



Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ORDINARY MEETING** of Wentworth Shire Council will be held in the **WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 61 DARLING STREET, WENTWORTH**, commencing at **5:00PM**.

The meeting is being livestreamed and/or recorded for on-demand viewing via Council's website. Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and/or voice being webcast.

All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing 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 meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments.

The meeting must not be recorded by others without prior written consent of the Council in accordance with the Council's code of meeting practice.

Councillors & staff are obligated to declare Conflicts of Interest as required under the Local Government Act 1993 and Councils adopted Code of Conduct.

Councillors are reminded of their Oath of Office whereby they have declared and affirmed that they will undertake the duties of the Office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Wentworth Shire and the Wentworth Shire Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

KEN ROSS
GENERAL MANAGER

ORDINARY MEETING

AGENDA

19 MARCH 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING OF MEETING	1
2	PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	1
3	APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	1
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	1
6	OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS	44
7	MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS	45
	7.1 Mayoral Report	45
8	REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES	47
	8.1 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee	47
9	REPORTS TO COUNCIL	124
	9.1 General Managers Report.....	124
	9.2 ALGA 2025 Federal Election Campaign.....	134
	9.3 Christmas Leave Arrangements.....	138
	9.4 Request for Event Sponsorship - 2025 Sunraysia Safari Rally	140
	9.5 Request for Event Sponsorship - Wentworth/Mildura Country Music Festival 2025.....	152
	9.6 Request for Event Sponsorship - 2025 Pooncarie Desert Dash	155
	9.7 Junction Junk Event 2025	159
	9.8 Monthly Finance Report - February 2025	161
	9.9 Monthly Investment Report - February 2025	165
	9.10 Request for Financial Assistance Wentworth Pioneer Homes.	177
	9.11 Draft Wentworth Shire Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035....	181
	9.12 Draft Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Masterplan Public Consultation feedback.	223
	9.13 Transfer of Crown Road - Melaleuca Street, Buronga	249
	9.14 Draft Wentworth Shire Council Community Participation Plan for Adoption.....	254
	9.15 DA2024/156 Permanent Group Home 20 Wendy Court Lot 17 DP 1288183 Buronga	269

- 9.16 DA2024/158 Permanent Group Home 42 Midway Drive Lot 3 DP
1288183 Buronga 316
- 9.17 DA2024/159 Permanent Group Home 40 Midway Drive Lot 4 DP
1288183 Buronga 363
- 9.18 FOGO & Recycling introduction 411
- 9.19 Project & Works Update - March 2025 414
- 10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE 431**
- 10.1 Palinyewah School Bus Route 431
- 11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION.... 432**
- 12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL 435**
- 12.1 Darling Street Concrete Footpath Upgrade - PT2425/09 435
- 12.2 Pooncarie Road, River Road & Alcheringa Drive - Supply Road Base
Material 436
- 12.3 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant
326 - Diesel Engine Light Tip Truck - VR2425/326..... 437
- 12.4 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant
662 - Ford Ranger - VR2425/662 438
- 12.5 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant
666 - Ford Ranger - VR2425/666 439
- 12.6 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant
673 - Holden Space Cab - VR2425/673 440
- 12.7 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant
674 - Ford Ranger - VR2425/674 441
- 12.8 Anabranah Mail Road Resheeting Works - PT2425/05 442
- 12.9 Wamberra Road Resheeting Works - PT2425/10 443
- 13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING 444**
- NEXT MEETING 444**

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor requests that the General Manager makes announcements regarding the live streaming of the meeting.

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.

3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 12 February 2025 be confirmed as circulated.



Wentworth

SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

12 FEBRUARY 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING OF MEETING	1
2	PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	1
3	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	1
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	2
6	OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS	2
7	MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS	3
	7.1 Mayoral Report February 2025.....	3
8	REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES	4
	Nil	
9	REPORTS TO COUNCIL	5
	9.1 General Managers Report.....	5
	9.2 Request for Financial Assistance - Fire Services Men in a Shed.....	6
	9.3 Attendance and Motions for the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government.....	7
	9.4 Draft Event Funding Policy 2025	8
	9.5 Monthly Finance Report - December 2024.....	9
	9.6 Monthly Finance Report - January 2025.....	10
	9.7 Monthly Investment Report - December 2024	11
	9.8 Monthly Investment Report - January 2025	12
	9.9 December Quarterly Budget Review 2024-2025 2nd Quarter	13
	9.10 Quarterly Operational Plan Progress Report	14
	9.11 Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy	15
	9.12 Hardwaste Collection	16
	9.13 AF003 Requests for Financial Assistance	17
	9.14 DA2024/126 Moveable Dwelling High Darling Road Lot 5628 DP 768527 Pooncarie	19
	9.15 DA2024/132 Dwelling (Deferred Commencement) Delta Road Lot 17 DP 729491 Curlwaa	21
	9.16 DA2024/156 Permanent Group Home 20 Wendy Court Lot 17 DP 1288183 Buronga	23
	9.17 S4-55/2024/031 Modify Development Consent DA2024/056 Permanent Group Home 24 Midway Drive Lot 29 DP 1288183 Buronga	25

9.18 Planning Proposal to Rezone RU4 Land to RU5 and Remove 10 hectare Minimum Lot Size 88 & 90 Melaleuca Street Buronga 27

9.19 Road Safety Quarterly Report 29

9.20 Speed Zone Review in Dareton..... 30

9.21 Project & Works Update - February 2025..... 31

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE 32

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION..... 33

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL 35

12.1 Wentworth Shire Council Bridge Lifts and Maintenance - 12 month period - PT2425/03 35

12.2 Log Bridge Road Lease with Mildura Regional Development 36

12.3 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant 671 - Ford Ranger - VR2425/671 37

12.4 Water Treatment Plants and Raw Water Pump Stations Options Assessments Contract 38

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING 39

NEXT MEETING 39

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:01pm

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Daniel Linklater
Councillor Jon Armstrong
Councillor Peter Crisp
Councillor Tim Elstone (via Video Conference)
Councillor Susan Nichols
Councillor Jody Starick
Councillor Michael Weeding

STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
George Kenende (Acting Director Health and Planning)
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Gayle Marsden (Executive Assistant to General Manager)
Ebony Carter (Business Support Officer)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Council Resolution

That Council notes the apologies and grants the Leave of Absence requests from Cr.Rodda and Cr. Evans. Cr. Elstone previously applied for a Leave of Absence but has withdrawn that leave.

Moved Cr. Armstrong Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Crisp advised that he has a less significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.13 as he is a member of the Dareton Community Action Team.

Councillor Nichols advised that she has a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.16 as she has a family member who is serviced by the NDIS

Council Resolution

That Standing Orders be suspended for the purpose of the Public Forum.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Forum

Jamie Simmons spoke against Item 9.16

Sue Matulich spoke against Item 9.16
Travis O'Donnell spoke against Item 9.16

Travis O'Donnell spoke against Item 9.17
Sue Matulich spoke against Item 9.17
Matt McWhae spoke against Item 9.17

Council Resolution

That Council reconvenes into open session and that Item 9.16 & 9.17 be moved prior to Item 9.1 and that the Late Confidential item 12.4 be accepted into the agenda.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 18 December 2024 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 18 December 2024 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil

7 Mayoral and Councillor Reports

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/63

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Moved Cr. Linklater, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Nil



9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/8

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

At 05:55 pm Councillor Susan Nichols returned to Council Chambers.

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars
Circulars 24-23 – 25-01
2. Meetings
As listed.
3. Upcoming meetings or events
As listed.
4. Other items of note
Nil.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Council Resolution

That Council receive and note the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - FIRE SERVICES MEN IN A SHED

File Number: RPT/25/68

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

Summary

Council is in receipt of another financial request from the Dareton Men in a Shed Group. In this instance the request is for \$104,000 for the reason of completing fire service to allow occupation of the building that was officially opened by Helen Dalton on 26 April 2024.

Recommendation

That Council contribute \$44,000 to complete the fire service which will be due and payable when the fire service is commissioned.

Council Resolution

That Council contribute \$104,000 to complete the fire service at the new Men in a Shed building which will be due and payable when the fire service is commissioned.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 ATTENDANCE AND MOTIONS FOR THE 2025 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

File Number:	RPT/25/47
Responsible Officer:	Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division:	Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer:	Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer
Objective:	4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner
Strategy:	4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

The 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government is being held from 24 June to 27 June 2025 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The National General Assembly of Local Government provides an opportunity for Councils to identify and discuss national issues of priority for the sector. Motions are due for submission to the Australian Local Government Association by 31 March 2025.

To meet this deadline any motions to the Annual Conference will need to be submitted to the General Manager by 28 February 2025 for consideration at the 19 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, as the motions require a resolution of Council.

Council is also required to nominate and endorse delegates to attend the National General Assembly. In previous years the Mayor and General Manager have attended the conference and from time to time one other Councillor.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Notes that motions for the 2025 National General Assembly are required by to be submitted to the General Manager by 28 February 2025
- b) Endorses the attendance of the Mayor and General Manager at the National General Assembly of Local Government

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) Notes that motions for the 2025 National General Assembly are required by to be submitted to the General Manager by 28 February 2025
- b) Endorses the attendance of the Mayor or the Mayors representative and General Manager at the National General Assembly of Local Government

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 DRAFT EVENT FUNDING POLICY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/36

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Lexi Stockman - Manager Tourism and Promotion

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

The draft *Event Funding Policy* was developed after it was identified that there is currently no formal structure as to how event sponsorship money is distributed. The *Event Funding Policy* was developed in line with the *Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2024-2029*. This strategy outlined the need to continue to leverage on the success of existing events, as well as creating the capacity and space for new events to be welcomed and encouraged within the region.

The *Event Funding Policy* was developed to ensure that Wentworth Shire Council establishes a structure which provides a fair and equitable approval to community groups, organisations and individuals who wish to access and utilise funding to support local events, both existing and new.

The *Event Funding Policy* should be considered alongside the newly developed *Event Planning Guide* and *Event Funding Program Guidelines*. The *Event Planning Guide* assists event organisers by outlining the importance of several factors when running an event. It assists them in making important decisions in relation to the overall success of the event, including important factors such as budget and event space. The *Event Funding Program Guidelines* should be read before an application is submitted. The purpose of the *Event Funding Program Guidelines* is to outline the application process and what is required to successfully apply for the funding, as well as the acquittal process.

The host of documents that are outlined above create a new process in which event organisers will be required to follow, in order to access event funding from Council. It creates a fair and equitable process which allows Council to understand how the funding is being utilised, how the local community is being included, what economic impact the event may have within the region and if the event was deemed successful.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the *Event Funding Policy* for community consultation for 28 days.

Council Resolution

That Council endorses the *Event Funding Policy* for community consultation for 28 days.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - DECEMBER 2024

File Number: RPT/25/5

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring , supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of December 2024 were \$698,707.12. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 63.24%. For comparison purposes 64.8% of the levy had been collected at the end of December 2023. Council currently has \$52,097,885.25 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for December 2025.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for December 2025.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.6 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/91

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring , supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of January 2025 were \$234,003.10. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 64.93%. For comparison purposes 67.06% of the levy had been collected at the end of January 2025. Council currently has \$51,490,445.33 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for January 2025

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for January 2025

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - DECEMBER 2024

File Number: RPT/25/1

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Bryce Watson - Accountant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.5 Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency

Summary

As of 31 December 2024, Council had \$40 million invested in term deposits and \$12,097,885.25 in other cash investments. Council received \$345,546.77 from its investments for the month of December 2024.

In December 2024 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 5.00% and it currently has \$7,231,651.81 of internal restrictions and \$43,536,350.13 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report for December 2024.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report for December 2024.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - JANUARY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/99

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Bryce Watson - Accountant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.5 Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency

Summary

As of 31 January 2025, Council had \$47 million invested in term deposits and \$4,490,445.33 in other cash investments. Council received \$166,319.03 from its investments for the month of January 2025.

In January 2025 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 4.98% and it currently has \$7,230,053.81 of internal restrictions and \$43,711,067.44 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report for January 2025.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report for January 2025.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.9 DECEMBER QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW 2024-2025 2ND QUARTER

File Number: RPT/25/54

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Bryce Watson - Accountant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.5 Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency

Summary

A full analysis of Council's Income, Operating Expenditure and Capital Expenditure has been undertaken. Several variations have been identified against the original budget as outlined in this report. Council's revenue and expenditure is reviewed on a quarterly basis to identify any potential areas requiring a variation.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Note the 2024/2025 Second Quarter Budget Review
- b) Approve the proposed revised 2024/2025 changes to Capital Expenditure Budgets.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) Note the 2024/2025 Second Quarter Budget Review
- b) Approve the proposed revised 2024/2025 changes to Capital Expenditure Budgets.

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.10 QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/52

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Council develops a Four Year Delivery Program and a One Year Operational Plan, which details the actions to be undertaken by Council to implement the strategies established in the Community Strategic Plan.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that progress is reported to Council with respect to the principal actions detailed in its Operational Plan at least every six months. To better align with the Quarterly Budget Review Process, the Operational Plan progress report is also compiled on a quarterly basis.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Quarterly Operational Plan progress report.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the Quarterly Operational Plan progress report.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.11 PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES POLICY

File Number: RPT/25/6

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Mardi Cleggett - Governance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

In accordance with section 252(1) of the *Local Government Act (1993)* (the Act), within the first 12 months of each term of a council, the council must adopt a policy concerning the payment of expenses incurred or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to Councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy in draft form and place the policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Council Resolution

That Council endorses the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy in draft form and place the policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.12 HARDWASTE COLLECTION

File Number: RPT/25/59

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.4 Use and manage our resources wisely

Summary

Following the resolution of the ordinary Council meeting of August 2023, Council undertook a 12 month hardwaste trial across 2024. Across this period 169 properties booked a collection which is a 38% increase on the number of properties that were involved in the previous collection undertaken in 2021.

Recommendation

That Council continue to offer an annual collection across the periods of February-April and September-November.

Council Resolution

That Council continue to offer an annual collection across the periods of February-April and September-November.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.13 AF003 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

File Number:	RPT/25/55
Responsible Officer:	Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division:	Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer:	Annette Fraser - Team Leader Customer Service
Objective:	2.0 Wentworth Shire is a great place to live
Strategy:	2.4 A well informed, supported and engaged community

Summary

Council has provided an allocation of \$200,000.00 for the 2024/25 financial year for the funding of requests from the community for financial assistance. In this financial year, \$110,337.00 has been granted to a variety of organisations through the annual fees and charges "Exemptions from the Application" process (refer 2024/2025 annual fees & charges).

The total value of requests granted this financial year so far under delegated authority is \$4,301.25.

The total value of requests approved at the November 2024 Council Meeting was \$12,000.00

The total value of requests approved at the November 2024 Council Meeting for Wentworth District Meals on Wheels Association Inc was \$8608.00. (RPT/24/793)

The total value of requests approved at the December 2024 Council Meeting for in-kind assistance for the Gol Gol Public School was \$2,764.00 (RPT/25/32)

The total value of requests for this January 2025 funding application period totals \$419.79 which if granted in full, would leave a balance in the financial assistance program of \$23,998.24

Financial Assistance Program starting balance 2024/25	\$200,000.00
Annual fees & charges annual exemptions granted	\$110,337.00
Granted under delegated authority to 1 July – 31 October 2024	\$ 4,301.25
Value of approved requests August 2024 Council Meeting	\$ 37,042.22
Value of approved requests November 2024 Council Meeting	\$ 12,000.00
Available balance after November 2024 Council Meeting	\$ 36,319.53
Granted under delegated authority 1 November 24 – 31 January 25	\$ 529.50
Available balance as 31 January 2024	\$ 35,790.03
Value of approved requests – November 2024 Council Meeting	\$ 8,608.00
Value of approved requests – December 2024 Council Meeting	\$ 2,764.00
Financial request applications received 1 November 2024 – 31 January 2025	\$ 419.79
Remaining balance if all approved	\$ 23,998.24

Recommendation

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance, makes appropriate recommendations on the level of funding to be provided to each of these applications from the Financial Assistance program.

Council Resolution

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance, grants \$419.79 to the Dareton Community Action Team from the Financial Assistance program.

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.14 DA2024/126 MOVEABLE DWELLING HIGH DARLING ROAD LOT 5628 DP 768527 POONCARIE

File Number:	RPT/24/889
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	Kerrie Copley - Planning Officer
Objective:	3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment
Strategy:	3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

A development application (DA2024/126) was received by Council on 13 September 2024 for erection of a moveable dwelling to be located at High Darling Lot 5628 DP 768527 Pooncarie, on a lot below the minimum lot size within the RU1 Primary Production zone.

Under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP 2011)*, this development is permitted with consent when located within the RU1 Primary Production zone. Despite the lot being below the Minimum Lot Size of 10,000ha dwellings are permitted with consent.

The proposed development is to be located on a lot measuring 4,143ha, while the minimum lot size for land under the RU1 Primary Production zone being 10,000ha. The proposed moveable dwelling does not meet the standard under clause 4.2B of the WLEP 2011 as the lot is below the minimum lot size allowable for a dwelling house. As part of the application, a request for a variation to this standard (usually referred to as a 4.6 variation) has been supplied.

Due to the variation being greater than 10%, the application cannot be determined under delegated authority, and must be determined by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve subject to conditions DA2024/126 for a Moveable Dwelling located at High Darling Lot 5628 DP 768527 Pooncarie.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Approve subject to conditions DA2024/126 for a Moveable Dwelling located at High Darling Lot 5628 DP 768527 Pooncarie.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : *Clr.s Armstrong, Crisp, Elstone, Linklater, Nichols, Starick and Weeding.*

Against the Motion: *Nil.*

9.15 DA2024/132 DWELLING (DEFERRED COMMENCEMENT) DELTA ROAD LOT 17 DP 729491 CURLWAA

File Number:	RPT/25/35
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	Georgie Martin - Cadet Planner
Objective:	3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment
Strategy:	3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

A development application (DA2024/132) was received by Council on 8 October 2024 for a deferred commencement dwelling house to be located on Lot 17 DP 729491, Delta Road, Curlwaa, on a lot under the minimum lot size (MLS) requirement for the RU4 Primary Production Small Lot zoning.

The deferred commencement dwelling is to be located on an allotment that contains no existing structures and has been historically utilised for agricultural purposes but is under the 10ha prescribed MLS at only 4.9ha.

Under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011*, this development is permitted with consent when located within the RU4 – Primary Production Small Lots zone, as dwelling houses are permitted with consent in the zoning.

The required MLS under Clause 4.2B of the WLEP for erection of dwelling houses on the land is 10ha, as such, as part of the assessment, a variation to the MLS standard is required (referred to as a 4.6 variation).

Due to the variation being 51%, greater than 10%, the application cannot be determined under delegated authority, and must be determined by Council.

Recommendation

That Council

1. Approve subject to conditions DA2024/132 being a dwelling house (deferred commencement) located Lot 17 DP 729491, Delta Road, Curlwaa.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Council Resolution

That Council

1. Approve subject to conditions DA2024/132 being a dwelling house (deferred commencement) located Lot 17 DP 729491, Delta Road, Curlwaa.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : *Clr.s Armstrong, Crisp, Elstone, Linklater, Nichols, Starick and Weeding.*

Against the Motion: *Nil.*

9.16 DA2024/156 PERMANENT GROUP HOME 20 WENDY COURT LOT 17 DP 1288183 BURONGA

File Number:	RPT/25/88
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	Georgie Martin - Cadet Planner
Objective:	3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment
Strategy:	3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

At 05:35 pm Councillor Susan Nichols left the Council Chambers.

Summary

A development application (DA2024/156) was received by Council on 21 November 2024, for a permanent group home to be situated upon 20 Wendy Court – Lot 17, DP 1288183.

Under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*, this development is permitted with consent within the RU5 – Village zoning.

The application seeks development approval for the construction of a permanent group home which will be used for the accommodation of people with a disability under the NDIS Scheme. The building will consist of three bedrooms for people with disability and one bedroom for an overnight assistance, with each bedroom having an ensuite. Other features of the permanent group home include an open plan kitchen, dining and living area, and an alfresco area. A single disabled car park has been provided within the garage.

The application was publicly notified for 14 days as per the Council Community Participation Plan. During the public notification six (6) submissions (five (5) unique submissions) were received by Council objecting to the proposed development.

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021* states that a consent authority must not refuse consent to the development for the purposes of a group home unless the consent authority has made an assessment of the community need for the group home.

As per Council delegations, any development applications with three (3) or more objections cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve subject to conditions DA2024/156 for a permanent group home to be located at 20 Wendy Court – Lot 17, DP 1288183, Buronga lie on the table.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. DA2024/156 for a permanent group home to be located at 20 Wendy Court – Lot 17, DP 1288183, Buronga lie on the table.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Armstrong, Crisp, Elstone, Linklater, Starick and Weeding.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

9.17 S4-55/2024/031 MODIFY DEVELOPMENT CONSENT DA2024/056 PERMANENT GROUP HOME 24 MIDWAY DRIVE LOT 29 DP 1288183 BURONGA

File Number:	RPT/25/90
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	Georgie Martin - Cadet Planner
Objective:	3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment
Strategy:	3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

A modification application (S4-55/2024/031) was received by Council on 29 November 2024, to modify an approved development application (DA2024/056) for a permanent group home (with garage) to be situated upon 24 Midway Drive – Lot 29, DP 1288183.

The application seeks approval to modify an approved development application (DA2024/056 – Permanent Group Home), to alter the setback distance of the garage and increase the internal garage size in line with disability requirements, representing a 0.31% increase to the size of the original development. No other amendments are proposed for the development application.

The modification application was publicly notified for 14 days as per the Council Community Participation Plan. During the public notification thirteen (13) submissions were received by Council objecting to the proposed modification. However, it should be noted that this application is for the modification of an already approved development, not a new or separate development.

As per Council delegations, any applications with three (3) or more objections cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

Recommendation

That Council

1. Approve S4-55/2024/031 for the modification of DA2024/056 (group home) to be located at 24 Midway Drive, Lot 29 DP 1288183, Buronga subject to modified conditions.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Council Resolution

That Council

1. Approve S4-55/2024/031 for the modification of DA2024/056 (group home) to be located at 24 Midway Drive, Lot 29 DP 1288183, Buronga subject to modified conditions.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Armstrong, Crisp, Elstone, Linklater, Starick and Weeding.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

At 05:53 pm Councillor Susan Nichols returned to the Council Chambers.

Council Resolution

That Standing Orders be suspended for the purpose of the gallery to exit

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Starick

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**Council Resolution**

That Council reconvenes into open session and that the recording of the meeting be recommenced.

Moved Cr. Starick, Seconded Cr. Armstrong

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.18 PLANNING PROPOSAL TO REZONE RU4 LAND TO RU5 AND REMOVE 10 HECTARE MINIMUM LOT SIZE 88 & 90 MELALEUCA STREET BURONGA

File Number:	RPT/25/92
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Objective:	3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment
Strategy:	3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

Wentworth Shire Council has received a Planning Proposal from Cadell Consulting Services on behalf of the landowners.

The Planning Proposal seeks to amend the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP) for the subject land made up of 2 allotments by:

- Rezoning subject land from RU4 Primary Production Small Lots to RU5 Village (amend digital zoning map)
- Removing the 10ha Minimum Lot Size (MLS) from the subject land (amend Lot Size Map - Sheet LSZ_004F)

This report seeks Council endorsement to submit the Planning Proposal with supporting documentation to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for gateway to amend the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

- a) Submit the Planning Proposal to rezone subject land (88 & 90 Melaleuca Street rezone RU4 to RU5 and remove the 10ha MLS) to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for consideration of a Gateway Determination in accordance with Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- b) That Council call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Council Resolution

That Council resolves to:

- a) Submit the Planning Proposal to rezone subject land (88 & 90 Melaleuca Street rezone RU4 to RU5 and remove the 10ha MLS) to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for consideration of a Gateway Determination in accordance with Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

b) That Council call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : **Clr.s Armstrong, Crisp, Elstone, Linklater, Nichols, Starick and Weeding.**

Against the Motion: **Nil.**

9.19 ROAD SAFETY QUARTERLY REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/4

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Barnaby Bates - Council Community Officer Road Safety

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

This report is to provide Council with an update of the Road Safety Officer's activities.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Quarterly Road Safety report.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the Quarterly Road Safety report.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.20 SPEED ZONE REVIEW IN DARETON

File Number: RPT/25/18

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Barnaby Bates - Council Community Officer Road Safety

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

The speed zone on Silver City Highway in the town centre of Dareton is under review by Transport for NSW (TfNSW). The area in question qualifies for a High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA). HPAA are sections of road where there is a high degree of interaction between vehicles and pedestrians. They may be near shopping strips, bus interchanges or services such as medical centres.

Recommendation

That Council recommends a High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) to Transport for NSW for the Dareton town centre speed zone review.

Council Resolution

That Council recommends a High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) to Transport for NSW for the Dareton town centre speed zone review.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.21 PROJECT & WORKS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/69

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Megan Jackson - Roads & Engineering Administration Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

Summary

This report provides a summary of the projects and major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Department which have been completed during the months of January 2025 and the planned activities for February 2025.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in January 2025 and the scheduled works for the following month.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in January 2025 and the scheduled works for the following month.

Moved Cr. Armstrong, Seconded Cr. Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil



11 Confidential Business – Adjournment Into Closed Session

Despite the right of members of the public to attend meetings of a council, the council may choose to close to the public, parts of the meeting that involve the discussion or receipt of certain matters as prescribed under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act.

With the exception of matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) (10A(2)(a)), matters involving the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer (10A(2)(b)) or matters that would disclose a trade secret (10A(2)(d)(iii)), council must be satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

The Act requires council to close the meeting for only so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security being protected. (section 10B(1)(a))

Section 10A(4) of the Act provides that a council may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Section 10B(4) of the Act stipulates that for the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:-

- (a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may -
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee.

Recommendation

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-

12.1 Wentworth Shire Council Bridge Lifts and Maintenance - 12 month period - PT2425/03. (RPT/25/44)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.2 Log Bridge Road Lease with Mildura Regional Development. (RPT/25/40)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the item

outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making.

12.3 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant 671 - Ford Ranger - VR2425/671. (RPT/25/62)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.4 Water Treatment Plants and Raw Water Pump Stations Options Assessments Contract. (RPT/25/109)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

Council Resolution

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr. Weeding

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL BRIDGE LIFTS AND MAINTENANCE - 12 MONTH PERIOD - PT2425/03

File Number: RPT/25/44

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Jarrod Roberts - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

That Council in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Section 178(1)(a) accepted the tender from Regional Power Services – Option 2 to undertake the Bridge Lift and Maintenance contract for a 12 month period for Contract PT2425/03 in the amount of \$616.00 inc GST per bridge lift, and authorised the Mayor and General Manager to sign the contract documentation and affix the Council Seal.

12.2 LOG BRIDGE ROAD LEASE WITH MILDURA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

File Number: RPT/25/40

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region

Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the item outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making.

That Council approved a lease payment commencing at \$150,000 to be increased annually as per the conditions of the lease; and authorised the Mayor and the General Manager to sign the lease document and affix the Council Seal

12.3 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL ON TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 671 - FORD RANGER - VR2425/671

File Number: RPT/25/62

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.4 Use and manage our resources wisely

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

That Council accepted the tender from Mildura Toyota for the supply & delivery of one Toyota Hilux SR for the sum of \$78,339.03 inc GST as specified and accepted the trade price of \$16,000.00 inc GST for the Council owned Ford Ranger, plant item 671 with a total changeover price of \$62,339.03 inc GST.

12.4 WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND RAW WATER PUMP STATIONS OPTIONS ASSESSMENTS CONTRACT

File Number: RPT/25/109

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Scott Barnes - Manager Engineering Services

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

That Council in accordance with the provision of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Section 178(1)(a) accepted the tender from Tonkin Consulting and subsequently authorised the Mayor and General Manager to sign the contract document and affix the seal for the recommended contractor to carry out all works specified for PT2425/10 / C00039 for \$326,021.75 (GST inc.). In addition to the above contract award, Council approved the transfer of \$80,000 (GST exc.) from the Water Infrastructure Fund to enable this work to successfully proceed. WSC Engineering will approach NSW Government to seek 75% portion (an additional \$60,000 (GST exc.)) of funds.

13 Conclusion of the meeting

The meeting closed at 7:38pm

NEXT MEETING

19 March 2025

.....
CHAIR

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/117

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by Mayor Linklater for the period of 13 February 2025 – 19 March 2025.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report

Report

The following table lists the meetings attended by Mayor Linklater for the period of 13 February 2025 – 19 March 2025.

Date	Meeting	Location
14 Feb 2025	Dry Times Consultation	Online
17 Feb 2025	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
17 Feb 2025	CSP Wentworth Community Consultation	Wentworth
18 Feb 2025	MRD Briefing	Mildura
19 Feb 2025	NSW ICAC – Identifying Corruption risks for Councillors	Broken Hill
21 Feb 2025	The Late Cr Dave Gallagher’s Funeral	Broken Hill
24 Feb 2025	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
25 Feb 2025	CSP Gol Gol Public School Community Consultation	Gol Gol
26 Feb 2025	WSC & Balranald Shire Council Planning Training	Wentworth
26 Feb 2025	Telstra and RAMJO Roundtable	Online
27 Feb 2025	CMA Meeting with NBN Co	Online
27 Feb 2025	Michelle Millthorpe (Farrer Candidate) Meeting	Wentworth
28 Feb 2025	Central Darling Shire Pooncarie Road Opening Community Event	Menindee
03 March 2025	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
05 March 2025	CSP Coomealla High School Leadership Training Presentations & Community Consultation	Wentworth
05 March 2025	La Trobe University – Vice Chancellor	Mildura
05 March 2025	Mildura Living Launch	Mildura
07 March 2025	NRAR Meeting	Wentworth
12 March 2025	Minister Hoenig Opening of the Visitor Centre	Wentworth
13 March 2025	Wentworth Health Service Redevelopment Site Tour	Wentworth
14 March 2025	Radio Interview 1467 – AusFly Event	Mildura
14 March 2025	CSP Pomona Community Consultation	Pomona

15 March 2025	AusFly Event Opening	Wentworth
17 March 2025	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
18 March 2025	MRD Briefing	Mildura
19 March 2025	Councillor Workshop – Organisational Structure – Staff Survey	Wentworth
19 March 2025	Pre-Meeting Briefing	Wentworth
19 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting	Wentworth

Attachments

Nil

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

File Number: RPT/25/135

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

A meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee was held on 14 February 2025 and the draft Minutes for the meeting have been separately circulated for the information of Councillors.

The Committee considered the following items of business:

- Audit Office of NSW Update
- Internal Audit Extreme & High Risk Recommendations Update
- Internal Audit Quarterly Update
- Quarterly Operational Plan Progress Report
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2nd Quarter 2024-2025
- Quarterly Risk Report
- Quarterly Fraud Report
- Quarterly report on Legislative Updates
- Child Safe Standards Implementation Update
- Quarterly Work Health & Safety Update
- Draft Business Continuity Plan
- Fraud Risk Assessment Update
- Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra Presentation

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Receives and notes the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2025
- b) Endorses the Business Continuity Manual 2025

Additional Information

A meeting of the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee was held on 14 February 2025. The agenda for the meeting covered the following areas of responsibilities as defined in the Committee’s Terms of Reference:

Internal Audit

Principle

That Council has an effective internal audit function and receives maximum value from its internal audit activities.

- Internal Auditors tabled their Payroll & HR internal audit and provided an overview of recent reports and publications by government agencies and other sources that may impact on public sector agencies. The Committee endorsed the proposed WHS Internal Audit.
- Management tabled a report outlining the progress on implementing Extreme & High Risk recommendations from previous audit reports.

External Audit

Principle

That Council receives maximum value from its external audit activities.

- The committee considered a standard report item being an update from the Audit Office of NSW and its approved service provider Nexia Australia. Nexia and the Audit Office spoke to the Conduct of the Audit Report, the Engagement Closing Report and the Management Letter stemming from the 2023/2024 Audit.

Risk Management

Principle

That Council has an effective risk management framework that successfully identifies and manages the risks it faces.

- Internal Auditors presented an overview of recent reports and publications by government agencies and other sources that may impact on public sector agencies.
- Quarterly report on Legislative Updates was tabled.
- Quarterly Fraud Report was tabled
- An update on the implementation of the Child Safe Standards was provided to the Committee.
- Quarterly Works Health & Safety Report was tabled
- Quarterly Risk Report was tabled
- Considered the revised Fraud Risk Assessment
- Reviewed the Draft Business Continuity Manual
- Received a presentation from MRCC regarding the Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra (FOSO) project.

Financial Management

Principle

That Council has an effective financial management framework, sustainable financial position, and positive financial performance.

- The Committee reviewed the procedures for management review and consideration of the financial position and performance of Council by:
 - Considering the quarterly budget review for the 2nd quarter of the 2024-2025 Financial Year
 - The committee considered a standard report item being an update from the Audit Office of NSW and its approved service provider Nexia Australia. Nexia and the Audit Office spoke to the Conduct of the Audit Report, Engagement Closing Report and the Management Letter stemming from 2023/2024 Audit.

Strategic Planning

Principle

That Council has an effective framework that ensures it achieves its strategic plans and objectives under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework.

- The Committee reviewed and advised Council on whether Council is successfully implementing and achieving its IP&R objectives and strategies by
 - Considering the Quarterly Operational Plan Report for the period July 2024 - December 2024.

Service Reviews and Business Improvement

Principle

That Council has an effective framework to ensure it is delivering services and conducting its businesses and functions to an expected standard.

Section 428A(2)(g) and Section 428A(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (the Act) now requires Council to undertake regular service reviews to ensure that it is delivering services and conducting its business and functions to an expected level, and the community is receiving value for money for the services it receives.

- N/A

Attachments

1. Minutes - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee 14 February 2025 [↓](#)
2. Business Continuity Manual 2025 [↓](#)



**AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

14 FEBRUARY 2025

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING OF MEETING	1
2	PRESENT	1
3	APOLOGIES	1
4	DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.....	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.....	1
6	OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS	2
7	REPORTS	3
7.1	Outstanding Actions List	3
7.2	Internal Audit Extreme & High Risk Recommendations Update.....	4
7.3	Audit Office Update	5
7.4	Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra (FOSO) Project Update.....	6
7.5	Internal Audit Quarterly Update	7
7.6	Quarterly Fraud Report	8
7.7	Fraud Risk Assessment Update	9
7.8	Quarterly Risk Report.....	10
7.9	Quarterly Report on Legislative Changes.....	11
7.10	Child Safe Standards Implementation Update.....	12
7.11	Quarterly Work Health Safety Report Audit Risk & Improvement Committee 14 February 2025.....	13
7.12	Quarterly Operational Plan Progress Report	14
7.13	December Quarterly Budget Review - Second Quarter 2024 - 2025	15
7.14	Compliance Framework Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee 14 February 2025.....	16
7.15	Draft Business Continuity Plan	17
8	ACTIONS	18
9	NEXT MEETING.....	18
10	CLOSURE.....	18

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

14 FEBRUARY 2025

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 11.06am

2 PRESENT

MEMBERS

Rosanne Kava (Chair)
Diane Schmidt
Councillor Jody Starick (Non-Voting)

OBSERVERS

Manuel Moncada (Audit Office of New South Wales)
Paul Harrison (Internal Audit Manager RSD Audit)

STAFF OBSERVERS

Ken Ross (General Manager)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Gayle Marsden (Executive Assistant General Manager)
Ebony Carter (Business Support Officer)
Mardi Cleggett (Governance Officer)

3 APOLOGIES

Caroline Smith
Brett Hanger

4 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 7 November 2024 be confirmed as circulated.

Committee Resolution

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 7 November 2024 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved RK Kava, Seconded DS Schmidt

CONSENSUS

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7 REPORTS

7.1 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST

File Number: RPT/24/890

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

The purpose of this report is to report on the status of Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings.

Recommendation

That the Committee recommends that Council notes the Outstanding Actions List.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee recommends that Council notes the Outstanding Actions List.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.2 INTERNAL AUDIT EXTREME & HIGH RISK RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

File Number: RPT/24/891

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

The Committee has requested a quarterly update on the progress of implementing Extreme and High Risk recommendations from internal audit reports.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.3 AUDIT OFFICE UPDATE

File Number: RPT/24/887

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

This report is a place holder to allow Council’s external auditor, the Audit Office of New South Wales to update the Committee on a quarterly basis on any matter of importance. Included for discussion this quarter are the:

- 2023-2024 Financial Statements Engagement Closing Report
- 2023-2024 Financial Statements Conduct of the Audit Report
- 2023-2024 Financial Statements Management Letter

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

Audit Office identified that no new issues were raised in the Management Letter which is a positive. Management is confident that the two issues will be closed out as part of this years audit.

Currently working on the Audit Engagement Plan for the 2024/2025 Audit with the aim for it to be finalised by the end of February.

The Auditor General’s Report on the 2024 Audit of Local Government has been completed and will be tabled in Parliament in March.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.4 FIBRE OPTIC SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA (FOSO) PROJECT UPDATE

File Number: RPT/24/892

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

As a major project included in Council 2024-2025 Operational Plan, the Committee have requested a briefing on the project.

Sara Wrate – Manager Light State at Mildura Rural City Council will attend the meeting to assist the General Manager and the Director Corporate Services with the project briefing.

Recommendation

The Committee notes the report.

Committee Resolution

The Committee notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.5 INTERNAL AUDIT QUARTERLY UPDATE

File Number: RPT/24/888
Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

During this quarter RSD Audit undertook the Payroll & Human Resources Internal Audit as outlined in the Strategic Audit Plan. The scope of the audit was approved by the committee at August meeting.

The report has made 12 findings broken down as follows:

- 1 High Risk
- 5 Medium Risk
- 4 Low Risk
- 2 Opportunities for improvement.

Council has accepted all the findings and recommendations and have provided comments/responses for each of the findings.

RSD Audit have provided a draft scope of works for WHS Audit to take place in March to be reviewed and approved by the Committee.

RSD Audit have provided a status update regarding upcoming audits as per the approved Strategic Audit Plan and its quarterly local government update for the information of the Committee.

Recommendation

The Committee notes the Payroll & Human Resources Internal Audit Report; and
The Committee endorse the proposed WHS Internal Audit Scope of Works.

Committee Resolution

The Committee notes the Payroll & Human Resources Internal Audit Report; and
The Committee endorse the proposed WHS Internal Audit Scope of Works.

CONSENSUS

The High Risk item will be added to the list for regular reporting to the Committee (see Item 7.2)

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.6 QUARTERLY FRAUD REPORT

File Number: RPT/24/885

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

Having made the appropriate inquiries the General Manager can report that no instances of Fraudulent activity or behaviour have been identified for the period 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Recommendation

That the Committee notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.7 FRAUD RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATE

File Number: RPT/24/886

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

As per Councils fraud control policy Council undertook a fraud risk assessment in 2022. That assessment considered 34 fraud risks across the following areas:

- Procurement
- Finance
- Payroll
- Asset Management
- Human Resources
- Governance
- Information Security
- Rates/Revenue

An updated risk assessment has been undertaken in 2024 focusing on the previously assessed risks and adding an additional seven risks focusing on Development Approvals & Regulatory Compliance.

The Fraud Risk Assessment has undergone a biennial update as required by the Fraud Control Plan resulting in an overall improvement on the previous assessment performed in 2022.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Council notes the report.

Committee Resolution

The Committee recommends that Council notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.8 QUARTERLY RISK REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/3

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

This report provides an overview of the key extreme and high risks faced by Council and the steps being taken to mitigate them. The aim is to provide a comprehensive view of the risk landscape, covering all departments and functions.

This report is being presented to the Committee in order for them to discharge the following responsibilities:

- Support the Governing Body and the General Manager and to ensure that Council's risk management framework is appropriate and operationally effective. this can include:
 - Assessing whether risks at all levels are identified, assessed and regularly reviewed by Council
 - Advising the Governing Body and the General Manager on the adequacy of risk reports and documentation.
- Help to build risk management culture within Council, including facilitating and driving risk management at the strategic and operational level.

The focus in recent months has been on consolidating existing structures and progressively improving Councils capacity to manage risk effectively. The aim is to embed the current risk management framework, address gaps in risk management and develop a more robust and proactive risk culture.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

The committee moved to item 7.15.

Committee happy with the ongoing maturity of the report. Requested some additional information (treatment plans) be included to provide additional context.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.9 QUARTERLY REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

File Number: RPT/25/7
Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Report Author: Mardi Cleggett - Governance Officer

Summary

The Committee has requested a quarterly report on new legislation, or substantial changes to existing legislation to help inform their deliberations.

This report provides details on statutory instruments during the period October to December 2024, either new or substantial changes to relevant legislation that impact Council's legislative operating environment.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

At 12:44 pm Councillor Jody Starick left the Council Chambers.

Director Corporate Services indicated that Council is awaiting guidance from the OLG in relation to some of the phased amendments to the Local Government Act.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.10 CHILD SAFE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

File Number: RPT/25/10
Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Report Author: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

Summary

Wentworth Shire Council continues to work towards becoming a child safe organisation through the implementation of the 10 Child Safe Standards. Further strategies and processes have been developed as we build capability and embed each standard into our practices.

This report is provided to enable the Committee to continue to review Council's progress in implementing the Child Safe Standards on a quarterly basis throughout 2024-2025.

Recommendation

That the Committee continues to review Council's progress and note the actions undertaken by Council as we continue to build capability and embed the Child Safe Standards into practice across the organization, as set out in the attached updated *Child Safe Risk Management Plan*.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee continues to review Council's progress and note the actions undertaken by Council as we continue to build capability and embed the Child Safe Standards into practice across the organization, as set out in the attached updated *Child Safe Risk Management Plan*.

CONSENSUS

Committee requested clarification on when all the child safe standards had to be implemented by.

Given the progress of the matter consideration given to reporting 6 monthly instead of quarterly.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.11 QUARTERLY WORK HEALTH SAFETY REPORT AUDIT RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE 14 FEBRUARY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/11

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Report Author: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

Summary

Following RSD Audit's review of Council's Workplace Health and Safety processes, the Committee requested quarterly reporting to ensure the Committee is satisfied with the process and systems Council has place. The initial report presented last quarter included presentation of data with some commentary noting the reporting, and of trends in particular, was somewhat constrained by the current system limitations. Those limitations continue to apply to this reporting period.

Council's adoption of a new Work Health and Safety Management System has commenced however with onboarding and information sessions relating to the 'Donesafe' system provided to Council's Human Resource Business Unit now complete. Training for HR in fourteen modules is scheduled throughout February with the last training module on 'reporting' capabilities at the end of that month. It is anticipated that Council's implementation of the new system and tailoring of the reporting module to address previous shortcomings as outlined in RSD Audit's report, will enable analysis of trends and reporting against performance indicators to inform both risk management and future reporting to ARIC. It is likely that understanding and implementing the new system's capabilities will take time and improve over time.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report and notes that a further report in 6 months time will better provide Council with the opportunity to embed the new system and produce meaningful reports and analysis.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report and notes that a further report in 6 months time will better provide Council with the opportunity to embed the new system and produce meaningful reports and analysis.

CONSENSUS

Committee noted that we should acknowledge that the increase in reports is positive as this indicates that staff are doing what we are wanting and reporting issues.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.12 QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/51

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Council develops a Four Year Delivery Program and a One Year Operational Plan which details the actions to be undertaken by Council to implement the strategies established in the Community Strategic Plan.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that progress is reported to Council with respect to the principal actions detailed in its Operational Plan at least every six months. To better align with the Quarterly Budget Review Process, the Operational Plan progress report is also compiled on a quarterly basis.

During the 2nd Quarter the following occurred:

- The following actions have been completed
 - 1.2.4 – Willowbend Caravan Park Redevelopment
 - 3.2.4 - Wentworth Civic Centre Redevelopment
 - 3.2.5 – Log Bridge Road
 - 3.2.19 – George Gordon Oval Lighting Upgrade
 - 3.2.23 – Civic Centre Footpath Replacement

- The Following actions have been deferred
 - 3.4.6 – Fotherby Park Sewer Pump Station
 - 3.4.9 – Buronga Waste Water Treatment Plant
 - 3.4.10 – Wentworth Waste Water Treatment Plant

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee receives and notes the report.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.13 DECEMBER QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - SECOND QUARTER 2024 - 2025

File Number: RPT/25/49

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Bryce Watson - Accountant

Summary

A full analysis of Council’s Income, Operating Expenditure and Capital Expenditure has been undertaken. Several variations have been identified against the original budget as outlined in this report. Council’s revenue and expenditure is reviewed on a quarterly basis to identify any potential areas requiring a variation.

In the December Quarter the result of net variances if approved are a neutral operational variance and an unfavorable capital variance of \$960,000 resulting in a total net variance of \$960,000. Note all December figures are prepared prior to accruals posting and prepared on a cash basis for budget purposes only.

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- a) Note the 2024/2025 Second Quarter Budget Review
- b) Note the proposed revised 2024/2025 changes to capital expenditure.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee:

- a) Note the 2024/2025 Second Quarter Budget Review
- b) Note the proposed revised 2024/2025 changes to capital expenditure.

CONSENSUS

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.14 COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE 14 FEBRUARY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/39

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Report Author: Deborah Zorzi - Governance Officer

Item 7.14 held over until the next meeting

Summary

Section 428A(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to keep under review a number of aspects of council's operations including compliance.

Council's Compliance Framework consists of the following documents:

- Compliance Policy
- Compliance Framework (Manual)
- Supporting operational Compliance Procedure

These documents formally affirm Council's commitment to compliance and establish a framework to proactively support and assist Councillors and staff to more confidently manage the legislative and other compliance obligations that determine, shape and impact Council's activities, and to further a culture of compliance.

Recommendation

The Committee notes and receives the report; and

That the Committee endorses Council's Compliance Policy and Framework and recommends that Council adopt the Policy and Framework.

Committee Resolution

The Committee notes and receives the report; and

That the Committee endorses Council's Compliance Policy and Framework and recommends that Council adopt the Policy and Framework.

This report was deferred to the next meeting.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 FEBRUARY 2025

7.15 DRAFT BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN

File Number: RPT/25/66

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Report Author: Mardi Cleggett - Governance Officer

Summary

A Business Continuity Plan (BCP) ensures appropriate structures and protocols are in place enabling an effective response to events that have the potential to impact Council's objectives.

Council presents the BCP for review and comment by the Committee.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee review, provide feedback and endorse with a view to progressing the draft report to Council for approval.

Committee Resolution

It is recommended that the Committee review, provide feedback and endorse with a view to progressing the draft report to Council for approval.

CONSENSUS

Committee were impressed by the level of detail and clarity of the document.

A number of NSW Council's were used as a benchmark

Some minor amendments and feedback provided which will be included in the final version included with the minutes.

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

14 FEBRUARY 2025

8 ACTIONS

The following actions are to be included on the outstanding actions list to be reported on at the next meeting.

- Clarification of Implementation of Child Safe Standards
- Additional commentary to be included in quarterly risk report regarding timeframes for implementation/actions

9 NEXT MEETING

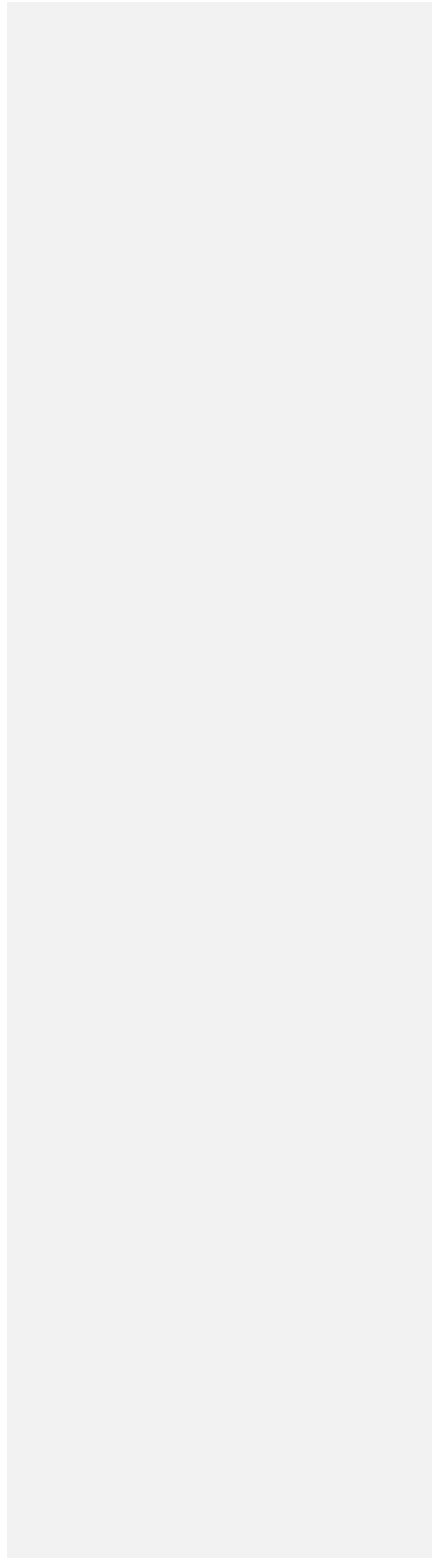
9 May 2025

10 CLOSURE

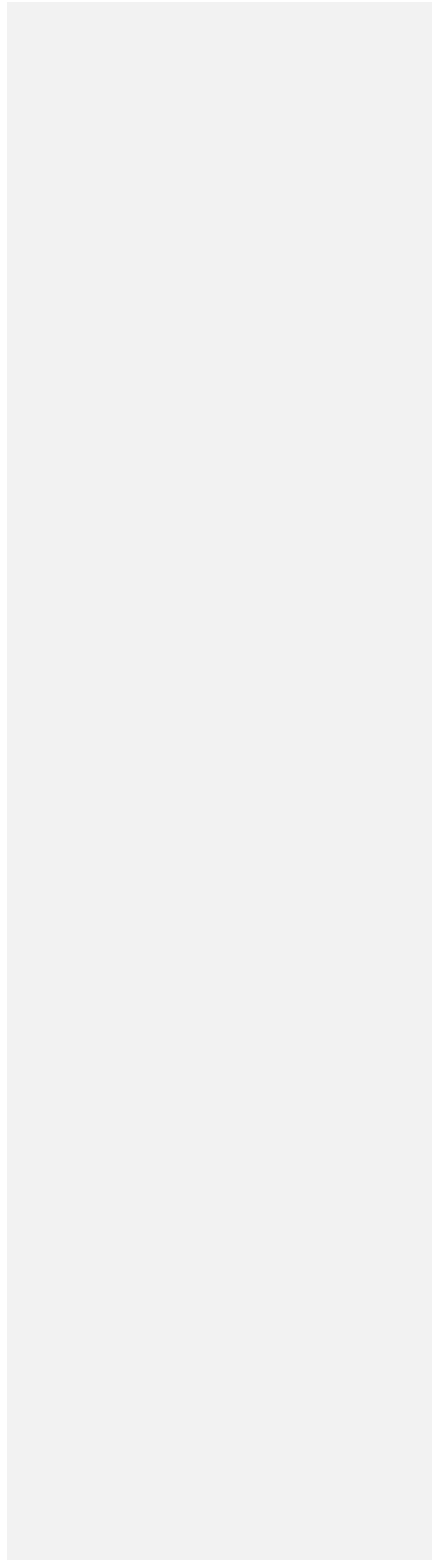
The meeting was declared closed at 1.10 pm.



BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN



- 1 Definitions and Abbreviations1**
- 2 Introduction2**
 - 2.1 Overview of the Plan2
 - 2.2 Community Emergency Management.....3
 - 2.3 Workplace Emergency Management.....3
 - 2.4 Supplier Management.....3
 - 2.5 Framework4
- 3 Purpose4**
- 4 Objectives.....4**
- 5 Scope.....5**
 - 5.1 Assumptions5
 - 5.2 Distribution.....5
 - 5.3 Authority5
 - 5.4 Training and Communication.....5
 - 5.5 Location of Plan.....6
 - 5.6 Validation and Testing6
 - 5.7 Monitoring and Review6
- 6 Business Impact Analysis (BIA) and Maximum Acceptable Outage6**
- 7 Standard Response Action Plan7**
- 8 Business Continuity Critical Function Sub Action Plan.....7**
- 9 Crisis Management Team8**
 - 9.1 CMT – Roles and Responsibilities8
 - 9.2 CMT Structure9
 - 9.3 Existing Business Unit Management.....10
- 10 Declaration Process.....10**
 - 10.1 Notification.....10
 - 10.2 Declaration.....10
- 11 Action Required.....11**
 - 11.1 Risk Assessment11
 - 11.2 Initial Incident Management Team Meeting11
- 12 Control Centre and Communication Management12**
 - 12.1 Business Continuity Control Centre (BCCC).....12
 - 12.2 Alternate Work Sites12



12.3 Business Continuity Kits..... 12

12.4 Media Protocols 13

12.5 General Statement to Media..... 13

13 Control Centre Stand Down..... 13

13.1 Post Incident Review and Analysis 13

14 Business Continuity Contacts 13

14.1 Emergency Contacts – Crisis Management Team 13

14.2 Council Contact List..... 13

14.3 Councillors..... 13

15 Related documents and legislation 14

Attachments 15

Attachment A – Overview of Business Continuity Functions 15

Attachment B – Business Continuity Control Centres (BCCC)..... 16

Attachment C –Maximum Acceptable Outage (MAO) 17

Attachment D – Standard Response Action Plan 19

Attachment E – Responsibility Statements..... 20

Attachment F – Event Details Checklist..... 30

Attachment G – Business Continuity Declaration Form 31

Attachment H – Incident Management Team Meeting Action Checklist 32

Attachment I – Media Enquiry Record 35

Attachment J – Media Statement Example..... 36

Attachment K – Services/Programs Matrix 37

Appendix A – BCP Procedure Manual 38

Business Continuity Procedure 39

Responsibility 39

Related documents..... 39

Distribution..... 39

Business Continuity – The Process..... 39

BCP Implementation..... 40

Awareness of an Event..... 40

Maximum Acceptable Outages – MAO..... 41

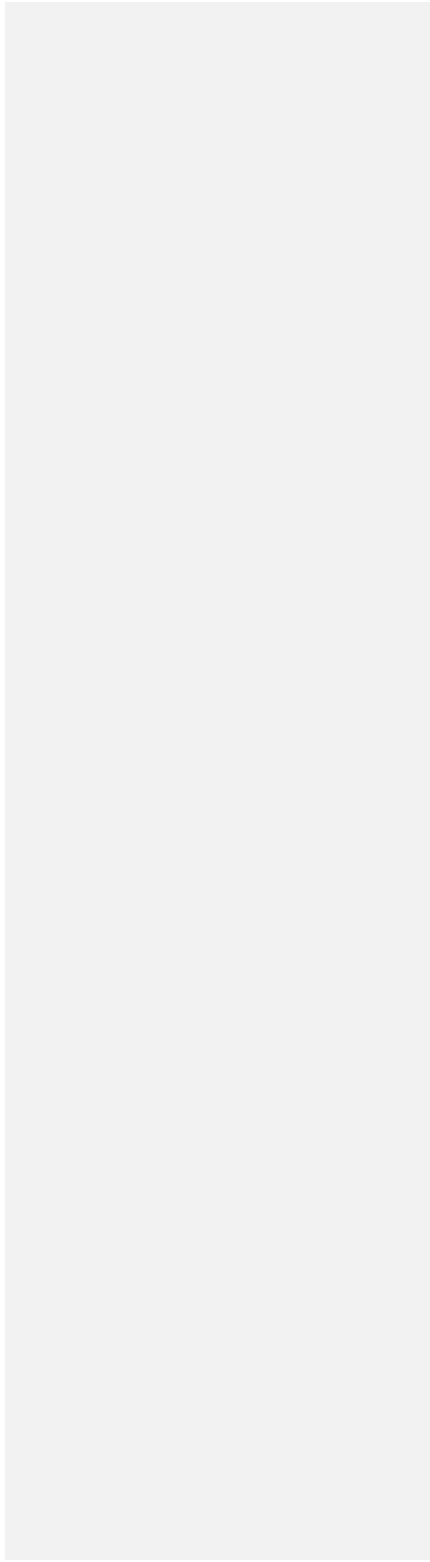
Assembly and Activation of the BCP..... 42

Business Continuity Control Centre (BCCC)..... 42

Initial CMT Meeting at the BCCC..... 42

Business Impact Analysis (BIA) 42

Communication – Staff and Media..... 43
Business Continuity Sub Action Plans..... 43
Implementing Response Strategies..... 43
Post Event Recovery 44
Review the Event..... 44
Appendices to BCP Procedures..... 45



1 Definitions and Abbreviations

Term	Definition	Abbreviation
Business Continuity	The uninterrupted availability of all key resources supporting essential business functions.	BC
Business Continuity Control Centre	The central base where the response to a Business Continuity Event will be controlled from	BCCC
Business Continuity Event	An event that by its duration exceeds the Maximum Acceptable Outage and/or has an adverse impact on critical business functions	BCE
Business Continuity Framework	Collection of documents and procedures developed and maintained in readiness for use during a Business Continuity Event	BCF
Business Continuity Plan	The foundation document in the framework outlining the requirements in the event of a BCE	
Business Continuity Sub Action Plan	An agreed documented course of actions to be taken in the preparation, response and recovery phases of a Business Continuity Event	Sub Plan
Business Impact Analysis	A management level analysis that identifies the impacts of function loss on the organisation. The BIA provides management with data upon which to base risk mitigation and continuity planning decisions.	BIA
Council	Wentworth Shire Council	WSC
Crisis Management Team	An assembly of executive management representatives and other specified staff, formed for the express purpose of responding to a BCE. The CMT structure will overlay all normal management structures during the response process.	CMT
Emergency	An event due to an actual or imminent incident which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangers or threatens to endanger the safety or health of staff or visitors to the organisation • Destroys, damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, property of the organisation Has the capacity to disrupt operations to the extent that it	

	impacts on critical business objectives.	
Fire and Rescue NSW	Fire, Rescue and Hazmat	FRNSW
Incident	A situation with the potential to become an emergency or a BCE. Further outlined in the <i>Business Continuity Procedure</i>	
Infrastructure	Physical assets whose incapacity or destruction would have a debilitating impact on the economic or physical security of Council or the community	
Leadership Team Executive Management Team	General Manager and Directors	
Maximum Acceptable Outage	The maximum period of time that Council can tolerate the loss of a critical business function, process, asset or IT application.	MAO
NSW Rural Fire Service	Rural Fire Service covering shire surrounds	NSWRFS
Risk Management	"the effect of uncertainty on objectives"	
State Emergency Service	NSW government authority that deals with floods and storms	SES
Transport for NSW	NSW government authority that deals with roads and waterways	
Work-around procedures	Alternative procedures that may be used by departments to enable them to continue to perform critical functions during temporary unavailability of specific systems, data, equipment, facilities, services etc.	
Work Health & Safety	A section within the Office of the General Manager	

Commented [MC1]: Change this to Executive (DI suggestion)

2 Introduction

2.1 Overview of the Plan

The Business Continuity Framework (BCF) ensures that appropriate structures and protocols are in place that enables an effective response to a business interruption event that has the potential to impact Wentworth Shire Council (Council) objectives (Attachment A).

The BCF will ensure that (Council) can continue to offer essential services to our community and our staff in the event of a Business Continuity Event (BCE).

In identifying business continuity risks, the focus is on the building of resilience and response capabilities within business functions that have been identified as critical by the organisation. Non-critical functions are also identified and documented within the framework which ensures that Council has a 'whole of organisation' view when responding to interruption events, as the nature of these events can change rapidly.

In preparing this plan, consideration has been given to the following elements:

- The environment in which Council operates;
- An assessment of essential and non-essential services;
- The potential causes of a critical interruption to the delivery of those services;

- The triggers for activation of the Plan;
- Determining how services can be restored in the shortest possible timeframe; and
- Determining the most effective and appropriate communication methods for staff and the public when a BCE occurs.

The BCF does not cover requirements associated with a workplace emergency (safety) situation. Separate workplace emergency arrangements that are the responsibility of other Council sites remain applicable to each site.

This framework and associated business continuity plans or sub action plans do not cover cyber security or mandatory data breach notification incidents. These incidents and plans are covered in separate documents:

- Wentworth Shire Council Cyber Incident Response Plan
- Wentworth Shire Council Mandatory Notification Data Breach Scheme Policy and Response Plan.

2.2 Community Emergency Management

Council will work with local emergency service organisations during a community event.

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 000	
NSW Rural Fire Service	1800 679 737
Fire and Rescue NSW - Wentworth	03 5890 6684
NSW Rural Fire Service – Dareton	03 5027 4422
SES	132 500
Dareton Police Station	03 5027 7599
Buronga Police Station	03 5023 2262
Wentworth Hospital	03 5027 5700
Mildura Police Station	03 5018 5300
Mildura Base Public Hospital	03 5022 3333

2.3 Workplace Emergency Management

In all cases of activation of an emergency event that affects Council workplaces and work sites, the Chief Warden(s) will brief Council's CMT Chief of any implications for business continuity as a result of the emergency plan activation. Council will adhere to emergency procedures located on ProMapp, and the [Workplace](#) Emergency Evacuation Plans (WEEPs).

Business Continuity Planning will enhance the capability to respond effectively to business interruption and safeguard the interest of Council. Furthermore, by focusing on the impact of disruption rather than the cause, business continuity identifies those activities on which the organisation depends for its survival and enables the organisation to determine what is required to continue to meet its obligations.

2.4 Supplier Management

This refers to a number of suppliers of goods and services on which Council depends on but whose providers are unlikely to adopt the same rigour or scrutiny that would be undertaken before a major contract or supply agreement is awarded.

Council stakeholders and interested parties expect suppliers to be scrutinised at some level as part of Council's due diligence process. The impact of a disruption to a supplier may cause Council both financial and reputational damage. Therefore, some knowledge of this exposure is important for Council to understand.

Supply disruption often originates below the immediate supplier, this leads to a requirement to ensure that key suppliers to Council have also considered their own supply chain continuity with their business continuity programme (if they have one). The degree to which Council believes supplier analysis must be undertaken is

guided by the risk appetite surrounding the Council activity or service that is potentially impacted by the supplier/service provider.

Supplier considerations include the following:

- Financial impact of supplier interruption over time;
- Reputational impact of interruption over time; and
- Failure of regulatory compliance caused by interruption.

2.5 Framework

This document is the overarching document that describes Council's Business Continuity Plan (BCP). It explains how the various Business Continuity documents relate to each other and the purpose of each.

Council's BCP encompasses this document and two other main documents: *Business Continuity Tools* and *Business Continuity Procedure*, as well as *Business Continuity Sub Action Plans* (Sub Plans) for each identified critical service.

Business Continuity Plan (this document) establishes the background and procedure for Business Continuity Planning

Business Continuity Procedure (Appendix A) is the action-oriented document to be used as a guide during a Business Continuity Event (BCE).

Business Continuity Tools are the checklists, forms and templates that are referred to in the plan and procedure, that should be used during a Business Continuity Event (BCE).

Business Continuity Sub Action Plans are the specific plans for each identified critical service that covers critical functions and actions during a BCE.

3 Purpose

The purpose of Council's BCP and related documents is to provide guidance and direction to the Crisis Management Team (CMT) during the management of a BCE. It will enable Council to continue to operate with minimal disruption or downtime during an incident/event.

Council has adopted a comprehensive and integrated approach to the development of a Business Continuity Framework. The purpose of this manual and plan is to build organisational capabilities to support the continued achievements of critical business objectives during any period of disruption.

Council recognises that this BCP in isolation does not build capability, but it provides the approach to establishing effective capability. Whilst the plan is important, it is an outcome of the planning and analysis process and a guiding document to commence the response to a business interruption event.

The BCP and associated Critical Function Sub Action Plans identify the required facilities, technical infrastructure, key responsibilities and processes that will be required to position Council to be able to respond and recover from a business interruption event.

4 Objectives

The objective of Council's BCP is to provide a mechanism that enables the Council and its Officers to:

- identify business functions that are critical to Council in meeting its business objectives;
- develop resumption plans based on criticality of business functions rather than geographic location;
- build resilience within Council's operational framework;
- identify and document roles and responsibilities for key staff positions; and
- minimise the impact of function loss on stakeholders and the community.

This plan provides a framework for [the General Manager](#), Directors, Managers, Team Leaders and staff enabling an implemented agreed response. In assessing the business continuity risks of Council, the following inherent advantages were identified:

- the provision of common services across multiple locations reducing the impact of a single facility loss;
- common IT systems with duplication and access across most facilities;
- ability to transfer workers and tasks to other facilities;
- ability to call on adjoining Councils for assistance (Mildura Rural City Council, Broken Hill, Balranald [Shire Council](#)).

5 Scope

Council's BCP and related documents cover crises that may affect all or part of the critical operations or objectives of Council.

The BCP is specific to Council operations and must be used in the event of a business interruption occurrence that may impact on the ability of the Council to deliver business objectives. Managers and Team Leaders with responsibility for impacted areas of Council should use the BCP and any relevant sub action plans to ensure a consistent and agreed course of action is implemented.

The Local Government Area Disaster Plan ([DisPlan](#)) will cover any wider disruption to the community.

5.1 Assumptions

The BCP is intended to provide guidance to Council officers to assist continuity of service for critical functions, where those officers are not normally responsible for managing the specific function affected. Where the Council officer who is normally responsible for managing the specific function is available, it is assumed this document will serve as a check document to reduce the possibility for omission of important actions.

5.2 Distribution

The intended distribution of this BCP within Council is to:

- Executive Management Team (EMT)
- Crisis Management Team (CMT)
- Business Continuity Sub Action Plan workers; and Council staff.

5.3 Authority

- a) The BCP has been developed under the authority of the CMT. Prior to implementation, this plan was reviewed and approved by Council.
- b) A Standing Authority is given to the Sub Plan owners by the CMT to implement actions identified within the sub plans.

5.4 Training and Communication

A key objective of the BCP is to increase the awareness within Council of potential business continuity interruption events that could impact Council. The plan outlines the response/recovery protocols associated with such an event where training and communication will play a vital role in achieving this objective.

Regular testing of the BCP and Sub-Action Plans is key. The target group for training are the CMT members and support staff, sub action plan owners and other identified key staff. General BCP awareness training will be conducted for all staff.

The primary objective of training and testing is to ensure that key identified staff are familiar with the BCP, Business Continuity documents, relevant sub action plans and each person's role within the plans. Team Leaders/Managers/Directors should be familiar with key deliverables as detailed in the Critical Function Sub

Action Plans relevant to their area and ensure that staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities through a suitable level of training and testing.

5.5 Location of Plan

A soft copy of the BCP is available on Content Manager and Council intranet. Hard copies of the BCP are stored in the following locations:

- Council Service Centre Secure Storeroom
- General Manager secure space
- Midway Service Centre safe

5.6 Validation and Testing

Business Continuity Management is a process, not an event. Annual testing of the BCP should be undertaken to ensure the BCP remains viable.

The testing may include all aspects of the BCP, but not necessarily all in one year. The Business Continuity Critical Function Sub Plans will be reviewed biannually. Volatile information such as contact lists, or areas that are constantly undergoing changes, may be validated more frequently.

5.7 Monitoring and Review

Monitoring and review is integral to ensuring the BCP is implemented. The BCP will be reviewed within six months of each new Council term or as necessary in consideration to any significant changes to Council’s operations, legislation and relevant standards, codes and guidelines, audit findings and/or after a test scenario as deemed necessary by the General Manager (GM).

<i>Activity for Review</i>	<i>Accountability</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Business Impact Analysis	Relevant responsible officer and associated staff	<i>Every 3 years</i>
BCP (overarching manual/plan) including review of the Business Impact Analysis (BIA)	Director Corporate Services via the Governance Team -	<i>Every 3 years Monitor annually</i>
Review/update all sub action plans	Sub action plan owners and key staff	<i>Every 3 years</i>
Update confidential contact lists and essential services	Manager Technology Services	<i>Quarterly</i>
Update staff contact list	Manager Human Resources	<i>Quarterly</i>
BCP Scenario/Exercise	CMT Members, support staff and their alternates	<i>Every 2 years</i>
High level BCP refresher training	Senior Management/Executive	<i>Every 2 years</i>
BCP General awareness Training	All Staff	<i>Every 3 years</i>
Review effectiveness of BCP controls	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)	<i>Periodically</i>

6 Business Impact Analysis (BIA) and Maximum Acceptable Outage

Integral to the BCP is the determination of the Maximum Acceptable Outage (MAO) of a particular business process. The loss of a critical business function for a period greater than the MAO will generally result in

the establishment of the BCP CMT to direct, oversee and support the emergency, continuity and recover response steps.

Identification of critical business functions, the processes, the people and property that support the delivery of Council's critical functions are analysed within the Business Impact Analysis process which has been completed to identify the critical functions of Council (Attachment C). The BIA considers four areas of key resources required to achieve Council's critical objectives – people, process, information and infrastructure.

All documentation must be created and stored in accordance with Council's Records Management Policy and Procedures.

7 Standard Response Action Plan

A number of the responses or actions required during a business interruption event are standard across Council. Rather than repeat these in each of the sub action plans, a Standard Response Action Plan has been developed for the whole of Council and is available at Attachment D.

The Standard Response Action Plan lists standard actions to be implemented, where applicable, in conjunction with the activation of the Business Continuity Critical Function Sub Action Plans. The Manager or Team Leader (if there is no Manager) of the relevant section impacted by the business disruption event is responsible for the implementation of the actions identified in the Standard Response Action Plan. If more than one section is impacted by the disruption, the responsibility is shared. Where the CMT has been activated in response to the disruption, the CMT leader or delegate will assign responsibility as they see fit.

The Standard Response Action Plan is owned by the Director Corporate Services who has overall responsibility for this plan. The routine management and updating of the Standard Response Action Plan is delegated to Governance, who are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and currency of the plan and for advising the Director of any changes required.

8 Business Continuity Critical Function Sub Action Plan

The Sub Action Plans for each function must include the following:

- a clear response plan for each function and/or location;
- a minimum of one alternate staff member/position who will act in the role if the Team Leader/Manager/Director is unavailable. These staff members are to have the same level of knowledge of the Plan and overall Business Continuity Planning as the Team Leader/Manager/Director;
- actions and activities with responsible person timeframes clearly defined; and
- supporting documentation that is readily accessible including contact details for key stakeholders

Team Leaders/Managers/Directors are responsible to update and maintain electronic and hard copies of their sub action plans and important functional documents and have them available in readily accessible locations. The location/s is to be covered in training/meetings with staff. It is the responsibility of Managers (or Team Leaders where there is no Manager) to ensure that sub action plans are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The functions that have been identified as critical have been listed below:

General Manager

- Executive Support
- Media & Communications
- Human Resources

Corporate Services

- Payroll
- Governance
- Information Technology
- Customer Service
- Procurement and Contracts Management
- Insurance

Health & Planning

- Companion Animals
- Environmental Health

Roads & Engineering

- Roads
- Waste Management
- Civil Projects and Maintenance
- Water and Wastewater
- Workshop/Fleet

9 Crisis Management Team

9.1 CMT – Roles and Responsibilities

The CMT is established to provide a management mechanism that can ensure reporting lines and responsibilities are clear when the BCP is activated. The focus of the CMT is to manage the business interruption event from an executive perspective while providing guidance and support to Managers (or Team Leaders if there is no Manager). This process is facilitated by the development of pre-determined courses of actions (sub action plans), allowing the CMT to focus on the strategic or whole of business response to the interruption event. Each position in the CMT is to have an alternative member (proxy) identified and trained in the role.

Responsibility statements for each position in the CMT and supporting positions have been developed to ensure there are clear directions available for each of the CMT members. All responsibility statements are approved by the CMT (Attachment E). The overview below is expanded within the responsibility statements.

Department/Team	Non-Activation Period	Activation Period
Managers & Team Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep accessible current copies of the BCP and sub action plans • contacts of key personal in retrievable location • Review, update and test sub action plans for their areas. Required frequency outlined in implementation plan • Train relevant staff on sub action plans • Access and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement sub action plans in their area of control when directed by the CMT • Participate in business continuity management and recovery processes as required • Participate in post-event reviews as required
Supervisors and Gangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with implementation of the BCP manual in section/area of control • Participate in training and testing as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in sub action plans implementation in their department • Act as the 'alternate' as required

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary Report incidents to Team Leader/Manager/Director for assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in continuity management or recovery operations as required Participate in post-event reviews as required
Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate with supervisors to ensure implementation and compliance with the BCP manual Participate in training/testing as required Report any incident to Team Leader/Manager/Director for assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in sub action plan implementation in their department as required Participate in continuity management or recovery operations as required Participate in post-event reviews as required
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to the implementation plan Review the overall plan and documents 3 yearly in line with the Business Impact Analysis (BIA) Ensure sub action plans are tested by Managers, Team Leaders and staff that are training regularly as per the implementation plan Develop and deliver or coordinate external providers to conduct relevant training Ensure a review is conducted at the completion of a BCE and procedures and documents are updated as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support as directed by the CMT Participate in continuity management or recovery operations as required Participate in post-event reviews as required

9.2 CMT Structure

The CMT key positions are listed below including:

- Crisis Management Team (CMT) Chief - General Manager (or delegated Executive Team member if GM required as Chair of the LEMC).
- CMT Leader – Member of the Executive Team - delegated by the CMT Chief
- CMT Members – all Directors within Council
- Communications – Marketing & Communications Officer - the collection and preparation of information suitable for dissemination to the public and other stakeholders
- Support – General Manager Executive Assistant/Governance - provision of support to the CMT.

Other staff may be required as CMT members, and will be notified at the time of a BCE including:

- Manager Works
- Manager Human Resources
- Manager Engineering Services
- Manager Information Technology
- Senior Water & Waste Water Delegate
- Manager Tourism & Promotion

Under legislation, the General Manager is also the Chair of the Local Emergency Management Committee. Therefore, depending on the event that triggers the activation of the BCP, the General Manager and the Executive Assistant to the GM may not be available to undertake their normal roles on the CMT. The CMT

Chief role would then be assigned to one of the Directors from the Executive Team, together with either the Business Support Officer or a member of the Governance Team.

9.3 Existing Business Unit Management

The existing department structures may be called upon during activation of specific plans within their area of responsibilities to provide advice to the CMT as required. This would normally occur through the CMT Chief.

10 Declaration Process

10.1 Notification

On first becoming aware of a possible business continuity event, the relevant Manager/Team Leader is to assess the situation in consultation with the relevant Director for any event that has the potential to impact on the service delivery of Council. Upon this notification, the Director (as a CMT Member) will discuss with the Crisis Management Team Chief and other CMT Members (if available) the potential impacts upon Council business. The following information will be exchanged during the discussion:

- nature of the incident – time informed etc
- describe business elements impacted
- facility/equipment impacted
- workers impacted/required
- any media involvement/interest; and
- any immediate support requirements.

If the business interruption event is likely to exceed the agreed Maximum Acceptable Outage (MAO), Business Continuity Critical Function Sub Action Plans will be implemented where appropriate to address an immediate response requirement.

An Event Details Checklist (Attachment F) should be completed by the CMT Leader with the information provided to determine if the CMT and BCP should be activated.

10.2 Declaration

The General Manager has delegated authority to enact the BCP.

At the conclusion of the notification process, a declaration of a Business Continuity Event will be determined, together with the need and preferred location of the Business Continuity Control Centre (BCCC) and which Director will be allocated as the CMT Leader role.

The Plan is activated when there is a critical event that has the potential for major impact(s) on Council’s operations.

The CMT Leader will draft internal and external communications for discussion at the initial CMT meeting. Upon declaration and activation of the BCP, three teams will be required at various stages of the BCE.

Crisis Management Team (CMT)	Essential Services Team	Crisis Recovery Team
Identify the critical services to be delivered in accordance with the assessment criteria	During an event advise the CMT on matters such as Severity Likely or actual impact Response and recovery strategies	Coordinate the provision of services in accordance with the BCP requirements
Meet to assess the impact of a disruptive event on Council’s operations	Establish priorities for response and recovery	Implement actions as directed by the CMT

Active the BCP and sub action plans where applicable	Keep the CMT informed of any problems with critical services and business continuity	Provide advice and assistance to Team Leaders and other staff
Provide leadership and direction to the organisation for all issues surrounding the event		
Re-assess priorities based on the nature of the event		
Confirm message strategy and maintain communication flow		
Maintain liaison with key stakeholders regarding continuity and recovery process		

11 Action Required

11.1 Risk Assessment

Following declaration of a business continuity event, the CMT Leader will:

- Coordinate a comprehensive impact risk assessment on facility and technology infrastructure in conjunction with relevant staff
- If there is any structural damage, an initial inspection will be coordinated with Engineering Staff with a briefing provided to the CMT Chief.
- Unless declared a crime scene (in which case NSW Police will be the Control Agency and in control of the event), the relevant emergency service (SES or RFS) will initially control access to the site and will direct and be present at any inspections.
- If applicable, the Chief Fire Warden will provide the emergency services with a copy of Council’s BCP as soon as reasonably practicable (if requested).
- The site may be hazardous and therefore severely limited for access, other than for selected personnel.
- Following the assessment, the CMT Leader will coordinate a report on the extent of the damage, the services affected, and an estimate of the time required for restoration.

Following activation, the aim is to restore an acceptable level of service in the shortest possible timeframe. The critical factors to achieving this goal are having the **right people** in the **right place** at the **right time**, undertaking the **right tasks** to achieve the best possible **result**.



11.2 Initial Incident Management Team Meeting

As soon as practicable after the initial assessment and declaration, a meeting of the CMT is required. The CMT Leader will coordinate the meeting with the assistance of the CMT Support Member. The Business Continuity Declaration form will be completed to capture all required information for record keeping purposes (Attachment G).

The CMT will manage the restoration of business activities in line with the responsibility statements and alert/deploy other members within Council business units as required.

12 Control Centre and Communication Management

12.1 Business Continuity Control Centre (BCCC)

The primary purpose of the BCCC is to provide a location for the CMT to centrally control and coordinate decision-making related to a BCE. It is important that several options are available depending on the location and scale of the event and that these options are established in advance to support a swift and flexible response to any event. This plan has nominated the following suitable locations with the Wentworth Shire Council area:

- Wentworth Visitor Centre – Council Chambers
- Midway Service Centre, Buronga
- Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club
- Wentworth Sporting Complex
- Wentworth Showgrounds Pavilion

A warm site which is outside of the Wentworth Shire Council area is a location that is available upon activation of the BCP if required:

- Mildura Rural City Council Offices

Attachment B provides information on each BCCC.

12.2 Alternate Work Sites

In the event that building or site access is denied, alternate work sites and options have been identified to accommodate staff. Refer to attachment B on the capabilities and capacities of each site.

Dependent on the nature of the incident, alternate work sites will be identified and notification provided to staff.

Re-Assignment

If the event is significant and multiple sites are impacted, consideration should be given to re-assignment of staff as required by the BCE.

12.3 Business Continuity Kits

The Wentworth and Midway Service Centres have Business Continuity Kits, set up in advance with useful items that will assist the CMT to focus on their key roles, ensuring staff and community safety and the essential business functions continue to operate.

The contents of the kits are to be kept current.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY KITS - CONTENTS		
Emergency Radio (battery/solar or hand crank)	BCP and emergency procedures	Tape (duct or electrical)
Emergency radios (UHF)	Building Site Plan	PPE
Mobile charging adapters (apple, Samsung)	Contact lists (employees, Councillors)	Plastic sheeting
Spare batteries	Insurance Policies and contacts	Midway Seating Plan (DOC/23/1000)
Torches	First Aid Kit	Waterproof bags
Flipcharts	Textas	Pens, pencils, paper, notepads
		Sanitisers

12.4 Media Protocols

Due to the nature of the media, the timeliness of reporting in these circumstances is critical. Prompt reporting to, and liaison with the CMT is in the best interest in terms of allowing for the preparation of an appropriate response.

It is Council's policy that no other person than the General Manager or the Mayor divulges any information to the media. This extends to contractors and any other service providers and agencies. The GM will determine where practicable in consultation with the CMT and the Mayor the appropriate communication strategy.

12.5 General Statement to Media

In the event of a business interruption event, there may be a period of time before the GM or the Mayor is in a position to respond to media enquiries. Should any Council staff be approached by media representatives or the community for a comment, they are only authorised to make the following statement:

'I am sorry, but I am not authorised to make any statement at this time. The General Manager and the Mayor are currently being briefed on the situation, and someone will be available to talk to you shortly.'

There is no such thing as an 'off the record' comment. Take the details of the person requesting the comment, including how the person came to contact you and let them know that someone will contact them as soon as possible. A Media Enquiry Record (Attachment [IG](#)) should be completed and submitted to the CMT Communications Team Member.

Business Continuity Media Statements may be prepared (Attachment J provides an example).

13 Control Centre Stand Down

The stand down of a control centre will be at the discretion of the Council's CMT Chief, and may be a gradual phasing down over a period of time or it may be an immediate cessation of the operation.

13.1 Post Incident Review and Analysis

A business continuity event is deemed to be over following the resumption of business as usual. A post incident analysis (PIA) may be conducted at the completion of a BCE and will involve the CMT Chief, CMT Leader and representatives from any external agencies that were involved in the response or recovery operations ([Attachment I – Post Incident Analysis and Action Form](#)). The analysis will recommend any actions that should be implemented as appropriate and any retraining of staff and review of BCP documentation will occur if required.

14 Business Continuity Contacts

14.1 Emergency Contacts – Crisis Management Team

The CMT will maintain up to date contact details.

14.2 Council Contact List

HR will provide a list of Council staff and contacts as requested at the time of the BCE being activated.

14.3 Councillors

For a full list of Councillors and contacts, this will be provided by the Executive Assistant to the General Manager as required.

15 Related documents and legislation

The following acts and their respective regulations are relevant to this plan:

- *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* (as amended)
- *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- *Essential Services Act 1998* (NSW) (as amended)

The following standards are relevant to this plan:

- ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management - Guidelines
- ISO 22301:2019 Security and Resilience – Business Continuity Management Systems - Requirements
- ISO 22313:2020 Security and Resilience – Business Continuity Management Systems – Guidance on the use of ISO 22301
- AS/NZS 5050 (Int): 2020 – Managing disruption-related risk

The following external plans are relevant to this plan:

- State/Region/Local Emergency Management Plans

The following Council plans relevant to this plan:

- Enterprise Risk Management Plan
- Enterprise Risk Management Policy GOV013

Attachments

Attachment A – Overview of Business Continuity Functions

Business continuity encompasses the identification and risk management of Council's business processes. It involves a stepping process that seeks to identify, assess control and monitor Council's business functions.

Broadly, the steps in developing the Business Continuity Plan include:

1. *Identify and Assess Business Processes and Functions*
Identify business processes and functions within each individual department. Once the functions are identified an analysis at a whole of organisational level is conducted to determine which functions are critical and require further planning to ensure the ability to respond in the face of a business interruption event.
2. *Conduct the Business Impact Analysis (BIA)*
The BIA is conducted on those functions identified as critical within the business process assessment. The BIA is intended to identify the impacts of the function loss on the business, functional interdependencies and organisational ownership, it also looks at the resources currently required to support the functions and assesses the minimum level of resources required to continue the availability. Importantly the BIA is the tool that is used to determine the Maximum Allowable Outage (MAO).
3. *Sub Action Plans*
The sub action plans identify the agreed actions that a business process owner will undertake to manage the loss of the function through the emergency, continuity and recovery phases. The sub action plan identifies ownership, failure scenarios, criteria for invoking the plan, agreed courses of actions for emergency, continuity and recovery. They also allow for targeted messages to be developed for specific function loss.
4. *Overarching Business Continuity Plan (BCP)*
The BCP identifies the responsibilities of key Managers, with particular emphasis on direction setting and effective and timely communication to stakeholders at an organisational level. It is important to recognise that this document provides a flexible framework in which the organisation can plan for disruption of its critical functions. It does not attempt to identify and plan for every contingency or outage that could occur, it provides a flexible framework for the process owners to identify, plan and develop redundancy for business processes.
5. *Test and maintain the BCP*
The BCP will be reviewed annually, these actions are essential to ensure that it reflects the current practices of the organisation. Testing of the Sub action plans and overarching plans will provide management assurance that the plan(s) are effective. The testing regime is based on the following:
 - Desktop/paper audit to ensure that the appropriate documents are available and understood; for sub action plans and overarching plan
 - Structured "walk through" where a business interruption scenario is played out through a mock recovery; and a divisional or whole of organisation level, and
 - Frequency and actions to be undertaken are identified within the monitoring and review section of this document.

Attachment B – Business Continuity Control Centres (BCCC)

The following locations can be used as BCCCs depending on the location of the BCE as determined by the GMT Chief.

Location	Ownership/Contact	Capacity (additional staff)	Meeting Room	Toilet Facilities	Kitchen Facilities	IT Connectivity/ Equipment	Power points/data	Telephone Lines	Comments
Wentworth Council Chambers	Council		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes	61 Darling Street
Midway Service Centre	Council	Yes	2 x Meeting Rooms 1 x function room	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes	Buronga
Coomella Memorial Sporting Club	Coomella Memorial Sporting Club 03 5027 4505	Yes	Auditorium – 350 Function Room - 72	Yes	Yes – charges to utilise Café/Restaurant on site	Wifi Data projector Microphones	Yes/Yes		Whiteboard
Wentworth Sporting Complex	Beverley Street, Wentworth 0439 676 028			Yes					
Mildura Rural City Council	Mildura Rural City Council		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Venues incl. Council offices, Benetook Room, sporting precinct

The Crisis Management Team Chief will advise the Crisis Management Team Members of the location of the BCCC when the event is declared and the BCP is activated.

Coomella Club configuration for rooms: <https://www.coomellaclub.com.au/conferences/>

Attachment C –Maximum Acceptable Outage (MAO)

This summary of the critical business functions of Council includes the assessment of the Maximum Acceptable Outage (MAO) for a particular function which is integral to the BCP. Loss of a critical function for a period greater than the MAO may result in the CMT coming together to direct, oversee and support the emergency, continuity and recover response phases.

Overview of Departments

Function	Department	How long could Council operate without this function/activity before significantly impacting on Council objectives?				Is this function critical to Council objectives during a BCE?	
		1-3 days	3 days to 2 wks	2-4 weeks	Yes	No	
Media & Communications	General Manager	X			X		
Technology Services	Corporate Services	X			X		
Customer Services	Corporate Services	X			X		
Payroll	Corporate Services	X			X		
Accounts/Procurement	Corporate Services	X			X		
Depot	Roads & Engineering	X			X		
Stores	Roads & Engineering	X			X		
Water & Waste Water	Roads & Engineering	X			X		
Human Resources	General Manager	X			X		
Animal Control	General Manager	X			X		
Work Health & Safety	General Manager	X			X		
Waste Management	Roads & Engineering	X			X		
Rates and revenue	Corporate Services		X			X	
Parks and Gardens	Roads & Engineering		X			X	
Cemeteries	Corporate Services	X			X		
Public Health	Health & Planning	X			X		
Roads	Roads & Engineering	X			X		
Asset Management	Roads & Engineering		X			X	
Records Management	Corporate Services		X			X	
Civil Works	Roads & Engineering			X		X	
Building Compliance	Health & Planning	X			X		
Regulatory Compliance	General Manager			X		X	

Function	Department	How long could Council operate without this function/activity before significantly impacting on Council objectives?			Is this function critical to Council objectives during a BCE?	
		1-3 days	3 days to 2 weeks	2-4 weeks	Yes	No
Land Tenure	Health & Planning			X		X
Sub divisions	Roads & Engineering			X		X
Project Management	All			X		X
Libraries	General Manager			X		X
Visitor Information Centre	General Manager		X			X
Financial Reporting	Corporate Services			X		X
Tourism & Promotion	General Manager			X		X
Town Planning	Health & Planning			X		X
Weeds	Roads & Engineering			X		X

Attachment D – Standard Response Action Plan	
Category	Action Detail (Identify immediate actions required if function ability is lost – identify actions that are required to ensure continued availability of function – identify manual workarounds)
Internal Stakeholder Communication	<p>Notify <i>internal</i> stakeholders delivery of the function has been disrupted until further notice or a date specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When required, provide details of the impact on service delivery, interim measure that has been or will be implemented to manage the disruption, measures that have been or will be implemented to restore function in addition to a timeframe for the resumption of BAU Executive, Managers and Team Leaders Customer Services (as required to provide information to customers impacted by the disruption) Media & Communications (information published on council website and social media pages) CMT, if activated
External Stakeholder Communication	<p>Notify <i>external</i> stakeholders delivery of the function has been disrupted until further notice or a date specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide details of the impacts on services, interim measures to be taken/have been taken and timeframe for resumption of BAU Consider external media (radio/print) to publicise the disruption details to the community Communicate with external stakeholders through the CMT Communication Team Member (if activated)
Information Technology	<p>If the disruption is due to failure of IT systems (software, hardware, telephones or mobile network)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact IT ensuring they are aware Initiate manual processes until IT systems are restored Ensure appropriate record keeping is maintained – keep hard copy documents and upload to EDMS when restored Use hard copy documents and plans Use mobile phones if network active Use laptops if able until systems restored
Staff Resourcing	<p>Where the disruption event impacts on staffing, ensure critical functions continue by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-allocating internal staff resources Second staff from other sections Seek assistance from fellow Councils Seek staff from employment agencies Maintain a record of all overtime and hours worked for payment
Workplace Disruption	<p>Where the disruption event prevents staff accessing their normal workplace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and allocate staff to alternate work site(s)

Attachment E – Responsibility Statements

CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM – CHIEF			
Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement			
Position	General Manager		
Alternate during absence	One of the three Directors as determined by the CMT Chief – depending on the nature of the event.		
Position Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CMT Chief position is assumed to be the General Manager. However, the GM does have the discretion to appoint an alternate CMT Chief where the nature or location of the event warrants such action. The CMT Chief is responsible for declaring a BCE and invoking the BCP and all relevant sub action plans. The CMT Chief oversees and manages all resumption activities and be informed at all stages of the business continuity recovery process. <p>N.B. During a workplace emergency, the Chief Fire Warden has authority until the workplace emergency is resolved and control is returned to the GM or the CMT Leader if the BCP is to be activated.</p>		
Knowledge Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> High level knowledge of organisation activities and service delivery priorities High level knowledge of OGM divisional sub action plans High level knowledge of BCP Community, Business and Regulatory contacts. 		
Responsibilities	<p>The CMT Chief must make decisions for business resumption based on information received by other CMT members. This is then translated into an action plan by the supporting teams.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. Participate in training and testing activities. Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. Provide an adequate level of resources to manage and implement BCP. Ensure all relevant legal responsibilities are understood and carried out. Participate in post-event reviews and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate the BCP and ensure appropriate plans are implemented to ensure the continuity of critical functions. Notify and liaise with stakeholders. Provide the focal point in communication to the staff, media and public. Establish and chair all CMT meetings (may delegate) Authorise restoration plans. Delegate tasks and oversee resumption activities. Monitor the gathering of business interruption event information. Promote the wellbeing and safety of all staff. </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. Participate in training and testing activities. Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. Provide an adequate level of resources to manage and implement BCP. Ensure all relevant legal responsibilities are understood and carried out. Participate in post-event reviews and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate the BCP and ensure appropriate plans are implemented to ensure the continuity of critical functions. Notify and liaise with stakeholders. Provide the focal point in communication to the staff, media and public. Establish and chair all CMT meetings (may delegate) Authorise restoration plans. Delegate tasks and oversee resumption activities. Monitor the gathering of business interruption event information. Promote the wellbeing and safety of all staff.
<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. Participate in training and testing activities. Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. Provide an adequate level of resources to manage and implement BCP. Ensure all relevant legal responsibilities are understood and carried out. Participate in post-event reviews and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate the BCP and ensure appropriate plans are implemented to ensure the continuity of critical functions. Notify and liaise with stakeholders. Provide the focal point in communication to the staff, media and public. Establish and chair all CMT meetings (may delegate) Authorise restoration plans. Delegate tasks and oversee resumption activities. Monitor the gathering of business interruption event information. Promote the wellbeing and safety of all staff. 		

Crisis Management Team – CMT Leader Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement			
Position	One of the three Directors as determined by the CMT Chief – depending on the nature of the event		
Alternate during absence	Director as nominated		
Position Statement	<p>A successful CMT relies on expertise from within the organisation as they are the people that understand the business and related risks. Accordingly, the CMT Chief will allocate one of the Directors as CMT Leader who is charged with implementing the whole of organisation response.</p> <p>However, they still maintain responsibility for the continuity and recovery actions of their individual business units. The business unit activities are undertaken by the function managers or team leaders with agreed sub action plans.</p> <p>The CMT Leader is responsible for managing all resumption activities when a BCE is declared and the BCP is actioned by the General Manager.</p>		
Knowledge Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level knowledge of DCS activities and service delivery priorities 2. High level knowledge of DCS divisional sub action plans 3. High level knowledge of BCP 		
Responsibilities	<p>Responsibilities include:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required. • Report on costs to CMT as required. • If pay fortnight, ensure staff are advised on the situation regarding their pay. • Ensure up to date information is provided by sub action plan owners (Managers/Team Leaders) to inform the CMT and assist in decision making. • Chair CMT meetings • Coordinate any detailed restoration plan • Delegate tasks and oversee resumption of activities • Notify and liaise with stakeholders </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required. • Report on costs to CMT as required. • If pay fortnight, ensure staff are advised on the situation regarding their pay. • Ensure up to date information is provided by sub action plan owners (Managers/Team Leaders) to inform the CMT and assist in decision making. • Chair CMT meetings • Coordinate any detailed restoration plan • Delegate tasks and oversee resumption of activities • Notify and liaise with stakeholders
<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required. • Report on costs to CMT as required. • If pay fortnight, ensure staff are advised on the situation regarding their pay. • Ensure up to date information is provided by sub action plan owners (Managers/Team Leaders) to inform the CMT and assist in decision making. • Chair CMT meetings • Coordinate any detailed restoration plan • Delegate tasks and oversee resumption of activities • Notify and liaise with stakeholders 		

Crisis Management Team – Departmental Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement			
Position	Director Corporate Services		
Alternate during absence	Manager Technology or Financial Accountant		
Position Statement	<p>Directors are the designated members of the CMT and are responsible for leading the response activities under the direction of the CMT Chief. The CMT Members will:</p> <p>Ensure the coordination of business continuity, business recovery and business resumption are as effective as possible.</p> <p>Maintain responsibility for the continuity and recovery actions of their individual departments in accordance with agreed sub action plans.</p> <p>Ensure up to date information is provided by sub action plan owners (Managers/Team Leaders) to inform the CMT and assist in decision making.</p>		
Knowledge Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level knowledge of DCS activities and service delivery priorities 2. High level knowledge of DCS divisional sub action plans 3. High level knowledge of BCP 		
Responsibilities	<p>Responsibilities include:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on DCS departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required. • Report on costs to CMT as required. • If pay fortnight, ensure staff are advised on the situation regarding their pay. </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on DCS departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required. • Report on costs to CMT as required. • If pay fortnight, ensure staff are advised on the situation regarding their pay.
<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on DCS departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required. • Report on costs to CMT as required. • If pay fortnight, ensure staff are advised on the situation regarding their pay. 		

Crisis Management Team – Departmental Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement			
Position	Director Roads & Engineering		
Alternate during absence	Manager Works		
Position Statement	<p>Directors are the designated members of the CMT and are responsible for leading the response activities under the direction of the CMT Chief.</p> <p>The CMT Members will:</p> <p>Ensure the coordination of business continuity, business recovery and business resumption are as effective as possible.</p> <p>Maintain responsibility for the continuity and recovery actions of their individual departments in accordance with agreed sub action plans.</p> <p>Ensure up to date information is provided by sub action plan owners (Managers/Team Leaders) to inform the CMT and assist in decision making.</p>		
Knowledge Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level knowledge of DRE activities and service delivery priorities 2. High level knowledge of DRE divisional sub action plans 3. High level knowledge of BCP 		
Responsibilities	<p>Responsibilities include:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on DRE departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required. </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on DRE departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required.
<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the Managers/Team Leaders in department conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on DRE departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required. 		

Crisis Management Team – Departmental
Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement

Position	Director Health & Planning	
Alternate during absence	Senior Building Surveyor.	
Position Statement	<p>Directors are the designated members of the CMT and are responsible for leading the response activities under the direction of the CMT Chief.</p> <p>The CMT Members will:</p> <p>Ensure the coordination of business continuity, business recovery and business resumption are as effective as possible.</p> <p>Maintain responsibility for the continuity and recovery actions of their individual departments in accordance with agreed sub action plans.</p> <p>Ensure up to date information is provided by sub action plan owners to inform the CMT and assist in decision making.</p>	
Knowledge Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level knowledge of DHP activities and service delivery priorities 2. High level knowledge of DHP divisional sub action plans 3. High level knowledge of BCP 	
Responsibilities	Responsibilities include:	
	<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. • Participate in training and testing activities. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure the department conducts training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT. • Ascertain the impact on DHP departmental activities and report to CMT. • Oversee departmental sub action plans implementation. • Monitor implementation of sub action plans as required.

Crisis Management Team – Communications Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement			
Position	Marketing and Communications Officer		
Alternate during absence	Manager Tourism and Promotion		
Position Statement	The Crisis Management Team Member, Communications will assist the CMT Leader and CMT Chief to ensure communications are maintained during an event.		
Knowledge Requirements	1. High level knowledge of the organisation activities 2. Understanding of organisation activities and service delivery priorities.		
Responsibilities	Responsibilities include:		
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain working knowledge of the BCP and relevant critical sub action plans • Participate in training/testing of the overarching BCP </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT • Establish and communicate Media strategy in consultation with the General Manager/Mayor and the CMT Leader • Maintain communications with business unit workers as represented by the CMT Chief/Leader • Maintain media and social media • Maintain media enquiry records • Maintain flow of information from the public/media to the CMT Leader </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain working knowledge of the BCP and relevant critical sub action plans • Participate in training/testing of the overarching BCP 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT • Establish and communicate Media strategy in consultation with the General Manager/Mayor and the CMT Leader • Maintain communications with business unit workers as represented by the CMT Chief/Leader • Maintain media and social media • Maintain media enquiry records • Maintain flow of information from the public/media to the CMT Leader
<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain working knowledge of the BCP and relevant critical sub action plans • Participate in training/testing of the overarching BCP 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate as a member of the CMT • Establish and communicate Media strategy in consultation with the General Manager/Mayor and the CMT Leader • Maintain communications with business unit workers as represented by the CMT Chief/Leader • Maintain media and social media • Maintain media enquiry records • Maintain flow of information from the public/media to the CMT Leader 		

Crisis Management Team – Work Health Safety & Risk Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement			
Position	WHS Officer and Governance Officer		
Alternate during absence	Human Resources Officer		
Position Statement	This position will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the CMT Team in the management of the business resumption activities. Maintain medium level working knowledge of the BCP documents and relevant sub action plans, as well as CMT Members and CMT Support Staff responsibilities. Report to and assist the CMT as required. 		
Knowledge Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium level knowledge of the BCP Understanding of organisation activities and service delivery priorities. 		
Responsibilities	Responsibilities include:		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Non-Activation period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing coordination of BCP and sub action plans with relevant owners. Coordinate regular training for all relevant staff. Coordinate testing for the BCP Ensure adequate resourcing of BCCC Ensure that Managers/Team Leaders conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. Participate in post-event evaluation and reviews and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> On Activation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the safety of everyone involved in the event is the highest priority during the event and recovery phase. Ensure that the WHS & Risk aspects of the event are carried out in accordance with accepted procedures and policies. Ensure staff rostering, meals and rest and accommodation are being considered by Managers and Team Leaders. Recommend appropriate action. </td> </tr> </table>	Non-Activation period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing coordination of BCP and sub action plans with relevant owners. Coordinate regular training for all relevant staff. Coordinate testing for the BCP Ensure adequate resourcing of BCCC Ensure that Managers/Team Leaders conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. Participate in post-event evaluation and reviews and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	On Activation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the safety of everyone involved in the event is the highest priority during the event and recovery phase. Ensure that the WHS & Risk aspects of the event are carried out in accordance with accepted procedures and policies. Ensure staff rostering, meals and rest and accommodation are being considered by Managers and Team Leaders. Recommend appropriate action.
Non-Activation period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing coordination of BCP and sub action plans with relevant owners. Coordinate regular training for all relevant staff. Coordinate testing for the BCP Ensure adequate resourcing of BCCC Ensure that Managers/Team Leaders conduct training and review of sub action plans at least once every three years. Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. Participate in post-event evaluation and reviews and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	On Activation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the safety of everyone involved in the event is the highest priority during the event and recovery phase. Ensure that the WHS & Risk aspects of the event are carried out in accordance with accepted procedures and policies. Ensure staff rostering, meals and rest and accommodation are being considered by Managers and Team Leaders. Recommend appropriate action. 		

Crisis Management Team Coordinator Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement			
Position	Executive Assistant to the General Manager		
Alternate during absence	Business Support Officer/Governance Officer(s)		
Position Statement	<p>CMT Support Members and are responsible for leading the response activities under the direction of the CMT Chief.</p> <p>The CMT Support Members will:</p> <p>Ensure the coordination of business continuity, business recovery and business resumption are as effective as possible.</p> <p>Ensure up to date information is provided by sub action plan owners (Managers/Team Leaders) to inform the CMT and assist in decision making.</p>		
Knowledge Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level knowledge of staff policies and procedures 2. High level knowledge of the OGM sub action plan 3. High level knowledge of Business Continuity Planning 		
Responsibilities	<p>Responsibilities include:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. Participate in training and testing activities. Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open and set up the BCCC on direction of CMT Chief. Ensure the CMT Chief has nominated administrative support to create and maintain a chronological log of meetings and decisions made. Ensure that as strategies are identified and decisions are made they are recorded on a display board to be ticked once completed to ensure nothing is overlooked. Arrange resources to assist CMT members as required. Make arrangement for CMT meetings. </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. Participate in training and testing activities. Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open and set up the BCCC on direction of CMT Chief. Ensure the CMT Chief has nominated administrative support to create and maintain a chronological log of meetings and decisions made. Ensure that as strategies are identified and decisions are made they are recorded on a display board to be ticked once completed to ensure nothing is overlooked. Arrange resources to assist CMT members as required. Make arrangement for CMT meetings.
<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high level knowledge of BCP & relevant sub action plans. Participate in training and testing activities. Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open and set up the BCCC on direction of CMT Chief. Ensure the CMT Chief has nominated administrative support to create and maintain a chronological log of meetings and decisions made. Ensure that as strategies are identified and decisions are made they are recorded on a display board to be ticked once completed to ensure nothing is overlooked. Arrange resources to assist CMT members as required. Make arrangement for CMT meetings. 		

Crisis Management Team – Information Services Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement			
Position	Manager Technology Services		
Alternate during absence	Technology Support Officer		
Position Statement	<p>The Information Services support group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide IT and telecommunications restoration support for the business functions impacted by a BCE. • Provide business functions with an IT platform as soon as possible, in accordance with established priorities and MAO limits after a BCE. • Keep the CMT informed of the progress of IT resumption and ongoing impacts to the BCE. 		
Knowledge Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level knowledge of Technology Services sub action plan. 2. High level knowledge of BCCC site procedures. 		
Responsibilities	<p>Responsibilities include:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Technology Services Sub Action Plan/Disaster Recovery Plan to ensure it reflects operational requirements. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure resources identified with Sub Action Plan are available to enable the plan to be implemented. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on extent of sub action plan activation and management and monitoring of sub action plan as required. • Notify business units, provide estimate of outage duration. • Where required help with the preparations to activate the BCCC. Confirm with the CMT Chief when the centre is operational. • Supervise the process to restore normal IT services. • Regularly advise CMT of recovery response and systems availability. • Provide guidance and assistance to IT users. </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Technology Services Sub Action Plan/Disaster Recovery Plan to ensure it reflects operational requirements. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure resources identified with Sub Action Plan are available to enable the plan to be implemented. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on extent of sub action plan activation and management and monitoring of sub action plan as required. • Notify business units, provide estimate of outage duration. • Where required help with the preparations to activate the BCCC. Confirm with the CMT Chief when the centre is operational. • Supervise the process to restore normal IT services. • Regularly advise CMT of recovery response and systems availability. • Provide guidance and assistance to IT users.
<p>Non-Activation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Technology Services Sub Action Plan/Disaster Recovery Plan to ensure it reflects operational requirements. • Ensure appropriate levels of training and testing are undertaken for all relevant staff. • Ensure resources identified with Sub Action Plan are available to enable the plan to be implemented. • Assess and escalate incidents to the CMT as necessary. • Participate in ongoing review and post-event evaluation and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement as required. 	<p>On Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on extent of sub action plan activation and management and monitoring of sub action plan as required. • Notify business units, provide estimate of outage duration. • Where required help with the preparations to activate the BCCC. Confirm with the CMT Chief when the centre is operational. • Supervise the process to restore normal IT services. • Regularly advise CMT of recovery response and systems availability. • Provide guidance and assistance to IT users. 		

<i>Other support to call on as required</i>	
Crisis Management Team Member Responsibility Statement	
<i>Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO)</i>	
<i>Position</i>	General Manager
<i>Alternate during absence</i>	Director Corporate Services
<i>If required during a Business Continuity Event.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as liaison between external agencies and CMT. • Delegate tasks and oversee emergency operations. • Authorise emergency response operations • Report emergency response operations to the CMT. • Provide combat resources • Coordinate restoration activities.
<i>Knowledge Requirements</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level knowledge of emergency management procedures and plan 2. High level knowledge of community, business and regulatory contact. 3. High level knowledge of business operations
<i>Chief Fire Warden</i>	
<i>Position</i>	Financial Accountant
<i>Alternate during absence</i>	Deputy Fire Warden as elected
<i>If required during a Business Continuity Event</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfill all Chief Warden duties as outlined in the Emergency Management Procedure
<i>Knowledge requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level knowledge of emergency management procedures and plan • High level knowledge of Council’s emergency contacts • High level knowledge of business operations
<i>Mayor or Deputy Mayor</i>	
<i>During a Business Continuity Event</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If required will act as the spokesperson for the Council. • Will ensure Councillors are kept up to date during the BCE.
<i>Administration Support</i>	
<i>During a Business Continuity Event</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain a chronological log of meetings and decisions made (including log of all events and actions, resumption status, CMT members’ movements etc). • May record all discussions and briefings to support meeting minutes • Support CMT Chief as required and work with CMT coordinator during the event to ensure all record keeping is accurate and complete.

Attachment F – Event Details Checklist

Event Details Checklist		
<i>This should be completed by the CMT Lead to determine activation of BCP</i>		
Completed by: (Name and Position)		Time: _____ Date: _____
Information obtained	(Details)	
1	Description of event, location and cause (if known)	
2	Estimated impact (people/structures/operations/ Other)	
3	Identification – injured or missing staff/people	
4	Estimated time of event occurring	
5	Estimated duration of impact (hours/days/weeks)	
6	Who or what generated the alert?	
7	Who confirmed/can confirm the information being provided/provided?	
8	Description of impact to facilities (accessibility, power, physical damage etc)	
9	Timeframes to recover facilities without using alternate sites?	
10	Are any systems working or stable? (Describe)	
11	Are any systems offline or at risk of failing? (Describe)	
12	Timeframe for recovering offline/failed systems	
13	Does the estimated or known downtime exceed the MAO?	(please circle) Yes No If YES, notify the GM/CMT Chief to activate the CMT If NO, follow relevant procedure to manage the event
COMMENTS		

Attachment G – Business Continuity Declaration Form



BUSINESS CONTINUITY DECLARATION FORM

Declaration (completed by the GM or the CMT Leader)			
Business Continuity Event Name:			
Description:			
Declaration Date:		Declaration Time:	
Initial CMT Meeting activated:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date:	
BCP Recovery Team Activated:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date:	
Comments:			

Contact Details (Internal/Coordinating Agency/Emergency Services (if known))			
Name:		Position:	
Organisation/Agency:			
Mobile Number:		Email:	
Name:		Position:	
Organisation/Agency:			

Resumption of Business as Usual (to be completed by the CMT Leader)			
Resumption Date:		Resumption Time:	
Total Days:		Total Hours:	

Signed by the CMT Leader (on resumption of business as usual)			
Name:		Position:	
Signature:		Date:	

Phone: 03 5027 5027
 council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au
 26-28 Adelaide Street, Wentworth
 PO Box 81, Wentworth NSW 2648
 ABN 96 283 886 815
 wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Attachment H – Incident Management Team Meeting Action Checklist

CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING CHECKLIST		
First Three Hours	Responsibility	Completed
1. Undertake a site assessment with area managers if possible. Main points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive initial reports • Assess the effect of the incident on all critical business functions • Which business units can use the site immediately? • When can they re-occupy the site? • Which business units cannot be re-housed in the short term? • Which priority one functions can share accommodation on a temporary basis? • Decide on outline strategy for re-occupation of and/or re-deployment to an alternative site? • Is security required at the BCE site(s)? 	CMT Leader	
2. Establish the recovery operations centre either on or off site and use the centre as the main point of contact for the emergency services, public utilities, CMT and workers	CMT Leader	
3. Manage incident log	Support	
4. Coordinate briefing sessions with workers, community members and the media	CMT Leader/CMT Chief	
5. Organise safety survey and arrangements to make the site secure	Planning	
6. After consultation with the CMT members, start planning the order of the business unit re-instatement in accordance with pre-planned priorities	CMT Leader	
7. Contact IT and alert them to possible action – who will be responsible for coordinating the impact on IT hard/software, peripherals, network installations and telephone network		
8. Consider salvage options. Liaise with business unit managers and make an initial assessment about the replenishment of damaged furniture, fittings, equipment and supplies. Coordinate provision of essential items	CMT Leader	
9. Schedule and coordinate second CMT meeting after the first three hours	Support	
10. Start and maintain a record of financial expenditure	CMT Leader	
11. Collate information as may be required for insurance purposes	Support	
12. Monitor workers welfare issues taking into consideration many workers may be upset by the event, may have lost colleagues, personal belongings etc, may have to be working from an alternate location after an event etc. Utilisation of counselling services as appropriate.	HR Manager	

NEXT 24 HOURS		
1. The CMT Leader will chair a second meeting of the CMT with the following objectives: a) To receive updates to initial reports; b) To agree to objectives for the next 24 hours; c) To establish workers rosters	CMT Leader	
2. Schedule and coordinate the third CMT meeting for 24 hours later and continue to maintain log of events	Support	
3. Set up and Information Board at the Control Centre including: a) Current operations – showing all tasks currently being carried out; b) Contacts display – showing all important contact numbers in regular use; and c) Resources Allocation – showing resources location, resources committed and resources available.	Marketing & Communications/Support	
4. Keep workers, community members and communications up to date via email, noticeboards or briefings and provide regular updates to the CMT Chief verbally or via email.	CMT Leader via Support	
5. As per BCSP, either: a) Plan to re-allocate office space on site in order of priorities; or b) Move to an alternative site	CMT Members	
6. Coordinate with CMT Members the essential services with public utilities and other suppliers at either the disaster site or alternative site (electricity, heating, lighting, water, air conditioning, fire detection/alarm systems, access control systems, telephones) as necessary	Planning/Support	
7. Coordinate IT to: a) Finalise telecommunications services to the requires site(s); b) Define the priorities for restoring networks and data on a gradual basis in order to provide a minimum initial communications requirement for departmental critical functions; c) Prepare to initiate interim back-up procedures for priority systems; and d) Finalise requirements for hardware/software and peripherals replacements and agree on installation schedules	CMT Leader	
8. Check on measures being taken for disaster site safety and security	Planning	
9. Coordinate and agree on office equipment and supplies delivery schedules with Suppliers.	CMT Leader/Support	
10. Consult with CMT members, arrangements for reinstating critical business functions in priority order whether on-site or at alternative premises. Brief directly affected workers accordingly.	CMT Members	
11. Ensure community members are re-assured that service delivery will be returned to normal as soon as possible via email, noticeboards or briefings.	CMT Chief	
12. Develop workers roster if extended use of a Control Centre is expected – manage breaks, food/water	CMT Leader/Support	
13. Implement a salvage plan and arrange temporary storage as necessary.	Support	
14. Reorganise postal arrangements as necessary.	Support	
15. Ensure tracking of expenses relating to the BCE and recovery operations	DCS	
16. Monitor workers welfare issues taking into consideration many workers may be to be working from an alternative location after an event, etc. Utilisation of counselling services as appropriate.	HR Manager	

Next Meetings – as required	Responsibility	Completed
1. Hold meetings to finalise plans and/or monitor progress.	CMT Leader	
2. Continue to maintain log of events.	Support	
3. Keep workers, community members and communications up to date and provide regular updates to Council CMT Chief.	CMT Leader	
4. Update information Board at the Control Centre.	Marketing & Communications/Support	
5. Continue to keep financial records.	CMT Leader/DCS	
6. Monitor the installation/repair of essential services to the disaster site/alternative site (electricity, heating, lighting, water, air conditioning, fire detection, alarm systems, access, control systems, telephones).	Director R&E	
7. Continue removal and re-deployment of salvaged items from the disaster site.	Director R&E	
8. Monitor measures being taken for disaster site safety and security.	CMT Leader	
9. Maintain liaison with key insurance contacts.	CMT Leader	
10. Continue to provide support/re-configuration to departments when required. Monitor the programme for installation and back-up of IT networks, hardware/software and peripherals in the agreed order of priority.	CMT Leader	
11. Monitor the programme for the delivery of supplies to the disaster/alternative site.	Support	
12. Monitor the reinstatement of functions in order of priority and the consequent effects on service delivery.	CMT Members	
13. Monitor overall progress on a regular basis.	CMT Leader/CMT Chief	
14. Co-ordinate interim and/or final report drafting.	CMT Members	
15. Monitor workers welfare issues taking into consideration many workers may be upset by the event, may have lost colleagues, personal belongings etc, may have to be working from an alternate location after an event etc. Utilisation of counselling services as appropriate.	HR Manager	
16. Ensure meetings continue until event is finalised.	CMT Leader/Support	

Attachment I – Media Enquiry Record

Business Continuity – Media Enquiry Record Form	
Council Officer taking enquiry:	
Date:	Time of Call:
Journalist/Requestor Name:	
Contact Numbers:	
Media Outlet:	
Deadline:	
Publication Date:	
Question:	
Response required by:	
Response provided to media:	
Council Officer providing response:	
Date:	Time:

Attachment J – Media Statement Example



DD/MM/YY

MEDIA RELEASE

On (insert day and date) at approximately (insert time) Council experienced a business interruption event (describe event). As a result of this event the following services are currently impaired: (add/delete as appropriate)

- Rates
- Waste Water
- Roads
- Visitor Information Centre
- Services Centre

Services that are not impacted by the business interruption event include: (add/delete as appropriate)

- Depot
- Libraries
- Etc

Alternate solutions are currently being put in place in line with Council's Business Continuity Plan.

Council will advise the community via the media and other Council communication channels once service delivery strategies have been confirmed.

Council's contact number is (contactable/not contactable) and alternatives are (insert as required).

Contact numbers and communication channels will be manned from (insert times) until further notice.

Issued by

Ken Ross
General Manager

Phone: 03 5027 5027
council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au
25-28 Adelaide Street, Wentworth
PO Box 81, Wentworth NSW 2648
ABN 96 283 886 815
wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Attachment K – Services/Programs Matrix

Function	Media & Comms	Technology	Services	Payroll	Accounts/Procurement	Depot	Stores	Water & Waste	Water	Human Resources	Animal Control	WH&S	Waste Management	Rates & Revenue	Parks & Gardens	Cemeteries	Public Health	Roads	Asset Management	Records Management	Civil Works	Building Compliance	Regulatory Compliance	Land Tenure	Sub-divisions	Project Management	Libraries	Visitor Information Centre	Financial Reporting	Tourism & Promotion	Town Planning	Weeds	
Media & Comms	✓									✓																							
Technology Services		✓																															
Payroll			✓	✓																													
Accounts/Procurement			✓	✓	✓																												
Depot			✓	✓	✓	✓																											
Stores			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																										
Water & Waste			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Water			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Human Resources			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓																							
Animal Control			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
WH&S			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Waste Management			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Rates & Revenue			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Parks and Gardens			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Cemeteries			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Public Health			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Roads			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Asset Management			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Records Management			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Civil Works			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Building Compliance			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Regulatory Compliance			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Land Tenure			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Sub-divisions			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Project Management			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Libraries			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Visitor Information Centre			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Financial Reporting			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Tourism & Promotion			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Town Planning			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									
Weeds			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																									

Appendix A – BCP Procedure Manual



BUSINESS CONTINUITY PROCEDURE

WORD DOCUMENT ID:	XXXXXDOC/24/26304
VERSION:	1.0
REVIEW DUE:	Four yearly or following change of legislation or incident
VERSION AMENDMENTS:	Nil
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Corporate Services

This document must be kept current in accordance with the Monitoring and Review schedule included within the overarching BCP manual.

Business Continuity Procedure

Responsibility

Responsibility for review of this document rests with the Director Corporate Services.

Related documents

This document is part of a suite of BCP documents comprising:

- BCP Manual
- BCP Procedure
- BCP Contacts and BCCC locations
- Sub action plans: Corporate Services, Health and Planning, Roads and Engineering, Office of the General Manager, Customer Services, Roads, Water, Waste Management

Distribution

The Business Continuity Plan is to be distributed to all staff, Team Leaders, Managers and Directors involved in the process of development, implementation and reviewing of this document. This includes those staff nominated as an alternate to a key position.

Member Role	Council Position – Principal	Council Position – Alternate
CMT Chief	General Manager	Director as nominated by GM
CMT Member – Corporate Services	Director Corporate Services	Manager Technology Services or Financial Accountant
CMT Member – Roads & Engineering	Director Roads & Engineering	Manager Works
CMT Member – Health & Planning	Director Health & Planning	Senior Building Surveyor
CMT Support Group – Media & Communications	Media & Communications Officer	Manager Tourism and Promotion
CMT Admin Support	Executive Assistant to GM	Business Support Officer or Governance

Business Continuity – The Process

Wentworth Shire Council has adopted this Business Continuity Procedure and associated documents with a view to anticipate and be better prepared when challenged with a significant business interruption event that may impact Council’s business objectives and ability to provide services to the community.

Key personnel with a specific role in the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) are required to be fully aware of and understand their roles and requirements in the event of a BCP being considered. Key personnel includes alternates.

The Business Continuity Plan as the overarching document, outlines the process and framework. This procedure document is to be used as a tool that will guide implementation and activation of the BCP. A flow chart is attached at Appendix A.

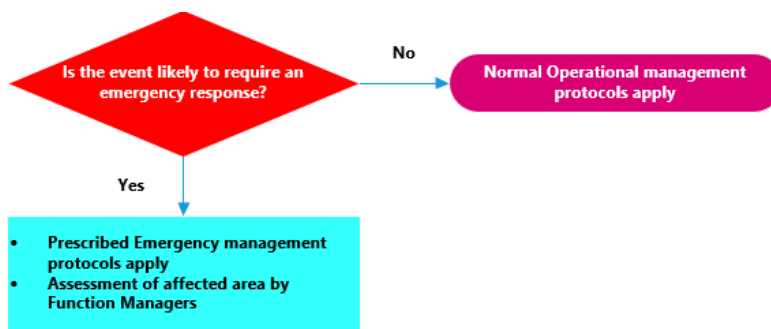
BCP Implementation

Awareness of an Event

On becoming aware of a possible Business Continuity Event (BCE) the relevant Manager/Team Leader is to assess the situation and determine if the event is likely to exceed the agreed **MAO Timeframe**.

If so, they must immediately notify the *CMT Leader* by phone and where possible, follow-up with email or personal briefing.

Any incident has the potential to become an emergency or a BCE.



Has there been, or is there any possibility of:

- Serious harm to the public or employees?
- Media interest?
- A breach of any law or regulation?
- An impact on ratepayers and residents of Wentworth Shire Council?
- An impact on another function of Wentworth Shire Council?

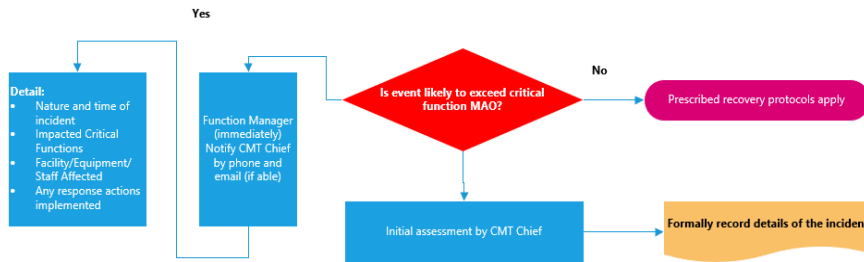
If any of the above questions have a 'yes' response, notification must be made and include:

- Nature of the incident – time informed etc
- Description of the business operation(s) impacted (eg critical functions)
- Facility/equipment impacted
- Staff impact
- Any response actions implements (critical function sub action plan)
- Any media interest
- Any immediate support requirements.

Elements of the BCP sub plans can be implemented, where appropriate, to address an immediate response requirement even if the event is expected to be resolved within an acceptable period.

Maximum Acceptable Outages – MAO

Following assessment and the responses to the questions above, MAO should be assessed and the process followed. The MAO is at Attachment C of the BCP Manual.



If No – follow emergency or incident procedures

If Yes – CMT Chief to assess the incident

When an incident affecting critical functions is reported to the CMT Chief, they will begin to document the event details and begin a damage assessment. The following table may be useful to help categorise an incident. All available information will be used by the CMT Chief to determine if it will be necessary to activate the BCP.

	Incident	Emergency	Business Continuity Event
Public Safety	Isolated minor injury, whether medical attention is requested or not. Minor traffic accident.	Multiple injuries, fatality, or significant ongoing threat. Serious traffic accident. Investigation by statutory authorities Recurring related incidents.	Any serious public safety issue likely to attract significant media/political attention. Significant compensation awarded or fines. Endemic safety issues.
Public Services	Serious traffic disruption. Minor accident.	Significant or wide spread impact on operations. Bomb Threat Significant fleet damage.	Serious or long term impact on operations. Major disruption to WSC infrastructure.
Environment	Minor spill/emission which can be dealt with internally. Minor spill during refuelling that is contained and easily cleaned up.	Spill/emission which requires external resources to mitigate high volume spill. Contamination/failure of WSC storage system.	Serious spill/emission which attracts public outrage.
WSC Business	Local disruption which can be dealt with locally. Limited industrial action. Office evacuation. Temporary system disruption.	Disruption requiring corporate/external resources to address. Large scale industrial action. Communications failure.	Long term disruption to business systems. Concurrent activation of multiple sub action plans.

		Significant system outage.	
Media Attention & Political Interest	Short term, localised coverage limited to minor operational issues.	Newsworthy but of short term interest. May be of interest to local government but no lasting impact on image.	Intense or long term media scrutiny/attack on WSC. Accusations of senior level misconduct or criminal acts.
Government Intervention	Some low level government interest but no intervention.	Government interest and monitoring but action not yet considered necessary.	Activation by the Government of a high level emergency plan may require CMT activation.

Assembly and Activation of the BCP

After assessment and consideration of the event by the CMT Chief, and if warranted, the BCP will be activated.

Business Continuity Control Centre (BCCC)

Following the declaration of the BCP, the BCCC will be opened at an appropriate location. A list of BCCC's available to Council is located in the BCP Manual at Attachment B. Once the location is selected, the resourcing of this centre will be the responsibility of the CMT Coordinator.

The primary purpose of the BCCC is to provide a room for the CMT to centrally control and coordinate decision making related to the BCE. The BCCC checklist outlines the best options for the room at various locations within the Wentworth Council area.

Initial CMT Meeting at the BCCC

The CMT Chief is to call the initial CMT meeting to obtain further detailed information from the relevant business areas impacted.

Attachment F [in the plan](#) provides a template for the meetings.

CMT Members present information that will have been gathered to produce an evaluation of the incident.

CMT Admin Support take a formal record of the meeting, with particular emphasis on items to be actioned. The record should be regularly reviewed and updated as additional information is received.

Business Impact Analysis (BIA)

The Business Impact Analysis identifies the impact of operations of Council. The analysis will identify areas/issues that will inform the responses, with mitigation and risk consideration ensuring the continuity of business operations.

- Emergency Services/Chief Warden (if applicable) if to provide information to the CMT Chief in relation to the impact of the BCE and potential long term impact.
- Managers/Team Leaders from each department will assess and determine (if any) level of loss or damage to their areas – down time and MAO must be considered.
- CMT Members collect the information from the Managers/Team Leaders and discuss/assess in the CMT meeting.
- The CMT assesses the situation from the information gathered, undertake analysis and overall impact consideration on Council to continue to deliver services.
- HR initiates communication protocol with staff.

Communication – Staff and Media

Staff: All staff are to be contacted as a matter of priority, Managers/Team Leaders provide direction to their staff as per the Sub Action Plan.

The Human Resources department with the assistance of other staff as required will be responsible for notifying staff when a BCE occurs and to keep them up to date throughout the event. Further information is contained in the Human Resources Sub Action Plan, including appropriate protocols for privacy and confidentiality, and therefore a restricted list of approved senders has been nominated in the Sub Action Plan.

Media: Council policy must be followed by all staff in Council in discussing information with any media outlets.

- Only the CMT Chief and the Mayor have delegated authority to provide information to media
- This extends to contractors and other service providers and agencies
- If an event occurs after-hours, there may be a delay in communications and responses to media
- Staff are only able to make the statement below as outlined in the BCP Manual:

'I am sorry, but I am not authorised to make any statement at this time. The General Manager and the Mayor are currently being briefed on the situation, and someone will be available to talk to you shortly.'

The CMT must approve all communication and media releases. The sample media release is at Attachment J of the BCP Manual.

Business Continuity Sub Action Plans

On instruction from the CMT, either the Standard Response Action Plan or Sub Action Plan will be enacted. Sub Action Plan owners will be advised by the CMT.

The Sub Action Plan owners will identify availability of resources and affected critical function areas, and provide confirmation to the CMT, who will advise and deploy resources as necessary to meet critical functions and ensure the MAO is not exceeded.

Implementing Response Strategies

Following evaluation and assessment, the CMT Chief will authorise the implementation of response strategies to minimise effects from the BCE.

The Checklists at Attachment B and [C of this procedure](#) should be used.

BCP Recovery Team

Several roles will be required to provide recovery services during and following a BCP event. These should ideally be Assistant Director or Manager level.

The following roles will need to be allocated following a BCE:

Recovery Coordinator (RC):
 Finance Coordinator (FC): Financial Accountant
 Manager ICT (MICT):
 Risk Management Coordinator (RMC):
 Premises Coordinator (PC):
 Manager Assets (MA):
 HR Coordinator (HRC):
 General Manager Executive Assistant (GMEA):

Post Event Recovery

Upon full recovery of business operations, the CMT Chief in consultation with the CMT will advise the General Manager (if the GM is not the CMT Chief for the event), that the crisis has ended and business as usual has been restored and the CMT can be stood down.

As soon as possible after the return to business as usual, a debrief will be scheduled with the CMT, other critical personnel to review the response and recovery process.

A debrief will be provided to all staff following the CMT debrief.

Review the Event

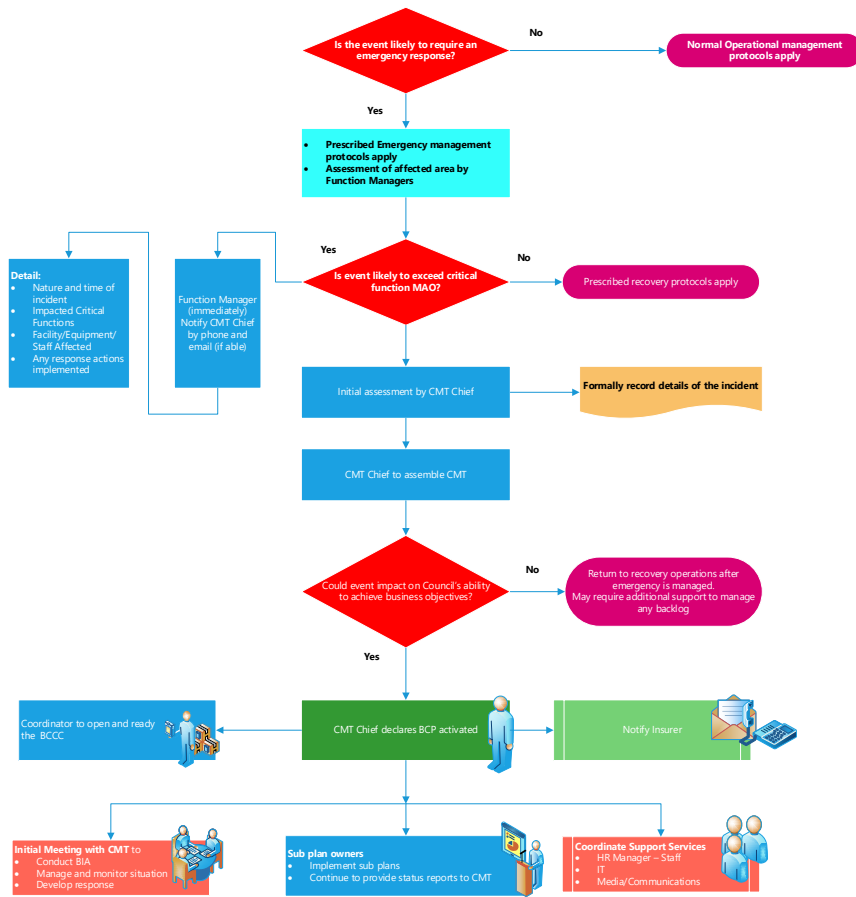
After the event has been resolved there will be post-event reviews by the CMT and other appropriate stakeholders to find out what happened, why, who was responsible and what actions need to be taken to ensure that it does not happen again (or is minimised).

Recommendations will be implemented as appropriate and retraining of staff and review of business continuity documentation will occur if required.

Review steps

- Conduct post event review with stakeholders and other relevant personnel
 - What has been learned from this crisis
 - Consider what went well and what did not
 - Consider and record key lessons learnt
- Recommend improvements to BCP and documents
 - Review and update recovery plan if required
 - Review and update the BCP
- Review and update corporate risks as required; and
- Manage communication after the event as required

Appendices to BCP Procedures
Appendix A – BCP Flow Chart



Attachment C – Recovery Checklist**Damage assessment**

- List details of any injured people, including staff, customers, and other members of the public.
- List the details of any damage to buildings, equipment, company vehicle and stock
- Record or photograph damage to premises, fixtures, vehicles, stock, customer records and equipment.
- List any impact on Council business functions.
- Predict any damage to your business' reputation or likely downturn in patronage due to the perception that the area may be dangerous or closed for business.

Debrief – CMT/Staff

- Meet with and debrief staff within 24 – 48 hours of the crisis.
If you any site(s) are affected and closed, be sure to make contact with each of staff member to alert them of the situation and allow them to react and ask questions.
- Keep staff informed through the recovery process.
- Advise staff about colleagues who may be injured or badly affected by the disaster.
- Keep staff informed about what is expected of them, whether they are required to work and if not, when work is likely to resume.
- Reassure staff about job security.

Seek help

- Contact Council's insurance company to make a claim (before cleaning up and removing damaged goods, etc.)
- Consider the types of government assistance that may be available to help Council recovery. (Depending on the disaster, this could include initiatives such as clean-up and recovery grants and low interest loans).
- Consider support that may be available from banks and other businesses.
- Consider any other grants, support services or disaster assistance that may be available to Council following a disaster.
- If appropriate, contact the Australian Taxation Office to find out about assistance available for individuals and businesses that have been affected by natural disasters.
- Consider whether staff/CMT would like to discuss any stress or emotional trauma they may be experiencing. If so, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 for confidential emotional and crisis support or Beyondblue for depression and anxiety support.

Review and Learn

- Record what has been learnt from the BCE
- Review and update the recovery plan and the business continuity plan.
- Consider key lessons learned and what went well and what did not.

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

File Number: RPT/25/115

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Ebony Carter - Business Support Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars
Circulars 25-02 to 25-04
2. Meetings
As listed.
3. Upcoming meetings or events
As listed.
4. Other items of note

The Wentworth Visitor Centre was officially opened by The Hon. Ron Hoenig, Minister for Local Government on 12 March 2025.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Detailed Report

1. Circulars

Council Circular 25-02 Time Series Data 2023-24

Key Points

- Council will be able to monitor their performance against similar or neighbouring Councils in their area.
- For data to be useful, it is important that it is released in a timely manner.
- Some councils have been granted an extension to lodge their financial statements, and this data has not been captured.
- The Office of Local Government will release a completed set of data in March 2025.

Council Circular 25-03 Review of the NSW Companion Animal Laws - Discussion Paper

Key points

- The Companion Animals Act encourages owners to act responsibly by ensuring the effective and appropriate care and management of their pet dog or cat.
- The enforcement of companion animal legislation and monitoring of compliance is primarily the responsibility of councils.

- This discussion paper presents an opportunity to gather feedback and ideas on how companion animals are best managed. It focuses on high-level strategic questions regarding the objectives of the Companion Animals Act and its current relevance.
- The discussion paper asks a series of questions under 3 key focus areas:
- Strategic framework for encouraging responsible ownership of companion animals.
- Compliance and enforcement role of councils.
- Companion animal population and rehoming.
- Responses can be provided via the Office of Local Government website or feedback forms can be downloaded and submitted via email at ca.review@olg.nsw.gov.au with the subject line 'CA Act Review Discussion Paper'.
- This will not be the only opportunity to have a say. Further consultation, including papers, targeted stakeholder meetings, and workshops, may be undertaken as required to help the Government to determine key issues and options for change.
- The review will also consider all findings and recommendations of various Government inquiries into related issues through Parliamentary committees, as well as those of recent coronial inquests into dog attacks.

Council Circular 25-04 Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines

Key points

- Openly available financial information ensure effective oversight, builds trust and confidence and minimises risk.
- The draft Guidelines highlight the importance of financial reporting and clarify that councillors have a primary role in determining the financial direction and health of a council.
- They introduce standardised reporting template and a mandate to report at fund level to ensure the governing body and community can easily view how each fund is operating on its own merit.
- They also introduce a new requirement for councils to provide OLG with a full copy of QBRS documents and an electronic QBRS data return throughout the financial year.
- Councils are encouraged to review the draft Guidelines and the Consultation Guidelines on the OLG website.

2. Meetings

Following is a list of meetings or events attended by the General Manager for the period of 13 February 2024 – 19 March 2025

Date	Meeting	Location
13 Feb 2025	CSP Murray House Community Consultation	Wentworth
14 Feb 2025	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee	Wentworth
14 Feb 2025	CSP Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc Consultation	Wentworth
17 Feb 2025	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
17 Feb 2025	CSP Wentworth Community Consultation	Wentworth
18 Feb 2025	MRD Briefing	Online
19 Feb 2025	NSW ICAC Chief Commissioner – Identifying corruption risks for Councillors	Broken Hill
24 Feb 2025	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
24 Feb 2025	PSG Lighstate TOL and FOSO	Mildura

25 Feb 2025	CSP Gol Gol School Community Consultation	Gol Gol
25 Feb 2025	Regional Emergency Management Committee Meeting	Wentworth
26 Feb 2025	Telstra and RAMJO Roundtable	Online
26 Feb 2025	WSC & Balranald Shire Planning Training	Wentworth
27 Feb 2025	Michelle Millthorpe meeting	Wentworth
28 Feb 2025	Central Darling Shire – Pooncarie Road Opening Event	Menindee
03 March 2025	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
04 March 2025	CSP Ellerslie Community Consultation	Ellerslie
05 March 2025	CSP Coomealla High School Leadership training presentations Community Consultation	Wentworth
12 March 2025	Minister Hoenig Opening the Visitor Centre	Wentworth
13 March 2025	Meeting Collaboration and Health Workforce	Mildura
13 March 2025	Wentworth Health Service Redevelopment sit tour	Wentworth
14 March 2025	CSP Pomona Community Consultation	Pomona
17 March 2025	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
19 March 2025	Pre-Council Meeting Briefing	Wentworth
19 March 2025	Ordinary Council Meeting	Wentworth

3. Events

Following is a list of events, conferences, or committee meetings, including out of region meetings where the Shire has been requested to attend in an official capacity from 20 March 2024 – 16 April 2024.

Date	Meeting	Proposed Attendees	Location
20 Mar 2025	Wentworth Showgrounds User Group	Cr Nichols & Cr Evans	Wentworth
26 Mar 2025	Trail of Lights Official Opening	General Manager	Mildura
27-28 Mar 2025	Country Mayors Meeting	General Manager & Mayor	Sydney
07 April 2025	Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc Meeting	Cr Rodda	Dareton
08 April 2025	Australian Inland Botanic Gardens	Cr Rodda & Cr Starick	Mourquong
09 April 2025	Gol Gol Lake World Wetlands Day Celebration and Opening of the Flume Gate Regulator	Councillors	Buronga/Gol Gol/Bottle Bend
11 April 2025	GMAC Meeting	General Manager	Online
15 April 2025	TCorp Visit	General Manager	Buronga/We

			ntworth
--	--	--	---------

4. Other Items of Note

The Wentworth Visitor Centre was officially opened by The Hon. Ron Hoenig, Minister for Local Government on 12 March 2025. The event was attended by approximately 100 people.

Attachments

1. Council Circular 25-02 Time Series Data 2023-24 [↓](#)
2. Council Circular 25-03 Review of the NSW Companion Animal Laws - Discussion Paper [↓](#)
3. Council Circular 25-04 Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines [↓](#)

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject	Time Series Data 2023-24
Circular Details	Circular No 25-02 / 12 February 2025 / A939848
Previous Circular	N/A
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Performance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information

What's new or changing?

- The Time Series data for 2023-24 has been released.

What will this mean for council?

- Councils will be able to monitor their performance against similar or neighbouring councils.

Key points

- For data to be useful, it is important that it is released in a timely manner.
- Some councils have been granted an extension to lodge their financial statements, and this data has not been captured.
- The Office of Local Government will release a completed set of data in March 2025.

Where to go for further information

- The data can be accessed via <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/about-councils/comparative-council-information/your-council-report/>.

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary
Office of Local Government

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject	Review of the NSW Companion Animals Laws – Discussion Paper
Circular Details	Circular No 25-03/ 25 February 2025 / A911170
Previous Circular	N/A
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff / Council rangers, enforcement and pound services staff.
Contact	OLG Policy team / 02 4428 4100 / ca.review@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Response to OLG

What's new or changing?

- The NSW Government has committed to a comprehensive review of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (Companion Animals Act).
- The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP, is commencing the review by inviting public submissions on a discussion paper.

What will this mean for council?

- Councils are requested to provide feedback on the questions posed in this discussion paper by Sunday, 4 May 2025.
- Feedback received will be considered by the Government as it determines next steps in the review.

Key points

- The Companion Animals Act encourages owners to act responsibly by ensuring the effective and appropriate care and management of their pet dog or cat.
- The enforcement of companion animal legislation and monitoring of compliance is primarily the responsibility of councils.



- This discussion paper presents an opportunity to gather feedback and ideas on how companion animals are best managed. It focuses on high-level strategic questions regarding the objectives of the Companion Animals Act and its current relevance.
- The discussion paper asks a series of questions under 3 key focus areas:
 - Strategic framework for encouraging responsible ownership of companion animals.
 - Compliance and enforcement role of councils.
 - Companion animal population and rehoming.
- Responses can be provided via the Office of Local Government [website](#) or feedback forms can be downloaded and submitted via email at ca.review@olg.nsw.gov.au with the subject line 'CA Act Review Discussion Paper'.
- This will not be the only opportunity for you to have a say. Further consultation, including papers, targeted stakeholder meetings, and workshops, may be undertaken as required to help the Government to determine key issues and options for change.
- The review will also consider all findings and recommendations of various Government inquiries into related issues through Parliamentary committees, as well as those of recent coronial inquests into dog attacks.

Where to go for further information

- Further information on the review is available on the Office of Local Government's [website](#), by contacting the Policy team on 02 4428 4100 or via email at ca.review@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary
Office of Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines
Circular Details	25-04/ 6 March 2025/ A934553
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council finance staff
Contact	Strategic Projects Unit / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Response to OLG

What's new or changing?

- Financial reporting is an important part of a transparent and accountable local government.
- To ensure councillors have effective oversight and are in control of the financial performance of their council, the Office of Local Government (OLG) has revised the Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines for Local Government (the draft Guidelines).
- The draft Guidelines outline the purpose and value of effective financial reporting, highlight roles and responsibilities, and establish standardised Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) reporting templates.
- The draft Guidelines also introduce a QBRs overview and reporting of council income and expenditure based on fund.
- These changes will address concerns that the governing body and communities are not receiving clear, relevant and meaningful financial information.

What will this mean for council?

- The proposed framework will be mandatory, and all NSW councils will be required to comply with the draft Guidelines including the standardised QBRs reporting to be presented to councillors, the community and to the OLG.
- A Consultation Guide has been developed to encourage discussion and generate feedback from the local government sector and key stakeholders.

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au



- A 'How to read your Quarterly Financial Overview' guide has also been developed to assist users read and understand the figures presented in the QBRS. The one-page resource can be re-badged and used by councils.
- OLG intends to assess submissions, finalise and release the new QBRS Guidelines in mid-2025 and anticipates that councils would commence reporting the 1st quarter QBRS under the new Guidelines by no later than 30 November 2025.
- Currently, the draft Guidelines do not include a 'key performance indicator statement'. OLG is in the process of reviewing the performance ratios and will separately consult with the sector about any proposed changes.

Key points

- Openly available financial information ensure effective oversight, builds trust and confidence and minimises risk.
- The draft Guidelines highlight the importance of financial reporting and clarify that councillors have a primary role in determining the financial direction and health of a council.
- They introduce standardised reporting template and a mandate to report at fund level to ensure the governing body and community can easily view how each fund is operating on its own merit.
- They also introduce a new requirement for councils to provide OLG with a full copy of QBRS documents and an electronic QBRS data return throughout the financial year.
- Councils are encouraged to review the draft Guidelines and the Consultation Guidelines on the [OLG website](#).

Where to go for further information

- The suite of QBRS documents are available on the [OLG website](#).
- Feedback is welcome from councils, individual councillors, council staff and key industry stakeholders, and is due by 5pm Friday 18 April 2025
- Written feedback can be provided via:
 - Email: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au OR
 - Post: Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541.
- Submissions should be clearly labelled 'Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement – Consultation Feedback'.



Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

9.2 ALGA 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

File Number: RPT/25/144

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

The next Federal Election must be held by 17 May 2025. Working in conjunction with its member state and territory associations, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has developed a framework and resources for a national advocacy campaign that will run in the lead up to this election.

Based around the tagline of “Put Our Communities First”, the goal is to secure additional federal funding that will support every council to play a bigger role delivering local solutions to national priorities.

All Australian councils have been asked to participate in this campaign to ensure a coordinated approach that will deliver the best possible outcomes.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Supports the national federal election funding priorities identified by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA); and
- b) Supports and participates in the Put Our Communities First federal election campaign; and
- c) Writes to the local federal member(s) of Parliament, all known election candidates in local federal electorates and the President of the Australian Local Government Association expressing support for ALGA’s federal election funding priorities.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with detail of Australian Local Government Association’s “Put Our Communities First” election campaign.

Background

The next Federal Election must be held by 17 May 2025.

Working in conjunction with its member state and territory associations, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has developed a framework and resources for a national advocacy campaign that will run in the lead up to this election.

Based around the tagline of “Put Our Communities First”, the goal is to secure additional federal funding that will support every council to play a bigger role delivering local solutions to national priorities.

All Australian councils have been asked to participate in this campaign to ensure a coordinated approach that will deliver the best possible outcomes.

Report Detail

The Put Our Communities First campaign will advocate for new federal funding to be distributed to all councils on a formula-basis, similar to the Commonwealth’s Roads to Recovery Program, or the previous Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

This will ensure that every council and community benefits, and support local decision making based on local needs.

ALGA has developed free campaign resources that can be adapted and used by all councils to ensure a consistent and effective approach.

Participating in a national advocacy campaign does not preclude this council from advocating on additional local needs and issues, but it will strengthen the national campaign and support all 537 Australian local governments.

The five national funding priorities have been determined by the ALGA Board – comprised of representatives from each of Australia’s state and territory local government associations – and align with key national priorities.

These five funding priorities are:

- \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply
- \$500 million per year for community infrastructure
- \$600 million per year for safer local roads
- \$900 million per year for increased local government emergency management capability and capacity, and
- \$400 million per year for climate change adaptation.

Further information on each of these priorities is listed below.

Housing enabling infrastructure

A lack of funding for enabling infrastructure – including roads, and water and sewerage treatment connections and facilities – is a significant barrier to increasing housing supply across the country.

Research from [Equity Economics](#) found that 40 per cent of local governments have cut back on new infrastructure developments because of inadequate enabling infrastructure funding.

This research also shows that achieving the National Housing Accord’s housing targets would incur an additional \$5.7 billion funding shortfall on top of infrastructure funding gaps already being felt by councils and their communities.

A five year, \$1.1 billion per annum program would fund the infrastructure that is essential to new housing developments, and Australia reaching its housing targets.

Community Infrastructure

ALGA's [2024 National State of the Assets report](#) indicates that \$8.3 billion worth of local government buildings and \$2.9 billion worth of parks and recreation facilities are in poor condition and need attention.

Introduced in 2020, the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program supported all councils to build, maintain and upgrade local facilities, with \$3.25 billion allocated on a formula basis.

This program had a significant impact, driving an almost \$1 billion improvement in the condition of local government buildings and facilities; and a \$500 million per year replacement fund would support all councils to build, upgrade and revitalise the community infrastructure all Australians rely on.

Safer Roads

Councils manage more than 75% of Australia's roads by length, and tragically more than half of all fatal road crashes in Australia occur on these roads.

In 2023 the Australian Government announced that it would double Roads to Recovery funding over the forward estimates, providing councils with an additional \$500 million per year.

However, recent independent research by the [Grattan Institute](#) highlighted a \$1 billion local government road maintenance funding shortfall, meaning there is still a significant funding gap.

Providing local government with \$600 million per year tied to road safety programs and infrastructure upgrades would support all councils to play a more effective role addressing Australia's unacceptable road toll.

Climate adaptation

Local governments are at the forefront of grappling with climate impacts as both asset managers and land use decision makers.

However, funding and support from other levels of government has failed to keep pace, placing an inequitable burden on councils and communities to fund this work locally.

A \$400 million per year local government climate adaptation fund would enable all councils to implement place-based approaches to adaptation, delivering local solutions to this national challenge.

Emergency management

Fires, floods and cyclones currently cost Australia [\\$38 billion per year, and this is predicted to rise to \\$73 billion by 2060](#).

Australian councils play a key role preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural disasters, but aren't effectively funded to carry out these duties.

The Government's \$200 million per year Disaster Ready Fund is significantly oversubscribed, especially considering the scale and cost of disaster mitigation projects.

Numerous national reviews – including the [Colvin Review](#) and [Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements](#) – have identified the need for a significant uplift in local government emergency management capability and capacity.

A \$900 million per year fund would support all councils to better prepare their communities before natural disasters, and more effectively carry out the emergency management responsibilities that have been delegated to them.

Conclusion

At the request of the Australian Local Government Association council support their election funding priorities.

Attachments

Nil

9.3 CHRISTMAS LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS

File Number: RPT/25/108

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Glen Norris - Manager Human Resources

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.3 An effective and efficient organisation

Summary

This report sets out the proposed staffing arrangements for Council offices/areas closing over the Christmas and New Year period. From representation through the Staff consultative committee this report is brought before council earlier than previous years due to staff needing the extra time to adequately plan for Christmas and New Year period. The proposal before Council requires staff to be absent from the office for a period of 7 workdays of which 3 are public holidays and the remaining 4 days can be taken out of each staff members outstanding leave balances.

Recommendation

That Council approves the Christmas and New Year holiday arrangements as below:

Council Area	
Main Administration Office, Midway Service Centre, Council Libraries and Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed from close of business Wednesday 24 December 2025. • Re-open Monday 5 January 2026 – normal operating hours.
Visitor Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Thursday 25 December and Friday 26 December 2025. • Normal operating hours from Saturday 27 December to Tuesday 30 December 2025. • Open Wednesday 31 December 2025 - 8.30am to 1.30pm. • Closed Thursday 1 January 2026. • Normal operating hours from Friday 2 January 2026.
Council Landfill sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 December 2025 and Thursday 1 January 2026. • Normal operating hours between public holidays.
Depot Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 December 2025 and Thursday 1 January 2026. • Normal operating hours between public holidays.

Detailed Report

Purpose

Christmas Day in 2025 falls on a Thursday, as does New Year’s Day 2026.

The approved public holidays for 2025/26 Christmas/New Year period are Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 December 2025 and Thursday 1 January 2026.

It is proposed that the Christmas close-down occurs at the close of business on Wednesday 24 December 2025 with Council Libraries, Main Office and Midway Centre to re-open on Monday 5 January 2026. The detailed list of arrangements is on the following table.

Council Area	
Main Administration Office, Midway Service Centre, Council Libraries and Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed from close of business Wednesday 24 December 2025. • Re-open Monday 5 January 2026 – normal operating hours.
Visitor Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Thursday 25 December and Friday 26 December 2025. • Normal operating hours from Saturday 27 December to Tuesday 30 December 2025. • Open Wednesday 31 December 2025 - 8.30am to 1.30pm. • Closed Thursday 1 January 2026. • Normal operating hours from Friday 2 January 2026.
Council Landfill sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 December 2025 and Thursday 1 January 2026. • Normal operating hours between public holidays.
Depot Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 December 2025 and Thursday 1 January 2026. • Normal operating hours between public holidays.

In addition to the above mentioned arrangements, Council’s roads team traditionally have annual leave in the month of January.

Alternate arrangements are made for any staff member that does not have sufficient leave to cover these holiday arrangements.

Attachments

Nil

9.4 REQUEST FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP - 2025 SUNRAYSLIA SAFARI RALLY

File Number: RPT/25/125

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Lexi Stockman - Manager Tourism and Promotion

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request to provide financial sponsorship and provision of the Wentworth Showgrounds (including in kind support of daily cleaning of toilets, showers and emptying of rubbish bins) for the 2025 Sunraysia Safari Rally from Monday 8 September until Monday 15 September, with the event to be held from Wednesday 10 September until Saturday 13 September. The request also highlights a potential waiver of any proposed access and camping fees at the Wentworth Showgrounds for participants.

Council approved financial sponsorship of \$20,000 and in-kind support for the event in 2024. Council did not approve 'free camping' at the Showgrounds for the event in 2024.

Recommendation

That Council provides financial sponsorship of \$20,000 and in-kind support, including free camping, towards the 2025 Sunraysia Safari Rally event.

This recommendation has been made in line with the Event Funding Policy and Event Funding Guidelines which will be introduced before the commencement of the 25/26 budget.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a request for financial sponsorship and provision of Wentworth Showgrounds (including in kind support of free access and camping, daily cleaning of toilets, showers and emptying of rubbish bins) from Monday 8 September to Monday 15 September 2025 for the 2025 Sunraysia Safari Rally.

Background

Financial sponsorship and provision of the Wentworth Showgrounds plus in-kind support was requested and granted for the 2024 Sunraysia Safari Rally. 'Free camping' was not approved for the 2024 event and subsequently it was requested that participants pay camping fees in person at the Visitor Information Centre.

The Sunraysia Safari Rally has been a longstanding local event, first held within the Shire in 2017. In 2020 and 2021, the event was not held due to circumstances beyond the organisers control.

Report Detail

Council is in receipt of a request from Rally Management Australia for financial sponsorship and provision of the Wentworth Showgrounds (including in kind support of free Showgrounds access and camping, daily cleaning of toilets, showers and emptying of rubbish bins). A copy of the request is attached for reference.

The request also includes information regarding the economic impact from the 2024 Sunraysia Safari Rally and how the event supports the region in terms of return on investment.

Based on competitor surveys and the event budgeting, 'raw figure' data shows the 2024 Sunraysia Safari Rally delivered over \$747,681 to the Wentworth region. The event had a confirmed participation of at least 537 people made up of competitors, service/support crews, family members and locals. 78 of these were competitors, which event organisers stated as an 'all-time low' which could be due to current cost of living pressures and financial constraints. The data included within the request also highlighted the use of local accommodation, with the event generating at least 1,115 'bed nights' across the Wentworth region utilising various accommodation types.

Other information for noting within the report included the level of exposure the event received on social media, with a reach of 167,000 worldwide within the month of the rally. The success of the TV documentary was also noted, however viewer numbers could not be provided.

Based on the pending adoption of the 2025-2026 fees and charges and the assumption of a 7-night stay, similar to previous years, the following costs for in-kind support would need to be considered:

- Access charges for the Showgrounds (including pavilion, arena, bar and lawns): \$197 per area/per day - \$4,137 (3 areas)
 - Rubbish – Contractor: \$845
 - Daily cleaning for shower and toilets – Contractor: \$1950
 - Camping: \$29 per day/per site for approximately 38 unpowered sites - \$7,714
 - Power: \$38 per day - \$265
- TOTAL: \$14,911**

The above preference of unpowered sites and site numbers is based on information communicated to Council staff after the 2024 Sunraysia Safari Rally event.

The request also highlighted the need to waive venue hire fees for the community groups utilising the Pooncarie Hall during the event however Council records show that both the Isolated Children's Parents Association and the Palinyewah Public School P&C were not charged any fees for use of the Council venue. As per page 81 of the current Annual Fees & Charges, schools and school P&C's are granted an automatic fee waiver if raising money for registered schools within the Shire.

Alternative options were considered and have been included below:

- a) Approve sponsorship of a differing amount and in-kind support of a differing make-up.
- b) Decline sponsorship and in-kind support.
- c) Decline sponsorship and approve in-kind support.
- d) Approve sponsorship and decline in-kind support.

At the time of this report, the draft Event Funding Policy is still in draft form and is currently out for community consultation. This report has been formulated based on the endorsement of the Event Funding Policy being introduced before the 25/26 budget has commenced. The outcome of this report will have financial implications on the 25/26 budget.

Conclusion

Council is in receipt of a request to provide financial sponsorship and in-kind support (free access to the Showgrounds, free camping, daily cleaning of toilets and showers and

emptying of rubbish bins) for the 2025 Sunraysia Safari Rally from Monday 8 September until Monday 15 September.

It has been recommended that Council provides financial sponsorship of \$20,000 and in-kind support, including free camping, towards the 2025 Sunraysia Safari Rally event. This recommendation has been made in line with the draft Event Funding Policy and Event Funding Guidelines.

Council approved financial sponsorship of \$20,000 and in-kind support for the event in 2024. Council did not approve 'free camping' at the Showgrounds for the event in 2024.

Attachments

1. 2024 Sunraysia Safari Rally Report to Council and Request for Funding for 2025 Sunraysia Safari Rally Event - Rally Management Australia [↓](#)



2024 SUNRAYSIA SAFARI REPORT TO COUNCIL, AND REQUEST FOR ONGOING SUPPORT IN 2025

24/1/25

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to report back to you following the 2024 Sunraysia Safari, and submit a formal request for ongoing support of the 2025 edition of the Rally.

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation, on behalf of all participants and stakeholders involved in the event, for the council's ongoing support and assistance. The event simply couldn't be conducted without it. The entire community: be it the landowners, businesses, local fundraising groups, and everyone involved in helping to run the Rally have partnered with us to establish an event that is totally unique and special, and is an absolute showcase of the Wentworth Shire. As we continue to grow and develop the event, so grows its notoriety World-wide, and the increased value of the economic activity coming into the region, and increased publicity through our TV Documentary, and Digital/Social media marketing activities. Some of the figures from 2024 are totally amazing, but we'll get to that a bit later!

That's not to say however that everything with the 2024 Sunraysia Safari ran smoothly. Unfortunately, some aspects of our dealings with the Wentworth Shire Council caused us considerable angst, as well as significant reputational and financial damage, and generated an unfortunate level of ill feeling towards the council from our competitors, officials, and local supporters alike. This stemmed primarily from the introduction of camping fees for staying at the Wentworth Showgrounds (the headquarters of the event) which have never been imposed previously, were not communicated to us by council until 5 weeks prior to the event, and the reasoning of which were never properly explained to us.

To make matters even worse, councillors were misled into believing we had actually requested additional funding of \$21,000 to cover camping fees (which was added by an unknown council staff member to our submission without our knowledge or consent) that we had never asked for, as we didn't know there even was such a thing! For the record, we submitted our report in May; for some reason council did not receive it until their July meeting, after the fees came into effect July 1. I understand from a councillor that we were the innocent "victims" of a deal council had signed with the operators of the new Wentworth Caravan



Park to not allow free camping at the Showgrounds unless the Caravan Park is full, noting that the Caravan Park had not even opened at the time of the 2024 Sunraysia Safari, and this has never been formally communicated to us by the Wentworth Council. As a result of the misinformation presented to the councillors, several incorrectly called into question my ability to run my business and events, in what was in fact a defamatory manner. This was picked up by the Sunraysia Daily, and River 1467, which added further reputational and financial damage to our event, our business, and me personally. I note that council have never publicly acknowledged their errors, attempted to set the record straight, or apologised for the impacts this has had on us.

I wish to make it unequivocally clear that we remain totally committed to staging the Sunraysia Safari in the Wentworth Shire for the foreseeable future; I have personally invested over \$300,000 of my own funds to underwrite and develop the event since 2016, in addition to purchasing a property in Dareton back in 2019 to provide us with a base to operate from. This investment demonstrates our underlying long-term commitment to both the Sunraysia Safari and the region in general. However, the treatment we were subjected to in 2024 was totally unacceptable, and unsustainable from our perspective, and as I reiterated in a meeting with Councillor Crisp and Ken Ross on January 20 of this year, we simply cannot allow that to occur again. Unfortunately, I went away from that meeting with a resigned feeling that council very much undervalues our event, and fails to recognise the significant financial and social benefits we deliver to the entire region every year.

As a result, we are fully conscious of the fact that we may need to move the event to another region, and whilst it is our absolute preference not to do so (for a number of reasons, not the least being the negative impact it will have on the communities and businesses that rely on the rally), ultimately I have a responsibility to the long term viability of the event, and our business, and we need a "home" where we are welcome and valued, and unfortunately I don't currently feel that is necessarily the case with the Wentworth Shire Council and some of the staff. Therefore, I have brought forward this submission, so that we may establish clarity now on the level of support and interest to stage the 2025 Sunraysia Safari in the Wentworth Shire, establish long term solutions to ensure the issues of 2024 are not repeated, and continue to develop



ways to grow the event, and the benefits enjoyed by the greater Wentworth Shire. We were not informed of the changes to our level of support for the event, and the imposition of the new camping fees, until 5 weeks prior to the 2024 rally. In the current circumstances we cannot wait that long again this year, so if the council is not supportive of the 2025 Sunraysia Safari and our requests for ongoing support as presented in this document, we may need to act immediately to relocate the event.

Putting aside the few issues we encountered, there was so much to be totally thrilled about with the running of the 2024 Sunraysia Safari! Once again competitors and officials alike were very appreciative of the facilities available to them at the Wentworth Showgrounds, irrespective of the camping fees imposed. The venue was pristine as usual, and the standard of amenities we provide (with the inclusion of the additional shower block we arrange to bring in especially for the event at our cost) are the absolute envy of many other rallies in Australia. Organisers of other events that attend the Safari are blown away by the level of comfort, convenience and the atmosphere we are able to create within the Showgrounds “precinct”.

The pavilion very much remains the focal point, and credit must go to those at the Wentworth Shire Council (and the Showground Users Group) who had the vision to develop and enhance the venue and facilities as they currently are. The ability to efficiently and effectively manage the administration and operation of the Rally, whilst also having the kitchen providing amazing food, and enough seating capacity for everyone requiring a meal, all from the one building, is a critical element to the ability to successfully stage and manage an event of this size and complexity. It’s a great pity that the invitation from us to the Mayor and councillors last year to attend the Showgrounds and witness for themselves was only taken up by former Councillor Beaumont, as you simply cannot explain in words how big the rally is until you’ve seen it! I would argue that ours is the biggest event at the Wentworth Showgrounds annually (in terms of duration and utilisation of the facilities), and seeing it come together with its unique “village” atmosphere is a source of great pride. Simply put, there is literally nowhere else we could run the event from anywhere in the Wentworth Shire. The council’s support in arranging the daily cleaning and rubbish removal from the precinct was greatly appreciated, and the pristine condition that our participants left the venue in on the Sunday after the Rally bears testament to the respect they have for the entire facility, and their appreciation in being able to use it.



As with previous years, we conducted our own reporting and documentation processes to gauge the levels of impact in terms of Economic benefit to the entire Wentworth Shire, as well as exposure of the event through our Social and Digital Media programs, and of course the TV Documentary, which was once again screened on the Seven Network in Australia, TV3 in New Zealand and available for streaming World-wide via 7 plus and our You tube platform. We also requested competitors complete our survey, so that we could provide information to council with regard to the economic and promotional impact, and additional benefits the Sunraysia Safari delivers to the Wentworth Shire. It should be pointed out that our findings are based on the data received from those surveys and our Social/Digital media data reporting; whilst we are aware that not everyone completed a survey those people, their accommodation and expenditure have not been estimated in our figures, so the actual figures would be higher. Indeed, we have also not applied any coefficients to the estimated economic benefit (as is common practice with such reports to councils); our figures are “raw”.

The 2024 Sunraysia Safari had a confirmed participation of at least 537 people, made up of competitors, officials, service/support crews, family members, and locals who assisted with the running of the event in some capacity. The number of entries we received was an all-time record of 78, which given the various cost of living pressures and other financial constraints was an exceptional result (we actually had 95 crews entered but some had to withdraw due to change of personal circumstances and finances; 6 withdrew as a protest due to the camping fees being imposed by the council). We had participants from every state and territory in Australia, as well as New Zealand, and for the first time ever, a competitor from Taiwan! The vast majority were from greater NSW (193), followed by Victoria (140), with Queensland (36), Western Australia (16), South Australia (17), ACT (4), Northern Territory (5), and Tasmania (2) making up the rest of the numbers; with 4 from overseas. There were 120 “locals” involved in the event, which consists of residents of the Wentworth Shire, and broader Sunraysia region.

The accommodation mix in 2024 was very similar to previous years; once again some participants needing to source suitable options over in Mildura, as other rally participants had already booked out the Hotel/Motel and short stay accommodation venues in Wentworth and Dareton (I personally book out the entire Coomealla Club Resort every year for Event Officials). There was an increase in camping at the Wentworth Showgrounds which was reflective of the increased number of entries and participants, but it needs to be understood by the council and staff that these people are not “free campers” as the council



defines them, they are specifically “Event campers”; they are only in Wentworth in order to participate in the Sunraysia Safari, and if the event is not on, they won’t come here, and spend any of the money they inject into the region. Those who choose to camp at the Showgrounds do so because they either can’t find suitable accommodation for their teams, don’t have the financial resources to be able to afford accommodation (and thus would not participate if they couldn’t stay at the Showgrounds, or enjoy the atmosphere and camaraderie of staying at the Event Headquarters, which further adds positively to the overall spirit of the rally. I personally had to subsidise all of the camping fees that were imposed by the Wentworth Shire Council myself, which cost me a significant sum, but without that many more competitors simply would not have come, given the late notice regarding the fees, which would have had a disastrous impact on not only the event, but the economic benefit, TV documentary, and overall marketing and promotional impact.

With all of that taken into consideration, our data indicates the event still generated at least 1115 Bed nights across the Wentworth region in the week of the rally! A point that really needs to be clarified and understood by council relates to comments attributed to Councillor Rodda in the Sunraysia Daily article from July 22, 2024, where she stated “it’s unreasonable for council to be expected to provide free camping to attendees to an event when it is detrimental to our local accommodation businesses”. Firstly, it is not “free camping”, which is generally considered to be tourists passing through town for no defined reason. Ironically, whilst Councillor Rodda levelled that argument against us, the Wentworth Shire Council was in fact providing free camping in the car park adjacent to the Golf Club, whilst charging us at exactly the same time!

Secondly, and just as importantly, our participants camping at the Wentworth Showgrounds are not “detrimental to local tourism businesses” if those places don’t have any spare rooms available anyway! The Sunraysia Safari generates more participants than the accommodation providers can obviously handle, and to force people to stay at Curlwaa (as I believe was suggested by Councillor Crisp to prop up business at the Caravan Park) or now in Wentworth at the Caravan Park (presumably as a result of the “deal” struck between the operators and the council) when they either don’t want to stay there, or don’t provide the kind of accommodation our participants are seeking, I believe is completely inappropriate, and our participants would feel exactly the same way. Ultimately if forced into that position, they will vote with their feet (as some did in 2024), and simply not turn up. The council’s policy could effectively kill off the Sunraysia Safari entirely if this continues to be the case.



The economic impact of the 2024 Sunraysia Safari is once again most favourable, and demonstrates very clearly how much our event “punches above its weight” in terms of Return on Investment. Based on competitor surveys, and our own event budgeting, the 2024 Sunraysia Safari delivered over \$747,681 to the Wentworth region. Again, that is the “raw figure” (without any coefficient being applied), and does not capture the entire expenditure attributable to the Rally (due to not all participants submitting surveys, and other expenses we incur that are not spent locally). If we were to apply a coefficient in line with what most other councils would calculate, I estimate the actual economic impact would exceed \$1.64 million (on a lower coefficient of 2.2), or over \$2 million (on a more usual coefficient of 2.8). That’s a massive return for the council’s annual contribution of around \$28,500! We remain incredibly proud of our contribution to the local region, and the fact that it is distributed to businesses and community groups right across the Wentworth Shire, which is a unique aspect to our event that not many others can accomplish. For example, our lunch catering provided \$4500 to each of the Pooncarie School, Broken Hill School of the Air, Palinyewah School, and the Anabranche Landcare Groups (as an aside, I then discovered that the Wentworth Shire Council charges each of the Pooncarie based groups a staggering \$500 each for use of the Kitchen in the Pooncarie Hall; as a ratepayer I find charging not for profit community groups to use community facilities totally outrageous, but that’s another story!)

Our Social Media, Digital Marketing and TV Documentary delivered what can only be described as “mind blowing” results, well beyond our wildest imagination! These figures confirm that the Sunraysia Safari is now well and truly cemented as a World-Class Motorsport event. Our social media reach was over 167,000 Worldwide for the month of the Rally alone, which is more than double what we achieved in 2023. Given our program runs all year round we are also able to see a significant “spike” in interest; the last three months (when the event activities are relatively quiet) have resulted in over 86,000 interactions! These figures are completely unprecedented, and vindicate the concept of the event, and the way we are promoting it to the World. In reviewing our data, these are the countries that carry significant numbers of interactions with the Sunraysia Safari:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Australia | Thailand |
| South Africa | United States of America |
| United Kingdom | New Zealand |
| Japan | Portugal |
| Malaysia | Spain |





Whilst this might seem an odd collection of nations, they actually represent the countries that are most engaged in Cross Country Rallying Worldwide; Spain and Portugal in particular heavily involved in the sport, and both hosting many large events between them annually. The Asian countries are still very much drawn to the allure of competing in the Australian Outback (as they were in the peak years of the Wynn's/Australian Safaris), and with all of these markets are huge number of potential competitors for the Sunraysia Safari to target in future years. This will no doubt assist us with our plans for growth and development for the event, and very much demonstrates our Social and Digital Media, along with the TV documentary, are absolutely delivering the results we're looking for, and in fact, far exceeding even our own expectations.

The TV documentary itself continues to deliver results which far outweigh the cost of producing it. Once again it was screened multiple times in Australia on the Seven Network, and TV 3 in New Zealand. Whilst viewer figures are not available (they don't monitor the viewer numbers across all the channels), the fact that we only schedule a single screening, and the network chooses to add "encore" screenings (due to the quality and popularity of the documentary), is yet another indication that we're on the right track, and our popularity (and notoriety) will only continue to increase.

So, overall, the 2024 Sunraysia Safari could only be regarded as another resounding success, and we are thrilled that the event continues to grow and thrive in spite of all the challenges we were presented with. As we look forward to the 2025 running of the Rally, entry numbers are already looking solid, and I'd expect another year of record numbers.

REQUEST FOR ONGOING ASSISTANCE FOR THE 2025 SUNRAYSIA SAFARI

The 2025 Sunraysia Safari, which the competitive sections scheduled to be run from September 10-13. It's a week later than normal, due to the Wentworth Show running a week later this year; we always allow 10 days between the two events to support the Show Society's need to pack up, but also for the grounds to require no additional work from the council in preparation for the rally. We're already working with a variety of community groups and landowners in



establishing our proposed course, and once again we are holding true to our constant aim for it to be the best Sunraysia Safari ever.

Therefore, I would like to formally submit our usual request to the Wentworth Shire Council for their support with the following items:

-USE OF THE WENTWORTH SHOWGROUNDS, AND "IN KIND" SUPPORT REPRESENTING CLEANING OF SHOWERS AND TOILETS, AND REMOVAL OF RUBBISH FOR THE DURATION OF THE 2025 SUNRAYSLIA SAFARI RALLY

The council has provided this service for several years, and we request that service continue in 2025.

-A WAIVER OF ANY PROPOSED CAMPING FEES FOR PARTICIPANTS (NOT "FREE CAMPERS") IN THE 2025 SUNRAYSLIA SAFARI RALLY

These fees, introduced without warning in 2024, caused considerable angst and ill feeling towards the Wentworth Shire, who as it turned out, were not equipped to collect the fees (when participants called the council as per instructions, the staff had no idea what they were talking about!), nor manage the process. Our participants are not "free campers", they come to participate in a specific event, and therefore the rules regarding "overflow camping" at the Wentworth Showgrounds should not apply. I note that one possible solution to this problem would be the inclusion of the Sunraysia Safari Rally as a member of the Wentworth Showgrounds Users Group. My understanding is that all current members of the group voted unanimously to include us in a meeting in late 2024, however the Council CEO informs me that may not be possible (with no certainty) as our event is not registered as "not for profit" (I'm sure my Accountant would vigorously disagree seeing how much we've spent over the years!!)

-A \$20,000 CASH SPONSORSHIP, TO ASSIST WITH THE COST OF PRODUCING THE TV DOCUMENTARY (WHICH ACTUALLY COSTS OVER \$55,000)

The TV Documentary provides exceptional value and return in promotion of the Sunraysia Safari, and the Wentworth Shire. It is absolutely critical to understand that this funding is not a grant, or donation; it is a legitimate sponsorship deal whereby we stage the Sunraysia Safari in the Wentworth Shire each year, providing the economic benefit and promotional opportunities, and in return the Wentworth Shire contributes \$20,000 towards the cost of running the event.



Finally, on a personal level (not specifically representing the interests of the Sunraysia Safari Rally) as a rate payer and “good citizen”, I would like to request that the fees charged to the community groups that use the Pooncarie Hall as part of their fundraising activities with the Sunraysia Safari (providing lunch catering for participants) by the Wentworth Shire be waived. I really don’t need to say any more about this; I’d hope councillors would consider this situation and vote accordingly.

I hope I have been able to demonstrate the absolute value the Sunraysia Safari continues to provide to the Wentworth Shire, and the communities within it; not just in a financial sense, but also in “Civic pride” and other social measures. We’re extremely proud of the event that we’ve created, and equally proud to be conducting the event in this region, and it is our absolute intention to continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

If you have any further queries, please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time; I am happy to field any questions or provide additional insight with any concerns that may be raised. Calendar permitting, it is my intention to attend the council meeting in person, to be available to discuss in person. I thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours Faithfully,

Troy Bennett

Event Director

Sunraysia Safari Rally

9.5 REQUEST FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP - WENTWORTH/MILDURA COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025

File Number: RPT/25/126

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Lexi Stockman - Manager Tourism and Promotion

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request to provide financial sponsorship and in-kind support for the Wentworth/Mildura Country Music Festival, to be held on the Wentworth Wharf grassed area on Saturday 13 September and Sunday 14 September 2025.

The promotor for this event is Joy Evans from Joystar Promotions.

Recommendation

That Council provides financial sponsorship of \$8,000 and in-kind support towards the 2025 Wentworth/Mildura Country Music Festival.

This recommendation has been made in line with the Event Funding Policy and Event Funding Guidelines which will be introduced before the commencement of the 25/26 budget.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a request for financial sponsorship and in-kind support for the Wentworth/Mildura Country Music Festival 2025, to be held on Saturday 13 September and Sunday 14 September 2025.

Background

The Mildura Wentworth Country Music Festival was previously coordinated by David Storer from Mildura Entertainment. The last time this event was hosted was in September 2023, with the 2024 event being cancelled due to limited funding. Council have previously committed \$25,000 each financial year towards the running of the Mildura Wentworth Country Music Festival.

Joystar Promotions have submitted an event sponsorship request with intentions of a similar concept. The financial request is to the value of \$8,000 plus in-kind support.

Report Detail

Council is in receipt of a request from Joy Evans from Joystar Promotions for financial sponsorship to the value of \$8,000 plus in-kind support. The in-kind support is inclusive of provision of the existing stage at the Wentworth Wharf, power to the stage and chairs. A copy of the request is attached for reference.

The request also includes information about the event such as the contract of services from Oz Country Music radio, a list of artists expected to perform at the event and what will be provided by the promotor on the day of the event.

Based on the pending adoption of the 2025-2026 fees and charges, the following costs for in-kind support would need to be considered:

- Access charges for the Wentworth Wharf: \$129 per day - \$258
- Stage set-up and chairs – approximately \$1,000
- Power: \$38 per day - \$76

TOTAL: \$1,334

Alternative options were considered and have been included below:

- a) Approve sponsorship of a differing amount and in-kind support of a differing make-up.
- b) Decline sponsorship and in-kind support.
- c) Decline sponsorship and approve in-kind support.
- d) Approve sponsorship and decline in-kind support.

At the time of this report, the draft Event Funding Policy is still in draft form and is currently out for community consultation. This report has been formulated based on the endorsement of the Event Funding Policy being introduced before the 25/26 budget has commenced. The outcome of this report will have financial implications on the 25/26 budget.

Conclusion

Council is in receipt of a request to provide financial sponsorship and in-kind support for the Wentworth/Mildura Country Music Festival on Saturday 13 September and Sunday 14 September 2025.

It has been recommended that Council provides financial sponsorship of \$8000 and in-kind support towards the event. This recommendation has been made in line with the Event Funding Policy and Event Funding Guidelines.

Attachments

1. Event Sponsorship Request - Wentworth Mildura Country Music Festival 2025 - Joy Evans Joystar Promotions [↓](#)

Joystar Promotions
Joy Evans
joystarmildura@gmail.com
0400 147 080

Dear Wentworth Council & Mayor Daniel Linklater.

Thank-you for allowing me to put together a revised proposal for the "Wentworth/Mildura Country Music Festival" as our 1st proposal was for the street closure and 1 day. Please see changes for venue and pricing below.

Venue : Wentworth Wharf grassed area.

Date : Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th of September - 2025.

Cost : \$8,000 (2 Days)

Times : 10am - 3pm (Both Days)

I (**Joy Evans/Joystar Promotions**) will be the Promoter and coordinator for the event. This would be a great opportunity for a member of your Council to Open The event on the Saturday Morning at **11am**.

I will provide all the entertainers, Sound Crew and some volunteers on the day.

Some of the artists we have are :

The Butlers Show Band, Brian Letton, Lance Birrell, Derani Sanders, Anthony Tenace, Nicole Matthews, Grant Luhrs, The Silverline and our Local High Energy Boot Scooters.

*"Joystar Promotions have contracted the services of Oz Country Music Radio which links with Oz Radio Gold & Allied International Radio out of Tamworth the **Capital of Country Music**. Last week at the Tamworth Country Music Festival Mark Eckel the owner of OZCMR Mildura was announced th "Most Popular Australian Country Broadcaster"
Mark is a well known identity with connections to Wentworth over many years and will be a genuine asset for promoting Wentworth through his broadcast during the year."*

As discussed at the council meeting, No Food Trucks will be bought in so the local shop owners will benefit from this event. Please advise all Traders.

We would require some assistance from your department. Please see below

1. Stage with cover - approximately 4x4 mtr, or 6 x 6 mtr.
2. 3 phase power supply to the stage. (5 pin, 32 amp)
3. Chairs provided by council

Kind Regards

Joy

9.6 REQUEST FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP - 2025 POONCARIE DESERT DASH

File Number: RPT/25/128

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Lexi Stockman - Manager Tourism and Promotion

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request to provide financial sponsorship for the 2025 Pooncarie Desert Dash, to be held from Friday 4 April to Sunday 6 April 2025. Council has approved financial support for this event in previous years.

Recommendation

That Council provides financial sponsorship of \$20,000 towards the 2025 Pooncarie Desert Dash event.

This recommendation has been made in line with the Event Funding Policy and Event Funding Guidelines which will be introduced before the commencement of the 25/26 budget.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a request for financial sponsorship for the 2025 Pooncarie Desert Dash, to be held from Friday 4 April to Sunday 6 April 2025.

Background

Financial sponsorship was requested and granted for the 2024 Pooncarie Desert Dash.

Sunraysia Motorsports Club have hosted the event since 2021. Following a successful event in 2021, the Pooncarie Desert Dash was added to the National Championship Calendar in 2022.

Report Detail

Council is in receipt of a request from Sunraysia Motorsports Club for financial assistance towards the running of the 2025 Pooncarie Desert Dash. A copy of the request is attached for reference.

The request also includes information on previous events and the positive economic impact it has on the Pooncarie community. Key highlights of the event include continuous growing spectator numbers, a total of 250 competitors and team members from all over Australia, promotional reach by both Sunraysia Motorsports Club and Motorsports Australia's social media platforms with a total of 135,000 followers and television coverage of the event on 7Plus.

The report also highlighted the exposure the region received and the ability for the event to promote the region to both new and returning visitors.

If the financial sponsorship request is approved, Wentworth Shire Council will receive naming rights of the event which includes national exposure through the affiliation partnership with Motorsports Australia, plus exposure through the various social media platforms.

At the time of this report, the draft Event Funding Policy is still in draft form and is currently out for community consultation. This report has been formulated based on the endorsement

of the Event Funding Policy being introduced before the 25/26 budget has commenced. The outcome of this report will have financial implications on the 25/26 budget.

Conclusion

Council is in receipt of a request to provide financial sponsorship for the 2025 Pooncarie Desert Dash from Friday 4 April to Sunday 6 April 2025.

It has been recommended that Council provides financial sponsorship of \$20,000 towards the 2025 Pooncarie Desert Dash. This recommendation has been made in line with the draft Event Funding Policy and Event Funding Guidelines.

Council approved the financial sponsorship of \$20,000 for the event in 2025.

Attachments

1. Event Sponsorship Request - Pooncarie Desert Dash 2025 - Sunraysia Motorsports Club [↓](#)



11th February 2025

Wentworth Shire Council
General Manager & Councillors
Via email: kross@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ken, Mayor and Councillors

Sponsorship Proposal - Pooncarie Desert Dash April 4th-6th 2025

Sunraysia Motor Sports Club has hosted the Pooncarie Desert Dash since 2021. After a successful event, Motorsports Australia invited the Club to be part of the Australian Off Road Championship (AORC). And in 2022 the Pooncarie Desert Dash was added to the National championship calendar as the only NSW round. In 2023 and 2024 the race featured as the only NSW round on the AORC calendar and will remain as the only NSW round for the 2025 event.

The event draws hundreds of competitors and visitors from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Queensland and internationally New Zealand.

The Pooncarie Desert Dash is run by a team of dedicated volunteers and is dependent upon support from organisations like yours to host and promote this event that produces significant economic benefits to our community.

Key highlights since inception:

- Growing spectator numbers of over the weekend event.
- Total competitors & team members 250 from VIC, SA, NSW, WA, QLD and New Zealand including driver, navigator, and support team member.
- Promotional reach via both Sunraysia Motorsports Club and Motorsports Australia social media platforms, offering a combined reach of 135,000 followers.
- Television coverage of the event via 7plus.
- Recognising the importance of tourism to this region, and the ability of this event to promote and offer the potential tourism exposure, showcasing the region as a destination to both new and return visitors.



PO Box 2064, Mildura VIC 3502
Email: secretary.sunraysiamotorsports@gmail.com
President Phone: 0408 502 921

We would like to invite the Wentworth Shire Council to support this National event to the value of \$20,000.

Your investment will allow us to promote the event outside the region drawing on competitors from all states and hopefully more internationally, providing significant economic benefits to local business and community.

As a major sponsor you will receive naming rights of the event which is not only promoted locally but includes national exposure through our affiliating partnership with Motorsports Australia. Including, but not limited to a potential exposure to an audience of 135,000 Facebook and 21,000 Instagram followers.

Motorsports Australia and Sunraysia Motorsports have committed to AORC events for the 2025 and 2026 racing calendar. We would ask that you consider a multi-year sponsorship commitment, which supports club and event sustainability, allowing the financial and operational security to seek additional avenues of enhancing this event and supporting long term community collaboration.

We have included several supporting documents including 7plus footage of the 2024 Pooncarie Desert Dash for your information.

If you are interested in proceeding with a sponsorship investment or would like to discuss further, please contact me on 0427 248520.

Thank you for your support in past year and we look forward to you getting behind this great event again.

With thanks

Melisa Hederics
Sponsorship Coordinator



9.7 JUNCTION JUNK EVENT 2025

File Number: RPT/25/160

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Lexi Stockman - Manager Tourism and Promotion

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

Junction Junk is an annual event hosted by Wentworth Shire Council and held on Easter Sunday every year. Wentworth Shire Council's insurance company no longer supports having a 'once-off event public liability policy' which was previously offered by Local Community Insurance Services, who were a division of Council's insurers JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd. Without insurance, Council is liable for any incidents that may occur during the Junction Junk event.

Recommendation

That Council considers the risks involved in continuing to host the Junction Junk event and makes a decision on the future of the event based on the information provided within the report.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council about the risks associated with the recent changes made by Council's insurance company, in regard to no longer supporting a 'once-off events public liability policy'.

Background

Junction Junk has been running in Wentworth on Easter Sunday for an estimated 22 years, originally run by the Wentworth Street Committee until the event was adopted by Wentworth Shire Council in 2009. The concept of the event entails Wentworth locals hosting individual 'garage sale' type stalls at their houses in conjunction with Wentworth Shire Council developing a map which can be collected from the Visitor Information Centre.

Over recent years there has been a steady decline in participation of visitors, based on feedback from stallholders and visitors. Site registrations have fluctuated over the years with an average of 21 sites each year. In 2024, 30 stallholders registered.

In previous years, Council's insurance company has supported insurance for the event by allowing a 'once-off event public liability policy' through Local Community Insurance Services, who were a division of Council's insurers, JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd.

Report Detail

On application for insurance for this years Junction Junk event, Council was notified that Council's insurance company doesn't have the appetite to accept any risk involved with this event as Council has no oversight regarding how a property owner maintains their premises.

The condition of these properties can vary significantly, creating unpredictable risk exposures that Council can not effectively manage. Performing individual risk assessments for each property would be resource-intensive and impractical and Council does not have the capacity to assess each risk individually and ensure adequate risk mitigation measures are in place.

Without insurance for this event, Council is heavily exposed to risks and must take responsibility for this.

Conclusion

Junction Junk is an annual event hosted by Wentworth Shire Council, which was previously insured by Local Community Insurance Services with a once-off event public liability policy. To continue to host this event, Council will need to consider the risks involved in proceeding without the appropriate insurance.

The recommendation has been made for Council to decide the future of the event, based on the information presented within this report.

Attachments

Nil

9.8 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/136

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring , supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of February 2025 were \$1,241,236.34. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 74.51%. For comparison purposes 77.43% of the levy had been collected at the end of February 2025. Council currently has \$50,467,509.66 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report for February 2025.

Detailed Report

The purpose of this report is to indicate to Council the position in relation to the rate of collections and the balance of cash books.

Reconciliation and Balance of Funds held as at 28 February 2025

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 28 February 2025.

	Combined Bank Account
Cash Balance as at 1 February 2025	\$ 2,771,802.18
Add: Receipts for the Period Ending 28 February 2025 Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	\$ 3,462,209.56
Less: Payments for the Period Ending 28 February 2025 Cash Book entries for this Month	\$ 4,485,145.23
Cash Balance of Operating A/C as at 28 February 2025	\$ 1,748,866.51
Trust Fund Balance	\$ 1,718,643.15
Total Investments as at 28 February 2025	\$ 47,000,000.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 50,467,509.66

Collection of Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges collections for the month of February 2025 were \$ 1,241,236.34. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 74.51%. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 28 February 2025 is as follows:

Note: For comparison purposes 77.43% of the levy had been collected at the end of February 2024.

LEVIES	RATES & CHARGES	
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2024 - Rates / Water	673,790.42	
Rates and Charges Levied 22 July 2024	11,066,559.48	\$ 11,740,349.90
+ Additional Water Charges	951,526.33	
+ Supplementary Rates and Charges	57,643.30	
+ Additional Charges	65,109.73	
- Credit Adjustments	7,611.80	
- Abandonments	254.23	\$ 12,806,763.23
DEDUCTIONS		
- Payments	9,385,953.21	
- Less Refunds of Payments	16,076.43	\$ 9,369,876.78
		\$ 3,436,886.45
- Pensioner Subsidy		
Government Subsidy	94,931.88	
Council Subsidy	77,671.54	\$ 172,603.42
RATES/WATER CHARGES OUTSTANDING 28 FEBRUARY 2025		\$ 3,264,283.03

Rates/Water write offs and adjustments

The following rates or charges have been written off or adjusted under the delegated authority of the General Manager for the month of February 2025.

Account	Date	Amount	Comment
Rates			
257-21	18/02/2025	\$ 215.45	Cancelled rate assessment due to cancellation of Licence 319936
1658	18/02/2025	\$ 1,823.38	Adjustment of rates due to reduction of valuation provided by the Valuer General's
1554-13	7/02/2025	\$ 31.85	Write off interest - Incorrect information supplied by solicitor at settlement
1464	7/02/2025	\$ 16.37	Write off interest - Interest calculated incorrectly when payment made over front counter
202-02	7/02/2025	\$ 7.51	Write off interest - Ratepayer claimed that they did not receive rate notice

Council Loans Report

Name	Institution	Purpose	Interest Rate	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding	Due Date
Loan 201	National Australia Bank	Buronga Landfill	4.55% Fixed	\$ 920,000.00	\$ -	30/01/2025
Loan 202	ANZ Bank	Civic Centre	3.47% Fixed	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 496,311.15	21/10/2026
Loan 203	National Australia Bank	Midway Centre	3.586% Fixed	\$ 1,900,000.00	\$ 1,222,183.34	1/06/2033
Loan 204	Bendigo Bank	Buronga Landfill	5.29% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,094,854.51	12/05/2037
CFWC310604	T-Corp	Trentham Cliffs Sewer	1.82% Fixed	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 502,609.37	4/06/2031
CFWC310624	T-Corp	Burong/Gol Gol Stormwater	1.79% Fixed	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 837,840.61	24/06/2031
Loan 205	National Australia Bank	Willowbend Caravan Park	2.2% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,084,800.19	25/01/2027
Loan 206	Bendigo Bank	Buronga Landfill #3	1.85% Fixed	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 495,861.01	25/09/2028
Loan 207	National Australia Bank	Willowbend Caravan Park	1.933% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,177,836.39	31/03/2028
Loan 207	National Australia Bank	Civic Centre	1.933% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	31/03/2028
CFWC440209	T-Corp	Civic Centre	5.45% Fixed	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 3,885,579.01	9/02/2044
CFWC440523	T-Corp	Stormwater	5.73% Fixed	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 1,972,346.80	23/05/2044
CFWC440822	T-Corp	Buronga Landfill	5.48% Fixed	\$ 12,000,000.00	\$ 11,831,243.83	22/08/2044
TOTAL					\$ 26,101,466.21	

Overtime and Travelling

Month	Feb	Pay Periods	16, 17 & 18					
Overtime from 18 January 2025 to 28 February 2025								
Overtime								
	Time and a Half Includes Time		Double Time		Double Time 1/2		Total	2024/25 Accumulative Total
Department	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount		
Animal Services	24.00	1,226.34	27.25	\$ 1,836.57			\$ 3,062.91	\$ 19,126.55
Accountant	20.50	1,121.73	2.00	\$ 208.70			\$ 1,330.43	\$ 2,706.51
Assets	8.00	626.08					\$ 626.08	\$ 2,478.23
Building Maintenance							\$ -	\$ 1,097.66
Civil	11.00	560.82					\$ 560.82	\$ 4,519.30
Finance	3.00	246.82					\$ 246.82	\$ 3,705.46
GM's Office	9.00	718.96	8.00	\$ 852.11			\$ 1,571.07	\$ 3,447.79
Indoor Engineers	2.25	189.63					\$ 189.63	\$ 3,529.08
IT Support	0.50	39.13					\$ 39.13	\$ 7,912.00
Landfill Transfer Stations	25.50	1,467.53	42.00	\$ 1,580.99			\$ 5,048.52	\$ 19,864.43
Library	12.00	767.88	15.75	\$ 1,350.21			\$ 2,118.09	\$ 8,887.44
Parks & Gardens	12.50	598.94	18.50	\$ 1,199.07			\$ 1,798.01	\$ 11,693.16
Private Works							\$ -	\$ 5,971.00
Roads - Council	627.50	30,445.36	450.00	\$ 29,057.26			\$ 59,502.62	\$ 256,054.77
Roads - RMS	17.00	781.19	5.00	\$ 319.45			\$ 1,100.64	\$ 15,891.80
Subdivision Officer							\$ -	\$ 486.31
Tourism & Promotion	6.00	354.00	34.50	\$ 2,457.02			\$ 2,811.02	\$ 8,959.02
Water & Waste Water	73.50	4,093.04	123.50	\$ 9,244.98	1.50	\$ 144.29	\$ 13,482.31	\$ 85,757.33
Workshop	20.50	1,268.95	6.50	\$ 536.47			\$ 1,805.42	\$ 4,553.69
Workshop/Mechanics	2.00	104.69					\$ 104.69	\$ 965.25
Total	874.75	44,611.09	733.00	50,642.83	1.50	144.29	\$ 95,398.21	\$ 466,276.35
Travel Allowance								
Department	Kms	Amount						
Water & Waste Water	271.3	265.87						
Total	271.30	265.87						
Cumulative Travel 23/24	1,289.30	913.02						
Grand Total Pay 16, 17 & 18		\$ 95,664.08						

Note: that overtime costs for the Roads Department during this period is associated with ongoing works on the externally funded 24.5 Km Arumpo Road construction project.

Overtime for the Water & Waste Water team relates to significant filtered water use and quality issues occurring at the Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant during mid Feb (Treatment Plant and pumps operating 24 hr a day for a 4 day period to maintain supply), requiring staff attendance to manually adjust hydrated lime levels.

Also during this period a significant number of after hours call outs were received associated with very low East Gol Gol area water pressure issues and pump filter blockages.

Conclusion

The report indicates to Council that its finances are in a favourable position.

Attachments

Nil

9.9 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025

File Number: RPT/25/148

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Bryce Watson - Accountant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.5 Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency

Summary

As of 28 February 2025, Council had \$47 million invested in term deposits and \$3,467,509.66 in other cash investments. Council received \$307,880.28 from its investments for the month of February 2025.

In February 2025 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 4.87% and it currently has \$7,250,347.52 of internal restrictions and \$42,892,599.48 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of its investments as required by the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the associated regulation.

Matters under consideration.

As of February 2025, Council had \$50,467,509.66 invested with Ten (10) financial institutions and One (1) Treasury Corporation. This is a decrease of \$1,022,935.67 from the previous month.

The investment of surplus funds remains in line with Council's Investment Policy. This ensures sufficient working capital is retained and restrictions are supported by cash and investments that are easily converted into cash.

Interest Received from Cash Investments in February 2025

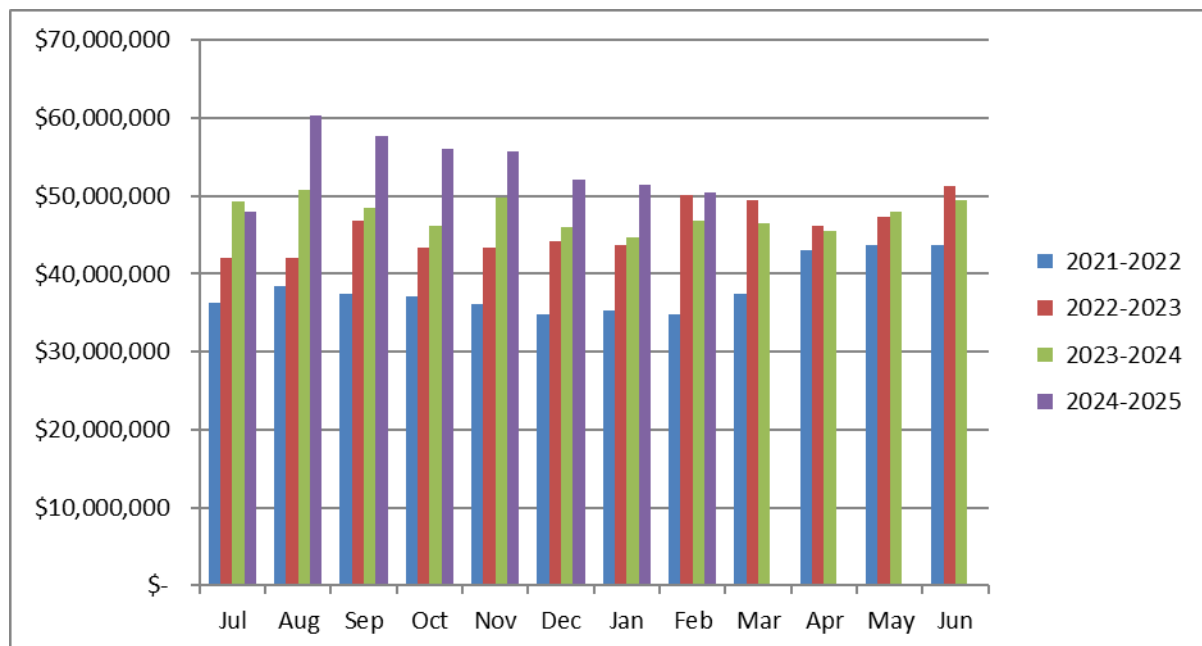
Six (6) deposits matured or provided interest in February earning Council \$308,902.47 in interest. The budget for February was \$166,667. Year to date Council has received \$1,620,747.44 in interest based on cash accounting compared to the budget to February of \$1,333,334. Expired investments are now shown in the attached report along with a summary of accrued interest. The budget for the financial year was set at \$2,000,000.

**Note the difference in interest received between this report and the Yield Hub report is from Council's at-call cash accounts which are paid monthly.*

Restrictions

Internal Restrictions		
- Employee Entitlements	\$2,300,921.00	
- Doubtful Debts	\$24,669.00	
- Future Development Reserve	\$576,217.20	
- Trust Account	\$1,848,540.32	
- Capital Projects	\$1,000,000.00	
- Plant Replacement Reserve	\$1,500,000.00	\$7,250,347.52
External Restrictions		
- Water Fund	\$11,512,921.85	
- Sewer Fund	\$6,392,596.08	
- T-Corp Loan Balance	\$2,277,318.39	
- Developer Contributions Reserve	\$1,085,000.00	
- Landfill Expansion Loan	\$9,445,386.05	
- Unexpended Grants	\$11,380,303.79	
- Crown Reserves Reserve	\$208,296.22	
- Prepayments Cemeteries	\$590,777.10	\$42,892,599.48
Day to Day Liquidity		\$424,562.66
Total Funds Available		\$50,467,509.66

Total Funds Invested



Summary – Unexpended Grants as at 28 February 2025

Grant	Amount	Expiry
Supporting Volunteers Grant	\$84,704.40	31/07/2025
Resources for Regions Round 9	\$2,122,285.68	30/06/2025
OLG Flood Recovery Grants	\$609,175.61	30/06/2025
Planning Cadet Grant	\$15,880.00	No Set Date
RFS M & R Grant	\$68,438.08	30/06/2025
Shade Sail & Fitness Grant	\$15,874.55	31/12/2024
Crown Reserve Improvement Fund Astronomy Park	\$656,000.21	30/06/2026
Roads to Recovery	\$51,002.66	30/06/2025
Main Roads Block Grant	\$705,118.19	30/06/2025
Pothole Repair Program	\$106,139.38	31/03/2025
Regional Emergency Road Repair Program	\$6,835,781.26	31/10/2027
Drought Resilience Funding	\$86,540.00	30/11/2025
Regional Leakage Reduction Program	\$23,363.77	31/12/2024
Total	\$11,380,303.79	

Conclusion

The Director Corporate Services has certified that all investments have been made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 and Council's Investment Policy. Council is investing its funds prudently to optimise returns and reduce exposure to risk in accordance with legislation and its own investment policy.

Attachments

1. Yeild Hub Report February 2025 [↓](#)

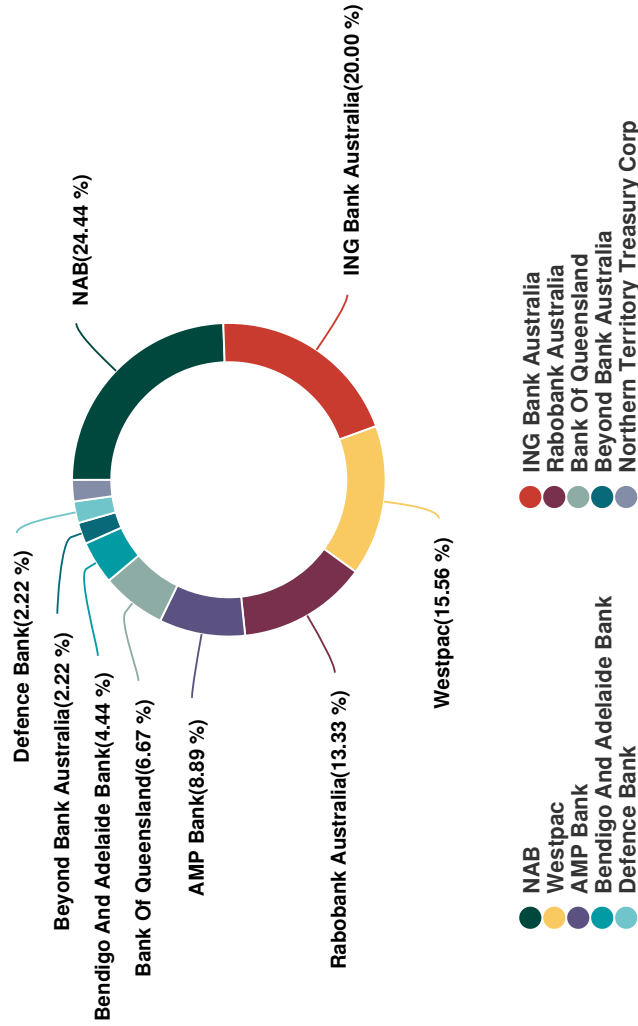


28 February 2025
Wentworth Shire Council - Monthly Report

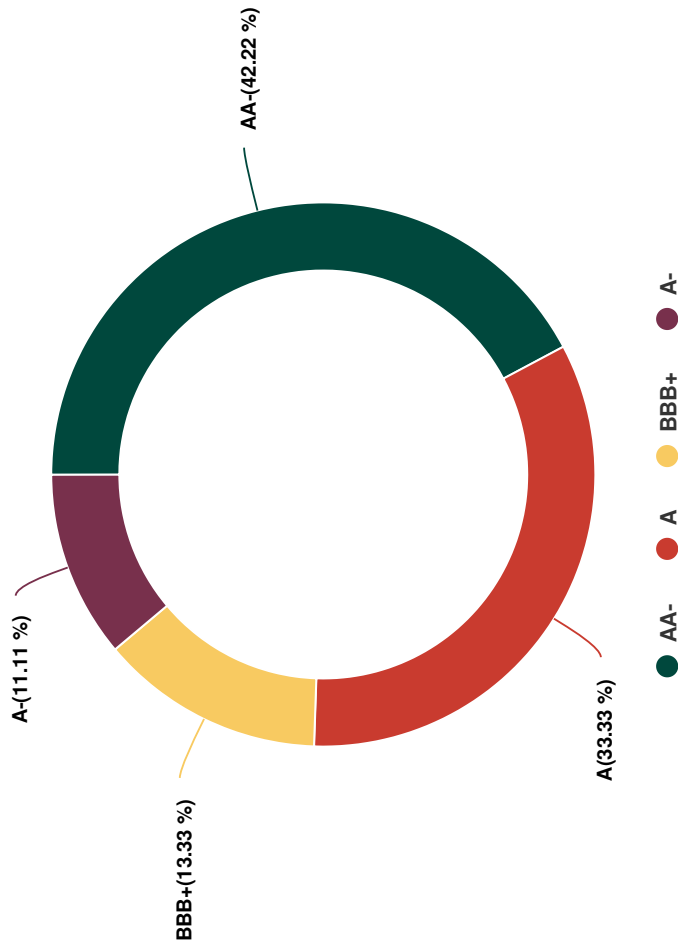
Summary

Total Cost	\$45,000,000.00
Total Portfolio Value	\$45,979,834.24
Weighted Average Term	138
Weighted Average Yield	4.97 %
90 day BBSW	4.12 %
Unrealised Capital Gain/Loss	\$0
Total Monthly Accrued Interest	\$158,414.81
Total Interest Received this month	\$257,502.47
Total Interest Received this FY	\$1,450,515.66
Total Interest Expected this FY	\$2,463,283.32
Interest Payments this month	5
Matured Investments this month	5
Total Funds Matured this month	\$5,000,000.00
Investments this month	4
Total Funds Invested this month	\$4,000,000.00
Compliant Portfolio	Yes

Counterparty



Long Term Credit Rating



Report Date: 28 February 2025

Wentworth Shire Council - Monthly Report

Investment Type	ADI/Security Name	Amount	Settlement Date	Maturity Date	Term in Days	Yield	Short Term Rating	Long Term Rating
Term Deposit	Beyond Bank Australia	\$1,000,000	10/09/2024	11/03/2025	182	5.0 %	A-2	BBB+
Term Deposit	Bank Of Queensland	\$1,000,000	10/09/2024	11/03/2025	182	4.900 %	A-2	A-
Term Deposit	Westpac	\$1,000,000	11/03/2024	11/03/2025	365	5.03 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	ING Bank Australia	\$1,000,000	19/03/2024	19/03/2025	365	5.13 %	A-1	A
Term Deposit	Westpac	\$1,000,000	27/02/2025	27/03/2025	28	3.79 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	Westpac	\$1,000,000	28/02/2025	28/03/2025	28	3.79 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	ING Bank Australia	\$1,000,000	02/04/2024	02/04/2025	365	5.0 %	A-1	A
Term Deposit	ING Bank Australia	\$2,000,000	04/04/2024	04/04/2025	365	5.0 %	A-1	A
Term Deposit	AMP Bank	\$1,000,000	07/01/2025	08/04/2025	91	5.05 %	A-2	BBB+
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	10/02/2025	11/04/2025	60	4.45 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	19/02/2025	22/04/2025	62	4.300 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	AMP Bank	\$1,000,000	29/01/2025	30/04/2025	91	5.0 %	A-2	BBB+
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	03/12/2024	06/05/2025	154	5.07 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	Westpac	\$1,000,000	12/02/2025	12/05/2025	89	4.700 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	NAB	\$2,000,000	01/07/2024	14/05/2025	317	5.37 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	Rabobank Australia	\$1,000,000	24/05/2024	23/05/2025	364	5.33 %	NR	A
Term Deposit	Rabobank Australia	\$1,000,000	27/08/2024	26/05/2025	272	4.95 %	NR	A
Term Deposit	Rabobank Australia	\$1,000,000	27/08/2024	26/05/2025	272	4.95 %	NR	A
Term Deposit	ING Bank Australia	\$1,000,000	27/05/2024	27/05/2025	365	5.27 %	A-1	A
Term Deposit	Rabobank Australia	\$1,000,000	04/09/2024	03/06/2025	272	5.0 %	NR	A
Term Deposit	Bendigo And Adelaide Bank	\$1,000,000	06/12/2024	06/06/2025	182	5.05 %	A-2	A-
Term Deposit	Rabobank Australia	\$2,000,000	01/07/2024	25/06/2025	359	5.43 %	NR	A
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	27/06/2024	26/06/2025	364	5.47 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	AMP Bank	\$1,000,000	07/01/2025	07/07/2025	181	5.100 %	A-2	BBB+
Term Deposit	Bank Of Queensland	\$1,000,000	28/01/2025	28/07/2025	181	4.85 %	A-2	A-
Term Deposit	Westpac	\$1,000,000	26/08/2024	28/07/2025	336	4.76 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	Westpac	\$1,000,000	26/08/2024	28/07/2025	336	4.76 %	A-1+	AA-

Report Date: 28 February 2025

Wentworth Shire Council - Monthly Report

Investment Type	ADI/Security Name	Amount	Settlement Date	Maturity Date	Term in Days	Yield	Short Term Rating	Long Term Rating
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	07/01/2025	05/08/2025	210	4.85 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	ING Bank Australia	\$1,000,000	27/08/2024	27/08/2025	365	4.91 %	A-1	A
Term Deposit	ING Bank Australia	\$1,000,000	27/08/2024	27/08/2025	365	4.91 %	A-1	A
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	28/08/2024	28/08/2025	365	4.97 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	03/09/2024	03/09/2025	365	4.95 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	03/09/2024	03/09/2025	365	4.95 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	NAB	\$1,000,000	07/01/2025	25/09/2025	261	4.85 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	AMP Bank	\$1,000,000	07/01/2025	03/10/2025	269	5.05 %	A-2	BBB+
Term Deposit	Bendigo And Adelaide Bank	\$1,000,000	20/11/2024	20/11/2025	365	5.05 %	A-2	A-
Term Deposit	ING Bank Australia	\$1,000,000	21/11/2024	21/11/2025	365	5.15 %	A-1	A
Term Deposit	Westpac	\$1,000,000	27/11/2024	27/11/2025	365	5.09 %	A-1+	AA-
Term Deposit	Defence Bank	\$1,000,000	07/01/2025	03/12/2025	330	4.95 %	A-2	BBB+
Term Deposit	ING Bank Australia	\$1,000,000	04/01/2024	05/01/2026	732	5.14 %	A-1	A
Term Deposit	Bank Of Queensland	\$1,000,000	04/12/2023	03/12/2026	1,095	5.25 %	A-2	A-
Term Deposit	Northern Territory Treasury Corp	\$1,000,000	16/09/2021	15/12/2026	1,916	1.35 %	NR	NR
		\$45,000,000						

Report Date: 28 February 2025

Wentworth Shire Council - Monthly Report

Transaction Date	Contract Number	ADI/Security Name	Type	Amount	Credit/Debit	Long Term Rating	Designation	Comments	Maturity Date
28/02/2025	070514	Westpac	Interest	\$51,400	Debit	AA-	Unclassified		28/02/2025
27/02/2025	070513	Westpac	Interest	\$51,540.82	Debit	AA-	Unclassified		27/02/2025
19/02/2025	070510	NAB	Interest	\$51,400	Debit	AA-	Unclassified		19/02/2025
12/02/2025	070511	Westpac	Interest	\$51,641.10	Debit	AA-	Unclassified		12/02/2025
12/02/2025	070512	Westpac	Interest	\$51,641.10	Debit	AA-	Unclassified		12/02/2025
10/02/2025	070509	NAB	Interest	\$51,279.45	Debit	AA-	Unclassified		10/02/2025
Total				\$308,902.47					



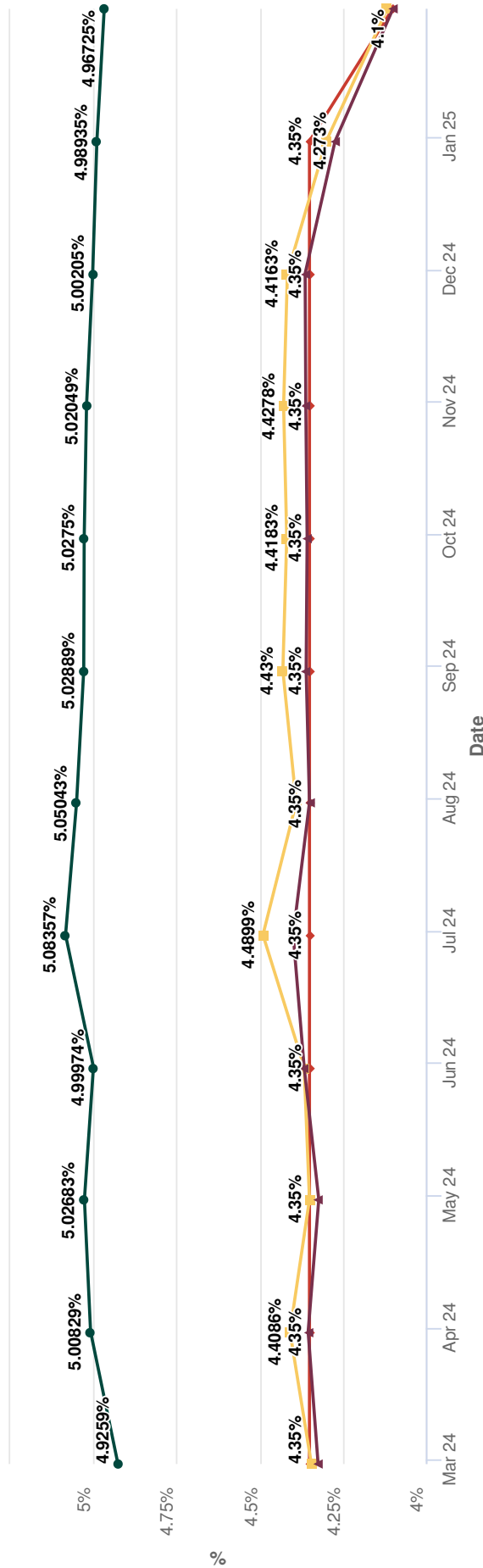
Wentworth Shire Council - Monthly Report

Report Date: 28 February 2025

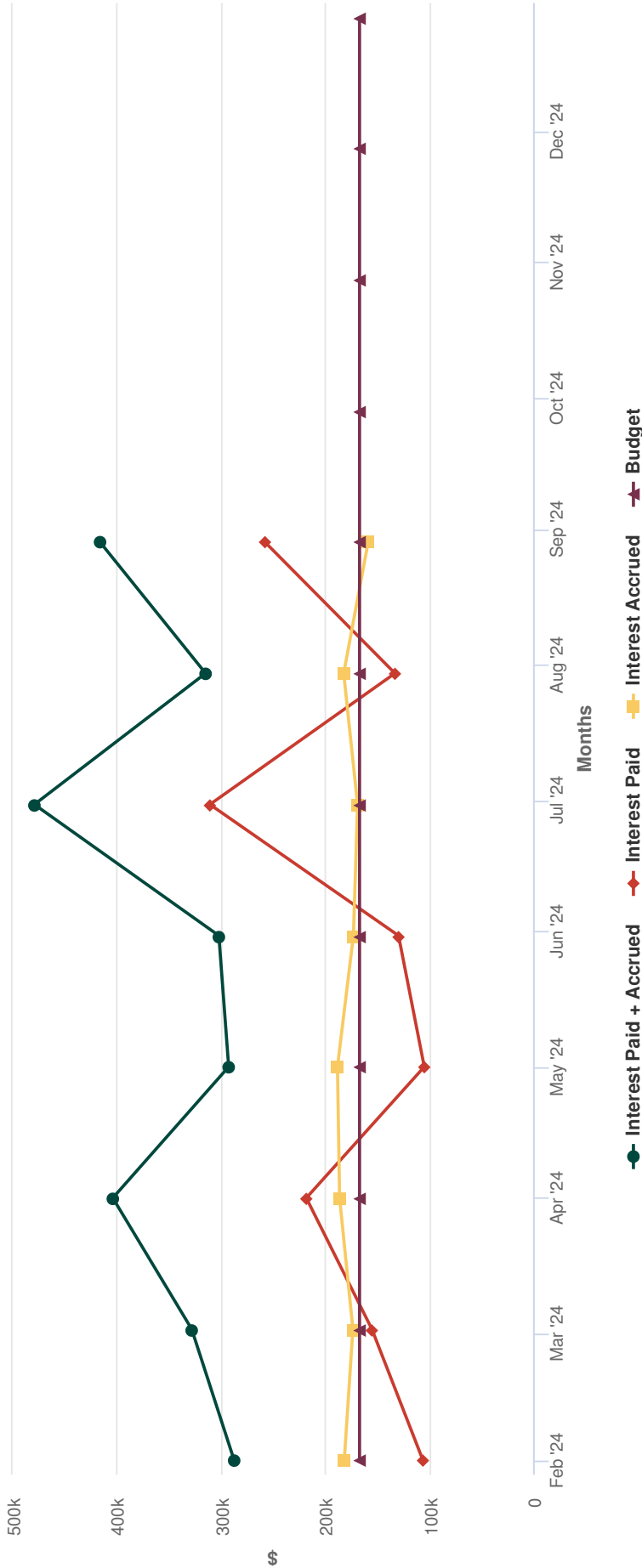
Account vs RBA Cash vs 3m BBSW vs Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index

Term	Account	RBA Cash	3m BBSW	Outperformance	AusBond Bank Bill	Outperformance
1m	4.98%	4.10%	4.17%	0.88%	4.10%	0.88%
3m	5.00%	4.27%	4.33%	0.73%	4.25%	0.75%
6m	5.01%	4.31%	4.38%	0.70%	4.31%	0.70%
12m	5.01%	4.33%	4.38%	0.67%	4.33%	0.67%

Month End Performance



Budget Versus Actual Interest Earned



9.10 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WENTWORTH PIONEER HOMES.

File Number: RPT/25/138

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

In 2024 Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee in relation to the development and management of Tunkin Homes located on the corner of Armstrong Avenue & William Street Wentworth.

The Committee has engaged the services of Cadell Consulting to prepare a Development Application for the development of 11 new units and the eventual demolition of the two existing residential buildings at the Tunkin Homes site.

Cadell Consulting Services on behalf of the Committee has requested that Council consider providing financial assistance to the Committee by covering the cost of the \$4,734.75 application fee.

The fee consists of an applications fee of \$3,503.75 and a plan first fee (which is transferred to the State Government) of \$1,231.00. The Committee have paid the fee and are requesting Council consider a reimbursement.

Recommendation

That Council having considered the content of the report determine whether to approve the request for financial assistance.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the request for financial assistance received from Wentworth Pioneer Homes.

Background

In 2024 Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee in relation to the development and management of Tunkin Homes located on the corner of Armstrong Avenue & William Street Wentworth.

Under the MOU Council acknowledges the valuable service that the Committee provides to the community and commits to supporting the Committee wherever possible and when feasible, provide assistance to ensure the successful operation of Tunkin Homes.

Matters under consideration

The Committee has engaged the services of Cadell Consulting to prepare a Development Application for the development of 11 new units and the eventual demolition of the two existing residential buildings at the Tunkin Homes site.

Cadell Consulting Services on behalf of the Committee has requested that Council consider providing financial assistance to the Committee by covering the cost of the \$4,734.75

application fee. The fee consists of an applications fee of \$3,503.75 and a plan first fee (which is transferred to the State Government) of \$1,231.00.

The Committee have paid the fee and are requesting Council consider a reimbursement.

Options

Based on the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

- a) Approve the request in full
- b) Approve another amount of financial assistance
- c) Deny the request for financial assistance.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

If Council approves an amount of financial assistance, it will require a budget variation.

Conclusion

As outlined in the MOU a request to provide assistance wherever possible and when feasible has been received in relation to the Tunkin Homes.

Attachments

1. Request for financial assistance. [↓](#)



21 February 2025

Mr Ken Ross
General Manager
Wentworth Shire Council
PO Box 81
Wentworth NSW 2648

Dear Ken

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL DONATION TO COVER THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FEE FOR PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT AT 27-35 ARMSTRONG AVENUE, WENTWORTH BY WENTWORTH PIONEER HOMES COMMITTEE

Cadell Consulting Services has been engaged by Mr David Tunkin, Chairman of the Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc., to prepare a development application for the development of eleven new units and the eventual demolition of the two existing residential buildings, at 27-35 Armstrong Avenue, Wentworth.

The Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee is requesting that Wentworth Shire Council make a public donation to the committee, to cover the development application fee for the proposed redevelopment of the site.

While the fee has been paid at the time of lodgement of the application, the committee is requesting Council consider a reimbursement of the \$4,734.75 fee.

We believe justification for this request is made on the basis of the following:

- The Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc is a not-for-profit organisation
- The Committee is comprised of local community volunteers who have the responsibility of running and managing the two accommodation complexes
- The Committee is obtaining funding for the redevelopment from the sale of other properties and external sources
- The site is freehold and owned by Wentworth Shire Council

PO Box 26
Wentworth NSW 2648

michele@cadellconsulting.com.au

1
0429 021 494

- The overall project aims to increase social, health and well-being benefits, by updating and providing additional facilities for low-cost housing for senior residents, within the township of Wentworth.

We hope that Council gives this request careful consideration and look forward to a favourable response.

It is requested that at the time of considering the content of this letter, Council invite the Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Inc. and Cadell Consulting Services to address members of the Council, prior to a decision being determined.

Should you have any questions or need to discuss this matter in further detail, do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Michele Bos

Cadell Consulting Services



PO Box 26
Wentworth NSW 2648

michele@cadellconsulting.com.au

2
0429 021 494

9.11 DRAFT WENTWORTH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2025-2035

File Number: RPT/25/129

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.1 Promote the Shire as an ideal location for investment and the establishment of innovative, sustainable and diversified industries

Summary

In alignment with Council's Community Strategic Plan, the Draft Economic Development Strategy has been developed following extensive stakeholder engagement, economic analysis and community consultation. The strategy identifies key priorities and initiatives to drive economic resilience and innovation over the next 10 years.

Development of the strategy involved consultation with key stakeholders, including local businesses, industry bodies, educational institutions and community organisations. Feedback gathered through workshops, surveys and forums has informed the strategy's priorities and initiatives.

The Draft Economic Development Strategy provides a clear roadmap for sustainable economic growth and resilience. It reflects the community's aspirations and positions the Region for future prosperity.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the Draft Wentworth Shire Council Economic Development Strategy to be placed on 28 day public consultation.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Wentworth Shire Council Draft Economic Development Strategy, which provides a strategic framework to support sustainable economic growth, attract investment, and foster employment opportunities within the Local Government Area.

Background

In alignment with Council's Community Strategic Plan, the Draft Economic Development Strategy has been developed following extensive stakeholder engagement, economic analysis and community consultation. The strategy identifies key priorities and initiatives to drive economic resilience and innovation over the next 10 years.

Matters under consideration

The Draft Economic Development Strategy outlines the following core strategies:

- **Our Industries** – We will protect and grow our engine industries and attract and support emerging industries.
- **Our Infrastructure & Amenities** – We will provide and/or facilitate local infrastructure and amenity development to encourage growth and productivity – because great places to live are great places to work and visit.

- **Our People** – We will grow, attract and retain a creative, talented and skilled community and workforce.
- **Our Natural Assets & Identify** – We will protect natural assets and create a clear, unique and consistent regional identity to attract national and international attention.
- **Our Tomorrow** – We will plan now for an even better tomorrow, building local connection, leadership, partnership, legacy and advocacy.

Development of the strategy involved consultation with key stakeholders, including local businesses, industry bodies, educational institutions and community organisations. Feedback gathered through workshops, surveys and forums has informed the strategy's priorities and initiatives.

Implementation of the strategy will be supported through existing Council resources, with external funding opportunities pursued where possible. Any projects requiring additional funding will be subject to separate Council approval.

Conclusion

The Draft Economic Development Strategy provides a clear roadmap for sustainable economic growth and resilience. It reflects the community's aspirations and positions the Region for future prosperity.

Attachments

1. WSC Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035 [↓](#)



Economic Development Strategy

2025-2035



INTERPRETER SERVICES



MAHALAGA | FILIPINO

Kung kailangan mo ng tulong sa pagbabasa at pag-unawa sa dokumentong ito, ang mga kawani ng customer service ng Wentworth Shire Council ay masaya na tumulong sa pag-aayos ng isang libreng serbisyo ng interpretasyon. Upang ayusin ang isang interpreter, mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Council sa 03 5027 5027, o bisitahin ang isang Council Office na nakalista sa ibaba.



IMPORTANT | FRANÇAIS

Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour lire et comprendre ce document, le personnel du service client du Wentworth Shire Council se fera un plaisir de vous aider à organiser un service d'interprétation gratuit. Pour organiser un interprète, veuillez contacter le Conseil au 03 5027 5027 ou visitez un bureau du Conseil indiqué ci-dessous.



ΣΗΜΑΝΤΙΚΟ | ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ

Εάν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια για την ανάγνωση και την κατανόηση αυτού του εγγράφου, το προσωπικό εξυπηρέτησης πελατών του Wentworth Shire Council είναι πρόθυμο να σας βοηθήσει στη διευθέτηση μιας δωρεάν υπηρεσίας διερμηνείας. Για να κανονίσετε έναν διερμηνέα, επικοινωνήστε με το Δήμο στο 03 5027 5027 ή επισκεφθείτε ένα Γραφείο του Συμβουλίου που αναφέρεται παρακάτω.



IMPORTANTE | ITALIANO

Se hai bisogno di assistenza per leggere e comprendere questo documento, il personale del servizio clienti del Wentworth Shire Council sarà lieto di assisterti nell'organizzazione di un servizio interpretativo gratuito. Per organizzare un interprete, contattare il Comune allo 03 5027 5027 o visitare uno degli uffici del Comune elencati di seguito.



PENTING | MELAYU

Jika anda memerlukan bantuan membaca dan memahami dokumen ini, kakitangan perkhidmatan pelanggan Wentworth Shire Council berbesar hati untuk membantu dalam pengaturan perkhidmatan tafsiran percuma. Untuk mengatur jurubahasa, sila hubungi Majlis di 03 5027 5027, atau lawati Pejabat Majlis yang disenaraikan di bawah.



重要 | 普通话(简体中文)

如果您在阅读和理解本文件时需要帮助,温特沃思郡议会的客户服务人员很乐意协助安排免费口译服务。如需安排口译员,请致电 03 5027 5027 联系议会,或前往下列议会办公室。



महत्त्वपूर्ण | अंगरेज़ी

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਵੈਨਟਵਰਥ ਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਕਾਊਂਸਲ ਦੇ ਗਾਹਕ ਸੇਵਾ ਸਟਾਫ਼ ਇੱਕ ਮੁਫ਼ਤ ਵੀਆਈਆ ਸੇਵਾ ਦੇ ਪੁਰਬੰਧ ਵਜੋਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਖੁਸ਼ ਹਨ। ਦੁਆਰਾ ਦਾ ਇੰਤਜ਼ਾਮ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ, ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 03 5027 5027 'ਤੇ ਕਾਊਂਸਲ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ, ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਸੂਚੀਬੱਧ ਕਮਿ ਕਾਊਂਸਲਿ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਓ।



สำคัญ | แบบไทย

หากคุณต้องการความช่วยเหลือในการอ่านและทำความเข้าใจเอกสารนี้ เจ้าหน้าที่บริการลูกค้าของ Wentworth Shire Council ยินดีให้ความช่วยเหลือในการจัดการบริการล่ามฟรี หากต้องการจัดเตรียมล่าม โปรดติดต่อสภาที่ 03 5027 5027 หรือไปที่สำนักงานสภาตามรายการด้านล่าง



ÖNEMLİ | TÜRKÇE

Bu belgeyi okuma ve anlama konusunda yardıma ihtiyacınız varsa, Wentworth Shire Belediyesi'nin müşteri hizmetleri personeli, ücretsiz tercümanlık hizmetinin ayarlanmasında yardımcı olmaktan mutluluk duyacaktır. Bir tercüman ayarlamak için lütfen 03 5027 5027 numaralı telefondan Belediye ile iletişime geçin veya aşağıda listelenen bir Belediye Ofisini ziyaret edin.



QUAN TRỌNG | TIẾNG VIỆT

Nếu bạn cần trợ giúp để đọc và hiểu tài liệu này, nhân viên dịch vụ khách hàng của Hội đồng Wentworth Shire sẵn lòng hỗ trợ sắp xếp dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí. Để sắp xếp một thông dịch viên, vui lòng liên hệ với Hội đồng theo số 03 5027 5027 hoặc đến Văn phòng Hội đồng được liệt kê bên dưới.

IMPORTANT | ENGLISH

If you require assistance reading and understanding this document, customer service staff of Wentworth Shire Council are happy to assist in the arrangement of a free interpretive service.

To arrange an interpreter, please contact Council on 03 5027 5027, or visit a Council Office listed below.

COUNCIL OFFICES



Midway Community Centre
2 Midway Drive, Burgess, NSW 2720



Wentworth Visitor Centre (Main Administration Office)
61 Dudley Street, Wentworth, NSW 2610

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.



Interactive displays in the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre, 61 Darling Street, Wentworth.

Our Objectives



Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving region

ECONOMIC



Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

SOCIAL



Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

ENVIRONMENTAL



Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civil leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

CIVIC LEADERSHIP



Our Values: Honest & Integrity | Accountability & Transparency | Respect | Quality & Commitment

CONTENTS

Economic development is about creating places where people want to invest, work and live. It's about making connections between people, companies, institutions and communities.

Jeff Finkle

CEO, International Economic Development Council

Background	6
Facts & Stats about our LGA	8
The Role of Local Government in Economic Development	9
What Drives Us - Vision & Values	11
Consultation Research Methodology & Snapshot of Findings	15
Key Strategic Objectives, Goals and Actions	27
1. Our Industries	27
2. Our Infrastructure & Amenities	30
3. Our People	32
4. Our Natural Assets & Identity	34
5. Our Tomorrow	38

Supporting Documents *(available upon request from Wentworth Shire Council)*

- Document 1 – Engine and Emerging Industries
- Document 2 – Key Wentworth Shire Council planning and reports
- Document 3 – National, State, Regional and Local level Policy & Programs
- Document 4 – Consultation Snapshot
- Document 5 – Business and Industry Consultation Summary
- Document 6 – Community Consultation Summary
- Document 7 – Glossary of Terms

Proudly funded by



Images in this document were sourced from Council's Image Library unless otherwise stated. Cover image: Lock 10 & Weir Restaurant, Wentworth.

This document was compiled by Wentworth Shire Council.
Copies of this program can be viewed online at wentworth.nsw.gov.au

© Copyright Wentworth Shire Council. Document modified: March 6, 2025





Contemporary approaches to local and regional economic development seek to combine, marshal and promote a variety of physical, human, political, environmental, economic and cultural capabilities and endowments. These are often informed by a place-based perspective and endogenous growth theory, whereby strategies are intended to be tailored to promote locally relevant forms of development that make the most of local and regional distinctiveness, assets, conditions and opportunities.



Pugalis, L., Tan, SF., 2017,

The Role of Local Government in Local and Regional Economic Development, University of Technology Sydney.

Background

Wentworth Shire covers an area of 2,626,926 hectares (26,000 sq km) and is home to 7,500 people. The southern boundary (edging the Murray River) has the greatest density of population shared amongst the townships of Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga and Gol Gol. The town of Wentworth performs the traditional role of housing the Council Chambers and Offices from its position at the confluence of Australia's two most important rivers: the Darling and the Murray.

Wentworth Shire covers an area of 2,626,926 hectares (26,000 sq km) and is home to 7,500 people. The southern boundary (edging the Murray River) has the greatest density of population shared amongst the townships of Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga and Gol Gol. The town of Wentworth performs the traditional role of housing the Council Chambers and Offices from its position at the confluence of Australia's two most important rivers: the Darling and the Murray.

Wentworth is situated 1,075km from Sydney 585km Melbourne and 420km from Adelaide and is a location of contrasts - nestled on the Murray it is both within the rich horticultural expanse of the Sunraysia region whilst also being considered a Gateway to Outback NSW. The Sturt Highway (a key national freight route) and the Silver City Highway, intersect the Shire from east to west, and north to south respectively.

The townships of Wentworth and increasingly Buronga and Gol Gol provide key services to their own communities and those outlying areas. Recognised communities across the Wentworth LGA include Wentworth, Coomealla, Dareton, Curlwaa, Buronga, Gol Gol, Monak, Mourquong, Pan Ban, Pooncarie, Pomona, Ellerslie, and the Anabranche.

Our First Nations population forms 8.3% of our entire population and includes key Traditional Owners the Barkindji people, alongside Barindji, Kureindji, Danggali, Paakantyi, Mutthi Mutthi, and Ngiyampaa peoples (with the latter three especially significant to Mungo) (source: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>).

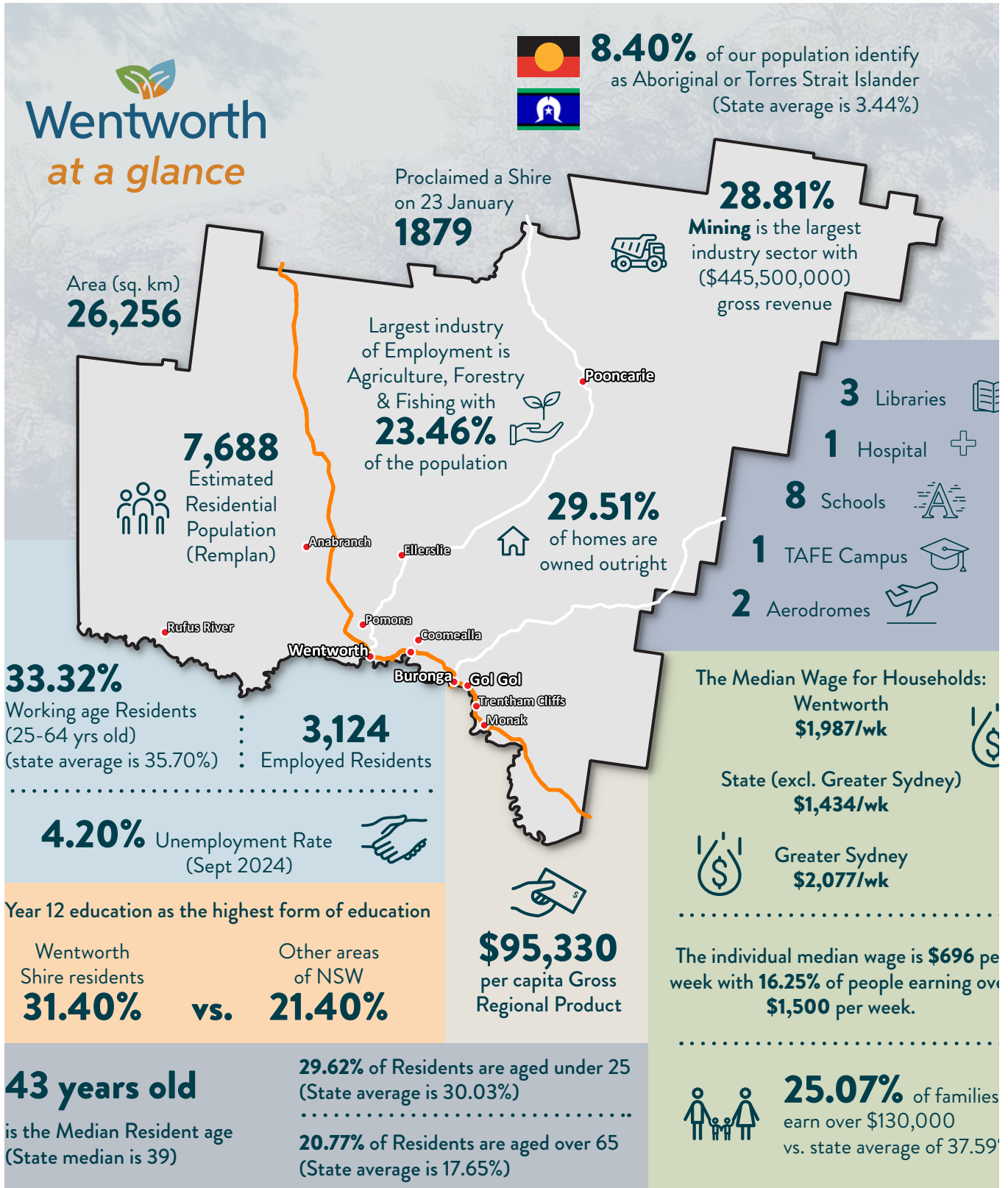
The cultural history of the region is deeply significant including a footprint into the internationally recognised Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area and Mungo National

Park, home of Mungo Man and Mungo Woman. For tens of thousands of years prior to Sturt naming the Darling River, the traditional owners who lived along it had called the river Baaka, hence their name Barkindji people, meaning 'Kinship to the river'. The magnificent canoe tree located in the Greater Murray Darling Junction Reserve is just one of many examples of this connection.

Wentworth also has an important European history. With the arrival of the river steamers in 1853, a small European settlement found itself to be ideally situated as an administrative and commercial centre for the untapped wealth of the vast Outback. This site was approved as the town of Wentworth, named after the New South Wales explorer and politician William Charles Wentworth, on June 21, 1859. The area was proclaimed a municipality on January 23, 1879, and is the region's oldest settlement. For many years Sydney was the only port in New South Wales to handle more cargo than Wentworth. In the early 1900's the first irrigation settlement in New South Wales was commenced at Curlwaa, seven kilometres east of Wentworth. In 1981 the Willandra Lakes Region (along with Kakadu National Park and the Great Barrier Reef) was one of the first Australian properties included on the World Heritage List.

The region's engine economies have been agricultural (grains - dryland and irrigated, wool and meat) horticultural (table and wine grapes, fruits / vegetables), tourism and the service sector. Emerging industries over the past decades have grown to include an increasing diversity of horticultural crops, growing almond plantations and mineral sands exploration. More recently again is the renewable energy infrastructure, production and transmission industry.

Wentworth LGA's competitive and comparative advantages include its transport corridor centrality; regionally significant environmental and economic features; and established cross-border relationships; all of which tie the area's rich potential to conservation, tourism and commercial opportunities. Beyond these assets however, are people and communities, resilient, connected and deserving of the same opportunities all Australians receive.



662km of sealed road



422km
ADELAIDE

583km
MELBOURNE

1,044km
SYDNEY

1,360km of unsealed road

THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Key Responsibilities and Strategic Approaches

Local Government plays a vital role in fostering economic growth, attracting investment, and supporting community outcomes. By addressing opportunities and challenges, it aims to retain and expand businesses, diversify the economy, and enhance infrastructure. Guided by best practice principles and the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, economic strategies align with community aspirations and broader plans, such as the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

The role for Local Government in economic development is to facilitate economic activity and growth by identifying opportunities and challenges and responding to these, and by improving the flow of information and bringing relevant parties together (including business, industry representative groups, all levels of government) to use this information for greater economic benefit.

In achieving this role Local Government will advocate, inform/promote, invest/provide, lead, partner/connect, research, regulate, review, and support. All with the aim of:

- Retaining existing business,
- Encouraging the growth of existing business,
- Attracting new business,
- Attracting investment,
- Diversifying the economy,
- Enhancing infrastructure,
- Improving community outcomes through job creation, training and education,
- Growing the population,
- Attracting visitors, and
- Reducing impediments to commercial activity.

Research by WALGA (2019) has identified four best practice principles to guide economic development strategies:

1. Regional Collaboration

Local areas have sought opportunities to collaborate with other local governments by lending support to regional networks and associations. Businesses are active participants in local government business development. Local stakeholders have been consulted in the development of a local economic development strategy.

2. Functional Integration

Local level government incorporates a focus on understanding their core responsibilities as part of a local level economic development strategy. Economic development is ingrained in the way a local authority conducts itself. Economic development activities are undertaken in a cost-efficient manner and leverage external funds.

3. Strategic Alignment

Local level economic development strategy has a clearly defined role within a given local government's overarching strategic framework. It also aligns with Federal, State and broader regional policy priorities.

4. Current and emerging competitive advantage

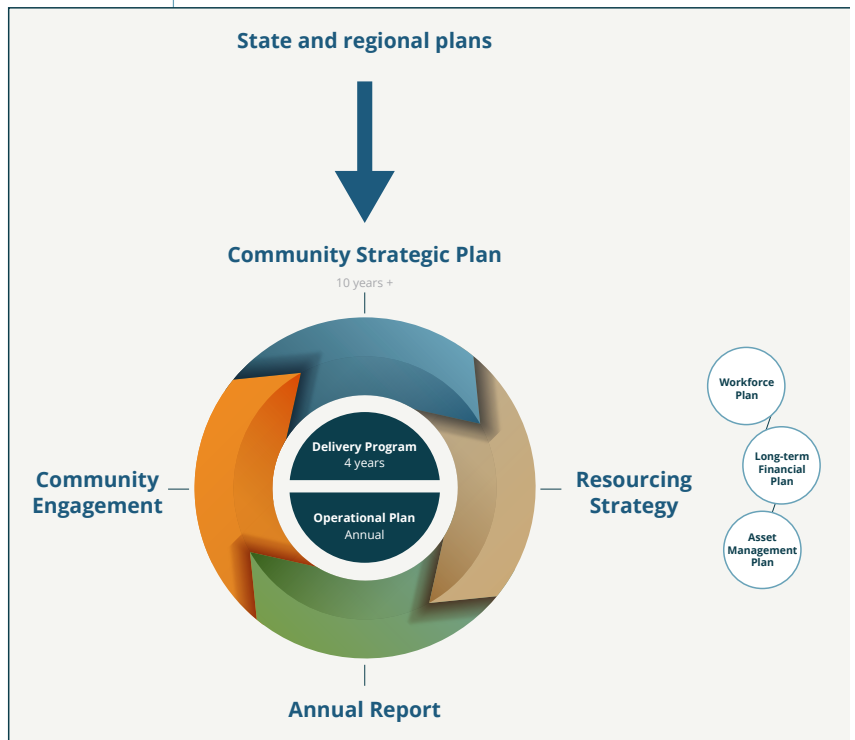
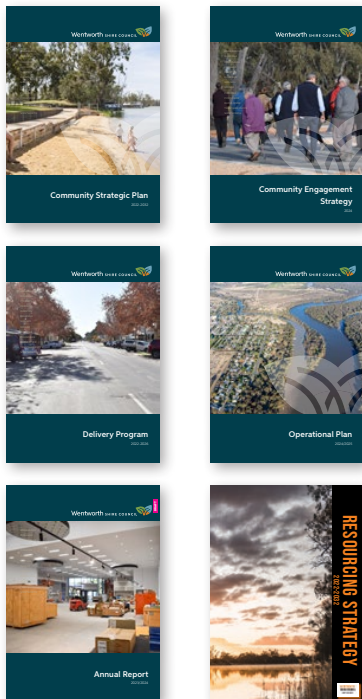
Local level government structures its economic development strategy in order to leverage their current and emerging competitive advantages, and the strengths of their local industries (WALGA, 2019).

“It takes an integrated approach, on the understanding that the city economy is influenced by a range of factors such as liveability and amenity; access to affordable housing for key workers and childcare for parents; a diverse and well-educated community as well as those more commonly associated with the economy such as market access, sector specialisation, innovation and productivity.”

Sydney2030

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework came into practice in 2009. The IP&R Framework begins with the community’s aspirations and includes a suite of integrated plans that set out a vision, goals and strategic actions to achieve them. It involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant. Central to the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework is the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

Whilst economic development is usually embedded in the CSP local governments are also, increasingly, developing dedicated Economic Development Strategies which must align to the CSP.



WHAT DRIVES US

Whilst Local Government is not required to develop an Economic Development Strategy, its potential for influence in this sphere is being increasingly recognised. As the closest layer of Government to community and the most important proximate level of advocacy for local communities the role of Local Government is critical. The key is in aligning the Economic Development Strategy to the Community Strategic Plan – giving it ‘licence and longevity’.

The **Wentworth Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032, Our Future in Focus** (undertaken in 2021/2022) presented the following Vision:

A thriving region, supported by a robust economic base, distinctive open spaces, and strong local governance and leadership.

Drawing on this Vision the **Strategic Goals** of the Plan are to make Wentworth a:

- Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving region (**ECONOMIC**);
- Wentworth Shire is a great place to live (**SOCIAL**);
- Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment (**ENVIRONMENTAL**); and
- Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civil leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner (**CIVIC LEADERSHIP**).

The **Wentworth Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement – A Vision to 2040 and Beyond (2020)** aligns to these Strategic Goals identifying eleven (11) Planning Priorities:

- Promote agriculture and value-added manufacturing.
- Grow tourism.
- Manage resources and renewable energy.
- Efficient transport and connectivity networks.
- Aboriginal economic self-determination.
- Sustainable settlements.
- Infrastructure and services.
- Preserve and promote heritage.
- Sustainable river systems.
- Manage natural hazards and climate change risks.
- Protect areas of environmental value.

Synthesised from the 269 community, business and industry voices that shared their thoughts and knowledge in the development of the **Wentworth Shire Council Economic Development Strategy (2024-2028)** are the following Vision themes and guiding values. Importantly these themes continue to endorse and reflect the Community Strategic Plan’s Vision.

When asked **What is your VISION for your Council area (what will it have, look and feel like)?** Key themes mentioned by community were:

- Access locally to key services, utilities and infrastructure;
- Retains a small community feel alongside growth and development;
- Increased availability of recreational and dining facilities;
- Growing range of local retail services;
- Growth of a high-quality and diverse tourism sector, strong focus on realising the potential of the river, inland and existing assets;
- A thriving community with economic and population growth;
- Strong leadership, community engagement, commitment and advocacy by Local Government;
- Well-planned and considered growth – sustainable, visionary and informed / respectful of all stakeholders; and
- Equitable opportunity and development across the Shire area and for all community members.

Interviews undertaken with 11 individuals identified as **Council, Community and Regional Leaders** revealed a unified Vision for:

- Clear and considered land use planning - creating friendly and accessible communities and enabling business and industry growth in logical long-term locations;
- Equity of access to services and amenities for all residents;
- Population growth and service growth to match;
- A thriving, attractive and welcoming region;
- Support for young people to thrive, learn and live locally;
- Local self-determination;
- Increased networking / alliance between neighbouring LGAs including cross-border;
- Frameworks to ensure industries contribute in meaningful ways to the communities and LGAs they operate within; and
- A local government that is easy to work with, supporting growth and industry and investment attraction.

The Values that sat alongside these Vision parameters included:



Inclusion, Equity and Diversity

Communication - open, transparent, representative

Aspiration - give opportunities and seize opportunities

Leadership, Advocacy, Empowerment and Self-Determination

Relationships, Collaboration, Partnership

“I am thinking about what I can achieve now to deliver great outcomes for the next 50 years. I believe in advocacy and leadership and a willingness of council to lead and be part of that.”

“All economic development, unless robotic, requires people – so how do we look after these people?”

“We have to foster an environment where it is easy to do business and do business well and then the community benefits.”

From these **Vision themes and Values** the following **Principles** have been formed to guide how the Wentworth Shire Council Economic Development Strategy will be implemented. These Principles act as rules to guide Council’s decision making around economic development – in this way new economic initiatives should uphold the following principles:

<p>Our existing businesses and industries are central to who we are and our successes to date. New Economic Development should not occur at their expense.</p>	<p>Further innovation, diversification and growth is supported in ways that promote and safeguard the area as a world class destination and food and fibre producing region.</p>	<p>We are planning for today and all our tomorrows. Economic growth will protect and enhance existing natural and built assets, reflecting the community’s vision for long-term sustainable economic development.</p>
<p>Equity of health, wellbeing and opportunities for all community members remain our highest priority. The improved liveability of our towns through planning, advocacy and provision of services and amenities are critical for locals and central to workforce attraction and retention.</p>	<p>All of our community members have a place at the decision-making table, we will continue to grow our leaders and uphold self-determination. Our First Nations community are central to this, and models must be created to ensure their contributions.</p>	<p>The current and cumulative impact of Economic Development is accurately costed to ensure our communities are compensated in both the short and long term.</p>



Our Values

At Wentworth Shire Council we value:

Honesty & Integrity

- ▶ We deliver on commitments.
- ▶ We act ethically.

Quality & Commitment

- ▶ We do our best to provide the highest standard of goods and services to our community.
- ▶ We are responsive to the needs of our community and always look for ways to better serve our community.
- ▶ We are dedicated to fulfilling the Shire's vision and goals.

Respect

- ▶ We act professionally towards our community and our colleagues.

Accountability & Transparency

- ▶ We take responsibility for our actions.
- ▶ We communicate openly and respectfully with our community.

CONSULTATION RESEARCH METHODOLOGY & SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

Community, Business and Industry engagement to inform that Wentworth Shire Council's Economic Development Strategy occurred between December 2023 – April 2024 and relied on multiple engagement strategies.

Business and Industry engagement involved four key strategies:

- An online Business and Industry survey (31 respondents),
- Phone based interviews with key business and industry leads across the LGA and those with overarching relevance (nine participants),
- A 'Business Breakfast' focus group (26 participants), and
- Participation in key community events including the Euston Economic Development Forum (March 2023), Tri-State Workforce Forum (Euston, December 2023), and RDA Murray's Buronga Business Breakfast and Murray-Darling Interstate Regional Development Stakeholder Consultation (both Buronga, April 2024)

Community engagement involved two key strategies:

- An online and hard copy survey (190 responses)
- Phone based interviews with key community and Council leadership (6) and overarching government and peak body representatives (5) (totalling 11 interviews), and;
- Two written submissions were also received.

According to the 2021 Census there are 6,020 people aged 15 years and over living in the Wentworth LGA. There were 190 responses to the community survey – effectively a 3.2% community response rate.

Through these varied methods a total of 269 voices from the Wentworth LGA's community, business and industry sectors informed the **Wentworth Shire Council Economic Development Strategy (2024-2028)**.

Complete analysis of all engagement data is presented in Consultation Summaries provided to Wentworth Shire Council leadership and staff. This **Consultation Snapshot** provides a succinct synthesis of all engagement data to demonstrate to readers the foundation to, and pathway of, the recommendations presented in this Economic Development Strategy.

Through the online survey, focus groups and phone interviews with business and industry, the following sectors were engaged and have informed the Wentworth Shire Council Economic Development Strategy:

- Retail
- Tourism
- Recreation/Entertainment/Hospitality services
- Accommodation services
- Communication/Information/Computer
- Agriculture
- Horticulture
- Mining
- Renewable Energies
- Food Processing
- Light Industrial
- Heavy Industrial
- Construction
- Wholesale/warehouse
- Freight and logistics
- Cleaning services

Of the survey respondents 60.0% noted their operation was Expanding, 33.3% Stable, and only 6.7% noted their operation was Reducing. Workforce varied with 60.0% of respondents having 1-5 staff through to 6.7% having more than 61 staff. In total 65.5% of this workforce lived within the LGA.

Collectively the most significant challenges in establishing and operating your business/ industry were:

- Government restrictions/regulations
- Attracting staff
- Housing
- Training staff/yourself
- Operating costs (wages, utilities, rents, licencing etc)
- Financing for start-up or on-going costs
- Lack of customers
- Retaining staff

The **MOST** readily available supports/ local strengths/assets in establishing and operating your business/industry operation were:

- Local government advice/knowledge
- Locally available expertise – Construction, Established support industries (such as trades, suppliers etc)
- Available infrastructure – roads

The **LEAST** available supports / local strengths / assets were:

- Financial grants
- Business incentives and in-kind supports
- Locally available expertise – Financial and Environmental
- Available infrastructure - buildings, storage
- Available land
- Housing/accommodation

Survey respondents were asked to select the 5 most important Economic Development factors for Council to focus on. Overwhelmingly (above 65%), the following were selected:

- Ensuring access to affordable and reliable utilities (water, power, waste mgt)
- Encouraging businesses / industries that are identified as 'gaps' by the community
- Improving infrastructure to support/ encourage industrial/commercial growth
- Advocating for policies and programs that support rural NSW
- Ensuring local businesses benefit from economic growth
- Attracting and growing our working-age population
- Maintaining high quality roads
- Start-up funding for new businesses / industries
- Partnering with neighbouring Councils
- Providing access to quality school education

"When grant money for events is obtained ensure that it is local businesses that benefit (not Sydney or Mildura businesses while locals are excluded) and the money stays here."

"Gol Gol / Buronga is a great community. Prep to 10 School and local pool would be the icing the cake."

A SWOT analysis was undertaken during the Business Breakfast and with 1:1 business and industry leadership interview participants. A synthesis is presented below.

Strengths

- Established engines industries, notably agriculture and horticulture, and new industries.
- Natural assets – rivers and water, solar and wind energy, rare earth / mineral sands.
- Physical location on the highway and at important road junctions (Sturt Highway, Silver City Highway).
- Existing and proposed / possible tourism assets – including natural, cultural and built.
- First Nations culture (artefacts/ experiences) and heritage (pioneering history, river boat trade, Possum's Story).
- First Nation population.
- Residential Estate developments.
- High-quality built assets and local investment and leadership – Community Bank, Community Medical Centre etc.
- Council owned assets such as caravan parks and available vacant lands.
- Wentworth Shire Council – staff, leadership and partnerships. Recognised as 'investment friendly' LGA.
- Small business owners and Arts / creative sectors.
- Community organisations and Passionate residents.
- Regional level plans with clear local level relevance support Wentworth LGA in aligning with higher level opportunities.

"Connection to river is key – most visitors would prefer to be riverside, and Wentworth is beautifully set against the river."

“First Nations Tourism development, Mungo, there is such a density of significant places and sites.”

Weaknesses

- Lack of access to key services - education, health, childcare, aged care and accommodation, public transport.
- Workforce ability and availability, lack of skilled and unskilled labour, challenges with recruitment and retention, minimal opportunities for further education and training locally.
- Cross border challenges - differences in regulations / licencing, recognition of qualifications.
- Gaps in suite of business offerings – trades, retail, recreational, accommodation.
- Limited access to / upkeep of riverfront, tracks (also noted as improving).
- Limited engagement of the First Nation communities in Economic and Community Development discussions.
- Connection /communication between community / businesses and Wentworth Shire Council.
- Lack of permanent accommodation / land development.
- Distance / isolation, including from capital cities and political representatives.
- Road quality – physical connectivity to enable local, industry and visitor travel.
- Digital connectivity.
- Poor public image of some areas and communities.
- Money / opportunity leaving the area to Mildura especially.
- Lack of investment and attraction collateral – prospectus documents required.

“The turnover of council staff can be challenging – Balranald and Wentworth Shire Councils need to be working together in this space, this ensures there is continuity in delivery of strategy regardless of personnel changes.”

Opportunities

- Development of key visitor economy opportunities including visitor economy assets such as Mungo, the rivers, established tracks and trails (Darling River Run, Mungo Loop, proposed Far West Culture and Heritage Trail), tour and event assets, Traditional Owner / First Nations tourism, agritourism, and broad visitor assets (Visitor information Centre, Civic Centre, Field of Lights, PS Ruby, refurbished Wentworth Caravan Park, Military Museum, Possum’s Story).
- Development of a First Nations led and owned visitor economy which supports reconciliation, shares our history, creates business ownership and employment opportunities for First Nations people and builds intra and inter community relationships.
- Mineral sands and rare earth mining.
- The South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), transmission line infrastructure and renewable developments.
- Growing horticulture industries, including localised opportunities for processing and further value adding.
- Locally informed planning and development.
- Grow your own workforce opportunities including through industry-based training, apprenticeships and advocacy.
- Need for housing and opportunity for population growth and the attraction of services and amenities around this.
- Victorian businesses are looking to relocate into NSW as a result of Victorian tax and legislation changes.

- Strategically gather and utilise legacy / social benefit funds for long-term and widespread community gains.
- Working with industry leaders to fully understand the Economic opportunities that come with any development.
- Dedicated Economic Development positions within Local Government to support clear, consistent messaging and a central contact point supporting and pursuing community approved investment and attraction opportunities.

“Growing our rural workforce needs a pipeline... We have a Tafe presence in Dareton that could be a logical partner to develop a workforce pipeline (Plus SuniTafe in Mildura).”

“Having a local group from each town that understands the towns history and future and how nature interacts with towns and vice versa is extremely important for council to be able to discuss issues.”

“If you really want to develop the region well – the next task for Council is to facilitate more miners to come into the region – investment and attraction.

Mining companies have skilled people who can support in this handover – invest and attract – these staff could, in a voluntary way, support the Economic Development of the region. We really want to be a part of the community.”

“It is so important that Traditional Owners are telling the story, this has life changing outcomes for Traditional Owners and their families as well.”

Threats

- Regulations, restrictions and policies including State and Federal environmental regulations - Land Zoning; Conflicting regulations for land; VISA regulations; International trade – policy, market, workforce; Biosecurity; Water regulation, availability and price; lack of training and licencing standardisation between States / Nationally.
- National / Global economic climate.
- Inadequate resources, services and infrastructure - accommodation; Internet Speed / telecommunications.
- Workforce shortfall in local skilled and unskilled workforce, Workforce retention and recruitment.
- The impact of some industries is significantly changing the landscape – accommodation villages, wind turbines, power infrastructure - there are one off impacts and cumulative impacts, often difficult to fully assess.
- Lack of partnership / collaboration / frameworks - businesses, industry, government all running in silos.
- Climate change, Natural disasters / extreme weather conditions.
- Cross border issues, funds going outside area.
- Not knowing our region in order to plan and advocate.

“Rural communities need small business as much as new and big business. We all want to see new economic development in our patch/es, but we shouldn’t lose the focus on current businesses. They too need effort to support their sustainability and expansion.”

Over the course of the research for the Economic Development Strategy for both Balranald and Wentworth Shire Councils **significant tri-state conversations** were also occurring. Regionally, over the past several decades, there has been increasing

dialogue about the **importance of cross-border** relationships. Over the past 12 months especially there has been a renewed interest in this – with a NSW, Victoria and South Australia Tri-State economic region being proposed and the following events / research activities occurring:

- Euston Economic Development Forum (March 2023),
- Tri-State Workforce Forum (Euston, December 2023),
- ‘Tri-State Economic Zone Scoping Study: Murray Mallee Cross Border Region’ March 2024. Developed by REMPLAN for Regional Development Victoria and the Mallee Regional Partnership, and
- RDA Murray’s Buronga Business Breakfast and Murray-Darling Interstate Regional Development Stakeholder Consultation (both Buronga, April 2024).

Amongst these multiple entities and efforts it is universally agreed that a tri-state governance model and working agreement would foster regional development, enhance economic growth, and ultimately benefit the residents of all participating states.

“We want to create a regional NSW where people actually want to live and work. What can we do to create communities we want to live and work in?”

“Local Government does their bit, industry does their bit etc etc very rarely do we come together and share this knowledge and capitalise on the opportunities.”

“Regional communities are in fact what many suburbs aspire to be. But so many people don’t see this...”

“[attracting workforce] Bigger than one employer, one industry or one area – a regional system (and brand) to be visible and an advocacy strength.”

“Avoiding a zero sum change in the local economy is important – they [industry]

come, they build, they leave... What is ‘local’ in a ‘local’ investment. Industry will ‘spruik’ their investment, but how will local communities benefit.”

“We need to be identifying pipelines of work as well – so businesses can plan long term at the scale required.”

“Legacy is also about skills retainment beyond the sugar hit.”

“The sugar hit not making a difference here, it has not had a trickle down impact like Economic Development theory would predict.”

“Putting this part of Australia on the map is a challenging one, you are at the coal face of the climate conversation, the indigenous cultural conversation lives here, you need logic over politics and it makes more sense to be working together.”

“Some of these hort companies are also tristate companies as well – so the relationship is fluid.”

“In the Tri-state conversation it is easy to bring people together but so hard to get them to keep moving together.”

“Advocacy should be area wide – then we have a critical mass of population and need... the similarity of ‘shared experience’ is pervasive – housing, childcare, workforce demand – you are stronger in aggregate than in isolation.”

Community engagement to inform that Wentworth Shire Council’s Economic Development Strategy occurred between December 2023 – April 2024 gathering a total of 203 community, community and Council leadership and government representative voices.

In total 190 community members completed the online and hard copy survey with 98.0% of respondents living within the Wentworth

Shire Council area and the majority living in Gol Gol (37.7%) / Buronga (6.3%), Wentworth (27.7%), Coomealla (5.0%) / Dareton (5.7%), and Pooncarie.

In total 3.7% of all respondents identified as Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander and a further 5.3% of respondents indicated they were born overseas.

Respondents most valued about where they live the:

- Small community atmosphere
- Healthy environment
- Access to health and education services
- Affordability/cost of living
- Recreational opportunities
- Thriving local businesses/industries.

The most sought-after businesses/industries were:

- Health/Medical services
- Recreation/Entertainment/Hospitality services
- Tourism
- Retail
- Education/Training services
- Arts and Culture
- Accommodation services

When asked **What kinds of businesses / industries would you NOT like to see in your area?** Respondents noted:

- Light Industrial/Construction/Manufacturing/Warehousing/Transport
- Heavy industrial
- Mining
- Renewables
- Chain stores
- Aircraft training

“Any industry or business that takes from the area and does not contribute. IE FIFO workers.”

Respondents felt the **BEST THING** to happen because of Economic Development included:

Strengths	The community said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in key services (education, health, childcare, aged care, recreational) and retail businesses / services • Sustainable and well-planned growth of both the population and economy, attracting young families • Job opportunities, especially for locals and youth • Tourism, particularly cultural and heritage based and drawing on the riverfront • More housing 	<p>“Thriving community with opportunities for all who wish to be involved, growing availability of services etc.”</p>

Conversely, the **WORST THING** to happen because of Economic Development included:

Weakness	The community said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of environment and amenity • Inadequate community and economic planning resulting in an inappropriate mix of residential and business / industry, environmental and sustainability costs and a lack of services to support growing populations • Inequitable Economic Development • Entry of undesirable business • Cost of living increases • Housing issues 	<p>“Demand for housing and services increases higher than supply leading to increased costs, reduced services and ultimately reduced quality of township and services lowering the socioeconomic status of the district.”</p>

Interviews were undertaken with 11 individuals identified as Council, Community and/or Regional Leaders.

The most mentioned **STRENGTHS/ASSETS** were:

Built	Natural	Human/Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure to capitalise on natural assets Light State Civic and Visitor Information Centre Planning for improved recreational facilities Sealing of roads Wentworth Airport Accommodation assets Waste management facility Diversity of businesses and industries Health Infrastructure Tourism infrastructure and networks The Buronga shopping precinct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local river system Land availability and scale Rich in minerals Mungo and other National Parks World Heritage Willandra Lakes <p>Natural assets require built assets for optimal use, i.e. transmission line with solar and wind, Ag/Hort with water, roads for tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible, organised and adaptive communities Human resources – our people Council has a great and growing team, focus on skilling locals and enabling flexible working conditions High functioning local / regional action groups

The community said

“Sealing of road to Menindee, sealing of runway – all done by our own workforce.”

“We are a well-managed LGA – so funding bodies should have trust and faith in us to do the right thing / get it done.”

“Wentworth Shire Interagency Group will attract and sustain economic development, especially because it picks up on Indigenous wellbeing and gendered diversity in economies. This is especially important in areas where there are workforce shortages. The interagency has the potential to marry up solutions in workforce shortages – childcare, education, health and wellbeing etc.”

The most mentioned **WEAKNESSES** were:

Weakness	The community said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance on water 	<p>“There are risks with water supply and access.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing 	<p>The industries we are investing in locally –</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding scale and need for services 	<p>permanent plantings – make it very difficult to be nimble or pivot. Wine industry is really struggling – some have pulled out wine grapes to plant almonds – water will be a premium.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting and growing the required workforce 	<p>“Securing a meaningful and enduring legacy benefit for the community from the REZ and mining – we need to think this through carefully – how do we benefit ratepayers and the community more broadly.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Economic Development skills / personnel within each LGA 	<p>– how do we benefit ratepayers and the community more broadly.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging all levels of politics and both sides of the border 	<p>“Childcare is just so important and it is terrible here. Reliance on family for care means that people new to the region can be locked out of the workforce. People talk about waiting 18 months+ for a childcare place.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and improving key infrastructure 	<p>“The budget of not-for-profits is huge for this area – but what difference are they making? People are just being drip fed, just enough to keep them quiet. But the cost of living is growing and people are struggling. Why don’t these not-for-profits do something that really makes a difference. Long term support that is driven by the person’s goals NOT the agencies goals, invest in families, to build them up by providing meaningful opportunities.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping community informed 	<p>People are just being drip fed, just enough to keep them quiet. But the cost of living is growing and people are struggling. Why don’t these not-for-profits do something that really makes a difference. Long term support that is driven by the person’s goals NOT the agencies goals, invest in families, to build them up by providing meaningful opportunities.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalising on mining and renewable energy growth – securing legacy 	<p>“The budget of not-for-profits is huge for this area – but what difference are they making? People are just being drip fed, just enough to keep them quiet. But the cost of living is growing and people are struggling. Why don’t these not-for-profits do something that really makes a difference. Long term support that is driven by the person’s goals NOT the agencies goals, invest in families, to build them up by providing meaningful opportunities.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of local benefit from FIFO workforce 	<p>People are just being drip fed, just enough to keep them quiet. But the cost of living is growing and people are struggling. Why don’t these not-for-profits do something that really makes a difference. Long term support that is driven by the person’s goals NOT the agencies goals, invest in families, to build them up by providing meaningful opportunities.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential expansions growing pains 	<p>People are just being drip fed, just enough to keep them quiet. But the cost of living is growing and people are struggling. Why don’t these not-for-profits do something that really makes a difference. Long term support that is driven by the person’s goals NOT the agencies goals, invest in families, to build them up by providing meaningful opportunities.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of ‘to scale’ education and childcare facilities 	<p>People are just being drip fed, just enough to keep them quiet. But the cost of living is growing and people are struggling. Why don’t these not-for-profits do something that really makes a difference. Long term support that is driven by the person’s goals NOT the agencies goals, invest in families, to build them up by providing meaningful opportunities.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under-resourcing and vulnerability amongst some cohorts. 	<p>People are just being drip fed, just enough to keep them quiet. But the cost of living is growing and people are struggling. Why don’t these not-for-profits do something that really makes a difference. Long term support that is driven by the person’s goals NOT the agencies goals, invest in families, to build them up by providing meaningful opportunities.”</p>

The most mentioned **OPPORTUNITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS** were:

Opportunity/Emerging Trend	The community said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry growth (mining, renewables and horticulture) and value adding potential 	<p>“In my earlier days it was roads, rates and rubbish, but our focus is now much more tourism. A \$14 million Visitor Information Centre, and the light state project. Sitting on the junction of Australia’s two greatest rivers makes it easy to sell.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South West REZ Education opportunities – TAFE and Uni 	<p>“There is so much opportunity for really beautiful and meaning tourism around our significant sites, Mungo, Canoe Tree (behind Wentworth hospital), Fletchers Lake, Thegoa Lagoon etc. These places play a significant role in our ecosystems. There must be a plan to build a respectful tourism enterprise around these sites that is community owned and led and employs our community members. Beautify our Shire, mirror what’s in our communities on signage or billboards. Have community input, regular consultations not a one off.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth in population Tourism Increasing focus on use and enjoyment of riverfront areas Strategic road transport / freight developments, including the second bridge 	<p>“We do need to get strategic road transport back onto the agenda including the second bridge. Various strategic documents that refer to it. We need to be pushing now for something to happen in the next 10-20 years.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legacy opportunities Cross border and Tri-State collaborations 	<p>“Wentworth is a historic town - the tourism bones are good, but it needs an updated offering. There is not enough accommodation, no cafes with longer opening hours etc.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce sharing and extension models A workforce strategy focussed on ‘growing our own’ 	<p>“Renewables – I would be asking - what can we be doing around longer-term opportunities – manufacturing etc, not just the current ‘sugar hit’”</p>
	<p>“When you have water and energy you have some incredible assets, so then it is about building case for why major investors should come to the area.”</p>

The most mentioned **THREATS** included:

Threat	The community said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision making at higher levels of Government Technical connectivity Reliance on export markets Inflationary environment, Cost of living crisis Exposure to environmental and climatic extremes Lack of resourcing – human and financial Lack of national / state level solutions to the housing crisis Lack of national licencing / infrastructure for key industries, skills and assets 	<p>“Higher level infrastructure – bridges, health, education – are all reliant on state and federal-based decision making. We can advocate but it is not our decision, these are potential threats.”</p> <p>“I have concerns about water buy backs and what that might do to the cost of water in difficult times, especially for permanent plantings.”</p>

The following **KEY PARTNERS** were identified:

Key Partner	The community said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of community including First Nations communities, agencies and organisations Local government, and especially neighbouring LGAs across the Tri-State area Cross-border Commissioners Regional representatives Industry representatives – agriculture, horticulture, mining etc; State government departments and agencies Department of Regional NSW RDA Murray and Loddon Mallee. 	<p>“Cross border conversations are just so key – how do we do these well and collaborate for benefit. We need to get past thinking about competition and move to collaboration.”</p> <p>“There should be an Aboriginal Liaison Officers role on Wentworth Shire Council.</p> <p>There is a lack of communication between the Shire and local Indigenous Community.”</p> <p>“The most important key partners are the community. Participatory democracy will be key – we will be more visible. 80% of employment is in small business – so even though the ‘big’ industries look like they are central – LOCAL employment happens locally in local businesses.”</p>

KEY STRATEGIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

1. Our Industries

We will protect and grow our engine industries and attract and support emerging industries.

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
1.1 Existing businesses and industries are supported to benefit from economic growth	1.1.1 Communications frameworks are activated to increase local awareness of economic growth opportunities with potential for local benefit (Business groups, e-lists and information sessions)	Right to Farm
	1.1.2 Understand the accreditation, licencing and procurement needs of emerging industries. Inform local industry and business and attract relevant trainings to support with accreditation/licencing	
	1.1.3 Map local business and industry to support their full utilisation by larger emerging industries such as mining and renewables	
1.2 The importance of the agricultural and horticultural industries is protected	1.2.1 Manage residential encroachment onto agricultural / horticultural land	Wentworth Shire Council Local Environment Plan
	1.2.2 Consider the impact of emerging industries encroachment onto agricultural / horticultural land to food/fibre security	
	1.2.3 Advocate to ensure the impact of the Water Buy back does not inequitably impact South West NSW. Ensure bought water is returned to the area for environmental gains.	

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
<p>1.3 Emerging and prospective industries and businesses are aware of and attracted to the LGA</p>	<p>1.3.1 A review of long-term strategic land use planning is undertaken drawing on state level expertise and local knowledge to determine placement and enable growth in residential, recreational, commercial and industrial land. This planning is long term, strategic and sustainable and considers all stakeholders. It is visionary about healthy, safe communities</p>	<p>Department of Planning NSW Department of Regional NSW Wentworth Shire Council Local Environment Plan</p>
	<p>1.3.2 A high level LGA Prospectus is developed (with supporting promotional materials) detailing endowments and opportunities and listing the preferred investments, industries and businesses</p>	<p>Regional Development Trust Fund, Department of Regional NSW in the distribution of this WSC Prospectus</p>
	<p>1.3.3 An Economic Development Officer / Team / Concierge role is created and funding secured (could be shared role between BSC/WSC) providing a single entry and advocacy point for all Economic Development enquiries</p>	<p>Investigate incentive schemes Sustainable Communities Funding Alignment to Drought Resilience research</p>
	<p>1.3.4 A inter LGA Economic Development Advisory Group is formed utilising Council and local knowledge and representation from key industries</p>	<p>Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029. Theme: INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT</p>
	<p>1.3.5 Preferred investment interests, businesses, industries and services are proactively sought out and welcomed</p>	<p>Action: Host industry networking events that showcase businesses in the region, what they have been doing to improve their offerings and encourage working together</p>

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
<p>1.4 Our broad visitor economy potential is recognised, understood and enabled</p>	<p>1.4.1 The Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029 is recognised as the key visitor economy planning document to be applied in parallel to this Strategy</p> <hr/> <p>1.4.2 Encourage visitor geographic dispersal and length of stay by delivering on signage recommendations from Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029</p>	<p>Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029</p> <p>Theme: CUSTOMER FOCUS</p> <p>Action: Gather existing data from industry and other sources to create the target customer profile set for the Wentworth region (aim for 5-6 profiles)</p>

2. Our Infrastructure & Amenities

We will provide and/or facilitate local infrastructure and amenity development to encourage growth and productivity – because great places to live are great places to work and visit.

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
<p>2.1 Greater diversity in, and availability, of housing stock with utilities and amenity assets to support</p>	<p>2.1.1 Suitable land for new builds is identified and promoted including through infill of vacant land within communities and through new residential estates</p>	
	<p>2.1.2 Investment is encouraged in independent Aged Care living units for the Dareton/Coomealla communities</p>	
	<p>2.1.3 Council encourages broader community thinking about the possible forms of housing (including tiny homes, prefabricated homes, transition to independent living units and higher density living)</p>	<p>Buronga Gol Gol Structure Plan 2020</p> <p>Sustainable Wentworth Strategy</p>
	<p>2.1.4 Develop a plan for works in line with new residential developments to ensure these developments have required utilities. Seek funding streams to support with this work</p>	<p>Dareton Revitalised Strategy: Our Town Our Future</p>
	<p>2.1.5 Drawing on the community voice captured in the development of this EDS identify key amenity assets sought by community and facilitate the attraction of these assets to the LGA (with a focus on food, retail and riverfront opportunities)</p>	
	<p>2.1.6 Explore the contribution of industry to housing solutions through legacy / social licence</p>	

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
<p>2.2 Physical and digital connectivity enables full use of the LGAs potential – both human and natural</p>	<p>2.2.1 Council continues to advocate at appropriate governmental levels for high standard road infrastructure, including vigilance in identifying, accessing and utilising available funding streams</p>	<p>Road Safety Action Plan 2019/20</p> <p>Wentworth Shire Council Community Strategic Plan</p>
	<p>2.2.2 Council continues to advocate for roadway and property interface priorities identified in the 2016 Buronga to Monak Interface Study Investigations Report, alongside new learnings</p>	<p>Buronga to Monak Interface Study Investigations Report (2016)</p>
	<p>2.2.3 Council continues to advocate at appropriate governmental levels for high standard technical connectivity infrastructure</p>	<p>Wentworth Shire Council Community Strategic Plan</p>
<p>2.3 Residents of the LGA have access to key services via in person or online mechanisms</p>	<p>2.3.1 Council works with key community groups and the broader community to advocate for and facilitate ‘to scale’ key community services including health and education services such as childcare, preschools, schools, adult education, health services and aged care</p>	<p>Wentworth Shire Council Community Strategic Plan</p>
	<p>2.3.2 Advocate for an increased public transport service across the Council communities bordering Victoria</p>	
	<p>2.3.3 Advocate for the critical importance of cross border funding and service delivery</p>	



Junction Island Bridge

3. Our People

We will grow, attract and retain a creative, talented and skilled community and workforce.

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
3.1 Understand local / regional workforce training and skills gaps and actively support remediation	3.1.1 Work with engine and emerging industries to clearly identify skills gaps. Focussing on the most prevalent gaps plan a skills remediation strategy which includes a plan for industry’s contribution	Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029 Theme: INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT Action: Host industry networking events that showcase businesses in the region, what they have been doing to improve their offerings and encourage working together
	3.1.2 Council works with key community groups and the broader community to advocate for increased post school / tertiary training provision locally	TAFE, Country University Centre (Swan Hill)
	3.1.3 Continue engagement in cross border networks to advocate for a National accreditation and licencing system for key industries and other practical strategies to address workforce and skills shortages	Wentworth Shire Council Community Strategic Plan
	3.1.4 Explore membership to the Robinvale Euston Workforce Network as it considers increasing its catchment area	

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
3.2 Uphold the importance of the early years in unlocking the full potential of future generations	3.2.1 Advocate for the ongoing delivery of high quality and consistent early years health, wellbeing, education and care services across the LGA	Wentworth Shire Council Disability Inclusion Plan
	3.2.2 Support all children have access to and attend high quality early years education in the two years before commencing school	Wentworth Shire Council Child Care Study June 2017
3.3 Increase awareness of, and facilitate employment pathways for community members	3.3.1 Work with key community organisations to reach un- and under-employed community members, facilitating their awareness of employment opportunities and connecting them to training and employment pathways	Is it a core for value for council to be connecting employment to training & Pathways.
	3.3.2 Negotiate with large industries for a minimum localised employment expectation, recognising this as a long-term legacy impact for individuals, families and communities	
3.4 Create the conditions for and actively support population and skills attraction	3.4.1 Support initiatives that promote and/or provide incentives for population migration to the Shire and the region	Move to More Country Change programs www.countrychange.com.au
	3.4.2 Invest in place-making, streetscape and resident, prospective resident and visitor amenity improvements	
	3.4.3 Activate opportunity to the Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) initiative within the RDA Murray region	RDA Murray
	3.4.4 Investigate local solutions to workforce gaps by exploring more flexible working arrangements, workforce sharing and role sharing models	

4. Our Natural Assets & Identity

We will protect natural assets and create a clear, unique and consistent regional identity to attract national and international attention.

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
4.1 Our natural and cultural assets are protected and honoured	4.1.1 Our system of rivers, lakes, wetlands and landscapes are protected including the monitoring of loss of water from the region, ecosystem and water health and the impact of industry including visual and physical impacts	National Parks
	4.1.2 Our cultural and heritage assets are mapped, their significance recorded and protected	Traditional Owners Aboriginal Lands Council National Parks / World Heritage Willandra Lakes Advisory Committee
	4.1.3 Traditional owners are supported to lead and manage access to sites of cultural significance in a manner that protects the site and their ongoing connection to that site	Traditional Owners



Perry Sandhills, Wentworth

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
<p>4.2 An aligned, modern and comprehensive suite of visitor economy assets and experiences are developed (including ecological, cultural and heritage)</p>	<p>4.2.1 Explore and encourage the growing demand for and potential of eco and agri-tourism across the LGA</p>	<p>Riverina Murray Tourism Destination Management Plan</p> <p>Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029</p> <p>Theme: INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Action: Identify target groups, reach out to Elders, to enable further empowerment over their heritage, and the opportunity to work together to share the stories</p>
	<p>4.2.2 Work with Traditional Owners and key stakeholders to enable the international significance of Mungo. Ensure the benefits of this accrue firstly to Traditional Owners, encouraging their ownership of, and employment in, these tourism assets. Support the Mungo experience as a platform for National reconciliation</p>	<p>Traditional Owners</p> <p>Aboriginal Lands Council</p> <p>National Parks / World Heritage</p> <p>Willandra Lakes Advisory Committee</p>
	<p>4.2.3 Work with BSC in the development the Far West Culture and Heritage Trail to highlight the First Nations and settlement / pastoralists story</p>	<p>Balranald Shire Council</p>
	<p>4.2.4 Facilitate new tour package products including heritage, food and wine, Indigenous, nature-based and walking tours and charters</p>	<p>Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029</p> <p>Theme: INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Action: Identify target groups, reach out to Elders, to enable further empowerment over their heritage, and the opportunity to work together to share the stories</p>

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
	<p>4.2.5 In conjunction with MRCC capitalise on the joint Bruce Munro “LightState” Art Installation Experience (Fibre Optic Symphonic Orchestra & Trail of Lights).</p>	<p>Mildura Rural City Council Mildura Regional Development</p>
	<p>4.2.6 Support the efforts of Sunraysia Early Settlers Museum Inc to develop a museum dedicated to the early pioneering spirit of the region.</p>	<p>Riverina Murray Tourism Destination Management Plan Murray Regional Tourism Destination Management Plan</p>
<p>4.3 Our brand is distinct, synonymous with our region and broadly recognised</p>	<p>4.3.1 Create a regional brand that encapsulates the strengths of our people and place and showcases hero products</p>	<p>Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029</p>
	<p>4.3.2 Leverage local character by sharing, engaging, and using genuine local stories to improve how visitors connect with the region</p>	<p>Theme: AWARENESS & EDUCATION</p>
	<p>4.3.3 Develop and deliver a digital tourism marketing strategy to guide consistent use of social media and other digital assets</p>	<p>Action: Create an images/video bank for industry use, where anyone can use the high quality images for marketing, gathered from existed sources</p>
	<p>4.3.4 Develop print and digital materials including guides, itineraries and packages to promote touring routes</p>	

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
<p>4.4 Continue to build improved visitor access, accommodation, amenity and awareness</p>	<p>4.4.1 Extend new and maintain existing cycling and walking trails</p>	
	<p>4.4.2 Work with Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders towards a sealed road loop encompassing Balranald – Mungo – Buronga. Be mindful of the Mungo site and experience being ‘ready’ (adequate levels of protection in place)</p>	
	<p>4.4.3 Continue to facilitate a broadening suite of accommodation options to meet visitor demand and encourage overnight and extended stays</p>	<p>Wentworth Region Tourism & Events Strategy 2029</p>
	<p>4.4.4 Plan and provide for adequate visitor amenity at key visitor sites, including lighting, signage, public toilets, seating and shade</p>	<p>Riverina Murray Tourism DMP</p> <p>Buronga/Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan</p>
	<p>4.4.5 Ensure the core visitor economy workforce is familiar with key attractions and experiences and can promote these in an informed, high integrity manner</p>	
	<p>4.4.6 Progress Actions as outlined in the Buronga/Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan</p>	

5. Our Tomorrow

We will plan now for an even better tomorrow, building local connection, leadership, partnership, legacy and advocacy.

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
<p>5.1 Strong, diverse local leadership is built and community connection is supported and celebrated</p>	<p>5.1.1 Advocate for opportunities that improve social and economic outcomes for First Nations communities.</p>	<p>Wentworth Shire Council Community Strategic Plan</p>
	<p>5.1.3 We recognise a strong Local Government needs skilled elected representatives and so invest in our Councillors with training, experiences and support mechanisms</p>	
	<p>5.1.4 We celebrate our community leaders, promoting their achievements at all levels. We create a culture that values and respects community leadership</p>	
<p>5.2 We build partnerships to achieve equity for our region and have collective impact</p>	<p>5.2.1 We actively seek out and nurture partnerships at all levels including with our neighbouring LGAs, Joint Organisations, Regional, State and National advocacy bodies, and political and governmental representatives</p>	<p>Mildura Rural City Council Department Regional NSW RDA Murray Riverina Murray Tourism</p>

Objectives	Actions	Strategic Alignment
5.3 We seize the full opportunity and potential of legacy, making strategic long-term investments	5.3.1 Council and community form a governance model to enable the collection and strategic distribution / investment of social licence / legacy payments from industry	Wentworth Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy
	5.3.2 BSC and WSC collaborate to understand the possible scale of social licence payments and develop an aligned position to guide negotiation and expectations, recognising the synergy of their opportunities and the strength in being united	Balranald Shire Council
	5.3.3 Council and community use legacy investments strategically and long-term so the benefits drawn from emerging industries last beyond their lifespan within the region	Wentworth Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy
5.4 We grow our Council workforce – skilling locals and encouraging career progression	5.4.1 Council adopts a leadership role in promoting local government as a career path, highlighting high demand fields	Wentworth Shire Council Workforce Management Plan
	5.4.2 Council strengthens its trainee and apprenticeship program by including work experience or other industry placements	
	5.4.3 Council has a philosophy of continuous professional development, encouraging all staff to set and fulfil professional goals and supporting, where reasonable, the cost of trainings in this space	



Wentworth Shire Council

61 Darling Street, Wentworth NSW 2648

P: 03 5027 5027 | E: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

wentworth.nsw.gov.au

9.12 DRAFT BURONGA GOL GOL SPORTING MASTERPLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK.

File Number: RPT/25/131

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.1 Promote the Shire as an ideal location for investment and the establishment of innovative, sustainable and diversified industries

Summary

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 18 December 2024, Council endorsed the draft Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan for public consultation. Due to the time of the year the public consultation period was extended beyond the traditional 28 days to allow as many people as possible to comment.

A total of 39 submissions were received, highlighting various concerns and suggestions. The key themes emerging from the feedback are included in the attached stakeholder engagement report.

The Draft Plan will be amended to reflect the feedback received and will be presented to Council for approval at the April Council meeting.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Notes the stakeholder engagement report
- b) Endorses the recommended updates to the Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to outline the public consultation process undertaken for the Draft Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan, summarises the key feedback received from stakeholders and the community, and presents proposed responses to address issues raised.

Background

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 18 December 2024, Council endorsed the draft Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan for public consultation. Due to the time of the year the public consultation period was extended beyond the traditional 28 days to allow as many people as possible to comment.

Matters under consideration

The public consultation process was designed to ensure community engagement and transparency. The key steps included:

- **Public Notification** – the draft plan was made available on Council’s website with notifications sent vial local media, social media and email.
- **Online and Written Submissions** – the community and key stakeholders were invited to provide feedback via an online survey, email and written submissions

- **Stakeholder Engagement** – Direct consultation was held with key stakeholders including regional sporting and national sporting associations.

The public consultation period closed on 23 February 2025 to ensure ample opportunity for participation.

A total of 39 submissions were received, highlighting various concerns and suggestions. The key themes emerging from the feedback are included in the attached stakeholder engagement report.

Based on the feedback, the following minor amendments to the Plan are proposed:

- Replace the 2 Tennis/Netball Courts with 2 Tennis only courts
- Re-orientate the Baseball diamond to a more NE-SW alignment

The Draft Plan will be amended to reflect the feedback received and will be presented to Council for approval at the April Council meeting.

Conclusion

The public consultation process provided valuable insights that have informed refinements to the Draft Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan. The proposed amendments aim to ensure the plan is inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with community needs. The final version of the plan will be presented to Council for approval at the April Council meeting.

Attachments

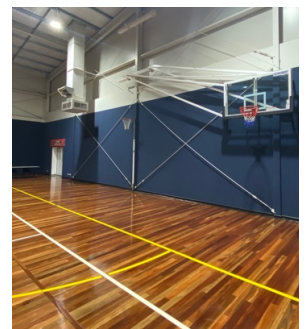
1. Stakeholder Engagement Report.[↓](#)



BURONGA AND GOL GOL SPORTING MASTER PLAN

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

February 2025



CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
STUDY OVERVIEW	3
1ST ROUND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	4
How we engaged	4
Who we engaged	5
What we heard from Sporting Clubs and Other Stakeholders	6
What we heard from the community	7
2ND ROUND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	12
How we engaged	12
Community Feedback Survey REsults	12
Other Stakeholder Feedback	14
APPENDIX A	17
APPENDIX B	21
APPENDIX C	23

Prepared by the study consultant



Simon Leisure Consulting Pty Ltd
 Office 1, 655 Nepean Highway, Brighton East, Victoria 3187
 M 0458 957 824
 E richard@simonleisure.com
 www.simonleisure.com

STUDY OVERVIEW

Wentworth Shire Council commissioned this study to prepare a sporting master plan for the Buronga Gol Gol area. The master plan is a follow-up study to the *Buronga Gol Gol Structure Plan 2020*, and will assess in more detail the future sporting and recreation needs of the growing Buronga Gol Gol community.

The Buronga Gol Gol area experienced a 20% population increase during the 10 year period 2011 to 2021. The population growth has resulted in an increase in participation numbers across a number of sports, and this, coupled with an increase in female participation in non-traditional sports, is placing significant pressure on existing facilities.

The study is a strategic assessment of the future sporting and recreation needs of the Buronga Gol Gol area. It provides a guiding framework for Council and associated project stakeholders and partners for the future provision of sporting and recreation facilities to meet the changing needs of the community.

Council appointed Simon Leisure Consulting, a sports and recreation planning consultancy, to prepare the sporting master plan.




The existing sporting clubs located in Buronga and Gol Gol, and residents, are important stakeholders in the study. There are other stakeholders, such as peak sporting bodies that are also important contributors to a strategic planning study such as this. This Stakeholder Engagement Report collates the data and input collected from initial meetings, interviews, and a community survey that were conducted during the first phase of the study. The engagement helped inform the preparation of the Study Report.

A second round of stakeholder engagement was conducted in early 2025 that invited feedback on the draft Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan. This Report also includes a description of the public exhibition process, a summary of the feedback received, and where feedback received resulted in the draft Master Plan to be revised to create the final Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan.

1ST ROUND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

HOW WE ENGAGED

The 1st round of stakeholder engagement was conducted during the period 15 April to 31 May 2024 utilising a number of different techniques.

<p>Meetings with sporting and recreation groups</p> 	<p>Four in-person meetings were held with current Buronga and Gol Gol sporting clubs. The meetings were held in April 2024.</p> <p>The main purpose of the meetings was to collect information about the clubs' membership, their use of existing sporting facilities, the adequacy of these facilities and spaces to meet current and future needs, and club aspirations for the future.</p>
<p>Other Stakeholder Meetings</p> 	<p>In-person and online meetings were held with other study stakeholder groups in April 2024.</p>
<p>Community Survey</p> 	<p>A community survey was available to complete on Wentworth Shire Council's 'Have Your Say' portal between 3 May 2024 and 31 May 2024. The survey was promoted through a variety of mediums to encourage residents to participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alerts on Council's website - Social media posts - Survey links provided in newsletters issued by the Buronga Public School and the Gol Gol Public School <p>The survey collected information about the community's current participation in sport and recreation activities, and what activities people might like to participate in the future. 165 surveys were completed.</p>

WHO WE ENGAGED

The Buronga and Gol Gol area is home to a number of sporting clubs and community groups. It was important that these groups had input into the sporting master plan, and equally important that opportunities were provided for the broader community to contribute their views.

BURONGA AND GOL GOL SPORTING CLUBS

- Alcheringa Tennis Club
- Gol Gol Cricket Club
- Gol Gol Football Netball Club
- Alcheringa Saints Basketball Club

OTHER GROUPS

- Lions Club of Buronga Gol Gol and Districts
- Mildura Rural City Council
- Various sport peak bodies

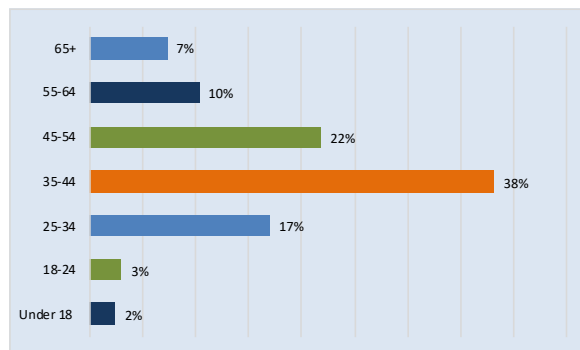
COMMUNITY

165 people completed the Buronga and Gol Gol Area Sport and Recreation Survey via Council’s online platform. The profile of respondents is summarised in the following graphs.

Age of Survey Respondents

38% of respondents were aged between 35 & 44 years

The survey was largely completed by an ‘older’ demographic, with only 5% of respondents aged under 25 years.

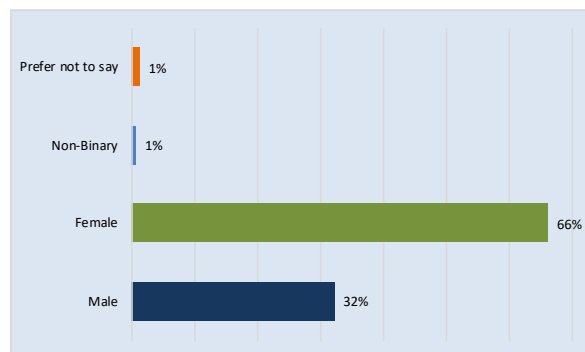


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

One respondent identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and three preferred not to say.

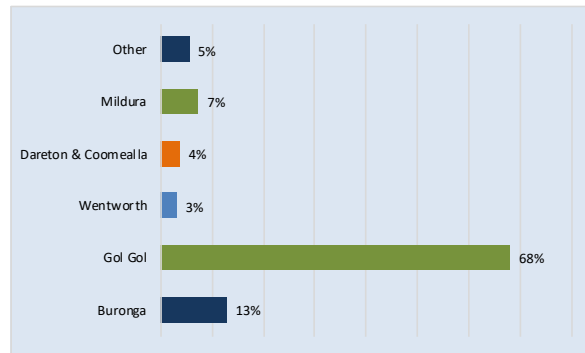
Gender of Survey Respondents

Two-thirds of all respondents (66%) were female.



Where do the respondents live?

A significant majority of respondents (81%) were residents of Buronga or Gol Gol.



WHAT WE HEARD FROM SPORTING CLUBS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The following summarises the key input from sporting clubs and other study stakeholders. See Appendix A for the full write-up of input received from these groups.

ALCHERINGA TENNIS CLUB

- Club is based at James King Park in Gol Gol.
- The club believes that the current 8 courts will be sufficient to meet the club’s future needs over the next 20 years.
- The clubhouse is small and outdated, and will likely restrict the club’s off-court activities as the membership increases.

GOL GOL FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

- Club is based at the Carramar Drive Sporting Complex.
- The condition of the oval, the netball courts, and all sports lighting are excellent.
- The club is planning to introduce junior football teams in 2025.
- The club believes that the current 2 netball courts will be sufficient to meet future netball needs over the next 20 years.
- The club believes a second football oval will be required in the future to meet future club needs.
- Change rooms need updating for women’s use.

GOL GOL CRICKET CLUB

- Club is based at the Carramar Drive Sporting Complex.
- Change rooms need updating for women’s use.
- The club believes a second cricket oval is required in the Buronga and Gol Gol area to better meet current and future club needs (club currently uses the No. 3 Oval in Mildura as its second).

ALCHERINGA SAINTS BASKETBALL CLUB

- The club’s training is based is at the Midway Centre. All competition is conducted at the Mildura Sporting Precinct and the Mildura Basketball’s Hothouse Stadium.
- With the projected population growth, the club expects to continue to grow, including an additional 10 teams in 2025.
- The club is advocating for additional training courts to meet future needs.

LIONS CLUB OF BURONGA GOL GOL AND DISTRICTS

- The club has a storage shed at the Carramar Drive Sporting Complex, which meets all current storage needs, and has capacity to absorb additional future needs.

MILDURA RURAL CITY COUNCIL

- There is pressure on Council to provide additional football and cricket ovals in Mildura.
- Participation in basketball is also increasing throughout the Sunraysia region, whilst participation for most other sports has declined or are stable since the COVID pandemic.

SPORT PEAK BODIES

The Victorian and NSW State Sporting Associations for the most popular sports were consulted to collect local participation data required for the sports demand analysis (refer Study Discussion Report).

Sunraysia sporting associations and leagues were also consulted, as required.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE COMMUNITY

Community input into the sporting master plan study was sought to ensure that the master plan reflects the future needs of the Buronga Gol Gol area community.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

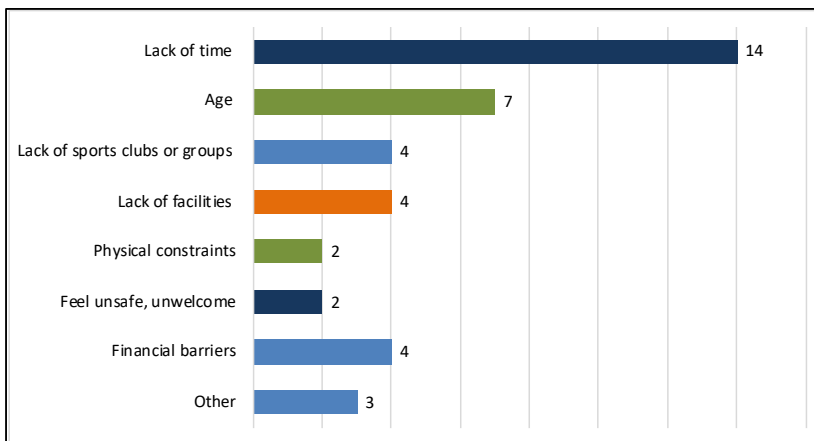
Do you participate in sport or outdoor recreation activities?

Of the 165 completed surveys, 140 respondents (or 85%) indicated that they did participate in sport or outdoor recreation activities.

What are the main reasons why you don't participate in sport or recreation activities? (multiple responses were accepted).

The 25 respondents who indicated that they do not participate in sport or outdoor recreation activities were asked why they didn't participate.

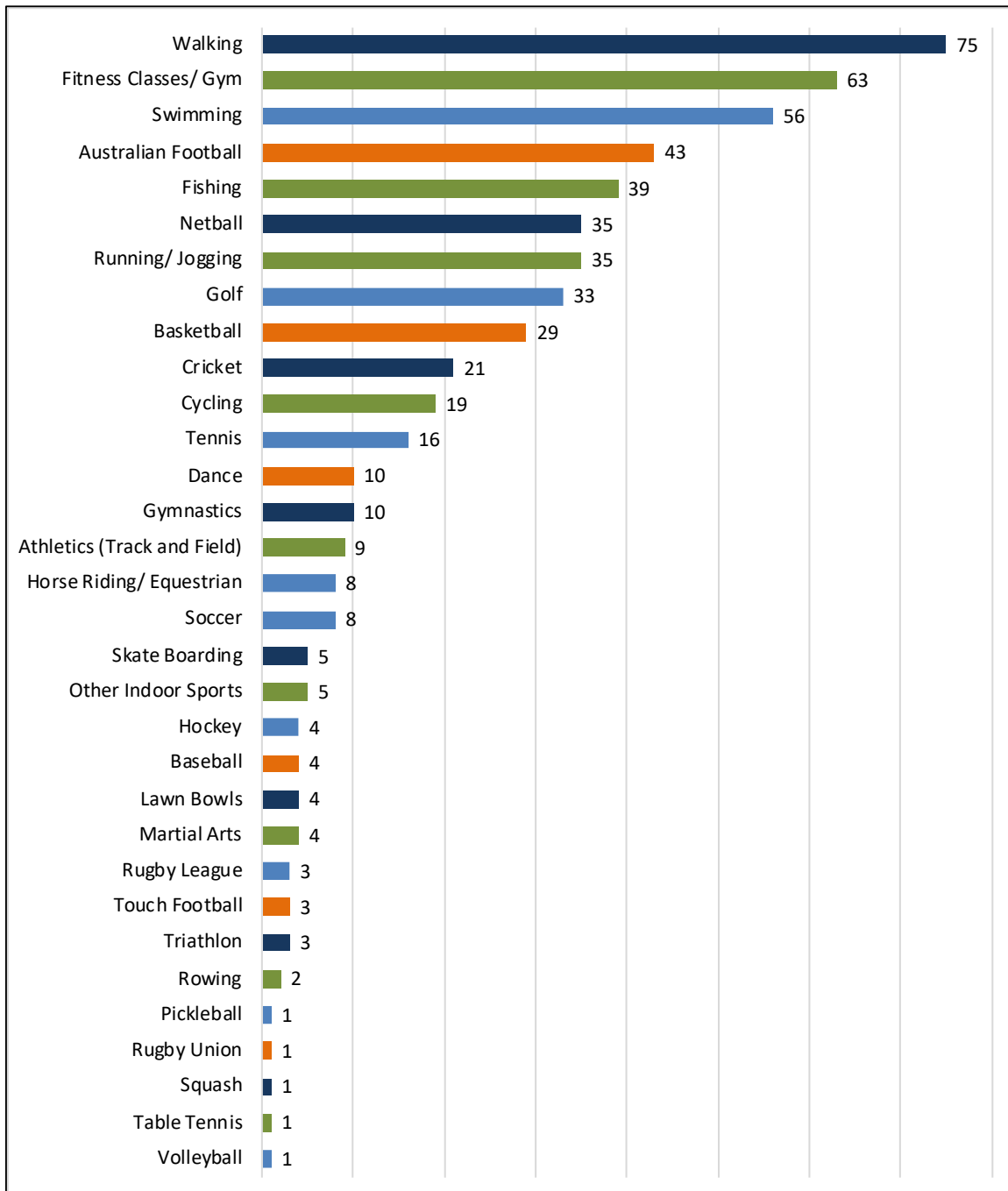
The most popular response was 'lack of time' (56%), followed by 'age' (28%).



What sports/ activities do you participate in? (multiple responses were accepted)

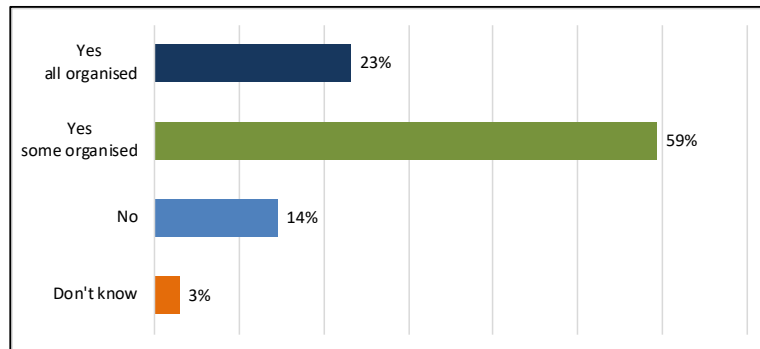
The 140 respondents who indicated that they do participate in sport or recreation activities were asked what sports or physical activities they participated in.

Over half (54%) participate in Walking, followed by Fitness Classes/ Gym (45%), and Swimming (40%). Football (31%), Netball (25%) and Golf (24%) were the most popular sports.



Is your sport/ recreational activity an organised activity, eg. by a club, association or other group?

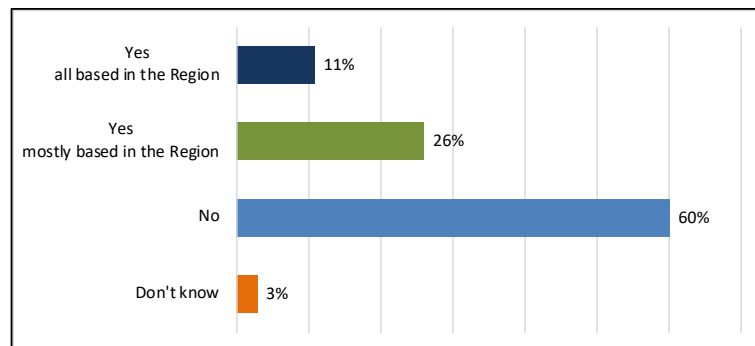
Most sport and recreation participation is through an organised activity, with 23% of respondents participating only in organised activities and 59% participating in some organised and some non-organised activities.



Is your sport/ recreational activity mostly based in the Buronga Gol Gol Region?

11% of respondents participate in their activity(s) in the Buronga Gol Gol Region, whilst 26% participated in their activity(s) mostly in the region.

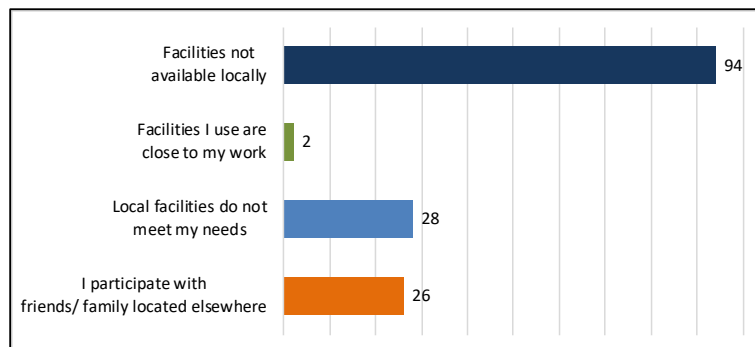
Conversely, 60% of respondents participate in activities based outside the Buronga Gol Gol Region.



What are the main reasons for going outside the Buronga Gol Gol Region?

Those 120 respondents who indicated in the previous question that they go outside the region to participate in sport and recreation (plus those who sometimes do) were asked what their main reason was for doing so.

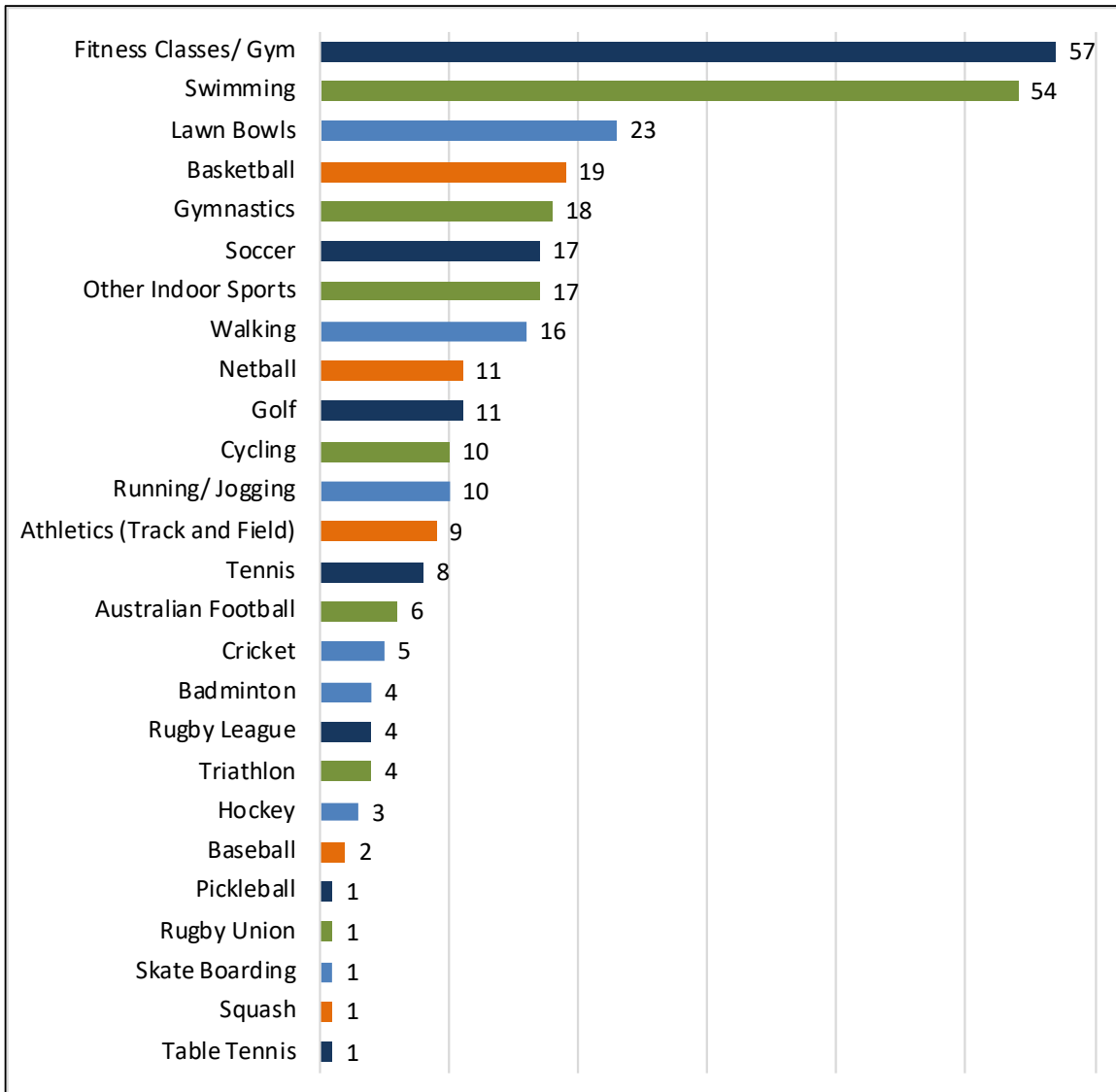
Most respondents (78%) do so as the required facilities are not available in the Buronga Gol Gol Region, followed by local facilities not meeting needs (23%).



Are there any sporting/ recreational activities that you or your family do not currently participate in but would like to in the future? (multiple responses were accepted)

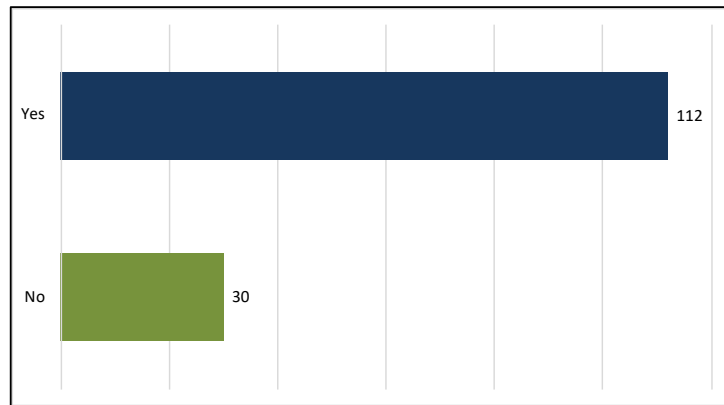
Fitness Classes/ Gym (35%) and Swimming (33%) were the most popular future participated activities.

Of the most popular sporting option, Lawn Bowls (14%), Basketball (12%) and Gymnastics (11%) were the most popular.



Does your household have children?

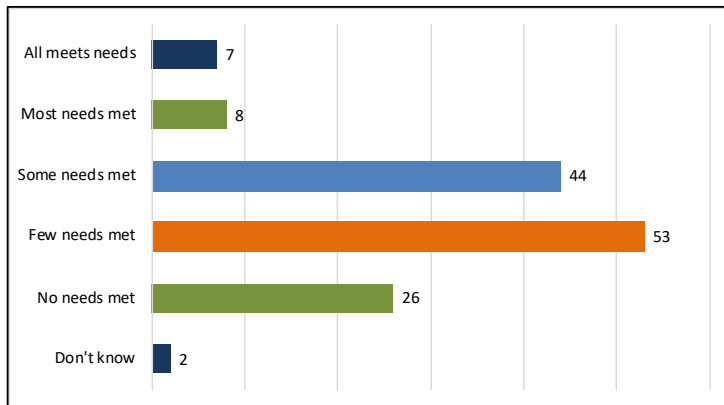
Of the 142 respondents who answered this question, 80% indicated that their household has children.



Overall, how well do the existing sporting and recreation facilities in the Buronga Gol Gol Region meet you and/ or your family's needs?

Of the 140 respondents who indicated that they do participate in sport or recreation activities, only 11% indicated that all or most of their sporting and recreational needs are currently met by facilities within the region.

70% indicated that some or a few needs are met, whilst 19% indicated that no needs are met.



Respondents were asked if there was anything else they would like to add about sport and recreation opportunities in the Buronga Gol Gol Region?

There were 79 responses to this question.

The most common responses were advocating for the following facilities in the future:



- Public swimming pool 44 responses (or 27% of the total sample)
- Gym 9 (5.4%)
- Second oval 6 (3.6%)
- Skate / Bike/ Scooter Park 6 (3.6%)
- More basketball courts 5 (3.0%)

A full list of responses is provided in Appendix B.

2ND ROUND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

HOW WE ENGAGED

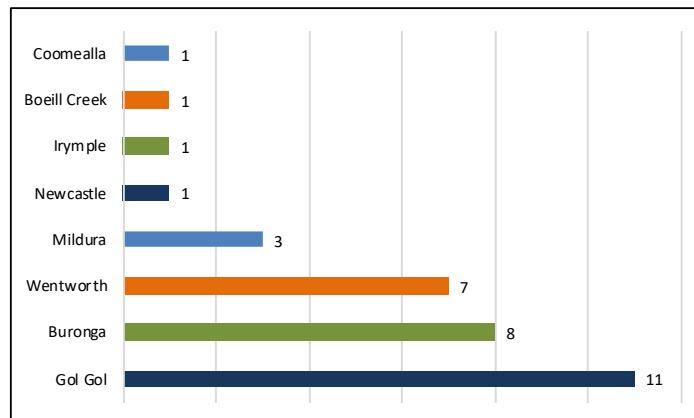
The 2nd round of stakeholder engagement was conducted during the period 16 January to 23 February 2025. The main focus of this engagement was to seek feedback on the draft Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan.

<p>Community Feedback Survey</p> 	<p>The draft Master Plan Executive Summary and draft Concept Plan of the Carramar Drive Sporting Precinct Expansion were available for residents to view on the Wentworth Shire Council's 'Have Your Say' portal, and residents were invited to provide feedback on the draft documents via a survey during the period 16 January – 23 February 2025.</p> <p>33 surveys were completed.</p>
<p>Other Stakeholder Feedback</p> 	<p>The draft Master Plan Executive Summary and draft Concept Plan of the Carramar Drive Sporting Precinct Expansion were also emailed to relevant stakeholders seeking feedback and comment.</p> <p>6 responses were received.</p>

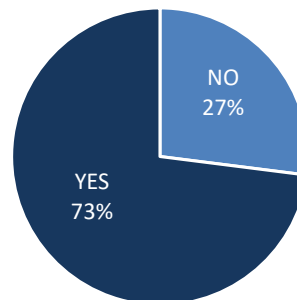
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

Which town do you live in?

Of the 33 respondents, 19 lived in Buronga or Gol Gol, 7 lived in Wentworth, and 7 were from other towns.



Do you generally support the key directions for new and upgraded sporting facilities described in the draft Buronga Gol Gol Sporting Master Plan?



What directions in the master plan do you really like?

There were 28 responses to this question.

The most common responses were the following:

-It will be a hub for all sports	6 responses (or 18% of the total sample)
-Second oval	5 (15%)
-All of it	5 (15%)
-Soccer pitches	4 (12%)
-Swimming pool	3 (9%)
-Upgraded football and netball facilities	2 (6%)
-Indoor courts	2 (6%)
-None	2 (6%)

A full list of responses is provided in Appendix C.

What directions do you think need additional consideration and why?

There were 32 responses to this question.

The most common responses were the following:

-Should have turf pitches on Ovals 2 & 3	5 responses (or 15% of the total sample)
-No need for 3 ovals	2 (6%)
-Consider field hockey	2 (6%)
-It should be in Wentworth	2 (6%)
-Increase spectator seating	2 (6%)
-Should be located away from the Highway	2 (6%)
-Increase the amount of parking	2 (6%)

A full list of responses is provided in Appendix C.

With regards to the most popular response that Ovals 2 & 3 should have turf pitches, the following is noted in response. The Concept Plan for the expansion of the Carramar Drive Sporting Complex supports the current oval being retained as the 'headquarter' facility for the Gol Gol Cricket Club, and Ovals 2 & 3 being the 'overflow' ovals.

The Concept Plan is a guiding framework for the provision of a suite of new sporting and recreation facilities to meet current and likely future demand; further planning and consultation with stakeholders and the community will occur when the design development of specific facilities commences. The decision as to what type of cricket pitches (turf or synthetic) are placed in the centre of Ovals 2 & 3 can be made then, and after consideration of the needs of the cricket club, the requirements of the Sunraysia Cricket Association, and Council preferences. Whilst turf centre pitches are perceived as a safer option to synthetic pitches, protective covers are now available that can be rolled over the pitches during the winter season to mitigate the risk of injury to winter sport users. A further consideration will be the high cost to maintain turf pitches versus synthetic pitches (both monetary and labour time).

Do you have any other comments?

There were 17 responses to this question.

The most common responses were the following:

-it is a great idea	5 responses (or 15% of the total sample)
-it is a waste of money	3 (9%)

A full list of responses is provided in Appendix C.

OTHER STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Tennis NSW (received 21 February 2025)

Key Items from the Submission

1. TNSW notes that there will be an overall reduction of 2 Tennis courts from 10 to 8, however, they *“do not foresee this reduction negatively impacting community access, programming, or overall court activation”*.
2. TNSW recommends relocating the 8 Pickleball courts to a location adjacent to the proposed new Tennis courts and clubroom, as it will be likely that the maintenance and programming of the Pickleball courts will fall to the responsibility the Alcheringa Tennis Club (a common trend across NSW).
3. It is also recommended that the Pickleball courts be floodlit.

Consultant Response/ Recommendations for Amending the Master Plan

1. Noted
2. The direction for the Pickleball courts is an opportunistic re-purposing of the two existing synpave Netball courts which will become surplus to need when the proposed new Netball courts are constructed. It is expected with the continued growth of Pickleball that standalone Pickleball clubs will begin to form, therefore the separation in this context will not be an issue, and any new Pickleball club would become an additional tenant sharing the reserve pavilion.
3. The Netball courts are floodlit to 100 lux, and whilst the minimum standard for recreational Pickleball is 250 lux, it is expected that the lower level lux may be sufficient during any establishment period for a new club.

Recommended that there be no change to the Master Plan

Tennis Victoria (received 29 January 2025)

Key Items from the Submission

1. TV agrees that 8 tennis courts should be sufficient to meet any future demand for Tennis.
2. TV supports the retention of all courts to be artificial grass, and not what is proposed in the Concept Plan that 6 courts be artificial grass and 2 courts be synpave hardcourts. It validates this view on the basis that it questions the need for 2 Tennis-Netball courts when there are 4 indoor sports courts (including Netball) planned that could be used as overflow courts for training and matches.
3. TV recommends relocating the 8 Pickleball courts to a location adjacent to the proposed new Tennis courts and clubroom.
4. It was also noted that the Baseball diamond appears to face due west, and may be better orientated NE-SW so as to avoid batters facing directly into the afternoon sun.

Consultant Response/ Recommendations for Amending the Master Plan

1. Noted
2. It is a valid point raised by TV that when the Football-Netball Club relocates to the proposed new reserve that it would have access to the 2 outdoor Netball courts (for training and matches) and up to 4 indoor Netball courts as overflow training courts. Therefore, the 2 proposed Tennis-Netball courts would be an unnecessary oversupply.
3. Refer Consultant Response No. 2 above.
4. It is agreed that the Baseball diamond be realigned to a more NE-SW orientation.

Recommended that the final Master Plan be revised to:

- replace the 2 Tennis-Netball courts with 2 Tennis-only courts
- re-orientate the Baseball diamond to a more NE-SW alignment

Sunraysia Baseball League (received 22 January 2025)

Key Items from the Submission

1. SBL notes that provision will need to be made for further infrastructure, such as dugouts, scorer's box, equipment storage, safety netting, etc.
2. Queries whether a Baseball diamond will work with a concrete cricket pitch in the outfield.

Consultant Response/ Recommendations for Amending the Master Plan

1. The intent with the inclusion of a Baseball diamond is to effectively future-proof the sport in the Buronga Gol Gol area. At this stage with the current competition framework for the Sunraysia Baseball League being a centralised model at the Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex, this proposed new diamond would be provided primarily as a training facility for a potential new club in the Buronga Gol Gol area,. Therefore, some of the competition facility components that are referred to would not be required in the short-term. However, should the competition model revert to a home 'n away model, then the Buronga Gol Gol area would have a facility that can be easily converted to a competition venue with added infrastructure as has been described.
2. Where practical, a key planning principle for the future development of sporting facilities in the Buronga Gol Gol area is shared-use/ flexible use facilities and pavilions. Avoiding single-use facilities will reduce costs, maximise use of assets, etc. There are precedents for shared baseball diamonds/ sports ovals in winter where centre wickets are covered with an additional synthetic cover to mitigate any dangers to baseballers and footballers from the hard wicket surface (ie. Upwey Ferntree Gully Baseball Club at Kings Park, Upper Ferntree Gully, Vic).

Recommended that there be no change to the Master Plan

Bowls Victoria (received 17 January 2025)

Key Items from the Submission

1. Asked whether the proposed new bowls facilities would be likely to host a brand new club or would require an existing club to relocate, or a combination.

Consultant Response/ Recommendations for Amending the Master Plan

1. There is clearly capacity at most (if not all) bowling clubs throughout the Sunraysia Region to absorb additional members, and in the ideal world from a sports planning perspective and facility utilisation perspective that would be the best option for any new bowlers that arise from the Buronga Gol Gol area, that they join existing clubs in Wentworth or Mildura Rural City. Any decision as to whether a new club forms in the Buronga Gol Gol area, or an existing club relocates, is for the long-term; what the sports precinct concept plan is showing is that lawn bowls can be accommodated on the site in the future to future-proof the sport locally.

Recommended that there be no change to the Master Plan

Football Federation Sunraysia (received 16 January 2025)

Key Items from the Submission

1. Is pleased with the inclusion of football (soccer) facilities.

Consultant Response/ Recommendations for Amending the Master Plan

1. Noted

Recommended that there be no change to the Master Plan

Mildura Rural City Council (received 16 January 2025)

Key Items from the Submission

1. Queries the need for a Baseball diamond as the sport is not growing in this region and the current facilities in the MRCC area are underutilised.

Consultant Response/ Recommendations for Amending the Master Plan

1. Refer Sunraysia Baseball League Consultant Response No. 1 above.

Recommended that there be no change to the Master Plan

APPENDIX A

1st Round Stakeholder Engagement – Meeting Write-Ups

Full write-up of user group and other stakeholder meetings held April 2024; the views expressed are those of the group being interviewed.

Alcheringa Tennis Club	
16 April 2024	Attendee: Sam Hill-Ford
Membership	Membership – 79 (44% female; 56% male, 72% senior; 28% junior). Social Members – 30.
Teams	4 teams in the winter competition. The club is one of the strongest in the Sunraysia area.
Growth	The Covid pandemic impacted the membership greatly, particularly juniors. Over the past 2 years there has been a slow increase of members. Casual court hire has increased due to the introduction of online booking system (Igloo lock) via the club website. Social memberships have increased since the creation of the Club website. In 2023, the club kick-started the junior program through a volunteer coach from the club offering coaching. Each term approx. 12 juniors participate, and with a new coach in the Sunraysia area who is making use of the Gol Gol courts to conduct lessons, it is expected that junior participation will continue to increase.
Use of Facilities	Courts 5 – 8 are only used for winter competition on Saturdays (they are not floodlit). Courts 1-4 are sufficient for all other uses. <u>Winter season</u> May - September 1-2 days per week – junior coaching before and after school Wednesday 4.30pm–7.30pm – juniors and senior training Saturday 1pm–4.30pm - competition During the home/away season, each team requires 2 courts, therefore if all teams are playing at home then all courts are used. <u>Summer twilight season</u> Round 1 (Oct–Dec) Wednesdays 6pm – 7.30pm Round 2 Feb-Easter) Social competition; don't need to be a club member <u>Court Hire</u> Members and non-members are able to book courts via the website. There is a fee for non-members to use the courts; it is free for members. Courts can only be hired during daylight hours as the club is currently unable to link the lights to its online booking system. Courts 5-8 are not available for hire currently as there hasn't been the demand for that many courts at once. <u>Venue Hire</u> A local church hires the clubroom occasionally for social functions, and recently one of the club's sponsors booked the facilities for a social function. The club is keen to promote the facilities and increase bookings by local community groups.
Sporting affiliations	The club is a member of the Sunraysia District Tennis Association
Issues/ Opportunities	The 8 courts are sufficient to meet the club's needs over the next 20 years. Courts 1-4 have recently been resurfaced and the sports lighting upgraded to LED. Courts 5-8 are currently in good condition. Court improvements for the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replacing all the net winches. • replacing the tennis nets. • enabling the court floodlights to be activated via the court booking system (currently the only way to turn the lights on is by accessing the clubrooms). • long-term to install floodlights to Courts 5-8. Clubroom – clubroom is small and very dated; comprises one large room with a kitchenette and bar area, and storage. Whilst it currently serves the clubs' needs, the facility will require

	renovation/ replacement in the medium to long term to increase its functionality and to be more appropriate for use by the local community. This is considered a big opportunity for the growth of the club, as it is so well located on the river. The clubroom could become a popular hire facility by the community for private functions, and could improve the club's capacity to host more tennis events, including family days, Friday evening twilight events or catered events to help build our community presence. Improved facilities will also help attract more members to the club.
Gol Gol Football Netball Club	
15 April 2024	Attendee: Paul Mensch
Membership	Most of the men's footballers are recruited from Sunraysia Football Netball League Reserves teams.
Teams	Football: 1 senior men, 1 senior women (since 2017). Netball: 5 teams in the Millewa Football League, 1 U/11 with the Mildura Netball Association.
Growth	Currently stable however planning to introduce junior football teams. Planning to enter an U/10 team in the Sunraysia FNL in 2025, then increase by 1 age group each following year. When the club has a full junior program it will apply for the Senior teams to enter the Sunraysia FNL as well. The Wentworth District FNC is trying to block this move.
Use of Facilities	Carramar Drive Sporting Complex on Tuesday/ Thursday evenings for training, and on Friday evening/ Saturday for games.
Adequacy of Facilities	Oval sports lighting and surface condition are excellent. Need a second oval in the future. Netball court (x 2) sports lighting and surface condition are good. Two netball courts are adequate for future needs.
Sporting affiliations	The club is a member of the Millewa Football League, and is affiliated with AFL Victoria. This does make it difficult to access grants from AFL Victoria as the club is based in NSW, and AFL NSW don't formally recognise the club as it is not affiliated with them.
Issues/ Opportunities	Pine log seats fence around the oval perimeter are rotting. The football and cricket clubs are currently investigating a picket fence with permanent seating around the oval. Need a second female change room; currently the women's football and netball teams share a change room.
Gol Gol Cricket Club	
17 April 2024	Attendee: David Walker, Mark Blows
Membership	Senior women: 9 players (1 team) Senior men: 61 players (3 teams) Junior: 61 players (6 teams) Have a Junior Blasters program
Growth	Seniors - slight decline in numbers Juniors - growth
Use of facilities	Carramar Drive Sporting Complex Tuesday 4pm-9pm training Thursday 4pm-9pm training Friday 5.30pm-9pm Women's matches Saturday Morning Junior matches Afternoon Senior matches Saturday mornings: Junior matches at Gol Gol PS and Buronga PS. Saturday afternoons: Senior matches at Mildura No.3 Oval
Sporting affiliations	The club is a member of the Sunraysia Cricket Association, and affiliated with Cricket NSW.
Issues/ Opportunities	Oval sports lights are not adequate for night cricket. Change room layout doesn't work well for the club. Require female change rooms. Need a second oval in the Buronga Gol Gol region.

	Oval perimeter fence needs replacing, currently investigating a picket fence with permanent seating around the oval. Oval maintenance is carried out by Council, but would prefer a more consistent maintenance program; the turf wicket maintained by the club.
Other opportunities	Other sport and recreation opportunities for the Buronga Gol Gol region identified by the club include a dog park, a BMX track, a baseball field, a soccer pitch, and a rugby field.

Alcheringa Saints Basketball Club

23 April 2024	Attendee: Kelly Scherger (via email)
Membership	Seniors: 19 women, 20 men (4 teams) Juniors: 58 girls, 202 boys (34 teams)
Growth	Generally stable, however trying to increase female membership. With the projected increase of the Buronga Gol Gol Region population, the club expects to have at least 10 more teams next season.
Use of Facilities	Main season is the summer season which runs from September to April. Buronga Midway Centre indoor court Monday 4pm-8pm training Tuesday 4pm-8pm training Wednesday 4pm-8pm training Thursday 4pm-8pm training Friday 4pm-8pm training Saturday 5-6 hours of use Sunday 5-6 hours of use
Sporting affiliations	The club is a member of the Mildura Basketball Association
Issues/ Opportunities	During the summer season it is difficult to schedule all teams training. If team numbers increase the club may need to look for an additional training venue

Lions Club of Buronga Gol Gol and Districts

16 April 2024	Attendee: Bill Darlison
The Lions Club has a shed at the Carramar Drive Sporting Complex. It is used for storage of trailers and equipment that are required for their activities. The shed meets all of their current storage needs, and has capacity to absorb additional needs.	

Mildura Rural City Council

16 April 2024	Attendee: Sue O'Brien
AFL	There is pressure for more ovals in Mildura. Many clubs in the Millewa Football League are struggling. Only opportunity for female football currently is with Millewa FL clubs, however, most clubs are struggling for female footballers, resulting in some women and girls having to play netball and football. Mildura Rural City Council would prefer cricket not to be on Oval 3 as there is increasing pressure from AFL for a dedicated pre-season training venue, and Council would use Oval 3 for this purpose.
Cricket	There is pressure for more ovals in Mildura.
Athletics	Currently planning to convert the existing grass athletics track to a synthetic surface.
Baseball	Baseball is a small sport, and numbers have dropped since Covid. It is played in winter season. There are four baseball clubs in the Sunraysia region. Three are based at the Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex, and one at Merbein.
Softball	Softball has been in recess for 4-5 years, but returned as a social competition in 2023/24.

Tennis	Council is currently working with Tennis Australia and Tennis Victoria mapping tennis in the region, with the aim of rationalising some courts – Mildura is oversupplied with courts (and this doesn't include the 8 courts at Gol Gol). Red Cliffs is not over supplied.
Soccer	Football Federation Sunraysia made the decision that it will centralise all competition at the Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex. Nichols Point SC, Irymple Knights SC and Mildura City SC (Merbein) all have their own facilities. Mildura United SC and the Three Colours SC are based at the Sporting Complex. Mildura United SC has just upgraded its sports lighting for night games. Soccer growth mostly around non-English speaking and recent refugees, as the Sunraysia region is traditionally AFL, cricket, and netball. Girls soccer has decreased by 15% in Mildura.
Basketball	Very popular sport, and creating huge pressure on Council. The Mildura Sporting Precinct was opened in 2021, and the 6 indoor sports courts are already fully utilised. The Mildura Basketball Association continues to use its Mildura Hothouse Basketball Stadium (4 courts), and Council also has a Joint-Use Agreement with the Mildura Senior College to use its single court. Irymple Community Leisure Centre's single court is fully booked.
Other Indoor Sports	Volleyball (4 courts)/ Squash (4 courts) are at the Sporting Precinct. Netball (4 outdoor courts) are at the Sporting Precinct; Association would like more time indoors. Summer and winter mid-week competition. Table tennis – Irymple Roller Derby – 2 sessions per week; over 100 members; very popular.
Pickleball	Looking to start a social competition at the Sports Precinct.

Sunraysia Baseball League

23 April 2024	Attendee: Nick Carroll
Clubs	Currently 4 clubs (previously 7 clubs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eagles Baseball Club (based at Newey Field at the Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex). Hawks Baseball Club (based at the Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex). Saints Baseball Club (based at Chaffey Park, Merbein). Wanderers Baseball Club (based at the Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex).
League format	Seniors: A, B & C Juniors: U7s, U10s, U13s, U16s Winter season (April to September) Juniors play Friday nights, Seniors play Sundays All matches are played at the Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex in Mildura.
Growth	The SBL was founded in 1979. Girls and women play in the Senior and Junior teams. The SBL supports a future club based in the Buronga Gol Gol region.

Sport Peak Bodies

April - May 2024	
------------------	--

The following other Victorian and NSW State Sporting Associations and Sunraysia sporting associations and leagues were consulted to collect local participation data required for the sports demand analysis (refer Study Report).

AFL Victoria & AFL NSW/ ACT	Sunraysia FNL & Millewa FNL
Cricket Victoria & Cricket NSW	Cricket Sunraysia
Football Victoria & Football NSW (soccer)	Football Federation Sunraysia
Bowls Victoria & Bowls NSW	
Baseball Victoria	Sunraysia Baseball League
Netball Victoria & Netball NSW	
Basketball Victoria	Mildura Basketball Association
Tennis Victoria & Tennis NSW	Sunraysia District Tennis Association

APPENDIX B

1st Round Stakeholder Engagement – Community Survey Responses

Full set of open-ended responses for questions in the community survey

Is there anything else you would like to add about sport and recreation opportunities in the Buronga Gol Gol Area?	
Extension to boat ramp or an additional one put in to help with the busy summer months for both fishing and skiing.	and just normal swimming and gymnastics - we need to drive to Red Cliffs.
Need a golf course and motorbike riding area in Gol Gol.	Tennis for young kids and older kids that want to learn and perhaps adults also. A safe big gym would be great.
More ovals and indoor sports.	Basketball courts. Big safe indoor sports area where kids of all ages can come and play and come with mums for coffee.
As the population grows I would love to see Council assist sporting clubs to have every local kid involved in something active. It would be great if our facilities were of a high standard that we could host events, such as primary school events, as our kids are always having to travel. One ambitious thought is to have something that no one else has in the area, such as an outdoor court made from tiles, see Dream Courts brand or similar. This progressive surface drains away water quickly and suitable for multi sports, such as tennis, basketball & netball. I think worth a try to be the first to have something so professional as it could attract all types of opportunities.	A local swimming pool would be fantastic! Currently we have to go to Dareton or Victoria to access a local pool. Additionally, safe access to cross Pitman Avenue from the top of Crane Drive, currently with kids on bikes and in prams, I'm on the actual road to cross to the footpath on the other side. If we could have a little path on the council land under the tower that got us off the road on the corner, to enable us to safely wait and give way to traffic before crossing to the footpath on the other side that would be fantastic!
Some solar lights on the walking track would be great early morning or evening strolls aren't that easy.	Swimming pool would be wonderful. Fully utilising Midway Centre indoor court, ie. night basketball comps.
A swimming pool in our area would be a great asset for the community.	We need a swimming pool in Gol Gol. It is so difficult to get kids to swimming lessons on time after school. We live right beside a river, it's essential that kids learn to swim.
Very little opportunity for sporting facilities on the NSW side, most options are located in Victoria. Would be nice to see swimming, basketball and more weekend activities available on the NSW side.	For my family & I, the number 1 sport & rec opportunity that I would like to see would be a swimming pool.
Swimming, Gymnastics, Soccer, Martial Arts	We need a 50m Olympic swimming pool on the NSW SIDE OF THE RIVER
I believe having swimming pool in Gol Gol or water park like in Mildura. Wentworth and Dareton have a pool, as does Red Cliffs, Irymple and Mildura.	Do not overcapitalise on facilities that are available in Mildura. Do not allow the sporting clubs to dictate or control usage of recreation facilities.
An athletics track.	Better (prickle) free bike and walking tracks. Sadly Council sprays weeds once they've flowered and seeded all over the tracks. I refuse to ride my bike on the bike paths due to the amount of flat tyres I have to fix and the expense of tubes etc.
Safer track to walk or ride along Gol Gol North Road. Would also be nice to have property water instead of creek water that's not drinkable, and buying is a waste.	Not only sports related development require but food and interaction based development required. Dining, parks, BBQ and outdoor people friendly places. Water parks would be a drawcard for people and families to the area. As a parent we are on the search for things that kids can do while the adults enjoy some quiet time to spend time together as you'll find that a lot of families in the Gol Gol area don't have regular family support (over the river). There's plenty of family's that have moved from interstate so places where families can come together and interact would be great. Bit of a waffle on, I'm sorry, but we're not from here so things like markets and events at the Gol Gol football ovals have been great for us and the kids.
A modern well serviced equestrian centre is absolutely lacking in our whole district. Mildura's only option is a flood site. Buronga Gol Gol could do it so much better for the whole area.	Swimming and watermark facilities, as there is so many young families here, not all can go into Mildura or Dareton for swimming lessons.
Pool and Gym needed in Gol Gol township.	Gym that offers fitness groups. Footpaths for walking and running. More fitness equipment in the playgrounds so that you can work out next to a friend.
Would like to see more walking tracks and a public pool.	Gol Gol footy and cricket need a second oval and upgraded facilities.
A swimming pool.	Female change rooms for netball, which includes umpires at Alcheringa Oval, ones similar to George Gordon Oval would be of benefit. Children's playground at Alcheringa Oval needs moving so it is in view from the netball courts.
A swimming pool would be amazing!	The level of sports participation on the NSW side of the river is no greater than 40 years ago. Can't see why anymore facilities are required. Not even enough Under 16 cricketers this year to field a full side, yet there are 3 grounds with turf wickets in the shire. 25 years ago there were 3 cricket clubs with juniors; now there is only 2.
Swimming lessons for the kids please.	
Need swimming facilities.	
Swimming pool, and a decent skatepark.	
Pool in Gol Gol Buronga.	
A gym for Gol Gol and Buronga is needed. Sport and recreation for less physical recreation and sports other than just AFL football, Netball and Tennis. There is no facility any more for indoor cricket in Sunraysia. A sporting and recreational social hub.	
Buronga Gol Gol area is the fastest growing area in the WSC but lacks infrastructure and it really needs its own sporting precinct on a smaller scale but include swimming pools and gyms, etc in one location.	
While Buronga Gol Gol is a developing area occupied by young families there is nothing to do for the aging population, we need to cater for the older residents.	
It would be great if they can have an indoor and outdoor swimming pool for swimming lessons through the year	

There is also an extra oval now compared to the above mentioned past. Could hardly justify another oval.
More lighting around walking tracks so that we can walk before & after work safely.
Swimming Pool - like what Dareton & Wentworth have.
Most of the government vouchers we receive from sport are useless here, as there are no sports clubs, eg. swimming, gymnastics, little aths, martial arts. We travel to Mildura.
Need a gym this side of river possibly a public gym. Need a public swimming pool in Gol Gol .
A swimming pool would be a great asset for Buronga/Gol Gol. Wentworth and Dareton have one. River is not a safe option for little kids. Boat ramp on Gol Gol riverfront area too congested. Gol Gol/Buronga area is growing and would benefit greatly from more sporting facilities.
Local pool (indoor outdoor).
There is significant cost and focus on AFL at the Alcheringa Oval, however, the AFL league that the Hawks belong to has no interest in helping the Hawks develop junior teams; in fact, they have actively voted against it. Therefore, we should consider the sports that kids in our area are already active in and supported by their respective sporting organisations, such as basketball, swimming, and soccer. For instance, the local swimming club, Murray Darling Swimming Club, based in Dareton, has about 20 active swimmers, but the pool is closed for over half the year. The Mildura Swimming Club has around 70 active members, with over 25 coming from the Gol Gol Buronga area. If we had appropriate facilities on this side of the river, the club would thrive. Similarly, many kids from Gol Gol Buronga play soccer for teams based from Red Cliffs to Merbein. Regarding tennis, our courts are excellent and well-located, but the clubrooms are inadequate. Meetings are cramped and uncomfortable for new members. A solution would be to redevelop the playground, toilet block and clubrooms into one facility that includes a visitor information centre and coffee shop, similar to what they have in Balranald.
Baseball
I think the Gol Gol sporting oval needs to be turned into the region's major cricket precinct as cricket needs more resources locally for future development. Also a gym/fitness/aquatic centre is greatly needed on the NSW side of the river.
We would like more for our children to do - a creative or sensory adventure park would make people stop and visit after a long drive. There needs to be a gym too.
Buronga Gol Gol needs a swimming facility situated in the middle between the two town areas.
Skate park would also be beneficial to the youth.
It needs to grow to accommodate the needs of the new families to the area.
Updated football clubrooms; they are very old. Junior football/soccer. Buronga and Gol Gol have the growth in numbers of people to the area, let's keep our recreation facilities up to date also. You build it, they will come
Update and/or further development of the Gol Gol Oval; develop into a sporting precinct which offers several different sporting opportunities.
A second oval and more facilities to allow capabilities for junior and senior football at the same venue. Grandstand or seating around the oval for spectators. An improved skate park for kids instead of portable ramps. Indoor sports venue for the region that would allow netball, volleyball, soccer and even dodgeball to be played year round.
Better facilities for AFL, basketball & swimming.
Be great to have access to a swimming pool in the Buronga / Gol Gol area. Would also be good to have a

second oval to facilitate junior football growth within the Gol Gol Football Netball Club.
Indoor and outdoor pool with gym and group fitness classes.
Indoor gymnasium and gymnastics programs, more ovals to promote future junior football programs. Indoor swimming pool and gym, indoor basketball courts, squash courts, and possibly outdoor tennis and hockey courts. Something more to offer youth that intrigues them.
I would love to see an indoor arena built on the NSW side of Sunraysia, that could accommodate not only all equine sports but could be used for other sports too.
We need a sporting hub, that incorporates indoor and outdoor sports; swimming, gymnastics, athletics, gym, football, netball, basketball & hockey. Do something right the first time, allow for outside clubs and communities to come to the region. Plan for what's to come in 25 years, not 5 years. Don't make the same mistake as Mildura Rural City Council.
The urgent need for opportunities in our region.
A swimming pool and bike/scooter/skate park similar to the one at Wentworth would be amazing. With amazing growth in Buronga and Gol Gol I would hope our region could justify the spend on extra facilities.
We need a swimming pool.
Gym would be amazing.
A local swimming pool or aquatic centre would be the go!
I would recommend more outdoor activities for kids, eg. skate park, bike jump track, big playground, mini soccer field.
A swimming facility would be great.
Swimming pool in Gol Gol.
Pool.
Everything costs too much; even watching local footy costs. No junior winter sport. Council wastes too much money. Need to use all the open spaces monies in the estates that generate it. Move tennis club out of park; more facilities for river users.
We need a pool.
A pool in Gol Gol would be nice.
There is nothing suitable for over 60s. We can't walk without crossing the highway at our own peril. There are no paths from the Midway Centre IGA through to Gol Gol so we can safely walk on this side of the highway.
Golf course/driving range, running tracks needed, swimming pool needed, another oval needed.
There is a skate park at Wentworth but Buronga get a metal one on a basketball court.
Facilities are very poor outside of Wentworth. Growing community in Gol Gol and Buronga that have limited infrastructure and opportunities to do sport locally.
A swimming pool.
We need to get a second oval for cricket and football. We desperately need a pool, preferably a 50m so that the local kids can train in a full length pool not the 33m ones. With our hot climate and proximity to water it's so important to teach kids how to swim and also have a safe controlled environment to swim on a hot day.
Pedestrian access from residential areas is not safe. Need direct and controlled traffic controls to cross Highway.
Buronga Gol Gol needs a pool like other smaller communities have, such as Dareton and Wentworth.
With the growing development of homes here in Gol Gol, sporting precincts are most definitely required to facilitate everyone's needs.
A soccer club will be perfect in NSW to participate in the Mildura league for young boys and girls up to senior level.
Need a swimming pool.
Increasing the size of the Midway Centre to 2 - 3 basketball courts would support local domestic teams (Alcheringa Saints, for example), or moving that into overall a Alcheringa Oval sporting precinct.

APPENDIX C

2nd Round Stakeholder Engagement – Community Feedback Survey Responses

Full set of open-ended responses

What directions in the master plan do you really like?	
Increased usage ability, including two ovals.	The whole development needs to be reviewed with the view of a reduction in the planned development.
The addition of a second oval is good for cricket and football however 3 playing surfaces is too much and not necessary. It is unclear if the Alcheringa Tennis Club is being relocated but you would have to assume this is the case - why else would you build tennis courts.	Turf wickets on 2nd and 3rd oval, larger change rooms and function room on new oval
The upgrade to the Football and Netball facilities.	Sounds like a well thought out proposal.
All of it	I think the synthetic pitch on the No 1 football oval needs careful reconsideration. Synthetic pitches on football ovals are problematic for player safety and inconsistencies within the playing surface.
Indoor multi-purpose courts and swimming area	Allow room for future stadium. Pavilion to cater to needs of local theatre groups.
On stop shop for a number of sports. Multiple ovals.	-Is there a justifiable need for a 3rd oval?
Ovals	-Can there be more consideration for other sports outside football/netball/basketball, such as field hockey? there is currently no local hockey field suitable for play (the Mildura field is unsafe)
Additional oval, baseball diamond inclusion, potential for pool, new & improved clubrooms/facilities	-Can courts be combined re; pickleball combined with tennis?
Purchase of Whitworth land	-Synthetic cricket pitches involve concrete slabs which would be unsuitable for placement in football ovals.
Sporting facilities in Buronga Gol Gol are desperately required to cater for a growing community	-what consideration has been given to seating/grandstands for main ovals (football & cricket/soccer)?
Upgraded soccer ovals & upgraded basketball courts.	-I'd question the need for lighting at all ovals.
All of it offering more activities to young people particularly in our community..	-has consideration been given to the current drainage area that would become a skatepark. where does the stormwater get re-directed?
The variety of sports and the increase in facilities. (Planned and potential)	It needs to be in Wentworth
Recognition of wide variety of sports and can act as a hub to connect our growing community. Buronga currently lacks a sense of community, with no central hub, this could support to unite members.	Replace at least one of the synthetic pitches with a Turf pitch to accommodate the minimum requirements of the Sunraysia Cricket Assoc.
Multipurpose use of land and infrastructure	Engage with the user groups to partner funding and in particular construction. It is well documented and evidenced that if the user groups were allocated funding you would get more bang for your buck.
None	Hockey Pitch
None.	Synthetic track and field complex
Additional facilities that the shire does NOT have	Upgrade the Wentworth sporting complex (eg; tennis courts, lawn bowls, cricket/football oval, and golf course). Have state-wide tournaments out a Wentworth for a change.
The pool and skate park	With this funding there needs to be money come with it for work on our infrastructure.
The soccer grounds	Having a synthetic pitch on the existing oval and using a turf wicket on new main and second AFL oval (no one likes playing footy with a synthetic pitch in the middle of it)
Soccer grounds	Seating for the spectators has not been specified at all. I'd like to see a potential seating, scoreboard to be placed on far side of the main oval (area 21)
Soccer grounds	The area 21 for possible future use could be developed as a low-cost RV Park for self-contained RVs, requiring minimal infrastructure. You could approach the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia about investing and operating such a facility, at no cost to council.
Areas for all sports, indoors and outdoors	Buronga/ Gol Gol community need a public swimming pool
A multipurpose facility that acts as a community hub	Not having it
The idea if fine but not now. There are SO many more important things this town needs before a ridiculous sports precinct	Needs a different location away from the highway. Should be near the pound. No planning for traffic being done. All about making developers rich.
The \$90 million costing, if there is a blow out by 15 to 20% in costing, this will become a \$105 to \$115 million project. A lot of money for a population of 3,457.	Not replicating existing facilities within the shire
All of it	Parking, noise, traffic into and out of Carramar/ onto highway
Covering all sport not just Football & Basketball as the Mildura Sporting Precinct failed to address.	
What directions do you think need additional consideration and why?	
Netball courts, ensuring they are of high standard	
No need for 3 ovals. How are you going to purchase the land required? Indoor sports are great but not for a population base of 7,500 (use the one across the river). The indoor stadium will be incredibly expensive to build and maintain which will skyrocket rates. I agree with another pool but again can you afford it. Decommission either Wentworth or Dareton based on usage to fund this one. Get rid of the midway centre if you want this one (you can't have both)	
Needs a Soccer ground	

The amount of pickleball courts compared to netball courts
Not that I know of, seems like all is taken into consideration
None
More parking especially near current netball courts, and lighting over carparks. Parking is always underestimated.
Ensure adequate parking considerations with overflow for special events. Mildura's sporting precinct has inadequate parking
There needs to be at least another PS build, look at either expanding the Buronga to Mildura bridge or look at building another further up the hi way, and bypass Mildura altogether, bring Services NSW to either Gol Gol or Buronga permanently
Why include facilities catering for lawn bowls when there is sufficient evidence the sport is in a decline. The attached link is the most recent one available on the bowls Australia web site, https://www.bowls.com.au/2019-national-census-report/
More seating is required. This is what went wrong with Mildura's precinct.
None
Why Gol Gol? Why not Wentworth - it has access to pool , tourism centre , service NSW - what makes Gol Gol so important - what about the wider Wentworth shire community via Wentworth ??
Is there any provisions for perhaps an outdoor cinema/performance stage for hosting/live streaming events during twilight/night events during summer months? additional stream of revenue during quieter sporting events?
Do you have any other comments?
Good idea but do not fall into the trap of overcapitalising on indoor stadiums we can't afford with the cost of living crisis
Need a soccer team
This is irresponsible spending by council with a population of just 8,000, and the target area of just 3,457. Worse still the planned spending is based on the replies of just 165 residents. That's less than 5% of the target audience which again is irresponsible. There is no doubt that the sports of Football, Netball, Cricket and Tennis should have upgraded facilities, but the inclusion of Lawn Bowls needs to be reviewed as the sport is currently experiencing a downturn in active playing/ volunteering numbers (https://www.bowls.com.au/2019-national-census-report/) worth a read. Other issues is the introduction of a gimmick sport such as "Pickleball". Another issue is the quoting of figures depicting Victorian figures. The Shire is in NSW, although I understand the two councils are closely connected and with Mildura the bigger of the two communities, many sporting bodies have their governing body in Victoria. These are just some concerns I have.
I can't wait for it to happen
As the first life member of Alcheringa Basketball Club and long serving player and coach of Buronga/Alcheringa Basketball I still care about junior development and the importance of community based activities.
What is the plan B if Whitworth land unable to be purchased
Overall a great long term idea but I would look to incorporate sports that are currently using poor/unsuitable venues in the greater Sunraysia area instead of prioritising football/netball, as is generally the case.
Why Gol Gol / Buronga? The closest two areas to Mildura. Why not have the sporting precinct where it can support: *Coomealla High School the only high school in the Wentworth shire *New Wentworth hospital

*The new tourism centre in Wentworth * swimming pools in Wentworth / Dareton *race track in Wentworth * Wentworth football / netball club the biggest in Sunraysia * The Murray Darling junction an iconic tourist spot * rowing club in Wentworth * show grounds / show * Airport in Wentworth * military museum Put the precinct in an area where you already have people coming and supporting. Imagine the possibilities to the "Wentworth Shire " (not the Gol Gol shire) . Gol Gol residents have access to a sporting precinct only 12km away . What about the residents of Pomona, Anabranch, Pooncarie, Ellerslie, Wentworth, Dareton and all the stations in between.
It is proposed to construct 8 new tennis courts yet there are 8 courts in Gol Gol already with new surfaces to all and lighting to 4. It seems like an unnecessary duplication.
Are two netball courts sufficient? Include additional carparking spaces at the Carramar end of the ovals Move baseball diamond to existing oval on highway end Ensure internal design of indoor leisure centre (No 17) has change rooms closest to ovals and sufficient space and facilities to cater for men's and women's teams Consider an under the road pathway to prevent pedestrian's from having to cross the road. Additional parking could then be utilised at the existing oval for big events Investigate the inclusion of a Hockey Pitch & a synthetic athletics track and field complex. The Buronga Gol Gol Lions Club have space at the existing oval- please don't forget them
The raw water pressure is a constant issue in Gol Gol and Buronga. We keep adding housing developments but there is not enough pressure to sustain the houses we have now. IT IS TIME to replace the old pipes etc, put in inline pressure pumps and get this right before any further developments are approved and this project goes ahead. This has been spoken about for 15 plus years that I am aware of. Maybe ask Mildura how they service a much larger population than ours and have fantastic water pressure.
I think this is a great proposal and would like to see it go ahead. Many of the new and existing families in the Gol Gol/ Buronga area will benefit from this.
This is a gross waste of money that could be used on other infrastructure in the Shire
Get rid of land developers and real estate agents as councillors. Invest in infrastructure and keep a sense of community. We don't need growth we need a community. This Shire can't deliver any projects on time or to budget. Look at the caravan park and Shire offices. We need to go into administration.
Large walking areas all around, and dog free areas.
I just think it's a great initiative for the growing population of our area.

9.13 TRANSFER OF CROWN ROAD - MELALEUCA STREET, BURONGA

File Number: RPT/25/127

Responsible Officer: George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: Allan Graham - Property Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

Summary

Council has received a number of development proposals in the vicinity of Melaleuca Street, Buronga which have disclosed that Melaleuca Street as being a Crown Road owned by the State of New South Wales, notwithstanding that this road has been traditionally maintained by Wentworth Shire Council as part of the broader Buronga local road network for many years.

To rectify this anomaly, it is proposed that Council officers make application to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Crown Lands) to transfer Melaleuca Street (from the intersection of the Surt Highway to Corbett Avenue), in its entirety, into Wentworth Shire Council's authority.

Recommendation

That Council

1. Makes application to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Crown Lands) to transfer Melaleuca Street, Buronga to Council's ownership and control.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Wentworth Shire Council to make an application to Crown Lands to transfer the ownership and control of Melaleuca Street, Buronga from the State of New South Wales to Council, pursuant to s. 152I(1) of the *Roads Act 1993*.

Background

While undertaking preliminary investigation for potential commercial developments at Buronga it has been identified that Melaleuca Street is a Crown Road still in the ownership of the State of New South Wales (Crown Lands), notwithstanding that Council has maintained Melaleuca Street as part of its local road network for many years. Subsequent enquiries made with Crown Lands have confirmed these findings.

Melaleuca Street is a *public road* approximately 1.4 kms in length forming part of the Buronga local road network, providing the public with formed road access to existing residential land and agricultural holdings, including road access to the proposed commercial and residential developments adjacent to the road.

In addition, as part of these investigations, Council officers have identified the existence of Western Murray Irrigation (WMI) drainage infrastructure (Deep Drain 2A) within the Melaleuca Street road casement.

As a result, it is envisaged that the existing disused drain within the road casement will not hinder the road transfer process and advice received from WMI that Deep Drain 2A is no longer in use will be included with the proposed application to transfer Melaleuca Street to Council.

Matters under consideration

Melaleuca Street provides formed road access to urban and rural areas and services public traffic where the road has been named by Council for addressing purposes. Council has traditionally maintained and repaired the road as part of Council's local road network for many years.

The proposed transfer will formalise the administrative arrangements to rest with Council as the appropriate authority to enable Council to exercise the powers and functions conferred on it as the relevant *roads authority* pursuant to the *Roads Act 1993*.

Options

Having regard to the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

1. Request the transfer of the Crown Road (as shown in the Diagrams attached to this report) from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Crown Lands) to Council's ownership and authority.

Conclusion

So that Council may exercise the functions of the relevant *roads authority* and to bring consistency to the management of the local road network at Buronga, Council officers recommend that an application be made to Crown Lands to transfer the ownership and control of Melaleuca Street, Buronga from the State of New South Wales to Wentworth Shire Council.

Attachments

1. Attachment - RPT-25-127 - Diagrams of Melaleuca Street Buronga - Crown Road Transfer [↓](#)

Attachment for RPT/25/127 – Proposed Crown Road Transfer – Melaleuca Street, Buronga

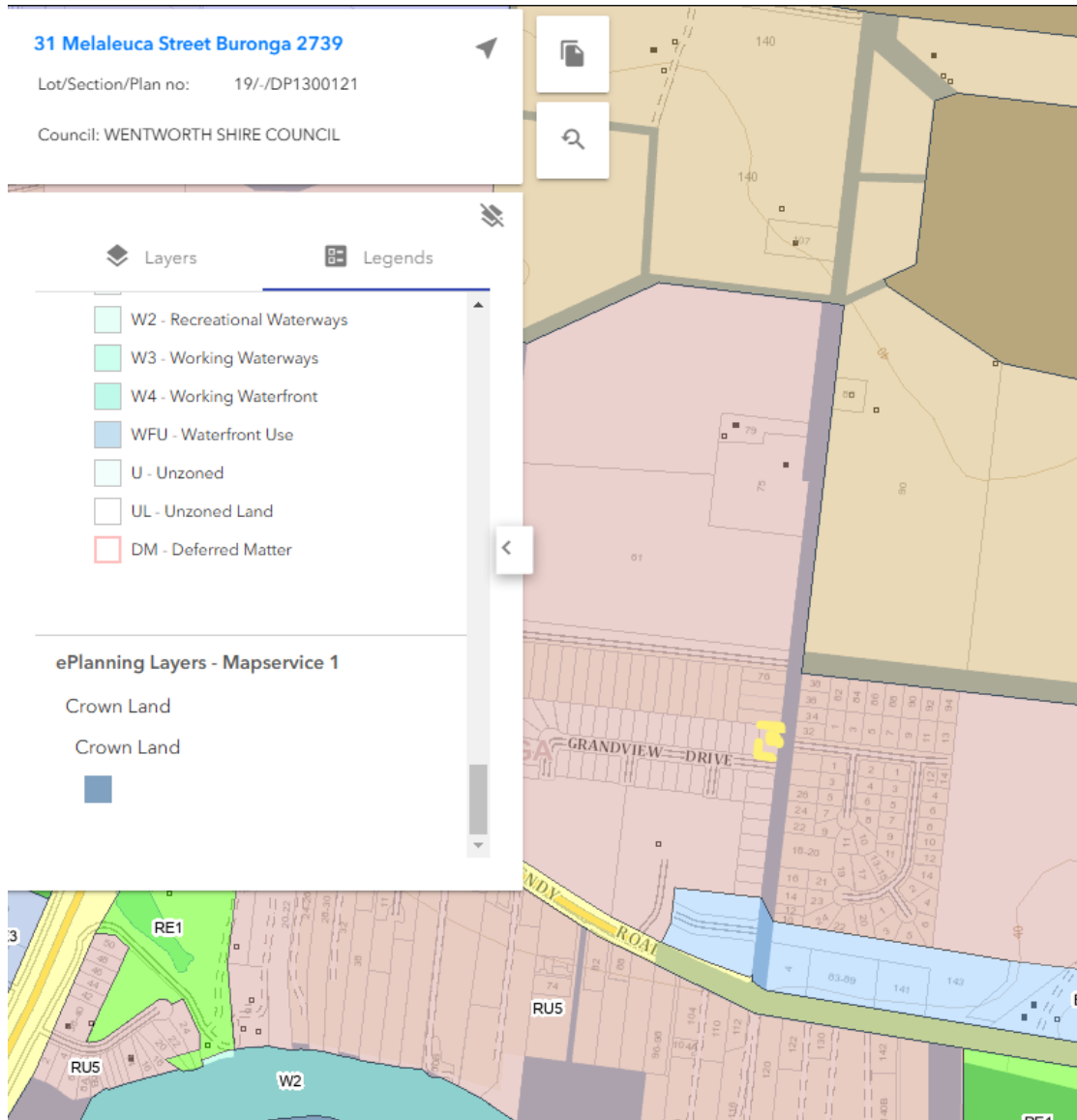


Figure 1: Extract from Crown Land Spatial Viewer - Grey shading shows Crown land - Melaleuca Street between Hendy Road (Sturt HWY) and Corbett Avenue.

Aerial Photograph of Melaleuca Street, Buronga and Environs



Figure 2. Melaleuca Street – Sturt HWY – Corbett Avenue

Melaleuca Street, Buronga – Road Casement



Figure 3. Melaleuca Street – Road Casement

9.14 DRAFT WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR ADOPTION

File Number:	RPT/25/161
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Objective:	4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner
Strategy:	4.1 Consistently engage and consult the whole community to ensure that feedback is captured and considered as part of decision-making and advocating processes

Summary

Community participation is an overarching term covering how Council engage the community in our work under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), including plan making and making decisions on proposed development. The level and extent of community participation will vary depending on the scope of the proposal under consideration and the potential impact of the decision.

Council recognises community participation throughout the planning system delivers better planning results for the people of the Wentworth Shire. To ensure community participation is conducted appropriately, Council in its capacity as a planning authority is required to prepare a Community Participation Plan (CPP).

A draft Community Participation Plan was presented to Council at the 18 December 2024 ordinary Council meeting to endorse it for community consultation. The draft plan was publicly exhibited and is now being presented to Council for adoption.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the draft Community Participation Plan and repeal the existing Community Participation Plan.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present to Council a Draft Community Participation Plan for adoption.

Background

Community Participation Plans are created by planning authorities (Council) to satisfy the requirements of Division 2.6 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). To ensure that Community Participation Plans are up to date and inline with current communication methodologies and changes in legislation, the Community Participation Plans require periodic review.

Matters under consideration

Councils Health and Planning department undertook an internal review of the current Community Participation Plan to ensure it is up to date and inline with current legislation. The plan is important as it provides how Council will involve the community in discharging our role as a consent authority under the EP&A Act.

The draft Community Participation Plan was presented to Council at the 18 December 2024 ordinary council meeting for endorsement to publicly exhibit it. The Council report recommended a public exhibition of 28 days as that is the minimum requirement of the current Community Participation Plan. Council amended this and endorsed the draft Community Participation Plan be publicly exhibited for a period of 40 days.

The draft Community Participation Plan was publicly exhibited for 40 days from 9 January 2025 to 18 February 2025. No submissions were received during the public exhibition period. Minor adjustments were done to the Draft Community Participation Plan after the public exhibition finished.

The draft Community Participation Plan is now presented to Council for adoption, repealing the existing Community Participation Plan.

Refer to Attachment 1 – Draft WSC Community Participation Plan for adoption

Options

Based on the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

- Adopt the Draft Community Participation Plan, repealing the current adopted Community Participation Plan.

Conclusion

Given the resolution of Council at the 18 December 2024 ordinary meeting, no submission received during public exhibition and the need for a CPP that is up to date, Council should adopt the Draft Community Participation Plan.

Attachments

1. Draft WSC Community Participation Plan for adoption [↓](#)

Wentworth SHIRE COUNCIL



- ANABRANCH
- BURONGA
- COOMEALLA
- CURLWAA
- DARETON
- ELLERSLIE
- GOL GOL
- MONAK
- POMONA
- POONCARIE
- RUFUS RIVER
- TRENTAM CLIFFS
- WENTWORTH

Community Participation Plan

INTERPRETER SERVICES



MAHALAGA | FILIPINO

Kung kailangan mo ng tulong sa pagbabasa at pag-unawa sa dokumentong ito, ang mga kawani ng customer service ng Wentworth Shire Council ay masaya na tumulong sa pag-aayos ng isang libreng serbisyo ng interpretasyon. Upang ayusin ang isang interpreter, mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Council sa 03 5027 5027, o bisitahin ang isang Council Office na nakalista sa ibaba.



重要 | 普通话(简体中文)

如果您在阅读和理解本文件时需要帮助,温特沃思郡议会的客户服务人员很乐意协助安排免费口译服务。如需安排口译员,请致电 03 5027 5027 联系议会,或前往下列议会办公室。



IMPORTANT | FRANÇAIS

Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour lire et comprendre ce document, le personnel du service client du Wentworth Shire Council se fera un plaisir de vous aider à organiser un service d'interprétation gratuit. Pour organiser un interprète, veuillez contacter le Conseil au 03 5027 5027 ou visitez un bureau du Conseil indiqué ci-dessous.



महत्वपूर्ण | अंगरेजी

जेकर उहाँनूँ ईस दसतावेस उँ पढ़न अउे समझ वॉचि सगईजा दी लेइ है, उं वैनटवरथ साइर काउंसिलि दे गारक सेवा सटाद ईक मुद्द वॉआषआि सेवा दे पुरबष वॉचि सगईजा करन लई पुस गन। दुआमीदे दा ईउंसुम करन लई, करिपा करके 03 5027 5027 'उे काउंसिलि नाल संपरक करे, जं गेठं सुचीषष वसि काउंसिलि दइडर 'उे जाई।



ΣΗΜΑΝΤΙΚΟ | ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ

Εάν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια για την ανάγνωση και την κατανόηση αυτού του εγγράφου, το προσωπικό εξυπηρέτησης πελατών του Wentworth Shire Council είναι πρόθυμο να σας βοηθήσει στη διευθέτηση μιας δωρεάν υπηρεσίας διερμηνείας. Για να κανονίσετε έναν διερμηνέα, επικοινωνήστε με το Δήμο στο 03 5027 5027 ή επισκεφθείτε ένα Γραφείο του Συμβουλίου που αναφέρεται παρακάτω.



สำคัญ | แบบไทย

หากคุณต้องการความช่วยเหลือในการอ่านและทำความเข้าใจเอกสารนี้ เจ้าหน้าที่บริการลูกค้าของ Wentworth Shire Council ยินดีให้ความช่วยเหลือในการจัดการบริการล่ามฟรี หากต้องการจัดเตรียมล่าม โปรดติดต่อสภาที่ 03 5027 5027 หรือไปที่สำนักงานสภาตามรายการด้านล่าง



IMPORTANTE | ITALIANO

Se hai bisogno di assistenza per leggere e comprendere questo documento, il personale del servizio clienti del Wentworth Shire Council sarà lieto di assisterti nell'organizzazione di un servizio interpretativo gratuito. Per organizzare un interprete, contattare il Comune allo 03 5027 5027 o visitare uno degli uffici del Comune elencati di seguito.



ÖNEMLİ | TÜRKÇE

Bu belgeyi okuma ve anlama konusunda yardıma ihtiyacınız varsa, Wentworth Shire Belediyesi'nin müşteri hizmetleri personeli, ücretsiz tercümanlık hizmetinin ayarlanmasında yardımcı olmaktan mutluluk duyacaktır. Bir tercüman ayarlamak için lütfen 03 5027 5027 numaralı telefondan Belediye ile iletişime geçin veya aşağıda listelenen bir Belediye Ofisini ziyaret edin.



PENTING | MELAYU

Jika anda memerlukan bantuan membaca dan memahami dokumen ini, kakitangan perkhidmatan pelanggan Wentworth Shire Council berbesar hati untuk membantu dalam pengaturan perkhidmatan tafsiran percuma. Untuk mengatur jurubahasa, sila hubungi Majlis di 03 5027 5027, atau lawati Pejabat Majlis yang disenaraikan di bawah.



QUAN TRỌNG | TIẾNG VIỆT

Nếu bạn cần trợ giúp để đọc và hiểu tài liệu này, nhân viên dịch vụ khách hàng của Hội đồng Wentworth Shire sẵn lòng hỗ trợ sắp xếp dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí. Để sắp xếp một thông dịch viên, vui lòng liên hệ với Hội đồng theo số 03 5027 5027 hoặc đến Văn phòng Hội đồng được liệt kê bên dưới.

IMPORTANT | ENGLISH
If you require assistance reading and understanding this document, customer service staff of Wentworth Shire Council are happy to assist in the arrangement of a free interpretive service.

To arrange an interpreter, please contact Council on 03 5027 5027, or visit a Council Office listed below.

COUNCIL OFFICES



Midway Community Centre
2 Midway Drive, Burgess, NSW 2720



Wentworth Visitor Centre (Main Administration Office)
61 Dudley Street, Wentworth, NSW 2610



We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.



The Kiilalaana group (Shantelle Thompson dancers) portraying the connection of the land and water through dance at Namatjira Water Tank Commissioning event, Dareton.

Community participation in the planning system

What is community participation and why is it important?

Community participation is an overarching term covering how we engage the community in our work under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), including plan making and making decisions on proposed development. The level and extent of community participation will vary depending on the scope of the proposal under consideration and the potential impact of the decision.

Council recognises community participation throughout the planning system is not only your right, it also delivers better planning results for the people of the Wentworth Shire. Community participation in the planning system is important because it:

- a) builds community confidence in the planning system;
- b) creates a shared sense of purpose, direction and understanding of the need to manage growth and change, while preserving local character;
- c) provides access to community knowledge, ideas and expertise; and
- d) makes the planning process open and transparent

What is the purpose of our Community Participation Plan?

The purpose of this Plan is to clearly explain how and when we will undertake community engagement in relation to planning matters such as:

- **Statutory Planning:** Development Consent functions for example assessment and determination of development applications, including revised plans, modifications and review of applications.
- **Strategic Planning:** Strategic functions enables development and assists in managing growth and change. Strategic Planning projects include:
 - Local Strategic Planning Statement,
 - Planning Proposals,
 - Community Participation Plan (CPP),
 - Development Contribution Plans,
 - Structure Plans,
 - Development Control Plan (DCP)
 - Policies relating to Development and Approvals.

Who does this Community Participation Plan apply to?

This Plan has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Division 2.6 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). In particular, Section 2.23 of the EPA&A Act, states:

(1) 'A planning authority ... is required to prepare a community participation plan about how and when it will undertake community participation when exercising relevant planning functions'.

Our CPP applies to the exercise of planning functions by the Council, the General Manager and delegated Council Officers. Community engagement for other Council services, functions and infrastructure is guided by our wider Community Engagement Strategy. Our CPP does not apply to other NSW planning authorities. Our CPP will be reviewed on a periodic basis.

How the community can participate in Council's planning functions

Our approach to community participation

Council encourages open, inclusive, easy, relevant, timely and meaningful opportunities for community participation in the planning system, our planning functions and individual proposals. To achieve this, we design our engagement approach so that even where there may not be community wide consensus on the decision or outcomes, there can be acknowledgment that the process was fair with proper and genuine consideration given to community views and concerns.

It is important to note that the planning process is only one part of an overall project lifecycle in which you can participate. Outside of this standard process, in some circumstances we also undertake post- determination, compliance and enforcement activities to ensure that planning laws and decisions are implemented correctly.

The role of exhibitions in the planning system

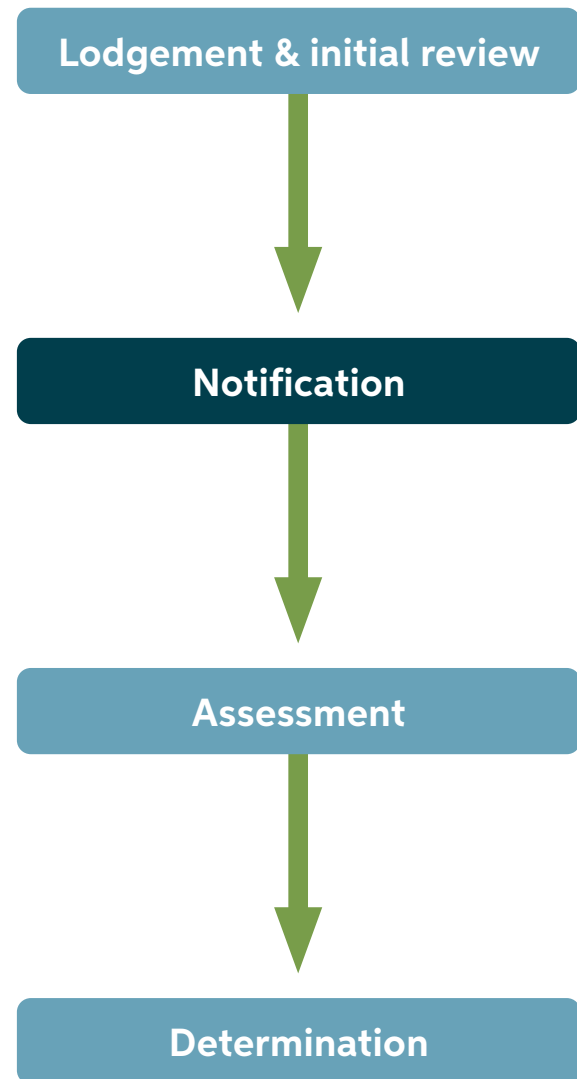
Public Exhibition Notification

A key technique we use to encourage community participation is formal public exhibitions. Public exhibition means making documents, including draft plans, strategies, policies or development applications, available for the community to view and comment on through a formal submission. The public exhibition process typically involves notifying the community that documents are available to view publicly.

Public exhibition of planning functions is generally notified in the following ways:

1. Written notices to:
 - adjoining property owners
 - any other property owners that council considers may be affected
 - any relevant public authorities
2. Advertisement in a local newspaper
3. Council’s website (Public Exhibitions / Hearings)
4. Signs on the property
5. Via the Planning portal (development involving building work)

Notification occurs early in the assessment process so that any submissions can be considered in the assessment phase.



Written Notices - An 'owner' is the person identified through our finance and property system at the time of notification.

Multiple owners – If a property is owned by more than one person, a written notice to one owner is taken to be a written notice to all owners of that land.

Strata title properties – A written notice to the owners corporation (as defined by the *Strata Schemes Development Act 2015*), is taken to be a written notice to the owner of each lot within the strata scheme.

Community title properties – A written notice to the association (as defined by the *Community Land Development Act 1989*) is taken to be a written notice to the owner of each lot within the development.

Adjoining owner the same as the Applicant – A written notice will not be sent to an owner of an adjoining or any other property, if that owner is the person, or one of the persons, who made the development application.

Notification of Public Authorities

We will refer relevant development applications and draft strategic plans to public authorities where the concurrence or approval of that authority is required under the EP&A Act or Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EP&A Regulation), or where it is determined that a public authority may have an interest.

Exhibition timeframes

Tables 1 and 2 include minimum notification requirements, unless otherwise specified by this Plan or legislation.

Timeframes are in calendar days and include weekends. If the exhibition period is due to close on a weekend or a public holiday, we will extend the exhibition to finish on the first available working day.

The period between 20 December and 10 January (inclusive) is also excluded from the calculation of a period of public exhibition (as per Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act).

For development applications that may have a significant impact or be of particular community interest, exhibition timeframes may be extended at our discretion.

When an application is withdrawn and another application made, the new application will be advertised or notified as if the previous application had not been made.

Table 1: Strategic Planning Minimum Public Exhibition Planning Requirements

Plan	Days	Written Notice	Local Newspaper	Council Website	Planning Portal
Draft Community Participation Plan (this plan)	28	No	Yes	Yes	No
Draft Local Strategic Planning Statements	28	No	Yes	Yes	No
Planning proposals for local environmental plans subject to a gateway determination	28*	Yes** ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes
Draft Development Control Plans	28	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes	No
Draft Contribution Plans	28	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes	No
Local Approvals Policies	28	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes	No
Other planning strategies, structure plan or master plans	28	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes	No

* or as specified by the Gateway determination which may find, due to the minor nature of the proposal, smaller or no public exhibition is required.

** At Councils discretion depending on land impacted and scale of planning proposal.

¹ If relevant to a specific site.

Table 2: Statutory Planning Minimum Public Exhibition Requirements

Application	Days	Written Notice	Local Newspaper	Council Website	Planning Portal	On-site Sign
Development Application (other than for complying development certificate, for designated development, for State significant development or for nominated integrated development)	14 ¹	Yes	No	Yes	Yes - If includes building work	Discretionary
Amended DA (revised plans) (clause 37 of the EP&A Regs)	7 or 14 ²	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Modification of consent – Minor (section 4.55(1) of the EP&A Act)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Modification of consent – Minimal Environmental Impacts (section 4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act)	7 or 14 ²	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Modification of consent – Other (section 4.55(2) of the EP&A Act)	7 or 14 ²	Yes	No	Yes	No	Discretionary
Review of determination of decision (section 8.2 of the EP&A Act)	Discretionary ³	Yes	No	Yes	No	Discretionary
Designated Development (Schedule 3 of the EP&A Regs)	28	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes - If includes building work	Yes
Nominated Integrated development (schedule 1, Div 2, sec 7 of the EP&A Act)	28	Yes	No	Yes	Yes - If includes building work	Discretionary
Draft Planning Agreements	28	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Council-related development (schedule 1, Div 2, sec 9B of the EP&A Act)	28	Yes	No	Yes	Yes - If includes building work	Discretionary
Class 1 remediation work (schedule 1, Div 2, sec 9A of the EP&A Act)	28	Yes	No	Yes	No	Discretionary
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Under Division 5.1	28	Yes	Discretionary	Yes	Yes - If includes building work	Discretionary

¹ Council may extend the public exhibition period without further notification to those already notified.

² Notification days used will be at the discretion of Council.

³ Notification days will be at the discretion of Council.

Key points to note about public exhibitions:

A public authority is not required to make available for public inspection any part of an environmental impact statement whose publication would, in the opinion of the public authority, be contrary to the public interest because of its confidential nature or for any other reason.

A public authority is only required to provide extracts of a development application relating to the erection of a building sufficient to identify the applicant and the land to which the application relates and a plan of the building that indicates its height and external configuration, as erected, in relation to the site on which it is to be erected.

How can you get involved in a public exhibition?

Opportunities to participate in the planning system will respond to the nature, scale and likely impact of the proposed plan or development. A regular and valuable way for the community to participate in the planning system is by making a submission on a proposal during an exhibition.

Making a submission

Anyone is entitled to make a submission which may object to, or support, a development application or draft strategic document. Submissions must be made in writing and delivered to Council either personally, by post or via email.

Each submission should:

- Clearly identify the development application (application number or street address) or draft strategic document to which the submission relates.
- State the grounds of any support or objection (including any supporting rationale or material).
- Include the name, address and contact details of the person making the submission.

Submissions that do not comply with the above items may still be considered at our discretion. Consideration of late submissions will be at Council’s discretion.

Multiple submissions received from the same person during the same exhibition period are considered as a single submission. Duplicate submissions will be counted as a single submission even if received across several notification periods.

Political Donations Disclosure Statement

In accordance with Section 10.4 of the EP&A Act, any person or organisation who has made a submission and who has made a reportable political donation or gift to a Councillor or employee of the Council must make a Political Donations Disclosure Statement. Disclosure Statements are available from the Council website.

Petitions

The Council will also accept petitions as a form of submission. To assist Council, a petition submission requires the applicant to:

- Clearly identify the application or draft strategic document and the nature of the objection/support on each page of the document.
- Ensure name entries to be given in printed form with a relevant signature to verify as well as relevant address details.
- Provide an identified leader or organiser to which the Council can contact the group through.

Timing of Submissions

All submissions made to Council must be provided by 11.59pm (23:59) on the last day of the notification period as per public exhibition. If you are sending your submission through the mail, make sure you allow sufficient time for delivery on the closing date of submissions.

Acknowledging Submissions

If you make a submission, you will receive acknowledgement of your submission. If a petition is received, only the leader or organiser of the petition will receive acknowledgement of the submission. The submission will be considered during Council assessment of the Development Application.

Disclosure of Submissions

Your submission is not confidential.

Where the development application or draft strategic plan is reported to Council, the issues raised in that submission may also be summarised and/or the entire submission (as submitted) may be included amongst the report attachments.

You may request to suppress some personal details of a submission such as name, telephone number or postal address from public inspection, if you consider that your, or your family’s safety or well-being may be affected if the information is not suppressed. Any such request will be considered and determined in accordance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

Submissions may also be accessed by the public, through Council’s Governance team in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, or alternatively may be provided to an applicant (with personal details removed) as a means of resolving a particular issue that has been raised in a submission.

Anonymous Submissions

Anonymous submissions will not be considered by the Council. Anonymous submissions can include:

- Submissions with no name or contact details
- Submissions by a consultant without the name of their client

Number of submissions

How are submissions counted?

Only unique submissions are counted. For a submission to be considered unique, it needs to be in substance unique, distinctive or unlike any other submission.

Petitions are not considered unique submissions in line with the above advice. They will count as only one submission.

Pro-forma or form letters, where the contents are identical to other letters, are not considered unique submissions. They will count as only one submission.

Decisions

Strategic Plans

Notice of decisions or approvals relating to draft strategic plans will follow the requirements of the EP&A Act and Regulations.

1. All individuals and organisations that made a written submission will be notified in writing of when the matter will be presented to Council. The notification will contain steps to be taken should the submitter wish to present to Council in relation to the draft strategic document.
2. Following consideration by Council, commencement of an environmental planning instrument such as a Local Environment Plan will be notified via publication on the NSW legislation website.

Development Applications (DA)

When:

- Council receive 3 or more unique objections; or
- A DA is recommended for refusal; or
- Others matters are identified preventing approval by delegation

A DA cannot be determined under delegated authority and will be presented to the Council for determination.

All individuals and organisations that made a written submission during the notification period, will be advised in writing when the development application is to be presented and considered at a Council meeting. The advice sent by Council will contain steps to be taken should the submitter wish to present to Council in relation to the development application.

Once a development application has been determined, we will notify the decision in the following ways:

1. All individuals and organisations that made a written submission will be notified in writing.
2. A list of applications approved will be published on Council's website monthly consistent with the mandatory requirements of Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act.

The decision and the date will be provided in the form of the Notice of Determination sent out to submitters. The reasons for the decision and consideration of community views will be contained within the Assessment Report which may be obtained by request through Council.



Wentworth Shire Council

61 Darling Street, Wentworth NSW 2648

P: 03 5027 5027 | E: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

wentworth.nsw.gov.au

9.15 DA2024/156 PERMANENT GROUP HOME 20 WENDY COURT LOT 17 DP 1288183 BURONGA

File Number:	RPT/25/145
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	Georgie Martin - Cadet Planner
Objective:	3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment
Strategy:	3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

A development application (DA2024/156) was received by Council on 21 November 2024, for a permanent group home to be situated upon 20 Wendy Court – Lot 17, DP 1288183.

Under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*, this development is permitted with consent within the RU5 – Village zoning.

The application seeks development approval for the construction of a permanent group home which will be used for the accommodation of people with a disability under the NDIS Scheme. The building will consist of three bedrooms for people with disability and one bedroom for overnight assistance, with each bedroom having an ensuite. Other features of the permanent group home include an open plan kitchen, dining and living area, and an alfresco area. A single disabled car park has been provided within the garage.

The application was publicly notified for 14 days as per the Council Community Participation Plan. During the public notification six (6) submissions (five (5) unique submissions) were received by Council objecting to the proposed development.

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021* states that a consent authority must not refuse consent to the development for the purposes of a group home unless the consent authority has made an assessment of the community need for the group home.

As per Council delegations, any development applications with three (3) or more objections cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

The development application was initially presented to Council at the 12 February 2025 ordinary Council meeting, where the matter was deferred for presentation to the March 2025 Council meeting.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve subject to conditions DA2024/156 for a permanent group home to be located at 20 Wendy Court – Lot 17, DP 1288183, Buronga.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council to determine Development Application DA2024/156, having consideration to the detail provided both within this report and the attachments provided.

Background

A Development Application was lodged with Council on 21 November 2024 seeking consent for a permanent group home on the subject lot.

The subject lot is in the RU5 Village zone under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011* (WLEP 2011).

DA2024/156 was publicly notified as per Council Community Participation Plan for 14 days, with a total of six (6) submissions (five (5) being unique submissions), objecting to the proposal received during this period. These submissions can be found under attached documents.

As per Council delegations, any development applications with three (3) or more objections cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

Refer to attachment 1 – Development Application

Refer to attachment 2 – Plans

Refer to attachment 3 – Statement of Environmental Effects

Matters under consideration

In determining a development application that requires consent, the consent authority must take into consideration matters under Section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as relevant to the development.

The proposed development was assessed and complies with relevant provisions of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*.

The proposed development for a permanent group home is permitted with consent and meets the zone objectives of the RU5 – Village zone under the WLEP 2011.

Due to the zoning and WLEP 2011 mapping impacting the land, the development application was assessed against clauses 7.1 & 7.2. The development application was able to satisfy the matters for consideration under these clauses.

Due to the nature of the proposed development, it was assessed against Chapter 8 of the Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011. The development complies with relevant provisions under this chapter.

The Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026 is a requirement under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)* (DIA / The Act). The Act required all NSW Local Government Areas to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Wentworth Shire Councils adopted plan states the following:

“To create liveable communities, we need to focus our attention and resources on the elements of community life that most people desire. To create liveable communities for people with disability, we must do more than modify the physical environment; we must advocate for such aspects such as accessible housing, access to transport, community recreation, social engagement and universal design.”

“Increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health and wellbeing.”

“The attitude and behaviours of the general community toward people with disability can be the greatest barrier to full access and inclusion. Community attitudes can further be influenced by the intersection of the particular characteristics of a person with disability, such as gender, age, ethnicity, or type of disability itself.”

“Inclusiveness and accessibility for people with disability forms a crucial component of the assessment of the liveability of any community. Council will work to eliminate the barriers in the built environment and advocate for improved

transport, housing and local supports that prevent people with disability from fully engaging with the opportunities that exist within their communities.”

Public notification of the development application was conducted as per the Council Community Participation Plan for 14 days, whereby any submission received must at a minimum provide the following:

- Clearly identify the matter to which the submission relates,
- State the grounds for any support or objection expressed in the submission,
- Include appropriate contact details

During the public notification period only five (5) submissions were unique in nature.

Summary of concerns raised in submissions:

- Concentration of group homes within the estate
- Close proximity of the group homes to each other
- Rear setback of 20 Wendy Court being 2.4m not 3m
- Lack of facilities in the vicinity of group homes
- Proximity of group homes to childcare facility
- Traffic impact (congestion) in the immediate area of the estate
- Lack of community consultation
- Increased noise impacts
- Proposal is unjust as high-density development in a low-density estate
- Impact to property values
- Appeal of the area will decrease
- Proposed development will impede on family orientation of the estate

Applicant response to submissions:

- Fires can occur in other developments (such as dwellings), nonetheless the houses are equipped with fire sprinklers.
- Group homes by their definition should be located within a residential area; it is very common to have dwellings and homes in residential areas.
- The Wentworth LEP is not able to dictate who lives within the proposed group homes, nor should any person who lives within the area.

Response from Assessing Officer to concerns raised is as follows:

- The proposed group home meets legislative requirements under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*,
- The 2.4m setback identified is able to occur as the part of the group home at this distance is a non-habitable space being the alfresco and any variation to the DCP is justifiable in this case.
- Within 1.5kms of the proposed development is a supermarket, medical facility, Council offices, library, open space for community enjoyment and shopfronts to be developed further, facilities therefore are within adequate proximity to proposed site.
- Council notified adjoining neighbors of the proposed development in line with policy and procedures, as well as the development proposals being advertised on Councils website for 14 days,

- The childcare facility in question is fenced off and secure with adequate parking areas to ease traffic congestion at peak times (early morning / mid evening).
- The WSC LGA does not have high-density housing zoning attributed within the WLEP 2011, the RU5 – Village zoning permits the development of group homes,
- Council has a LEP that is a statutory document and DCP aids in assessment of proposals permitted under it. There is no planning strategy for specialized housing within the DCP, only the Housing SEPP, which permits these developments if applied for and within an approved residential zoning,
- Noise impacts from the proposed developments are anticipated to be that of a typical residential area.

Based on the assessment of the application, it is determined that the proposed development is compliant with relevant objectives of the RU5 – Village zoning under the WLEP 2011. The proposed development meets the relevant provisions of the Wentworth DCP 2011 and is consistent with planning matters for consideration of the WLEP 2011. The proposed development complies with matters for consideration under the *State Environmental Planning Policies – Biodiversity & Conservation (2021) and Housing (2021)*.

Refer to attachment 4 - Submissions

Refer to attachment 5 – 4.15 Assessment Report

Refer to attachment 6 – Conditions of Consent

Options

Based on the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

- Approve Development Application DA2024/156 subject to conditions.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

Should Council issue a determination to the application, the applicant has the right to submit a request for review of determination to Council under Section 8.2 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1987*.

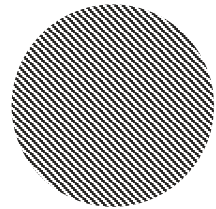
The applicant also has the right to appeal the decision made by Council to the Land and Environment Court pursuant to Section 8.7 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1987*.

Conclusion

Having consideration of the consent of this report it is concluded that the appropriate course of action is to approve DA2024/156 subject to conditions.

Attachments

1. Development Application (under separate cover)⇒
2. Plans (under separate cover)⇒
3. Statement of Environmental Effects↓
4. Submissions (under separate cover)⇒
5. 4.15 Assessment Report↓
6. Conditions of Consent↓



Planning Report

Permanent Group Home

20 Wendy Court
Buronga, NSW, 2739



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposal	Construction of a Permanent Group Home
Street Address	20 Wendy Court, Buronga
Formal Land Description	Lot 17 in Deposited Plan 1288183
Zone	RU5 - Village
Relevant State Environmental Planning Policies	SEPP (Housing) 2021 - Chapter 3, Part 2 Group Homes - Clause 62

SUBJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA

The subject site comprises one parcel of land commonly known as 20 Wendy Court, Buronga, and more formally as Lot 17 in Deposited Plan 1288183. The site is irregular in shape and is relatively flat. It has an area of 721 square metres (sqm) and a frontage of approx. 11.5 metres (m) to Wendy Court. The site is currently vacant, but all reticulated services are available. No heritage or cultural sensitivities affect the land and there are no natural hazards or environmental sensitivities including native vegetation.

The site is situated within a new stage of Midway Estate, which comprises vacant land and several newly constructed dwellings.

An aerial image of the site and surrounding area as well as site photos are contained below.

Aerial Image of the Site and Surrounding Area



Figure 1: Subject site and surrounding area (Source: Landchecker Sept 2024)

Site Photos



Figure 2: View of site from Wendy Court



Figure 3: View of the site from the east

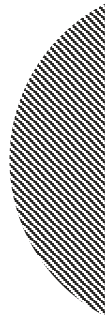




Figure 4: View of the site from the south (rear)



Figure 4: View of the site from the west

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

This application is for the construction of a Permanent Group Home, as summarised under the following points:

- The proposed Permanent Group Home will be used to accommodate people with a disability on a permanent basis under the NDIS Scheme. The plans have been assessed and certified by an accredited SDA assessor.
- The building is single storey and contains three bedrooms for people with a disability and one bedroom for on-site overnight assistance. Each bedroom has an ensuite and other internal features include an open plan kitchen, dining and living area, separate living area, separate bathroom, European laundry, alfresco and single garage.
- The external appearance of the building is contemporary with brick wall cladding and corrugated Colorbond iron roof cladding.
- The building has a maximum height of 4.8m above natural ground.
- One car parking space (to disabled parking standards) can be accommodated within the garage and one car parking space can be accommodated within the driveway.
- A new crossover is proposed to provide access to the garage.
- Over 350sqm of the site is private open space and over 300sqm can be landscaped.
- The development will be connected to all reticulated services, with the exception of gas.

PLANNING

CONTROLS AND ASSESSMENT

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP)

The Subject site is within the RU5 – Village

The objectives of the zone are:

- *To provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village.*
- *To promote development in existing towns and villages in a manner that is compatible with their urban function.*
- *To encourage well-serviced sustainable development.*
- *To ensure there are opportunities for economic development.*
- *To deliver new residential and employment growth in Buronga and Gol Gol.*
- *To ensure business and retail land uses are grouped within and around existing activity centres.*

The proposed Permanent Group Home is located within a recently released stage of the Midway Estate and will provide for residential diversity in an appropriate location. The building will provide much needed housing for people with a disability and is compatible with existing residential development in the surrounding area. The building has been designed to be energy efficient and is appropriately located so as not to unreasonably impact on the adjoining land. As such, the proposal supports the objectives of the RU5 zone.

Wentworth Development Control Plan

Chapter 2 – Plan Objectives

The following General Development Objectives are relevant to this application:

- *Residential land is to be developed with the creation of neighbourhoods comprising a range of housing styles and densities to cater for a diverse demographical profile of the local government area.*

- Residential growth shall be promoted in areas identified as urban release area.

The following Locality Objectives for Buronga and Gol Gol are relevant to this application:

- A safe, convenient and attractive neighbourhoods that meet the diverse and changing needs of the community and offers a wide choice of housing, leisure, local employment opportunities and associated community and commercial facilities.
- A site responsive approach to urban development that supports and enhances the context in which it is located, strengthens local character and identity, and promotes a sense of community.

In addition to this, Section 2.2 – Social and Community outlines that:

The proposed future development of Buronga and Gol Gol will result in an increased demand for additional community infrastructure. This includes:

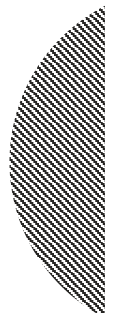
- Expansion of the range of community facilities and services;
- Improvement of public transport links within and external to the area;
- Provision of additional government and health services; aged care services; child care facilities and education/training services; and
- Promotion of community image and events including sport and recreation.

It is clear that the proposal is supported by the objectives of the Wentworth Development Control Plan which indicate that there is a strong need for diverse housing to provide for the changing needs of the community. The proposed Permanent Group Home will provide much needed accommodation for people with a disability and is of a high standard.

Chapter 3 – General Development Controls

5 Vehicular Access and Parking

This development control aims to provide sufficient and convenient parking for residents, visitors and service vehicles; to ensure vehicular and pedestrian safety and to encourage access design to form part of the overall landscape design. The relevant subclauses are discussed below.



5.1 Parking Layout, Servicing and Manoeuvring

The proposed car parks will be located in the garage and driveway, which is typical for car parking in a residential setting.

5.2 Specific Land Use Requirements

The following car parking requirements apply to the proposal:

- Housing for older people or people with a disability – Refer to State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors and People with a Disability) 2004.

The SEPP referenced in the DCP no longer exists. Two car parking spaces are provided for the proposed Permanent Group Home which complies with Schedule 2 (17) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.

Chapter 4 – Residential Development Controls

4.1.1 Site Context and Analysis

The plans submitted with this application demonstrate how the proposed development responds to site specific conditions and the site has been described in detail previously in this report. The site is within a recently released stage of the Midway Estate which contains vacant land and existing dwellings of a similar size, scale and sitting. The site does not have any specific constraints and the topography is relatively flat.

4.1.2 Streetscapes

The proposed building will have a positive impact on the streetscape. A number of habitable room windows overlook the street to provide for casual surveillance. The proposed garage occupies only a small portion of the frontage and is setback behind the main façade of the building. The building has a clearly identified entry from the street and has been designed to be energy efficient. The external materials and colours will complement existing dwellings in the broader area which have external materials and colours that vary considerably.

4.1.3 Front Setback

The building has a front setback of 4.5m, which is less than the 6m sought within the Wentworth DCP. It is worth noting that 4.5m is a commonly accepted front setback in developing areas and is the minimum requirement to meet the CDC criteria. Furthermore, the building is on an angle to the front boundary and a majority is setback greater than 6m from the front boundary. As such, the proposed front setback is considered to be acceptable and will not bring rise to any character or streetscape related issues.

4.1.4 Side setbacks and Corner Lot Setbacks

The side setbacks of the proposed building are 1.6m from the eastern boundary and 4.13m from the western boundary (combined total exceeding 4.5m), which complies with this Control.

4.1.5 Rear setbacks

The proposed building is located 2.5m from the rear boundary, which falls marginally short of the 3m specified under this Control. The shortfall is acceptable as the closest part of the building is an open alfresco which will not notably contribute to visual bulk. It is worth noting that the building is on an angle to the rear boundary and a majority is setback greater than 3m.

4.1.6. Walls on Boundaries

Not applicable. No walls on boundaries are proposed.

4.1.7 Building heights and overshadowing

The proposed building is unlikely to overshadow the private open space of future dwellings on adjoining lots as it is single storey and has relatively generous boundary setbacks.

4.1.8 Site Coverage

The site coverage is approximately 35%, although it is noted that this control only applies to single dwelling houses and dual occupancies.

4.1.9 Private Open Space

Private open space is well in excess of the 40sqm minimum requirement. There is an area of secluded private open space at the rear of the dwelling also well in excess of 25sqm, with a minimum dimension of 3m accessed from the main living area.

4.1.10 Energy Efficiency and Solar access

Appropriate solar access and energy efficiency is achieved given the orientation of the site and distance between windows and boundaries. A BASIX is not required as a standard residential dwelling is not proposed.

4.1.11 Daylight to existing windows

The proposed building will not impact daylight to existing dwellings as the adjoining land is vacant.

4.1.12 North-facing windows

Not applicable – there are no existing north facing windows within 3m of the boundary.

4.1.13 Overlooking

Not applicable – the proposed building is single storey and will not be notably raised above existing surface levels. A 1.8m high solid boundary fence will provide for privacy between lots.

4.1.14 Fencing and Retaining Walls

No fences or retaining walls are proposed as part of this application. The boundary fence will be made to comply with the *SEPP Exempt and Complying Development Codes 2008* (Part 2, Subdivision 17).

4.1.15 Car Parking and Vehicle Access

Car parking has been discussed previously.

4.1.16 Cut and Fill

As the site is relatively flat, only minimal earthworks are anticipated and will not exceed 0.3m of cut or fill.

State Environmental Planning Polices (SEPP)

SEPP (Housing) 2021 – Chapter 3, Part 2 Group Homes – Clause 62

This Clause contains requirements for consent authorities when determining Development Applications.

General Assessment

Visual Impacts

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Open Space

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Overshadowing and Privacy

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Noise

Only standard domestic mechanical plant will be associated with the proposed building, which will emit noise typical for a residential area.

Erosion Control Measures

No specific erosion control measures are considered necessary for this development. Any minor earthworks will be appropriately battered and retained (if necessary).

Economic and Social Impacts

The proposed building will contribute to the social wellbeing of the Buronga township by providing suitably designed housing to accommodate disabled persons. It also contributes to investment in the Buronga/Gol Gol Area.

Environmental Benefits

Due to the nature of this development, no significant environmental benefits are envisaged.

Disabled Access

The proposed building has been designed to comply with all disabled access standards and the plans have been assessed and certified by an accredited SDA assessor.

Security, Site Facilities and Safety

Not applicable for this application.

Waste Management

Standard domestic waste services will be provided by Council.

National Construction Code

The National Construction Code will be assessed as part of the Construction Certificate process by a Building Surveyor.

Traffic

The proposed building will result in standard domestic travel within the existing road network. This would have been anticipated and accounted for in the design of the subdivision.

Stormwater/flooding

The site is not subject to any identified natural hazards and stormwater will be directed to the legal point of discharge.


CONCLUSION

This report demonstrates that the proposal is consistent with the relevant provisions of the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011* and the *Wentworth DCP*.

The proposed Permanent Group Home is appropriate for the site as it:

- Supports the objectives of the Zone RU5 - Village;
- Is appropriately located on the subject site;
- Will have an acceptable impact on the locality in terms of amenity and visual dominance; and
- Will not result in any detrimental impacts on the environment.

It is considered that the proposal is worthy of support, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Wentworth Shire Council grant Development Consent for the construction of a Permanent Group Home as described in this report at 20 Wendy Court, Buronga.

 <p>Wentworth SHIRE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Health & Planning Department 61 Darling Street PO Box 81 WENTWORTH NSW 2648 Tel: 03 5027 5027 council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>DA Assessment Report Section 4.15 Evaluation</p> <p>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 as amended</p>
---	---	--

File Reference:	DA2024/156 & PAN - 489187
Property Title & Address:	20 Wendy Court Lot 17 DP 1288183 Buronga P561/04417
Property owner(s):	ARUMA MANAGEMENT PTY LTD
Applicant(s):	JACKSON PLANNING MJJR PTY LTD - Matt Jackson
Proposal:	Permanent Group Home (dwelling with garage)
Previous DAs:	N/A
Cost of proposed development:	\$800,000.00

SITE AND SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT

The subject site comprises of Lot 17 DP 1288183, 20 Wendy Court, Buronga. The lot has an area of 721m² and connects to Midway Drive to the north, connecting through to the developing locality within the Midway area.

The subject site is zoned within the RU5 – Village zone under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011. The subject site is a rectangular shaped lot with no vegetation removal proposed as site was recently cleared during the subdivision process. The lot is not impacted by easements or environmental factors.

The site is not within the bushfire prone, flood way or flood planning, terrestrial biodiversity, wetlands, or urban release mapped area and contains no known heritage constraints.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks development consent for the construction of a single storey dwelling with garage to be utilised as a permanent group home, which will provide accommodation for people on NDIS plans with ongoing disabilities as per the NDIS requirements. The dwelling is proposed to accommodate three participants and one overnight assistance personnel.

The lot has a total area of 721m² with the dwelling proposed to have a floor area of 256.58m², broken down into the following:

Dwelling: 209.31m² – Garage: 28.17m² – Alfresco: 16.20m² – Porch: 2.89m².

One car parking space suitable for disability requirements is provided within the garage, with a standard parking space accommodated within the driveway area.

HISTORY RELEVANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

N/A

SECTION 4.15-MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

(1) The provisions of any environmental planning instrument and development control plan

State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021

The proposed development is proposed to be located upon on a lot that is under 1ha in size and clear of vegetation following previous subdivision. No native vegetation is to be removed for construction, with no impact to any potential habitat for fauna. The site is not known koala habitat, as such, no assessment required against Chapters 3 or 4. The proposed development is not located within close proximity to the river or other waterbody, and as such, no assessment is required against Chapter 5.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021

Clause 60 (a) does not identify the land zoning of RU5 as a prescribed zone suitable for group home development, however, clause 60 (b) states that any other zone under an environmental planning instrument where dwelling houses may be carried out with consent is categorised as a prescribed zone.

The RU5 – Village zone under the WLEP 2011 lists dwelling houses as permitted with consent.

Clause 61 identifies that the proposed group home is permitted with consent as it is proposed on land zoned RU5 – Village under the WLEP 2011. In terms of the hierarchy of legislation, the SEPP overrides the WLEP 2011 in terms of any inconsistency as per section 3.28 of the EP&A Act.

Under clause 62 a consent authority (Council) **must not**:

- refuse a group development unless an assessment of the community need has been done
- Impose a condition of consent specifically because a development is a group home.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022

A BASIX Certificate has not been provided as it is not required due to the proposed development being class 3 under the Building Code of Australia.

Further, as it is assumed that the development will be certified as a Class 3 building under the BCA at the construction stage, in line with the *Comprehensive Guide to BASIX*, a BASIX Certificate is not needed.

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011

The proposed development of a permanent group home for the provision of accommodation for participants within the NDIS scheme is permitted with consent and meets the zone objectives of the RU5 – Village zoning under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011, under which the subject site is located. The main supportive objective is to provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village. The development of a NDIS based permanent group home will allow for services for those with disabilities to live mostly independently with assistance.

Objectives of zone

- To provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village.
- To promote development in existing towns and villages in a manner that is compatible with their urban function.
- To encourage well-serviced sustainable development.
- To ensure there are opportunities for economic development.
- To deliver new residential and employment growth in Buronga and Gol Gol.
- To ensure business and retail land uses are grouped within and around existing activity centres.

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) attached dwellings, | (k) semi-detached dwellings, |
| (b) boarding houses, | (l) seniors housing, |
| (baa) co-living housing, | (m) shop top housing, |
| (c) dual occupancies, | |
| (d) dwelling houses, | |
| (e) group homes, | |
| (f) hostels, | |
| (faa) (Repealed) | |
| (g) multi dwelling housing, | |
| (h) residential flat buildings, | |
| (i) rural workers' dwellings, | |
| (j) secondary dwellings, | |

but does not include tourist and visitor accommodation or caravan parks.

dwelling means a room or suite of rooms occupied or used or so constructed or adapted as to be capable of being occupied or used as a separate domicile.

Group home means a permanent group home ~~or a transitional group home~~. Group homes are a type of residential accommodation.

~~Group home (permanent)~~ or **permanent group home** means a dwelling—

(a) that is occupied by persons as a single household with or without paid supervision or care and whether or not those persons are related or payment for board and lodging is required, and

(b) that is used to provide permanent household accommodation for people with a disability or people who are socially disadvantaged,

but does not include development to which [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Housing\) 2021, Chapter 3, Part 5](#) applies.

Clause 7.1 Earthworks

Any earthworks will be conditioned and form part of the approval.

Clause 7.2 Essential Services

Connection of services has been made possible during the previous subdivision of the development site.

Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011

The proposed development is acceptable against the relevant provisions of the Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011 as outlined in the table below.

Wentworth DCP	Chapter 8	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	N/A	Reason
	5.1.1 Site context	X			Positioning of the proposed building on site makes use of available land while leaving space for private open space and providing suitable access for residents of the permanent group home. Materials used will compliment other structures in the surrounding area.
	5.1.2 Streetscape	X			The proposed building will be in keeping with few existing developments in the area with windows facing the street for casual surveillance and a garage setback from the facade of the main portion of the building. It is anticipated that future development in the area will be similar and compatible with this DA.
	5.1.3 Front Setback		X		4.5m – does not meet
	5.1.4 Side setbacks	X			Western: 4.1m – meets Eastern: 1.6m - meets
	5.1.5 Rear setback		X		2.5m – does not meet

	5.1.6 Walls on Boundaries			X	N/A as no walls on boundaries
	5.1.7 Building heights and overshadowing			X	N/A as not a two-storey building
	5.1.8 Site Coverage	X			Proposed development does not cover more than 60% of site
	5.1.9 Private open space	X			Ample room for private open space available
	5.1.10 Energy & solar access	X			<i>Proposed development meets requirements of the Energy Efficiency Compliance Assessment</i>
	5.1.11 Daylight to existing windows	X			No impact anticipated from the single storey building to surrounding neighbours.
	5.1.12 North facing windows			X	N/A as no north facing windows within 3m of boundary.
	5.1.13 Overlooking			X	N/A as development approval is for a single storey building
	5.1.14 Fencing and retaining walls			X	N/A approval not for fencing or retaining walls
	5.1.15 Car parking and vehicle access	X			The site provides for one (1) disability access car parking spaces within the garage as per requirements under the Housing SEPP one space within the garage and another singular space is provided in the driveway of the proposed development site. Access to the site is provided via a crossover to council standards to be detailed within conditions of consent. Two parking spaces in total, one being to disability standards.
	5.1.16 Cut and fill	X			Earthworks will be conditioned as part of approval

Development Control	WDCP 2011 requirement for RU5 Village zone	Proposed Permanent Group Home
Front setback	6m minimum	4.5m
Northeast side setback	1m minimum	1.6m
Southwest side setback	1m minimum	4.1m
Rear setback	3m minimum	2.5m

The front setback does not meet DCP requirements of 6m, being only 4.5m, however, many new developments in newly subdivided areas are utilising a front setback of only 4.5m to allow better use

of allotment space. Additionally, other developments in the surrounding area have front setbacks under the required 6m, even down to 3m.

The proposed rear setback does not meet DCP requirements of 3m being only 2.5m. Justification as follows provided by applicant:

The shortfall is acceptable as the closest part of the building is an open alfresco which will not notably contribute to visual bulk. It is worth noting that the building is on an angle to the rear boundary and a majority is setback greater than 3m.

The development being setback less than the requirement is not envisaged to be detrimental to the adjoining neighbours or existing development, it is more than 3m to the closest habitable room from the rear of the site.

(2) The provisions of any draft environmental planning instrument

There is no Division 3.4 draft environmental planning instrument that affect the proposed development. (Post 1 July 2009 LEP amendments).

(3) Any matters prescribed by regulations

There are no further matters prescribed by regulations.

(4) The likely impacts of the development

There are no likely impacts from the proposal as discussed in the table below.

Impact item (insert an 'x' in the relevant section)	Acceptable	Not acceptable	Not relevant	Comment
Context and setting	X			The proposed permanent group home building will look similar in external design to the few existing residential developments in the immediate area
Public domain & Streetscape	X			The proposed permanent group home building meets the required setbacks as provided and justified in assessment above (DCP)
Landscaping			X	Not part of this application
Stormwater	X			Discharge to legal point of Councils stormwater system to be conditioned
Heritage	X			None on site
Soils & Soils Erosion	X			Earthworks and erosion control to be conditioned as part of approval
Air and microclimate	X			No effect from proposed development anticipated
Water Resources	X			Noted – development located adequate distance from water sources
Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna)	X			As the site was cleared of any vegetation during the subdivision process – no effect on existing flora or fauna,
Land Resources	X			None known at this site
Utilities	X			Utilities are available to the property

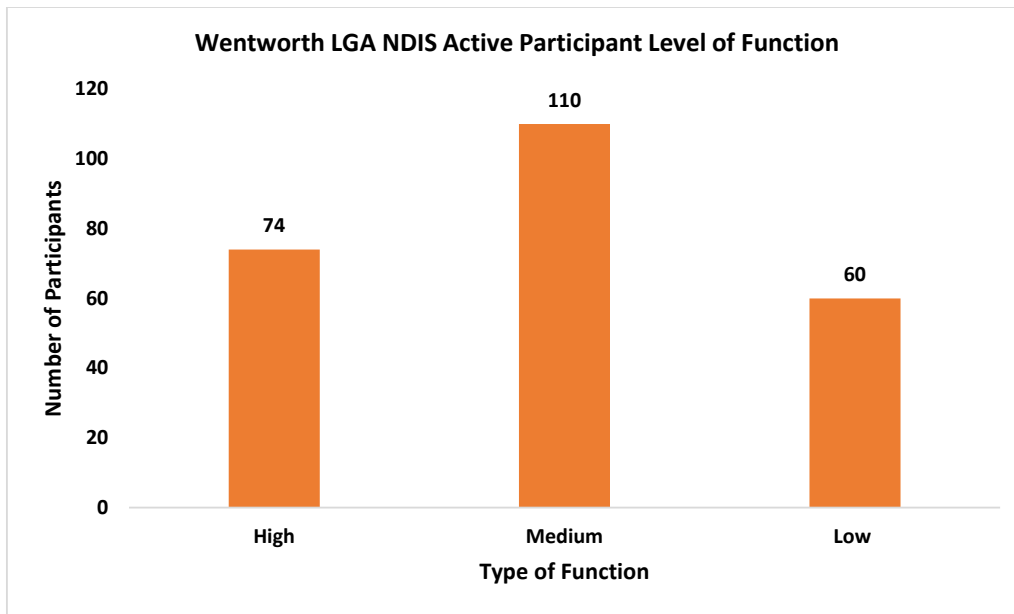
Access & Parking	X			Adequate access and parking are available to the site, development provides disability parking space as per requirements in line with Housing SEPP
Roads & Traffic	X			Increase to area anticipated during construction with slight increase as new residents move into the completed building
Solar Access and Energy Efficiency	X			Will be required to meet energy requirements of Part J1 of the BCA
Overshadowing			X	Not relevant as surrounding land vacant and single storey development
Privacy & Overlooking			X	Not relevant as single storey building
Flooding			X	Not in flood planning area
Bushfire Prone Area			X	Property not within bushfire prone land
Noise	X			Only significant increase anticipated during construction, then residential noise ongoing
Technological hazards	X			No known hazards on site or anticipated
Safety, Security & Crime Prevention	X			No detrimental effects anticipated from development in this location. Windows facing street will provide casual surveillance
Social and Economic Impacts	X			No detrimental effects anticipated

The NDIS outlines high physical support SDA housing as *housing that includes a high level of physical access for people who need very high levels of support. For example, you may need a ceiling hoist, backup power supply, or home automation and communication technology.*

Further, level of functioning is defined as:

“The umbrella term for any or all of body functions, body structures, activities and participation. Level of function indicates the impact a participant's disability has on how a person is able to perform tasks and actions in a life area, as represented by a ‘severity score’ ‘High functioning’ indicates lower service and support requirements with a lower severity score, and ‘low functioning’ indicates higher service and support requirements with a higher severity score.”

Graph 1: Total Level of Function for Participants within the Wentworth LGA (*Explore data NDIS.* <https://dataresearch.ndis.gov.au/explore-data> current as of 9 January 2025).



The above graph shows that there are (an estimated) 60 active NDIS participants with requirements for higher service and support requirements, being low functioning and therefore having a high severity score. This website also identifies there are under 11 active participants with SIL/SDA funding, which would be on the basis that there are no SDA places available in the Wentworth LGA. Low functioning participants as per the level of functioning definition require higher levels of support.

From the same dataset, there are (an estimated) 244 active participants who have been deemed eligible and have an approved plan under the NDIS. This dataset does not encompass all of those with disabilities that require support within the Wentworth LGA, indicating there may be more not accounted for as they are not active participants or are waiting for availability.

The Inquiry Report: Own Motion Inquiry into Aspects of Supported Accommodation (NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, January 2023)

The above report states the following on page 23:

- *a suburban house (SDA or otherwise) where a group of people with disability live together, each with their own bedroom (sometimes with ensuite), sharing a common living room, kitchen, bathroom and garden, and with an area of the house used as office space for staff.*
- *a number of suburban houses (as above) located in relatively close proximity to each other, sometimes with direct links between each of the houses (for example through a garden gate), with a team leader or manager overseeing supports across the network.*

This reinforces the ability for SDA dwellings to be located in close proximity to one another.

Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026

The Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 has a focus area that directly identifies housing for those with disabilities – 2; Livable Communities which states the following: *Increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health and wellbeing.*

The plan, in line with the identified focus area aims to attribute to the positive experience of those with a disability, their families and supporters, through access to community places, buildings and events.

As there are currently no SDA housing facilities within the LGA, the proposal to develop them is in line with the Disability Inclusion Action Plan with the aim of providing housing, eliminating the barrier of housing access to those that require it.

Further, the following are direct quotes from the plan:

“To create liveable communities, we need to focus our attention and resources on the elements of community life that most people desire. To create liveable communities for people with disability, we must do more than modify the physical environment; we must advocate for such aspects such as accessible housing, access to transport, community recreation, social engagement and universal design.”

“The attitude and behaviours of the general community toward people with disability can be the greatest barrier to full access and inclusion. Community attitudes can further be influenced by the intersection of the particular characteristics of a person with disability, such as gender, age, ethnicity, or type of disability itself.”

“Inclusiveness and accessibility for people with disability forms a crucial component of the assessment of the liveability of any community. Council will work to eliminate the barriers in the built environment and advocate for improved transport, housing and local supports that prevent people with disability from fully engaging with the opportunities that exist within their communities.”

Approach to characterization and permissibility under LEPs

It needs to be noted that the development of Permanent Group Homes is permitted under legislation, both the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing).

The case of *Botany Bay City Council v Pet Carriers International PTY Limited* [2013] NSWLEC 147 reiterates that land use tables within LEPs can use many means by which to define what development is permissible by identifying either *nominate* or *innominate* purposes.

His Honor, Preston CJ, stated the following:

A nominate purpose is one which the environmental planning instrument expressly nominates by name as being within one of the three classifications. Hence, the land use table for a zone may nominate particular categories of purposes of development as being within the classifications of development that may be carried out without consent, development that may be carried out with consent, or development that is prohibited.

An innominate purpose is one which the environmental planning instrument does not nominate by name as being within one of the three classifications, but rather identifies as falling within a particular classification by reason of it not being nominated in other classifications; it is development other than development in the other classifications. Hence, the land use table for a zone may classify as prohibited development, development for a

purpose other than a purpose nominated as being able to be carried out without consent or with consent.

In the case of permanent group homes, as they are not directly identified within the RU5 – Village zoning as an independent type of development but fall under “any other development not specified in items 2 or 4”, they are therefore innominate and permissible with consent.

(Compatibility Test) Project Venture Developments Pty Ltd v Pittwater Council [2005]

There are many dictionary definitions of compatible. The most apposite meaning in an urban design context is capable of existing together in harmony. Compatibility is thus different from sameness. It is generally accepted that buildings can exist together in harmony without having the same density, scale, or appearance, though as the difference in these attributes increases, harmony is harder to achieve.

The physical impacts, such as noise, overlooking, overshadowing, and constraining development potential, can be assessed with relative objectivity. In contrast, to decide whether or not a new building appears to be in harmony with its surroundings is a more subjective task. Analysing the existing context and then testing the proposal against it can, however, reduce the degree of subjectivity.

For a new development to be visually compatible with its context, it should contain, or at least respond to, the essential elements that make up the character of the surrounding urban environment. In some areas, planning instruments or urban design studies have already described the urban character. In others (the majority of cases), the character needs to be defined as part of a proposal's assessment. The most important contributor to urban character is the relationship of built form to surrounding space, a relationship that is created by building height, setbacks, and landscaping. In special areas, such as conservation areas, architectural style and materials are also contributors to character.

In order to test whether a proposal is compatible with its context, two questions should be asked.

- *Are the proposal's physical impacts on surrounding development acceptable? The physical impacts include constraints on the development potential of surrounding sites. (Test One)*
- *Is the proposal's appearance in harmony with the buildings around it and the character of the street? (Test two)*

Test One:

The proposal of a permanent group home, being constructed as a dwelling, does not constitute any physical impacts on the surrounding development. The surrounding development consists of dwellings with outbuildings.

Physical impacts will not occur as the development design is that of similar size, scale and sitting to existing development in the immediate and surrounding area. The applicant has identified the permanent group homes to have external materials and colouring that complements existing dwellings in the surrounding area.

It should be noted that Wendy Court itself, where the main streetscape occurs, has minimal development existing, being two dwellings and an allotment with an outbuilding.

There will be no issues regarding side setbacks as a physical constraint, as setbacks adhere to requirements under the Wentworth Development Control Plan, some rear setbacks do not meet requirements, but it should be noted that habitable building space does not encroach the setbacks, only alfresco areas that are open in design. Front setbacks may not meet the required 6m, however, as discussed in the DCP assessment, in newly developed areas, setbacks from the front boundary can be accepted at 4.5m for RU5 – Village zoned land.

Test Two:

The proposal of a permanent group home will be in harmony with the development within the estate area. Permanent group homes are designed as and meet definitions of dwellings, which is the main development in the estate area and will not alter the harmonic design, rather increasing development in the area and encouraging use of the RU5 – Village zoning whereby a range of services and facilities need to be available, including disability accommodation for the impacted community members.

Harmony is often defined as “the quality of a pleasing and consistent whole”, with the permanent group homes not causing impact as the development will be that of dwellings in a residential area attributing to the existing use and character of the estate. Impact to Summer Drive through harmonious development should not be impacted due to separating fences and differing streetscapes (existing development vs minimally existing development).

The permanent group homes will be of the same design, therefore harmonious to themselves and attributing to consistency of the area.

The permanent group homes are dwellings and will not impact the character of the area. The use of each dwelling is subject to residential purposes such as long term accommodation, which is provided through the group homes. The use of existing dwellings in the area is no different to the accommodation purposes of the group homes, with additional assistance for the residents of the group homes required.

New Century Developments Pty Limited v Baulkham Hills Shire Council [2003] NSWLEC 154 revised - 5/09/2003 (social impact, large number of objectors, character and amenity of area).

The above caselaw provides examples of amenity, reiterates development characteristics and any further associated issues, as well as substance of community responses to proposed development.

“(61) In circumstances such as the present case, however, the consent authority must not blindly accept the subjective fears and concerns expressed in the public submissions. Whilst such views must be taken into consideration, there must be evidence that can be objectively assessed before a finding can be made of an adverse effect upon the amenity of the area... the views of residents of the area, those views will be accorded little, if any, weight if there is no objective, specific, concrete, observable likely consequence of the establishment of the proposed use.”

The above quote from the caselaw states plainly that evidence must be provided for submissions to be assessed. Council cannot take submissions with little to no planning grounds as having an adverse impact to the development of what is defined legally as a permanent group home under the WLEP 2011.

There are no specific issues raised in submissions received regarding the proposed group home development.

Submissions received as objections rather centre around the use of the development and those that would use it, however, this is not for Council to mandate as we are not the managing authority, only the consent authority. Submissions referenced the following:

- Property valuation
- Proximity of group homes to each other
- Behaviour concerns of NDIS participants
- Potential for property damage
- Disturbances caused by NDIS participants
- Location of group homes in locality for NDIS participant access to services
- Lack of Council transparency

“(64) The assessment of the specific objections raised by the local residents shows that the concerns raised by them, objectively assessed, must be afforded little weight. As is shown by the consideration of the specific objections, discussed above, they appear to have little basis in fact.”

The above quote from the caselaw states that if concerns have been assessed based on the objectives (mainly directed at NDIS management and use of the proposed group home dwelling – therefore not specific legislative planning grounds), then submissions **must** be afforded little weight, therefore not considered as little fact is apparent.

“(71) In summary, I have concluded that the proposed development would be compatible with the rural residential character of the area and would not have an adverse impact on the amenity of the area, including social impact. While I recognise that there is strong community opposition to the proposal and that the residents have real fears, these fears must have foundation and a rational basis, which in this case is absent.”

The above quote from the caselaw states that the ultimate outcome of the case as decided by the Judge, was that the proposed development was compatible with the character of the existing area and would not have an impact on the amenity of the area. Community opposition was recognised but the concerns were found to have no foundation or rational basis (planning grounds).

In relation to the proposed group home, no planning grounds for the proposal are seen, merely concerned community members referencing issues relative to unjustified fears based on the use of the development. No foundation (fundamentals of planning legislation) are presented by submitters, as addressed by Council.

Understanding the Local Impact of New Residential Development: a Pilot Study

Christine Whitehead and Emma Sagor with Ann Edge and Bruce Walker

LSE London April 2015

The report identifies that opposition to new dwelling development is driven by local communities feeling that they will gain little benefit from new dwellings and that negative impacts may arise, such as infrastructure pressure and lack of services, as well as residential valuation impacts.

The report solidifies and states that planning literature does not often and is not required to, address impacts to housing valuation or pricing as this is not directly related to planning decisions which are assessed against relevant legislation, as well as broader economic, environmental, and social factors.

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011

The WLEP 2011 provides the following definition for permanent group homes:

group home (permanent) or permanent group home means a dwelling—

(a) that is occupied by persons as a single household with or without paid supervision or care and whether or not those persons are related or payment for board and lodging is required, and

(b) that is used to provide permanent household accommodation for people with a disability or people who are socially disadvantaged

It should be noted that the plans provided by the applicant indicate “NDIS High Physical Support SDA” with design considering wider doorways, ceiling hoists, accessible parking (garage), and ensuites tailored for required needs (rails etc.), with an adjustable bench in the kitchen.

The people anticipated to use these dwellings are those with disabilities, and not those who are socially disadvantaged, however, Council are not the management authority and cannot dictate who will utilize these developments.

(5) The suitability of the site for development

The site is suitable for the proposed permanent group home building as it is not anticipated to have any adverse impact on the locality, however, six submissions were received. The proposed development is permitted within the RU5 – Village zoning area under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011. The development provides the area with greater flexibility in housing and facilitates options for people with a disability under the NIDS scheme to become independent within the community, while receiving care when required. The character and use of the proposed development is consistent with other proposed developments in the immediate area.

(6) Any submissions made in accordance with this Act or Regulation

The application was notified for 14 days as per the Wentworth Community Participation Plan. Six (6) submissions were received objecting to the application within the notification period, with five (5) being unique in nature.

One (1) additional submission was received as an objection by someone who had already submitted outside of the mandatory exhibition period, and these comments were not considered in the assessment process as the submissions received within the exhibition period had been compiled and sent to the applicant for response, with response received before the one additional submission was received outside the exhibition.

Further submissions as objections have been received to date (29 January 2025), however, as these do not explicitly identify a development application and only state “Midway Estate Group Homes” or the like and have been received outside the mandatory exhibition period (by over a week or more), these will not be accepted and utilised for assessment purposes against this development.

Proforma submissions were received, however, most were accompanied by additional individual comments, thus creating unique submissions.

The following list identifies concerns raised within the submissions received:

- Concentration of proposed group homes is a concern for general security of existing residents
- Close proximity of proposed group homes to each other
- 20 Wendy Court having a rear setback of 2.4m not 3m
- Lack of facilities in vicinity of proposed group home sites
- Proximity to childcare facility and congestion in this area
- Lack of communication from Council
- Impact to property valuation and appeal of Midway area
- Potential for property damage – no measures to protect neighbouring properties
- Increased disturbances in the area from potential residents of group homes
- Increased noise and traffic levels in the area
- Proposed group homes will be unjustified high-density development

Applicant response to submissions:

- Fires can occur in other developments (such as dwellings), nonetheless the houses are equipped with fire sprinklers.
- Group homes by their definition should be located within a residential area; it is very common to have dwellings and homes in residential areas.
- The Wentworth LEP is not able to dictate who lives within the proposed group homes, nor should any person who lives within the area.

Council Officer Comment:

- The proposed group homes meet legislative requirements under the State Environmental Planning Policy – Housing 2021 and have been deemed as suitably designed for their purpose through applicant provided information.
- Setbacks provided within the Wentworth Shire Council Development Control Plan – justification in place to vary the setbacks within the DCP
- There are facilities and community infrastructure in close proximity to the development area
- The proximity to a childcare facility should not be of concern as traffic congestion here during the day will be minimal (early morning, mid evening) and the childcare is fenced and secure.
- In a planning perspective high-density development is defined as *development that is greater than three storeys high, typically referred to as residential flat buildings or apartments* (Georges River Council LEP). The proposed development does not meet this definition. Low density residential areas are made up of detached dwellings, dual occupancies, and multi dwelling housing, however, as the zone attributed to this being R2 – Low Density Residential, which is not occurring in the Wentworth LGA, this does not apply and constraints as per the zoning seen (RU5 – Village) will be relied upon.
- The group homes pose no further threat to noise of traffic than a regular dwelling (not for group homes purposes) would. These issues have been assessed in the applicants Statement of Environmental Effects adequately.
- Council has a LEP and DCP that aid in assessment of proposals such as this, there is no planning strategy for specialised housing, only the Housing SEPP, which permits these developments if applied for a DA and within an approved zoning.

(7) The public interest

The proposed development is consistent with public interest as it will have no detrimental effect on the surrounding area.

Social impact equates to the consequences that people experience when a new proposal for development will alter their known environment. This could be through acoustic, amenity, way of life, health and wellbeing, and property impacts. Submissions in regard to the proposed group home have shown that the development proposed is seen as a concern to the surrounding community.

The social impacts as identified by concerned residents in submissions both within and outside of the exhibition period for the proposed group home (singular development on a singular allotment) are not linked to the development of a permanent group home, instead, are aligned with the users and management authority of the group home following construction. No noise, amenity, traffic or other detrimental impacts are envisaged from a, by definition, permanent group home in a residentially established area.

Approval of the proposed group home would benefit the disabled community of the shire, which under the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2022 -2026), housing is a provision that needs to occur and is heavily identified. Although the population requiring this accommodation may not encompass a wider community, the housing type is beneficial to the expanding Buronga / Gol Gol and wider areas of the entire shire and is also important being a border community. A total of six submissions objecting to the development were received during the exhibition period, however matters raised were similar in nature with no detrimental planning concerns raised. Most concerns are specific to management and users of group homes in general, or the infrastructure of the area that would have been considered during the subdivision stage. It is worth noting that nearly all submissions state that the submitter recognises the need for the housing type in the shire.

The Land and Environment Court in *New Century Developments Pty Limited v Baulkham Hills Shire Council* (2003) 127 LGERA 303; [2003] NSWLEC 154 (New Century) at [60] adjudged that a development that causes such great offence to a large portion of the community that it ought to be refused amounts to a detrimental social impact.

However, at [62] the case law identifies that fears or concerns without rational or justified foundations are not matters which, by themselves, can be considered as an amenity or social impact pursuant to s 79C(1) (now s 4.15) of the EP&A Act. Where there is no evidence to support a rational fear, it will not be relevant and be of the basis that community members have altered their everyday actions and thoughts based on the concept of the use of permanent group homes, therefore are seen due to unjustified fears, in this case, whereby broad assumptions have been made about the use of permanent group homes.

In this case Council received six objections to the DA (within the exhibition timeframe), mainly from residents living nearby and from within the broader urban area. The objections principally related to impacts to property value, childcare proximity, disturbances from residents of proposed group homes, lack of facilities in the area, proximity of group homes to each other, insufficient infrastructure to support high-needs users, impact of living in the area for NDIS participants, potential for traffic increase and property damage from users.

Assessment of social impacts relating to the proposed development of a permanent group home needs to be based on fact and evidence, not community perceptions or potential unjustified fears. It needs to be reiterated that the assessment and approval or refusal of a development application is to be made under the planning legislation.

The social impacts as perceived by local residents are noted and have been addressed through conditions of consent or general assessment. Council cannot dictate who utilises the group home upon completion and following issuance of an occupation certificate as long as users are those permitted under the definition of permanent group home. Residents of the area seem to hold unjustified fears of those from within the disabled community who would be using the group homes for impacts to their lives and everyday activities.

At the February Council Meeting (12 February 2025) members of the public gallery spoke against the development of group home “clusters”, citing isolation of potential residents, heightened noise and vehicular impacts, minimised liveability of the wider community, emergency vehicle access and availability, NDIS requirements and reports that are not indicative of town planning requirements, DCP non-compliance, and the institutionalisation of NDIS participants. The abovementioned have been considered in the assessment and are not considered detrimental social impacts as they are perceived impacts or unjustified concerns, with no reference to applicant supplied assessment material. Concerns have been adequately given weight where required in line with provided substance of submissions. Submissions and voiced concerns have not been of strict planning grounds and can be viewed as unjust when referencing the disabled community.

The development of a permanent group home, defined under the WLEP 2011 as a dwelling, is not anticipated to create negative social impacts on the locality. The specific users are not for Council to mandate through the development approval processes. A combination of abovementioned impacts will not lead to negative impacts or experiences in the area. The development of a permanent group home, in a residential area with minimal development as per this assessment should be greatly considered for aesthetic and crime prevention (CPED) purposes. The more houses/development in a subdivision, street facing windows and cars around development, all attribute to making an area safer both through surveillance and lively areas.

On balance, the proposed permanent group home in a land zoning supporting group homes under both the WLEP 2011 and the Housing SEPP 2021, the benefits to the disabled community and no negative impact anticipated to the social streetscape or overall amenity of the area, when weighted against the minimal substance of the submissions, does not justly warrant refusal of this development application.

Should concerns arise from the permanent group home operation, Council will properly investigate and take compliance action as needed to matters within our jurisdiction.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL INTERNAL DEPARTMENTS

Department	Referred Y/N	Comments
Building	Y	BCA Classification: 3 and 10a <u>Comments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eave of dwelling encroaches into the 1.5m setback to a fire source feature (boundary) where an FRL is required. Discussed with Building Surveyor, and he advised that he is sure that the eave is an allowable encroachment and will follow up. Otherwise, a performance solution will be sought. This matter will therefore not affect the determination of a DA as it is the certifiers responsibility to ensure BCA compliance via DTS or a performance solution. Approval under S68 of the Local Government Act must be obtained prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carrying out of water supply work. ▪ Carrying out sewerage work.



		▪ Connection to Sewer.
Subdivision Engineer	N	
Roads & Engineering	N	
Finance & Policy	N	
Heritage Advisor	N	
Environmental Health	N	
Local Laws	N	
Floodplain Mgt Committee	N	
Sustainable Infrastructure	N	


CONCLUSIONS

1. General comments:
2. The proposal satisfies the points for consideration listed under Section 4.15 part b, c, d and e of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*.
3. The proposal occurs on land zoned RU5 - Village. The proposal is not considered to have detrimental impact on the site and surrounds.
4. The proposal is consistent with the Wentworth Shire Development Control Plan (Dec 2011). The proposal meets Chapter 8 of the provisions set out in the Wentworth Development Control Plan 2011.
5. The proposed permanent group home accords with the relevant objectives and provisions of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.
6. There is no draft local environmental plan affecting the proposed development.

Recommendation:

Approve the application subject to conditions

Delegate report author	Delegated approval and endorsement
Signature: 	Signature: 
Georgie Martin Cadet Planning Officer	George Kenende Acting Director Health & Planning
Date: 07/03/2025	Date: 7/03/2025

 <p>Wentworth SHIRE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Health & Planning Department 61 Darling Street PO Box 81 WENTWORTH NSW 2648 Tel: 03 5027 5027 council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEMPLATE CONDITIONS</p>
---	---	---

**DA2024/156 PERMANENT GROUP HOME WITH GARAGE 20 WENDY COURT LOT 17 DP 1288183
BURONGA**

GENERAL CONDITIONS

<p>1.</p>	<p>Approved development</p> <p>Approval is for a permanent group home with garage.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved development.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Approved Plans and Documentation</p> <p>The development shall be in accordance with the following plans, documentation and recommendations made there in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Plan by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-725v2; Sheet No: 2 of 5; Date: 11/07/24. • Floor Plan by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-725v2; Sheet No: 3 of 5; Date: 11/07/24. • Elevations (NE & SW) by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-725v2; Sheet No: 4 of 5; Date: 11/07/24. • Elevations (SE & NW) by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-725v2; Sheet No: 5 of 5; Date: 11/07/2025/24. <p>In the event of any inconsistency between the approved plans and the supporting documentation, the approved plans prevail. In the event of any inconsistency between the approved plans and a condition of this consent, the condition prevails.</p> <p>Note: an inconsistency occurs between an approved plan and supporting documentation or between an approved plan and a condition when it is not possible to comply with both at the relevant time.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved plans and supporting documentation that applies to the development.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Compliance with Building Code of Australia and insurance requirements under Home Building Act 1989</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a condition of a development consent for development that involves building work that the work must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia. 2. It is a condition of a development consent for development that involves residential building work for which a contract of insurance is required under the Home Building Act 1989, Part 6 that a contract of insurance is in force before building work authorised to be carried out by the consent commences.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. It is a condition of a development consent for a temporary structure used as an entertainment venue that the temporary structure must comply with Part B1 and NSW Part H102 in Volume 1 of the Building Code of Australia. 4. In subsection (1), a reference to the Building Code of Australia is a reference to the Building Code of Australia as in force on the day on which the application for the construction certificate was made. 5. In subsection (3), a reference to the Building Code of Australia is a reference to the Building Code of Australia as in force on the day on which the application for development consent was made. 6. This section does not apply- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to the extent to which an exemption from a provision of the Building Code of Australia or a fire safety standard is in force under the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, or b. to the erection of a temporary building, other than a temporary structure to which subsection (3) applies. <p>Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 69 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Erection of signs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This section applies to a development consent for development involving building work, subdivision work or demolition work. 2. It is a condition of the development consent that a sign must be erected in a prominent position on a site on which building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. showing the name, address and telephone number of the principal certifier for the work, and b. showing the name of the principal contractor, if any, for the building work and a telephone number on which the principal contractor may be contacted outside working hours, and c. stating that unauthorised entry to the work site is prohibited. 3. The sign must be- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. maintained while the building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out, and b. removed when the work has been completed. 4. This section does not apply in relation to- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. building work, subdivision work or demolition work carried out inside an existing building, if the work does not affect the external walls of the building, or b. Crown building work certified to comply with the Building Code of Australia under the Act, Part 6. <p>Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 70 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lapsing of Approval</p> <p>Without the further consent of the Wentworth Shire Council, in writing, this permit shall lapse and have no force or effect unless the use or development hereby permitted is physically</p>

	<p>commenced within 5 years of the date of this permit.</p> <p>Condition reason: Ensure everyone is aware of the lapsing of the approval.</p>
6.	<p>Works outside the property boundary</p> <p>This development consent does not authorise works outside the property boundaries on adjoining lands.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all approved works occur within the property boundaries.</p>

BUILDING WORK

BEFORE ISSUE OF A CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

7.	<p>7.12 Contribution</p> <p>Before the issue of the relevant construction certificate, the applicant must pay a total contribution of \$8,000.00 as calculated at the date of this consent to Wentworth Shire Council pursuant to the adopted Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan.</p> <p>Note: The total amount payable may be adjusted at the time payment is made per clause 3.10 of the Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the 7.12 Developer Contributions are paid.</p>
8.	<p>Access Point</p> <p>Before the issue of a Construction Certificate, the beneficiary of this consent must build a driveway crossing for the subject land (if one doesn't exist) to Council standards.</p> <p>Access during construction shall only be through the driveway crossing of the subject land.</p> <p>Condition reason: To control vehicular movement on road crossings.</p>
9.	<p>Building Material</p> <p>The proposed building/s and structure/s shall be clad in an approved non-reflective material e.g. Colourbond.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the materials of the building not impact the visual amenity of the surrounding character of the area.</p>
10.	<p>Construction Site Management Plan</p> <p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the applicant must ensure a construction site management plan is prepared before it is provided to and approved by the certifier. The plan must include the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • location and materials for protective fencing and hoardings to the perimeter on the site • provisions for public safety • pedestrian and vehicular site access points and construction activity zones • details of construction traffic management, including proposed truck movements to and from

	<p>the site and estimated frequency of those movements, and measures to preserve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protective measures for on-site tree preservation (including in accordance with AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites) and trees in adjoining public domain • details of any bulk earthworks to be carried out • location of site storage areas and sheds • equipment used to carry out all works< • a garbage container with a tight-fitting lid • dust, noise and vibration control measures • location of temporary toilets. <p>The applicant must ensure a copy of the approved construction site management plan is kept on-site at all times during construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure construction works are adequately managed to protect the surrounding amenity.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Erosion and Sediment Control</p> <p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent is to ensure that an erosion and sediment control plan is prepared in accordance with the following documents before it is provided to and approved by the certifier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the guidelines set out in the NSW Department of Housing manual Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Certificate (the Blue Book), and • the ‘Do it Right On-Site, Soil and Water Management for the Construction Industry’; (Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and the Natural Heritage Trust). <p>The applicant must ensure the erosion and sediment control plan is kept onsite at all times during site works and construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure no substance other than rainwater enters the stormwater system and waterways.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Fire Safety Schedule</p> <p>Prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate, pursuant to Part 10 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021 (as amended) a Fire Safety Schedule is to be submitted to the Principal Certifying Authority. The Fire Safety Schedule must include matters prescribed in clause 79 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021 (as amended).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure compliance with Fire Safety requirements.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Long Service Levy</p> <p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent is to ensure that the person liable pays the long service levy as calculated at the operational date of this consent to the Long Service Corporation or Council under section 34 of the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Act 1986 and provides proof of this payment to the certifier.</p>

	Condition reason: To ensure the long service levy is paid.
--	---

14.	<p>Payment of Security Deposits <i>This condition applies to all construction works \$25,001 and above.</i></p> <p>Before the commencement of any works on the site or the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent must make all of the following payments to Council and provide written evidence of these payments to the certifier:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$232.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The payments will be used for the cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making good any damage caused to any council property (including street trees, kerb, road etc) as a consequence of carrying out the works to which the consent relates, • completing any public work such as roadwork, kerbing and guttering, footway construction, stormwater drainage and environmental controls, required in connection with this consent, and • any inspection carried out by Council in connection with the completion of public work or the making good any damage to council property. <p>The Infrastructure Bond will be returned on completion of the construction of the proposed development, subject to no damage being done to any council property (including street trees, kerb, road etc) as a consequence of carrying out the works to which the consent relates. The owner / developer is to arrange an inspection with an Officer of Wentworth Shire Council before any work commences on site. Any damage incurred to Council infrastructure will be repaired at the owners / developers expense and the balance of the Infrastructure Bond will be returned to the owner / developer on completion of the construction.</p> <p>Note: The inspection fee includes Councils fees and charges and includes the Public Road and Footpath Infrastructure Inspection Fee (under the Roads Act 1993). The amount payable must be in accordance with councils fees and charges at the payment date.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure any damage to public infrastructure is rectified and public works can be created.</p>	Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):	\$3,000.00	Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)	\$232.00
Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):	\$3,000.00				
Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)	\$232.00				
15.	<p>Plumbing and Drainage</p> <p>Before issuance of the Construction Certificate, a Plumbing and Drainage Application under Section 68 of the Local Government Act NSW 1993 is to be submitted to and approved by Council before any plumbing and drainage works (water and sewerage).</p> <p>Note: All stormwater from the site is to be directed towards a legal point of discharge. All plumbing and drainage work is to be carried out by a plumber and drainer, or other authorised person,</p>				

	<p>licensed with the New South Wales Department of Fair Trading.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure plumbing and drainage works are carried out appropriately.</p>
16.	<p>Road reserve landscaping Lawn must be used for landscaping within the road reserve. Any other form of landscaping in the road reserve must be approved by Council.</p> <p>Condition Reason: To ensure appropriate landscaping is used in road reserve.</p>
17.	<p>Utilities and services - water and sewerage Raw water, filtered water and sewerage are available and are to be connected to Councils services. Dual water supply lines are to be provided from the front boundary of the property. One line is to convey filtered water to all fittings within the building and the other line to convey unfiltered water to all fittings outside the building i.e. garden taps, etc. A separate application is to be made to Council for approval to connect to Council's water mains prior to commencing any plumbing and drainage work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure relevant utility and service providers requirements are provided to the certifier.</p>
18.	<p>Waste management plan Before the issue of a construction certificate, the applicant is to ensure that a waste management plan is prepared in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines and the following requirements before it is provided to and approved by the certifier:</p> <p>Details the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the contact details of the person(s) removing the waste • an estimate of the waste (type and quantity) and whether the waste is expected to be • reused, recycled or go to landfill • the address of the disposal location(s) where the waste is to be taken <p>The applicant must ensure the waste management plan is referred to in the construction site management plan and kept on-site at all times during construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure resource recovery is promoted and local.</p>
19.	<p>Works in Road Reserve A Road Opening Permit is required from the Wentworth Shire Council prior to any works or excavation within the road reserve including but not limited to: water tapping, sewer, driveway crossings, tree planting or removal etc.</p> <p>Please contact Councils Roads & Engineering Department on Tel: (03) 5027 5027 to arrange a permit.</p> <p>Condition reason: To control development in the road reserve.</p>

BEFORE BUILDING WORK COMMENCES

<p>20.</p>	<p>Construction Certificates and Appointment of Principal Certifier Prior to the commencement of any building works, the following requirements must be complied with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Construction Certificate must be obtained from the Council or an Accredited Certifier, in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, • A Principal Certifier must be appointed, and Council must be notified in writing of the appointment irrespective of whether Council or a Registered Certifier is appointed; and notify Council in writing of their intention to commence work (at least two [2] days' notice is required). <p>Condition reason: To ensure building works complies with relevant legislation and other codes.</p>
<p>21.</p>	<p>Contractor details notification The certifying authority must advise Council, in writing of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name and contractor licence number of the licensee who has been contracted to do or intends to do the work, or 2. The name and permit of the owner-builder who intends to do the work. <p>If these arrangements are changed, or if a contract is entered into for the work to be done by a different licensee, Council must be immediately informed.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure building work is carried out by licensed contractor.</p>
<p>22.</p>	<p>Dial before you dig Underground assets may exist in the area that is subject to your application. In the interest of health and safety and in order to protect damage to third party assets please contact Dial before you dig at www.1100.com.au or telephone 1100 before excavating or erecting structures (This is the law in NSW). If alterations are required to the configuration, size, form or design of the development upon contact the Dial before You Dig service, an amendment to the development consent (or a new development application) may be necessary.</p> <p>Individuals owe asset owners a duty of care that must be observed when working in the vicinity of plant or assets. It is the individuals responsibility to anticipate and request the nominal location of plant or assets on the relevant property via contacting the Dial before you dig service in advance of any construction or planning activities."</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure existing infrastructure is identified.</p>
<p>23.</p>	<p>Erosion and sediment controls in place Before the commencement of any site or building work, the developer must be satisfied the erosion and sediment controls in the erosion and sediment control plan, (as approved by Council) are in place until the site is rectified (at least 70% ground cover achieved over any bare ground on site).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure runoff and site debris do not impact local stormwater systems and waterways.</p>

24.	<p>Notice of commencement of works Subject to approval to commence works two days before any site works, building or demolition begins, the beneficiary of this consent must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forward to Council notice of commencement of work and appointment of Principal Certifying Authority. 2. Notify the adjoining owners that work will commence. <p>Condition reason: To provide notification of works commencing.</p>
25.	<p>Rubbish/Waste Management Throughout the construction period, from commencement of work, a suitable rubbish containment structure is to be located on site and utilised.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the construction site is kept clean and safe at all times.</p>
26.	<p>Storage of materials Throughout the construction period, from commencement of work, the storage of materials is not permitted on footpaths, roadways or in reserves. Rubbish and building materials must be contained on the site.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the construction materials are stored on site in a tidy & safe manner.</p>
27.	<p>Toilet facilities Toilet facilities are to be provided on or in the vicinity of the building site. The toilet must be connected to a public sewer, or if connection to a public sewer is not practicable, an approved chemical closet. The toilet facility must be installed on-site prior to the commencement of any other work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure workers and contractors have access to amenities on site.</p>
28.	<p>Tree protection measures Before the commencement of any site or building work, the principal certifier must ensure the measures for tree protection detailed in the construction site management plan are in place.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect and retain trees.</p>

DURING BUILDING WORK

29.	<p>Approved Plans A copy of the stamped approved and certified plans, specifications and documents incorporating conditions of approval and certification must be kept on site for the duration of site works and be made available upon request to either the Council or other Government Agencies.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved works to be conducted.</p>
30.	<p>Construction noise While work is being carried out and where no noise and vibration management plan is approved under this consent, the applicant is to ensure that any noise caused by demolition, vegetation removal or construction does not exceed an LAeq (15 min) of 5dB(A) above background noise,</p>

	<p>when measured at any lot boundary of the property where the construction is being carried out.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect the amenity of the neighbourhood.</p>
31.	<p>Contamination discovered during works If during works on the land comprising the lot, the land is found to be contaminated, within the meaning of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all works must stop immediately, and • the Environment Protection Authority and the council must be notified of the contamination. • Land is found to be contaminated for the purposes of this condition if the principal certifying authority knows or reasonably suspects the land is contaminated. <p>Note: Depending on the nature and level of the contamination, remediation of the land may be required before further work can continue.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure contaminated land is managed appropriately.</p>
32.	<p>Cut and fill (if applicable) While building work is being carried out, the principal certifier must be satisfied all soil removed from or imported to the site is managed in accordance with the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All excavated material removed from the site must be classified in accordance with the EPAs Waste Classification Guidelines before it is disposed of at an approved waste management facility and the classification and the volume of material removed must be reported to the principal certifier. • All fill material imported to the site must be Virgin Excavated Natural Material as defined in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 or a material identified as being subject to a resource recovery exemption by the NSW EPA. <p>Condition reason: To ensure soil removal & replacement meets requirements.</p>
33.	<p>Encroachment of easements No works are to encroach over any easements.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure works are not carried out over easements.</p>
34.	<p>Hours of work The developer must ensure that building work, demolition or vegetation removal is only carried out between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.00am to 6.00pm on Monday to Friday • 8.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays <p>The developer must ensure building work, demolition or vegetation removal is not carried out on Sundays and public holidays, except where there is an emergency.</p> <p>Unless otherwise approved within a construction site management plan, construction vehicles, machinery, goods or materials must not be delivered to the site outside the approved hours of site works.</p>

	<p>Note: Any variation to the hours of work requires Councils approval.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect the amenity of the surrounding area.</p>
35.	<p>Implementation of site management plans While vegetation removal, demolition and/or building work is being carried out, the applicant must ensure the measures required by the approved construction site management plan and the erosion and sediment control plan are implemented at all times. The applicant must ensure a copy of these approved plans is kept on site at all times and made available to Council officers upon request.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the required site management measures are implemented during construction.</p>
36.	<p>Natural drainage Any works undertaken in the subject land including building and filling shall not cause alteration to the previous drainage in the subject land or adjacent land. Any remedies required to discharge drainage water caused to be accumulated by the works associated with this permit shall be the responsibility of the beneficiary of this consent.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure natural drainage is maintained where possible.</p>
37.	<p>Procedure for critical stage inspections While building work is being carried out, any such work must not continue after each critical stage inspection unless the principal certifier is satisfied the work may proceed in accordance with this consent and the relevant construction certificate.</p> <p>Condition reason: To require approval to proceed with building work following each critical stage inspection.</p>
38.	<p>Responsibility for changes to public infrastructure While building work is being carried out, the applicant must pay any costs incurred as a result of the approved removal, relocation or reconstruction of infrastructure (including ramps, footpaths, kerb and gutter, light poles, kerb inlet pits, service provider pits, street trees or any other infrastructure in the street footpath area).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure payment of approved changes to public infrastructure.</p>
39.	<p>Security fencing An adequate security fence is to be erected around the perimeter of the site prior to commencement of any excavation or construction works, and this fence is to be maintained in a state of good repair and condition until completion of the building project</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the site is secured during construction.</p>
40.	<p>Tree protection While site work is being carried out, all required tree protection measures must be maintained in good condition in accordance with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The construction site management plan

	<p>2. The relevant requirements of any Australian Standard for the protection of trees on development sites This includes maintaining adequate soil grades and ensuring all machinery, builders refuse, spoil and materials remain outside tree protection zones.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect trees during site works.</p>
<p>41.</p>	<p>Uncovering relics or Aboriginal objects While demolition or building work is being carried out, all such works must cease immediately if a relic or Aboriginal object is unexpectedly discovered. The applicant must notify the Heritage Council of NSW in respect of a relic and notify the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Heritage Council of NSW in respect of an Aboriginal object. Building work may recommence at a time confirmed by either the Heritage Council of NSW or the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.</p> <p>In this condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “relic” means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that: (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and a) is of State or local heritage significance; and • “Aboriginal object” means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains. <p>Condition reason: To ensure protection of objects of potential significance during works.</p>
<p>42.</p>	<p>Waste management While building work, demolition or vegetation removal is being carried out, the principal certifier must be satisfied all waste management is undertaken in accordance with the approved waste management plan.</p> <p>Upon disposal of waste, the applicant is to compile and provide records of the disposal to the principal certifier, detailing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contact details of the person(s) who removed the waste • The waste carrier vehicle registration • The date and time of waste collection • A description of the waste (type of waste and estimated quantity) and whether the waste is expected to be reused, recycled or go to landfill • The address of the disposal location(s) where the waste was taken • The corresponding tip docket/receipt from the site(s) to which the waste is transferred, noting date and time of delivery, description (type and quantity) of waste. <p>Note: If waste has been removed from the site under an EPA Resource Recovery Order or Exemption, the applicant is to maintain all records in relation to that Order or Exemption and provide the records to the principal certifier and Council.</p> <p>Condition reason: To require records to be provided, during construction, documenting that</p>

	waste is appropriately handled.
--	---------------------------------

BEFORE ISSUE OF AN OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE

43.	<p>Completion of landscape and tree works Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the principal certifier must be satisfied that all landscape and tree-works, including pruning in accordance with AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees and the removal of all noxious weed species, have been completed in accordance with the approved plans and any relevant conditions of this consent.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the approved landscaping works have been completed before occupation, in accordance with the approved landscaping plan(s).</p>
44.	<p>Completion of public utility services Before the issue of the relevant occupation certificate, the principal certifier must ensure any adjustment or augmentation of any public utility services including gas, water, sewer, electricity, street lighting and telecommunications, required as a result of the development, is completed to the satisfaction of the relevant authority. Before the issue of the occupation certificate, the certifier must request written confirmation from the relevant authority that the relevant services have been completed.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure required changes to public utility services are completed, in accordance with the relevant agency requirements, before occupation.</p>
45.	<p>Fire Safety Certificate Prior to the issue of the occupation certificate, a Fire Safety Certificate must be issued in accordance with Part 11 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure fire safety requirements have been met.</p>
46.	<p>Occupation Certificate The building shall not be occupied or used until an Occupation Certificate is issued either by council or by an accredited certifier.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure development is accredited.</p>
47.	<p>Removal of waste upon completion Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the principal certifier must ensure all refuse, spoil and material unsuitable for use on-site is removed from the site and disposed of in accordance with the approved waste management plan. Written evidence of the removal must be supplied to the satisfaction of the principal certifier.</p> <p>Before the issue of a partial occupation certificate, the applicant must ensure the temporary storage of any waste is carried out in accordance with the approved waste management plan to the principal certifier’s satisfaction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure waste material is appropriately disposed or satisfactorily stored.</p>

48.	<p>Repair of infrastructure Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the applicant must ensure any public infrastructure damaged as a result of the carrying out of building works (including damage caused by, but not limited to, delivery vehicles, waste collection, contractors, sub-contractors, concreting vehicles) is fully repaired to the written satisfaction of Council, and at no cost to Council.</p> <p>Note: If the council is not satisfied, the whole or part of the bond submitted will be used to cover the rectification work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure any damage to public infrastructure is rectified.</p>
-----	--

OCCUPATION AND ONGOING USE

49.	<p>Additional structures No additional structures are to be built or installed on the site without permission from the Wentworth Shire Council.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure only approved work is carried out</p>
50.	<p>Amenity of the neighbourhood The operation of this development shall not adversely affect the amenity of the neighbourhood or interfere unreasonably with the comfort or repose of a person who is outside the premises by reason of the emission or discharge of noise, fumes, vapour, odour, steam, soot, dust, waste water, waste products, grit, oil or other harmful products.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the amenity of the neighbourhood is not compromised unreasonably.</p>
51.	<p>Maintenance of wastewater and stormwater treatment device During occupation and ongoing use of the building, the beneficiary of this consent must ensure all wastewater and stormwater treatment devices (including drainage systems, sumps and traps, and on-site detention) are regularly maintained, to remain effective.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect sewerage and stormwater systems.</p>
52.	<p>Ongoing use – permanent group home with garage The proposed garage cannot be used for habitation.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure appropriate use as per approval.</p>
53.	<p>Release of securities / bonds When Council receives an occupation certificate from the principal certifier, the applicant may lodge an application to release the securities held. Council may use part, or all of the securities held to complete the works to its satisfaction if the works do not meet Councils requirements.</p> <p>Condition reason: To allow release of securities and authorise Council to use the security deposit to complete works to its satisfaction.</p>

9.16 DA2024/158 PERMANENT GROUP HOME 42 MIDWAY DRIVE LOT 3 DP 1288183 BURONGA

File Number:	RPT/25/146
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	Georgie Martin - Cadet Planner
Objective:	3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment
Strategy:	3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

A development application (DA2024/158) was received by Council on 29 November 2024, for a permanent group home to be situated upon 42 Midway Drive – Lot 3, DP 1288183.

Under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*, this development is permitted with consent within the RU5 – Village zoning.

The application seeks development approval for the construction of a permanent group home which will be used for the accommodation of people with a disability under the NDIS Scheme. The building will consist of three bedrooms for people with disability and one bedroom for an overnight assistance, with each bedroom having an ensuite. Other features of the permanent group home include an open plan kitchen, dining and living area, and an alfresco area. A single disabled car park has been provided within the garage.

The application was publicly notified for 14 days as per the Council Community Participation Plan. During the public notification thirteen submissions were received by Council objecting to the proposed development.

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021* states that a consent authority must not refuse consent to the development for the purposes of a group home unless the consent authority has made an assessment of the community need for the group home.

As per Council delegations, any development applications with three (3) or more objections cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve subject to conditions DA2024/158 for a permanent group home to be located at 42 Midway Drive – Lot 3, DP 1288183, Buronga.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council to determine Development Application DA2024/158, having consideration to the detail provided both within this report and the attachments provided.

Background

A Development Application was lodged with Council on 29 November 2024 seeking consent for a permanent group home on the subject lot.

The subject lot is in the RU5 Village zone under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011* (WLEP 2011).

DA2024/158 was publicly notified as per Council Community Participation Plan for 14 days, with a total of thirteen submissions objecting to the proposal received during this period. These submissions can be found under attached documents.

As per Council delegations, any development applications with three (3) or more objections cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

Refer to attachment 1 – Development Application

Refer to attachment 2 – Plans

Refer to attachment 3 – Statement of Environmental Effects

Matters under consideration

In determining a development application that requires consent, the consent authority must take into consideration matters under Section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as relevant to the development.

The proposed development was assessed and complies with relevant provisions of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*.

The proposed development for a permanent group home is permitted with consent and meets the zone objectives of the RU5 – Village zone under the WLEP 2011.

Due to the zoning and WLEP 2011 mapping impacting the land, the development application was assessed against clauses 7.1 & 7.2. The development application was able to satisfy the matters for consideration under these clauses.

Due to the nature of the proposed development, it was assessed against Chapter 8 of the Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011. The development complies with relevant provisions under this chapter.

The Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026 is a requirement under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)* (DIA / The Act). The Act required all NSW Local Government Areas to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Wentworth Shire Councils adopted plan states the following:

“To create liveable communities, we need to focus our attention and resources on the elements of community life that most people desire. To create liveable communities for people with disability, we must do more than modify the physical environment; we must advocate for such aspects such as accessible housing, access to transport, community recreation, social engagement and universal design.”

“Increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health and wellbeing.”

“The attitude and behaviours of the general community toward people with disability can be the greatest barrier to full access and inclusion. Community attitudes can further be influenced by the intersection of the particular characteristics of a person with disability, such as gender, age, ethnicity, or type of disability itself.”

“Inclusiveness and accessibility for people with disability forms a crucial component of the assessment of the liveability of any community. Council will work to eliminate the barriers in the built environment and advocate for improved transport, housing and local supports that prevent people with disability from fully engaging with the opportunities that exist within their communities.”

Public notification of the development application was conducted as per the Council Community Participation Plan for 14 days, whereby any submission received must at a minimum provide the following:

- Clearly identify the matter to which the submission relates,
- State the grounds for any support or objection expressed in the submission,
- Include appropriate contact details

Summary of concerns raised in submissions were:

- Concentration of group homes within the estate
- Close proximity of the group homes to each other
- Rear setback of 20 Wendy Court being 2.4m not 3m
- Lack of facilities in the vicinity of group homes
- Proximity of group homes to childcare facility
- Traffic impact (congestion) in the immediate area of the estate
- Lack of community consultation
- Increased noise impacts
- Proposal is unjust as high-density development in a low-density estate
- Impact to property values
- Appeal of the area will decrease
- Proposed development will impede on family orientation of the estate

Applicant response to submissions:

- Fires can occur in other developments (such as dwellings), nonetheless the houses are equipped with fire sprinklers.
- Group homes by their definition should be located within a residential area; it is very common to have dwellings and homes in residential areas.
- The Wentworth LEP is not able to dictate who lives within the proposed group homes, nor should any person who lives within the area.

Response from Council's Assessing Officer to concerns raised is as follows:

- The proposed group home meets legislative requirements under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*,
- The 2.4m setback identified is able to occur as the part of the group home at this distance is a non-habitable space being the alfresco and any variation to the DCP is justifiable in this case.
- Within 1.5kms of the proposed development is a supermarket, medical facility, Council offices, library, open space for community enjoyment and shopfronts to be developed further, facilities therefore are within adequate proximity to proposed site.
- Council notified adjoining neighbors of the proposed development in line with policy and procedures, as well as the development proposals being advertised on Councils website for 14 days,
- The childcare facility in question is fenced off and secure with adequate parking areas to ease traffic congestion at peak times (early morning / mid evening).
- The WSC LGA does not have high-density housing zoning attributed within the WLEP 2011, the RU5 – Village zoning permits the development of group homes,

- Council has a LEP that is a statutory document and DCP aids in assessment of proposals permitted under it. There is no planning strategy for specialized housing within the DCP, only the Housing SEPP, which permits these developments if applied for and within an approved residential zoning,
- Noise impacts from the proposed developments are anticipated to be that of a typical residential area.

Based on the assessment of the application, it is determined that the proposed development is compliant with relevant objectives of the RU5 – Village zoning under the WLEP 2011. The proposed development meets the relevant provisions of the Wentworth DCP 2011 and is consistent with planning matters for consideration of the WLEP 2011. The proposed development complies with matters for consideration under the *State Environmental Planning Policies – Biodiversity & Conservation (2021) and Housing (2021)*.

Refer to attachment 4 - Submissions

Refer to attachment 5 – 4.15 Assessment report

Refer to attachment 6 – Conditions of Consent

Options

Based on the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

- Approve Development Application DA2024/158 subject to conditions.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

Should Council issue a determination to the application, the applicant has the right to submit a request for review of determination to Council under Section 8.2 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1987*.

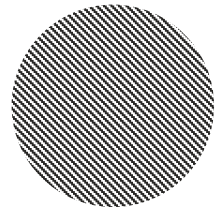
The applicant also has the right to appeal the decision made by Council to the Land and Environment Court pursuant to Section 8.7 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1987*.

Conclusion

Having consideration of the consent of this report it is concluded that the appropriate course of action is to approve DA2024/158 subject to conditions.

Attachments

1. Development Application (Under separate cover)⇒
2. Plans (under separate cover)⇒
3. Statement of Environmental Effects↓
4. Submissions (under separate cover)⇒
5. 4.15 Assessment Report↓
6. Conditions of Consent↓



Planning Report

Permanent Group Home

42 Midway Drive

B... NSW 2700



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposal	Construction of a Permanent Group Home
Street Address	42 Midway Drive, Buronga
Formal Land Description	Lot 3 in Deposited Plan 1288183
Zone	RU5 - Village
Relevant State Environmental Planning Policies	SEPP (Housing) 2021 - Chapter 3, Part 2 Group Homes - Clause 62

SUBJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA

The subject site comprises one parcel of land commonly known as 42 Midway Drive, Buronga, and more formally as Lot 3 in Deposited Plan 1288183. The site is rectangular in shape and is relatively flat. It has an area of 527 square metres (sqm) and a frontage of approx. 21.35 metres (m) to Midway Drive and 27.94 to Pitman Avenue. The site is currently vacant, but all reticulated services are available. No heritage or cultural sensitivities affect the land and there are no natural hazards or environmental sensitivities including native vegetation.

The site is situated within a new stage of Midway Estate, which comprises vacant land and several newly constructed dwellings.

An aerial image of the site and surrounding area as well as site photos are contained below.

Aerial Image of the Site and Surrounding Area



Figure 1: Subject site and surrounding area (Source: Landchecker Jun 2024)

Site Photos



Figure 2: View of site from Midway Drive



Figure 3: View of the site from the north

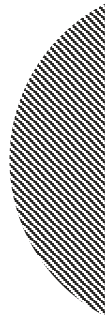
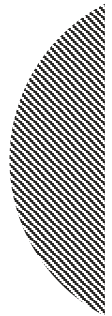




Figure 4: View of the site from the east (rear)



Figure 4: View of the site from the south



PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

This application is for the construction of a Permanent Group Home, as summarised under the following points:

- The proposed Permanent Group Home will be used to accommodate people with a disability on a permanent basis under the NDIS Scheme. The plans have been assessed and certified by an accredited SDA assessor.
- The building is single storey and contains three bedrooms for people with a disability and one bedroom for on-site overnight assistance. Each bedroom has an ensuite and other internal features include an open plan kitchen, dining and living area, separate living area, separate bathroom, European laundry, alfresco and single garage.
- The external appearance of the building is contemporary with brick wall cladding and corrugated Colorbond iron roof cladding.
- The building has a maximum height of 4.8m above natural ground.
- One car parking space (to disabled parking standards) can be accommodated within the garage and one car parking space can be accommodated within the driveway.
- A new crossover is proposed to provide access to the garage.
- The development will be connected to all reticulated services, with the exception of gas.

PLANNING

CONTROLS AND ASSESSMENT

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP)

The Subject site is within the RU5 – Village

The objectives of the zone are:

- *To provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village.*
- *To promote development in existing towns and villages in a manner that is compatible with their urban function.*
- *To encourage well-serviced sustainable development.*
- *To ensure there are opportunities for economic development.*
- *To deliver new residential and employment growth in Buronga and Gol Gol.*
- *To ensure business and retail land uses are grouped within and around existing activity centres.*

The proposed Permanent Group Home is located within a recently released stage of the Midway Estate and will provide for residential diversity in an appropriate location. The building will provide much needed housing for people with a disability and is compatible with existing residential development in the surrounding area. The building has been designed to be energy efficient and is appropriately located so as not to unreasonably impact on the adjoining land. As such, the proposal supports the objectives of the RU5 zone.

Wentworth Development Control Plan

Chapter 2 – Plan Objectives

The following General Development Objectives are relevant to this application:

- *Residential land is to be developed with the creation of neighbourhoods comprising a range of housing styles and densities to cater for a diverse demographical profile of the local government area.*

- Residential growth shall be promoted in areas identified as urban release area.

The following Locality Objectives for Buronga and Gol Gol are relevant to this application:

- A safe, convenient and attractive neighbourhoods that meet the diverse and changing needs of the community and offers a wide choice of housing, leisure, local employment opportunities and associated community and commercial facilities.
- A site responsive approach to urban development that supports and enhances the context in which it is located, strengthens local character and identity, and promotes a sense of community.

In addition to this, Section 2.2 – Social and Community outlines that:

The proposed future development of Buronga and Gol Gol will result in an increased demand for additional community infrastructure. This includes:

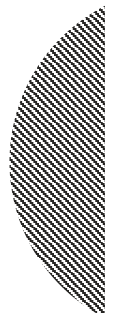
- Expansion of the range of community facilities and services;
- Improvement of public transport links within and external to the area;
- Provision of additional government and health services; aged care services; child care facilities and education/training services; and
- Promotion of community image and events including sport and recreation.

It is clear that the proposal is supported by the objectives of the Wentworth Development Control Plan which indicate that there is a strong need for diverse housing to provide for the changing needs of the community. The proposed Permanent Group Home will provide much needed accommodation for people with a disability and is of a high standard.

Chapter 3 – General Development Controls

5 Vehicular Access and Parking

This development control aims to provide sufficient and convenient parking for residents, visitors and service vehicles; to ensure vehicular and pedestrian safety and to encourage access design to form part of the overall landscape design. The relevant subclauses are discussed below.



5.1 Parking Layout, Servicing and Manoeuvring

The proposed car parks will be located in the garage and driveway, which is typical for car parking in a residential setting.

5.2 Specific Land Use Requirements

The following car parking requirements apply to the proposal:

- Housing for older people or people with a disability – Refer to State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors and People with a Disability) 2004.

The SEPP referenced in the DCP no longer exists. Two car parking spaces are provided for the proposed Permanent Group Home which complies with Schedule 2 (17) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.

Chapter 4 – Residential Development Controls

4.1.1 Site Context and Analysis

The plans submitted with this application demonstrate how the proposed development responds to site specific conditions and the site has been described in detail previously in this report. The site is within a recently released stage of the Midway Estate which contains vacant land and existing dwellings of a similar size, scale and sitting. The site does not have any specific constraints and the topography is relatively flat.

4.1.2 Streetscapes

The proposed building will have a positive impact on the streetscape. A number of habitable room windows overlook the street to provide for casual surveillance. The proposed garage occupies only a small portion of the frontage and is setback behind the main façade of the building. The building has a clearly identified entry from the street and has been designed to be energy efficient. The external materials and colours will complement existing dwellings in the broader area which have external materials and colours that vary considerably.

4.1.3 Front Setback

The building has a front setback of 4.5m, which is less than the 6m sought within the Wentworth DCP. It is worth noting that 4.5m is a commonly accepted front setback in developing areas and is the minimum requirement to meet the CDC criteria. As such, the proposed front setback is considered to be acceptable and will not bring rise to any character or streetscape related issues. The setback from Pitman Avenue is also greater than the 4 metre setback as required.

4.1.4 Side setbacks and Corner Lot Setbacks

The side setbacks of the proposed building are 3m from the southern boundary, which complies with this Control.

4.1.5 Rear setbacks

The proposed building is located 1.5m from the rear boundary. While this encroaches on the requirements of this clause, it is considered acceptable in this circumstance on the basis that the rear of the building is open and will not dominate views. Additionally, the building is still setback an acceptable distance to not have a detrimental impact on any future development located on the site along Pitman Avenue.

4.1.6. Walls on Boundaries

Not applicable. No walls on boundaries are proposed.

4.1.7 Building heights and overshadowing

The proposed building is unlikely to overshadow the private open space of future dwellings on adjoining lots as it is single storey and has relatively generous boundary setbacks.

4.1.8 Site Coverage

The site coverage is approximately 41%, although it is noted that this control only applies to single dwelling houses and dual occupancies.

4.1.9 Private Open Space

Private open space is well in excess of the 40sqm minimum requirement. There is an area of secluded private open space at the rear of the dwelling also well in excess of 25sqm, with a minimum dimension of 3m accessed from the main living area.

4.1.10 Energy Efficiency and Solar access

Appropriate solar access and energy efficiency is achieved given the orientation of the site and distance between windows and boundaries. A BASIX is not required as a standard residential dwelling is not proposed.

4.1.11 Daylight to existing windows

The proposed building will not impact daylight to existing dwellings as the adjoining land is vacant.

4.1.12 North-facing windows

Not applicable – there are no existing north facing windows within 3m of the boundary.

4.1.13 Overlooking

Not applicable – the proposed building is single storey and will not be notably raised above existing surface levels. A 1.8m high solid boundary fence will provide for privacy between lots.

4.1.14 Fencing and Retaining Walls

No fences or retaining walls are proposed as part of this application. The boundary fence will be made to comply with the *SEPP Exempt and Complying Development Codes 2008* (Part 2, Subdivision 17).

4.1.15 Car Parking and Vehicle Access

Car parking has been discussed previously.

4.1.16 Cut and Fill

As the site is relatively flat, only minimal earthworks are anticipated and will not exceed 0.3m of cut or fill.

State Environmental Planning Polices (SEPP)

SEPP (Housing) 2021 – Chapter 3, Part 2 Group Homes – Clause 62

This Clause contains requirements for consent authorities when determining Development Applications.

General Assessment

Visual Impacts

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Open Space

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Overshadowing and Privacy

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Noise

Only standard domestic mechanical plant will be associated with the proposed building, which will emit noise typical for a residential area.

Erosion Control Measures

No specific erosion control measures are considered necessary for this development. Any minor earthworks will be appropriately battered and retained (if necessary).

Economic and Social Impacts

The proposed building will contribute to the social wellbeing of the Buronga township by providing suitably designed housing to accommodate disabled persons. It also contributes to investment in the Buronga/Gol Gol Area.

Environmental Benefits

Due to the nature of this development, no significant environmental benefits are envisaged.

Disabled Access

The proposed building has been designed to comply with all disabled access standards and the plans have been assessed and certified by an accredited SDA assessor.

Security, Site Facilities and Safety

Not applicable for this application.

Waste Management

Standard domestic waste services will be provided by Council.

National Construction Code

The National Construction Code will be assessed as part of the Construction Certificate process by a Building Surveyor.

Traffic

The proposed building will result in standard domestic travel within the existing road network. This would have been anticipated and accounted for in the design of the subdivision.

Stormwater/flooding

The site is not subject to any identified natural hazards and stormwater will be directed to the legal point of discharge.


CONCLUSION

This report demonstrates that the proposal is consistent with the relevant provisions of the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011* and the *Wentworth DCP*.

The proposed Permanent Group Home is appropriate for the site as it:

- Supports the objectives of the Zone RU5 - Village;
- Is appropriately located on the subject site;
- Will have an acceptable impact on the locality in terms of amenity and visual dominance; and
- Will not result in any detrimental impacts on the environment.

It is considered that the proposal is worthy of support, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Wentworth Shire Council grant Development Consent for the construction of a Permanent Group Home as described in this report at 42 Midway Drive, Buronga.

 <p>Wentworth SHIRE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Health & Planning Department 61 Darling Street PO Box 81 WENTWORTH NSW 2648 Tel: 03 5027 5027 council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>DA Assessment Report Section 4.15 Evaluation</p> <p>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 as amended</p>
---	---	--

File Reference:	DA2024/158 & PAN – 492556
Property Title & Address:	P561/04403 42 Midway Drive Lot 3 DP 1288183 Buronga
Property owner(s):	Sharon Carter
Applicant(s):	JACKSON PLANNING MJJR PTY LTD – Matt Jackson
Proposal:	Permanent Group Home
Previous DAs:	N/A
Cost of proposed development:	\$713,577.06

SITE AND SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT

The subject site comprises of Lot 3 DP 1288183, 42 Midway Drive, Buronga. The lot has an area of 620m² and connects to Pitman Ave to the north and Sturt Highway to the South, connecting through to the developing locality within the Midway area and surrounding locality.

The subject site is zoned within the RU5 – Village zone under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011. The subject site is a rectangular shaped lot with no vegetation removal proposed as site was recently cleared during the subdivision process. The lot is not impacted by easements or environmental factors.

The site is not within the bushfire prone, flood way or flood planning, terrestrial biodiversity, wetlands, or urban release mapped area and contains no known heritage constraints.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks development consent for the construction of a single storey dwelling with garage to be utilised as a permanent group home, which will provide accommodation for people on NDIS plans with ongoing disabilities as per the NDIS requirements. The dwelling is proposed to accommodate three participants and one overnight assistance personnel.

The lot has a total area of 620m² with the dwelling proposed to have a floor area of 256.58m², broken down into the following:

Dwelling: 209.31m² – Garage: 28.17m² – Alfresco: 16.20m² – Porch: 2.89m².

One car parking space suitable for disability requirements is provided within the garage, with a standard parking space accommodated within the driveway area.

HISTORY RELEVANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

N/A

SECTION 4.15-MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

(1) The provisions of any environmental planning instrument and development control plan

State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021

The proposed development is proposed to be located upon on a lot that is under 1ha in size and clear of vegetation following previous subdivision. No native vegetation is to be removed for construction, with no impact to any potential habitat for fauna. The site is not known koala habitat, as such, no assessment required

against Chapters 3 or 4. The proposed development is not located within close proximity to the river or other waterbody, and as such, no assessment is required against Chapter 5.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021

Clause 60 (a) does not identify the land zoning of RU5 as a prescribed zone suitable for group home development, however, clause 60 (b) states that any other zone under an environmental planning instrument where dwelling houses may be carried out with consent is categorised as a prescribed zone.

The RU5 – Village zone under the WLEP 2011 lists dwelling houses as permitted with consent.

Clause 61 identifies that the proposed group home is permitted with consent as it is proposed on land zoned RU5 – Village under the WLEP 2011. In terms of the hierarchy of legislation, the SEPP overrides the WLEP 2011 in terms of any inconsistency as per section 3.28 of the EP&A Act.

Under clause 62 a consent authority (Council) **must not**:

- refuse a group development unless an assessment of the community need has been done
- Impose a condition of consent specifically because a development is a group home.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022

A BASIX Certificate has not been provided as it is not required due to the proposed development being class 3 under the Building Code of Australia.

Further, as it is assumed that the development will be certified as a Class 3 building under the BCA at the construction stage, in line with the *Comprehensive Guide to BASIX*, a BASIX Certificate is not needed.

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011

The proposed development of a permanent group home for the provision of accommodation for participants within the NDIS scheme is permitted with consent and meets the zone objectives of the RU5 – Village zoning under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011, under which the subject site is located. The main supportive objective is to provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village. The development of a NDIS based permanent group home will allow for services for those with disabilities to live mostly independently with assistance.

Objectives of zone

- To provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village.
- To promote development in existing towns and villages in a manner that is compatible with their urban function.
- To encourage well-serviced sustainable development.
- To ensure there are opportunities for economic development.
- To deliver new residential and employment growth in Buronga and Gol Gol.
- To ensure business and retail land uses are grouped within and around existing activity centres.

A group home meets the definition of a dwelling as follows:

dwelling means a room or suite of rooms occupied or used or so constructed or adapted as to be capable of being occupied or used as a separate domicile.

Group home means a permanent group home ~~or a transitional group home~~. Group homes are a type of residential accommodation.

~~Group home (permanent)~~ or permanent group home means a dwelling—

- (a) that is occupied by persons as a single household with or without paid supervision or care and whether or not those persons are related or payment for board and lodging is required, and
- (b) that is used to provide permanent household accommodation for people with a disability or people who are socially disadvantaged,

but does not include development to which [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Housing\) 2021](#), Chapter 3, Part 5 applies.

Clause 7.1 Earthworks

Any earthworks will be conditioned and form part of the approval.

Clause 7.2 Essential Services

Connection of services has been made possible during the previous subdivision of the development site.

Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011

The proposed development is acceptable against the relevant provisions of the Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011 as outlined in the table below.

Wentworth DCP	Chapter 8	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	N/A	Reason
	5.1.1 Site context	X			Positioning of the proposed building on site makes use of available land while leaving space for private open space and providing suitable access for residents of the permanent group home facility. Materials used will compliment other structures in the surrounding area.
	5.1.2 Streetscape	X			The proposed building will be in keeping with few existing developments in the area with windows facing the street for casual surveillance and a garage setback from the facade of the main portion of the building. It is anticipated that future development in the area will be similar and compatible with this DA.
	5.1.3 Front Setback	X			4.5m – does not meet
	5.1.4 Side setbacks	X			Southern: 3.8m – meets Northern: 5.7m – meets
	5.1.5 Rear setback	X			N/A as corner lot – see below table assessment
	5.1.6 Walls on Boundaries			X	N/A as no walls on boundaries
	5.1.7 Building heights and overshadowing			X	N/A as not a two-storey building
	5.1.8 Site Coverage	X			Proposed development does not cover more than 60% of site (41%)
	5.1.9 Private open space	X			Ample room for private open space available
	5.1.10 Energy & solar access	X			<i>Proposed development meets requirements of the Energy Efficiency Compliance Assessment</i>

	5.1.11 Daylight to existing windows	X			No impact anticipated from the single storey building to surrounding neighbours.
	5.1.12 North facing windows			X	N/A as no north facing windows within 3m of boundary.
	5.1.13 Overlooking			X	N/A as development approval is for a single storey building
	5.1.14 Fencing and retaining walls			X	N/A approval not for fencing or retaining walls
	5.1.15 Car parking and vehicle access	X			The site provides for one (1) disability access car parking spaces within the garage as per requirements under the Housing SEPP one space within the garage and another singular space is provided in the driveway of the proposed development site. Access to the site is provided via a crossover to council standards to be detailed within conditions of consent. Two parking spaces in total, one being to disability standards.
	5.1.16 Cut and fill	X			Earthworks will be conditioned as part of approval

Development Control	WDCP 2011 requirement for RU5 Village zone	Proposed Permanent Group Home
Front setback	6m minimum	4.5m
North side setback	1m minimum	5.7m
South side setback	1m minimum	3.8m
Rear setback	3m minimum	N/A – corner lot

The front setback does not meet DCP requirements of 6m, being only 4.5m, however, many new developments in newly subdivided areas are utilising a front setback of only 4.5m to allow better use of allotment space. Additionally, other developments in the surrounding area have front setbacks under the required 6m, even down to 3m.

As the subject site is a corner lot, there is no rear setback requirement. To support this however, the side setbacks meet the requirements of a 1m minimum, as seen on the provided plans. Further, the applicant has identified in justification within their planning report that the surrounding area of the proposed dwelling is open and no impact to views or land use from provided setbacks will be seen and has stated that the proposed development will not impact any future development on the site along Pitman Avenue.

(2) The provisions of any draft environmental planning instrument

There is no Division 3.4 draft environmental planning instrument that affect the proposed development. (Post 1 July 2009 LEP amendments).

(3) Any matters prescribed by regulations

There are no further matters prescribed by regulations.

(4) The likely impacts of the development

There are no likely impacts from the proposal as discussed in the table below.

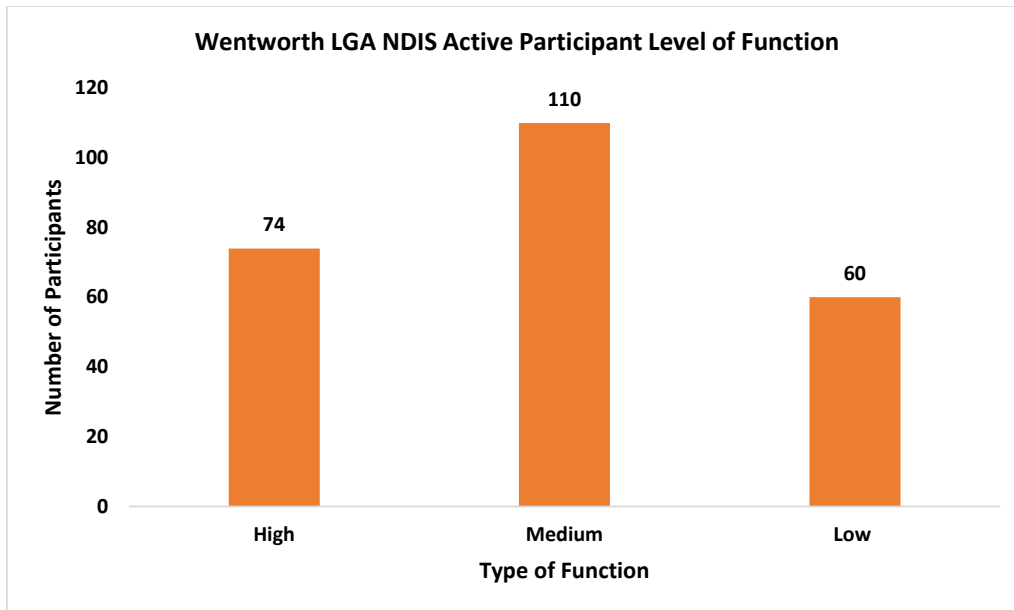
Impact item (insert an 'x' in the relevant section)	Acceptable	Not acceptable	Not relevant	Comment
Context and setting	X			The proposed permanent group home building will look similar in external design to the few existing residential developments in the immediate area
Public domain & Streetscape	X			The proposed permanent group home building meets the required setbacks as provided and justified in assessment above (DCP)
Landscaping			X	Not part of this application
Stormwater	X			Discharge to legal point of Councils stormwater system to be conditioned
Heritage	X			None on site
Soils & Soils Erosion	X			Earthworks and erosion control to be conditioned as part of approval
Air and microclimate	X			No effect from proposed development anticipated
Water Resources	X			Noted – development located adequate distance from water sources
Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna)	X			As the site was cleared of any vegetation during the subdivision process – no effect on existing flora or fauna,
Land Resources	X			None known at this site
Utilities	X			Utilities are available to the property
Access & Parking	X			Adequate access and parking are available to the site, development provides disability parking space as per requirements in line with Housing SEPP and
Roads & Traffic	X			Increase to area anticipated during construction with slight increase as new residents move into the completed building
Solar Access and Energy Efficiency	X			Will be required to meet energy requirements of Part J1 of the BCA
Overshadowing			X	Not relevant as surrounding land vacant and single storey development
Privacy & Overlooking			X	Not relevant as single storey building
Flooding			X	Not in flood planning area
Bushfire Prone Area			X	Property not within bushfire prone land
Noise	X			Only significant increase anticipated during construction, then residential noise ongoing
Technological hazards	X			No known hazards on site or anticipated
Safety, Security & Crime Prevention	X			No detrimental effects anticipated from development in this location. Windows facing street will provide casual surveillance
Social and Economic Impacts	X			No detrimental effects anticipated

The NDIS outlines high physical support SDA housing as *housing that includes a high level of physical access for people who need very high levels of support. For example, you may need a ceiling hoist, backup power supply, or home automation and communication technology.*

Further, level of functioning is defined as:

“The umbrella term for any or all of body functions, body structures, activities and participation. Level of function indicates the impact a participant's disability has on how a person is able to perform tasks and actions in a life area, as represented by a ‘severity score’ ‘High functioning’ indicates lower service and support requirements with a lower severity score, and ‘low functioning’ indicates higher service and support requirements with a higher severity score.”

Graph 1: Total Level of Function for Participants within the Wentworth LGA (Explore data NDIS. <https://dataresearch.ndis.gov.au/explore-data> current as of 9 January 2025).



The above graph shows that there are (an estimated) 60 active NDIS participants with requirements for higher service and support requirements, being low functioning and therefore having a high severity score. This website also identifies there are under 11 active participants with SIL/SDA funding, which would be on the basis that there are no SDA places available in the Wentworth LGA. Low functioning participants as per the level of functioning definition require higher levels of support.

From the same dataset, there are (an estimated) 244 active participants who have been deemed eligible and have an approved plan under the NDIS. This dataset does not encompass all of those with disabilities that require support within the Wentworth LGA, indicating there may be more not accounted for as they are not active participants or are waiting for availability.

The Inquiry Report: Own Motion Inquiry into Aspects of Supported Accommodation (NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, January 2023)

The above report states the following on page 23:

- *a suburban house (SDA or otherwise) where a group of people with disability live together, each with their own bedroom (sometimes with ensuite), sharing a common living room, kitchen, bathroom and garden, and with an area of the house used as office space for staff.*
- *a number of suburban houses (as above) located in relatively close proximity to each other, sometimes with direct links between each of the houses (for example through a garden gate), with a team leader or manager overseeing supports across the network.*

This reinforces the ability for SDA dwellings to be located in close proximity to one another.

Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026

The Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 has a focus area that directly identifies housing for those with disabilities – 2; Livable Communities which states the following:

Increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health and wellbeing.

The plan, in line with the identified focus area aims to attribute to the positive experience of those with a disability, their families and supporters, through access to community places, buildings and events.

As there are currently no SDA housing facilities within the LGA, the proposal to develop them is in line with the Disability Inclusion Action Plan with the aim of providing housing, eliminating the barrier of housing access to those that require it.

Further, the following are direct quotes from the plan:

“To create liveable communities, we need to focus our attention and resources on the elements of community life that most people desire. To create liveable communities for people with disability, we must do more than modify the physical environment; we must advocate for such aspects such as accessible housing, access to transport, community recreation, social engagement and universal design.”

“The attitude and behaviours of the general community toward people with disability can be the greatest barrier to full access and inclusion. Community attitudes can further be influenced by the intersection of the particular characteristics of a person with disability, such as gender, age, ethnicity, or type of disability itself.”

“Inclusiveness and accessibility for people with disability forms a crucial component of the assessment of the liveability of any community. Council will work to eliminate the barriers in the built environment and advocate for improved transport, housing and local supports that prevent people with disability from fully engaging with the opportunities that exist within their communities.”

Approach to characterization and permissibility under LEPs

It needs to be noted that the development of Permanent Group Homes is permitted under legislation, both the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing).

The case of *Botany Bay City Council v Pet Carriers International PTY Limited* [2013] NSWLEC 147 reiterates that land use tables within LEPs can use many means by which to define what development is permissible by identifying either *nominate* or *innominate* purposes.

His Honor, Preston CJ, stated the following:

A nominate purpose is one which the environmental planning instrument expressly nominates by name as being within one of the three classifications. Hence, the land use table for a zone may nominate particular categories of purposes of development as being within the classifications of development that may be carried out without consent, development that may be carried out with consent, or development that is prohibited.

An innominate purpose is one which the environmental planning instrument does not nominate by name as being within one of the three classifications, but rather identifies as falling within a particular classification by reason of it not being nominated in other classifications; it is development other than development in the other classifications. Hence, the land use table for a

zone may classify as prohibited development, development for a purpose other than a purpose nominated as being able to be carried out without consent or with consent.

In the case of permanent group homes, as they are not directly identified within the RU5 – Village zoning as an independent type of development but fall under “any other development not specified in items 2 or 4”, they are therefore innominate and permissible with consent.

(Compatibility Test) Project Venture Developments Pty Ltd v Pittwater Council [2005]

There are many dictionary definitions of compatible. The most apposite meaning in an urban design context is capable of existing together in harmony. Compatibility is thus different from sameness. It is generally accepted that buildings can exist together in harmony without having the same density, scale, or appearance, though as the difference in these attributes increases, harmony is harder to achieve.

The physical impacts, such as noise, overlooking, overshadowing, and constraining development potential, can be assessed with relative objectivity. In contrast, to decide whether or not a new building appears to be in harmony with its surroundings is a more subjective task. Analysing the existing context and then testing the proposal against it can, however, reduce the degree of subjectivity.

For a new development to be visually compatible with its context, it should contain, or at least respond to, the essential elements that make up the character of the surrounding urban environment. In some areas, planning instruments or urban design studies have already described the urban character. In others (the majority of cases), the character needs to be defined as part of a proposal’s assessment. The most important contributor to urban character is the relationship of built form to surrounding space, a relationship that is created by building height, setbacks, and landscaping. In special areas, such as conservation areas, architectural style and materials are also contributors to character.

In order to test whether a proposal is compatible with its context, two questions should be asked.

- *Are the proposal’s physical impacts on surrounding development acceptable? The physical impacts include constraints on the development potential of surrounding sites. (Test One)*
- *Is the proposal’s appearance in harmony with the buildings around it and the character of the street? (Test two)*

Test One:

The proposal of a permanent group home, being constructed as a dwelling, does not constitute any physical impacts on the surrounding development. The surrounding development consists of dwellings with outbuildings.

Physical impacts will not occur as the development design is that of similar size, scale and sitting to existing development in the immediate and surrounding area. The applicant has identified the permanent group homes to have external materials and colouring that complements existing dwellings in the surrounding area.

It should be noted that Wendy Court itself, where the main streetscape occurs, has minimal development existing, being two dwellings and an allotment with an outbuilding.

There will be no issues regarding side setbacks as a physical constraint, as setbacks adhere to requirements under the Wentworth Development Control Plan, some rear setbacks do not meet requirements, but it should be noted that habitable building space does not encroach the setbacks, only alfresco areas that are open in design. Front setbacks may not meet the required 6m, however, as discussed in the DCP assessment, in newly developed areas, setbacks from the front boundary can be accepted at 4.5m for RU5 – Village zoned land.

Test Two:

The proposal of a permanent group home will be in harmony with the development within the estate area. Permanent group homes are designed as and meet definitions of dwellings, which is the main development in the estate area and will not alter the harmonic design, rather increasing development in the area and encouraging use of the RU5 – Village zoning whereby a range of services and facilities need to be available, including disability accommodation for the impacted community members.

Harmony is often defined as “the quality of a pleasing and consistent whole”, with the permanent group homes not causing impact as the development will be that of dwellings in a residential area attributing to the existing use and character of the estate. Impact to Summer Drive through harmonious development should not be impacted due to separating fences and differing streetscapes (existing development vs minimally existing development).

The permanent group homes will be of the same design, therefore harmonious to themselves and attributing to consistency of the area.

The permanent group homes are dwellings and will not impact the character of the area. The use of each dwelling is subject to residential purposes such as long term accommodation, which is provided through the group homes. The use of existing dwellings in the area is no different to the accommodation purposes of the group homes, with additional assistance for the residents of the group homes required.

New Century Developments Pty Limited v Baulkham Hills Shire Council [2003] NSWLEC 154 revised - 5/09/2003 (social impact, large number of objectors, character and amenity of area).

The above caselaw provides examples of amenity, reiterates development characteristics and any further associated issues, as well as substance of community responses to proposed development.

“(61) In circumstances such as the present case, however, the consent authority must not blindly accept the subjective fears and concerns expressed in the public submissions. Whilst such views must be taken into consideration, there must be evidence that can be objectively assessed before a finding can be made of an adverse effect upon the amenity of the area... the views of residents of the area, those views will be accorded little, if any, weight if there is no objective, specific, concrete, observable likely consequence of the establishment of the proposed use.”

The above quote from the caselaw states plainly that evidence must be provided for submissions to be assessed. Council cannot take submissions with little to no planning grounds as having an adverse impact to the development of what is defined legally as a permanent group home under the WLEP 2011.

There are no specific issues raised in submissions received regarding the proposed group home development.

Submissions received as objections rather centre around the use of the development and those that would use it, however, this is not for Council to mandate as we are not the managing authority, only the consent authority. Submissions referenced the following:

- Property valuation
- Proximity of group homes to each other
- Behaviour concerns of NDIS participants
- Potential for property damage
- Disturbances caused by NDIS participants
- Location of group homes in locality for NDIS participant access to services
- Lack of Council transparency

“(64) The assessment of the specific objections raised by the local residents shows that the concerns raised by them, objectively assessed, must be afforded little weight. As is shown by the consideration of the specific objections, discussed above, they appear to have little basis in fact.”

The above quote from the caselaw states that if concerns have been assessed based on the objectives (mainly directed at NDIS management and use of the proposed group home dwelling – therefore not specific legislative planning grounds), then submissions **must** be afforded little weight, therefore not considered as little fact is apparent.

“(71) In summary, I have concluded that the proposed development would be compatible with the rural residential character of the area and would not have an adverse impact on the amenity of the area, including social impact. While I recognise that there is strong community opposition to the proposal and that the residents have real fears, these fears must have foundation and a rational basis, which in this case is absent.”

The above quote from the caselaw states that the ultimate outcome of the case as decided by the Judge, was that the proposed development was compatible with the character of the existing area and would not have an impact on the amenity of the area. Community opposition was recognised but the concerns were found to have no foundation or rational basis (planning grounds).

In relation to the proposed group home, no planning grounds for the proposal are seen, merely concerned community members referencing issues relative to unjustified fears based on the use of the development. No foundation (fundamentals of planning legislation) are presented by submitters, as addressed by Council.

Understanding the Local Impact of New Residential Development: a Pilot Study

Christine Whitehead and Emma Sagor with Ann Edge and Bruce Walker

LSE London April 2015

The report identifies that opposition to new dwelling development is driven by local communities feeling that they will gain little benefit from new dwellings and that negative impacts may arise, such as infrastructure pressure and lack of services, as well as residential valuation impacts.

The report solidifies and states that planning literature does not often and is not required to, address impacts to housing valuation or pricing as this is not directly related to planning decisions which are assessed against relevant legislation, as well as broader economic, environmental, and social factors.

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011

The WLEP 2011 provides the following definition for permanent group homes:

group home (permanent) or permanent group home means a dwelling—

- (a) that is occupied by persons as a single household with or without paid supervision or care and whether or not those persons are related or payment for board and lodging is required, and*
- (b) that is used to provide permanent household accommodation for people with a disability or people who are socially disadvantaged*

It should be noted that the plans provided by the applicant indicate “NDIS High Physical Support SDA” with design considering wider doorways, ceiling hoists, accessible parking (garage), and ensuites tailored for required needs (rails etc.), with an adjustable bench in the kitchen.

The people anticipated to use these dwellings are those with disabilities, and not those who are socially disadvantaged, however, Council are not the management authority and cannot dictate who will utilize these developments.

(5) The suitability of the site for development

The site is suitable for the proposed permanent group home building as it is not anticipated to have any adverse impact on the locality, however, six submissions were received. The proposed development is permitted within the RU5 – Village zoning area under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011. The development provides the area with greater flexibility in housing and facilitates options for people with a disability under the NIDS scheme to become independent within the community, while receiving care when required. The character and use of the proposed development is consistent with other proposed developments in the immediate area.

(6) Any submissions made in accordance with this Act or Regulation

The application was notified for 14 days as per the Wentworth Community Participation Plan. 13 submissions were received objecting to the application within the notification period.

Further submissions as objections have been received to date (7 March 2025), however, as these do not explicitly identify a development application and only state “Midway Estate Group Homes” or the like and have been received outside the mandatory exhibition period (by over a week or more), these will not be accepted and utilised for assessment purposes against this development.

Proforma submissions were received, however, most were accompanied by additional individual comments, thus creating unique submissions.

The following list identifies concerns raised within the submissions received:

- Concentration of proposed group homes is a concern for general security of existing residents
- Close proximity of proposed group homes to each other
- 20 Wendy Court having a rear setback of 2.4m not 3m
- Lack of facilities in vicinity of proposed group home sites
- Proximity to childcare facility and congestion in this area
- Lack of communication from Council
- Impact to property valuation and appeal of Midway area
- Potential for property damage – no measures to protect neighbouring properties
- Increased disturbances in the area from potential residents of group homes
- Increased noise and traffic levels in the area
- Proposed group homes will be unjustified high-density development

Applicant response to submissions:

- Fires can occur in other developments (such as dwellings), nonetheless the houses are equipped with fire sprinklers.
- Group homes by their definition should be located within a residential area; it is very common to have dwellings and homes in residential areas.
- The Wentworth LEP is not able to dictate who lives within the proposed group homes, nor should any person who lives within the area.

Council Officer Comment:

- The proposed group homes meet legislative requirements under the State Environmental Planning Policy – Housing 2021 and have been deemed as suitably designed for their purpose through applicant provided information.
- Setbacks provided within the Wentworth Shire Council Development Control Plan – justification in place to vary the setbacks within the DCP
- There are facilities and community infrastructure in close proximity to the development area

- The proximity to a childcare facility should not be of concern as traffic congestion here during the day will be minimal (early morning, mid evening) and the childcare is fenced and secure.
- In a planning perspective high-density development is defined as *development that is greater than three storeys high, typically referred to as residential flat buildings or apartments* (Georges River Council LEP). The proposed development does not meet this definition. Low density residential areas are made up of detached dwellings, dual occupancies, and multi dwelling housing, however, as the zone attributed to this being R2 – Low Density Residential, which is not occurring in the Wentworth LGA, this does not apply and constraints as per the zoning seen (RU5 – Village) will be relied upon.
- The group homes pose no further threat to noise of traffic than a regular dwelling (not for group homes purposes) would. These issues have been assessed in the applicants Statement of Environmental Effects adequately.
- Council has a LEP and DCP that aid in assessment of proposals such as this, there is no planning strategy for specialised housing, only the Housing SEPP, which permits these developments if applied for a DA and within an approved zoning.

(7) The public interest

The proposed development is consistent with public interest as it will have no detrimental effect on the surrounding area.

Social impact equates to the consequences that people experience when a new proposal for development will alter their known environment. This could be through acoustic, amenity, way of life, health and wellbeing, and property impacts. Submissions in regard to the proposed group home have shown that the development proposed is seen as a concern to the surrounding community.

The social impacts as identified by concerned residents in submissions both within and outside of the exhibition period for the proposed group home (singular development on a singular allotment) are not linked to the development of a permanent group home, instead, are aligned with the users and management authority of the group home following construction. No noise, amenity, traffic or other detrimental impacts are envisaged from a, by definition, permanent group home in a residentially established area.

Approval of the proposed group home would benefit the disabled community of the shire, which under the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2022 -2026), housing is a provision that needs to occur and is heavily identified. Although the population requiring this accommodation may not encompass a wider community, the housing type is beneficial to the expanding Buronga / Gol Gol and wider areas of the entire shire and is also important being a border community. A total of 13 submissions objecting to the development were received during the exhibition period, however matters raised were similar in nature with no detrimental planning concerns raised. Most concerns are specific to management and users of group homes in general, or the infrastructure of the area that would have been considered during the subdivision stage. It is worth noting that nearly all submissions state that the submitter recognises the need for the housing type in the shire.

The Land and Environment Court in *New Century Developments Pty Limited v Baulkham Hills Shire Council* (2003) 127 LGERA 303; [2003] NSWLEC 154 (New Century) at [60] adjudged that a development that causes such great offence to a large portion of the community that it ought to be refused amounts to a detrimental social impact.

However, at [62] the case law identifies that fears or concerns without rational or justified foundations are not matters which, by themselves, can be considered as an amenity or social impact pursuant to s 79C(1) (now s 4.15) of the EP&A Act. Where there is no evidence to support a rational fear, it will not be relevant and be of the basis that community members have altered their everyday actions and thoughts based on the concept of the use of permanent group homes, therefore are seen due to unjustified fears, in this case, whereby broad assumptions have been made about the use of permanent group homes.

In this case Council received 13 objections to the DA (within the exhibition timeframe), mainly from residents living nearby and from within the broader urban area. The objections principally related to impacts to property value, childcare proximity, disturbances from residents of proposed group homes, lack of facilities in the area, proximity of group homes to each other, insufficient infrastructure to support high-needs users, impact of living in the area for NDIS participants, potential for traffic increase and property damage from users.

Assessment of social impacts relating to the proposed development of a permanent group home needs to be based on fact and evidence, not community perceptions or potential unjustified fears. It needs to be reiterated that the assessment and approval or refusal of a development application is to be made under the planning legislation.

The social impacts as perceived by local residents are noted and have been addressed through conditions of consent or general assessment. Council cannot dictate who utilises the group home upon completion and following issuance of an occupation certificate as long as users are those permitted under the definition of permanent group home. Residents of the area seem to hold unjustified fears of those from within the disabled community who would be using the group homes for impacts to their lives and everyday activities.

At the February Council Meeting (12 February 2025) members of the public gallery spoke against the development of group home “clusters”, citing isolation of potential residents, heightened noise and vehicular impacts, minimised liveability of the wider community, emergency vehicle access and availability, NDIS requirements and reports that are not indicative of town planning requirements, DCP non-compliance, and the institutionalisation of NDIS participants. The abovementioned have been considered in the assessment and are not considered detrimental social impacts as they are perceived impacts or unjustified concerns, with no reference to applicant supplied assessment material. Concerns have been adequately given weight where required in line with provided substance of submissions. Submissions and voiced concerns have not been of strict planning grounds and can be viewed as unjust when referencing the disabled community.

The development of a permanent group home, defined under the WLEP 2011 as a dwelling, is not anticipated to create negative social impacts on the locality. The specific users are not for Council to mandate through the development approval processes. A combination of abovementioned impacts will not lead to negative impacts or experiences in the area. The development of a permanent group home, in a residential area with minimal development as per this assessment should be greatly considered for aesthetic and crime prevention (CPED) purposes. The more houses/development in a subdivision, street facing windows and cars around development, all attribute to making an area safer both through surveillance and lively areas.

On balance, the proposed permanent group home in a land zoning supporting group homes under both the WLEP 2011 and the Housing SEPP 2021, the benefits to the disabled community and no negative impact anticipated to the social streetscape or overall amenity of the area, when weighted against the minimal substance of the submissions, does not justly warrant refusal of this development application.

Should concerns arise from the permanent group home operation, Council will properly investigate and take compliance action as needed to matters within our jurisdiction.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL INTERNAL DEPARTMENTS

Department	Referred Y/N	Comments
Building	Y	BCA Classification: 3 and 10a <u>Comments</u>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eave of dwelling encroaches into the 1.5m setback to a fire source feature (boundary) where an FRL is required. Discussed with Building Surveyor and he advised that he is sure that the eave is an allowable encroachment and will follow up. Otherwise, a performance solution will be sought. This matter will therefore not affect the determination of a DA as it is the certifiers responsibility to ensure BCA compliance via DTS or a performance solution. <p>Approval under S68 of the Local Government Act must be obtained prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying out of water supply work. Carrying out sewerage work. Connection to Sewer.
Subdivision Engineer	N	
Roads & Engineering	N	
Finance & Policy	N	
Heritage Advisor	N	
Environmental Health	N	
Local Laws	N	
Floodplain Mgt Committee	N	
Sustainable Infrastructure	N	


CONCLUSIONS

- 1. General comments:**
- 2. The proposal satisfies the points for consideration listed under Section 4.15 part b, c, d and e of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*.**
- 3. The proposal occurs on land zoned RU5 - Village. The proposal is not considered to have detrimental impact on the site and surrounds.**
- 4. The proposal is consistent with the Wentworth Shire Development Control Plan (Dec 2011). The proposal meets Chapter 8 of the provisions set out in the Wentworth Development Control Plan 2011.**
- 5. The proposed permanent group home accords with the relevant objectives and provisions of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.**
- 6. There is no draft local environmental plan affecting the proposed development.**

Recommendation:

Approve the application subject to conditions

Delegate report author	Delegated approval and endorsement
Signature: 	Signature: 
Georgie Martin Cadet Planning Officer	George Kenende Acting Director Health & Planning
Date: 07/03/2025	Date: 7/03/2025

 <p>Wentworth SHIRE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Health & Planning Department 61 Darling Street PO Box 81 WENTWORTH NSW 2648 Tel: 03 5027 5027 council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>TEMPLATE CONDITIONS</p>
---	--	-----------------------------------

DA2024/158 PERMANENT GROUP HOME WITH GARAGE 42 MIDWAY DRIVE LOT 3 DP 1288183

BURONGA

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.	<p>Approved development</p> <p>Approval is for a permanent group home with garage.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved development.</p>
2.	<p>Approved Plans and Documentation</p> <p>The development shall be in accordance with the following plans, documentation and recommendations made there in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Plan by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-689; Sheet No: 2 of 5; Date: 14/05/24. • Floor Plan by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-689; Sheet No: 3 of 5; Date: 14/05/24. • Elevations (W & E) by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-689; Sheet No: 4 of 5; Date: 14/05/24. • Elevations (N & S) by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-689; Sheet No: 5 of 5; Date: 14/05/2025/24. <p>In the event of any inconsistency between the approved plans and the supporting documentation, the approved plans prevail. In the event of any inconsistency between the approved plans and a condition of this consent, the condition prevails.</p> <p>Note: an inconsistency occurs between an approved plan and supporting documentation or between an approved plan and a condition when it is not possible to comply with both at the relevant time.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved plans and supporting documentation that applies to the development.</p>
3.	<p>Compliance with Building Code of Australia and insurance requirements under Home Building Act 1989</p> <p>1. It is a condition of a development consent for development that involves building work that the work must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. It is a condition of a development consent for development that involves residential building work for which a contract of insurance is required under the Home Building Act 1989, Part 6 that a contract of insurance is in force before building work authorised to be carried out by the consent commences. 3. It is a condition of a development consent for a temporary structure used as an entertainment venue that the temporary structure must comply with Part B1 and NSW Part H102 in Volume 1 of the Building Code of Australia. 4. In subsection (1), a reference to the Building Code of Australia is a reference to the Building Code of Australia as in force on the day on which the application for the construction certificate was made. 5. In subsection (3), a reference to the Building Code of Australia is a reference to the Building Code of Australia as in force on the day on which the application for development consent was made. 6. This section does not apply- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to the extent to which an exemption from a provision of the Building Code of Australia or a fire safety standard is in force under the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, or b. to the erection of a temporary building, other than a temporary structure to which subsection (3) applies. <p>Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 69 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.</p>
4.	<p>Erection of signs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This section applies to a development consent for development involving building work, subdivision work or demolition work. 2. It is a condition of the development consent that a sign must be erected in a prominent position on a site on which building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. showing the name, address and telephone number of the principal certifier for the work, and b. showing the name of the principal contractor, if any, for the building work and a telephone number on which the principal contractor may be contacted outside working hours, and c. stating that unauthorised entry to the work site is prohibited. 3. The sign must be- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. maintained while the building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out, and b. removed when the work has been completed. 4. This section does not apply in relation to- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. building work, subdivision work or demolition work carried out inside an existing building, if the work does not affect the external walls of the building, or b. Crown building work certified to comply with the Building Code of Australia under the Act, Part 6. <p>Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 70 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.</p>

	Assessment Regulation 2021.
5.	<p>Lapsing of Approval</p> <p>Without the further consent of the Wentworth Shire Council, in writing, this permit shall lapse and have no force or effect unless the use or development hereby permitted is physically commenced within 5 years of the date of this permit.</p> <p>Condition reason: Ensure everyone is aware of the lapsing of the approval.</p>
6.	<p>Works outside the property boundary</p> <p>This development consent does not authorise works outside the property boundaries on adjoining lands.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all approved works occur within the property boundaries.</p>

BUILDING WORK

BEFORE ISSUE OF A CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

7.	<p>7.12 Contribution</p> <p>Before the issue of the relevant construction certificate, the applicant must pay a total contribution of \$7135.77 as calculated at the date of this consent to Wentworth Shire Council pursuant to the adopted Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan.</p> <p>Note: The total amount payable may be adjusted at the time payment is made per clause 3.10 of the Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the 7.12 Developer Contributions are paid.</p>
8.	<p>Access Point</p> <p>Before the issue of a Construction Certificate, the beneficiary of this consent must build a driveway crossing for the subject land (if one doesn't exist) to Council standards.</p> <p>Access during construction shall only be through the driveway crossing of the subject land.</p> <p>Condition reason: To control vehicular movement on road crossings.</p>
9.	<p>Building Material</p> <p>The proposed building/s and structure/s shall be clad in an approved non-reflective material e.g. Colourbond.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the materials of the building not impact the visual amenity of the surrounding character of the area.</p>
10.	<p>Construction Site Management Plan</p> <p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the applicant must ensure a construction site management plan is prepared before it is provided to and approved by the certifier. The plan must</p>

	<p>include the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • location and materials for protective fencing and hoardings to the perimeter on the site • provisions for public safety • pedestrian and vehicular site access points and construction activity zones • details of construction traffic management, including proposed truck movements to and from the site and estimated frequency of those movements, and measures to preserve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the site • protective measures for on-site tree preservation (including in accordance with AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites) and trees in adjoining public domain • details of any bulk earthworks to be carried out • location of site storage areas and sheds • equipment used to carry out all works< • a garbage container with a tight-fitting lid • dust, noise and vibration control measures • location of temporary toilets. <p>The applicant must ensure a copy of the approved construction site management plan is kept on-site at all times during construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure construction works are adequately managed to protect the surrounding amenity.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Erosion and Sediment Control</p> <p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent is to ensure that an erosion and sediment control plan is prepared in accordance with the following documents before it is provided to and approved by the certifier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the guidelines set out in the NSW Department of Housing manual Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Certificate (the Blue Book), and • the ‘Do it Right On-Site, Soil and Water Management for the Construction Industry’; (Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and the Natural Heritage Trust). <p>The applicant must ensure the erosion and sediment control plan is kept onsite at all times during site works and construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure no substance other than rainwater enters the stormwater system and waterways.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Fire Safety Schedule</p> <p>Prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate, pursuant to Part 10 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021 (as amended) a Fire Safety Schedule is to be submitted to the Principal Certifying Authority. The Fire Safety Schedule must include matters prescribed in clause 79 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021 (as amended).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure compliance with Fire Safety requirements.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Long Service Levy</p>

	<p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent is to ensure that the person liable pays the long service levy as calculated at the operational date of this consent to the Long Service Corporation or Council under section 34 of the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Act 1986 and provides proof of this payment to the certifier.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the long service levy is paid.</p>
--	--

<p>14.</p>	<p>Payment of Security Deposits <i>This condition applies to all construction works \$25,001 and above.</i></p> <p>Before the commencement of any works on the site or the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent must make all of the following payments to Council and provide written evidence of these payments to the certifier:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$232.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The payments will be used for the cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making good any damage caused to any council property (including street trees, kerb, road etc) as a consequence of carrying out the works to which the consent relates, • completing any public work such as roadwork, kerbing and guttering, footway construction, stormwater drainage and environmental controls, required in connection with this consent, and • any inspection carried out by Council in connection with the completion of public work or the making good any damage to council property. <p>The Infrastructure Bond will be returned on completion of the construction of the proposed development, subject to no damage being done to any council property (including street trees, kerb, road etc) as a consequence of carrying out the works to which the consent relates. The owner / developer is to arrange an inspection with an Officer of Wentworth Shire Council before any work commences on site. Any damage incurred to Council infrastructure will be repaired at the owners / developers expense and the balance of the Infrastructure Bond will be returned to the owner / developer on completion of the construction.</p> <p>Note: The inspection fee includes Councils fees and charges and includes the Public Road and Footpath Infrastructure Inspection Fee (under the Roads Act 1993). The amount payable must be in accordance with councils fees and charges at the payment date.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure any damage to public infrastructure is rectified and public works can be created.</p>	Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):	\$3,000.00	Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)	\$232.00
Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):	\$3,000.00				
Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)	\$232.00				
<p>15.</p>	<p>Plumbing and Drainage Before issuance of the Construction Certificate, a Plumbing and Drainage Application under</p>				

	<p>Section 68 of the Local Government Act NSW 1993 is to be submitted to and approved by Council before any plumbing and drainage works (water and sewerage).</p> <p>Note: All stormwater from the site is to be directed towards a legal point of discharge. All plumbing and drainage work is to be carried out by a plumber and drainer, or other authorised person, licensed with the New South Wales Department of Fair Trading.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure plumbing and drainage works are carried out appropriately.</p>
16.	<p>Road reserve landscaping Lawn must be used for landscaping within the road reserve. Any other form of landscaping in the road reserve must be approved by Council.</p> <p>Condition Reason: To ensure appropriate landscaping is used in road reserve.</p>
17.	<p>Utilities and services - water and sewerage Raw water, filtered water and sewerage are available and are to be connected to Council's services. Dual water supply lines are to be provided from the front boundary of the property. One line is to convey filtered water to all fittings within the building and the other line to convey unfiltered water to all fittings outside the building i.e. garden taps, etc. A separate application is to be made to Council for approval to connect to Council's water mains prior to commencing any plumbing and drainage work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure relevant utility and service providers requirements are provided to the certifier.</p>
18.	<p>Waste management plan Before the issue of a construction certificate, the applicant is to ensure that a waste management plan is prepared in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines and the following requirements before it is provided to and approved by the certifier:</p> <p>Details the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the contact details of the person(s) removing the waste • an estimate of the waste (type and quantity) and whether the waste is expected to be • reused, recycled or go to landfill • the address of the disposal location(s) where the waste is to be taken <p>The applicant must ensure the waste management plan is referred to in the construction site management plan and kept on-site at all times during construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure resource recovery is promoted and local.</p>
19.	<p>Works in Road Reserve A Road Opening Permit is required from the Wentworth Shire Council prior to any works or excavation within the road reserve including but not limited to: water tapping, sewer, driveway crossings, tree planting or removal etc.</p> <p>Please contact Council's Roads & Engineering Department on Tel: (03) 5027 5027 to arrange a</p>

	<p>permit.</p> <p>Condition reason: To control development in the road reserve.</p>
--	--

BEFORE BUILDING WORK COMMENCES

20.	<p>Construction Certificates and Appointment of Principal Certifier Prior to the commencement of any building works, the following requirements must be complied with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Construction Certificate must be obtained from the Council or an Accredited Certifier, in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, • A Principal Certifier must be appointed, and Council must be notified in writing of the appointment irrespective of whether Council or a Registered Certifier is appointed; and notify Council in writing of their intention to commence work (at least two [2] days' notice is required). <p>Condition reason: To ensure building works complies with relevant legislation and other codes.</p>
21.	<p>Contractor details notification The certifying authority must advise Council, in writing of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name and contractor licence number of the licensee who has been contracted to do or intends to do the work, or 2. The name and permit of the owner-builder who intends to do the work. <p>If these arrangements are changed, or if a contract is entered into for the work to be done by a different licensee, Council must be immediately informed.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure building work is carried out by licensed contractor.</p>
22.	<p>Dial before you dig Underground assets may exist in the area that is subject to your application. In the interest of health and safety and in order to protect damage to third party assets please contact Dial before you dig at www.1100.com.au or telephone 1100 before excavating or erecting structures (This is the law in NSW). If alterations are required to the configuration, size, form or design of the development upon contact the Dial before You Dig service, an amendment to the development consent (or a new development application) may be necessary.</p> <p>Individuals owe asset owners a duty of care that must be observed when working in the vicinity of plant or assets. It is the individuals responsibility to anticipate and request the nominal location of plant or assets on the relevant property via contacting the Dial before you dig service in advance of any construction or planning activities."</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure existing infrastructure is identified.</p>
23.	<p>Erosion and sediment controls in place Before the commencement of any site or building work, the developer must be satisfied the erosion and sediment controls in the erosion and sediment control plan, (as approved by Council)</p>

	<p>are in place until the site is rectified (at least 70% ground cover achieved over any bare ground on site).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure runoff and site debris do not impact local stormwater systems and waterways.</p>
24.	<p>Notice of commencement of works Subject to approval to commence works two days before any site works, building or demolition begins, the beneficiary of this consent must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forward to Council notice of commencement of work and appointment of Principal Certifying Authority. 2. Notify the adjoining owners that work will commence. <p>Condition reason: To provide notification of works commencing.</p>
25.	<p>Rubbish/Waste Management Throughout the construction period, from commencement of work, a suitable rubbish containment structure is to be located on site and utilised.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the construction site is kept clean and safe at all times.</p>
26.	<p>Storage of materials Throughout the construction period, from commencement of work, the storage of materials is not permitted on footpaths, roadways or in reserves. Rubbish and building materials must be contained on the site.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the construction materials are stored on site in a tidy & safe manner.</p>
27.	<p>Toilet facilities Toilet facilities are to be provided on or in the vicinity of the building site. The toilet must be connected to a public sewer, or if connection to a public sewer is not practicable, an approved chemical closet. The toilet facility must be installed on-site prior to the commencement of any other work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure workers and contractors have access to amenities on site.</p>
28.	<p>Tree protection measures Before the commencement of any site or building work, the principal certifier must ensure the measures for tree protection detailed in the construction site management plan are in place.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect and retain trees.</p>

DURING BUILDING WORK

29.	<p>Approved Plans A copy of the stamped approved and certified plans, specifications and documents incorporating conditions of approval and certification must be kept on site for the duration of site works and be made available upon request to either the Council or other Government Agencies.</p>
-----	--

	<p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved works to be conducted.</p>
30.	<p>Construction noise While work is being carried out and where no noise and vibration management plan is approved under this consent, the applicant is to ensure that any noise caused by demolition, vegetation removal or construction does not exceed an LAeq (15 min) of 5dB(A) above background noise, when measured at any lot boundary of the property where the construction is being carried out.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect the amenity of the neighbourhood.</p>
31.	<p>Contamination discovered during works If during works on the land comprising the lot, the land is found to be contaminated, within the meaning of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all works must stop immediately, and • the Environment Protection Authority and the council must be notified of the contamination. • Land is found to be contaminated for the purposes of this condition if the principal certifying authority knows or reasonably suspects the land is contaminated. <p>Note: Depending on the nature and level of the contamination, remediation of the land may be required before further work can continue.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure contaminated land is managed appropriately.</p>
32.	<p>Cut and fill (if applicable) While building work is being carried out, the principal certifier must be satisfied all soil removed from or imported to the site is managed in accordance with the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All excavated material removed from the site must be classified in accordance with the EPAs Waste Classification Guidelines before it is disposed of at an approved waste management facility and the classification and the volume of material removed must be reported to the principal certifier. • All fill material imported to the site must be Virgin Excavated Natural Material as defined in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 or a material identified as being subject to a resource recovery exemption by the NSW EPA. <p>Condition reason: To ensure soil removal & replacement meets requirements.</p>
33.	<p>Encroachment of easements No works are to encroach over any easements.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure works are not carried out over easements.</p>
34.	<p>Hours of work The developer must ensure that building work, demolition or vegetation removal is only carried out between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.00am to 6.00pm on Monday to Friday • 8.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays

	<p>The developer must ensure building work, demolition or vegetation removal is not carried out on Sundays and public holidays, except where there is an emergency.</p> <p>Unless otherwise approved within a construction site management plan, construction vehicles, machinery, goods or materials must not be delivered to the site outside the approved hours of site works.</p> <p>Note: Any variation to the hours of work requires Councils approval.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect the amenity of the surrounding area.</p>
35.	<p>Implementation of site management plans</p> <p>While vegetation removal, demolition and/or building work is being carried out, the applicant must ensure the measures required by the approved construction site management plan and the erosion and sediment control plan are implemented at all times. The applicant must ensure a copy of these approved plans is kept on site at all times and made available to Council officers upon request.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the required site management measures are implemented during construction.</p>
36.	<p>Natural drainage</p> <p>Any works undertaken in the subject land including building and filling shall not cause alteration to the previous drainage in the subject land or adjacent land. Any remedies required to discharge drainage water caused to be accumulated by the works associated with this permit shall be the responsibility of the beneficiary of this consent.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure natural drainage is maintained where possible.</p>
37.	<p>Procedure for critical stage inspections</p> <p>While building work is being carried out, any such work must not continue after each critical stage inspection unless the principal certifier is satisfied the work may proceed in accordance with this consent and the relevant construction certificate.</p> <p>Condition reason: To require approval to proceed with building work following each critical stage inspection.</p>
38.	<p>Responsibility for changes to public infrastructure</p> <p>While building work is being carried out, the applicant must pay any costs incurred as a result of the approved removal, relocation or reconstruction of infrastructure (including ramps, footpaths, kerb and gutter, light poles, kerb inlet pits, service provider pits, street trees or any other infrastructure in the street footpath area).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure payment of approved changes to public infrastructure.</p>
39.	<p>Security fencing</p> <p>An adequate security fence is to be erected around the perimeter of the site prior to commencement of any excavation or construction works, and this fence is to be maintained in a state of good repair and condition until completion of the building project</p>

	<p>Condition reason: To ensure the site is secured during construction.</p>
40.	<p>Tree protection While site work is being carried out, all required tree protection measures must be maintained in good condition in accordance with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The construction site management plan 2. The relevant requirements of any Australian Standard for the protection of trees on development sites This includes maintaining adequate soil grades and ensuring all machinery, builders refuse, spoil and materials remain outside tree protection zones. <p>Condition reason: To protect trees during site works.</p>
41.	<p>Uncovering relics or Aboriginal objects While demolition or building work is being carried out, all such works must cease immediately if a relic or Aboriginal object is unexpectedly discovered. The applicant must notify the Heritage Council of NSW in respect of a relic and notify the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Heritage Council of NSW in respect of an Aboriginal object. Building work may recommence at a time confirmed by either the Heritage Council of NSW or the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.</p> <p>In this condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “relic” means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that: (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and a) is of State or local heritage significance; and • “Aboriginal object” means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains. <p>Condition reason: To ensure protection of objects of potential significance during works.</p>
42.	<p>Waste management While building work, demolition or vegetation removal is being carried out, the principal certifier must be satisfied all waste management is undertaken in accordance with the approved waste management plan.</p> <p>Upon disposal of waste, the applicant is to compile and provide records of the disposal to the principal certifier, detailing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contact details of the person(s) who removed the waste • The waste carrier vehicle registration • The date and time of waste collection • A description of the waste (type of waste and estimated quantity) and whether the waste is expected to be reused, recycled or go to landfill • The address of the disposal location(s) where the waste was taken • The corresponding tip docket/receipt from the site(s) to which the waste is transferred, noting

	<p>date and time of delivery, description (type and quantity) of waste.</p> <p>Note: If waste has been removed from the site under an EPA Resource Recovery Order or Exemption, the applicant is to maintain all records in relation to that Order or Exemption and provide the records to the principal certifier and Council.</p> <p>Condition reason: To require records to be provided, during construction, documenting that waste is appropriately handled.</p>
--	--

BEFORE ISSUE OF AN OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE

43.	<p>Completion of landscape and tree works</p> <p>Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the principal certifier must be satisfied that all landscape and tree-works, including pruning in accordance with AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees and the removal of all noxious weed species, have been completed in accordance with the approved plans and any relevant conditions of this consent.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the approved landscaping works have been completed before occupation, in accordance with the approved landscaping plan(s).</p>
44.	<p>Completion of public utility services</p> <p>Before the issue of the relevant occupation certificate, the principal certifier must ensure any adjustment or augmentation of any public utility services including gas, water, sewer, electricity, street lighting and telecommunications, required as a result of the development, is completed to the satisfaction of the relevant authority. Before the issue of the occupation certificate, the certifier must request written confirmation from the relevant authority that the relevant services have been completed.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure required changes to public utility services are completed, in accordance with the relevant agency requirements, before occupation.</p>
45.	<p>Fire Safety Certificate</p> <p>Prior to the issue of the occupation certificate, a Fire Safety Certificate must be issued in accordance with Part 11 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure fire safety requirements have been met.</p>
46.	<p>Occupation Certificate</p> <p>The building shall not be occupied or used until an Occupation Certificate is issued either by council or by an accredited certifier.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure development is accredited.</p>
47.	<p>Removal of waste upon completion</p> <p>Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the principal certifier must ensure all refuse, spoil and material unsuitable for use on-site is removed from the site and disposed of in accordance with the approved waste management plan. Written evidence of the removal must be supplied</p>

	<p>to the satisfaction of the principal certifier.</p> <p>Before the issue of a partial occupation certificate, the applicant must ensure the temporary storage of any waste is carried out in accordance with the approved waste management plan to the principal certifier’s satisfaction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure waste material is appropriately disposed or satisfactorily stored.</p>
48.	<p>Repair of infrastructure</p> <p>Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the applicant must ensure any public infrastructure damaged as a result of the carrying out of building works (including damage caused by, but not limited to, delivery vehicles, waste collection, contractors, sub-contractors, concreting vehicles) is fully repaired to the written satisfaction of Council, and at no cost to Council.</p> <p>Note: If the council is not satisfied, the whole or part of the bond submitted will be used to cover the rectification work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure any damage to public infrastructure is rectified.</p>

OCCUPATION AND ONGOING USE

49.	<p>Additional structures</p> <p>No additional structures are to be built or installed on the site without permission from the Wentworth Shire Council.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure only approved work is carried out</p>
50.	<p>Amenity of the neighbourhood</p> <p>The operation of this development shall not adversely affect the amenity of the neighbourhood or interfere unreasonably with the comfort or repose of a person who is outside the premises by reason of the emission or discharge of noise, fumes, vapour, odour, steam, soot, dust, waste water, waste products, grit, oil or other harmful products.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the amenity of the neighbourhood is not compromised unreasonably.</p>
51.	<p>Maintenance of wastewater and stormwater treatment device</p> <p>During occupation and ongoing use of the building, the beneficiary of this consent must ensure all wastewater and stormwater treatment devices (including drainage systems, sumps and traps, and on-site detention) are regularly maintained, to remain effective.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect sewerage and stormwater systems.</p>
52.	<p>Ongoing use – permanent group home with garage</p> <p>The proposed garage cannot be used for habitation.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure appropriate use as per approval.</p>
53.	<p>Release of securities / bonds</p> <p>When Council receives an occupation certificate from the principal certifier, the applicant may lodge an application to release the securities held. Council may use part, or all of the securities</p>

held to complete the works to its satisfaction if the works do not meet Councils requirements.

Condition reason: To allow release of securities and authorise Council to use the security deposit to complete works to its satisfaction.

9.17 DA2024/159 PERMANENT GROUP HOME 40 MIDWAY DRIVE LOT 4 DP 1288183 BURONGA

File Number:	RPT/25/147
Responsible Officer:	George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division:	Health and Planning
Reporting Officer:	Georgie Martin - Cadet Planner
Objective:	3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment
Strategy:	3.1 Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development

Summary

A development application (DA2024/159) was received by Council on 29 November 2024, for a permanent group home to be situated upon 40 Midway Drive – Lot 4, DP 1288183.

Under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*, this development is permitted with consent within the RU5 – Village zoning.

The application seeks development approval for the construction of a permanent group home which will be used for the accommodation of people with a disability under the NDIS Scheme. The building will consist of three bedrooms for people with disability and one bedroom for an overnight assistance, with each bedroom having an ensuite. Other features of the permanent group home include an open plan kitchen, dining and living area, and an alfresco area. A single disabled car park has been provided within the garage.

The application was publicly notified for 14 days as per the Council Community Participation Plan. During the public notification thirteen submissions were received by Council objecting to the proposed development.

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021* states that a consent authority must not refuse consent to the development for the purposes of a group home unless the consent authority has made an assessment of the community need for the group home.

As per Council delegations, any development applications with three (3) or more objections cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve subject to conditions DA2024/159 for a permanent group home to be located at 40 Midway Drive – Lot 4, DP 1288183, Buronga.
2. Call a division in accordance with S375A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council to determine Development Application DA2024/159, having consideration to the detail provided both within this report and the attachments provided.

Background

A Development Application was lodged with Council on 29 November 2024 seeking consent for a permanent group home on the subject lot.

The subject lot is in the RU5 Village zone under the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011* (WLEP 2011).

DA2024/159 was publicly notified as per Council Community Participation Plan for 14 days, with a total of thirteen submissions objecting to the proposal received during this period. These submissions can be found under attached documents.

As per Council delegations, any development applications with three (3) or more objections cannot be determined under delegated authority and must be determined by Council.

Refer to attachment 1 – Development Application

Refer to attachment 2 – Plans

Refer to attachment 3 – Statement of Environmental Effects

Matters under consideration

In determining a development application that requires consent, the consent authority must take into consideration matters under Section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as relevant to the development.

The proposed development was assessed and complies with relevant provisions of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*.

The proposed development for a permanent group home is permitted with consent and meets the zone objectives of the RU5 – Village zone under the WLEP 2011.

Due to the zoning and WLEP 2011 mapping impacting the land, the development application was assessed against clauses 7.1 & 7.2. The development application was able to satisfy the matters for consideration under these clauses.

Due to the nature of the proposed development, it was assessed against Chapter 8 of the Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011. The development complies with relevant provisions under this chapter.

The Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026 is a requirement under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)* (DIA / The Act). The Act required all NSW Local Government Areas to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Wentworth Shire Councils adopted plan states the following:

“To create liveable communities, we need to focus our attention and resources on the elements of community life that most people desire. To create liveable communities for people with disability, we must do more than modify the physical environment; we must advocate for such aspects such as accessible housing, access to transport, community recreation, social engagement and universal design.”

“Increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health and wellbeing.”

“The attitude and behaviours of the general community toward people with disability can be the greatest barrier to full access and inclusion. Community attitudes can further be influenced by the intersection of the particular characteristics of a person with disability, such as gender, age, ethnicity, or type of disability itself.”

“Inclusiveness and accessibility for people with disability forms a crucial component of the assessment of the liveability of any community. Council will work to eliminate the barriers in the built environment and advocate for improved transport, housing and local supports that prevent people with disability from fully engaging with the opportunities that exist within their communities.”

Public notification of the development application was conducted as per the Council Community Participation Plan for 14 days, whereby any submission received must at a minimum provide the following:

- Clearly identify the matter to which the submission relates,
- State the grounds for any support or objection expressed in the submission,
- Include appropriate contact details

Summary of concerns raised in submissions:

- Concentration of group homes within the estate
- Close proximity of the group homes to each other
- Rear setback of 20 Wendy Court being 2.4m not 3m
- Lack of facilities in the vicinity of group homes
- Proximity of group homes to childcare facility
- Traffic impact (congestion) in the immediate area of the estate
- Lack of community consultation
- Increased noise impacts
- Proposal is unjust as high-density development in a low-density estate
- Impact to property values
- Appeal of the area will decrease
- Proposed development will impede on family orientation of the estate

Applicant response to submissions:

- Fires can occur in other developments (such as dwellings), nonetheless the houses are equipped with fire sprinklers.
- Group homes by their definition should be located within a residential area; it is very common to have dwellings and homes in residential areas.
- The Wentworth LEP is not able to dictate who lives within the proposed group homes, nor should any person who lives within the area.

Response from Assessing Officer to concerns raised is as follows:

- The proposed group home meets legislative requirements under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*,
- The 2.4m setback identified is able to occur as the part of the group home at this distance is a non-habitable space being the alfresco and any variation to the DCP is justifiable in this case.
- Within 1.5kms of the proposed development is a supermarket, medical facility, Council offices, library, open space for community enjoyment and shopfronts to be developed further, facilities therefore are within adequate proximity to proposed site.
- Council notified adjoining neighbors of the proposed development in line with policy and procedures, as well as the development proposals being advertised on Councils website for 14 days,
- The childcare facility in question is fenced off and secure with adequate parking areas to ease traffic congestion at peak times (early morning / mid evening).
- The WSC LGA does not have high-density housing zoning attributed within the WLEP 2011, the RU5 – Village zoning permits the development of group homes,

- Council has a LEP that is a statutory document and DCP aids in assessment of proposals permitted under it. There is no planning strategy for specialized housing within the DCP, only the Housing SEPP, which permits these developments if applied for and within an approved residential zoning,
- Noise impacts from the proposed developments are anticipated to be that of a typical residential area.

Based on the assessment of the application, it is determined that the proposed development is compliant with relevant objectives of the RU5 – Village zoning under the WLEP 2011. The proposed development meets the relevant provisions of the Wentworth DCP 2011 and is consistent with planning matters for consideration of the WLEP 2011. The proposed development complies with matters for consideration under the *State Environmental Planning Policies – Biodiversity & Conservation (2021) and Housing (2021)*.

Refer to attachment 4 - Submissions

Refer to attachment 5 – 4.15 Assessment report

Refer to attachment 6 – Conditions of consent

Options

Based on the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

- Approve Development Application DA2024/159 subject to conditions.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

Should Council issue a determination to the application, the applicant has the right to submit a request for review of determination to Council under Section 8.2 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1987*.

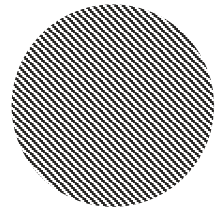
The applicant also has the right to appeal the decision made by Council to the Land and Environment Court pursuant to Section 8.7 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1987*.

Conclusion

Having consideration of the consent of this report it is concluded that the appropriate course of action is to approve DA2024/159 subject to conditions.

Attachments

1. Development Application (under separate cover)⇒
2. Plans (under separate cover)⇒
3. Statement of Environmental Effects↓
4. Submissions (under separate cover)⇒
5. 4.15 Assessment Report↓
6. Conditions of Consent↓



Planning Report

Permanent Group Home

40 Midway Drive
Buronga, NSW, 2739



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposal	Construction of a Permanent Group Home
Street Address	40 Midway Drive, Buronga
Formal Land Description	Lot 4 in Deposited Plan 1288183
Zone	RU5 - Village
Relevant State Environmental Planning Policies	SEPP (Housing) 2021 - Chapter 3, Part 2 Group Homes - Clause 62

SUBJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA

The subject site comprises one parcel of land commonly known as 40 Midway Drive, Buronga, and more formally as Lot 4 in Deposited Plan 1288183. The site is rectangular in shape and is relatively flat. It has an area of 527 square metres (sqm) and a frontage of approx. 16.32 metres (m) to Midway Drive. The site is currently vacant, but all reticulated services are available. No heritage or cultural sensitivities affect the land and there are no natural hazards or environmental sensitivities including native vegetation.

The site is situated within a new stage of Midway Estate, which comprises vacant land and several newly constructed dwellings.

An aerial image of the site and surrounding area as well as site photos are contained below.

Aerial Image of the Site and Surrounding Area



Figure 1: Subject site and surrounding area (Source: Landchecker Jun 2024)

Site Photos



Figure 2: View of site from Midway Drive



Figure 3: View of the site from the north

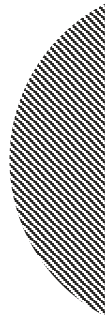
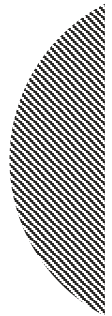




Figure 4: View of the site from the east (rear)



Figure 4: View of the site from the south



PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

This application is for the construction of a Permanent Group Home, as summarised under the following points:

- The proposed Permanent Group Home will be used to accommodate people with a disability on a permanent basis under the NDIS Scheme. The plans have been assessed and certified by an accredited SDA assessor.
- The building is single storey and contains three bedrooms for people with a disability and one bedroom for on-site overnight assistance. Each bedroom has an ensuite and other internal features include an open plan kitchen, dining and living area, separate living area, separate bathroom, European laundry, alfresco and single garage.
- The external appearance of the building is contemporary with brick wall cladding and corrugated Colorbond iron roof cladding.
- The building has a maximum height of 4.8m above natural ground.
- One car parking space (to disabled parking standards) can be accommodated within the garage and one car parking space can be accommodated within the driveway.
- A new crossover is proposed to provide access to the garage.
- Over 300sqm of the site is private open space and over 290sqm can be landscaped.
- The development will be connected to all reticulated services, with the exception of gas.

PLANNING

CONTROLS AND ASSESSMENT

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP)

The Subject site is within the RU5 – Village

The objectives of the zone are:

- *To provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village.*
- *To promote development in existing towns and villages in a manner that is compatible with their urban function.*
- *To encourage well-serviced sustainable development.*
- *To ensure there are opportunities for economic development.*
- *To deliver new residential and employment growth in Buronga and Gol Gol.*
- *To ensure business and retail land uses are grouped within and around existing activity centres.*

The proposed Permanent Group Home is located within a recently released stage of the Midway Estate and will provide for residential diversity in an appropriate location. The building will provide much needed housing for people with a disability and is compatible with existing residential development in the surrounding area. The building has been designed to be energy efficient and is appropriately located so as not to unreasonably impact on the adjoining land. As such, the proposal supports the objectives of the RU5 zone.

Wentworth Development Control Plan

Chapter 2 – Plan Objectives

The following General Development Objectives are relevant to this application:

- *Residential land is to be developed with the creation of neighbourhoods comprising a range of housing styles and densities to cater for a diverse demographical profile of the local government area.*

- Residential growth shall be promoted in areas identified as urban release area.

The following Locality Objectives for Buronga and Gol Gol are relevant to this application:

- A safe, convenient and attractive neighbourhoods that meet the diverse and changing needs of the community and offers a wide choice of housing, leisure, local employment opportunities and associated community and commercial facilities.
- A site responsive approach to urban development that supports and enhances the context in which it is located, strengthens local character and identity, and promotes a sense of community.

In addition to this, Section 2.2 – Social and Community outlines that:

The proposed future development of Buronga and Gol Gol will result in an increased demand for additional community infrastructure. This includes:

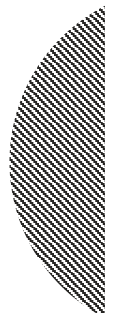
- Expansion of the range of community facilities and services;
- Improvement of public transport links within and external to the area;
- Provision of additional government and health services; aged care services; child care facilities and education/training services; and
- Promotion of community image and events including sport and recreation.

It is clear that the proposal is supported by the objectives of the Wentworth Development Control Plan which indicate that there is a strong need for diverse housing to provide for the changing needs of the community. The proposed Permanent Group Home will provide much needed accommodation for people with a disability and is of a high standard.

Chapter 3 – General Development Controls

5 Vehicular Access and Parking

This development control aims to provide sufficient and convenient parking for residents, visitors and service vehicles; to ensure vehicular and pedestrian safety and to encourage access design to form part of the overall landscape design. The relevant subclauses are discussed below.



5.1 Parking Layout, Servicing and Manoeuvring

The proposed car parks will be located in the garage and driveway, which is typical for car parking in a residential setting.

5.2 Specific Land Use Requirements

The following car parking requirements apply to the proposal:

- Housing for older people or people with a disability – Refer to State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors and People with a Disability) 2004.

The SEPP referenced in the DCP no longer exists. Two car parking spaces are provided for the proposed Permanent Group Home which complies with Schedule 2 (17) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.

Chapter 4 – Residential Development Controls

4.1.1 Site Context and Analysis

The plans submitted with this application demonstrate how the proposed development responds to site specific conditions and the site has been described in detail previously in this report. The site is within a recently released stage of the Midway Estate which contains vacant land and existing dwellings of a similar size, scale and sitting. The site does not have any specific constraints and the topography is relatively flat.

4.1.2 Streetscapes

The proposed building will have a positive impact on the streetscape. A number of habitable room windows overlook the street to provide for casual surveillance. The proposed garage occupies only a small portion of the frontage and is setback behind the main façade of the building. The building has a clearly identified entry from the street and has been designed to be energy efficient. The external materials and colours will complement existing dwellings in the broader area which have external materials and colours that vary considerably.

4.1.3 Front Setback

The building has a front setback of 4.5m, which is less than the 6m sought within the Wentworth DCP. It is worth noting that 4.5m is a commonly accepted front setback in developing areas and is the minimum requirement to meet the CDC criteria. As such, the proposed front setback is considered to be acceptable and will not bring rise to any character or streetscape related issues.

4.1.4 Side setbacks and Corner Lot Setbacks

The side setbacks of the proposed building are 3.45m from the northern boundary and 2m from the southern boundary (combined total exceeding 4.5m), which complies with this Control.

4.1.5 Rear setbacks

The proposed building is located 3.6m from the rear boundary, which meets this Control.

4.1.6. Walls on Boundaries

Not applicable. No walls on boundaries are proposed.

4.1.7 Building heights and overshadowing

The proposed building is unlikely to overshadow the private open space of future dwellings on adjoining lots as it is single storey and has relatively generous boundary setbacks.

4.1.8 Site Coverage

The site coverage is approximately 48%, although it is noted that this control only applies to single dwelling houses and dual occupancies.

4.1.9 Private Open Space

Private open space is well in excess of the 40sqm minimum requirement. There is an area of secluded private open space at the rear of the dwelling also well in excess of 25sqm, with a minimum dimension of 3m accessed from the main living area.

4.1.10 Energy Efficiency and Solar access

Appropriate solar access and energy efficiency is achieved given the orientation of the site and distance between windows and boundaries. A BASIX is not required as a standard residential dwelling is not proposed.

4.1.11 Daylight to existing windows

The proposed building will not impact daylight to existing dwellings as the adjoining land is vacant.

4.1.12 North-facing windows

Not applicable – there are no existing north facing windows within 3m of the boundary.

4.1.13 Overlooking

Not applicable – the proposed building is single storey and will not be notably raised above existing surface levels. A 1.8m high solid boundary fence will provide for privacy between lots.

4.1.14 Fencing and Retaining Walls

No fences or retaining walls are proposed as part of this application. The boundary fence will be made to comply with the *SEPP Exempt and Complying Development Codes 2008* (Part 2, Subdivision 17).

4.1.15 Car Parking and Vehicle Access

Car parking has been discussed previously.

4.1.16 Cut and Fill

As the site is relatively flat, only minimal earthworks are anticipated and will not exceed 0.3m of cut or fill.

State Environmental Planning Polices (SEPP)

SEPP (Housing) 2021 – Chapter 3, Part 2 Group Homes – Clause 62

This Clause contains requirements for consent authorities when determining Development Applications.

General Assessment

Visual Impacts

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Open Space

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Overshadowing and Privacy

Please refer to DCP assessment.

Noise

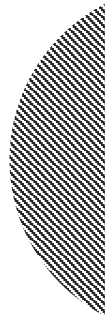
Only standard domestic mechanical plant will be associated with the proposed building, which will emit noise typical for a residential area.

Erosion Control Measures

No specific erosion control measures are considered necessary for this development. Any minor earthworks will be appropriately battered and retained (if necessary).

Economic and Social Impacts

The proposed building will contribute to the social wellbeing of the Buronga township by providing suitably designed housing to accommodate disabled persons. It also contributes to investment in the Buronga/Gol Gol Area.



Environmental Benefits

Due to the nature of this development, no significant environmental benefits are envisaged.

Disabled Access

The proposed building has been designed to comply with all disabled access standards and the plans have been assessed and certified by an accredited SDA assessor.

Security, Site Facilities and Safety

Not applicable for this application.

Waste Management

Standard domestic waste services will be provided by Council.

National Construction Code

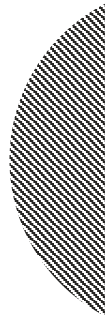
The National Construction Code will be assessed as part of the Construction Certificate process by a Building Surveyor.

Traffic

The proposed building will result in standard domestic travel within the existing road network. This would have been anticipated and accounted for in the design of the subdivision.

Stormwater/flooding

The site is not subject to any identified natural hazards and stormwater will be directed to the legal point of discharge.




CONCLUSION

This report demonstrates that the proposal is consistent with the relevant provisions of the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011* and the *Wentworth DCP*.

The proposed Permanent Group Home is appropriate for the site as it:

- Supports the objectives of the Zone RU5 - Village;
- Is appropriately located on the subject site;
- Will have an acceptable impact on the locality in terms of amenity and visual dominance; and
- Will not result in any detrimental impacts on the environment.

It is considered that the proposal is worthy of support, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Wentworth Shire Council grant Development Consent for the construction of a Permanent Group Home as described in this report at 40 Midway Drive, Buronga.

 <p>Wentworth SHIRE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Health & Planning Department 61 Darling Street PO Box 81 WENTWORTH NSW 2648 Tel: 03 5027 5027 council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>DA Assessment Report Section 4.15 Evaluation</p> <p>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 as amended</p>
---	--	--

File Reference:	DA2024/159 & PAN – 492309
Property Title & Address:	P561/04404 40 Midway Drive Lot 4 DP 1288183 Buronga
Property owner(s):	Bianca Ernst
Applicant(s):	JACKSON PLANNING MJJR PTY LTD – Matt Jackson
Proposal:	Permanent Group Home
Previous DAs:	N/A
Cost of proposed development:	\$713,577.05

SITE AND SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT

The subject site comprises of Lot 4 DP 1288183, 40 Midway Drive, Buronga. The lot has an area of 527m² and connects to Pitman Ave to the north and Sturt Highway to the South, connecting through to the developing locality within the Midway area and surrounding locality.

The subject site is zoned within the RU5 – Village zone under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011. The subject site is a rectangular shaped lot with no vegetation removal proposed as site was recently cleared during the subdivision process. The lot is not impacted by easements or environmental factors.

The site is not within the bushfire prone, flood way or flood planning, terrestrial biodiversity, wetlands, or urban release mapped area and contains no known heritage constraints.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks development consent for the construction of a single storey dwelling with garage to be utilised as a permanent group home, which will provide accommodation for people on NDIS plans with ongoing disabilities as per the NDIS requirements. The dwelling is proposed to accommodate three participants and one overnight assistance personnel. The lot has a total area of 527m² with the dwelling proposed to have a floor area of 256.58m², broken down into the following:

Dwelling: 209.31m² – Garage: 28.17m² – Alfresco: 16.20m² – Porch: 2.89m².

One car parking space suitable for disability requirements is provided within the garage, with a standard parking space accommodated within the driveway area.

HISTORY RELEVANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

N/A

SECTION 4.15-MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

(1) The provisions of any environmental planning instrument and development control plan

State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021

The proposed development is proposed to be located upon on a lot that is under 1ha in size and clear of vegetation following previous subdivision. No native vegetation is to be removed for construction, with no impact to any potential habitat for fauna. The site is not known koala habitat, as such, no assessment required against Chapters 3 or 4. The proposed development is not located within close proximity to the river or other waterbody, and as such, no assessment is required against Chapter 5.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021

Clause 60 (a) does not identify the land zoning of RU5 as a prescribed zone suitable for group home development, however, clause 60 (b) states that any other zone under an environmental planning instrument where dwelling houses may be carried out with consent is categorised as a prescribed zone.

The RU5 – Village zone under the WLEP 2011 lists dwelling houses as permitted with consent.

Clause 61 identifies that the proposed group home is permitted with consent as it is proposed on land zoned RU5 – Village under the WLEP 2011. In terms of the hierarchy of legislation, the SEPP overrides the WLEP 2011 in terms of any inconsistency as per section 3.28 of the EP&A Act.

Under clause 62 a consent authority (Council) **must not**:

- refuse a group development unless an assessment of the community need has been done
- Impose a condition of consent specifically because a development is a group home.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022

A BASIX Certificate has not been provided as it is not required due to the proposed development being class 3 under the Building Code of Australia.

Further, as it is assumed that the development will be certified as a Class 3 building under the BCA at the construction stage, in line with the *Comprehensive Guide to BASIX*, a BASIX Certificate is not needed.

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011

The proposed development of a permanent group home for the provision of accommodation for participants within the NDIS scheme is permitted with consent and meets the zone objectives of the RU5 – Village zoning under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2011, under which the subject site is located. The main supportive objective is to provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village. The development of a NDIS based permanent group home will allow for services for those with disabilities to live mostly independently with assistance.

Objectives of zone

- To provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village.
- To promote development in existing towns and villages in a manner that is compatible with their urban function.
- To encourage well-serviced sustainable development.
- To ensure there are opportunities for economic development.
- To deliver new residential and employment growth in Buronga and Gol Gol.
- To ensure business and retail land uses are grouped within and around existing activity centres.

A group home meets the definition of a dwelling as follows:

dwelling means a room or suite of rooms occupied or used or so constructed or adapted as to be capable of being occupied or used as a separate domicile.

Group home means a permanent group home ~~or a transitional group home~~. Group homes are a type of residential accommodation.

~~Group home (permanent)~~ or **permanent group home** means a dwelling—

(a) that is occupied by persons as a single household with or without paid supervision or care and whether or not those persons are related or payment for board and lodging is required, and

(b) that is used to provide permanent household accommodation for people with a disability or people who are socially disadvantaged,

but does not include development to which [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Housing\) 2021, Chapter 3, Part 5](#) applies.

Clause 7.1 Earthworks

Any earthworks will be conditioned and form part of the approval.

Clause 7.2 Essential Services

Connection of services has been made possible during the previous subdivision of the development site.

Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011

The proposed development is acceptable against the relevant provisions of the Wentworth Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011 as outlined in the table below.

Wentworth DCP	Chapter 8	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	N/A	Reason
	5.1.1 Site context	X			Positioning of the proposed building on site makes use of available land while leaving space for private open space and providing suitable access for residents of the permanent group home facility. Materials used will compliment other structures in the surrounding area.
	5.1.2 Streetscape	X			The proposed building will be in keeping with few existing developments in the area with windows facing the street for casual surveillance and a garage setback from the facade of the main portion of the building. It is anticipated that future development in the area will be similar and compatible with this DA.
	5.1.3 Front Setback		X		4.5m – does not meet
	5.1.4 Side setbacks	X			Southern: 2m – meets Northern: 3.45m – meets
	5.1.5 Rear setback	X			3.6m – meets

	5.1.6 Walls on Boundaries			X	N/A as no walls on boundaries
	5.1.7 Building heights and overshadowing			X	N/A as not a two-storey building
	5.1.8 Site Coverage	X			Proposed development does not cover more than 60% of site (48% approx.)
	5.1.9 Private open space	X			Ample room for private open space available
	5.1.10 Energy & solar access	X			<i>Proposed development meets requirements of the Energy Efficiency Compliance Assessment</i>
	5.1.11 Daylight to existing windows	X			No impact anticipated from the single storey building to surrounding neighbours.
	5.1.12 North facing windows			X	N/A as no north facing windows within 3m of boundary.
	5.1.13 Overlooking			X	N/A as development approval is for a single storey building
	5.1.14 Fencing and retaining walls			X	N/A approval not for fencing or retaining walls
	5.1.15 Car parking and vehicle access	X			The site provides for one (1) disability access car parking spaces within the garage as per requirements under the Housing SEPP one space within the garage and another singular space is provided in the driveway of the proposed development site. Access to the site is provided via a crossover to council standards to be detailed within conditions of consent. Two parking spaces in total, one being to disability standards.
	5.1.16 Cut and fill	X			Earthworks will be conditioned as part of approval

Development Control	WDCP 2011 requirement for RU5 Village zone	Proposed Permanent Group Home
Front setback	6m minimum	4.5m
North side setback	1m minimum	3.45m
South side setback	1m minimum	2m
Rear setback	3m minimum	3.6m

The front setback does not meet DCP requirements of 6m, being only 4.5m, however, many new developments in newly subdivided areas are utilising a front setback of only 4.5m to allow better use

of allotment space. Additionally, other developments in the surrounding area have front setbacks under the required 6m, even down to 3m.

(2) The provisions of any draft environmental planning instrument

There is no Division 3.4 draft environmental planning instrument that affect the proposed development. (Post 1 July 2009 LEP amendments).

(3) Any matters prescribed by regulations

There are no further matters prescribed by regulations.

(4) The likely impacts of the development

There are no likely impacts from the proposal as discussed in the table below.

Impact item (insert an 'x' in the relevant section)	Acceptable	Not acceptable	Not relevant	Comment
Context and setting	X			The proposed permanent group home building will look similar in external design to the few existing residential developments in the immediate area
Public domain & Streetscape	X			The proposed permanent group home building meets the required setbacks as provided and justified in assessment above (DCP)
Landscaping			X	Not part of this application
Stormwater	X			Discharge to legal point of Councils stormwater system to be conditioned
Heritage	X			None on site
Soils & Soils Erosion	X			Earthworks and erosion control to be conditioned as part of approval
Air and microclimate	X			No effect from proposed development anticipated
Water Resources	X			Noted – development located adequate distance from water sources
Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna)	X			As the site was cleared of any vegetation during the subdivision process – no effect on existing flora or fauna,
Land Resources	X			None known at this site
Utilities	X			Utilities are available to the property
Access & Parking	X			Adequate access and parking are available to the site, development provides disability parking space as per requirements in line with Housing SEPP and
Roads & Traffic	X			Increase to area anticipated during construction with slight increase as new residents move into the completed building
Solar Access and Energy Efficiency	X			Will be required to meet energy requirements of Part J1 of the BCA
Overshadowing			X	Not relevant as surrounding land vacant and single storey development
Privacy & Overlooking			X	Not relevant as single storey building

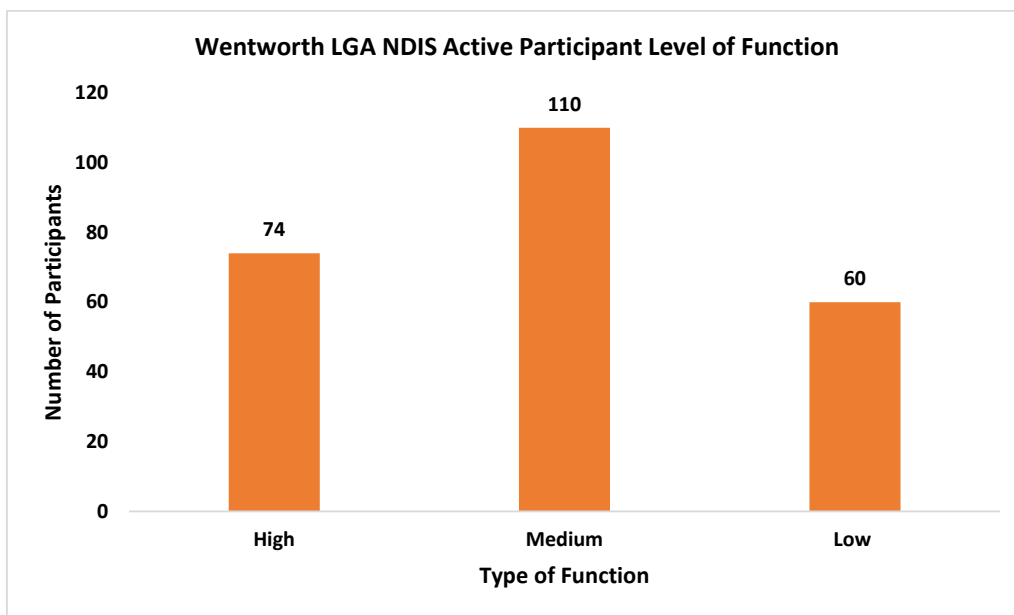
Flooding			X	Not in flood planning area
Bushfire Prone Area			X	Property not within bushfire prone land
Noise	X			Only significant increase anticipated during construction, then residential noise ongoing
Technological hazards	X			No known hazards on site or anticipated
Safety, Security & Crime Prevention	X			No detrimental effects anticipated from development in this location. Windows facing street will provide casual surveillance
Social and Economic Impacts	X			No detrimental effects anticipated

The NDIS outlines high physical support SDA housing as *housing that includes a high level of physical access for people who need very high levels of support. For example, you may need a ceiling hoist, backup power supply, or home automation and communication technology.*

Further, level of functioning is defined as:

“The umbrella term for any or all of body functions, body structures, activities and participation. Level of function indicates the impact a participant's disability has on how a person is able to perform tasks and actions in a life area, as represented by a ‘severity score’ ‘High functioning’ indicates lower service and support requirements with a lower severity score, and ‘low functioning’ indicates higher service and support requirements with a higher severity score.”

Graph 1: Total Level of Function for Participants within the Wentworth LGA (Explore data NDIS. <https://dataresearch.ndis.gov.au/explore-data> current as of 9 January 2025).



The above graph shows that there are (an estimated) 60 active NDIS participants with requirements for higher service and support requirements, being low functioning and therefore having a high severity score. This website also identifies there are under 11 active participants with SIL/SDA funding, which would be on the basis that there are no SDA places available in the Wentworth LGA. Low functioning participants as per the level of functioning definition require higher levels of support.

From the same dataset, there are (an estimated) 244 active participants who have been deemed eligible and have an approved plan under the NDIS. This dataset does not encompass all of those with disabilities that require support within the Wentworth LGA, indicating there may be more not accounted for as they are not active participants or are waiting for availability.

The Inquiry Report: Own Motion Inquiry into Aspects of Supported Accommodation (NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, January 2023)

The above report states the following on page 23:

- *a suburban house (SDA or otherwise) where a group of people with disability live together, each with their own bedroom (sometimes with ensuite), sharing a common living room, kitchen, bathroom and garden, and with an area of the house used as office space for staff.*
- *a number of suburban houses (as above) located in relatively close proximity to each other, sometimes with direct links between each of the houses (for example through a garden gate), with a team leader or manager overseeing supports across the network.*

This reinforces the ability for SDA dwellings to be located in close proximity to one another.

Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026

The Wentworth Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 has a focus area that directly identifies housing for those with disabilities – 2; Livable Communities which states the following:

Increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health and wellbeing.

The plan, in line with the identified focus area aims to attribute to the positive experience of those with a disability, their families and supporters, through access to community places, buildings and events.

As there are currently no SDA housing facilities within the LGA, the proposal to develop them is in line with the Disability Inclusion Action Plan with the aim of providing housing, eliminating the barrier of housing access to those that require it.

Further, the following are direct quotes from the plan:

“To create liveable communities, we need to focus our attention and resources on the elements of community life that most people desire. To create liveable communities for people with disability, we must do more than modify the physical environment; we must advocate for such aspects such as accessible housing, access to transport, community recreation, social engagement and universal design.”

“The attitude and behaviours of the general community toward people with disability can be the greatest barrier to full access and inclusion. Community attitudes can further be influenced by the intersection of the particular characteristics of a person with disability, such as gender, age, ethnicity, or type of disability itself.”

“Inclusiveness and accessibility for people with disability forms a crucial component of the assessment of the liveability of any community. Council will work to eliminate the barriers in the built

environment and advocate for improved transport, housing and local supports that prevent people with disability from fully engaging with the opportunities that exist within their communities.”

Approach to characterization and permissibility under LEPs

It needs to be noted that the development of Permanent Group Homes is permitted under legislation, both the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing).

The case of *Botany Bay City Council v Pet Carriers International PTY Limited* [2013] NSWLEC 147 reiterates that land use tables within LEPs can use many means by which to define what development is permissible by identifying either *nominate* or *innominate* purposes.

His Honor, Preston CJ, stated the following:

A nominate purpose is one which the environmental planning instrument expressly nominates by name as being within one of the three classifications. Hence, the land use table for a zone may nominate particular categories of purposes of development as being within the classifications of development that may be carried out without consent, development that may be carried out with consent, or development that is prohibited.

An innominate purpose is one which the environmental planning instrument does not nominate by name as being within one of the three classifications, but rather identifies as falling within a particular classification by reason of it not being nominated in other classifications; it is development other than development in the other classifications. Hence, the land use table for a zone may classify as prohibited development, development for a purpose other than a purpose nominated as being able to be carried out without consent or with consent.

In the case of permanent group homes, as they are not directly identified within the RU5 – Village zoning as an independent type of development but fall under “any other development not specified in items 2 or 4”, they are therefore innominate and permissible with consent.

(Compatibility Test) Project Venture Developments Pty Ltd v Pittwater Council [2005]

There are many dictionary definitions of compatible. The most apposite meaning in an urban design context is capable of existing together in harmony. Compatibility is thus different from sameness. It is generally accepted that buildings can exist together in harmony without having the same density, scale, or appearance, though as the difference in these attributes increases, harmony is harder to achieve.

The physical impacts, such as noise, overlooking, overshadowing, and constraining development potential, can be assessed with relative objectivity. In contrast, to decide whether or not a new building appears to be in harmony with its surroundings is a more subjective task. Analysing the existing context and then testing the proposal against it can, however, reduce the degree of subjectivity.

For a new development to be visually compatible with its context, it should contain, or at least respond to, the essential elements that make up the character of the surrounding urban environment. In some areas, planning instruments or urban design studies have already described the urban character. In others (the majority of cases), the character needs to be defined as part of a proposal’s

assessment. The most important contributor to urban character is the relationship of built form to surrounding space, a relationship that is created by building height, setbacks, and landscaping. In special areas, such as conservation areas, architectural style and materials are also contributors to character.

In order to test whether a proposal is compatible with its context, two questions should be asked.

- Are the proposal's physical impacts on surrounding development acceptable? The physical impacts include constraints on the development potential of surrounding sites. (Test One)
- Is the proposal's appearance in harmony with the buildings around it and the character of the street? (Test two)

Test One:

The proposal of a permanent group home, being constructed as a dwelling, does not constitute any physical impacts on the surrounding development. The surrounding development consists of dwellings with outbuildings.

Physical impacts will not occur as the development design is that of similar size, scale and sitting to existing development in the immediate and surrounding area. The applicant has identified the permanent group homes to have external materials and colouring that complements existing dwellings in the surrounding area.

It should be noted that Wendy Court itself, where the main streetscape occurs, has minimal development existing, being two dwellings and an allotment with an outbuilding.

There will be no issues regarding side setbacks as a physical constraint, as setbacks adhere to requirements under the Wentworth Development Control Plan, some rear setbacks do not meet requirements, but it should be noted that habitable building space does not encroach the setbacks, only alfresco areas that are open in design. Front setbacks may not meet the required 6m, however, as discussed in the DCP assessment, in newly developed areas, setbacks from the front boundary can be accepted at 4.5m for RU5 – Village zoned land.

Test Two:

The proposal of a permanent group home will be in harmony with the development within the estate area. Permanent group homes are designed as and meet definitions of dwellings, which is the main development in the estate area and will not alter the harmonic design, rather increasing development in the area and encouraging use of the RU5 – Village zoning whereby a range of services and facilities need to be available, including disability accommodation for the impacted community members.

Harmony is often defined as “the quality of a pleasing and consistent whole”, with the permanent group homes not causing impact as the development will be that of dwellings in a residential area attributing to the existing use and character of the estate. Impact to Summer Drive through harmonious development should not be impacted due to separating fences and differing streetscapes (existing development vs minimally existing development).

The permanent group homes will be of the same design, therefore harmonious to themselves and attributing to consistency of the area.

The permanent group homes are dwellings and will not impact the character of the area. The use of each dwelling is subject to residential purposes such as long term accommodation, which is provided through the group homes. The use of existing dwellings in the area is no different to the accommodation purposes of the group homes, with additional assistance for the residents of the group homes required.

New Century Developments Pty Limited v Baulkham Hills Shire Council [2003] NSWLEC 154 revised - 5/09/2003 (social impact, large number of objectors, character and amenity of area).

The above caselaw provides examples of amenity, reiterates development characteristics and any further associated issues, as well as substance of community responses to proposed development.

“(61) In circumstances such as the present case, however, the consent authority must not blindly accept the subjective fears and concerns expressed in the public submissions. Whilst such views must be taken into consideration, there must be evidence that can be objectively assessed before a finding can be made of an adverse effect upon the amenity of the area... the views of residents of the area, those views will be accorded little, if any, weight if there is no objective, specific, concrete, observable likely consequence of the establishment of the proposed use.”

The above quote from the caselaw states plainly that evidence must be provided for submissions to be assessed. Council cannot take submissions with little to no planning grounds as having an adverse impact to the development of what is defined legally as a permanent group home under the WLEP 2011.

There are no specific issues raised in submissions received regarding the proposed group home development.

Submissions received as objections rather centre around the use of the development and those that would use it, however, this is not for Council to mandate as we are not the managing authority, only the consent authority. Submissions referenced the following:

- Property valuation
- Proximity of group homes to each other
- Behaviour concerns of NDIS participants
- Potential for property damage
- Disturbances caused by NDIS participants
- Location of group homes in locality for NDIS participant access to services
- Lack of Council transparency

“(64) The assessment of the specific objections raised by the local residents shows that the concerns raised by them, objectively assessed, must be afforded little weight. As is shown by the consideration of the specific objections, discussed above, they appear to have little basis in fact.”

The above quote from the caselaw states that if concerns have been assessed based on the objectives (mainly directed at NDIS management and use of the proposed group home dwelling – therefore not specific legislative planning grounds), then submissions **must** be afforded little weight, therefore not considered as little fact is apparent.

“(71) In summary, I have concluded that the proposed development would be compatible with the rural residential character of the area and would not have an adverse impact on the amenity of the

area, including social impact. While I recognise that there is strong community opposition to the proposal and that the residents have real fears, these fears must have foundation and a rational basis, which in this case is absent.”

The above quote from the caselaw states that the ultimate outcome of the case as decided by the Judge, was that the proposed development was compatible with the character of the existing area and would not have an impact on the amenity of the area. Community opposition was recognised but the concerns were found to have no foundation or rational basis (planning grounds).

In relation to the proposed group home, no planning grounds for the proposal are seen, merely concerned community members referencing issues relative to unjustified fears based on the use of the development. No foundation (fundamentals of planning legislation) are presented by submitters, as addressed by Council.

Understanding the Local Impact of New Residential Development: a Pilot Study
Christine Whitehead and Emma Sagor with Ann Edge and Bruce Walker
LSE London April 2015

The report identifies that opposition to new dwelling development is driven by local communities feeling that they will gain little benefit from new dwellings and that negative impacts may arise, such as infrastructure pressure and lack of services, as well as residential valuation impacts.

The report solidifies and states that planning literature does not often and is not required to, address impacts to housing valuation or pricing as this is not directly related to planning decisions which are assessed against relevant legislation, as well as broader economic, environmental, and social factors.

Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011

The WLEP 2011 provides the following definition for permanent group homes:

group home (permanent) or permanent group home means a dwelling—

- (a) that is occupied by persons as a single household with or without paid supervision or care and whether or not those persons are related or payment for board and lodging is required, and*
- (b) that is used to provide permanent household accommodation for people with a disability or people who are socially disadvantaged*

It should be noted that the plans provided by the applicant indicate “NDIS High Physical Support SDA” with design considering wider doorways, ceiling hoists, accessible parking (garage), and ensuite tailored for required needs (rails etc.), with an adjustable bench in the kitchen.

The people anticipated to use these dwellings are those with disabilities, and not those who are socially disadvantaged, however, Council are not the management authority and cannot dictate who will utilize these developments.

(5) The suitability of the site for development

The site is suitable for the proposed permanent group home building as it is not anticipated to have any adverse impact on the locality, however, six submissions were received. The proposed development is permitted within the RU5 – Village zoning area under the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011. The development provides the area with greater flexibility in housing and facilitates options for people with a disability under the NIDS scheme to become independent within

the community, while receiving care when required. The character and use of the proposed development is consistent with other proposed developments in the immediate area.

(6) Any submissions made in accordance with this Act or Regulation

The application was notified for 14 days as per the Wentworth Community Participation Plan. 13 submissions were received objecting to the application within the notification period.

Further submissions as objections have been received to date (7 March 2025), however, as these do not explicitly identify a development application and only state "Midway Estate Group Homes" or the like and have been received outside the mandatory exhibition period (by over a week or more), these will not be accepted and utilised for assessment purposes against this development.

Proforma submissions were received, however, most were accompanied by additional individual comments, thus creating unique submissions.

The following list identifies concerns raised within the submissions received:

- Concentration of proposed group homes is a concern for general security of existing residents
- Close proximity of proposed group homes to each other
- 20 Wendy Court having a rear setback of 2.4m not 3m
- Lack of facilities in vicinity of proposed group home sites
- Proximity to childcare facility and congestion in this area
- Lack of communication from Council
- Impact to property valuation and appeal of Midway area
- Potential for property damage – no measures to protect neighbouring properties
- Increased disturbances in the area from potential residents of group homes
- Increased noise and traffic levels in the area
- Proposed group homes will be unjustified high-density development

Applicant response to submissions:

- Fires can occur in other developments (such as dwellings), nonetheless the houses are equipped with fire sprinklers.
- Group homes by their definition should be located within a residential area; it is very common to have dwellings and homes in residential areas.
- The Wentworth LEP is not able to dictate who lives within the proposed group homes, nor should any person who lives within the area.

Council Officer Comment:

- The proposed group homes meet legislative requirements under the State Environmental Planning Policy – Housing 2021 and have been deemed as suitably designed for their purpose through applicant provided information.
- Setbacks provided within the Wentworth Shire Council Development Control Plan – justification in place to vary the setbacks within the DCP
- There are facilities and community infrastructure in close proximity to the development area
- The proximity to a childcare facility should not be of concern as traffic congestion here during the day will be minimal (early morning, mid evening) and the childcare is fenced and secure.
- In a planning perspective high-density development is defined as *development that is greater than three storeys high, typically referred to as residential flat buildings or apartments* (Georges River Council LEP). The proposed development does not meet this definition. Low density residential areas are made up of detached dwellings, dual occupancies, and multi dwelling housing, however, as the zone attributed to this being R2 – Low Density Residential,

which is not occurring in the Wentworth LGA, this does not apply and constraints as per the zoning seen (RU5 – Village) will be relied upon.

- The group homes pose no further threat to noise of traffic than a regular dwelling (not for group homes purposes) would. These issues have been assessed in the applicants Statement of Environmental Effects adequately.
- Council has a LEP and DCP that aid in assessment of proposals such as this, there is no planning strategy for specialised housing, only the Housing SEPP, which permits these developments if applied for a DA and within an approved zoning.

(7) The public interest

The proposed development is consistent with public interest as it will have no detrimental effect on the surrounding area.

Social impact equates to the consequences that people experience when a new proposal for development will alter their known environment. This could be through acoustic, amenity, way of life, health and wellbeing, and property impacts. Submissions in regard to the proposed group home have shown that the development proposed is seen as a concern to the surrounding community.

The social impacts as identified by concerned residents in submissions both within and outside of the exhibition period for the proposed group home (singular development on a singular allotment) are not linked to the development of a permanent group home, instead, are aligned with the users and management authority of the group home following construction. No noise, amenity, traffic or other detrimental impacts are envisaged from a, by definition, permanent group home in a residentially established area.

Approval of the proposed group home would benefit the disabled community of the shire, which under the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2022 -2026), housing is a provision that needs to occur and is heavily identified. Although the population requiring this accommodation may not encompass a wider community, the housing type is beneficial to the expanding Buronga / Gol Gol and wider areas of the entire shire and is also important being a border community. A total of 13 submissions objecting to the development were received during the exhibition period, however matters raised were similar in nature with no detrimental planning concerns raised. Most concerns are specific to management and users of group homes in general, or the infrastructure of the area that would have been considered during the subdivision stage. It is worth noting that nearly all submissions state that the submitter recognises the need for the housing type in the shire.

The Land and Environment Court in *New Century Developments Pty Limited v Baulkham Hills Shire Council* (2003) 127 LGERA 303; [2003] NSWLEC 154 (New Century) at [60] adjudged that a development that causes such great offence to a large portion of the community that it ought to be refused amounts to a detrimental social impact.

However, at [62] the case law identifies that fears or concerns without rational or justified foundations are not matters which, by themselves, can be considered as an amenity or social impact pursuant to s 79C(1) (now s 4.15) of the EP&A Act. Where there is no evidence to support a rational fear, it will not be relevant and be of the basis that community members have altered their everyday actions and thoughts based on the concept of the use of permanent group homes, therefore are seen due to unjustified fears, in this case, whereby broad assumptions have been made about the use of permanent group homes.

In this case Council received 13 objections to the DA (within the exhibition timeframe), mainly from residents living nearby and from within the broader urban area. The objections principally related to

impacts to property value, childcare proximity, disturbances from residents of proposed group homes, lack of facilities in the area, proximity of group homes to each other, insufficient infrastructure to support high-needs users, impact of living in the area for NDIS participants, potential for traffic increase and property damage from users.

Assessment of social impacts relating to the proposed development of a permanent group home needs to be based on fact and evidence, not community perceptions or potential unjustified fears. It needs to be reiterated that the assessment and approval or refusal of a development application is to be made under the planning legislation.

The social impacts as perceived by local residents are noted and have been addressed through conditions of consent or general assessment. Council cannot dictate who utilises the group home upon completion and following issuance of an occupation certificate as long as users are those permitted under the definition of permanent group home. Residents of the area seem to hold unjustified fears of those from within the disabled community who would be using the group homes for impacts to their lives and everyday activities.

At the February Council Meeting (12 February 2025) members of the public gallery spoke against the development of group home “clusters”, citing isolation of potential residents, heightened noise and vehicular impacts, minimised liveability of the wider community, emergency vehicle access and availability, NDIS requirements and reports that are not indicative of town planning requirements, DCP non-compliance, and the institutionalisation of NDIS participants. The abovementioned have been considered in the assessment and are not considered detrimental social impacts as they are perceived impacts or unjustified concerns, with no reference to applicant supplied assessment material. Concerns have been adequately given weight where required in line with provided substance of submissions. Submissions and voiced concerns have not been of strict planning grounds and can be viewed as unjust when referencing the disabled community.

The development of a permanent group home, defined under the WLEP 2011 as a dwelling, is not anticipated to create negative social impacts on the locality. The specific users are not for Council to mandate through the development approval processes. A combination of abovementioned impacts will not lead to negative impacts or experiences in the area. The development of a permanent group home, in a residential area with minimal development as per this assessment should be greatly considered for aesthetic and crime prevention (CPED) purposes. The more houses/development in a subdivision, street facing windows and cars around development, all attribute to making an area safer both through surveillance and lively areas.

On balance, the proposed permanent group home in a land zoning supporting group homes under both the WLEP 2011 and the Housing SEPP 2021, the benefits to the disabled community and no negative impact anticipated to the social streetscape or overall amenity of the area, when weighted against the minimal substance of the submissions, does not justly warrant refusal of this development application.

Should concerns arise from the permanent group home operation, Council will properly investigate and take compliance action as needed to matters within our jurisdiction.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL INTERNAL DEPARTMENTS

Department	Referred Y/N	Comments
Building	Y	BCA Classification: 3 and 10a <u>Comments</u>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No building comments relevant to the determination of a DA. <p>Approval under S68 of the Local Government Act must be obtained prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying out of water supply work. Carrying out sewerage work. <p>Connection to Sewer.</p>
Subdivision Engineer	N	
Roads & Engineering	N	
Finance & Policy	N	
Heritage Advisor	N	
Environmental Health	N	
Local Laws	N	
Floodplain Mgt Committee	N	
Sustainable Infrastructure	N	



CONCLUSIONS


1. General comments:
2. The proposal satisfies the points for consideration listed under Section 4.15 part b, c, d and e of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*.
3. The proposal occurs on land zoned RU5 - Village. The proposal is not considered to have detrimental impact on the site and surrounds.
4. The proposal is consistent with the Wentworth Shire Development Control Plan (Dec 2011). The proposal meets Chapter 8 of the provisions set out in the Wentworth Development Control Plan 2011.
5. The proposed permanent group home accords with the relevant objectives and provisions of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.
6. There is no draft local environmental plan affecting the proposed development.

Recommendation:

Approve the application subject to conditions

Delegate report author	Delegated approval and endorsement
-------------------------------	---

Signature: 	Signature: 
Georgie Martin Cadet Planning Officer	George Kenende Acting Director Health & Planning
Date: 07/03/2025	Date: 7/03/2025

 <p>Wentworth SHIRE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Health & Planning Department 61 Darling Street PO Box 81 WENTWORTH NSW 2648 Tel: 03 5027 5027 council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>TEMPLATE CONDITIONS</p>
---	--	-----------------------------------

DA2024/159 PERMANENT GROUP HOME WITH GARAGE 40 MIDWAY DRIVE LOT 4 DP 1288183

BURONGA

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.	<p>Approved development</p> <p>Approval is for a permanent group home with garage.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved development.</p>
2.	<p>Approved Plans and Documentation</p> <p>The development shall be in accordance with the following plans, documentation and recommendations made there in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Plan by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-690; Sheet No: 2 of 5; Date: 15/05/24. • Floor Plan by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-690; Sheet No: 3 of 5; Date: 15/05/24. • Elevations (W & E) by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-690; Sheet No: 4 of 5; Date: 15/05/24. • Elevations (N & S) by Intrend Design & Drafting PTY LTD; Job No: 24-690; Sheet No: 5 of 5; Date: 15/05/24. <p>In the event of any inconsistency between the approved plans and the supporting documentation, the approved plans prevail. In the event of any inconsistency between the approved plans and a condition of this consent, the condition prevails.</p> <p>Note: an inconsistency occurs between an approved plan and supporting documentation or between an approved plan and a condition when it is not possible to comply with both at the relevant time.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved plans and supporting documentation that applies to the development.</p>
3.	<p>Compliance with Building Code of Australia and insurance requirements under Home Building Act 1989</p> <p>1. It is a condition of a development consent for development that involves building work that the work must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. It is a condition of a development consent for development that involves residential building work for which a contract of insurance is required under the Home Building Act 1989, Part 6 that a contract of insurance is in force before building work authorised to be carried out by the consent commences. 3. It is a condition of a development consent for a temporary structure used as an entertainment venue that the temporary structure must comply with Part B1 and NSW Part H102 in Volume 1 of the Building Code of Australia. 4. In subsection (1), a reference to the Building Code of Australia is a reference to the Building Code of Australia as in force on the day on which the application for the construction certificate was made. 5. In subsection (3), a reference to the Building Code of Australia is a reference to the Building Code of Australia as in force on the day on which the application for development consent was made. 6. This section does not apply- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to the extent to which an exemption from a provision of the Building Code of Australia or a fire safety standard is in force under the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, or b. to the erection of a temporary building, other than a temporary structure to which subsection (3) applies. <p>Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 69 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Erection of signs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This section applies to a development consent for development involving building work, subdivision work or demolition work. 2. It is a condition of the development consent that a sign must be erected in a prominent position on a site on which building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. showing the name, address and telephone number of the principal certifier for the work, and b. showing the name of the principal contractor, if any, for the building work and a telephone number on which the principal contractor may be contacted outside working hours, and c. stating that unauthorised entry to the work site is prohibited. 3. The sign must be- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. maintained while the building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out, and b. removed when the work has been completed. 4. This section does not apply in relation to- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. building work, subdivision work or demolition work carried out inside an existing building, if the work does not affect the external walls of the building, or b. Crown building work certified to comply with the Building Code of Australia under the Act, Part 6. <p>Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 70 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.</p>

	Assessment Regulation 2021.
5.	<p>Lapsing of Approval</p> <p>Without the further consent of the Wentworth Shire Council, in writing, this permit shall lapse and have no force or effect unless the use or development hereby permitted is physically commenced within 5 years of the date of this permit.</p> <p>Condition reason: Ensure everyone is aware of the lapsing of the approval.</p>
6.	<p>Works outside the property boundary</p> <p>This development consent does not authorise works outside the property boundaries on adjoining lands.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure all approved works occur within the property boundaries.</p>

BUILDING WORK

BEFORE ISSUE OF A CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

7.	<p>7.12 Contribution</p> <p>Before the issue of the relevant construction certificate, the applicant must pay a total contribution of \$7135.77 as calculated at the date of this consent to Wentworth Shire Council pursuant to the adopted Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan.</p> <p>Note: The total amount payable may be adjusted at the time payment is made per clause 3.10 of the Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the 7.12 Developer Contributions are paid.</p>
8.	<p>Access Point</p> <p>Before the issue of a Construction Certificate, the beneficiary of this consent must build a driveway crossing for the subject land (if one doesn't exist) to Council standards.</p> <p>Access during construction shall only be through the driveway crossing of the subject land.</p> <p>Condition reason: To control vehicular movement on road crossings.</p>
9.	<p>Building Material</p> <p>The proposed building/s and structure/s shall be clad in an approved non-reflective material e.g. Colourbond.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the materials of the building not impact the visual amenity of the surrounding character of the area.</p>
10.	<p>Construction Site Management Plan</p> <p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the applicant must ensure a construction site management plan is prepared before it is provided to and approved by the certifier. The plan must</p>

	<p>include the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • location and materials for protective fencing and hoardings to the perimeter on the site • provisions for public safety • pedestrian and vehicular site access points and construction activity zones • details of construction traffic management, including proposed truck movements to and from the site and estimated frequency of those movements, and measures to preserve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the site • protective measures for on-site tree preservation (including in accordance with AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites) and trees in adjoining public domain • details of any bulk earthworks to be carried out • location of site storage areas and sheds • equipment used to carry out all works< • a garbage container with a tight-fitting lid • dust, noise and vibration control measures • location of temporary toilets. <p>The applicant must ensure a copy of the approved construction site management plan is kept on-site at all times during construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure construction works are adequately managed to protect the surrounding amenity.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Erosion and Sediment Control</p> <p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent is to ensure that an erosion and sediment control plan is prepared in accordance with the following documents before it is provided to and approved by the certifier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the guidelines set out in the NSW Department of Housing manual Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Certificate (the Blue Book), and • the ‘Do it Right On-Site, Soil and Water Management for the Construction Industry’; (Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and the Natural Heritage Trust). <p>The applicant must ensure the erosion and sediment control plan is kept onsite at all times during site works and construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure no substance other than rainwater enters the stormwater system and waterways.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Fire Safety Schedule</p> <p>Prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate, pursuant to Part 10 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021 (as amended) a Fire Safety Schedule is to be submitted to the Principal Certifying Authority. The Fire Safety Schedule must include matters prescribed in clause 79 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021 (as amended).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure compliance with Fire Safety requirements.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Long Service Levy</p>

	<p>Before the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent is to ensure that the person liable pays the long service levy as calculated at the operational date of this consent to the Long Service Corporation or Council under section 34 of the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Act 1986 and provides proof of this payment to the certifier.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the long service levy is paid.</p>
--	--

<p>14.</p>	<p>Payment of Security Deposits</p> <p><i>This condition applies to all construction works \$25,001 and above.</i></p> <p>Before the commencement of any works on the site or the issue of a construction certificate, the beneficiary of this consent must make all of the following payments to Council and provide written evidence of these payments to the certifier:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$232.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The payments will be used for the cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making good any damage caused to any council property (including street trees, kerb, road etc) as a consequence of carrying out the works to which the consent relates, • completing any public work such as roadwork, kerbing and guttering, footway construction, stormwater drainage and environmental controls, required in connection with this consent, and • any inspection carried out by Council in connection with the completion of public work or the making good any damage to council property. <p>The Infrastructure Bond will be returned on completion of the construction of the proposed development, subject to no damage being done to any council property (including street trees, kerb, road etc) as a consequence of carrying out the works to which the consent relates. The owner / developer is to arrange an inspection with an Officer of Wentworth Shire Council before any work commences on site. Any damage incurred to Council infrastructure will be repaired at the owners / developers expense and the balance of the Infrastructure Bond will be returned to the owner / developer on completion of the construction.</p> <p>Note: The inspection fee includes Councils fees and charges and includes the Public Road and Footpath Infrastructure Inspection Fee (under the Roads Act 1993). The amount payable must be in accordance with councils fees and charges at the payment date.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure any damage to public infrastructure is rectified and public works can be created.</p>	Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):	\$3,000.00	Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)	\$232.00
Infrastructure Bond (Security Deposit):	\$3,000.00				
Infrastructure Protection Permit Fee (includes inspections)	\$232.00				
<p>15.</p>	<p>Plumbing and Drainage</p> <p>Before issuance of the Construction Certificate, a Plumbing and Drainage Application under</p>				

	<p>Section 68 of the Local Government Act NSW 1993 is to be submitted to and approved by Council before any plumbing and drainage works (water and sewerage).</p> <p>Note: All stormwater from the site is to be directed towards a legal point of discharge. All plumbing and drainage work is to be carried out by a plumber and drainer, or other authorised person, licensed with the New South Wales Department of Fair Trading.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure plumbing and drainage works are carried out appropriately.</p>
16.	<p>Road reserve landscaping Lawn must be used for landscaping within the road reserve. Any other form of landscaping in the road reserve must be approved by Council.</p> <p>Condition Reason: To ensure appropriate landscaping is used in road reserve.</p>
17.	<p>Utilities and services - water and sewerage Raw water, filtered water and sewerage are available and are to be connected to Council's services. Dual water supply lines are to be provided from the front boundary of the property. One line is to convey filtered water to all fittings within the building and the other line to convey unfiltered water to all fittings outside the building i.e. garden taps, etc. A separate application is to be made to Council for approval to connect to Council's water mains prior to commencing any plumbing and drainage work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure relevant utility and service providers requirements are provided to the certifier.</p>
18.	<p>Waste management plan Before the issue of a construction certificate, the applicant is to ensure that a waste management plan is prepared in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines and the following requirements before it is provided to and approved by the certifier:</p> <p>Details the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the contact details of the person(s) removing the waste • an estimate of the waste (type and quantity) and whether the waste is expected to be reused, recycled or go to landfill • the address of the disposal location(s) where the waste is to be taken <p>The applicant must ensure the waste management plan is referred to in the construction site management plan and kept on-site at all times during construction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure resource recovery is promoted and local.</p>
19.	<p>Works in Road Reserve A Road Opening Permit is required from the Wentworth Shire Council prior to any works or excavation within the road reserve including but not limited to: water tapping, sewer, driveway crossings, tree planting or removal etc.</p> <p>Please contact Council's Roads & Engineering Department on Tel: (03) 5027 5027 to arrange a</p>

	<p>permit.</p> <p>Condition reason: To control development in the road reserve.</p>
--	--

BEFORE BUILDING WORK COMMENCES

20.	<p>Construction Certificates and Appointment of Principal Certifier Prior to the commencement of any building works, the following requirements must be complied with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Construction Certificate must be obtained from the Council or an Accredited Certifier, in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, • A Principal Certifier must be appointed, and Council must be notified in writing of the appointment irrespective of whether Council or a Registered Certifier is appointed; and notify Council in writing of their intention to commence work (at least two [2] days' notice is required). <p>Condition reason: To ensure building works complies with relevant legislation and other codes.</p>
21.	<p>Contractor details notification The certifying authority must advise Council, in writing of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name and contractor licence number of the licensee who has been contracted to do or intends to do the work, or 2. The name and permit of the owner-builder who intends to do the work. <p>If these arrangements are changed, or if a contract is entered into for the work to be done by a different licensee, Council must be immediately informed.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure building work is carried out by licensed contractor.</p>
22.	<p>Dial before you dig Underground assets may exist in the area that is subject to your application. In the interest of health and safety and in order to protect damage to third party assets please contact Dial before you dig at www.1100.com.au or telephone 1100 before excavating or erecting structures (This is the law in NSW). If alterations are required to the configuration, size, form or design of the development upon contact the Dial before You Dig service, an amendment to the development consent (or a new development application) may be necessary.</p> <p>Individuals owe asset owners a duty of care that must be observed when working in the vicinity of plant or assets. It is the individuals responsibility to anticipate and request the nominal location of plant or assets on the relevant property via contacting the Dial before you dig service in advance of any construction or planning activities."</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure existing infrastructure is identified.</p>
23.	<p>Erosion and sediment controls in place Before the commencement of any site or building work, the developer must be satisfied the erosion and sediment controls in the erosion and sediment control plan, (as approved by Council)</p>

	<p>are in place until the site is rectified (at least 70% ground cover achieved over any bare ground on site).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure runoff and site debris do not impact local stormwater systems and waterways.</p>
24.	<p>Notice of commencement of works Subject to approval to commence works two days before any site works, building or demolition begins, the beneficiary of this consent must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forward to Council notice of commencement of work and appointment of Principal Certifying Authority. 2. Notify the adjoining owners that work will commence. <p>Condition reason: To provide notification of works commencing.</p>
25.	<p>Rubbish/Waste Management Throughout the construction period, from commencement of work, a suitable rubbish containment structure is to be located on site and utilised.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the construction site is kept clean and safe at all times.</p>
26.	<p>Storage of materials Throughout the construction period, from commencement of work, the storage of materials is not permitted on footpaths, roadways or in reserves. Rubbish and building materials must be contained on the site.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the construction materials are stored on site in a tidy & safe manner.</p>
27.	<p>Toilet facilities Toilet facilities are to be provided on or in the vicinity of the building site. The toilet must be connected to a public sewer, or if connection to a public sewer is not practicable, an approved chemical closet. The toilet facility must be installed on-site prior to the commencement of any other work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure workers and contractors have access to amenities on site.</p>
28.	<p>Tree protection measures Before the commencement of any site or building work, the principal certifier must ensure the measures for tree protection detailed in the construction site management plan are in place.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect and retain trees.</p>

DURING BUILDING WORK

29.	<p>Approved Plans A copy of the stamped approved and certified plans, specifications and documents incorporating conditions of approval and certification must be kept on site for the duration of site works and be made available upon request to either the Council or other Government Agencies.</p>
-----	--

	<p>Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved works to be conducted.</p>
30.	<p>Construction noise While work is being carried out and where no noise and vibration management plan is approved under this consent, the applicant is to ensure that any noise caused by demolition, vegetation removal or construction does not exceed an LAeq (15 min) of 5dB(A) above background noise, when measured at any lot boundary of the property where the construction is being carried out.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect the amenity of the neighbourhood.</p>
31.	<p>Contamination discovered during works If during works on the land comprising the lot, the land is found to be contaminated, within the meaning of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all works must stop immediately, and • the Environment Protection Authority and the council must be notified of the contamination. • Land is found to be contaminated for the purposes of this condition if the principal certifying authority knows or reasonably suspects the land is contaminated. <p>Note: Depending on the nature and level of the contamination, remediation of the land may be required before further work can continue.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure contaminated land is managed appropriately.</p>
32.	<p>Cut and fill (if applicable) While building work is being carried out, the principal certifier must be satisfied all soil removed from or imported to the site is managed in accordance with the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All excavated material removed from the site must be classified in accordance with the EPAs Waste Classification Guidelines before it is disposed of at an approved waste management facility and the classification and the volume of material removed must be reported to the principal certifier. • All fill material imported to the site must be Virgin Excavated Natural Material as defined in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 or a material identified as being subject to a resource recovery exemption by the NSW EPA. <p>Condition reason: To ensure soil removal & replacement meets requirements.</p>
33.	<p>Encroachment of easements No works are to encroach over any easements.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure works are not carried out over easements.</p>
34.	<p>Hours of work The developer must ensure that building work, demolition or vegetation removal is only carried out between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.00am to 6.00pm on Monday to Friday • 8.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays

	<p>The developer must ensure building work, demolition or vegetation removal is not carried out on Sundays and public holidays, except where there is an emergency.</p> <p>Unless otherwise approved within a construction site management plan, construction vehicles, machinery, goods or materials must not be delivered to the site outside the approved hours of site works.</p> <p>Note: Any variation to the hours of work requires Councils approval.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect the amenity of the surrounding area.</p>
35.	<p>Implementation of site management plans</p> <p>While vegetation removal, demolition and/or building work is being carried out, the applicant must ensure the measures required by the approved construction site management plan and the erosion and sediment control plan are implemented at all times. The applicant must ensure a copy of these approved plans is kept on site at all times and made available to Council officers upon request.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the required site management measures are implemented during construction.</p>
36.	<p>Natural drainage</p> <p>Any works undertaken in the subject land including building and filling shall not cause alteration to the previous drainage in the subject land or adjacent land. Any remedies required to discharge drainage water caused to be accumulated by the works associated with this permit shall be the responsibility of the beneficiary of this consent.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure natural drainage is maintained where possible.</p>
37.	<p>Procedure for critical stage inspections</p> <p>While building work is being carried out, any such work must not continue after each critical stage inspection unless the principal certifier is satisfied the work may proceed in accordance with this consent and the relevant construction certificate.</p> <p>Condition reason: To require approval to proceed with building work following each critical stage inspection.</p>
38.	<p>Responsibility for changes to public infrastructure</p> <p>While building work is being carried out, the applicant must pay any costs incurred as a result of the approved removal, relocation or reconstruction of infrastructure (including ramps, footpaths, kerb and gutter, light poles, kerb inlet pits, service provider pits, street trees or any other infrastructure in the street footpath area).</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure payment of approved changes to public infrastructure.</p>
39.	<p>Security fencing</p> <p>An adequate security fence is to be erected around the perimeter of the site prior to commencement of any excavation or construction works, and this fence is to be maintained in a state of good repair and condition until completion of the building project</p>

	<p>Condition reason: To ensure the site is secured during construction.</p>
<p>40.</p>	<p>Tree protection While site work is being carried out, all required tree protection measures must be maintained in good condition in accordance with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The construction site management plan 2. The relevant requirements of any Australian Standard for the protection of trees on development sites This includes maintaining adequate soil grades and ensuring all machinery, builders refuse, spoil and materials remain outside tree protection zones. <p>Condition reason: To protect trees during site works.</p>
<p>41.</p>	<p>Uncovering relics or Aboriginal objects While demolition or building work is being carried out, all such works must cease immediately if a relic or Aboriginal object is unexpectedly discovered. The applicant must notify the Heritage Council of NSW in respect of a relic and notify the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Heritage Council of NSW in respect of an Aboriginal object. Building work may recommence at a time confirmed by either the Heritage Council of NSW or the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.</p> <p>In this condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “relic” means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that: (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and a) is of State or local heritage significance; and • “Aboriginal object” means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains. <p>Condition reason: To ensure protection of objects of potential significance during works.</p>
<p>42.</p>	<p>Waste management While building work, demolition or vegetation removal is being carried out, the principal certifier must be satisfied all waste management is undertaken in accordance with the approved waste management plan.</p> <p>Upon disposal of waste, the applicant is to compile and provide records of the disposal to the principal certifier, detailing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contact details of the person(s) who removed the waste • The waste carrier vehicle registration • The date and time of waste collection • A description of the waste (type of waste and estimated quantity) and whether the waste is expected to be reused, recycled or go to landfill • The address of the disposal location(s) where the waste was taken • The corresponding tip docket/receipt from the site(s) to which the waste is transferred, noting

	<p>date and time of delivery, description (type and quantity) of waste.</p> <p>Note: If waste has been removed from the site under an EPA Resource Recovery Order or Exemption, the applicant is to maintain all records in relation to that Order or Exemption and provide the records to the principal certifier and Council.</p> <p>Condition reason: To require records to be provided, during construction, documenting that waste is appropriately handled.</p>
--	--

BEFORE ISSUE OF AN OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE

43.	<p>Completion of landscape and tree works</p> <p>Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the principal certifier must be satisfied that all landscape and tree-works, including pruning in accordance with AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees and the removal of all noxious weed species, have been completed in accordance with the approved plans and any relevant conditions of this consent.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the approved landscaping works have been completed before occupation, in accordance with the approved landscaping plan(s).</p>
44.	<p>Completion of public utility services</p> <p>Before the issue of the relevant occupation certificate, the principal certifier must ensure any adjustment or augmentation of any public utility services including gas, water, sewer, electricity, street lighting and telecommunications, required as a result of the development, is completed to the satisfaction of the relevant authority. Before the issue of the occupation certificate, the certifier must request written confirmation from the relevant authority that the relevant services have been completed.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure required changes to public utility services are completed, in accordance with the relevant agency requirements, before occupation.</p>
45.	<p>Fire Safety Certificate</p> <p>Prior to the issue of the occupation certificate, a Fire Safety Certificate must be issued in accordance with Part 11 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure fire safety requirements have been met.</p>
46.	<p>Occupation Certificate</p> <p>The building shall not be occupied or used until an Occupation Certificate is issued either by council or by an accredited certifier.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure development is accredited.</p>
47.	<p>Removal of waste upon completion</p> <p>Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the principal certifier must ensure all refuse, spoil and material unsuitable for use on-site is removed from the site and disposed of in accordance with the approved waste management plan. Written evidence of the removal must be supplied</p>

	<p>to the satisfaction of the principal certifier.</p> <p>Before the issue of a partial occupation certificate, the applicant must ensure the temporary storage of any waste is carried out in accordance with the approved waste management plan to the principal certifier's satisfaction.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure waste material is appropriately disposed or satisfactorily stored.</p>
48.	<p>Repair of infrastructure</p> <p>Before the issue of an occupation certificate, the applicant must ensure any public infrastructure damaged as a result of the carrying out of building works (including damage caused by, but not limited to, delivery vehicles, waste collection, contractors, sub-contractors, concreting vehicles) is fully repaired to the written satisfaction of Council, and at no cost to Council.</p> <p>Note: If the council is not satisfied, the whole or part of the bond submitted will be used to cover the rectification work.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure any damage to public infrastructure is rectified.</p>

OCCUPATION AND ONGOING USE

49.	<p>Additional structures</p> <p>No additional structures are to be built or installed on the site without permission from the Wentworth Shire Council.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure only approved work is carried out</p>
50.	<p>Amenity of the neighbourhood</p> <p>The operation of this development shall not adversely affect the amenity of the neighbourhood or interfere unreasonably with the comfort or repose of a person who is outside the premises by reason of the emission or discharge of noise, fumes, vapour, odour, steam, soot, dust, waste water, waste products, grit, oil or other harmful products.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure the amenity of the neighbourhood is not compromised unreasonably.</p>
51.	<p>Maintenance of wastewater and stormwater treatment device</p> <p>During occupation and ongoing use of the building, the beneficiary of this consent must ensure all wastewater and stormwater treatment devices (including drainage systems, sumps and traps, and on-site detention) are regularly maintained, to remain effective.</p> <p>Condition reason: To protect sewerage and stormwater systems.</p>
52.	<p>Ongoing use – permanent group home with garage</p> <p>The proposed garage cannot be used for habitation.</p> <p>Condition reason: To ensure appropriate use as per approval.</p>
53.	<p>Release of securities / bonds</p> <p>When Council receives an occupation certificate from the principal certifier, the applicant may lodge an application to release the securities held. Council may use part, or all of the securities</p>

held to complete the works to its satisfaction if the works do not meet Councils requirements.

Condition reason: To allow release of securities and authorise Council to use the security deposit to complete works to its satisfaction.

9.18 FOGO & RECYCLING INTRODUCTION

File Number: RPT/25/162

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration
Simon Rule - Director Corporate Services

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.3 Minimise the impact on the natural environment

Summary

The NSW State Government have now mandated the implementation of a kerbside Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) service by 2030 for all NSW Councils.

Council has previously applied for and was successful in receiving a \$149,000 EPA NSW Grant aimed at educating the community on a 3 bin system rollout, which was recently the subject of a presentation to Councillors by RAMJO (Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation) in December of last year

As part of Councils overall approach to effective waste management, the consideration of implementing a kerbside recycling service although not mandatory has the potential to provide significant financial gains & also address an increasing expectation from a large part of Wentworth Shire Council community for the introduction of this service.

The potential introduction of a recycling service together with the mandated FOGO service will significantly reduce the amount of kerbside waste to the Buronga Landfill and provide overall cost efficiencies by allowing a fortnightly pickup of the current general waste bin.

With the upcoming expiry date of June 2026 for the current kerbside contract this provides the ideal opportunity for Council to negotiate the best possible value for money kerbside service with the potential of additional collection & disposal service for general, FOGO and recycling. Given the current service provider has long been established in the Sunraysia/Wentworth Shire area, it will be extremely difficult for another contractor to set up in the area to just service the Wentworth Shire area and be competitive against the current contractor.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Approves the introduction of Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) and Recycling kerbside waste collection services in conjunction with general kerbside waste collection as part of a new kerbside contract to commence in July 2026 following the expiry of the current contract end June 2026
- b) as per Section 55(3)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) that Council enter into direct negotiations with Council's existing contractor with the intention of entering into a contract for waste collection services as a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders as other tenderers are likely to be uncompetitive and there is a likelihood of an unavailability of other reliable tenders.
- c) Approves a community education process to be facilitated by the Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation for a three bin system rollout

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek a position from Council in relation to the introduction of additional kerbside waste collections

Background

The NSW State Government have now mandated the implementation of a kerbside Food & Garden Organics (FOGO) service by 2030 for all NSW Councils.

Council has previously applied for and was successful in receiving a \$149,000 EPA NSW Grant aimed at educating the community on a three (3) bin system rollout, which was recently the subject of a presentation to Councilors by RAMJO (Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation) in December of last year

Report Detail

This mandate for FOGO service also provides an opportunity for Council to jointly consider the implementation of a kerbside recycling service.

Council's current kerbside waste service will commence its last plus 1year extension in June 2025 and will expire at the end of June 2026.

As part of Councils overall approach to effective waste management, the consideration of implementing a kerbside recycling service although not mandatory has the potential to provide significant financial gains & also address an increasing expectation from a large part of Wentworth Shire Council Community for the introduction of this service.

The potential introduction of a recycling service together with the mandated FOGO service will significantly reduce the amount of kerbside waste to the Buronga Landfill and provide overall cost efficiencies by allowing a fortnightly pickup of the current general waste bin.

Recently the following Council's in the RAMJO area have also moved from a one (1) bin collection to a three (3) bin collection and experienced the following increase in their Domestic Waste Management Charge

Council	23/24 DWM Charge	24/25 DWM Charge	Change
Berrigan	\$352	\$494	\$142 40% increase
Edward River	\$408	\$588	\$180 44% increase
Leeton	\$423	\$435	\$ 12 3% increase
Federation (northern area)	\$355	\$473	\$118 33% increase

It currently costs MRCC \$315 to provide the same three (3) bin system with an additional charge for the fourth (4) glass bin. Council's current DWM Charge is \$274 for those properties within the urban areas and \$334 for those in rural areas

Note that in the December RAMJO presentation the most recent introduction of the combined FOGO and recycling kerbside waste collection by Edward River Council was well received by the community and provided an immediate diversion rate of kerbside waste to the landfill of approx. 70%.

With the upcoming expiry date of June 2026 for the current kerbside contract this provides the ideal opportunity for Council to negotiate the best possible value for money kerbside service with the potential of additional collection & disposal service for general, FOGO and recycling. Given the current service provider has long been established in the Sunraysia/ Wentworth Shire area, it will be extremely difficult for another contractor to set up in the area to just service the Wentworth Shire area and be competitive against the current contractor.

Therefore, it is recommended that as per Section 55(3)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) that Council enter into direct negotiations with Council's existing contractor with the intention of entering into a contract for waste collection services as a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders as other tenderers are likely to be uncompetitive and there is a likelihood of an unavailability of other reliable tenders.

Conclusion

To only introduce a FOGO collection in conjunction with Council's existing Kerbside Collection will not see any tangible savings to ratepayers as the cost is expected to double as the existing weekly Kerbside Collection will need to be maintained as the bins will still contain recyclable material.

As indicated above those Council's that have gone from a one (1) bin collection have decided to introduce a three (3) bin collection as the cost increase are significantly less than only introducing a two (2) bin collection.

Given our location to Mildura and the fact that our existing contractor also undertakes all of the collection services for MRCC there is the potential to leverage of this and reduce the impost even further.

Attachments

Nil

9.19 PROJECT & WORKS UPDATE - MARCH 2025

File Number: RPT/25/134

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Jamie-Lee Kelly - Administration Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

Summary

This report provides a summary of the projects and major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Department which have been completed during the months of February 2025 and the planned activities for March 2025.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in February 2025 and the scheduled works for the following month.

Detailed Report

Refer below for updates of the works completed in February 2025, and the planned activities for March 2025.

Projects and Works Completed in February 2025 and Scheduled for March 2025.

Roads

Maintenance Grading

- Graders are currently undertaking works on the Old Broken Hill, Popio and Windamingle Roads. It is expected they will move onto the Nobb, Polia and Karpa Kora Roads

Arumpo Road 24.5km Upgrade

- Base earthworks are fully complete.
- Three contractor trucks, and three Council truck and super dogs are currently carting gravel and placing on the road.
- The bitumen sealing contractor is secured and expected to complete their works in the first week of April.
- Installation of guide posts and road signage will be completed after the bitumen seal has been installed.

Vegetation Removal Maintenance

- A contractor has been completing mulching of road side vegetation in various locations to improve road safety. Locations include Low Darling Road, Keenans Drive, Mulga Road, River Road, Boronia Crescent and the Silver City Highway.

TfNSW Road Maintenance

- Heavy patching and reseal works scope have been confirmed with TfNSW.
- Works are anticipated to be completed over a four week period following the completion of the Arumpo Road 24.5km project.

<p>Roads <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Anabranh Mail Road and Wamberra Road Formation/Drainage Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contractor commenced works on the Anabranh Mail Road mid-February and is progressing well. Council is extremely happy with the quality of works and will greatly improve road safety and significantly reduce road closure times following heavy rain events. • On the completion of the Anabranh Mail Road, the contractor will relocate all required machinery over to the Wamberra Road site to commence works. It is anticipated this will be early April. • This project is 100% funded to the total of \$637,980 by a combination of the TfNSW Roads to Recovery and Regional Emergency Road Repair Funds (RERRF) <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Anabranh Mail Road and Wamberra Road Resheeting Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender submissions have been reviewed, with a recommendation put forward to Council for review. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Alcheringa Drive, Pooncarie Road & River Road - Stabilisation Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering design had been completed on two out of the three projects. • Test core sampling to be completed before the end of March to confirm the extent of existing sub base material before works commence. • The projects are funded by the TfNSW RERRF program. • The three projects will be run concurrently and anticipated to commence in April 2025 and be completed by end of June 2025.
<p>Parks and Gardens</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fotherby Park and Junction Park Upgrades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new picnic setting on a concrete slab has been installed at Junction Park next to the children’s playground, and new concrete perimeter edging around the Fotherby Park playground. The works were identified and completed following approval of playground upgrades funding.
<p>Water and Sewer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wentworth Effluent Disposal System (EDS) – Fire Repairs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site has been inspected by various contractors and quotes received. • Orders to be placed in early March to get this work underway and the EDS back operational as soon as possible. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Buronga EDS Smart Metering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart metering equipment has been supplied. • Quotes from installation contractors received and are in review for award in early March. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Buronga Pump Station No. 1 – Urgent Pump Repairs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main Buronga sewer pump station has continued to operate during February. • Sourcing a contractor to undertake these difficult installation works has been problematic. Discussions progressing with a potentially suitable contractor.

Water and
Sewer
(continued)

Gol Gol Buronga Reticulation Modelling

- Quotes requested from suitable consultancies for the following reticulation systems:
 - Gol Gol Buronga Filtered Water (excluding Dareton)
 - Gol Gol Raw Water
 - Buronga Raw Water
 - Gol Gol East Raw Water

Safe and Secure Water Program (4 activities) – Development

1. **Wentworth Water Treatment Plant**
2. **Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant**
3. **Wentworth Raw Water Pump Station**
4. **Dareton Raw Water Pump Station**

- All geotechnical reports received
- All draft Review of Environmental Factors received
- Option Studies Contract awarded.
- Site Meeting with various Option Studies specialists (Structural / Civil / Process / Electrical / Mechanical) to occur in first week of March.

Wentworth Raw Water Pipeline - Development

- Draft Review of Environmental Factors prepared.
- Options report from Public Works prepared due to original preferred option having potential geotechnical issues.
- Currently seeking a second opinion on geotechnical conditions from a reputable horizontal boring company.

Sewer Rehabilitation Program

- First meeting with contractor held in early February.
- Agreed start date in late March for sewer cleaning and condition assessment. This program results in sewer relining to occur in April through to May.

District Bulk Metering

- Bases for the bulk flow meter pits installed at Buronga Booster Pump Station and Wentworth Water Treatment Plant.
- Remainder of pits to be constructed in March.
- Bulk flowmeters to be installed in April when system demands have reduced.
- Review to be undertaken for Midway and Dareton Reservoir bulk metering.

Dareton Sewer Pump Station No. 2

- Practical completion issued.

Wentworth Raw Water Pump Station – Pump Replacement

- Installation of this critically important pump has been completed.
- Pump commissioned and required flow / pressure achieved.

Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Lagoon Clean

- Lagoon cleaning completed in early February.
- Lagoon filling has been slowed due to the summer reticulation demands on the Water Treatment Plant.

Projects

Buronga Landfill Expansion

The project aims to improve on previous waste management and resource recovery activities at the site as well as expand the approved footprint for waste disposal activities to occur.

This upgrade work includes the construction of a new lined waste cell, phytocap construction on previous landfill area, construction of new internal road access networks, car parks and additional hard stand areas, all associated storm water drainage, including swales and drainage basins.

Other works included in this expansion upgrade include the construction of resource recovery and residual drop off areas and buildings together with a dedicated recycling area and other facility operation buildings and structures.

Tender for the construction of the new facility was awarded to Water’s Excavation at the June 2024 Council meeting.

- Works on the project are now well advanced with earth works construction of the new waste cell and phyto capping approx 40% complete.
- Delivery of HDPE liner and geofabric completed.
- Supply and delivery of all road and structure base materials completed and stockpiled on site
- Off site construction of buildings and shed structures continuing.
- Supply to site of all retaining wall and drainage materials completed.

Works will continue throughout March and April to complete the cell and capping works, including installation of the cell liner & geotextile cushion. Preliminary works on the internal road network and building areas.

Other works also planned for this period include installation of mains power supply, commencement of storm water construction & building footings.

Projects

(continued)

The latest updated construction schedule identifies the project completion at the end of July 2025, subject to weather delays.

Darling Street Wentworth Footpaths

- Tender submissions have been reviewed, with a recommendation put forward to Council for review

Pooncarie Camp Kitchen

- Pooncarie Camp Kitchen awarded to contractor. Construction program still to be confirmed.

Wentworth Camp Kitchen

Wentworth Camp Kitchen awarded to contractor. Construction program still to be confirmed.

Wentworth Rowing Club Upgrade

- Quotation documentation issued to various contractors to quote.

Rose Street Stormwater – Stage 1

- Practical completion.

Buronga Riverfront Toilet Block

- Service locations completed for rising main.
- Rising main construction to commence in early March.
- Pump Station wet well to be delivered to site in March.

Projects

(continued)

- Additional concrete slab for ramp and stairs to be constructed.

- Pooncarie Toilet Block**
- Toilets and showers operational.
- Laundry needing to have the washers / dryers commissioned.
- Stairs and ramp safety measures to be completed.

- Dareton to Namatjira Shared way**
- Light pole foundations excavated and poured
- Poles installed
- Lights installed and working.
- Vandal proof cages still to be installed in early March.

- Buronga to Midway Shared way**
- Survey pegs installed at light locations.
- Complaints from residence received as to solar light locations
- Once all locations can be resolved, installation of foundations can commence.
- Design of shared way complete.

- George Gordon Oval Lighting Upgrade**
- Practical completion.

- Open Spaces – Dawn Ave Drainage Basin**
- Concept design to be updated based on consultation outcomes.
- Survey of the basin to assist with design.
- Consideration currently underway that a drainage pump station will be required to transfer to Pink Lake at lower basin levels.
- Fencing installation still awaiting concurrence from neighboring property.

- Wentworth Kerb Upgrades**
- Design and quotation documentation complete.
- Consultation with community required in relation to potential tree impacts.

- Wentworth Riverfront Mooring Rectification**
- Concrete pours completed.
- Restoration of riverfront area underway.
- Rubber fenders to be installed on mooring side.

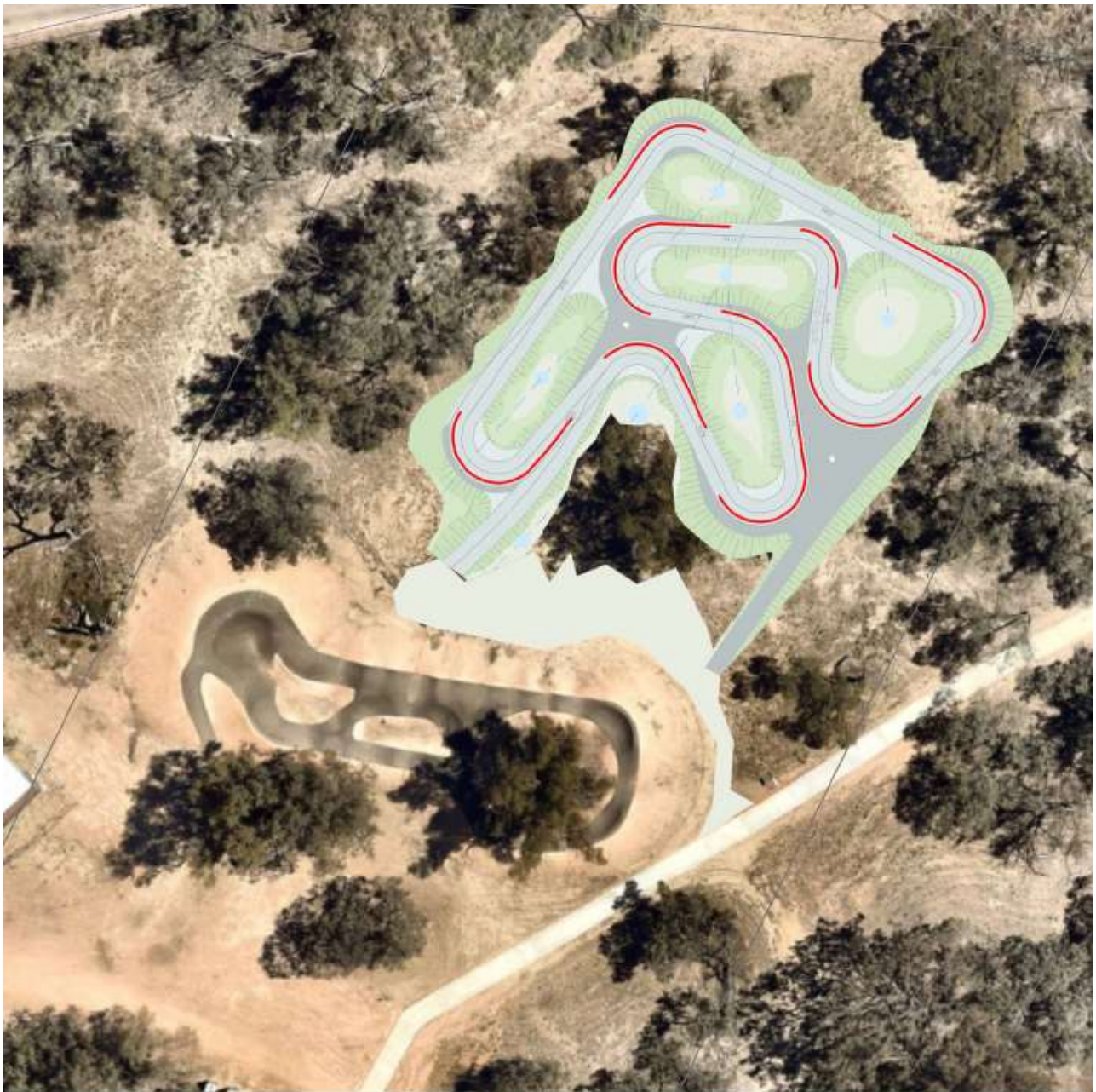
- Wentworth Caravan Park**
- Management of outstanding contract defects and other minor items (19 items remaining at start of March)
- Sewer pipes under the amenities buildings being rectified to be in accordance with plumbing code requirements.
- Tactile markers and stair nosing installed for various buildings.

- Buronga Pump Track 2**
- Tenders (including concept track designs) received from the market.
- Award of the Pump Track 2 construction to the “Best Value for Money” Tenderer. Award based on a lump sum cap on works.
- Quoted received for road and carpark materials / works also received.

Attachments

1. Arumpo Road Edge Widening [↓](#)
2. Buronga Pump Track - Concept Design [↓](#)
3. Dareton to Namatjira Sharedway lights [↓](#)
4. Gol Gol WTP Cleaned Sedimentation Lagoon refilling & Wentworth Raw Water Pump Station Commissioning new pump [↓](#)
5. Pooley Street Asphaltting & Rose Street Asphaltting [↓](#)
6. River Road & Silver City Highway vegetation removal [↓](#)
7. Wentworth Mooring & Wentworth Caravan Park stair safety [↓](#)
8. Buronga Landfill Expansion [↓](#)





velosolutions

Concept

















10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.1 PALINYEWAH SCHOOL BUS ROUTE

File Number: RPT/25/143

Councillor Armstrong has indicated his intention to move the following motion:

Motion

That Council write to TFNSW to request that the Palinyewah school bus route be extended to run all the way up to Top Hut Road in order to support the vital need of the community in allowing local children to safely access education at Palinyewah.

Background

As part of the recent community consultation session conducted in Ellerslie, this item was a topic of discussion. While this matter has initially been raised at a regional officer level by email a further letter will demonstrate Council's strong advocacy position relative to the need for these services throughout our Shire.

Attachments

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Despite the right of members of the public to attend meetings of a council, the council may choose to close to the public, parts of the meeting that involve the discussion or receipt of certain matters as prescribed under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act.

With the exception of matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) (10A(2)(a)), matters involving the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer (10A(2)(b)) or matters that would disclose a trade secret (10A(2)(d)(iii)), council must be satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

The Act requires council to close the meeting for only so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security being protected. (section 10B(1)(a))

Section 10A(4) of the Act provides that a council may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Section 10B(4) of the Act stipulates that for the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:-

- (a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may -
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee.

Recommendation

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-

12.1 Darling Street Concrete Footpath Upgrade - PT2425/09. (RPT/25/113)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.2 Pooncarie Road, River Road & Alcheringa Drive - Supply Road Base Material. (RPT/25/114)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial

advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.3 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant 326 - Diesel Engine Light Tip Truck - VR2425/326. (RPT/25/118)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.4 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant 662 - Ford Ranger - VR2425/662. (RPT/25/119)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.5 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant 666 - Ford Ranger - VR2425/666. (RPT/25/120)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.6 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant 673 - Holden Space Cab - VR2425/673. (RPT/25/121)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.7 Plant Replacement - Approval on Tenders for Replacement of Plant 674 - Ford Ranger - VR2425/674. (RPT/25/122)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and

transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.8 Anabranch Mail Road Resheeting Works - PT2425/05. (RPT/25/123)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.9 Wamberra Road Resheeting Works - PT2425/10. (RPT/25/124)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 DARLING STREET CONCRETE FOOTPATH UPGRADE - PT2425/09

File Number: RPT/25/113

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Jarrold Roberts - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

**12.2 POONCARIE ROAD, RIVER ROAD & ALCHERINGA DRIVE - SUPPLY ROAD
BASE MATERIAL**

File Number: RPT/25/114

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Jarrold Roberts - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.3 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL ON TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 326 - DIESEL ENGINE LIGHT TIP TRUCK - VR2425/326

File Number: RPT/25/118

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.4 Use and manage our resources wisely

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.4 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL ON TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 662 - FORD RANGER - VR2425/662

File Number: RPT/25/119

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.4 Use and manage our resources wisely

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.5 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL ON TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 666 - FORD RANGER - VR2425/666

File Number: RPT/25/120

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.4 Use and manage our resources wisely

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.6 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL ON TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 673 - HOLDEN SPACE CAB - VR2425/673

File Number: RPT/25/121

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.4 Use and manage our resources wisely

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.7 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL ON TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 674 - FORD RANGER - VR2425/674

File Number: RPT/25/122

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.4 Use and manage our resources wisely

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.8 ANABRANCH MAIL ROAD RESHEETING WORKS - PT2425/05

File Number: RPT/25/123

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Jarrod Roberts - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.9 WAMBERRA ROAD RESHEETING WORKS - PT2425/10

File Number: RPT/25/124

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Samantha Wall - Projects Administration

Jarrod Roberts - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

NEXT MEETING

16 April 2025