



BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 15 April 2026

Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2026

Time: 9 AM

**Location: Shire Chamber
Coonamble**

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

**Daniel Keady
Mayor**

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Shire Chamber, Coonamble on Wednesday, 15 April 2026 at 9 AM.

Order Of Business

1	Opening Meeting	4
2	Acknowledgement of Country	4
3	Community Consultation	4
4	Apologies/Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors	4
5	Confirmation of Minutes	4
5.1	Ordinary Meeting - 11 March 2026	5
5.2	Extraordinary Meeting - 19 March 2026	18
6	Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest	23
7	Notices of Motions/Questions with Notice/Rescission Motions	25
	Nil	
8	Mayoral Minute	26
	Mayoral Minute.....	26
	Support for Campaign to Increase Federal Assistance Grants to Local Government.....	28
9	Section A - Finance	30
9.1	Corporate Services - Progress Report.....	30
9.2	Draft Asset Management Plan - Water and Sewer	50
10	Section B - Governance and General Manager	133
10.1	Correspondence	133
10.2	Council Resolutions/Actions Update.....	134
10.3	Morris Piper – Quarter 1 2026 Performance Report	147
10.4	Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths - Land Tenure Options (Crown Land VS Acquisition)	165
10.5	Governance Quarterly Report	169
10.6	DRAFT Disposal of Assets Policy.....	173
10.7	Quarry Update	181
10.8	Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Meeting.....	184
11	Section C - Planning and Sustainability	194
11.1	Sustainable Communities and Planning Directorate Report.....	194
11.2	Kerbside Recycling	221
11.3	Moorambilla Solar Farm	240

- 11.4 Planning Proposal Finalisation: Rezoning and Removal of Minimum Lot Size of Old Sheep Saleyards, Back Gular Road (PP-2025-345)243
- 11.5 Signage Audit Update.....249
- 11.6 Coonamble Museum & Stables – Emergency Remediation Works263
- 11.7 Heritage Review - Coonamble Reflections288
- 12 Section D - Infrastructure314**
- 12.1 Infrastructure Services - Works in Progress314
- 12.2 Tooraweenah Road Upgrade - Monthly Status Update317
- 13 Committee Reports319**
- Nil
- 14 Confidential Matters.....319**
- 14.1 Closed (Public Excluded) Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council - 19 March 2026.....319
- 14.2 Sale of Land Unpaid Rates General Manager Contract Delegation ...319
- 15 Conclusion of the Meeting319**

1 OPENING MEETING

The meeting is being livestreamed and/or recorded for on-demand viewing via Council's website and a person's image and/or voice may be broadcast;

- Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and /or voice being webcast (time will be allowed by the Chairperson for people to leave the meeting before it starts);
- All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent;
- Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending the meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments;
- The recording will be available on Council's website for a minimum of 12 months and retained as a Council record;
- Individuals acting in a disorderly manner can be asked by the Chairperson to leave the meeting under the Council's Code of Meeting Practice;
- The meeting must not be recorded by others without the prior written consent of the Council in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 11 March 2026 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Thursday, 19 March 2026 be confirmed as a correct records of the proceedings of the meetings.

COONAMBLE

SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 11 March 2026**

**MINUTES OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GULARGAMBONE CENTRAL SCHOOL, YALCOGRIN STREET,
GULARGAMBONE
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026 AT 9.30 AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Daniel Keady, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler, Cr Karen Churchill, Cr Adam Cohen via video link, Cr Paul Fisher, Cr Margaret Garnsey, Cr Ahmad Karanouh, Cr Paul Wheelhouse

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager), Bruce Quarmby (Director Corporate Services), Kerrie Murphy (Director Infrastructure), Tony Payne (Director Sustainable Communities & Planning), Jenni Maundrell (Executive Manager Corporate Governance), Marina Colwell (Executive Support Officer), Rebecca Payne (Executive Assistant)

1 OPENING MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9.33am, advising the attendees of the following:

- The meeting is being livestreamed and/or recorded for on-demand viewing via Council's website and a person's image and/or voice may be broadcast;
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2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION 2026/10

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That the apology from Cr Phillipa Goldsmith be noted and approved.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2026/11

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 11 February 2026 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

6 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE

RESOLUTION 2026/12

Moved: Mayor Daniel Keady

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That the Mayoral Minute for March 2026 be noted.

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

Against: Nil
Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

8 SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

8.1 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2026/13

Moved: Cr Karen Churchill
 Seconded: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler

That Council note the Council resolutions report and status.

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

Against: Nil
Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

8.2 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLUTION 2026/14

Moved: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler
 Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That the Correspondence Report for March 2026 be received and noted.

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

Against: Nil
Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 CORPORATE SERVICES - PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLUTION 2026/15

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher
 Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note:

1. **The information contained within the Corporate Services Progress Report.**
2. **The investments from 1 February 2026 to 28 February 2026 and that these investments comply with section 625(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council’s Investment Policy.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.2 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER COUNCIL'S DONATIONS POLICY

It was requested that Council communicate to the community more when donations are open.

RESOLUTION 2026/16

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That Council:

1. **Notes the information in this report.**
2. **Provide financial assistance in accordance with the recommendations from the Donations Committee as follows:**

(a) Coonamble Rotary Club	\$ 2,000.00
(b) Coonamble Children Services	\$ 5,000.00

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.3 ADOPTION OF LOCAL PREFERENCE PURCHASING POLICY**RESOLUTION 2026/17**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

That Council adopts the revised Local Preference Purchasing Policy.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.4 ADOPTION OF PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE POLICY AND SHORT TERM ROAD LEASE POLICY**RESOLUTION 2026/18**

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council Adopts:

- 1. The Permanent Road Closure of Council Public Roads Policy, without change.**
- 2. The Short-Term Lease of Unused Council Public Roads Policy, without change.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.5 BUSINESS ACTIVATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

RESOLUTION 2026/19

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

That:

- 1. Council places the Draft Business Activation Policy and Draft Business Activation Procedure on public exhibition for 42 days.**
- 2. A further report be presented to Council if there are any substantial changes to the Draft Business Activation Policy.**
- 3. A further report be presented to Council if there are any substantial changes to the Draft Business Activation Procedure.**
- 4. If no substantial changes arise from the public exhibition, the Business Activation Policy and Business Activation Procedure be adopted and published on Council's website.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

At 10:03 am, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler left the meeting.

At 10:04 am, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler returned to the meeting.

9.6 COONAMBLE SHIRE DRAFT URBAN HOUSING STRATEGY

Director Sustainable Communities and Planning confirmed during the meeting that as the final draft version of the Strategy was received after the report was finalised, there was a small error in the conclusion of the report. There are 9 strategic directions not 10.

RESOLUTION 2026/20

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher
Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

- 1. That the Coonamble Shire Draft Urban Housing Strategy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- 2. Following the exhibition period a report be presented to Council on the submissions received.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.7 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE REPORT

Director Sustainable Communities and Planning to work with the Director Finance on updating the Waste income for the next Waste Management Services Update.

RESOLUTION 2026/21

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh
Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That Council notes the report on the activities of the Sustainability Communities and Planning Directorate.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

The Council Meeting paused for a short recess at 10:34.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.8 WASTE UPDATE - FOGO

RESOLUTION 2026/22

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Council:

1. Notes and receive the report.
2. That Council apply for a custom exemption from the FOGO mandates for both residential and commercial services, on the basis that population density and waste volumes do not support a financially viable or beneficial service for the community.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.9 PROPOSED LANDFILL CELL

RESOLUTION 2026/23

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council:

1. Notes the information contained in this report regarding the construction of a new landfill cell at the Coonamble Waste Facility; and
2. Endorse proceeding with detailed design, regulatory approvals, and construction of the new landfill cell, subject to budget availability and compliance with EPA requirements.
3. Report to Council following engagement of the preferred contractor with cost of the construction of new landfill cell and how it will be funded.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.10 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS**RESOLUTION 2026/24**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

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

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

At 11:25 am, Cr Karen Churchill left the meeting.

At 11:28 am, Cr Karen Churchill returned to the meeting.

9.11 BOIL WATER ALERT**RESOLUTION 2026/25**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That the report regarding the recent Boil Water Alert issued for the Coonamble town water supply on 29 January 2026 be received and noted.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.12 TOORAWEEAH ROAD UPGRADE - MONTHLY STATUS UPDATE**RESOLUTION 2026/26**

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council note the report and the progress on the Tooraweenah Road Upgrade Project.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.13 MT MAGOMETON QUARRY-INDEPENDENT OPERATIONAL, FINANCIAL & STRATEGIC REVIEW**RESOLUTION 2026/27**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

That Council:

- 1. Note the findings of the Independent Operational, Financial & Strategic Review.**
- 2. Transition away from reliance on the existing fixed crushing plant.**
- 3. Adopt mobile crushing as the dominant production strategy.**
- 4. Formalise in the next 12 months a hybrid operating model incorporating contractor-operated mobile crushing.**
- 5. Cease discretionary capital investment in the existing fixed crushing plant beyond safe-operation requirements.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

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

RESOLUTION 2026/28

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council:

1. Note the current Water Access Licence position and allocation analysis.
2. Endorse progression of detailed hydraulic modelling and design for the rising water main to supply the Truck Wash, Cattle Saleyards and standpipe, noting that the rising main will utilise artesian water from the Bore Bath bore to reduce reliance on potable town supply and strengthen agricultural infrastructure.
3. Authorise the General Manager to extend the engagement of GHD Group Pty Ltd for the detailed hydraulic modelling and design for the rising water main.
4. Note that the General Manager will report back to the April Council meeting regarding the following resolutions from the 10 December 2025 Council meeting (Resolution 2025/298), including advice on Freehold versus Crown Land arrangements and associated land acquisition matters.
5. Note that construction and any Water Access Licence acquisition or extraction limit reassessment will be subject to a further report to Council following confirmation of capital costs and licensing and water purchasing requirements.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE/RESCISSION MOTIONS

10.1 SOLAR FARM

It was requested that Council bring an update to the April Council meeting on the Solar Farm.

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

12 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 11:46.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council held on 8 April 2026.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

DRAFT

COONAMBLE

SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

Extraordinary Council Meeting
Thursday, 19 March 2026

**MINUTES OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COONAMBLE SHIRE COMMITTEE ROOM
ON THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026 AT 9:00AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Daniel Keady via Video Link, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler, Cr Karen Churchill, Cr Adam Cohen, Cr Paul Fisher, Cr Margaret Garnsey, Cr Phillipa Goldsmith, Cr Ahmad Karanouh, Cr Paul Wheelhouse

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager), Bruce Quarmby (Director Corporate Services), Kerrie Murphy (Director Infrastructure), Tony Payne (Director Sustainable Communities & Planning), Jenni Maundrell (Executive Manager Corporate Governance), Rebecca Payne (Executive Assistant)

1 OPENING MEETING

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2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

NIL

4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

NIL

5 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLUTION 2026/1

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

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

6.1 Contract for Sale-Yarran Street Land-Legal Advice

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

6.2 Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths (Coonamble Artesian and Cultural Experience)

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

CARRIED

At 9:03 am, Cr Margaret Garnsey arrived to the meeting.

At 9:11 am, Cr Adam Cohen arrived to the meeting.

6.1 Contract for Sale-Yarran Street Land-Legal Advice

Resolution 2026/2

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the legal advice from BAL Lawyers regarding the Contract for Sale for Lots 85 and 87 DP3693, 70–78 Yarran Street, Coonamble.**
- 2. Authorise the General Manager to enter into discussions with the Purchaser to negotiate a variation of the Contract; and**
- 3. Receive a further report outlining the outcome of those discussions and any proposed variation.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady via Video Link, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam

Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

carried 9/0

At 9:46 am, Cr Adam Cohen left the meeting.

At 9:47 am, Cr Adam Cohen returned to the meeting.

At 10:20 am, Cr Adam Cohen left the meeting.

At 10:23 am, Cr Adam Cohen returned to the meeting.

At 10:24 am, Mayor Daniel Keady left the meeting.

6.2 Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths (Coonamble Artesian and Cultural Experience)

Resolution 2026/3

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council:

- 1. Note the Quantity Surveyor cost estimates for the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths project and the revised staging approach for delivery of the project.**
- 2. Endorse the revised Stage 1 construction scope, focusing on the delivery of the core artesian bore baths facility, including site access, baths and amenities, constructed wetland, water storage, accommodation and associated service infrastructure.**
- 3. Note that the delivery of the full masterplan exceeds the currently available funding allocation and that the project will be delivered through staged development.**
- 4. Authorise the General Manager to continue engagement with GHD Group Pty Ltd to progress detailed design, statutory approvals and procurement associated with Stage 1 works.**
- 5. Note that Council will actively pursue additional State and Federal funding opportunities to secure the funding required to commence Stage 1 construction and to support the delivery of future project stages.**
- 6. Note that future project stages (Stages 2 and 3), including tourism accommodation, visitor infrastructure and landscaping works, will be subject to additional funding being secured.**
- 7. Request further reports be presented to Council as design, cost planning and funding opportunities progress.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Daniel Keady

carried 8/0

At 10:30 am, Cr Paul Wheelhouse left the meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026/32

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh
Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

CARRIED

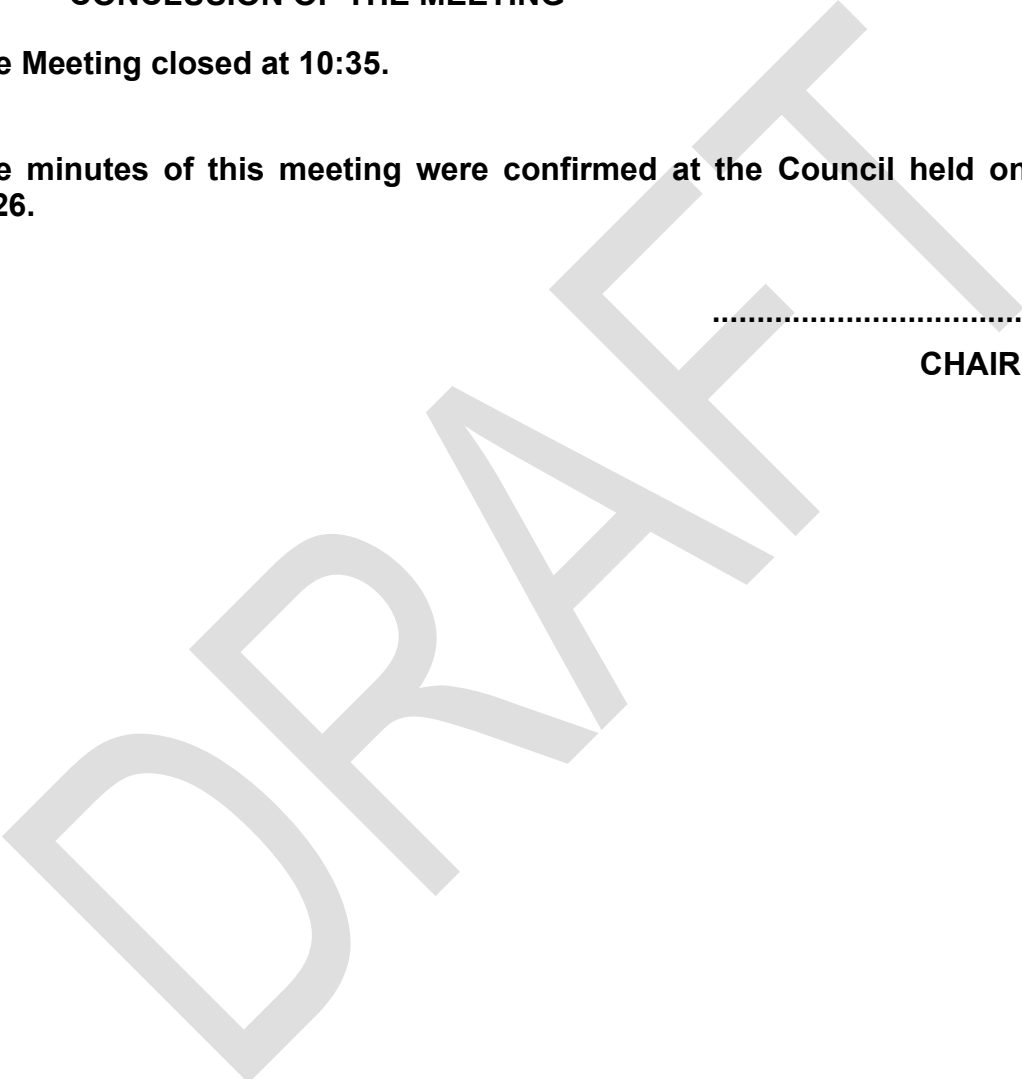
7 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 10:35.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council held on 15 April 2026.

.....

CHAIRPERSON



6 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
DECLARATION FORM (COUNCILLOR)**

In accordance with Council’s code of Conduct for Councillors (the Code)

1. DECLARANT DETAILS			
NAME			
2. DETAILS OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST			
NAME OF MEETING			
MEETING ITEM NO			
REPORT TITLE			
DATE OF MEETING			
TYPE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (Refer to Annexure 1)		<input type="checkbox"/> Pecuniary <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Non-Pecuniary <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Non-Pecuniary	
DESCRIPTION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Include name of person and/or organisation; the relationship to you; and the reason(s) why you consider that there is (or may be) a conflict of interest or perception of a conflict of interest.			
3. ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO MANAGE THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST			
<input type="checkbox"/> I intend to leave the meeting and take no part in any debate, discussion or decision on the item.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I intend to stay in the meeting to debate and vote on the matter.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Provide details _____ _____			
4. DECLARATION			
<i>I hereby declare that the above details are correct to the best of my knowledge and that I will take appropriate action as I have indicated above.</i>			
SIGNATURE		DATE	

NOTE: This is not a standing Conflict of Interest declaration.

A declaration form must be completed on every relevant occasion including, but not limited to, each Council meeting and/or Councillor workshop.

Incomplete or partially completed declaration forms will not be accepted.

ANNEXURE 1

DEFINITIONS	
Conflict of Interest	Occurs where a Council Official's personal or private interests and relationships conflict, or could conflict with, the Council Official's ability to act impartially and in the best interest of Council.
Actual Conflict of Interest	Occurs where a Council Official's personal or private interests' conflict with their official duties.
Perceived Conflict of Interest	Occurs where a Council Official could be perceived by a third party to be acting in such a way that their official duties are influenced by their personal or private interests.
Potential Conflict of Interest	Occurs where a Council Official has personal or private interests that may later develop into a conflict of interest with their official duties.
Pecuniary Interest	<p>An interest that an individual has based on a reasonable likelihood or expectation of significant financial gain or loss to themselves or to a related individual (eg spouse, direct family member, relatives or associated companies).</p> <p><u>Required Action:</u> (clause 4.16 and 4.17 of the Code): Make a declaration, do not participate in the item, leave the meeting or forum during discussion, consideration and/or voting on the matter.</p>
Significant Non Pecuniary Interest	<p>A non-pecuniary interest whereby an individual has a close relationship with an individual; a strong relationship with an organisation; a nonpecuniary financial interest or stands to gain or lose a personal benefit; is a board member and there is a conflict between Council and the organisation interests, constituting a conflict of duties.</p> <p><u>Required Action:</u> (clause 5.10 of the Code): Make a declaration, do not participate in the item, leave the meeting or forum during discussion, consideration and/or voting on the matter.</p>
Less than Significant Non Pecuniary Interest	<p>A private or personal interest that does not involve a financial gain or loss but may stem from family or personal interests and/or relationships.</p> <p><u>Required Action:</u> (clause 5.11 of the Code): Make a declaration, when disclosing the interest you must also explain in writing why you consider that the non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.</p>

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

Nil

8 MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE

File Number: -
Author: Mayor
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Minute for April 2026 be noted.

I am pleased to deliver the Mayoral report for April 2026, covering a period since our last meeting in March.

REPORT:

Welcome to Coonamble dinner

Welcome to Coonamble dinner was held on Saturday 14 March. There was a great turn out of newcomers to the Coonamble Shire, with more than 60% of them coming for work opportunities. Thank you to the Country's Woman's Association for holding such a great event.

Country's Mayors Association

Country's Mayors Association Meeting was held on 26 and 27 March 2026. The aim of the discussion was to talk about financial sustainability.

Fuel Security

The NSW Government held a fuel security briefing on Wednesday 1 April 2026.

They are being guided by a four-level action plan. This includes –

1. Plan and prepare
2. Keeping Australia moving
3. Taking targeted action
4. Protecting critical services for all Australians

NSW is currently sitting at a level 2 which is Keep Australia Moving. There are some voluntary measures we can all take to help reduce fuel demand, in combination with actions the NSW and Australian governments are taking to manage supply and distribution.

The Government is encouraging everyone to stay informed and plan ahead for the Easter and school holiday period. There is no need to change or cancel your travel plans.

NSW's immediate challenge is distribution and demand pressure on liquid fuels. Everyone can play a part to make sure fuel continues to get to those who need it the most:

- Buy what you need, when you need it – no more.
- Stockpiling fuel in unsafe or inappropriate containers can be dangerous.
- Download [FuelCheck](#), which provides information on fuel prices and availability at service stations.

If you would like any more information and to stay up to date on fuel security, please visit the NSW Government's website, nsw.gov.au/fuel.

SUPPORT FOR CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

File Number: Mayoral Minute
Author: Mayor
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That council:

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) is inviting all its member Councils to participate in a vital campaign advocating for the restoration of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments.

REPORT:

The campaign advocating for the restoration of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments seeks to restore at least 1% of total

Commonwealth taxation revenue for local Councils under the rallying call: 'Invest in us so we can invest in them.'

The past several years have seen unprecedented operational cost increases with successive Australian Governments rolling back Financial Assistance Grants to close to half of the one percent they started at. There are other federal funding programs accessed by rural, remote and regional Councils in NSW but they are project-based and do not help to keep the lights on.

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

Lobbying has been undertaken by your CMA, Local Government Association (ALGA) and more. This is a different, positive approach and strong backing is encouraged at local levels.

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

9 SECTION A - FINANCE

9.1 CORPORATE SERVICES - PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: Corporate Services - 20411
Author: Director Corporate Services
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: 1. Imperium report March 2026 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and note the Corporate Services Progress report.

- The investments from 1 March 2026 to 31 March 2026 and that these investments comply with section 625(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council’s Investment Policy.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

REPORT:

Investment Status March 2026

The attached Investment Report was calculated on 31 March 2026 after all maturing dates for investments had passed. The total Capital Value of Investments is \$25,250,000.

Cash And Investment Account Summary

Account	Current Month Balance	Prior Month Balance	Movement	Interest Rate	Current Month Interest Received	YTD Interest Received
Operating Account*	\$1,599,442.82	\$1,870,425	-\$270,982.18	2.85%pa	\$2,966.35	\$27,116.92
Online Saving Account	\$0	\$2,000,000	-\$2,000,000	3.55%pa	\$5,789.36	\$32,881.27
Term Deposits	\$25,250,000	\$26,250,000	-\$1,000,000	4.62%pa (avg)	\$94,042.74	\$643,759.19
Total Cash at Bank 31 March 2026					\$26,849,442.82	

*Balances exclude overdraft facility

Interest Rate

The average interest rate on Council’s investments is currently approximately 4.62%. With rates set by the Reserve Bank of Australia expected to increase over the coming months, Council will seek to invest additional funds at higher returns as suitable opportunities arise.

Available Working Funds

	Actual YTD (000's)
Total Cash and Investments	26,849
Externally Restricted	
Unexpended Specific Purpose Grants / Loans	7,294
Water Supplies	3,501
Sewerage Services	4,816
Domestic Waste Management	62
Total Externally Restricted	15,673
Internal Restrictions	
Building and Premises	498
Community Development	183
Corporate	1,615
General	385
Housing & Community	100
Mines (Quarry)	1,213
Public	43
Recreation	76
Transport	3,622
Governance	530
Total Internally Restricted	8,265
Total Restricted	23,938
Unrestricted Cash	2,911

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

Cash Outflows

The main areas of expenditure for March are in the below table:

<p style="text-align: center;">Transport –</p> <p>Includes various sealing works and hire of plant, hire of contractors, Tooraweenah Road project, Talegar creek Project, Insurances Liability</p>	<p>\$1,288,952.16</p>
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Plant Purchase new plant, fuel, repair work.	\$542,813.33
Urban Services Cble pool contract, Tree removal	\$73,768.50
Corporate services Electricity	\$38,788
Quarry Blasting contract works, Contractor support, parts for plant.	\$454,914.00
Special projects Bore baths, Aerodrome Fence	\$159,684.95
Water and Sewer Bore renewal works, chemicals	\$100,380.72

Of these areas totalling \$2,659,301.66 it is expected \$284,047 will be either funded through Grants or reimbursed to Council.

Rates and Charges Collections – March 2026

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

	27 March 2026	28 March 2025
Rates & charges levied and arrears for 2026/27	10,903,326.32	10,049,549.8
Less - Pension Concession	- 100,944.16	- 101,107.19
- Amounts collected as at 27 March 2026	- 7,610,936.77	- 6,895,046.30
Total Rates and Charges Outstanding	3,191,445.39	3,053,395.99

The amount levied for rates and charges for 2025 / 26 includes the current year's annual rates and charges and any interest added since the date the rates notices were issued. The amount received as of 27 March 2026 includes receipts for both arrears and the current year's amounts outstanding.

It should be noted that the rates and charges 2025 / 26 levied amount is reduced by the pensioner concession of \$100,944.16; reducing the amount of income derived from these rates and charges. Of this concession, Council's contribution is 45%, which represents an amount of \$45,424.87.

The rates and charges as of 27 March 2026 represent 29.27% of the total annual rates and charges levied and outstanding (compared with 30.38% on March 2025).

Water Consumption Charges

	27 March 2026	28 March 2025
Water Consumption Charges and arrears for 2026/27	2,191,157.51	559,557.05
Less - Amounts collected as at 27 March 2026	- 1,186,985.37	- 485,350.30
Total Water Consumption Charges Outstanding	\$1,004,172.14	74,206.75

The water consumption charges as of 27 March 2026 represents 45.83% of the total water consumption charges outstanding (compared to 13.26% on March 2025). Council will note the main variation between the two financial years is directly associated with the delay in generation of the water consumption charges for the 2024 / 25 year.

Debt Recovery Agency

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

- 12 cases were closed due to full payment or being below recovery threshold. For amounts paid in full this equated to approximately \$49,000
- 139 cases remain under various stages of debt recovery action; including
 - 43 Payment Arrangements through Debt Recovery Agency (approx. \$124,000)
 - 92 Rates/Water Cases in progress (approx. \$526,000)
 - 4 Sundry Debtor Cases in progress (approx. \$247,000)

A new round of referrals is due to be sent to the debt recovery agency within the coming weeks.

Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates Update

Please note a separate report is presented for the Sale of Land update for April 2026.



Investment Report

01/03/2026 to 31/03/2026



Portfolio Valuation as at 31/03/2026

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/09/2025	13/04/2026	4.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	46,487.67	7,134.25
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	17/07/2025	17/04/2026	4.2000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	29,687.67	3,567.12
Commonwealth Bank	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	29/01/2026	29/04/2026	4.3200	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	7,338.08	3,669.04
BOQ	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	09/12/2025	11/05/2026	4.3400	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	13,436.16	3,686.03
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	25/09/2025	25/05/2026	4.2500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	43,780.82	7,219.18
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/02/2026	16/06/2026	4.5200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,916.16	7,677.81
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/10/2025	29/06/2026	4.1100	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	17,453.42	3,490.68
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	31/07/2025	31/07/2026	4.1700	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	69,690.41	8,854.11
Regional Australia Bank	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	06/08/2025	06/08/2026	4.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	27,060.27	3,524.66
IMB Bank	A-2	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	06/08/2024	06/08/2026	4.4800	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	6,627.95	3,804.93
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/10/2025	07/08/2026	4.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	20,493.15	3,609.59
BOQ	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	27/02/2026	18/08/2026	4.8500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,769.86	8,238.36
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	29/09/2025	31/08/2026	4.3000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	32,515.07	5,478.08
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/03/2026	02/09/2026	4.7200	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	3,879.45	3,879.45
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	27/02/2026	27/10/2026	4.8100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,697.53	8,170.41
Unity Bank	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	18/11/2025	18/11/2026	4.1000	250,000.00	250,000.00	3,763.01	870.55
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/11/2025	19/11/2026	4.3600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	31,535.34	7,406.03
IMB Bank	BBB+	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	16/01/2025	17/01/2028	4.4300	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	9,102.74	3,762.47





Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
TOTALS								25,250,000.00	25,250,000.00	389,234.79	94,042.74





Portfolio by Asset as at 31/03/2026

Asset Type: TD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/09/2025	13/04/2026	4.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	46,487.67	7,134.25
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	17/07/2025	17/04/2026	4.2000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	29,687.67	3,567.12
Commonwealth Bank	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	29/01/2026	29/04/2026	4.3200	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	7,338.08	3,669.04
BOQ	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	09/12/2025	11/05/2026	4.3400	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	13,436.16	3,686.03
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	25/09/2025	25/05/2026	4.2500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	43,780.82	7,219.18
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/02/2026	16/06/2026	4.5200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,916.16	7,677.81
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/10/2025	29/06/2026	4.1100	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	17,453.42	3,490.68
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	31/07/2025	31/07/2026	4.1700	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	69,690.41	8,854.11
Regional Australia Bank	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	06/08/2025	06/08/2026	4.1500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	27,060.27	3,524.66
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/10/2025	07/08/2026	4.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	20,493.15	3,609.59
BOQ	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	27/02/2026	18/08/2026	4.8500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,769.86	8,238.36
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	29/09/2025	31/08/2026	4.3000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	32,515.07	5,478.08
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/03/2026	02/09/2026	4.7200	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	3,879.45	3,879.45
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	27/02/2026	27/10/2026	4.8100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,697.53	8,170.41
Unity Bank	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	18/11/2025	18/11/2026	4.1000	250,000.00	250,000.00	3,763.01	870.55
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/11/2025	19/11/2026	4.3600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	31,535.34	7,406.03
TD SUBTOTALS								23,250,000.00	23,250,000.00	373,504.11	86,475.34



Asset Type: FRTD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
IMB Bank	A-2	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	06/08/2024	06/08/2026	4.4800	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	6,627.95	3,804.93
IMB Bank	BBB+	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	16/01/2025	17/01/2028	4.4300	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	9,102.74	3,762.47
FRTD SUBTOTALS								2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	15,730.68	7,567.40



Portfolio by Asset Totals as at 31/03/2026

Type	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
TD	23,250,000.00	23,250,000.00	373,504.11	86,475.34
FRTD	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	15,730.68	7,567.40
TOTALS	25,250,000.00	25,250,000.00	389,234.79	94,042.74

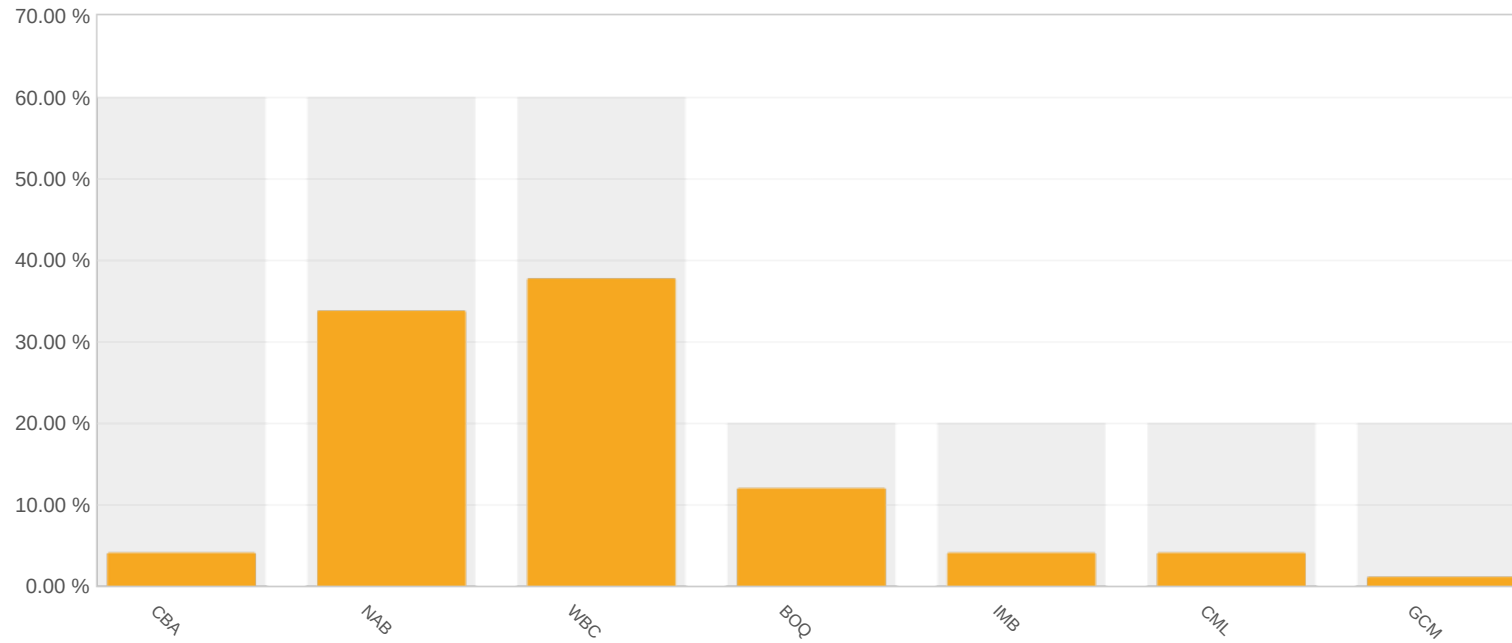


Counterparty Compliance as at 31/03/2026

Short Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit (\$)	Available (\$)
✓	Commonwealth Bank	Short	A-1+	1,000,000.00	3.96	60.00	-	14,150,000.00
✓	NAB	Short	A-1+	8,500,000.00	33.66	60.00	-	6,650,000.00
✓	Westpac	Short	A-1+	9,500,000.00	37.62	60.00	-	5,650,000.00
✓	BOQ	Short	A-2	3,000,000.00	11.88	20.00	-	2,050,000.00
✓	IMB Bank	Short	A-2	1,000,000.00	3.96	20.00	-	4,050,000.00
✓	Regional Aust Bank	Short	A-2	1,000,000.00	3.96	20.00	-	4,050,000.00
✓	G&C Mutual Bank	Short	A-2	250,000.00	0.99	20.00	-	4,800,000.00
TOTALS				24,250,000.00	96.04			

Counterparty Compliance - Short Term Investments



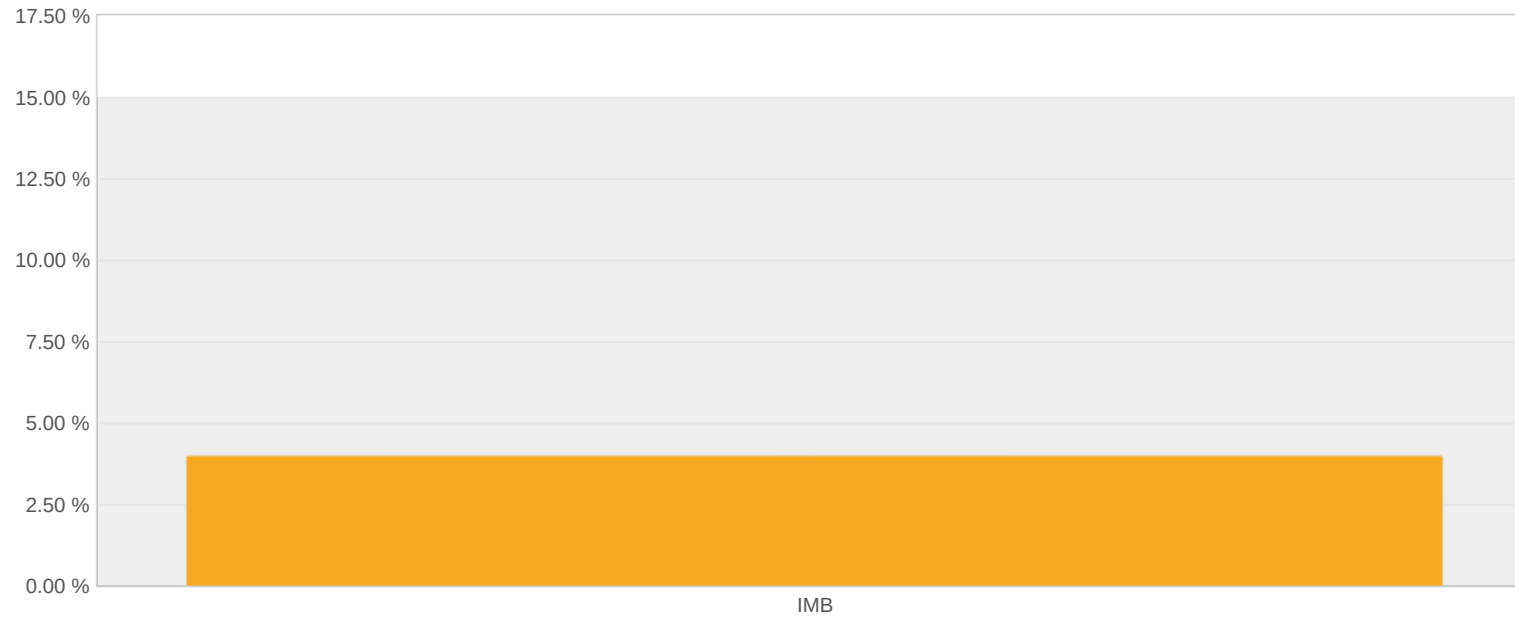


Long Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit (\$)	Available (\$)
✓	IMB Bank	Long	BBB+	1,000,000.00	3.96	15.00	-	2,787,500.00
TOTALS				1,000,000.00	3.96			



Counterparty Compliance - Long Term Investments



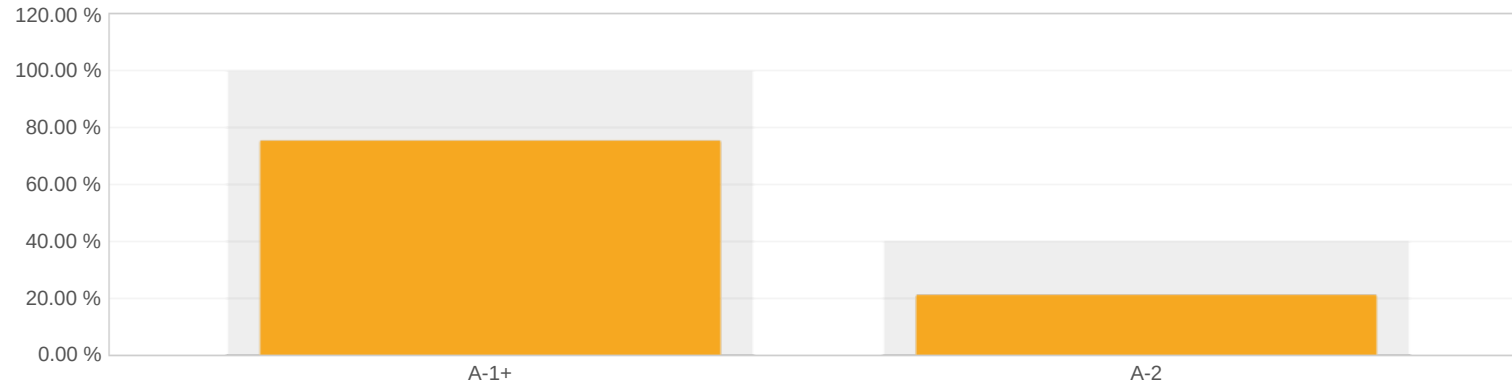


Credit Quality Compliance as at 31/03/2026

Short Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	A-1+	19,000,000.00	75.25	100.00	6,250,000.00
✓	A-2	5,250,000.00	20.79	40.00	4,850,000.00
TOTALS		24,250,000.00	96.04		

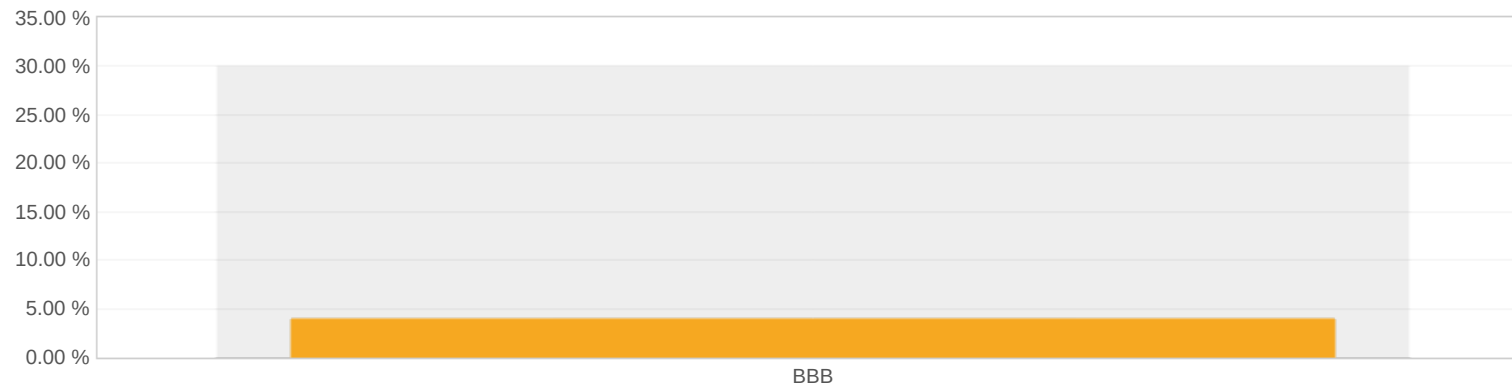
Credit Quality Compliance - Short Term Investments



Long Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✔	BBB	1,000,000.00	3.96	30.00	6,575,000.00
TOTALS		1,000,000.00	3.96		

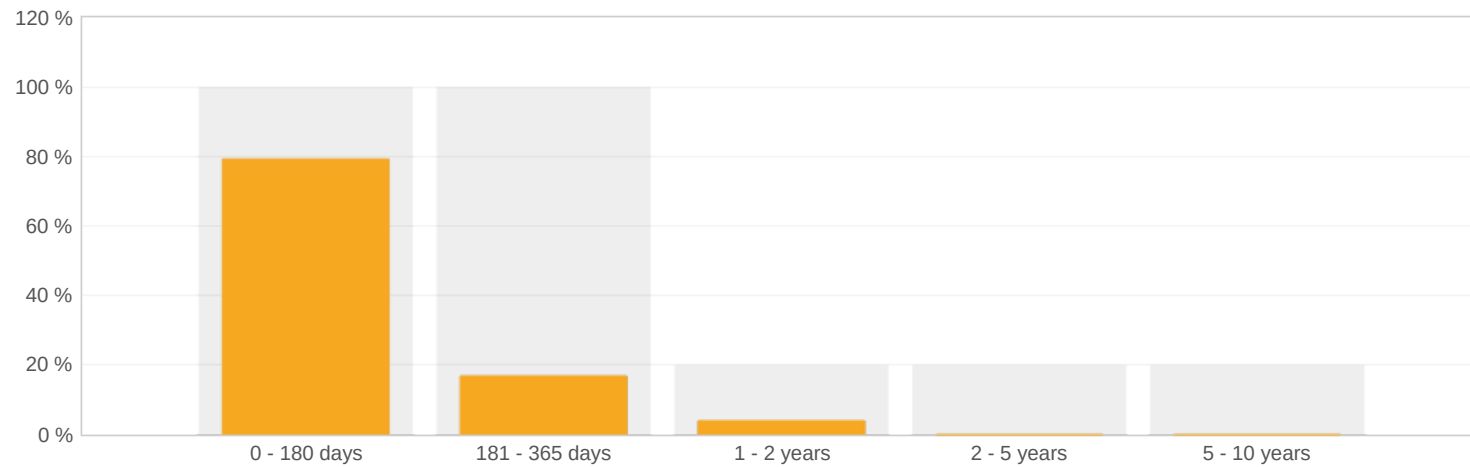
Credit Quality Compliance - Long Term Investments



Maturity Compliance as at 31/03/2026

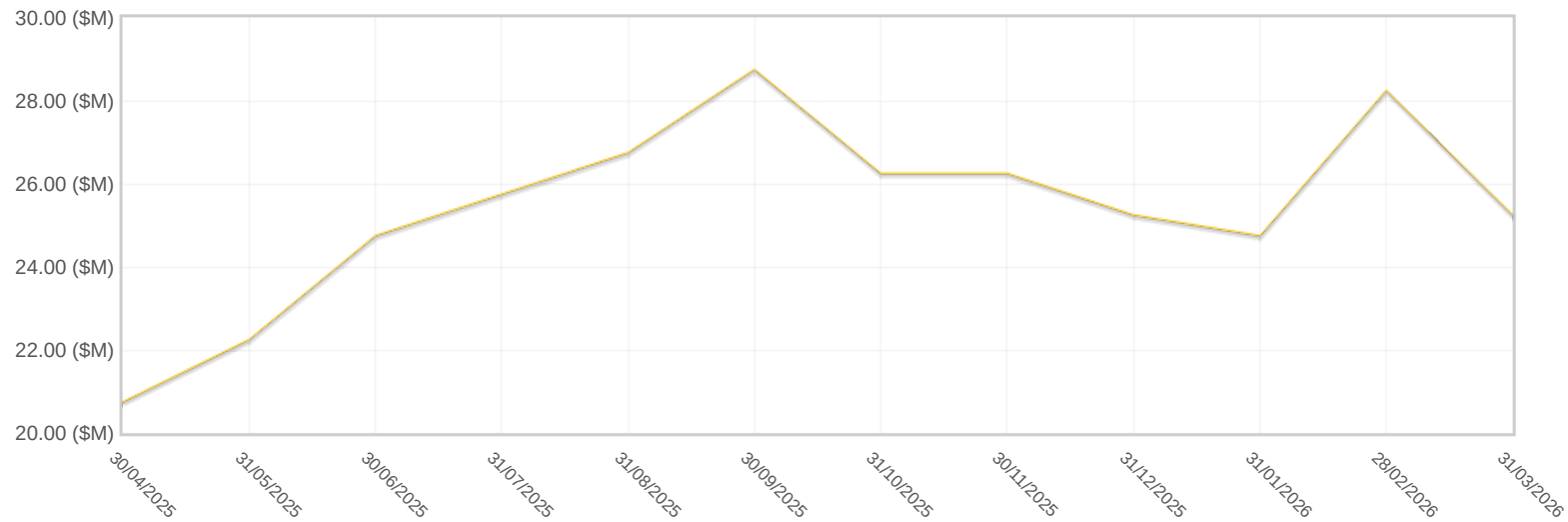
Compliant	Term	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 180 days	20,000,000.00	79.21	0.00	100.00	5,250,000.00
✓	181 - 365 days	4,250,000.00	16.83	0.00	100.00	21,000,000.00
✓	1 - 2 years	1,000,000.00	3.96	0.00	20.00	4,050,000.00
✓	2 - 5 years	-	0.00	0.00	20.00	5,050,000.00
✓	5 - 10 years	-	0.00	0.00	20.00	5,050,000.00
TOTALS		25,250,000.00	100.00			

Maturity Compliance



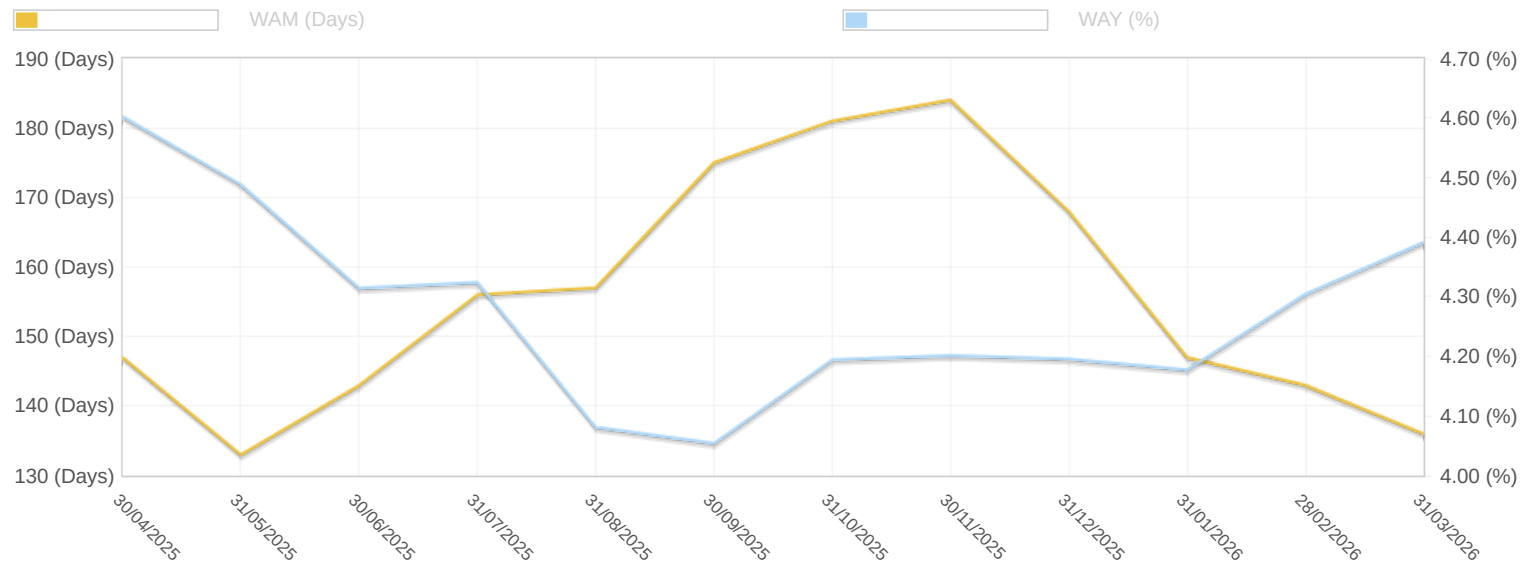
Historical Portfolio Balances as at 31/03/2026

30/04/2025	31/05/2025	30/06/2025	31/07/2025	31/08/2025	30/09/2025	31/10/2025	30/11/2025	31/12/2025	31/01/2026	28/02/2026	31/03/2026
20.75	22.25	24.75	25.75	26.75	28.75	26.25	26.25	25.25	24.75	28.25	25.25



Historical Ratios as at 31/03/2026

	30/04/2025	31/05/2025	30/06/2025	31/07/2025	31/08/2025	30/09/2025	31/10/2025	30/11/2025	31/12/2025	31/01/2026	28/02/2026	31/03/2026
WAM (Days)	147	133	143	156	157	175	181	184	168	147	143	136
WAY (%)	4.6023	4.4882	4.3143	4.3241	4.0813	4.0543	4.1943	4.2017	4.1954	4.1776	4.3044	4.3913





DISCLAIMER

Accuracy & Reliability of Information

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“Accrued Interest” is the the accrued amount calculated since either from the purchase date or the last payment date. The quoted figure is not the accrued interest for the financial year to date (FYTD).



9.2 DRAFT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - WATER AND SEWER

File Number: AMP2026WAS

Author: Manager Assets

Authoriser: Director Corporate Services

Annexures: 1. Draft Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receive and note the contents of the draft Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan.
2. That the draft Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days, with submissions invited for a period of at least 42 days.
3. That Council receive a further report following the completion of the public submission period, with a view to adopting the draft Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report presents Council with the Draft Water and Sewer (WaS) Asset Management Plan (AMP) to be considered and placed on public exhibition.

BACKGROUND:

Under the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* and Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework, Councils must prepare and maintain Asset Management Plans (AMPs) for infrastructure classes they own and manage. Currently, staff are preparing four such AMPs. This includes the Draft WaS AMP (Annexure 1), presented in this report for Council's consideration to be placed on public exhibition. The process of preparing the AMPs represents a significant step forward in maturity for Council's asset planning capabilities. It also reflects Council's commitment to the ongoing improvement in the way it approaches asset management holistically.

REPORT:

The Draft WaS AMP covers the infrastructural Classes; Water, and Sewer, along with associated captured assets. The WaS AMP provides an overview of the current state of the Water and Sewer classes, using the following structure of:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction - provides the background and purpose of the plan, the asset management plan structure, and a summary of the state of the Water and Sewer classes
3. Strategic Alignment – provides an overview of how the asset management plan fits into Council's other strategic documents as part of its Integrated Planning and Reporting framework
4. Levels of Service (LoS) – provides an overview of current LoS for both classes

5. Future Demand – provides an overview of the driving influences that may impact future demands of the WaS infrastructure
6. Life Cycle Management Plan – provides an overview of the health of the assets within both classes
7. Risk Management Plan – highlights the risks of failing WaS infrastructure, and points out the assets that are most critical
8. Financial Summary – provides financial statements, projections, and a funding strategy for the classes
9. Improvement Plan and Monitoring – highlights areas of improvement to the asset management process overall that are recommended

Appendix A – Useful Lives (ULs) of Assets

The structure and content of the WaS AMP aligns with the requirements outlined in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines. It is recognised that each AMP developed by Council is to be annually reviewed and updated, with improvements made between each iteration. Every four years, a full thorough review and updated plan is to be provided to Council for public exhibition and adoption.

Water and Sewer assets assist in the provision of potable water and transportation of wastewater to and from the community respectively. This WaS AMP is designed to convey to the reader how to ensure that the organisation can sustainably deliver water and sewer services to the community in accordance with the Community Strategic Plan (2025-2035). This is achieved through the management of the infrastructural assets’ lifecycles; Acquisition, Maintenance, Operation, Renewal/Upgrade/Replacement, and Disposal. Furthermore, each cycle of developing AMPs often involves the identification of improvements that can be applied to the asset management process.

The primary improvement during the development of this WaS AMP from the previous, was a greater focus on the asset useful lives that were previously determined. It was recognised that the useful lives (ULs) for a large portion of the assets required re-assessment. These assets fell into the sub-classes of water mains, and sewer mains. The ULs attributed to the component/materials currently utilised within these ageing networks were not reflective of their observed state. Through regular inter-departmental discussions, the ULs have been realigned to match field observations. Consequently, the timeframes required for renewal works to bring our networks up to a standard that meets our LoS have been accelerated.

The WaS AMP highlights key financial information associated with the continued supply of potable water and transportation of wastewater to and from the community. This information is provided within the tables and charts.

Asset Class	Renewal Forecast		10 yr Budget	
	5 Yr CapEX Program	10 Yr CapEX Program	Capital Budget	Operational Expenditures
Water	\$16,761,651	\$19,395,000	\$5,075,000	\$19,620,869

Sewer	\$15,089,654	\$19,809,535	\$4,432,500	\$9,475,263
Total	\$31,851,305	\$39,204,535	\$9,507,500	\$29,096,132

Table 1 WaS Renewal Forecast and Expenditure – Summary

WaS Asset 2025 Valuation Summary			
Total Replacement Cost	Fair Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Annual Depreciation
\$32,238,382	\$19,863,463	\$12,374,919	\$522,180
\$33,649,479	\$19,709,645	\$13,939,834	\$449,626
\$65,887,861	\$39,573,108	\$26,314,753	\$971,806

Table 2 WaS Summarised 2025 Valuation

Asset Class	Asset Sub Class	Quantity	Replacement Cost	Fair Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Annual Depreciation
Sewer	Sewer Network	45570 m	\$18,578,039	\$12,887,057	\$5,690,981	\$150,952
	Sewer Pumping Station Assets	59	\$4,342,784	\$3,141,206	\$1,201,578	\$77,192
	Sewer Treatment Plant Assets	57	\$9,626,027	\$3,227,693	\$6,398,334	\$171,293
	Telemetry	34	\$1,102,630	\$453,689	\$648,941	\$50,189
	Total		\$33,649,479	\$19,709,645	\$13,939,834	\$449,626
Water	Bore	43	\$2,454,413	\$1,323,741	\$1,130,671	\$51,698
	Other structures	15	\$367,249	\$44,570	\$322,679	\$2,003
	Reservoir	15	\$4,455,476	\$2,733,077	\$1,722,399	\$64,466
	Water Main Network	74540 m	\$17,811,958	\$10,903,187	\$6,908,772	\$189,321
	Water Pumping Station Assets	3	\$34,060	\$17,573	\$16,488	\$1,076
	Water Treatment Plant Assets	64	\$4,196,937	\$3,083,207	\$1,113,730	\$100,762
	Telemetry	30	\$2,918,288	\$1,758,109	\$1,160,180	\$112,854
Total		\$32,238,382	\$19,863,463	\$12,374,919	\$522,180	

Table 3 WaS Summarised Portfolio

Overall WaS Asset Health by Asset Groups

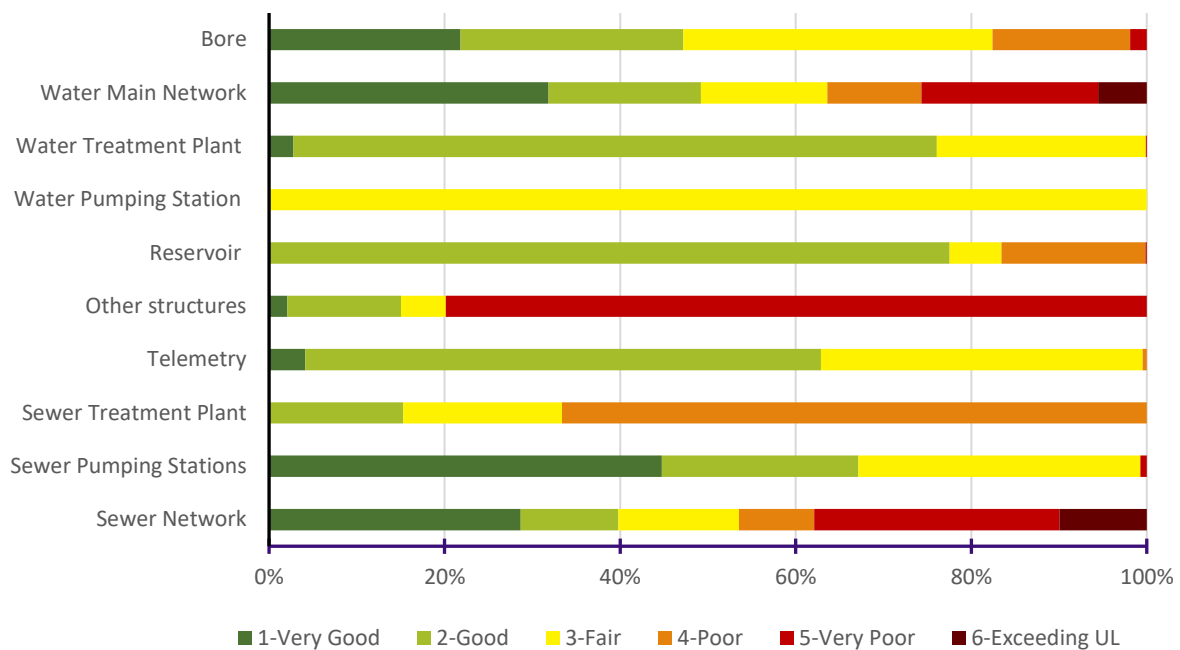


Figure 1 Condition of WaS Assets by Asset Group

To summarise from the above tables, figures, and key points from the WaS AMP;

- Overall the WaS network assets, are in their later stages of their ULs which is reflected through condition and consumption data analysis
- 50% of water bores are between fair to very poor condition
- Although the reservoirs are in relatively good condition, investment in capacity improvement to meet increased demand during extreme heat events and under drought conditions is required
- The sewer treatment plant is aging and is in poor condition overall requiring future upgrading as this has the potential to generate risks to public and environmental health
- Improved data and condition asset capture across all asset classes will be focussed upon to improve the overall accuracy of information available to make better stronger decisions when budgeting and planning renewals
- Both water and sewer share similar; replacement costs, fair values, and rates of depreciation with an overall 35% depreciation across both WaS classes

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
Goal 9: Our approach to sanitation serves our current and longer-term needs.	Our Assets – Our Utilities	A2.1 15) Deliver a reliable supply of potable water to homes and public spaces A2.2 16) Maintain high standards of sanitation in our homes and public spaces

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	N/A
Economic	N/A
Governance	Positive

(a) Financial Resource Implications:

Whilst there is no direct implications of adopting the draft WaS AMP, it will be used to inform future budgeting across Council’s WaS asset management functions in our future Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), including our adopted works program and maintenance budgets. The WaS AMP will underpin and guide our financial planning and decision making. The AMP in its current form documents our current situation and allows for future decision makings associated with the WaS assets. These decisions will be incorporated into future iterations, as well as changes in our asset datasets, registers, valuations, community desires and then used to guide decision making.

(b) Policy / Legal and Statutory Implications:

The WaS AMP which makes up a collection of AMPs, is a legislative requirement of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework within the Local Government Act. Adoption of the WaS AMP will ensure compliance with the IP&R guidelines and handbook. This will also form an essential part of our requirements as identified in our Asset Management (AM) Policy and proposed AM framework.

(c) Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety / Public:

There are no direct risks associated with adopting the WaS AMP. Risk Management is a chapter within the WaS AMP and will be used to inform and guide changes to our Risk Management practices for our WaS assets in alignment with our Risk Management Framework. The WaS AMP assists with our Risk Management by improving the visibility of physical and financial risks associated with our WaS assets under Councils responsibility. It guides future decision making with regards to acceptable risk and highlights deficiencies and limitations of our asset management practices.

(d) Options:

Council has the following options available for consideration:

1. Council could adopt the recommendation as proposed in this report
2. Council could seek additional information on the draft AMPs prior to placing on exhibition, noting this would delay the required minimum 28-day

public exhibition period and potentially impact the ability to adopt the final plans during the April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

(e) Council Seal Required:

No

(f) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition: Yes

External Exhibition: Yes

**WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE
ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL**



March 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1.1	The purpose of the Plan.....	1
1.2	Asset Description.....	1
1.3	Levels of Service.....	1
1.4	Future Demand.....	2
1.5	Life Cycle Management	2
1.6	Financial Summary.....	2
1.7	Improvement Plan	4
2.	INTRODUCTION	5
2.1	Background.....	5
2.2	Purpose of the Plan.....	6
2.3	Asset Management Plan Structure	6
2.4	Water & Sewer Asset Summary.....	7
2.5	Sewer Assets	8
2.6	Water Assets	11
3.	Strategic Alignment	15
3.1	Community Strategic Plan.....	15
3.2	Strategic Goals and Objectives - CSP	16
3.3	Delivery Program (2025-2029) Actions	16
3.4	Operational Plan (2025-26) Actions	17
3.5	Alignment of CSP, Delivery Program, and Operational Plan (2025-26)	18
3.6	Water and Sewer Management Plan (2017–2024).....	22
3.7	Coonamble STP Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (2021)	22
3.8	Drought Management Plan 2021–2022	22
3.9	Business Continuity Planning.....	22
3.10	Legislative and Regulatory Framework.....	23
3.11	Key External Stakeholders.....	24
4.	LEVELS OF SERVICE	26
4.1	Levels of Service - Water	26
4.2	Levels of Service - Sewer	27
4.3	Future Direction – Levels of Service	28
4.4	Community Engagement 2022.....	29
4.5	Community Feedback - Water Services	29
4.6	Community Feedback - Sewer Services	29
4.7	Implications for Service Planning.....	29

5.	<i>FUTURE DEMAND</i>	30
6.	<i>LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT PLAN</i>	31
6.1	Asset Management Systems	31
6.2	Asset Useful Lives	32
6.3	Asset Condition	32
6.4	Condition Rating Table	32
6.5	Condition - Sewer Assets	33
6.6	Overall Condition of Sewer Assets	38
6.7	Condition – Water Assets	39
6.8	Overall Condition of Water Assets	42
6.9	Routine Operations and Maintenance Plan	42
6.10	Capital Works (Renewal, New and Upgrade)	46
6.11	Disposal Plan	55
7.	<i>RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN</i>	57
7.1	Risk Management Process	57
7.2	Council's Operational Risk Register	57
7.3	Council's Strategic Risk Register	58
7.4	Critical Water Assets	58
7.5	Critical Sewer Assets	59
8.	<i>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</i>	60
8.1	Financial Statements and Projections	60
8.2	Funding Strategy	64
9.	<i>IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND MONITORING</i>	64
9.1	Improvement Plan	64
9.2	Monitoring and Review Procedures	66
9.3	Performance Measures	66
9.4	Continuous Improvement	67
	<i>Appendix A – Useful Lives of Assets</i>	68

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 - Summary of water & Sewer Asset Portfolio	7
Table 2 – Summary of Sewer Assets	11
Table 3 – Summary of Water Assets	14
Table 4 - CSP, Delivery program, and Operational Plan (2025-2026) Alignment - Water and Sewer Services	21
Table 5 - Legislation – Water and Sewer Services	24
Table 6 – Suggested Customer Levels of Service -Water Service	26
Table 7 – Suggested Technical Levels of Service - Water Service	27
Table 8 – Suggested Customer Levels of Service -Sewer Service	27
Table 9 – Suggested Technical Levels of Service – Sewer Service	28

Table 10 – Demand Drivers – Water and Sewer Service	31
Table 11 – Overview of Corporate Systems.....	31
Table 12 – Condition Rating Scale – Water and Sewer Assets	33
Table 13 - Operation Budget - Water and Sewer Services	45
Table 14 - 10 Year Renewal Forecast - Water Assets	49
Table 15 - 10 Year Renewal Forecast - Sewer Assets	50
Table 16 –Capital Budget - Water Services	53
Table 17 –Future Capital Works Program (Subject to Funding)	55
Table 18 – Water Infrastructure Risks.....	59
Table 19 – Sewer Infrastructure Risks	60
Table 20 – Valuation Information – Water Assets	61
Table 21 – Valuation Information – Sewer Assets	61
Table 22 – Financial Summary – Water Assets	62
Table 23 – Financial Summary – Sewer Assets.....	63
Table 24 – Improvement Actions.....	66

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 – Coonamble Local Government Area	5
Figure 2 – Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.....	16
Figure 3 – Condition Profile: Civil Assets – Sewer	34
Figure 4 - Condition Profile: Electrical Assets - Sewer	34
Figure 5 - Condition Profile: Concrete Manholes - Sewer	35
Figure 6 - Condition Profile: Mechanical Assets - Sewer.....	35
Figure 7 - Condition Profile: Pipework and Fittings - Sewer.....	36
Figure 8 - Condition Profile: Sewer Mains (0<1.5m).....	36
Figure 9 - Condition Profile: Sewer Mains (1.5<3m).....	37
Figure 10 - Condition Profile: Sewer Mains (3<4.5m).....	37
Figure 11 - Condition Profile: Sewer Mains (>4.5m).....	38
Figure 12 - Condition Profile: Civil Assets - Water	39
Figure 13 - Condition Profile: Electrical Assets - Water	40
Figure 14 - Condition Profile: Mechanical Assets - Water	40
Figure 15 - Condition Profile: Pipes & Fittings - Water	41
Figure 16 - Condition Profile: Water Mains	41

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Asset Management Plan (AMP) is to provide a 10-year strategy for the sustainable management of Coonamble Shire Council's water supply and sewerage assets. The plan outlines how Council will deliver reliable, safe and cost-effective services, optimise whole-of-life asset costs, manage risks, and align investment with the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan. It supports informed decision-making and ensures assets continue to meet current and future community needs in a financially responsible manner.

1.2 Asset Description

Coonamble Shire Council manages a critical portfolio of water supply and sewerage infrastructure across the townships of Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone. These assets enable the delivery of safe drinking water, effective wastewater collection and treatment, and protection of public health and the environment.

The water supply network includes water treatment plants, pump stations, reservoirs, reticulation pipelines, valves, meters, electrical and mechanical components, and associated civil structures. The sewerage network comprises sewer treatment plants, pump stations, gravity and rising mains, manholes, mechanical and electrical equipment, and supporting civil assets.

These assets represent a significant financial investment by Council:

Water asset replacement value: approximately **\$32 million**

Sewer asset replacement value: approximately **\$33 million**

Together, water and sewer assets form one of Council's highest-value infrastructure portfolios, essential for community wellbeing, regulatory compliance and economic sustainability. The majority of these assets are long-life buried infrastructure, with many approaching mid to late lifecycle, reinforcing the importance of proactive maintenance, renewal planning and long-term financial sustainability.

1.3 Levels of Service

Levels of Service define how Council delivers water and sewer services in terms of quality, reliability, safety, responsiveness and compliance. Customer Levels of Service capture community expectations such as water quality, pressure and sewer reliability, while Technical Levels of Service define internal performance targets such as main breaks, renewal delivery, environmental compliance and maintenance practices. Council plans to formalise and adopt these Levels of Service and develop a Customer Service Charter to improve transparency, accountability and service planning.

1.4 Future Demand

Future demand for water and sewer services will be influenced by population change, climate variability and drought, agricultural and industrial usage, asset age, regulatory requirements and evolving customer expectations. Although population growth is expected to be modest, ageing infrastructure, water quality concerns and limited sewer coverage in some areas will drive renewal and upgrade needs. Council will also implement demand management strategies and long-term planning to ensure service sustainability.

1.5 Life Cycle Management

Council manages its assets through the full lifecycle: planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal.

Currently, maintenance is largely reactive, and inspection and asset data collection need improvement. Renewals are prioritised using 2025 valuation data and condition profiles.

Future focus areas include implementing condition assessment programs, improving asset data accuracy, formalising maintenance schedules, and using renewal modelling to optimise timing and funding. Current capital work includes renewal of ageing assets, targeted upgrades to improve performance, and limited new assets to support growth or compliance.

1.6 Financial Summary

The AMP needs to identify operational, maintenance, renewal, upgrade and new capital costs over the 10-year period. Renewal forecasts indicate increasing needs over time, particularly for ageing mains, mechanical and electrical assets. There are renewal backlogs in both water and sewer networks.

It is important that the capital works program is categorised by capital expenditure type for all future years, using the standard classifications: renewal, new, and upgrade.

The AMP highlights the need to align budgets with lifecycle demand, improve long-term financial modelling, and monitor sustainability indicators such as the Asset Renewal Funding Ratio and Asset Sustainability Ratio. The affordability and financial sustainability of the services remain key objectives.

The following table shows the Operational budget, capital budget, and the renewal forecast summary of sewer assets.

Financial Year	Renewal Forecast	10 Year Capital Program (Avg) <small>* see Table 16</small>	Capital Budget	Operational Budget	Total Budget	Total Lifecycle Demand
2025/26	\$2,584,178	\$1,939,450	\$575,000	\$1,737,117	\$2,312,117	\$6,260,745
2026/27	\$3,323,997	\$1,939,450	\$500,000	\$1,705,194	\$2,205,194	\$6,968,641
2027/28	\$2,108,206	\$1,939,450	\$425,000	\$1,836,840	\$2,261,840	\$5,884,496
2028/29	\$3,382,129	\$1,939,450	\$575,000	\$1,888,927	\$2,463,927	\$7,210,506
2029/30	\$3,574,715	\$1,939,450	\$500,000	\$1,940,618	\$2,440,618	\$7,454,783
2030/31	\$1,788,426	\$1,939,450	\$425,000	\$1,993,086	\$2,418,086	\$5,720,962
2031/32	\$602,534	\$1,939,450	\$575,000	\$2,046,308	\$2,621,308	\$4,588,292
2032/33	\$650,026	\$1,939,450	\$500,000	\$2,100,963	\$2,600,963	\$4,690,439
2033/34	\$682,294	\$1,939,450	\$425,000	\$2,157,089	\$2,582,089	\$4,778,833
2034/35	\$698,495	\$1,939,450	\$575,000	\$2,214,727	\$2,789,727	\$4,852,672
Total	\$19,395,000	\$19,394,500	\$5,075,000	\$19,620,869	\$24,695,869	\$58,410,369

The following table shows the Operational budget, capital budget, and the renewal forecast summary of water assets.

Financial Year	Renewal Forecast	10 Year Capital Program (Avg) <small>* see Table 16</small>	Capital Budget	Operational Budget	Total Budget	Total Lifecycle Demand
2025/26	\$2,876,875	\$1,980,954	\$382,500	\$724,213	\$1,106,713	\$5,582,042
2026/27	\$1,988,447	\$1,980,954	\$450,000	\$899,458	\$1,349,458	\$4,868,859
2027/28	\$1,320,444	\$1,980,954	\$517,500	\$981,449	\$1,498,949	\$4,282,847
2028/29	\$1,255,426	\$1,980,954	\$382,500	\$981,449	\$1,363,949	\$4,217,829
2029/30	\$7,648,462	\$1,980,954	\$450,000	\$981,449	\$1,431,449	\$10,610,865
2030/31	\$964,800	\$1,980,954	\$517,500	\$981,449	\$1,498,949	\$3,927,203
2031/32	\$964,212	\$1,980,954	\$382,500	\$981,449	\$1,363,949	\$3,926,615
2032/33	\$952,033	\$1,980,954	\$450,000	\$981,449	\$1,431,449	\$3,914,436
2033/34	\$931,939	\$1,980,954	\$517,500	\$981,449	\$1,498,949	\$3,894,342
2034/35	\$906,897	\$1,980,954	\$382,500	\$981,449	\$1,363,949	\$3,869,300
Total	\$19,809,535	\$19,809,540	\$4,432,500	\$9,475,263	\$13,907,763	\$49,094,338

1.7 Improvement Plan

A comprehensive Improvement Plan has been developed to strengthen asset management capability. Key actions include formalising Levels of Service, improving condition data and inspections, implementing structured maintenance and asset data systems, improving renewal modelling, forecasting 10-year operational and capital budgets, refining disposal and risk management processes, and categorising assets by location (treatment plants, pump stations, networks) for better planning.

A critical initiative is the **establishment of an Asset Management Steering Committee (AMSC)** to oversee implementation, provide strategic direction, monitor performance and drive continuous improvement across water and sewer asset management.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Coonamble Shire Council is located in north-western New South Wales, approximately 500 kilometers from Sydney, covering an area of around 9,900 square kilometers. The Shire includes the township of Coonamble and the villages of Gulargambone and Quambone, along with extensive rural and agricultural areas. It lies within the Orana region and forms part of the Western Plains of New South Wales.

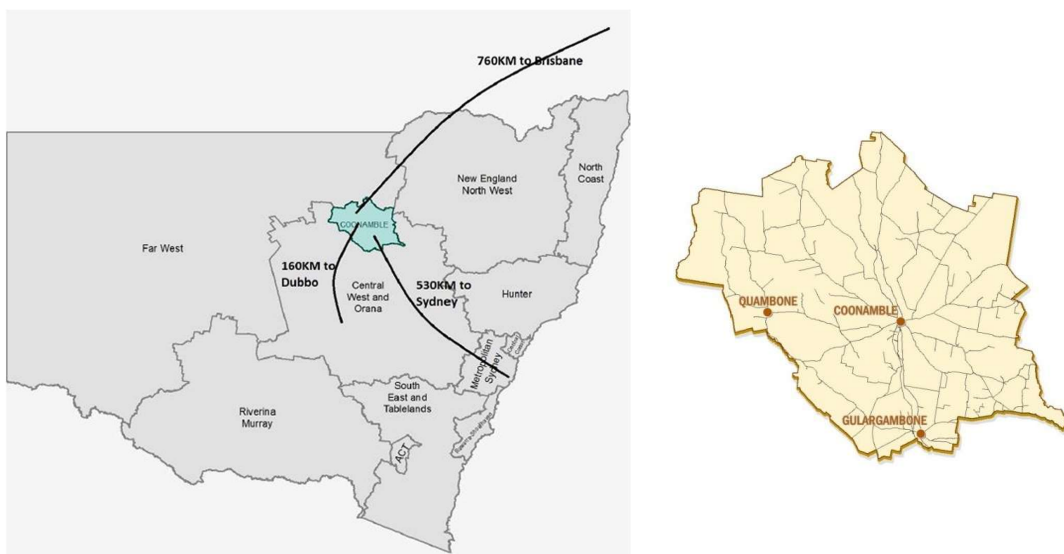


Figure 1 – Coonamble Local Government Area

Coonamble Shire has a population of approximately 3,900 people (based on the latest ABS estimates), with the majority residing in the township of Coonamble. The region is characterised by its strong connection to agriculture, particularly cropping and livestock grazing, and serves as a regional service Centre for surrounding rural communities.

The council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of essential water supply and sewerage services to support the health, wellbeing, and economic vitality of its communities. This includes the operation and maintenance of water treatment plants, sewerage treatment systems, pumping stations, pipelines, and associated infrastructure in the township of Coonamble and the village of Gulargambone.

2.2 Purpose of the Plan

This Asset Management Plan outlines a 10-year plan for managing Coonamble Shire's water and sewer assets, supporting Council's vision to plan, develop, and maintain infrastructure that is both sustainable and cost-effective.

The plan is grounded in responsible asset management principles, aiming to deliver the required levels of service to current and future customers while minimising lifecycle costs.

It ensures that water and sewer infrastructure continue to operate effectively throughout its intended life, balancing technical, financial, environmental, and community considerations.

Key objectives of this plan are to:

- Provide a clear strategy for the long-term management of water and sewer assets.
- Improve understanding of service level standards and enhance customer satisfaction and Council's reputation.
- Identify optimal whole-of-life costs to deliver the desired levels of service.
- Support decision-making by forecasting asset-related needs, management options, and funding requirements.
- Justify long-term works programs and future investment through evidence-based planning.
- Manage environmental, health, and financial risks associated with asset failure.

2.3 Asset Management Plan Structure

This Asset Management Plan has been developed in alignment with good practice guidance from the ISO 55000 Asset Management Standard and the IPWEA International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM). It reflects Council's current processes, practices, data, and standards in managing water and sewer infrastructure.

Coonamble Shire Council is committed to continuously improving its asset management capability and recognises that this Plan will need to be periodically updated to reflect changes in asset condition, service requirements, regulatory obligations, and operational practices.

The council's aim is for its Asset Management Plans to closely align with actual management practices. This ensures that long-term financial planning is realistic and supports the sustainable delivery of infrastructure and services to the community.

2.4 Water & Sewer Asset Summary

The following table provides a summary of water & sewer asset portfolio.

Asset Class	Asset Sub Class	Quantity	Replacement Cost	Fair Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Annual Depreciation
Sewer	Sewer Network	45570 m	\$18,578,039	\$12,887,057	\$5,690,981	\$150,952
	Sewer Pumping Station Assets	59	\$4,342,784	\$3,141,206	\$1,201,578	\$77,192
	Sewer Treatment Plant Assets	57	\$9,626,027	\$3,227,693	\$6,398,334	\$171,293
	Telemetry	34	\$1,102,630	\$453,689	\$648,941	\$50,189
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	Telemetry	30	\$2,918,288	\$1,758,109	\$1,160,180	\$112,854
	Total		\$32,238,382	\$19,863,463	\$12,374,919	\$522,180

Table 1 - Summary of water & Sewer Asset Portfolio

2.5 Sewer Assets

The table below provides a summary of Council’s sewer assets based on the 2025 valuation data.

Asset Type	Asset Sub Type	Component	Quantity	Unit	Replacement Cost	Fair Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Annual Depreciation
Civil	Culvert	Concrete	1	#	\$5,897	\$3,590	\$2,306	\$81
Civil	Fencing	Mesh	4	#	\$163,218	\$46,376	\$116,842	\$6,777
Civil	Footpath	Concrete	2	#	\$31,252	\$12,957	\$18,295	\$634
Civil	Lagoon	Earth	5	#	\$1,198,898	\$825,112	\$373,786	\$13,055
Civil	Metal Work	Steel	1	#	\$9,435	\$4,151	\$5,283	\$189
Civil	Pit	Concrete	6	#	\$42,456	\$24,041	\$18,415	\$812
Civil	Pump Well	Concrete	15	#	\$3,978,481	\$3,088,379	\$890,102	\$52,545
Civil	Roads	Unsealed	1	#	\$4,953	\$1,882	\$3,071	\$198
Civil	Safety Rail	Standard	1	#	\$108,498	\$25,473	\$83,024	\$2,359
Civil	Structure	Concrete	11	#	\$6,424,943	\$1,750,886	\$4,674,057	\$96,840
Electrical	Flow Meter	Standard	5	#	\$48,523	\$17,288	\$31,235	\$1,580
Electrical	Switchboard	Standard	19	#	\$904,706	\$345,619	\$559,087	\$36,227
Electrical	Telemetry	Standard	17	#	\$309,017	\$155,249	\$153,769	\$18,368
Manhole	Manhole	Concrete (> 4.5)	50	#	\$507,645	\$414,185	\$93,460	\$4,467

Manhole	Manhole	Concrete (0 < 1.5)	272	#	\$1,578,440	\$921,065	\$657,374	\$15,230
Manhole	Manhole	Concrete (1.5 < 3.0)	251	#	\$1,136,477	\$680,343	\$456,135	\$10,889
Manhole	Manhole	Concrete (3.0 < 4.5)	92	#	\$623,420	\$409,752	\$213,668	\$5,840
Manhole	Manhole	HDPE (0<1.5)	1	#	\$5,173	\$5,173	\$0	\$43
Manhole	Manhole	HDPE (1.5<3.0)	3	#	\$15,520	\$15,520	\$0	\$129
Mechanical	Aeration	Standard	1	#	\$13,965	\$3,840	\$10,125	\$582
Mechanical	Aeration Pipe	Standard	1	#	\$19,551	\$3,631	\$15,920	\$1,397
Mechanical	Dosing	Standard	1	#	\$8,379	\$0	\$8,379	\$0
Mechanical	Mechanical	Standard	3	#	\$351,923	\$83,772	\$268,151	\$14,903
Mechanical	Pump	Submersible	30	#	\$473,699	\$147,165	\$326,534	\$31,419
Pipework and Fitting	#	Standard	5	#	\$973,647	\$283,175	\$690,472	\$20,709
Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	AC150	1748	m	\$382,568	\$217,470	\$165,098	\$3,706
Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	AC225	240	m	\$83,579	\$45,424	\$38,155	\$819
Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	DICL300	18	m	\$16,515	\$15,414	\$1,101	\$139
Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	EW150	3738	m	\$789,598	\$484,792	\$304,807	\$6,036
Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	EW225	138	m	\$48,037	\$29,493	\$18,544	\$367
Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	PE50	284	m	\$25,699	\$15,109	\$10,590	\$246
Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	PVC150	1173	m	\$267,476	\$221,781	\$45,695	\$1,865

Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	PVC300	5244	m	\$2,397,570	\$1,993,353	\$404,217	\$16,644
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	AC150	3098	m	\$840,154	\$496,879	\$343,275	\$8,053
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	AC225	346	m	\$152,656	\$79,116	\$73,540	\$1,513
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	CAST150	1615	m	\$429,257	\$229,443	\$199,814	\$4,222
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	EW150	8953	m	\$1,891,014	\$1,172,512	\$718,503	\$14,419
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	EW225	626	m	\$276,242	\$169,605	\$106,637	\$2,112
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	PE50	937	m	\$109,842	\$66,374	\$43,468	\$1,046
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	PVC150	3065	m	\$938,275	\$795,410	\$142,865	\$6,487
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	PVC225	229	m	\$101,131	\$72,592	\$28,539	\$734
Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	PVC300	115	m	\$66,461	\$59,977	\$6,484	\$447
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	AC100	961	m	\$220,891	\$129,865	\$91,025	\$2,117
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	AC150	864	m	\$304,914	\$192,969	\$111,946	\$2,876
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	AC225	460	m	\$247,203	\$128,116	\$119,087	\$2,450
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	CAST150	1199	m	\$423,116	\$219,285	\$203,830	\$4,194
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	CAST200	23	m	\$10,841	\$5,618	\$5,222	\$107
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	EW150	2670	m	\$941,978	\$587,672	\$354,306	\$7,171
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	EW225	483	m	\$259,330	\$159,222	\$100,109	\$1,982
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	PVC150	1763	m	\$622,120	\$548,453	\$73,667	\$4,225

Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	PVC225	75	m	\$40,196	\$32,014	\$8,181	\$283
Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	PVC300	1331	m	\$942,344	\$657,538	\$284,807	\$6,953
Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	AC225	172	m	\$106,557	\$55,225	\$51,333	\$1,056
Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	EW150	160	m	\$66,875	\$41,059	\$25,815	\$511
Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	EW225	128	m	\$79,569	\$48,853	\$30,716	\$608
Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	PVC150	790	m	\$331,097	\$298,793	\$32,304	\$2,228
Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	PVC225	803	m	\$497,309	\$448,788	\$48,521	\$3,346
Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	PVC300	978	m	\$800,950	\$722,804	\$78,147	\$5,389
					\$33,649,479	\$19,709,645	\$13,939,834	\$449,626

Table 2 – Summary of Sewer Assets

2.6 Water Assets

The table below provides a summary of Council’s water assets based on the 2025 valuation data.

Asset Type	Asset Sub Type	Component	Quantity	Unit	Replacement Cost	Fair Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Annual Depreciation
Civil	Bore Structure	Standard	9	#	\$1,816,234	\$935,592	\$880,643	\$27,494
Civil	Fencing	Mesh	4	#	\$107,318	\$57,612	\$49,706	\$3,785
Civil	Hardstand	Concrete	1	#	\$23,586	\$20,008	\$3,579	\$407

Civil	Lagoon	Earth	2	#	\$290,113	\$144,108	\$146,005	\$3,333
Civil	Metal Work	Steel	2	#	\$94,346	\$78,110	\$16,236	\$1,638
Civil	Pump Well	Concrete	2	#	\$554,281	\$477,534	\$76,747	\$7,106
Civil	Reservoir Roof	Steel	4	#	\$529,044	\$274,270	\$254,773	\$10,285
Civil	Reservoir Structure	Concrete	1	#	\$732,359	\$186,419	\$545,940	\$11,096
Civil	Reservoir Structure	Steel	3	#	\$3,069,066	\$2,193,131	\$875,935	\$40,885
Civil	Reservoir Structure	Steel Tank	3	#	\$71,939	\$39,242	\$32,697	\$1,386
Civil	Roads	Sealed	1	#	\$53,069	\$36,130	\$16,940	\$512
Civil	Standpipe	Standard	1	#	\$5,897	\$4,086	\$1,811	\$211
Civil	Structure	Concrete	8	#	\$1,123,893	\$953,005	\$170,888	\$14,460
Civil	Tank	Chemical	3	#	\$129,725	\$50,741	\$78,984	\$8,245
Electrical	Dosing	Standard	1	#	\$102,155	\$47,827	\$54,328	\$6,191
Electrical	Flow Meter	Standard	14	#	\$311,482	\$263,082	\$48,400	\$16,598
Electrical	Instrumentation	Standard	5	#	\$113,647	\$34,094	\$79,553	\$7,576
Electrical	Switch Board	AV Data	3	#	\$30,646	\$17,446	\$13,201	\$1,783
Electrical	Switchboard	Standard	14	#	\$2,661,125	\$1,585,765	\$1,075,360	\$98,381
Electrical	Telemetry	Standard	9	#	\$226,517	\$154,899	\$71,619	\$12,691
Mechanical	Actuator	Pneumatic	4	#	\$48,878	\$5,929	\$42,949	\$5,006

Mechanical	Blower	Standard	1	#	\$41,896	\$22,489	\$19,406	\$1,581
Mechanical	Compressor	Standard	2	#	\$41,896	\$19,615	\$22,281	\$2,539
Mechanical	Dosing	Standard	7	#	\$217,438	\$105,862	\$111,576	\$13,316
Mechanical	Dosing Skid	Standard	1	#	\$293,269	\$0	\$293,269	\$0
Mechanical	Pump	Booster	9	#	\$64,938	\$28,869	\$36,069	\$3,630
Mechanical	Pump	Dosing	1	#	\$5,586	\$0	\$5,586	\$0
Mechanical	Pump	Standard	9	#	\$281,957	\$145,408	\$136,549	\$10,627
Mechanical	Pump	Submersible	5	#	\$118,704	\$68,957	\$49,747	\$4,409
Mechanical	Safety Shower	Standard	5	#	\$25,137	\$11,756	\$13,381	\$1,528
Pipework and Fitting	#	Standard	15	#	\$1,253,198	\$1,011,207	\$241,991	\$16,322
Water Main	AC	100	21847	m	\$3,846,720	\$1,545,265	\$2,301,455	\$49,886
Water Main	AC	150	3046	m	\$786,257	\$228,840	\$557,417	\$10,768
Water Main	AC	200	2077	m	\$810,550	\$324,461	\$486,089	\$10,515
Water Main	AC	250	517	m	\$242,189	\$109,642	\$132,546	\$3,046
Water Main	CAST	100	407	m	\$103,548	\$26,750	\$76,798	\$1,438
Water Main	CAST	150	189	m	\$68,962	\$18,082	\$50,880	\$956
Water Main	Ducti	150	18	m	\$6,501	\$5,977	\$524	\$66
Water Main	PVC	100	25913	m	\$4,590,053	\$2,874,141	\$1,715,912	\$45,724

Water Main	PVC	150	12071	m	\$3,116,295	\$2,235,834	\$880,461	\$29,261
Water Main	PVC	200	2475	m	\$965,803	\$670,595	\$295,208	\$9,132
Water Main	PVC	300	5651	m	\$3,260,545	\$2,849,433	\$411,112	\$28,353
Water Main	PVC	75	13	m	\$1,620	\$1,252	\$368	\$15
					\$32,238,382	\$19,863,463	\$12,374,919	\$522,180

Table 3 – Summary of Water Assets

3. Strategic Alignment

3.1 Community Strategic Plan



The Coonamble Shire **Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2025–2035** is the Shire’s highest-level strategic document, developed following the 2024 local government elections. It captures the community’s long-term vision, goals, and priorities for the next ten years and outlines the strategies required to achieve those aspirations.

Developed through extensive community consultation, the CSP reflects the social, economic, environmental, and infrastructure needs of the local community.

The CSP is underpinned by five strategic themes:

- Our Community
- Our Economy
- Our Assets
- Our Country
- Our Leadership

The CSP forms the foundation of NSW’s **Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework**, which ensures that local government planning is transparent, community-driven, and aligned across all levels. The framework includes:

- Community Strategic Plan (CSP) – 10+ year vision owned by the community
- Delivery Program – 4-year Council commitment aligned to the CSP
- Operational Plan – Annual actions and budget
- Resourcing Strategy, which includes:
 - Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP)
 - Workforce Management Plan
 - Asset Management Strategy & Plans

Asset Management Plans (AMPs) for infrastructure assets, including water and sewer, are developed to ensure the Council can deliver services in line with the CSP goals in a financially and operationally sustainable way.

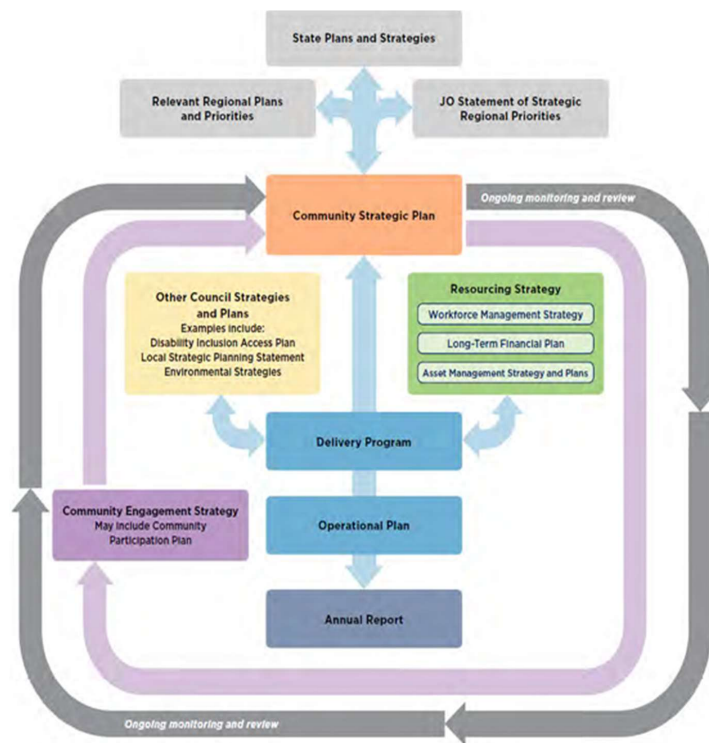


Figure 2 – Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

3.2 Strategic Goals and Objectives - CSP

The Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan supports the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) by ensuring the delivery of safe, reliable, and cost-effective utility services that meet community expectations and promote long-term sustainability. In line with the CSP, Council aims to increase urban water satisfaction from 33% to 50% and sewerage satisfaction from 63% to 70% by 2035.

By aligning with the CSP, the AMP guides investment priorities, manages risks, and ensures compliance with service standards and regulatory requirements. It also strengthens Council’s contribution to broader objectives such as environmental sustainability, economic growth, and community wellbeing.

3.3 Delivery Program (2025-2029) Actions

The Delivery Program 2025–2029 outlines Coonamble Shire Council’s key priorities and actions over the medium term to deliver the strategic objectives of the Community Strategic Plan 2025–2035. This Asset Management Plan directly supports the Delivery Program by guiding the responsible planning, maintenance, renewal, and upgrade of Council’s water and sewer infrastructure.

Several specific actions within the Delivery Program relate directly to water and sewer services. These include maintaining compliance with drinking water standards, implementing capital works and renewals, upgrading treatment systems, protecting water quality, and ensuring asset

management practices align with legislative and environmental obligations. This alignment ensures that water and sewer service delivery is both strategic and sustainable, reinforcing Council’s long-term commitment to public health, environmental stewardship, and infrastructure resilience.

3.4 Operational Plan (2025-26) Actions

The Operational Plan 2025–2026 outlines the specific actions and resource allocations that implement the objectives of the Delivery Program and the broader Community Strategic Plan. This Asset Management Plan supports and is informed by the Operational Plan through the identification and delivery of priority actions related to water and sewer infrastructure.

Key activities identified in the Operational Plan ensure compliance with legislative requirements, ongoing service delivery, infrastructure renewal, and environmental stewardship. These actions enable the Council to maintain essential water and sewer services while advancing long-term planning and capital investment strategies.



Improvement Opportunity

Ensure all actions outlined in the 2025–2026 Operational Plan are appropriately resourced and delivered within the specified timeframes.

3.5 Alignment of CSP, Delivery Program, and Operational Plan (2025-26)

The following table outlines the alignment between the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), Delivery Program, and Operational Plan for 2025–2026 as they relate to Transport & Drainage services. This alignment demonstrates how long-term community aspirations (CSP) are translated into medium-term commitments (Delivery Program) and delivered through specific annual actions and budgets (Operational Plan). By mapping these linkages, Council ensures that the planning, maintenance, and improvement of transport and drainage assets remain consistent with community priorities, legislative obligations, and available resources.

Goal	Strategy ID	Strategies	Measures of Success	Delivery Program Actions	Operational Plan Actions (2025–26)	Measure	Council Role
A2: Our utilities							
Goal 9	A2.1	15) Deliver a reliable supply of potable water to homes and public spaces.	Community satisfaction levels in potable water, sewerage and drainage Infrastructure and services.	Carry out Water Strategic Planning.	Develop and adopt IWCMS in conjunction with DCCEEW	IWCMS is adopted and receives concurrence from DCCEEW.	Service provider Advocate
			Infrastructure renewal ratio achieved.		Prepare 30-year AMP and LTFP.	Adoption of Water AMP and LTFP	
					Prepare and adopt 5-year Drought Contingency and Emergency Response Plan.	5-year Drought Contingency and Emergency Response Plan adopted.	
			A2.2	16) Maintain high standards of sanitation in our homes and public spaces.	Infrastructure backlog ratio achieve reduction.	Ensure all development approvals consider existing utilities infrastructure in	

				Infrastructure backlog ratio achieve reduction.	their determination.	utilities infrastructure in their determination.		
					Utilities performance audited annually through Triple Bottom Line (TBL) reporting.	Prepare and submit annual report through TBL reporting.	Annual utilities performance report submitted.	
					Implement water efficiency programs	Develop and implement water efficiency programs.	Two programs publicised annually.	
					Carry out Sewerage Strategic Planning	Review and monitor Trade Waste Policy.	Trade Waste Policy implemented and monitored.	
						Seek and obtain funding for concept and detailed designs for Coonamble Sewer Treatment Plant.	Concept and detailed designs for Coonamble Sewer Treatment Plan completed	
						Complete 30-year Total AMP and LTFP for Coonamble LGA sewerage.	Coonamble sewerage 30-year Total AMP and LTFP completed.	
A3: Our assets								

Goal 10	Our maintain and improve our natural and built assets to help our families, community, economy and environment thrive.	A3.1	18) Systematically enhance and maintain our homes, businesses, and other natural and built assets for functionality and aesthetics.	Community satisfaction with presentation of streets and public spaces Improved environmental sustainability through monitoring of conservation efforts and biodiversity protection	Deliver a Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) that achieves balance between the Council's financial capabilities and the community's aspirations, and which is a quality decision making and problem-solving tool.	Develop and adopt a Long Term Financial Plan that accurately aligns with Asset Management Plans.	Adopted Long Term Financial Plan cross references Asset Management Plans.	Service provider Advocate Facilitator
L2: Our Integrity								
Goal 16	We make and implement informed decisions with trustworthiness, integrity and probity.	L2.3	27) Proactively communicate decisions, and the processes to reach them, to relevant stakeholders.	Number of publications circulated to the community. Community satisfaction with communication	Employ quality engagement and communication tools and strategies, including Council's Community Engagement Strategy, which achieve increased community participation in decision-making	Evolve community engagement tools and methods to achieve increased community participation.	Number of initiatives and programs implemented.	Service provider Facilitator

					Maintain compliance with best practice governance standards.	Develop and implement an annual review of governance best practice advice, keeping Council up to date with industry standards	Annual review of governance guidance.	
					Deliver communication and marketing strategies which achieve brand building and maximises engagement with our community.	Implement annual review of communication strategy to increase engagement and communication with target groups.	Number of engagement and communication to outreach ratio.	

Table 4 - CSP, Delivery program, and Operational Plan (2025-2026) Alignment - Water and Sewer Services

3.6 Water and Sewer Management Plan (2017–2024)

This plan sets out the strategies for managing Coonamble Shire Council’s water supply and sewerage services across Coonamble, Gulargambone, and Quambone. It covers water quality management, asset condition, renewal priorities, pricing structures, and capital investment needs. Key recommendations include targeted upgrades to treatment facilities, maintaining compliance with health and environmental standards, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability through informed pricing and investment planning.



Improvement Opportunity

Review and update the Water and Sewer Management Plan to reflect current operational, regulatory, and asset management requirements beyond 2024.

3.7 Coonamble STP Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (2021)

This plan outlines the procedures for preventing, responding to, and reporting pollution incidents at the Coonamble Sewage Treatment Plant. It details risk assessments, potential pollutants, safety equipment, mapping of critical infrastructure, and notification protocols under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act. It assigns responsibilities, provides incident response flowcharts, and includes training and review processes to ensure environmental protection and regulatory compliance.

3.8 Drought Management Plan 2021–2022

The Drought Management Plan provides a structured framework for ensuring the continuity of essential water supply during drought events. It sets clear objectives, including timely response protocols, customer communication, and targeted support for critical users (e.g., hospitals). The plan incorporates monitoring requirements, drought triggers, and a five-level restriction framework to manage demand and safeguard supply. Actions are aligned with NSW Best Practice Management Guidelines for Water Supply and Sewerage, ensuring resilience against future drought conditions.

3.9 Business Continuity Planning

Coonamble Shire Council’s Business Continuity Plan (BCP) provides the framework for ensuring essential services, including water supply and sewerage, can continue or be rapidly restored in the event of a significant disruption. The BCP is part of an integrated suite of planning documents comprising the BCP Manual, Procedures, Contact Lists, and Critical Business Function Sub Plans for each department, including Infrastructure.

The purpose of the BCP is to build organisational resilience by identifying the actions, facilities, infrastructure, responsibilities, and processes required to maintain or restore critical functions. For water and sewer services, this includes measures to respond to events such as natural disasters, major equipment failures, contamination incidents, and other emergencies that could affect service delivery.

The BCP outlines a coordinated approach led by the Continuity Management Team (CMT), ensuring that key personnel are trained, response roles are clearly defined, and recovery priorities are

understood. It provides a staged process for identifying and managing risks, activating continuity arrangements, and maintaining compliance with legislative and community expectations.

By embedding these arrangements into Council’s operations, the BCP ensures that water and sewer services remain reliable, resilient, and capable of supporting public health, safety, and community wellbeing during times of disruption.

3.10 Legislative and Regulatory Framework

The management of water and sewer assets by Coonamble Shire Council is governed by a range of legislative and regulatory instruments at both the state and local levels. These laws set out the responsibilities, standards, and compliance obligations relating to the provision of safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible water supply and sewerage services.

This framework ensures that Council operates within its legal authority, protects public health, safeguards the environment, and aligns with broader land use and infrastructure planning requirements. It also supports cost recovery mechanisms, performance reporting, and continuous improvement in service delivery.

The key Acts, regulations, and guidelines relevant to Coonamble Shire Council’s water and sewer services are outlined below.

Legislation / Regulation	Description	Relevance to Coonamble Shire Council
Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)	Provides Council with authority to supply water and sewer services; outlines asset management responsibilities.	Primary legislation enabling Council's role as a water and sewer authority within NSW.
Local Government (Water Services) Regulation 1999	Regulates service connections, discharges, and metering requirements related to water supply and sewer systems.	Applies to how Council manages physical connections and network operations within the LGA.
Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)	Manages water rights, licensing, and use from surface and groundwater sources, including Great Artesian Basin.	Relevant for extraction and use of groundwater resources, especially from the Great Artesian Basin.
Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)	Ensures protection of public health by regulating drinking water safety and waterborne disease risks.	Council must comply with these standards when operating water treatment and distribution systems.
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)	Regulates environmental impacts from sewer discharge, including licensing, monitoring, and compliance.	Coonamble’s sewerage system must meet discharge limits and environmental standards under this Act.
Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)	Governs planning approvals, zoning, and development controls that affect water and sewer infrastructure.	Development must consider proximity to water/sewer assets;

		Council applies controls via LEP and DCP.
Section 64 (LG Act 1993)- Developer Contributions	Allows Council to charge developers for additional demand placed on existing water and sewer infrastructure.	Used to recover infrastructure costs associated with new developments across the Shire.
NSW Health Drinking Water Guidelines	Sets water quality testing and compliance requirements for public water supply systems.	Council must monitor and report on water quality to meet public health compliance requirements.
NSW EPA Environment Protection Licences	Establishes conditions and performance standards for sewer discharges via Environment Protection Licences.	Council-operated sewer systems are subject to EPA-issued licences and periodic audits.
Civil Liability Act 2002 (NSW)	Provides protection from civil claims when acting in good faith in the performance of statutory responsibilities.	Reduces Council's exposure to liability when delivering services and managing infrastructure.
Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)	Establishes duties for ensuring the health and safety of workers and others affected by Council activities.	Applies to water and sewer staff and contractors to ensure a safe work environment.
Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 (NSW)	Prescribes specific obligations for risk management, incident reporting, and infrastructure safety measures.	Supports implementation of safe work procedures and controls across utility operations.
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021- Procurement	Provides rules and thresholds for procurement activities including tenders, quotations, and contract management.	Guides fair and compliant procurement for infrastructure projects and operational services.
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)	Supports transparency and access to procurement and operational information through public disclosure.	Ensures public access to procurement decisions and project-related information.

Table 5 - Legislation – Water and Sewer Services

3.11 Key External Stakeholders

The management of water and sewer infrastructure relies on the support and collaboration of a range of external stakeholders beyond Council. These stakeholders play vital roles in **regulation, funding, service delivery, emergency response, and environmental protection**. Their involvement ensures that water and sewer services are safe, sustainable, and compliant with legislative and community expectations.

Importantly, residents and local property owners are key stakeholders, as they are the end users of these essential services. Their feedback, usage patterns, and reporting of issues play a critical role in shaping service delivery, identifying emerging risks, and informing long-term planning.

Effective stakeholder engagement is essential to maintain alignment with government policy, respond to emergencies, secure funding, and deliver projects that benefit the Coonamble community.

- **Residents and Property Owners** – primary users of water and sewer services; contribute through service use, feedback, and reporting of faults or concerns
- **NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure** – infrastructure policy, regulatory oversight, and capital funding (e.g. Safe & Secure Water Program)
- **NSW Health** – regulation and oversight of public health standards related to drinking water quality
- **NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)** – regulation of environmental compliance, particularly in relation to sewer discharge and reuse
- **Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)** – provision of climate and rainfall data for flood and drought planning
- **Essential Energy / Utility Providers** – coordination for service corridor access and infrastructure dependencies
- **NSW Public Works Advisory** – technical advice and support for major upgrades, renewals, and emergency works
- **Office of Water (within DPE)** – water licensing, allocations, and catchment management
- **Private Contractors and Consultants** – engagement for capital works, renewals, maintenance and technical assessments
- **State and Federal Funding Bodies** – infrastructure grant funding and support for system upgrades
- **Local Aboriginal Land Councils** – cultural heritage input and engagement for works affecting traditional lands or sensitive sites.

4. LEVELS OF SERVICE

Levels of Service (LOS) define the standards at which Coonamble Shire Council delivers water supply and sewerage services to the community. They provide a clear link between customer expectations, regulatory requirements, and the technical performance of Council’s assets. By establishing measurable indicators, Council can ensure that water and sewer services are safe, reliable, sustainable, and aligned with community needs.

The Levels of Service framework balances two perspectives:

- Customer Levels of Service – reflect the outcomes that the community values, such as water quality, reliability, pressure, sewer reliability, and timely response to issues. These indicators translate community expectations into measurable service outcomes.
- Technical Levels of Service – reflect the internal standards that Council applies to manage and operate its assets, including compliance with environmental regulations, system performance, asset reliability, and maintenance practices. These technical measures ensure that customer outcomes are delivered in a sustainable and cost-effective way.

Setting clear Levels of Service allows Council to:

- Demonstrate accountability and transparency to the community.
- Provide a consistent basis for monitoring performance.
- Support long-term financial planning by linking service standards to asset investment needs.
- Prioritise renewal, maintenance, and operational activities based on agreed service outcomes.

The following tables outline the Customer and Technical Levels of Service for Water and Sewer Services in Coonamble Shire Council, including the key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be monitored and reported over time.

4.1 Levels of Service - Water

The following tables outline the **suggested** Customer and Technical Levels of Service for Water Services in Coonamble Shire Council, including the key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be monitored and reported over time.

Level of Service	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
Water Quality	100% compliance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
Water Pressure & Flow	Minimum 200kPa at 20 L/min at customer connections.
Reliability of Supply	< 100 unplanned interruptions per 1,000 properties per year.
Restoration Times	95% of unplanned interruptions restored within 5 hours.
Customer Responsiveness	90% of fault calls actioned within 30 minutes; urgent issues responded to within 2 hours.

Table 6 – Suggested Customer Levels of Service -Water Service

Level of Service	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
Drinking Water Compliance	Continuous monitoring and annual reporting against ADWG standards.
System Pressure	Maintain average pressure \geq 200kPa at peak demand.
Mains Breaks	< 20 water main breaks per 100 km of mains per year.
Metering Accuracy	All meters calibrated to \pm 2% accuracy every 10 years.
Planned vs Reactive Maintenance	\geq 60% planned maintenance vs \leq 40% reactive.

Table 7 – Suggested Technical Levels of Service - Water Service

4.2 Levels of Service - Sewer

The following tables outline the **suggested** Customer and Technical Levels of Service for Sewer Services in Coonamble Shire Council, including the key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be monitored and reported over time.

Level of Service	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
Sewer Reliability	< 60 sewer main breaks/chokes per 100 km of mains per year.
Sewer Overflows	< 5 sewage overflows onto customer properties per 1,000 properties per year.
Response to Sewer Issues	Urgent blockages responded to within 4 hours; restoration within 24 hours.
Odour Management	< 5 odour complaints per 1,000 properties per year.
Customer Complaints	< 40 total water and sewer complaints per 1,000 connections per year.

Table 8 – Suggested Customer Levels of Service -Sewer Service

Level of Service	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
Effluent Quality Compliance	100% compliance with EPA licence discharge limits.
Inflow & Infiltration Control	< 15% increase in flows during major rainfall events.
Pump Station Reliability	\geq 95% availability across all sewer pump stations.

Sewer Renewal Delivery	≥ 90% of planned renewal and rehabilitation program delivered annually.
Condition Assessment Frequency	CCTV inspection of 10% of mains per year (full network every 10 years).

Table 9 – Suggested Technical Levels of Service – Sewer Service

4.3 Future Direction – Levels of Service

Coonamble Shire Council recognises the need to establish clear Customer and Technical Levels of Service for both water supply and sewerage services. These measures will define the standards at which services are delivered, ensuring that customer expectations, regulatory requirements, and asset performance are aligned.

As part of this, Council will also develop a Customer Service Charter for water and sewer services. The Charter will set out the commitments Council makes to its customers, the rights and responsibilities of both parties, and the process for addressing service requests and complaints. This will provide the community with a clear understanding of what to expect and create a transparent basis for service delivery.

Developing and adopting the Levels of Service framework and Customer Service Charter will enable Council to:

- Provide transparency and accountability to the community.
- Monitor and report performance against agreed standards.
- Link service outcomes to long-term financial planning and asset investment.
- Prioritise renewal, maintenance, and operational activities in a consistent and cost-effective way.
- Strengthen community trust through clear commitments to service quality and responsiveness.

Council plans to formalise the proposed Levels of Service and Customer Service Charter and integrate them into its asset management practices. Once established, performance will be monitored and reported regularly, with reviews undertaken to ensure they remain relevant to community needs, sustainable for the organisation, and compliant with regulatory obligations.

Improvement Opportunity



- Develop and adopt formal Customer and Technical Levels of Service for water and sewer services, integrated into asset management practices and subject to regular review.
- Develop and adopt a Customer Service Charter for water and sewer services to define commitments, rights, responsibilities, and customer engagement processes.

4.4 Community Engagement 2022

Coonamble Shire Council undertook extensive community engagement in 2022 as part of the development of its Community Strategic Plan. This process included surveys, drop-in sessions, and other consultation activities designed to capture community views on Council’s services and infrastructure. The engagement outcomes provide valuable insights into community expectations and priorities, which are directly relevant to the management of water and sewer services.

4.5 Community Feedback - Water Services

Feedback indicated that water services are a high community priority, with 67% of participants rating urban water services below expectations. Key issues raised included:

- Concerns about water quality, particularly odour, chlorinated taste, and discoloured appearance.
- Problems caused by calcium and lime build-up, resulting in damage to household appliances.
- Inconsistent or low water pressure in some areas.
- Specific concerns about the quality of Quambone’s water supply.

4.6 Community Feedback - Sewer Services

The sewerage network was also highlighted as an area of concern. Feedback showed community frustration with the limited coverage of the sewerage system, with several properties within town limits still reliant on septic systems. The perception exists that the sewerage service requires greater reach and investment to meet community needs.

4.7 Implications for Service Planning

The community’s feedback reinforces the importance of addressing water quality, pressure, and system coverage in future planning. For sewerage, expanding service coverage and reducing reliance on septic systems should be explored. These findings also demonstrate the need for Council to clearly define Customer and Technical Levels of Service and to develop a Customer Service Charter for water and sewer services. Together, these will provide transparency, strengthen accountability, and ensure that service delivery is aligned with community expectations.



Improvement Opportunity

Develop a Water and Sewer Strategy to address community feedback on water quality, pressure, and sewer network coverage, and to guide long-term service planning and investment.

5. FUTURE DEMAND

The future demand for water and sewer services in Coonamble Shire is shaped by a combination of social, environmental, economic, and regulatory influences. Understanding these drivers is essential for ensuring that Council’s water supply and sewerage systems remain reliable, sustainable, and responsive to changing conditions.

This section outlines the key demand drivers expected to influence service needs over the life of the Asset Management Plan, along with corresponding projections and demand management strategies. These drivers include population trends, climate change and drought impacts, agricultural and industrial usage patterns, asset condition, regulatory requirements, and evolving community expectations.

By assessing the scale and timing of these changes, Council can prioritise investment, optimise asset utilisation, and implement targeted demand management initiatives. This approach ensures that infrastructure planning remains proactive, cost-effective, and aligned with both legislative requirements and the long-term vision set out in the Community Strategic Plan.

The table below summarises the primary demand drivers, anticipated impacts, and the strategies Council will apply to manage and respond to these changes.

Demand Driver	Projection	Demand Management Strategy
Population Growth	Modest growth across Coonamble, Gulargambone, and Quambone with stable household connections. Population trends suggest a small but steady increase in residential water and sewer demand.	Monitor population data and update network capacity models. Align renewal programs with growth areas to ensure service continuity.
Climate Change & Drought	Increased frequency of extreme heat events and prolonged droughts, leading to higher summer water demand and potential water scarcity.	Implement drought management plan triggers, enforce staged water restrictions, promote water efficiency campaigns, and increase climate-resilient infrastructure.
Agricultural & Industrial Water Use	Variable demand linked to seasonal agricultural production and industrial activities, particularly during irrigation seasons.	Negotiate water allocations with major users, encourage water recycling and efficiency in industry, and monitor high-use periods for system impacts.
Asset Age & Condition	Significant portions of the water and sewer networks are aging, leading to higher maintenance needs and potential service disruptions if not renewed.	Implement proactive asset renewal and condition assessment programs. Prioritise critical mains and pump station upgrades.

Regulatory & Environmental Compliance	Ongoing need to meet evolving NSW Health, EPA, and water quality standards, with potential tightening of discharge and reuse regulations.	Regular compliance audits, investment in treatment technology upgrades, and maintenance of Pollution Incident Response Management Plan readiness.
Community Expectations	Community demand for high-quality, reliable, and safe water and sewer services, alongside environmental sustainability commitments.	Enhance community engagement, improve service communication channels, and incorporate sustainability objectives into capital works planning.

Table 10 – Demand Drivers – Water and Sewer Service

6. LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Asset Management Systems

The council currently uses a range of corporate information systems to record and manage asset-related data. These systems are central to the Council’s asset management capability, serving as a key platform for informed decision-making, coordination of operations, and performance reporting.

Module	System
Customer Request Management	Practical Plus
Financial/Accounting	Asset Valuer
Records Management	Database – EDMS to be implemented in 21/22
Mapping (GIS)	MapInfo, MapBasic, QGIS, SIX maps
Asset Register	Asset Valuer/ Excel
Mobile Solutions	
Works Management	Practical Plus

Table 11 – Overview of Corporate Systems

It is understood that Council is exploring future options for its asset management system. As part of this process, it is essential to develop a clear implementation roadmap that incorporates any additional functionality currently managed through non-integrated

systems or manual processes. This will support greater efficiency, data integrity, and alignment across operational areas.

The lifecycle management plan outlines how Council intends to manage and operate its water and sewer assets to the agreed levels of service, while optimising life cycle costs and ensuring long-term sustainability.

6.2 Asset Useful Lives

The Appendix A summarises the estimated useful lives of Coonamble Shire Council’s sewer and water assets, derived from the 2025 valuation data.

6.3 Asset Condition

Asset condition is a key indicator of asset health and functionality. It plays a critical role in estimating remaining useful life and forecasting when assets will require maintenance, renewal, or replacement. Condition data also supports the assessment of service performance and is essential for developing long-term funding scenarios and informing Council’s strategic budget planning.

Council acknowledges the need to strengthen its inspection regime for water and sewer assets. However, given that many of these assets are sub-surface, inspections are often difficult, resource-intensive, and costly. As a result, the condition information available is limited. In the absence of a comprehensive inspection program, **Council has used 2025 revaluation data** as the best available source of condition information at both the asset and component levels.



Improvement Opportunity

Develop and implement a condition assessment program for water and sewer assets, with dedicated funding allocated through the Long-Term Financial Plan.

6.4 Condition Rating Table

Coonamble Shire Council’s condition grading system aligns with good practice guidance from the International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) and other relevant industry standards. Condition data for water and sewer assets, as recorded in the 2025 valuation registers, has been used to inform asset renewal modelling and strategic planning.

Asset condition is a key indicator of asset health and performance. It plays a critical role in determining the remaining useful life and forecasting when assets may require

maintenance, renewal, or replacement. Condition ratings also provide insight into service performance and are essential for developing long-term financial plans and prioritising investment.

The council applies a standardised 1 to 5 condition rating scale, which is summarised in the table below. This consistent framework supports objective assessment and informed decision-making across the water and sewer networks.

Condition	Description	Characteristics
1	Very Good	Asset is new or very close to as new.
2	Good	Asset is no longer in new condition. Only minor maintenance may be required.
3	Fair/ Average	The asset is serviceable and in a satisfactory condition however some maintenance may be required to address aesthetic, safety, or functional issues.
4	Poor	Asset requires significant maintenance or replacement of the asset is required
5	Very Poor	Asset is physically unsound, and replacement is required

Table 12 – Condition Rating Scale – Water and Sewer Assets

6.5 Condition - Sewer Assets

A significant proportion of the concrete civil structures and standard safety rails are assessed to be in fair to poor condition, with some elements potentially requiring urgent remediation. The majority of the concrete pump wells, pits, metal works, footpaths, and fencing are also recorded as being in overall good to fair condition.

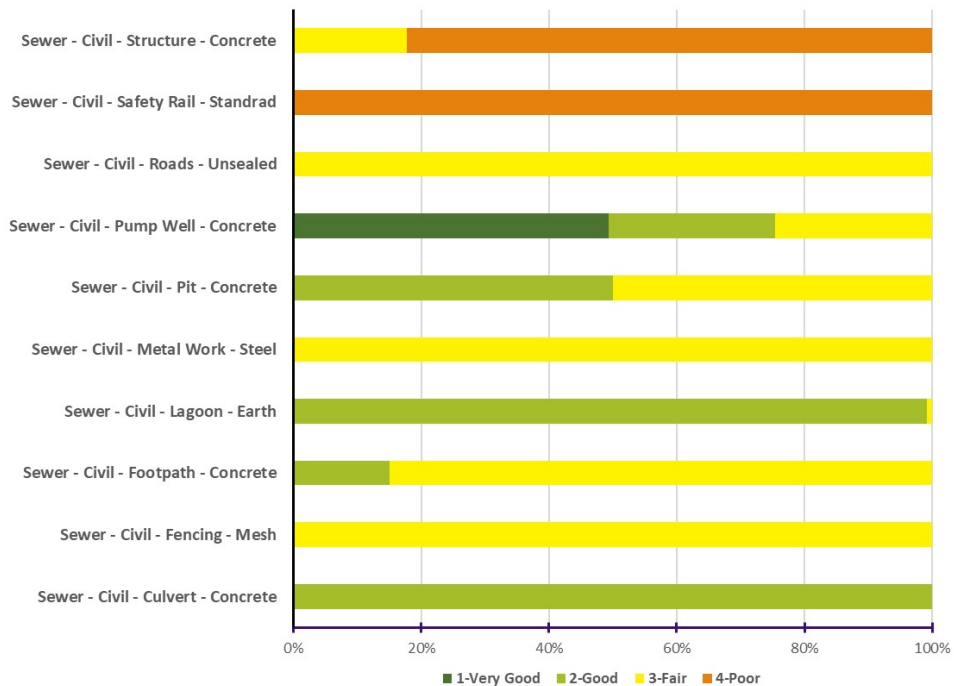


Figure 3 – Condition Profile: Civil Assets – Sewer

Around 40% of the flow meters are assessed to be in poor to very poor condition and may require urgent replacement to ensure operational reliability. Furthermore, a number of telemetry assets and switchboards have also been identified as being in fair to poor condition.

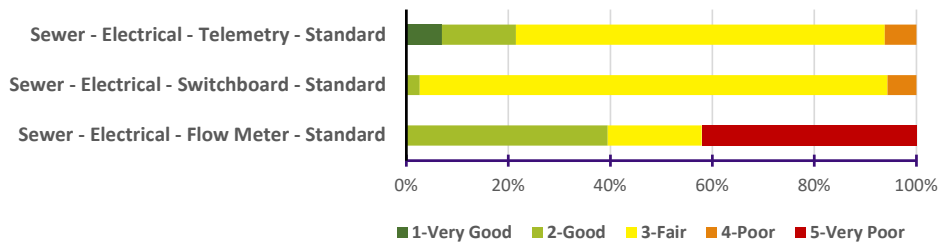


Figure 4 - Condition Profile: Electrical Assets - Sewer

The majority of the sewer manholes are in very good to fair to poor condition; with the exception of relatively newly installed HDPE manholes in the Yarran St development project and one newly installed in Pages Terrace.

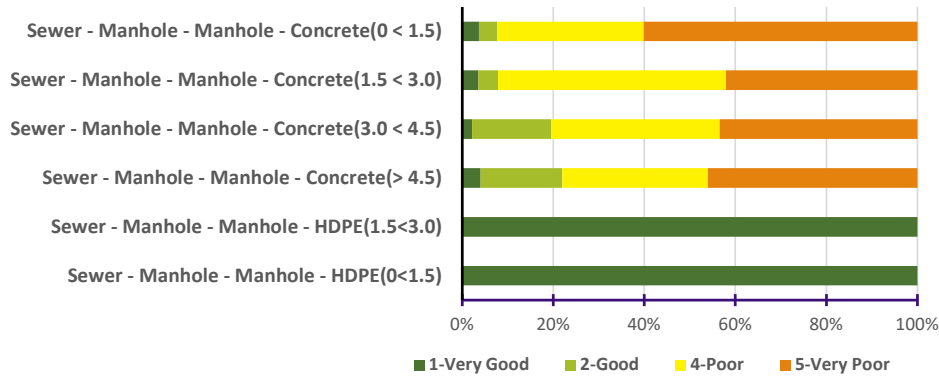


Figure 5 - Condition Profile: Concrete Manholes - Sewer

Based on the 2025 valuation data, all mechanical dosing systems are in very poor condition and may require urgent attention. In addition, the majority of standard mechanical assets are in fair to poor condition, with several submersible pumps, aeration pipes, and aerators also identified as being in fair to poor condition.

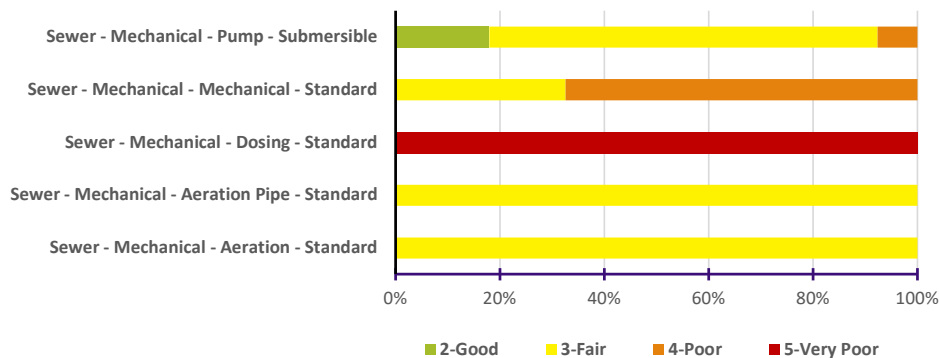


Figure 6 - Condition Profile: Mechanical Assets - Sewer

According to the 2025 valuation data, approximately 65% of the pipework and fittings are assessed to be poor to very poor condition and may require urgent intervention to ensure continued service reliability.

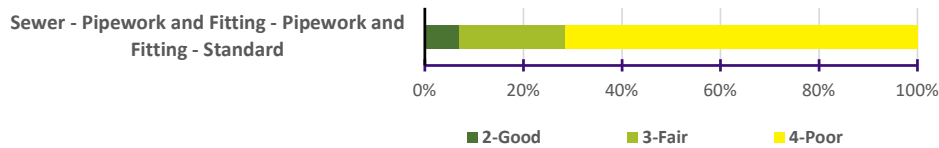


Figure 7 - Condition Profile: Pipework and Fittings - Sewer

According to the 2025 valuation data and a recent revision of material based Useful Life (UL) of our sewer mains, the majority of sewer mains laid at depths between 0m and 1.5m are assessed to be in very poor to condition and indeed many are exceeding their ULs. However, the PE 50mm is overall in fair condition. Although EW 225mm, EW 150mm, AC 225mm, and AC 150mm mains, display a range of between 20% - 62% very good to good condition, this is likely to be generated from erroneous installation year data. The PVC mains (150mm and 300mm) are identified as being in very good to fair condition. Overall, AC and EW mains require further investigation and prioritised renewal planning.

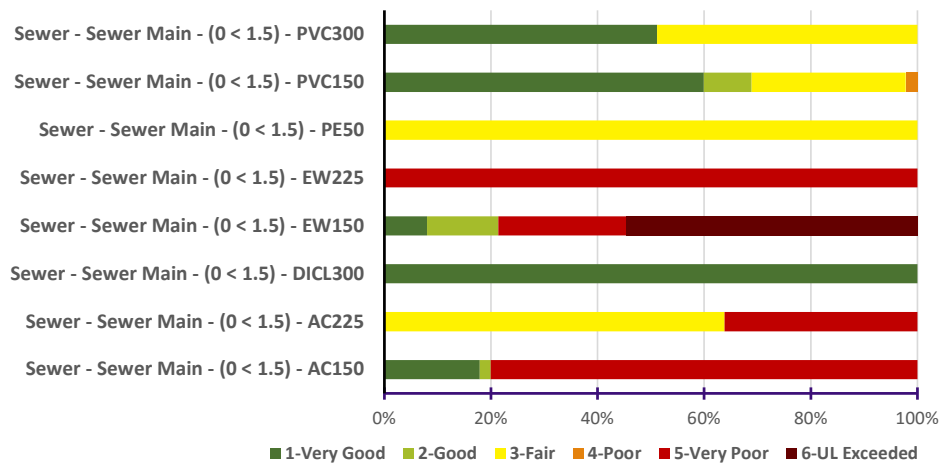


Figure 8 - Condition Profile: Sewer Mains (0<1.5m)

According to the 2025 valuation data, the majority of sewer mains laid at depths between 1.5m and 3m are assessed to be in fair to poor condition. However, approximately EW 225mm looks to contain erroneous data along with AC 225mm giving the impression of healthy assets, albeit unlikely. EW 150mm, Cast Iron 150mm, and AC 150mm mains, are in particularly very poor condition, whereas the PVC mains, are identified as being in very good to fair condition. Overall, AC and EW mains require further investigation and prioritised renewal planning.

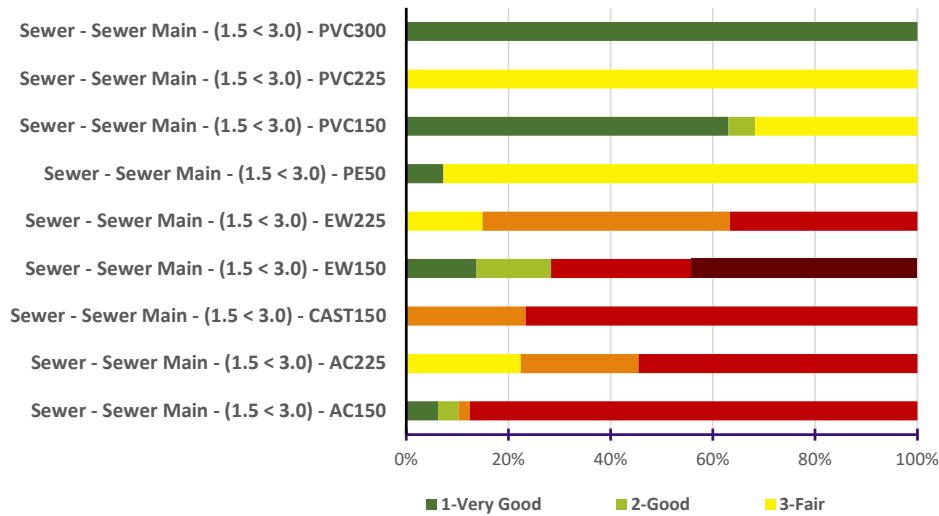


Figure 9 - Condition Profile: Sewer Mains (1.5<3m)

The 2025 valuation data indicates that most sewer mains installed at depths between 3m and 4.5m are in poor to very poor condition with the exception PVC mains. As expected when comparing the trend of the condition of AC and EW mains identified at shallower depths, mains of the same material share similar conditions. Cast iron sewer rising mains, such as sewer rising main 2 are in particularly very poor condition and will require further investigation and prioritised renewal planning.

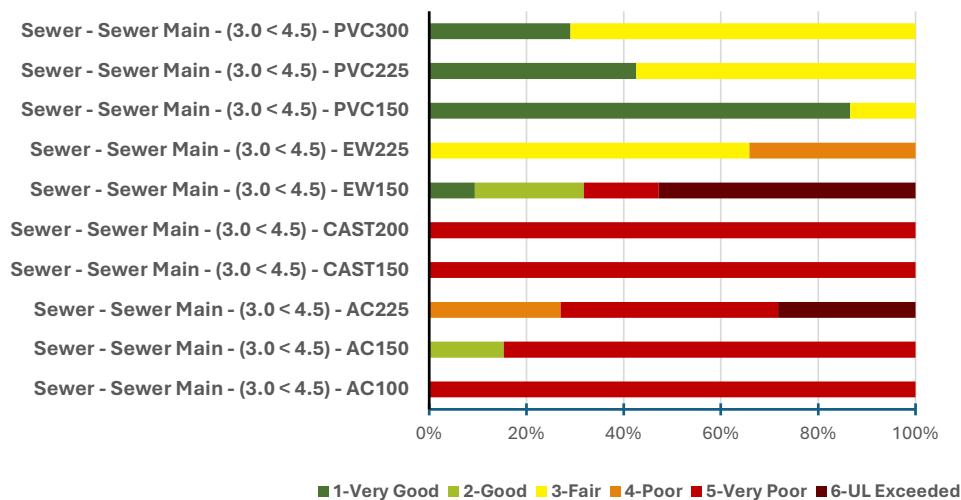


Figure 10 - Condition Profile: Sewer Mains (3<4.5m)

According to the 2025 valuation data, the majority of sewer mains laid at depths greater than 4.5m are assessed to be either very good condition or fair to exceeding their ULs. AC and EW mains are identified as being in fair to exceeding their ULs condition and require

further investigation and prioritised renewal planning. PVC mains are particularly very good in condition.

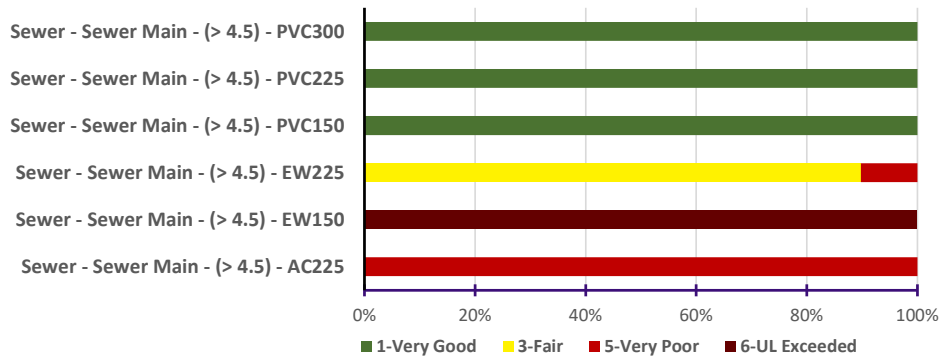


Figure 11 - Condition Profile: Sewer Mains (>4.5m)

6.6 Overall Condition of Sewer Assets

The condition profiles of Council’s sewer assets have been developed using the 2025 valuation data and reviewed useful lives. While this provides a useful baseline for understanding asset performance, the data should be treated as indicative only. The water and sewer revaluation set to commence in early April 2026 should provide a better understanding as to how well the sewer assets are performing overall. Future condition rating accuracy will to be verified through detailed field condition assessments.

Based on verified condition outcomes, a renewal program should be developed and prioritised to target assets in poor to very poor condition, while continuing to maintain and extend the life of assets currently in good to fair condition. This approach will support long-term service sustainability, minimise lifecycle costs, and ensure risks to public health and service delivery are effectively managed.

Improvement Opportunity



Implement a structured asset data collection and management program covering sewerage treatment plants, sewer pump stations, sewer reticulation networks, and associated infrastructure. The program should capture accurate information on asset location, condition, performance, and criticality to enable evidence-based planning, prioritised renewals, and improved long-term financial forecasting.

6.7 Condition – Water Assets

Based on the 2025 valuation data, a considerable proportion of assets are in poor to very poor condition, including approximately 90% of concrete reservoir structures, 20% of bore structures, as well as sections of fencing, reservoir roofs, steel tanks, and chemical tanks. All other civil assets are generally assessed to be in very good to fair condition.

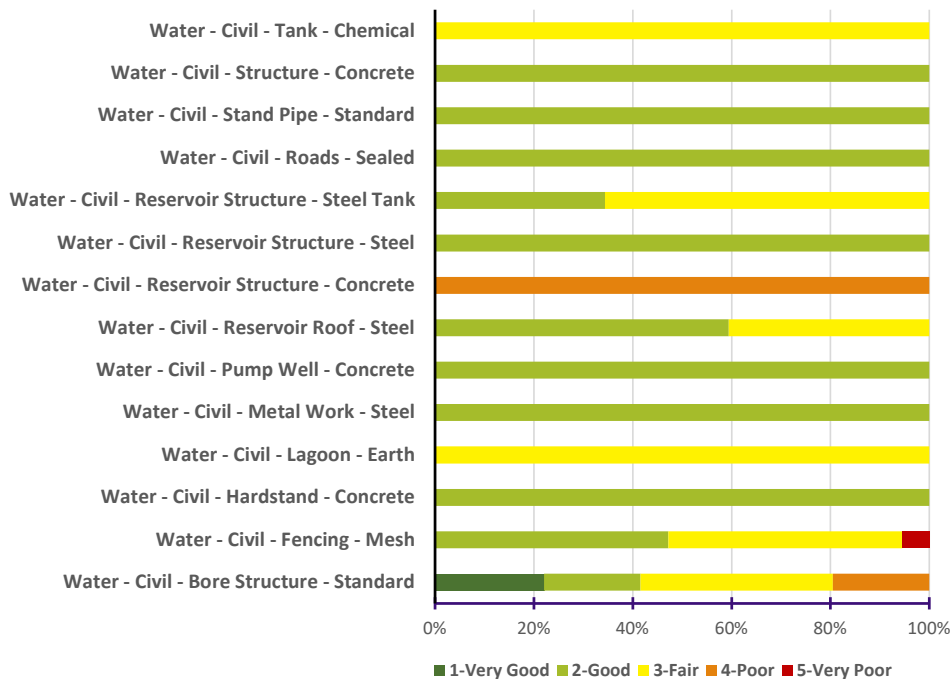


Figure 12 - Condition Profile: Civil Assets – Water

The 2025 valuation data indicates that most electrical assets are fair to very good condition. However, particularly in regard to telemetry these systems in place are older and more susceptible to cyber-security threats. These items require further investigation and prioritised for renewal planning.

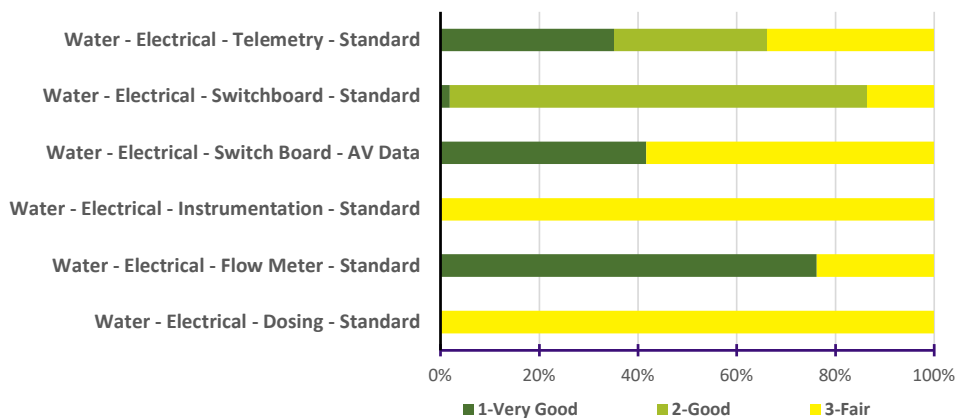


Figure 13 - Condition Profile: Electrical Assets - Water

While most mechanical assets remain serviceable, there are pockets of high-risk deterioration, particularly within dosing equipment, that may impact service delivery and operational safety if not addressed promptly.

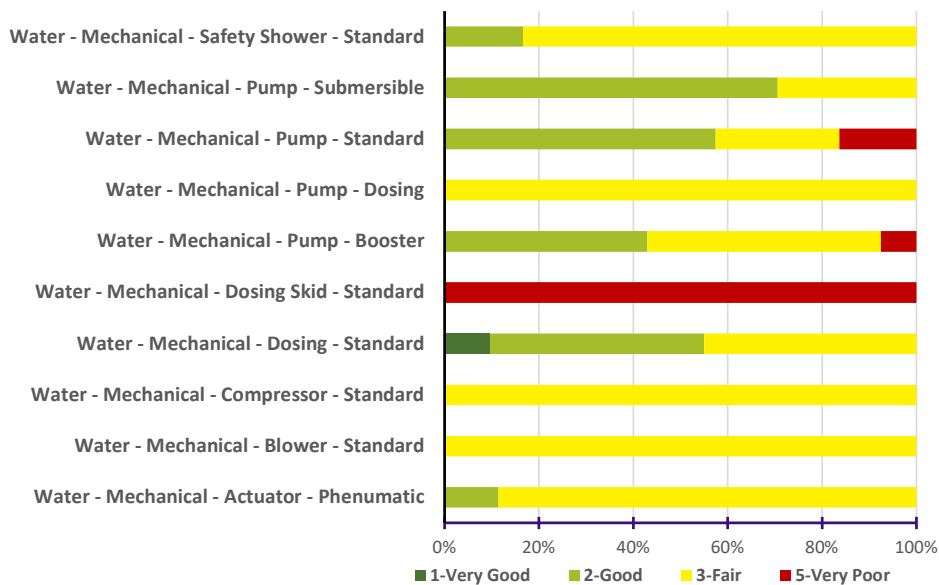


Figure 14 - Condition Profile: Mechanical Assets - Water

The majority of pipework and fittings are in very good to good condition, with a smaller proportion in fair condition and only isolated instances assessed as poor to very poor.

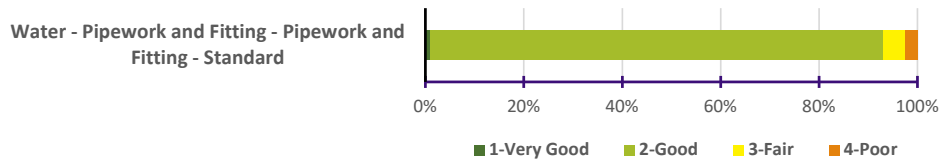


Figure 15 - Condition Profile: Pipes & Fittings - Water

The condition of water mains varies significantly by material and size. PVC and ductile mains are generally in good to fair condition with only minor instances of poor performance, while cast iron and asbestos cement (AC) mains show a much higher proportion in poor to very poor condition, particularly the smaller diameters (100mm–150mm). These asset groups represent the highest renewal priority.

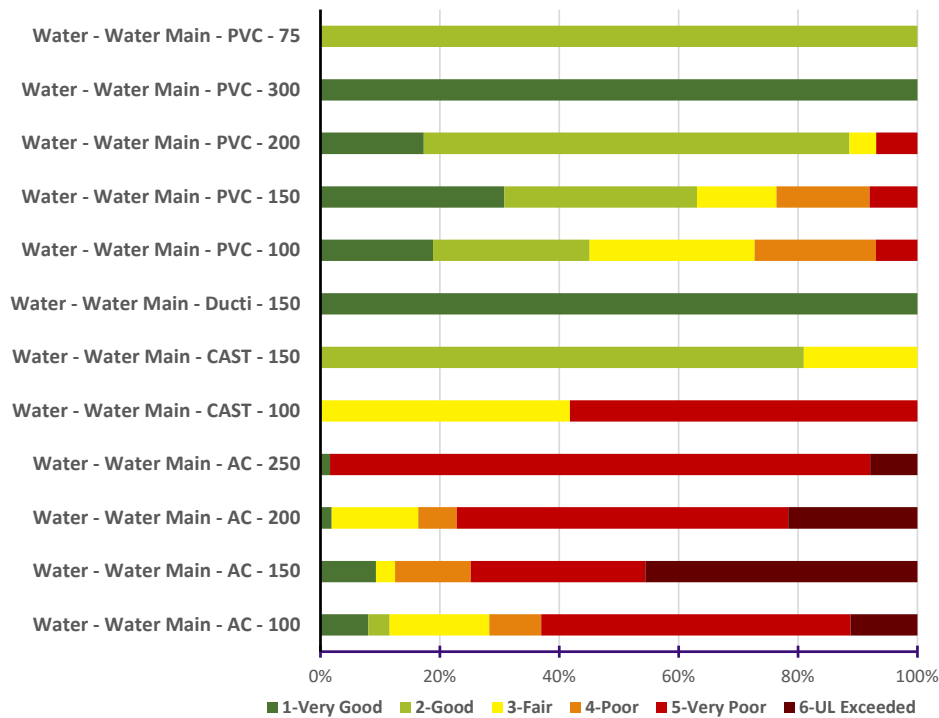


Figure 16 - Condition Profile: Water Mains

6.8 Overall Condition of Water Assets

The condition profiles of Council’s water assets have been developed using the 2025 valuation data. While this provides a useful baseline for understanding asset performance, the data should be treated as indicative only. To ensure accuracy, the condition ratings need to be verified through detailed field condition assessments.

Based on verified condition outcomes, a renewal program should be developed and prioritised to target assets in poor to very poor condition, while continuing to maintain and extend the life of assets currently in good to fair condition. This approach will support long-term service sustainability, minimise lifecycle costs, and ensure risks to public health and service delivery are effectively managed.

Improvement Opportunity



Implement a structured asset data collection and management program covering water treatment plants, water pump stations, water reticulation networks, and associated infrastructure. The program should capture accurate information on asset location, condition, performance, and criticality to enable evidence-based planning, prioritised renewals, and improved long-term financial forecasting.

6.9 Routine Operations and Maintenance Plan

Coonamble Shire Council is responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of its water supply and sewerage networks to ensure the continuous delivery of safe, reliable, and environmentally compliant services to the community. While formalised maintenance programs are still developing, routine activities are undertaken to manage service performance, respond to asset failures, and ensure regulatory obligations are met.

1. Current Maintenance Approach

At present, the majority of water and sewer maintenance is reactive in nature, with works typically initiated in response to:

- Customer complaints or service requests
- Asset failures (e.g. pipe bursts, blockages, pump breakdowns)
- Operational observations by field staff
- Regulatory or environmental incidents (e.g. overflows, leaks)

Council staff respond to faults as they arise and perform temporary or permanent repairs depending on the severity and urgency. This approach ensures immediate risks are managed; however, it can lead to higher long-term costs and increased service disruption.

2. Routine Operational Activities

Although largely reactive, Council undertakes a range of core operational tasks, including:

- Daily monitoring of water treatment plants and sewer pump stations.
- Operation of valves, pumps and control systems.
- Water quality sampling and testing to meet Health and regulatory standards.
- Sewer system monitoring to prevent overflows and environmental harm.
- Basic cleaning and minor repairs.

These activities ensure networks remain functional and compliant with safety and regulatory requirements.

3. Inspections and Condition Monitoring

To effectively plan, operate and manage its water and sewer assets, Council must understand how assets are performing in the field. Reliable maintenance and condition data is essential for both day-to-day operational decision-making and long-term strategic asset planning. This requires disciplined and regular inspections across the entire network.

Council's inspection activities can be grouped into three key categories based on purpose and level of detail:

Reactive / Safety Inspections

Reactive or safety inspections occur in response to service requests, customer complaints, operational observations, or urgent safety issues. These inspections aim to identify the cause of failure, assess risk, and determine appropriate action.

Council's objective is to inspect and prioritise reactive work within defined timeframes to manage public safety, maintain continuity of service, and minimise environmental or health risks.

Planned (Programmed Defect) Inspections

Planned inspections involve visual assessments of key asset components or sub-elements to identify defects before they escalate. These inspections support:

- Preventative and cyclic maintenance.
- Risk mitigation.
- Short-term work scheduling.
- Early identification of renewal needs.

Planned inspections help move Council away from a purely reactive model toward a more proactive and cost-effective maintenance approach.

Condition Inspections / Audits

Condition inspections are systematic, structured assessments that evaluate the physical and functional adequacy of water and sewer assets. Unlike basic defect inspections, condition audits provide data for:

- Lifecycle cost analysis
- Renewal forecasting
- Long-term asset planning
- Prioritisation of investment

These inspections support a strategic, portfolio-level understanding of asset performance and remaining useful life. While they do not capture every minor maintenance requirement, they are critical for evidence-based decision-making and the development of long-term financial plans.

4. Maintenance Standards

All maintenance work undertaken is in accordance with Council's standard design guides, standard drawings, and specifications for relevant storm water assets or, if not, covered by these technical guides, in accordance with standard industry practices. New assets either built or acquire will be accompanied by manufacturer recommendations on maintenance to achieve full utilisation. The asset register becomes a point of truth holding this attribute information.

In summary, Council currently relies more on reactive inspections but recognises the need to expand planned and condition-based inspection programs. Over time, improving the structure,

frequency and documentation of inspections will enhance asset performance, reduce risk, and support more proactive and sustainable water and sewer asset management.

Improvement Opportunities



- Development of formal maintenance standards and schedules
- Establishment of inspection programs for critical assets
- Better defect recording and data capture
- Integration of maintenance information into the Asset Management System
- Use of condition assessment data to inform renewal priorities.

5. Current Operational Budget Summary

The table below outlines the projected 10-year operational expenditure for Coonamble Shire Council’s water and sewer services, broken down into employee costs and materials/contracts. The forecast shows a gradual increase in operating costs over the planning period, primarily driven by workforce expenses and indexed contract and material costs. Over the 10-year period, total operational expenditure is estimated at approximately \$29.1 million, supporting the continued delivery of essential water and sewer services. This forecast provides a basis for long-term financial planning and ensures that adequate resources are allocated to maintain service reliability and regulatory compliance.

Financial Year	Employee Benefits & On-Costs - Water	Materials & Contracts - Water	Employee Benefits & On-Costs - Sewer	Materials & Contracts - Sewer	Total
2025/26	\$471,830	\$1,265,287	\$332,963	\$391,250	\$2,461,330
2026/27	\$520,543	\$1,184,652	\$508,208	\$391,250	\$2,604,652
2027/28	\$616,649	\$1,220,191	\$590,199	\$391,250	\$2,818,289
2028/29	\$638,232	\$1,250,696	\$590,199	\$391,250	\$2,870,376
2029/30	\$658,655	\$1,281,963	\$590,199	\$391,250	\$2,922,067
2030/31	\$679,073	\$1,314,012	\$590,199	\$391,250	\$2,974,534
2031/32	\$699,446	\$1,346,863	\$590,199	\$391,250	\$3,027,757
2032/33	\$720,429	\$1,380,534	\$590,199	\$391,250	\$3,082,412
2033/34	\$742,042	\$1,415,048	\$590,199	\$391,250	\$3,138,538
2034/35	\$764,303	\$1,450,424	\$590,199	\$391,250	\$3,196,176
Total	\$6,511,200	\$13,109,670	\$5,562,763	\$3,912,496	\$29,096,130

Table 13 - Operation Budget - Water and Sewer Services

6.10 Capital Works (Renewal, New and Upgrade)

Capital works for water and sewer assets include renewals, new (acquisition) projects, and upgrades/expansions. Each category serves a different purpose in managing service delivery, network performance and long-term sustainability.

Renewal

Renewal expenditure involves major work that restores, rehabilitates, replaces or renews an existing asset to its original service potential without increasing its design capacity. Renewal aims to address asset deterioration, extend useful life, and maintain service levels in a cost-effective manner.

Upgrade / Expansion

Upgrade or expansion works involve improving an existing asset beyond its original design capacity or function. These projects enhance performance, increase capacity, improve compliance or safety, or extend the service area. While upgrades improve service delivery, they typically result in additional future operational and maintenance costs.

New (Acquisition)

New assets are constructed or acquired to provide services in areas not previously served or to support growth, development or strategic infrastructure needs. New assets increase the size and complexity of the network and introduce new future lifecycle cost obligations (operations, maintenance, renewal and eventual disposal).

1. Renewal Strategy

Council will plan capital renewal and replacement projects to meet the level of service objectives and minimise infrastructure service risks by:

- Planning and scheduling renewal projects to deliver the defined level of service in the most efficient manner.
- Undertaking project scoping for all capital renewal and replacement projects to identify:
 - The service delivery 'deficiency', present risk and optimum time for renewal/replacement.
 - The project objectives to rectify the deficiency.
 - The range of options, estimated capital and life cycle costs for each option that could address the service deficiency.
 - And evaluate the options against evaluation criteria adopted by the organisation; and
 - Select the best option to be included in capital renewal programs.
- Using 'low cost' renewal methods (cost of renewal is less than replacement) wherever possible.
- Maintain a current infrastructure risk register for assets and service risks associated with

providing services from infrastructure assets and reporting Very High and High risks and residual risks after treatment to management and Council.

- Review the current and required skills base and implement workforce training and development to meet the required construction and renewal needs.
- Maintain a current hierarchy of critical assets and capital renewal treatments and timings required.
- Review management of capital renewal and replacement activities to ensure Council is obtaining the best value for resources used.
- Renewal ranking criteria, and
- Asset renewal and replacement are typically undertaken to either:
 - Ensure the reliability of the existing infrastructure to deliver the service it was constructed to facilitate; or
 - To ensure the infrastructure is of sufficient quality to meet the service requirements.

As a general principle, the number and cost of repairs will determine the optimum timing to invest in the renewal of assets. Every time an asset is repaired it provides information about its condition deterioration rate and a prediction of the optimum time to renew. As the rate of repairs increases, a prediction can be made about the optimum time to renew an asset to keep the cost of ownership at the optimum level.

2. Renewal Standards

Council's construction standards are based on various standards necessary to accommodate the demands and technical requirements placed on our various water and sewer services.

These standards take into consideration the extensive work previously undertaken by the various professional and industry bodies such as:

- Australian Standards
- Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA)

All renewal works shall comply with Council's engineering standards and specifications for design and construction which apply at the time. The design of water and sewer renewal works is in all cases undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced practitioners.

3. Renewal Modelling

Renewal modelling has been undertaken to estimate the long-term investment required to maintain water and sewer assets at an acceptable level of service over the next 10 years. The model uses the 2025 valuation data as the primary source of asset age, condition, and replacement cost information, providing the most accurate and up-to-date basis for renewal forecasting. This modelling identifies when assets are likely to reach the end of their useful life and the funding required to replace or rehabilitate them before they fall into very poor condition or fail in service.

The analysis is based on the best available asset, condition, and financial data currently held by Council. As Council's asset management practices mature and more detailed condition data, performance information and lifecycle costing are captured, the renewal forecasts will be refined to improve accuracy and optimise investment timing.

The renewal funding projections presented in this AMP are based on the following key assumptions:

- Renewal costs are derived from the latest asset register and 2025 valuation data.
- Asset quantities, condition data and financial information are assumed to be accurate.
- Intervention occurs before assets reach "very poor" condition to balance risk, cost, and service levels.
- Deterioration curves, intervention triggers and asset performance are based on the CT Management renewal model, acknowledging inherent model limitations.
- Useful lives for water and sewer assets reflect Council's adopted lives and are considered reasonable.
- All projections are presented in today's dollar value (no escalation applied).
- No significant increase in the size of the asset base is assumed over the 10-year period.

Service levels are based on current performance and may be adjusted in future as community expectations or strategic objectives evolve.

4. Renewal Forecast

The following table presents Council’s 10-year renewal forecast for water supply assets, based on the most recent valuation data and available information on asset age, condition, remaining useful life and expected replacement timing. The forecast covers key water supply asset groups including bores, reservoirs, water treatment plant (WTP), pump stations and the reticulation network. A current renewal backlog of approximately \$1.13 million has been identified. This represents assets that have reached or exceeded their expected renewal intervention point and will require prioritisation to minimise service risk and maintain reliability of the water supply system.

Annual renewal requirements commence at approximately \$1.45M in 2025/26 and increase progressively over the initial five years of the planning period, before declining to approximately \$698,000 by 2034/35. The increasing trend reflects the ageing profile of several key asset components, particularly within the water reticulation network and treatment infrastructure.

Over the 10-year planning period, the total forecast renewal requirement for water supply assets is approximately \$19.4 million. The majority of renewal expenditure relates to the water supply reservoirs, the supply network (\$6.17M and 5.01M respectively) and the water treatment plant assets (\$4.22 M), with additional investment required for bores, reservoirs and other supporting infrastructure. These renewal forecasts will inform Council’s long-term financial planning and capital works programming, enabling renewal works to be prioritised in a risk-informed manner to maintain service reliability and minimise the likelihood of asset failure. The detailed annual renewal forecast is provided in the table below.

Asset Sub Class	Backlog	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	Total
Bore	\$107,878	\$158,840	\$1,045,730	\$52,620	\$62,327	\$74,941	\$1,088,614	\$101,541	\$112,602	\$120,770	\$125,296	\$3,051,159
Reservoirs	\$188,986	\$170,482	\$233,754	\$52,026	\$2,551,796	\$53,138	\$55,081	\$56,819	\$58,145	\$59,317	\$60,696	\$3,540,240
Network	\$538,817	\$820,466	\$632,690	\$1,319,914	\$362,783	\$3,012,462	\$470,670	\$234,559	\$241,220	\$246,552	\$250,646	\$8,130,778
Pump Stations	\$0	\$0	\$50,046	\$91	\$392	\$1,009	\$1,848	\$2,748	\$3,558	\$4,173	\$4,546	\$68,411
WTP	\$4,190	\$80,000	\$479,369	\$78,738	\$98,991	\$127,058	\$166,213	\$200,483	\$226,554	\$241,337	\$245,259	\$1,948,192
Other	\$293,269	\$221,250	\$582,408	\$304,817	\$305,840	\$306,107	\$6,000	\$6,383	\$7,948	\$10,145	\$12,052	\$2,056,219
Telemetry	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
Total	\$1,133,140	\$1,451,038	\$3,323,997	\$2,108,206	\$3,382,129	\$3,574,715	\$1,788,426	\$602,533	\$650,027	\$682,294	\$698,495	\$19,394,999

Table 14 - 10 Year Renewal Forecast - Water Assets

The following table presents Council’s 10-year renewal forecast for sewer infrastructure, based on the most recent asset valuation data and available information on asset age, condition, remaining useful life and expected replacement timing. The forecast includes key sewer asset groups such as the sewer reticulation network, pump stations and sewer treatment plants. A current renewal backlog of approximately \$1.64 million has been identified, largely associated with sewer treatment plant infrastructure that has reached or exceeded its expected renewal intervention point. Addressing this backlog will be important to minimise operational risks and ensure the continued reliability of the sewer service.

Annual renewal requirements commence at approximately \$1.24M in 2025/26 and increase over the early years of the planning period, reaching approximately \$7.65M by 2030/31–2031/32, before gradually declining towards the end of the forecast period. This profile reflects the ageing condition of several key treatment plant components and associated mechanical and electrical assets.

Over the 10-year planning period, the total forecast renewal requirement for sewer infrastructure is approximately \$19.81 million. The majority of this investment relates to sewer treatment plant assets (approximately \$13.68M), followed by the sewer network (\$4.76 million) and pump stations (\$1.37 million).

These renewal forecasts will inform Council’s long-term financial planning and capital works programming, enabling renewal activities to be prioritised in a risk-based manner to maintain service reliability and environmental compliance. The detailed annual renewal forecast is provided in the table below.

Asset Sub Class	Backlog	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	Total
Network	\$0	\$350,000	\$635,541	\$371,083	\$600,985	\$521,749	\$381,507	\$429,588	\$466,169	\$491,985	\$508,121	\$4,756,728
Pump Stations	\$28,810	\$50,000	\$124,202	\$148,403	\$181,637	\$182,377	\$167,924	\$148,670	\$129,258	\$111,814	\$97,246	\$1,370,341
Treatment Plants	\$1,608,614	\$839,451	\$928,704	\$500,958	\$472,804	\$6,944,336	\$415,369	\$385,954	\$356,607	\$328,139	\$301,530	\$13,082,466
Telemetry	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
Total	\$1,637,424	\$1,239,451	\$1,988,447	\$1,320,444	\$1,255,426	\$7,648,462	\$964,800	\$964,212	\$952,034	\$931,938	\$906,897	\$19,809,535

Table 15 - 10 Year Renewal Forecast - Sewer Assets

It should be noted that the renewal forecasts presented in this AMP are based on lifecycle modelling assumptions derived from available asset register data, useful life estimates, and condition information. The modelling identifies the likely timing of asset renewal based on expected deterioration profiles and remaining useful life calculations.

While this approach provides a useful indication of the long-term renewal funding requirements, it does not represent a definitive capital works program. Actual renewal timing will continue to be refined through detailed condition assessments, operational inspections, risk assessments and service level considerations.

As asset data quality improves and additional condition information becomes available, the renewal forecasts will be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure they remain aligned with the current condition and performance of Council's water and sewer infrastructure.

Improvement Opportunities



In future, water and sewer assets should be categorised and valued by location (e.g. treatment plants, pump stations, and network assets) so that renewal needs can be forecast separately and capital budgets more accurately aligned with each asset group.

5. Asset Acquisition (New) and Upgrade

Coonamble Shire Council invests in new and upgraded water and sewer assets to ensure the network continues to meet current and future service demands, maintain regulatory compliance and support growth within the community.

Asset acquisition (new assets) generally occurs when extending the network to service new development areas, connecting new customers, or improving system redundancy and storage capacity. This may include new pipelines, pump stations, treatment process units or additional reservoirs where required.

Upgrades are undertaken when existing assets no longer meet performance, safety, environmental or capacity requirements. Upgrade projects may involve increasing pipe sizes, improving treatment plant processes, replacing obsolete electrical or mechanical components, improving pumping efficiency, or addressing compliance with health and environmental standards.

While the overall network is relatively stable, new works and upgrades are essential to:

- Improve reliability and operational efficiency
- Address growth or future demand
- Meet modern design and regulatory standards
- Reduce risk of failure or environmental impact
- Support long-term service sustainability

These projects are planned through Council's capital works program and aligned with long-term financial planning to ensure water and sewer services remain safe, reliable and fit for purpose.

6. Asset Renewal, New and Upgrade Budget Summary

Council's capital works program for water supply assets outlines planned new acquisitions, upgrades, and renewals across the Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone schemes. The total planned investment over the next 10 years for water capital program is \$5.1 million.

Council's sewerage capital works program includes new assets, upgrades, and renewals across the Coonamble and Gulargambone schemes. Total investment in sewerage capital works over the first four years is \$4.43 million

The primary focus over the next four years is on the renewal of ageing infrastructure to maintain service reliability, address asset deterioration and minimise the risk of failure. Targeted upgrades are included to improve capacity, performance and compliance with modern standards, while new works are limited and generally relate to localised system improvements or growth needs.

Financial Year	Water	Sewer
2025/26	\$575,000	\$382,500
2026/27	\$500,000	\$450,000
2027/28	\$425,000	\$517,500
2028/29	\$575,000	\$382,500
2029/30	\$500,000	\$450,000
2030/31	\$425,000	\$517,500
2031/32	\$575,000	\$382,500
2032/33	\$500,000	\$450,000
2033/34	\$425,000	\$517,500
2034/35	\$575,000	\$382,500
Total	\$5,075,000	\$4,432,500
Average	\$507,500	\$443,250

Table 16 –Capital Budget - Water Services



Improvement Opportunities

Ensure that the capital works program is categorised by capital expenditure type for all future years, using the standard classifications: renewal, new, and upgrade.

7. Future Capital Works and Upgrade Program

Through asset lifecycle modelling, Council has identified several potential capital works and upgrade projects to support the ongoing reliability, capacity and regulatory compliance of the water and sewer systems.

These projects have been identified through operational assessments, infrastructure planning activities and discussions with Council staff. The projects include upgrades to treatment infrastructure, new and replacement reservoirs, bore and rising main improvements, water quality upgrades, and improvements to telemetry and monitoring systems. In the sewer network, a major upgrade to the Coonamble Sewer Treatment Plant has also been identified as a future capital requirement.

The indicative projects currently identified have a combined estimated value of approximately \$22.74 million over the next 5 years. These works represent potential future capital investments aimed at maintaining service reliability, addressing ageing infrastructure, improving water quality management and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the water and sewer systems.

It should be noted that the projects listed below are indicative only and remain subject to further investigation, detailed design, business case development and funding availability. As such, the timing of many projects are currently listed as

Est. (estimated project year) and will be confirmed through Council’s future capital works planning and long-term financial planning processes.

The table below summarises the key capital works projects currently identified by Council.

Asset Class	Capital Project	Year	Estimated Cost
Water	WTP upgrades	Est.2027	\$400,000
Water	Rising Main (WTP to Res 5)	Est.2028	\$1,000,000
Water	Replace Bore 3	Est.2031	\$1,000,000
Water	New Reservoir at Sporting Fields (subject to grant funding)	Est.2029	\$2,500,000
Water	Rising Main (WTP to new Res)	Est.2030	\$600,000
Water	Dedicated line to Hospital and Koonambil	Est.2030	\$500,000
Water	Telemetry upgrades	Est.2027 - 2028	\$600,000
Water	New Main from New Bore (Saleyards, standpipe and Truckwash)	Est.2030	\$1,500,000
Water	Chlorine Dosing - Bore 3	Est.2026	\$40,000
Water	Chlorine Dosing - Bore 4	Est.2026	\$40,000
Water	Chlorine Dosing - Bore 5	Est.2026	\$40,000
Water	Replace Bore 5	Est.2027	\$1,000,000
Water	Mains Replacement Program - Coonamble	Est.2026 - Ongoing	\$1,170,703
Water	Mains relining program - Coonamble	Est.2027	\$250,000
Water	Coonamble - Meter replacement program	Est.2026 - 2027	\$100,000
Water	Refurbishment works Coonamble WTP sed lagoon	Est.2026 - 2027	\$120,000
Water	Reservoir improvement program	Est.2026 - 2027	\$150,000
Water	Bore 5/Reservoir 5 Fencing upgrade	Est.2027	\$80,000
Water	Valve Replacement Program	Est.2027	\$50,000
Water	Mains Replacement - Quambone	Est.2026 - 2027	\$250,000
Water	Reservoir Improvements - Quambone	Est.2026 - 2027	\$60,000
Water	Quambone - Meter replacement program	Est.2026	\$6,250
Water	Mains Replacement Program - Gulargambone	Est.2026 - 2027	\$150,000
Water	Gulargambone - Meter replacement program	Est.2026	\$15,000
Water	Gulargambone Rd Bore Shed Replacement	Est.2026-2027	\$300,000
Water	Reservoir upgrades - Gulargambone	Est.2026-2027	\$85,000

Water	Electronic water meters (estimated costs)	Est.2027 - 2030	\$1,200,000
Sewer	Telemetry Upgrade	Est.2027 - 2028	\$600,000
Sewer	STP Renewal	Est.2030	\$6,500,000
Sewer	Coonamble - Mains relining	Est.2026 - 2030	\$900,000
Sewer	SSWP STP Replacement Option Report and Concept Design	Est.2026 - 2027	\$235,000
Sewer	STP Building Improvements	Est.2026 - 2027	\$50,000
Sewer	Coonamble Sewer Treatment Plant - Equipment Renewal	Est.2026 - 2027	\$105,000
Sewer	Main Junction Replacement Program	Est.2026 - 2029	\$150,000
Sewer	SPS (minor pump stations excluding SPS 1 & 2) upgrades	Est.2026 - 2027	\$100,000
Sewer	Sewer effluent reuse facilities upgrade	Est.2026 - 2027	\$208,000
Sewer	Sewer rising main replacement from Tooloon St SPS	Est.2026 - 2027	\$400,000
Sewer	Gular - Mains Relining	Est.2027 - 2029	\$200,000
Sewer	Gulargambone Sewer Treatment Plant - Tertiary Ponds	Est.2026	\$50,000
Sewer	Gulargambone Sewer Treatment Plant - Equipment Renewal	Est.2027	\$35,000
			\$22,739,953

Table 17 –Future Capital Works Program (Subject to Funding)

6.11 Disposal Plan

Disposal refers to any activity associated with the decommissioning, removal, sale, demolition, replacement, relocation, or financial write-off of an asset that is no longer required or no longer economically viable to maintain. Although disposal of water and sewer assets is relatively infrequent due to their long useful lives and essential service function, it is still an important part of the asset lifecycle and must be managed carefully.

1. Long Asset Lives and Strategic Disposal

Most of Council’s water and sewer assets—such as pipes, concrete structures, treatment plant components, reservoirs and buildings—have useful lives of 60 years or more. As a result, disposal typically occurs:

- When assets have reached the end of their useful life and renewal is more cost-effective than ongoing maintenance.
- As part of capital or renewal projects where old assets are replaced.
- When infrastructure is realigned, upgraded, or made redundant due to network reconfiguration or land use changes.
- When assets fail to meet operational, safety or environmental standards and cannot be economically upgraded.

Any new capital project must consider how existing assets will be disposed of, both physically (e.g. removal or

abandonment) and financially (e.g. deregistration, write-off, or reclassification).

2. Common Disposal Practice – Pipes Left in Ground

In many cases, particularly with water and sewer mains, physical removal of old infrastructure is not practical or cost-effective. For example, when a new water main is installed to replace an old asbestos cement (AC) main, the old pipe is often left in the ground to avoid excavation costs and service disruption.

In these cases:

- The old main must remain in GIS and asset records to ensure contractors and maintenance staff are aware of its presence.
- The asset is removed from active service status and reclassified as a non-financial (retired) asset.
- The asset is financially disposed (written off or impaired) in the asset register.

This approach ensures safety and information accuracy while maintaining proper financial reporting.

3. Disposal Methods

Depending on the asset type and circumstances, disposal may involve:

- Financial write-off or revaluation
- Physical demolition or removal
- In-ground abandonment with GIS retention
- Sale or transfer of ownership
- Relocation or reuse of components
- Site rehabilitation or environmental remediation

4. Financial and Operational Considerations

When planning disposals, Council must consider:

- Cost of demolition or making the site safe
- Environmental compliance and approvals
- Potential salvage or resale value
- Reduction in future maintenance obligations
- Impact on service levels, redundancy or capacity

Disposal decisions should balance service needs, risk, cost, and long-term sustainability.

5. Integration with Renewal and Planning

Disposal is typically carried out as part of renewal or upgrade projects, not as a standalone action. Therefore, it should be integrated into capital planning, asset management systems and financial processes, ensuring:

- Accurate asset register updates,
- Transparent financial treatment,
- Alignment with lifecycle planning,
- Retention of critical network information (e.g. abandoned mains).

In summary, while the disposal of water and sewer assets is infrequent, it plays an important role in responsible asset management. Properly planning and documenting disposals ensure that redundant infrastructure is managed safely and cost-effectively, records remain accurate, and assets are financially accounted for in line with legislative and corporate requirements.



Improvement Opportunities

Review and update Asset Disposal Policy.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of this section is to describe the basis of Council's strategic risk and investment policies and the way it will manage risk associated with Council's water and sewer assets.

7.1 Risk Management Process

Council's risk management framework is aligned with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 – Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines and HB 436:2013 – Risk Management Guidelines. This framework provides a consistent and structured approach to managing risks across all of Council's operations, including the delivery of services and the management of infrastructure assets.

The objective of Council's asset-related risk management processes is to:

- Identify and understand all significant operational and organisational risks.
- Highlight the highest priority risks requiring short- to medium-term attention.
- Develop and implement appropriate strategies and treatments to mitigate these risks.

Council applies this risk management process to assess risks associated with service delivery from its water and sewer infrastructure. This includes identifying risks, assigning risk ratings, and developing treatment plans for risks deemed unacceptable.

Infrastructure or system risks assessed as Very High (requiring immediate corrective action) or High (requiring prioritised intervention) are considered critical and are summarised in the following sections.

7.2 Council's Operational Risk Register

Coonamble Shire Council maintains an Operational Risk Register that captures day-to-day risks associated with service delivery, asset operation, maintenance activities, project delivery, workforce safety, and organisational systems. The register identifies operational hazards, evaluates likelihood and consequences, assigns ownership, and establishes review timeframes and mitigation actions.

For water and sewer services, the operational risk framework supports proactive management of risks related to infrastructure reliability, service interruptions, workforce safety, compliance, project delivery, emergency response, and system performance. These risks are monitored through Council's internal governance processes and are reviewed periodically to ensure that controls remain effective and aligned with service delivery obligations.

The operational risk register forms a key part of Council’s asset management framework by linking frontline asset risks with planning, maintenance, and renewal decisions. This ensures that asset lifecycle activities are informed by real operational exposure and that risk reduction is embedded into day-to-day management.

7.3 Council’s Strategic Risk Register

Council’s Strategic Risk Register identifies high-level risks that could impact long-term sustainability, financial performance, service delivery, organisational capability, and community outcomes. These risks extend beyond individual asset classes and reflect whole-of-organisation exposures such as financial sustainability, climate variation, service delivery performance, workforce capability, governance, compliance, emergency preparedness, and reputational risk.

Strategic risks directly influence the planning and funding of water and sewer infrastructure by shaping long-term priorities, investment decisions, and resilience planning. For example, risks associated with climate variability, economic conditions, emergency events, and service delivery continuity reinforce the need for sustainable asset renewal programs and robust lifecycle planning.

The integration of strategic risk management with asset management ensures that infrastructure decisions support Council’s broader organisational objectives while protecting essential services and community wellbeing.

7.4 Critical Water Assets

This section identifies the assets that are critical to Council’s water supply operations and outlines the associated risk management strategies. Critical assets are those whose failure could result in significant service disruptions, widespread loss of water supply, or serious public health impacts. The table below details these critical assets, the potential consequences of their failure, and the mitigation measures in place to manage associated risks.

Risk Event	Cause	Risk Rating	Risk Treatment Mitigation Plan
Water main linking supply from Castlereagh St to Koonambil and the Hospital in Coonamble. Single line supply, failure would leave health services without water.	Inadequate inspection	Very High	Construct a secondary supply line.
	program and untimely response to rectify defects	Very High	To be submitted for Safe and Secure Water Program funding for Business Case
Water main in Skuthorpe Street, Gulargambone that supplies the Hospital from the rear access. Single line supply, failure would leave health services without water.	Inadequate inspection program and untimely	Very High	Construct a secondary supply line from water main located in Bourbah Street (in front of Hospital).
	response to rectify defects	Very High	To be submitted for Safe and Secure Water Program funding for Business Case

Quambone Bore. No other source of water. Failure would leave Quambone community without potable water.	Inadequate inspection program and untimely response to rectify defects	Very High	Initiate a strict inspection regime of bore to ascertain and ensure its integrity. Schedule replacement if the condition is doubtful (replacement scheduled 2019 from Asset Register)
Drainage Levee breach failure	Inadequate inspection program and untimely response to rectify defects	Very High	Expression of Interest has been submitted for Safe and Secure Water Program funding for a second bore. E.O.I has also been submitted for a new pump for current bore.

Table 18 – Water Infrastructure Risks

7.5 Critical Sewer Assets


This section identifies the assets that are critical to Council’s sewerage operations and outlines the associated risk management strategies. Critical sewerage assets are those whose failure could lead to significant service interruptions, environmental pollution, or public health risks. The table below outlines these critical assets, the potential consequences of their failure, and the mitigation measures implemented to manage those risks.

Risk Event	Cause	Risk Rating	Risk Treatment Mitigation Plan
Section of sewer pipe (cast), linking Pump Station 1 (Aberford St.) and new PVC rising main to STW in Coonamble. Single line supply, failure would render all sewerage services in Coonamble inoperable.	Inadequate inspection	Very High	Structurally re-line or re-construct section
	program and untimely response to rectify defects	Very High	
Rising main from Pump Station 2 (Tooloon St) to the western side of Coonamble. Inadequate inspection program and untimely response to rectify defects	Inadequate preventative maintenance program	Very High	Construct a secondary supply line from PS2 to intersect rising mains to Coonamble STW. To be submitted for Safe and Secure Water Program funding for Business Case
The discharge line from Coonamble STW to Golf Course and Racecourse. Single line supply, failure would likely <i>result in a serious pollution incident</i>	Inadequate inspection program and untimely response to rectify defects	Very High	Structurally re-line pipes to have confidence in the integrity of the line. An Expression of Interest has been submitted for a new STW at Coonamble, which would make this work redundant

The discharge line from Gular STW to Castlereagh River. Single line supply, failure would likely result in a serious pollution incident.	Inadequate inspection program and untimely response to rectify defects	Very High	Structurally re-line pipes to have confidence in the integrity of the line.
Rising main from Gular Pump Station 1 to Gular STW	Inadequate inspection program and untimely response to rectify defects	Very High	Structurally re-line or construct a secondary supply line.
Single line supply and failure would render all sewerage services in Gular inoperable.			To be submitted for Safe and Secure Water Program funding for Business Case

Table 19 – Sewer Infrastructure Risks

Improvement Opportunities



Review and update all risks and risk mitigation measures for both water and sewer assets.

8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Council’s Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) outlines the financial resources expected to be available over future years and how these will be allocated to deliver essential services, maintain infrastructure and support future community needs. It identifies both the current and projected financial capacity of Council to continue providing safe, reliable and high-quality water and sewer services, while also planning for critical capital investment to address growth, ageing assets, regulatory compliance and future challenges.

This section presents the financial forecasts developed from the asset information, levels of service, risks and lifecycle strategies outlined in earlier sections of the AMP. These forecasts will continue to be refined over time as Council improves its asset data, condition information and understanding of future service requirements.

8.1 Financial Statements and Projections

1. Asset Valuations

The value of the assets covered by this Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan as recorded in our financial asset register as of 30 June 2025 are shown below.

Water	
Replacement Cost	\$32,238,382
Fair Value (Written Down Value)	\$19,863,463

Accumulated Depreciation	\$12,374,919
Annual Depreciation	\$522,180

Table 20 – Valuation Information – Water Assets

Sewer	
Replacement Cost	\$33,649,479
Fair Value (Written Down Value)	\$19,709,645
Accumulated Depreciation	\$13,939,834
Annual Depreciation	\$449,626

Table 21 – Valuation Information – Sewer Assets

2. Sustainability of Service Delivery

We use the following indicators to measure asset sustainability:

- Asset renewal funding ratio, and
- Asset Sustainability Ratio

Asset Renewal Funding Ratio measures the extent to which Council’s renewal expenditure aligns with the estimated renewal demand identified in this Asset Management Plan. A ratio of **100%** means Council is fully funding its renewal needs, while a ratio **below 100%** indicates a potential funding shortfall and increasing risk of asset deterioration or service failure.

Asset Sustainability Ratio compares the actual or planned renewal expenditure against the annual depreciation of the asset base. This ratio indicates whether Council is renewing assets at a rate equal to or greater than the rate at which they are wearing out. A ratio of **90–110%** is generally considered sustainable over the long term.

As the capital expenditure program is currently presented as a single lump-sum allocation without a breakdown between renewal, new, and upgrade works, it is not possible to reliably calculate the Asset Renewal Funding Ratio or the Asset Sustainability Ratio currently.

These ratios require clear separation of expenditure types to assess whether renewal investment is sufficient to maintain asset conditions and service levels. It is therefore recommended that future capital budgets clearly identify renewal, new, and upgrade funding components to improve financial transparency, support asset performance monitoring, and enable more accurate sustainability reporting.

3. 10-Year Budget vs Lifecycle Demand – Water Assets

The comparison between projected lifecycle demand and planned funding indicates that the long-term investment required to sustain water assets is higher than the funding currently allocated within Council’s budgets. Over the 10-year planning period, total lifecycle demand is estimated at approximately \$35.33 million, compared with a combined capital and operational budget of approximately \$24.70 million.

The table below outlines the annual renewal forecast, available capital funding, operational budgets, and total lifecycle funding for water assets across the 10-year horizon.

Financial Year	Renewal Forecast	10 Year Capital Program (Avg) <small>* see Table 16</small>	Capital Budget	Operational Budget	Total Budget	Total Lifecycle Demand
2025/26	\$2,584,178	\$1,939,450	\$575,000	\$1,737,117	\$2,312,117	\$6,260,745
2026/27	\$3,323,997	\$1,939,450	\$500,000	\$1,705,194	\$2,205,194	\$6,968,641
2027/28	\$2,108,206	\$1,939,450	\$425,000	\$1,836,840	\$2,261,840	\$5,884,496
2028/29	\$3,382,129	\$1,939,450	\$575,000	\$1,888,927	\$2,463,927	\$7,210,506
2029/30	\$3,574,715	\$1,939,450	\$500,000	\$1,940,618	\$2,440,618	\$7,454,783
2030/31	\$1,788,426	\$1,939,450	\$425,000	\$1,993,086	\$2,418,086	\$5,720,962
2031/32	\$602,534	\$1,939,450	\$575,000	\$2,046,308	\$2,621,308	\$4,588,292
2032/33	\$650,026	\$1,939,450	\$500,000	\$2,100,963	\$2,600,963	\$4,690,439
2033/34	\$682,294	\$1,939,450	\$425,000	\$2,157,089	\$2,582,089	\$4,778,833
2034/35	\$698,495	\$1,939,450	\$575,000	\$2,214,727	\$2,789,727	\$4,852,672
Total	\$19,395,000	\$19,394,500	\$5,075,000	\$19,620,869	\$24,695,869	\$58,410,369

Table 22 – Financial Summary – Water Assets

4. 10-Year Budget vs Lifecycle Demand – Sewer Assets

The table below compares the projected renewal demand for sewer assets with Council’s planned capital and operational budgets over the 10-year planning period. This provides a consolidated view of the lifecycle investment required to sustain sewer services relative to the funding currently allocated.

The renewal forecast has been developed using the 2025 valuation data and reflects the expected timing and cost of asset replacement based on current asset information.

Over the 10-year period, total renewal demand is estimated at approximately \$10.28 million, compared with a capital budget of \$4.43 million and operational funding of \$9.48 million, resulting in a combined planned investment of approximately \$13.91 million. When capital and operational requirements are considered together, the total lifecycle demand for sewer assets is estimated at \$26.25 million across the planning horizon.

This comparison highlights the importance of continued long-term financial planning to ensure that capital allocations remain aligned with lifecycle requirements and that sufficient investment is available to manage asset risks, maintain regulatory compliance, and sustain service levels for the community. The table below presents the annual renewal forecast, capital funding allocations, operational budgets, and total lifecycle demand for sewer assets over the 10-year planning horizon.

Financial Year	Renewal Forecast	10 Year Capital Program (Avg) <small>* see Table 16</small>	Capital Budget	Operational Budget	Total Budget	Total Lifecycle Demand
2025/26	\$2,876,875	\$1,980,954	\$382,500	\$724,213	\$1,106,713	\$5,582,042
2026/27	\$1,988,447	\$1,980,954	\$450,000	\$899,458	\$1,349,458	\$4,868,859
2027/28	\$1,320,444	\$1,980,954	\$517,500	\$981,449	\$1,498,949	\$4,282,847
2028/29	\$1,255,426	\$1,980,954	\$382,500	\$981,449	\$1,363,949	\$4,217,829
2029/30	\$7,648,462	\$1,980,954	\$450,000	\$981,449	\$1,431,449	\$10,610,865
2030/31	\$964,800	\$1,980,954	\$517,500	\$981,449	\$1,498,949	\$3,927,203
2031/32	\$964,212	\$1,980,954	\$382,500	\$981,449	\$1,363,949	\$3,926,615
2032/33	\$952,033	\$1,980,954	\$450,000	\$981,449	\$1,431,449	\$3,914,436
2033/34	\$931,939	\$1,980,954	\$517,500	\$981,449	\$1,498,949	\$3,894,342
2034/35	\$906,897	\$1,980,954	\$382,500	\$981,449	\$1,363,949	\$3,869,300
Total	\$19,809,535	\$19,809,540	\$4,432,500	\$9,475,263	\$13,907,763	\$49,094,338

Table 23 – Financial Summary – Sewer Assets

8.2 Funding Strategy

Coonamble Shire Council's funding strategy for water and sewer assets is based on ensuring long-term financial sustainability while maintaining safe, reliable and compliant services. Funding for operations, maintenance, renewal, upgrades and new assets is primarily sourced from user charges, reserves, capital grants and borrowings where appropriate. Council's Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans are aligned to prioritise renewal of existing infrastructure before expansion, and to ensure that essential services are maintained within available financial capacity.

Where funding gaps exist, Council will review service levels, optimise maintenance and renewal timing, seek external funding opportunities, and progressively refine financial forecasts as asset data and modelling improve. The overall objective is to deliver financially responsible and sustainable water and sewer services for the community into the future.

9. IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND MONITORING

9.1 Improvement Plan

To strengthen the management of water and sewer assets and ensure long-term service sustainability, Council has identified a series of improvement actions as part of this Asset Management Plan. These actions respond directly to gaps in current practices, including the need for clearer service levels, better asset data, formal maintenance and inspection programs, improved financial forecasting, and stronger governance.

The improvement actions focus on:

- Aligning service delivery with community expectations
- Developing robust asset data and condition information
- Establishing planned maintenance and inspection programs
- Enhancing renewal modelling and financial planning over 10 years
- Improving disposal, risk management and governance frameworks
- Integrating asset management into Council's strategic and operational planning

Each action has been assigned to a responsible officer or team to ensure accountability and implementation. These improvements will progressively build Council's asset management maturity and support more efficient, evidence-based decision-making.

The following table outlines the key improvement actions for water and sewer assets.

Item No.	Task	Responsibility
1	Ensure all actions outlined in the 2025–2026 Operational Plan are appropriately resourced and delivered within the specified timeframes.	Manager- Finance
2	Review and update the Water and Sewer Management Plan to reflect current operational, regulatory, and asset management requirements beyond 2024.	Planning Manager -Water and Sewer
3	Develop and adopt formal Customer and Technical Levels of Service for water and sewer services, integrated into asset management practices and subject to regular review.	Planning Manager -Water and Sewer
4	Develop and adopt a Customer Service Charter for water and sewer services to define commitments, rights, responsibilities, and customer engagement processes.	Planning Manager -Water and Sewer
5	Develop a Water and Sewer Strategy to address community feedback on water quality, pressure, and sewer network coverage, and to guide long-term service planning and investment.	Planning Manager -Water and Sewer
6	Develop and implement a condition assessment program for water and sewer assets, with dedicated funding allocated through the Long-Term Financial Plan.	Manager- Assets/Manager- Finance
7	Implement a structured asset data collection and management program covering sewerage treatment plants, sewer pump stations, sewer reticulation networks, and associated infrastructure. The program should capture accurate information on asset location, condition, performance, and criticality to enable evidence-based planning, prioritised renewals, and improved long-term financial forecasting.	Manager- Assets
8	Implement a structured asset data collection and management program covering water treatment plants, water pump stations, water reticulation networks, and associated infrastructure. The program should capture accurate information on asset location, condition, performance, and criticality to enable evidence-based planning, prioritised renewals, and improved long-term financial forecasting.	Manager- Assets
9	Develop of formal maintenance standards and schedules for both water and sewer assets.	Operations Manager- Water and Sewer
10	Establish inspection programs for critical water and sewer assets.	Operations Manager- Water and Sewer
11	Integrate maintenance information into the Asset Management System for better defect recording and data capture.	Manager- Assets/Manager- Water and Sewer
12	Use of condition assessment data to inform renewal priorities	Manager- Assets

13	Ensure water and sewer assets are categorised and valued by location (e.g. treatment plants, pump stations, and network assets) so that renewal needs can be forecast separately and capital budgets more accurately aligned with each asset group.	Manager- Assets/Operations Manager- Water and Sewer
14	Ensure that the capital works program is categorised by capital expenditure type for all future years, using the standard classifications: renewal, new, and upgrade.	Manager- Finance
15	Review and update Asset Disposal Policy.	Manager- Finance/Manager - Assets
16	Review and update all risks and risk mitigation measures for both water and sewer assets.	Planning Manager and Operations Manager- Water and Sewer
17	Establish an Asset Management Steering Committee (AMSC) to oversee strategic direction of overall asset management.	Manager- Assets

Table 24 – Improvement Actions

9.2 Monitoring and Review Procedures

This Asset Management Plan will be reviewed as part of Council’s annual budget and planning processes. Any material changes to service levels, asset performance, or available resources resulting from budget decisions will be reflected in the plan to ensure accuracy and alignment with organisational priorities.

The plan will be updated annually to ensure it remains current and continues to reflect:

- Agreed levels of service
- Asset condition and valuation data
- Forecast operating, maintenance, renewal, upgrade/new and disposal costs
- Financial projections incorporated into the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP)

In addition, this Asset Management Plan will have a four-year lifecycle and will be fully reviewed and updated every four years to inform the development of the:

- Community Strategic Plan
- Delivery Program and Operational Plan
- Long-Term Financial Plan

This regular review process ensures that asset management remains integrated with Council’s broader strategic and financial planning, supports evidence-based decision making, and enables the ongoing provision of sustainable water and sewer services to the community.

9.3 Performance Measures

To ensure this Asset Management Plan (AMP) is effectively implemented and delivers the intended improvements, Council will monitor performance through a combination of delivery, process, and governance-based measures. These measures will track progress against the improvement actions, evaluate the maturity

of asset management practices, and confirm alignment with organisational goals.

Key performance measures will include:

Delivery of Improvement Actions

- Percentage of AMP improvement actions completed on time
- Progress status (Not Started / In Progress / Completed / Deferred)
- Visibility of responsibilities and accountability for each action
- Integration of completed actions into business-as-usual processes

Asset Management Capability and Maturity

- Adoption of formal Levels of Service (Customer and Technical)
- Condition assessment and data collection programs implemented
- Accuracy and completeness of the asset register
- Use of renewal modelling and long-term financial forecasting
- Integration of maintenance and asset data into the Asset Management System

Financial Alignment and Sustainability

- 10-year operational and capital budget forecasts established
- Renewal funding aligned to renewal demand
- Asset Renewal Funding Ratio and Asset Sustainability Ratio monitored
- Improved alignment between AMP, LTFP, and capital works planning

Governance and Accountability

- Establishment of an Asset Management Steering Committee (AMSC)
- Regular AMSC meetings to oversee implementation of AMP actions
- Strategic direction and decision-making supported by reliable data
- Monitoring and reporting of performance to Executive and Council



Improvement Opportunities

Establish an Asset Management Steering Committee (AMSC) to oversee strategic direction of overall asset management.

9.4 Continuous Improvement

Performance will be reviewed annually and reported through internal governance processes. As asset management capability improves and more accurate data becomes available, Council will refine performance measures to support higher levels of service, financial sustainability and efficient delivery.

Appendix A – Useful Lives of Assets

Water Assets – Useful Lives

Asset Class	Category	Asset Type	Asset Sub Type	Useful Life
Water	Civil	Bore Structure	Standard	72
Water	Civil	Fencing	Mesh	25
Water	Civil	Hardstand	Concrete	58
Water	Civil	Lagoon	Earth	87
Water	Civil	Metal Work	Steel	58
Water	Civil	Pump Well	Concrete	78
Water	Civil	Reservoir Roof	Steel	52
Water	Civil	Reservoir Structure	Concrete	66
Water	Civil	Reservoir Structure	Steel	74
Water	Civil	Reservoir Structure	Steel Tank	54
Water	Civil	Roads	Sealed	104
Water	Civil	Stand Pipe	Standard	28
Water	Civil	Structure	Concrete	77
Water	Civil	Tank	Chemical	16
Water	Electrical	Dosing	Standard	17
Water	Electrical	Flow Meter	Standard	16
Water	Electrical	Instrumentation	Standard	15
Water	Electrical	Switch Board	AV Data	17
Water	Electrical	Switchboard	Standard	27
Water	Electrical	Telemetry	Standard	17
Water	Mechanical	Actuator	Pneumatic	8
Water	Mechanical	Blower	Standard	27
Water	Mechanical	Compressor	Standard	17
Water	Mechanical	Dosing	Standard	17
Water	Mechanical	Dosing Skid	Standard	10

Water	Mechanical	Pump	Booster	16
Water	Mechanical	Pump	Dosing	7
Water	Mechanical	Pump	Standard	26
Water	Mechanical	Pump	Submersible	27
Water	Mechanical	Safety Shower	Standard	17
Water	Pipework and Fitting	Pipework and Fitting	Standard	74
Water	Water Main	AC	100	65
Water	Water Main	AC	150	65
Water	Water Main	AC	200	65
Water	Water Main	AC	250	65
Water	Water Main	CAST	100	80
Water	Water Main	CAST	150	80
Water	Water Main	Ducti	150	100
Water	Water Main	PVC	100	90
Water	Water Main	PVC	150	90
Water	Water Main	PVC	200	90
Water	Water Main	PVC	300	90
Water	Water Main	PVC	75	90

Sewer Assets – Useful Lives

Asset Class	Category	Asset Type	Asset Sub Type	Useful Life
Sewer	Civil	Culvert	Concrete	73
Sewer	Civil	Fencing	Mesh	24
Sewer	Civil	Footpath	Concrete	53
Sewer	Civil	Lagoon	Earth	91
Sewer	Civil	Metal Work	Steel	50
Sewer	Civil	Pit	Concrete	52

Sewer	Civil	Pump Well	Concrete	72
Sewer	Civil	Roads	Unsealed	25
Sewer	Civil	Safety Rail	Standard	46
Sewer	Civil	Structure	Concrete	66
Sewer	Electrical	Flow Meter	Standard	15
Sewer	Electrical	Switchboard	Standard	25
Sewer	Electrical	Telemetry	Standard	17
Sewer	Manhole	Manhole	Concrete (> 4.5)	68
Sewer	Manhole	Manhole	Concrete (0 < 1.5)	68
Sewer	Manhole	Manhole	Concrete (1.5 < 3.0)	68
Sewer	Manhole	Manhole	Concrete (3.0 < 4.5)	68
Sewer	Mechanical	Aeration	Standard	24
Sewer	Mechanical	Aeration Pipe	Standard	14
Sewer	Mechanical	Dosing	Standard	10
Sewer	Mechanical	Mechanical	Standard	24
Sewer	Mechanical	Pump	Submersible	16
Sewer	Pipework and Fitting	Pipework and Fitting	Standard	51
Sewer	Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	AC225	60
Sewer	Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	EW150	55
Sewer	Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	EW225	55
Sewer	Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	PVC150	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	PVC225	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(> 4.5)	PVC300	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	AC150	60
Sewer	Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	AC225	60
Sewer	Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	DICL300	80
Sewer	Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	EW150	55
Sewer	Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	EW225	55

Sewer	Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	PE50	110
Sewer	Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	PVC150	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(0 < 1.5)	PVC300	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	AC150	60
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	AC225	60
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	CAST150	70
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	EW150	55
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	EW225	55
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	PE50	110
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	PVC150	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	PVC225	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(1.5 < 3.0)	PVC300	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	AC100	60
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	AC150	60
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	AC225	60
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	CAST150	70
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	CAST200	70
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	EW150	55
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	EW225	55
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	PVC150	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	PVC225	85
Sewer	Sewer Main	(3.0 < 4.5)	PVC300	85



COONAMBLE
SHIRE COUNCIL



10 SECTION B - GOVERNANCE AND GENERAL MANAGER

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE

File Number: C20
Author: Executive Assistant
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Correspondence Report for March 2026 be received and noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

Date	Information Sent	Author	In	Out	Sent
10/03/26	CMA Media Release - NSW Premier and Country Mayors brainstorm	M Colwell	✓	✓	✓
16/03/26	Gulargambone Oval	G Hill	✓	✓	✓
16/03/26	Compliment – Peta Bradley regarding pool access for training.	G Hill	✓	✓	✓

10.2 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS UPDATE

File Number: Resolutions
Author: Executive Assistant
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: 1. Resolutions report to April 2026 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Council Resolutions report and status.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

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

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

REPORT:

Meeting:	Officer:	Subject:	Comment:
14/06/2026	Director Corporate Services	Management of Crown Reserve 96390 – Lot 244 DP 44910	Delayed - Communication ongoing with Public Works.
10/12/2025	Director Sustainable Communities and Planning	Finalisation of Planning Proposal PP001/2025 to Reclassify 40 Calga Street and 34-46 Hickey Street, Coonamble from Community Land to Operational Land	Resolution's Complete.
10/12/2025	General Manager	Compulsory acquisition of land for a Bore Bath Facility.	Resolution's Complete.

Meeting:	Officer:	Subject:	Comment:
22/01/2026	Executive Manager Corporate Governance	Councillor and Executive Leadership Team Training Program.	Resolutions 1, 2 and 4 – Noted. Resolution 3 – Report due to go to the May meeting.
11/03/2026	Executive Manager Corporate Governance	Business Activation Policy and Procedure	Public exhibition until 22 April 2026
11/03/2026	General Manager	Mt Magometon Quarry-Independent Operational, Financial & Strategic Review	Reported to 11 March Ordinary Council Meeting
11/03/2026	Director Sustainable Communities and Planning	Coonamble Shire Draft Urban Housing Strategy	Public exhibition until 8 April 2026
11/03/2026	Director Sustainable Communities and Planning	Waste Update – FOGO	Ongoing
11/03/2026	Director Sustainable Communities and Planning	Proposed Landfill Cell	Resolution's complete.
11/03/2026	General Manager	Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths (Coonamble Artesian and Cultural Experience	Ongoing reporting

Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
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Action Sheets Report

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 14/06/2023	Quarmby, Bruce	Reports to Council	Management of Crown Reserve 96390 - Lot 244 DP44910
RESOLUTION 2023/109			
Moved: Cr Pat Cullen Seconded: Cr Terence Lees			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council notes the information contained within this report. 2. That Council resolves to formally request that the Department of Crown Lands formally appoint Coonamble Shire Council as the Crown Reserve Manager for the Reserve 96390. 3. That Council resolves that as the purpose for the Crown Reserve is for the provision of Emergency Services, that the Reserve is to be classified as Operational Land. 4. That following the appointment of Council as the Crown Reserve Manager for the Reserve 96390. That Council resolves to proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the Reserve 96390, being Lot 244 DP 44910 for the purpose of the provision of emergency services in accordance with sections 186 and 187 of the Local Government Act 1993 and in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991. 5. That Council makes an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire the land described as part Lot 244 by compulsory process under section 186(1) and 187 of the Local Government Act 1993 of provision of emergency services in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i>. 6. That Council does not acquire the mineral rights over the land to be acquired. 7. That Council resolves that the land is to be classified as operational land in accordance with section 31 (2) of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>. 8. That Council resolves for the purposes of section 30 of the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i>, that Council agrees to the land being acquired for compensation, set at the market value of the land, as agreed by the General Manager and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands. 9. That Council resolves. 			

<p>Division: Committee: Officer:</p>	<p>Date From: Date To:</p>
<p>Action Sheets Report</p>	<p>Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM</p>

a) to delegate to the General Manager or his delegate the power to do anything further as necessary to give effect to the compulsory acquisition including obtaining any necessary approvals and publishing any necessary notices in the Gazette.

b) That authority be granted to the General Manager to affix the Common Seal of the Council to any documentation required to give effect to this resolution.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Pat Cullen, Barbara Deans, Bill Fisher, Ahmad Karanouh, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

25 Aug 2023 11:52am Quarmby, Bruce

Letter written to crown lands seeking appointment as crown reserve manager. Public works to be engaged to acquire the land

18 Mar 2024 8:02pm Quarmby, Bruce

Council has been appointed Crown Land Manager , acquisition of land to proceed.

04 Jul 2024 9:25am Quarmby, Bruce

NSW Public Works have been approached to handle the acquisition of the land

17 Jan 2025 10:20am Quarmby, Bruce

Made follow up contact with Public works to progress the issue.

25 Apr 2025 9:46pm Quarmby, Bruce

Following advice of staffing changes at the NSW Public Works, management have been in contact with NSW Public Works to restart/progress the required works.

03 Jun 2025 6:26pm Quarmby, Bruce

Further contact has been made with the NSW Public Works. From these discussions the process has been restarted with Council staff following recommended course of action. For Council's information this action focuses on finalising the proposed road closures currently sitting with the NSW Public Works.

31 Aug 2025 11:18am Quarmby, Bruce

Discussions remain ongoing with Public Works and Crown Lands.

12 Jan 2026 7:39pm Quarmby, Bruce

The process remains ongoing.

25 Mar 2026 1:47pm Payne, Rebecca

Communications ongoing with Public Works. The process was delayed due to Public Works staff turnover.

Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
Action Sheets Report	

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 10/12/2025	Payne, Tony	Section A - Matters for Consideration by Council	Finalisation of Planning Proposal PP001/2025 to Reclassify 40 Calga Street and 34-46 Hickey Street, Coonamble from Community Land to Operational Land
RESOLUTION 2025/300			
Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey			
That Council:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the public hearing report prepared by Ward Planning and Consulting relating to the reclassification of 40 Calga Street and 34-46 Hickey Street, Coonamble 2. Endorse the final planning proposal and request the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure make the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan 2011 to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Reclassify 40 Calga Street, Coonamble (Lot 10 DP238281, Lot 11 DP238281, Lot 1 DP4230, Lot 2 DP4230, Lot 3 DP4230, Lot 4 DP4230, Lot 11 DP4230 from Community land to Operational Land. (b) Reclassify 34-46 Hickey Street, Coonamble (Lot 4 DP4918, Lot 5 DP4918, Lot 6 DP4918, Lot 7 DP4918, Lot 10 DP4918, Lot 11 DP4918, Lot 14 DP4918, Lot 15 DP4918, Lot 1 DP1118478 (closed road). 			
<u>In Favour:</u> Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh			
<u>Against:</u> Nil			
CARRIED 7/0			
20 Jan 2026 4:32pm Duncan, Lesley			
The planning proposal has been submitted to NSW Planning for finalisation.			
11 Feb 2026 4:04pm Colwell, Marina - Reallocation			
Action reassigned to Payne, Tony by Colwell, Marina			
24 Feb 2026 10:01am Payne, Rebecca			
Resolution 1 - Noted , Resolution 2 - Reclassification is with the department of Planning.			

Division: Committee: Officer: Action Sheets Report	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
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Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 10/12/2025	Hill, Greg	Section A - Matters for Consideration by Council	Compulsory acquisition of land for a Bore Bath Facility
RESOLUTION 2025/298			
Moved: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler			
Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the land described as Lot 1 DP 1290114 and easement labelled 'X' shown in DP 1290114, shown attached as AT-1, for the purpose of creating a bore bath facility in accordance with sections 186 and 187 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991. 2. Council makes an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire the land described as Lot 1 DP 1290114 and easement labelled 'X' shown in DP 1290114, by compulsory process under section 186(1) and 187 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> of creating of a bore bath facility in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i>. 3. Council does not acquire the mineral rights over the land and easements to be acquired. 4. The land is to be classified as operational land in accordance with section 31 (2) of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>. 5. For the purposes of section 30 of the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i>, the Council agrees to the land being acquired for compensation, set at the market value of the land, as agreed by the General Manager and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands. 6. Council delegate to the General Manager or his delegate the power to do anything further as necessary to give effect to the compulsory acquisition including obtaining any necessary approvals and publishing any necessary notices in the Gazette. 7. Authority be granted to the General Manager to affix the Common Seal of the Council to any documentation required to give effect to this resolution. 			
In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh Against: Nil			
CARRIED 7/0			
24 Feb 2026 9:56am Payne, Rebecca			
Resolution 1 and 2 - GM to report back to April Council meeting on the options on Freehold verse Crown Land , Resolution 3 - Noted , Resolution 4 - Noted, Resolution 5 - Noted , Resolution 6 - Noted , Resolution 7 - Noted			

Division: Committee: Officer: Action Sheets Report	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
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Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 22/01/2026	Maundrell, Jenni	Section A - Matters for Consideration by Council	Councillor and Executive Leadership Team Training Program
<p>RESOLUTION 2026/3</p> <p>Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the delivery of a joint training program for councillors and the Executive Leadership Team to support positive interactions and communication. 2. Approve councillor participation in the program, noting the cost of approximately \$1,500 is within the adopted professional development budget. 3. Commit to formally adopting the Charter developed through the program. 4. Note that the proposed date for the training is either 24 or 25 February 2026, to be negotiated by the Mayor and General Manager. <p><u>In Favour:</u> Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Nil</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 8/0</p> <p>24 Feb 2026 10:04am Payne, Rebecca Resolution 1 - Noted , Resolution 2 - Noted, Resolution 3 - Report to go to May council meeting. , Resolution 4 - Noted</p>			

Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
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Action Sheets Report

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 11/03/2026	Hill, Greg	Reports to Council	Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths (Coonamble Artesian and Cultural Experience
RESOLUTION 2026/28			
Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey			
Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh			
That Council:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the current Water Access Licence position and allocation analysis. 2. Endorse progression of detailed hydraulic modelling and design for the rising water main to supply the Truck Wash, Cattle Saleyards and standpipe, noting that the rising main will utilise artesian water from the Bore Bath bore to reduce reliance on potable town supply and strengthen agricultural infrastructure. 3. Authorise the General Manager to extend the engagement of GHD Group Pty Ltd for the detailed hydraulic modelling and design for the rising water main. 4. Note that the General Manager will report back to the April Council meeting regarding the following resolutions from the 10 December 2025 Council meeting (Resolution 2025/298), including advice on Freehold versus Crown Land arrangements and associated land acquisition matters. 5. Note that construction and any Water Access Licence acquisition or extraction limit reassessment will be subject to a further report to Council following confirmation of capital costs and licensing and water purchasing requirements. 			
<u>In Favour:</u> Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse			
<u>Against:</u> Nil			
<u>Absent:</u> Cr Phillipa Goldsmith			
			CARRIED 8/0

Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
-------------------------------------	---

Action Sheets Report

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 11/03/2026	Payne, Tony	Reports to Council	Proposed Landfill Cell
RESOLUTION 2026/23			
Moved: Cr Paul Fisher Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh			
That Council:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the information contained in this report regarding the construction of a new landfill cell at the Coonamble Waste Facility; and 2. Endorse proceeding with detailed design, regulatory approvals, and construction of the new landfill cell, subject to budget availability and compliance with EPA requirements. 3. Report to Council following engagement of the preferred contractor with cost of the construction of new landfill cell and how it will be funded. 			
<u>In Favour:</u> Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse			
<u>Against:</u> Nil			
<u>Absent:</u> Cr Phillipa Goldsmith			
CARRIED 8/0			
25 Mar 2026 3:54pm Payne, Rebecca Contractor has been engaged and works to commence in April. Follow up report going to April Council meeting to satisfy resolution 2.			

Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
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Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 11/03/2026	Payne, Tony	Reports to Council	Coonamble Shire Draft Urban Housing Strategy
<p>RESOLUTION 2026/1 Moved: Cr Paul Fisher Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse</p> <p>1. That the Coonamble Shire Draft Urban Housing Strategy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.</p> <p>2. Following the exhibition period a report be presented to Council on the submissions received.</p> <p><u>In Favour:</u> Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Cr Phillipa Goldsmith</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 8/0</p> <p>25 Mar 2026 3:41pm Payne, Rebecca Coonamble Draft Urban Strategy on public exhibition until 8 April 2026.</p>			

Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
Action Sheets Report	

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 11/03/2026	Hill, Greg	Reports to Council	Mt Magometon Quarry-Independent Operational, Financial & Strategic Review
RESOLUTION 2026/27			
Moved: Cr Paul Fisher Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse That Council:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the findings of the Independent Operational, Financial & Strategic Review. 2. Transition away from reliance on the existing fixed crushing plant. 3. Adopt mobile crushing as the dominant production strategy. 4. Formalise in the next 12 months a hybrid operating model incorporating contractor-operated mobile crushing. 5. Cease discretionary capital investment in the existing fixed crushing plant beyond safe-operation requirements. 			
<u>In Favour:</u> Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse			
<u>Against:</u> Nil			
<u>Absent:</u> Cr Phillipa Goldsmith			
			CARRIED 8/0

Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
Action Sheets Report	

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 11/03/2026	Payne, Tony	Reports to Council	Waste Update - FOGO
<p>RESOLUTION 2026/22</p> <p>Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey</p> <p>Council:</p> <p>1. Notes and receive the report.</p> <p>2. That Council apply for a custom exemption from the FOGO mandates for both residential and commercial services, on the basis that population density and waste volumes do not support a financially viable or beneficial service for the community.</p> <p><u>In Favour:</u> Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Cr Phillipa Goldsmith</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 8/0</p> <p>25 Mar 2026 4:51pm Payne, Rebecca Council staff are talking with the Far North West Joint Organisation to utilise their consultant to help us prepare our submission.</p>			

Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: 27 March 2026 10:28 AM
Action Sheets Report	

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 11/03/2026	Maundrell, Jenni	Reports to Council	Business Activation Policy and Procedure
<p>RESOLUTION 2026/19</p> <p>Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse</p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council places the Draft Business Activation Policy and Draft Business Activation Procedure on public exhibition for 42 days. 2. A further report be presented to Council if there are any substantial changes to the Draft Business Activation Policy. 3. A further report be presented to Council if there are any substantial changes to the Draft Business Activation Procedure. 4. If no substantial changes arise from the public exhibition, the Business Activation Policy and Business Activation Procedure be adopted and published on Council’s website. <p><u>In Favour:</u> Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Cr Phillipa Goldsmith</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 8/0</p> <p>25 Mar 2026 3:43pm Payne, Rebecca Policy and Procedure on public exhibition until 22 April 2026.</p>			

10.3 MORRIS PIPER – QUARTER 1 2026 PERFORMANCE REPORT

File Number: -
Author: General Manager
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: 1. MP 2026 Quater 1 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and note the report.

- 1. That the General Manager prioritise utilisation of the remaining retainer allocation towards high-value grant opportunities and business case development aligned to Council's strategic priorities**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides Council with an overview of the performance and utilisation of Morris Piper (MP) services for Quarter 1 2026 (January to March), together with a forward program of works aligned to the agreed service proposal and retainer model.

During the reporting period, MP delivered a range of grant applications, project management and strategic planning services to Council, with a strong focus on securing external funding and supporting major project delivery.

A total of 23.4 days of the 36-day annual allocation has been utilised to date, reflecting a higher level of engagement during February and March driven by project management and contract support requirements.

The report also outlines a forward month-by-month service delivery program, ensuring Council maximises the remaining allocation while aligning activities to priority projects and upcoming funding opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

Council engaged Morris Piper under a retainer model to provide specialist services in grant funding, project development, and strategic advisory.

The service model is structured around five key service streams:

- Identify Need
- Strategy
- Planning
- Resourcing (grant applications)
- Delivery (reporting and compliance)

The intent of the engagement is to strengthen Council's ability to secure external funding and deliver priority infrastructure and community projects.

REPORT:**1. Quarter 1 2026 – Summary of Activities****Grant Activity**

During the period January to March 2026:

3 grant submissions lodged, including:

- Holiday Break Program (\$14,080 – ineligible)
- Gulargambone Sportsground Upgrade (\$150,000 – pending)
- Waste and employment positions (pending)

3 grant programs underway, including:

- Tin Town Clean-Up (\$35,000)
- Bin Trim Grant (up to \$50,000)
- Community Heritage Grant (up to \$20,000)

Project Management

Key projects supported included:

- Youth Empowerment Program (completion reporting)
- Artesian Bore Baths project (variation request and liaison with funding body)
- Urban Housing Strategy (quarterly reporting)
- Waste Strategy implementation (variation request)

Upcoming Grants

A number of funding opportunities have been identified, including:

- Special Entertainment Precinct Grant
- Floodplain Management Program
- EV Fast Charging Grants
- Active Communities Package
- Local Government Innovation Fund

Planning and Priority Works

Focus areas include:

- Development of a priority project pipeline
- Improved internal project development processes
- Early-stage preparation (designs, business cases, costings) to support funding readiness

2. Utilisation of Services

Total allocation: 36 days (retainer)

Days utilised: 23.4 days

Remaining balance: 12.6 days

Higher-than-expected utilisation occurred due to:

- Contract management workload
- Increased project support requirements
- Additional reporting and liaison activities

3. Forward Service Delivery Plan (Month-by-Month)

Based on the Morris Piper service model and current priorities, the following monthly program is proposed:

April 2026

- Finalise and submit priority grant applications (Active Communities, Roads Program)
- Progress business case development for key infrastructure projects
- Establish confirmed priority project list with Council
- Begin preparation for Floodplain Management Program

May 2026

- Submit additional grant applications
- Develop supporting documentation
- Undertake stakeholder engagement and funding alignment

June 2026

- Focus on grant reporting and acquittals
- Prepare pipeline projects for 2026/27 funding rounds
- Develop strategic funding roadmap aligned to Operational Plan
- Review and reset priorities for next quarter

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
Cultivating our wealth-Goal 6: We support a resilient local economy by increasing its diversity and boosting opportunities for entrepreneurship and business	E1.4-(11) Attract investment and funding to improve our infrastructure, community, economy, events and environmental care.	-Number of grants awarded within the LGA -Completion of funded projects

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive

Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

(a) Financial Resource Implications:

The current retainer has been utilised at approximately 65%, with 12.6 days remaining.

No additional financial implications arise at this stage.

Future utilisation will be prioritised to maximise return on investment through high-value funding opportunities.

(b) Policy / Legal and Statutory Implications:

The engagement supports Council’s obligations under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework and strengthens compliance with grant funding requirements and reporting obligations.

(c) Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety / Public:

Key risks include:

- Over-utilisation of remaining retainer allocation
- Missed funding opportunities
- Insufficient project readiness

Mitigation measures include:

- Monthly prioritisation of activities
- Early project planning and business case development
- Strategic alignment of projects to funding programs

(d) Options:

1. Continue with the current service model and prioritisation approach (recommended).
2. Increase service allocation to accelerate grant submissions and project development.
3. Reduce service utilisation and limit activities to essential grant applications only.

(e) Council Seal Required:

No

(f) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition: Yes

External Exhibition: No

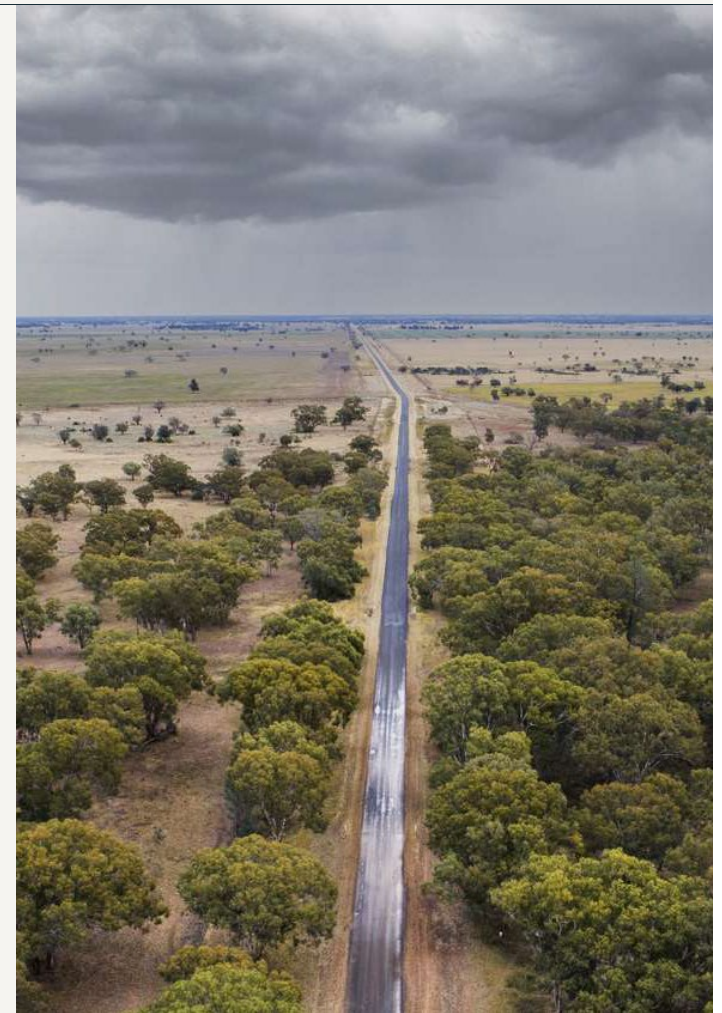
Morris & Piper

Coonamble Shire Council
2026 QUARTER 1 REPORT

March 2026

Table of Contents

1. Review of Completed Body of Works: 1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026
 - Grant Activity
 - Project Management
2. Upcoming Grants
3. Planning
 - Priority works
 - MP utilisation



Review of completed body of work

Work we've completed between 1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026.



Grant Activity January – March 2026

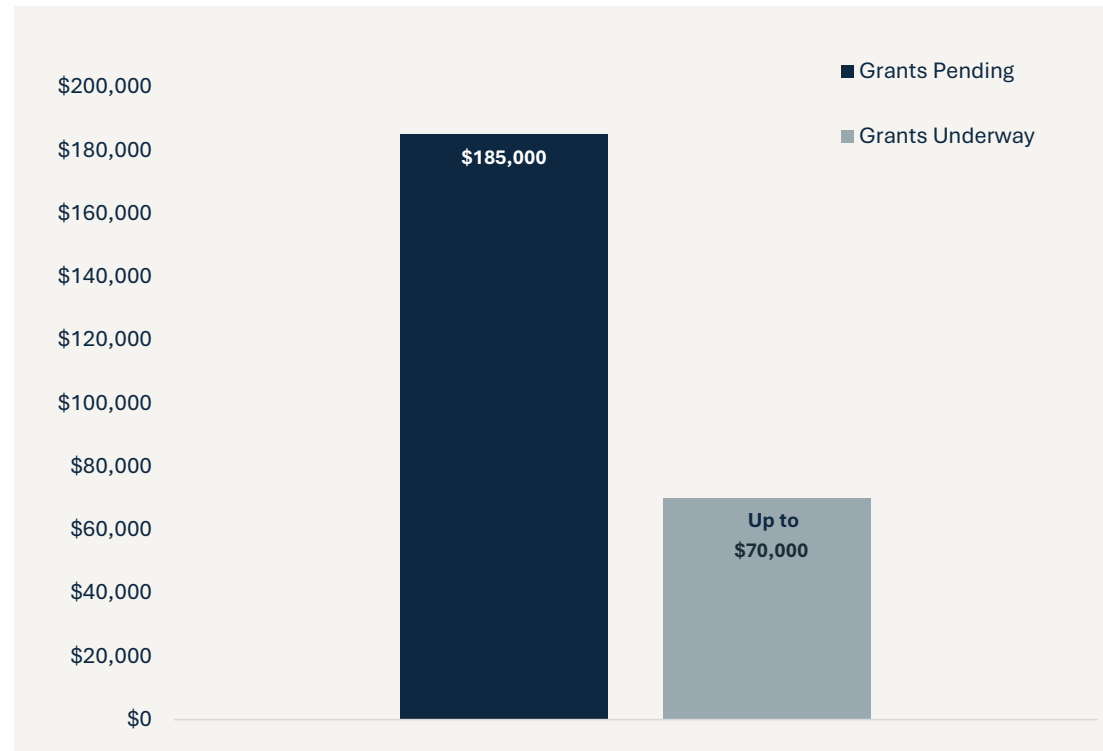
Submitted (3)

- Gulargambone Sportsground Upgrades (\$150,000)
⌚ Pending outcome
- 3x Positions within the Waste, Recycling and
Employment Opportunities Department
⌚ Pending outcome
- Tin Town Clean-Up Project (\$35,000)
⌚ Pending Outcome
- Coonamble Holiday Break Program Autumn/Winter
2026 (\$14,080)
✗ Deemed ineligible

Underway (3)

- Bin Trim Grant – up to \$50,000
- Community Heritage Grant – up to \$20,000

Chart 1 – Morris Piper Grant Activity for Coonamble Shire Council
January 2026 – March 2026



Project Management - Council

Morris Piper has supported Council in completing a range of acquittal reports and strengthening relationships with key funding departments following challenges caused by staff turnover and procedural changes within Council. For example, the EPA had flagged potential withdrawal of funding for the Waste Strategy project. Morris Piper worked directly with the Department and assisted Council in preparing a variation request, ensuring the funding was retained.

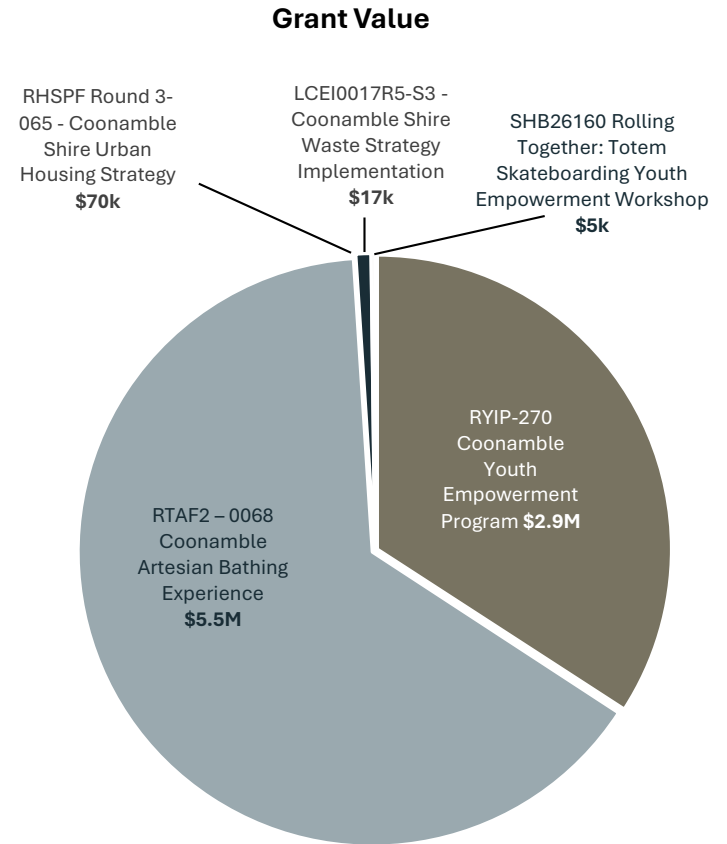
Project	Program	Key Actions Undertaken by Morris Piper
RYIP-270 Coonamble Youth Empowerment Program	Regional Youth Investment Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Direct liaising with the Department – Preparation of completion report. There has been a short delay to the submission as trades to complete the works, which is expected to be finalised in the next 3 weeks.
SHB26160 Rolling Together: Totem Skateboarding Youth Empowerment Workshop	Holiday Break Summer 2025/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preparation and submission of completion report (27th February)
RTAF2 – 0068 Coonamble Artesian Bathing Experience	Regional NSW - Regional Growth Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Direct liaising with the Department. – Preparation and submission of variation request to extend the project timeline
RHSPF Round 3-065 - Coonamble Shire Urban Housing Strategy	Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund Round 3 - 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preparation and submission of January 2026 Quarterly Progress Report (13th March)
LCEI0017R5-S3 - Coonamble Shire Waste Strategy Implementation	Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvement - Stream 3 - Intake 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Direct liaising with the Department – Preparation of variation request

Project Management - Council

Contract management support has been specific, but relatively intensive on the two higher value projects.

Works continue to bring the reporting obligations up to date, though we expect this to be completed by early-mid April.

Project	Project Value	Hours
RYIP-270 Coonamble Youth Empowerment Program	\$2.9M	12.12
SHB26160 Rolling Together: Totem Skateboarding Youth Empowerment Workshop	\$5k	3
RTAF2 – 0068 Coonamble Artesian Bathing Experience	\$6.75M	13.25
RHSPF Round 3-065 - Coonamble Shire Urban Housing Strategy	\$77k	2
LCEI0017R5-S3 - Coonamble Shire Waste Strategy Implementation	\$36k	2



Project Management - Community

Morris Piper has been engaging with Councillors On the following projects:

- Quambone Sports Precinct
 - Quambone Resources Committee was deciding whether to publish a community survey
- Gulargambone Sportsground Upgrades
 - Application submitted under the NSW Rugby World Cup Legacy Program
- Monthly grant email and vetting of potential community opportunities, including the Coonamble Golf Club accessible toilet project.



Preliminary concept of the Gulargambone Sportsground Upgrades

Upcoming Grants



This section details key upcoming grants which may be of interest to Coonamble Shire Council.

Upcoming Grants for Consideration

Program	Funding Available	Date Applications Due	Financial Year	Grant Status	CSC Status	Note	Link to Project Idea
Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) Kickstart Grant Program – Round 2	\$250,000	13/04/2026	2025/26	Open		Eligible applicants are NSW local councils that have not previously received SEP funding—they must have a council resolution identifying the SEP's location and boundaries, commit to forming a SEP working group and investigating Purple Flag accreditation, and have (or commit to develop) a night-time economy strategy.	
Floodplain Management Program 2026–27	\$2 from the government for every \$1 provided by the applicant (from applicant revenue), except where special consideration is provided.	15/04/2026	2025/26	Open		Provides technical and financial support for flood studies, risk management plans, and mitigation works to reduce flood risk and improve flood emergency preparedness	
Round 4 - Drive Electric NSW EV Fast Charging Grants	Up to \$20,000,000	24/04/2026	2025/26	Open		Supports charge point operators to build, own and operate new fast and ultra-fast charging stations across NSW	
Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program Tranche 5	\$5,000,000	30/04/2026	2025/26	Open	Considering		
Heavy Vehicle Rest Area Program Tranche 8	\$5,000,000	30/04/2026	2025/26	Open	Considering		

Upcoming Grants for Consideration (Cont.)

Program	Funding Available	Date Applications Due	Financial Year	Grant Status	CSC Status	Note	Link to Project Idea
Active Communities Package - Stream 2 Community Participation	\$100,000 - \$1,000,000	1/05/2026	2025/26	Open		For projects that increase participation in the type of community activities that contribute to the wellbeing, social or economic participation of residents	
EV Fleets Incentive Kick-start funding FY	\$5,000 - \$1.2M	29/05/2026	2025/26	Open		Helps smaller fleets and organisations trial or begin transitioning to battery electric vehicles (BEVs)	
Bin Trim Equipment Rebates Program - Round 2	\$50,000	30/06/2026	2025/26	Open	Applying	Rebates to help NSW workplaces buy equipment or technology that avoids waste, improves reuse/recycling, and supports the circular economy.	Equipment for Recycling. Examples: balers, glass crushers, shredders, food-waste monitoring equipment, separation bins etc
Boating Infrastructure Emergency Repair Pool	\$300,000	30/06/2028	2025/26	Open		Supports repair, replacement or resilience improvements for public boating infrastructure damaged by natural disasters or severe weather events.	
LGP Innovation Development Fund	\$50,000	Not Specified	2025/26	Open		For projects that improve digital services, business processes, and innovation in local government	

Planning

This section will outline planning works required to progress future bodies of work



Priority Works



Morris Piper spoke at both the ELT and MANEX meetings in March about a new proposed project development process. The aim is to provide Council greater visibility on what is being applied for, why, and to ensure resources are being directed appropriately.

Our aim is to refine and test it with Council staff on upcoming grant submissions.

Over the next three months there are numerous funding programs which we expect to support Council in pursuing, which include:

- NSW Regional Trust - Active Regional Communities Package
 - Stream 2 for a Council projects & Stream 3 for community initiatives
- Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program
- 2026–27 Floodplain Management Program

A key priority is to continue working with Council teams to lock in a priority projects list upon which we can develop proposals early, ahead of opportunities arising. This includes gathering the following information (where applicable):

- Quotes
- Designs
- Business Case
- Etc.

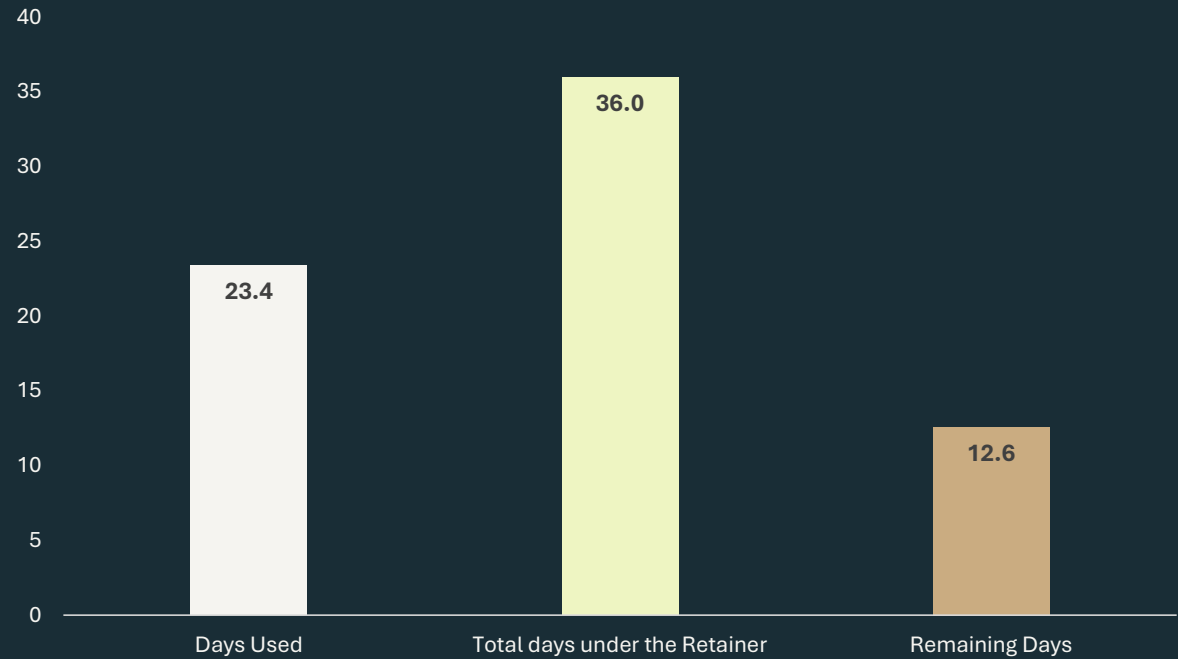
Days Worked 1 December – 26 March 2026

Morris Piper has consistently helped draft grant submissions over the quarter. Utilisation is higher than anticipated thus far at a more than 2x anticipated rate.

Contract management work raised with our team has required a significant amount of input through February and March. Whilst positive outcomes have been had, it resulted in higher utilisation across the account.

To date, 23.4 days have been utilised from the 36-day retainer, leaving 12.6 days remaining.

Summary of Morris Piper Days Worked – 1 December – 26 March 2026



Ends



Morris Piper

1 Longford Street
Lyons, ACT, 2606
Email: office@morrispiper.com
ABN: 58646584616

10.4 COONAMBLE ARTESIAN BORE BATHS - LAND TENURE OPTIONS (CROWN LAND VS ACQUISITION)

File Number: BB1
Author: General Manager
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That council:

1. **Defer any decision to proceed with compulsory acquisition of land associated with the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths project until the planning, design and development of the Bore Baths (Stages 1 to 3) has been completed and greater certainty is obtained in relation to project scope, costs and operational requirements.**
2. **Request a further report be presented to Council at an appropriate stage of the project outlining:**
 - **updated project costs and funding position**
 - **detailed assessment of land acquisition costs, including native title implications**
 - **long-term operational and asset management considerations**
 - **a recommended position on land tenure (retain Crown land or proceed with acquisition).**
3. **Note that Council will continue to engage with NSW Crown Lands and relevant stakeholders regarding appropriate tenure arrangements for the site as the project progresses.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council is progressing the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths project within the Racecourse Reserve, being Crown Reserve 520089, (Lot 212 DP 754199), dedicated for racecourse and public recreation purposes.

To support delivery of the project, Council must determine the most appropriate land tenure arrangement, being either:

- retention of the land as Crown land under Council management; or
- acquisition of the land (or part thereof) into freehold ownership.

This report outlines the key advantages, disadvantages and risks associated with each option, including considerations relating to native title, Aboriginal Land Claims, cost implications and long-term asset ownership.

BACKGROUND:

The proposed Artesian Bore Baths development is located within Crown Reserve 520089, gazetted on 4 December 1953 for the purpose of racecourse and public recreation.

Council has been appointed as a manager of the reserve, alongside the Coonamble Turf Club.

The development of the Bore Baths is consistent with the reserve purpose of public recreation; however, the long-term delivery and operation of the facility require Council to consider whether:

- the land should remain as Crown land under Council management; or
- Council should acquire the land to provide certainty of ownership and control.

REPORT:**Crown Land – Retention Option**

Retaining the land as Crown land provides several advantages.

There are no acquisition costs, and Council can proceed with development where the use is consistent with the reserve purpose. The proposed Bore Baths align with public recreation objectives, making development permissible subject to planning and native title processes.

Council may also enter into long-term leasing arrangements with Crown Lands to support the development and operation of the facility.

However, there are limitations associated with this option.

Council does not have full ownership of the land, which creates uncertainty for long-term asset ownership and investment. There is also a risk of future Aboriginal Land Claims (ALC) being lodged over the land, although this risk may be reduced due to the level of existing and proposed community use.

In addition, development on Crown Land will require preparation of a Plan of Management, as none currently exists for the reserve.

Land Acquisition Option

Acquisition of the land would provide Council with full ownership and control, allowing greater certainty for long-term infrastructure investment and management.

Freehold ownership would remove the requirement for a Plan of Management and simplify future decision-making regarding the site.

However, acquisition presents several challenges.

Council would incur upfront costs including:

- land valuation and acquisition costs
- subdivision and registration costs (if part acquisition)
- Crown Lands application and approval costs
- consultant and legal expenses.

A key risk associated with acquisition is the presence of a Native Title determination (NC 2012/001) over the land, recognising rights and interests of the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People.

Acquisition may trigger compensation for extinguishment of native title, which is currently uncertain and represents a potentially significant cost risk.

Council must also confirm whether any active Aboriginal Land Claims exist over the land prior to progressing acquisition, as this would prevent acquisition from proceeding until resolved.

Key Considerations

The decision between retaining Crown land or proceeding with acquisition requires balancing:

- cost implications, including potential native title compensation
- long-term asset ownership and control
- planning and statutory requirements
- project delivery timelines and risks.

At this stage, further investigation is required to fully understand the financial and legal implications of acquisition compared to retaining Crown land.

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
E1.2 Cultivating our wealth	Goal 6: We support a resilient local economy by increasing its diversity and boosting opportunities for entrepreneurship and business	Plan, build, operate and maintain a prosperous Artesian Bore Bath experience.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

(a) Financial Resource Implications:

Retention of Crown land results in minimal upfront cost, while acquisition would result in significant costs, including potential native title compensation, which remains uncertain.

Further detailed financial analysis is required before any acquisition decision is made.

(b) Policy / Legal and Statutory Implications:

The project is subject to:

- *Crown Land Management Act 2016*
- *Native Title Act 1993*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*

A Native Title assessment and future act process will be required regardless of tenure option.

(c) Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety / Public:

Key risks include:

- unknown cost of native title compensation
- delays associated with land acquisition processes
- uncertainty of land tenure impacting long-term investment
- potential Aboriginal Land Claims.

(d) Options:

Council may:

- retain the land as Crown Land and proceed with development under existing management arrangements.
- pursue acquisition of the land to secure long-term ownership; or
- continue investigations prior to making a final decision.

(e) Council Seal Required:

No

(f) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition: No

External Exhibition: No

10.5 GOVERNANCE QUARTERLY REPORT

File Number: 1018
Author: Executive Manager Corporate Governance
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Report on activities undertaken within the Corporate Governance division for the period January to March 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides Council with an overview of key activities, initiatives and governance outcomes delivered by the Corporate Governance division during the March 2026 quarter.

During the reporting period, Corporate Governance continued to support Council through strengthened audit, risk and policy frameworks, enhanced work health and safety oversight, workforce and capability initiatives, and compliance assurance in line with Office of Local Government requirements. The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) met in March 2026, with oversight of internal audit, risk management, major project governance, policy currency, and emerging organisational risks.

A significant milestone during the quarter was the commencement of Council's all-staff Purpose and Values program. The first facilitated workshops, which included councillors, resulted in the development of a draft organisational charter outlining shared standards of conduct and ways of working. This charter will be reported to the May 2026 Council meeting. The broader workshop program will continue across the organisation throughout 2026-2027.

BACKGROUND:

The Corporate Governance division has responsibility for corporate governance frameworks, audit and risk management, policy oversight, work health and safety, workforce governance, internal compliance, and organisational improvement.

Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee plays a key role in providing independent oversight of these functions, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the Office of Local Government Risk Management and Internal Audit guidelines.

This quarterly report is provided to inform Council of governance-related activities undertaken during the period and to highlight key issues, improvements and focus areas.

REPORT:**1. Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee**

The ARIC met on 4 March 2026. The minutes of that meeting are presented to Council under a separate report on the agenda for this meeting. That report addresses the formal outcomes and recommendations of the committee.

During the March 2026 quarter, the Corporate Governance division supported ARIC through coordination of reporting and governance activities, including:

- Oversight of the Internal Audit program, including review of audit progress and forward planning.
- Monitoring of major project governance and risk, including funding deed compliance and risk reporting for the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths Project.
- Review of Council's policy framework, including identification of overdue and high-risk policies and implementation of a structured clearance program.
- Monitoring Council's compliance with the Office of Local Government Risk Management and Internal Audit guidelines.

These activities support Council's ongoing governance, assurance and risk management responsibilities and are reported through ARIC in accordance with legislative requirements.

2. Risk Management and Work Health and Safety

Key risk and WHS initiatives progressed during the quarter include:

- Full establishment of Strategic and Operational Risk Registers in the RelianSys system, enabling improved accountability, automated review cycles and real-time oversight.
- Expansion of the Risk Specialist function, including:
 - Regular site inspections across Council operations.
 - Weekly quarry inspections, supported by a developing quarry-specific inspection checklist and clearer escalation of incomplete actions.
- Closure of SafeWork NSW asbestos improvement notices.
- Continued participation in the StateCover Targeted Assistance Program, focusing on psychosocial risks, manual handling and falls prevention.
- Introduction of an automated phone message reinforcing Council's zero-tolerance approach to abuse toward staff, responding to trends in public aggression.
- Establishment of an in-house Test and Tag program, with staff training completed and equipment registers under development.

Psychosocial risk remains a key emerging issue, influenced by public behaviour, workload pressures and organisational change, and will continue to be actively monitored and addressed.

3. Workforce, HR and Capability

During the quarter, the People and Culture team supported workforce stability and capability through:

- Management of recruitment activity across approximately 19 vacant positions, including shortlisting, interviews and preparation of selection reports.

Figures for March 2026:

Appointments made	2 fulltime
	1 school-based trainee
	1 casual
	1 internal transfer
Interviews	1
Shortlisting	4
Readvertisements	1
Unsuccessful advertisements	1
Upcoming appointments	2 fulltime
	1 school-based trainee

- Updating of workforce documentation, including organisational charts, recruitment templates and performance appraisal tools.
- Coordination of training programs, including first aid and warden training, dog handling training for regulatory staff, and WHS-related capability development.
- Oversight of payroll and HR processes to ensure continuity during periods of operational pressure and staff leave.

4. Policy and Governance Frameworks

Progress continued on improving Council’s governance documentation and policy currency:

- Review of the Policy Register identifying 29 overdue policies, including several compliance-critical areas.
- Drafting and finalisation underway for priority policies such as Councillor Induction and Professional Development, Gifts and Benefits and Complaint Handling.
- Implementation of a targeted clearance approach to prioritise high-risk and legislatively required policies and establish a sustainable rolling review program.

This work is aimed at reducing compliance exposure and strengthening organisational consistency.

5. Artificial Intelligence and Digital Governance

A Council-wide review of current and potential artificial intelligence (AI) use was undertaken and reported to ARIC during the quarter. The review identified early adoption of AI tools in practical areas such as road defect detection, document drafting and data analysis, alongside opportunities to improve productivity and reporting capability.

Corporate Governance will continue work on developing appropriate governance, policy guidance and capability uplift to ensure emerging technologies are adopted responsibly and with appropriate oversight.

6. Purpose and Values Program

Council commenced its organisation-wide Purpose and Values program during the quarter. This program will be delivered progressively to all staff throughout 2026-2027.

The first facilitated workshops included participation by councillors and focused on Council's shared purpose, cultural expectations and behavioural standards. An outcome of these workshops was the development of a draft organisational charter articulating agreed ways of working, conduct expectations and shared responsibilities.

The working titles for this document is *Purpose and Values Statement*. The draft charter will be reported to the May 2026 Council meeting.

10.6 DRAFT DISPOSAL OF ASSETS POLICY

File Number: -

Author: Executive Manager Corporate Governance

Authoriser: General Manager

Annexures: 1. [DRAFT Disposal of Assets Policy](#) ↓

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Places the Draft Disposal of Assets Policy on public exhibition for 28 days and allow 42 days to receive submissions.
2. A further report be presented to Council with or without any changes to the Draft Disposal of Assets Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report presents the draft Disposal of Assets Policy for Council consideration. The policy provides a clear governance framework for the disposal of Council-owned assets, ensuring disposals are lawful, transparent, ethical, and financially responsible.

The policy is supported by a detailed Disposal of Assets Procedure, which sets out the operational steps for implementation. The procedure is an internal, operational document that will be used to guide staff in the implementation of the policy. The procedure will be approved and maintained under delegated authority.

Adoption of the policy will support consistent and defensible decision-making, clarify approval responsibilities, and ensure that asset disposals achieve best value for the community while managing risk and compliance obligations.

BACKGROUND:

Council disposes of assets periodically as part of normal asset lifecycle management, including plant, equipment, infrastructure, and land. To ensure consistency, probity, and compliance, it is appropriate to distinguish between:

- Policy, which sets Council's governing principles and approval requirements; and
- Procedures, which provide operational guidance for staff.

The draft Disposal of Assets Policy establishes Council's position and governance controls for asset disposal. It is supported by a Disposal of Assets Procedure that provides step-by-step operational processes. The procedure is an internal management document, designed to remain flexible and responsive to legislative or operational change, and is therefore not proposed for Council adoption or public exhibition.

REPORT:

The draft Disposal of Assets Policy establishes a high-level framework governing the disposal of all Council-owned assets, regardless of value, except where specific

legislation applies. The policy focuses on governance, accountability, and approval authority rather than operational detail.

Key features of the policy include:

- Clear articulation of purpose and objectives, focused on best value, transparency, and compliance.
- Explicit recognition that certain disposals, particularly the disposal of Council-owned land, require a resolution of the elected Council and cannot be approved under delegated authority.
- Alignment with relevant legislation, including the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.
- Identification of accepted disposal methods while allowing flexibility in their application.
- Integration with Council's Delegations of Authority and Asset Management Framework.

Operational detail, workflows, and documentation requirements are addressed in the supporting Disposal of Assets Procedure. This separation ensures:

- Council retains control over key governance and approval matters through the policy; and
- Officers can administer and update operational processes efficiently under delegation, without the need for repeated Council endorsement.

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area
Our Leadership	Our ongoing Improvement

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	N/A
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

(a) Financial Resource Implications:

The adoption of the draft Disposal of Assets Policy does not in itself have a direct financial impact. The policy supports existing asset management and financial practices and seeks to maximise value from asset disposals over time.

(b) Policy / Legal and Statutory Implications:

The policy strengthens Council's compliance with:

- The *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW);
- The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*;
- Australian Accounting Standards; and
- NSW Audit Office requirements relating to asset management and disposal.

It provides clarity around approval authority and reinforces probity, transparency, and accountability in disposal decisions.

(c) Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety / Public:

The policy contributes to risk mitigation by:

- Reducing the likelihood of unauthorised or non-compliant assets disposals;
- Ensuring high-risk disposals, such as land, are subject to Council resolution;
- Supporting auditable decision-making processes; and
- Promoting ethical and transparent practices that reduce reputational and compliance risk.

(d) Options:

1. Endorse the draft Disposal of Assets Policy (recommended).
Provides a contemporary and compliant framework for asset disposal aligned with good governance principles.
2. Defer endorsement and request amendments.
Delays implementation and may result in continued reliance on inconsistent practices.
3. Do not endorse the policy.
Would leave Council exposed to governance, compliance, and audit risks associated with unclear or inconsistent disposal arrangements.

(e) Council Seal Required:

No

(f) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition: No

External Exhibition: Yes



DISPOSAL OF ASSETS POLICY
APPROVAL DATE: DD MONTH YYYY
REVIEW DATE: DD MONTH 2030
VERSION: DRAFT

Responsible Officers Manager Assets; Manager Finance and Procurement
Directorate Corporate Services

Table of Contents

1. Purpose	2
2. Objectives.....	2
3. Statement	2
4. Definition	3
5. Implementation	3
6. Legislation Requirements	4
7. Procedures Relating to this Policy	4
8. Policy Review History	5

DRAFT

Disposal of Assets Policy
Draft

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear framework for the disposal of Council-owned assets to ensure that disposals are conducted in a lawful, ethical, transparent and financially responsible manner.

This policy ensures asset disposal decisions:

- Achieve best value for the community.
- Comply with legislative and regulatory requirements.
- Are consistent with good governance and probity principles.
- Support efficient asset management outcomes.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Provide guidance for the consistent and compliant disposal of Council assets.
- Ensure fair and open processes are used when disposing of assets.
- Minimise financial loss and maximise return where appropriate.
- Ensure accountability, transparency and appropriate authorisation.
- Align asset disposal with Council's strategic objectives and Asset Management Framework.

3. Statement

Council recognises that the disposal of assets is an important component of responsible asset management. Council is committed to ensuring that all asset disposals are undertaken:

- In the best interests of the community.
- In accordance with legislative requirements.
- In a manner that is ethical, defensible and auditable.

No Council asset is to be disposed of without appropriate approval, documentation and compliance with this policy and associated procedures.



DISPOSAL OF ASSETS POLICY
APPROVAL DATE: DD MONTH YYYY
REVIEW DATE: DD MONTH 2030
VERSION: DRAFT

Council approval requirements

Notwithstanding any delegation to Council officers, the following asset disposals require a decision of the elected Council and cannot be approved under delegated authority:

- The sale, exchange, lease or other disposal of Council-owned land, including community land and operational land, except where expressly permitted by legislation.
- Any disposal where legislation requires a resolution of Council.
- Any disposal which Council has, by resolution, determined is not to be delegated.

All other asset disposals may be approved under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Delegations of Authority and this policy.

4. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- **Asset** means any property, plant, equipment, infrastructure or other tangible or intangible item owned or controlled by Council.
- **Authorised Officer** means an employee delegated authority in accordance with Council's Delegations Register.
- **Disposal** means the sale, trade-in, transfer, donation, scrapping, demolition or other form of alienation of a Council asset.
- **Fair Market Value** means the value of an asset as determined by independent valuation or market-based assessment.
- **Land Disposal** has the same meaning as in the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

5. Implementation

This policy applies to all Council assets, regardless of value, except where specific legislation applies to a particular asset class.

Disposal of assets will be implemented by:

- Assessing assets identified as surplus, obsolete or uneconomical to maintain.
- Considering alternative uses or internal transfer before disposal.



DISPOSAL OF ASSETS POLICY
APPROVAL DATE: DD MONTH YYYY
REVIEW DATE: DD MONTH 2030
VERSION: DRAFT

- Determining the most appropriate disposal method based on value, risk and community interest.
- Obtaining required approvals in accordance with Council's delegations.
- Maintaining accurate records of all disposals.

Disposal methods may include:

- Public auction or tender.
- Public expression of interest.
- Trade-in.
- Private sale (where legislation permits).
- Transfer, donation or destruction (where justified).

All asset disposals must be supported by appropriate documentation and financial records.

6. Legislative Requirements

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following legislation and standards (as amended from time to time):

- *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- NSW Audit Office Accounting and Asset Management Guidelines
- Australian Accounting Standards (AASB)
- Council's Code of Conduct
- Council's Delegations of Authority

7. Procedures Relating to this Policy

Procedure Name	Public or Internal Facing
Asset Disposal Procedure	Internal
Delegations of Authority	Internal (public register)
Asset Management Framework	Internal (public Integrated Planning and Reporting documents)
Procurement Policies (where applicable)	Public

Disposal of Assets Policy
 Draft



DISPOSAL OF ASSETS POLICY
APPROVAL DATE: DD MONTH YYYY
REVIEW DATE: DD MONTH 2030
VERSION: DRAFT

8. Policy Review History

Date	Changes Made	Approved By
	Initial adoption	

DRAFT

10.7 QUARRY UPDATE

File Number: 83519
Author: Executive Manager Corporate Governance
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mt Magometon Quarry Operations and Sales Report for the period July 2025 to March 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides Council with a consolidated overview of quarry operations, sales activity, crusher performance, weighbridge reporting, throughput and output at Mt Magometon Quarry for the period July 2025 to March 2026.

During the reporting period, quarry activity was impacted by a voluntary closure, as previously reported to Council. The quarry recommenced sales activity from 14 October 2025, with crushing and contractor coordination progressively re-established.

Based on weighbridge records for the period July 2025 to March 2026, total material sold was approximately 29,830.88 tonnes. Customers comprised Coonamble Shire Council works program and external/private sector customers, with Council representing the largest single customer group.

Crusher throughput and production output during the reporting period varied due to the staged recommencement of operations and reliance on a combination of Council-owned fixed plant and contractor-operated mobile crushing, consistent with the findings of the Independent Operational, Financial and Strategic Review reported separately to Council in March 2026.

BACKGROUND:

Mt Magometon Quarry is a strategic Council asset supporting Councils road construction, maintenance programs and regional construction demand.

The quarry was subject to a voluntary operational closure during the early part of the 2025-26 financial year, as previously reported to Council. Sales activity recommenced on 14 October 2025, with blasting and crushing programs progressively re-established.

In March 2026, Council considered a separate report presenting the findings of an independent review of the quarry's operational performance, financial sustainability and long-term operating model. That report confirmed the long-term resource availability of the quarry but identified capacity, throughput and cost constraints associated with the existing fixed-plant dominant operating model.

This report focuses on operational and sales data for the July 2025 to March 2026 period.

REPORT:**1. Customers**

Customer data derived from weighbridge records shows that quarry materials were supplied to:

- Coonamble Shire Council (internal works programs including road construction, maintenance and capital works), and
- External/private sector customers, including construction and infrastructure contractors.

For open Council reporting purposes, individual private customers are not identified. Sales are reported at an aggregated level only.

2. Weighbridge and Sales Reporting

All quarry sales were recorded through the quarry weighbridge system.

For the reporting period July 2025 to March 2026:

- Total material sold: approximately 29,830.88 tonnes.
- Supplied to Council works: approximately 15,716.69 tonnes.
- Supplied to external customers: approximately 14,114.19 tonnes.

Weighbridge records also form the basis of invoicing, internal cost allocation and production reporting.

3. Crusher Configuration, Throughput and Output

Crusher performance and throughput during the reporting period reflected:

- the voluntary closure earlier in the financial year,
- recommencement of operations from October 2025, and
- use of both fixed plant and contractor-operated mobile crushing.

Fixed plant capacity (as identified in the independent review):

- Practical throughput of approximately 65 tonnes per hour, equating to around 650 tonnes per 10-hour operating day under optimal conditions.
- Since the majors repairs to the fixed plant it has done 30hrs for the past 4 weeks. Hours worked has been limited due to minor breakdown (mostly electrical) and staff availability to operate the plant.

Mobile crushing (contractor-operated):

- Observed daily output during crushing campaigns exceeded 1,100 to 1,500 tonnes per day (10-hour day), demonstrating materially higher throughput capability when mobile crushing was utilised.

Production output across the reporting period varied depending on crusher availability, contractor scheduling, stockpile levels and demand.

4. Products and Output Mix

Materials produced and sold during the period included:

- road base products (including DGB/DGS),
- aggregates (various sizes),

- precoated aggregates, and
- minor volumes of other quarry products.

Road-making materials comprised the majority of output and sales volumes, aligning with Council works program requirements.

5. Safety Performance

Routine site safety inspections were undertaken throughout the reporting period. Compliance with site safety procedures was maintained, and no significant safety incidents were reported.

6. Environmental Management

Environmental management controls were maintained in accordance with quarry approvals and Environmental Protection Licence requirements, including:

- dust suppression,
- noise management, and
- surface water controls.

No material environmental non-compliances were identified during the reporting period.

7. Issues, Risks and Operational Context

Operational outcomes during the period were influenced by:

- the voluntary closure and restart phase,
- crusher throughput limitations associated with fixed plant use,
- reliance on contractor availability for mobile crushing, and
- forward works program demand.

These issues and risks were examined in detail in the Independent Operational, Financial and Strategic Review reported to Council in March 2026.

8. Forward Outlook

Future quarry operations, throughput and output levels will be guided by Council decisions arising from the March 2026 independent review, particularly regarding:

- crusher configuration,
- operating model, and
- long-term production strategy.

In the interim, quarry operations will continue to support Council works programs and external demand within current approvals and governance arrangements.

10.8 MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) MEETING

File Number: 75182

Author: Executive Manager Corporate Governance
Executive Assistant

Authoriser: General Manager

Annexures: 1. [2026.03.04 Draft ARIC Minutes](#) ↓

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report presents to Council the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) meeting held on 4 March 2026.

The committee considered matters within its legislated functions under section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), including internal audit, major projects and risks, policy governance, risk management, financial management, artificial intelligence use across Council, and compliance with Office of Local Government guidelines.

The minutes are provided to Council for information and transparency. No Council decisions are required as a result of this report.

BACKGROUND:

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee was established by Council resolution 2023/58 (13 September 2023) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit*. The committee provides independent advice to Council on governance, risk management, internal audit, financial management and continuous improvement.

In line with good governance practice, minutes of ARIC meetings are reported to Council for noting.

REPORT:

The ARIC met on Tuesday, 4 March 2026, with independent members, councillor representation and senior staff in attendance.

At the meeting, the committee:

- reviewed progress on internal audit activities and endorsed the Internal Audit Plan to 2027;
- considered governance and risk matters relating to major Council projects;
- reviewed the status of Council's policy framework and risk management arrangements;
- noted Council's financial position following the December 2025 budget review;

- considered current and future use of artificial intelligence across Council; and
- confirmed Council's compliance with the Office of Local Government's Risk Management and Internal Audit guidelines.

Actions arising from the meeting will be monitored and reported back to ARIC at future meetings.

The minutes of the meeting are attached for Council's information.

**Coonamble Shire Council
ARIC Committee Meeting**

Tuesday 4 March 2026
Coonamble Shire Council Administration Building
Meeting Room
11:30am

Present

Chair – Graeme Fleming PSM (Chair – via videoconference), Meredith Caelli (Independent Member – via videoconference), Ross Earl (Independent Member), Daniel Keady (Mayor), General Manager – Greg Hill, Director Corporate Services – Bruce Quarmby, Director Infrastructure – Kerrie Murphy; Director Sustainable Communities and Planning – Tony Payne; Executive Manager Corporate Governance – Jenni Maundrell; Executive Assistant – Rebecca Payne (Minutes)

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Apologies

Councillor Member – Phillipa Goldsmith

**Moved: Meridith Caelli
Second: Ross Earl**

Declarations of interest

Chair Graeme Fleming – has a Standing Declaration of Potential Interest as an occasional provider of consultancy services to local government and as Chair of Lachlan, Warren and Gilgandra Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees.

Meredith Caelli – has Standing Declarations of Potential Interest as a member of an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee chaired by Council's Internal Audit provider, Paul Quealey of Lambourne Partners, and as an Independent Member of Weddin Shire Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

Minutes of previous meeting

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee confirms the minutes of the Coonamble Shire Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on Thursday 27 November 2025.

**Moved: Ross Earl
Second: Meredith Caelli**

Business arising

There was no business arising.

Task Register

The committee discussed the outstanding tasks in the task register.

Action:	Jenni to change the wording from 'task' to 'action'.
	Jenni to add due dates to all actions.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the committee notes the status of tasks arising from Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meetings.
2. That staff update the outstanding actions before the next meeting

Moved: Ross Earl

Second: Meredith Caelli

Report 8.1 – Internal Audit

The committee discussed the 3 reports waiting for feedback and confirmed council is currently working on the feedback. Due date of the feedback was changed to the following meeting.

- Plant and Fleet Management
- Workshop Operations Review
- Waste Management

The committee discussed risk mitigation and confirmed staff have regular toolbox talks and quarterly meetings with State Cover to go over claims they have received. State Cover then provide an executive summary to council.

The committee discussed how council monitors changes and ensuring staff are up to date with their tickets and excess accrued leave.

Fraud Corruption - Council confirmed to mitigate fraud and corruption council have a Recruitment policy and Procurement protocols that all staff have to follow.

Action:	Add the assurance activities council are doing to the map
	Bring back a list of the control measures council is currently doing to ensure we are managing fraud and corruption.
	Council staff to update all their actions

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee:

1. Note the Internal Audit update for March 2026.
2. Update the Assurance Map and bring it back to the next meeting.
3. Adopt the Internal Audit Plan to 2027
4. Updated actions to be brought back to the next meeting.

Moved: Meridith Caelli

Second: Ross Earl

Report 8.2 – Major Projects and Risks – by exception

The committee congratulated the group on getting this report to ARIC.

BORE BATH – There is a detailed council report going to the March council meeting. Council now has approval for the installation of the Bore Bath and has lodged a DA. Council is currently working on the extraction licence as council didn't receive the licence they had requested.

Council confirmed the approval process will be finalised before the construction starts and that there is enough water for stage one. Once stage one is finalised council will be able to see what waterflow the bore has and take the next step into stage two. The project should take approximately 6 weeks.

It was confirmed that Councillors are confident with the project. Council have received the preliminary plans and in the next month when the detailed plans are received, council will look at the staging and costings. This will then be presented to council to ensure the staging and funding fits council's budgets.

There has been a lot of community consultation on the bore baths concept design but have not received any feedback yet.

The committee discussed the employment opportunities the bore bath project will bring to the community. It was confirmed that stage one had minimal job opportunities. However, stage two there will be cabins and stage three there is proposed to be a caravan park cabins. Stage two and three will bring cleaning, maintenance and gardening job opportunities.

Tooraweenah Road – There is a monthly report that goes to council. The committee discussed presenting the reports to each ARIC meeting.

There was an extraordinary meeting in January to discuss the tenders. Council is currently working on the management plans and working towards construction commencing early May. There is a 60-week completion timeline.

Quarry – The committee is meeting this afternoon to report on the financials and report. There is a report going to March Council meeting for endorsement.

Sons of the Soil Hotel – Council is working on this as the hotel is still not resolved.

Housing subdivision – There has not been any recent progress on this project.

Waste – There is a report going to March council meeting on the Proposed Landfill and FOGO. Will send the report to the next ARIC meeting.

The committee discussed the table attached to the agenda. The committee requested an update at the next meeting.

Action:	Regular report to ARIC on the Bore Bath
	Add water to the list of projects
	Add the Waste council report to the next ARIC meeting
	Regular report to ARIC on Tooraweenah Road
	Update to the “traffic light” table attached to the agenda

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee:

1. Note the progress of the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths project, including current design development, financial status, governance arrangements, and the updated risk register.
2. Endorse the continuation of strong project oversight measures, including stringent monitoring of RTAF milestones, proactive engagement with the funding authority regarding any required extension, and early initiation of detailed cost planning and operational business modelling.
3. Recommend that project governance, procurement sequencing, and planning approval processes be prioritised to minimise schedule risk and ensure alignment with the Funding Deed conditions.
4. Support the implementation of the identified mitigation strategies, particularly those targeting high-risk areas such as funding deadlines, capital cost escalation, and operational sustainability.
5. Request council to update report on the bore baths.
6. Request council to add updates on the major projects.

Moved: Ross Earl
Second: Meredith Caelli

Report 8.3 – Annual Review – Council Policies and Policy Register

Council is currently working on Policies, looking at statutory Policies, then high level Policies and then low priority Policies. The committee discussed the amount of policies councils has and to look at making some of them Procedures under Policies. It was confirmed that Policies should be a maximum of two to three pages long.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee

1. Note the status of Council’s policy register and review, along with the dedicated resourcing in place.
2. Endorse a targeted clearance plan prioritising high-risk policy areas such as those that are necessary for legislative compliance.
3. Receive an update at the next meeting including the percentage reduction in overdue policies; adoption dates for drafted policies; and a rolling 12-month policy schedule to 31 December 2027.

Moved: Meridith Caelli
Second: Ross Earl

Report 8.4 – Risk Management

The committee discussed the need to have recommendation two as an ongoing report to ARIC.

Action:	Attach the strategic risk register to the Risk Report
	Bring operational risks that effect more than one team to ARIC.

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee:

1. Note the progress on WHS policy updates, risk register implementation and enhanced site inspection processes.
2. Endorse the ongoing implementation of psychosocial, manual tasks and fall-prevention initiatives under the StateCover targeted assistance program (TAP).
3. Support the prioritisation of completion of outstanding risk audits and improved coordination of works program information.
4. Recommend continued development of Council’s contractor WHS education and management framework.
5. Note the organisational improvements (achieved and potential) through the broadened Risk Specialist role and RelianSys implementation.

Moved: Ross Earl
Second: Meredith Caelli

Report 8.5 – Financial Management

Between 13/10/25 – to 03/03/26 the Quarry brought in an income of \$750,000. There have been several major breakdowns recently, but all the plant has been fixed now. Spent approximately \$500,000 to fix the broken plant and now working on a hybrid model as it is the most cost effective for council. Engaged with contractors for mobile crushing, they finished 2 weeks ago and will be back after easter.

Council blasted rock in late January to be crushed.

Council has engaged with a Quarry Manager on a 6-month contract, working on risk, governance and day to day operations. The quarry currently has 3 full time employees and will have an administration staff member going to the quarry to assist with admin work.

Received feedback that Councillors are happy that gravel is coming out of the Quarry again.

Action:	Bruce to look at how the water issues impacted the council
----------------	--

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee note:

1. Council's financial position after the quarterly budget review has deteriorated from an original operational budget surplus of \$9,452 to an anticipated operational deficit of \$3,526,346.
2. Council has undertaken several adjustments across the water and sewer funds to align asset valuations as at 30 June 2025. These valuation updates have resulted in increased depreciation expenses for the affected assets. The higher depreciation charges have been incorporated into the revised December budget, contributing to a decline in the non-operating financial position for the period.

Moved: Meridith Caelli
Second: Ross Earl

Report 8.6 – Artificial Intelligence use Across Council

The committee discussed the need to ensure when AI is used, council staff need to ensure it is used within our licence and there is not risk of data leaks. Copilot is held within council's storage and not available to public. Chat GPT is a risk as the information is not held within the organisation.

Add to comms or IT procedure on what websites we can and cannot use within the organisation.

AI to be a 6 monthly standing agenda. The committee would like to monitor the implementation of AI across the organisation.

Action:	Amdad to investigate id he can block unapproved websites
	Send comms to staff on safe AI practices and websites

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee:

1. Endorse development of a Council-wide AI Governance Framework, including guidance on acceptable use, privacy, data retention, ethical considerations, and verification requirements.
2. Support a staged AI capability uplift program, including staff training, awareness sessions, and targeted technical development for data-heavy units (Infrastructure, Finance, Governance).
3. Recommend integration of AI-assisted tools into internal audit and risk processes, with pilot projects focusing on:
 - automated risk register drafting
 - anomaly detection for audit sampling
 - predictive asset maintenance
4. Request a maturity assessment and implementation plan, outlining priority areas, resource requirements and timeline for expanding AI use across Council.
5. Ensure all AI-generated data is subject to robust human review, particularly for governance, compliance and regulatory reporting.
6. Monitor emerging risks, including cyber and ethical risk, through regular reporting to ARIC as AI use expands.
7. 6 monthly report and included in the work plan.

Moved: Meridith Caelli

Second: Ross Earl

Report 8.7 – Annual Review – ARIC Work Plans

The committee discussed that this report doubled up with the task register and to combine the two.

Action:	Meredith will provide the NSW OLG Model Terms of Reference for ARIC to add into the work plan.
----------------	--

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee has reviewed and endorses the:

1. Four year ARIC Work Plan 2025-2028 with no amendments.
2. 2026 ARIC Annual Work Plan.

Moved: Meridith Caelli

Second: Ross Earl

Report 8.8 – Status Report – Compliance with OLG Guidelines

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee note the status of Council’s compliance with implementation of the Office of Local Government’s Risk Management and Internal Audit Guidelines.

The committee notes to date that there are no outstanding requirements.

Moved: Meridith Caelli

Second: Ross Earl

General Business

NIL

Next meeting

- Thursday 14 May 2026

Conclusion of the Meeting:

The meeting Closed at 12:54pm

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Chairperson

DRAFT

11 SECTION C - PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

11.1 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE REPORT

File Number: 81991

Author: Director Sustainable Communities and Planning

Authoriser: General Manager

Annexures: 1. EDG Update - New Resident Survey Report 2026 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Sustainable Communities and Planning Directorate report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report updates Council on –

- Waste Recycling and Employment Initiatives
- Planning and Regulatory services
- Saleyards
- Community Development
- Economic Development and Growth

BACKGROUND:

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

REPORT:

WASTE RECYCLING EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a comprehensive update on waste management, recycling operations, compliance activities, and associated employment initiatives across the Coonamble Shire. The report also outlines financial implications arising from the ongoing Waste and Recycling Review and identifies emerging operational challenges requiring Council's attention.

Waste and Recycling Review

An initial briefing was provided to Councillors in October 2025, covering the regulatory framework, NSW Government targets to 2030, and preliminary directions for waste and recycling.

Key (separate) reports include:

- Construction of New Landfill Cell (2026) – March Council Meeting.
- Food and Organics (FOGO) – March Council Meeting.
- Kerbside recycling - April Council Meeting.

Council has statutory responsibilities for waste management under NSW environmental legislation and is required to meet NSW Government waste reduction targets to 2030. Council is also subject to regulatory oversight by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), including compliance with Environmental Protection Licences (EPLs).

Council continues to pursue external funding opportunities to support waste sector improvements, including infrastructure for Return and Earn automated simulators and compactors provided by Tomra-Cleanaway.

NetWaste Forum

Council staff attended the February 2026 NetWaste Forum, where the Quambone community was recognised for its strong engagement in waste-reduction and recycling initiatives. Participation in the forum supports Council's commitment to regional collaboration and continuous improvement in waste practices.

Waste 2 Art Program – Quambone Public School

NetWaste delivered a Waste 2 Art “Shrink Your Footprint” workshop at Quambone Public School in Term 4, 2025. Key outcomes included:

- Increased student understanding of waste streams, recycling processes, and local waste-facility operations
- Hands-on creative activities using recyclable or commonly discarded materials
- Strengthened community awareness of waste reduction and resource recovery
- Positive engagement with Council's waste-education partners, including Outback Arts

Students expressed pride in their school and in learning how much waste is recovered at the Quambone Waste Facility.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping continues to escalate across the Shire. Recent activity includes:

- Removal of 532.5 cubic metres of illegally dumped material on public land over the past three (3) months.
- Cleanup cost to date this calendar year: \$17,362.50.

- 33 separate illegal dumping incidents reported in the past month alone.

This trend presents an increase in environmental, financial, and compliance risk. In response, Council's Ranger staff have investigated incidents and have successfully tracked dumping back to alleged perpetrators through the gathering of evidence. Staff are now in the process of interviewing alleged perpetrators to determine whether to issue official warnings or fines as a deterrent.

EPA Saleyard and Truck Wash – Compliance with EPA directions

Following an EPA site inspection on 21 May 2024 at the Coonamble Regional Livestock Market, a detailed direction was issued to Council requiring significant remedial works to comply with licence EPL No.10694.

Staff have been busy addressing the list of required works over the past month and Council continues to work with the EPA to ensure that licence requirements are met and maintained going forward.

Cardboard Baler Operations

Operational delays have occurred due to power-supply issues affecting the cardboard baler. To address this, a generator is being procured to ensure reliable operation. Cardboard stockpiles are therefore expected to reduce significantly in the coming weeks.

Security Incident – Coonamble Waste Facility

On Sunday, 22 March 2026, staff identified evidence of a break and enter at the Coonamble Waste Facility. Key details:

- Multiple buildings and storage areas were unlawfully accessed.
- Locks were removed and items stolen.
- Power to the facility was deliberately cut.
- A full incident report has been lodged with NSW Police.

Security enhancements are currently being investigated to prevent recurrence.

Employment and Skills Development Initiatives

Council's waste and recycling operations continue to provide valuable employment pathways and skills development opportunities. Training delivered through waste-sector roles includes:

- Machinery operation.
- Environmental compliance.
- Customer service.

- Workplace safety.

These competencies are transferable across multiple industries, supporting long-term workforce development within the Shire.

Employment outcomes achieved to date include:

- Two former waste-operations employees have successfully transitioned into roles at the quarry.
- Two employees have successfully progressed into ranger/regulatory officer positions.

These outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of Council’s waste-sector employment initiatives in supporting local job creation and skills development.

Financial Implications

Council has responsibility for waste management and is subject to scrutiny by the EPA, which can result in charges and fines.

Preliminary findings from the Waste and Recycling Review indicate that:

- Waste charges will need to increase to meet statutory requirements and maintain regulatory compliance
- Additional funding is required to address compliance reporting backlogs
- Investment is needed to support Return and Earn infrastructure, waste facility security, and operational resilience
- Ongoing illegal dumping is imposing significant unbudgeted costs

Council continues to seek external funding opportunities to offset financial pressures and support waste reduction initiatives planned for 2026.

Waste Management Update

Return and Earn – 2025/2026

Site	March		Year to Date	
	Items	Amount	Items	Amount
Coonamble	98,551	\$9,855.10	728,411	\$72,844.10
Quambone	12,148	\$1,214.80	79,518	\$7,951.80
TOTAL			807,959	\$80,795.90

Waste Management Services

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

Solid Waste Management

Income	March	Year to Date
Annual Charges - Residential	757	769,452
Annual Charges – Non- Residential	24	292,258
Interest on Overdue Annual Charges	2,319	16,837
Grant – Pensioner Subsidy	0	15,724
Gate Fees – Domestic	3,941	33,630
Gate Fees – Commercial	29,619	132,884
Sales – New Bins	190	3,946
Return & Earn Commission	4,696	32,035
Sales – Recyclables	0	31,242
Private Works	2,247	23,515
Total Revenue	\$ 43,793	\$ 1,351,523
Expenditure	March	Year to Date
Solid Waste Collection Expenses	10,569	138,896
Solid Waste Other Expenses	0	1,822
Insurance	0	2,909
Electricity	0	2,974
Telephone & Communications	372	3,089
Rates and Charges	0	523
General Expenses	1,808	3,428
Plant & Equipment Maintenance	157	1,224
Waste Depot Operations	53,175	334,718
Waste Depot Wages	37,342	334,212
Building Maintenance	0	4,354
Private Works	741	16,482
Plant & Equipment	86	2,231
Total Expenditure	\$ 104,250	\$ 846,862

PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES REPORT

Regulatory Services

The Regulatory Officer’s Report is provided for March 2026.

The following is a summary of companion animal statistics as at 31 March 2026:

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

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	1	0
Incoming Animals	Dogs	Cats
Transferred from seizure activities	0	0
Abandoned or Stray	10	0
Surrendered	11	0
Total Animals in Pound	22	0

Outgoing Animals	Dogs	Cats
Released to Owner	3	0
Euthanised	6	1
Released to Rehoming Organisation	5	0
Sold	0	0
Died at Pound	0	0
Stolen from Pound	0	0
Escaped from Pound	0	0
Total Animals Leaving Pound	14	1
Animals in Pound at end of Month	8	0

Dog Attacks

There were three (3) dog attacks reported to Council up to 31 March 2026.

Planning Services

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

March 2026			
Application Number	Description of Works	Address of Proposed Works	Approved Date
Development Applications			
DA026/2025	New Two-storey Medical Facility	Lot 1-2 DP 1014280 Lot 82 DP 596279 16 Castlereagh Street Coonamble	06/03/2026
DA004/2026	Operate and Install Kiosk at Gulargambone Caravan Park	Lot 22 DP 792529 17 Skuthorpe Street Gulargambone	31/03/2026
Building Information Certificates			
	NIL		
Construction Certificates			
CC004/2024/2	Storage Shed No. 1	Lot 1, DP 188788 Lot 1, DP 321836 49 Castlereagh Street	20/03/2026

		Coonamble	
Occupation Certificates			
OC029/2025	Large Outdoor Patio	Lot 500 DP 1296231 5-7 Munnell St Gulargambone	11/03/2026
Local Government Approvals			
LA002/2026	Approval to Install & Operate On-Site Sewage Management System	Lot 40 DP 754233 2407 Vatua Lane Coonamble	31/03/2026
DA004/2026	Manufactured Building (Kiosk)	Lot 22 DP 792529 17 Skuthorpe Street Gulargambone	31/03/2026

Planning Portal Status

Type	Reference Number	Submitted Date	Address	Development Description	Workflow Status
DA	PAN-621839	13/3/26	Castlereagh Hwy, Wingadee	Rural Subdivision	Additional Information Requested
DA	PAN-619576	06/03/26	8 Yalcogrin St, Gulargambone	Shade Structure and Storage Shed	Additional Information Requested
DA	PAN-617501	27/02/26	923 Warrena Rd, Coonamble	Rural Subdivision	Under Assessment
DA	PAN-494496	06/03/26	3-7 Sydney St, Coonamble	Terminus Hotel Cabin expansion	Additional Information Requested
DA	PAN-618726	04/03/26	128-130 Munnell St, Gulargambone	Showground Storage Shed	Under Assessment
DA	PAN-602606	22/12/25	Castlereagh Hwy, Coonamble	Transportable Dwelling	Additional Information Requested
OC	CFT-894645	03/02/26	7 Zoccoli St, Coonamble	Residential Shed	Additional Information Requested
CC	CFT-910401	27/02/26	49 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	Office Expansion – Cants	Additional Information Requested
CC	CFT-917265	11/03/26	128-130 Munnell St, Gulargambone	Showground Storage Shed	Under Assessment
OC	CFT-930314	01/04/26	12 Park Street, Coonamble	Swimming Pool & Surrounds	Under Assessment
S68	S68-2026-2554	11/02/26	2717 Wingadee Rd, Wingadee	On-Site Sewage Management System	Additional Information Required

Saleyards

During March 2026, the Coonamble Regional Livestock Market conducted one prime cattle sale, with a total of 2,000 cattle sold.

	March	Year to Date
Income	19,320	174,586
Expenditure	17,837	157,873
Total	1,483	16,713

Truck Wash

	March	Year to Date
Income*	5,870	54,879
Expenditure	582	45,701
Total	5,288	9,178

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Purpose of the Report

To provide Council with an update with ongoing community development activities, upcoming events, grant applications, and progress on youth infrastructure, services and programs for the upcoming Autumn School Holiday Break and Youth Week.

Summary

March is extremely busy for delivery and planning of some of the focused programs the town's youth and seniors. The Autumn Holiday Program is Now in its final planning stages, and the Community Development team is preparing a locked-in calendar to advertise the programs and activities on behalf of the Shire and our service providers, before the school term ends. Youth Week starts towards the end of the holiday program, and some very interesting programs are being planned for its launch both at Coonamble and Gulargambone.

Seniors' week kicked off with the Excursion on 12th March at siding springs Warrumbungle's – Number of attendees: 20 followed by the very popular seniors Luncheon at Bowling club on 18th March – Number of attendees: approx. 120.

Two stakeholder meetings were organised in view of the upcoming events coordination.

Facilities and Staffing

The Gulargambone Youth centre will be getting ready to re-open to the community this holiday program starting with one day a week.

Council is still on the lookout for two casual positions for the Gular youth centre activities to commence outside holiday programs.

A planning meeting is to establish a forward operational roadmap involving Coonamble shire, Gular youth workers from both Redie and the Shire's to collaborate and provide opportunities for youth after school hours.

•

Autumn (April) Holidays and Youth Week

The Autumn Holiday program will officially start on the 7th of April for two weeks. The Community Development team is currently in touch with a suite of service providers to finalise a series of activities that is both educational and recreational. This year we have more than 10 services that have offered to deliver coordinated activities and a number of partnerships between the service providers that heightens the vibrancy and effectiveness of the activities.

This year, Youth Week will kick off with a double launch in both Coonamble and Gulargambone.

Starting in Coonamble from 15–17 April, Job Links will provide an amazing opportunity for local young people to gain their First Aid Certificate and CPR training, as well as take part in an Emergency Rescue Simulation. It's a fantastic chance to build real-life skills that also look great on a resume.

Youth Week will then feature in Gulargambone on Wednesday, 22 April, with Anthony Lamond at Gular Central School. The Stand-Up Comedy Workshop for the youth in years 9, 10, 11 and 12 will help young people build self-confidence, have fun, strengthen resilience, and develop teamwork skills.

Currently activities are being locked in to finalise calendar. Flyers that will be promote and advertise these will be distributed to schools and on our social media platforms before 30th March.

Service provider Meetings

A Service provider meeting was held to commence the planning of activities for the upcoming autumn Holidays and for the shire to facilitate and coordinate the suggested elements, timelines, theme, funding etc.

A debrief meeting was held for the Summer activities offered as part of the Premiers grant. This meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the delivery of programs over the summer holiday period, highlighting both successes and areas for future improvement.

Service providers reported strong utilisation of funded activities and noted that the grant contributed positively to community engagement throughout the season. A key

point of feedback was the desire for the grant to become a recurring funding opportunity, allowing organisations to plan more sustainably and expand program offerings.

Participants also identified challenges associated with last-minute changes during implementation, emphasising the need for earlier communications, advertisements and improved coordination in future cycles. Overall, the program was considered highly successful, with valuable insights gathered to strengthen future delivery.

Seniors Star Trek - Excursion

26 participants were treated to a personal guided tour of the world-class astronomy precinct, learning about the Observatory's rich scientific history and its vital role in global space research. The tour included an inside and up-close look at Australia's largest optical telescope, where the group stepped outside the impressive facility onto a catwalk and enjoyed 360-degree views stretching more than 200 kilometres across the Warrumbungle ranges and beyond.

The personalised tour included a walkthrough of the interactive display at the Siding Springs Visitor Centre, relaxing catered lunch, and sightseeing. The tour operator, Branioc, was knowledgeable while keeping things interesting and accessible.

Following the tour, participants made their way to the Warrumbungle Visitor Information Centre, gaining further insight into the region's unique geology, wildlife, and cultural heritage – and souvenirs!

It was the perfect way to begin Seniors Week celebrations with a truly memorable day, full of learning, laughter, and appreciation for the incredible region we live in. The seniors were full of huge appreciation for our Community Development department for organising the event.

The event marked the first of the activities planned throughout the week to honour the older residents of our community, celebrate their contributions, and provide opportunities for connection, fun, and adventure.







Annual seniors luncheon 2026

On Wednesday, 18 March, the “Under the Sea” themed Seniors Week Luncheon was held at the Coonamble Bowling Club, bringing together 130 guests to celebrate and honour the incredible seniors of our region.

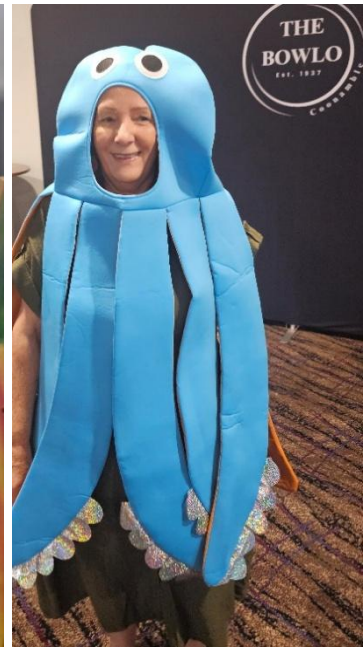
The event was a wonderful afternoon of connection, recognition, and community spirit, providing an opportunity to acknowledge the experience, wisdom, and ongoing contributions of our senior residents.

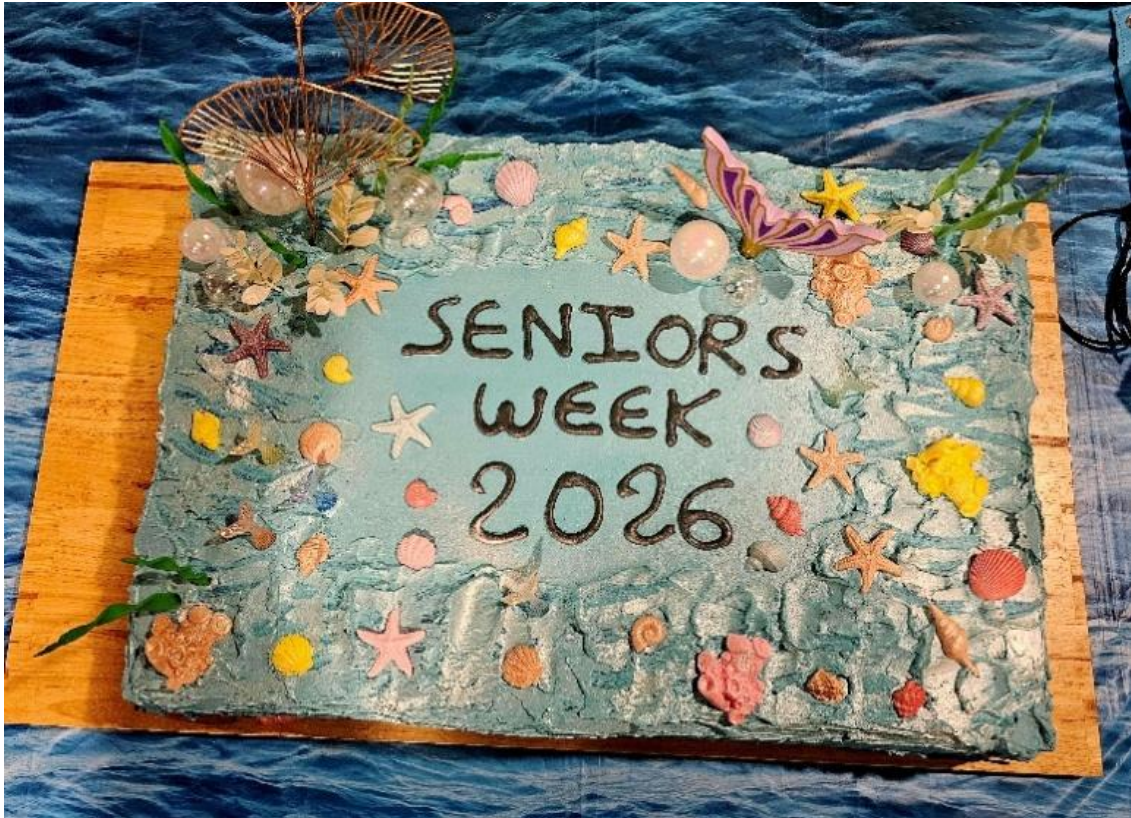
The Community Development Department worked with outside stakeholders such as Meals on Wheel, Coonamble Neighbourhood Centre and the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy to deliver a great and meaningful day out.

Seniors Week is an important occasion to recognise the wisdom, resilience, and community spirit of older residents. Events such as this luncheon create valuable opportunities to connect, celebrate, and ensure our seniors feel valued, supported, and included.

Coonamble Shire has a proud tradition of supporting its senior community, and this year’s ocean-inspired celebration was a memorable reflection of that commitment.







Youth Accomodation project

The crisis accomodation units currently under construction in Yarran Street, Coonamble have taken longer than antcipated to complete. According to the builder, the units will be ready for handover within the next 2-3 weeks with only minor works outstanding such as turfing of yards, completion of fencing and connection of downpipes to stormwater system.

Council has applied for a short extension to the funding provider (DCJ/Office of Youth) noting the agreed completion date of 28 March 2026 has expired. The units were on track for completion by the agreed date, however delays with trades as well as the untimely resignation of Council's Project Manager have unavoidably pushed the completion date back.

LIBRARY STATISTICS – FEBRUARY 2026

Service	Coonamble	Gular
Loans	365	34
New Memberships	4	0
Wi-Fi (People)	59	146
Internet (people)	98	
Internet (hours)	128.15	
Kids Comp (children)	74	
Junior Visits	118	
Adult Visits	455	

Manual Statistics – February 2026

Coonamble	No of People
Library Visits	573
Reference Enquiries	13
Technology Enquiries	45
Local History	3

Activity Statistics – February 2026

Coonamble	No of People
Senior Craft	12
Pre-School Visits/Storytime	18
Holiday Activities	10
Seniors Cinema	9
Seniors Excursion/Lunch	26/130

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH REPORT

Staffing & Administration

- Manager, EDG has had to reduce hours in the short term due to conflicting commitments from 4days/week to approx. 3days/week.
- Contract Project Officer has reduced hours for the next couple of weeks due to family commitments.
- Tourism Officer is returning from maternity leave on a casual basis approx. 1 day per week to perform event co-ordination for Vision Splendid/Cowchella event scheduled for the October Long Weekend.

Economic Development

Coonamble Main Street Enhancement (budgeted)

- Painting of three (3) buildings is complete.
- Request for assistance received from another building owner.
- Building owners who participated in the Awning Project Upgrade are being contacted individually to assess appetite to participate in above-awning/facade painting.

Next steps:

- Offer assistance to other eligible property owners.

Sons of the Soil site redevelopment – Options Analysis (budgeted + staff time)

- Sourcing quotes to assist in site options analysis.

Business Activation Fund (budgeted)

- Awaiting public feedback - revised Business Activation Policy and Procedures on public display until 22 April 2026.

Welcome to Coonamble Event (budgeted)

- Event held Saturday 14 March, 6pm at Coonamble Bowling Club, hosted by combined service clubs and charities with CWA branch as 2026 lead group.
- Loving Coonamble Life video produced by Angie O'Connor, Anne Cullen and Lee O'Connor well received.
- Approx 85 people attended with 36 new residents.
- Chamber of Commerce provided 'buy local bags' and Chamber members supplied merchandise – pens, discount vouchers, preschool calendar – and sponsored approx. \$1000 of prizes.
- Visitor Information Centre staff managed RSVP's, received donated merchandise and packed the bags.

- Results of New Resident Survey 2026 attached as Appendix.

Dental Services (staff time only at this stage)

- Facilitating a meeting with local stakeholders - set for Wednesday 8 April 2026. The purpose of the meeting is to identify and consider short- and long-term options for the provision of dental services to whole of community.
- Council was offered an option to purchase a single chair dental van from a company currently in liquidation at an asking price of \$77,000. Discussions with Marathon Health and Westfund regarding potential investment in the dental bus are continuing.

Next steps:

- Continue to consult with local and external stakeholders to co-design strategy to return comprehensive dental services to Coonamble.

Paediatric Service (staff time only at this stage)

- Coonamble AMS has verbally advised they will not be engaging Little Wings to provide a visiting monthly paediatric clinic at this stage.
- Coonamble AMS is instead hosting 3 visits this year by an early intervention team co-ordinated by Marathon Health that includes Paediatrician, speech and occupational therapists, and psychologist.
- First visit by paediatrician occurred on Monday 30 March 2026.

Next steps:

- Continue to liaise with health services with a view to conducting a Health Services Gap Analysis for Coonamble Shire.

Industrial Land Provision – Precinct development and land sale

- Awaiting outcome of land rezoning process.

Next steps:

- Consider any submissions against assessment criteria.
- Prepare finalisation report and liaise with Department of Planning.
- Await sign-off and declaration by the Minister.
- Prepare subdivision plan for site.

Business Support

- Respond to inquiries from businesses. New Gulargambone B&B.
- Australia Post proposal to set-up parcel locker in Coonamble. The proposal would provide 24/7 access, free delivery and collection option, however requires a suitable location.

Next steps:

- Meeting set with Australia Post for 9 April re site requirements and potential for co-location with other freight depot options.
- Identify government-funded business support/advice avenues and link businesses appropriately.
- Review drought response strategies and prepare proposed system for activating supports as needed.

Youth Accommodation – Coonamble and Gulargambone (staff time only at this stage)

- Construction nearing completion.
- Expressions of Interest circulated 13 March 2026 to suitable companies to gauge interest in leasing and managing the properties according to Youth Transition Accommodation criteria.

Next steps: Follow up on EOIs.

Tourism & Events

Tourism Signage: (budgeted)

- Signage audit: for Quambone, Gulargambone & Coonamble is complete. This will be a living document that is progressively updated. **See separate report in this business paper and recommendations.**
- Town entry signs: Quambone and Coonamble (x3) now installed. Gulargambone (x2) installation scheduled.
- Flagpoles and banners: Poles have been supplied. Banners are designed and quote for production has been received.

Next steps: Install remaining town entry signs. Confirm budget for shire entry signs. See attached report.

Artesian Bore Baths – Operations & Marketing Plan

- Request for Quotes (RFQ) prepared and distributed to secure a suitably qualified consultant/contractor to compile Operations & Marketing Plan for the facility.
- Budget proposed for this phase of the project in 2026/27.

Next steps: Confirm budget. Review quotes and appoint consultants.

Riverside Caravan Park – Operations (budgeted) & Improvements

- Discussions held with Park operators regarding plans and proposals.
- Identified need to install lockable doors/gate on main entry to amenities building.

- Project Submission and budget prepared for potential addition of motel-style unit to replace 'glamping tents' that were removed from the park.

Next steps: Complete amenities gate/door within current FY budget. Await budget determination for additional accommodation.

Warrena Weir Recreational Reserve Masterplan (staff time only at this stage)

- Review underway – early stages.
- Prepared budget proposal to finalise planning.

Next steps: Await budget determination.

Coonamble Regional Art Trail (grant-funded)

- Project Manager visited 5 March 2026 for community consultation and again on 25-27 March.
- Quambone Contemplation Circle – costing of concept underway.
- Gulargambone Metal Galah sculptures – Brian Campbell engaged as artist. Design commenced.
- Smith Park murals (amenities block and bore shed) – muralist Lukas Kasper engaged. EOI prepared for local Indigenous artists to contribute concepts.
- Tin Town Contemplation Circle – initial discussions with CLALC, CAHS Men's Group, former residents and other stakeholders. Main meeting for discussion on Tin Town concepts was held on Thurs 5 March with focus on former residents. Story and image-gathering from former residents underway.

Next steps: Liaise with council staff regarding Quambone formwork components and with local metal fabricator regarding central artwork component for Quambone.

Call for EOIs for Coonamble murals to be released week beginning 7 April 2026.

Project Manager to present artwork concepts to May Council meeting.

Coonamble Reflections – Heritage Review (grant funded)

- Initial review of 2010 Community Based Heritage Study completed by heritage architect. **See separate report in this business paper and next steps for councillor review and feedback.**
- Heritage Architect was also tasked to identify top 10 sites for interpretation signage for visitors – including Tin Town.

Next steps:

- Invite relevant property owners to workshops with heritage architect 23 April 2026.

- Regional Art Trail Project Manager to liaise with Heritage Architect to identify opportunities for including interpretive signage in current project.
- Report to May 2026 meeting.

Coonamble Museum Emergency Building Repairs (not budgeted)

- Report received from heritage architect with proposed remediation approach recommended. **See separate report in this business paper for information.**
- RFQ distributed to structural engineering firms to review heritage architect recommendations, scope works and prepare a report suitable for quantity surveyor to provide cost estimates.

Next steps:

- Select and appoint structural engineer.
- Recruit quantity surveyor.
- Report to council with scope of works and estimated cost.

Cowchella event – (formerly known as Vision Splendid) grant-funded

- Correction from March minutes: This will be the second year under the current Open Streets grant with date set for Saturday 3 October 2026. Third and final funded event due to be held in 2027.
- Tourism Officer (on parental leave) has agreed to co-ordinate the 2026 event – approx. 1 day per week. Existing team members to support.

Next steps: Book artists and commence marketing and other organisation.

Destination Management Plan

- Previous DMP is under review.

Real Country Regional Tourism Collaboration

- Real Country Destination Strategic Plan adopted.
- Real Country project, Warrena Creek Reserve development business case adopted in principle.
- Real Country gift hampers created and sold over the Christmas period and still available for purchase at our Information & Exhibition Centre.
- IG account: @thisisrealcountry active with engagement increasing.

Next Steps:

- Creation of Warrena Creek Reserve Masterplan with the incorporation of the Real Country infrastructure works.
- Creation of Warrena Creek Reserve Plan of Management.

Country Heartline – Regional Drought Resilience Program Grant consortium project

- This is a collaborative initiative between Bogan and Warren Shires, led by Warren Shire staff, with a similar objective to the Real Country Regional Tourism partnership involving Coonamble, Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shires.
- The initial funded phase is now complete, delivering a comprehensive suite of resources including a digital media implementation plan, strategic marketing plan, Agritourism Start-Up Handbook, Country Heartline map and brochure, signage templates, website and social media platforms, as well as three workshops delivered across the three participating shires.
- Met with Bogan & Warren Shires to discuss next steps.
- Received Country Heartline signage and brochures, which are now on display at the Coonamble Information & Exhibition Centre.

Next Steps:

- Work with Bogan & Warren Shires on social media plan and new business onboarding plan.

Coonamble Information and Exhibition Centre

- Since the previous reporting period, the Coonamble Information and Exhibition Centre has welcomed a total of 129 visitors to 25 March 2026. This represents a decrease compared to the same period last year, which recorded 155 visitors.
- The decline in visitor numbers may be attributed to broader factors impacting the tourism industry nationally, including the current cost of fuel affecting travel patterns.
- Despite this, the Centre continues to play an important role in supporting visitors to the region and enhancing their overall experience.

New Resident Survey 2026

Introduction:

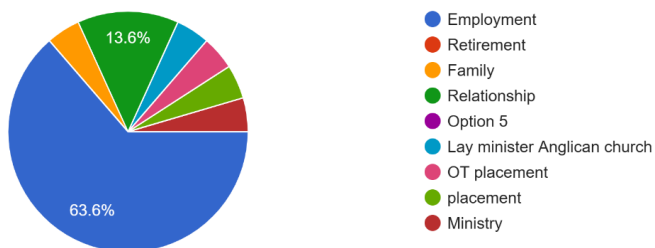
New residents attending the 2026 Welcome to Coonamble Dinner on 14 March were asked to complete a survey.

Twenty two (22) surveys were completed with couples/families generally completing one survey between them. Some attendees chose not to submit a survey.

Survey results will be used by the Economic Development & Growth team in their planning and will be available to other council divisions.

Below is a summary of the results.

Why did you move to Coonamble?
22 responses



Source of employment:

With 63.6% of people/families moving to the district for work, we asked which industry they are working in:

1. Healthcare – 6
2. Local government – 5
3. Education - 5
4. Hospitality – 4
5. Agriculture – 2
6. Trades/Construction/Transport – 2

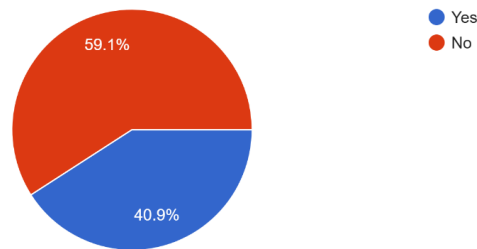
Other occupations included: information technology, retail, and law.

Origin of new residents:

- 6 people/families came to Coonamble from Sydney
- 2 from Tamworth, and others from Bega, Hervey Bay, Lightning Ridge, Melbourne, Wagga, Wollongong, Maitland, Gold Coast, Coledale, Wilcannia and Vietnam

Of these residents, 40.9% came originally from another country.

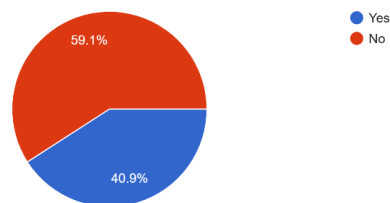
Do you come from another country?
22 responses



New residents have migrated from India (x2), Iraq (Assyrian), Fiji, Greece, Philippines, Vietnam, and France.

We were interested to know how many new residents had prior connection with the district. 40.9% already knew someone here.

Did you have connections (family, friends, professional) in the district before you arrived?
22 responses



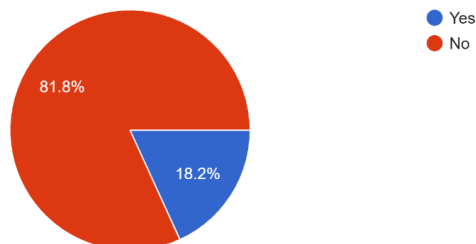
Understanding marital status and whether there are children among the new residents will also assist with planning of facilities, activities and events, and for marketing to recruit new residents.

Dinner attendees were mostly married or partnered (61.9%) while only 20% came to Coonamble with children. Of these, 42.9% said their children will be attending school in Coonamble.

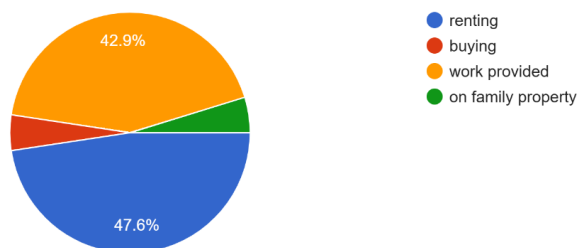
Experiences in the town.

Answers to these questions will assist us in planning community growth strategies and assist the hosts of future Welcome to Coonamble events.

Did you have difficulty finding accommodation?
22 responses



What type of accommodation are you living in?
21 responses



First Impressions of Coonamble

- Friendly and welcoming community – locals described as approachable, chatty, and kind.
- Peaceful and tidy town – quiet streets, safe environment, no signs of neglect.
- Active community and events – rodeos, social gatherings, and a strong community vibe noted.
- Aesthetic appeal – appreciated for local art, regional charm, and “hidden gem” qualities.
- Familiarity and comparisons – some respondents compared Coonamble positively to other regional towns.

- Climate observations – noted as hot and dry in parts, but still attractive to visitors.

Key Takeaway: Visitors' first impressions of Coonamble highlight a friendly, welcoming, and safe regional town with a strong sense of community and quiet charm.

What Residents and Visitors Value Most in Coonamble

- People and community spirit – friendly, welcoming, and respectful locals; strong sense of community.
- Recreational facilities and clubs – tennis club, golf club, pool, cafes, and sporting opportunities for families.
- Lifestyle and environment – regional lifestyle, western landscape, nature, and historic buildings.
- Community values – generosity, friendliness, and inclusiveness noted as important characteristics.
- Other aspects – some respondents highlighted business or had no particular preference.

Key Takeaway: The people, community spirit, and regional lifestyle are the most valued aspects of Coonamble, supported by recreational facilities and local amenities.

What services, facilities or other factors would improve the liveability Coonamble and district for you and your family?

- **Accommodation and housing: More housing options and** accommodation were highlighted as needed.
- Food, dining, and retail: Requests for more restaurants, bakery, and casual dining options.
- Entertainment and recreational facilities: Desire for cinema, sporting activities, professional services, and leisure options.
- Family and youth activities: More activities, infrastructure, and safe spaces for children.
- Access to services: Continued access to essential services; proximity to Dubbo seen as beneficial; bore baths noted as a positive addition.

Key Takeaway: Residents and families value expanded recreational, dining, and family-friendly facilities, improved housing options, and continued access to essential services to enhance the liveability of Coonamble.

11.2 KERBSIDE RECYCLING

File Number: -
Author: Director Sustainable Communities and Planning
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: 1. Netwaste IFAS report [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council does not introduce a kerbside recycling collection service at this time and that business as usual operations continue in the short term.
2. That community consultation be carried out to determine appetite for a kerbside recycling service, given the likely increase to the Domestic Waste Management Charge (DWMC).
3. That the expanded cardboard recycling and return and earn programs be acknowledged as achievable, cost-efficient environmental improvements in the interim.
4. That staff continue to monitor regional recycling markets in anticipation of grant or partnership opportunities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Coonamble Waste Facility currently offers a *Return and Earn* can and bottle recycling service, as well as a separated cardboard, mattress, tyre, and e-waste collection service.

Whilst these services do not constitute a full kerbside recycling system, they provide meaningful landfill diversion and are considered low cost and practical whilst staff continue to monitor regional recycling markets for future grant and/or partnership opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

Coonamble Shire does not currently offer a kerbside recycling service. Recycling is limited to the *Return and Earn* container deposit scheme (under which Council receives 4 cents per transaction), and contractor collection of separated cardboard, mattresses, tyres and e-waste.

A recent Environmental Impact service report prepared by Netwaste indicated that of ten (10) regional councils assessed, only three (3) provide a kerbside recycling service. The broader regional trend reflects financial pressure on recycling operations. A copy of the report is attached to this business paper.

The report indicates that Councils with existing services have experienced a 15–18% decline in recyclable volumes after the introduction of the *Return and Earn* scheme, reducing processing efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Recycling commodities (paper, plastics, metals) are subject to high market volatility, impacting revenue reliability and low waste volumes from a small population base significantly reduce economy of scale.

REPORT:

Introducing kerbside recycling will significantly increase the DWMC (Domestic Waste Management Charge), which is already high (within the region of \$550 per assessment). Based on an estimated ongoing cost of \$216,000 per year (see table below), the DWMC may need to rise by \$100 to \$150 or more per assessment, depending on funding models and service uptake.

Given current cost-of-living pressures and existing feedback regarding waste charges, community acceptance may be low without grant support.

In this regard, a formal community consultation process is recommended to understand:

- Willingness to pay additional waste charges.
- Demand for kerbside recycling.
- Preferences for partial recycling options (e.g. cardboard only, drop-off stations etc.)

This will ensure any decision reflects community expectations and capacity to pay going forward.

The Coonamble Waste Facility currently provides a limited, but expanding range of recycling services, as outlined below:

Return & Earn – Container Deposit Scheme

The facility participates in the NSW *Return and Earn* program, under which eligible drink containers can be returned for recycling. Council receives 4 cents per transaction through this scheme, and participants receive 10 cents for every eligible can or bottle recycled. Council currently operates a manual collection and counting service but have recently reached agreement with Tomra-Cleanaway to install a new automated sorting and counting machine. The machine is expected to be delivered and in operation by the end of the financial year and this will be communicated to the public in advance.

Cardboard recycling (baler pending commissioning)

Council has acquired a cardboard baler to support expanded cardboard recycling for both residential and commercial users. The baler cannot be operated at present due to the site having only single-phase power available. A three-phase generator is being purchased to enable operation and commencement of cardboard processing, with potential cost recovery through business agreements which are currently in discussion.

Mattress collection

Mattress collection services are available at the waste facility. Mattresses are accepted for proper handling and diversion from landfill and are collected and shredded by a contractor engaged at a bulk rate through membership with NetWaste.

Tyre Collection

The facility accepts used tyres for recycling or appropriate processing, helping reduce stockpiling and landfill burden. Again, tyres are collected by a contractor engaged at a bulk rate through membership with NetWaste.

E-Waste Collection

Electronic waste (computers, TVs, peripherals, small appliances) can be dropped at the waste facility for correct recycling and safe materials recovery.

Options for service delivery

Four (4) recycling service delivery options are currently available for consideration.

Option 1: Establish a Local Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

Pros

- Local employment.
- Full control over processing.
- Reduced long-distance transport of materials.

Cons

- Significant capital costs, beyond a reasonable scale for the size of Coonamble Shire.
- Ongoing staffing and maintenance costs.
- Ongoing need to secure markets for processed materials.
- Not financially viable due to small waste volumes.

Option 2: Kerbside Collection with Transport to an existing facility (e.g. JR Richards, Dubbo)

Estimated implementation and operating costs (Based on 2,000 ratable assessments):

Cost Item	Estimated Cost
Purchase of bins (@\$50 each + freight)	\$100,000 + freight
Bin rollout	\$5,000
Fortnightly kerbside collection	\$100,000 per annum
Driver, plant & transport to Dubbo	\$23,238.80 per annum
Processing and transport fee (300 tonnes p/a @ \$295.54/t)	\$88,662 per annum

Total estimated first year cost	\$316,900
Ongoing annual operating cost	\$216,000

Pros

- Provides community access to modern waste services.
- Reduces landfill volumes and supports environmental outcomes.
- Aligns with community sustainability expectations.

Cons

- Substantial increase to the DWMC, which is already high at \$550 per property.
- Long transport distances reduce environmental gains and add costs.
- Volatility and uncertainty in recycling markets may increase future fees.
- Low volumes may limit ability to negotiate favourable processing rates.

Option 3 (recommended): Business as usual (no kerbside recycling service)

Pros

- No increase to the DWMC.
- Avoids major capital and operational costs.
- Simplifies waste operations.

Cons

- Recyclable materials not currently separated continue to be landfilled.
- Potential community dissatisfaction among residents seeking environmental sustainability.
- Missed opportunity to align with regional and state waste targets.

Option 4: Targeted recycling expansion (cardboard and *Return & Earn*)

Pros

- Builds on existing successful practices.
- Low-cost option.
- Addresses high-volume recyclable streams.
- Does not require kerbside collection to implement.

Cons

- Limited impact on total landfill diversion.
- Not a full recycling solution.

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
Improve sustainable waste management and landfill diversion while maintaining financial sustainability.	Our Country – Sustainable Waste	<p>Continue providing <i>Return & Earn</i>, cardboard, tyre, mattress and e-waste recycling to achieve practical, low-cost waste diversion.</p> <p>Monitor regional recycling markets to identify viable grant or partnership opportunities for future kerbside recycling.</p> <p>Maintain waste operations that minimise environmental impact while remaining financially achievable for the community.</p>
Ensure decisions regarding new waste services reflect community expectations and cost-of-living capacity.	Our Leadership – Strategic Planning & Community Engagement	<p>Undertake community consultation to assess willingness to pay for kerbside recycling and understand community priorities.</p> <p>Use feedback to guide long-term waste service planning consistent with CSP objectives of informed decision-making and transparent governance.</p>
Manage Council’s resources responsibly, avoiding unsustainable increases to the DWMC.	Our Leadership – Corporate Performance & Financial Sustainability	<p>Maintain business-as-usual operations to avoid significant DWMC increases until viable funding or partnership opportunities emerge.</p> <p>Assess financial risks associated with kerbside recycling and ensure any future expansion aligns with the CSP’s commitment to sustainable financial management.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

(a) Financial Resource Implications:

Introducing a kerbside recycling service would represent a significant ongoing financial commitment for Council. The estimated operational cost of approximately \$216,000 per annum would likely require an increase to the Domestic Waste Management Charge (DWMC) of \$100–\$150 per

assessment, noting the DWMC is already comparatively high at around \$550 per property. The small population base limits the ability to achieve economies of scale and may prevent Council from negotiating favourable processing rates with third-party providers.

Continued business-as-usual operations and targeted recycling expansion (cardboard, Return & Earn) present a low-cost alternative, allowing environmental improvements without additional burden on ratepayers.

(b) Policy / Legal and Statutory Implications:

Council has statutory obligations under the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* to ensure that Domestic Waste Management Services are financially sustainable and that charges reflect the reasonable cost of providing the service. Any new recycling service must also comply with NSW EPA waste and resource recovery requirements and standards for transport, storage and processing of recyclables.

Changes to waste services may trigger the need for amendments to Council's Waste Management Strategy and/or contractual obligations relating to collection, transport, and processing. Community consultation is required to demonstrate consideration of ratepayer impacts prior to implementing a significant DWMC increase.

(c) Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety / Public:

Introducing a kerbside recycling service presents several operational and financial risks, including:

Financial risk — market volatility in recyclable commodities may increase future processing fees and threaten long-term service viability.

Operational risk — long-distance haulage to Dubbo introduces higher exposure to transport delays, contractor dependency, and potential service disruptions.

WHS risk — expanded waste operations may increase manual handling, plant operation, and traffic movement risks for staff and contractors.

Community risk — significant increases to the DWMC may attract negative public reaction, particularly during current cost-of-living pressures.

Maintaining business-as-usual and continuing targeted recycling initiatives represents a lower-risk, stable operational environment.

(d) Options:

Option 1 – Establish a Local MRF

Not recommended due to high capital and operating costs, low waste volumes, and lack of economic viability.

Option 2 – Kerbside Collection with Transport to an Existing Facility

Provides the highest landfill diversion benefit but would require substantial DWMC increases, carries financial uncertainty linked to commodity markets, and is limited by transport distance and low volumes.

Option 3 – Business as Usual (Recommended)

Lowest cost, avoids major financial impacts on ratepayers, and maintains stable service delivery. Does not improve landfill diversion but mitigates financial and operational risks.

Option 4 – Targeted Recycling Expansion

Supports incremental environmental improvement through cardboard, Return & Earn, and existing drop-off services. Low cost and achievable within current resources. Not a complete recycling solution but provides immediate benefits without requiring kerbside services.

(e) Council Seal Required:

No

(f) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition: No

External Exhibition: No



NetWaste
Organics Infrastructure Advisory Service Report
August 2025

Table of Contents

PART 1	Executive Summary	3
PART 2	Background	3
2.1	Organics Infrastructure Advisory Service	3
2.2	Scope of the Advisory Service	3
PART 3	Methodology	4
PART 4	Current Kerbside Waste and Recycling	5
PART 5	Current Greenwaste Handling & Processing	6
PART 6	Anticipated FOGO Service Model & Challenges	7
PART 7	Cost and Regulatory Concerns	8
PART 8	Opportunities & Recommendations	9
PART 9	Appendix 1 Survey	10

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PART 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) supported ten NetWaste Councils in the Alliance of Western Councils (AWC) region to assess their readiness for implementing kerbside Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection services. This initiative aligns with the NSW Government’s mandate for a statewide FOGO rollout by 2030.

Through interviews and desktop review, the project identified that while all Councils currently accept green waste at landfills for periodic mulching and onsite use, none have licensed composting facilities or participate in regional processing agreements. Most Councils operate day-labour waste services with limited kerbside recycling, and the nearest licensed FOGO facility (in Dubbo) is hundreds of kilometres away for many. Most waste facilities lack weighbridges or robust data collection systems.

Key challenges include distance to processing sites, lack of transport infrastructure, high service delivery costs due to sparse populations, limited staff capacity, and the absence of existing community behaviours around source separation. Councils expressed strong interest in receiving support for economic analysis of the costs and benefits of FOGO, education programs, and EPA exemption applications.

PART 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 ORGANICS INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY SERVICE

The NSW EPA offered an Organics Processing Advisory Service (OPAS) for NSW Councils and groups of Councils to receive expert advice on preparing for organics processing investment.

NetWaste engaged Impact Environmental Consulting to assess current organics management readiness and identify key barriers and opportunities for Councils preparing for FOGO implementation under the NSW Government’s 2030 target.

The findings will be used to inform a short summary report and identify opportunities for more detailed investigation in a future phase.

2.2 SCOPE OF THE ADVISORY SERVICE

This report has been developed under the NSW EPA’s OPAS, which provides Councils with up to 20 hours of support to explore options for managing FOGO once it has been collected.

The scope of the advisory service was limited to technology options, planning considerations, financial assessment, and potential market opportunities for compost products.

This study fell under the planning considerations scope.

All work under this service was subject to a defined statement of work agreed upon by the Council, and the EPA prior to commencement.



PART 3 METHODOLOGY

The survey was developed by Impact in collaboration with NetWaste and used to guide structured 30-minute interviews with participating Councils. A total of 10 Councils took part, representing a diverse cross-section of small, predominantly rural local government areas across western New South Wales. These Councils vary in population size and geography but share common challenges such as limited infrastructure, low waste volumes, and large service areas.

Prior to the interviews, available data from the NSW EPA’s 2022–23 Waste and Resource Recovery Reports was used to pre-fill parts of the survey, which was then verified or adjusted by Council staff during the call. Due to the absence of weighbridges at local facilities, many of the figures provided were estimates based on local knowledge and operational experience.

The following Councils were interviewed: Bogan, Bourke, Central Darling, Cobar, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle. Brewarrina did not respond to the interview request.

The survey is located in Appendix 1.

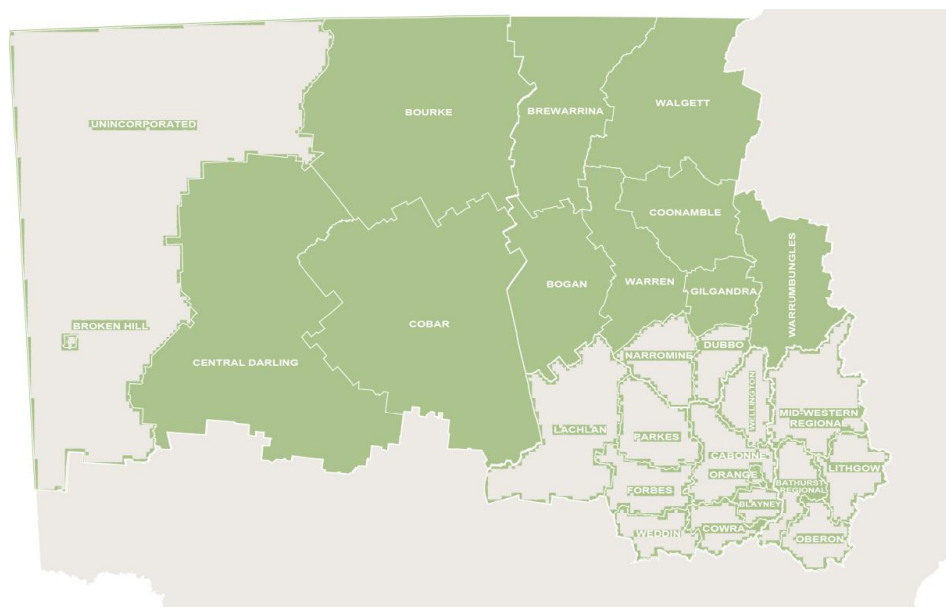


Figure 1: Map of the Alliance of Western Councils LGAs in green

PART 4 CURRENT KERBSIDE WASTE AND RECYCLING

Table 1 combines estimates from NSW EPA Waste and Resource Recovery (WARR) data with responses from Council interviews. As none of the facilities have weighbridges, all tonnages are approximate and have been rounded to reflect this.

The majority of AWC Councils provide weekly kerbside waste collection through Council-operated (day-labour) services. Only three Councils currently offer a fortnightly commingled recycling service. Across the region, low population density and small ratepayer bases contribute to high per-household collection costs and limited service capacity.

Table 1: Current Waste Services

Council	Contractor or Day labour	Weekly Kerbside Waste (tpa)	Fortnightly Kerbside Recycling (tpa)	Households with Kerbside	Total Households
Bogan	Day-labour	2,000	250	900	1,300
Bourke	Day-labour	900	0	1,200	1,300
Brewarrina	Day-labour	500	-	450	750
Central Darling	Day-labour	700	0	500	1,000
Cobar	Day-labour	900	0	2,500	2,900
Coonamble	Day-labour	5,000		1,475	2,600
Gilgandra	Contractor	1,200	150	1,150	2,300
Walgett	Day-labour	3,000	0	1,500	5,700
Warren	Contractor	1,500	0	1,000	2,000
Warrumbungle	Day-labour	3,000	400	3,000	4,700

PART 5 CURRENT GREENWASTE HANDLING & PROCESSING

All participating Councils accept green waste at their landfills, where it is stockpiled and shredded once or twice a year under a regional contract managed by NetWaste. Without weighbridges, estimated tonnages are based on Council observations. Due to limited processing, contamination risks, and the absence of required testing, the resulting mulch does not meet EPA’s resource recovery exemption standards. It is typically used onsite for erosion control and landfill rehabilitation.

No Councils in the group operate a licensed composting facility or have formal regional composting partnerships. The Dubbo Regional Organics Processing Plant (DROPP) is the nearest licenced FOGO facility, but it is located between 65 and 550 km from these LGAs. This distance presents a significant logistical and financial barrier to offsite processing of organics.

Table 2: Organics Processing

Council	Own Composting Facility	Regional Composting Collaboration	Distance to FOGO facility	Drop-off green waste tonnage
Bogan	No	None	Dubbo (160km)	500
Bourke	No	None	Dubbo (370 km)	300
Brewarrina	No	None	Dubbo (370 km)	-
Central Darling	No	None	Dubbo (550 km)	50
Cobar	No	None	Dubbo (300 km)	50
Coonamble	No	None	Dubbo (160 km)	20
Gilgandra	No	None	Dubbo (65 km)	2,500m3 – 900t
Walgett	No	None	Dubbo (275 km)	540
Warren	No	None	Dubbo (100 km)	400
Warrumbungle	No	None	Dubbo (150 km)	500

PART 6 ANTICIPATED FOGO SERVICE MODEL & CHALLENGES

Across the region, Councils consistently cited the lack of local processing infrastructure, limited fleet capacity, and small, resource-constrained workforces as key barriers to implementing FOGO. Community readiness is generally low, particularly where recycling services are absent or have recently been withdrawn. The combination of vast rural service areas and small ratepayer bases makes it extremely difficult to deliver FOGO without significant external support.

Table 3 summarises the reported FOGO challenges across participating Councils, grouped into key categories. It's important to note that the absence of a challenge in a Council's response does not necessarily mean it won't be an issue in the future—it may simply not have been raised during the interview. However, where 100% of Councils identified a particular challenge, it can be considered a unanimous concern across the group.

Table 3: Key FOGO Challenges

Barrier/Challenge	% of Councils Reporting	Notes
Limited or no local processing facility	100%	All Councils cited distance to existing processing facilities (such as Dubbo) as a key barrier.
Insufficient fleet capacity	91%	Most Councils have one truck; adding FOGO would require new vehicles.
Lack of dedicated staff/resources	82%	Waste staff time and skills for education/logistics are scarce or stretched.
Community not ready for FOGO	73%	Low awareness, especially in areas without any recycling.
High contamination risk	64%	Three Councils have kerbside recycling and all face contamination (some as high as 25%). General waste facility compliance – such as contamination with drop-off organics – varies, but is often low.
Small rate base/low population density	100%	Spread of cost across small communities will contribute to cost of living pressures.
Lack of accurate waste data	55%	Absence of weighbridges; reliance on visual volumetric estimates.
Rural logistics complexity	73%	Long rural routes and remote settlements add cost and complexity.
Political reluctance	64%	Large rate increases could lead to community backlash.

PART 7 COST AND REGULATORY CONCERNS

Every Council expressed concern about the affordability of FOGO, with most estimating that it would require unsustainable increases to their domestic waste charges. There is widespread uncertainty around the EPA's exemption process and compliance obligations, leading many Councils to delay planning. Without clarity on funding and regulatory expectations, long-term service viability remains a major concern.

Table 4: Cost and Regulatory Concerns

Issue	% of Councils Reporting	Details
Domestic Waste Management Charge (DWMC) cannot absorb FOGO	100%	All Councils said significant increases (>\$100–\$150 in DWMC per household) would put too much pressure on households.
Uncertainty around exemption criteria	100%	All Councils are waiting on EPA framework to assess eligibility or compliance path.
Lack of funding for capital (e.g. trucks, pads)	91%	Most Councils cannot afford trucks, compost pads, or site upgrades without grants.
Concerns about long-term service viability	73%	Fear that service could start and then collapse due to underfunding.
Inability to cross-subsidise within the LGA	64%	Especially where remote/rural properties aren't on collection routes.
Risks of non-compliance	55%	Concern over regulatory penalties if FOGO is not introduced, but no clarity from EPA.

Table 5: Domestic Waste Charge Summary (Source: Chris Foley Gilgandra Council)

Council	DWMC (\$)
Bogan	532*
Bourke	331
Brewarrina	520
Central Darling	721
Cobar	325
Coonamble	550
Gilgandra	493*
Walgett	610
Warren	369
Warrumbungle	577*

* Councils that have a kerbside recycling bin.

PART 8 OPPORTUNITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Councils identified several areas where further support or investigation is needed to progress FOGO implementation. Reliable business case modelling and cost analysis is essential to help Councils brief elected officials on the viability of FOGO with confidence. Education and behaviour change programs are also a priority, particularly to address contamination and raise awareness in rural and Indigenous communities. Councils also expressed a need for support in preparing exemption applications, including assistance with data collation to clearly demonstrate impracticality. Finally, some Councils wish to align FOGO with broader waste or recycling reforms, noting that sequencing these changes appropriately is critical to community understanding and success.

Table 6: Opportunities

Focus Area	Number of Councils Flagging	Notes
Business case modelling & cost analysis	11/11	Councils need reliable cost estimates to brief elected officials and plan rollouts.
Education & behaviour change programs	9/11	Required to address contamination and low awareness—especially for rural and Indigenous communities.
Exemption support & data collation	10/11	Councils want help preparing exemption cases with clear evidence of impracticality.
Integration with recycling or waste reform	6/11	Some Councils want kerbside recycling introduced before FOGO.

PART 9 APPENDIX 1 SURVEY

FOGO Feasibility Interview – AWC FOGO Working Group

Council Name: _____

Interviewee(s): _____

Role(s): _____

Date: _____

9.1 1. CURRENT COLLECTION SERVICES

a. What kerbside collection services does your Council currently offer? And how many tonnes per annum are collected?

- Waste (garbage):

- Recycling:

- Garden waste:

b. Who is your collection contractor (if any)? When does the contract expire?

c. What bin sizes and collection frequencies are currently used?

- Garbage:

- Recycling:

- Garden waste:

d. How many households are offered the collection service? How many are there in the LGA?

e. What are the estimated tonnes collected per stream annually?

f. Are there issues with contamination in the current service?

9.2 2. CURRENT COLLECTION & PROCESSING

a. What vehicles are used for collection?

Council-owned Contractor-owned

b. Where is waste currently taken (e.g. landfill, transfer station, processing facility)?

c. How many tonnes of drop-off garden organics are delivered to your facilities each year?

d. Is there any access to organics processing infrastructure (open windrow, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion)?

- Own infrastructure:

- Regional/shared access:

- Distance to nearest facility:

9.3 3. FUTURE FOGO SERVICE DESIGN

- a. What would a future FOGO collection look like for your area?
 - Proposed bin size/frequency:
 - Urban vs rural routes?:
- b. What challenges do you foresee with adding a FOGO service?
 - Householder behaviour:
 - Distance/logistics:
 - Fleet capability:
 - Community readiness:

9.4 4. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR FOGO

- a. What new infrastructure would be required to deliver a FOGO service?
 - Collection fleet:
 - Transfer or consolidation points:
 - Processing capacity:
- b. Does your waste facility have capacity to have a FOGO composting facility within its footprint?
- c. Are there opportunities for shared regional solutions?

9.5 5. ECONOMIC AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

- a. What would the capital and operational costs of FOGO mean for your Council?
 - Known estimates or assumptions:
- b. Can you increase your domestic waste charge to sustain a FOGO service over the long term?
- c. Do you have concerns about meeting the EPA's 2030 mandatory FOGO requirement?
 - Risks or barriers to compliance:
 - What would help support compliance?:



Organics Infrastructure Advisory Service Report
July 2025

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11.3 MOORAMBILLA SOLAR FARM

File Number: Planning
Author: Director Sustainable Communities and Planning
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and note the Moorambilla Solar Farm update report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide background and an update on the Moorambilla Solar Farm Development approved by the Western Joint Regional Planning Panel in 2017 and later modified in 2020. Council identified that significant access-related works on the Castlereagh Highway were already underway without satisfying Condition 15 of the Development Consent, including requirements for sealing works, a Works Authorisation Deed, potential Road Occupancy Licence, Safe Intersection Sight Distance compliance, and a joint inspection with the Principal Certifying Authority. The project is now progressing following the applicant's efforts to address these matters.

BACKGROUND:

Original application

On 6 December 2017, The Western Joint Regional Planning Panel (WJRPP) issued approval for the Moorambilla Solar Farm development at lot 3 and lot 4 of DP 547529, Lots 213 and 225 of DP 754227 and Lot 7007 of DP 1029777.

The proposal was required to be referred to the WJRPP for determination as it constituted private infrastructure over \$5 million value (\$12,090,000).

Application to modify approval

On 3 April 2020, an application to modify the Development Consent was approved by Council to add Lot 224 of DP 754227 to the consent to establish road site access.

Activation of approval

The approval was due to lapse on 6 December 2022, however in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Planning extended consent lapse dates by two (2) years creating a new lapse date of 6 December 2024.

Council staff deemed that the development had lawfully commenced on 19 November 2024 through geotechnical investigation of the site, so the approval is now active.

Previous report to Council

On 11 December 2024, a report was presented to Council seeking approval to open the Crown Road; Lot 7007 DP1029777 to satisfy the necessary requirements for Crown Licence approval. As part of the approval, the applicant was required to

upgrade the access way to a rural road standard with a gravel surface suitable for all weather access. The applicant was also required to upgrade the intersection of the Castlereagh Highway and the access road with a BAL and BAR treatment under an existing WAD agreement with TfNSW. The applicant was required to maintain the access points to the rodeo campsite as part of the approval.

The road once opened was then to become a council asset with the typical financial and legal implications associated with it.

Post Council meeting findings

After the December 2024 report however, it was revealed that the road wasn't a crown road but in fact a Travelling Stock Route (TSR Reserve 68250). An agreement was then reached between the applicant and Local Land Services (LLS) for ongoing management, and this is supported by correspondence from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

REPORT:

On 16 March 2026, an enquiry was received from the applicant to appoint Council as Principal Certifying Authority (PCA) for the Development.

In response, Council's Director Sustainable Communities and Planning wrote to the applicant to advise:

Works are well underway on the access to the Solar Farm site from the Castlereagh Highway.

Condition 15 of your approval - DA 026/2017 (attached) requires the following:

- *Castlereagh Highway is to be sealed a minimum of fifteen (15) metres from the edge of the pavement of the Castlereagh Highway.*
- *A formal agreement in the form of a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) is required between the developer and Roads and Maritime Services prior to works commencing.*
- *Prior to the commencement of construction work, the proponent is to contact Roads and Maritimes field Traffic Manager to determine if a Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) is required. In the event that a ROL is required, the proponent is to obtain the ROL prior to works commencing within three (3) metres of the travel lanes in the Castlereagh Highway.*
- *Safe Intersection Sight Distance (SISD) requirements outlined in Part 4A Austroads Guide to Road Design is to be provided and maintained in both directions at the intersection of the vehicular access and the Castlereagh Highway. For a 90km/h speed environment, Sfsd is 214 metres.*
- *All required road works are to be completed prior to the commencement of construction works.*
- *A joint inspection with the Principal Certifying Authority is to be held prior to commencing construction of the access. Please telephone Council's Development Engineer on (02) 6827 1900 to arrange a suitable date and time for the inspection.*

As a PCA has not as yet been engaged, this condition appears to be in breach.

In this regard, Council requires your formal response to each of the above points by COB Wednesday 18 March 2026. If the above condition of consent cannot be

satisfied by this deadline, Council will be left with no alternative but to issue a formal Stop Work Order under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

On 17 March 2026 a response was received from the applicant addressing the outstanding requirements of Condition 15 of the Development Consent.

Council's Engineer also carried out the required joint inspection in the last week of March. This inspection revealed that the road construction activities were being undertaken in accordance with the TfNSW approved design that had been submitted to Council for their review. Information was also provided that additional excavation works had been required due to an excessive wet patch which resulted in additional material being required to construct the road.

A copy of the Work Authorisation Deed (WAD) was provided to Council for review. This WAD had been issued to the Applicant, from TfNSW, and is a legally binding Agreement between TfNSW and the Applicant. This WAD authorises the Applicant to undertake work on the State road network. It also helps to ensure that the quality of the work meets TfNSW durability standards and aims to minimise the impacts to road users. Through the Deed, TfNSW provides the Applicant with the requirements and conditions under which they can do this work.

The work being undertaken on the Castlereagh Highway is the construction of a Basic Left Turn Treatment, commonly referred to as a BAL. This BAL is designed to provide a safe, simple and cost-effective intersection layout for turning left off a major road.

These road works do not require a Construction Certificate; however, the applicant is required to obtain a Construction Certificate (either from Council or a Private Certifier) before any works can commence on the solar farm development site itself.

At the time of writing this report, a Construction Certificate application had not been lodged with Council.

11.4 PLANNING PROPOSAL FINALISATION: REZONING AND REMOVAL OF MINIMUM LOT SIZE OF OLD SHEEP SALEYARDS, BACK GULAR ROAD (PP-2025-345)

File Number: -

Author: Compliance and Support Officer

Authoriser: Director Sustainable Communities and Planning

Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the changes made to the Planning Proposal as outlined below in accordance with the requirements of the gateway determination, and
2. Proceed with the amendment of the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan 2011 (Council ref: PP001/2025, Dept ref: PP-2025-345) to finalisation, and
3. Request the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure, as planning proposal authority, proceed with and exercise the functions as local plan making authority for this amendment under section 3.36(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides a summary of the work completed on the Planning Proposal to rezone the site of the former sheeyards from RU1 Primary Production to E4 General Industrial and provides information to finalise the LEP amendment to be sent to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for gazettal.

This proposal aims to provide additional industrial land since the remaining lots in the Hooper Drive Industrial Estate have been sold. Providing industrial land availability is vital to attract and support industry growth and development.

BACKGROUND:

Council resolved on 12 February 2025 to endorse a Planning Proposal to rezone land comprising the old saleyards on Back Gular Road, Coonamble. Since this time, a gateway determination has been issued by DPHI, Council has complied with the gateway conditions, placed the Proposal on public exhibition, and is now at finalisation stage.

The six key stages for amending a LEP are as follows. Council is currently at the final **stage 6** of this process.

Stage 1 – Pre-lodgement	Council investigated the proposal and discussed with Dubbo representatives of DPHI.
Stage 2 – Lodgement and assessment	Planning Proposal was prepared. Council resolved at the February 2025 meeting to support the Planning Proposal and submit to the Department for a gateway determination.
Stage 3 – Gateway Determination	The Gateway Determination was sought and received 10 June 2025.
Stage 4 – Post Gateway	Council complied with conditions of the Gateway Determination and prior to exhibition, updated the Planning Proposal documentation.
Stage 5 – Public Exhibition and Assessment	Public exhibition was carried out in accordance with the gateway determination. The Gateway Determination also required the consultation with: NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in relation to terrestrial biodiversity.
Stage 6 – Finalisation	This is the last stage in the LEP making process and generally leads to making of the LEP amendment(s). The Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure, being the Planning Proposal Authority (due to Council owning land in the current Planning Proposal), prepares drafting instructions for the Parliamentary Counsel’s Office (PCO) to draft the LEP.

REPORT:

Council has progressed the Planning Proposal to the final stage in accordance with the LEP Making Guideline 2023.

Under the guideline, Council is required to comply with the following requirements prior to finalisation of the LEP amendments under Commonwealth and state legislation:

(a) the planning proposal authority has satisfied all the conditions of the gateway determination;	<i>Satisfied – see Gateway conditions itemised below.</i>
(b) the planning proposal is consistent with applicable local planning directions under section 9.1 of the Act or the Secretary has agreed that any inconsistencies are justified; and	<i>Consistent – as advised in PP</i>
(c) there are no outstanding written objections from public authorities.	<i>No objections received during public exhibition period.</i>

Council has complied with the conditions on the gateway determination as outlined below.

Gateway Condition 1: Prior to public exhibition, the planning proposal is to be updated to:

- **Remove references to an outdated PDF Land Zoning Map and include appropriate mapping showing the current and proposed maps of the Land Zoning Map and Lot Size Map**

Comment: The Planning Proposal was updated prior to public exhibition and in Appendix B, current and proposed zoning and minimum lot size maps were included.

- **Add reference to the site's terrestrial biodiversity in Direction 3.1 Conservation Zones**

Comment: Additional information was supplied regarding terrestrial biodiversity in this section of the Planning Proposal. The terrestrial biodiversity layer in the LEP covers part of this site, however it was noted that the site has been largely disturbed with the rehabilitation of the old sheep yards.

- **Update the project timeline to reflect the timelines included in this determination.**

Comment: Project timeline has been updated with a new finalisation date of June 2026 included.

Gateway Condition 2: Public exhibition is required under section 3.34(2)(c) and clause 4 of Schedule 1 to the Act as follows:

(a) the planning proposal is categorised as standard as described in the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023) and must be made publicly available for a minimum of 20 working days; and

(b) the planning proposal authority must comply with the notice requirements for public exhibition of planning proposals and the specifications for material that must be made publicly available along with planning proposals as identified in Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023).

Comment: The Planning Proposal was placed on public exhibition from 13 February 2026 to 13 March 2026. A notification was placed in the local newspaper in the Council Column and advertised on Council's website. No submissions were received during this time.

Gateway condition 3: Consultation is required with the following public authorities and government agencies under section 3.34(2)(d) of the Act and/or to comply with the requirements of applicable directions of the Minister under section 9 of the Act:

- **NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in relation to terrestrial biodiversity.**

Each public authority is to be provided with a copy of the planning proposal and any relevant supporting material via the NSW Planning Portal and given at least 30 working days to comment on the proposal.

Comment: DCCEEW was provided a copy of the Planning Proposal. The Department provided the response below:



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Your ref: PP-2025-345
Our ref: DOC26/110102-1

Louise Abrahall
Compliance Support Officer
Coonamble Shire Council
80 Castlereagh Street
Coonamble NSW 2829

By email: environmental@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Dear Louise,

Re: Request for Review of Planning Proposal

Thank you for your request dated 13 February 2026 seeking advice from the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR) of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) regarding the Planning Proposal (PP-2025-345) to rezone Coonamble sheep yards to industrial land use.

We understand that Council wishes to amend the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP), specifically to rezone council land (Lot 240 DP754199; the site) from RU1 Primary Production to E4 General Industrial and change the minimum lot size from 1000 hectares to 'nil'. Council has requested CPHR's review because part of the site is mapped as containing biodiversity values on the LEP Terrestrial Biodiversity map.

The planning proposal report notes that the site has historically been used as a sheep yard and has experienced many years of associated impacts. The Site investigation Report which accompanied the Planning Proposal indicated some remnant native overstorey species alongside introduced trees (possibly peppercorns). However, based on the information provided, it is challenging to determine whether the site still retains the biodiversity values previously mapped in the Terrestrial Biodiversity layer.

Prior to the LEP's gazettal in 2011, CPHR contributed to the identification and mapping of local biodiversity values. This site was flagged as having potential native vegetation in over-cleared landscapes and may contain a grassland community considered an endangered ecological community. Because the site has not been reassessed since then, it's unclear whether this grassland community remains. If Council needs further information on the persistence of the grassland, we suggest conducting a biodiversity assessment to confirm its presence or absence. Identifying and avoiding impacts on areas with biodiversity value during the planning stage will simplify future development assessments and reduce costs and delays. Additionally, if Council would like assistance with updating the terrestrial biodiversity layer in the LEP, we are available to help - please contact us if you wish to update the mapping in the future.

If areas of biodiversity are identified during the biodiversity assessment, these areas may trigger a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) at the subdivision stage. The BDAR must demonstrate how impacts to biodiversity have been avoided and minimised, and it will calculate the necessary biodiversity offset credits for the subdivision. After these offsets

are determined, no additional offsets will be required for further development within the approved subdivision.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact our Conservation Planning and Assessment team - North at rog.nw@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Kirsten McWhirter
Acting Senior Team Leader
Conservation Planning and Assessment - North
Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group

10 March 2026

The above advice was discussed with the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure. It was determined that further assessment on potential grasslands and terrestrial biodiversity can be undertaken at subdivision stage. This will also give a more accurate picture of species on site at the time of developing, which can change depending on season. This was agreed to be an appropriate course of action and Council will work to ensure compliance at DA stage.

Gateway condition 4: A public hearing is not required to be held into the matter by any person or body under section 3.34(2)(e) of the Act. This does not discharge Council from any obligation it may otherwise have to conduct a public hearing (for example, in response to a submission or if reclassifying land).

Comment: Noted, no public hearing held.

CONCLUSION

The Planning Proposal has been through all required agency and public consultation and is now back before Council for final adoption prior to the required LEP amendments being made.

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area
Our Economy	Cultivating our Wealth

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive

	Assessment
Governance	N/A

(a) Financial Resource Implications:

The Planning Proposal provides a financial benefit to Council by making industrial land available, encouraging investment, growth and economic development with Coonamble LGA.

(b) Policy / Legal and Statutory Implications:

Council is complying with its legal obligations under section 3.8 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 by regularly reviewing its LEP.

(c) Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety / Public:

Providing appropriate steps are undertaken with this rezoning process, risk is limited.

(d) Options:

N/A

(e) Council Seal Required:

No

(f) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition: No

External Exhibition: No

11.5 SIGNAGE AUDIT UPDATE

File Number: -

Author: Manager Economic Development & Growth

Authoriser: Director Sustainable Communities and Planning

Annexures: 1. 260316_Signage Audit & Plan [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the signage audit update report.
2. Endorse option 2 of this report, which proposes the upgrading of the existing sign structures at the seven (7) current entrance sign locations along with adding two (2) new structures at entrance points on Tooraweenah Road and Carinda-Coonamble Road.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A tourism signage audit was conducted across Gulargambone and Coonamble during March 2026. Key findings are summarised in this report, with urgent signage issues identified for immediate attention. Lower-priority items will be addressed progressively as budget permits. Detailed results are provided in the spreadsheet attached to this report.

Shire entry signs are a priority, and a decision is needed on sign style to inform budget and progress replacement.

BACKGROUND:

A comprehensive signage audit was previously completed in Quambone in December 2024, with replacement signage subsequently ordered and installed in 2025. Due to time constraints, Quambone was not included in the March 2026 audit; however, a follow-up review for Quambone is scheduled for later in 2026.

REPORT:

Shire Entrance Signage

Shire entrance signage refers to the signs installed at key entry points into the Coonamble Shire Local Government Area. These signs are typically the first Council-installed signage encountered when entering the shire and are designed to welcome visitors and identify the area.

A total of nine (9) signs are required to adequately service entry points into the Shire.

The proposed locations are:

- Tooraweenah Road (new)
- Baradine Road (existing)
- Pilliga Road (existing)
- Walgett Road (existing)
- Gulargambone–Dubbo Road (existing)

- Quambone–Carinda Road (existing)
- Quambone–Warren Road (existing)
- Warren Road (existing)
- Carinda–Coonamble Road (new)

At present, signage exists at seven (7) of these locations. These signs vary in visibility and incorporate outdated branding.

Option 1 – New Signage Installation

A proposed redesign was presented to Council in August 2024 and subsequently placed on public exhibition. No submissions were received during the exhibition period.

This option presents an opportunity to enhance the significance and visual impact of the Shire’s entry signage. The design incorporates acknowledgement of the traditional Country of the Weilwan and Gamilaroi people, alongside the identity of Coonamble Shire. It also aligns with existing town entrance signage using concrete and steel structural elements.

The estimated project costs are as follows:

Category	Estimate
Structural Engineering	\$45,000
Traffic Engineering	\$20,000
Design (artwork, documentation, approvals)	\$25,000
Fabrication – Steel Components	\$180,000
Fabrication – Concrete / Footings	\$90,000
Installation (labour, plant, logistics)	\$70,000
Estimated Cost per Sign	\$55,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (9 signs)	\$430,000



Image: Proposed design for option 1 that went on public exhibition.

Option 2 – Refurbishment of existing signage

This option proposes retaining and upgrading the existing structures at the seven (7) current locations along with adding two (2) new structures. It involves redesigning the sign artwork to incorporate updated Council branding, while also acknowledging the traditional Country of the Weilwan and Gamilaroi people.

Detailed design work will be undertaken on the two (2) additional signs following Council’s direction on the preferred option.

The estimated costs for this option are:

Component	Cost per Sign
Design updates / artwork setup	\$500
Sign fabrication (large format, reflective, coated)	\$5,500
Steel posts (3 poles) + materials	\$2,500
Concrete footings	\$2,000
Installation (labour + plant)	\$2,500
Estimated Cost per Sign	~\$12,000
Estimated Total Project Cost	~\$110,000



Image: Current Shire entrance signage

Town Entrance Signage

Town entrance signage refers to the “Welcome to [Town]” signs, incorporating local tourism branding, that are installed at the major entry points to each town.

Town entrance signage for Quambone was installed in early 2025. Entrance signs for Coonamble and Gulargambone have since been ordered, delivered and installation commenced.

Tourism Information Signage

Tourism information signage refers to all signage that provides detailed, accessible information for visitors, enabling them to learn about each town without needing to visit an information centre, including when centres are closed.

The audit identified that information panels in both Gulargambone and Coonamble require updating, as current business and town information is outdated and, in some cases, incorrect. New signage will be designed, with final quotes to be obtained, and installation to occur over the coming months, subject to available budget.

Directional Signage

Directional signage refers to signage that guides traffic to key locations and destinations within the towns.

A total of 13 directional signs across Gulargambone and Coonamble have been identified for redesign and replacement. These will be prioritised based on urgency and addressed progressively as budget permits.

Nickname Hall of Fame Billboards

Nickname Hall of Fame billboards refer to large-format signage designed to promote the community’s unique identity and attractions, sparking curiosity among visitors and encouraging them to explore further upon arriving in town.

The two billboards located on Walgett Road and Gulargambone Road on the approaches to Coonamble are currently being redesigned to align with the updated Nickname Hall of Fame posters installed throughout the town. Replacement is scheduled for the coming months.

Proposed new information & Exhibition Centre sign

Due to safety concerns, limited directional signage, and the need to replace the large flags currently placed daily in front of the Information & Exhibition Centre (IEC), a new sign is proposed for installation along the adjacent Road. The sign will indicate whether the IEC is open or closed, using a sliding mechanism similar to the RV camping entrance signage. This will improve visibility for passing visitors and clearly communicate the centre’s operating status.

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area
Our Economy	Cultivating Our Wealth

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	N/A
Economic	Positive
Governance	N/A

(a) Financial Resource Implications:

Option 1: Would require significant additional funding allocation or external grant funding.

Option 2: Financial implications are within council's allocated budget.

(b) Policy / Legal and Statutory Implications:

NIL

(c) Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety / Public:

NIL

(d) Options:

1. Council would require external grant funding, as it exceeds current budget capacity.
2. The project can be delivered in stages and within the existing budget.




(e) Council Seal Required:




No




(f) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:



Internal Exhibition: No





External Exhibition: No





COONAMBLE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current st	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
John Oxley Rest Area 2km	2km from Rest Area on Gular side	Lat -31.244496, Long 148.460119	Still readable, just damaged and peeling		200cm (w) x 165cm (h)	Needs to be replaced.	3	\$500 *estimate	
John Oxley Rest Area 500m	500m from Rest Area on Gular side	Lat -31.231439, Long 148.458522	Still readable, just damaged and peeling		200cm (w) x 188cm (h)	Needs to be replaced.	3	\$500 *estimate	
Keep Coonamble Kicking	15km out of Coonamble on Gular side	Lat -31.058786, Long 148.378458	Still readable & in OK condition			Does not need replacing.	1		




COONAMBLE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current st	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
Nickname Hall of Fame 10km	10km out of Coonamble on Gular side	Lat -31.042105, Long 148.378874	Faded, damaged & dated		360cm (w) x 180cm (h) (not including head)	Needs to be updated and replaced.	4	\$2500 *estimate	
Welcome to Coonamble	Gular - Coonamble side	Lat -30.968500, Long 148.387833	Currently being replaced			Replacement sign ordered and being installed.	5	\$366.38	17-Feb-26
4 x Information panels	Smith Park	Lat -30.960309, Long 148.390017	Outdated information & branding		100cm (w) x 200cm (h)	Needs to be redesigned and replaced	4	For all 4 signs \$2000 *estimate	





COONAMBLE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current st	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
Welcome to Coonamble	Baradine - Coonamble side	Lat -30.950414, Long 148.399471	Currently being replaced & need to straighten poles			Replacement sign ordered and being installed.	5	\$366.38	17-Feb-26
Nickname Hall of Fame 10km	10km out of Coonamble on Walgett side	Lat -30.884230, Long 148.347713	Faded, damaged & dated		360cm (w) x 180cm (h) (not including head)	Needs to be updated and replaced.	4	\$2500 *estimate	
Welcome to Coonamble	Walgett - Coonamble side	Lat -30.947857, Long 148.373410	Currently being replaced			Replacement sign ordered and being installed.	5	\$366.38	17-Feb-26




COONAMBLE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current st	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
Welcome to Coonamble	Quambone - Coonamble side	Lat -30.956105, Long 148.377614	Currently being replaced			Replacement sign ordered and being installed.	5	\$366.38	
+ & i bay sign	Driveway to smith park toilets	Lat -30.96128, Long 148.390114	+ sign not pointing in right direction, needs to face towards hospital not toilet. i bay sign needs to be changed i in 200m (directing them to information centre)		80cm (w) x 60xm (h)	+ sign & pole needs to be fixed and made to face correct direction. New sign for i needs to be created and ordered.	5	\$100 *estimate	
Coonamble Shire Entrance Sign	Locations: Tooraweenah Rd Baradine Rd Pilliga Rd Walgett Rd		Varing states	No images	480cm (w) x 240cm (h)	New Shire Welcome signs need to be decided by Council, then designed and replaced	5	See report	

GULARGAMBONE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current state	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
Gulargambone Riverwalk 10km	10km out of Gular, Coonamble side	Lat -31.249067, Long 148.461310	Outdated branding & faded		242cm (w) x 120cm (h)	New design needs to be created, ordered and replaced		\$500 *estimate	
Gulargambone Rest Area		Lat -31.304560, Long 148.469082	Faded/ hard to read			New sign needs to be ordered		\$150 *estimate	
Welcome to Gulargambone	Coonamble - Gulargambone entrance	Lat -31.328618, Long 148.475452	Currently being replaced			Replacement sign ordered and being installed.		\$366.38 each	17-Feb-26
Two Eight Two Eight CAFÉ/Gallery (Green)	Coonamble - Gulargambone entrance	Lat -31.329004, Long 148.475098	Faded/ hard to read		295cm (w) x 66 (h)	Sign needs to be replaced		\$400 *estimate	

GULARGAMBONE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current state	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
Glar Rly & Quambone	Just after bridge Coonamble - Gulargambone entrance	Lat -31.330314, Long 148.473987	Faded/ hard to read		180cm (w) x 46 (h)	Sign needs to be replaced	4	\$300 *estimate	
Two Eight Two Eight CAFÉ/Gallery 100m (Green)	Just after bridge Coonamble - Gulargambone entrance	Lat -31.330442, Long 148.473875	Faded/ hard to read		380cm (w) x 49 (h)	Sign needs to be replaced	4	\$400 *estimate	
Two Eight Two Eight CAFÉ/Gallery 100m (Brown)	Just after bridge Gular - Coonamble	Lat -31.330493, Long 148.473829	Faded/ hard to read		380cm (w) x 49 (h)	Sign needs to be replaced - changed to green	4	\$400 *estimate	
Gulargambone Riverwalk 50m	Near bridge Coonamble - Gulargambone entrance	Lat -31.330120, Long 148.474421	Outdated branding & faded		200cm (w) x 60 (h)	New design needs to be created, ordered and replaced	4	\$400 *estimate	

GULARGAMBONE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current state	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
Gulargambone Riverwalk 10km	10km out of Gular, Gilgandra side	Lat -31.410062, Long 148.518725	On ground face down - outdated branding		242cm (w) x 120cm (h)	New design needs to be created, ordered and replaced	4	\$500 *estimate	
Coonamble Shire Entrance Sign	Gilgandra - Gulargambone	Lat -31.372668, Long 148.500754	Outdated branding		480cm (w) x 240cm (h)	New Shire Welcome signs need to be decided by Council, then designed and replaced	5	See report	
Welcome to Gulargambone	Gilgandra - Gulargambone entrance	Lat -31.342186, Long 148.471195	Currently being replaced			Replacement sign ordered and being installed.	5	\$366.38	17-Feb-26

GULARGAMBONE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current state	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
Information panel at Two Eight Two Eight entrance	Two Eight Two Eight entrance	Lat -31.329531, Long 148.471625	Outdated branding & information		120cm (w) x 110cm (h)	New design needs to be created, ordered and replaced		\$500 *estimate	
Gulargambone Riverwalk 100m	Quambone exit	Lat -31.329146, Long 148.470487	Faded/ hard to read		200cm (w) x 61cm (h)	New design needs to be created, ordered and replaced		\$400 *estimate	
Gulargambone Riverwalk (arrow)	Entrance to riverwalk near Quambone exit	Lat -31.327985, Long 148.470436	Good condition - Old branding		200cm (w) x 61cm (h)	Ok condition, keep as is and change over time with new design	2		
Gulargambone Riverwalk (Info)	Entrance to riverwalk near Quambone exit	Lat -31.327987, Long 148.470512	Good condition - Old branding			Ok condition, keep as is and change over time with new design	2		

GULARGAMBONE									
Sign	Location	Coordinates	Description of state	Image of current state	Dimensions	Action	Rate of Urgency (1 to 5, 5 being urgent)	Quote to replace	Date replacement ordered
Gulargambone Riverwalk (arrow)	Entrance to riverwalk near Quambone exit	Lat -31.328079, Long 148.471504	A little graffiti damage but otherwise in good condition		200cm (w) x 61cm (h)	Ok condition, keep as is and change over time with new design	2		
Gulargambone Interpretive information panel	Located in the skate park near toilet	Lat -31.331813, Long 148.472974	Plastic cover damaged, outdated branding & information		238cm (w) x 121cm (h)	New design needs to be created, ordered and replaced	4	\$800 *estimate	
Two Eight Two Eight CAFÉ/GALLERY (Brown)	Located in the skate park near toilet	Lat -31.332209, Long 148.473010	Damaged		295cm (w) x 121cm (h)	Sign needs to be replaced - changed to green	4	\$400 *estimate	

11.6 COONAMBLE MUSEUM & STABLES – EMERGENCY REMEDIATION WORKS

File Number: -

Author: Manager Economic Development & Growth

Authoriser: Director Sustainable Communities and Planning

Annexures: 1. Coonamble Museum - Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report on the Coonamble Museum remedial conservation works assessment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on findings relating to serious structural issues identified at the Coonamble Museum (former Police Station) and Stables in 2024.

The attached report by Heritage Architect, David Scobie was commissioned to guide the specific scoping and costing of emergency remediation works for both buildings.

The report is supplied for council's information.

BACKGROUND:

In 2024 a structural engineer was engaged to provide an initial assessment and report on the structural stability of the two (2) buildings used for the Coonamble Museum being the main museum building (former Police Station) and associated brick stables building.

In 2025 a heritage architect was engaged to provide further assessment and suggestions for remediation. The report proposes certain approaches with a recommendation that an engineer be engaged concurrently to specify works.

REPORT:

Summary of Proposal (Urgent and Staged Works):

The proposal outlines a staged approach to address immediate risks and progressively stabilise and conserve the former Police Station and Stables.

Urgent Works:

Immediate actions focus on identifying and addressing active issues, including locating and repairing roof leaks, assessing the structural integrity of the roof and walls, and installing monitoring devices to track building movement.

Stage 1 – Stabilisation:

Priority works to stabilise the structure and prevent further deterioration, including replacement of stormwater systems, ground and foundation stabilisation, crack stitching to brickwork, and installation of perimeter drainage and protective measures to divert water away from the buildings. Engineering input is critical at this stage.

Stage 2 – Repairs and Weatherproofing:

Once stabilisation is achieved, works focus on repairing and sealing the building envelope, including internal and external crack repairs, sealing of doors and windows, and preparing surfaces for final finishes.

Stage 3 – Conservation and Long-Term Works:

Final stage includes restoration of heritage fabric, internal and external finishes, and longer-term structural and landscape improvements to ensure the ongoing preservation and functionality of the site.

The recommendations outlined in the attached report by David Scobie Architects are currently being progressed through a Request for Quotation (RFQ) process, seeking suitably qualified engineers to develop a detailed scope of works to inform cost estimates, support grant funding applications, and facilitate future tendering.

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment

Comments from Heritage

To	Lesley Duncan and Lee O’Coonor
From	DAVID SCOBIE – HERITAGE CONSULTANT TO CSC.
Date	10/02/2026 and 26/02/2026
Proposed	Heritage issue inspection, diagnosis and general remedial works
Property	Former Coonamble Police Station – Museum & Stables
Site Inspection	Yes:
Site Inspection Date	9/02/2026
Recommendations	Review by Engineer – SJL & Conseth, to review & specify further works

Overview



Site and location Plan

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment

References:

Engineering reports by SJL & Conseth Solutions for Buildings 21 – Police Station and 22: Stables

- **The report and inspections date from March 2024. Specific solutions and strategies are not generally provided. A summary beneath Figure 9 offers Recommendations of a general nature;**

The following review of the heritage issues associated with the Police Station and Stables (brick) offers three stages of works to manage the causes and then remediate the damage;

- **Further engineering input is therefore recommended of this report and heritage advice to move the projects forward towards a scope of work suitable for costing;**
- **An initial scope is recommended to be established by the Engineer, in order that the unsafe areas can be delineated with protection for the fabric and the personnel, and the remaining areas – particularly of the Police Station, made accessible so that occupation with the associated security, observation etc can be the first step towards a set of solutions.**

The Proposal

Urgent

1. The roof leak near the entry hall needs a water test using external hose application and observer within the roof space. A simple repair of the corrugated iron sheeting is anticipated or damage caused by decay following the solar installation or a valley gutter and flashing lift;
2. During that inspection, Engineer to advise on roof structure sufficiency to resist pushing at top of walls from under restrained roof structure;
3. The provision of standard movement/crack monitoring tell-tale devices to specific areas.

Stage One

4. Replacement stormwater system, as required: Guttering, downpipes and distribution out of the building vicinity;
5. Remedial works such as Teretek resin injection by Mainmark or similar based on engineering advice, to stabilise the structure and reduce the risks from further subsidence;
6. Helifix works to stabilise the brick work and stitch the cracks. Helifix to review the crack extents and specify the appropriate rods with bricklayer to install and then point up with lime-based mortar to match original;
7. Create a weatherproof 1200m wide stabilising apron consisting of excavation to reveal the DPC, removal of topsoil from the perimeter sufficient to lay a ForteCon or equal membrane on sand bed and then top with nominal 120mm compacted roadbase to drain at 1.40 the building perimeter away from the walls. On the higher levels of the site such as the eastern side where the level is substantially above the

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment

proposed path level, an intermediate swale with ag drain may be required to ensure heavy rain does not collect against the pathway;

- 8. Engineer to advise on the need for additional sub-floor ventilation to Police Station.

Stage two

- 9. Internal decorative works to remediate the crack repairs after 6-12 months for stabilisation to occur – Engineer to advise;
- 10. External works to seal the movement gaps to doors and windows – generally cleaning out of the gaps, insertion of a compressible filler strip followed by a mastic sealer and then suitable timber cover batten or quadrant with paint finish

Stage three

- 11. Remedial works to heritage fabric
- 12. Long term remedial works to structure and landscape settings

Heritage Significance

<u>Local Environmental Plan</u>	<u>Coonamble Local Environmental Plan 2011</u>	16	<u>23/09/2011</u>
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Refer SHI listing document

<https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1430010>



Figure 1 SHI listing photo:

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Figure 2 SHI listing photo 2 – circa 2012

Statement of significance:

The former Coonamble Police Station served as the law enforcement centre for Coonamble and district from 1860 to 1969. This was the building from which bushrangers Thurston and Angel escaped in 1885, having shot Constable Mitchell who died the following day. It also held Jimmy Governor in transit to Dubbo for trial. They are also the oldest buildings in Coonamble. The buildings have associations with the NSW Police and in particular with the death of Constable Mitchell. They also have associations with bushrangers Thurston and Angel and Jimmy Governor. The main building was designed in a restrained form of the Victorian Georgian style. The police buildings have state historical and historical association significance, local aesthetic significance, representativeness and a high degree of integrity.

Heritage Division Questions: Draft only to indicate the issues to be addressed for an Exemption under Clause 5.10(3) of the LEP

- *Do the proposed works include removal of unsympathetic alterations and additions? How does this benefit or impact the heritage item and its significance?*
 -
- *Do the proposed works affect the setting of the heritage item, including views and vistas to and from the heritage item and/or a cultural landscape in which it is sited? Can the impacts be avoided and/or mitigated?*
 -
- *Are the proposed works part of a broader scope of works?*
 - No additional building scope
- *Does this proposal relate to any previous or future works? If so, what cumulative impact (positive and/or adverse) will these works have on the heritage significance of the item?*
 -
- *Are the proposed works to a heritage item that is also significant for its Aboriginal cultural heritage values? If so, have experts in Aboriginal cultural heritage been consulted?*
 -
- *Has the applicant checked if any other approvals or a separate process to evaluate the potential for impacts is required?*

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment

- N/A
- *Do the proposed works trigger a change of use classification under the National construction code that may result in prescriptive building requirements? If so, have options that avoid impact on the heritage values been investigated?*
-
- *If the proposed works are to a local heritage item, are the requirements of the development control plans or any local design guidelines that may apply to the site considered?*
-
- *Will the proposed works result in adverse heritage impact? If so, how will this be avoided, minimised or mitigated?*

- The building

If demolition is proposed, why is it necessary?

- The Applicant
- The site inspection

Demolition Fabric and spatial arrangements Setting, views and vistas Archaeology

- Have options for retention and adaptive re-use been explored? If yes, set out why these options have been discarded?
 - A building report has been submitted.
- Has technical advice for demolition been obtained?
 - A report based on an external inspection has been submitted.
- Identify and include advice about how significant elements, if removed by the proposal, will be salvaged and reused.
-

Insufficient Information

The following information is to be provided before further assessment:

- a. Engineering report including crack photos and lengths for Helifix quote
- b. Mainmark assessment and quote
- c. Helifix assessment and quote
- d. Decorative budget including sealing of external joinery & internal decoration repair
- e. QS summary costing

Record of site visit and inspection
21/01/2026

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 1



Photo 2 Engineer to advise on long term for tie rods after remedial work complete

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 3



Photo 4

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 5



Photo 6 **Brick replacement with suitable recycled bricks**

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 7 Engineer to advise on bracing system following remedial works



Photo 8 Review solar and assess viability or remove and make good

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 9 Note that rods in tension appear to have damaged walls after movement: Engineer to advise on remediation – rod retention or removal following remedial work



Photo 10 Note general replacement of irrigated lawn within 1200mm of building

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 11 Previous pointing in cement to be replaced with lime-based mortar



Photo 12 Engineer to advise on remedial work to headers or retain and stabilise



Photo 13 As above noting sealant strategy

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 14 Previous cement repair to be replaced with lime mortar. Sub-floor vents noted

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 15 Previous cement repairs to be replaced



Photo 16 Movement cracking affecting bricks and not using joints

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 17

INTERIORS



Photo 18 Timber filler strip required following remediation

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 19



Photo 20

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 21



Photo 22

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 23



Photo 24 Following remediation, cover moulds to be used to conceal backing rod insertion and sealant next to door

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 25 Following remediation, cover moulds to be used to conceal backing rod insertion and sealant



Photo 26

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment

The Stables buildings: Original and significant portion and the shed extension – not significant



Photo 27 The corner of the significant building which is close to the Stauion, noting the failed guttering.



Photo 28 Note the wall cracking evident in the following interiors. Note the wall plates from the cross bracing rods.

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 29 The interiors noting wall cracks and rising salt damp. Note the tension bracing system



Photo 30 Movement cracks. The rare intact stables and flooring are of exceptional significance.

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 31 Wall movement cracking. Following ground engineering and the apron extension and stabilisation, the movement cracks can be Helifix brick stitched. The engineer to comment on whether the rod and brace system is to be released to reduce further damage



Photo 32 The slope indicates that water ponds against this wall. Note that the gutter is not operable and water drains down the wall from the whole roof.

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment



Photo 33 The significant building and the end facing the main Station. Note the vertical brace. This practice is not supported given the foundation movement remains unrestrained and will lead to further excessive cracking. A ground engineered response is recommended in conjunction with an extended apron, as recommended for the Station building.

Review the extent of deflection in the wall and loss of integrity in the brickwork at SE corner where brickwork appears to need reconstruction and stitching. Cause possibly unconstrained drainage from roof water and insufficient downpipes

General recommendations – Brick stable building:

Engineer to review Heritage advice and issues raised – retain or delete bracing system and review roof structure to assess outward pressure on the tops of the walls

Stage One

- Replace roof drainage with working guttering and downpipes to a suitable disposal area away from the building
- Ground engineering with Teretek injection by Mainmark or similar

Stage Two

- Perimeter levelling and establish falls
- Apron stabilisation with membrane and gravel perimeter

Stage Three

Coonamble Museum – Former Police Station: Remedial conservation works assessment

- Review rising salt damp and potential cocoon treatment
- Helifix brick stitching
- Conserve brickwork and joinery to stables
- Repair and paint external joinery – doors and fascias

DRAFT

11.7 HERITAGE REVIEW - COONAMBLE REFLECTIONS**File Number:** -**Author:** Manager Economic Development & Growth**Authoriser:** Director Sustainable Communities and Planning**Annexures:** 1. Reflections report [↓](#)**RECOMMENDATION****That Council:**

- 1. Receive and note the report.**
- 2. Provides feedback in the form of comments, questions or suggestions relating to the Stage 1 report of the Coonamble Reflections – Heritage Review project.**
- 3. That Councillors endeavour to attend one or both Information Sessions to be held in Coonamble and Gulargambone on 22 and 23 April 2026 – locations and times to be advised.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks initial Councillor feedback on the Stage 1 Report of the *Coonamble Reflections – Heritage Review* project ahead of the next phase.

The project aims to identify key sites and conservation areas with Heritage Significance across the Shire for inclusion in the *Coonamble Local Environmental Plan 2011*. The project also aims to identify sites suitable for community and visitor information and experiences, generally meaning physical sign panels and heritage content on Council's web site.

BACKGROUND:

Most NSW Local Councils have undertaken an update of their Schedule 15 heritage lists, as required by their *Local Environment Plans* (LEP's) over the past 15 years.

In 2010, Coonamble Shire Council (CSC) commissioned a [Community Based Heritage Study](#) to provide recommendations of sites to be included as part of the 2011 revision of the CSC LEP. The advice to Council for the listing of 113 places was unfortunately not followed through and the items listed on the current LEP have likely remained unchanged since the 1960's or 1970's.

As identified in the 2010 study, the list does not reflect current community attitudes around what is considered significant. It therefore provides little guidance to Council and community when it comes to protecting and celebrating heritage items and sites.

In early 2025, Council resolved to seek funding for a review and update of the 2010 Community Based Heritage Study. A grant of \$25,000 was secured in May 2025 and David Scobie Architects was contracted as a Heritage Consultant to undertake the work.

The project is staged as follows:

1. Review Coonamble Community-Based Heritage Study and provide written report [THIS REPORT]
2. Review sites listed in Coonamble Community-Based Heritage Study and provide written report
3. Identify the top ten sites for Interpretation and provide written report
4. Identify sites for inclusion in the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan and provide written report
5. Provide a Design Concept for interpretation of heritage sites throughout the Coonamble Shire.

Due to the changeover in Council staff, the project is currently behind schedule.

The Stage 2 report is expected to be presented to the May 2026 meeting of Coonamble Shire Council.

REPORT:

The Stage 1 Report prepared by the Heritage Architect is attached for Councillor review and comment.

It is likely that the list of sites recommended under this project will adhere closely to the original 2011 report, subject to verification that the item remains in a sound state.

One key component of the report is that both the Coonamble and Gulargambone CBDs are recommended for inclusion as ‘Heritage Precincts/Heritage Conservation Areas’.

The next step in the project is to seek stakeholder feedback. In this regard, relevant property owners and Shire Councillors will be invited to attend one of two information sessions to be held in Coonamble and Gulargambone on 22 and 23 April 2026. At these sessions the issues, including any implications related to heritage listing and being located within a heritage Conservation area will be discussed.

Feedback from those sessions will then provide direction for the final stages of the project.

LINK TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
Our Economy Goal 6	Cultivating our Wealth	Identify sites for interpretation/information of community and visitors.
Our Assets Goal 10	Maintain & Improve our Natural & Built Assets	Identify sites for protection and assistance.
Our Country Goal 12	Sustainable care for country	Heritage Schedule of LEP is up to date and in line with community attitudes.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

(a) Financial Resource Implications:

The Coonamble Reflections – Heritage Review project is grant funded.

(b) Policy / Legal and Statutory Implications:

Completing the project and implementing recommendations will assist Council in complying with its LEP responsibilities.

(c) Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety / Public:

The key risks associated with the Heritage Review project relate mainly to project timing, regulatory compliance, and community understanding.

(d) Options:

1. Councillors provide feedback and participate in the Stakeholder Information Sessions.
2. Councillors do not participate and await the Stage 2 report anticipated to be presented at Council’s May meeting.

(e) Council Seal Required:

No

(f) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition: No

External Exhibition: No

- Information will be distributed to affected property owners before or during the stakeholder information sessions.
- Further follow-up advice may also be provided to particular enquiries about properties, to assist in the engagement.

David Scobie Architects

Heritage Consulting
Architecture

Mobile: 0412 415 010
Email: scobiearchitect@gmail.com

ABN: 64 079 683 079
Nominated Architect David Scobie NSW Reg. 6229

Coonamble Shire Council
Attention: Lee O'Connor Manager Economic Development and Growth and Tony Payne
Manager Planning, Regulatory & Compliance

Via Email

Date: 26/02/2025

Dear Lee and Tony

RE: Coonamble Reflections – A Heritage review 2025/6

In response to the brief and following the site visit, the first report is presented to Council.

We look forward to your consideration and responses.

Regards

David Scobie

Contents

David Scobie Architects.....	1
Coonamble Reflections – A Heritage review.....	3
Document review.....	4
Proposed listings	5
Gap analysis.....	13
The proposed Heritage Conservation Areas:	17
Commentary, Assessment and Review matters	21
Recommendations for next steps.....	23

Coonamble Reflections – A Heritage review

Summary: *The project is for the review of the Coonamble Community-Based Heritage Study completed in 2014 with the aim of identifying key sites for inclusion in the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan 2011. The project also aims to identify sites suitable for interpretation.*

Our appreciation of the full project scope is as follows;

1. Review the documents associated with the 2014 CCBH Study
 - i. Written report indicating integrity and recommended additional analysis, a gap analysis – missing sites against the Historic themes & those warranting visitation
2. Identify the sites which remain intact and review the sites listed in the study against the current heritage listing criteria
 - i. Written and illustrated report
3. Identify the top 10 sites and those recommended for interpretation
 - i. Written and illustrated report
 - b. Conduct a detailed site visit to undertake a community workshop and inspect the sites
4. Identify those sites which warrant inclusion on the Coonamble LEP
 - i. Written report
5. Provide a design concept for interpretation of heritage sites within the Coonamble Shire

Our appreciation of the scope is as follows;

1. Review the previous heritage study plus any additional relevant documents and provide a written report indicating any shortcomings in the report, its analysis and recommendations.

Document review**a. Thematic History**

The initial Heritage study was prepared by Ray Christison in 2009 and 2010. The study followed the standard procedures and protocols established by the NSW Heritage Office for Community based Heritage Studies.

The first stage was completed by Ray in 2009 and presented to Council in 2010 and provided a Thematic History of Coonamble Shire. The report established a range of local contacts, researchers and written records which provided a solid foundation for the work. As noted in the history, the intention is not be definitive but to cover the local timeline: 1790s – 1975 and then the historic themes established by the Heritage Office, including building settlements, working, educating, governing, cultural life and aboriginal culture.

The distinctive issues and events included are the Explorers, the Aboriginal reserves, the 1920 flooding of the Castlereagh River, the Bush Nursing and Hospital services, the fire within the business district and the arrival and departure of railway services.

b. Community based Heritage Study

The process included a reference group of volunteers who assisted in identifying places of significance across Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone and the rural precincts. The generous assistance of staff and community members is acknowledged in the report.

Local contact was extensive and included articles and notices placed in the Coonamble Weekly newspaper advising of the Heritage Study and inviting expressions of interest from members of the public. The Heritage Study was promoted through ABC Local Radio and letters were sent to the National Trust of Australia (NSW), Engineering Heritage Australia and the Art Deco Society of New South Wales requesting lists of items from their areas of interest.

Following the identification of the local historic themes and the collection of a list of nominated places, each site was visited and record created for the place. The standard format provided by the Heritage Office was utilised.

A comprehensive street survey of the central business district of Coonamble was undertaken to identify heritage items in the commercial area and suitable inventory forms as records created for the buildings.

c. Levels of significance

The Study co-ordinator identified and assigned levels of heritage significance (none, local, or State) for each item/place which was nominated. All places that are listed, or will be listed as Heritage items, must be at least of Local Significance.

Beyond this local level, items can be considered to be of State, or even National significance.

State Significance is important as it attracts more prestige, including placement on the NSW Heritage Office Web site, and will give the item more access to funding through loans and grants. It is however difficult to obtain state listing due to both the high bar required and the detailed time and effort in the research.

To make the level required for listing, the place must reach at least of one of the following criteria:

Key Criteria for NSW Heritage Listing:

The study coordinator evaluated the places/ items based on the following:

- **Historical Significance (Criterion A):** The item is important in the course/pattern of NSW's cultural or natural history.
- **Associative Significance (Criterion B):** The item has strong association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's history.
- **Aesthetic/Technical Significance (Criterion C):** The item demonstrates high degree of creative or technical achievement.
- **Social/Cultural Significance (Criterion D):** The item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons.
- **Research/Scientific Significance (Criterion E):** The item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history.
- **Rarity (Criterion F):** The item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history.
- **Representativeness (Criterion G):** The item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or environments.

Proposed listings

The study recommended an Inventory with the listing of 132 places within the Shire. The range was grouped into the historic themes within the report.

The listing is provided for reference:

A. ABORIGINAL SITES

Place	Address	Date Visited
Camp ground	Limerick St, Coonamble	23 July 2009
Tin Town	off Namoi St, Coonamble	23 July 2009

B. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Place	Address	Date Visited
Bourbah Inn site	Gulargambone Quambone Rd, Bourbah	8 April 2009
Ceelnoy Sawmill site	Ceelnoy Road, Pilliga West	Sept 2005
Chinese Dam, Teridgerie Creek	Ventura, Gilgooma	15 May 2009
Coonamble No.1 Bore site	McCullough St, Coonamble	29 April 2010
Cresling Chinese tank	Old Cresling, Gilgooma	15 May 2009
Cresling Homestead site	Old Cresling	15 May 2009
Cresling Woolshed site	Old Cresling	15 May 2009
Gilgooma telephone line remnant	Old Cresling	15 May 2009
Gumin Homestead site	National Park Rd, Gumin Gumin	4 Sept 2009
Stone paved causeway	off Castlereagh Highway, Buggil	13 May 2009
Yarranville house site	Old Cresling	15 May 2009
Yarranville well site	Old Cresling	15 May 2009

C. BANKS & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Place	Address	Date Visited
A.J.F. O'Brien & Sons	42 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Bank of New South Wales (former)	43 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Bank of New South Wales	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008

Place	Address	Date Visited
(former)		
Bank of New South Wales (original)	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Commercial Bank (former)	68 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
CBC Bank (former)	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Government Savings Bank (former)	Aberford St, Coonamble	13 May 2009
Rural Bank (former)	22 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008

D. CAFES

Place	Address	Date Visited
Monterey Café (former)	61-63 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008

E. CEMETERIES & BURIAL SITES

Place	Address	Date Visited
Coonamble General Cemetery	Back Gular Road, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Coonamble Memorial Arboretum	Cnr. Warrena & Auburn Sts, Coonamble	1 July 2009
Gulargambone General Cemetery	Muriman St, Coonamble	18 Dec 2008
Quambone General Cemetery	Quambone Rd, Quambone	30 June 2009
Sexton's Hut, Coonamble General Cemetery	Memorial Drive, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008

F. CHURCHES

Place	Address	Date Visited
All Saints Anglican Church	Yoolundry St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Catholic Church (former)	Warrie St., Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Tooloon St, Coonamble	12 May 2009
Gulargambone Pioneers' Memorial Church	Cnr. Munnell & Armitree Sts, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
St Barnabas Anglican Church	24 Namoi St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
St Paul's Anglican Church	Mungie St, Quambone	30 June 2009
St Peter's Uniting Church	14 Namoi St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Mungie St, Quambone	30 June 2009

G. EXPLORATION SITES

Place	Address	Date Visited
Oxley monument	Gulargambone Quambone Rd, Bourbah	2 July 2009
John Oxley Memorial Picnic Area	Castlereagh Highway, Gulargambone	20 July 2009

H. GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Place	Address	Date Visited
Coonamble Court House & Police Station	Cnr. Aberford & Namoi Sts, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Coonamble Fire Station	95 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Coonamble Historical Museum	164 Aberford St, Coonamble	13 May 2009
Coonamble Post Office	Cnr. Castlereagh & Aberford Sts, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Coonamble Shire Chambers	Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Gilgooma Post Office (former)	Pilliga Road, Gilgooma	15 May 2009
Gulargambone Police Station	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	20 July 2009
Gulargambone Post Office	Cnr. Bourbah & Munnell Sts, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Quambone Post Office (former)	Cnr. Tucca & Buckimbe Sts, Quambone	30 June 2009
Warrumbungle National Park Visitor Centre	off John Renshaw Parkway, Warrumbungle National Park	18 June 2008

I. HEALTH

Place	Address	Date Visited
Coonamble Hospital Soldiers' Memorial Chapel	Castlereagh Street, Coonamble	20 Feb 2009
Quambone Bush Nursing Home (former)	Cnr. Gilgunnia & Mungie Sts, Quambone	21 July 2009
Quambone Community Health Centre	Cnr. Mungie & Buckimbe Sts, Quambone	21 July 2009

J. HOMESTEADS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

Place	Address	Date Visited
Avoca Homestead Group	Avoca, Stock Route 39, Bourbah	8 April 2009
Geanmoney Homestead	Back Gular Rd, Coonamble	10 Dec 2008
Mount Tenandra Homestead Group	Tooraweenah Rd, Mt Tenandra	25 April 2010
Nebea Homestead Group	Baradine Rd, Urawilkie	24 April 2010
Nebea Homestead	Nebea Urawilkie Rd, Urawilkie	24 April 2010

Place	Address	Date Visited
(original)		
Old Tooloon Homestead	Emby Rd, Tooloon	10 Dec 2008
Talegar Homestead	Talegar, Talegar Lane, Talegar	25 Nov 2009
Woodlands Homestead Group	Woodlands Rd, Coonamble	24 Feb 2010

K. HOUSES & HUTS

Place	Address	Date Visited
House	9 Charles St, Coonamble	24 Feb 2010
Quambone School House	Mungie St, Quambone	21 July 2009
St Barnabas Rectory	Aberford St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008

L. HOTELS & INNS

Place	Address	Date Visited
Bucking Bull Hotel	22-24 Tooloon St, Coonamble	13 May 2009
Commercial Hotel	70 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Sons of the Soil Hotel	46-54 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Terminus Hotel	25 Railway St, Coonamble	14 May 2009

M. INDUSTRIAL

Place	Address	Date Visited
Coonamble Power House (former)	Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Ginty's Garage	7 Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008

N. IRRIGATION

Place	Address	Date Visited
Nebea Station Bore	Nebea, Baradine Rd, Urawilkie	24 April 2010
Nebea Woolshed Bore	Nebea Urawilkie Rd, Urawilkie	24 April 2010
Woodlands Irrigation Pumps	Woodlands Rd, Coonamble	24 Feb 2010

O. MEMORIALS

Place	Address	Date Visited
Coonamble War Memorial	Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Coonamble War Memorial Ambulance Station	91 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Gilgooma War Memorial Gates	Pilliga Rd, Gilgooma	15 May 2009
Gulargambone War Memorial	Coonamble Rd, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008

Place	Address	Date Visited
Tully Park Gateway	Cnr. Dubbo & McCullough St, Coonamble	23 July 2009

P. NATURAL PLACES

Place	Address	Date Visited
Coonamble Waterhole	Aberford St, Coonamble	23 July 2009
Terrigal Creek Wildlife Viewing Platform	Gibson Way, Macquarie Marshes	30 June 2009

Q. PARKS & RECREATION

Place	Address	Date Visited
Alan Walker Memorial Baths	Munnell St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Coonamble Showground	Castlereagh St, Coonamble	30 June 2009
Cattle Pavilion	Coonamble Showground	30 June 2009
Poultry Pavilion	Coonamble Showground	30 June 2009
Sheep Pavilion	Coonamble Showground	30 June 2009
Coonamble Turf Club Grandstand	Castlereagh Highway, Coonamble	24 August 2009
Gulargambone Racecourse & Showground Grandstand	off Munnell St, Gulargambone	20 July 2009
McDonald Park	Aberford St, Coonamble	30 June 2009
Quambone Racecourse & Showground	Warren Rd. Quambone	21 July 2009
Quambone Recreation Ground	Mungie St, Quambone	21 July 2009

R. PUBLIC HALLS & SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Place	Address	Date Visited
Combara Community Hall	Combara	20 July 2009
Coonamble CWA Rooms	Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Coonamble School of Arts (former)	59 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Gulargambone War Memorial Hall & Mechanics Literary Institute	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Majestic Theatre (former)	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Quambone District War Memorial Hall & Library	Mungie St, Quambone	30 June 2009
Plaza Theatre	66 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
St Barnabas Church Hall	26 Namoi St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
St Patrick's Hall	Tooloon St, Coonamble	12 May 2009

S. RAILWAY & ROAD TRANSPORT

Place	Address	Date Visited
Coonamble Railway Station	Railway St, Coonamble	13 May 2009
Concrete Horse Trough	Coonamble Showground	30 June 2009

T. SCHOOLS

Place	Address	Date Visited
Coonamble Intermediate High School building	Aberford St, Coonamble	20 July 2009
Old Coonamble School House	Talegar, Talegar Lane, Talegar	25 Nov 2009
Quambone Public School	Mungie St, Quambone	30 June 2009
St Brigid's School	Tooloon St, Coonamble	12 May 2009

U. SHOPS

Place	Address	Date Visited
Bakery (former)	24 Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Easson's Emporium	51-55 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Feehan's Building	32-38 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Hermann's Store (former)	73-83 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Leonard's Boot & Shoe Repair (former)	69 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Leonard's Building	35-41 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Mac's Building	40 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Quambone General Store	Cnr. Tuca & Buckimbe Sts, Quambone	30 June 2009
Shop	24 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Shop	56 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Shop	71 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Shops	60-63 Castlereagh St, Coonamble	9 Dec 2008
Shops (Gallery)	21 Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Shop (Pete's Pumps)	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Shops	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008
Star Supermarket	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	18 Dec 2008

V. WOOLSHEDS & SHEARERS' QUARTERS

Place	Address	Date Visited
Avoca Shearers' Quarters	Avoca, Stock Route 39, Bourbah	8 April 2009
Avoca Woolshed	Avoca, Stock Route 39, Bourbah	8 April 2009
Mount Tenandra Woolshed Group	Tooraweenah Rd, Mt Tenandra	25 April 2010

Place	Address	Date Visited
Nebea Shearers' Quarters	Nebea Urawilkie Rd, Urawilkie	24 April 2010
Nebea Woolshed	Nebea Urawilkie Rd, Urawilkie	24 April 2010
Pincham Woolshed	John Renshaw Parkway, Warrumbungle National Park	20 Feb 2008
Woodlands Woolshed	Woodlands Rd, Coonamble	24 Feb 2010

W. SUNDRY

Place	Address	Date Visited
Nebea Station Store	Nebea, Baradine Rd, Urawilkie	24 April 2010
Tooloon Barn & Stable	Emby Rd, Tooloon	10 Dec 2008

Gap analysis

The study included a gap analysis which revealed that the listings at the time of the study, held substantial gaps across a series of important themes.

These included pastoral life – no substantial rural properties with their complexes of homesteads, shearing sheds and outbuildings; cultural life was not represented by community halls, a CWA premises, a theatre or Café; Aboriginal life was not represented and domestic life was not represented as no houses were on the list.

An excellent summary table was provided in the report to correlate the themes and the nominated places.

One page from the table is offered as follows to illustrate the value of such relationships in drawing attention to the relationships between places and communities and their evolution:

Coonamble Shire Community-Based Heritage Study 2008-2010

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local theme	Notes	Examples
2 Peopling Australia	Migration	Emigrating from one district to another within NSW	<i>Activities and processes associated with the resettling of people from one place to another</i>	Nebea Homestead
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Agriculture	Irrigation	<i>Activities relating to the cultivation and rearing of plant and animal species, usually for commercial purposes, can include aquaculture</i>	Nebea Bore Woodlands Irrigation pumps
		Flour mill		
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce	Banks	<i>Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services</i>	Bank of NSW (former), Coonamble Bank of NSW (former), Gulargambone Bank of NSW (original), Gulargambone CBC Bank (former), Gulargambone Commercial Bank (former), Coonamble Government Savings Bank (former), Coonamble Rural Bank (former)
		Main streets		Bourbah Street, Gulargambone Castlereagh Street, Coonamble
		Town Store		A.J.F. O'Brien & Sons Eason's Emporium (former) Feehan's Building Herrmann's Store (former) Leonard's Boot & Shore Repair (former) Leonard's Building Mac's Building Shops, Coonamble
		Village enterprises		Bakery (former), Gulargambone Shop (Pete's Pumps), Gulargambone Shops, Gulargambone Star Supermarket, Gulargambone Quambone General Store Shops, Gulargambone

d. The summary offered six groups of items in an attempt to encapsulate the distinctive local character and history:

1. Homesteads and woolsheds
2. The Coonamble business district
3. The Gulargambone townscape
4. Transport corridors
5. Cemeteries & Lone graves
6. Water Management

Across this list, the report recommended that 113 items/places be added to the Coonamble LEP and 3 places be considered for State listing.

e. Conservation zones/areas

The report proposed that Conservation area listings be provided for the Coonamble central business area and the Gulargambone streetscape.

f. Statutory matters

The implications from Clause 5.10 of the LEP, of inclusion within the items and heritage conservation areas, are as follows:

5.10 Heritage conservation**Note.**

Heritage items (if any) are listed and described in Schedule 5. Heritage conservation areas (if any) are shown on the [Heritage Map](#) as well as being described in Schedule 5.

(1) **Objectives** The objectives of this clause are as follows—

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Coonamble,
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,
- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,
- (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

(2) **Requirement for consent** Development consent is required for any of the following—

- (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,
 - (ii) an Aboriginal object,
 - (iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,
- (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,
- (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,
- (d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,
- (e) erecting a building on land—
 - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or
 - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,
- (f) subdividing land—
 - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or
 - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.

(3) **When consent not required** However, development consent under this clause is not required if—

- (a) the applicant has notified the consent authority of the proposed development and the consent authority has advised the applicant in writing before any work is carried out that it is satisfied that the proposed development—
 - (i) is of a minor nature or is for the maintenance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place of heritage significance or archaeological site or a building, work, relic, tree or place within the heritage conservation area, and
 - (ii) would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place, archaeological site or heritage conservation area, or
- (b) the development is in a cemetery or burial ground and the proposed development—
 - (i) is the creation of a new grave or monument, or excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of conserving or repairing monuments or grave markers, and
 - (ii) would not cause disturbance to human remains, relics, Aboriginal objects in the form of grave goods, or to an Aboriginal place of heritage significance, or
- (c) the development is limited to the removal of a tree or other vegetation that the Council is satisfied is a risk to human life or property, or
- (d) the development is exempt development.

(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.

(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.

(7) **Archaeological sites** 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)—

- (a) notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and
- (b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

(8) **Aboriginal places of heritage significance**

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development in an Aboriginal place of heritage significance—

- (a) 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
- (b) 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.

(9) **Demolition of nominated State heritage items**

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause for the demolition of a nominated State heritage item—

- (a) notify the Heritage Council about the application, and
- (b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

(10) **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 this Plan, if the consent authority is satisfied that—

- (a) the conservation of the heritage item or Aboriginal place of heritage significance is facilitated by the granting of consent, and
- (b) the proposed development is in accordance with a heritage management document that has been approved by the consent authority, and
- (c) the consent to the proposed development would require that all necessary conservation work identified in the heritage management document is carried out, and
- (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
- (e) the proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area.

In summary, the listed heritage places are protected by requiring works which would alter their character to be assessed by Council for their effects on the heritage significance. Generally, this is for demolition, subdivision and major alterations. The assessment is through a statement of heritage impact – a standard format which may be self-created by an owner, by a consultant or by Council and their advisors.

Within the heritage conservation areas, the issues generally relate to the external character of places and buildings.

An exemption process, known as 5.10(30 – refer in the above clauses, for simple works considered as maintenance and works which will replace like-for-like elements and the removal of elements not considered as significant, is available for all properties and places.

The proposed Heritage Conservation Areas:

While mapping was not included in the original Heritage Study Report, the following general descriptions were offered:

Coonamble

- The southern side of Aberford Street between Castlereagh and Namoi Street;
- Both sides of Castlereagh Street between Aberford and Tooloon Streets;
- Both sides of Tooloon Street between Castlereagh and Namoi Streets;
- The western side of Namoi Street between Aberford and Castlereagh Streets.

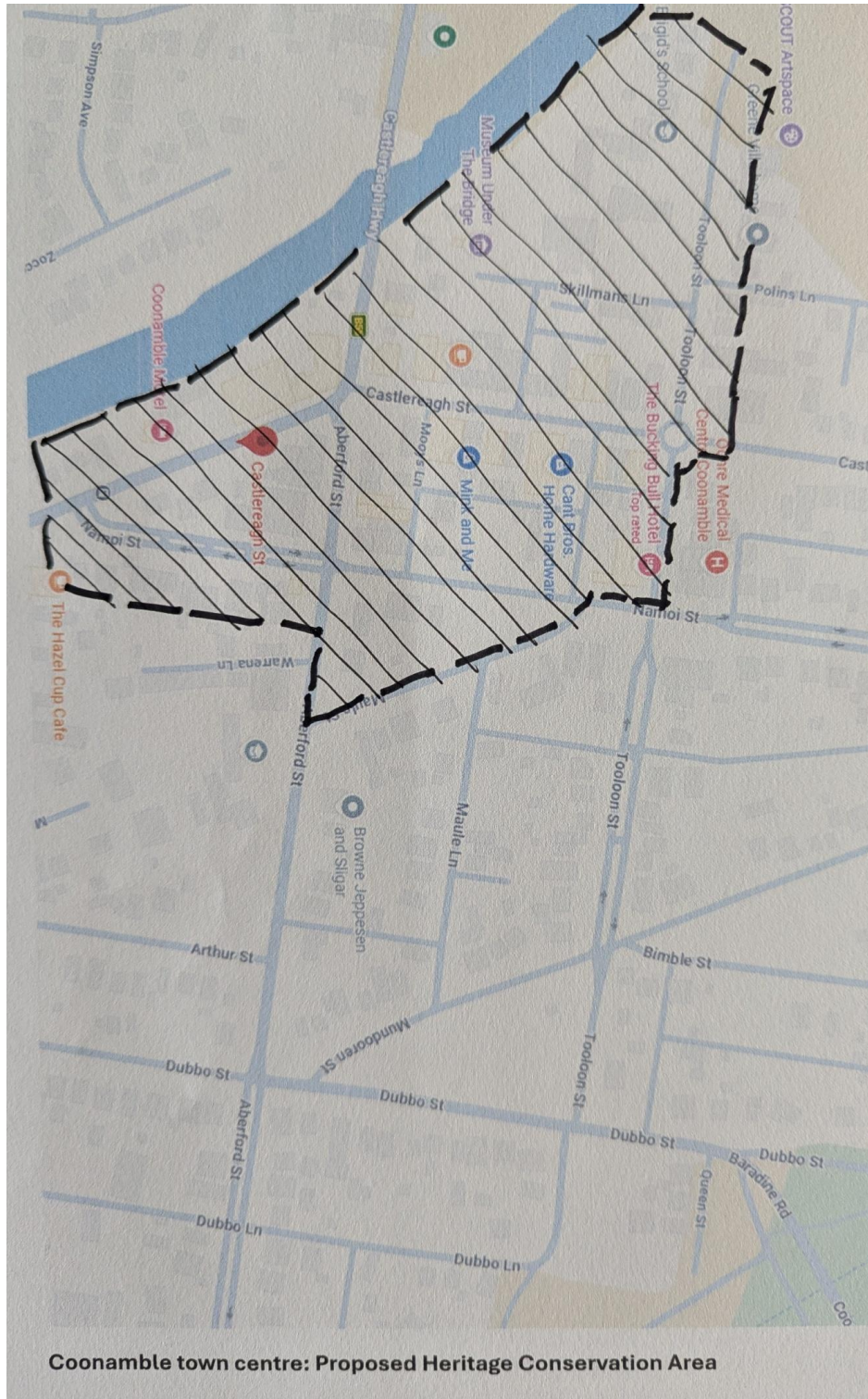
Gulargambone

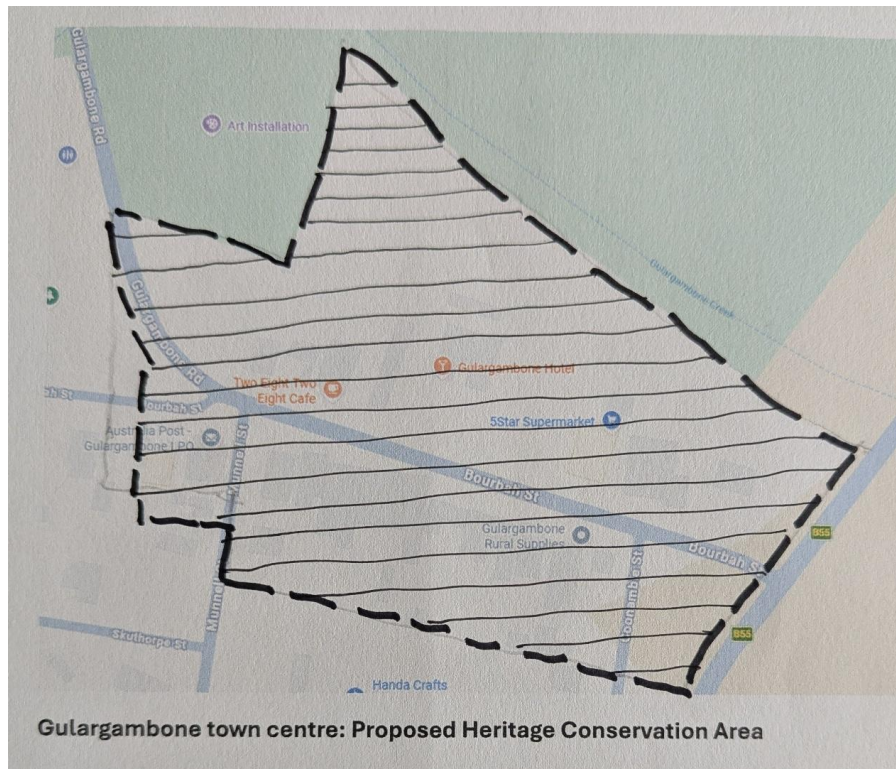
- Both sides of Bourbah Street between Coonamble Road and Munnell Street.

These areas and boundaries have been reviewed based upon the initial site visit.

There are several key issues which are considered when determining the appropriate locations for boundaries:

- The significant and contributory buildings need to be included;
- The key streetscapes need to be included and this may mean taking the boundary down a rear property boundary and not down the centre of a street so as to include both sides of a street;
- Excluding those elements which clearly do not contribute and more than that – places which clearly detract and are uncharacteristic to the traditional character.





g. Management recommendations

- i. Suitable Heritage clauses would be required to be included within the development control plan, so as to guide Owners and control development;
- ii. Owners should have access to heritage advice, information and heritage grants to assist in conservation works.
- iii. The listing format provided for each place offers a range of advice and recommendations on the management of the place, including the following:

Archaeological recommendations:

i) Notify the Planners about any process that will substantially alter the landscape, e.g. dam, road widening, altered agricultural practices, trench digging, quarrying ... or is potentially a threat to the archaeological site.

ii) Seek advice if any of the above threats are likely to occur in the vicinity of the item, and have the threat assessed. If a study is necessary, it should be along Conservation Plan guidelines.

iii) Encourage active recording of information for cemeteries and isolated graves.

All sites: historical and archaeological sites

- iv) Keep buildings in good order.
- v) Record, photograph, research any changes.
- vi) Ensure that new owners are advised of the Cultural significance of the site.

vii) Encourage collections of moveable heritage to stay together with the building or place e.g. furniture with homestead, plant with woolshed.

viii) Produce, or make available publicly, interpretive information that will enable people to appreciate the sites.

ix) Draw up Conservation Strategies, Heritage Asset Action Plans or Conservation Management Plans for complex & important sites.

h. Mapping & recording

i. All places and Heritage Conservation Areas endorsed for listing would be mapped on the NSW Planning Portal within the Heritage layer and available to all parties;

ii. Once endorsed and gazetted, the listing detail, as vetted by the NSW Heritage Office to meet privacy requirements, would be available on the State Heritage Inventory system – as is standard practice for all NSW Local Governments with endorsed heritage lists.

i. Access

i. As a precautionary measure for privacy, safety and security, the report recommended ***that** access to Heritage sites must not be taken for granted and should be always carefully considered with reference to the owner's consent and opinions and needs and the sensitivity of the particular place.*

Commentary, Assessment and Review matters**2. Endorsement**

The 2010 report is considered to have been carried out in full compliance with the brief and in the spirit of identifying and conserving the history and heritage of Coonamble.

The advice to Council for the listing of 113 places was not followed through at the time. The known consequences are that the places are not being fully protected using the standard means available to all NSW local Councils.

- It is not known whether any places on the list have been lost or have decayed during the intervening period. Site work and contact with owners through the property record system will enable this verification;
- In terms of the gap analysis, there appears to be a shortfall in the number of residential dwellings on the nomination list, following a review of the town centres of Coonamble and Gulargambone;
- In terms of the two town centres, the extent of the proposed Heritage Conservation Areas requires mapping to ensure that the included places are appropriate, equitable in terms of places excluded and that significant trees and the river character are included;
- Following the mapping and inclusions with the boundaries, the number of individual property listings may be reduced as their protection would be enabled by the inclusion within the Heritage Conservation Areas.

The availability of heritage grants to local Councils has not been made available to owners of heritage places within the Shire and this has placed a greater burden on Councils an owner and on the community for the maintenance and enhancement of heritage places.

a. Current listings

At the time of the 2010 study there were 8 sites listed by a combination of State Agencies, the Heritage Office and Council.

At the present time there are 18 items with 1 item on the State list – the Coonamble Railway Station and yard group and the following 17 on the local list held by Council and Agencies. The current list follows:

Church of England Church	COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Commercial Hotel	Corner Castlereagh and Aberford Streets COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Coonamble High School - Buildings B00A, B00Q, B0CA, B0CB and B0CC	15C Aberford Street COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Coonamble Post Office	Castlereagh Street COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Coonamble Railway Station	Railway Street COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Coonamble Railway Station and Yard Group	Railway Street COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Coonamble Shire Chamber	80 Castlereagh Street COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Gulargambone Police Station	45 Bourbah Street GULARGAMBONE NSW 2828
Macquarie Marshes - marshes and areas subject to inundation (approximately 148,000ha)	10km south west of B/W Warrick Farm and Yanganbul COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Museum (former Police Station)	Aberford Street COONAMBLE NSW 2829
North Macquarie Marsh Channel	Macquarie River QUAMBONE NSW 2831
North Macquarie Marsh Channel Culvert No 1 And Main Channel Regulator	Macquarie River QUAMBONE NSW 2831
Quambone Public School - Buildings B00A and B00J	17 Mungie Street QUAMBONE NSW 2831
Sexton's Hut	Memorial Drive (Coonamble Cemetery) COONAMBLE NSW 2829
TAFE NSW Coonamble Campus	45 Dubbo Street COONAMBLE NSW 2829
Tenandra Weir	Marthaguy Creek QUAMBONE NSW 2831
Tenandra Weir Block Dam And Valve	Marthaguy Creek QUAMBONE NSW 2831

Within this list, there are 8 items which are currently listed on the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan. This list is the same list as existed when the 2010 study was commenced.

Item name	Address	Property description
Museum (former Police Station)	Aberford Street	Lot 8, DP 1151542
Church of England Church	Corner Aberford and Namoi Streets	Lot 103, DP 1090482
Coonamble Post Office	Castlereagh Street	Lot 70, DP 748321
Commercial Hotel	Corner Castlereagh and Aberford Streets	Lot 12, DP 523657
Coonamble Shire Chamber	80 Castlereagh Street	Lot 11, DP 523657; Lot 1, DP 324575
Macquarie Marshes—marshes and areas subject to inundation (approximately 148,000ha)	10 km south west of Carinda—between Warwick Farm and Yanganbul	
Coonamble Railway Station and yard group	Dubbo-Coonamble railway	
Sexton's Hut	Memorial Drive (Coonamble Cemetery)	Lot 7018, DP 1032587

3. Summary

Based on the review of the Thematic history - 2009 and the Community based Heritage Study – 2010, the process and findings were thorough, compliant with the guidelines and included sound recommendations and advice to Council. The advice was consistent with that generally provided to NSW Councils and Shire regional Councils in particular.

Recommendations for next steps

- a. Council reviews this report and offers feedback to address their queries;
- b. The Consultant to review the list and any issues related to listing for Council;
- c. Consistent with the Brief, the Consultant prepares designs for the interpretation panels for a selected list of 10 places including but not limited to Tin Town and the Gulargambone & Coonamble heritage conservation areas;
- d. Following the responses, Council adopts the proposal as a Draft for the review of the extant 113 places and 2 heritage conservation areas and endorses a private consultation with owners followed by a public consultation;
- e. Council reviews the appropriate Management recommendations including the use of Standard Clauses in the LEP and DCP which are appropriate for similar rural Councils;
- f. Council investigates the funding opportunities from Heritage NSW in relation to the three-year heritage grants which are available to support the use of a Heritage Advisor and the establishment of a Coonamble Local Heritage Fund for assisting owners with grants towards appropriate conservation works and paint colour schemes for listed items and contributory items in the heritage conservation areas;
- g. Following the consideration of all responses, Council adopts the Draft proposal for the listings and staff prepare a Planning Proposal for the formal listings and inclusion within the LEP.

David Scobie
Architect and Heritage Consultant

26/02/2026

12 SECTION D - INFRASTRUCTURE

12.1 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS

File Number: -
Author: Director Infrastructure Services
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and note the Infrastructure Services - Works in Progress report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides Council with an update of the works in progress in the Infrastructure Directorate. Updates are provided for each Departmental area which includes Utilities, Urban Services and Roads.

BACKGROUND:

Coonamble Shire Council's Infrastructure Department is responsible for the following services and facilities:

- Roads and Bridges
- Kerb and Guttering
- Stormwater
- Water
- Sewer
- Recreation and Open Spaces
- Swimming Pools
- Facility Cleaning
- Cemeteries
- Workshop
- Depots
- Aerodrome
- Plant and Fleet
- Buildings
- Emergency Management

REPORT:

UTILITIES

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

- Several water main breaks and leaking services have been repaired in and around Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.
- Sewer Pump station blockages cleared in Coonamble, due to materials being flushed that don't break down.
- Ongoing maintenance at the Coonamble Water Treatment Plant (WTP).
- New filtration pump installed at WTP
- Identification of further opportunities to optimise the treatment of drinking water for Coonamble town. This may include an alternate treatment method that is currently being investigated for a trial. It is anticipated that this alternate treatment will reduce costs for chemicals, maintenance, plant and labour.
- Retrieval of pump at Bore 5 has been successful. The pump is now being assessed for repair.
- The retrieval of the pump at Bore 5 was also an opportunity to do an inspection and condition assessment of the bore. The outcome of the inspection was less than favourable, with issues being identified including:
 - Significant corrosion noted through mild steel casing wall.
 - Numerous holes noted in the mild steel casing wall.
 - Damage noted to the casing at 348.50m from the impact with the dropped pumping equipment.
 - Catastrophic failure of the bore casing wall has occurred at 416.40m resulting in casing wall collapse.

Investigations have commenced to get an approval from DCCEEW to re-drill Bore 5 and quotations are being sought for the drilling work so that this can be budgeted for in the 2026/27 Operations Plan.

Upcoming works:

- *Chlorination system to be installed at Bores 3 and 5;*
- *Filter arms at the Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) to be installed.*
- *Installation of flow meter at head of sewer treatment plant works in Coonamble.*

URBAN SERVICES

- Trees trimmed and playground softfall renewed at MacDonald Park
- Fixed fence at MacDonald Park
- Sportsground preparation for winter sports
- Footpath construction at Coonamble sports-field has been completed
- Main street footpaths pressure washed and sealed
- Main street garden beds trimmed and winter annuals planted. Further annuals will be planted when they arrive in stock. Drip line irrigation installation in CBD garden beds has also been completed.

Aerodrome

Airport mowed in preparation for CASA inspection.

ROADS

Regional and Local Roads Maintenance

Heavy patching and road construction was completed on Gulargambone streets along with trial seal works.

Sealing programs were finalised across Quambone, Pilliga and Baradine Roads, Castlereagh Highway, Hooper Drive (Coonamble), and Brinjal and Munnell Streets (Gulargambone).

Seal extension works commenced in Quambone Streets and Merri Merri Road, while shoulder grading was undertaken on Quambone Road between the tip and feedlot.

In preparation for upcoming works, roadbase was also carted to Back Gulargambone Road. These activities have improved network condition, supported asset longevity, and positioned upcoming projects for delivery.

Construction has commenced on the Tallegar Creek culvert upgrade with the first culverts placed in late March.

RMCC

Maintenance is being completed in accordance with the Routine Maintenance Annual Plan (RMAP), (agreed schedule with TfNSW). This includes potholes patching, rest area cleaning, routine inspections, sign repairs and roadside slashing. Heavy patching and shoulder widening has taken place on the Castlereagh Highway north of Coonamble. Council has undertaken reseals on sections of the highway.

Upcoming works (now to end Financial Year):

- *Castlereagh Highway/Warren Road Intersection upgrade;*
- *Heavy Patching on Tooraweenah and Gulargambone Roads*
- *Maintenance grading and shoulder grading on local and regional roads where conditions and resources permit;*
- *Kerb and gutter replacement in King Street and Pages Terrace;*
- *Dish drain maintenance in Auburn and Wingadee Streets;*
- *Quambone Streets and Merri Merri Road – Seal extension project.*
- *Town entry signage replacement*

12.2 TOORAWEEENAH ROAD UPGRADE - MONTHLY STATUS UPDATE

File Number: 123
Author: Director Infrastructure Services
Authoriser: General Manager
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and note the Tooraweenah Road Upgrade Monthly Status report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council resolved to appoint MAAS Civil Pty Limited as the successful contractor at their Extraordinary meeting held on 22 January 2026.

Works are scheduled to commence in May 2026 once all programming has been completed and management plans and safety documentation has been reviewed.

BACKGROUND:

Tooraweenah Road is the most direct route from the town of Coonamble to the Warrumbungle National Park.

The section of road to be upgraded commences from the end of the sealed section at Coonamble and continues to the boundary with Gilgandra Shire Council.

The 56.8 km road currently consists of 30.1 km sealed pavement of varying width, followed by 26.7 km of unsealed road with an average width of 7m. The unsealed section includes two short-sealed sections that total 1.3km.

This project is to seal the remaining unsealed section of the road.

REPORT:

The following work has been undertaken since Council's previous update at their Ordinary meeting of Council on 11 March 2026:

- Project Start-Up meeting was held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 with Maas, Projence and Council Project Representatives. It was a productive day with the contract conditions being reviewed and agreed upon by all parties and expectations set regarding project outcomes as well as everyone's roles and responsibilities.
- An informal community BBQ was held with residents of Tooraweenah Road, Maas, Projence and Council representatives on Sunday 22 March 2026. This informal setting enabled for a high-level update to be provided to the residents and an opportunity for the contractors to meet everyone. There was good attendance and by all accounts, a success. Feedback was received and additional resident contact details were collected to ensure key stakeholders will remain updated regarding project progress and advised of potential impacts throughout the project. This will enable the delivery team to mitigate impacts the residents through open dialogue.

- The Project Team is presently reviewing the Contractor's management plans. Release of the hold points associated with the management plans is a prerequisite to commencement of site works. Preliminary consent has been given to enable the Contractor to commence establishment of the Site Compound and establish survey control for the project.
- It is noted that the management plans for the project are required to be comprehensive, as such, development by the Contractor and review by the Principal takes a reasonable amount of time to complete.
- The Project Team is currently reviewing the proposed program and construction staging. Key points on this below:
 - In order to achieve the desired project efficiencies, work will be undertaken in numerous locations throughout the project simultaneously.
 - The Contractor will establish detours where appropriate while maintaining resident access. Residents and impacted stakeholders will be notified and consulted when finalised. Detours are anticipated to maximise productivity on site while only being a minor inconvenience for through traffic (likely additional through travel time approximately 10 minutes).

A request for the release of the remainder of the grant funding has also been submitted to the Federal Government, as per advice received from representatives of same. At the time of writing this report, we are waiting on a response. Our next monthly meeting with the funding body is on 9 April 2026, and an update will be requested at this time.

13 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

14 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**RECOMMENDATION**

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

14.1 Closed (Public Excluded) Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council - 19 March 2026**14.2 Sale of Land Unpaid Rates General Manager Contract Delegation**

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

15 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING