15	Westpac Bank	233-239 Cressy Street Deniliquin	Local	Opposite the site to the north. Forms part of an impressive group

⁴ ANZ Bank | Heritage NSW . (2023). Retrieved 24 August 2023, from <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1500009>

Place ID	Name and Description	Address	Listing	Relationship to the site	
Local and State Heritage items within 100m of subject site					
				of commercial buildings.	
I2	00062	St Paul's Church and St Paul's Sunday School (Multi-Arts Centre)	46-58 Cressy Street Deniliquin	State	Located diagonally opposite the site. Forms part of its setting.
I4-I12		Shops	170-226 Cressy Street	Local	Located opposite the site, forms part of the commercial setting to the bank.

Other items greater than 100m away are not listed above, further information regarding their individual significance can be found on the NSW State Heritage Inventory.

5 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Scope of works

The following should be read in conjunction with the plans prepared by Precise Build. This includes:

- Undertake general restoration to the building, including reinstatement of original shutters on primary elevations.
- It is proposed to convert the existing commercial building into two apartments. One apartment will utilise the Ground Floor as one apartment and the First Floor as a second apartment with access via Edwardes Street entry.
- It is proposed to demolish the existing garage construct two rendered brick garages along the Edwardes Street.
- Construct a slightly higher boundary fence along Cressy Street to allow for increase privacy.
- Construct a new pool and associated landscaping in the rear yard.
- Ground Floor:
 - New kitchen/dining and living space within former banking chamber and separate tenancy.
 - The existing strong room will be utilised as a cellar.
 - The former managers office to be utilised as a study.
 - Three new bedrooms, bathroom and laundry.
- First Floor:
 - New living area within the former living area.
 - New kitchen and dining area in former bedroom and landing area.
 - Three new bedrooms in spaces of original bedrooms.
 - New Laundry in existing sunroom.

5.2 Method of Assessment

The following is a merit-based assessment. It does not consider compliance or otherwise with numerical controls unless non-compliance will result in an adverse heritage impact. Refer to the planning documents that accompany this application.

The proposal is assessed by consideration of:

- The relevant controls of the *Deniliquin LEP 2013*;
- The objectives and controls for new works to and in the vicinity of heritage items as per Deniliquin DCP 2016
- with an understanding of the requirements for Heritage Impact Statements provided by the Heritage NSW publication Statements of Heritage Impact (2023 update); and

6 EFFECT OF WORK

6.1 Matters for consideration

6.1.1 Fabric and spatial arrangements

The proposed conversion of the former bank into apartments will have a minor but acceptable impact on the significance of the former Bank for the following reasons:

- The proposal will undertake restoration works to the former Bank which will improve the contribution of the site to the wider locality but also ensure the building longevity into the future. The proposed reinstatement of the timber shutters on the primary elevation (see Figure 32 – a photograph of the site in 1932) will have the greatest impact in terms of the building's presentation to the primary elevation. The shutters will be painted in a sympathetic scheme, which are consistent with the Inter-war era character of the building. Other restoration works including repointing of brickwork, repainting of the rendered sections, repair of the roof and guttering will have a beneficial impact on the item as maintenance is an essential process in the retention of historic fabric.
- While the works involve alteration to the interior to facilitate this new use as demonstrated by the plans in Figure 35 to Figure 40 the bank refit in 1976 and subsequent internal works, removed almost all detail associated with A. & K. Henderson and Partners original design. Despite this, the original configuration of the former bank is still readily visible. As such, the design team has sought to work with the existing configuration of the former bank and retain as many of the original spaces as possible. This is demonstrated best on the Ground Floor where the original strong room will be utilised as a cellar, while the original bank managers office will be utilised as an office. To the rear of the dwelling, and at First Floor, the room configuration will remain essentially the same as the original Bank Managers residence, with bedrooms and living spaces proposed in their original position.
- The proposed introduction of items such as kitchens, new bathrooms and new bedrooms will not impact the integrity of the building as it much of the interior was removed in 1976 when the bank was refitted. In some areas, where the original timber flooring was covered over by linoleum, it is proposed to remove this covering and restore a timber finish.

- Where remaining fireplaces exist, they will be conserved in-situ and integrated into the new bedrooms.
- Entries to the both apartment will remain as per the via the existing bank entry off Cressy Street (Ground Floor Apartment) and via the doorway via Edwardes Street for the Second Floor apartment. This retains the spatial configuration of the former bank and managers residence.
- The proposed new garages are partially attached to former bank managers residence. This is consistent with the historic position of the garage. The garages will be rendered and painted to match the rendered and painted sections of the banks. This ensures they are integrated into the overall Edwardes Street composition of the building.

6.1.2 *Setting, views and vistas*

The proposed demolition of the garage and construction of two new rendered brick garages will have a limited visual impact on the significance of the former bank. The proposed garages will replace the original single car garage with two new brick garages. Their position away from the principal elevations, low scale and compatible brick materiality ensure that they do not detract from the more ornate facades of the former bank.

Outwardly the appearance of the bank, as part of the commercial centre of Deniliquin will remain and the building will continue to contribute to the historic streetscape.

6.1.3 *Use*

It is not feasible for the site to be utilised again as a bank. Many banks do not require brick and mortar stores due to the increased prevalence of online banking. The proposed new use as two separate apartments is compatible with existing fabric as the proposed new use requires very little change to the original configuration or remaining historic fabric.

6.1.4 *Conservation areas*

The impact on the Deniliquin Town Centre HCA is discussed in Section 6.1.6 below.

6.1.5 *Cumulative impacts*

The proposed adaptive reuse of the former bank does not form part of a wider proposal. Given the works are extensive, it is not anticipated any additional major works will be undertaken that could have an impact on the significance of the site.

6.2 **Effect of work on heritage items in the vicinity as per 11.2.4 Deniliquin DCP.**

Deniliquin DCP Control	Response
1. Providing an adequate area around the heritage item to allow its interpretation and respecting the views to and from the heritage item.	The only proposed external alterations are the construction of the two new garages and new wall along the secondary elevation of the site at Edwardes Street. The proposed heritage items surrounding the site are oriented to Cressy Street, as

	such the proposed addition will not detract from or obscure views from these items.
2. Development in the vicinity of listed heritage items shall respect and complement the built form character of those items in terms of scale, setback, siting, external materials, finishes and colour.	The proposed garages are respectful and complementary to the heritage items in the vicinity. Their position away from the primary view corridors of the items, low scale and compatible rendered materiality ensure that they do not detract from the more ornate facades of the items.
3. New development shall have regard to the established siting patterns of the locality.	The proposed garages are located to the rear of the site and along the site boundary. This is consistent with the established street wall height of the commercial area.
4. New development should generally be set back from the line of the adjoining or adjacent heritage item.	The proposed garages are located to the rear of the site away from the primary elevation of the heritage items.
5. The sensitive selection of materials, colours and finishes is important in terms of achieving compatibility with the heritage items.	The proposed garages will be constructed of rendered brickwork painted in the same colour as the rendered details of the former bank. This complements the materiality of the historic precinct.
6. Height and scale of new buildings shall not obscure or dominate an adjoining or adjacent heritage item.	The garages are single story and do not dominate the primarily two storey heritage items in the vicinity.
7. Development in the vicinity of a heritage item may be contemporary in design, however discussion with Council's Heritage Advisor is recommended prior to preparing a Development Application.	No pre-lodgement has been undertaken. It should be noted that all external details are traditional in style and will not have prominence in the wider locality.

6.3 Assessment against 11.3.4 Alterations, Additions & Infill Development

Deniliquin DCP Control	Response
1. Retain original elements and features, including features that are above awning level.	Original external features of the former bank are retained and conserved.
2. Where original shopfronts, verandahs or awnings have been altered, the replacement is to be based on historic information	The proposal will reinstate the replica timber shutters on the primary elevations of the building as seen in Figure 32 – a photograph of the site in 1932. The shutters will be painted “Eau de nil” a green

and/or the interpretation of period details.	colour, which is a traditional Inter-war era colour scheme.
3. Infilling original verandahs is not supported.	No verandahs are proposed to be infilled.
4. Additional storeys can be considered if set well behind the front building line and designed to not impact detrimentally on the contribution of the original facade to the streetscape.	No additional storeys are proposed.
5. Service elements (solar panels, solar heating, antennas, satellite dishes and air conditioning units) to be placed to the rear of the properties, preferably not visible from the street, or on rear outbuildings.	All services will be located to the rear of the building and will generally be obscured from the public domain.
6. Rendering or painting face brick is generally not supported.	No rendering or painting of brickwork is proposed.

6.4 5.10.10 Deniliquin LEP 2013

(10) Conservation incentives	
<i>The consent authority may grant consent to development for any purpose of a building that is a heritage item or of the land on which such a building is erected, or for any purpose on an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, even though development for that purpose would otherwise not be allowed by this Plan, if the consent authority is satisfied that—</i>	
<i>a) the conservation of the heritage item or Aboriginal place of heritage significance is facilitated by the granting of consent, and</i>	The existing heritage item will be conserved as part of this proposal. Original details such as the timber shutters on the primary elevations will be reinstated. General restoration works, such as repointing brickwork, repainting, and general maintenance of the building will be undertaken as part of the DA.
<i>b) the proposed development is in accordance with a heritage management document that has been approved by the consent authority, and</i>	The proposed development is in accordance with the accompanying architectural plans which specify the conservation works.
<i>c) the consent to the proposed development would require that all necessary conservation</i>	It is proposed to carry out all of the conservation work as part of this consent.

<i>work identified in the heritage management document is carried out, and</i>	
<i>d) the proposed development would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, including its setting, or the heritage significance of the Aboriginal place of heritage significance, and</i>	The proposal will not adversely impact the heritage significance of the item. The conversion of the site into a dual occupancy is sensitive to the remaining heritage fabric and results in a sympathetic new use that conserves the former bank. The design of the new dwelling has been designed in consultation with Weir Phillips Heritage and Planning to minimise the heritage impact on the item.
<i>e) the proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area.</i>	The proposed attached dual occupancy for residential use will not be readily discernible from the surrounding area as the works are largely contained within the existing footprint of the former bank.

7 SUMMARY

This Heritage Impact Statement has considered the history and established the significance of the site at former ANZ Bank at No. 225 Cressy Street, Deniliquin. The design by plans prepared by Precise Build provide for an appropriate adaptive reuse of the former bank.

Although much of the original detail from A. & K. Henderson and Partners' design was lost in the 1976 bank refit, the original layout remains recognizable. The design team aims to work within the existing framework, preserving original spaces, notably repurposing the strong room as a cellar and the bank manager's office as an office.

The introduction of new elements like kitchens and bathrooms will not compromise the building's integrity, as the interior was extensively modified in the past. Remaining fireplaces will be conserved, and original entries will be maintained for both apartments. The addition of two new brick garages, while replacing an older one, will be sympathetic with the building aesthetics without detracting from its historic significance. The bank's outward appearance will endure as part of Deniliquin's historic centre, contributing to its streetscape. Considering the shift in banking trends, repurposing the site as apartments aligns well with the existing fabric and minimal intervention is needed to adapt the space.

The proposed works will have no impact on heritage items in the vicinity or the wider Deniliquin Town Centre Heritage Conservation Area. The site complies with the relevant Heritage Conservation Controls in the Deniliquin DCP. The proposal is a valid use of the Conservation Incentive Clause (5.10.10) of the LEP in that it facilitates a stable and long-term conservation of the Heritage item while providing it with an appropriate ongoing use. This outcome satisfies the conditions of the Clause and its intent to provide conservation incentive.

8 REFERENCES AND DEFINITIONS (relocated from Section 1)

8.1 Definitions

Term	Meaning
Consent authority	The person or body with whose approval that act, matter or thing may be done or without whose approval that act, matter or thing may not be done.
Conservation	Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance (as defined in <i>The Burra Charter</i>).
Development	The erection of a building, carrying out work, use of or subdivision of land.
Heritage significance	Term used in the assessment and understanding of heritage items that have significance in relation to their historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value.
Moveable heritage	A moveable object that is not a relic.
<i>National construction code</i>	A code that sets minimum requirements for design, construction and performance of buildings, as well as plumbing and drainage systems throughout Australia.
Relic	Any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that is of state or local heritage significance.
Setting	The area around an item, which may include the visual catchment.
State Heritage Inventory	An online database containing heritage items and conservation areas on statutory lists in NSW. This includes the State Heritage Register and local government items.
State Heritage Register	The NSW State Heritage Register. A list of places and items of importance to the people of NSW. Only places of state heritage significance are listed on the State Heritage Register. The State Heritage Register protects these items and their significance.
State Heritage Register item	A term to describe a heritage item that is of state heritage significance and is listed on the State Heritage Register.

8.2 Documentary Evidence

8.2.1 General References

8.2.1.1 Guidelines

Australia ICOMOS Inc (2013a) 'The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance', Australian ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Inc, Burwood, accessed 9 June 2023.

Australia ICOMOS Inc (2013b) 'Burra Charter article 22 — new work', practice note, Australian ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Inc, Burwood, accessed 9 June 2023.

Heritage NSW (2019) Subdivision and NSW State Heritage Register items policy and procedure, Heritage NSW, NSW Government, accessed 9 June 2023.

Heritage NSW (2020) Material threshold policy, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Government, accessed 9 June 2023.

DPE (Department of Planning and Environment) (2023) Assessing heritage significance, DPE, NSW Government, accessed 9 June 2023.

8.2.1.2 Published Material:

Royal Institute of British Architects & Royal Victorian Institute of Architects. Vol. 35, No. 4 (September 1937) Journal of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Retrieved August 23, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-405875850>

The Grenfell Record and Lachlan District Advertiser. "TWO BANKS IN MERGER". Vol. 84, no. 151. New South Wales, Australia. 4 October 1951. p. 6. Retrieved 25 November 2018 – via National Library of Australia.

Edwards River Shire Council, *Historic Deniliquin Walking Tour* Pamphlet, July 2021.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) Death of Mr Kingsley Henderson 7 April 1942: 2. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8240831>>.

8.2.1.3 Planning Documents

- *NSW Heritage Act 1977.*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*
- Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval, 2009.
- *Deniliquin Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013.*

12.2. DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2023-2026 FOR ADOPTION

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2026 for Adoption

Author: Manager Community & Economy

Authoriser: Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2026.

BACKGROUND

With the introduction of the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014, it became a mandatory requirement for local government authorities to have a DIAP. The intention of the Edward River Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) is to define how we undertake specific actions to reduce potential barriers faced by people with disabilities when living in, working in and visiting our LGA.

Council's DIAP will be aligned with the NSW Government's Disability Inclusion Plan 2022-2025. Its aim is to remove barriers within systems and attitudes to give people with disabilities a better opportunity to live a meaningful life and enjoy the full benefits of membership in the community. This is achieved not only by actions within our organisation, but also by actions and collaboration focussed on the broader community.

The DIAP is a whole of Council strategy, outlining the steps Council will take to create a more inclusive and accessible community and workplace.

It has been developed in accordance with relevant legislation and is categorised under the following key areas; Positive Community Attitudes and Behaviours, Creating Liveable Communities, Supporting Access to Meaningful Employment and Improving Access to Systems and Processes.

In line with the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and updated NSW Disability Inclusion Action Planning Guidelines, Council has undertaken a variety of engagement approaches in the development of this draft plan including:

- community and organisational surveys in June,
- engaged with key stakeholder groups including Councillors in July, and
- conducted internal staff interviews and reviews in July and September

This plan has been co-designed by community and Council staff and guided by Accessible Arts NSW.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Council endorsed a draft DIAP for public exhibition at its October meeting. The document was placed on public exhibition from 18 October to 22 November on Council's website and in hard copy format at Council's Customer Service Centre and Library. Notification of the exhibition was advertised regularly in the Community News section of the Pastoral Times, on Council's Facebook Page, and provided directly to the key stakeholder group involved in the engagement activities which informed its development. One (1) community feedback was received throughout the public exhibition period.

The submission received outlines some of the challenges for people with mobility issues in the Edward River Council area with respect to lips in curb and guttering, road cambers, footpaths and public toilets. It also makes reference to challenges experienced by people with mobility issues with respect to the location of polling booths and dog attacks. Whilst the submission requests no change to the DIAP, it serves to strongly reinforce the actions proposed.

Following public exhibition, Council received a draft DIAP for adoption at its December Council meeting, at which time further questions from Cr Petersen arose and the matter was deferred. Council staff then met with Cr Petersen to better understand his concerns, and professional legal advice was sought on the following matters:

1. compliance with human rights guidelines and legislation;
2. use of the Social Model of disability;
3. potential exclusion of some members of the community who identify as disabled;
4. potential exclusion of some members of the community who are deaf or partially deaf;
5. Council's exposure to litigation due to any failure in the above.

Legal advice confirmed that the DIAP is fit for purpose and adheres to the requirements in section 12 of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014, minimising Council's exposure to litigation.

To allay any further concerns that the language used in the DIAP is exclusionary, an amendment was offered to the wording of the 'language' paragraph on page 4 of the DIAP to reinforce Council's willingness to encompass all persons with disability, or however, they identify.

From (bold text only):

Language can be a personal and political choice. We recognize that there are varying views on language and terminology around disability in Australia and internationally. ERC's DIAP 2023-26 will use the person first language of 'person with disability' to recognize that disability is just one aspect of a person's life and does not determine who they are. **However this also includes disabled persons (identity first) and persons with psychosocial disability. We respect that different people have different preferences about language.**

To:

Council again acknowledges that others may prefer to label themselves according to the identity-first model (disabled persons). However, for the purposes of uniformity in this Policy, and the reasons outlined above, Council has chosen to use the identity first model as an all-encompassing term.

The proposed amendment is reflected in the draft DIAP Council has before it for adoption.

A further amendment has also been made to the 'Message from the Chief Executive Officer' to acknowledge the work undertaken by the former Deniliquin Council.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Council's development of the DIAP presents a compelling message to the community that we view people with disability as equals, and aligns with the disability principles as set out in Section 4 of the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 being:

1. People with disability have an inherent right to respect for their worth and dignity as individuals.
2. People with disability have the right to participate in and contribute to social and economic life and should be supported to develop and enhance their skills and experience.
3. People with disability have the right to realise their physical, social, sexual, reproductive, emotional and intellectual capacities.
4. People with disability have the same rights as other members of the community to make decisions that affect their lives (including decisions involving risk) to the full extent of their capacity to do so and to be supported in making those decisions if they want or require support.
5. People with disability have the right to respect for their cultural or linguistic diversity, age, gender, sexual orientation and religious beliefs.
6. The right to privacy and confidentiality for people with disability is to be respected.

7. People with disability have the right to live free from neglect, abuse and exploitation.
8. People with disability have the right to access information in a way that is appropriate for their disability and cultural background and enables them to make informed choices.
9. People with disability have the same right as other members of the community to pursue complaints.
10. The crucial role of families, carers and other significant persons in the lives of people with disability, and the importance of preserving relationships with families, carers and other significant persons, is to be acknowledged and respected.
11. The needs of children with disability as they mature, and their rights as equal members of the community, are to be respected.
12. The changing abilities, strengths, goals and needs of people with disability as they age are to be respected.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan contributes to the achievement of the following objectives in the Community Strategic Plan:

1. Shaping the Future
 - 1.2 Quality built environment
 - 1.3 Enhanced Active and Passive Open Spaces
2. An open and connected community
 - 2.3 Cultural and personal links
4. Delivering community assets and services
 - 4.1 Vibrant villages and towns
5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration
 - 5.1 Collaborative and Engaged
 - 5.3 Professional Workplace culture

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed actions in the draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan will be delivered within the resourcing levels included in Council-approved future Operational Plans and budgets. There is no budget allocated to implement the actions from the DIAP in this current financial year.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan will comply with the:

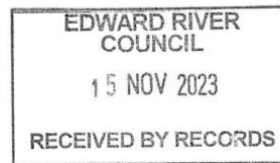
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth);
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW);
- Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth);
- Carers Recognition Act 2010;
- Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act 1987 (Cth);
- any other relevant laws.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Submission
2. Edward River Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Attachment 1 - Disability Inclusion Action Plan - Community Response 2

Chief Executive Officer
Edward River Council
PO Box 270
Deniliquin NSW, 2710
12th November 2023.



Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Dear Sir,

With reference to Councils First Disability Action Plan, I would like to detail my experiences while recovering from operations over the past 12 years.

But firstly, I would like to state that I have no hidden agenda here, and I am forwarding this submission on behalf of members of the public who may have suffered disability issues while recovering from operations, or of the ageing population. I have not consulted anyone or had any professional help in making this submission.

Having used crutches after a disectomy operation in 2012, a 'wheelie walker' after a knee replacement in 2022 and now using a 'knee scooter' after an ankle operation in September 2023, I feel that I am reasonably qualified to speak of my experiences.

While it is not possible and beyond Councils budgetary constraints to fix existing problems with road cambers, footpaths, kerb and guttering, it is hoped that concerns raised by people like myself will ensure that consideration be given to those with disability in any future planning and construction.

Not exclusive but most of the disability issues relate to –

Lips in Kerb & Guttering

Anybody using a 'wheelie walker' or 'knee scooter' would have experienced the problems that a lip can create, necessitating a complete stop to avoid disaster. The front wheels on 'wheel walkers' are also very prone to turning side on when they hit the lip. The more common 'wheel walkers' with smaller wheels than the ones shown here are very prone to disaster.



There is no valid reason for lips to be on kerb & guttering driveways, in fact there are many locations in Deniliquin where there is no lip. The best example and the best place to cross in any direction is at the intersection of Hardinge and George Streets.

Yet Charlotte Street between Macauley and Butler Streets was totally rebuilt about three years ago, and there is a 50mm lip in every driveway along that reconstruction – no reason and a total step backwards in construction.



Road Cambers

It is obvious that most of the roads that had been constructed in Deniliquin around 30 years ago had one design criteria in mind – high camber, to facilitate rapid drainage and flush the storm water drains during heavy rainfall. But this has created problems with pedestrians, even for people without disability or walking aids.

There are many places in town, but by far the worst example is Macauley Street, especially at the Charlotte Street, George Street or Cressy Street intersections.

When I was recovering from a Discectomy operation 12 years ago, I was required to start walking again with the aid of crutches, but I flatly refused to cross Macauley Street – too difficult on crutches and most likely to result in a fall.

The following photos show how difficult it is using either a 'wheelie walker' or 'knee scooter' at this crossing of Macauley Street in Charlotte Street. Hard to push uphill out of the kerb and guttering and then bloody dangerous going downhill. The uneven surface and patched potholes only exasperate the situation.



While it is not financially possible by Council to rectify these design problems in the immediate future, any future road construction should not allow these situations to occur again.

Footpaths

Footpath maintenance is an ongoing issue, and council are to be congratulated where uneven surfaces, raised lips or cracked footpaths have been ground level or sections replaced.



However, it is disappointing that in the last two years, whole blocks of ageing but otherwise sound footpath has been replaced when there are areas in Deniliquin **that desperately need a footpath, at least on one side of the road.**

The most glaring example of this is that there is no footpath in Butler Street between Poitiers Street and McLean's beach. I tried to walk sections of it 12 years ago, but it is not possible to walk with ease on crutches along Butler Street due to the camber of the road, as this recent photo shows.

Yet Butler Street is the feeder to Deniliquin's most prestigious tourist attraction and the start of the **'Beach to Beach Walk'**.

During the summer months, there is an endless stream of pedestrians, many of them children walking up and down the road coming and going from McLeans beach.

And in the evening, whole families from McLeans Caravan park are seen walking up Butler Street to the White Lion Hotel and Scott's Park, once again walking on the road.

The lack of a footpath in Butler Street is more than just a disability issue, and I have raised this with members of Council on four previous occasions –

- Adam McSwain, the previous General Manager
- At Councils HQ office in Napier Street
- The late Mayor of Deniliquin Norm Brennan
- Deputy Mayor Paul Fellows

Footpaths that have a sideways slope

There is a growing trend in many towns for the footpaths to be incorporated with the driveway and sloped sideways which make walking, even prior to an operation, or with crutches painful and inconvenient.

Earlier this year I spent nearly two months in Townsville (our son had died). In a popular and busy part of the Strand where we were staying, the footpaths had been incorporated into the driveways with a very steep sideways slope that made it extremely difficult to walk, in my case very painful as I had deferred a major ankle operation for 6 months so we could be with our family in Townsville.

Fortunately, Deniliquin has not many places where the footpath is sloped sideways, but one recent construction is both driveways at the Navorina Nursing Home. While not excessive, it is totally unnecessary, today's motor vehicles have the unique ability to go up or down almost any slope!



Toilets

Until you are in this situation, you are not fully aware of the importance of **knowing** where disability toilets are located. Now it is a case, especially when travelling, to plan your trip ahead, knowing where the next disability toilet is located if needed, and preferably where disability parking is provided.

A good example is at the Elmore Bakery, not only does it have a disability toilet, but disability parking in the side street. Notice the difference here in adjoining driveways, one has a lip, it is a no-brainer which one to use.



Polling booths

While location of Polling Booths may not be under Councils' control, it is ludicrous to think that during the recent referendum, the recently refurbished Town Hall with excellent disability ramps was ONLY available for interstate voting and not for locals.

It was ridiculous to think that at the Town Hall, with the Polling Booths signs displayed, and after my wife had unloaded my "knee scooter" out of the car, we couldn't vote. Reloaded and then unloaded the knee scooter again at the High School where we found that there was no footpath access from

the road to the roadway in close proximity. Although there is access at the main entrance, there is no provision for disability parking at all.

Surely some thought must be given in future for disability parking and access be available at all future Polling Booths.



Wheelchairs

I have not mentioned wheelchairs in this submission as personally, I have had no experience. But haven spoken to volunteers who push the wheelchairs from Navorina to and from the CBD, they now know which route to take, what footpaths to use, and the easiest, but not necessarily the safest place to cross roads. One thing is certain, they definitely avoid the Charlotte Street and Macaculey Street intersection, too steep and difficult.

Dog Attacks

While not solely related to people with disability issues, the danger of a dog attack was highlighted to me recently in Charlotte Street when I was knocked completely off my 'knee scooter' onto the footpath by a dog. While not hurt during the incident, nor wanting to have a repeat operation through injury to my ankle, I have lost my confidence and now rely on either my wife or Steve's Courtesy Car to transport me the shorth distance (three blocks) between my residence and the Historical Society twice a day, five days a week, until the middle of December.

Note that it is not easy for my wife to lift an 'knee scooter' into the back of a SUV while currently suffering shoulder and knee problems.

Role of Decision Makers

Trouble is that people with disability issues are not aware of any these problems until they experience them firsthand. Decision makers, and people like yourself who are creating this action plan need to experience these problems themselves. Borrow some crutches, a wheelchair, wheel walkers or knee scooter and go out and see for yourselves how difficult it can be for anybody with a disability.





**Edward
River**
COUNCIL

***Edward River Council
Disability Inclusion
Action Plan 2023-2026***



Edward River Council

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

2023-2026

Acknowledgement of Country

Edward River Council acknowledges and embraces the Traditional Owners of the Lands within the Edward River Council area - the Wamba Wamba/Perrepa Perrepa Peoples – and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging. Edward River Council also recognises the diversity of different cultures within our community and their contribution.

Contributors

Edward River Council would like to acknowledge the contribution made by staff, council members, people with disability, service providers, members of the wider community and Accessible Arts. Their willingness to participate in the consultation sessions and respond to the survey has enhanced the value of the information incorporated into the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and has helped inform the actions to be implemented by Council in coming years.

Edward River Council – Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Document Set ID: 271638
Version: 3, Version Date: 09/10/2023

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

I take great pleasure in presenting Edward River Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2026. This Plan outlines Council's work over the next four years to make the Edward River region more inclusive of people with a disability.

Most of us will be impacted by disability at some point in our lives, through our own experience or through caring for others.

This plan encourages positive change to the lives of people with disability and supports the full participation of all community members in all aspects of the Edward River community.

Through this plan, Council will proactively work to develop positive community attitudes and behaviours towards people with disability, create more liveable communities, support meaningful access to employment, and improve access to services.

This is Edward River Council's first Action Plan and builds both on the commendable work undertaken by the former Deniliquin Council and the work we are already doing to remove access barriers and increase participation of people with disability in our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped to develop this Plan, especially those local people with disability, families and carers who have shared their lived experience and the local disabilities service sector, whose everyday work supports inclusion and participation in our community.

Engaging the community is vital to this Plan's success. With your continued support we can make a positive difference. An inclusive Edward River region will benefit everyone and strengthen our community.

Phil Stone,
Chief Executive Officer

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Terminology

Language can be a personal and political choice. We recognize that there are varying views on language and terminology around disability in Australia and internationally. Edward River Council's DIAP 2023-26 will use the person first language of 'person with disability' to recognize that disability is just one aspect of a person's life and does not determine who they are. Council again acknowledges that others may prefer to label themselves according to the identity-first model (disabled persons) and/or persons with a psychosocial disability. However, for the purposes of uniformity in this Policy, and the reasons outlined above, Council has chosen to use the identity first model as an all-encompassing term.

Council acknowledges that the notion of disability is ever evolving and will carry out due diligence to stay updated on the language surrounding disability, and when changes occur, amend the DIAP accordingly.

The Social Model of Disability makes a distinction between conditions - the condition, illness, or loss/lack of function - and disability - barriers and discrimination. The term 'disability' refers to barriers, rather than medical conditions. The Social Model looks at the environment instead of individual conditions.

Inclusion is about creating an environment that celebrates diversity and is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment. This environment recognises, utilises, and values the knowledge, abilities, skills and ideas of people, irrespective of race, ethnicity or religion, gender or sexual orientation, education level, socio-economic background, age, disability or family responsibility.¹

¹ University of Western Australian Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.
<ombudsman.wa.gov.au/Publications/Documents/daip/Disability-Access-and-Inclusion-Plan-2020-2025.pdf>.

Access is about creating the necessary conditions for all individuals and organisations to utilise services, facilities, programs, and employment opportunities. Access is about making space for the unique characteristics that each person brings. Barriers to equitable access fall into the categories of physical, communication, economic, social, and attitudinal.

Universal Access is about the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood, and used by all people regardless of their age, size or ability. An environment should be designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to use it. It is a fundamental condition of good design. If an environment is accessible, usable, convenient and a pleasure to use, everyone benefits.²

Disability in Australia

The 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities defines people with disability as those 'who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers which may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.'³

Edward River Council subscribes to the social model of disability which recognises the difference between a person's individual condition or impairment and the barriers they experience which are created by the environment and society around them. Rather than focusing on the individual and medical diagnosis, the social model focuses on the barriers that create disadvantage by limiting opportunity, participation, autonomy and self-expression.

² National Disability Authority. What is Universal Design. <universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/>.

³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). <social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd>.

Disability can be both permanent or temporary, invisible or visible. We include mental health within our definition of disability, as well as members of the Deaf community (who may not choose to identify as people with disability, but instead as part of a cultural and linguistic minority, with their first language being Auslan).

Edward River Council recognises not everyone who experiences these barriers chooses to identify as a person with disability. We understand that identity and disclosure in the context of disability is complex and very personal. We also understand the principles of universal design, that one size does not fit all and the complexities of intersectionality within disability.

Disability impacts us all. It is a very broad diversity group and is commonly experienced amongst our community – with people either directly identifying themselves, being a carer for someone else or having a family member or close friend with disability. The statistics shared below demonstrate how widespread disability is:

- One in five Australians are people with disability (17.7% or 4.4 million people).⁴
- Out of the 7.80 million residents of NSW, 1.37 million or 18.34% have a disability.⁵
- 600,800 or 43.7% of all people with a disability in NSW are people over 65 years with a disability.⁶
- More than 11 million Australians or 47% have one or more chronic conditions.⁷

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), "Disability, ageing and carers, Australia: summary of findings" (Latest release, 24 October 2019) <abs.gov.au/statistics/health/disability/disability-ageing-and-carers-australia-summary-findings/2018>.

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Survey, Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2015 (ABS Cat No 4430.0) 2015, at abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4430.0, which includes the data cubes for tables in NSW (released 12 January 2017), accessed 20 September 2017.

⁶ The Judicial Commission of New South Wales Equality before the Law Bench Book - Section 5 - People with Disabilities. <judcom.nsw.gov.au/publications/benchbks/equality/section05.html#ftn.d5e8316>.

⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, "Chronic conditions and multimorbidity" (Topic summary, 7 July 2022) <aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/chronic-conditions-and-multimorbidity>.

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- 45% of the population will experience a mental health issue at some time in their lifetime.⁸
- 3.4 million or 15% of Australians have a physical condition.⁹
- 357,000 people in Australia are blind or partially sighted.¹⁰
- One in six Australians are impacted by hearing loss. There are approximately 30,000 Deaf Auslan users with total hearing loss.¹¹
- 45.1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over experience disability.¹²
- People with disability are twice as likely to be in the bottom 20% of gross household incomes.¹³
- 45% of those with disability in Australia are living either near or below the poverty line, more than double the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average of 22%.¹⁴

⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2020-21). National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing. ABS. <abs.gov.au/statistics/health/mental-health/national-study-mental-health-and-wellbeing/latest-release>.

⁹ The Judicial Commission of New South Wales Equality before the Law Bench Book - Section 5 - People with Disabilities. <judcom.nsw.gov.au/publications/benchbks/equality/section05.html#ftn.d5e8316>.

¹⁰ Vision 2020 Australia, "A snapshot of blindness and low vision services in Australia" (Resource article no date) <vision2020australia.org.au/resources/a-snapshot-of-blindness-and-low-vision-services-in-australia/>.

¹¹ Access Economics, Listen Hear! The Economic Impact and Cost of Hearing Loss in Australia (Access Economics report, February 2006) <hearnet.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ListenHearFinal.pdf>.

¹² ABS 4714.0 – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014–15 <abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4714.0>.

¹³ ABS 4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4430.0main+features202015>.

¹⁴ Price Waterhouse Coopers. Disability expectations - Investing in a better life, a stronger Australia 2011. <pwc.com.au/industry/government/assets/disability-in-australia.pdf>.

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Disability in Edward River

- 606 people or 7.2% of the population in Edward River Council reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.¹⁵
- 842 people, or 10.0%, of people in Edward River Council have a mental health condition, which is higher than both the NSW average of 646,412 people or 8.0%, and the National average of 2,231,543 people or 8.8%.¹⁶
- 94 people, or 1.1% of the population in Edward River Council have dementia which is higher than both the NSW average of 62,706 people or 0.8% and the National average of 189,162 people or 0.7%.¹⁷
- 659 people or 7.8% of the population in Edward River council are living with long-term health conditions (not including arthritis, asthma, cancer, dementia, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, lung disease, mental health conditions or stroke) in ERC is 659 people or 7.8% which is on par with both the NSW average of 626,827 people or 7.8% and the National average of 2,041,929 people or 8.0%.¹⁸

¹⁵ Edward River Council Need for assistance. <profile.id.com.au/edward-river/assistance>.

¹⁶ Edward River: 2021 Census All persons Quick Stats. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA12730>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

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Our Commitment to Accessibility

To support the implementation of our Disability Inclusion Action Plan, we will:

1. Deliver the services needed by our community within our responsibility and ensure that Council resources are responsibly managed
2. Lead by example and act as a role model for others through our own actions, strategic organisational responses, and our way of doing things
3. Advocate to other levels of government and key agencies to continue to improve services, facilities, and opportunities for our community
4. Facilitate and promote interaction between key stakeholders who can help us implement this DIAP

Methodology and Consultation

This Plan was developed in partnership with Accessible Arts, the peak arts and disability organisation in New South Wales.

During 2023, an extensive program of consultation was undertaken to inform this DIAP.

This included:

- Focus Group discussions with people with disability, their carers, service providers, volunteers, sporting and leisure clubs and interested community members
- A series of targeted interviews with council staff
- Focus Group discussion with councillors
- Two surveys: one for community members and another for council staff and councillors
- A Web Content Accessibility Guideline website compliance audit
- A desktop accessibility compliance audit of key council documents

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Governance, Monitoring and Review

Reporting on progress of the actions in the DIAP will be in accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

Annual actions of the DIAP will be considered and prioritised for resourcing and inclusion in Council's annual Operational Plan and budget each year.

We may also engage other experts, partners and stakeholders with lived experience of disability to assist us with the DIAP's implementation on an as needs basis.

We will provide an external report on the Plan's progress annually as part of our Annual Report. The Annual Report is published on our website.

Legislation and Policy

This Plan aligns with international and national social policy and legislative frameworks including:

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 (UNCPRD)
- National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (NDS)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)
- Disability Services Act 1986 (Commonwealth)
- Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010
- National Arts and Disability Strategy 2009
- Disability Services Act 1991 (Australian Capital Territory)
- Disability Justice Strategy 2019 - 2029 (Australian Capital Territory)

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Our Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Key Focus Areas

We are committed to ensuring that Edward River Council is an accessible and inclusive place to visit and work. This means increasing disability confidence and competence within our organisation and creating an environment where we can provide opportunities for everyone on an equal basis.

KEY FOCUS AREAS – WHAT YOU TOLD US

1. **Attitudes and behaviours** - You told us that the single greatest barrier for people with disability has been attitudes and behaviours of the general community, and that breaking down the barriers of attitudes and behaviours plays a key role in access and inclusion. You also told us that you believe that developing positive attitudes and increasing awareness will help change people's perceptions.
2. **Accessible and liveable communities** - You told us that the benefits of creating a liveable community went beyond modifying the physical environment. You told us that a more accessible Council had wide spread impacts, from parents with prams to the elderly with mobility issues. You told us that access to transport, community recreation and cultural opportunities and facilities, and social engagement were just as important.
3. **Employment** - You told us that people with disability have many skills and assets that Council can benefit from, yet statistics show that people with disability still have high rates of unemployment. You told us that people with disability have access issues when attending interviews, that there is a general lack of understanding of disability, and that employers fear that people with disability will cost too much to provide adequate support.
4. **Systems and processes** - You told us that while technology has advanced and that there are now many varied ways to communicate and interact, providing information effectively to people with disability still needs improvement.

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Objectives and Actions

Key Focus Area 1:

Attitudes and Behaviours

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
Council staff and councillors are aware of the social and economic benefits of inclusiveness.	Deliver Disability Awareness Training to staff, volunteers and Councillors as part of the induction and onboarding process.	2025-26	People & Culture	100% of new staff receive training at induction 100% of councillors receive training at commencement of new term
	Deliver Disability Awareness refresher to all staff every two years	2025-26	People & Culture	80% of Councillors and staff undertake refresher training

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
Build a culture of positive community attitudes towards people with disability fostered through greater awareness, exposure, understanding and respect	Include a review of progress with DIAP progress as a key part of the Annual Reporting process	2024-25	Office of the CEO	DIAP progress reviewed by Council annually
	Identify existing community Disability Awareness organisations and partner with them as key stakeholder groups for engagement in development of council strategies	2024-25	Communications & Engagement Corporate Strategy	Disability Awareness stakeholder group identified
	Provide for Council's participation and promote support of relevant days including International Day for People with Disability, R U OK Day, Mental Health Month and Carers Week	2025-26	Communications & Engagement People & Culture	Council support and promotion of relevant days are posted on social media # staff participation events of relevant

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
				day conducted per annum
	Ensure representation of people with disability in Council's marketing collateral.	2025-26	Communications & Engagement	5% of marketing material reflective of people with disability through appropriate images

Key Focus Area 2: Accessible & Liveable Communities

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
Ensure public domain infrastructure is accessible and inclusive, meeting standards and promoting independence and dignity	Audit Council facilities, buildings and open spaces to confirm accessibility service gap	2024-25 2025-26	Open Spaces and Facilities	1 access audit completed annually

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
	Apply access and inclusion service standards and best practice guidelines in the development of Masterplans, Strategies and Asset upgrades	From 2024-25 and ongoing	Asset Management Strategic Asset Management	% of Strategies, plans and Asset upgrades that consider access and inclusion
	Review and support the provision of dedicated signage that improves access and inclusion	2024-25 Ongoing	Transport Strategic Asset Management	Review completed by June 2025 # signage upgraded to enhance access and inclusion
	Scope the provision of accessible lifts for the outdoor and hydro pool	2025-26	Strategic Asset Management	Scoped and considered for funding by 2026

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
	Review inclusivity within playgrounds and provide recommendations for further all-inclusive play spaces for everyone	2025-26	Open Spaces and Facilities	1 playground reviewed annually
	Review the provision of mobility car parking spaces in key locations in town, near medical facilities and at key community facilities and develop strategies to maximise access and inclusion	2025-26 Ongoing	Transport Strategic Asset Management	Review complete by 2026 # of additional accessible parking spaces provided
Ensure community facilities, spaces and places provide for a range of inclusive participation opportunities for people of all abilities	Explore opportunities to increase diverse representation in services and community programs such as the Library and council-delivered events	2024-25	Library Community & Economy	5% increase in people identifying as a person with disability participating in programs

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
	Continue to provide a range of inclusive programs at community and creative facilities	2025-26	Community & Economy	5% of people identifying as a person with disability participating in programs
Local businesses and organisations are accessible and inclusive	Identify ways to support local businesses and organisations to be inclusive and accessible	2026-27	Community & Economy	50% of local businesses consulted on inclusivity and accessibility by June 2027
Provide accessible and inclusive events and exhibitions aimed at celebrating and connecting the community	Use the Smithsonian guidelines for accessible exhibition design as a basis to develop specific guidelines for all types of access requirements for Council cultural spaces.	2024-25	Project Management Office Community & Economy	Requirement for consideration of Smithsonian guidelines is incorporated into tender for PHC

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
				Gallery SCCF R5 funded project
	Scope the potential for the inclusion of Auslan, audio descriptions tours, self-guided audio descriptions tours, hearing loops, Relaxed programs, dedicated Quiet spaces, Tactile and Interactive programs/exhibits	2024-25	Project Management Office Community & Economy	Requirement to scope is incorporated into tender for PHC Gallery SCCF R5 funded project
	<p>Ensure Council-led events in council cultural facilities consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority/Early Seating program with designated wheelchair spaces to manage queuing and assist those who cannot stand in queues - booking and ticketing processes for people with a range of access requirements and affordability 	2025-26	Community & Economy	Actions are embedded into community events project planning by June 2025

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
	- the provision of comprehensive information about accessibility prior to arrival via clear online communications.			
	Review and ensure sound and lighting levels are safe and accessible for everyone.	2025-26	Community & Economy	Requirement to consider sound and lighting level accessibility embedded into DTH hire agreement by June 2026
	Survey and plan to improve wayfinding and signage in venues and exhibits across the Edward River Council area using Universal Design Principles. Scope a variety of maps of buildings and the central town, in both hardcopy and digital formats.	2026-27	Community & Economy	Survey of wayfinding and signage conducted and plan developed by June 2027

Key Focus Area 3:**Employment**

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
People with disability can access meaningful employment opportunities to enter and progress through the organisation	Include an inclusion and diversity statement in job advertisements to encourage people from under-represented groups to apply.	2024-25	People & Culture	100% of job advertisements include inclusion & diversity statement
	Ensure job advertisements are published in accessible formats and that various accessible formats of application are accepted.	2025-26	People & Culture Communications & Engagement	100% of job advertisements are published in accessible formats
	Scope opportunities for internships, traineeships and work experience programs for people with disability.	2026-27	People & Culture	1 internship / traineeship / work experience program is identified by June 2027

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
	Conduct an Access Audit of staff areas and staff software and devices to identify barriers and solutions.	2025-26	Customer Experience	Access audit of staff areas and software is undertaken by June 2026
	Review HR policies and documents as they come up for renewal to align with the Australian Public Service Disability Employment Strategy 2020-2025 and ensure access and inclusion is referenced where appropriate.	2025-26	People & Culture	100% of HR policies and documents due for renewal are updated to reference access and inclusion by June 2026
People with disability can access meaningful volunteering opportunities to enter and progress through the organisation	Clearly communicate that volunteer access requirements will be supported on all marketing/communication around volunteering opportunities	2025-26	Communications and Engagement People & Culture	100% of marketing materials for volunteer opportunities communicate this

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
			Community & Economy	
	Ensure volunteers have the same procedures as staff for disclosing access requirements and then ensure these are supported.	2025-26	People & Culture Community & Economy	100% of volunteer procedures reviewed accordingly

Key Focus Area 4: Systems & Processes

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
Council information is accessible to all	Develop a plan to implement the priority recommendations of the Website Audit Report to ensure the website is accessible for people with a range of access requirements	2024-25	Communications & Engagement	Website Audit Report implementation plan is developed

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
	Working towards achieving Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1AA to continually improve access to information.	2024-25	Customer Experience Communications & Engagement	100% of new website content developed aligns
	Training provided to staff on creating accessible PDF and Word documents and web authoring meeting WCAG 2.0 Level AA standard	2024-25	Customer Experience Communications & Engagement	1 training session scheduled, attended by 100% of staff responsible for updating web content
Customer services are accessible for people of all abilities	Ensure various options are available for customers to communicate with Council (e.g. National Relay Service, Translating and Interpreting Services, Easy Read resources, website, email, phone, in-person)	2024-25 Ongoing	Customer Experience	1 new accessible options is identified and implemented by June 25

Outcome/Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Measure/Target
	Ensure people with disability can easily report access and inclusion issues	2024-25 Ongoing	Customer Experience	CRM system updated to include category for reporting access and inclusion issues by June 2025
Community engagement informs ongoing planning for services, programs and facilities with an aim to improve access, inclusion and liveability	Continue to engage people with disability in decision-making processes and in the development and implementation of DIAP's	2025-26 Ongoing	Communications & Engagement	# communications planning includes consideration of stakeholders' disabilities

12.3. STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (SARC) ACTIVITY - INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES GRANT

Author: Director Corporate Services

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Confirm its position on an application under the Strong And Resilient Communities grant in this funding round (round three)
2. Notes that council staff have worked in collaboration with stakeholders to prepare an application for this round of funding in readiness for a decision
3. Notes that there are two future rounds of this funding planned under this program, being rounds four and five
4. Notes that the work undertaken to prepare an application for this round can be strengthened and utilised for future funding applications should Council determine not to proceed with an application under this current round or if the application if made, is unsuccessful
5. Notes the opportunity to confirm a strategic direction for the delivery of youth services with the new council as part of the development of the next Delivery Program.

BACKGROUND

The Deniliquin Mental Health Awareness Group (MHAG) has approached Council on a number of occasions advocating for Council to engage a youth officer to coordinate the delivery of youth engagement and connection activities for the community through grant programs.

With the opening of the third round of funding for the Strong And Resilient Communities (SARC) – Inclusive Communities Grants (SARC), MHAG have brought the opportunity to Council's attention for consideration of application.

Council officers prepared and tabled an initial position paper for Councillor review and discussion at the 5 February briefing following email correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer.

In response to a request from the briefing, Council officers met with key stakeholders from MHAG and South West Arts on 6 February to discuss options, the initial sentiment of Council for the grant as expressed at the briefing, and to confirm a feasible path forward. The outcomes of this meeting were communicated to Councillors by email from the Chief Executive Officer at the conclusion of that meeting.

Council officers have worked in collaboration with these stakeholders to progress an application in readiness for an approval/non-approval decision at the February council meeting. This report is now before Council for their consideration and decision.

About the funding program

The Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity is an Australian Government program that provides grant funding to organisations for one-off, time limited projects that support vulnerable and disadvantaged people participate socially and economically through local community-driven solutions.

SARC helps build strong and resilient communities that support people:

- overcome disadvantage

- provide greater community engagement
- promote participation and belonging
- build self-reliance and empowerment.

SARC – Inclusive Communities Grants (SARC – IC) is funded from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2028. The total value of this project over its lifecycle is \$63 million. The Australian Government website states that the SARC grants will run over 5 rounds with projects commencing from 1 July 2022 and ending 30 June 2028. Two rounds of funding have already been issued. The third, being the subject of this report, is now open for applications until 9pm, 20 February 2024 for funding to support delivery of activity between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2026.

The program aims to improve the social and economic participation of four target groups:

- young people aged 12 to 18 years who are, or are at risk of:
- people with disabilities and/or mental health issues
- vulnerable women who may be socially isolated
- unemployed people who face individual barriers to employment to engage with existing employment/training services.

The grant supports one-off, time limited projects for up to 2 years. It does not assist ongoing service delivery nor be used to offset the cost of existing work or a service provision.

The grant is offered by the Australian Government on behalf of the Department of Social Services. It is an Open Competitive grant. Local government entities are amongst the eligible applicants who can apply for a maximum of \$360,000 over 2 years.

The objective of the grant is to support social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our communities by providing funding for:

- young people 12 to 18 years who are disengaged, or at risk of being disengaged from education, to reconnect with their community, school, training and/or employment
- people with disabilities and/or mental health issues to participate in their community, and work towards becoming and/or remaining independent and engaged in the economy and/or society
- women who experience, or are at risk of experiencing, isolation or discrimination to participate in the community or the economy and increase their self-agency
- people who are unemployed to increase participation in their community, and/or increase their capacity to engage in employment, training, or existing employment services.

All activities must be concluded by 30 June 2026.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The proposal before Council is to apply for funding to support the engagement of a Youth position by Council that would:

- undertake, in partnership with relevant community organisations, schools, etc, engagement with target youth to better understand their needs within the first 3 months (limited by conditions of the grant)
- prepare a program in collaboration with community-based delivery partners that fulfils those needs where they are consistent with the objectives of the funding body and grant program

- administer the funding to those community partner organisations to deliver programs where they align to the specific objectives of the grant program
- coordinate appropriate evaluation against the objectives during and at the conclusion of the funding tenure and
- manage the funds and acquittal process

There are a number of community partners already identified that deliver services for youth, which include Edward River Council through the library and event services, Deniliquin MHAG, South West Arts, South West Music, Yakuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre, St Vincent de Paul, various sports and recreation clubs, Deniliquin Baptist Church, and the Salvation Army.

It is intended that the dedicated role/position would be able to provide a level of coordination to ensure hard to reach youth are able to participate more fully in community life, and that delivery partners are resourced to expand existing offerings or introduce new programming to support the objectives of the grant.

According to the most current data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there are 1,054 residents aged 10-19 in Edward River, many of which would be eligible to benefit from any activities delivered out of this grant. This represents approximately 12.5% of the Edward River population.

The ABS also utilises the SEIFA index to rank geographical areas according to their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage from 1 (Most Disadvantaged) to 5 (Most Advantaged). The SEIFA report notes that generally, disadvantaged areas tend to be in regional and remote communities, while advantaged areas tend to be in major cities, and ranks the Edward River region at a 4.

The introduction of a new service for Council to deliver, albeit on a two year limited basis, is a consideration for Councillors to discuss with particular emphasis on managing community expectations around ongoing service delivery following the end of the funding period.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Council is not required under legislation to deliver youth services to the community. There is currently no strategic alignment in Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program or Operational Plan to deliver youth services.

There is an opportunity for the new council to consider its ongoing position on youth service delivery in consultation with the community as part of its strategic work in developing priorities for its term as articulated in its Delivery Program, due for adoption by 30 June 2025. Prog

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant supports payment of wages, travel, training and programming. Regardless of funding support for a dedicated role, there will be indirect costs and resourcing by way of additional time required that will not be recoverable through the grant funds, such as appropriate management of the employee lifecycle process.

Council has invested staff time in the development of grant application.

It is recommended that Council consider the risk of creating an ongoing financial commitment to the community after the conclusion of the grant program if community expectations are not well managed

from the outset and this will require a clear communication at the commencement of, and during, any funded period with stakeholders.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Attachment 1 - SARC - Inclusive Communities - Grant Opportunity Guidelines



Families and Communities Program:
Strong and Resilient Communities Activity –
Inclusive Communities Grants Round 3
Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Opening date:	14 December 2023
Closing date and time:	9:00 pm AEDT on 20 February 2024
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Social Services
Administering entities:	The Department of Social Services and Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	<p>If you have any questions, contact</p> <p>Community Grants Hub</p> <p>Phone: 1800 020 283 (option 1)</p> <p>Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au</p> <p>Questions should be sent no later than 5:00 pm AEDT on 13 February 2024</p>
Date guidelines released:	14 December 2023
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

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1. Families and Communities Program: Strong and Resilient Communities Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants Round 3 processes

The Families and Communities Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Social Services' Outcome 2 Families and Communities. The Department of Social Services works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 \(CGRGs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on the [GrantConnect](#) websites.



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. If you are eligible, we then assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with money and compare it to other applications.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice, through the Selection Advisory Panel to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We enter into a grant agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature or complexity of the grant and is proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants opportunity

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants as a whole. We base this on information you provide us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Strong and Resilient Communities – Inclusive Communities (SARC – IC) Grants.

The SARC – IC Grants are an element of the Volunteering and Community Connectedness Program Component within the Families and Communities Program. The Families and Communities Program aims to strengthen relationships, support families to improve wellbeing of children and young people, reduce the cost of family breakdown, and strengthen family and community functioning.

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

The grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Department of Social Services (the department) according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017¹](#) (CGRGs).

2. About the grant program

The SARC – IC Grants are run over 5 grant rounds from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2028. The Activity was announced as part of the Family and Communities Program.

The department runs an annual submission period, with grant applications being considered in tranches across 5 rounds. This grant opportunity seeks applications for time-limited projects of up to 2 years duration to be delivered from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026.

The SARC – IC Grants aim to support vulnerable and disadvantaged people on pathways to self-reliance and empowerment through local community-driven solutions that support them to participate socially and/or economically. The SARC – IC Grants will focus on supporting people of working age (15 to 64 years) in geographic areas of high socio-economic disadvantage across all states and territories.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines>

Please note: The program is not intended to deliver projects or existing services that duplicate or are in the remit of mainstream service systems funded and managed by the Australian Government and/or state/territory governments.

Projects funded under SARC – IC are intended to complement existing services such as those delivered under the mental health system, Work Force Australia, Disability Employment Services, National Disability Insurance Scheme or education and training that is in the remit of schools or vocational education systems.

2.1 Objectives

The objectives of SARC – IC Grants are to:

- support young people 12 to 18 years who are disengaged, or at risk of disengaging, from education to reconnect with their community, school, training and/or employment
- support people with disabilities and/or mental health issues to participate in the community, and work towards becoming or remaining independent and engaged in the economy and/or society
- support women who experience, or are at risk of experiencing isolation or discrimination to participate in the community and/or economy and increase their self-agency
- support people who are unemployed to increase participation in their community and/or increase their capacity to engage in employment, training, or existing employment services.

2.2 Outcomes

The SARC – IC Grants have a strong focus on the identification, measurement and demonstration of achieved outcomes for participants, in addition to the outputs that are delivered within the time and resourcing of the grant activity.

For this activity, participation in the Data Exchange 'partnership approach' is mandatory (see section 12 – How we monitor your grant activity for more information). This will assist organisations to track progress towards achieving their projects' intended outcomes, deliver outcome-focused data and support the department to demonstrate the benefits delivered through these grants.

The outcomes of the program contribute to strengthened community connections, economic and social participation and increased levels of self-reliance, and wellbeing. Outcomes may be achieved at a group, individual or community level and across one or multiple cohorts.

It is anticipated that funded projects under the program will achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Increased social, civic and economic participation.
- Reduced levels of social isolation/increased sense of belonging in communities.
- People are self-reliant, empowered and experience improved sense of wellbeing.
- People are engaged in education, training and work-ready services and activities.
- People have improved work skills and increased opportunities for paid work.
- People engage with and sustain engagement with community services and activities.
- People have improved connections and linkages to services that further support their increased social, civic and economic participation.

Please note: Projects previously funded under SARC – IC, or are currently funded by the Commonwealth, are ineligible under this grant opportunity unless the project represents a significant reframe.

A significant reframe is defined as change to the existing service provision type, location or cohort.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$63 million (GST exclusive) over 5 rounds for the SARC – IC Grants. For this grant opportunity, funding of up to \$12.6 million (GST exclusive) is available over 2 years (2024–25 and 2025–26).

Funds of up to \$180,000 (GST exclusive) per year are available for each grant, with a maximum grant amount of \$360,000 (GST exclusive).

Project funding and service delivery start from 1 July 2024 and end 30 June 2026.

3.2 SARC – IC grant period

The maximum grant period is 2 years.

You must complete your project by 30 June 2026.

Please note: You may not expend any grant funding after the activity end date or after 30 June 2026 (whichever occurs first).

4. Eligibility criteria

The department will not consider your application if it does not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

In certain instances the decision maker can choose to waive the eligibility criteria, however, they must be made aware of the risks. Clear evidence will be provided to the delegate to enable a decision on whether eligibility criteria should be waived.

We cannot provide a grant if you receive funding from another government source for the same purpose.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must be one of the following entity types:

- Company²
- Cooperative
- Incorporated Association
- Indigenous Corporation

² Company is a company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)

- Local Government Entity³
- Statutory Entity
- Trust⁴.

Please note: For social enterprises to be eligible for this grant opportunity, they must be certified through Social Traders.

A Social Enterprise is a trading business – selling goods and services – but whose primary objective is to achieve social and/or environmental benefit.

- Social enterprises are required to satisfy the following requirements in order to apply:
 - have a defined primary social, cultural or environmental purpose consistent with a public or community benefit
 - derive a substantial portion of their income from trade, and
 - invest efforts and resources into their purpose such that public/community benefit outweighs private benefit.
- Social enterprises can be certified through Social Traders if they meet above criteria.

Before you submit your application, please check that you can attach sufficient supporting documentation to validate your entity type. Eligible entity types can vary from one grant opportunity to another.

Applications from consortia are acceptable, as long as you have a lead applicant who is solely accountable to the Commonwealth for the delivery of grant activities and is an eligible entity as per the list above⁵. Eligible organisations can form a consortia with ineligible organisations.

4.2 Additional eligibility requirements

Child Safe Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply applicants must comply with the Australian Government's Child Safety obligations. At a minimum, applicants must, in delivering the proposed activity, be compliant with all relevant state, territory and Commonwealth law relating to employment or engagement of Child-Related Personnel.

If a proposed activity involves direct interaction with children, or children will be somehow involved in the activity, then applicants must, in delivering the proposed activity, also apply the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, undertake an annual risk assessment of child safety and provide child safe training and education for staff.

Details on the specific child safe eligibility criteria can be found on the [Child Safety for DSS grants](#)⁶ and in the [Frequently Asked Questions for DSS grantees](#).⁷

³ Includes New South Wales local governments created as Body Politics.

⁴ Trusts are not legal entities in their own right – to be eligible, only the Trustee for the Trust can apply by providing the signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations with the application form. Trustees must be an eligible entity type as stated in section 4.1. Both the Trust and Trustee details will be collected in the application form.

⁵ The Australian Government recognises that some organisations may seek to form consortia in order to apply for a grant under the program. Consortia are eligible to apply and the relevant conditions applicable to consortia are at section 7.2 'Joint (Consortia) Applications'.

⁶ <https://www.dss.gov.au/doing-business-with-dss/child-safety-for-dss-grants>

⁷ <https://www.dss.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions-for-dss-grantees>

4.3 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#)⁸ on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#)⁹ on the non-compliant organisations list
- Corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Non-Corporate Commonwealth Statutory Authority
- Corporate State or Territory Entity
- Non-corporate State or Territory Entity
- Non-corporate State or Territory Statutory Authority
- International Entity
- Unincorporated Association
- Sole Trader
- Partnership
- Person.

Please note: Auspicing arrangements are ineligible under this grant opportunity.

4.4 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

If you are successful, relevant personnel working on the project must maintain the following:

- Working with Vulnerable People registration
- Working with Children check.

If your organisation is a Social Enterprise you must maintain the following:

- Social Traders certification.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

You must use the grant to deliver an approved project that meets the requirements outlined in section 2 – About the grant program including the objectives, intended outcomes and as defined in the grant agreement.

To be eligible your project must:

- be targeted towards one or more of the cohorts outlined in section 2.1 – Objectives
- be either a new project or a significant reframe as outlined in section 2.2 – Outcomes.

⁸ <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

⁹ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/what-we-do/compliance-reporting/non-compliant-list>

The following table provides examples of eligible project activities. Projects funded under this grant opportunity must directly relate to the grant objectives and outcomes (see section 2 – About the grant program).

Objective cohort	Examples
Young people 12 to 18	Cultural workshops Social engagement activities Vocational training and skills development activities Education support and engagement activities Physical and mental health activities
Women	Connect women with existing support services Group workshops Self-empowerment activities Opportunities for social and economic participation
People with disabilities/mental health issues	Activities that support independence and self-reliance Work-readiness or educational tailored workshops Support social and community engagement Promote well-being and psychosocial support Community events
People who are unemployed	Work-readiness or educational workshops Social connection and networking opportunities Break down barriers for people to access employment support One-on-one mentoring

5.2 Ineligible grant activities

The SARC – IC Grants are for one off, time-limited short-term projects and as such the following types of projects are ineligible:

- Projects that have an ongoing service delivery model, such as intensive case management or counselling.
- Projects that duplicate another service (as outlined in section 2 – About the grant program) without demonstrating how it is either different or complementary.
- Projects that contain an extended period of community or participant consultation or co-design (more than 3 months).
- Project that are either research or have research elements (beyond an evaluation component).

5.3 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred under the agreed project activities.

Eligible expenditure items are:

- staff salaries and on-costs, which can be directly attributed to the provision of the grant program in the identified service areas as per the grant agreement
- employee training for paid and unpaid staff including Committee and Board members, that is relevant, appropriate and in line with the grant program
- operating and administration expenses directly related to the project as per the grant agreement, such as:
 - rent and outgoings
 - computer/IT/website/software
 - consumables
 - insurance
 - utilities, including telephone
 - postage, stationery and/or printing
 - accounting and auditing
 - domestic travel/accommodation costs
 - up to 2 years of vehicle leasing¹⁰
- assets as defined in the Terms and Conditions that can be reasonably attributed to meeting agreement deliverables
- evaluation of the project – up to 7.5% of the total grant may be used for evaluation and exploring possible options for future sustainability and ongoing viability of the funded project beyond the SARC – IC Grant.

¹⁰ Vehicles must be leased from a recognised commercial leasing company.

5.4 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for:

- purchase of land
- wages not related to the direct delivery of the funded project
- major capital expenditure, including the purchase of vehicles
- the covering of retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent not directly related to the project as per the grant agreement
- major construction/capital works
- overseas travel
- payments or incentives to encourage individuals to participate in the project
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.

Funding will not be provided if you receive funding from another government source for the same purpose.

Funding is unlikely to be provided if another organisation is being funded to provide substantially similar services to the same cohort in the same location.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all of the following assessment criteria in the application. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion detailed below.

The application form includes character limits – up to 3,000 characters (approximately 450 words) per criterion. The application form will not accept characters beyond this limit. Please note spaces are included in the character limit.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

Criterion 1: Need for the project in the community and relevance to government priorities (20%)

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will describe:

- The problem or need your project will address, including evidence (for example, statistics, research, supporting evidence of unmet need or service gap, consultation with the target cohort.¹¹), and how it aligns with the objectives of SARC – IC Grants (see section 2.1 – Objectives).
- The demographics of the community your project will target (see section 2.1 – Objectives for a description of the program objectives, which also includes the target cohorts).
- Any collaborations, co-design activities or consultations undertaken with the target cohort/s in the design of the project; including their role in the process and support of the project.

¹¹ This list is not exhaustive.

Criterion 2: Describe the project (30%)

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will:

- Provide a detailed description of your project, including how it will be delivered and any information about delivery partners.
- Outline how you will recruit participants and staff for the project.
- How your project aligns with Australian Government strategies or plans that addresses disadvantage of your project's target cohort (for example Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031, Closing the Gap and the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.¹²).

Criterion 3: Describe the intended outcomes of the project (30%)

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will:

- Explain the intended short and medium term outcomes of your project and how these are linked to the outcomes of SARC – IC Grants (see section 2.2 – Outcomes).
- Outline how the intended outcomes of your project may be sustained for the cohort/s in the long term.
- Explain how you will measure the intended outcomes of your project, including any tools or strategies you will utilise and at what point in the project they will be used.

Criterion 4: Capability to deliver the project and governance arrangements to support delivery (20%)

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will:

- Provide an overview of your organisation, including governance structures, geographical coverage and dispute resolution policies.
- Describe the relevant experience, qualifications, and registrations required by staff who will deliver services under SARC – IC Grants, including how staff will continue to be appropriately skilled and supported.
- Demonstrate how your organisation will leverage existing relationships and work with other services to deliver the project.
- Describe your process for ensuring all reporting requirements in section 12.1 – Keeping us informed will be met.

¹² This list is not exhaustive

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these Grant Opportunity Guidelines, grant agreement terms and conditions, and questions and answers.

These documents are found on the [GrantConnect¹³](#) website. Any changes to grant documentation are published as addenda¹⁴ on GrantConnect. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

You can only submit one application per project for this grant opportunity. A separate application form must be submitted if you are seeking funding for more than one project. If more than one application is submitted for the same project, the latest accepted application form will progress.

To apply you must:

- complete the online application form on [GrantConnect](#)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- complete all required templates
- include all necessary attachments (see Section 7.1 – Attachments to the application)
- submit your application/s to the Community Grants Hub by 9:00 pm AEDT on 20 February 2024.

The department will not provide application forms or accept applications for this grant opportunity by fax or mail.

The application form includes help information. You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995¹⁵](#) and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you need more help about the application process, submitting an application online, have any technical difficulties or find an error in your application after submission, but before the closing date and time, you should contact the Community Grants Hub immediately on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au. The department does not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or something missing, we may ask you for clarification or additional information. This will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your application after the closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

You will receive an automated notification acknowledging the receipt of your application.

¹³ <https://help.grants.gov.au/>

¹⁴ Addenda can include changes to existing grant opportunity documentation and/or publishing additional documents. Changes include but are not limited to corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications and system outage notices.

¹⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2023C00283>

7.1 Attachments to the application

All of the following documents must be attached to your application for it to be considered compliant and for it to proceed to assessment:

- evidence of your entity type
- evidence and details of consortia arrangement (if applicable)
- evidence of certification with Social Traders as outlined in section 4.1 – Who is eligible to apply for a grant? (if applicable)

You must attach supporting documentation according to the instructions provided within the application form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments we have not asked for.

Please note: There is a 2 MB limit for each attachment.

7.2 Joint (Consortia) applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a consortium to deliver a SARC – IC Grants project.

In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The lead organisation must also be an eligible entity type as outlined in section 4.1 – Who is eligible to apply for a grant? The application must identify all other members of the consortium. Organisations will not be eligible to be members of a consortium arrangement if they are included on the:

- [National Redress Scheme's website](https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/)¹⁶ on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](https://www.wgea.gov.au/)¹⁷ on the non-compliant list.

Eligible organisations can form consortia with ineligible organisations.

7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

Late applications

We will not accept late applications unless an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable
- beyond the applicant's control
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles.

Technical difficulties are not considered exceptional circumstances. You should ensure you allow enough time during the submission process in case you experience such difficulties.

¹⁶ <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

¹⁷ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/>

How to lodge a late application

Applicants seeking to submit a late application will be required to submit an email request to the Community Grants Hub via support@communitygrants.gov.au. Where appropriate, applicants may provide supporting evidence to verify the claim of exceptional circumstances. Email requests are required within **3 business days** of the grant opportunity closing. No late applications will be accepted or considered after 5:00 pm AEDT on 23 February 2024.

Upon receipt of a late application email request, the Community Grants Hub will send a link to the late application form, which will detail the due date and time for submitting the late application.

The late application form will prompt applicants to provide a detailed explanation of the exceptional circumstances, which prevented submission of their application prior to the closing date and time.

The Community Grants Hub will provide all exceptional circumstances for consideration to the Grant Opportunity Delegate or their appointed representative. The Grant Opportunity Delegate or their appointed representative will determine, based on the merits of the exceptional circumstances, in accordance with probity principles, whether a late application is accepted.

The Grant Opportunity Delegate or their appointed representative's decision will be final and not subject to a review or appeals process.

Expected timing for this grant opportunity

If you are successful, you will be expected to start your SARC – IC Grants project from 1 July 2024.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	4 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	4 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	Up to 6 weeks
Notification to applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity	1 July 2024
End date of grant activity	30 June 2026

7.4 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period contact the Community Grants Hub on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au.

The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within 5 working days. The Questions and Answers document will be updated to include answers to questions and addenda will be published on [GrantConnect](#).

The question period will close at 5:00 pm AEDT on 13 February 2024. Following this time, only questions about using and/or submitting the application form will be answered.

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

The Community Grants Hub will review your application against the eligibility criteria. Only eligible applications will move to the next stage. Eligible applications will be considered through an open competitive grant process.

If eligible, the department will then assess your application against the assessment criteria (see section 6 – The assessment criteria). We will consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the assessment criteria
- how it compares to other applications.

A Selection Advisory Panel will consider:

- whether it provides value with relevant money.¹⁸

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, the Selection Advisory Panel will have regard to:

- the initial preliminary score against the assessment criteria
- how effectively applicants address the assessment criteria and explain the project
- whether the proposed project is in scope
- whether the activities to be delivered are suited to short term one off funding
- the relative value of the grant sought
- extent to which the geographical location of the application matches the priorities and objectives of SARC – IC Grants
- how well it compares to other applications
- the extent to which the project may overlap with or duplicate services, grants or programs, delivered by the Commonwealth, state or territory governments
- the risks (financial, fraud and other) that the application or project poses to the department
- the risk that the applicant or project poses for the Commonwealth.

8.2 Financial viability

The Community Grants Hub will conduct a ratio analysis for all applicants. Should the ratio analysis prompt further investigation, applicants may be subject to a financial viability assessment. The financial viability assessment forms part of the risk mitigation strategy and can include:

- establishing whether relevant persons have any adverse business history (for example, current or past bankruptcy)
- assessment of the financial health of an entity.

¹⁸ See glossary for an explanation of 'value with money'.

8.3 Who will assess and select applications?

The assessment team will assess each application against the eligibility criteria and rate applications as eligible and not eligible for funding. The assessment team uses fully trained Community Grants Hub staff for consistent assessment of all applications.

The department uses this information to help them develop recommendations on applications to be awarded a grant.

Any expert/advisor, who is not a Commonwealth official, will be required/expected to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs.

The Selection Advisory Panel may seek additional information about you or your application and this may delay completion of the selection process. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. Assessment personnel may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

The Selection Advisory Panel recommends to the decision maker which applications to approve for a grant.

8.4 Who will approve grants?

Based on the value of the grant round, and in line with the department's financial delegations, the Minister for Social Services will be the decision maker. The decision maker decides which grants to approve based on the recommendations of the Selection Advisory Panel and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

9. Notification of application outcomes

The department will write to you about the outcome of your application. If you are successful, you are advised of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

You can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant opportunities under the program. You should include new or more information to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

9.1 Feedback on your application

A feedback summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all organisations with easy access to information about the grant selection process and the main strengths and areas for improving applications.

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We will offer successful applicants a Commonwealth Individualised Standard Grant Agreement for this grant opportunity.

Each agreement has general/standard grant conditions that cannot be changed. Sample grant agreements are available on GrantConnect as part of the grant documentation. We will use a schedule to outline the specific grant requirements.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. You must not start any SARC – IC activities until a grant agreement is executed.

Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the decision maker. These are identified in the agreement.

We may manage the grant agreement through our Grant Recipient Portal. Accepting the agreement through the Grant Recipient Portal is the equivalent of signing a grant agreement. After you have accepted it, we will execute the agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have entered into the grant agreement. We will notify you when this happens and a copy of the executed agreement will be available through the portal. The agreement will not become binding until it is executed.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

Commonwealth Individualised Standard Grant Agreement

We will use a Commonwealth Individualised Standard Grant Agreement.

You will have 20 business days from the date of a written offer to sign and return this grant agreement. The grant agreement is not considered to be executed until both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement. During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

You may request changes to the grant agreement. However, we will review any changes to make sure they do not affect the grant as approved by the decision maker.

10.2 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

The Australian Government has put in place ways to apply certain child safety requirements of the CCSF to grantees. A child safety clause will be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

- services directly to children
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity
- activities that involve possible contact with children that is irregular or unplanned.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement prior to execution of the grant agreement. Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

The child safe supplementary clause lists the obligations the successful applicant must comply with to be child safe compliant. To view the child safe supplementary clause visit [Child Safety for DSS grants](#)¹⁹ web page.

10.3 National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#)²⁰ (National Agreement) objective is to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments to work together to overcome the inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and achieve life outcomes equal to all Australians. The National Agreement is underpinned by the belief that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a genuine say in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services that affect them, better life outcomes are achieved.

The National Agreement has been built around 4 [Priority Reforms](#)²¹, these reforms recognise the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are central to the National Agreement. The aim of the Priority Reforms is to change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve the socio-economic targets outlined in the National Agreement.

The Priority Reforms are:

- formal partnerships and shared decision-making
- building the community controlled sector
- transforming government organisations and
- shared access to data and information at a regional level.

The department encourages grantees to work towards having a deep understanding of the Priority Reforms and how embedding them into the way services are designed and delivered will actively contribute to the [Closing the Gap targets](#)²². This includes considering how to engage in genuine partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Grantees are required to ensure their services are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

¹⁹ <https://www.dss.gov.au/doing-business-with-dss/child-safety-for-dss-grants>

²⁰ <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement>

²¹ <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/priority-reforms>

²² <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/targets>

10.4 Indigenous organisation type classifications

All Australian governments are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their communities, organisations and businesses to implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) at the national, state and territory, and local levels. The National Agreement identifies 4 priority areas for reform within government. One of these is Priority Reform 2, building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

To assist government with improving and reporting on the level of community grant funding going to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, changes have been made to the way organisation data is collected. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations will now be classified into 3 tiers and asked to self-identify which group they fall under. The 3 tiers and their definitions are:

Organisation	Definition
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are incorporated, not for profit, at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation	These are organisations that are at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned OR at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).

10.5 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

Whilst you are required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations, you may be requested to demonstrate compliance with the following legislation/policies/industry standards:

- *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* reporting requirements.

You may need to declare you can meet these requirements in your grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

10.6 Multicultural access and equity

The Australian Government's *Multicultural Access and Equity Policy* obliges Australian Government agencies to ensure their policies, programs and services – including those provided by contractors and service delivery partners – are accessible to, and deliver equitable outcomes for, people from multicultural communities.

Grant applicants should consider how they will ensure their services will be accessible to people from multicultural communities. For example, service delivery partners may require cultural competency skills. In addition, services, projects, activities or events may require the use of professional translating or interpreting services in order to communicate with clients who have limited English proficiency. Based on an assessment of the client target group, costs for translating and interpreting services should be factored into grant applications (to assist with identifying these costs see the Translating and Interpreting Services costing tool).

10.7 How we pay the grant

We will make payment according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement.

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- grant activity deliverables
- payment schedule
- reporting requirements
- acquittal procedures.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

10.8 Grant payments and GST

GST will be paid for this grant. If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#)²³, where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#)²⁴.

If a government related entity is deemed successful, GST will apply.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).²⁵ We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website no later than 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by section 5.3 of the [CGRGs](#).

²³ <https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/gst-excise-and-indirect-taxes/gst/registering-for-gst>

²⁴ <https://www.ato.gov.au/forms-and-instructions/recipient-created-tax-invoices>

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activities or organisation.

We need to know of any changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due because of these changes.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- organisation name
- ABN
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of the terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2 Reporting

The Data Exchange

Grantees must have systems in place to meet their data collection and reporting obligations outlined in their grant agreement.

Performance information (for example, client characteristics and service delivery information) needs to be collected by grantees at the client level and put directly into the department's performance reporting solution, the Data Exchange.

The performance information reported through the Data Exchange includes:

- client identity characteristics (given and family names, date of birth, gender and residential address)
- client demographic characteristics (Indigenous status, cultural and linguistic diversity, and disability status, impairment or condition)
- service delivery information (outlets, cases, sessions)
- client outcomes.

The Data Exchange has 2 standardised 6 monthly performance reporting periods each year, which run from 1 July to 31 December and 1 January to 30 June, with a 30 day close off period after each of these. Once the close-off period is completed, no further changes can be made to the data.

Information must be provided in accordance with the Data Exchange Protocols available on the [Data Exchange website](https://dex.dss.gov.au/data-exchange-protocols)²⁶.

²⁶ <https://dex.dss.gov.au/data-exchange-protocols>

For this activity, participation in the “partnership approach” is a requirement of funding. By participating, you agree to provide some additional information in exchange for the receipt of regular and relevant reports. The main focus of the partnership approach is collecting information about the outcomes achieved by clients as a result of service delivery. The partnership approach also includes some extended data items that provide additional information about client demographics, needs and circumstances.

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress towards achievement of outcomes
- contributions of participants directly related to the grant activity
- expenditure of the grant.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size and complexity of the grant and the grant amount.

We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, ask for more information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Activity Work Plan

You will be required to work with the department to complete an Activity Work Plan on the template provided by us prior to execution of the grant agreement. An Activity Work Plan will be used to outline the specific grant requirements. The Activity Work Plan documents planned deliverables, milestones and outputs for the funded project as well as risk management and community engagement relevant to the funded project.

Successful applicants' progress and outcomes against the Activity Work Plan including any compliance requirements will be monitored throughout the grant through 6 monthly Activity Work Plan reports.

Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include evidence of your progress toward completion of agreed activities and outcomes
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- include evidence of expenditure
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities).

You must tell us of any reporting delays as soon as you become aware of them.

Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the grant activity

Final report

When you complete the grant activity you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted by the due date and in the format provided in the grant agreement.

Annual Child Safe Statement of Compliance

You will be required to submit an annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance. This will be a statutory declaration on a form provided by the Community Grants Hub affirming that that you are compliant with the Child Safe Supplementary Term in your grant agreement.

12.3 Acquitting your grant**Non-audited financial acquittal report**

We will ask you to provide a non-audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement and declare unspent funds. A non-audited financial acquittal report is an income and expenditure statement from the grant recipient stating that grant funding was spent to perform the activity(ies) as set out in the grant agreement. If relevant, the grant recipient must include in the statement the details of any unspent funds. Non-audited financial acquittals must be certified by the Board, Chief Executive Officer or an authorised officer of the organisation.

Underspent funding must be returned to the department.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting your Funding Arrangement Manager, Community Grants Hub.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant SARC Activity to see how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a SARC Activity – IC Grants project funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'This Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants project received grant funding from the Australian Government.'

13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

These guidelines may be changed by the department. When this happens, the revised guidelines are published on [GrantConnect](#).

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Complaints about the grant program or the selection process

Applicants can contact the complaints service with complaints about the Community Grants Hub's service/s or the selection process.

Details of what makes an eligible complaint can be provided by asking the Community Grants Hub. Applicants can use the [online complaints form](#)²⁷ on the [Department of Social Services website](#)²⁸, or contact the department's Complaints line.

Phone: 1800 634 035

Email: complaints@dss.gov.au

Mail: Complaints
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints to the Ombudsman

If you do not agree with the way the Community Grants Hub or the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)²⁹. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Community Grants Hub or the department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

²⁷ <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/feedback-form>

²⁸ <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/complaints-page>

²⁹ <https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the department and the Community Grants Hub staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel has a:

- professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of an external panel
- relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later think there is an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department and the Community Grants Hub in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the [Australian Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#)³⁰ of the [Public Service Act 1999](#)³¹. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the [Community Grants Hub](#)³² website.

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#)³³ and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#)³⁴. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

In submitting a grant application under this opportunity, you agree to the Australian Government collecting your personal information, including your name, contact details and role in your organisation, in order to assess your application and for the purpose of grants administration. If you do not provide this information we cannot assess your grant application.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information collected about you under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

³⁰ http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/psa1999152/s13.html

³¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A00538>

³² <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/conflict-interest-policy>

³³ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2023C00347>

³⁴ <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles>

We may share the information you give us in your application, including personal information, with other Commonwealth entities, the responsible Minister, Assistant Ministers and their staff, and with Members of Parliament, for other purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, or as otherwise authorised or required by Australian law.

As part of your application, you also declare your ability to comply with the Privacy Act and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the Australian Government would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Privacy Act.

13.4 Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to give out to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the 3 conditions below:

1. You clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential.
2. The information is commercially sensitive.
3. Revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents that the Australian Government has, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982³⁵](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act gives people the ability to get information held by the Australian Government and its organisations. Under the FOI Act, people can ask for documents the Australian Government has. People may not be able to get these documents if these documents need to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons who the information relates to.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Team
Government and Executive Services Branch
Department of Social Services (DSS)
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: foi@dss.gov.au

³⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562>

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 ³⁶ .
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity.
Commonwealth entity	a department of state, or a parliamentary department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs) ³⁷	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
co-sponsoring entity	when 2 or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it.
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant.
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
funding arrangement manager	is the officer responsible for the ongoing management of the grantee and their compliance with the grant agreement.

³⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017C00269>

³⁷ <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf>

Term	Definition
grant	for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money³⁸ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund³⁹ (CRF) money⁴⁰ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single [entity] Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect ⁴¹	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.

³⁸ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

³⁹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/about-us/glossary/pgpa/term-consolidated-revenue-fund-crf>

⁴⁰ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

⁴¹ <https://help.grants.gov.au/>

Term	Definition
Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement ⁴² , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be grant programs. A PBS program may have more than one grant program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
Selection Advisory Panel	provides strategic oversight, advice and recommendations to the decision maker on assessed applications from the program specific, service provider composition and service location perspectives.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
significant reframe	a change to the existing service provision type, location or cohort.
Social Enterprise	a trading business – selling goods and services – but whose primary objective is to achieve social and/or environmental benefit.
value with money	<p>refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ quality of the project proposal and activities ▪ fit for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives ▪ absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved ▪ potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

⁴² <https://www.dss.gov.au/publications-articles-corporate-publications-budget-and-additional-estimates-statements/budget-2022-23>

12.4. AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2024

Author: Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Approves the attendance of the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer at the Australian Local Government Association 2024 National General Assembly 2-4 July 2024 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra.
2. Considers the attendance of other Councillors in line with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Local Government Association is the national voice of local government, representing 537 councils across Australia.

The Association gathers all together to debate issues important to local communities and provides an opportunity to hear from State and Federal leaders. It is also an opportunity to network with a broad range of Councils.

Council has previously sent delegates to this conference.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

This year's theme is "Building Community Trust" highlighting the critical importance of trust in governments, between governments, institutions and citizens.

The 2024 NGA Discussion Paper is attached which provides key dates including the acceptance of motions and how to submit a motion. Please note the deadline for councils to submit motions to the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government has been extended until Tuesday 20 April 2024.

Registrations are open and Edward River Council is able to take advantage of the special "early bird" rate of \$945.00 up to Friday 7 June 2024.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Edward River Council can submit motions to this forum, and there is the opportunity to vote on motions put to the conference.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2023/2024 budget has funds to cover attendance at this event.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

ATTACHMENTS

1. NGA Discussion Paper

2024 NGA

Building
Community
Trust

National Convention Centre
Canberra



AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

2 - 4
JULY
2024

DISCUSSION
PAPER



KEY DATES

29 March 2024 | Acceptance of Motions

2 July 2024 | Regional Cooperation & Development Forum

3 - 4 July 2024 | National General Assembly

5 July 2024 | Australian Council of Local Government

TO SUBMIT YOUR MOTION

VISIT: [ALGA.COM.AU](https://alga.com.au)



The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 30th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024.

As convenor of the NGA, the ALGA Board cordially invites all councils to send representatives to this important national event.

The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments, and provides councils with the opportunity to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and most importantly unite and further build on the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend the 2024 NGA familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper on page 6.

BACKGROUND TO ALGA AND THE NGA

ALGA was established 1947. In structure, ALGA is a federation of member state and territory associations. Its mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and our communities.

Since 1994, the NGA has built the profile of local government on the national stage, showcased the value of councils, and most importantly demonstrated - particularly to the Australian Government - the strength and value of working with local government to help deliver on national priorities.

Debate on motions was introduced to the NGA as a vehicle for councils from across the nation to canvas ideas. Outcomes of debate on motions (NGA Resolutions) could be used by participating councils to inform their own policies and priorities, as well as their advocacy when dealing with federal politicians.

At the same time, they help ALGA and its member state and territory associations gain valuable insight into council priorities, emerging national issues, and the level of need and support for new policy and program initiatives.

Given the structure of ALGA, its Constitution, and level of resources, the NGA does not bind the ALGA Board. However, the Board carefully considers NGA resolutions as it determines ALGA's policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

This is your NGA and ALGA is pleased to act as the convenor. ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be determined by the ALGA Board in the interests of all councils.

The ALGA Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA and those that will take the time to reflect on the purpose of debate on motions outlined in this paper, and to submit motions for debate at the 2024 NGA.

SUBMITTING MOTIONS

Australia is one of the world's great democracies. It is held in high regard across the world but should never be taken for granted.

The theme of the 2024 NGA is – Building Community Trust.

This theme aims to explore the critical importance of trust in governments, between governments, its institutions, and its citizens. This trust is a fundamental building block of our nation's democracy.

While relatively low key, over the past decade there has been increasing public debate by scholars and policy makers about the level of trust in government, its institutions and indeed the operation of our democracy more broadly.

Mark Evans et al (2019) published research in 'The Conversation' indicating that Australians' trust in politicians (our political representatives) and democracy has hit an all-time low. This report indicates 'fewer than 41% of Australian citizens are satisfied with the way democracy works in Australia, down from 86% in 2007.

Public satisfaction has fallen particularly sharply since 2013, when 72% of Australian citizens were satisfied. Generation X is least satisfied (31%) and Baby Boomers most satisfied (50%). Some political authors suggest that these trends in part explain the rise in popularity and the relative success of independents and micro or single-issue parties.

These statistics should be of concern to every level of government and those interested in the future of our communities and Australia's democratic system.

It is said that 'trust is hard-earned, easily lost, and difficult to re-establish – and a key to absolutely everything.' While media and public attention frequently focuses on levels of trust in the national and state governments, local governments have an equally important role in building, maintaining and indeed, often repairing government-community relationships.

At its most fundamental level, the 2024 NGA focusses on the role of local government and how all levels of government can help each other build, maintain and strengthen government-community relationships.

This discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2024 NGA to be held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024.



Motions for this year's NGA should consider:

- how all levels of government in Australia can build trust in each other and earn greater trust from the community;
- practical opportunities for the Australian Government to leverage the trust that local communities have in their local council;
- focus on practical programs that can strengthen the system of local government nationally to provide the services and infrastructure required to support and strengthen our communities; and
- new program ideas that that would help the local government sector to deliver the Australian Government's objectives.

Motions should be concise, practical and implementable and meet the guidelines for motions set out in the paper.

You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Your council's motion/s must address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions must be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.com.au and received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 29 March 2024.

All notices of motions will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-committee prior to publishing the NGA Business Paper to ensure that they meet these guidelines. This sub-committee reserves the right to select, edit or amend notices of motions to facilitate the efficient and effective management of debate on motions at the NGA.

All NGA resolutions will be published on www.nationalgeneralassembly.com.au.

As the host of the NGA, ALGA will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on this website.

Please note that if your council does submit a motion, there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the NGA to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2024 NGA.

CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications.
3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
6. Propose a clear action and outcome ie call on the Australian Government to act on something.
7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motions must commence with the following wording:

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ...

Please note that resolutions of the NGA do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

It is important to complete the background section of the submission form. Submitters of motions should not assume that NGA delegates will have background knowledge of the proposal. The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion. Please note, motions should NOT be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

Try to keep motions practical, focussed and capable of implementation to ensure that relevant Australian Government Ministers provide considered, thoughtful and timely responses.

Try to avoid motions that are complex, contain multi-dot points and require complex cross-portfolio implementation.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-committee, in consultation with state and territory local government associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

When reviewing motions, the Sub-committee considers the criteria, clarity of the motion and the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. With the agreement of the submitting council, these motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

To ensure an efficient and effective debate, where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the NGA Sub-committee will group these motions together under an overarching strategic motion. The strategic motions will have either been drafted by ALGA or will be based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter.

Debate will occur in accordance with the rules for debate published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions. Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only or in accordance with the debating rules.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

All motions require:

- a contact officer;
- a clear national objective;
- a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion; and
- endorsement of your council.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available at www.alga.asn.au.

Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 29 March 2024.

SETTING THE SCENE

The theme for NGA24 'Building Community Trust' aims to focus on the role of local government in the Australian system of government and explore the critical importance of trust in governments, between governments, its institutions, and our citizens.

In a recent essay on Capitalism after the Crisis (2023) the Treasurer the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP wrote:

'Our mission is to redefine and reform our economy and institutions in ways that make our people and communities more resilient, and our society and democracy stronger as well.'

The need to strengthen our democracy was also emphasised the Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP in a speech at Queensland's Woodford Folk Festival toward the end of 2022:

'I urge anyone who thinks our democracy is unassailable to have a look around the world. Even some of the oldest, most stable democracies have come under attack from a whole range of corrosive, insidious forces. No one is immune. Our democracy is precious, something we have carefully grown and nurtured from one generation to the next. One of our core responsibilities is to make it stronger, and the key to that strength is transparency and accountability.'

In early 2023 the Australian Government established a taskforce to advise government on 'what can be done – practically – to strengthen Australian democracy'.



The 2024 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers.

Further, it is your opportunity to advocate for new or expanded programs and key policy initiatives that could strengthen local governments, its capacity to deliver services and infrastructure to local communities across the nation. This service delivery is critical to build, maintain and strengthen the trust of our citizens.

This year's call for motion focusses on twelve priority areas:

- Intergovernmental relations;
- Financial sustainability;
- Roads and infrastructure;
- Emergency management;
- Housing and homelessness;
- Jobs and skills;
- Community services;
- Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
- Data, digital technology and cyber security;
- Climate change and renewable energy;
- Environment; and
- Circular economy.



1. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

'Australia's federal structure, built upon reciprocal financial, legislative and policy responsibilities, requires intelligent cooperation on issues of strategic national significance.'

National Cabinet is a forum for the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers to meet and work collaboratively. National Cabinet was established on 13 March 2020 and is chaired by the Prime Minister. The National Cabinet is a key mechanism in Australia's current intergovernmental architecture.

A representative of local government, the President of ALGA, is invited to meet with National Cabinet once each year. The President of ALGA also attends one meeting per year of the Council on Federal Financial Relations comprising the Commonwealth Treasurer as Chair and all state and territory treasurers.

A substantial body of research, from Australia and internationally, has highlighted that governments that work together are generally more successful in achieving shared national objectives, including economic recovery from events like the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in service and infrastructure delivery.

This research reinforces the need for local government to be included in relevant ministerial forums that support national priorities – from housing affordability to reaching net-zero emissions. ALGA currently participates in National Cabinet (1/year), Council on Federal Financial Relations (1/year), Infrastructure Transport Ministers Meeting, National Emergency Managers Meeting, Local Government Ministers Forum, Joint Council on Closing the Gap, Planning Ministers Meeting, Meeting of Environment Ministers, Energy and Climate Change Ministers and the Road Safety Ministers Meeting, to represent local government views.

Local government input can provide a community voice, enabling our intergovernmental forums to make decisions with greater legitimacy and authority.

Given the importance of trust in governments, between governments and its citizens, how can intergovernmental arrangements be further improved in Australia?

Are there ways of maintaining and enhancing the community's trust in local government?

Are there new initiatives and programs that could be adopted to improve the level of cooperation and collaboration between the Australian Government and local government?

2. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Trust in governments is highly correlated with their ability to fulfill the implicit social contract between government and its citizens by keeping promises.

Local government is the third sphere of government in Australia's system of government. Councils are comprised of locally elected representatives who understand local needs and engage locally on strategies to meet those needs.

Councils are responsible for providing a wide range of critical local area services including planning, libraries, waste management systems, transport and infrastructure (eg roads and footpaths, parks, sporting grounds and swimming pools) and social services.

These services are critical to the wellbeing, liveability and productivity of all local communities, and therefore the nation. Equally important is the sustaining of democratic processes at the local and regional level.

Local government's total annual expenditure in 2021 -22 was approximately \$43.6 billion. Non-financial assets including roads, community infrastructure such as buildings, facilities, airports, water, and sewerage (in some states) including land, are valued at \$539 billion [ABS Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2021-22].

In 2021-22, the Australian Government provided \$2.6 billion in Financial Assistance Grants funding to councils. This included \$1.3b which was brought forward from the 2021-22 estimate and paid through state and territory governments in 2020-21.

Nationally, local government derives nearly 90% of its revenue from its own sources (including rates and services charges), compared to around 50% for state governments. Grants from other levels of government make up just over 10% of local government's total revenue, however these grants are particularly important in areas with a low-rate base, and/or high growth rates, and rapidly expanding service and infrastructure needs.

In 2021-22 Financial Assistance Grants to local governments was less than 0.6% of Commonwealth taxation revenue (CTR), a significant drop from 1996 when these grants were at 1% of CTR. In 2023-24 Financial Assistance Grants have fallen to 0.5% of Commonwealth taxation.

What improvements are needed to the intergovernmental financial transfer system, particularly the Commonwealth transfers to local government, to enhance the community's trust in local government and by extension all governments?

Noting that Commonwealth tied funding is provided with detailed requirements how can this system be improved to provide flexibility and maximize the benefit to local communities?

3. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ALGA's 2021 National State of the Assets Report (NSoA) is currently being updated and expected to be launched in 2024. The most recent NSoA shows that while most local government assets such as roads, bridges, buildings, parks and recreation, stormwater, water and wastewater, and airports and aerodromes are generally in good to very good condition, around 10% are not fit for purpose, and around 20–25% are only fair and over time will need attention.

The last NSoA found that in 2019–20 non-financial infrastructure assets were valued at \$342 billion and were depreciating at \$7.7 billion per year. Replacement costs of these infrastructure assets were in the order of \$533 billion.

Local government assets make up a significant proportion of the physical structure of local communities and often provide critical access to and support for citizens to engage in state and national assets and opportunities.

For example, local roads provide important “first and last-mile access” for communities and industry to road networks, integral to economic development and community connection. Local sporting grounds can provide access for community groups to build community participation that has social, health and economic benefits.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to improve the long-term sustainability of local government infrastructure?

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's capacity to manage local government infrastructure and to integrate these plans into long-term financial plans?

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could develop to maintain, strengthen and enhance the reputation of Australia's infrastructure providers, including local government?

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2022 alone, 46 disasters were declared across Australia, covering more than 300 different council areas. In recent years, almost every Australian council has been impacted in some way by fires, floods, or cyclones.

Last year's flooding caused a damage bill of approximately \$3.8 billion to local roads across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. This was just a fraction of the total disaster costs incurred by governments across the country.

There have been numerous NGA motions in recent years regarding natural disasters and this has been a significant priority in ALGA's advocacy program.

In 2022 ALGA successfully advocated for a new \$200 million per year Disaster Ready Fund, with the first round of funding allocated in June 2023. This fund will support councils and communities to mitigate against the risk of future disasters and help address the significant imbalance between mitigation and recovery spending.

Councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to managing emergencies.

Please note that many aspects of emergency management are state or territory responsibilities, and your motions should focus on how the Australian Government could assist.

What new programs, or improvements to existing programs, could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to improve the current natural disaster management systems to further assist in recovery and build resilience?

5. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Almost every Australian council and community is facing challenges around a lack of affordable housing.

Alarming research by the UNSW City Futures Research Centre shows 640,000 Australian households – or one in 15 households – are under housing stress.

All levels of government, including councils, have a fundamental role to play in addressing this crisis, which is being compounded by high interest rates, rising construction costs and skills shortages.

At a national level, ALGA is a signatory to the National Housing Accord, and in 2023 successfully advocated for a new \$500 million Housing Support Program for state and local governments to deliver supporting infrastructure for new housing developments.

While the provision of affordable housing is not a local government responsibility, councils have a role to play in ensuring there is enough suitably located land available for housing and that a diversity of housing stock is supported. Councils also want to ensure that new housing developments are supported with the necessary services and infrastructure to create liveable and sustainable communities.

Many councils are also addressing thin markets and developing land and housing themselves, delivering local solutions to meet the needs of their communities.

Councils also want to ensure that they engaged with planning decisions that affect local communities. Taking planning powers away from councils does not always support the best local outcomes.

Councils also play an important role addressing some of the causes of homelessness, including social inclusion programs that can assist mental health and family violence issues, as well as providing support for people currently experiencing homelessness.

What new programs and policies could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to support the provision of more affordable housing?

How can the Australian Government work with councils to address the causes and impacts of homelessness?

6. JOBS AND SKILLS

Local government is a major employer in Australia providing employment, career advancement and training opportunities for more than 190,800 Australians, across an estimated 400 occupations.

However, councils are facing significant jobs and skills shortages that are constraining their capacity to deliver services and build and maintain local infrastructure.

ALGA's 2022 National Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey indicated that more than 90 percent of Australia's 537 councils were experiencing skills shortages.

The survey also showed that for approximately two-thirds of these councils, these shortages were impacting on project delivery.

In particular, councils are facing a shortage of planners, engineers, building surveyors, environmental officers and human resources professionals.

Skills shortages occur for a variety of reasons including an inability to compete against the private sector, worker accommodation, support services for families, ageing of the workforce and geographic isolation.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could implement that would enhance local government's capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled staff now and into the future?

Are there programs or changes to existing programs that would increase local government's ability to employ apprentices and trainees?

Are there other initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's ability to plan and develop skills fit for the future?

7. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Councils provide a wide range of services based on local characteristics, needs, priorities, and the resources of their community. Indeed, it is this level of responsiveness and accountability to the local community that is an essential feature of democratic local governments worldwide.

Some of these services are provided to address market failure, and many of them are provided by councils on behalf of other levels of government.

It is important to note that nationally local government is more than 83% self-sufficient ie funded at the local level either through rates, fees and charges, sale of goods and services, or interest. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that total local government annual expenditure in 2021-22 was \$43.6 billion.

Only 17% comes from grants and subsidies from other levels of government. Unfortunately, many of these grants and subsidies are tied, or require matching funding which restricts the ability to address local priorities in the way the council and community might need.

Arguably there is no greater obligation upon government than to maintain the trust that citizens have in meeting their community services obligations and promises, particularly to society's most vulnerable.

Local government community services are broadly defined, and may include but are not limited to:

- environmental health including food safety;
- childcare, early childhood education, municipal health;
- aged care, senior citizens;
- services to people living with disability;
- programs to address disadvantage, to reduce poverty and homelessness;
- sporting and recreational programs;
- arts and cultural activities, programs and festivals;
- tourism and economic development activities; and
- library services.

Noting the funding arrangements for the provision of local government community services are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to improve the delivery of these services?

Are there reforms or improvements in national community services program that would help local governments support the Australian Government to deliver on its national objectives?

8. CLOSING THE GAP AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RECONCILIATION

In 2021, ALGA co-signed a landmark national agreement to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. At the heart of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership are four agreed priority reform targets and 19 socio-economic targets in areas including education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

The Indigenous Voice Co-design Final Report to the Australian Government was released in December 2021. The Local & Regional Voice will contribute to achieving the Closing the Gap outcomes by providing avenues for Indigenous voices to be heard, including to provide feedback to government on Closing the Gap.

As the level of government closest to the people, councils have an essential role supporting and helping to steer the development of policies and programs in partnership with local Indigenous peoples that address closing the gap priorities at the local and regional level.

Local government plays a positive role in reconciliation and celebrating Indigenous culture and identity, and sustainably funded could work effectively to reduce Indigenous disadvantage in all its forms.

On 14 October 2023, Australians voted in a referendum about whether to change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The referendum did not pass.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to assist local government to advance reconciliation and close the gap?

Are there practical programs or initiatives that local government and the Australian Government could introduce to maintain, build and strengthen the level of trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and governments?

9. DATA, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY

Provision of information technology to all Australians is vital to innovation, economic growth, and social equity. However, it is potentially even more important to regional Australia where the tyranny of distance increases the inequity of services available – including education, health, economic and social. Innovative technology is becoming more broadly available and could boost productivity and economic growth.

Councils around Australia continue to embrace new technologies to improve their service delivery standards and broaden consultation and engagement with their local communities. However, implementation can be hindered without access to basic technological infrastructure and the necessary IT skills and resources.

In recent times, cyber-attacks on major corporations and other businesses have resulted in significant data breaches. It is a timely reminder as digital information, services and products become an increasing feature of modern business operation including in local government.

Like all risks, local government must manage the risk of cyber-attacks and address cyber security. At a national level, there is limited understanding of local governments' vulnerability to cyber-attacks, preparedness and adequacy of risk management strategies or business continuity planning.

While this is primarily a responsibility of the sector itself, governments at all levels must work together to ensure that the public have confidence in government information management systems and its security.

Drawing upon your council's experience, and your knowledge of other councils within your state or territory, are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to help local government develop its digital technology services and infrastructure?

Are there actions the Australian Government could take to improve cyber security within the local government sector?

10. CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Australia's changing climate presents a significant challenge to governments, individuals, communities, businesses, industry, and the environment.

The Australian Government has committed to address climate change and in June 2022 submitted its revised National Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The revised NDC included reaffirming a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% from 2005 levels.

Local governments have played an important leadership role in addressing climate change, and councils have supported a wide range of community-based programs and initiatives to lower the carbon footprint of their own business operations and of their local communities.

As a sector, local government has been an advocate and active participant in the debate for lowering carbon emissions, is sourcing renewable energy, has responded creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and facilitated the construction of green buildings and water sensitive design of cities and towns.

Local government has been at the forefront in addressing the impacts of climate change and adaptation to climate change. In particular, councils have a practical understanding of the risk and impact of climate change on Australia's infrastructure and physical assets, natural ecosystems, local economies and their community.

Noting the Australian Government's approach to reducing emissions, are there partnerships, programs, and initiatives that local government and the Australian Government can form to achieve Australia's 2050 net zero emissions target?

Are there initiatives that could assist local governments to build trust in the community for implementation of key climate change and emissions reduction initiatives?

11. ENVIRONMENT

Australia's 537 local councils play an essential role in providing, regulating and managing Australia's environmental services and infrastructure.

Whether it's biodiversity, biosecurity, natural resource management (NRM), contaminated lands, waste management, water resources, sustainability or roadside environments, councils are responsible for educating households and businesses on environment policy, as well as driving environmental programs and initiatives in their local communities.

In recent years the National General Assembly has considered a range of environmental issues, and passed resolutions on biodiversity, biosecurity, conservation, climate change and water security.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to strengthen Australia's environmental services and infrastructure?

What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government in to progress local regional and national objectives?



12. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Local government is responsible for the management of household and domestic waste and has a critical role to play in further developing the circular economy.

Australia's 537 councils manage approximately 26 percent of Australian waste, either directly or through contractual arrangements. Each year, local governments collect around 9.7 million tonnes of waste from kerbside bin services, sort it at material recovery facilities (MRFs), and dispatch what can be recycled to reprocessing facilities in Australia and overseas.

Where waste cannot be recovered it is landfilled, and local governments in most jurisdictions must pay a significant levy per tonne for landfilled waste, as well as incur the operational costs of maintaining and managing a landfill.

Collecting, treating, and disposing of Australian domestic waste costs local government an estimated \$3.5 billion annually. Local government also dedicates resources to administering community waste-education programs, collecting litter, addressing illegal rubbish dumping, and ensuring compliance with waste bylaws.

In November 2023, Australia's Environment Ministers agreed that the Federal Government would establish new regulations for packaging as well as mandate how packaging is designed, develop minimum recycled content requirements and prohibit harmful chemicals being used. These changes are expected to have a positive impact on the amount of waste sent to landfill, and the costs borne by councils and their communities.

How could the Australian Government further strengthen product stewardship arrangements to support local governments in their endeavours to increase recycling and reduce the volume of waste?

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to advance the circular economy?

CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government.

A FINAL REMINDER:

- » Motions should be lodged electronically at www.alga.com.au and received no later than 11.59pm on Friday 29 March 2024.
- » Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- » Motions should commence with the following wording: 'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...'
- » Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- » Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- » It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- » Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- » When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2024 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.
- » Resolutions of the National General Assembly do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions. The resolutions are used by the ALGA Board to inform policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2024 National General Assembly in Canberra.





AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

8 Geils Court | 02 6122 9400
Deakin, ACT, 2600 | alga@alga.asn.au

www.alga.com.au

12.5. ADVOCACY PLAN 2024-2025

Advocacy Plan 2024 - 2025

Author: Coordinator Economic Development

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Edward River Advocacy Plan 2024 - 2025

BACKGROUND

The attached draft Advocacy Plan 2024-25 has been developed to directly showcase projects Council has identified as significant to State and Federal government departments and associated parties in order to attract funding and support.

The six advocacy pieces that are outlined in this document are:

1. NSW Water Buy Backs – Request for Collaborative and Inclusive Consultation
2. Deniliquin Airport Runway Extension and Upgrade for Emergency Response and Economic Growth
3. Edward River Village - Supporting Senior Independent Living
4. Country University Centres - Equitable Access to Education
5. New Deniliquin Hospital Delivering Clinical Services Plan
6. Deniliquin Intermodal Freight Hub - Connecting Regional Business to Melbourne Port

The Advocacy Plan is a concise and targeted document to engage funding bodies and decision makers with high level detail of key projects including key outcomes and benefits, demonstrating State and Federal government alignment.

The Coordinator Economic Development has worked directly with the Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate Services, Director Infrastructure, Manager Community & Economy and other staff members as directed to gather information and knowledge in the development of the draft Plan.

Rigney Group have been engaged to deliver the graphic design of the document. Key dates for delivery of the Advocacy Plan 2024 - 2025

9	February	-	Due	date	for	Council	Meeting	Report
20	February	-		Council		Meeting	to	adopt
21	February	-		Communications		campaign		commences

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Document Status

Each advocacy project has been summarised and linked to Council, State and Federal strategies. The final document is completed and attached for adoption.

There will be future opportunity to further develop any of the Advocacy Plan details and requests as directed by Council. Council has requested that detail in the NSW Water Buy Backs advocacy piece be modified and a request made above that already prepared. The NSW Water Buy Backs advocacy piece and request is being further developed by Council and an updated version of the Advocacy Plan will be presented to Council.

Outstanding Actions:

Action	Responsible	Date
Communication plan for Edward River Advocacy Plan developed.	Coordinator Eco Dev, Manager Community and Economy	29/02/2024
NSW Water Buy Backs advocacy piece update	Coordinator Eco Dev	TBA

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The draft Advocacy Plan is listed as an unfunded project in the 2023-24 Operational Plan under Outcome 5: Accountable Leadership and Responsive Administration.

The draft Plan highlights each key project's connection to the Community Strategic Plan and the Operational Plan.

The Advocacy Plan has been clearly and intentionally aligned to the NSW Government Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy (2023 Update) and Federal Government Regional Development Australia Murray Strategic Regional Plan (2022 - 2025).

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Shaping the Future
 - 1.2 Quality built environment
2. An open and connected community
 - 2.1 Transport and freight links
3. Encouraging growth through partnerships
 - 3.1 Education
 - 3.2 Economic development
 - 3.4 Health
4. Delivering community assets and services
 - 4.1 Vibrant villages and town
5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration
 - 5.1 Collaborative and Engaged
 - 5.2 Financially sustainable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Preparation of the Advocacy Plan has been undertaken within internal resourcing plus an allocation of \$2,200 for professional graphic design services. Further graphic design cost will need to be considered with any change in the content of the Advocacy Plan. These costs have been funded from the CEO's consultant budget, given that this is a key deliverable of the CEO's 23-24 performance plan, and accountability for delivery sits with the OCEO.

The following should be identified and considered in the development of the 2024-25 Operational Plan and Budget:

- an allocation for external consultant grant writing support for complex applications;

- Council \$ contribution towards grants is likely to be required;
- impacts on resourcing delivery of projects when funding is successful

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Council is not legislated to deliver any of the projects outlined in the Advocacy Plan, however, there is a strong Councillor and community desire for Council to take a leadership role in advocating for the priorities.

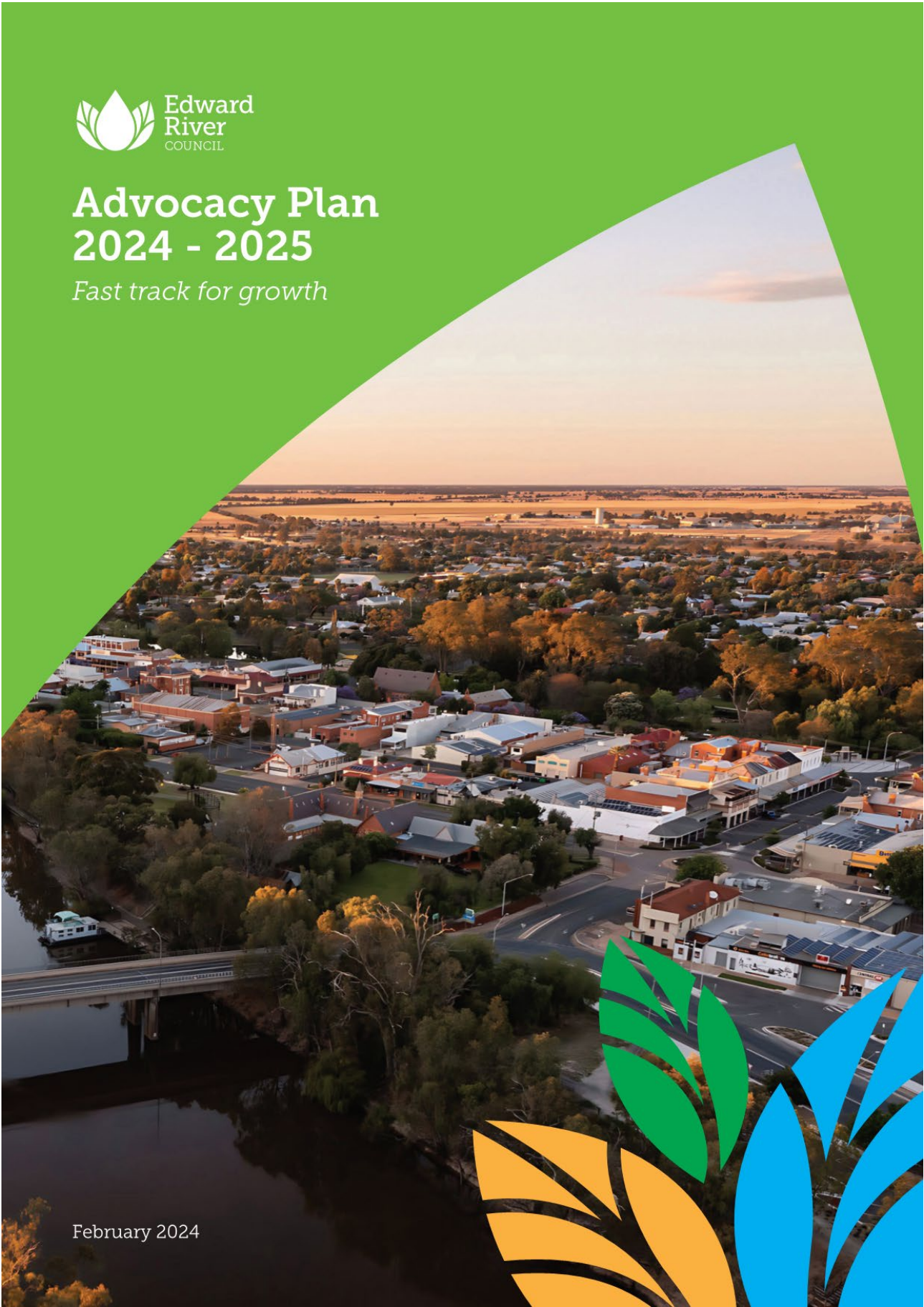
ATTACHMENTS

1. Edward River Council Advocacy Plan



Advocacy Plan 2024 - 2025

Fast track for growth



February 2024



Cover image: Deniliquin bridge over river at dusk.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Edward River Council is committed to facilitating the long term, sustainable growth of our population and economy.

We have a proven track record of working with other tiers of government to deliver projects that address regional challenges and capitalise on opportunities that support our growth agenda.

This Advocacy Plan outlines how Council will work with our government and industry partners on priority, strategic initiatives to







deliver economic and social benefit for the Edward River and broader region.

It is a blueprint for partnership, and I look forward to working with our region's partners and decision makers to deliver these exciting projects.

**Mayor
Cr Peta Betts**



The Edward River Advocacy Plan

Priority		Request	Timeframe
	NSW Water Buy Backs – Collaboration for Optimal Socio-Economic Outcomes	–	<12 months
	Deniliquin Airport Runway Extension and Upgrade for Emergency Response and Economic Growth	\$4.0m	<12 months
	Edward River Village – Supporting Senior Independent Living	\$1.5m	12-24 months
	Country University Centres – Equitable Access to Education	–	12-24 months
	New Deniliquin Hospital Delivering Clinical Services Plan	\$150.0m	>24 months
	Deniliquin Intermodal Freight Hub – Connecting Regional Business to Melbourne Port	\$4.0m	12-24 months

Edward River Council Community



Population
8456



Median Age
46 yrs



Av. household
income
\$900 per wk



Age brackets
0 to 17 years = **21%**
60+ years = **33%**

ABS 2021



Females
50.7%
Males
49.3%

Country of birth
 **83.9%**
Australia

Aboriginal/Torres Straight
Islander People
4.8% | **404**
People



Tertiary
qualified **12.4%**
Trade
qualified **22.5%**


ABS 2021

Ancestry

4.6% Australian Aboriginal
10.7% Irish
11.2% Scottish
40.2% English
43.8% Australian

ABS 2021

Housing

20.7% Household with children
28.2% Household without children
7.9% One parent household with children
 Average people per household **2.21** People
88% Detached dwellings
1.6 Underutilised bedrooms

ABS 2021



NSW Water Buy Backs – Request for Collaborative and Inclusive Consultation



Objectives

Maximise irrigated agricultural productivity and value, and capacity to adapt to Basin Plan changes / Maximise environmental benefits without reducing agricultural jobs, value, productivity and service / Stabilise population decline and then increase population / Explore new economic opportunities to sustain and attract population, services, social capital and small businesses

Project

Engage in a genuinely collaborative, inclusive and transparent approach to design of non-purchase water recovery programs, socioeconomic impact assessment, community assistance, and environmental feasibility.

Rationale

Our community is still suffering the legacy impacts of more than 20% of its water entitlements being purchased under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan buybacks program from 2008-2012.

The Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 to recover yet another 450 GL from the pool to grow food and fibre will further hollow out our community.

We request collaborative participation and consultation to develop programs that avoid any further negative impacts on our industries and communities. An inclusive consultation will deliver the following outcomes:

Community Benefits

- A stabilised and then growing population, particularly new families.
- Improved community infrastructure where needed – ie. roads, swimming pools, sporting and other recreational facilities.
- Improved health, education, digital connectivity, and other services.
- Improved engagement and participation for our indigenous community.

NSW Water Buy Backs – Request for Collaborative and Inclusive Consultation



Economic Stimulus Benefits

- Increase economic return from irrigated agriculture through investments that are reflective of community direction, need and support.
- A diversified economic base with new businesses and industry development.
- Increased job opportunities in primary and secondary industries.

Current Status

Ready for Engagement

Our community and industry representatives are ready to engage and work collaboratively for best outcomes for our communities.

Alignment

NSW Government - Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS)

- Sustain and enhance utilities such as water, energy and telecommunications to strengthen the agriculture and food product manufacturing sectors.
- Invest in infrastructure which enhances liveability and improve capacity to support population growth.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022 – 2025

- Leadership & Collaboration - Collaborate for stronger and more attuned collective impact.
- Sustainable Natural Resources - Build world standard housing, health, education, leisure and recreational opportunities, for all Champion behaviours that preserve, conserve and regenerate our natural resources (focussing on water, vegetation, soil and carbon) to address climate change.



Councillor Peta Betts - Mayor
E. peta.betts@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 03 5898 3000

Phil Stone - Chief Executive Officer
E. phillip.stone@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 0488 173 443

Deniliquin Airport Runway Extension and Upgrade for Emergency Response and Economic Growth



Objectives

Regional Population Growth / Regional Economic Growth / Regional Emergency Response Centre

Project

Deniliquin Airport Enhancements

- Strengthen and lengthen the existing runway from 1,220m to 1,600m.
- Meet current CASA standards for landing heavier aircraft.
- Upgrade of the Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL).

Project Costs and Funding

- Two stage project – stage one completed and funded.
- Seeking Funding of \$4m to complete Stage 2.

Project Budget	\$9.9m
Funding Committed (Stage One):	
Federal – Regional Airports Program	\$2.5m
Federal – Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	\$1.5m
Edward River Council	\$1.9m
Funding Requested (Stage Two):	\$4.0m

Rationale

Strategically located, the Deniliquin Airport is a prime asset for further investment to service the regional population along the Murray River corridor, to deliver the following key objectives for our region:

Emergency Response Benefits

- Enhance the access to emergency rescue and relief, health care services and patient transfers, particularly with aging population and change in aircraft specifications that provide services (eg King Air360 series Air Ambulance, firefighting aircraft).
- Establish a permanent regional Critical Emergency Response Centre in readiness for predicted increases in extreme unpredictable weather events causing fire and flood emergencies.
- Reduce risk associated with patient transport time considering proximity to major emergency health care centres.

Deniliquin Airport Runway Extension and Upgrade for Emergency Response and Economic Growth



Economic Stimulus Benefits

- Increase connectivity through the introduction of passenger and freight services, reduction in isolation, attraction of new business and residents.
- Increase population growth through the attraction of new residents and businesses.
- Increase employment opportunities during construction phase, ongoing operations and expansion and attraction of air service providers.
- Increase tourism output with increased visitation and development of new visitor product (eg events, scenic flights).
- Provide opportunities for agriculture sector such as new supply chain and product development and expansion of existing aerial services.
- Increase Economic output by \$20 million through private investment.
- Increase Regional economy by \$8.67 million.

- Connectivity and Infrastructure – Develop multi-modal links and hubs to drive freight transport, visitation and tourism, logistics and warehousing.

Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

- Integrate transport and land use planning.

NSW Regional Health Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032

- Enable better access to safe, high quality and timely health services – Improve local transport solutions and assistance schemes.

Current Status

Ready for implementation

Shovel ready – will commence once additional funding of \$4m is secured.

Alignment

NSW Government – Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS)

- Invest in infrastructure which enhances liveability and improve capacity to support population growth.
- Continue to develop and grow the visitor economy to diversify the region's economy.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022 – 2025

- Amenity & Liveability – Advocate for equitable access to housing, healthcare, education, recreation and opportunities to socialise, Active transport/public transport.



**Edward
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COUNCIL

Councillor Peta Betts - Mayor
E. peta.betts@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 03 5898 3000

Phil Stone - Chief Executive Officer
E. phillip.stone@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 0488 173 443

Edward River Village – Supporting Senior Independent Living



Objectives

Regional Population Growth / Appropriate Housing for Ageing Population / Health and Wellbeing for Seniors / Regional Economic Growth

Project

Edward River Village

Stage 2 – construction of 9 dwellings

- Complete 9 additional age appropriate dwellings for retirement living.
- Complete civil works and landscaping.

Project Costs and Funding

- Seeking Funding of \$1.5m to complete Stage 2.

Project Budget	\$4.5m
Funding Committed: Edward River Council (Dwelling Sales)	\$3.0m
Funding Requested:	\$1.5m

Rationale

Improve the quality and range of housing on offer for older people across the region, facilitating an increase in residential relocation, population expansion and creation of new employment opportunities in the aged care health, wellbeing and service sectors. Stage 1 of this project is complete consisting of 6 dwellings and associated works as part of the overall project that will deliver 32 dwellings and a community centre. Completion of the Edward River Village will meet the following key objectives:

Social Benefits

- Increase in housing availability and affordability for the region to meet the needs of an ageing population, providing options for retirees to downsize and remain in their community independently.
- Improve liveability for ageing population to act and an attractor for new residents.

Edward River Village – Supporting Senior Independent Living



- Increase physical, mental health and wellbeing for seniors through connecting and engaging in a safe and welcoming neighbourhood.

Economic Benefits

- Increase household expenditure through attracting new residents contributing to economic growth.
- Increase in housing stock supporting increasing population.
- Increase employment opportunities during construction phase and ongoing employment for onsite management and maintenance.
- Increase private investment and employment opportunities in industries supporting ageing community members such as health, recreation, and service.
- Increase Economic output by \$15.76 million over the life of the project (Stage 1 – Stage 5).

Alignment**Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022 – 2025**

- Amenity & Liveability – Address housing affordability and range of stock. Encourage innovative accommodation programs; Advocate for equitable access to housing, healthcare, education, recreation and opportunities to socialise.

Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021 – 2031

- Living in age-friendly environments – work towards increased housing options for older people that are age appropriate, affordable, accessible and close to transport, recreation and community services.

Advisory Panel on Economic Potential of Senior Australian's Recommendations

- Reducing the prevalence of age discrimination in communities so older people can continue to participate in the workforce if they choose.
- Encouraging lifelong learning and active ageing so people can be active and resilient, stay connected and increase their general wellbeing.
- Good health and housing to allow Australians to age in place.

Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

- Communities and places – Ensure housing supply, diversity, affordability and resilience.

Current Status

*Ready for implementation
2024 – 2025*



Councillor Peta Betts - Mayor
E. peta.betts@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 03 5898 3000

Phil Stone - Chief Executive Officer
E. phillip.stone@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 0488 173 443

Country University Centres – Equitable Access to Education



Objectives

Regional Economic Growth / Regional Population Growth / Increase Employment Opportunities

Project

Establish three Country University Centres located in Finley, Deniliquin and Moama

Project Costs and Funding

Joint funding application through 2023 (Cohort 4) Regional University Study Hubs Program in partnership with Berrigan Shire Council and Murray River Shire Council.

Rationale

Quality higher education is currently accessed through relocation to large centres which is a barrier for many in our community in terms of cost and distance. Relocation for study negatively affects regional population especially when it becomes long term or indefinite and contracts the regional skilled worker base. Country University Centres in our region will address the inequality in further education access and deliver the following outcomes:

Social Benefits

- Improve community wellbeing through access to further education and employment opportunities.
- Improve liveability driven through increase in population and supporting services.
- Equitable access to education – cost and proximity.

Economic Benefits

- Increase economic stimulus through maintaining and attracting residents.
- Expand pool of regional workers with relevant qualifications for local business.
- Increase industry and business expansion opportunities with strategically delivered further education.

Image Disclaimer: The working group intends to affiliate with the CUC Network if they are successful in obtaining funds.

Country University Centres – Equitable Access to Education

**Alignment****NSW Government – Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) 2023 Update**

- Boost and sustain the supply of skilled workers for the core industries of agriculture, manufacturing and tourism with regional skills development and attraction programs.
- Invest in infrastructure which enhances liveability and improves capacity to support population growth.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022 – 2025

- Human Capital & Skills – Creating networked and knowledgeable learning communities capable of attracting, connecting and retaining workforce.
- Amenity & Liveability – Build world standard housing, health, education, leisure and recreational opportunities for all.

Australian Universities Accord

- Create additional Regional University Centres (renamed Regional University Study Hubs) and expand the model to suburban/outer metropolitan locations by establishing Tertiary Study Hubs (Suburban University Study Hubs). The Panel believes this will reduce barriers to participation for students living in regional, remote and outer metropolitan and peri urban areas where accessing a physical campus can be difficult.

Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

- Strategically plan for health and education precincts.

NSW Department of Education Rural and Remote Education Strategy (2021 – 2024)

- Quality teaching and learning – Better equip and develop rural and remote teachers to deliver a broader curriculum, contextualised to the needs of the community, to offer engaging learning opportunities for students.
- Enabling learners and learning – Ensure staff and students in rural and remote schools are more empowered to address wellbeing needs through stronger connections with their communities.
- Building productive partnerships – Leverage more productive partnerships with higher education providers, vocational education providers and local industry to increase rural and remote student achievement, ambition and access to post-school opportunities.

Current Status***Business Case Completed.***

Application submitted - 2023
(Cohort 4) Regional University Study Hubs Program.



**Edward
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COUNCIL

Councillor Peta Betts - Mayor
E. peta.betts@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 03 5898 3000

Phil Stone - Chief Executive Officer
E. phillip.stone@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 0488 173 443

Relocation of the Deniliquin Hospital Supporting Regional Growth & Delivering Outcomes of the Clinical Services Plan



Objectives

*Regional Economic Growth / Regional Population Growth /
Increase Delivery of Regional Health Services / Rationalise Land Use and
Centralise Health Services*

Project

Delivery of outcomes from Clinical Services Plan

- Support families in first 2,000 days of life from pre-conception to preschool.
- Reduce the inequality in access to care for vulnerable community members.
- Provide safe and sustainable quality care in new ways including additional non-inpatient services to prevent and manage chronic disease.
- Support people to live well with chronic conditions as they age.
- Strengthen youth services and community mental health care.
- Strengthen surgery, diagnostic services, educational facilities, and digital capabilities.

New Deniliquin hospital – relocation to ambulance centre

Project Costs and Funding

Project Budget	\$150m
Funding Requested:	\$150m

Rationale

Relocation and upgrade of Deniliquin Hospital to meet identified outcomes from the Deniliquin Clinical Services Plan and provide access for communities to a regional centre for emergency and ongoing health care. Stimulation of population and economic growth will be achievable through the relocation of the hospital allowing access to prime positioned land for residential and business development. This project increases the liveability of our region delivering the following benefits:

Relocation of the Deniliquin Hospital Supporting Regional Growth & Delivering Outcomes of the Clinical Services Plan



Social Benefits

- Increase health and wellbeing of regional communities, through local access to assistance and treatment.
- Increase liveability of our region with locally delivered hospital and health care decreasing stress and reluctance to access assistance when required.
- Increase medical and social support to an aging population.
- Improve access to emergency air support during medical evacuation or activation of the Deniliquin Airport Critical Emergency Response Centre (relocation site within close proximity).
- Increase access to land for residential or business development through releasing current hospital site.

Economic Benefits

- Increase in medical services will drive economic spend through population growth and employment opportunities.
- Decrease in health care spend with communities accessing health care in a timely manner – accessing locally.
- Increase employment and economic stimulus through construction phase of the new hospital, and during development of the existing hospital site.

Alignment

NSW Government – Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) 2023 Update

- Invest in infrastructure which enhances liveability and improves capacity to support population growth.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022 – 2025

- Amenity & Liveability – Support seamless access to quality health and education services, Advocate for equitable access to housing, healthcare, education, recreation, and opportunities to socialise.

The NSW Regional Health Strategic Plan 2022 – 2023 strategic priorities

- Strengthen the regional workforce.
- Enable better access to safe, high quality and timely health services.
- Keep people healthy and well through prevention and education.
- Expand integration of primary, community and hospital care.

Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

- Strategically plan for health and education precincts.

NSW Regional Health Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032

- Enable better access to safe, high quality and timely health services – Improve local transport solutions and assistance schemes; Deliver appropriate services in the community.

Current Status

Seeking support as an enabler for our Edward River Growth Strategy 2050



Councillor Peta Betts - Mayor
E. peta.betts@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 03 5898 3000

Phil Stone - Chief Executive Officer
E. phillip.stone@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 0488 173 443

Deniliquin Intermodal Freight Hub – Connecting Regional Business to Melbourne Port



Objectives

*Regional Economic Growth / Regional Population Growth /
Create Competitive Advantage for Regional Industry*

Project

Rail Freight Hub Construction

- Rail terminal infrastructure and loading facility.
- Sealed road access.
- Storage Shed and Silos.
- Weighbridge, office and amenities.
- Partnership between Edward River Council and Deni Industrial Park Pty Ltd.

Project Costs and Funding

Project Budget	\$5.175m
Funding Committed: Deni Industrial Park Pty Ltd	\$1.175m
Funding Requested:	\$4m

Rationale

Increase competitive advantage for regional industries and accelerated regional economic

growth through efficient and effective rail transportation of bulk commodities and goods delivering the following benefits:

Social Benefits

- Decrease congestion on NSW and VIC road networks increasing road safety.
- Reduce emissions and carbon footprint through efficiencies gained with rail use.
- Increase in liveability due to further investment in the region's available services in response to economic and population growth.

Economic Benefits

- Improve regional connectivity that is cost effective and efficient for industry development.
- Increase population through the attraction of new business, industry and employment opportunities.

Deniliquin Intermodal Freight Hub – Connecting Regional Business to Melbourne Port



- Sustain growth through supportive strategic infrastructure.
- Increase access to export and local markets and supply chains.

Alignment

NSW Government – Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) 2023 Update

- Enhance market access and competitiveness for the agriculture and food product manufacturing sectors through strong transport infrastructure.
- Boost and sustain the supply of skilled workers for the core industries of agriculture, manufacturing and tourism with regional skills development and attraction programs.
- Invest in infrastructure which enhances liveability and improves capacity to support population growth.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022 – 2025

- Connectivity & Infrastructure – Develop multi-modal links and hubs to drive freight transport, visitation and tourism, logistics and warehousing.
- Regional Employment & Business – Accelerate capacity building and economic diversification.
- Sustainable Natural Resources – Champion behaviours that preserve, conserve and regenerate our natural resources (focussing on water, vegetation, soil and carbon) to address climate change.

NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018 – 2023

- Economic growth – Providing confidence and certainty that encourages continued investment in the freight industry to support economic growth.
- Efficiency, connectivity and access – Improving the efficiency of existing infrastructure and ensuring greater connectivity and access along key freight routes.
- Capacity – Maximising infrastructure investment and increasing infrastructure and land use capacity to accommodate growth.

Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

- Integrate transport and land use planning.

RAMJO Regional Freight Transport Plan – October 2023

- Support the development and implementation of integrated freight transport solutions – Promote the use of multiple transport modes for freight movements; Support the use of branch lines for freight movement; Work with industry, State and Federal agencies to develop and implement integrated transport solutions.

Current Status

Ready for implementation - 2024 - 2025



Councillor Peta Betts - Mayor
E. peta.betts@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 03 5898 3000

Phil Stone - Chief Executive Officer
E. phillip.stone@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
P. 0488 173 443



Advocacy Plan 2024 - 2025
Fast track for growth

180 Cressy Street (PO Box 270)
Deniliquin NSW 2710
T 03 5898 3000 F 03 5898 3029
council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au
www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au

12.6. AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Author: Risk Coordinator

Authoriser: Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the updated Terms of Reference for the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee.

BACKGROUND

On 1 December 2023, amendments were made to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to support the implementation of new Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit in NSW. These amendments to the Regulation commence on 1 July 2024.

The Guidelines now require councils' Audit, Risk & Improvement Committees (ARICs) to be comprised of members with a broader range of skills and expertise than has traditionally been the case.

Edward River Council will soon begin a recruitment process to establish a new Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee that reflects the new requirements in time for the 1 July commencement. The revised Terms of Reference will support and inform the recruitment process.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

In March 2023, the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) endorsed a revised ARIC Terms of Reference for adoption by Council. This was included in the ARIC's report to the April 2023 Council Meeting.

The updated Terms of Reference describe the skills and experiences required for membership of the ARIC to ensure that it complies with the expectations of the new Guidelines, reflected in the recent regulatory amendments.

Following Council's adoption of the revised ARIC Terms of Reference, the process for recruiting new members whose skills and expertise address the new requirements will commence. The adopted Terms of Reference will be published on Council's website and included in the information package used in the recruitment process.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The revised Terms of Reference for Council's Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee will provide a broader skillset in the independent assurance function of this Committee. The Committee will provide information to Council for the purpose of improving Council's performance of its functions and will keep under review the following aspects of Council's operations, in alignment with the recent regulatory amendments:

1. compliance
2. risk management
3. fraud control
4. financial management
5. governance
6. implementation of the strategic plan, Delivery Program and strategies
7. service reviews
8. collection of performance measurement data by Council

9. other matters prescribed in the regulations.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

This report supports Council to achieve the following Community Strategic Plan objectives:

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

5.2 Financially sustainable

5.3 Professional Workplace culture

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The updated Terms of Reference for Council's Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee ensure Council meets its obligations under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 as amended under the Local

Government (General) Amendment (Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees) Regulation 2023. The

amendment comes into force 1 July 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

The updated draft Terms of Reference for the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee are attached.



AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE



Edward
River
COUNCIL

Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

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Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

1. Introduction

Edward River Council has established its Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee in compliance with section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and the Departmental Chief Executive's *Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW*.

These Terms of Reference set out the Committee's objectives, authority, composition and tenure, roles and responsibilities, reporting and administrative arrangements.

2. Objective

The objective of Edward River Council's Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee is to provide independent assurance to Edward River Council by monitoring, reviewing and providing advice about Council's governance processes, compliance, risk management and control frameworks, external accountability obligations and overall performance.

3. Independence

The Committee is to be independent to ensure it has no real or perceived bias or conflicts of interest that may interfere with its ability to act independently and to provide Edward River Council with robust, objective and unbiased advice and assurance.

The Committee is to have an advisory and assurance role only and is to exercise no administrative functions, delegated financial responsibilities or any management functions of Edward River Council. The Committee will provide independent advice to Council that is informed by Council's internal audit and risk management activities and information and advice provided by staff, relevant external bodies and subject matter experts.

The Committee must always ensure it maintains a direct reporting line to and from Edward River Council's internal audit function and act as a mechanism for internal audit to report to the governing body and the Chief Executive Officer on matters affecting the performance of the internal audit function.

4. Authority

Edward River Council authorises the Committee, for the purposes of exercising its responsibilities, to:

- access any information it needs from Edward River Council
- use any Edward River Council resources it needs
- have direct and unrestricted access to the Chief Executive Officer and senior management of Edward River Council

**Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee**Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

- seek the Chief Executive Officer's permission to meet with any other Edward River Council staff member or contractor
- discuss any matters with the external auditor or other relevant external parties, and
- request the attendance of any employee at Committee meetings.

Agenda reports, Information and other documents pertaining to the Committee are confidential and are not to be made publicly available. The Committee may only release Edward River Council information to external parties that are assisting the Committee to fulfil its responsibilities with the approval of the Chief Executive Officer, except where it is being provided to an external investigative or oversight agency for the purpose of informing that agency of a matter that may warrant its attention. The Minutes of Committee Meetings will be included in a report to the next available Ordinary Council Meeting.

5. Composition and tenure

The Committee consists of an independent Chair and two independent members who have voting rights and one non-voting councillor (and an alternative non-voting councillor to stand in the absence of the nominated councillor), as required under the *Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW*.

The governing body is to appoint the Chair and members of the Committee. Current Committee members are:

[name]	Independent Chair (voting)
[name]	Independent member (voting)
[name]	Independent member (voting)
[name]	Councillor member (non-voting) - cannot be the Mayor
[name]	Alternative councillor member (non-voting) – cannot be the Mayor – stands in when nominated councillor member is absent.

All Committee members must meet the independence and eligibility criteria prescribed in the *Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW*.

Members will be appointed for up to a four-year term. Members can be reappointed for one further term, but the total period of continuous membership cannot exceed eight years. This includes any term as Chair of the Committee. Members who have served an eight-year term (either as a member or as Chair) must have a two-year break from serving on the Committee before being eligible to be considered for appointment again. To preserve the Committee's knowledge of Edward River Council, ideally, no more than one member should retire from the Committee because of rotation in any one year.

The terms and conditions of each member's appointment to the Committee are to be set out in a letter of appointment. New members will be thoroughly inducted to their role and receive relevant training, information and briefings to assist them to meet their responsibilities.



**Edward
River**
COUNCIL

Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

Prior to approving the reappointment or extension of the Chair's or an independent member's term, the governing body is to undertake an assessment of the Chair's or Committee member's performance. Reappointment of the Chair or a Committee member is also to be subject to that person still meeting the independence and eligibility requirements.

Members of the Committee must possess and maintain a broad range of skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the operations, governance and financial management of Edward River Council, the environment in which Council operates, and the contribution that the Committee makes Council. At least one member of the Committee must have accounting or related financial management experience with an understanding of accounting and auditing standards in a local government environment. All members should have sufficient understanding of Edward River Council's financial reporting responsibilities to be able to contribute to the Committee's consideration of Council's annual financial statements.

6. Role

As required under section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), the role of the Committee is to review and provide independent advice to Edward River Council regarding the following aspects Council's operations:

- compliance
- risk management
- fraud control
- financial management
- governance
- implementation of the strategic plan, delivery program and strategies
- service reviews
- collection of performance measurement data by Edward River Council, and
- internal audit.

The Committee must also provide information to Edward River Council for the purpose of improving Council's performance of its functions.

The Committee's specific audit, risk and improvement responsibilities under section 428A of the Act are outlined in Schedule 1 to this Terms of Reference.

The Committee will act as a forum for consideration of Edward River Council's internal audit function and oversee its planning, monitoring and reporting to ensure it operates effectively.

The Committee has no power to direct external audit or the way it is planned and undertaken but will act as a forum for the consideration of external audit findings.

The Committee is directly responsible and accountable to the governing body for the exercise of its responsibilities. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of Edward River Council rests with the governing body and the Chief Executive Officer.



The responsibilities of the Committee may be revised or expanded in consultation with, or as requested by, the governing body from time to time.

7. Responsibilities of members

Independent members

The Chair and members of the Committee are expected to understand and observe the requirements of the *Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW*. Members are also expected to:

- make themselves available as required to attend and participate in meetings
- contribute the time needed to review and understand information provided to them
- apply good analytical skills, objectivity and judgement
- act in the best interests of Edward River Council
- have the personal courage to raise and deal with tough issues, express opinions frankly, ask questions that go to the fundamental core of the issue and pursue independent lines of inquiry
- maintain effective working relationships with Edward River Council
- have strong leadership qualities (Chair)
- lead effective Committee meetings (Chair), and
- oversee Edward River Council's internal audit function (Chair).

Councillor member/s (and alternative councillor member)

To preserve the independence of the Committee, the councillor member of the Committee (and alternative councillor member) is a non-voting member. Their role is to:

- relay to the Committee any concerns the governing body may have regarding Edward River Council and issues being considered by the Committee
- provide insights into local issues and the strategic priorities of Edward River Council that would add value to the Committee's consideration of agenda items
- advise the governing body (as necessary) of the work of the Committee and any issues arising from it, and
- assist the governing body to review the performance of the Committee.

Issues or information the councillor member (or alternative councillor member) raises with or provides to the Committee must relate to the matters listed in Schedule 1 and issues being considered by the Committee.

The councillor member (or alternative councillor member) of the Committee must conduct themselves in a non-partisan and professional manner. They must not engage in any conduct that seeks to politicise the activities of the Committee or the internal audit function or that could be seen to do so.

If the councillor member (or alternative councillor member) of the Committee engages in such conduct or in any other conduct that may bring the Committee and its work into disrepute, the

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**Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee**

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

Chair of the Committee may recommend to Edward River Council, that the councillor member or alternative councillor member be removed from membership of the Committee. Where Edward River Council does not agree to the Committee Chair's recommendation, Edward River Council must give reasons for its decision in writing to the Chair.

Conduct

All members of the Committee, including independent Committee members, are required to comply with Edward River Council's Code of Conduct.

Complaints alleging breaches of Edward River Council's Code of Conduct by a Committee member are to be dealt with in accordance with the *Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW*. The Chief Executive Officer must consult with the governing body before taking any disciplinary action against an independent Committee member or councillor member in response to a breach of Edward River Council's Code of Conduct.

Conflicts of interest

Once a year, Committee members must provide written declarations to Edward River Council stating that they do not have any conflicts of interest that would preclude them from being members of the Committee. Independent Committee members are 'designated persons' for the purposes of Edward River Council's Code of Conduct and must also complete and submit returns of their interests.

Committee members and observers must declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest they may have in a matter being considered at the meeting at the start of each meeting or as soon as they become aware of the conflict of interest. Where a Committee member or observer declares a pecuniary or a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest, they must remove themselves from Committee deliberations on the issue. Details of conflicts of interest declared at meetings must be appropriately minuted.

Standards

Committee members are to conduct their work in accordance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors and the current Australian risk management standard, where applicable.

8. Work plans

The work of the Committee is to be thoroughly planned and executed. The Committee must develop a strategic work plan every four years to ensure that the matters listed in Schedule 1 are reviewed by the Committee and considered by the internal audit function when developing their risk-based program of internal audits. The strategic work plan must be reviewed at least annually to ensure it remains appropriate.



The Committee may, in consultation with the governing body, vary the strategic work plan at any time to address new or emerging risks. The governing body may also, by resolution, request the Committee to approve a variation to the strategic work plan. Any decision to vary the strategic work plan must be made by the Committee.

The Committee must also develop an annual work plan to guide its work, and the work of the internal audit function over the forward year.

The Committee may, in consultation with the governing body, vary the annual work plan to address new or emerging risks. The governing body may also, by resolution, request the Committee to approve a variation to the annual work plan. Any decision to vary the annual work plan must be made by the Committee.

When considering whether to vary the strategic or annual work plans, the Committee must consider the impact of the variation on the internal audit function's existing workload and the completion of pre-existing priorities and activities identified under the work plan.

9. Assurance reporting

The Committee must regularly report to Edward River Council to ensure that it is kept informed of matters considered by the Committee and any emerging issues that may influence the strategic direction of Edward River Council or the achievement of Council's goals and objectives.

The Committee's Chair, in consultation with the Committee, will provide an update to the governing body and the Chief Executive Officer of its activities and opinions after every Committee meeting.

The Committee's Chair, in consultation with the Committee, will provide an annual assessment to the governing body and the Chief Executive Officer on the Committee's work and its opinion on how Edward River Council is performing.

The Committee will provide a comprehensive assessment every Council term of the matters listed in Schedule 1 to the governing body and the Chief Executive Officer.

The Committee may at any time report to the governing body or the Chief Executive Officer on any other matter it deems of sufficient importance to warrant their attention. The Mayor and the Chair of the Committee may also meet at any time to discuss issues relating to the work of the Committee.

Should the governing body require additional information, a request for the information may be made to the Chair by way of a resolution. The Chair is only required to provide the information requested by the governing body where the Chair is satisfied that it is reasonably necessary for the governing body to receive the information for the purposes of performing its functions under the Local Government Act. Individual councillors are not entitled to request or receive information from the Committee.

**Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee**

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

10. Administrative arrangements**Meetings**

The Committee will meet at least four times per year, which may include a special meeting to review Council's financial statements.

The Committee can hold additional meetings when significant unexpected issues arise, or if the Chair is asked to hold an additional meeting by a Committee member, the Chief Executive Officer or the governing body.

Committee meetings can be held in person, by telephone or videoconference. Proxies are not permitted to attend meetings if a Committee member cannot attend.

A quorum will consist of a majority of independent voting members.

Where matters are voted upon and the vote is tied, the Chair has the casting vote.

The Chair of the Committee will decide the agenda for each Committee meeting in consultation with Chief Executive Officer. Each Committee meeting is to be minuted to preserve a record of the issues considered and the actions and decisions taken by the Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer and the head of the internal audit function should attend Committee meetings as non-voting observers. The external auditor (or their representative) is to be invited to each Committee meeting as an independent observer. The Chair can request Edward River Council's Chief Financial Officer, Risk, Manager, Executive Team, senior managers, councillors, any employee or contractor of Council and any subject matter expert to attend Committee meetings. Where requested to attend a meeting, persons must attend the meeting where possible and provide any information requested. Observers have no voting rights and can be excluded from a meeting by the Chair at any time.

The Committee can hold closed meetings whenever it needs to discuss confidential or sensitive issues with only voting members of the Committee present.

The Committee must meet separately with the head of the internal audit function and Edward River Council's external auditor at least once each year.

Dispute resolution

Members of the Committee and Edward River Council's management should maintain an effective working relationship and seek to resolve any differences they may have in an amicable and professional way by discussion and negotiation.

In the event of a disagreement between the Committee and the Chief Executive Officer or other senior managers, the dispute is to be resolved by the governing body.

Unresolved disputes regarding compliance with statutory or other requirements are to be referred to the Departmental Chief Executive (Office of Local Government) in writing.

**Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee**

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

Secretariat

The Chief Executive Officer will nominate a staff member to provide secretariat support to the Committee. The secretariat will ensure the agenda for each meeting and supporting papers are circulated, after approval from the Chair, at least one week before the meeting and ensure that minutes of meetings are prepared and maintained. Draft minutes must be approved by the Chair and circulated within two weeks of the meeting to each member.

Filling independent Committee vacancies

When an independent Committee member's term expires or their position on the Committee otherwise becomes vacant, Council will seek Expressions of Interest in order to fill the vacancy.

The invitation for suitably qualified individuals to nominate to become an independent member or Chair of the Committee will be posted on Council's website, and publicised in line with Council's usual recruitment protocols.

Expressions of interest received will be assessed against the published criteria, and a report will be provided to Council recommending appropriate appointment/s to the Committee. Appointment of independent Committee members will be by way of a resolution of Council.

Any unsuccessful candidate's Expression of Interest that is assessed to have met all of the published criteria will remain valid for a period of twelve months and be referred to in the event of further Committee vacancies during that time.

Resignation and dismissal of members

Where the Chair or a Committee member is unable to complete their term or does not intend to seek reappointment after the expiry of their term, they should give three months' notice to the Chair and the governing body prior to their resignation to allow Edward River Council to ensure a smooth transition to a new Chair or Committee member.

The governing body can, by resolution, terminate the appointment of the Chair or an independent Committee member before the expiry of their term where that person has:

- breached Council's Code of Conduct
- performed unsatisfactorily or not to expectations
- declared, or is found to be in, a position of a conflict of interest which is unresolvable
- been declared bankrupt or found to be insolvent
- experienced an adverse change in business status
- been charged with a serious criminal offence
- been proved to be in serious breach of their obligations under any legislation, or
- experienced an adverse change in capacity or capability.

The position of a councillor on the Committee can be terminated at any time by the governing body by resolution.



**Edward
River**
COUNCIL

Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

Review arrangements

At least once every Council term, the governing body must review or arrange for an external review of the effectiveness of the Committee.

These terms of reference must be reviewed annually by the Committee and once each Council term by the governing body. Any substantive changes are to be approved by the governing body.

Remuneration and payment of expenses incurred

The independent Chair and independent members of the Committee shall be entitled to remuneration according to the following schedule:

- Chair - \$7,500 per annum
- Independent member - \$1,000 per meeting

Reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed based on Australian Tax Office rates. A Committee claim form will be provided to members, who are required to submit the claim form following Committee meetings.

11. Further information

For further information on Edward River Council's Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee, contact the Senior Governance Officer via email to council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au or by phone: 03 5898 3000.

**Schedule 1 – Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee responsibilities****Audit****Internal audit**

- Provide overall strategic oversight of internal audit activities
- Act as a forum for communication between the governing body, Chief Executive Officer, senior management, the internal audit function and external audit
- Coordinate, as far as is practicable, the work programs of internal audit and other assurance and review functions
- Review and advise Edward River Council:
 - on whether Council is providing the resources necessary to successfully deliver the internal audit function
 - if Council is complying with internal audit requirements, including conformance with the *International Professional Practices Framework*
 - if Council's internal audit charter is appropriate and whether the internal audit policies and procedures and audit/risk methodologies used by Council are suitable
 - of the strategic four-year work plan and annual work plan of internal audits to be undertaken by Council's internal audit function
 - if Council's internal audit activities are effective, including the performance of the head of the internal audit function and the internal audit function
 - of the findings and recommendations of internal audits conducted, and corrective actions needed to address issues raised
 - of the implementation by Council of these corrective actions
 - on the appointment of the head of the internal audit function and external providers
 - if the internal audit function is structured appropriately and has sufficient skills and expertise to meet its responsibilities.

External audit

- Act as a forum for communication between the governing body, Chief Executive Officer, senior management, the internal audit function and external audit
- Coordinate, as far as is practicable, the work programs of internal audit and external audit
- Provide input and feedback on the financial statement and performance audit coverage proposed by external audit and provide feedback on the audit services provided
- Review all external plans and reports in respect of planned or completed audits and monitor Council's implementation of audit recommendations
- Provide advice to the governing body and/or Chief Executive Officer on action taken on significant issues raised in relevant external audit reports and better practice guides.

**Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee**

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

Risk**Risk management**

Review and advise Edward River Council:

- if Council has in place a current and appropriate risk management framework that is consistent with the Australian risk management standard
- whether Council is providing the resources necessary to successfully implement its risk management framework
- whether Council's risk management framework is adequate and effective for identifying and managing the risks Council faces, including those associated with individual projects, programs and other activities
- if risk management is integrated across all levels of Council and across all processes, operations, services, decision-making, functions and reporting
- of the adequacy of risk reports and documentation, for example, Council's risk register and risk profile
- whether a sound approach has been followed in developing risk management plans for major projects or undertakings
- whether appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management and exercise of delegations
- if Council has taken steps to embed a culture which is committed to ethical and lawful behaviour
- if there is a positive risk culture within Council and strong leadership that supports effective risk management
- of the adequacy of staff training and induction in risk management
- how Council's risk management approach impacts on Council's insurance arrangements
- of the effectiveness of Council's management of its assets
- of the effectiveness of business continuity arrangements, including business continuity plans, disaster recovery plans and the periodic testing of these plans.

Internal controls

Review and advise Edward River Council:

- whether Council's approach to maintaining an effective internal audit framework, including over external parties such as contractors and advisors, is sound and effective
- whether Council has in place relevant policies and procedures and if these are periodically reviewed and updated
- whether appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management and exercise of delegations
- whether staff are informed of their responsibilities and processes and procedures to implement controls are complied with
- if Council's monitoring and review of controls is sufficient
- if internal and external audit recommendations to correct internal control weaknesses are implemented appropriately.

**Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee**Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate**Compliance**

Review and advise Edward River Council of the adequacy and effectiveness of Council's compliance framework, including:

- if Council has appropriately considered legal and compliance risks as part of Council's risk management framework
- how Council manages its compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures, codes, and contractual arrangements
- whether appropriate processes are in place to assess compliance.

Fraud and corruption

Review and advise Edward River Council of the adequacy and effectiveness of Council's fraud and corruption prevention framework and activities, including whether Council has appropriate processes and systems in place to capture and effectively investigate fraud-related information.

Financial management

Review and advise Edward River Council:

- if Council is complying with accounting standards and external accountability requirements
- of the appropriateness of Council's accounting policies and disclosures
- of the implications for Council of the findings of external audits and performance audits and Council's responses and implementation of recommendations
- whether Council's financial statement preparation procedures and timelines are sound
- the accuracy of Council's annual financial statements prior to external audit, including:
 - management compliance/representations
 - significant accounting and reporting issues
 - the methods used by Council to account for significant or unusual transactions and areas of significant estimates or judgements
 - appropriate management sign-off on the statements
- if effective processes are in place to ensure financial information included in Council's annual report is consistent with signed financial statements
- if Council's financial management processes are adequate
- the adequacy of cash management policies and procedures
- if there are adequate controls over financial processes, for example:
 - appropriate authorisation and approval of payments and transactions
 - adequate segregation of duties
 - timely reconciliation of accounts and balances
 - review of unusual and high value purchases
- if policies and procedures for management review and consideration of the financial position and performance of Council are adequate
- if Council's grants and tied funding policies and procedures are sound.



**Edward
River**
COUNCIL

Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

Governance

Review and advise Edward River Council regarding its governance framework, including Council's:

- decision-making processes
- implementation of governance policies and procedures
- reporting lines and accountability
- assignment of key roles and responsibilities
- committee structure
- management oversight responsibilities
- human resources and performance management activities
- reporting and communication activities
- information and communications technology (ICT) governance
- management and governance of the use of data, information and knowledge.

Improvement

Strategic planning

Review and advise Edward River Council:

- of the adequacy and effectiveness of Council's integrated, planning and reporting (IP&R) processes
- if appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms are in place to measure progress against objectives and the performance of Council in delivering its commitments
- whether Council is successfully implementing and achieving its IP&R objectives and strategies.

Service reviews and business improvement

- Act as a forum for communication and monitoring of any audits conducted by external bodies and the implementation of corrective actions (for example, NSW government agencies, Commonwealth government agencies, insurance bodies)
- Review and advise Edward River Council:
 - If Council has robust systems to set objectives and goals to determine and deliver appropriate levels of service to the community and business performance
 - if appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms are in place to measure service delivery to the community and overall performance
 - how Council can improve its service delivery and Council's performance of its business and functions generally.



**Edward
River**
COUNCIL

Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

Progress and performance data and measurement

Review and advise Edward River Council:

- if Council has a robust system to determine appropriate performance indicators to measure the achievement of its strategic and operational objectives
- if the progress and performance indicators Council uses are effective
- of the adequacy of progress and performance data collection and reporting.

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**Edward
River**
COUNCIL

Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee

Terms of Reference
Corporate Services Directorate

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE VERSION CONTROL

Title	Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee Terms of Reference		
ECM Doc ID	271486		
Date Adopted	18 April 2023		
Council resolution	2022/0418/11.1		
Next review date	by the Committee in May 2024 by Council in November 2024 (following the election of a new Council)		
Responsible Officer	Senior Governance Officer (SGO)		
Version Number	Modified By	Modifications Made	Date modified
V1	SGO	Slight edits made following consultation with sitting ARIC	March 2023
V2	SGO	Content finalised following Council's adoption in principle (April 2023)	September 2023
V3		Provided to Council for formal adoption following amendments to Regulation	February 2024

12.7. QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - DECEMBER 2023

Author: Coordinator Financial Services

Authoriser: Chief Financial Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Endorse the 31 December 2023 quarterly budget review of the 2023/24 Budget.
2. Note the overall impacts of proposed adjustments, an increase of \$121k since the September 2023 quarter review, on Council's budgeted operating result for 2023/24 being a surplus of \$22,150,261, and after removing Capital Grants a deficit of \$765,595.
3. Adopt the budget adjustments as detailed in this report.

BACKGROUND

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) is prepared and provided by Council's Responsible Accounting Officer to comply with Regulation 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to inform Council and the community of Council's estimated financial position for the 2023/24 financial year, reviewed as at 31 December 2023.

The QBRs must show, by reference to the estimated income and expenditure that is set out in the operational plan adopted by council for the relevant year, a revised estimate of income and expenditure for that year. It also requires the budget review statement to include a report by the responsible accounting officer as to whether they consider the review indicates council to be in a satisfactory financial position (as compared to its original budget) and if not, to include recommendations for remedial action.

This report contains an overview of the proposed budget variations for the Consolidated, General, Water, Sewer and Edward River Village funds. The Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) as outlined by the Office of Local Government in circular 10-32, is contained at Attachment 1 for Council's review.

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

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

A review of Council's income, operating expenditure and capital expenditure has been undertaken and Council's financial position is considered satisfactory. The Quarterly Budget Review Statement links to the budget process and the Council decision relating to the budget adoption in June 2023, providing detailed information regarding:

1. Movements in the operational budget
2. Movements in the capital budget
3. Council's projected cash position at 30 June 2024
4. Contracts entered during the period with a value over \$50k
5. Consultancy and legal expenses year to date.
6. Key performance indicators

Operating

Budget

The Attachment 1 "Quarterly Budget Review Statement - December 2023" details the changes between the Adopted budget, Revised budget, and Projected year end result. 46.07% of projected

income has been recognised and 43.93% of the projected operational expenditure has been spent as of the end of December 2023.

All Rates income is recognised at the beginning of the year when raised, however only two of the four instalments have fallen due and payable. The Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) was received 100% as a prepayment in June 2023, therefore no quarterly payments will be received as set out in the adopted budget. There is uncertainty as to the amount that the Federal Government will pay as a prepayment of the Financial Assistance Grant in June 2024. Capital Income will be spread across the year as key project milestone requirements are met.

Notable transaction(s) in the December 2023 quarter include:

- Received \$4.09m for Disaster Recovery Funding
- Received \$1.50m for the final Regional Airport Funding
- Received \$725k for the 1st instalment of the Regional Roads Block Grant

The Rates, Annual Charges & Interest Outstanding ratio is currently at 4.80% and is now well below the state benchmark of 10%, and our target which is 7.50%.

A management review of the of the adopted budget has identified the following operational variations for the December 2023 quarter:

Funded Changes

- Nil Impact (\$147k) - Add income and expenses for insurance works on airport residence

Other Changes

- (\$4k) – Increase in Christmas decorations and party costs – Operational Plan (OP) item 3.3.2.4
- (\$4k) – Add expenses for free movie sessions at the Town Hall – OP item 3.3.2.2
- (\$18k) – Add expenses for illegal dumping project. This is fully offset by a grant received in late 2022/23 – OP item 4.4.2.2

Capital

Budget

The original 2023/24 capital budget funded and adopted by Council was \$10.13m. Carry forward projects from prior year budget of \$9.58m and variations from the September 2023 quarter of \$23.51m, made the total of \$44.66m for the revised 2023/24 capital budget as at the September quarter. With the additions included as part of this December 2023 quarter of \$147k, the total capital works program is \$44.81m.

The following changes have been made to the capital works program for this December 2023 review:

- \$147k - Increase expenses for insurance work on the airport residence

As of 31 December 2023, a total \$10.44m or 23.30% of the projected capital works budget has been spent. The total remaining capital works budget as at 31 December 2023 is \$34.37m or 76.70% and will include some multiyear projects from carry forwards as well as those listed above.

The current 2023/24 capital works program includes projects planned to be completed over multiple years, and therefore will not be completed in total by 30 June 2024. The value of these projects is estimated to be approximately \$12.08 million. These include Hardinge St, Pretty Pine Rd widening, Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund, Disaster Recovery Funding works and Stronger Country Community round 5 projects. The value of capital works program to predicted to be completed within the 2023/24 financial year is \$32.73m. On comparison of the actuals spent based on the current year projected works, we have spent 36.91%, with 63.09% remaining in 2023/24.

The revised budget current asset renewal ratio is 459%. This is high due to the large number of grants received for road renewal projects. It also includes flood damage repair works of approximately \$13m. If the flood repair work was to be excluded from the calculation, the capital work renewal program would be \$29.96m, resulting in an asset renewal ratio of 331%.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement provides fair and reasonable information to Councillors in respect to the budget to allow Councillors to appropriately discharge their fiscal management responsibilities to the community.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

5.2 Financially sustainable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should the proposed variations of an increase of \$121k since the September quarter review be approved, Council's budgeted operating result for 2023/24 will be a surplus of \$22,150,261, and after removing Capital Grants a deficit of \$765,595.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The preparation of a quarterly budget review statement is required under Clause 203(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - December 2023 QBRs(1)

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Report by Responsible Accounting Officer Budget Review Statement for Edward River Council for the quarter ending 31 December 2023

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

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Edward River Council for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30/6/24 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

In summary, operational budget movements for the Quarter, including capital grants, are as follows:

	\$'000 (Surplus/(Deficit))
Opening Operational Budget - As Adopted by Council	(599)
Previously adopted adjustments:	
Carry Forwards	(487)
September 2023 Qtr Budget Review	23,115
Add:	
December 2023 Qtr Variations	121
Amended Operational Budget	<u>22,150</u>

Signed:

DocuSigned by:
Belinda Langlands
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Belinda Langlands
Responsible Accounting Officer

Date: 2/7/2024



**December Quarterly Budget Review Income Statement
by Entity**

Consolidated Council Operating Result

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
Income										
Rates & Annual Charges	14,923,962	-	-	-	-	14,923,962	-	14,923,962	14,931,796	4
User Charges & Fees	4,215,072	-	-	-	-	4,215,072	-	4,215,072	2,610,745	
Interest & Investment Revenue	1,671,414	-	-	-	-	1,671,414	-	1,671,414	170,144	
Other Revenues	545,850	-	-	-	-	545,850	147,000	692,850	427,024	
Grants & Contributions - Operating	9,503,507	-	865,257	-	-	10,368,764	-	10,368,764	1,335,948	
Capital Grants & Contributions	110,000	-	22,805,857	-	-	22,915,857	-	22,915,857	5,825,396	
Profit / Loss	235,000	-	-	-	-	235,000	-	235,000	88,733	
Total Income	31,204,805	-	23,671,114	-	-	54,875,918	147,000	55,022,918	25,389,785	
Expense										
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	11,850,143	-1	-30,000	-	-	11,820,142	5,050	11,825,192	6,519,599	1,2,3
Borrowing Costs	253,257	-	-	-	-	253,257	-	253,257	-	1,2,3
Materials & Contracts	8,170,226	450,206	585,633	-	-	9,206,065	20,950	9,227,015	9,923,699	
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	10,883,154	-	-	-	-	10,883,154	-	10,883,154	-	
Other Expenses	647,000	37,040	-	-	-	684,040	-	684,040	324,820	
Internals	0	-	-	-	-	0	-	0	15,976	
Total Expense	31,803,779	487,246	555,633	-	-	32,846,657	26,000	32,872,657	16,784,094	
Surplus/(Deficit)	-598,974	-487,246	23,115,481	-	-	22,029,261	121,000	22,150,261	8,605,691	

Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital items	-708,974	-487,246	309,624	-	-	-886,595	121,000	-765,595	2,780,295
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Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council	Cash Movement	Ref Note
Increase Christmas Party and decoration costs	(4,000)	1
Increase budget to provide 3 free movie nights over January at the Town Hall	(4,000)	2
Increase budget to complete grant funded works on illegal dumping	(18,000)	3
Increase insurance claim reimbursement for Airport residence	147,000	4



December Quarterly Budget Review Income Statement
by Entity

General Fund Operating Result

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
Income										
Rates & Annual Charges	9,900,825	-	-	-	-	9,900,825	-	9,900,825	9,932,634	4
User Charges & Fees	1,939,670	-	-	-	-	1,939,670	-	1,939,670	2,191,307	
Interest & Investment Revenue	1,239,936	-	-	-	-	1,239,936	-	1,239,936	156,059	
Other Revenues	545,850	-	-	-	-	545,850	147,000	692,850	427,024	
Grants & Contributions - Operating	9,503,507	-	865,257	-	-	10,368,764	-	10,368,764	1,335,948	
Capital Grants & Contributions	25,000	-	22,805,857	-	-	22,830,857	-	22,830,857	5,733,408	
Profit / Loss	235,000	-	-	-	-	235,000	-	235,000	88,733	
Total Income	23,389,789	-	23,671,114	-	-	47,060,902	147,000	47,207,902	19,865,113	
Expense										
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	10,991,211	(1)	(30,000)	-	-	10,961,210	5,050	10,966,260	5,666,152	1,2,3
Borrowing Costs	168,107	-	-	-	-	168,107	-	168,107	-	1,2,3
Materials & Contracts	6,687,132	409,055	585,633	-	-	7,681,820	20,950	7,702,770	9,003,503	
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	9,217,194	-	-	-	-	9,217,194	-	9,217,194	-	
Other Expenses	647,000	37,040	-	-	-	684,040	-	684,040	324,820	
Internals	(1,911,598)	-	-	-	-	(1,911,598)	-	(1,911,598)	8,259	
Total Expense	25,799,046	446,094	555,633	-	-	26,800,773	26,000	26,826,773	15,002,735	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,409,257)	(446,094)	23,115,481	-	-	20,260,129	121,000	20,381,129	4,862,378	
Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital items	(2,434,257)	(446,094)	309,624	-	-	(2,570,728)	121,000	(2,449,728)	(871,029)	

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council	Cash Movement	Ref Note
Increase Christmas Party and decoration costs	(4,000)	1
Increase budget to provide 3 free movie nights over January at the Town Hall	(4,000)	2
Increase budget to complete grant funded works on illegal dumping	(18,000)	3
Increase insurance claim reimbursement for Airport residence	147,000	4



**December Quarterly Budget Review Income Statement
by Entity**

Water Supply Services Operating Result

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
Income										
Rates & Annual Charges	1,633,972	-	-	-	-	1,633,972	-	1,633,972	1,582,071	
User Charges & Fees	2,052,414	-	-	-	-	2,052,414	-	2,052,414	309,271	
Interest & Investment Revenue	250,036	-	-	-	-	250,036	-	250,036	6,761	
Capital Grants & Contributions	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	35,000	41,021	
Profit / Loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Income	3,971,422	-	-	-	-	3,971,422	-	3,971,422	1,939,124	
Expense										
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	487,021	-	-	-	-	487,021	-	487,021	401,844	
Materials & Contracts	913,030	41,151	-	-	-	954,181	-	954,181	514,929	
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	868,167	-	-	-	-	868,167	-	868,167	-	
Internals	956,439	-	-	-	-	956,439	-	956,439	25	
Total Expense	3,224,657	41,151	-	-	-	3,265,808	-	3,265,808	916,798	
Surplus/(Deficit)	746,766	(41,151)	-	-	-	705,614	-	705,614	1,022,326	
Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital items	711,766	(41,151)	-	-	-	670,614	-	670,614	981,305	

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council	Cash Movement	Ref Note
No Change		



December Quarterly Budget Review Income Statement
by Entity

Sewer Services Operating Result

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
Income										
Rates & Annual Charges	3,389,165	-	-	-	-	3,389,165	-	3,389,165	3,417,091	
User Charges & Fees	215,987	-	-	-	-	215,987	-	215,987	110,167	
Interest & Investment Revenue	181,441	-	-	-	-	181,441	-	181,441	7,323	
Capital Grants & Contributions	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	50,967	
Profit / Loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Income	3,836,594	-	-	-	-	3,836,594	-	3,836,594	3,585,548	
Expense										
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	366,911	-	-	-	-	366,911	-	366,911	451,602	
Materials & Contracts	535,063	-	-	-	-	535,063	-	535,063	387,644	
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	797,793	-	-	-	-	797,793	-	797,793	-	
Internals	955,159	-	-	-	-	955,159	-	955,159	7,692	
Total Expense	2,654,926	-	-	-	-	2,654,926	-	2,654,926	846,939	
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,181,668	-	-	-	-	1,181,668	-	1,181,668	2,738,609	
Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital items	1,131,668	-	-	-	-	1,131,668	-	1,131,668	2,687,642	

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council								Cash Movement	Ref Note
No Change									



**December Quarterly Budget Review Income Statement
by Entity**

Edward River Village Operating Result

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
Income										
User Charges & Fees	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	
Capital Grants & Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Profit / Loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Income	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	
Expense										
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	
Borrowing Costs	85,150	-	-	-	-	85,150	-	85,150	-	
Materials & Contracts	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	35,000	17,623	
Internals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Expense	125,150	-	-	-	-	125,150	-	125,150	17,623	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(118,150)	-	-	-	-	(118,150)	-	(118,150)	(17,623)	
Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital items	(118,150)	-	-	-	-	(118,150)	-	(118,150)	(17,623)	
Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council									Cash Movement	Ref Note
No Change										



**December Quarterly Budget Review Capital Statement
by Entity**

Consolidated Council Capital Expenditure

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
New Assets										
Land & buildings	515,000	1,976,578	1,436,095	-	-	3,927,674	-	3,927,674	1,706,748	
Library resources	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	23,707	
Other Assets/Infrastructure	-	16,702	-	-	-	16,702	-	16,702	19,360	
Stronger Communities Projects	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	
Total New Assets	565,000	2,003,280	1,436,095	-	-	4,004,376	-	4,004,376	1,749,815	
Renewal Assets (replacements)										
Land & buildings	1,100,000	278,636	420,000	-	-	1,798,636	147,000	1,945,635	276,824	1
Library resources	-	36,594	-	-	-	36,594	-	36,594	21,074	
Other Assets/Infrastructure	215,000	5,932,453	929,383	-	-	7,076,836	-	7,076,836	5,789,552	
Plant & equipment	1,326,000	144,769	-	-	-	1,470,769	-	1,470,769	227,094	
Roads, bridges, footpaths, K&G, Drainage	5,094,000	260,697	21,440,823	-	-	26,795,520	-	26,795,520	1,517,007	
Sewer Infrastructure	810,000	45,735	-	-	-	855,735	-	855,735	390,211	
Software	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	18,000	
Stronger Communities Projects	-	-	714,000	-	-	714,000	-	714,000	2,018	
Water Infrastructure	1,020,000	878,404	-	-	-	1,898,404	-	1,898,404	449,634	
Total Renewal Assets (replacements)	9,565,000	7,577,287	23,514,206	-	-	40,656,493	147,000	40,803,492	8,691,413	
Total Capital Program	10,130,000	9,580,567	24,950,301	-	-	44,660,868	147,000	44,807,868	10,441,228	

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council	Cash Movement	Ref Note
Increase expense for insurance work on Airport residence	-147,000	1



**December Quarterly Budget Review Capital Statement
by Entity**

Edward River Council Capital Expenditure

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
New Assets										
Land & buildings	515,000	95,218	225,885	-	-	836,103	-	836,103	49,036	
Library resources	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	23,707	
Other Assets/Infrastructure	-	16,702	-	-	-	16,702	-	16,702	19,360	
Stronger Communities Projects	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	
Total New Assets	565,000	121,920	225,885	-	-	912,805	-	912,805	92,103	
Renewal Assets (replacements)										
Land & buildings	1,100,000	278,636	420,000	-	-	1,798,636	147,000	1,945,635	276,824	1
Library resources	-	36,594	-	-	-	36,594	-	36,594	21,074	
Other Assets/Infrastructure	215,000	5,932,453	929,383	-	-	7,076,836	-	7,076,836	5,789,552	
Plant & equipment	1,326,000	144,769	-	-	-	1,470,769	-	1,470,769	227,094	
Roads, bridges, footpaths, K&G, Drainage	5,094,000	260,697	21,440,823	-	-	26,795,520	-	26,795,520	1,517,007	
Software	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	18,000	
Stronger Communities Projects	-	-	714,000	-	-	714,000	-	714,000	2,018	
Total Renewal Assets (replacements)	7,735,000	6,653,149	23,514,206	-	-	37,902,355	147,000	38,049,354	7,851,568	
Total Capital Program	8,300,000	6,775,068	23,740,091	-	-	38,815,159	147,000	38,962,159	7,943,670	
Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council								Cash Movement	Ref Note	
Increase expense for insurance work on Airport residence								-147,000	1	



December Quarterly Budget Review Capital Statement
by Entity

Water Supply Services Capital Expenditure

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
New Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total New Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Renewal Assets (replacements)										
Water Infrastructure	1,020,000	878,404	-	-	-	1,898,404	-	1,898,404	449,634	
Total Renewal Assets (replacements)	1,020,000	878,404	-	-	-	1,898,404	-	1,898,404	449,634	
Total Capital Program	1,020,000	878,404	-	-	-	1,898,404	-	1,898,404	449,634	
Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council								Cash Movement	Ref Note	
No Change										



December Quarterly Budget Review Capital Statement
by Entity

Sewer Services Capital Expenditure

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
New Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total New Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Renewal Assets (replacements)										
Sewer Infrastructure	810,000	45,735	-	-	-	855,735	-	855,735	390,211	
Total Renewal Assets (replacements)	810,000	45,735	-	-	-	855,735	-	855,735	390,211	
Total Capital Program	810,000	45,735	-	-	-	855,735	-	855,735	390,211	
Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council								Cash Movement	Ref Note	
No Change								-		



**December Quarterly Budget Review Capital Statement
by Entity**

Edward River Village Capital Expenditure

Description	Original Budget \$	Approved Changes				Revised Budget \$	Recommended changes for Council Resolution \$	Projected Year End Result \$	Actual YTD December \$	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs \$	QBRs - Sept \$	QBRs - Dec \$	QBRs - Mar \$					
New Assets										
Land & buildings	-	1,881,361	1,210,210	-	-	3,091,571	-	3,091,571	1,657,713	
Total New Assets	-	1,881,361	1,210,210	-	-	3,091,571	-	3,091,571	1,657,713	
Renewal Assets (replacements)										
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Renewal Assets (replacements)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Capital Program	-	1,881,361	1,210,210	-	-	3,091,571	-	3,091,571	1,657,713	
Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items for the Consolidated Council								Cash Movement	Ref Note	
No Change								-		



Cash & Investments Budget Review Statement for Edward River Council for the quarter ending 31 December 2023

	Adopted Budget 23/24 \$'000	Approved Changes					Revised Budget 23/24 \$'000	Variations for this Dec Qtr \$'000 Note	Projected Year End Result \$'000	Actual YTD figures \$'000*
		Carry Forwards \$'000	Sept 23 \$'000s	Dec 23 \$'000	Other than by QBRs \$'000s Note					
Unrestricted	7,611	-	5,557		-		13,168	-	13,168	17,452
Externally Restricted										
Developer Contributions - General	79	-	-	-	-		79	-	79	79
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	4,573	-	-	-	-		4,573	-	4,573	4,573
Merger Funding	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	281
Water Supplies	7,341	-	-	-	1,509	4	8,850	-	8,850	7,703
Sewerage Services	7,753	-	-	-	172	4	7,925	-	7,925	6,399
Domestic Waste Management	1,300	-	-	-	-		1,300	-	1,300	1,300
EPA Waste	36	-	-	-	-		36	-	36	36
Conargo Milestones/Interpretative	37	-	-	-	-		37	-	37	16
Regional Arts	3	-	-	-	-		3	-	3	3
Deniliquin Band Committee	26	-	-	-	-		26	-	26	26
Conargo Oval M&R	20	-	-	-	-		20	-	20	20
Total Externally Restricted	21,168	-	-	-	1,681		22,849	-	22,849	20,436



Cash & Investments Budget Review Statement for Edward River Council for the quarter ending 31 December 2023

		Adopted Budget 23/24 \$'000	Approved Changes					Revised Budget 23/24 \$'000	Variations for this Dec Qtr \$'000 Note	Projected Year End Result \$'000	Actual YTD figures \$'000*
			Carry Forwards \$'000	Sept 23 \$'000s	Dec 23 \$'000	Other than by QBRs \$'000s Note					
Internally Restricted											
	Plant Replacement	1,800	-	-	-	-		1,800	-	1,800	1,799
	Infrastructure Replacement	1,780	-	-	-	(420)	2	1,360	-	1,360	1,780
	Employees Leave	693	-	-	-	-		693	-	693	693
	Deposits, Retentions and Bonds	295	-	-	-	-		295	-	295	295
	Advanced Payment - Financial Assistance Grant	6,972	-	(6,972)	-	-		-	-	-	
	Airport Industrial Land	20	-	-	-	-		20	-	20	20
	Asset Management	14	-	-	-	-		14	-	14	14
	Airport Runway Development	187	-	-	-	-		187	-	187	187
	Blighty Power Upgrade	70	-	-	-	-		70	-	70	70
	Building Maintenance	50	-	-	-	-		50	-	50	50
	Cemetery Upgrade	9	-	-	-	-		9	-	9	9
	Conargo Hall Committee Bequest	2,636	-	-	-	-		2,636	-	2,636	
	Depot office & gates upgrade	41	-	-	-	-		41	-	41	41
	Dog Trail	3	-	-	-	-		3	-	3	3
	Election Reserve	12	-	-	-	-		12	-	12	12
	Fencing Conargo	7	-	-	-	-		7	-	7	7
	Gravel Pits	14	-	-	-	-		14	-	14	14
	Human Resources	18	-	-	-	-		18	-	18	18
	Internal Audit	6	-	-	-	-		6	-	6	6
	Land Development	385	-	-	-	-		385	-	385	385
	Landscaping Plan	90	-	-	-	-		90	-	90	90
	Recreation Reserves/Villages (Landscaping Plans)	1,113	-	-	-	-		1,113	-	1,113	1,113
	Risk Management	45	-	-	-	-		45	-	45	45
	Wanganella Community Hall	5	-	-	-	-		5	-	5	5



Cash & Investments Budget Review Statement for Edward River Council for the quarter ending 31 December 2023

	Adopted Budget 23/24 \$'000	Approved Changes					Revised Budget 23/24 \$'000	Variations for this Dec Qtr \$'000	Projected Year End Result \$'000	Actual YTD figures \$'000*
		Carry Forwards \$'000	Sept 23 \$'000s	Dec 23 \$'000	Other than by QBRs \$'000s	Note				
Shire Entrance Signs	5	-	-	-	-		5	-	5	5
Tourism/Industry Promotion	13	-	-	-	-		13	-	13	13
Town Planning Plan, Surveys & Studies	103	-	-	-	-		103	-	103	103
Waste Facilities	63	-	-	-	-		63	-	63	63
Water Supply Network	57	-	-	-	-		57	-	57	57
Website Development	2	-	-	-	-		2	-	2	2
Conargo and Pretty Pine Landfills	23	-	-	-	-		23	-	23	-
Edward River Village	520	-	(520)	-	-		-	-	-	520
North Depot Redevelopment	125	-	-	-	-		125	-	125	124
Total Internally Restricted	17,176	-	(6,972)	-	(420)		9,264	-	9,264	7,543
Total Cash & Investments	45,955	-	(1,415)	-	1,261		45,281	-	45,281	45,431



Contracts Budget Review Statement for Edward River Council for the quarter ending 31 December 2023

Contractor	Contract detail & purpose	Contract Value	Start Date	Duration of Contract	Budgeted (Y/N)
Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads Package 2	1,126,152	Dec-23	Mar-24	Y
Deni Civil & Construction	Road reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads Package 3	507,705	Dec-23	May-24	Y
Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads Northern Package	461,414	Dec-23	May-24	Y
Andrew Goldman Excavation Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads Southern Package	133,992	Dec-23	Apr-24	Y
Civil and Earth Australia	Road reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads Western Package	166,066	Dec-23	Apr-24	Y
DeAraugo & Lea Pty Ltd	Sports Facility Lighting Upgrades	1,549,102	Dec-23	Mar-24	Y
E.B Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction - Provision of supply of crushed rock to nominated stockpiles	451,417	Oct-23	Dec-23	Y
Andrew Goldman Excavation Pty Ltd	Road reconstruction - Provision of supply of crushed rock to nominated stockpiles	243,777	Oct-23	Jan-24	Y
Deni Civil & Construction	Wet Hire of Plant for the Flood Program FY23/24	242,000	Oct-23	Jan-24	Y

1. Minimum reporting level is 1% of estimated income from continuing operations of Council or \$50,000 - whatever is the lesser.
2. Contracts listed are those entered into during the quarter being reported and exclude contractors on Council's Preferred Supplier list.
3. Contracts for employment are not required to be included.



December Quarterly Budget Review Statement
Contracts and Consultancy

Description	Original Budget	Approved Changes				Revised Budget	Recommended changes for Council Resolution	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD December	Ref Notes
		Carry Overs	QBRs - Sept	QBRs - Dec	QBRs - Mar					
Consultants	948,500	338,696	20,000	-	-	1,307,196	-	1,307,196	576,763	
Legal	18,000	-	16,633	-	-	34,633	-	34,633	70,848	
Total	966,500	338,696	36,633	-	-	1,341,829	-	1,341,829	647,611	

Definition of a consultant:

A consultant is a person or organisation engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management.

Generally it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

Comments: Expenditure Year to Date

Consultants - Growth Management Strategy (\$160k), Backfill for Acting Chief Financial Officer and other accounting positions (\$108k), Backfill roles in Governance, Safety and Risk (\$88k), Backfill Manager Operations (\$78k), Organisational Redesign (\$25k) and other general consultant works (\$100k).

Legals - Code of conduct investigations (\$23k), employment related matters (\$36k), planning advice (\$5k), Medical Centre lease (\$2.5k) and other general legal advice (\$3.5k).



Quarterly Budget Review KPI Statement
for Consolidated Council

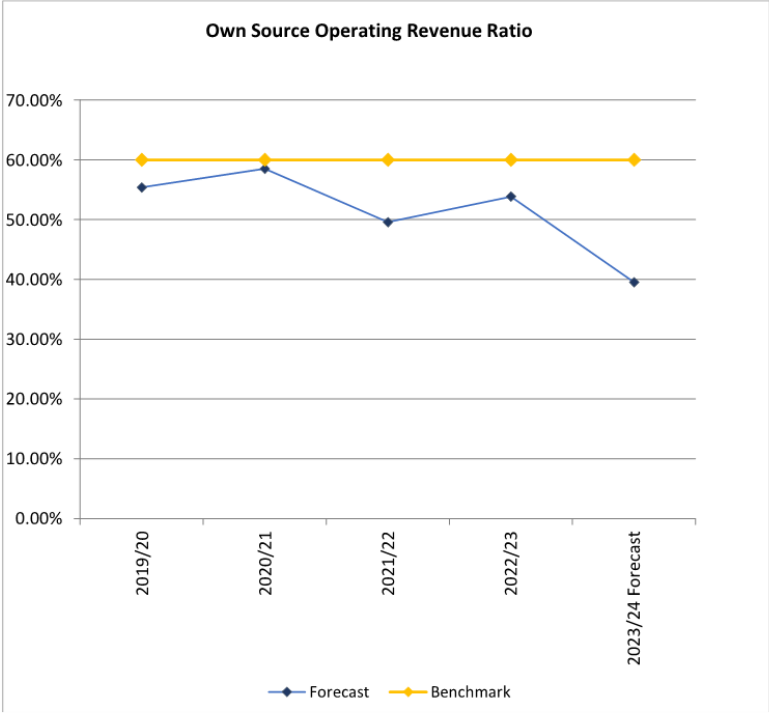
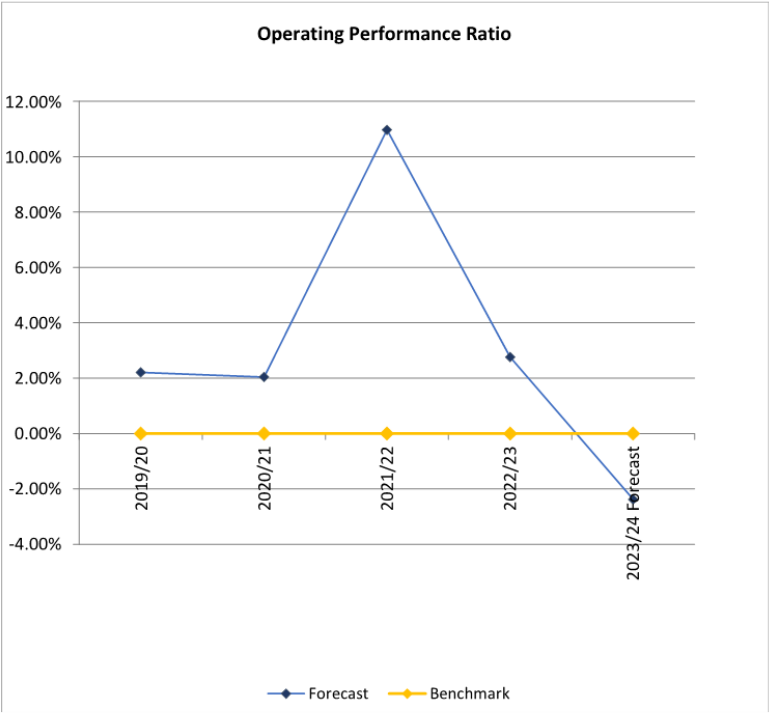
Consolidated Council Key Performance Indicator Forecasts

KPI	Original Budget	Approved Changes				Revised Budget	Recommended changes for Council Resolution	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD December
		Carry Overs	QBRs - Sept	QBRs - Dec	QBRs - Mar				
Operating Performance Ratio									
Forecast	-2.28%	-1.57%	1.07%	-	-	-2.77%	0.39%	-2.38%	14.21%
Benchmark (> 0%)	-					-		-	-
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio									
Forecast	69.19%	-	-29.85%	-	-	39.35%	0.16%	39.51%	71.79%
Benchmark (>60%)	60.00%					60.00%		60.00%	60.00%
Infrastructure Renewals Ratio									
Forecast	108.03%	85.58%	265.57%	-	-	459.18%	1.66%	460.84%	-
Benchmark (> 100%)	100.00%					100.00%		100.00%	100.00%



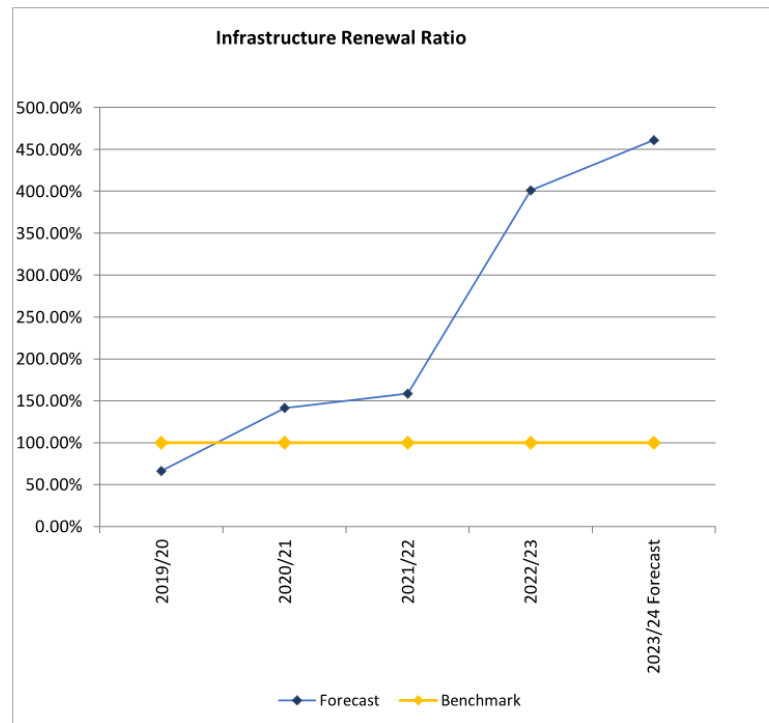
Quarterly Budget Review KPI Statement
for Consolidated Council

Consolidated Council Key Performance Indicator Graphs





Quarterly Budget Review KPI Statement
for Consolidated Council



12.8. DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT - JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

Author: Corporate Performance & Strategy Officer

Authoriser: Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the six-monthly Delivery Program progress report for the period July to December 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan articulate Council's commitment to the community about what will be delivered over the Council term and for each financial year within that term.

Council's documents are prepared under the five themes established in the Community Strategic Plan:

1. Shaping the future
2. An open and connected community
3. Encouraging growth through partnerships
4. Delivering community assets and services
5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration.

The attached report provides Council with an update on the progress of implementing the Delivery Program's commitments through the implementation of the 2023-24 Operational Plan.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The purpose of the six-monthly review is to provide Council with an opportunity to monitor the progress of achieving Delivery Program commitments.

The attached Progress Report shows that of the scheduled annual actions, outcomes at the end of December were:

- 7% of actions were complete
- 62% of actions were progressing and on track
- 29% of actions were progressing but behind schedule
- 0% of actions were unable to commence
- 2% of actions were not yet commenced.

Commentary is provided in the attached Progress Report to explain why some actions have not progressed as originally planned.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

It is through the delivery of each annual Operational Plan that Council meets its Delivery Program commitments to the community and contributes to the achievement of strategic objectives described in the Community Strategic Plan.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

This report contributes to Council's commitment to the following Community Strategic Plan objective:

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This report meets Council's obligations under the Integrated Planning & Reporting framework of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

ATTACHMENTS

Attached to this report is the six-monthly Delivery Program Progress Report to 31 December 2023.

Attachment 1 - Delivery Program Progress Report - July to Dec 2023

Delivery Program Progress Report – July to December 2023

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
1.1.1	Manage noxious weeds and invasive species on Council-controlled land	1	Continue to implement the Edward River Weed Action Plan	At least 90% if scheduled actions completed	50% completed	On target for completion by 30 April 2024.	Facilities & Open Spaces
1.1.2	Support and advocate for healthy lagoons and rivers	1	Deliver the annual golden perch and Murray cod fish re-stocking program at Billabong Creek	Annual restocking completed by March 2024	100% completed	27,000 fingerlings released on 1 November 2023.	Facilities & Open Spaces
1.1.3	Responsibly address Council's carbon footprint and support renewable energy initiatives	1	Investigate options for implementing the recommendations of the 100% Renewables report (2021)	Scoping paper table for Council consideration by March 2024	On track	Solar report completed and presented to Executive Team.	Waste, Water & Sewer
1.2.1	Implement sound strategic planning policies to oversee the growth and development of our town and villages	1	Deliver a consolidated Edward River Local Environmental Plan (LEP)	LEP gazetted by December 2023	Delayed	Draft Consolidated LEP completed and approved by Council October 2023. DPE to complete formal drafting and digital mapping. DPE advise not likely to be complete until December 2024.	Development Services
		2	Finalise the Edward River Disability Inclusion Action Plan and commence its delivery	DIAP adopted by December 2023	On track	Councillors requested further amendment to DIAP at December 2023 meeting. Rescheduled for adoption February 2024.	Community & Economic Development

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		3	Engage local communities in refreshing Village Plans to inform future Council planning and investment	6 village forums held; Revised Village Plans endorsed by March 2024	Delayed	Existing plans to be reviewed and discussed with village groups in Q3	Strategic Assets
1.2.2	Manage the built environment in line with the LEP and relevant legislation	1	Prepare an Edward River Council Development Control Plan (DCP)	DCP adopted by June 2024	Behind schedule	DCP cannot be adopted until LEP is finalised (see 1.2.1.1 above) Review of current DCP underway based on draft consolidated LEP approved by Council. Draft DCP due to be completed by June 2024.	Development Services
		2	Assess and determine: - Complying development applications - Construction certificate applications - Local activity applications	More than 80% of assessments determined within statutory or Council timeframes	On track	80% Complying Development Certificates issued within timeframes; 78% Construction Certificates issued within timeframes; 80% Local Activity Applications issued within timeframes	Development Services
		3	Assess and determine Development Applications	More than 80% of assessments determined within statutory or Council timeframes	Below target	75% Development Applications approvals issued within timeframes	Development Services
		4	Provide Planning Certificates (10.7) and sewerage and drainage certificates for property sales	90% of certificates issued within 5 days of request	Target achieved	100% of Planning Certificates issued within 5 days; 100% of Sewerage and Drainage diagrams provided within 5 days	Development Services
		5	Undertake backyard swimming pool inspections	At least 35 inspections completed	On track	28 swimming pool inspections undertaken to date	Development Services

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		6	Undertake inspections of food and skin penetration premises	100% of premises inspected	Not yet commenced	Food premises inspections are generally undertaken from January to June each year	Development Services
		7	Undertake water sampling in line with Council's Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Health	100% of required sampling completed	On track	Sampling completed in accordance with MoU: 36 microbial and 6 chemical samples have been collected and tested to end December 2023, with 100% compliance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines	Development Services
		8	Undertake arbovirus monitoring program	100% of scheduled program completed	On track	Program commenced in November 2023 as required and will run through until April 2024	Development Services
		9	Deliver a Road Safety program for the Edward River community, including: - On the road 65+ - Helping learner drivers become safe drivers - Drink driving campaigns at the Deniliquin Ute Muster and Southern 80 Ski Race	At least 4 initiatives delivered; At least 250 participants	Commenced	1 65+ at Deni Hospital has been conducted so far, with 17 participants. 3 more 65+ planned for March and April. Drink Driving campaign was delivered during 2023 Deni Ute Muster and the 2024 Southern 80 events in partnership with event organisers.	Transport
		10	Administer the Local Heritage Grants Program to support the maintenance of heritage in the community	At least 6 applications received; 100% of grant funded	4 applications received; 3 applicants funded	Completion date for projects is 15 May 2024	Development Services

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
1.2.3	Maintain and develop adaptive housing options for whole-of-life living	1	Finalise arrangement for Edward River Village management and governance, and scope an exit strategy	At least 6 ERV Committee meetings held	6 meetings held	Focus of ERV project has been on construction and marketing. Real Estate agent appointed in consultation with the ERV committee	Office of the CEO
		2	Commence construction of dwellings – Stage 1 of Edward River Village	6 dwellings completed	Two villas completed, four under construction	Estimated completion of construction is April 2024	Office of the CEO
		3	Continue to implement and leverage the marketing strategy for Edward River Village	6 contracts signed at target entry price		Marketing has commenced through Deni Real Estate	Office of the CEO
1.3.1	Provide parks and reserves by proactively managing open and public space	1	Inspect, repair, maintain and renew playgrounds, parks and gardens, public amenities and passive recreation areas	100% of scheduled playground inspections completed	30% of scheduled inspections completed to date	All playgrounds inspected monthly by the Facilities & Open Spaces Team. Additional staff training required to replace authorised playground inspector. Expected that 60% of playgrounds will have an authorised inspection by June	Facilities & Open Spaces
		2	Construct a new Skate Park in Deniliquin (grant-funded project)	Skate Park construction completed by June 2024	On track	Tender let for works to commence soon. On site meetings to commence in February 2024	Facilities & Open Spaces
		3	Complete upgrade to Memorial Park (grant-funded project)	Upgrade completed by June 2024	On track	Car park construction has been completed. Reconstruction of cricket and netball clubrooms has commenced, with completion expected by June.	Facilities & Open Spaces

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
1.3.2	Improve road safety including street lighting and cycling-friendly infrastructure	No activities planned for this financial year					
1.4.1	Minimise waste to landfill and improve recycling	1	Prepare for new waste management contract for commencement in July 2024, including delivering customer and community engagement program to communicate waste management changes	100% of contractor on-boarding completed; 100% of communications initiatives completed	On track	Contract signed; onboarding commenced; engagement commenced.	Waste, Water & Sewer
1.4.2	Provide sustainable waste services and infrastructure	1	Provide a weekly kerbside collection of residential, commercial and public space domestic waste bins	Less than 10 bins missed per weekly collection	On track	<1 missed bin per week notified to Customer Services, from a weekly collection of up to 3,650 bins	Waste, Water & Sewer
		2	Operate landfills in Deniliquin, Blighty, Wanganella and Booroorban, and transfer stations in Conargo and Pretty Pine	100% compliance with EPA licence conditions	Some challenges	Council and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) working together to amend operating license for Deniliquin Landfill so that it better reflects current operating practices. Amended license to be in place by May 2024. Note: rural landfills are not EPA licensed.	Waste, Water & Sewer

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
1.4.3	Work with local groups and regional organisations regarding partnering opportunities for re-use and recycling	1	Participate in the RAMJO FOGO (food organics, garden organics) and Recycling tender	Contract tabled at Council meeting by August 2023	Completed	Contract signed	Waste, Water & Sewer
1.4.4	Plan and implement the extension of the existing Deniliquin landfill	1	Complete the design and planning phase for a new cell at the Deniliquin Landfill	Design and planning completed by June 2024	Behind schedule	Investigations underway to maximise the life of the existing landfill, for completion by May. Planning for new cell to be re-scoped based on the results of these investigations.	Waste, Water & Sewer
2.1.1	Promote the Council region as an important hub for logistics and freight in the Riverina	1	Include consideration of a logistics hub in the development of the Growth Strategy and related grant applications	Growth Strategy adopted by 31 December 2023	Strategy schedule revised for adoption in April 2024	Logistics hub/rail spur is included for consideration in Growth Strategy investigations, Advocacy Plan and grants project list.	Community & Economic Development
2.1.2	Develop Deniliquin Regional Airport as an important hub for aviation in the Riverina	1	Deliver airport runway upgrade	100% of upgrade works completed	Completed	This project was successfully completed within budget, to the required quality and within anticipated adjusted timeframes. Official opening being planned.	Project Management Office
2.2.1	Advocate to improve existing mobile and internet options	1	Continue to participate in the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) Telecommunications Working Group	2 meetings attended	2 meetings attended	Councillors briefed on outcomes. Telstra to be directly engaged in meetings scheduled during 2024 to identify possible solutions for the region.	Office of the CEO

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
2.2.2	Investigate Smart Cities technology to inform decision-making and improve operational efficiencies	1	Develop an Edward River Council Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy which includes actions for improving operational efficiencies	Strategy completed by March 2024	On track	Currently going to market for request for proposal	Customer Experience
		2	Implement priority Technology One modules to enhance the integration of business processes and improve efficiencies, including: - Full deployment of the Human Resource Planning module - A mobile field app for outdoor staff	Modules implemented by March 2024	On track	Field app has been completed and work now required on refining work orders. HR module upgrades are planned to kick off in February	Customer Experience
2.2.3	Connect stakeholders, data, technology and community interests to innovatively solve local challenges	1	As part of the development of the ICT Strategy, consider how data can support corporate and community planning and reporting	Strategy completed by March 2024	Not yet commenced	This action will be included as part of the specification for the ICT Strategy	Customer Experience
2.3.1	Recognise and promote harmony between our Indigenous and rural heritage	1	Facilitate the Aboriginal Liaison Committee	4 meetings held	On track	2 meetings held (in July and October 2023)	Office of the CEO

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
2.3.2	Identify new and facilitate existing community groups in expanding services and opportunities	1	Deliver a Library service to the Edward River community which continues to provide opportunities for the community to come together	50 Baby Bounce activities; 40 Storytime sessions; 50 Genealogy Society meetings hosted	On track	Delivered to date: 20 Baby Bounce activities; 18 Storytime sessions; 24 Genealogy Society meetings	Customer Experience
3.1.1	Seek additional State, Federal and private sector investment in education facilities and resources	1	Submit a funding application for the Murray Cluster Country University Centre	Funding application submitted in collaboration with other councils by June 2024	Completed	Funding applied through the Study Hubs Program in December 2023	Office of the CEO
3.1.2	Develop partnerships with Universities, State Government agencies, networks and sector organisations and businesses	1	Generate awareness, support and participation for the Country University Centre	2 community meetings held; 6 letters of support received from local industry; 3 CUC Development Meetings held	On track	Several CUC Development meetings held, and four letters of support received.	Office of the CEO
3.2.1	Develop and implement a (technology aware) economic development and growth strategy for the Edward River region	1	Finalise the development of the Edward River Growth Strategy	Strategy adopted by 31 December 2023	Strategy schedule revised for adoption in April 2024	Growth Strategy development currently underway and on schedule.	Community & Economic Development

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
3.2.2	Collaborate with stakeholders and entrepreneurs to drive diverse, innovative and competitiveness in new markets	No activities planned for this financial year					
3.2.3	Partner with neighbouring councils and service providers to implement the Agri Business Masterplan	1	Reconvene the Agribusiness Masterplan working group to review and investigate ways in which the Plan can be delivered by industry stakeholders	At least 3 industry stakeholders participating in the working group	Commenced	Review of document underway. Working group identified. Pre-work in progress to understand the status of identified actions. Working group meeting will be scheduled in February/March 2024.	Community & Economic Development
3.3.1	Support the development and delivery of events that contribute to economic prosperity, liveability and social cohesion	1	Provide support to the Play on the Plains and Ute Muster events, and commence negotiations for future sponsorship arrangements	\$35,000 value of financial support provided; \$75,000 value of in-kind support provided	On track	Support provided as per agreement. Agreement expired end 2023. Discussions underway with Ute Muster for future sponsorship arrangements for consideration by Council. Initial meeting scheduled February 2024.	Community & Economic Development
		2	In partnership with community organisations, deliver the Lights on the Lagoon event (funded through the CED program)	At least 2 partners engaged in the event; Event delivered by October 2023	Completed	Lights on the Lagoon successfully delivered in October 2023 in partnership with Deniliquin Mental Health Advisory Group and South West Music, with active participation by Deni High School, Kurrajong and Yarkuwa	Community & Economic Development

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		3	Provide sponsorship to the annual Art Show and formalise an ongoing sponsorship arrangement	\$3,000 amount of sponsorship (including purchase of the Acquisitive Prize)	Commenced	Ongoing sponsorship arrangements proposed to be considered by Arts and Culture Advisory Committee at its February meeting as part of their Operational Plan and Budget recommendations.	Community & Economic Development
3.3.2	Support a collaborative creative economy where Arts and Culture are a transformational sector of the community	1	Undertake funded works at Peppin Heritage Centre, including: - signage - accessibility improvements - upgrade to exhibition infrastructure	At least 90% of scheduled actions completed	On track	Project Control Group established. Project manager appointed. Heritage consultant and gallery specialist consultation undertaken in October 2023 and report received to inform development of tender documentation.	Community & Economic Development
		2	Operate the Deniliquin Town Hall as a community cultural space, facilitate external events and seek grant funding to deliver cultural events, with the view to collecting and evaluating demand and usage data to inform future investment and operations	At least 8 events held	Exceeded target	13 public events facilitated 5 x Deniliquin Town Hall open days held 14 x Internal hires 8 x External hires	Community & Economic Development
		3	Establish and support an Arts & Culture Advisory Committee	First meeting held by September 2023; At least 4 meetings held	On track	ACAC established in 2023. Induction meeting held in August 2023, work plan established, and future meetings booked and scheduled	Community & Economic Development

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		4	Optimise the utilisation of Council's cultural venues including the Multi-Arts Centre, Sunday School, Peppin Heritage Centre and amphitheatre, and Waring Gardens by promoting and supporting community-run events	At least 10 community-run events held	Exceeded target	2 events at <u>Multi Arts Centre</u> 2 events at <u>Sunday School</u> 6 events at <u>Peppin Heritage Centre</u> (100 Capes, Choir, Bald Archy Prize 2023, Sandwich Bag Workshop, Sculpture Muster Exhibition, Barely Wearable) 0 events at <u>Amphitheatre</u> 4 events at <u>Waring Gardens</u> (Lights on the Lagoon, Christmas Party, Celebrate Create Connect – Mental Health Awareness Group, Disability Awareness morning)	Community & Economic Development
		5	Implement grant-funded projects to support operation of the Town Hall, including signage, carpentry in the function room, lobby and dressing rooms, curation of an exhibition, additional lighting and volunteer recruitment and training	100% of project milestones met	On track	Lists of projects established. Quotes sought. Approval to be sought for works from funding body in February 2024.	Community & Economic Development

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
3.3.3	Build on the success of the Visit Deni campaign to grow our visitor economy	1	Deliver scheduled actions of the Visit Deni Tourism Development Plan	At least 80% of scheduled actions completed	On track	<p><u>Visitor Servicing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit Deni Activation Stand at PGA Golf Tournament - Visit Deni Activation Stand at Deni Ute Muster - Ongoing visitor services 7 days per week at VIC - Ongoing maintenance updates to the Visit Deni website within parameters of set up. Copy updates made where needed ie: venue locations - Visit Deni FB and Insta social media recontracted to Sharp Instincts - First Visit Deni seasonal newsletter sent - Updated OVG in development <p><u>Business Attraction:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism Operator Newsletter established and scheduled monthly - Business Growth, Expansion & Diversification - Tourism Operator FB Page regularly updated to include Grant Funding opportunities. TO Newsletter will serve this purpose as well ongoing. <p><u>Event Acquisition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PGA Golf Tournament Sept/Oct for 3 years - Option to reach out to Skating tournament organisers once new Skate Park complete 	Community & Economic Development

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		2	Deliver the scheduled funded actions of the Murray River Tourism Local Area Action Plan	At least 90% of scheduled actions completed	On track	<u>Capacity Building & Networking:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First TO Breakfast in partnership with Business Chamber scheduled for 24/10/23 - Quote requested have been sent out for the Official Visitor Guide re-prints <u>Brand Marketing – Plan:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New strategy for Visit Deni Social Media (FB & Insta) is being created this month to incorporate paid ads within budget for higher ROI and conversion. - Ongoing engagement with MRT and DRM as key advocates for destination marketing and collaborative opportunities. 	Community & Economic Development
		3	Review and benchmark data capture mechanism to inform investment and improve the visitor experience	Review completed by February 2024	Not yet due	Review and benchmarking estimated to be completed end of financial year.	Community & Economic Development
		4	Update the Visitor Guide and explore options for a digital version	Visitor Guide prepared by end of December 2023	Behind schedule	Specifications and content information with graphic designer. First draft scheduled end of January 2024. Final Visitor Guide to print scheduled for February 2024.	Community & Economic Development

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		5	Initiate discussions with the Deniliquin Business Chamber to re-establish the Tourism Industry Group (TIG) and consider providing funding to support aligned initiatives to develop tourism in Edward River	TIG re-established by December 2023	Commenced	Discussions commenced with operators and Chamber at Tourism Operator breakfast jointly hosted by Council and Business Chamber in October 2023. Interest from 3 operators established. Chamber currently not in a position to proceed at this stage.	Community & Economic Development
3.4.1	Seek appropriate State, Federal and private sector investment in medical facilities and public health resources	1	Support Local Health Advisory Committee funding submissions for additional health service development	At least 1 letter of support provided	Not achieved	Committee disbanded	Office of the CEO
		2	Facilitate the Health Services Advisory Committee	At least 4 meetings held	One meeting held prior to disbanding	The Health Services Advisory Committee has now been disbanded.	Office of the CEO
3.4.2	Fund and provide Council assistance as per the Doctors and Nurses Attraction Policy and provide social support to practitioners	1	Support local doctors and nurses with assistance to move to the region	At least 2 health professionals supported, up to a total of \$10,000	Target met	Two health professionals supported through Ochre Medical Centre	Office of the CEO

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
3.4.3	Collaborate with the Murrumbidgee Local Health District in providing local opportunities for professional development	1	Contribute to the Rural Doctors' Network Bush Bursary program to place medical students in Deniliquin	2 students supported	On track	Successful two-week placement held early December 2023.	Office of the CEO
4.1.1	Prepare Asset Management Strategies and Plans for the sustainable renewal and improvement of assets	1	Undertake the asset revaluation program	At least 90% of scheduled program completed	On track	Condition assessment of all roads currently being undertaken by Sheppards using images that were captured of the road network. The revaluation will use this information to drive the revaluations	Strategic Asset Management
		2	Deliver the scheduled activities of the Asset Management Strategy Improvement Plan	At least 90% of scheduled activities completed	40% completed to date	Of 113 improvement actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 46 (41%) completed - 28 (25%) well progressed - 39 (34%) partially completed or not yet commenced 	Strategic Asset Management
		3	Update Asset Management Plans in line with the Asset Management Strategy	6 AM plans updated	On track	'NAMS+' training has been completed. Existing AM Plans for Transport, Flood Mitigation and Drainage, Buildings, Open Space and Recreation, Water Supply and Sewerage Services to be updated into the NAMS+ format by June 2024.	Strategic Asset Management
4.1.2	Prepare Service Level plans to support the efficient delivery of maintenance and operation of facilities	1	Review and update user agreements for Council facilities, including consideration of financial and in-kind support	90% of user agreements updated	Commenced	List of existing agreements compiled. Initial consultation with user groups to be held in Q3, with final agreements to be in place by May 2024.	Facilities & Open Spaces

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
4.1.3	Continue to invest in the maintenance and improvement of community facilities	1	Review the Deniliquin Lawn Cemetery's layout plan and input revised layout into the GIS system	Review completed by January 2024; GIS input completed by June 2024	On track	Review completed; GIS input expected to be completed by June.	Facilities & Open Spaces
		2	Construct new plinths at Deniliquin Lawn Cemetery	Plinth construction completed by June 2024	Commenced	30% completed, with 70% likely to be completed by March 2024	Facilities & Open Spaces
		3	Deliver funded portion of lighting upgrade for sporting fields	At least 90% of upgrade delivered	On track	Contractor has been engaged and has commenced installation of lights at Hardinge Street Oval, Memorial Park and Blighty Recreation Reserve. Works to be completed by April 2024.	Facilities & Open Spaces
		4	Deliver funded capital works projects (including Airport residence, Multi-Arts Centre and building security review and upgrade)	At least 90% of scheduled works completed; 100% of grant acquittal requirements met	Commenced, Behind schedule	Approx 33% completed. Some projects have been delayed due to availability of contractors.	Project Management Office
		5	Inspect and maintain local boat ramps and associated parking areas in preparation for the summer season	100% of scheduled inspections and maintenance program completed	Target achieved	All boat ramps inspected and maintenance work undertaken in December 2023 prior to the holiday season.	Transport
		6	Deliver the Crispe Street tree upgrade	Upgrade completed by November 2023	Not yet commenced	A Request for Quote for the construction and installation of tree protection and irrigation to the trees is currently being prepared and will be advertised in February 2024.	Facilities & Open Spaces

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		7	Complete the Deniliquin Saleyards refurbishment activities arising from the safety report	100% of scheduled refurbishment completed	Behind schedule	Work on loading ramps is complete. Procurement for auctioneers' walkways is underway, incorporating a trial section. Stakeholder discussion following the trial will inform final scope of project and confirm completion date.	Project Management Office
4.1.4	Provide sufficient infrastructure for the growth of our towns and villages	1	Deliver rehabilitation projects, including reconstruction of essential public assets	At least 90% of scheduled projects delivered	Behind schedule	Reconstruction works for essential public assets related to the 2022 flood event have commenced (4 of 8 tranches commenced) Nil report of license breaches to the end of December 2023.. Contracts have been let for all tranches being undertaken by external contractors.	Project Management Office
		2	Deliver drainage works associated with local roads reconstruction program	At least 90% of scheduled program completed	Not yet commenced	Drainage works included as part of the Hardinge Street Reconstruction will not be undertaken in 2023/24, with funds held in reserve for 2024/25. River Street drainage improvement works to be completed by June 2024.	Transport
		3	Deliver Town Levee refurbishment program	At least 90% of scheduled program completed	Approx 60% completion to date	Gate valves refurbished and installed. Quotes obtained for other works - awaiting approval	Transport
		4	Deliver the footpath renewal program	At least 90% of scheduled program completed	Commenced	Contract for the footpath renewal work has been let, with works anticipated to be completed by May 2024	Transport

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		5	Undertake a Service Review for the Roads & Transport service area	Review completed by March 2024	Not yet commenced	Contractor to be appointed to assist the review	Strategic Asset Management
		6	Deliver scheduled actions of the Pedestrian Access Management Plan's (PAMP) replacement program	At least 90% of scheduled actions completed	Not yet commenced	PAMP works to be scheduled as part of the Footpath Renewal Program to be undertaken later in the year.	Transport
		7	Deliver regional road program, including reconstruction and resealing of identified roads, including widening of Pretty Pine Road	At least 90% of scheduled program completed	Approx 40% completed to date	Resealing program for Regional Roads has been completed. Tenders for the Pretty Pine Road Widening and Reconstruction project have closed with a report to be presented to Council's February 2024 meeting.	Transport
		8	Deliver local road program, including reconstruction, resealing and gravel re-sheeting, including rural roads	At least 90% of scheduled program completed	Approx 40% completed to date	Works completed on the following roads: Millears Road, Stud Park Road, Moonee Swamp Road, Wanganella Moulamein Road, Lower Tocumwal Road, Hyde Street and Memorial Park carpark. Works to be completed on the following roads: Blighty Hall Road, Cemetery Road, Rice Mill Road, Russell Street, Trickett Street, Boorooban-Tchelery Road and Carrathool Road.	Transport

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		9	Deliver local bridge refurbishment program	At least 90% of scheduled program completed	Not yet commenced	Program includes refurbishment work on two bridges on Carrathool Road and two bridges on Willurah Road. Requests for Quotations have been advertised for this work with contractors to be engaged and works completed by June 2024.	Transport
		10	Deliver kerb and gutter renewal program, including as part of Hardinge Street renewal project	At least 90% of scheduled program completed	Not yet commenced	Whitelock Street kerb replacement to commence in February 2024. Kerb and gutter replacement included as part of the Hardinge Street Reconstruction which will now not be undertaken in 2023/24 (funds held in reserve for 2024/25).	Transport
		11	Deliver water infrastructure projects, including: - Water main replacement program - Water treatment plant refurbishment - Ice pigging preparation - Wanganella Creek pump upgrade - Water Treatment Plant clear water tank baffles - North Deniliquin back-up supply options study - Upgrade telemetry (SCADA) system	At least 90% of scheduled projects completed	20% complete	Clear Water Baffles not going ahead following project review; High Lift Pump design at risk as initial procurement costs well above budget – currently seeking additional quotes aligned with original budget. Water main reticulation work related to the Hardinge Street reconstruction project will not proceed in 2023/24 and will be completed in 2024/25 as part of the Hardinge Street project. Other projects on track to be completed by June 2024.	Waste, Water & Sewer

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
			- Scope and design the High Lift Pump replacement at the Water Treatment Plant				
		12	Deliver sewer infrastructure projects, including: - sewer relining program - sewer pump station refurbishment - Trunk Main replacement at Dick Street pump station - Sewage Treatment Plant options study - Upgrade telemetry (SCADA) system	At least 90% of scheduled projects completed	30% complete	Sewer re-lining has been impacted by multiple sewer collapses. Scope of works for the re-lining project is being reviewed and will be completed by June 2024. Draft Sewerage Treatment Plant investigation study has been received. Remaining projects on track to be delivered by June 2024.	Waste, Water & Sewer
		13	Complete refurbishment of the Deniliquin Saleyards	Refurbishment completed by June 2024	Behind schedule	See 4.1.3.7 above	Project Management Office
4.2.1	Implement the outcomes of the NSW Government's Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines	1	Meet EPA license conditions at the Sewage Treatment Plant	100% compliance with license conditions	On target	Nil report of license breaches to the end of December 2023.	Waste, Water & Sewer
		2	Finalise the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan	IWCM adopted by December 2023	At risk for June deadline	IWCM currently with NSW Government (DPCCEW) for compulsory review, with no timeframe provided for when review will be finalised.	Waste, Water & Sewer
		3	Implement the Liquid Trade Waste Management Policy	100% compliance with LTWM guidelines	On target	Nil report of breaches of LTWM guidelines by businesses to the end of December 2023.	Waste, Water & Sewer

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
4.2.2	Comply with National Drinking Water Guidelines and work with NSW Health regarding health outcomes	1	Undertake daily water sampling in compliance with the regulations	100% compliance rate	On target	Testing undertaken daily in accordance with Council's Drinking Water Quality Management Plan for turbidity, true colour, free and total chlorine, fluoride, iron and manganese.	Waste, Water & Sewer
4.3.1	Provide professional and effective customer service which is embedded throughout the organisation	1	Deliver identified customer service improvements, including: - development of a Customer Service Strategy - Update of the Customer Service Charter - Frontline staff training in customer service experience	Strategy & Charter approved by June 2024; 100% of frontline staff trained	On track	Draft Customer Service Charter and Strategy are both being finalised prior to consultation and endorsement. Appropriate online training options currently being investigated for frontline staff training.	Customer Experience
4.3.2	A customer-centric culture that continuously improves its tools and innovates	1	Develop a Customer Service Improvement Plan and implement initial improvements, including: - after-hours telephony - investigation of expansion of online customer self-service options	Plan developed by May 2024	On track	Discussions held with Council's after-hours provider to work on fixing issues and clarify roles and responsibilities. Online options for customers have been investigated, with a budget bid to be included in next budget discussion.	Customer Experience
5.1.1	Provide governance frameworks that support Council	1	Deliver Council's annual Operational Plan and Annual Report	100% of statutory obligations met	On track	2022-23 Annual Report delivered in November 2023	Corporate Strategy

Delivery Program 2022-2025	OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
in operating transparently for and with the community	2	Implement records management activities, including developing an Information Management Framework	Framework completed by December 2023	Commenced	First draft of framework in progress for internal review	Customer Experience
	3	Finalise Plans of Management for all Council-controlled Crown Land	100% of PoM completed	On track	50 of 56 (89%) PoM have been finalised and approved by Crown Lands. 5 PoM are currently being updated to be provided to Crown Lands by April. PoM for Memorial Park/Island Sanctuary is under review and being updated in line with new legislation.	Facilities & Open Space
	4	Undertake a review of delegations and implement an updated Delegations Register and instruments	Updated delegations system in place by September 2023	Completed	Revised Delegations Register endorsed by Executive in September 2023	Governance, Safety & Risk
	5	Develop a corporate governance framework	Framework adopted by December 2023	Commenced	Revised target date June 2024	Governance, Safety & Risk
	6	Develop and implement a fraud prevention framework	Framework adopted by March 2024; Implementation commenced by June 2024	Not yet commenced	Project to commence in February 2024 when Council's Risk Coordinator commences	Governance, Safety & Risk

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		7	Provide procurement-related business support and advice, including in relation to: - purchase orders - tenders - RFQs	At least 95% of POs comply with Procurement Policy	On track	Procurement contractor has been actively working on setting up the procurement framework. This position is now providing support and advice to the organisation. An ongoing appointment to this position has been made and will commence late January. Compliance against procurement policy is expected to be reportable by Quarter 4 of this year.	Finance
		8	Prepare and facilitate the annual professional development program for each councillor	100% councillor participation in program	On track	Ongoing development program is on track.	Office of the CEO
		9	Review and update the Councillor Facilities & Expenses Policy to reflect increased requirement for councillor professional development	Revised policy adopted by September 2023	Not yet commenced	Rescheduled to Q3 and Q4	Governance, Safety & Risk
		10	Facilitate and participate in interagency meetings, including: - Local Emergency Management Committee - Rural Fire Service Bushfire Management Committee	At least 3 LEMC meetings attended; At least 2 RFS BMC meetings attended	On track	Scheduled LEMC meetings attended in October. Scheduled RFS BFMC meeting attended in October.	Emergency Management

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		11	Finalise the Draft Library Strategy and review and benchmark Library policies and procedures	Strategy completed by 30 September 2023; Policy review by end of June 2024	Not yet commenced	A Library Coordinator has just been appointed, and this will be a priority project for delivery in Q4	Customer Experience
5.1.2	Continue to build trust amongst our community through collaboration and communication	1	Audit and update Council's website content	Audit completed by December 2023	Commenced, behind schedule	New target date Q4. Audit and update scheduled as part of website upgrade project. Currently underway and on schedule for an end of financial year website launch.	Communications & Engagement
		2	Implement scheduled actions of the Communications and Engagement Strategies	Number of activities delivered, and number of participants	Commenced	CCES adopted October 2023. 3 key projects identified for delivering in 2023-24: - Updated communications tracker – completed - Reporting established – to commence - Yearly Communications Plan in place - underway	Communications & Engagement
		3	Represent Council and the Edward River community at: - Country Mayors' Association - ALGA Annual Conference - LGNSW Annual Conference	100% participation rate	66% target met to date	Unable to attend CMA so far due to other priorities locally. ALGA Conference and LGNSW conference both attended.	Office of the CEO
5.1.3	Implement new community committee structures for community facilities	1	Complete implementation of recommendations arising from the Council Committees review	100% of committees with a current ToR	Commenced	Commenced in December 2023 with Conargo S355 Committee. Other committees' ToR for review in Q3 and Q4	Governance, Safety & Risk

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
5.2.1	Develop and implement financial plans that ensure Council is financially sustainable, innovative and efficient	1	Maintain and renew Council's plant and fleet in accordance with the maintenance schedule and adopted Plant Replacement Program	100% of scheduled maintenance and renewal actions completed	Underway	Delayed by plant replacement freeze while fleet review was undertaken. Revised Plant Replacement Program to recommence following adoption of the Plant and Fleet Review by June 2024.	Facilities & Open Spaces
		2	Implement the scheduled improvement actions arising from the Plant & Fleet Service Review	100% of scheduled actions completed	Commenced	Action plan for the implementation of the recommendations included in the Plant and Fleet Review to be presented by councillors for information by April 2024.	Facilities & Open Spaces
		3	Prepare the annual budget and implement the scheduled activities of the Long-Term Financial Plan, including a review of fees and charges	Budget prepared by June 2024; 100% of scheduled activities completed	On track	Budget timetable prepared and the process is in initial entry phases with management beginning to enter budgets.	Finance
		4	Implement the recommended actions of the Financial Sustainability Review	100% of scheduled activities completed	Commenced	Action plan has been created and actions allocated to relevant managers. Updates required in relation to asset management.	Finance

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		5	Identify savings and further efficiencies to reduce expenditure, and commence appropriate modelling and community consultation regarding options for increasing revenue, to inform any future decisions regarding the requirement for a Special Rate Variation	Reduce the budgeted 2023-24 deficit to achieve a balanced year-end result	Commenced	At this stage, Council has decided not to proceed with a request for a Special Rate Variation. As part of the budget process Council officers will investigate future potential savings and efficiencies. Grant opportunities to fund Council operations continue to be explored on a regular basis.	Finance
		6	Finalise the development of, and commence implementation of the Project Management Framework and identify and develop the integration points with asset management and long-term financial planning, and train staff in the Framework's application	100% of projects delivered using the PMF; 100% of identified staff trained in PMF	Approx 75% complete at this time	Framework is complete with work currently being done on supporting documents and forms. PM staff and relevant managers have received some training in the use of the PMF	Project Management Office

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		7	Establish a project development initiation program to support the development of feasibility studies, grant applications, design work and other pipeline preparation to enable Council to maximise funding opportunities for identified projects when they arise	50% of priority projects ready for grant funding	Not yet commenced	Engagement with Council teams to generate a list of potential projects is to occur.	Project Management Office
		8	Undertake a review of Council's donations, grants and sponsorship program and policy	Review completed by March 2024; Policy adopted by May 2024; Revised program commenced by end of June 2024	Not yet commenced	For completion in Q3 and Q4	Office of the CEO
5.2.2	Continue to foster a culture and support frameworks to enhance risk-based decision-making	1	Implement actions arising from the Procurement Audit	100% of actions addressing high and extreme risk completed	On track	As per the dates specified in the audit report, Council is on track to address the 'high risk' audit recommendations this financial year.	Finance
		2	Continue to review and update Council's policies in line with legislative compliance and organisational priorities	Less than 20% of ERC policies are out of date	On track	Several policies have been reviewed and updated including, WHS, Workplace Surveillance, Smokefree Workplace, Media, Social Media, Code of Conduct, and Public Interest Disclosures.	Governance, Safety & Risk

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
		3	Prepare, distribute and publish Council and Committee Meeting Agendas and Minutes	100% of Agendas and Minutes published within statutory timeframes	On track	All Council and Committee meetings agendas and minutes published as required.	Office of the CEO
5.2.3	Facilitate the role of the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee	1	Facilitate the activities of the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee and Internal Audit function, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a strategic workplan - Implementation of the Risk Management & Internal Audit Framework - Review of the Enterprise Risk Management Framework 	At least 4 ARIC meetings held; 100% of scheduled internal audits completed; At least 1 service review completed	On track	3 meetings held; 2 internal audits completed; 2 in progress; Service review for Fleet and Plant commenced	Governance, Safety & Risk
5.3.1	Maintain a culture of safety first	1	Implement the actions arising from the Safety Culture & Systems audit	At least 90% of scheduled actions completed	On track, 35% completed to date	Agreed action plan in place, with a focus on priority items	Governance, Safety & Risk
		2	Facilitate councillor training on strategic organisational safety and governing body responsibilities	Training delivered by June 2024; 100% of councillors trained	On track	2 training sessions scheduled for 2023-24.	Office of the CEO
		3	Implement a Work Health & Safety contractor management system	100% of high-risk contractors of Council using the system by 30 June 2024	On track	50% of high-risk contractors are using the system. WHS team attend the inductions. Continued priority for Q3 & Q4.	Governance, Safety & Risk

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
5.3.2	A workforce culture supports the needs of the community with a safe, skilled and motivated Council workforce	1	Implement the scheduled activities of the Workforce Management Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhancing induction and on-boarding processes - staff attraction and retention program - review of the salary system - recruitment to additional priority positions - development of a leadership program 	At least 90% of scheduled activities completed	On track	<p>People & Culture Framework uplift complete with several key policies and procedures completed to support the employee lifecycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Engage & Belong</u>: Recruitment, Selection, Appointment & Onboarding - <u>Enable</u>: Performance Review, Development, Support & Recognition - <u>Exit</u>: Transition & Offboarding. <p>The Leadership Team has undertaken training in these key areas. Training for people leaders in coordinator and supervisor positions scheduled for Q3.</p> <p>Recruitment of priority positions is on track.</p> <p>Salary System review is on track.</p> <p>Leadership Development program has commenced and is on track.</p>	People & Culture
5.3.3	Develop strong sector partnerships through shared projects, resources and learning to assist the Edward River community	1	Participate in the Regional Recovery Program to support the local community's flood recovery	Flood Recovery Program commenced by end of October 2023	Completed	Recovery projects have been completed including support for local sporting groups' facilities affected by the flooding event.	Project Management Office
5.3.4	Actively support the growth and	1	Facilitate annual staff appraisals	At least 90% of staff have been appraised	Target achieved	94% of staff have been appraised to date.	People & Culture

Delivery Program 2022-2025		OP Ref	Operational Plan 2023-24 Action	Annual target performance measure/s	Progress status	Comment at 31 December 2023	Responsible service area
	development of staff	2	Facilitate mandatory training for Council staff, including: - EEO training - bullying and harassment training	100% of staff have received relevant mandatory training	10% complete	A number of training courses are set to be completed in the next Quarter. EEO and bullying & harassment training is being procured for delivery in Q4.	People & Culture

12.9. OPERATIONAL PLAN & BUDGET TIMETABLE

Operational Plan & Budget Timetable

Author: Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the 2024-25 Operational Plan and Budget Timetable in order to meet the legislative timeframes.

BACKGROUND

Council is required to develop an Operational Plan which includes a budget that details the work of the council for the 2024/25 financial year. The Operational Plan must speak to the commitments outlined in the adopted Delivery Program and is a requirement of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The timeline for the Operational Plan and Budget pathway to adoption has been provided to Councillors for information and to enable effective planning and time management over the coming months.

It is proposed to host two Councillor workshops in March to inform the final draft documents for public exhibition in April.

There is an optional final workshop date proposed for late May following the close of the public exhibition and engagement period, for Councillors to examine and determine if any submissions received from the community will inform material changes to the final Operational Plan, annual budget and Long Term Financial Plan.

Council is required to adopt the Operational Plan and budget by 30 June 2024.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Operational Plan & Budget will set the strategic direction and the allocated resources for Council for the 2024/25 delivery program.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

5.2 Financially sustainable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council is required to ensure that the annual Operational Plan includes the annual budget, and that work detailed in the Operational Plan is appropriately reflected and funded in the budget.

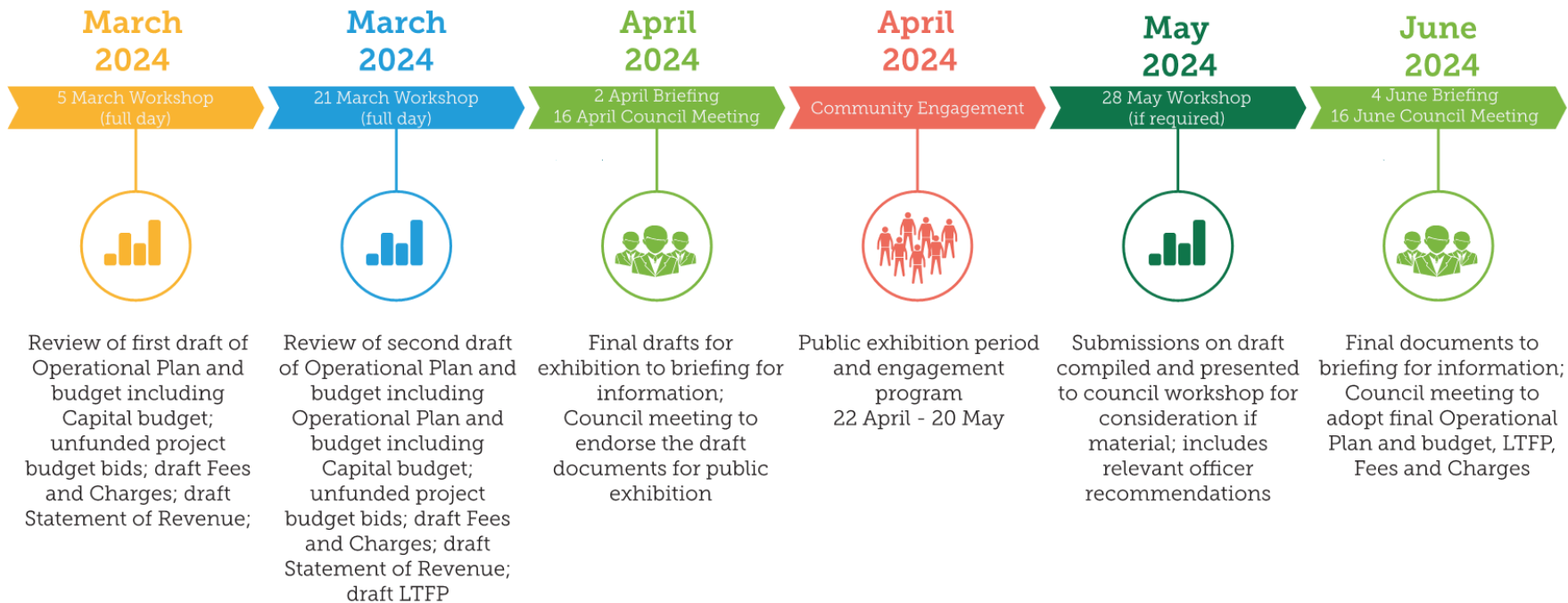
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Council is required to develop an annual Operational Plan and budget that is compliant with the Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - 2024-2025 OP and Budget Pathway to Adoption

2024-2025 Operational Plan and Budget
PATHWAY TO ADOPTION



12.10. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - 31 JANUARY 2024 PROGRESS

Author: Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the progress against the Financial Sustainability Review Implementation Plan as at 31 January 2024.

BACKGROUND

During the 2022/23 financial year Council commissioned AEC to undertake an independent Financial Sustainability Review following a strategic objective set by Council to plan for its long term sustainability and to determine whether its current position is appropriate to meet the current and future needs of the organisation and community it serves.

The primary objective of the Financial Sustainability Review was to facilitate sustainable long-term planning and avert potential issues emerging in the future.

Council's recent financial performance has produced operating surpluses and cash has accumulated. Council initiated the review in order to proactively and responsibly plan and manage its financial sustainability to, in the longer term, maintain this strong position.

The resultant report from the independent review presented the findings and a number of effective strategies to improve Council's financial sustainability for the longer term and assurance that these strategies comply with the Local Government Act 1993. The report also analyses the potential impacts of the findings on Council's future financial position, as well as the local community and stakeholders, to ensure Council's sustainable and efficient operation in the future.

A key performance objective of the chief executive officer is to Table an implementation plan, including timeframes, resources needed and the responsible Council Officers for actioning the recommendations of the Financial Sustainability Review by 28 February 2024.

An Implementation Plan was developed to define the work required by Council to appropriately enact these strategies. Progress is monitored and reported six monthly in alignment with the Delivery Program reporting requirements as required by the Local Government Act 1993.

The Financial Sustainability Review was adopted by Council on 18 April 2023 in accordance with resolution 2022/0418/12.1.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Council Officers have been progressively working through the actions contained within the Financial Sustainability Review Implementation Plan. An update on current actions is provided to Council in the attached document. Relevant annual actions are reflected in the Operational Plan and, where appropriate, the annual budget. These annual actions are monitored and reported six monthly consistent with the 6 monthly reporting requirements of the Delivery Program.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Continued focus, including resource allocation, to the delivery of the actions in the implementation plan will allow Council to effectively implement the strategies articulated in the Financial Sustainability Review report to ensure council is financially sustainable for its community into the future.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.2 Financially sustainable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Actions arising from the implementation plan are currently being delivered with the current resources approved within the 2023/24 Budget.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The report is in compliance with *Local Government Act 1993*.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - FSR Implementation Plan(1)

IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

Strategy	Task	Accountability	Scheduled Completion Date	Progress
1. Improve the operating position of the general fund	1.1 Increase rate revenue by 7% over six consecutive years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine the LTTP to determine the increase in rate revenue required and adopt the new LTTP with at least one SRV scenario included. Develop rate model to determine impact of SRV on ratepayers. Complete a capacity-to-pay assessment. Undertake community engagement to present options and collect feedback. Council to consider and make resolution to submit expression of interest to IPART for an SRV. IPART to be notified of Council resolution. Prepare and submit SRV application (Council resolution) 	CFO	Dec 2024	Planning work to commence for community engagement, including Capacity to Pay. Work on reviewing reserves to be completed once Financial Accountant commences. When adopting LTTP – Council to make decision on whether to make submission for rate variation in the following year.
	1.2 Pursue operational and capital works efficiencies and productivity improvements through implementing service review findings and implementing asset management strategy objectives.	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2024	Service review for Roads being undertaken in 23/24 and Parks and Gardens in 24/25.
	1.3 Develop and implement a Workforce Management Plan that includes strategies to plan for an efficient and productive workforce including culture, recruitment, retention, development and performance reporting.	Manager, People and Culture	Jun 2023	Complete Adopted June 2023
2. Create a Waste Fund	2.1 Undertake necessary changes in Council's financial reporting and planning to separate out the waste management functions.	Manager, Utilities	Jan 2024	In progress Manager of Utilities working with Coordinator Financial Services to ensure appropriate structure is set up as part of 24-25 budgeting process.
	2.2 Create a reserve for domestic waste collection separate from other waste management functions to assist in the financial planning and price setting for the domestic waste management charge.	CFO	Nov 2023	Complete Waste reserve has been set up and included in Financial Statements. Separate waste fund has now been set up in TechOne
3. Enhance the governance and financial controls	3.1 Review the Project Management Framework and identify and develop the integration points with Asset Management Planning and Long-Term Financial Plan	Manager Projects & Capital Works		In progress, further development to occur as Asset Management Framework is developed.
	3.2 Place greater emphasis and importance on the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework to guide financially sustainable decision making and planning.	Corporate Performance	Jun 2024	In progress Iterative process building manager capability in using

Strategy	Task	Accountability	Scheduled Completion Date	Progress
		and Strategy Officer		commitments in existing plans, strategies and DP to inform prioritised work (OP) and resourcing (budget, assets, people)
	3.3 Develop a new Asset Management Strategy that acknowledges the current maturity and sets objectives and tasks for Council to improve in timely manner. The Strategy should address governance and leadership, the asset management system and management of the asset portfolios.	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2024	An implementation plan for the action from the Asset Management Strategy is being prepared for review by the Asset Management Steering Committee.
	3.4 Implement governance arrangement to ensure the LTFP is a living resource plan that is adjusted as required to ensure Council decisions are informed by impact upon long term financial sustainability.	CFO	Dec 2024	In progress Due to resourcing and given the high confidence in AEC model, LTFP will be developed by AEC for year ended 30 June 2024. The model will be built in LG Solutions allowing this to become a living resource plan.
4. Review the cash reserves and ensure reserves are still required.	4.1 Review the reserves for justification for retaining reserve.	CFO	Apr 2024	In progress Review underway, however not yet finalized. Given current resourcing this is behind schedule. A new reserves policy will be drafted
	4.2 Council to make a resolution to update the reserves required.	CFO	May 2024	Recommendation that Council adopt a Reserves policy, and Council Officers will then be able to apply this policy rather than having to a resolution each time a reserve needs adjustment.
	4.3 Council to make a new reserve for "Incomplete Capital Works" to restrict cash required to complete revoted works (carried forward projects).	CFO	Jul 2024	Will be implemented as part of year end reporting
5. Introduce productivity measures to the Operational Plan and Annual Budget	5.1 Identify relevant productivity measures (e.g., \$/KM graded, \$/KM roads resealed, \$/KM road re-sheeting, annual food safety inspections completed, hectares of open space maintained, library opening hour etc.), benchmarked with other comparable Councils and through the	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2024	Information regarding benchmarking measures is being compiled.

Strategy	Task	Accountability	Scheduled Completion Date	Progress
	service reviews implement improvement strategies to ensure Council delivery of services and infrastructure is efficient.			
	5.2 Monitor and review productivity measures.	Director Infrastructure	Dec 2024	Measures to be monitored once they are implemented.
	5.3 Include the measures in the Operational Plan and Annual Budget	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2024	Measures to be included in Service Statements for 23/24 Operational Plan.
6 Introduce a service planning approach as part of the development of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework	6.1 Define the list of services in a Service Catalogue	Director Infrastructure	Dec 2023	Complete Services have been confirmed by Executive team. Services have been used to inform new cost centre structure in T1. Services 'catalogue' is reflected in the Operational Plan Service Statements – due for review and update by leadership heading into 24-25 Operational Plan and budget build.
	6.2 Through the Service Review Program targeting services with highest potential for improved productivity and efficiencies.	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2024	To be included in the Operational Plan Service Statements as part of the 24-25 Operational Plan and budget build.
	6.3 Review and develop defined performance expectations in the Service Catalogue, including the activity able to be achieved with current funding.	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2024	Review of performance/productivity measures to align with and inform the 24-25 Operational Plan and budget process.
7. Pursue a path of improving the asset management maturity, as outlined in the Asset Management Strategy	7.1 Develop a revised Asset Management Strategy.	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2023	Complete. Adopted June 2023.

Strategy	Task	Accountability	Scheduled Completion Date	Progress
	7.2 Implement strategies to improve the asset management leadership and governance.	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2024	The role of the Asset Management Steering Committee is being reviewed following the outcomes of the Asset Management Strategy.
	7.3 Implement strategies to improve the asset management systems.	Director Infrastructure	Jun 2024	Implementation of the NAMS + asset management system has commenced.
	7.4 Implement strategies to improve the management of asset portfolios.	Director Infrastructure	Dec 2024	Strategies to be determined following adoption of the Asset Management Strategy Action and Improvement Plan.
8. Achieve the target entry price on the Village residential units and fill the units as soon as possible	8.1 Continue to implement and leverage the marketing strategy to achieve or exceed the target entry price.	CEO	Jun 2024	Marketing strategy underway with two villas being open and final four to be constructed by end of April.
	8.2 Prepare mitigating strategies (such as access to additional borrowings) should the target entry price not be achieved.	CEO	Jun 2024	Advice provided via options in FSR Report. Council report for consideration in March Council meeting (confidential)
	8.3 Plan and implement cost effective operations to minimise the operating costs of the Village.	CEO	Jun 2024	Underway. Part time property manager to be considered, with operating costs baselined as we receive occupants
9. Council should seek opportunities to encourage and facilitate economic and population growth to increase the economy of scale in provision of local government services and infrastructure.	9.1 Deliver the Growth Strategy	Manager Community and Economy	Mar 2024	On track for delivery

Strategy	Task	Accountability	Scheduled Completion Date	Progress
	9.2 Assign appropriate resources to implement council controlled actions in Growth Strategy	Manager Community and Economy	Jun 24	To occur as part of the Operational Plan and budget 2024-25 and longer-term consideration given to the next iteration of the Delivery Program and LTFP

12.11. REVIEW OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF CR FELLOWS

Author: Acting Manager, Governance Safety and Risk

Authoriser: Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Appoint Cr Marc Peterson, as Deputy Mayor, as Council delegate to the following Committees:

- a) Australia Day Committee
- b) Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO), and
- c) CEO Performance Review Committee

2. Consider appointing Councillors to replace Cr Fellows on the following vacant Committee positions for the remainder of the Council term

- a) Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)
- b) NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Mid Murray Zone) and,
- c) Zone Bush Fire Management Committee

BACKGROUND

Councillor Fellows resignation on 5 December 2023, has created six vacancies on various Committees. A copy of the list of Council Committees and their delegates as at February 2023 is attached for reference. This has since been updated to delete the Health Advisory Committee, and to reflect the changes to the CEO Performance Review Committee as per the updated policy and associated resolutions for same.

The three Committees that Cr Fellows was appointed to, by way of holding the position of Deputy Mayor, are highlighted in blue text in the attachment as **Cr Fellows**. The three Committees that Cr Fellows was appointed to as a Councillor are highlighted in yellow text as **Cr Fellows**.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Cr Fellows was a Council delegate on 6 Committees. These are the:

- Australia Day Committee
- Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO)
- CEO Performance Review Committee
- Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee (ARIC)
- NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Mid Murray Zone) and,
- Zone Bush Fire Management Committee
- The Australia Day Committee, Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO), and CEO Performance Review Committee are Committees that have the Deputy Mayor appointed to them. Cr Peterson, who was elected Deputy Mayor on 13 December 2024, becomes the new Council delegate for these Committees by way of his appointment as Deputy Mayor with this report formalising that arrangement.

- Council has the option of appointing delegates to replace Cr Fellows on the other three Committees of Council or alternatively can decide to leave them vacant for the remainder of this council term.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Councillor representation on committees supports the achievement of the following objective in the Community Strategic Plan:

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The *Local Government Act 1993, Section 355*, is the relevant legislation, which details how the functions of Council can be exercised.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Councillor Committees - Updated 20 February 2023

2022/2024 LIST OF COMMITTEES AND THEIR DELEGATES



Name of Committee	Committee Type	Committee Function	Councillor Delegate	Staff Delegate	Members listing as appointed by Council (internal and s.355 only)	Meeting Frequency	Terms of Reference Status (internal and s.355 only)
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee	External	Under the auspices of NSW Police. NSW Government initiative c 2007	Peta Betts *Mayor & Councillor	CEO			RESOLUTION 2022/0120/9.3
Deniliquin /Conargo Area Local Emergency Management Committee	External	The LEMC is convened and exercises its legislative functions under the provisions of the SERM Act, not the Local Government Act (1993) and as such is not a committee of council. The SERM Act identifies the General Manager (or their nominee) as the chair of the committee. The business of the LEMC does not require the council endorsement. Notwithstanding there is a role for the Council in determining membership of the Committee. The purpose of the LEMC is to provide cooperative interaction between emergency services, functional areas, local government, and the community. It is responsible for preparing plans in relation to the prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery (PPRR) from emergencies within the LGA	*Director Infrastructure	Mark Dalzell			RESOLUTION 2022/0120/9.3
NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Mid Murray Zone)	External	The Liaison Committee is a committee comprising Council staff and councillors in conjunction with Rural Fire Service (RFS) staff and volunteers. The Committee discusses a range of topics including the performance of the agreements between councils and the RFS within the local area, budgets, fire fighting vehicles, equipment, and capital infrastructure.	Paul Fellows, Pat Fogarty *Two Councillors	Mark Dalzell			RESOLUTION 2022/0120/9.3

Name of Committee	Committee Type	Committee Function	Councillor Delegate	Staff Delegate	Members listing as appointed by Council (internal and s.355 only)	Meeting Frequency	Terms of Reference Status (internal and s.355 only)
Zone Bushfire Management Committee	External	The Bush Fire Management Committee is constituted under the NSW Rural Fires Act 1997, and requires land managers within a Local Government Area (including Council) to come together and prepare a local Bush Fire Risk Management Plan	Paul Fellows *One Councillor				RESOLUTION 2022/0120/9.3
ERC Flood plain Risk Management Advisory Committee	External	As required. Local councils take flooding into account when controlling the development of flood-prone land, and in carrying out management actions including the investigation, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of flood mitigation works	*One Councillor Peta Betts				
Billabong Yanco Creek System Project	External	Wrapped up - See Community Engagement-plan (nsw.gov.au)	Peta Betts *One Councillor		Finished		
Local Traffic Committee	External	Traffic committee	Shirlee Burge *One Councillor				
Deniliquin Regional Airport Users Group	Advisory	Advisory only, all decisions will constitute recommendations to Council.	Linda Fawns, Shannon Sampson *Two Councillors	Mark Dalzell/ Justin Learmonth	Angus Catt, Chris Wright, John MacKnight, Juay Brown, Nigel Wettenhall, Simon Thomas, Steve Holloway	Quarterly	Updated & adopted RESOLUTION 2021/193 RESOLUTION 2022/0816/12.5.2
Memorial Park Users Group	Advisory	Advisory only, all decisions will constitute recommendations to Council.	Marc Petersen *Two Councillors	Mark Dalzell	Nicole Jenkins, Brad Todd, Angela Hussey, Chantelle Chevals, Dawn Morris, Annabel Nisbet, Christina Swinton, Doug Tebbens, Michael Flemming, Mike Hallinan	Twice annually	
Rotary Park User Group	Advisory	Advisory only, all decisions will constitute recommendations to Council.	Pat Fogarty Shirlee Burge *Two Councillors			Quarterly	RESOLUTION 2022.0816/12.5.2
Saleyards Users Group	Advisory	Advisory only, all decisions will constitute recommendations to Council.	Harold Clapham, Shirlee Burge *Two Councillors	Mark Dalzell	Ken Crossley, Bill O'Brien, Jason Andrews, Russell Walker, Steve Arentz, Amanda Barlow	Quarterly	RESOLUTION 2022/0120/9.4 RESOLUTION 2022.0816/12.5.2

Name of Committee	Committee Type	Committee Function	Councillor Delegate	Staff Delegate	Members listing as appointed by Council (internal and s.355 only)	Meeting Frequency	Terms of Reference Status (internal and s.355 only)
Multi Arts Centre Users Group (to be established)	Advisory	Advisory only, all decisions will constitute recommendations to Council.	Pat Fogarty, Marc Petersen *Two Councillors				To be combined with Town Hall user group
Town Hall Revitalisation Reference Users Group	Project advisory	For duration of project	Peta Betts, Pat Fogarty, Marc Petersen *Three Councillors			As required, more than 4 x year	
Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee (ARIC)	ARIC	This Committee is a statutory requirement under s428A of the Local Government Act. Recent revised guidelines have allowed for the nomination of an additional non-voting Councillor.	Harold Clapham, and Paul Fellows *Two Councillors	General Manager, Director Corporate Services	Advisory	Quarterly, more if required	
CEO Performance Review Committee		To review the performance of the General Manager against the agreed criteria for the position, at least annually	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, a Councillor appointed by the CEO and a Councillor appointed by Council			At least annually	
Aboriginal Liaison Committee	Advisory	Advisory only, all decisions will constitute recommendations to Council	Harold Clapham, Linda Fawns *Two Councillors			Twice annually	
South West Music	External	External committee	Linda Fawns *One Councillor		Asked not to attend, therefore no further attendance		
Edward River Village (Seniors Living Precinct)	Project advisory	Advisory only, all decisions will constitute recommendations to Council.	Shannon Sampson, Linda Fawns, Peta Betts, Paul Fellows, Marc Petersen *Four Councillors			As required, more than 4 x year	
The Long Paddock Committee	External	This is an external committee with Council's membership entitling representation	Peta Betts, Shirlee Burge *One Councillor				
Australia Day Committee	Special Committee	As per Charter	Peta Betts, Paul Fellows *Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and CEO		Two community members	As required	

Name of Committee	Committee Type	Committee Function	Councillor Delegate	Staff Delegate	Members listing as appointed by Council (internal and s.355 only)	Meeting Frequency	Terms of Reference Status (internal and s.355 only)
Village (Advancement) Hall and Recreation Facility Committees	S355				Blighty Hall Marylynne Bradford, Malcolm Holm, Andrew Lostroh, Judith Platfuss, Geoff Ford		Section 355 committees are delegated the 'care, control and management' of a Council facility. Members are formally appointed by Council from amongst the elected body and members of the public. RESOLUTION 2022/0315/1 2.6 RESOLUTION 2022/0719/1 0.1 RESOLUTION 2022.0816/12 .5.2
		Blighty	Linda Fawns, Shanon Sampson		Conargo Hall Lynette Baker, Colin Bull, Margaret Bull, Lyn Hardcastle, Aileen Loader, Elizabeth McNamara, Ian Pantan, Michael Pisasale, Deborah Stockton, Bronwyn Chappell		
		Booroorban	Linda Fawns		Mayrung Hall Gordon Ball, Phyllis Ball, Stephen Ball, John Beer, Lorraine Beer, Bruce Moore, Birgit Schultz		
		Conargo	Harold Clapham		Pretty Pine Hall Matthew Allitt, Ben Chartres, John Jenkins, Gabrielle van der Linde		
		Mayrung	Tarria Moore		Wanganella Hall Simon Bain, Sarah Hooke, Amanda McCrabb, Colin McCrabb, Susie Wallace		
		Pretty Pine	Pat Fogarty				
		Wanganella	Marc Peterson				
		*One Councillor per committee					
Country Mayors Association	External - restricted	This is an external committee with Council's membership entitling representation.	Peta Betts & Philip Stone *Mayor & CEO				
Murray Darling Association	No longer member	The Murray Darling Association's purpose is to provide effective representation of local government and our communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by providing information, facilitating debate, and informing government policy.	Peta Betts & Linda Fawns *Mayor & one Councillor				Membership not renewed
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO)	External - restricted	Joint organisations help to build stronger councils and to improve service delivery and infrastructure in key priority areas such as water security, energy, transport, digital connectivity, waste management and health, across these rural and regional communities.	Peta Betts, Paul Fellows & Philip Stone *Mayor, Deputy Mayor & CEO				

Name of Committee	Committee Type	Committee Function	Councillor Delegate	Staff Delegate	Members listing as appointed by Council (internal and s.355 only)	Meeting Frequency	Terms of Reference Status (internal and s.355 only)
Deniliquin Business Advisory Committee (DBEC)	External	External Committee	Marc Peterson *One Councillor		Seems to no longer hold meetings. Belinda will contact Rowena for update.	Email returned.	
Deniliquin Business Chamber	External	External Committee	Tarria Moore *One Councillor		Belinda to contact requesting Business Chamber to extend invitation to Council Representative.		

12.12. NOVEMBER 2023 STORM EVENT

Author: Director Infrastructure

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves scoping an investigations and options study regarding areas impacted during the November 2023 storm event and provides a proposal in the 2024-25 operational planning and budget process.

BACKGROUND

On 29 November 2023 the western area of Deniliquin officially received 135mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period, with anecdotal information noting falls of 200mm or more. This led to flash flooding impacting urban areas of Deniliquin as well rural residential areas.

As part of the direct response to the event, the SES, as the agency responsible for managing storm events, activated an Incident Control Centre (ICC). This ICC was supported by Council and RFS.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Storm Event

The official rainfall total for 29 November 2023, as recorded at the Deniliquin Airport, was 135mm. It is noted that the modelled 1 in 100 year, 24 hour rainfall total for Deniliquin is 116mm. Whilst this is a modelled figure, it indicates that the 29 November 2023 event was exceptional in nature and anecdotal information from discussions with community members is in line with this.

Australian Rainfall and Run-off, the industry standard guidelines for managing stormwater run-off at larger scale, notes that drainage systems should have the following components:

- A minor system that can manage events up to 1 in 10 year without surcharge of the underground drainage system or roads. For Deniliquin the modelled 1 in 10 year, 24 hour rainfall total is 73mm, and
- A major system that can manage events up to 1 in 100 year without impacting dwellings by going over floor levels.

It is important that the capacity of the system, in terms of existing infrastructure as well as information from Australian Rainfall and Run-off, is clearly defined and understood so that planning for large events can be undertaken and implemented as necessary.

Following the storm event, Council staff have undertaken an After Action Review to better understand the impacts from the event and how best to address these impacts and improve the drainage system.

It is important to note that Council staff are considering the event to be a localised flooding event due to excessive rainfall and not as a riverine flooding event.

Impacted Areas

From discussion during the After Action Review, along with submissions and information from the community, the following areas of interest have been highlighted:

- Western urban drainage system. This is the area that drains to the western lagoon system (from Napier Street through to the river). Main issues in this area are the culvert and pump system at Wyatt Street and flow of run-off through the lagoon system,

- Southern urban drainage system. This is the area from Jameson Street and through the industrial area south of Ochertyre Street. Main issues in this area are the dam and pump behind South School and capacity of the open drain through the industrial area,
- Eastern urban drainage system. This is the area that drains to the eastern lagoon system (from Napier Street through to Matthews Park). The main issue in this area is the impact of run-off on the Golf Course,
- Western rural residential area. This is the area west of Wyatt Street, including the rural residential areas west of Blackett Street. The main issue noted in this area is the capacity for run-off to travel along the existing road table drains and culverts,
- Riverview Estate. This is the area of the estate and the natural drainage gully flowing to the west from the dam in Riverview Estate. The main issue is the capacity of the gully to manage overflow from the dam as well as run-off that may come into this system from elsewhere,
- Racecourse Road. This is the area along Racecourse Road, from Wakool Road up to the racecourse, and the area to the west. Like other rural residential areas, the main issue is the capacity of table drains and road culverts to transfer stormwater run-off during larger events, and
- Barham Road. This is the rural residential area along Barham Road south of the Mulwala Canal, as well as the industrial area. Like other rural residential areas, the main issue is the capacity of table drains and road culverts to transfer stormwater run-off during larger events.

These impacted areas are garnered from discussions to date with stakeholders as well as inspections during the storm event. Council staff understand that other areas may have been impacted during the event, or during other storm events, and will reach out to the community as part of the investigation study for more information.

Investigation and Option Study

To address these issues Council staff propose to undertake an Investigation and Option Study. The study will further review outcomes from the November 2023 storm event, as well as other events, and provide information on options on how best to mitigate issues that have been highlighted.

The study will be undertaken by experienced drainage consultants to provide industry best practice information on how to address these issues and will include consultation with the community and impacted residents. This study is currently not funded in the 2023/24 Operational Plan and staff will discuss funding of the project once the costs for the study have been determined and propose that this study is funded in the 2024/25 budget.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

It is important that Council manages stormwater drainage in a strategic manner that balances the impact of events on the community with infrastructure and maintenance costs.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Shaping the Future

1.2 Quality built environment

4. Delivering community assets and services

4.1 Vibrant villages and towns

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An investigation and options study for the stormwater drainage system is not currently funded in the 2023/24 Operational Plan. Council staff will determine the costs for the delivery of this study, through a Request for Quotation process, and request funds from Council's reserves to undertake the study.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1993

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation to the 4 February 2024 Councillor briefing session

Attachment 1 - November 2023 Rainfall Event Slides



NOVEMBER 2023 RAINFALL EVENT

INTRODUCTION

- DRAINAGE STANDARDS,
- IMPACTED AREAS AND SERVICES,
- OPTIONS FOR INVESTMENT.

DESIGN STANDARDS

	Minor System	Major System
Design Storm Event	1 in 10 year 10% AEP	1 in 100 year 1% AEP
24 hr Rainfall Amount	73mm in 24 hrs	116mm in 24 hrs
Objective of System	Underground pipes and kerb and gutter doesn't surcharge	Runoff does not impact properties by going over floor level



Edward
River
COUNCIL

EXISTING SYSTEM

Location	Minor System	Major System
Urban	Kerb and gutter, drainage pits, underground pipes, open drains.	Capacity in road between property lines, Lagoon system, pumps at Levee banks
Rural Residential	Road culverts, open drains, table drains, driveway culverts (privately owned)	Capacity in road between property lines, open drains
Rural	Road culverts, table drains	No Major System

IMPACTED AREAS

- URBAN AREAS:
 - Western urban drainage system,
 - Southern urban drainage system, and
 - Eastern urban drainage system,
- RURAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS:
 - Western rural residential areas,
 - Riverview Estate,
 - Racecourse Road, and
 - Barham Road.



WESTERN URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEM



- Drains to lagoon system from Napier Street west,
- Major constraints are:
 - Culvert and pipe system at Wyatt Street, and
 - Weir downstream near Blackett Street.

SOUTHERN URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEM



- Drains to dam behind South School, pumped across Cobb Highway and then west along open channel,
- Major constraints are:
 - Pump system and dam behind South School,
 - Road culverts along Barham Road, Macauley Street and Old Racecourse Road, and
 - Capacity of open drain.

EASTERN URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEM



- Eastern flowing lagoons,
- Outlet behind Bowling Club into Golf Course land (17th fairway),
- Pump set for large flows
- Major constraints are:
 - Size of pump to deal with larger flows, and
 - Impact on activity at the Golf Course.

WESTERN RURAL RESIDENTIAL AREA



- Flows north-westerly in tabledrains along Henry, Sloane and Ochtertyre Streets,
- Major constraints are:
 - Crossing Blackett Street,
 - Tabledrains,
 - Property accesses, and
 - Levee.

RIVERVIEW ESTATE



- Flows westerly from the lake to adjoining private property
- Major constraints are:
 - Interface between Riverview Estate and adjoining land,
 - Downstream flow path through private property, and
 - Run-off from the south crossing Wakool Road.

RACECOURSE ROAD



- Flows westerly across Racecourse Road:
 - Driveway culverts, and
 - Downstream flow path through private property, and
 - Run-off from the south crossing Wakool Road.

BARHAM ROAD



- Flows westerly across Barham Road and adjoining properties,
- Major constraints:
 - Barham Road,
 - Tabledrains and property accesses, and
 - Syphons under Mulwala Canal.

IMPACT ON COUNCIL ASSETS

- Road network cut off in multiple locations throughout the urban and rural residential area,
- Sewer system impacted through excess infiltration from manholes in roads and low lying areas.

IMPROVING THE SYSTEM

- Short term
 - Improvements to the table drain system and re-setting property culverts,
- Long term
 - Study into the areas noted as being impacted during the flood,
 - Long term plan to improve drainage.

DRAINAGE STUDY

- Catchment modelling,
- Determine the location and alignment of the system,
- Size system based on capacity requirements,
- Determine impacts on private property (works, easements etc),
- Calculate estimates for the works,
- Decision on capacity requirements and standards, and
- Long term plan to fund the adopted works.

DRAINAGE STUDY

QUESTIONS ?

12.13. POWER PURCHASING AGREEMENT

Author: Manager Facilities and Open Space

Authoriser: Director Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Participates in the procurement process of a Power Purchasing Agreement under the Regional Council's NSW Power Purchasing Agreement led by Hunter Joint Organisation by signing a Memorandum of Understanding,
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer for the acceptance of the contract to its General Manager under the Local Government Act, Section 55 Amendment tabled in Circular No 16-35/26 September 2016/A514402 9, and
3. Allocate savings achieved from the small sites Shell Energy contract to fund the \$15,930 cost to participate in the Regional Council's NSW Power Purchasing Agreement.

BACKGROUND

Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) and Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) are leading a renewable energy Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) tender process for regional councils across NSW with electricity contracts expiring in 2024.

Five councils have joined the Powering Tomorrow: Regional Councils NSW PPA (Regional Councils PPA) buyer's group as of 30 November 2023, with several more planning to join over the coming months. The confirmed councils so far are Bellingen Shire Council, Dungog Shire Council Maitland City Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, and Upper Hunter Shire Council.

Specialised advice is essential for delivering a successful PPA. An experienced team of advisors has been selected to support councils during the procurement process, including a technical energy advisor, procurement advisor, probity advisor and legal advisor. The tendering process will comply with the NSW Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and procurement regulatory framework, as well as probity principles.

Hunter JO approached RAMJO in late 2023 encouraging more regional councils to participate.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

A PPA is long term agreement between a renewable energy power generator and a consumer for the purchase of clean electricity at a stable and predictable price. The long-term nature of the agreement protects organisations against the risk of price fluctuations in the electricity market, providing budget certainty and resilience (NSW DPE, 2022).

Several of the participating councils have endorsed net zero targets. A PPA is a simple and affordable way for councils to significantly reduce their emissions. Hundreds of councils across Australia are participating in renewable energy PPAs, and this number is increasing every year.

A PPA combines sustainability outcomes and financial risk management. A PPA buyer's group share resources, workload, and up-front consultant fees that can otherwise be a barrier for individual councils. Groups also bring increased scale, leveraging collective buying power for a better deal.

More detailed information regarding the PPA can be found in Attachment 1, a copy of the MOU is found in Attachment 2.

The cost to Council to participate in the PPA is \$15,930, which is currently not allocated in the 2023/24 Operational Plan. This amount can be funded by savings that Council has realised through

the Shell Small Sites contract. The MoU is non-binding to Council regarding entering into any future contracts, however, does give Council the opportunity to work with other councils and joint organisations in reducing electricity costs much greater than this initial cost.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This work is strongly aligned with Council's Operational Plan and determination to find efficiencies to reduce the cost of services for the community.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

- 1. Shaping the Future
- 1.2 Quality built environment
- 5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration
- 5.1 Collaborative and Engaged
- 5.2 Financially sustainable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Participation in the Regional Councils NSW PPA has an upfront fee of \$15,930, which is currently not allocated in the 2023/24 Operational Plan. Council has found savings of over \$15,000 through its participation in the Shell Small Electrical Sites contract and Council staff recommend that these savings be allocated to the PPA project.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The execution of the Memorandum of Understanding is consistent with the Local Government Act and Regulations.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Information regarding the PPA project
- 2. Regional Councils PPA Memorandum of Understanding

Powering Tomorrow: Regional Councils NSW PPA



POWER PURCHASING AGREEMENT OVERVIEW



Supported by



Overview of the *Powering Tomorrow: Regional Councils NSW PPA*

Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) and Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) are leading a renewable energy Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) tender process for regional councils across NSW with electricity contracts expiring in 2024.

Five councils have joined the *Powering Tomorrow: Regional Councils NSW PPA* (Regional Councils PPA) buyer's group as of 30 November 2023, with several more planning to join over the coming months. The confirmed councils so far are: Bellingen Shire Council, Dungog Shire Council Maitland City Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, and Upper Hunter Shire Council.

Specialised advice is essential for delivering a successful PPA. An experienced team of advisors has been selected to support councils during the procurement process, including a technical energy advisor, procurement advisor, probity advisor and legal advisor. The tendering process will comply with the NSW Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and procurement regulatory framework, as well as probity principles.

Background: How did we get here?

Hunter JO and MNCJO investigated several existing PPA opportunities on behalf of its member councils. However, the available options were found not to be fit for purpose for regional councils. This is due to either high upfront fees, ongoing trailing commissions, unsuitable governance models that favoured metro councils, or previous unfavourable PPA outcomes.

Hunter JO and MNCJO worked together to find a pathway forward that would meet the needs of its member councils, would be fit for purpose, transparent, and provide long-term value for councils.

The decision was made for Hunter JO and MNCJO to establish and facilitate a buyer's group. The Regional Councils PPA has an affordable upfront fee, no ongoing trailing commission, and a governance model that enables participating councils to steer and shape the outcome.

Why should regional councils collaborate on a PPA?

A PPA is long term agreement between a renewable energy power generator and a consumer/s for the purchase of clean electricity at a stable and predictable price. The long-term nature of the agreement protects organisations against the risk of price fluctuations in the electricity market, providing budget certainty and resilience ([NSW DPE, 2022](#)).

Several of the participating councils have endorsed net zero targets. A PPA is a simple and affordable way for councils to significantly reduce their emissions. Hundreds of councils across Australia are participating in renewable energy PPAs, and this number is increasing every year.

A PPA combines sustainability outcomes and financial risk management. A PPA buyer's group share resources, workload, and up-front consultant fees that can otherwise be a barrier for individual councils. Groups also bring increased scale, leveraging collective buying power for a better deal.

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Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

All councils who have been through a PPA journey stress the importance of having experienced advisors as partners. Advisors bring specialist knowledge, help translate complex energy concepts, model financial scenarios, evaluate offers, and provide comfort to executives that work has been reviewed by experts. The Regional Councils PPA consists of the following advisors and stakeholders:

Stakeholder/ Advisor	Role	Key Responsibilities
Procurement Advisor: Regional Procurement	Manage administrative aspects of procurement process, such as the tender process and evaluation process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing Draft Tender Tenderlink advertising Coordinating responses to Tenderers Opening and compliance check of Tenders Referee checking Facilitation of the Tender evaluation Tender evaluation report
Technical Energy Advisor: Sourced Energy	Arrange the retail renewable PPA, support throughout the procurement process, technical advice, energy modelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan procurement process. Electricity analysis, modelling, and forecasting Prepare tender documents. Advise on terms, technical and commercial content of tender documents Evaluate tenders, and support Evaluation Panel in selection Contract negotiations
Probity advisor: Procure Group	Provide independent objective advice on procurement activities to ensure high standards of honesty, morality and transparency in procurement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Probity Plan Review all Request for Tender documentation Confirm governance, confidentiality and conflict of interest management arrangements Attend all meetings Assist in the resolution of probity issues arising Provide a probity report at conclusion of project
Hunter JO	Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project management, coordination, administration, provide advice, communications, and public relations, MOU coordination, and financial management.
MNCJO	Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with project management, coordination, administration, provide advice and support at all stages of process.
Participating Councils	Decision makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings, provide data, contribute to tender development, review terms and agreements Participate in Steering Committee, Procurement Development Team and Procurement Evaluation Panel
Local Government Legal	Legal services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing and advising each council on agreements This service is optional. Councils are free to use their in-house legal team or to directly engage an independent legal firm of their choosing.

Note: Sourced Energy was selected as the successful tenderer following a competitive Request for Quotation process. Regional Procurement and Local Government Legal are related entities to Hunter JO.

Governance

The Regional Councils PPA governance model consists of three committees. As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), participating councils can choose to nominate suitable candidates for each committee.

The three committees are:

1. **Procurement Development Team:** The Procurement Development Team is responsible for developing tender documentation and ensuring compliance of tender processes. The Procurement Development Team consists of a technical energy advisor, procurement advisor, probity advisor, Hunter JO, MNCJO, and representatives from participating councils.
2. **Procurement Evaluation Panel:** The Procurement Evaluation Panel is responsible for assessing tender submissions to the Request for Tender. The Panel consists of nominated officers from participating councils with technical energy expertise. Not every council is required to have representation on the Procurement Evaluation Panel.
3. **Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee is responsible for providing oversight and guidance to the Procurement Evaluation Panel and Procurement Development Team as required, and to approve the tender documents, evaluation plan and the recommendation for acceptance by General Managers of the participating councils. The Steering Committee will consist of nominated Directors and General Managers from the participating councils.

Overview of the Procurement Process

The Regional Councils PPA will:

- Involve a two-stage procurement process allowing councils to fully understand and negotiate terms before final pricing. Each council's General Manager will require delegation to sign the contract for fast execution of contract pricing. A council resolution during an ordinary council meeting will be required to assign this delegation.
- Be flexible with timing to market to capitalise on the best possible time to go to market.
- Enable councils to choose their preferred level of renewable energy to procure, between 1-100%, with the option to increase this over time.
- Ensure councils are free to choose whether to proceed with the PPA outcome. This means that councils are not locked in to accepting the proposed PPA solution.
- Enable councils to play an active role in shaping the PPA, and the procurement process.

The final PPA model and duration will be determined by the Steering Committee based on the tenders received. However, the technical energy advisor has advised that a sleeved PPA model over a duration of 6-10 years may be a suitable, low risk PPA option, based on the profile of this group.

Pricing

Price to participate in the Regional Councils PPA

Councils are required to pay an upfront fee to participate in the buyers group. This fee covers the costs of the technical energy advisor, legal services, procurement services and probity services. It also includes the cost of a financial capacity assessment undertaken on the preferred tenderer. The total fee is payable upon signing of the MOU and is non-refundable.

Hunter JO and MNCJO developed a tiered pricing model based on annual energy consumption to ensure pricing is fair, given the differences in council size, resources, and energy consumption across the group. This pricing model was discussed and confirmed by the initial group of councils.

Unlike other PPA models in the market, there is no trailing commission based on energy consumption in this PPA. This ensures the final price that councils receive is as low as possible.

Annual Electricity Consumption	Price (ex GST)
Less than 1 GWh	\$7,620
Between 1-3 GWh	\$13,980
Between 3-10 GWh	\$15,930
More than 10 GWh	\$22,385

Consultant fees

Some consultants charge a fee per council, and others provide a fee for service regardless of the number of participating councils. The consultant fees are outlined below:

Consultant/Service Provider	Fee per council (ex GST)
Technical energy advisor: Sourced Energy	\$9,000
Local Government Legal (\$315/hour x 5 hours per council) This service is optional. Councils are free to use their in-house legal team or to directly engage an independent legal firm of their choosing.	\$1,575

Consultant/Service Provider	Total Fee (ex GST)
Procurement Advisor: Regional Procurement	\$8,000
Probity Advisor: Procure Group	\$11,756
Financial capacity assessment of the preferred tenderer (Equifax)	\$3,000
Hunter JO and MNCJO	In-kind

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In kind support

Hunter JO and MCNJO's facilitation services are provided in kind to keep costs as low as possible. This in-kind support is possible due to the NSW Government's Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) program.

Indicative Timelines

Task	Deadline
PPA procurement project commences	December 2023
Councils sign MOU	ASAP January 2024
Hunter JO to formally engage consultants	January 2024
Participating councils are invoiced	January 2024
Final date for additional councils to join the group	29 February 2024
Go to market	March-April 2024
Councils use delegated authority to accept offer (Note, this may need to be done within 48 hours.)	March-April 2024

Note: If the project is delayed for any reason, then councils with contracts expiring 30 June 2024 may need to enter a 6-month bridging electricity contract with their current retailer so the PPA can commence 1 January 2025, allowing additional time for procurement.

How to join the Regional Councils PPA

The Regional Councils PPA will be a cost effective, flexible, risk managed PPA procurement process specifically for councils in regional NSW.

Councils interested in joining the Regional Councils PPA can contact Lexi Crouch, Hunter JO's Net Zero Coordinator at lexic@hunterjo.com.au or 0483 393 584 or Noam Bardea, Mid North Coast JO's Net Zero Coordinator at noam.bardea@mncjo.nsw.gov.au or 0476875673. Lexi or Noam will provide you with a copy of the MOU and FAQs documents, talk you through the process, and answer any questions you may have.

The final date for additional councils to join the group is **29 February 2024**.

The next steps are as follows:

- Complete the [Powering Tomorrow - Regional Councils NSW PPA Survey](#) to tell us about your Council and what you want to get out of this PPA.
- Seek council resolution/approval to participate in the PPA procurement process.

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- Review, sign and return the MOU to lexic@hunterjo.com.au.
- Nominate your candidates for the Steering Committee, Procurement Development Team, and Procurement Evaluation Panel via the MOU.
- Hunter JO will issue an invoice for payment.
- Sourced Energy will issue a Letter of Authority to councils for authorisation to obtain electricity data directly from retailer/s for the purposes of energy analysis and forecasting.

In January 2024, the Procurement Development Team will commence working on the Probity Plan, Risk Management Strategy, Project Plan, Evaluation Plan, Risk Register and other procurement documentation.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN Hunter Joint Organisation

and

Participating Council: [Insert Council]

THIS AGREEMENT dated day of 2024

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) records the understanding reached between the Facilitator (Hunter Joint Organisation) and Participating Councils, in relation to an approach to market together with a Group of NSW Councils, referred to as 'Powering Tomorrow – Regional Councils NSW PPA', that have an intention to procure a Retail electricity contract inclusive of any or all of:
 - a. large market electricity supply (including street lighting)
 - b. small market electricity supply
 - c. renewable energy and/ or equivalent environmental certificates
 - d. Solar PV feed-in tariff
2. This procurement will proceed as a two-stage procurement: a Request for Tenders (RFT) followed by a Best and Final Offer Stage (BAFO) to reflect the need for timely pricing.

Responsibilities

3. The Facilitator will manage and run the procurement for the retail electricity contract, with support and advice from the Procurement Development Team (see section 7).
4. Each Participating Council agrees to:
 - a. Attend meetings as required by the Facilitator;
 - b. Co-operate and work in good faith with the other Participating Councils, the Facilitator and the Procurement Development Team, in order to finalise the Request for Proposal;
 - c. Advise the Facilitator immediately if it no longer desires to be a Participating Council;
 - d. Contribute to costs as set out in section 18;
 - e. Nominate their procured components and provide and sign off forecast electricity consumption and applicable supply points in a site list, and a percentage of renewable energy they wish to procure from 1% to 100%. This information will be aggregated in market approach documents and is required by the Facilitator to complete the RFT specifications: additional charges will be incurred for late submission or changes after the deadline (29 February 2024).
 - f. Nominate Officers with delegated authority to participate in the Steering Committee, Procurement Development Team, and Procurement Evaluation Panel. Details must be provided at the end of the MOU.
 - g. Council will be provided with indicative pricing during stage 1 of the procurement process, which can be used to secure delegated authority for General Managers to accept final pricing and for councils to proceed to the best-and-final-offer stage or to

determine a required level of renewable energy. Council must have the means in place to review and accept the final pricing received under these Tenders by signing individual contracts **within the period nominated by the preferred tenderer(s) which may be as short as 24 hours** from the recommendation of the successful supplier(s). Short validity pricing enables lower electricity rates as suppliers take a shorter market risk whilst the offer is open for acceptance. To enable acceptance within the required timeframe, it will be necessary for Council to delegate the acceptance of the contract to its General Manager under the Local Government Act, Section 55 Amendment tabled in Circular No 16-35/26 September 2016/A514402 9.

Decision Making Process

5. **Evaluation:** The Facilitator will establish a Procurement Evaluation Panel (see section 16), comprised of Participating Council delegates who have the time and expertise to assess tender submissions. Not every council is required to have representation on the Procurement Evaluation Panel. Council may propose a candidate for the Procurement Evaluation Panel, however the Facilitator does not guarantee that the candidate will be selected to join the Panel.
6. **Reviewing and Approving:** The Facilitator will establish a Steering Committee to provide oversight and guidance to the Procurement Evaluation Panel and Procurement Development Team as required and to approve the tender documents, evaluation plan and the recommendation for acceptance by General Managers of Participating Councils. The Steering Committee will consist of sponsoring Directors and General Managers nominated from each Participating Council. Not every council is required to have representation on the Steering Committee.
7. **Procurement Development:** The Facilitator will establish a Procurement Development Team with the responsibilities to prepare the Tender Documents and Evaluation Plan including evaluation criteria and requirements and subsequent second stage request to tenderers subject to the approval from the Steering Committee. Further details regarding this Team follow in section 10.

Addition of New Participating Councils

8. The Facilitator or any Participating Council may propose to add a new Participating Council to this MOU. The addition of new Participating Councils will only be allowable if it matches the acquisition profile of the existing Participating Councils, as advised by the technical energy advisor.

Independent Probity Advisor

9. The Facilitator will engage an independent probity advisor. The probity advisor will have oversight of all tendering processes.

Procurement Development Team

10. To assist with development and compliance of processes, the following parties will participate (this list is not limiting) and be a part of the Procurement Development Team as required:
 - a. The Facilitator: Hunter Joint Organisation
 - b. Technical energy Advisor: Sourced Energy Pty Ltd
 - c. Independent Probity Advisor: Procure Group

- d. Procurement Advisor: Regional Procurement
 - e. Net Zero Coordinators from each Participating Council's Joint Organisation
 - f. Nominated representatives from Participating Councils (see sections 7 and 38).
11. Use of Local Government Legal to review the contracts and advise councils is optional. Five hours of Local Government Legal's time is included for each council in the fees (see section 19). For additional work beyond the allocated five hours, Local Government Legal will charge the Participating Council directly. Participating Councils may use an in-house or alternative legal service provider at its discretion and at its own cost.
12. Participating Councils must communicate with the Facilitator through the nominated email address lexic@hunterjo.com.au, and must at all times adhere to:
- a. The Probity Plan
 - b. Project confidentiality requirements (see section 31);
 - c. The internal communications plan; and
 - d. The external communications plans.
 - e. Conflict of Interest requirements

Commencement

13. Both parties (Participating Councils and the Facilitator) agree that this MOU will be effective from the date of signing and will remain in effect through to the project's completion (end of contract(s)). Both parties further agree that any amendments to this MOU will require mutual agreement and will be documented via an MOU addendum signed by both parties.
14. The ultimate objective is to secure the most competitive pricing for all participants through bulk purchasing, under fair terms. The tendering process will comply with the NSW Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and procurement regulatory framework, probity principles, and will respect commercial confidentiality requirements of tenderers.
15. Participating Councils acknowledge and agree to provide to the Facilitator and their consultants and advisors, all relevant electricity account, consumption data, and forecast information as required. This will be collected and analysed to confirm total spend, usage, contract opportunities and risks. A procurement strategy will be developed by the Procurement Development Team based on this analysis. The Facilitator and the Procurement Development Team will then prepare the tender documentation based on the procurement strategy developed. At this stage, it is intended that the market approach will be based on the following:
- a. **Contracts to Co-Terminate:** Councils will have varying electricity supply start dates but all contracts will terminate on the same date. This will enable greater aggregation of load for subsequent procurements.
 - b. **Feed-in Tariff and Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs):** The RFT will seek tenders that allow Councils to feed electricity back into the grid and proposals for supply of Large-Scale Generation Certificates (LGCs).
 - c. **Value Added Services:** In addition to procuring energy, the electricity RFT will seek:
 - i. Dedicated account management.
 - ii. eBilling and billing consolidation options.
 - iii. Provision for adding and removing sites (e.g. site closure/opening).

- iv. To the greatest extent possible, provision for changes in overall energy usage for individual Councils and across the whole portfolio of Councils.
- v. Potential for community or council benefit through installation of local generation and or storage.
- vi. Other value-added services determined and agreed by the Procurement Evaluation Panel.

Procurement Evaluation

16. The Procurement Evaluation Panel voting members will consist of representatives from Participating Councils as outlined in section 5, and nominated in section 39. It is preferred that each member of the Panel has a reasonable understanding of Council current and future energy requirements and have the time and expertise to review all tender submissions in each stage of this two-stage process. It is anticipated that the Procurement Evaluation Panel will consist of a sub-group of Participating Council representatives from the Procurement Development Team. The Procurement Evaluation Panel will be supported by the following non-voting members:
- a. Technical Energy Advisor: David West, Director, Sourced Energy
 - b. Facilitator/Project Manager: Lexi Crouch, Net Zero Coordinator, Hunter Joint Organisation
 - c. Project Manager: Noam Bardea, Net Zero Project Officer, Mid North Coast Joint Organisation
 - d. Independent Probity Advisor: Daemoni Bishop, Senior Probity Advisor, Procure Group
 - e. Procurement Advisor: Michael Lowe, Manager, Regional Procurement and Emma Penfold, Account Manager, Regional Procurement
17. Sourced Energy will provide the Procurement Evaluation Panel with:
- a. Analysis of grid and renewable electricity tenders on a financial basis.
 - b. Analysis of grid and renewable electricity tenders on a commercial basis for consistency of submitted terms with specified requirements and evaluation criteria and will identify any material variations.
 - c. A basic comparison matrix of services offered.

Due to the nature of this procurement, the recommendations of the Procurement Evaluation Panel, once reviewed, approved and accepted by General Managers with due delegation, will be final but will be openly reported to all participating Councils.

The recommendations of the Procurement Evaluation Panel will be subject to a variety of confidentiality conditions including, but not necessarily limited to, those contained in the Confidentiality Agreement section 31 of this MOU.

All Participants in the evaluation process must complete a Conflict of Interest Statement.

Financials

18. The proposed procurement will be undertaken on a cost recovery basis. The fees to be invoiced by the Facilitator represent a contribution towards procurement costs, out of pocket expenses, the costs of technical energy advisor, and procurement, probity and legal advice sought in relation to the RFT and tender(s) and all other costs of staging the tender.

19. The Facilitator does not anticipate any additional costs beyond this range, but any further costs arising will be subject to approval by the Procurement Development Team's voting members. The fees for participation are provided in the tiered pricing table below, and reflect the energy consumption of the Council.

GWh/year	Price (ex GST)
<1	\$7,620
1-3	\$13,980
3-10	\$15,930
10-25	\$22,385

20. 100% of the total fees will be payable to the Facilitator on signing the MoU. The Facilitator will coordinate formal engagement and payment of the advisors.
21. The cost of any on-going contract management services are not included in these participation fees.
22. The Facilitator will endeavour to accommodate unplanned activity at Council's request (e.g. late changes to data supplied and requests for council-specific information). However, additional charges may be applied if these activities incur additional costs (see section 29).
23. The fees are non-refundable if a Participating Council decides to no longer participate at any stage of the process after signing this MOU, or if the Participating Council decides not to accept the final recommendation by the Steering Committee.

Undertakings

24. As a participant in the project to procure grid and renewable electricity, the Participating Council confirms that:
- Council will be going off-contract for the electricity accounts to be tendered from 1 July 2024 or 1 January 2025 onwards unless another date is specifically agreed in writing with the Facilitator at the time of signing this MOU.
 - Council intends to seek tenders and to adopt the recommendations of the Steering Committee.
 - Council understands and agrees to put in place suitable arrangements such that the agreed contracts can be executed within **the period nominated by the preferred tenderer(s) which may be as short as 24 hours** from the appointment of the successful supplier(s) by the Steering Committee.
 - It is agreed that Council reserves the right to not accept the outcome of the Tender if it considers the offer is not of benefit to council.

Information Provision

25. The Participating Council agrees to provide the Facilitator and their advisors with the following documents and information as requested:
- Authorisation** - Provide a signed Letter of Authorisation to allow accurate electricity consumption and account information to be obtained directly from current retail

electricity and gas supplier(s) on their behalf by the Facilitator's consultants and advisors;

- b. **List of Accounts** – Confirmation and sign-off of a list of Council electricity accounts to be tendered (e.g. large sites at a minimum) and a brief description of each account (e.g. Council Chambers, Pool, Works Depot). Any accounts of related entities must be clearly identified if they have a different legal name, are new accounts, or are not currently covered by an existing retail electricity contract;
- c. **Recent Bills** – An electronic version of a recent bill covering a period before 1 July 2023 and one covering a period after 1 July 2023 for each account to be tendered;
- d. **On-Site Generation** – Identification of any sites where on-site generation occurs or will soon occur and is likely to result in a net export to the electricity network and hence where feed-in tariffs may be of relevance. Where generation is installed or will be installed, confirmation of size of installed generation and the current feed-in tariff price, if any, along with the forecast export to the grid in kWh/yr;
- e. **Renewable Energy % Preference** – Statement of Council's preferred percentage of renewable energy as a percentage of total load. This may be altered during the process following analysis of pricing but must be documented and signed off prior to final offers being requested from suppliers. A staged increase in renewable energy to be purchased is allowable.
- f. **Special Circumstances/ material electricity consumption variance** – Any special circumstances that the Facilitator, its advisors and tenderers should be aware of (e.g. planned closure, major works likely to materially change energy consumption, or opening of major sites falling under this tender), especially those that will likely have a significant impact on energy consumption (increase or decrease) and an estimation of the quantity, timing and data range of the impact; and
- g. **Forecast Consumption** – For each large site, a total annual consumption forecast for at least the next 3 years (and up to 10 years if known) from 1 January 2023, taking into account the above special circumstances, if any, and the timing of their impact. This can be in the format of energy units (e.g. kWh, MWh) or a simple percentage increase or decrease expected across the entire portfolio of energy consuming sites.

All information requested should be sent to lexic@hunterjo.com.au.

Key Dates for Council

26. The precise timing of the process may be subject to revision depending on developments in the wholesale energy market. The Facilitator is taking independent expert advice on the timing of each approach. The table following outlines some key dates for Participating Councils.

Milestone	Detail	Deadline
1	Complete and sign MOU, Letter of Authorisation and List of Accounts and return to the Facilitator to enable gathering of consumption and pricing data.	29 February 2024
2	All data provided to the Facilitator for retail energy and renewable energy PPA (includes Council confirmation of forecast consumption for electricity, % renewable generation and feed-in tariffs).	29 February 2024

27. The Facilitator will endeavour to accommodate unplanned work requests from Participating Councils. However, where additional, unplanned work is requested by a Participating Council/s that requires work to be undertaken by consultants, any additional

costs incurred will be charged to the Participating Council/s. All such requests must be made via email to: lexic@hunterjo.com.au.

28. The provision of data is time-critical, and changes to data supplied can cause project slippage. There is minimal scope in the project schedule for slippage. Councils must therefore make every effort to provide accurate data, on time.
29. Changes to data, council-specific queries, and potentially breaches of confidentiality will mean additional work for the Facilitator or consultants in the Procurement Development Team, and the Facilitator may need to recover the costs of that additional time. The table following outlines examples of additional work outside the timetable above that may incur additional fees.

Change	Detail
Data change	Provision of or changes to data provided to the Facilitator after the deadline for provision (milestone 1 above) but before the approval of the RFT specifications (milestone 2 above).
Late data change	Provision of or changes to data provided to the Facilitator after the approval of the RFT specifications (milestone 2 above).
Breach of confidentiality	If a breach causes additional work, e.g. hours spent taking remedial action.
Council-specific query	Additional analysis, presentations, reports or other requirement beyond the scope or schedule of the project.

Project Scope

30. The Facilitator, with support from the Procurement Development Team, will undertake the following steps, with their timing being dependent on expert advice on when it is best to enter the market:
- a. Collect data
 - b. Provide data to Sourced Energy for analysis to inform procurement processes
 - c. Run an RFT process for grid and renewable energy (Regional Procurement and Sourced Energy)
 - d. Run the procurement process and finalise commercial terms (Regional Procurement and Sourced Energy)
 - e. Secure the services of an independent probity advisor for the project
 - f. Work with the Procurement Evaluation Panel to evaluate all tenders
 - g. Report to all member councils on the successful vendors
 - h. Obtain legal advice to provide assurance of legal aspects of contractual arrangements
 - i. Facilitate the signing of contracts between Councils and vendors
 - j. Throughout the project provide progress updates to Participating Councils, and periodic information sessions and webinars at significant milestones, including:
 - Overview of the procurement process (estimated in Jan 2024)
 - Presentation of evaluation (estimated by May 2024)

- Contracts information session (after the project concludes).

Confidentiality Agreement

31. This procurement has critical confidentiality requirements. Therefore, all Participating Councils, Steering Committee, Procurement Evaluation Panel, and Procurement Development Team must adhere to strict procedures to ensure that confidentiality is preserved. Any breach of confidentiality could put the procurement process at risk. In particular:

- a. All personnel directly participating in the project must sign the project confidentiality agreement.
- b. All information shared with the nominated Officers during the procurement process is confidential unless the Independent Probity Advisor agrees that it is not.
- c. Confidential information cannot be shared by the nominated Officers with anyone who has not signed a project specific confidentiality agreement.
- d. Confidential information cannot be shared by the nominated Officers with anyone (including their own council) except the other Participating Councils, Steering Committee, Procurement Evaluation Panel, and Procurement Development Team members.
- e. Should the nominated Officer or any other project participant have a justifiable need to provide confidential information to anyone, they must request the information and provide the justification for it via lexic@hunterjo.com.au prior to disclosing such confidential information and must not provide it to anyone without the Facilitator's written consent.
- f. The Facilitator will, as soon as practicable, provide such information as can reasonably be disclosed without jeopardising confidentiality, but reserves the right to refuse any disclosure.
- g. The Facilitator may refuse disclosure if the request is not considered by the Facilitator to be justified, or if it would breach confidentiality commitments to a stakeholder.

Acceptance

32. Council has the intention to buy the supply of electricity being procured as required by the Tendering Guidelines for NSW Local Government, published by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet Division of Local Government, October 2009.

33. I understand and agree that all commercial details of the contract agreement, either written or verbal, provided to me or my organisation, are Commercial-in-Confidence and must be kept secure and not disclosed to any other party. Specific attention is drawn to the key Intellectual Property within the contractual Agreement which each individual Council is contributing funding towards obtaining:

- Pricing by vendors
- Timing to market
- Market strategy
- Form and duration of contracts.

34. Council's existing retail electricity contract(s) termination date is/are (please tick all that apply)*:

- ☐ 30 June 2024
- ☐ 30 December 2024
- ☐ [insert other contract end date]
- ☐ [insert other contract end date]

* Please insert additional lines as required for multiple contracts.

35. Council undertakes to execute the contract within the required period (which may be as little as 24 hours) after receipt of the recommendations of the Steering Committee by delegating the acceptance of the contract to Council's General Manager, under the Local Government Act Section 55 Amendment tabled in Circular No 16-35/26 September 2016/A514402 9.

36. The MOU is not a legally binding contract.

37. **Steering Committee Nominee:** This must be at the Director level or above. Requests to delegate to a Manager-level Officer must be made in writing to the Facilitator by a Director/GM for consideration by the Facilitator and Probity Advisor. (Select one option):

- ☐ Nominated candidate below:

Name:

Position:

Email:

Telephone:

- ☐ Council does not wish to nominate a candidate for the Steering Committee and understands that it will therefore not be involved in the activities outlined in section 6, including the final decision-making process.

38. **Procurement Development Team Nominee** (select one option):

- ☐ Nominated candidate below:

Name:

Position:

Email:

Telephone:

- ☐ Council does not wish to nominate a candidate for the Procurement Development Team and understands it will therefore not be involved in the activities outlined in section 7.

39. **Procurement Evaluation Panel Nominee** (select one option):

- ☐ Same candidate as the Procurement Development Team Nominee

- ☐ Nominated candidate below:

Name:

Position:

Email:

Telephone:

- ☐ Council does not wish to nominate candidate for the Procurement Evaluation Panel and understands it will therefore not be involved in the activities outlined in section 5.

Execution page

SIGNED AS AN AGREEMENT

This Agreement must be executed on behalf of each party by a duly authorized representative at the Director level or above.

Executed by [INSERT COUNCIL NAME]

Signature

Print Name

Role / Position

I certify that I am an eligible witness and
that the delegate signed in my presence

Signature of witness

Name of witness

Role / Position of witness

EXECUTED by
HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION

ABN 77 103 439 578

by its authorised delegate:

Delegate Signature

Witness signature

Name

Name

Position

Position

12.14. DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Author: Manager Utilities

Authoriser: Director Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft Edward River Council Domestic Waste Management Policy and for the purposes of public exhibition for not less than 28 days, and
2. If no submissions are received, adopts the draft Edward River Council Domestic Waste Management Policy.

BACKGROUND

The introduction of the new 3 bin system for domestic waste will commence on 1 July 2024. In preparation for this, Council staff have drafted a policy, included as Attachment 1 to this report, which covers bin collection, contamination and charging. This policy will ensure a consistent message and approach from Council on the service and associated mechanisms.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The policy outlines:

Kerbside Collection Waste Management Services: Specifies the standard services provided, including garbage, recyclables, and organics collection, which are mandatory for residential properties.

Domestic Residential Waste: Details the required services for residential properties, including collection frequency, bin sizes, and waste types.

Industrial and Commercial Premises: States that waste collection for business, industrial, or commercial premises is not the Council's responsibility, but such properties may access the standard service if located on a route.

Requesting Additional Bins: Residents can request additional bins for a fee but must maintain the mandatory three-bin service.

Bin Ownership and Maintenance: Clarifies ownership of bins, procedures for addressing missing or damaged bins, and responsibilities of residents and property owners.

Bin Collections: Specifies the proper procedures for placing bins for collection, including timing, positioning, and potential exceptions for specific locations.

Bin Refusals: Lists reasons for which kerbside collection services may be refused, such as bin contamination or improper placement.

Bin Placement: Outlines the process for addressing improper bin placement, including warnings and potential refusal of collection.

Contamination Refusals: Describes procedures for addressing contamination issues with bins, including notifications and potential removal of service for repeated occurrences.

Kerbside Collection Route: Defines the standard collection route and exceptions for properties not covered by the service.

Overall, the document aims to establish clear guidelines and responsibilities for waste management services provided by the Council, ensuring efficiency and consistency.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The of the 3 bin system for the kerbside collection of recyclable, food organics and garden organics material, as well as general waste, is consistent with Council's waste strategy.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Shaping the Future
 - 1.4 Sustainable Waste Management
 5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration
 - 5.1 Collaborative and Engaged
 - 5.2 Financially sustainable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Domestic Waste Management Fees and Charges will be adopted separately as part of the Operational Plan and Budget process.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1993

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Domestic Waste Management's Policy

Attachment 1 - New Domestic Waste Management's Policy

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To ensure consistency in implementing Domestic Waste Management Services.

POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All residents and businesses within the Deniliquin area.
- Council employees responsible for implementing and enforcing legislation related to waste management services.

POLICY STATEMENT

Edward River Council is dedicated to establishing and administering Domestic Waste Management Services in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

This policy provides a transparent framework for the assessment, and management of these services while ensuring reasonable and sustainable costs. It also outlines Council's positions on service levels, allocation of bin service routes, and property levies via the Domestic Waste Management Charge, as well as bin auditing and refusals of service.

PROCEDURE

1. Kerbside Collection Waste Management Services

In compliance with this Policy, Council will provide a Standard Kerbside Collection Service as outlined below:

- Fortnightly garbage waste collection (red bin)
- Fortnightly mixed recyclables collection (yellow bin)
- Weekly Food and Garden Organics collection (green bin)

The service is mandatory under the Local Government Act. Council interprets this to ensure that all residential and rural residential properties within Council's mandatory bin route, irrespective of size or type, receive the Standard Kerbside Collection Service, and associated fees are applicable.

2. Domestic Residential Waste

All residential properties with a domestic waste service must have the following services:

Service Outline	Collection Frequency	Bin Sizes	Waste Type
Yellow Bin	Fortnightly	240 litres (standard)	Recyclables
Red Bin	Fortnightly	240 litres (standard)	Residual Waste
Green Bin	Weekly	240 litres (standard)	Food and Garden Organic Waste



Domestic Waste Management Policy

Council Policy
Director of Infrastructure

3. Industrial and Commercial Premises

It is not Council's responsibility to collect landfill waste or recyclables from business, industrial, or commercial premises. However, where such properties are located on a route, businesses may access the Standard Kerbside Collection Service. The standard service includes landfill waste, recyclables, and organics as a minimum.

Service Outline	Collection Frequency	Bin Sizes	Waste Type
Yellow Bin	Fortnightly	240 litres (standard)	Recyclables
Red Bin	Fortnightly	240 litres (standard)	Residual Waste
Green Bin	Weekly	240 litres (standard)	Food and Garden Organic Waste

4. Requesting Additional Bins

Residents who require additional bins can make a request to Council. The additional bin will be charged according to the current published fees and charges. The mandatory three-bin service must be maintained, and residents cannot substitute or swap different types of bins. Residents can request an addition yellow or green bin, however if they request an additional red bin, the complete additional three-bin service will be applied. Additional bins beyond two of each waste type (six bins) won't be considered, property owners will be referred to make private commercial arrangements.

5. Bin Ownership, Missing, Vandalized, or Damaged Bins

Bins, including additional bins, are supplied and owned by Council's approved Contractor. To ensure bins are serviced:

- Residents must not transfer bins when they move properties.
- Residents must notify Council of their residential change of address, allowing for bin transfers or retrievals where appropriate.
- Owners of multiple properties within Edward River Council must ensure that bins assigned to their property are the ones being used. Misuse may result in bin removal.
- Bins damaged through fair wear and tear or during the collection process will be repaired or replaced through the collection contract at no cost to the resident. Stolen or missing bins can be replaced at the resident's expense, as per the current Fees and Charges policy.
- Residents must notify Council of a stolen or missing bin as soon as possible. Council will not refund for bins that are stolen or missing.
- It is the responsibility of the Landlord or Agent to ensure that caddies and liners remain within the property.
- Broken, lost or stolen kitchen caddies can be replaced free of charge by contacting Council.



Domestic Waste Management Policy

Council Policy
Director of Infrastructure

6. Bin Collections

Bins should be placed on the kerbside the night before collection and removed no later than 5:30pm on the day following collection. Bins should be placed with the wheels facing the property, spaced 0.5 meter apart from other bins and free of obstructions.

Residents living in courts or on unsealed roads may have specific collection instructions. Council's collection contractor will determine these instructions.

7. Bin Refusals

Kerbside Collection Services may be refused if:

- A bin is not a Council-approved bin.
- The bin is overflowing (the lid must close properly).
- A bin is contaminated (e.g., landfill waste in a recyclables bin).
- The contents of the bin are jammed or overcompacted and will not release.
- The bin's weight exceeds 80 kg.
- The bin is placed in an area inaccessible to the collection vehicle.
- The bin is not presented before 5 am on the day of collection.

8. Bin Placement

This section outlines the responsibilities and procedures for the proper placement of Mobile Bins for collection. Customers are expected to follow the correct placement guidelines:

- First Occurrence: A notice will be issued describing the issue.
- Second Occurrence: If the problem repeats, another notice will be issued.
- Third Occurrence: If the issue persists, Council's contractor may refuse to empty the bins, providing formal notification.

9. Contamination Refusals

This section outlines procedures for addressing contamination issues with mobile bins used for waste, recycling, and food and organic collection. Contamination issues will be addressed in the following manner:

- Gross Contamination: Residents will be notified of the issue and given a day to rectify it.
- Multiple Contamination Occurrences: Multiple occurrences will result in escalating notifications and, in severe cases, removal of the bin service.

10. Kerbside Collection Route

The Standard Kerbside Collection Service will be provided to all properties, except as outlined below:

- Vacant Land
- Commercial and Industrial properties without Council approval.

The collection route is defined by Council's kerbside collection route maps. Changes to collection routes will be properly communicated to affected properties.



DEFINITIONS

Council means Edward River Council

The **Collection Period** mean the 24 hour period of the normal service day and 12 hours prior to the normal service day.

Domestic Waste means waste produced by a domestic premises, including recyclables but excluding sewage.

Domestic Waste Management Charge means the annual fees for residents where services are available.

Dwelling means a building or part of a building used as a residence.

Non-ratable Property means a property exempt from rating under 555 of the Act.

Residual waste means waste that cannot be recycled or recovered.

ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION

The *Local Government Act 1993*

ASSOCIATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Nil

POLICY VERSION CONTROL

Policy Title		Domestic Waste Management	
ECM Doc Set ID			
Date originally endorsed/adopted			
Council minute number			
Responsible Officer		Manager Utilities	
Version Number	Modified By	Modifications Made	Date modified version endorsed/adopted and resolution number where applicable
Next revision		November 2026	

12.15. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT DECEMBER 23 & JANUARY 24

Author: Manager Development Services

Authoriser: Director Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the December 2023 and January 2024 Development Services Reports

BACKGROUND

The Development Services Reports for November 2023 is included in Attachment 1.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

There are no items noted for discussion within the report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific implications within the report.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Shaping the Future

1.2 Quality built environment

1.3 Enhanced Active and Passive Open Spaces

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no matters in this report that have specific financial implications.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The activities and applications detailed in the report are governed by Legislative requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Monthly Reports

Attachment 1 - 12 Environment Report December 2023



Development Activity					
Applications received - December 2023					
Application	Property Description	Proposal	Date Received	Date Approved	Status
DA2023/0092 CC2023/0057	Lot 20 DP 285618, 15 Echidna Way, Conargo	Above Ground Swimming Pool	1/12/23	12/12/23	Approved
DA2023/0093	Lot 21, 22 & 23, DP 310, 340 Jefferson Street, Deniliquin	Shed (Sale of Agriculture Machinery)	7/12/23	-	Under assessment
DA2023/0094 CC2023/0059	Lot 2 DP 24743, 474 George Street, Deniliquin	Residential Shed	11/12/23	-	Under assessment
CC2023/0058	Lot 12 DP 720244, 12 Kelly Street, Deniliquin	2 x Storage Sheds	11/12/23	12/12/23	Approved
DA2023/0095 CC2023/0060	Lot 5 DP 258108, 311 Lawson Syphon Road, Deniliquin	Residential Shed	14/12/23	-	Under assessment
DA2023/0096	Lot 2 Sec 5 DP 758782, 306-308 Victoria Street, Deniliquin	Install a Shipping Container	20/12/23	-	Under assessment
DA2023/0097	Lot 519 DP 821037, 466-484 Harfleur Street, Deniliquin	Install a Digital Sign on School Grounds	21/12/23	-	Under assessment
Complying Development Certificates					
PC CDC2023/0013	Lot 5 Sec 197 DP 758913, 328-330 Wood Street, Deniliquin	Inground Swimming Pool	1/12/23	1/12/23	Approved (Private Certifier)



S68 Applications					
2023/0065	Lot 1 DP 1132408, 1 Butler Street (site 330), Deniliquin	Flyover Carport	6/12/23	-	Under assessment
2023/0066	Lot 12 DP 720244, 12 Kelly Street, Deniliquin	Water supply & sewerage work & stormwater drainage work	11/12/23	14/12/23	Approved
2023/0067	Lot 2 DP 24743, 474 George Street, Deniliquin	Water supply & sewerage work & stormwater drainage work	11/12/23	-	Under assessment
2023/0068	Lot 5 DP 258108, 311 Lawson Syphon Road, Deniliquin	Water supply & sewerage work & stormwater drainage work	14/12/23	-	Under assessment

Development Applications by Type for December 2023						
Development Type	New Dwellings	Dwelling Alts/Additions/sheds	Commercial/Industrial	Other	Subdivisions	No of lots resulting
Number	0	4	1	3	0	0
Totals 2023	29	44	12	34	9	31

Processing Times for December 2023		
Application Type	* Mean Gross Days	** Mean Net Days
DA	43	25
Mod (S4.55) of DA & DA/CC	-	-



CDC	-	-
CC	15	15
S68 Applications	13	13

* Mean gross days = Total days from lodgment to determination ** Mean Net Days = Total days less Stop the Clock days

Value and Number of Applications Determined 2022 and 2023										
Month	DA 2022	DA 2023	CDC 2022	CDC 2023	CC 2022	CC 2023	LG 2022	LG 2023	Value 2022	Value 2023
January	3	4	2	0	1	3	2	4	\$870,000	\$148,890
February	14	8	1	1	9	5	2	7	\$6,541,633	\$1,631,720
March	13	6	0	1	8	5	5	7	\$1,968,289	\$4,340,700
April	8	4	0	0	2	3	0	0	\$1,891,000	\$194,595
May	9	3	1	2	6	2	6	5	\$3,376,895	\$2,248,880
June	13	14	0	0	8	9	3	7	\$277,646	\$4,043,451
July	3	7	0	0	3	3	2	3	\$369,101	\$1,743,731
August	10	12	1	0	4	8	6	7	\$660,693	\$4,318,485
September	7	5	0	2	1	4	3	4	\$894,000	\$243,621
October	11	8	0	1	8	3	4	8	\$2,206,916	\$1,987,350
November	10	5	0	0	9	4	7	3	\$2,002,070	\$663,074
December	8	8	0		4	4	4	5	\$3,894,506	\$4,437,044.00
TOTALS	109	84	5	7	63	51	45	60	\$24,952,749.00	\$26,001,541.00
Note: numbers of application determined does not include modifications and applications determined by private certifiers. Value of application determined does not include the value of work for Construction Certificates and s68 applications.										

Section 10.7 Certificates/Sewerage Drainage Diagrams

Planning certificates	11
Sewerage drainage diagrams	7



Average processing time	1
Maximum time for processing	2

Swimming Pool Inspection Program				
Month	1 st Inspection	2 nd Inspection	3 rd Inspection	TOTAL 2023
December	2	1	0	68

Animal Control /Ranger Activities

Ranger's Report – December 2023

Companion Animals

Seized / Surrendered / Dumped	Released to Owner prior to impounded	In Pound	Released to Owner after impounded	Re- Homed	Euthanised		Stolen or escaped	Still In Pound	Declared Dangerous Menacing	Micro Chipped	Registered	Fines Issued
					Cats	Dogs						
19	7	12	1	0	10	0	0	1	0	0		2

Note: The figures contained in this report relate to animal control activities carried out in the current month being reported on. Rehoming/Return to owner etc may occur in a subsequent month and are therefore not captured in this reporting period.

Clean Up		Parking		Impoundment		
Notices Sent	Illegal Dumping	Patrols	Fines	Vehicles	Live stock	Euthanised (other)
11	0	6	0	2	0	0



Dog Attacks		
Date	Details	Outcome
6.12.2023	2 dogs attacked pen full of chickens.	All 10 chickens were killed. Owner of dogs was fined.

Public Health Activities	
Details	
Arbovirus monitoring program (Mosquito monitoring)	Commenced November 2023

Attachment 2 - 1 Environment Report January 2024



Development Activity					
Applications received – January 2024					
Application	Property Description	Proposal	Date Received	Date Approved	Status
DA2023/0098	Lot 100 DP 865155, Lot 203 DP 746057, 88 Davidson Street, Deniliquin	Change of Use – Vet Clinic	8/1/24	-	Under assessment
DA2024/0001 CC2024/0001	Lot 9 DP 1272156, 1 Robert Walter Place, Deniliquin	Residential Shed	8/1/24	-	Under assessment
DA2024/0002 CC2024/0002	Lot 2051, DP 1145861, 408 Marshalls Road, Deniliquin	Residential Shed	15/1/24	-	Under assessment
DA2024/0003	Lot 1 DP 986103, Ochertyre Street, Deniliquin	Dual Occupancy	24/1/24	-	Under assessment
DA2024/0004	Lot 2 DP 986103, Ochertyre Street, Deniliquin	Dual Occupancy	24/1/24	-	Under assessment
Complying Development Certificates					
-	-	-	-	-	-

S68 Applications					
-	-	-	-	-	-



Development Applications by Type for January 2024						
Development Type	New Dwellings	Dwelling Alts/Additions/sheds	Commercial/Industrial	Other	Subdivision	No of lots resulting
Number	4	2	1	0	0	0
Totals 2024	4	2	1	0	0	0

Processing Times for January 2024		
Application Type	* Mean Gross Days	** Mean Net Days
DA	42	20
Mod (S4.55) of DA & DA/CC	-	-
CDC	-	-
CC	27	16
S68 Applications	33	165

* Mean gross days = Total days from lodgment to determination ** Mean Net Days = Total days less Stop the Clock days

Value and Number of Applications Determined 2023 and 2024										
Month	DA 2023	DA 2024	CDC 2023	CDC 2024	CC 2023	CC 2024	LG 2023	LG 2024	Value DA 2023	Value DA 2024
January	4	5	0	0	3	3	4	3	\$148,890	\$172,000
February	8		1		5		7		\$1,631,720	
March	6		1		5		7		\$4,340,700	
April	4		0		3		0		\$194,595	
May	3		2		2		5		\$2,248,880	



June	14		0		9		7		\$4,043,451	
July	7		0		3		3		\$1,743,731	
August	12		0		8		7		\$4,318,485	
September	5		2		4		4		\$243,621	
October	8		1		3		8		\$1,987,350	
November	5		0		4		3		\$663,074	
December	8				4		5		\$4,437,044	
TOTALS	84	5	7	0	51	3	60	3	\$26,001,541.00	\$172,000.00

Note: numbers of application determined does not include modifications and applications determined by private certifiers. Value of application determined does not include the value of work for Construction Certificates and s68 applications.

Section 10.7 Certificates/Sewerage Drainage Diagrams

Planning certificates	41
Sewerage drainage diagrams	19
Average processing time	1
Maximum time for processing	3

Inspections for January

Site	Footing / Pier	Slab	Frame	Hot & Cold	Wet Area	Sewer / Septic	Storm Water	Final	Public Health	Food Van	Trade Waste Site Visit	Meetings	Murrumbidgee Council	Total
13	2	6	1	3	10	6	5	2	4	0	1	6	0	59

Swimming Pool Inspection Program

Month	1 st Inspection	2 nd Inspection	3 rd Inspection	TOTAL 2024
January	2	1	0	3



Animal Control /Ranger Activities

Ranger's Report – January 2024

Companion Animals

Seized / Surrendered / Dumped	Released to Owner prior to impounded	In Pound	Released to Owner after impounded	Re- Homed	Euthanised		Stolen or escaped	Still In Pound	Declared Dangerous Menacing	Micro Chipped	Registered	Fines Issued
					Cats	Dogs						
20	5	15	5	5	3	0	0	2	0	4	8	0

Note: The figures contained in this report relate to animal control activities carried out in the current month being reported on. Rehoming/Return to owner etc may occur in a subsequent month and are therefore not captured in this reporting period.

Clean Up			Parking		Impoundment		
Notices Sent	Illegal Dumping	Fines	Patrols	Fines	Vehicles	Live stock	Euthanised (other)
6	2	0	6	0	1	0	0

Dog Attacks

Date	Details	Outcome
22.1.24	Labrador attacked and killed poultry	Fines issued to dog owner

Public Health Activities

Details	
Arbovirus monitoring program (Mosquito monitoring)	Ongoing

12.16. INVESTMENT REPORT - JANUARY 2024

Author: Financial Accountant

Authoriser: Chief Financial Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note and receive the January 2024 report on Investments totalling \$38,830,005 inclusive of cash at bank for day-to-day operations.
2. Note that actual interest earned in the month of January 2024 was \$119,299.
3. Note that total interest earned for the year to 31 January 2024 is \$991,146.
4. Note the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer and adopt the Investment Report.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the investment of surplus funds and performance of Council's investment portfolio for the month to 31 January 2024 as required by Regulation No 264 (Part 19) of the Local Government Act 1993.

As at 31 January 2024, Council had a total of \$38,830,005 in invested funds. Interest earned from investments during the month of January 2024 was \$119,299.

Included in this report are the following items:

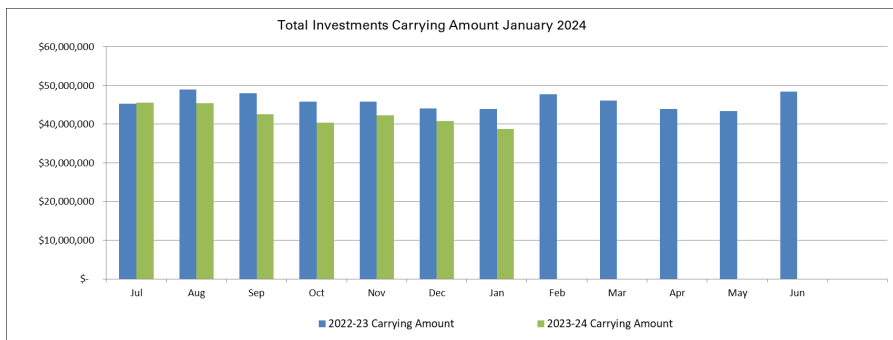
- Council's Investments as at 31 January 2024
- Restrictions Applying to Investment Funds
- Investment Portfolio Performance
- Investment Commentary
- Monthly Report from Imperium Markets
- Certification by the Responsible Accounting Officer

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

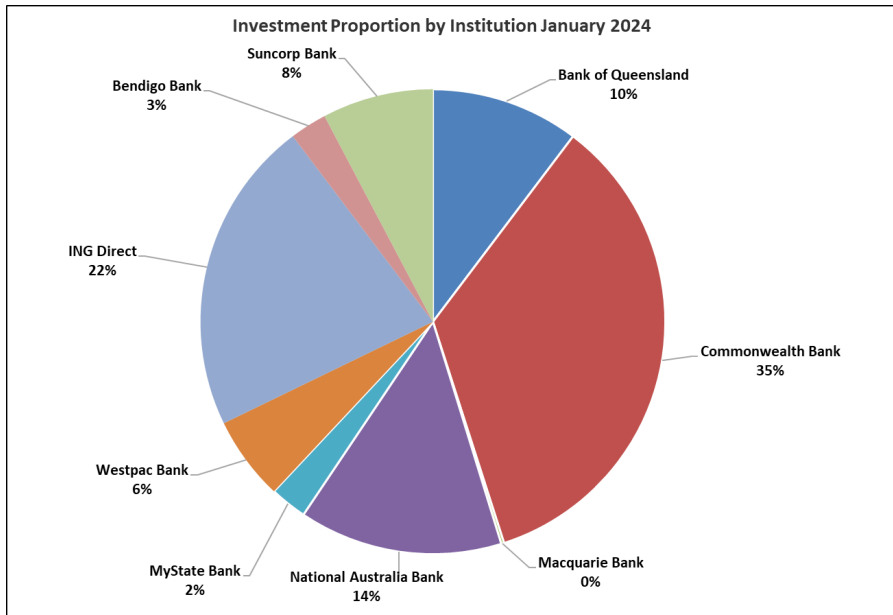
Council's Investments as at 31 January 2024

As at 31 January 2024, Council had a total of \$38,830,005 in term deposits and cash at bank exclusive of unrepresented receipts or cheques.

The total investments balance has seen a reduction this financial year as Council has been successfully completing capital projects. This also includes seasonal fluctuations from month to month in line with Council's cashflow requirements.



Council's funds were invested with A1+, A1 and A2 rated Authorised Deposit Institutions (ADI's).



\$Nil Term Deposits matured during the month of January.

Nov-23

Suncorp Bank	28-Nov-22	28-Nov-23	4.48%	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 44,800.00
Macquarie Bank	14-Nov-22	14-Nov-23	4.36%	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 43,600.00
National Australia Bank	10-Nov-22	10-Nov-23	4.55%	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 45,500.00
Commonwealth Bank	28-Nov-22	28-Nov-23	4.40%	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 44,000.00
				<u>\$ 4,000,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 177,900.00</u>

Dec-23

ING Direct	28-Jun-23	19-Dec-23	5.52%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 52,629.04
National Australia Bank	08-Dec-22	08-Dec-23	4.32%	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 64,800.00
				<u>\$ 3,500,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 117,429.04</u>

Jan-24

NIL				<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
-----	--	--	--	-------------	-------------

Summary of **cash at bank** from day-to-day operations:

Cash Summary		Comment
Opening cash book balance	\$ 6,315,589	
Plus receipts	\$ 2,176,932	Grants, Investments, charges and rates debtors receipts
Less payments	\$ 4,241,501	Capex and Opex payments
Cash book balance as at 31 January 2024	\$ 4,251,020	
Statement Summary		
Opening statement balance	\$ 6,342,300	
Plus receipts	\$ 2,216,218	Grants, Investments, charges and rates debtors receipts
Less payments	\$ 4,309,684	Capex and Opex payments
Bank statement balance as at 31 January 2024	\$ 4,248,834	
plus Unpresented receipts	\$ 16,386	Receipts not yet presented at bank
less Unpresented payments	\$ 288	payments not yet presented at bank
less Unmatched receipts on the Bank Statement	\$ 6,631	
plus Unmatched payments on the Bank Statement	\$ 7,281	
Reconciliation balance as at 31 January 2024	\$ 4,251,020	

Restrictions applying to Investment Funds

Internal Restrictions

Infrastructure replacement	\$ 1,779,826
Plant replacement reserve	\$ 1,798,670
Recreation reserves/villages	\$ 1,113,000
Other internal reserves	\$ 750,971
Employee entitlements	\$ 692,727
Land Development Fund	\$ 385,000
Airport Development	\$ 20,000
Deposits, retentions and bonds	\$ 258,428
Total Internal Restrictions	\$ 6,798,623

External Restrictions

Water supplies fund	\$ 8,152,643
Sewerage services fund	\$ 7,409,727
Tip remediation	\$ 1,300,000
Unexpended Merger funds	\$ 366,819
Other unexpended grant funds	\$ 5,969,698
Other external reserves	\$ 185,960

Total External Restrictions **\$ 23,384,847**

Unrestricted Funds **\$ 8,646,535**

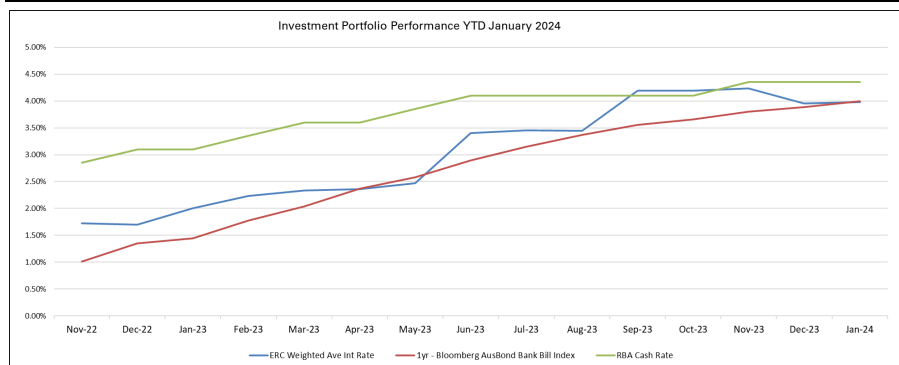
Total Funds **\$ 38,830,005**

The following restrictions applied to the cash and investments balance:

Fund Name	Bank and Investments Percentage	
General	\$ 23,267,635	59.92%
Water	\$ 8,152,643	21.00%
Sewer	\$ 7,409,727	19.08%
Total Funds	\$ 38,830,005	100.00%

Investment Portfolio Performance

Total interest earned from investments during the month of January 2024 was \$119,299, compared to the original monthly budget of \$135,077.



As at 31 January 2024, Council's weighted average interest rate was 3.98%, which was -0.01% below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index implied one-year return of 4.00%. Total interest earned for the year to 31 January 2024 was \$991,146 compared to the budget of \$945,539 and previous year total of \$420,629.

Monthly Investment Review from Imperium Markets

Council engaged Imperium Markets Pty Ltd to provide ongoing investment advisory services from May 2021 as per recommendation from Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (resolution ARIC/2021/7). As part of this service, Imperium provides, among other services, a monthly investment review report for Council which council uses to inform investment decisions. A copy of the report is attached in this report as **Attachment 2 - Investment Review January 2024 - Imperium Markets**. Council continues to obtain financial benefits through accessing better rates through the Imperium Investment platform as well as efficiency savings in the investment process.

Investment Commentary

As at 31 January 2024, all investments were within the defined Investment Policy limits. Council's investment portfolio consisted of term deposits (84%) and cash at bank/ on call (16%).

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has not changed the official cash rate since November 2023 with the cash rate still at 4.35%. The deposit market has factored in the rate movements in recent months. The higher rates provide opportunities for Council to obtain progressively higher rates on investments as the current ones mature.

To mitigate the re-investment risk of current decreasing interest rate forecasts, Council is following on the advice from Imperium Markets, to invest in term deposits with maturities 1 year to 2 years and a potential longer-term strategy of 2 - 5 years, taking into consideration council's cashflow needs. This will allow council to take advantage of the relatively higher returns currently on the market for these investments as compared to short term ones.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Investments have been made in accordance with Council's investment policy which was adopted on 19 April 2022.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.2 Financially sustainable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Under Council's Investment policy, investments are made with a range of ADI's, with Council funds invested with a single institution not going above a percentage of the total portfolio as follows:

40%	A1+ rated institutions
25%	A1 rated institutions
15%	A2 rated institutions
\$250,000	A3 and unrated authorized deposit taking institutions

The overall portfolio credit framework limits applicable to any credit rating category are as follows:

100%	Commonwealth/ State/TCorp/M Funds
100%	A1+ rated institutions
60%	A1 rated institutions
35%	A2 rated institutions
5%	A3 Unrated authorized deposit taking institutions

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

<p>Local Government Act 1993</p>	<p>625 How may councils invest</p> <p>(1) A council may invest money that is not, for the time being, required by the council for any other purpose.</p> <p>(2) Money may be invested only in a form of investment notified by order of the Minister published in the Gazette.</p> <p>Editorial note—</p> <p>See Gazettes No 152 of 24.11.2000, p 12041; No 94 of 29.7.2005, p 3977; No 97 of 15.8.2008, p 7638 and No 160 of 24.12.2008, p 13140.</p> <p>(3) An order of the Minister notifying a form of investment for the purposes of this section must not be made without the approval of the Treasurer.</p> <p>(4) The acquisition, in accordance with section 358, of a controlling interest in a corporation or an entity within the meaning of that section is not an investment for the purposes of this section.</p>
<p>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</p>	<p>212 Reports on council investments</p> <p>(1) The responsible accounting officer of a council—</p> <p>(a) must provide the council with a written report (setting out details of all money that the council has invested under section 625 of the Act) to be presented—</p> <p>i) if only one ordinary meeting of the council is held in a month, at that meeting, or</p> <p>(ii) if more than one such meeting is held in a month, at whichever of those meetings the council by resolution determines, and</p> <p>(b) must include in the report a certificate as to whether or not the investment has been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the council's investment policies.</p> <p>(2) The report must be made up to the last day of the month immediately preceding the meeting.</p> <p>Note—</p> <p>Section 625 of the Act specifies the way in which a council may invest its surplus funds.</p>

Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer

I hereby certify that the investments listed in the Investment Report Attachment have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy.

Belinda Langlands

Responsible Accounting Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Statement of Investments - January 2024

Printed on 8/02/2024 9:34 AM

Schedule of Investments									
This Report is at date					31-January-2024				
Description	Account No.	Rating at EOM (S&P)	Date Invested	Maturity Date	Days	Rate	Face Value Amount	% of Portfolio	Estimated Interest
Westpac Business Cheque Plus Account	032-870 16-6545	A1+	N/a	N/a	365	0.00%	2,257,892	5.81%	Monthly
Westpac Business Cash Reserve	032-870 17-9231	A1+	N/a	N/a	365	0.05%	0	0.00%	Monthly
Westpac 31 Day Notice Account	032-870 23-2696	A1+	N/a	N/a	365	3.95%	1,692	0.00%	Monthly
Commonwealth Bank General Fund	062-533 00000010	A1+	N/a	N/a	365	3.40%	1,913,261	4.93%	Monthly
Commonwealth Bank Business On Line Saver	062-533 10151117	A1+	N/a	N/a	365	3.65%	2,079,479	5.36%	Monthly
Macquarie Bank - Rates	3005-79778	A1	N/a	N/a	365	0.00%	74,232	0.19%	Monthly
Macquarie Bank - Water	2643-18940	A1	N/a	N/a	365	0.00%	3449	0.01%	Monthly
Total Oncall/ CMT Accounts							6,330,005	16.30%	
Term Deposits									
National Australia Bank	20-049-8755	A1+	10-Jun-21	11-Jun-24	1097	0.75%	3,000,000	7.73%	67,623.29
National Australia Bank	50-665-2647	A1+	24-May-21	24-May-24	1096	0.75%	2,500,000	6.44%	56,301.37
National Australia Bank	CDA 37543602	A1+	26-Jul-23	30-Jul-24	370	5.50%	1,500,000	3.86%	83,630.14
National Australia Bank	0	A1+	05-Sep-23	05-Sep-24	366	5.20%	1,500,000	3.86%	78,213.70
National Australia Bank	0	A1+	12-Sep-23	16-Sep-25	735	4.90%	2,000,000	5.15%	197,342.47
National Australia Bank	0	A1+	14-Sep-23	17-Oct-24	399	5.21%	2,000,000	5.15%	113,906.30
Commonwealth Bank	CDA 37543602	A1+	18-Feb-22	18-Feb-24	730	1.65%	1,500,000	3.86%	49,500.00
Commonwealth Bank	0	A1+	12-Sep-23	17-Sep-24	371	5.00%	1,000,000	2.58%	50,821.92
Suncorp Bank	0	A1+	30-Nov-23	30-May-24	182	5.37%	1,000,000	2.58%	26,776.44
Suncorp Bank	0	A1+	28-Nov-23	14-Aug-24	260	5.41%	1,000,000	2.58%	38,536.99
Suncorp Bank	0	A1+	14-Nov-23	15-Jan-25	428	5.40%	1,000,000	2.58%	63,320.55
ING Direct	0	A1	22-Feb-23	22-Feb-24	365	4.95%	1,500,000	3.86%	74,250.00
ING Direct	0	A1	22-Mar-23	25-Mar-25	734	4.50%	1,000,000	2.58%	90,493.15
ING Direct	1100308	A1	13-Jun-23	18-Jun-24	371	5.41%	2,000,000	5.15%	109,978.63
ING Direct	0	A1	28-Jun-23	09-Apr-24	286	5.55%	2,000,000	5.15%	86,975.34
ING Direct	35-071-3705	A1	29-Jun-23	30-Jun-25	732	5.55%	2,000,000	5.15%	222,608.22
Total A1+ Deposits							26,500,000	68.25%	
Bendigo Bank	0	A2	22-Mar-23	26-Mar-24	370	4.65%	1,000,000	2.58%	47,136.99
Bank of Queensland	623109	A2	10-Nov-22	11-Nov-24	732	4.70%	1,000,000	2.58%	94,257.53
Bank of Queensland	75-932-6942	A2	29-Jun-23	16-Jul-24	383	5.56%	2,000,000	5.15%	116,683.84
Bank of Queensland	0	A2	30-Nov-23	27-Nov-25	728	5.35%	1,000,000	2.58%	106,706.85
MyState Bank	0	A2	28-Jun-23	28-Jun-24	366	5.65%	1,000,000	2.58%	56,654.79
Total A2 Deposits							6,000,000	15.45%	
Weighted Average Interest Rate						3.98%	38,830,005	100.00%	



Monthly Investment Review



Edward
River
COUNCIL

January 2024

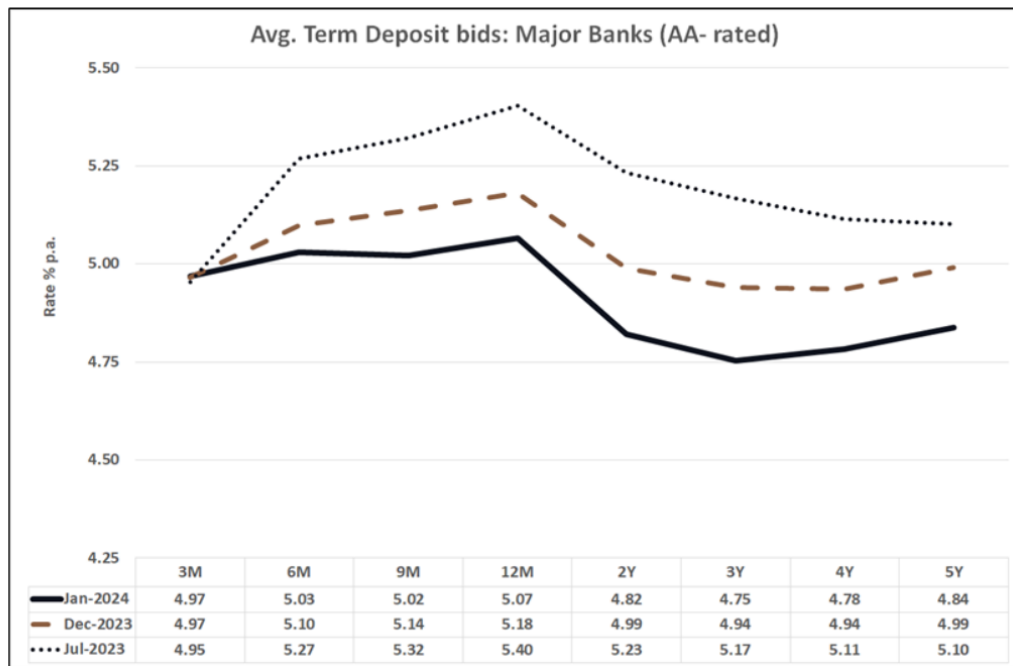
Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd
ABN: 55 668 191 795
Authorised Representative of InterPrac Financial Planning Pty Ltd
AFSL 246 638
Phone: +61 2 9053 2987
Email: michael.chandra@arloadvisory.com.au / melissa.villamin@arloadvisory.com.au
125 Middle Harbour Road, East Lindfield NSW 2070



Market Update Summary

Financial markets continued their rally in January following the shift by central banks indicating that inflationary pressures globally have receded more quickly than they had expected. The market is now clearly focused on the timing of the first interest rate cuts in 2024.

Over January 2024, major bank deposit rates were lower across the board compared to the previous month (December 2023). Major bank deposit rates dropped by as much as 12bp across the shorter-tenors (3-12 months) and by around 15-20bp across the longer-tenors (2-5 years). Interestingly, major bank deposit rates are approximately 20-40bp lower than what they were 6 months ago (July 2023).



Source: Imperium Markets

With a global economic downturn and multiple interest rate cuts being priced in coming years, investors should consider taking an 'insurance policy' against a potentially lower rate environment by investing across 2-5 year fixed deposits, targeting rates above or close to 4%-5% p.a. (small allocation only).



Edward River Council's Portfolio & Compliance

Asset Allocation

The portfolio is mainly directed to fixed term deposits (~84%), with the remainder of the portfolio (~16%) being held in various overnight cash accounts.

Senior FRNs remain relatively attractive as spreads have generally widened over the past 2 years. New issuances may be considered again on a case by case scenario. In the interim, staggering a mix of fixed deposits between 9-12 months to 3 years remains a more optimal strategy to maximise returns over a longer-term cycle.

With multiple rate cuts and a global economic downturn being priced in coming years, investors can choose to allocate a small proportion of longer-term funds and undertake an insurance policy against any potential future rate cuts by investing across 2-5 year fixed deposits, locking in and targeting yields close to or above 4%-5% p.a.



Term to Maturity

The portfolio remains highly liquid with around 85% maturing within 12 months. The weighted average duration of the deposit portfolio is around 7½ months and so the majority of the portfolio will turnover and be reinvested at higher prevailing rates over the next three quarters.

Where liquidity permits, we recommend investing surplus funds in the 1-2 year horizons to optimise the portfolio's returns in the long-run. Where there is (counterparty) capacity to invest in attractive medium-longer term investments, we recommend this be allocated to medium-term fixed deposits (refer to respective sections below).

Compliant	Horizon	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min. Limit (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 – 90 days	\$12,330,005	31.75%	15%	100%	\$26,500,000
✓	91 – 365 days	\$20,500,000	52.79%	0%	100%	\$18,330,005
✓	1 – 2 years	\$6,000,000	15.45%	0%	70%	\$21,181,004
✓	2 – 5 years	\$0	0.00%	0%	50%	\$19,415,003
		\$38,830,005	100.00%			



Counterparty

Overall, the portfolio is lightly diversified across the investment grade credit spectrum, with no exposure to the unrated ADIs.

As at the end of the January, Council is within Policy limits to each individual ADI. We continue to encourage Council to diversify its investments with other ADIs as this will not only reduce concentration risk, but in all likelihood, this will increase the overall returns of the portfolio.

Compliant	Issuer	Rating [^]	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	CBA	AA-	\$6,492,740	16.72%	40.00%	\$9,039,262
✓	NAB	AA-	\$12,500,000	32.19%	40.00%	\$3,032,002
✓	Westpac	AA-	\$2,259,584	5.82%	40.00%	\$13,272,418
✓	Macquarie Bank	A+	\$77,681	0.20%	25.00%	\$9,629,820
✓	Suncorp	A+	\$3,000,000	7.73%	25.00%	\$6,707,501
✓	ING	A	\$8,500,000	21.89%	25.00%	\$1,207,501
✓	BOQ	BBB+	\$4,000,000	10.30%	15.00%	\$1,824,501
✓	Bendigo-Adelaide	BBB+	\$1,000,000	2.58%	15.00%	\$4,824,501
✓	MyState Bank	BBB	\$1,000,000	2.58%	15.00%	\$4,824,501
			\$38,830,005	100.00%		

[^]Applying long-term ratings only.

ANZ's takeover of Suncorp was blocked by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in early August 2023, with the watchdog saying it was unconvinced the deal would deliver the public benefits claims put forward by ANZ (although ANZ has since appealed the decision).



Credit Quality

The portfolio remains diversified from a credit ratings perspective. The entire long term portfolio is spread amongst the investment grade spectrum. All aggregate ratings categories were within the Policy limits at month-end:

Compliant	Credit Rating^	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	AA Category	\$21,252,324	55%	100%	\$17,577,681
✓	A Category	\$11,577,681	30%	60%	\$11,720,322
✓	BBB Category	\$6,000,000	15%	35%	\$7,590,502
✓	Unrated Category	\$0	0%	5%	\$1,941,500
		\$38,830,005	100.00%		

^ Applying long-term ratings only.



Performance

Council's performance (excluding cash holdings) for the month ending January 2024 is summarised as follows:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.36%	1.08%	2.11%	2.46%	4.00%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.37%	1.09%	2.15%	2.53%	4.00%
Council's T/D Portfolio [^]	0.37%	1.08%	2.06%	2.35%	3.30%
Outperformance	0.00%	-0.01%	-0.09%	-0.18%	-0.70%

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

Performance (Annualised)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	4.35%	4.35%	4.22%	4.21%	4.00%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	4.44%	4.41%	4.30%	4.33%	4.00%
Council's T/D Portfolio [^]	4.45%	4.36%	4.13%	4.02%	3.30%
Outperformance	0.01%	-0.04%	-0.17%	-0.31%	-0.70%

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

For the month of January, the portfolio (excluding cash) provided a return of +0.37% (actual) or +4.45% p.a. (annualised), marginally outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.37% (actual) or +4.44% p.a. (annualised).

The relative 'underperformance' over the past year has been due to the unexpected aggressive rate hikes undertaken by the RBA. Whilst this 'underperformance' may continue in the short-term, we do anticipate this to be temporary given the high level of turnover and hopes that the RBA is approaching the end of its rate hike cycle.



Recommendations for Council

Term Deposits

Going forward, Council's interest income can be increased by undertaking a slightly longer duration position (12-24 months), with rates on offer along this part of the curve likely to be offered up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to shorter tenors in a normal market environment. There is growing belief that multiple rate cuts and a global economic downturn is forthcoming and so locking in rates close to or above 4%-5% p.a. across 1-3 year tenors may provide some income protection against a lower rate environment.

As at the end of January 2024, Council's deposit portfolio was yielding 4.32% p.a. (unchanged from the previous month), with a weighted average duration of around 225 days (~7½ months). **We recommend Council extends this weighted average duration closer to 9-12 months incrementally over the financial year.**

Please refer to the section below for further details on the Term Deposit market.

Securities

Primary (new) Senior **FRNs** (with maturities between 3-5 years) continue to be appealing (particularly for those investors with portfolios skewed towards fixed assets) and should be considered on a case by case scenario.

Please refer to the section below for further details on the FRN market.



Term Deposit Market Review

Current Term Deposits Rates

As at the end of January, we see value in the following (note rates likely to be at least 5–10bp lower across the board following the lower than expected inflation print on 31st January):

Index	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
ING	A	5 years	5.13%
ING	A	4 years	5.02%
ING	A	2 years	4.97%
ING	A	3 years	4.95%
BoQ	BBB+	5 years	4.95%
Suncorp	A+	2 years	4.94%
BoQ	BBB+	4 years	4.90%
Suncorp	A+	3 years	4.86%
Westpac	AA-	2 years	4.76%
NAB	AA-	2 years	4.75%

The above deposits are suitable for investors looking to maintain diversification and lock-in a slight premium compared to purely investing short-term.

For terms under 12 months, we believe the strongest value is currently being offered by the following ADIs (*we stress that rates are indicative, dependent on daily funding requirements and different for industry segments*):



Index	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
Australian Unity	BBB+	12 months	5.19%
Suncorp	A+	12 months	5.17%
ING	A	12 months	5.17%
NAB	AA-	12 months	5.15%
Suncorp	A+	9 months	5.14%
NAB	AA-	5-9 months	5.10%
Suncorp	A+	6 months	5.10%
Bendigo	BBB+	9 months	5.06%
BoQ	BBB+	9 months	5.05%
NAB	AA-	3-4 months	5.05%
Westpac	AA-	12 months	5.02%

If Council does not require high levels of liquidity and can stagger a proportion of its investments across the longer term horizons (1-5 years), it will be rewarded over a longer-term cycle. Investing a spread of 12 months to 3 year horizons is likely to yield, on average, up to $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ % p.a. higher compared to those investors that entirely invest in short-dated deposits (under 6-9 months).

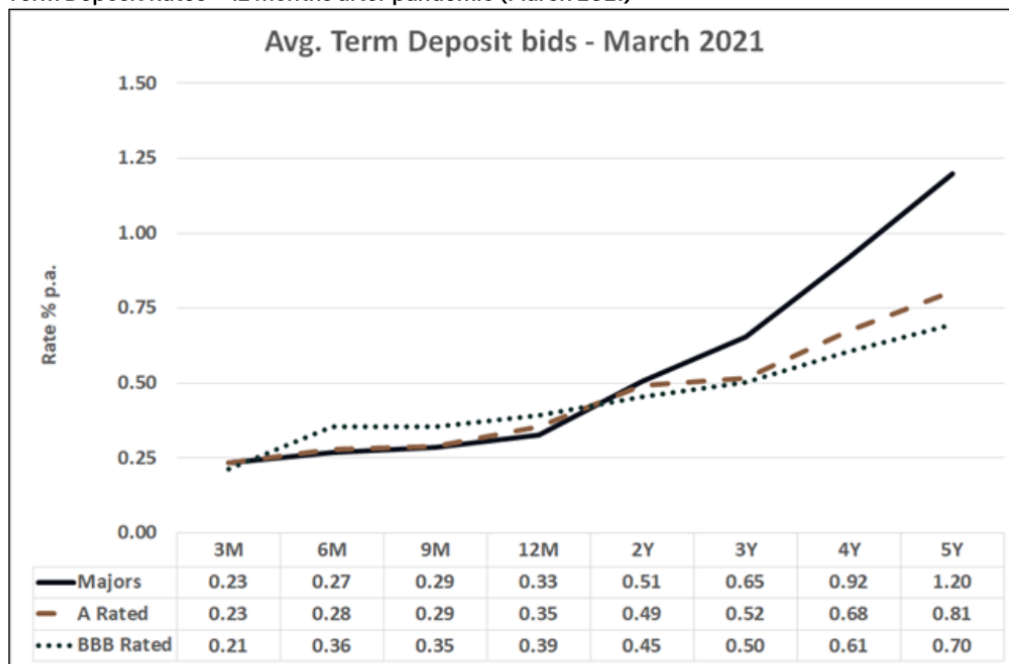
With a global economic slowdown and rate cuts being priced in coming years, investors should strongly consider and allocate some longer term surplus funds to undertake an insurance policy by investing across 2-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates close to or above 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ -5% p.a. This will provide some income protection with central banks now likely to cut rates at some stage later this year.



Term Deposits Analysis

Pre-pandemic (March 2020), a 'normal' marketplace meant the lower rated ADIs (i.e. BBB category) were offering higher rates on term deposits compared to the higher rated ADIs (i.e. A or AA rated). But due to the cheap funding available provided by the RBA via their Term Funding Facility (TFF) during mid-2020, allowing the ADIs to borrow as low as 0.10% p.a. fixed for 3 years, those lower rated ADIs (BBB rated) did not require deposit funding from the wholesale deposit. Given the higher rated banks had more capacity to lend (as they have a greater pool of mortgage borrowers), they subsequently were offering higher deposit rates. In fact, some of the lower rated banks were not even offering deposit rates at all. As a result, most investors placed a higher proportion of their deposit investments with the higher rated (A or AA) ADIs over the past three years.

Term Deposit Rates – 12 months after pandemic (March 2021)



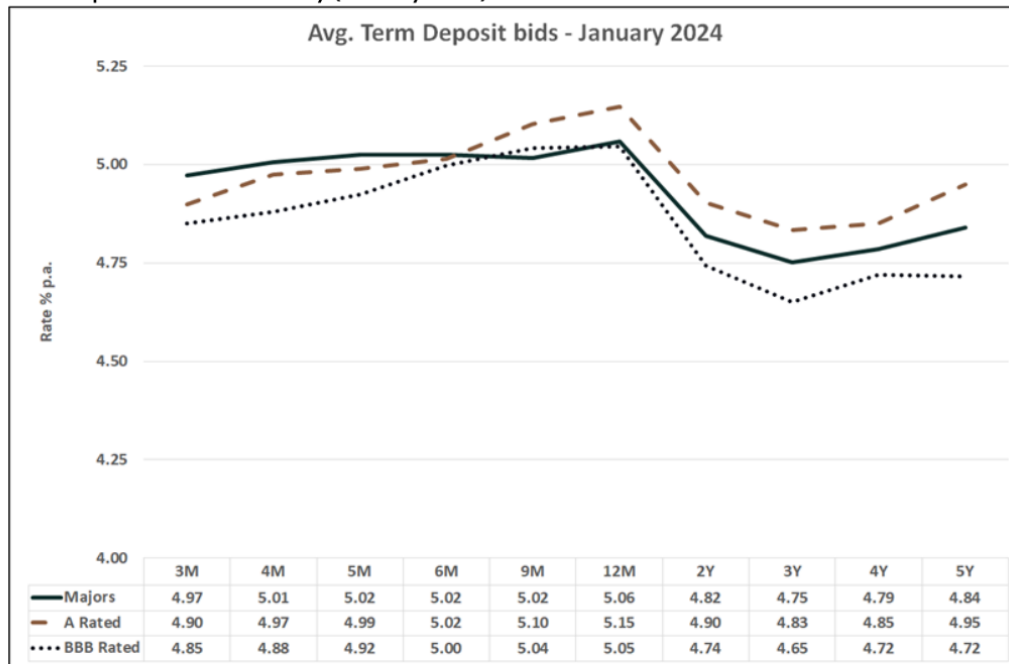
Source: Imperium Markets

The abnormal marketplace experienced during the pandemic is starting to reverse as the competition for deposits slowly increases. In recent months, we have started to periodically see some of the lower rated ADIs ("A" and "BBB" rated) offering slightly higher rates compared to the domestic major banks ("AA" rated) on different parts of the curve (i.e. pre-pandemic environment). Some of this has been attributed to lags in adjusting their deposit rates as some banks (mainly the lower rated ADIs) simply set their rates for the week.



Going forward, Council should have a larger opportunity to invest a higher proportion of its funds with the lower rated institutions (up to Policy limits), from which the majority are not lending to the Fossil Fuel industry. We are slowly seeing this trend emerge, although the past few months have been an exception, with the major banks repricing more rapidly to the movement in the bond market than their lower rated counterparts. This reversed somewhat over the past few months with the lower rated institutions (mainly "A" rated) lagging the major banks in dropping their rates:

Term Deposit Rates – Currently (January 2024)



Source: Imperium Markets

Regional & Unrated ADI Sector

Ratings agency S&P has commented that *"mergers remain compelling for mutual lenders"* in providing smaller lenders greater economies of scale and assisting them in being able to price competitively and will see *"the banking landscape will settle with a small number of larger mutual players"*. S&P expects that consolidation to continue over the next two years.

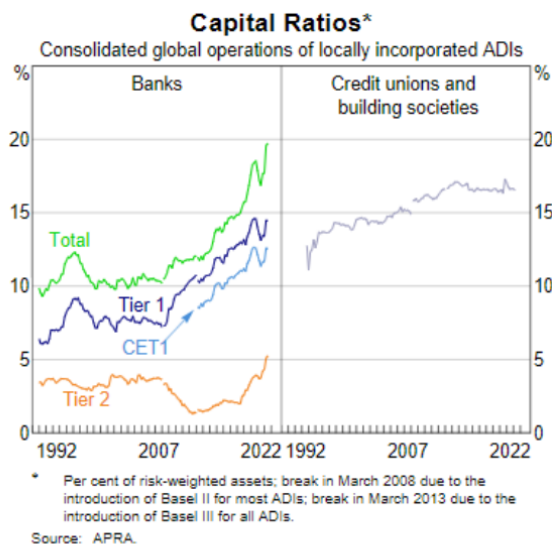
We remain supportive of the regional and unrated ADI sector (and have been even throughout the post-GFC period). They continue to remain solid, incorporate strong balance sheets, while exhibiting high levels of capital – typically, much higher compared to the higher rated ADIs. Some unrated ADIs have up to 25-40% more capital than the domestic major banks, and well above the Basel III requirements.



Overall, the lower rated ADIs (BBB and unrated) are generally now in a better financial position than they have been historically (see the Capital Ratio figure below). The financial regulator, APRA has noted that the Common Equity Tier 1 capital of Australian banks now exceeds a quarter of a trillion dollars. It has increased by \$110 billion, or more than 70%, over the past ten years. Over the same time, banks' assets have grown by 44%. Some of the extra capital is supporting growth in the banking system itself but clearly, there has been a strengthening in overall resilience and leverage in the system is lower.

We believe that deposit investments with the lower rated ADIs should be considered going forward, particularly when they offer 'above market' specials. Not only would it diversify the investment portfolio and reduce credit risk, it would also improve the portfolio's overall returns. The lower rated entities are generally deemed to be the more 'ethical' ADIs compared to the higher rated ADIs.

In the current environment of high regulation and scrutiny, all domestic (and international) ADIs continue to carry high levels of capital. There is minimal (if any) probability of any ADI defaulting on their deposits going forward – this was stress tested during the GFC and the pandemic period. APRA's mandate is to "protect depositors" and provide "financial stability".



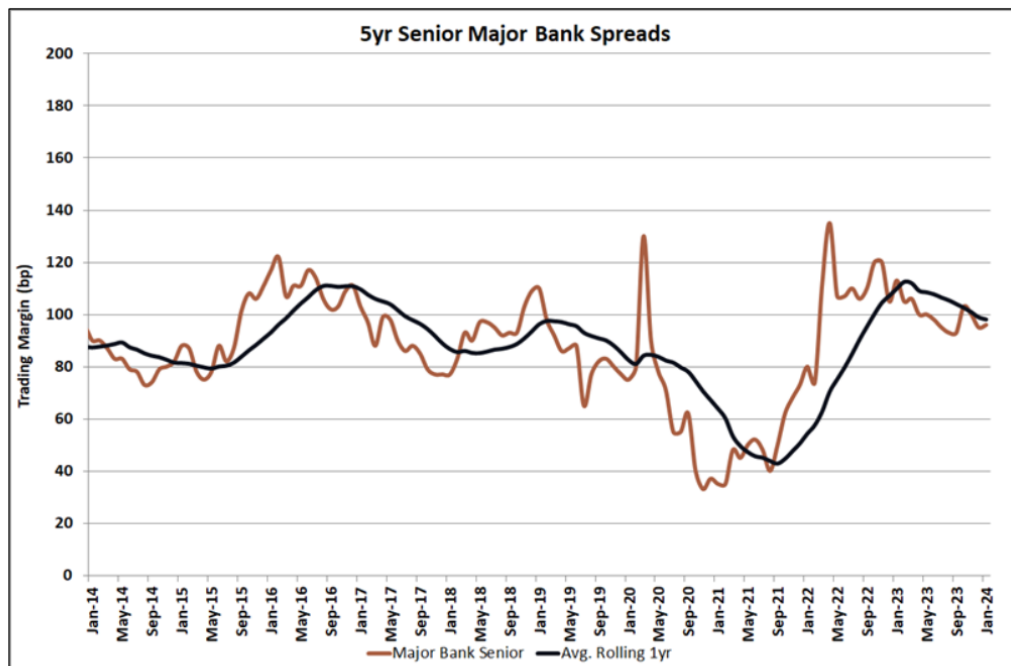


Senior FRNs Market Review

Over January, amongst the senior major bank FRNs, physical credit securities widened up to 9bp at the long-end of the curve. During the month, there were notable new issuances from:

- WBC (AA-) ~3yr & 5yr senior security at +82bp and +100bp respectively
- ANZ (AA-) 3 & 5yr senior security at +80bp and +96bp respectively
- QTC (AA+) 10yr fixed sustainable bond at 4.75% s.a.

Major bank senior securities remain at fair value on a historical basis (5yr margins around +96bp level).



Source: IBS Capital

During the month, the other new notable issuances were as follows:

- Great Southern Bank (BBB) 3yr senior FRN at +160bp
- Mizuho (A) 3yr senior FRN at +88bp
- Heritage (BBB) 3yr senior FRN at +160bp



Amongst the “A” and “BBB” rated sectors, the securities remained relatively flat at the longer-end of the curve. Credit securities are looking much more attractive given the widening of spreads over the past ~2 years. FRNs will continue to play a role in investor’s portfolios mainly on the basis of their liquidity and the ability to roll down the curve and gross up returns over future years (in a relatively stable credit environment).

Senior FRNs (ADIs)	31/01/2024	31/12/2023
“AA” rated – 5yrs	+96bp	+95bp
“AA” rated – 3yrs	+80bp	+71bp
“A” rated – 5yrs	+125bp	+125bp
“A” rated – 3yrs	+99bp	+97bp
“BBB” rated – 3yrs	+148bp	+148bp

Source: IBS Capital

We now generally recommend switches (‘benchmark’ issues only) into new primary issues, out of the following senior FRNs that are maturing:

- On or before early 2026 for the “AA” rated ADIs (domestic major banks);
- On or before early 2025 for the “A” rated ADIs; and
- Within 6–9 months for the “BBB” rated ADIs (consider case by case).

Investors holding onto the above senior FRNs (‘benchmark’ issues only) in their last few years are now generally holding sub optimal investments and are not maximising returns by foregoing realised capital gains. In the current challenging economic environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.



Senior Fixed Bonds – ADIs (Secondary Market)

With global inflation still high by historical standards, this has seen a significant lift in longer-term bond yields over the past 2 years (valuations have fallen) as markets have reacted sharply.

This has resulted in some opportunities in the secondary market. We currently see value in the following fixed bond lines, with the majority now being marked at a significant discount to par (please note supply in the secondary market may be limited on any day):

ISIN	Issuer	Rating	Capital Structure	Maturity Date	~Remain. Term (yrs)	Fixed Coupon	Indicative Yield
AU3CB0273407	UBS	A+	Senior	30/07/2025	1.50	1.20%	5.07%
AU3CB0280030	BoQ	BBB+	Senior	06/05/2026	2.27	1.40%	5.14%
AU3CB0299337	Bendigo	BBB+	Senior	15/05/2026	2.29	4.70%	5.10%
AU3CB0296168	BoQ	BBB+	Senior	27/01/2027	2.99	4.70%	5.16%



Economic Commentary

International Market

Financial markets continued their rally in January following the shift by central banks indicating that inflationary pressures globally have receded more quickly than they had expected. With global economic activity and labour markets continuing to gradually cool, investors are becoming more confident of a soft landing, reflected by the fall in bond yields and a rise in equities in recent months.

Across equity markets, the S&P 500 Index gained +1.59%, whilst the NASDAQ added +1.02%. Europe's main indices also experienced further gains, led by France's CAC (+1.51%) and Germany's DAX (+0.91%). UK's FTSE (-1.33%) was the exception, losing ground against global trends.

In the US, the latest core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index, which is the US central bank's preferred measure of inflation (which excludes volatile food and energy costs), recorded a +0.2% increase for the month of December, taking the annual rate to +2.9%.

The US economy grew at a +3.3% annual rate in the fourth quarter of 2023, which was well above the +2.0% consensus, though down from the +4.9% rate in the third quarter.

As widely expected, the Bank of Japan, European Central Bank (ECB) and Bank of Canada all held their respective interest rates steady at their policy meetings. The commentary accompanying their monetary policy decisions were largely unchanged, with these central banks reaffirming their commitment to fight inflation.

Germany reported that GDP had shrunk -0.3% for the calendar year of 2023 and in Q4 - though the Eurozone's biggest economy has been spared a technical recession in H2 2023 by an upward revision Q3, from -0.1% to 0.0%.

China is sinking deeper into its worst deflation in years. It signals continuing economic distress in China, which could mean weaker sales for Western brands that do business there. China's population also fell by 2 million last year, highlighting the challenges facing the world's second-largest economy.

The World Bank released the latest edition of its Global Economics Prospects. It provided a fairly pessimistic view, with advanced economies GDP growth set to slow, from +1.5% on average in 2023 to +1.2% in 2024.

The MSCI World ex-Aus Index rose +1.20% for the month of January:

Index	1m	3m	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr
S&P 500 Index	+1.59%	+15.54%	+18.86%	+9.27%	+12.37%	+10.52%
MSCI World ex-AUS	+1.20%	+15.71%	+15.51%	+6.51%	+9.72%	+7.36%
S&P ASX 200 Accum. Index	+1.19%	+13.99%	+7.09%	+9.56%	+9.71%	+8.39%

Source: S&P, MSCI



Domestic Market

The consumer price index (CPI) rose +0.6% during Q4 2023, resulting in an annual increase of +4.1%. Inflation has fallen to its lowest level in two years, dampening the chances of a further interest rate rise. The monthly measure of inflation also showed price pressures easing even further. This measure dropped to +3.4% in December from +4.3% in November. The measure of underlying inflation also eased, to +4.0% from +4.6%.

Employment fell a sharp -65.1k in December, following the upwardly revised +72.6k surge in November and October's +44.2k. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.9% (or 3.8820% unrounded). Since October 2022, the unemployment rate has risen by 0.47%, highlighting that whilst the labour market remains tight, the degree of tightness in the labour market is easing.

Retail sales rose +2.0% m/m in November (consensus +1.2%). That reflects the shift towards increased spending at Black Friday rather than a trend acceleration in what remains sluggish consumer spending growth. Consumers delayed spending from October, when retail sales fell -0.4% m/m, to November and likely also pulled forward more spending from December.

Dwelling approvals rose +1.6% m/m in November, as a rise in attached approvals offset a small fall in detached approvals.

The November goods trade surplus rose to \$11.4bn (consensus \$7.3bn), from an upwardly revised \$7.7bn. The large surprise was driven by a fall back in imports (-7.9% m/m or -\$2.99bn).

The Government announced changes to stage three tax cuts. Those earning \$200,000 or more will receive a \$4,529 cut, instead of the legislated \$9,075 they were due to receive from 1 July. Those earning between \$45,000 and \$135,000 will be taxed at 30%, while the 37% tax rate will be reinstated and apply to incomes between \$135,000 and \$190,000, after which the 45% rate will apply.

Iron ore prices tumbled by the most in at least five months on concerns about a weakening economy of top consumer China and heightened tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the Red Sea.

The Australian dollar fell -3.89%, finishing the month at US65.74 cents (from US68.40 cents the previous month).

Credit Market

The global credit indices remained relatively flat over January as risk markets continued their rally. They are now back to their levels in early 2022 (prior to the rate hike cycle from most central banks):

Index	January 2024	December 2023
CDX North American 5yr CDS	55bp	56bp
iTraxx Europe 5yr CDS	60bp	60bp
iTraxx Australia 5yr CDS	68bp	72bp

Source: Markit



Fixed Interest Review

Benchmark Index Returns

Index	January 2024	December 2023
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (0+YR)	+0.37%	+0.37%
Bloomberg AusBond Composite Bond Index (0+YR)	+0.21%	+2.69%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit FRN Index (0+YR)	+0.44%	+0.51%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit Index (0+YR)	+0.41%	+2.10%
Bloomberg AusBond Treasury Index (0+YR)	+0.16%	+2.77%
Bloomberg AusBond Inflation Gov't Index (0+YR)	-0.69%	+4.65%

Source: Bloomberg

Other Key Rates

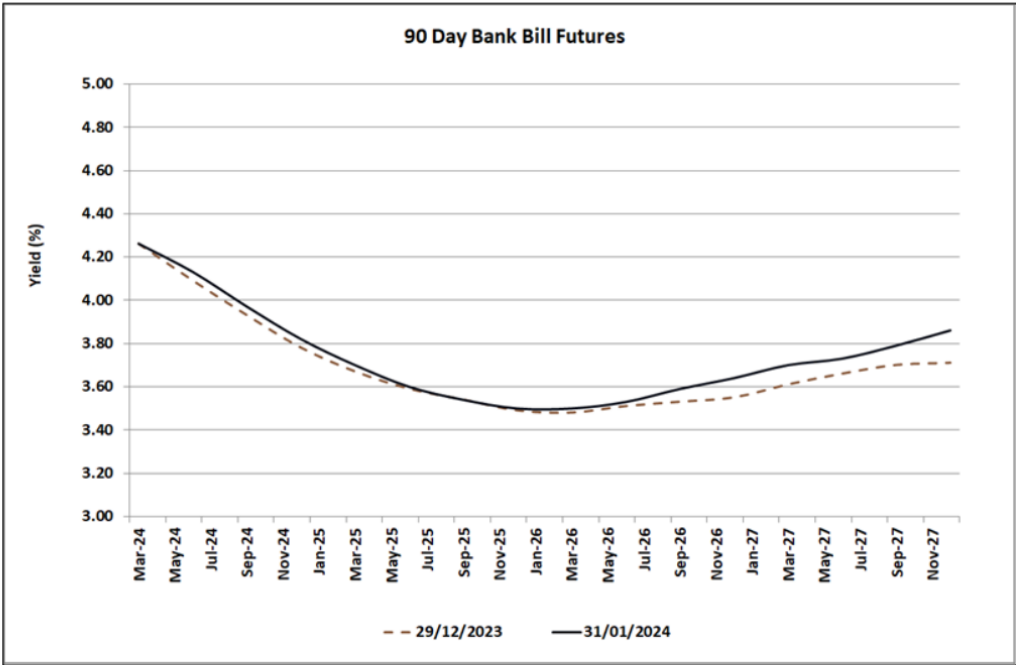
Index	January 2024	December 2023
RBA Official Cash Rate	4.35%	4.35%
90 Day (3 month) BBSW Rate	4.35%	4.36%
3yr Australian Government Bonds	3.45%	3.61%
10yr Australian Government Bonds	4.01%	3.96%
US Fed Funds Rate	5.25%-5.50%	5.25%-5.50%
2yr US Treasury Bonds	4.27%	4.23%
10yr US Treasury Bonds	3.99%	3.88%

Source: RBA, ASX, US Department of Treasury



90 Day Bill Futures

Bill futures marginally rose at the long-end of the curve, following the movement in the global bond market. The focus from the market remains on when the first rate cut will be delivered:



Source: ASX

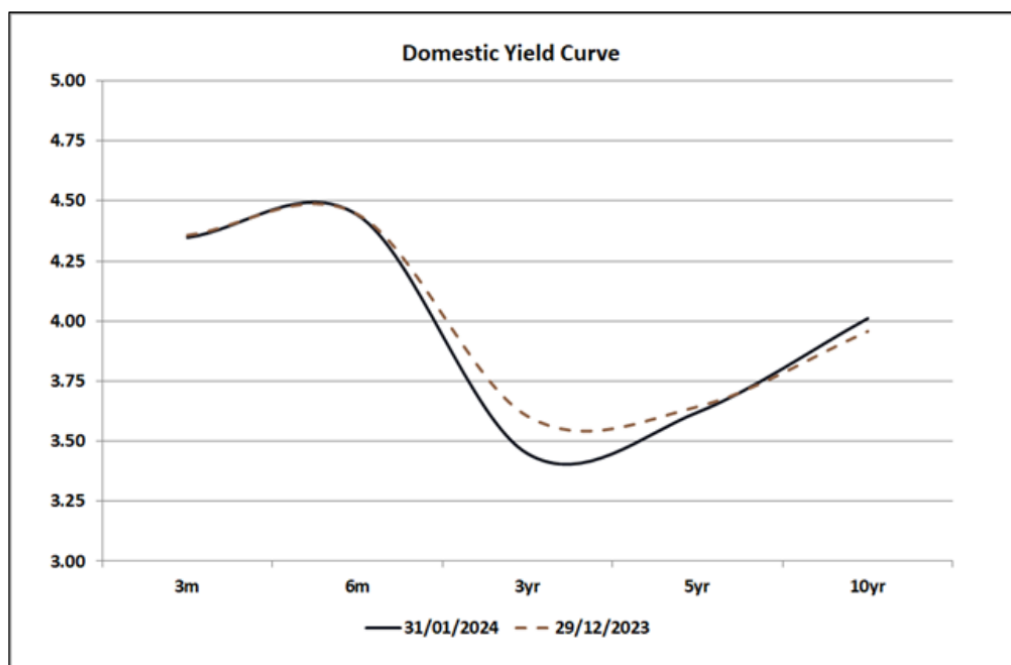


Fixed Interest Outlook

There is uncertainty when central banks will start to cut official rates in 2024. In recent weeks, financial markets have been pricing more and more delays for rate cuts, particularly in the US, suggesting that with the economy seemingly in relatively good health, there is no immediate need to cut rates quickly. This was supported by the stronger than expected US economic growth recorded in the last quarter of 2023 of +3.3% on an annual basis (which was well above the +2.0% forecast). Nevertheless, financial markets continue to price in more than 100bp of US Fed rate cuts in 2024.

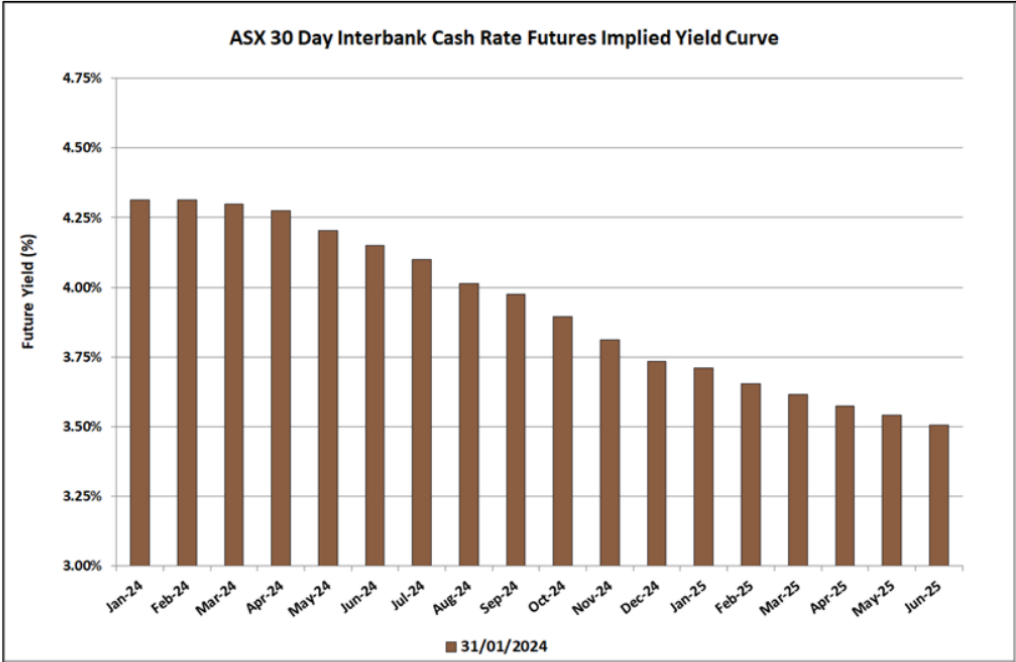
The Fed's pivot in monetary policy stance (easing bias) has reduced the risk of the RBA needing to raise rates in the immediate future. The RBA remains on a mild tightening bias, with the Board commenting that whilst the trend in global inflation has been favourable, it was heavily caveated, consistent with them waiting for the Q4 CPI (on 31st January). Inflation did print lower than expected, so this may allow the RBA to remove its mild tightening bias for its meeting on the 6th February.

Over the month, longer-term yields rose by 5bp at the very long end of the curve:



Source: ASX, RBA

The consensus from the broader market is that we have reached the peak of the interest rate cycle. Financial markets have pushed forward their rate cut expectations, with the first rate cut fully priced in by July 2024 following the lower than anticipated inflation number.



Source: ASX

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12.17. MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE - JANUARY 2024

Project Update - January 2024

Author: Projects Coordinator

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Major Projects Program – Progress Report for January 2024.

BACKGROUND

A breakdown of current funding and active projects is as follows:

Government Funding Body (does not include Council contribution)	Project	Total Funding (excl)	Funding Remaining (excl)
NSW Showground Stimulus Funding	Demolition & Construction of amenities Extension of Clubrooms - DNA Roadway & Carparking Eastern Side Sealed Access Roads, Carpark and Kerb and Gutter	\$1,500,703	\$502,554
Stronger Country Communities Fund - R4	Lighting Deniliquin and Blighty Rec Reserves	\$768,338	\$280,578
Stronger Country Communities Fund - R5	Peppin Heritage Centre - Masterplan Implementation and Town Hall Revitalisation Project	\$939,885	\$938,535
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure - R3	Saleyards Refurbishment	\$426,340	\$356,881
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure - R4	Parts 1 & 2 - Work Schedules not yet approved.	\$1,518,748	\$1,518,748
Fixing Local Roads - TfNSW	Pothole repairs on road Networks	\$549,015	\$0

Government Funding Body (does not include Council contribution)	Project	Total Funding (excl)	Funding Remaining (excl)
Office of Local Government	Flood Recovery - Essential Public Assets	\$1,000,000	\$160,811
Department of Planning & Environment	Edward River Skate Park Development	\$500,000	\$482,869
Fixing Country Roads	Pretty Pine Road Widening	\$1,736,972	\$1,736,972
Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund	Road Network Repair	\$7,001,855	\$5,491,275
Essential Public Asset Reconstruction (DRFA - TfNSW Administer)	Road Network Repair	\$11,535,909	\$9,219,149

Total project budgets, actuals, and balance is attached.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Project

Updates

DNA Clubrooms extension

Project Description	Extension of DNA Clubrooms (managed by the DNA and Cricket Club committees).
Funding	SCCF R4 (Deniliquin Cricket Club) and NSW Showground Stimulus
Timing	Anticipated completion June 2024
% Complete	30%
Update	Slab has been laid and block work has commenced.

Lighting Deniliquin and Blighty Reserves

Project Description	Provide improved lighting to sporting grounds - Hardinge St Oval, Blighty Oval and Memorial Park
Funding	SCCF R4
Timing	Anticipated completion June 2024

Project Description	Provide improved lighting to sporting grounds - Hardinge St Oval, Blighty Oval and Memorial Park
% Complete	40%
Update	Contract has been awarded and work to commence early February 2024. Additional funding is waiting on approval through LRCI R4.

Edward River Village

Project Description	Stage 1 - Construction of 6 dwellings
Funding	Murray Darling Basin Diversification Funding and Council - Funding Complete
Timing	Multi Year Project
% Complete	90%
Update	Units 1 & 2 have been handed over to Council at completion of construction. Units 3-6 are currently under construction with Units 3 and 4 due for completion in February 2024.

Refurbishment of the Saleyards

Project Description	Refurbishment of the Deniliquin Saleyards
Funding	Local roads and Community Infrastructure R3
Timing	Due for Completion June24
% Complete	20%
Update	Maintenance and repairs have been done to all loading ramps. Electrical work has been undertaken and design for walk and handrails has commenced.

Peppin Heritage Centre - Masterplan Implementation

Project Description	To activate the masterplan implementation for the Peppin Heritage Centre
Funding	Stronger Country Communities - R5
Timing	Due for Completion January 2026.
% Complete	15%

Update	The Museum has been dismantled in preparation for the floor to be replaced commencing early February 2024.
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Road Network Repair

Project Description	Damage repairs throughout the road network due to flooding.
Funding	Regional & Local Road Repair Program and Regional Emergency Road Repair Funds
Timing	Due for Completion February 2024
% Complete	45%
Update	Major patches have been repaired on Millears Road and as well as some shoulder repair work on Stud Park Road.

Road Network Repair

Project Description	Damage repairs throughout the road network due to flooding.
Funding	Essential Public Asset Reconstruction
Timing	Due for Completion June 2024
% Complete	30%
Update	Work Packages for areas of roads have been awarded and works have commenced.

Edward River Skate Park

Project Description	Development of a new Skate Park - Stage 1
Funding	Department of Planning and Environment
Timing	Due for Completion June 2024
% Complete	10%
Update	Tender has been awarded and construction will commence in early February 2024 due to the school break.

Access Roads and Carpark

Project Description	New access roads and carpark Memorial Park
Funding	NSW Showground Stimulus Funding
Timing	Multiyear project
% Complete	100%
Update	New access roads and carparking has been completed at Memorial Park.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

- 4. Delivering community assets and services
 - 4.1 Vibrant villages and towns
 - 4.2 Reliable Water and Sewerage
 - 4.3 Friendly and Supportive Customer service

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects funded through these programs include costs for the design, documentation, and supervision costs for each project.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Council must ensure that these projects are completed within the timeframes set out within the funding agreements.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Projects Report - January 2023

Attachment 1 - Project Report - January 2024



Current/Active Funded Projects

Funding Source	Project Title	Total Budget	Actual Expenses	Balance Remaining
Stronger Communities Fund - R2		\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
	Truck Stop Strategy (variation in place to move to Town Hall Funding)			
NSW Showground Stimulus Funding - P2		\$ 1,500,703	\$ 998,149	\$ 502,554
	Demolition & Construction of amenities	\$ 141,894	\$ 141,894	
	Extension of Clubrooms - DNA	\$ 347,067	\$ 147,770	
	Roadway & Carparking Eastern Side	\$ 232,716	\$ 232,716	
	Sealed Access Roads, Carpark, K&G	\$ 630,145	\$ 348,357	
	PM		\$ 127,412	
Stronger Country Communities Funding - R4 (additional Funding in LRCI R4)		\$ 768,338	\$ 487,760	\$ 280,578
	Lighting Deniliquin and Blighly Rec Reserves		\$ 487,760	
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure R4		\$ 1,518,748	\$ -	\$ 1,518,748
Part A - Lighting Deni and Blighly Reserves	Work Schedule yet to be approved	\$ 600,000		
Part A - Band Hall Refurbishment	Work Schedule yet to be approved	\$ 363,170		
Part 2	Not yet allocated	\$ 555,578		
Various Funding		\$ 4,430,000	\$ 3,996,696	\$ 433,304
Murray Darling Diversification Funding	Edward River Village	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	
Council		\$ 520,000	\$ 520,000	
Council sales revenue		\$ 2,910,000	\$ 2,476,696	
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure - R3		\$ 426,340	\$ 69,459	\$ 356,881
	Refurbishment of the Saleyards		\$ 69,459	
Stronger Country Communities R5		\$ 939,885	\$ 1,350	\$ 938,535
	Peppin Heritage Centre - Masterplan Implementation	\$ 714,000	\$ 1,350	\$ 712,650
	Town Hall Revitalisation Project - Regional	\$ 225,885	\$ -	\$ 225,885
Fixing Local Roads		\$ 549,015	\$ 549,015	\$ -
	Pothole repairs on road network		\$ 549,015	
Regional & Local Road Repair Program - TfNSW (now combined with RERRF below)		\$ 2,914,961	\$ -	\$ -
	Flood Recovery - Road network			
Regional Emergency Road Repair Funding - TfNSW (combined with RLRRP to form RERRF)		\$ 7,001,855	\$ 1,510,580	\$ 5,491,275
	Flood Recovery - Road network	\$ 4,086,894	\$ 1,510,580	
Flood Recovery - Office of Local Government		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 839,189	\$ 160,811
	Flood Recovery - Essential Public Assets		\$ 839,189	
Department of Planning and Environment		\$ 500,000	\$ 17,131	\$ 482,869
	Edward River Skate Park Development		\$ 17,131	
Fixing Country Roads		\$ 1,736,972		\$ 1,736,972
	Pretty Pine Road - Widening			
Essential Public Asset Reconstruction DFRA - TfNSW Administer		\$ 11,535,909	\$ 2,316,760	\$ 9,219,149
	Road Network Repair		\$ 2,316,760	

12.18. RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL

Author: Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the information in the Resolutions of Council as at 8 February 2024.

BACKGROUND

The attached report details the status of open Resolutions of Council.

Total Resolutions of Council for the 2022/2023 Financial Year - 230

Total Closed Resolutions of Council for the 2022/2023 Financial Year - 228

Total Resolutions of Council for the 2023/2024 Financial Year - 115

Total Closed Resolutions of Council for the 2023/2024 Financial Year - 108

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Monthly report to update Councillors and community members on the progress of Council Resolutions.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in the status updates.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. Council meeting resolutions as at 8 February 2024

Attachment 1 - Council meeting resolutions at 8 February 2024

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

13 December 2023	Extraordinary Council Meeting	Responsibility	Status	Expected Date of Completion
2023/1312/9.2	Request to Minister for Local Government: Casual Vacancy That Council resolves to write to the Minister for Local Government seeking approval to dispense with a by-election to fill a casual vacancy on Council.	Governance Coordinator	Letter written and sent.	Closed.
5 December 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting	Responsibility	Status	Expected Date of Completion
2023/0512/12.1	Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2023-2026 for Adoption That that recommendation be deferred until the February 2024 meeting.	Manager Community & Economy	Deferred to February Ordinary Council Meeting.	20 February 2024
2023/0512/12.2	DA2023/0066 – Alterations and Additions – South West Music – 241 Cressy Street, Deniliquin That Council resolves to: - 1. APPROVE the development application DA2023/0066 for Alterations and Additions - South West Music (Community Facility) , on Lot 1 DP797598, 241 Cressy Street , Deniliquin as shown on plan numbered DA000 - DA021 and described in details accompanying the Development Application, in accordance with section 4.16 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and subject to the following reasons: a) The application complied with the applicable planning controls and has demonstrated to have a satisfactory effect on the environment. b) The application is compliant with the key planning provisions contained within the DLEP 2013 and the Deniliquin Development Control Plan 2016.	Manager Development Services	Approved	Closed

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

	<p>c) The proposal is appropriate on the site given the existing character of the area.</p> <p>d) The development will have no significant adverse impacts on the natural or built environments.</p> <p>2. Impose conditions in Attachment 1.</p>			
2023/0512/12.3	<p>Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics Report 2022-2023 That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receive and note the 2022-2023 annual report on Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics; 2. note that a copy of the report will be provided to the NSW Office of Local Government. 	Governance Co-ordinator	Report provided to the NSW Office of Local Government	Closed
2023/0512/15.1	<p>Contract C2023/05 Road Reconstruction – Joint Council Sealed Roads – Package 2 That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/05 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 2 for the lump sum tender price of \$1,023,774.50 + GST, 2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/05 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 2, and 3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum. 	Manager Projects & Capital Works	Contract signed and Common Seal affixed.	Closed

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

2023/0512/15.2	<p>Contract C2023/06 Road Reconstruction – Joint Council Sealed Roads – Package 3 That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Deni Civil & Construction for Contract C2023/06 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 3 for the lump sum tender price of \$461,550.00 + GST, 2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/06 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 3, and 3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the Contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum. 	Manager Projects & Capital Works	Contract signed and Common Seal affixed.	Closed
2023/0512/15.3	<p>Contract C2023/07 Road Reconstruction – Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Northern Package That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/07 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Northern Package for the lump sum tender price of \$419,467.21 + GST, 2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/07 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Northern Package, and 3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the Contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum. 	Manager Projects & Capital Works	Contract signed and Common Seal affixed.	Closed

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

2023/05/15.4	<p>Contract C2023/08 Road Reconstruction – Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Southern Package That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Andrew Goldman Excavation Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/08 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council unsealed Roads – Southern Package for the lump sum tender price of \$121,810.80 + GST, 2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/08 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council unsealed Roads – Southern Package, and 3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the Contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum. 	Manager Projects & Capital Works	Contract signed and Common Seal affixed.	Closed
2023/0512/15.5	<p>Contract C2023/09 Road Reconstruction – Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Western Package That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Civil and Earth Australia for Contract C2023/09 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Unsealed Roads – Western Package for the lump sum tender price of \$150,969.08 + GST, 2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/09 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council unsealed Roads – Western Package, and 3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the Contract up to a maximum value of 5% of the contract sum. 	Manager Projects & Capital Works	Contract signed and Common Seal affixed.	Closed

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

2023/0512/15.6	<p>Contract C2023/10 – SCCF – Sports Facility Lighting Upgrades</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by DeAraugo & Lea Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/10 - SCCF - Sports Facility Lighting Upgrades for the Lump Sumtender price of \$1,408,275.00 + GST for the installation of sport facility lighting at the Hardinge Street oval and netball courts, Memorial Park main oval and adjoining netball courts and Blighty Recreation Reserve oval and netball courts, 2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2023/10 - SCCF - Sports Facility Lighting Upgrades, 3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the contract up to a maximum value of 10% of the contract sum, and 4. Allocates \$600,000 from the Local Roads Community Infrastructure Round 4 program towards the Sports Facility Lighting Upgrade project. 	Manager Projects & Capital Works	Contract signed and Common Seal affixed.	Closed
21 November 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting	Responsibility	Status	Expected Date of Completion
2023/1121/11.9	<p>Draft Minutes of the Conargo Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Committee – Annual General Meeting and General Meeting held 8 November 2023</p> <p>That Council defer the recommendation until the Conargo Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Committee have a further meeting on the 3 December 2023.</p>	Chief Executive Officer	Open Further meeting being held March 2024.	February 2024 March 2024

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

2023/1121/12.5	Related Parties Disclosure Policy – November 2023 Revision That Council adopt the updated Related Parties Disclosure Policy.	Acting Manager Governance Risk and Safety	To be uploaded onto website. On website	Closed
2023/1121/12.6	Use of Common Seal Policy – November 2023 Revision That Council adopt the revised Use of Common Seal Policy	Acting Manager Governance Risk and Safety	To be uploaded onto website On website	Closed
2023/1121/128	Murray Regional Tourism Membership That Council enter into the 2024-2027 Partner Councils Funding Agreement with Murray Regional Tourism	Manager Community & Economy	Waiting to sign agreement and invoice. Agreement signed and invoice paid.	December 2023 Closed
17 October 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting	Responsibility	Status	Expected Date of Completion
2023/1710/12.1	2023-24 Community Grants Program – Recommended Funding Allocation That Council allocate the full 2023-24 Community Grants program budget as follows: 1. Deniliquin Mental Health Awareness Group \$3,000 2. Deniliquin Community Gardens Inc. \$3,000 3. Outback Theatre for Young People \$2,000 4. Deniliquin South Public School P&C \$3,000 5. South West Music Conservatorium \$1,600 6. Rotary Club of Deniliquin \$3,000 7. Deniliquin Playgroup Inc. \$3,000 8. U3A Deniliquin \$2,999 9. Deniliquin Stadium Incorporated \$3,000	Manager Community & Economy	Communication has been sent and signed agreements are currently being received. All agreements signed.	30 November 2023 Closed
2023/1710/12.6	Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan for Public Exhibition That Council: 1. Approve the draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) for public exhibition for no less than 28 days 2. Note that if submissions are received during the exhibition period, a further report will be provided to Council on the submissions and any proposed amendments to the plan	Manager Community & Economy	On Public Exhibition Deferred to 20 February 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.	Closed

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

	3. Adopt the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) if no submissions are received, with the date of adoption being the day after the completion of the public exhibition period.			
2023/1710/12.14	Naming of Rest Area in North Deniliquin That Council: 1. Calls for public submissions regarding the naming for the rest area in North Deniliquin, formerly known as the North Deniliquin Tennis Courts, for a minimum period of 28 days, and 2. Receives a further report on the outcomes of the call for public submissions.	Director Infrastructure	Submissions are being taken until Friday 1 December 2023. Further report to March 2024 Council Meeting	March 2024
19 September 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting	Responsibility	Status	Expected Date of Completion
2023/0919/11.1	Minutes of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meetings 8 August and 4 September 2023 That Council: 1.Receives the draft Minutes of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 August 2023 and the extraordinary meeting held on 4 September 2023. 2. Consider the recommendation of the extraordinary meeting held on 4 September being the funding of a consultant to develop an arts and culture strategy with the committee as a key stakeholder, through a \$20K budget allocation in the 2024/25 Operational Plan and Budget, for delivery in the 24/25 financial year. 3. Endorse the resolutions of the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meetings held on 8 August 2023 and 4 September 2023.	Manager Community & Economy	Unfunded Project. Budget Bid for 2024-2025 Operational Plan	March 2024
2023/0919/12.7	Unrecoverable Rates That Council: 1. Notes the unrecoverable rates for 47 unclaimed properties in the Edward River Council LGA and approves the write-off of \$291,582.40 under reg 131(4)(d) of <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i> as per attachment one.	Acting Chief Financial Officer	Minister & Treasurer Correspondence sent.	November 2023 February 2024

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

	<p>2. Notes that the rates or charges written off under that regulation does not prevent council from taking legal proceedings to recover the amounts owed.</p> <p>3. Agrees to write to the Minister of Local Government and the Treasurer, requesting that the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> section 556 (1) be amended to include unclaimed properties as land that is exempt from rates</p> <p>4. Investigates potential solutions to this issue.</p>		Update to be provided at February Briefing.	
2023/0919/15.1	<p>Contract C2023-02 Operation and Management of Deniliquin Regional Sports and Entertainment Centre</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Deniliquin Sports Park Incorporated for Contract C2023-02 Operation and Management of the Deniliquin Regional Sports and Entertainment Centre for a three-year period ending 30 September 2026 and for the tender price of \$85,000+GST for the 2023/24 financial year, and 2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2022/08 Operation and Management of the Deniliquin Regional Sports and Entertainment Centre, and 3. Allocates an additional \$42,000 in the 2023/24 Operational Plan for management fees relating to the Operation and Management of the Deniliquin Regional Sports and Entertainment Centre. 4. Ensure contract requirements are met. 	Director Infrastructure	Contract Underway Waiting on signed contract to be returned.	November 2023 December 2023 Closed.
2023/0919/15.3	<p>Contract C2022-07 Road Reconstruction – Joint Council Sealed Roads – Package 1</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd for Contract C2022/07 – Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 1 for the value of the schedule of rates tender of \$1,353,238 + GST, 	Manager Projects and Capital Works	Awarded. Execution of Formal Instrument of agreement is Underway.	November 2023 Closed

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2022/07 Road Reconstruction - Joint Council Sealed Roads - Package 1, and 3. Delegate the Contract Superintendent authority to approve variations up to a maximum of 10% of the contract value to allow for any issues that may arise on site. 			
2023/0919/15.4	<p>Contract C2022-08 Deniliquin Skate Park</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Independent Concrete Construction Pty Ltd for Contract C2022/08 – Deniliquin Skate Park for the lump sum of \$405,090 inclusive of GST, 2. Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2022/08 – Deniliquin Skate Park, and 3. Authorises the Contract Superintendent to approve variations on the contract up to a maximum value of 10% of the contract sum. 	Manager Projects and Capital Works	Awarded. Execution of Formal Instrument of agreement is underway.	November 2023 Closed
18 July 2023	Ordinary Council Meeting	Responsibility	Status	Expected Date of Completion
2023/0718/15.1	<p>Contract C2023/01-Regional Kerbside Collection Services Tender</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the provision of additional recycling and food organics and garden organics kerbside collection services, commencing in July 2024, 2. Accepts the tender submitted by JR Richards Pty Ltd for Contract C2023/01 – Regional Kerbside Collection Services, commencing 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2034, for the extended schedule of rates amount of approximately \$12,082,478 including GST over the 10-year period, 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract 	Manager Engineering and Assets	Contract to be signed Contract signed.	July 2024

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

	documentation for Contract C2023/01 – Regional Kerbside Collection Services, 4. Undertakes a review of waste management collection charges as part of preparation for the 2024/25 Operational Plan to minimise the impact of waste charges on the community. 5. Notes grant funding from NSW Environmental Protection Authority of approximately \$200,000 to assist with the implementation of the additional food organic and garden organics collection services.			
2023/0718/15.2	Growth Strategy Tender That Council: 1. Accepts the tender submitted by AEC Group Pty Ltd for Contract C2022-06 – Edward River Growth Strategy 2050 for the lump sum amount of \$200,000+GST, 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor to sign and affix the Common Seal of Edward River Council to the contract documentation for Contract C2022-06 – Edward River Growth Strategy 2050, 3. Note the changes to the project timelines allowing for appropriate research and consultation with finalisation of the strategy proposed before 30 June 2024.	Manager Community and Economic Development	Contract to be signed. Contract signed.	Prior to 30 June 2024
20 December 2022	Ordinary Council Meeting	Responsibility	Status	Expected Date of Completion
2022/1220/13.2	Notice of Motion – Flood Plans and Mitigation Works That Council: 1. Agree to hold a community meeting prior to end of March 2023, providing an overview of Council's flood plans and mitigation works that are currently in place, and discussing potential options for North Deniliquin, following the November 2022 floods. 2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to invite an appropriate panel of expert staff to answer questions and	Director Infrastructure	1.Meeting held March 2023. 2.WMA Water engaged to provide expert advice.	May 2023

Council Meeting Resolutions as at 8 February 2024

	<p>provide information to the community on what could potentially be developed into the future.</p> <p>3. Provides a further report to a Councillor briefing, prior to June 2023, outlining a potential project for flood mitigation to be advocated to the state government for funding.</p>		<p>3. Underway to be provided to September Briefing WMA Water provided an update at the November Briefing. Final report will be provided by February 2024 Following up WMA Water.</p>	<p>July 2023 September 2023</p> <p>February 2024</p> <p>Open</p>
18 October 2022		Responsibility	Status	Expected Date of Completion
2022/1018/12.5	<p>Town Hall Land That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commence the process to consolidate Lot 1 in DP1173376, Lots X and Y in DP410447, Lot 9 in DP662508, Lot 6 in DP667946 and Lot 6 in DP668426, and 2. Apply to Crown Lands to undertake a boundary adjustment for Lot 7 Sec 21 DP758913, being the Town Hall land parcel, to allow for the new foyer entrance to the Town Hall. 	Manager Development	<p>Process commenced. Application made to Crown Lands. No further information to hand, Crown Lands to be followed up. Crown Lands followed up in November and again February 2024.</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>June 2023</p> <p>September 2023</p> <p>June 2024</p>

12.19. MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, CEO MEETINGS DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024

Author: Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Note meetings attended on behalf of Council by the Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive Officer during the month of December 2023 and January 2024.
2. Continue to advise the Chief Executive Officer's Executive Assistant of their meeting diaries and activities attendance.

BACKGROUND

The report details meetings undertaken on behalf of Council by the Mayor, Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer during December 2023 and January 2024.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Date	Participants	Meeting
3 December 2023	Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns, Chief Executive Officer	Conargo Community Workshop
5 December 2023	Cr Shirlee Burge, Cr Pat Fogarty, Cr Shannon Sampson, Chief Executive Officer	Growth Strategy Committee Meeting
5 December 2023	Mayor	ACE Radio End of Year Celebration
6 December 2023	Cr Tarria Moore	Mayrung Public School Presentation Day
8 December 2023	Mayor, Chief Executive Officer	MLHD Visit to Deniliquin
8 December 2023	Mayor, Cr Tarria Moore	Deniliquin South School Presentation Day
12 December 2023	Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns	Yarkuwa Meeting
13 December 2023	Deputy Mayor	Deniliquin North School Presentation Day
13 December 2023	Mayor, Deputy Mayor	Peppin Heritage Centre Volunteer Lunch
13 December 2023	Mayor, Deputy Mayor	Conargo Primary School Presentation Evening
14 December 2023	Chief Executive Officer	Murray River Tourism Board Meeting
15 December 2023	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns, Cr Shannon Sampson	Community Christmas Party

Date	Participants	Meeting
19 December 2023	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive Officer	Australia Day Committee Meeting
19 December 2023	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns, Cr Shannon Sampson, Chief Executive Officer	Edward River Village Committee Meeting
21 December 2023	Deputy Mayor, Cr Shirlee Burge, Cr Pat Fogarty, Cr Shannon Sampson, Cr Tarria Moore, Chief Executive Officer	Staff Christmas Lunch

Date	Participants	Meeting
8 January 2024	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive Officer	Australia Day Committee Meeting
9 January 2024	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns, Chief Executive Officer, Observers - Cr Shirlee Burge, Cr Pat Fogarty	Edward River Village Committee Meeting
10 January 2024	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive Officer	Australia Day Committee Meeting
13 January 2024	Cr Linda Fawns	Edward River Village Open Day
22 January 2024	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive Officer	Australia Day Committee Meeting
25 January 2024	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns, Cr Harold Clapham, Cr Shirlee Burge, Chief Executive Officer	Australia Day Nominees Meeting and Greet
26 January 2024	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns, Cr Harold Clapham, Cr Pat Fogarty, Cr Shirlee Burge, Cr Shannon Sampson, Chief Executive Officer	Australia Day Ceremony
28 January 2024	Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns	Barely Wearable Exhibition Closing Event
30 January 2024	Deputy Mayor, Cr Linda Fawns, Cr Shannon Sampson, Chief Executive Officer	Recycling Tour
31 January 2024	Cr Shannon Sampson	VNI West Community Meeting
31 January 2024	Mayor, Cr Tarria Moore, Chief Executive Officer	Deniliquin Chamber Catch Up

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

N/A

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5. Accountable leadership and responsive administration

5.1 Collaborative and Engaged

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

13. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil

14. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**15.1. TENDER FOR CONTRACT C2023/11 PRETTY PINE ROAD WIDENING**

Author: Manager Projects and Capital Works

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

Confidential Matters

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, the information to be received, discussed, or considered in relation to this agenda item is:

- (2) The matters and information are the following
 - (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it

15.2. DRAFT MINUTES EDWARD RIVER COUNCIL AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE

Author: Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

Confidential Matters

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, the information to be received, discussed, or considered in relation to this agenda item is:

- (2) The matters and information are the following
 - (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

