



AGENDA FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 31st August 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to clause 3.7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that the Council Meeting of Castlereagh Macquarie County Council will be held at the **Gilgandra Library Hub** on **31st August 2026** commencing at **9:30am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Please Note: The Council Meeting is live streamed and recorded

Michael Urquhart
GENERAL MANAGER

Table of Contents

1. OPENING OF MEETING	3
2. LIVE STREAMING AND RECORDING OF MEETING	3
3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS	3
4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	4
6. MEMBER OATH/AFFIRMATION	4
7. PUBLIC PRESENTATION	5
8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING	6
ITEM 8.1 MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 22 nd JUNE 2026	6
9. CORRESPONDENCE	14
ITEM 9.1 LETTER TO DPIRD – SALE OF CACTI SPECIES & POTENTIAL FUTURE WEED RISKS IN NSW	15
ITEM 9.2 RESPONSE FROM DPIRD – RE: SALE OF CACTI SPECIES & POTENTIAL FUTURE WEED RISKS IN NSW	16
10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES	18
ITEM 10.1 HUDSON PEAR TASKFORCE MEETING MINUTES – 12 MAY 2026	19
ITEM 10.2 HARRISIA CACTUS TASKFORCE – MEETING MINUTES -12 MAY 2026	23
ITEM 10.3 MACQUARIE & LACHLAN VALLEYS WEEDS COMMITTEE – 13 MAY 2026	27
ITEM 10.4 NORTH WEST REGIONAL WEED COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES -14 MAY 2026	34
ITEM 10.5 NORTH WEST REGIONAL WEED OFFICER – MEETING MINUTES -13 MAY 2026	38
ITEM 10.6 ARIC COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES -14 MAY 2026	41
11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER	45
ITEM 11.1 COUNCIL'S DECISION ACTION REPORT – AUGUST 2026	45
ITEM 11.2 CIRCULARS RECEIVED FROM THE NSW OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT	49
ITEM 11.3 CASH ON HAND AND INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 30 th JUNE 2026 & 31 st JULY 2026	73
ITEM 11.4 FOURTH QUARTER OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025/2026 & ANNUAL DELIVERY PROGRAM STATUS	75
ITEM 11.5 REVISED INVESTMENT POLICY	104
ITEM 11.6 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025/2026	114
ITEM 11.7 PAYMENT OF EXPENSES & PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS - POLICY	117
ITEM 11.8 MOTION TO 2026 NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE	125
ITEM 11.9 IMPORTANT DATES – UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS	129
12. BIOSECURITY REPORT	132
ITEM 12.1 QUARTERLY BIOSECURITY REPORT	132
13. QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING	145
14. CONFIRMATION DATE OF NEXT MEETING	145
15. CLOSE OF MEETING	145

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Time:_____am

2. LIVE STREAMING AND RECORDING OF MEETING

Please note that today's meeting, other than any confidential sessions, are being recorded and will be placed on Council's website. All in attendance should refrain from making defamatory statements. Council takes all care when maintaining privacy, however members of the public gallery and those addressing Council should be aware that you are being recorded.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we gather upon today and pay respect to the Elders both past, present and emerging.

4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of Absence
Recommendation: That the leave of absence received from Member Penny Heuston is accepted and a leave of absence is granted. Moved: Seconded:

5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members and senior staff are reminded of their obligation to declare their interest in any matters listed before them.

In considering your interest you are reminded to include pecuniary, non-pecuniary and conflicts of interest as well as any other interest you perceive or may be perceived of you.

Members may declare an interest at the commencement of the meeting, or alternatively at any time during the meeting should any issue progress or arise that would warrant a declaration.

Members must state their reasons in declaring any type of interest.

Member	Item No.	Pecuniary/ Non-Pecuniary	Reason

6. MEMBER OATH/AFFIRMATION

INFORMATION: Statement of Ethical Obligations (3.23 of the Code of Meeting Practice)
Members are reminded of their oath or affirmation under S.233A Local Government Act 1993.

Oath: “I, [name of councillor] swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of [name of council area] and the [name of council] and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment”.

Affirmation: “I [name of councillor] solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of [name of council area] and the [name of council] and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.”

7. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

SPEAKER	TOPIC
<i>Nil</i>	

8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

ITEM 8.1 MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 22nd JUNE 2026

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 22 nd June 2026
Recommendation: That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held 22nd June 2026 having been circulated be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved: Seconded:

Attachments:

Meeting Minutes – 22nd June 2026

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COONAMBLE ON MONDAY 22nd JUNE 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:30AM

PRESENT: Member D Batten, Member N Kinsey, Member P Fisher, Member M Cooke, Member D Bell, Member G Peart, Member P Heuston, Member Z Holcombe, Member G Rummery and Member M Garnsey.

ABSENT: Member Peart and Member Fisher

STAFF MEMBERS: M. Urquhart (General Manager) via Teams, A. Fletcher (Senior Biosecurity Officer) and R Wilson (Minute Secretary)

WELCOME: Meeting was opened at 10:30am and Chairman Member Batten, welcomed all Members and staff to the meeting.

03/26/01 Leave of Absence

Recommendation:

That the leave of absence received from Member Greg Peart and Member Paul Fisher is accepted and a leave of absence is granted.

Moved: Member Kinsey

Seconded: Member Heuston

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

10:35am – The Senior Biosecurity Officer joined the meeting

03/26/02 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 11th May 2026

Resolved:

That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held 11th May 2026, having been circulated be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Member Kinsey

Seconded: Member Garnsey

Carried

It was requested by Members that the General Manager make formal contact with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) seeking clarification regarding a particular concern raised by Council.

Council Members are seeking a response to the following question:

Why are members of the public permitted to import and sell cacti when there is concern that additional invasive cactus species may escape cultivation and establish in the environment, similar to the impacts experienced with Hudson Pear?

Members expressed concern that it may only be a matter of time before other cactus species become uncontrolled following escape from residential gardens, resulting in further biosecurity risks.

This request follows advice provided by the DPI Biosecurity Commissioner, who directed that the enquiry be referred to an appropriate DPI representative for response at the May 2026 CMCC Council meeting.

03/26/03 Recision of 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice

Recommendation:

That: Council formally rescind resolution 01/26/07 passed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 23rd February 2026 which states.

"That Council have not received any submissions from the community, formally adopts the "Code of Meeting Practice as tabled"

Moved: Member Garnsey

Seconded: Member Holcombe

Carried

03/26/04 Correspondence – June 2026

Recommendation:

That the correspondence be received and noted.

Moved: Member Holcombe

Seconded: Member Garnsey

Carried

03/26/05 Reports of Committees

Recommendation:

That the reports from the following committees be received and noted;

- North West Regional Weed Officer – Meeting Minutes 13th May 2026
- Central West Regional Weeds Committee – Meeting Minutes 14th May 2026

Moved: Member Bell

Seconded: Member Cooke

Carried

10:40am Member Rummery joined the meeting.

03/26/06 Council's Decision Action Report – June 2026

Resolved:

That the Resolution Register for June 2026 be received and noted.

Moved: Member Kinsey

Seconded: Member Heuston

Carried

Member Penny Heuston requested an update on the letterbox drop and mailout to landholders with information flyers for noxious weed and appropriate controls relative to each Shire.

The General Manager advised that the Senior Biosecurity officer was developing the flyer and pamphlets would be distributed in due course.

03/26/07 Circulars Received from the NSW Office of Local Government

Resolved:

That the information contained in the following Departmental circulars 26-05 to 26-07 from the Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet be received and noted.

Moved: Member Kinsey

Seconded: Member Rummery

Carried

03/26/08 Cash and Investment Reports – 30th April 2026 and 31st May 2026

Resolved:

That the investment report for 30th April 2026 and 31st May 2026 be received and noted.

Moved: Member Garnsey

Seconded: Member Bell

Carried

03/26/09 Member Fees, Local Government Renumeration Tribunal

Resolved:

That the Member Fees be set at the minimum level set by the Local Government Renumeration Tribunal for a County Council Category.

- a) The member fee for 2026/2027 be fixed at \$2,170
- b) The Chairperson fee for 2026/2027 be fixed at \$4,660
- c) Makes a superannuation contribution payment of 12% to its Members in accordance with section 254B of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Moved: Member Holcombe

Seconded: Member Garnsey

03/26/10 Draft 2026/27 Operational Plan, 2025/26 to 2028/29 Delivery Program as amended and LTFP 2026/27 to 2035/36 including Asset Management Plan and Workforce Strategic Plan

Resolved:

That Council, not having received any submissions by the 9th June 2026 now formally adopts the Operational Plan for 2026/2027 (Scenario 1), Delivery Program 25/26 to 28/29 as amended, Long Term Financial Plan 26/27 to 35/36, Asset Management Plan 26/27 to 35/36 and Workforce Strategy.

Moved: Member Kinsey

Seconded: Member Rummery

03/26/11 Audit Risk Improvement Committee (ARIC) – Strategic Work Plan and Annual Work Plan

Resolved:

That the Council formally adopt the CMCC ARIC Strategic Work Plan 25/26 to 28/29 and Annual Work Plan for 26/27.

Moved: Member Kinsey

Seconded: Member Heuston

Carried

03/26/12 Accounts Payable and Payroll Change Control Policy

Resolved:

That ;

- 1.the report be received.
2. Council adopts the Accounts Payable and Payroll Change Control Policy as tabled.

Moved: Member Kinsey

Seconded: Member Rummery

03/26/13 Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors - Policy

Resolved:

That ;

- 1.the General Manager's report be received.
2. Council adopts the Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors policy as tabled.
3. the policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and public submissions be invited.

Moved: Member Bell

Seconded: Member Holcombe

03/26/14 Important Dates for Members - Upcoming Meetings & Events

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events.

Moved: Member Heuston

Seconded: Member Cooke

Carried

Discussion was held regarding the August 2026 CMCC Council Meeting. It was proposed that the meeting be conducted in Gilgandra on Monday, 31 August 2026, following a tour of the township on Sunday, 30 August 2026, which is to include a visit to Cactus World. The Administration Officer is to coordinate and make the necessary formal arrangements for both the tour and meeting logistics.

03/26/15 Quarterly Biosecurity Report

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

Moved: Member Garnsey

Seconded: Member Holcombe

Carried

Members of Council requested a list of weeds that have recently been removed from the Weed Wise list, as per the announcement from the Senior Biosecurity Officer during her verbal report to Council.

03/26/16 Move Into Closed Session

Time: 11:15am

That the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with:

(2) (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)

Moved: Member Kinsey

Seconded: Member Bell

03/26/17 Confidential – General Managers Annual Performance Review

Resolved:

That members note my report in regard to Mr Urquhart's Annual Performance Review.

Moved: Member Batten

Seconded:

Carried

03/26/18 Return to Open Session

Recommendation:

That Council return to open session

Moved: Member Rummery

Seconded: Member Holcombe

03/26/19 Adoption of Closed Session Reports

Recommendation:

That Council adopt the recommendations of the Close Committee Reports.

Moved: Member Batten

Seconded: Member Kinsey

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 11:25am

Chairman

General Manager

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence for August 2026
Recommendation: That the correspondence be received and noted. Moved: Seconded:

Attachments:

Correspondence – August 2026

ITEM 9.1 LETTER TO DPIRD – SALE OF CACTI SPECIES & POTENTIAL
FUTURE WEED RISKS IN NSW



23rd July 2026.

Attention Mr. Pete Turner
Manager Invasive Weeds
Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development NSW
Orange Agricultural Institute
1447 Forest Road,
ORANGE NSW 2800

Subject: Sale of Cacti Species and Potential Future Weed Risks in NSW

Dear Pete,

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council is seeking information on what mechanisms are available to the NSW Government to regulate, restrict, or prevent the sale of cacti species by wholesalers, retailers, plant nurseries, online sellers, and market stall operators within New South Wales.

Council Members are becoming increasingly concerned that the continued sale and distribution of various cactus species may lead to future invasive weed problems across the state. The widespread impacts of Hudson Pear and other invasive cacti species clearly demonstrate how quickly these plants can establish, spread, and create significant environmental, agricultural, and economic issues.

Members acknowledge that many cactus species are currently sold as ornamental plants, however, there is a concern that some species may escape the suburban garden or be improperly disposed of, resulting in new infestations that go undetected, which may become costly and difficult to control in the future.

Can you also advise if the NSW Government is considering further restrictions or policy changes relating to the sale of cacti that may pose a biosecurity risk.

Council is keen to better understand the regulatory framework and what proactive measures are available to help prevent future cactus outbreaks like that experienced with Hudson Pear.

I would appreciate any information or guidance you can provide regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully

Michael Urquhart
General Manager

ITEM 9.2 RESPONSE FROM DPIRD – RE: SALE OF CACTI SPECIES & POTENTIAL FUTURE WEED RISKS IN NSW

From: Pete Turner <pete.turner@dpird.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 17 August 2026 1:46 PM

To: Michael Urquhart <murquhart@cmcc.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Rebecca Wilson <rwilson@cmcc.nsw.gov.au>; Jodie Lawler <jodie.lawler@dpird.nsw.gov.au>; Bill Davidson <bill.davidson@dpird.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Subject: Sale of Cacti Species and Potential Future Weed Risks in NSW

Hi Michael

Thanks for your letter concerning the sale of cacti and our follow-up telephone conversation.

As you know, the Biosecurity Act and the tools within rely on the demonstration of a risk a plant may pose. As such, all Opuntoid cacti (except *Opuntia ficus-indica*) being *Opuntia* spp., *Cylindropuntia* spp., and *Austrocylindropuntia* spp. are banned from sale.

I also advise that the ban from sale list and wording have been through a recent review. Based on this, it is proposed an additional 21 species will be banned from sale shortly. This includes leaf cactus. Further, it is proposed that the wording in the regulation around this list, being “A person must not import into the State or sell any” any of these plants is proposed to be clarified so that the actions of give-away, swap etc are clearly covered and banned under this part of the regulation.

Further in both Central West and North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans, all *Harrisia* species are listed. One must meet their General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) for this group whereby “A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, keeping, moving, carrying or releasing the plant”.

As you are the Local Control Authority (LCA), within your areas, I encourage you strongly to ensure that people comply with the above.

Also, as a LCA, you have access to the weed risk assessments in the Weeds Information Database. Here plants are constantly being reviewed and new species added. A recent example is the inclusion of Column cactus (*Cereus uruguayanus*). Given its high risk, I encourage you to work with other members of your regional weed committees to decide if this species could be added to the regional plans and if so, develop recommended measures for a person to meet their GBD. I am happy to assist with this.

Finally, I refer to the NSW New Weed Incursion Plan

(https://www.dpird.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1630862/NSW-New-weed-incursion-plan-2024-2030.pdf). This plan details our steps to determine new weed risks, noting many exotic plants

introduced to Australia are not weedy. As part of this, I pleased to advise that a new project has commenced with the National Herbarium of NSW, Australian National University, Western Sydney University and my department to “scan the horizon” to determine the next suite of weeds.

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

As discussed over the telephone, I would be happy to attend one of your future meetings to discuss further and to also expand on other new initiatives that are being developed with the update of the NSW Invasive Species Plan. I have also copied in Jodie (for CW and Western) and Bill (for NW) if you require any further assistance with implementation of the Biosecurity Act in those regions.

Kind regards

Pete

Dr. Pete Turner (*He/Him*)

Manager Weeds Biosecurity, Agriculture and Biosecurity

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

M 0409 692 946 E pete.turner@dpiird.nsw.gov.au

Website: [Weeds | Department of Primary Industries](#)

Location: 1447 Forest Rd Orange NSW 2800



**Department of Primary Industries
and Regional Development**

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Reports of Committees

Recommendation:

That the reports of the following committees be received and noted.

- Hudson Pear Taskforce – Meeting Minutes 12 May 2026
- Harrisia Cactus Taskforce – Meeting Minutes 12 May 2026
- Macquarie and Lachlan Valley Weed Committee - Meeting Minutes – 13 May 2026
- North West Regional Weed Committee – Meeting Minutes – 14 May 2026
- North West Regional Weeds Officer – Meeting Minutes – 13 May 2026
- ARIC Meeting Minutes – 14th May 2026

Moved:

Seconded:

ITEM 10.1 HUDSON PEAR TASKFORCE MEETING MINUTES – 12 MAY 2026

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Local Land Services



Minutes

Hudson Pear Taskforce – 12 May 2026

Details

Location: Legends Room
Lightning Ridge Bowling Club
25 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge

Date/time: 12 May 2026
09.10am

Chairperson: Pete Dawson – NW LLS

9. Royce Holtkamp – Horizon Environmental
10. Michael Mullholand – NPWS
11. Josh Biddle – NPWS
12. Mihaela Jovanovski – NSW DPIRD
13. Pip Sokol – Crown Lands (via Teams)
14. Freddy Sunny (Manger Health & Building Services) – BSC
15. Jeff White - BSC
16. Deb Bancroft – Landcare
17. Gavin O'Connor - QDPI
18. Daniel McCudden - QDPI

People present

1. Chairperson: Pete Dawson - North West LLS
2. Andrea Fletcher – CMCC
3. Mathew Savage – CMCC
4. Michael Urquhart – CMCC (via Teams)
5. Todd Pallister – North West LLS
6. Hugh Leckie – North West LLS (via Teams)
7. Pete Turner – NSW DPIRD
8. Andrew McConnachie – NSW DPIRD

Apologies

1. David Sullivan - LRAOR
2. Victoria Lugovoy - LRAOR
3. Marita Sydes - NSW DPIRD
4. Jarrod Smith – Crown Lands
5. Mal Scott – NW LLS
6. Bill Davidson – NSW DPIRD
7. Marita Sydes – NSW DPIRD
8. Geof Riley – ISC
9. Cr Doug Batton – CMCC

Actions

No	Action	Responsible	Status
1	Good News stories from the Taskforce to let people know about the work that is going on and include them as articles for the Walgett Shire	LLS & CMCC	On-going
2	Todd and Rachael to see if Tafe are holding AQF3 course in Lightning Ridge.	Todd Pallister	Withdrawn
3	Pete Dawson to confirm dates of NSW Farmers Western Division meeting for Andrew McConnachie to attend.	Andrew McConnachie	No meeting held – Withdrawn
4	NWLLS/DPIRD Ag & Bio/NPWS/CMCC to review the prioritised areas for future control efforts.	Pete Dawson	Ongoing
5	Overlay Biocontrol Layers Density with Core Infestation mapping.	Pete Dawson	Ongoing
6	Review data and provide updated map to Opal Reserve Trust.	Pete Dawson	Ongoing

This Meeting:

No.	Agenda Item
1	Welcome
2	Apologies As noted above
3	Conflicts of Interest Nil
4	Correspondence Received a report from LRAOR
5	Minutes <i>Moved Pete Turner, seconded by Andrew McConnachie</i>
6	Business Arising No free or subsidised AQF3 available at the present time. Action withdrawn. The NSW Farmers meeting in the Western Region did not occur. Action withdrawn,
7	NW Hudson Pear Program & Budget The budget for 2025/26 for the program is \$185K for contractors and \$15K for advertising and engagement, Wages for 2 staff including overheads. The budget for 2026/27 will be \$200K for contractors, advertising and engagement, wages for 1 staff member. Due to 1 staff member leaving and the project ending at the end of June 2027, recruitment will not go ahead. No more chemical will be purchased under this program.
8	Biocontrol Update Andrew McConnachie – NSW DPIRD Walgett • Quarterly monitoring since 2017. This is the longest monitoring of a biocontrol. • Site 1 – 41% reduction of plant density. • Site 2 – 50% reduction of plant density. Stephens Creek • Good Neighbours Program sprayed incursion. • Sentinel plants set up with Biocontrol. • Monitoring to occur next week with 100m transects.

Biocontrol sharing has occurred with QLD. Due to challenges with SA this has not occurred yet.
Presented at NZ at the World Weed Conference results from Hudson Pear Biocontrol of *Cylindropuntia* sp.

9 Delegate Reports

Todd Pallister – North West LLS

Dangar bridge original plant removed. Two new plants regrew at site in the bridge surface. These were sprayed by CMCC at the request of LLS.

Contract spraying has been completed by one contractor while the other contractor is currently spraying. Contractors are strengthening containment lines.

Maps of works shown for Lightning Ridge, Grawin and Angledool areas with treated areas.

Pete Dawson – North West LLS

Went through the Hudson Pear Action Plan.

Matt Savage – CMCC

Biocontrol is going well in the field for WSPH.

Concentrating on BSHP biocontrol this year.

Andy Fletcher-Dawson – CMCC

Quanda incursion is under control.

Baradine/Gulargambone Rd incursion has been treated. The main plant was found to 200m from the road.

Stephens Creek – treated 200 small plants. Assisting with monitoring next week.

Cobar site to be inspected to see how the site is progressing.

Michael Mulholland – NPWS

Severn NP

- Monthly monitoring and treatment of plants. All plants are small.
- Drying conditions assisting with identification of plants.

Narran Lake NP

- Treated 37 plants in January and 55 plants March 2026.
- Draft management plan completed

Pilliga NP

- Monitoring occurring with no new plants found.
- Draft management plan completed.

Pip Sokol – Crown Lands

CRIF grants coming soon.

Crown Lands engaged Soil Con to clean up areas of rubbish at Lightning Ridge.

Read highlights from the LRAOR report.

Coocoran area working on BSHP. Planning to release 300-400 tubs of Biocontrol.

Chemical spraying of roadsides, fences and tracks for asset protection.

Have purchased a drone to assist with searching for HP sites.

In the last year we have mustered over 1,000 feral goats.

10 General business

Pete Turner

- Statewide Biosecurity Action Plans being created.
- State Invasive Species Committee created.

Michael Mulholland

- Opportunity to put all work together on one map to show the full extent of HP in NSW and the development of a report.

Pete Dawson

- Data sharing between all agencies needs to be sorted out.

Andrew McConnachie

- Presence Vs density needs to be captured and discussed.

Daniel McCudden

- Opportunity for CMCC to collaborate with Balonne Shire re HP.

Pete Dawson

- Asked all members of their thoughts for the future direction of the HPTF and if it could be combined with the Harrisia Cactus TF. Members indicated that the HP Taskforce provides valuable opportunities for collaboration and information sharing and would preferer that it remained a stand-alone meeting.
- NW LLS's role in weed management is changing and with the HP program coming to an end in June 2027. NW LLS may no longer be responsible for running Priority Weed Taskforce meetings as these may be best managed by Local Control Authorities and DPIRD Ag & Bio going forward.

11 Actions

nil

Closed 12.20pm

ITEM 10.2 HARRISIA CACTUS TASKFORCE – MEETING MINUTES -12 MAY 2026

Local Land Services



Minutes

Harrisia Cactus Task Force – 12 May 2026

Details

Location: Legends Room
Lightning Ridge Bowling Club
25 Morilla Street
Lightning Ridge NSW

Date/time: 12 May 2026
1.05pm (AEST)

Chairperson: Pete Dawson - NW LLS

9. Jeff White - BSC
10. Pete Turner – NSW DPIRD
11. Andrew McConnachie - NSW DPIRD
12. Royce Holtkamp – Horizon Ecological
13. Mike Mulholland - NPWS
14. Josh Biddle – NPWS
15. Hanwen Wu – NSW DPIRD
16. Clare Felton-Taylor – NSC
17. Scott Revell – Gwydir SC (via Teams)
18. Chris Crafter – SQL (via Teams)
19. Tamara Taylor – QDPI (via Teams)
20. Bill Davidson – NSW DPIRD (via Teams)
21. Jamie Asgill – Gwydir SC (via Teams)

People present

1. Peter Dawson - NW LLS
2. Hugh Leckie - NW LLS (via Teams)
3. Todd Pallister - NW LLS
4. Deb Bancroft - NSLA
5. Andrea Fletcher-Dawson - CMCC
6. Matthew Savage - CMCC
7. Lachlan Biddle - MPSC
8. Freddy Sunny- BSC

Apologies

1. Geoff Riley - Inverell Shire Council
2. Marita Sydes – NSW DPIRD
3. Mal Scott – NW LLS
4. Scott Graham – NW LLS
5. Mihaela Jovanovski – NSW DPIRD
6. David Sullivan – LRAOR
7. Victoria Luvuvuy - LRAOR

Actions

No	Action	Responsible	Status
1	Update HCTF contact list	Pete Dawson	Ongoing
2	Harrisia Cactus Action Plan put together with a small group of members of the Task force.	Pete Dawson	Ongoing
3	Chase up and redistribute old Les Tanner trial results.	Pete Dawson	Ongoing

This Meeting:

No.	Agenda Item
1	Welcome Meeting opened at Acknowledgement of Country
2	Apologies

	As noted above
3	Conflicts of Interest None
4	Previous Minutes Moved that the previous minutes are a true and accurate record of meeting <i>Accepted Pete Turner and Seconded Andrew McConnachie</i>
5	Business Arising Actions 1. Pete to update contact list. 2. Pete to resend the Draft Harrisia Cactus Action Plan. 3. Pete to dig out Les Tanner's research and share with the Task Force.
6	New Incursions Clare Felton-Taylor – Narrabri Shire Council • Yarrie Lake Road, Bohenia – we have a new property with HC. • Sydney Uni site on Killarney Gap Rd – additional site to the east. • Forestry site on Killarney Gap Rd Deb Bancroft – NSLA Strayleaves, Bruxner Highway – BCT property with significant HC in tree lined fence zones. Gwydir to check mapping. Josh Biddle – NPWS Found HC in Baronga Reserve. HC has been treated and regular inspections to take place.
7	Distribution Mapping Deb Bancroft – NSLA Working on mapping the extent of the core in the Gwydir and Moree Plains Shire Council areas. Will be forwarding data to Hugh Leckie to a new distribution map created.
8	Biocontrol Releases Deb Bancroft – Landcare Undertake 3 releases on the property Strayleaves to create a new field nursery. The Mealy bug is doing well. Have taught the landholder how to spread the biocontrol on the property. Andrew McConnachie – NSW DPIRD Due to the expense in collecting new HC material for the biocontrol at the Grafton site it was decided to move this to Geoff Riley at Inverell to look after the culture.

9 NSW Reports

Andrew McConnachie - DPIRD

March 2026 presented at the NZ World Weed Conference on the work around the Weevil and the testing on 5 varieties of Dragon Fruit.

Further consultation to be conducted with the Dragon Fruit industry re pest control.

The Weevil prefers HC but will feed and breed on Dragon Fruit. Further work to be completed.

Hanwen Wu - DPIRD

Is there any information on seed longevity? And chemical control techniques?

Deb Bancroft - NSLA

The Harrisia Cactus Project Officer role will be finishing up at the end of May 2026. Working on the final Cactus Quarterly.

Working on the final report for the project.

Peter Dawson - NW LLS

Would like to Tank Deb for all her work since 2023. Great connections have been formed, and she has pushed the boundaries where needed. Deb has done a good of managing peoples expectations.

The final report will be distributed once received.

The TSR's are our high priority for control for our teams and completed within operational budgets.

Geoff Riley - Inverell SC

Report from Geoff.

Inspection and treatment of containment lines completed.

Grafton Mealy Bug culture now at Inverell.

Trial site using Method 240SC.

Andrea Fletcher-Dawson - CMCC

Good Neighbours Program

Received funding for the incursion at Warren.

10 properties, 3 TSRs and roadsides treated with approx. 150Ha in total and 10,000Ha inspected for HC. Landholder event to educate landholders.

Bourke Shire has HC and will be mapped. The Western RSWMP will be reviewed to look at HC and its priority in the region.

Lachlan Biddle - Moree Plains SC

Spraying HC north of Garah, heading towards Goondiwindi and 20km south of Gwydir SC near Terry Hei Hei.

Scott Revell - Gwydir SC

Mapping through inspections with new Bio Officer and controlling HC.

Clare Felton-Taylor - Narrabri SC

Undertook field day with minimal turn up (5 people). HC becoming a bigger problem with more be found across the LGA. People are aware of HC but not controlling it.

10 QLD Reports

Tamara Taylor - QDPI

Dasiops fly brought in from Argentina produced 500 adults. Unfortunately, 8 other species grew from this material. Swarm breeding difficult in captivity, using special UV lights to assist. No larvae developed. Looking at what to do – nutrients and landing substrate.

Will try again and work on breeding.

Chris Crafter – SQL NRM

Continuing work on HP and HC around Mitchell to Quilpy, Morvan HC increasing in population. Using biocontrol and spraying. Developing more field nurseries for biocontrol.

Difficult country. In the last 18-24 months HC has moved and increased in the Bulloo and Paroo Rivers.

Landholders are keen to get it under control.

Mapping not coordinated as HC priority is low, combining with other projects to map.

11 General business

Pete Turner - NSW DPIRD

WONS assessment of HC complete.

Further work continuing and a decision for Ag Minister if HC is to be listed.

Need to have ideas for activities and business cases for control works if HC is listed.

Hanwen Wu - NSW DPIRD

Is there monitoring info for treatments and conditions for HC. Need to compile for future reference.

Pete Dawson - NW LLS

Future direction of the Harrisia Cactus Task Force discussed as LLS's role in weeds is changing. LLS still as an obligation to deliver outcomes under the NW RSWMP 2023-2027.

Do we change to a Priority Cacti Task Force or stay the same?

Tamara – Task Force is valuable, could be good to combine.

Chris – Task Force is valuable, good to hear what is occurring in NSW.

Deb – Combining could be worse due to the number of up and coming cacti issues.

Clare – More cacti are becoming an issue. A combined Task Force could get too big.

Royce – Task Force meetings are tactical meetings.

Pete T – HP and HC have different regional management priorities. Hard to combine.

Lachlan – Combining could mean that one species will takeover discussions.

NW LLS's role in weed management programs is changing and NW LLS may no longer be responsible for running Priority Weed Taskforce meetings as these may be best managed by Local Control Authorities and DPIRD Ag & Bio going forward.

12 Actions & Close

Meeting closed 3:10pm

ITEM 10.3 MACQUARIE & LACHLAN VALLEYS WEEDS COMMITTEE – 13 MAY 2026



Macquarie & Lachlan Valleys Weeds Committee

CHAIRMAN	SENIOR VICE CHAIRMAN	JUNIOR VICE CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY
Benjamin Mott Mobile: 0409 256 779	Melissa Munro Mobile: 0438 030 766	Jaime Elms Mobile: 0428 154 692	Melissa Brennan Phone: 02 6393 8057 Mobile: 0419 612 448

D26/93557

Minutes of General Meeting

Legends Room, Lightning Ridge Bowling Club, Lightning Ridge
Wednesday 13 May 2026

Meeting commenced at 10.10am

Present

Name	Organisation
David Berthon	Mid-Western Regional Council
Kellie Frost	Weddin Shire Council
Archie Harding	Narromine Shire Council
Jon Cleary	Narromine Shire Council
Tanya Muccillo	LLS
Andy Fletcher	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Grahame McCubbin	Bland Shire Council
Damian Wray	Bogan Shire Council
Mick Wicks	Orange City Council
Andrew Francis	Parkes Shire Council
Melissa Munro	Mid-Western Regional Council
Ben Mott	Chairman
Selina McGrath	Mid-Western Regional Council
Glenn Sloane	Parkes Shire Council
Shannon Hodge	Forbes Shire Council
Terry Jones	Forbes Shire Council
James Cleasby (tentative)	Narromine Shire Council
Craig Venables	Lachlan Shire Council
David Dickerson	Orange City Council
Melanie Moeller	LLS
Glenn Neyland	Bland Shire Council
Katrina Underwood	Mid-Western Regional Council
Daniel Berwick	Dubbo Regional Council
Mark Holmes	Bland Shire Council
Ron Milne	Parkes Shire Council
Di Pearce	Mid-Western Regional Council

Sean Costigan	Mid-Western Regional Council
Will Bartlett	Bland Shire Council
Nathan Crowley	Lachlan Shire Council
Andy Fletcher-Dawson	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Peter Skarlis	Priority LG
Jason Crocker	Priority LG
Brodie Downey	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Mat Savage	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Ben Mott	Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Lightning Ridge and thanked those who had travelled for today's meeting.

The Chairman called for apologies.

Name	Organisation
Andrew Cole	Orange City Council
Melissa Brennan	Secretary
Marita Sydes	Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Gregory Spark	Cowra Shire Council
Jason Neville	Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the environment and Water
Steve Pearson	Crownlands
Julie Richards	Crownlands
Andrew McConnachie	Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Lloyd Kimber	Hilltops Council
Matt Lane	LLS
Mal Leeson	LLS
Andrew Cosier	Crownlands
Phil Cranney	LLS
Jim McGrath	Hilltops Council
	Cabonne Council

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes on 10 February 2026 in Molong (Cabonne)

Moved Sean Costigan

Seconded Katrina Underwood

Carried

Business arising from previous meeting held at Molong (Cabonne) on 10 February 2026

There were none

Chairman's report

I'd like to thank everybody for making the journey up to this beautiful part of the state and also thank Andy and her crew for putting the itinerary together and the great hospitality. I know it's hasn't probably been an easy sell for a few of you with fuel prices and pressures on Councils.

It has been great to see such positivity about the job back in the group. The last couple of years with changes to the Grant processes and level of support, and support agency, had caused some angst but the 4-year WAP and things settling down seem to have everybody ticking along comfortably again. I hope everybody is on track with their inspections and other targets as we come into the end of the financial year over the next 6 weeks.

I personally thought it was great yesterday to see the Australian Opal Centre and the hard work that has gone in there and hope they can find the avenue to the required funding to complete the building. I also enjoyed seeing the field at Cumborah and seeing the huge difference the Cochineal has made to the population of Hudson Pear out there. I was able to find a landmark tree there and get a before and after photo and the difference is huge.

Congratulations to everybody who has worked so hard and shown great resilience to make a huge difference.

Lastly, personally, I'd really like to thank everybody for the well wishes and good vibes I've received after making what was a very tough decision to leave Hilltops and move to Brisbane. It played heavy on me for a while but everybody's understanding of my reasons was a huge help and you would all know how much I love this committee and I'm loving being back with the group here.

So, thanks again for making the trip and enjoy the next few days and travel safe.

Correspondence

The Chairman read through the incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Financial report

The Chairman went through the Macquarie & Lachlan Valleys bank statements advising of the available funds.

Opening Balance: \$27,039.25

In: \$955

Out: \$528

Closing Balance: \$26,612.25

Moved: Ben Mott

Seconded: Damian Wray

Carried

Training

Mid-Western Regional Council has side by side and 4WD training, if interested 6 people can do in Mudgee.

ACFEC coming to Orange in June – 6/7 spots available on 16-18 June for Client Interaction and Defensive Tactics training.

Officers are encouraged to sign up to training through WIDX.

Update from other organisations etc (DPI, LLS's)

Crown Lands

Quanda Reserve Walk through with the Central West Regional Weeds Committee and Work carried out by Castlereagh Macquarie County Council on Hudson Pear.

Collecting Quotes for the next financial year on Various Reserves, Crown Roads and Commons.

Treatment of African Boxthorn, Tiger Pear and Common Pear on Crown Road near Taronga Zoo in Dubbo.

Treatment of African Boxthorn on Crown Road at Trangie.

Continuing weed inspections while carrying out other duties across all Crown Lands.

LLS

Threatened ecological communities focused on weeds – Boxthorn, St John's Wort, Green Cestrum and Tiger Pear.

Pasture ID course.

African Boxthorn biocontrol workshop.

Verbal Delegate Reports

Each delegate to give a brief overview on what's been happening in their LCA.

Chairman - City of Moreton Bay

Some big changes after moving to City of Moreton Bay. The differences in the Acts and their interpretations are quite stark. The QLD way is quite reactive against our proactive way of doing things. There is no WAP or any type of funding for jobs. Main functions are really to

execute Councils Biosecurity Obligation while also dealing with private situations but that normally only comes about from complaints, queries or what you can see over a fence driving past. We also walk lots of commercial and residential developments for a period which can be up to 12 months it seems to monitor weeds and ants before agreeing to have them signed over to Council for maintenance after many have been costing council a small fortune in maintenance costs of the high levels of weed burden.

The Council up there has a huge number of weeds including so far, I've seen Parthenium, TSA, Siam weed, Cha Om, Peruvian primrose, Mimosa Pigra, Alligator weed, Water hyacinth, Salvinia, Water Lettuce, kidney leaf mud plantain and Frogbit. So that's been different and we also have quite a few infestations of Fire ants and Fire weed coming in through turf and fill into new developments and a location of Yellow Crazy ants. So, it's been a huge eye opener.

The QLD DPI has recently undertaken a review of their weed lists updating the Act and the regulations which has seen plants like Bitterweed, Peruvian Primrose and TSA, which our Council has, move from prohibited to restricted which hasn't gone down great and Kidney leaf added to the list of restricted plants which it wasn't previously but it seems that's to help restrict the online trade of it but it's quite common around the greater Brisbane area. Quite a few other plants moved around but generally it just seems to be quite a bit of moving the deck chairs and I could share the updated listings if anybody was interested. The TSA movement has hit quite a nerve in our Council, and we have been working hard with a big recently found infestation over about 12 properties to get control.

Mid-Western

Inspections- mainly checking for Serrated Tussock which is coming up from the southwest and is spreading. Informing landowners about Fireweed, Sticky Nightshade, and Coolatai Grass. East of Gulgong focus is on Heliotrope, Fireweed, and Sticky Nightshade.

Central Tablelands and Mid-Western have teamed up to deal with Sticky Nightshade.

Community engagement with trailer (MLVWC) in Gulgong.

The trailer needs an awning.

Youth in Agricultural Development Day and Small Farm Field Day – 2 days of awareness. Tried to get 3D models for the youth days but they're hard to get a hold of.

Cleaned up the trailer, hoping to get Mother of Millions biocontrol when approved for release.

Getting a new General Manager. Did weed spraying program from October to the end of March.

Bland

Community concerned for Feathertop Rhodes Grass. (*Chloris virgata*)

Sucker control along roadsides.

Busy with spraying program and doing Boxthorn alongside suckers, as well as cactus, Tiger Pear, and Blue Heliotrope. Detected an infestation of Coolatai and addressed it. Green Cestrum work at Humbug Creek, lots of Silverleaf Nightshade work, inspections, sent cactus samples to herbarium, also sent suspected Chicken Dance with flower and herbarium said it's been wrongly named – Lions Tongue was the correct name.

Cactoblastis has moved in and cochineal is doing well.

Indian Fig Pear now has cochineal established on it.

Found that cochineal has moved onto Devils Rope.

Wrote an article for social media about the cochineal trials and the Bland Shire Facebook Page has published it.

Dubbo

Coolatai Grass control. Sticky Nightshade has come in from Central Coast in free trees where they emerged from the pots, checking these to make sure there's no spread.

Parkes

Steady works, targeting property inspections, Green Cestrum and Honey Locust. Treated a lot of Tiger Pear, which had come back after treating it the previous year.

Narromine

Dry, had 12mls of rain in 5 months. Went to Quanda and took part with the team in surveillance and control. Consistently managing Silverleaf Nightshade. Discovered 47 Mimosa bushes in Trangle and completed control works. Plenty of Tiger Pear and Gal Burr around. The previously discussed Harissia infestation on private property is now completely dead. Narromine show coming up in August, going to Nyngan to help Damo with a workshop, will do popup shop in the main street. Tomingley Newell Highway being diverted (8.7 kms), and team have been working with the contractors and inspecting for weeds. Found some Bathurst Burr in the project area and they controlled it themselves. Congratulations to Ben and thank you for coming here to catch up.

Orange

Lots of Blackberry, had a few Madeira Vine reoccurrences – two historical and one new. Nursery inspections and aquarium inspections. One nursery was running bamboo so provided education. They also sold Indian Fig, which was discussed and business owners were directed to WeedWise. Yellow/Flag Iris was on display in multiple areas although it wasn't for sale, however owners were provided information about risk of spread. Recently completed drone training in Cowra. Finished Side-by-Side and 4WD course. Found some Chicken Dance in a garden, but need a sample for herbarium so need to wait until in flower.

Nyngan/Bogan

Concentrating on cochineal for Tiger Pear, gave a heap out to landholders for them to distribute. 80% kill rate for common pear up Mitchel highway. Mother of Millions control planning. Doing lots of weed risk assessments. Inviting other areas to join Macquarie & Lachlan Valleys Weeds Committee. Encouraging crew to push Macquarie & Lachlan Valleys Weeds Committee when speaking with other councils who are not involved.

Weddin

Changes in management and hoping to provide education about roles as well as understanding obligations and WAP goals. Working on WAP targets. Coolatai Grass has been controlled, cochineal has been distributed and follow-up inspections show it's spreading well. At this time there is one staff member in biosecurity. Working to complete WAP objectives within that limitation.

Forbes

Busy recently, Tiger Pear and Coolatai been sprayed. Sticky leaf has been found on the river and one plant found in town. It has reemerged on a few sites where it was sprayed last year. Finalising property inspections. Sucker control. CSIRO inspected Boxthorn biocontrol site.

Lachlan

2 new starters to bring team to a fully staffed crew, boys have been out hitting Silverleaf Nightshade, suckers, and Coolatai Grass (which has moved down the road). A full crew will assist in getting back on top of what needs to be done. Some trouble holding onto staff the last couple of years due to retention issues, a full crew will now make achieving WAP goals easier. Completing inspections and hitting targets in the next 6 weeks for the end of the financial year.

Castlereagh Macquarie

Hudson pear control, aerial survey to find the mother plant.

Had a successful walkthrough at Quanda.

Also at Quanda, drilling at the rail has been postponed for now, but the plan is to put the rail through a Hudson Pear site so will keep an eye on it.

Rubber Vine and Parkinsonia control attended show in Broken Hill and provided educational material.

CMCC attended Croppa Creek for Parthenium surveillance and no plants were found.

Continuing to monitor Stevens Creek.

Recipients of Good Neighbours Program and having good networking and success there.

Harrisia workshop provided at Warren Racecourse.

To complete follow up work on Harrisia in May-June.

Aerial control on Narran River for Parkinsonia.

Ongoing inspections, roadside spraying.

Priority LG

Joined MLVWC and helping bring Riverina and Murray into the committee.

Priority LG covers 5 client councils and completes their WAPs for them.

Completed extensive work on St. John's Wort, Coolatai Grass, Prickly and Tiger Pear.

Engaging in community awareness, providing public awareness templates, toolbox meetings with outdoor staff, and report monthly and quarterly on targets.

Coolatai at railway is extensive between Marrar and Old Junee, maybe planted as a bank stabiliser. Plenty of sites to monitor in the next few years.

Cactus and Prickly Pear common Riverina. Candlestick/Wheel/Chicken Dance/Lions Tongue around as well, planning to get samples to the herbarium to confirm what's were.

Riverina Pear is being controlled well by biocontrol agents on existing sites.

Tiger Pear spraying near Junee and Gundagai highway. No Sticky Nightshade for 2 years. 3

Weed ID days planned for this month.

Nursery in Junee was selling potted Prickly Pear.

18 months free of Mexican feather grass.

One Hudson Pear found on fencepost in Wagga area. Contact to be made with Wagga Council.

New Weed Incursions

Brazilian Vervain at the tip in Bland.

Lions Tongue, Chicken Dance, Madeira Vine, Flag Iris in Orange.

Weeds Advertising

Seen on Imparja and on TV in Katherine.

Ben will ask for it to be out on 7 Wagga and 7 Orange.

Ad to be copied to a thumb drive to play in the weeds trailer and to send to Councils to play on their TV'S

Ad to be pushed on Facebook.

AGM Planning

22 October 2026 in Orange.

New Chair and other positions to be elected

General Business

NSW Weeds Society: questionnaire being created to find out what members would like from the society. Updating the website so contacts will be easier to find. Also trying to upgrade things.

Opened the floor for comment to help shape the questionnaire: suggestions included the newsletter providing information on new incursions, chemical to use, and general biosecurity updates.

Committee seems to be on track with WAP with a few variations.

Weeds trailer is available, but it was suggested that proposed dates for use are put in a spreadsheet available across the committee in order to organise use effectively. Hinges are being fixed on the door, and a suggestion was made for an awning to be installed.

Next Meeting Venue

22 October 2026 - Orange

The meeting closed at 11.40am.

ITEM 10.4 NORTH WEST REGIONAL WEED COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES -14 MAY 2026

Local Land Services



Minutes

NW Regional Weed Committee

Details

Location: Lightning Ridge Bowling Club
Legends Room
29 Morilla Street
Lightning Ridge

Date/time: 14 May 2026
9.15am

Chairperson: Michael Whitney, (Liverpool Plains Shire Council)

Minutes: Pete Dawson

People present:

1. Andrea Fletcher-Dawson (CMCC)
2. Matt Savage (CMCC)
3. Lee Amidy (Gunnedah Shire Council)
4. Scott Revell (Gwydir Shire Council)(via Teams)
5. Jamie Asgill (Gwydir Shire Council)(via Teams)
6. Mike Whitney (Liverpool Plains Shire Council) - Teams
7. Joannah Taylor (Liverpool Plains Shire Council)
8. Clare Felton-Taylor (Narrabri Shire Council)

9. Lachlan Biddle (Moree Plains Shire Council) (via Teams)
10. Damien Sykes (Moree Plains Shire Council) (via Teams)
11. Deb Bancroft (Northern Slopes Landcare)
12. Pete Dawson (NWLLS)
13. Todd Pallister (NWLLS)
14. Ross White (Tamworth Regional Council (via Teams)
15. Michael Mulholland (NPWS)
16. Amelia Paton (BCT)(via Teams)
17. Mandy Craig (North West Landcare)(via Teams)
18. Phil Spark (via Teams)

Apologies

1. Graeme Campbell (NW LLS)
2. Aaron Cross (Gunnedah Shire Council)
3. Mick Collins (NSW Farmers)
4. Rebecca Collins (NW LLS)
5. Bill Davidson (NSW DPIRD)
6. Lester Piggot (Transport for NSW)
7. Wally Hamond (NW LLS)
8. Ben Martin (Whitehaven)
9. Andrew Wright (Whitehaven Coal)
10. Chris Wicks (Transport for NSW)
11. Neal Glastonbury (Transport for NSW)
12. Thomas McAlister (UGL Regional Linx)
13. Mark Rodda (Crown Lands)
15. Mal Scott (NW LLS)

No.	Action	Responsible	Status
1	NSW DPIRD Ag & Bio to investigate the sharing of Prohibited Matter and Regional Priority Weed (Prevention, Eradication) data for roadside weeds with Transport for NSW.	Bill Davidson	On-going
2	Investigate and resolve gaps in BIS records related to Sticky Florestina infestations, and assign Weed Risk Assessments for both Sticky Florestina and Sticky Nightshade to ensure accurate data and informed management planning.	Bill D./ Clare FT.	On-going
3	Compile and review a list of stakeholders and agencies that should be engaged in future meetings	Pete D / Mike W	On-going
4	Tamworth Regional Council to inspect potential Parthenium weed site.	Ross White	Completed
5	Send any Harrisia Cactus incursion data to Deb Bancroft	All members	Completed
6	RWC Chair to meet with NWLLS Management to discuss opportunities to streamline RWC meetings as outlined above.	Pete Dawson	Ongoing

Agenda Item #1:	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies, Conflicts of Interest
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Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	1. Apologies tabled – as listed above 2. Conflicts of Interest - Nil
Decision/action	That Apologies be accepted – Moved Pete Dawson, Seconded Mike Whitney

Agenda Item #2:	Conflicts of Interest
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Nil
Decision/action	NA

Agenda Item #3:	Previous Minutes
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Accepted as a true and accurate record
Decision/action	Moved Deb B, Seconded Lee A

Agenda Item #4:	Business Arising
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	1. Bill D to provide update next meeting. 2. WRA for Sticky Florestina, Sticky Nightshade and Cereus sp to be completed by Clare Felton-Taylor, Andrea Fletcher-Dawson, Michael Mulholland and Phil Spark. 3. Ongoing. 4. Sample collected and sent into Herbarium. Plant was not Parthenium weed. 5. Completed. 6. Meeting occurred. Awaiting direction from NW LLS Board and State LLS Executive.
Decision/action	Nil

Agenda Item #5:	State and Regional Priority Species and New Incursions
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Lee Amidy – Gunnedah SC Online sale of yabbies from QLD led to Frogbit being imported to Gunnedah. Site inspected and weed removed. Clare Felton-Taylor – Narrabri SC Harrisia Cactus discovered on a new property in the Yarrie Lake Rd / Bohenia Creek area. This is the first site east of Bohenia Creek. HC sprayed. Monitoring to continue Michael Mulholland – NPWS Harrisia Cactus found in Boronga Nature Res. 22 plants found and treated. Monitoring to continue. Carion Flower found in the Warrambool SCA.

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

	Phil Spark Harrisia Cactus found in TSRs on the newel Highway north of the Croppa Creek turnoff. GPS coordinated supplied to Moree Plains SC. Michael Whitney – Liverpool Plains SC Potential Mexican Feathergrass (Prohibited Matter) discovered on a property in LPSC. Sample to be sent to the herbarium to verify identification. DPIRD Ag & Bio – Jodie Lawler Report sent out to all members.
Decision/action	Nil

Agenda Item #6:	Terms of Reference
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Waiting on NW LLS Board to advise the direction they want for the RWC. Pete Dawson advised that he has also sought guidance from the State LLS executive for a single position role of RWC and any updated Terms of Reference.
Decision/action	Nil

Agenda Item #7:	New Strategic Business
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Nil
Decision/action	NA

Agenda Item #8:	NW LLS Board Update
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	No items or recommendations for the LLS Board were identified at this meeting.
Decision/action	NA

Agenda Item #9:	General Business
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Todd Pallister – NW LLS Hudson Pear Control Program is about to start its final year with the program finishing on 30 June 2027. Amelia Paton – BCT Staff out in Lightning Ridge and Walgett undertaking assessments at present. Biocontrol trials with CSIRO. Agreement holders carrying out weed control. There is an opportunity for weed control to be carried out on roadsides at these locations.

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

	Michael Mulholland – NPWS Weed control in Barwon area 430Ha and Castlereagh area 640Ha treated. Gwydir Wetlands, Water Hyacinth works have been carried out. Deb Bancroft – Harrisia Cactus Project The Harrisia Cactus project is finishing at the end of May 2026. A final report and mapping to be finished. Pete Dawson – Thanked Deb for her work and for all the Weeds Officers for assisting over the last 3 years. The final report will be made available once reviewed by LLS. Phil Spark – Ecologist After inspecting TSRs for high conservation value recently. The amount of weeds being spread due to roadside mowing is evident. Something needs to be done. Michael Whitney – The Biosecurity Act is the problem. Pete Dawson – Opportunity for RWC to use the LLS Board to lobby for change. Ross White – Tamworth Regional C We have a new Senior Biosecurity Officer starting next week along with 2 additional Biosecurity Officers. Mandy Craig – NW Landcarers Will look for funding opportunities. Education of tourists is important. Narrabri SC – Asked if there were any opportunities for ongoing funding for priority cacti control. Pete D stated that there was none through Local Land Services however there may be opportunities through NHT programs.
Decision/action	Nil

Agenda Item #10.	Next Meeting
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	LCAs to rotate hosting of RWC
Decision/action	To be Confirmed Meeting End: 11:30am

Meeting closed 11:30 am

Next Meeting: To be Confirmed



13 MAY 2026

Chairperson – Michael Whitney

- 1- Chairperson: Andrea Fletcher-Dawson
- 2- Mike Whitney (LPSC)
- 3- Joannah Taylor (LPSC)
- 4- Lee Amidy (GSC)
- 5- Clare Felton-Taylor
- 6- Scott Revell (GSC)
- 7- Jamie Asgill (GSC)
- 8- Damien Skyes (MPSC)
- 9- Lachlan Biddle (MPSC)
- 10- Luke Friend (TSC)
- 11- Michael Urquhart (CMCC)
- 12- Brodie Downey (CMCC)

- 1- Jason Williams (CMCC)
- 2- Matt Savage (CMCC)
- 3- Aaron Cross (GSC)
- 4- Macquarie Lachlan
Weeds Committee
- 5- Bill Davidson

Actions

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
Send out a copy of letter to premier from CMCC	Mike Whitney	Completed
Talk with LLS regarding use of shed for Ag quip	Lee Amidy	Completed

This Meeting

1- Welcome
2- Apologies

CMCC – Andrea Flether-Dawson Continuation with Parkinsonia in June. Hudson Pear still ongoing, monitoring taking place at the moment. Delivery of Hudson Pear Biomaterial to DPIRD QLD biosecurity. Currently 25 Parthenium sites at Walgett but there has been no new germination. Roadside control has been ongoing. Brodie has commenced in the role a biosecurity officer and is based at Warren Shire.
GSC- Scott Revell Very dry conditions. – Education and awareness in place. Roadside control and council asset monitoring and control work being done. Harrisia monitoring continues. Undertaking control work for Green Centrum along the river. Inspections at Mosquito Creek for Harrisia. Horton river inspections via Helicopter – thanks to Lee and Aaron for helping. Croppa Creek Parthenium rapid response – 19 people attended – no plants were found. Jamie Asgill has commenced as a new Biosecurity Officer, has been in the role for a month. He will be attending DPIRD training in Newcastle next week.
TSC – Luke Friend Alligator weed inspections completed, 10 sites found, with 3 reoccurring. Parthenium inspections have been completed except the AELEC, will make attempts to organise inspection. Continuing to add weed inspection reports onto the system as it hasn't been done for a while. New Team leader starting on Monday – Grant. As well as 2 more Biosecurity officers. Walcha shire now includes Woolbrook. Andy question if Luke had seen the Rope Pear request come through, Luke had not seen this but will check. Mike mentioned a woman selling cactus in Daruka- will send through the link to Luke if he can find it.
6. New Weed Officer Talk Brodie - grew up on a cattle property. Currently undergoing Certificate 4 in Government Investigations- stated that there were only 2 weed officers present with the training and the rest were LLS – animals
7. General Business Weed Officer training is still an issue that needs to be addressed. DRPIR training not nationally recognised as accreditation towards the diploma. LLS has pulled out of the coordination at the weed officer operational level due to the lack of resources. Discussions will continue with LLS RE: reporting Pete has not had direction from the board on which way they will be taking the weeds space. Michael Urqhart GM for CMCC has requested support from other shires to band together and write to the premier requesting to have the funding CPI indexed. CMCC has already sent a letter into the premier requesting this.

ITEM 10.6 ARIC COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES -14 MAY 2026

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL ARIC MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL ARIC COMMITTEE HELD VIA TEAMS ON THURSDAY 14th MAY 2026 COMMENCING AT 12.01 PM

PRESENT:

Chair Ms Liz Jeremy
Committee members Mr. Ron Gillard and Charbel Abouraad
Auditor General Representative Brett Hanger (Nexia)
CMCC General Manager Mike Urquhart.

ABSENT: NIL

1.0 Welcome and Opening of Meeting

The Chairperson Ms. Liz Jeremy officially opened the meeting at 12pm and welcomed Committee Members, guests and staff.

2.0 Apologies

NIL

3.0 Traditional Custodians

The Chairperson acknowledged the traditional custodians.

4.0 Declaration of Interest

NIL

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the ARIC Meeting Held 19th February 2026

That the Minutes of the ARIC Meeting held on 19th February 2026 having been circulated to be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Resolved

6.1 Business Arising

NIL

Mr. Brett Hanger from Nexia gave the Committee an update on the interim audit. The interim audit is currently underway with some items still to be uploaded to the portal for assessment. For year end, it was suggested the valuation of buildings be assessed against the relevant indices, to establish if there were any material changes in terms of each asset class, a similar approach should be taken with the valuation of land. Draft financials for 25/26 must be submitted to the Auditor by 31st August 2026, and the year end audit will commence a week later.

7.1 ARIC Terms of Reference

NIL

7.2 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

NIL

7.3 RISK REGISTER

NIL

7.4 UPDATE ON THE INTERNAL AUDIT PROCEDURES & PLANS (DISCUSSION POINT ONLY)

The General Manager gave an update on the Internal Auditors draft report on the WH&S audit.

It was agreed the General Manager send out to ARIC Members the final internal audit document with the management responses and one (1) page action plan with timelines for implementation and reporting purposes.

Resolved

7.5 UPDATE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ON RISK MANAGEMENT

The ARIC received and noted the General Managers report on Risk Management.

Resolved

7.6 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT – MARCH 2026

The General Managers report on the Quarterly Budget Review was received and noted.

Resolved

7.7 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – Draft Delivery Program, Operational Plan, Longterm Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan and Workforce Strategic Plan

The General Manager advised that due to an administrative error the final agenda did not include the IP&R documents; however he gave an overview of the major items in the documents IP & R documents citing the lack of CPI indexation for NSW Governments WAP grant as a concern in the long term, IPART ratepeg increase of 3.56% for member council contributions for 26-27, private works hourly rate increased to \$150. It was agreed the IP&R documents would be circulated separately. The Chair asked if CMCC had experienced fuel shortages during the middle east crisis. The GM advised the extra cost of fuel for four (4) months is expected to be an additional \$15,000; however, CMCC had not suffered supply shortages across the region. The documents included a number of minor cosmetic changes.

Resolved

The EOY financial statements shall be presented at the 19th November 2026 ARIC meeting.

8.1 NOTIFICATION OF INCIDENTS OF FRAUD OR INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING COUNCIL

NIL

8.2 NSW OMBUDSMAN's REPORT

NIL

8.3 ICAC ENQUIRIES INVOLVING COUNCIL

NIL

8.4 OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NIL

8.5 OTHER - ARIC FOUR YEAR STRATEGIC WORK PLAN

The Committee received the General Managers report be received and noted. .
It was unanimously agreed the Committee members would make the necessary changes to section 8 "Meeting Planner". .

9.0 RISK PROFILING (REPORT ON ANY ACTUAL OR LIKELY EVENTS IMPACTING ON COUNCILS RISK PROFILE)

NIL

10.0 GENERAL BUSINESS
NIL

11.0 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
The next meeting is scheduled for 20 th August 2026 via Teams.

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 1.11 pm.

11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

ITEM 11.1 COUNCIL'S DECISION ACTION REPORT – AUGUST 2026

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Michael Urquhart

Summary:

This schedule summarises the current position of action taken in respect of matters considered at the previous meetings of Council when the outcomes have not been finalised.

Background:

Attached is the Resolution Register which summaries outstanding action in respect of all resolutions which required action and are still outstanding. The exception is for the last meeting where items that have been completed are included. Members are reminded that any queries should be raised with the General Manager prior to the meeting.

Current Position:

Details of actions taken/being taken are flagged for each motion. Over time the register may grow in size because, whilst resolutions are actioned after the meeting, it is not always possible to resolve issues quickly, especially if other government agencies are involved or Council's own in-house resources are stretched, Council has to prioritise work commitments.

In these circumstances the register becomes the simple tool of keeping track of matters awaiting attention.

Again, Members are reminded that any queries should be raised with the General Manager prior to the meeting as this would streamline the meeting process and also resolve minor issues more expediently.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Resolution Register.

Governance Issues:

Standard Procedure dictates that Council resolutions should be implemented as soon as practicably be achieved.

Environmental Issues:

Nil.

Stakeholders:

CMCC Council

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Nil.

Conclusion:

That the Resolution Register be received and noted. It is requested that any queries be raised with the General Manager prior to meeting day to facilitate proceedings at the meeting.

Council's Decision Action Report – August 2026

Recommendation:

That the Resolution Register August 2026 be received and noted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Attachment:

Action Resolution Register.



CMCC ACTION RESOLUTION REGISTER

27.06.2022	06/22-11	1. That the report be received and noted. 2. Media Awareness Program to be undertaken by GM in conjunction with distribution of flyers with rates notices	GM	Flyers to quarterly rate notices. Information to be advertised in constituent Council newsletter Media releases have been issued for Harrisia Cactus, St Johns Wort and Hudson Pear, African Box Thorn Filed Days and Sticky Florestina.	Continuing Continuing
28.08.23		Action Request; That the General Manager contact Todd (LLS Coordinator) and request that he attend every CMCC Council meeting to provide an update on the Hudson Pear program.	GM	Co-ordinator invited to attend the bi-monthly meetings. May 2025 Requesting Mr. Pallister attend every second Council Meeting.	Continuing
25.08.2025	04/25/18	That the General Manager be authorised to; 1. Advertise, calling for expressions of interest for the sale of the demountable office/amenity building situated on Crown Reserve R97121 at Coolah and its removal from said land, and 2. Negotiate with potential purchases to achieve a best value price for the sale and removal of the office/amenity building.	GM	Advertising commenced. No responses to date. GM to investigate other alternative avenues for sale.	In progress
27.10.2025		Action Request; That the General Manager organise a field tour for CMCC Members in 2026	GM	To be held in conjunction with Ordinary Meeting of Council.	In progress

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

11.05.2026	02/26/11	That; 1. the report be received and noted. 2. The County Council organises a letterbox drop and combined mail out to relevant landholders in the Warrumbungle, Warren, Gilgandra and Coonamble Shires.	GM	Staff are organising pamphlets which are specific to each LGA's and the invasive weed that is prevalent in that area. Landowner obligations for invasive weed control along river systems will also be explained. 14.08.26 Letter drop completed.	Completed
22.06.2026	Action Request	That the General Manager make formal contact with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) seeking clarification "Why are members of the public permitted to import and sell cacti when there is concern that additional invasive cactus species may escape cultivation and establish in the environment, similar to the impacts experienced with Hudson Pear?"	GM	Letter written to the NSW DPI. Response from Dr. Pete Turner received 17 th August 2026.	Complete
22.06.2026	03/26/13	That; 1. the General Manager's report be received. 2. Council adopts the Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors policy as tabled. 3. the policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and public submissions be invited.	GM	Report to August 26 meeting for adoption of policy.	In progress
22.06.2026	Action Request	That a list detailing the weeds that have recently been removed from the Weed Wise List be supplied to Council	SBO	Report to August 26 meeting.	In progress

ITEM 11.2 CIRCULARS RECEIVED FROM THE NSW OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Michael Urquhart

Summary:

Copies of circulars received from the Local Government Office Department of Premier and Cabinet are attached for Members information. Circulars are emailed to Members when published from LGNSW.

Background:

The General Manager has listed the following circulars issued by the Office of Local Government:

- 26-08 Consultation of Councillor Conduct Reforms
- 26-09 Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026
- 26-10 End of Year Reporting Requirements
- 26-11 Procurement Guidance for Local Government
- 26-12 Annual CPI adjustment – Filming Application Fees and Companion Animal Fees for 2026/2027
- 26-13 Annual Reporting of Labour Statistics
- 26-14 Local Government Asset Valuation discussion paper

Governance Issues:

All circulars have Governance implications. Where necessary the subject of particular circulars will be raised in following reports.

Stakeholders:

Members
Castlereagh Macquarie County Council staff

Financial Implications:

Obviously, some circulars will have a financial impact and where this is the case, Members particular attention will be drawn to them.

Conclusion:

Council will need to comply with the various requirements set out in the circulars.

Circulars Received from the NSW Office of Local Government
Recommendation: That the information contained in the following Departmental circulars 26-08 to 26-14 from the Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet be received and noted. Moved: Seconded:

Attachments: Circulars 26-08 to 26-14

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Consultation on Councillor Conduct Reforms
Circular Details	Circular No 26-08 / 12 June 2026 / A1005891
Previous Circular	<u><i>Circular 24-17 Councillor conduct and meeting practices – a discussion paper</i></u>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council Governance Staff
Contact	Strategic Reform Team / Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Response to OLG

What's new or changing?

- The Office of Local Government (OLG) is inviting feedback from the Local Government sector on the next steps of the NSW Government's proposed reforms to the regulation of councillor conduct.
- The proposed changes are detailed in a Councillor Conduct Reform Policy Statement and a draft Model Code of Conduct for Councillors, which are available on OLG's website: www.olg.nsw.gov.au.

What will this mean for council?

- Under the proposed new framework, the handling of complaints against councillors will be centralised through OLG ensuring a more consistent, efficient and independent process. This will allow trivial complaints to be dismissed early, ensure serious matters receive timely attention, and remove councils from investigating complaints about their own councillors.
- A new Privileges Committee of experienced mayors and councillors will assess less serious complaints of unsatisfactory councillor conduct, while serious misconduct will be investigated by OLG and, where appropriate, referred to the Land and Environment Court.



- As part of the reforms, the existing Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW will be split into two with a dedicated code for councillors and a separate code for council staff, delegates and committee members. Breaches of the councillor code will be managed under the new conduct framework.
- The new councillor code has been designed to reflect the political nature of elected councillor roles, support the implied freedom of political communication, simplify conflict-of-interest rules, and remove provisions that could be misused or “weaponised” in complaints.
- The reforms will also modernise how councillors disclose their personal interests, aligning requirements with those applying to Members of NSW Parliament.

Key points

- The proposed changes respond to growing concerns that the current Councillor Conduct Framework has been overwhelmed by trivial and vexatious complaints leading to delays in complaint resolution and undermining confidence in local democracy.
- The changes were foreshadowed in the September 2024 discussion paper, ‘Councillor Conduct and Meeting Practices - A New Framework’. There was broad support for the reforms outlined in the discussion paper.
- The proposed new framework will be finalised following public consultation before legislation is introduced to Parliament.

Where to go for further information

- The Councillor Conduct Reform Policy Statement and the Model Code of Conduct for Councillors are available on the [Councillor Conduct Framework Reform](#) webpage on the Office of Local Government’s website.
- Information about how to make a submission is also available on the [Councillor Conduct Framework Reform](#) webpage.
- For more information, contact OLG by telephone on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au. Questions about the Councillor Conduct Reform Policy Statement should be directed to the Strategic Reform Team and questions about the Model Code of Conduct for Councillors to the Council Governance Team.

A blue ink signature of Brett Whitworth.

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026
Circular Details	Circular No 26-09 / 25 June 2026 / A1009885
Previous Circular	<u>Circular No 25-20 - 2025 Model Meeting Code</u>
Who should read this	Mayors / Councillors / General Managers / Joint Organisation Executive Officers / Council governance staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- The Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025 (**2025 Regulation**) which prescribed the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (**2025 Model Meeting Code**) was disallowed by the Legislative Council on 26 May 2026.
- The disallowance of the 2025 Regulation means that the 2025 Model Meeting Code is no longer prescribed for the purposes of section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) and the previous 2021 version of the Model Meeting Code now becomes the prescribed version.
- OLG has issued guidance to councils recommending that they rescind the resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code. This will have the effect of reinstating their previous adopted code of meeting practice containing the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code.
- Under section 8 of the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989*, a new model code of meeting practice cannot be prescribed in the 4 months following the disallowance of the 2025 Regulation. The Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026 (**Amendment Regulation**) has therefore been made to secure some of the policy objectives of the 2025 Model Meeting Code.



- The Amendment Regulation prescribes measures to improve the transparency of council meeting practices, equip chairpersons at meetings with more effective tools to address disorder at meetings and allow greater flexibility for meetings of county councils.

What will this mean for council?

- The Amendment Regulation contains the following measures:
 - Meetings of councils and committees whose members are all councillors must be livestreamed. Recordings of meetings must be retained on councils' websites for the balance of the council term or 12 months, whichever is the longer period. This requirement will not apply to joint organisations or to county councils. However, it remains open to joint organisations and county councils to resolve to livestream their meetings and publish the recordings if they choose to do so.
 - Councillors other than the mayor or a chairperson of a meeting are prohibited from meeting staff before meetings of the council or committees of the council to discuss matters that are or will be listed on the agenda. Councillors may ask staff questions or seek further information about items on the agenda for meetings, but this information must be provided in writing and, if practicable, published on the council's website before the meeting, unless it relates to a confidential matter under section 10A of the LG Act.
 - Councils will be required to determine at the first meeting following each ordinary election and after the adoption of a new meeting code to authorise the person presiding at meetings under section 10(2) of the LG Act to exercise the power of expulsion for acts of disorder by councillors or disorderly conduct by members of the public.
 - A councillor who has failed to remedy an act of disorder at a meeting in accordance with a requirement by the chairperson, may be expelled from successive meetings until they take the necessary action to remedy the disorder.
 - Like joint organisations, county councils will have the option of holding meetings where some or all members attend remotely by audio-visual device. Where a meeting is held by these means, it must be conducted in a way that all members are able to hear each other.

Key points

- The Amendment Regulation takes effect on its publication on the NSW Legislation website.



- The Amendment Regulation provides that a provision of a council's code of meeting practice that is inconsistent with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (LG Regulation) is void and of no effect to the extent of the inconsistency. This will not void a council's whole meeting code where it contains provisions that are inconsistent with the LG Regulation, just the relevant provision.
- In practice, this means that councils do not need to amend their code of meeting practice for the new provisions in the Amendment Regulation to apply. When the Amendment Regulation is published on the NSW Legislation website, the provisions contained in it will automatically prevail over any provision of a council's meeting code that is inconsistent with them.

Where to go for further information

- For further information, please contact OLG's Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica van den Honert".

Erica van den Honert
Acting Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	End of Year Reporting Requirements
Circular Details	Circular 26-10 / 1 July 2026 / A1006587
Previous Circular	<u>25-16 End of Year Reporting Requirements</u>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Performance Team – 02 4428 4100 – olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Councils and Joint Organisations to implement

What's new or changing?

- End of year reporting information for the 2025-26 financial year
- Financial Data Return (FDR) for 2025-26 financial year
- Annual Report checklist for 2025-26 financial year
- Calendar of Compliance for 2026-27 financial year
- Permissible Income Workpaper for 2026-27 financial year
- Local Government Grants Commission Roads and General 2025-26 return
- National Local Road Data System Survey 2025-26

What will this mean for council?

- 2025-26 end of year reporting information is now available for councils and Joint Organisations (JOs). Details of when the returns are due and where to send them:

Date Return due by	Return / Report	Where to submit
31 July 2026	GST Compliance Certificates	finance@olg.nsw.gov.au
31 August 2026	Local Government Grants Commission Roads and General 2025-26 return (Financial Assistance Grant return)	gen@olg.nsw.gov.au



Date Return due by	Return / Report	Where to submit
31 October 2026	Financial Statements	finance@olg.nsw.gov.au
31 October 2026	Financial Data Returns	fdr@olg.nsw.gov.au
31 October 2026	Permissible Income Workpapers	permissibleincome@olg.nsw.gov.au
30 November 2026	National Local Road Data System Survey	nlrds@olg.nsw.gov.au
30 November 2026	Annual Report	olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

- Councils and JOs should familiarise themselves with the reporting timeframes when submitting their 2025-26 financial statements, FDR, and Financial Assistance Grant return.
- Councils can access and download the 2025-26 FDR, Financial Assistance Grant return, the 2025-26 Annual Report Checklist, the 2026-27 Permissible Income Workpaper and the 2026-27 Calendar of Compliance from the Office of Local Government (OLG) website.
- Councils and JOs can use the respective annual report checklists to ensure that the information required under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, and other relevant legislation and guidelines, is included within their annual report and annual performance statement.
- Councils should use the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2026-27 to assist in planning strategic and operational tasks throughout the year.

Key points

GST Compliance Certificate

- The GST Compliance Certificate requires the signatures of the General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer.
- The Certificate is to be emailed to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au by 31 July 2026.
- The Certificates are collected by OLG on behalf of NSW Treasury.

Financial Assistance Grants general return

- The Financial Assistance Grants general return is to be submitted by 31 August 2026.
- The National Local Roads Return is due by 30 November 2026.



Financial Statements and FDR

- The financial statements and FDR are to be sent electronically to OLG by 31 October 2026.
- Annexure 1 provides information to assist councils submit their 2025-26 financial statements and FDR.
- Annexure 2 provides information to assist JOs submit their 2025-26 financial statements and FDR.
- The FDR is available on the OLG Website Council Portal, *Councils Surveys and data returns* [here](#) (noting you will need to login to the Portal to access) and the Circular is available [here](#).

Permissible Income Workpapers

- The Permissible Income Workpapers are to be emailed to permissibleincome@olg.nsw.gov.au (please note this is a new email address) by 31 October 2026.

Annual Report

- Under the Act, councils must prepare an annual report and JOs an annual performance statement **within 5 months** of the end of the financial year (i.e. by 30 November 2026). An annual report checklist is available [here](#).
- Councils and JOs must upload a copy of the annual report to their website and provide a copy to the Minister for Local Government and such other persons and bodies as regulations require. Councils and JOs should notify the Minister by providing a URL link to OLG (olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).
- Councils should ensure they report performance against targets, outcomes, efficiency and cost effectiveness over time.
- JOs should ensure they report as to their progress in implementing strategies and plans for delivering strategic regional priorities.
- Councils are reminded of the importance of addressing the labour statistics requirements to ensure there is clear data on permanent full and part time, casual and fixed term contract employees.

Calendar of Compliance

- The Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2026-27 includes key statutory and other reporting deadlines for councils.



- Councils' statutory and other reporting deadlines are not limited to those included in the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2026-27.
- Councils are required to submit the permissible income working papers following the auditing process.
- Instructions on where to email the returns are included on the cover sheet of the respective returns and in the table above.
- Councils are reminded that they must place their Operational Plan, Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges on council's website within 28 days of adoption, with the Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy and Delivery Program.

Where to go for further information

- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (the Code) for 2025-26 is available on OLG's website [here](#).
- The 2025-26 annual report checklist is available [here](#).
- The 2026-27 Calendar of Compliance can be accessed at [here](#).
- The FDR, Financial Assistance Grant returns and Permissible Income Workpapers can be sourced from the Council Portal (noting you will need to login to the Portal) [here](#).
- The GST Compliance Certificate template can be sourced from the Council Portal (noting you will need to login to the Portal) [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica van den Honert'.

Erica van den Honert
A/Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government



Annexure 1: Information to assist councils prepare 2025-26 Financial Reports

Submission of Financial Statements

- The general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial reports, special schedules, and the Auditor's Reports are to be formatted into a single PDF document, with the title name format: "Council name – Financial Statements – 2025-26".
- All Councils, County Councils and Joint Organisations must lodge their financial statements by 31 October 2026.
- The financial statements should be emailed to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au.
- Statements received after this date will be considered as being submitted late and not in accordance with the Act.
- Should council require an extension to lodge their financial statements, these should be requested in writing by the General Manager prior to 16 October 2026 and are to be forwarded to olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

The Code – Update 2025-26

- The Code must be used to prepare the annual financial statements in accordance with the Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation).
- The Code and supporting materials are available on the OLG website [here](#)

Communications during the preparation of financial statements and audit process

- Finance professionals are encouraged to communicate with the Audit Service Providers / Audit Office representatives in relation to any matters that may arise.
- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees may consider engaging committee members early to review the financial statements, key accounting estimates and accounting issues prior to audit.

Financial Data Return (FDR)

- This is to be submitted by 31 October 2026 to fdr@olg.nsw.gov.au in Excel format only.
- The FDR should be accurate and align with the audited financial statements. The FDR will be returned to council should there be any errors, discrepancies or worksheets not completed.
- The return can be accessed via the Council Portal on the OLG website.
- Information/data from the FDR is published in the Time Series Data, Your Council website and for the monitoring of council's performance. Data is also used in the calculation of councils FA grants.

Asset valuations and fair value assessments

- Councils should ensure early commencement and completion of asset revaluations.
- Adequate documentation, including position papers need to be readily available for the auditors, if requested.



- The necessary documentation should be agreed to with the auditor prior to year-end.
- Restrictions on asset use, especially for community land and land under roads, should be considered when assessing valuation.
- NSW Valuer General's valuations may be used to represent the fair value of community land.
- Councils will need to separately consider any improvements made to community land in the overall fair value assessment.

Council Borrowings

- Councils must advise the Deputy Secretary, Local Government of amounts borrowed within 7 days when loans are drawn, in accordance with section 230 of the Regulation. Notification can be emailed to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au.
- Councils are also reminded of the need to complete the capital expenditure review requirements, as per OLG Circular 10/34, prior to the commencement of projects greater than \$1 million or 10% of council ordinary rating revenue. Please contact OLG's Performance Team if you have any questions in relation to this review on (02) 4428 4100.



Annexure 2: Information to assist JOs prepare 2025-26 Financial Reports

Submission of Financial Statements

- The general purpose financial statements and the Auditor's Reports are to be formatted into a single PDF document, with the title name format: "JO name – Financial Statements – 2025-26".
- All JOs must lodge their financial statements by **31 October 2026**.
- The financial statements are to be sent to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au.
- Statements received after this date will be considered submitted late and not in accordance with the Act.
- Should the JO require an extension to lodge their financial statements, these are to be requested in writing by the General Manager prior to 16 October 2026 and must be forwarded to olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

JOs Supplement to Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Supplement)

- The Supplement must be used to prepare the annual financial statements in accordance with the Act and the Regulation.
- The Supplement is available on the OLG's website at [here](#)

JO Financial Data Return (FDR)

- This is to be submitted by **31 October 2026** to jofdr@olg.nsw.gov.au in Excel format only.
- The JO FDR should be accurate and align with the audited financial statements. The FDR will be returned to the JO should there be any errors, discrepancies or worksheets not completed.
- The return can be accessed via the Council Portal on the OLG website.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Procurement Guidance for Local Government
Circular Details	Circular No 26-11/ 13 July 2026 / A995578
Previous Circular	<u>Council Circular 25-19 Procurement Guidelines for NSW Local Government</u>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council procurement staff
Contact	Council Governance / (02) 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- The Procurement Guidelines for NSW Local Government (Guidelines) are now available on the Office of Local Government's (OLG) website <https://olg.nsw.gov.au/>.
- The OLG has established the Procurement Working Group (Working Group) to provide input into the development of a range of additional comprehensive supplementary guidance materials and other procurement resources for councils.

What will this mean for council?

- The Guidelines are issued under section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). Local councils, or entities acting on behalf of local councils, are required to consider the Guidelines when conducting procurement or procurement-related activities.
- Users should refer to the Guidelines together with the Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation).
- The Guidelines outline principles and processes that represent best practice in procurement. These principles and processes enable delivery of quality outcomes that provide value for money while effectively managing risks, that help to support NSW local councils to serve their communities.



- OLG will be consulting further with councils on the content of the supplementary guidance materials as and when they are developed with the Working Group.

Key points

- The Guidelines provide clarification on the interpretation and application of the Act and the Regulation as they apply to procurement activities.
- OLG looks forward to working closely with the Working Group to develop supplementary guidance and consulting with the sector further.
- OLG would like to thank everyone who provided feedback and contributed to the Guidelines.

Where to go for further information

- The Guidelines are available on the OLG website at <https://olg.nsw.gov.au/>. For further information, please contact OLG's Council Governance Team by telephone on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brett Whitworth'.

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary
Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Annual CPI adjustment - Filming Application Fees and Companion Animal Fees for 2026/27
Circular Details	Circular No 26-12/ 08 July 2026/ A1005725
Previous Circular	<u>25-14 Publication of Filming Protocol</u> <u>25-12 Annual CPI adjustment to companion animal fees for 2025/26</u>
Who should read this	Councillors, General Managers and Finance Staff, as well as: For Filming Application Fees: Council Film Contact Officers, Events staff For Companion Animal Fees: Companion Animal Enforcement and Administration staff
Contact	Filming Applications: (02) 4428 4100 or olg@olg.nsw.gov.au – attention Sector Policy & Frameworks Companion Animals: (02) 4428 4100 or pets@olg.nsw.gov.au – Pet Helpline
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

Filming Application Fees

- The maximum fees councils may charge for filming applications and approvals under the NSW Local Government Filming Protocol (Protocol) have been adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- The new fee schedule, effective from 1 July 2026, is as follows:

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Fee Type	No impact	Low impact	Medium impact	High impact
Application assessment fee	No fee	Maximum fee: \$105 (payable at application and non-refundable)	Maximum fee: \$105 (payable at application and non-refundable)	Maximum fee: \$105 (payable at application and non-refundable)
Additional maximum application processing fees – on approval	Not applicable	\$188	\$402	\$700
Late application maximum assessment fee	Not applicable	\$470	\$1,006	\$1,749
Traffic Management Plan (TMP) assessment – maximum fees	Not applicable	\$147	\$418	As per council's standard road closure fees

- Councils may wish to revise their fee structure for filming applications for the 2026/27 financial year to account for this fee adjustment in line with CPI.
- As maximum fees associated with filming applications and approvals are set by the State, councils are not required to exhibit and adopt the applicable fees as part of their annual Revenue Policy.

Companion Animal Fees

- The 2026/27 fees payable for registration and permits for companion animals have been adjusted for inflation under clauses 18 and 27 of the Companion Animals Regulation 2018 based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- The new fees are effective from 1 July 2026.

Some fee categories have changed

- Category names have been amended to reflect the implementation of current legislation relating to registration that has been enabled by the new functionality of the Companion Animals Register (CAR) and NSW Pet Registry, which allows for the individual payment of registration fees under the CA Regulation, being:

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- Dog - Registration fee (by 12 weeks or when sold if earlier than 12 weeks of age)
- Registration fee due at 12 weeks of age or when first sold (even if it is less than 12 weeks (clause 14 - CA Regulation)
- Dog - Additional Fee (dog not desexed by 6 months)
- Additional fee for a dog that is not desexed and not exempt from desexing by 6 months (clause 18 - CA Regulation)
- Cat - annual fee for a permit for a cat not desexed and not exempt from desexing by 4 months (clause 27 - CA Regulation)
- A Registration late fee will apply to an animal not registered by 12 weeks of age (plus 28 days).

Online and in person payments

- While we work to expand the NSW Pet Registry, the following fees must be paid at council:
 - Dog – Additional Fee (dog not desexed by 6 months)
 - Cat (not desexed by four months of age)
 - Dangerous dog permit
 - Restricted dog permit
- The fees above will incur a late fee if not paid after an additional 28 days.

What will this mean for council?

- Councils must apply the adjusted 2026/27 financial year companion animal registration, additional fee and annual permit fees from 1 July 2026.
- Council staff need to be aware of the new payment categories.
- Councils must continue to register eligible pound/shelter and approved rehoming organisation animals through the CAR. Free registration for these animals does not mean that registration is not required. The established process of 'flagging' an animal as being purchased from an eligible pound/shelter is required to validate a free registration.
- Councils can encourage members of the public to establish a NSW Pet Registry account via Service NSW to pay registration fees and receive push notifications.
- Councils must enter the registrations in a two-stage process as all combined fees are no longer available due to the implementation of the fee structure.

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Key points

- The NSW Pet Registry will be updated to include the new fees for online registration and permit payments made by pet owners from 1 July 2026.
- Both the old and new fee structures will be maintained on the CAR to allow councils to correct registration details for existing records and catch up on data entry backlogs (i.e. where fees have been receipted before 1 July 2026 but not entered on the Register).

Registration Category	New fee
Dog – Registration fee (by 12 weeks or when sold if earlier than 12 weeks)	\$84
Dog – Additional Fee (dog not desexed by 6 months)	\$198
Dog – Registration (by eligible pensioner)	\$37
Dog – Desexed (sold/ transferred from pound/shelter or rehoming Organisation)	\$0
Dog – Registrations (desexing not recommended)	\$84
Dog – Registration (desexing not recommended eligible pensioner)	\$37
Dog – Registration (recognised breeder)	\$84
Dog – Working	\$0
Dog – Service of the State	\$0
Assistance Animal	\$0
Cat – Registration fee (by 12 weeks or when sold if earlier than 12 weeks)	\$74
Cat – Registration (eligible pensioner)	\$37
Cat – Desexed (sold/ transferred from pound/shelter or rehoming Organisation)	\$0
Cat – Registration (desexing not recommended)	\$74
Cat – Registration (desexing not recommended - eligible pensioner)	\$37
Cat – Registration (recognised breeder)	\$74
Registration late fee	\$25
Annual permit category	New fee
Cat (not desexed by four months of age)	\$104
Dangerous dog	\$247
Restricted dog	\$247
Permit late fee	\$25

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Office of Local Government



Where to go for further information

Filming Application Fees

- The Local Government Filming Protocol is issued under Section 119D of the *Local Government Act 1993* and sets out requirements for both councils and filmmakers associated with filming related activity approvals.
- The Protocol prescribes the maximum fees a council may charge for filming applications and approvals.
- The Protocol was reviewed and updated in June 2025 and included changes to prescribed maximum fee structures and annual adjustments in line with CPI
- A copy of the Protocol as well as an updated table of fees is available on the OLG website at: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/infrastructure-and-services/services-to-communities/events-management-and-filming>

Companion Animal Fees

- A list of registration categories, the new fees for 2026/27 is provided on the Office of Local Government's (OLG) website at
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pets/nsw-pet-registry/registration-and-permit-fees/pet-registration-fees#registration-fees-for-dogs-and-cats>
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pets/nsw-pet-registry/registration-and-permit-fees/non-desexed-cat-and-dog-fees>
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pets/nsw-pet-registry/registration-and-permit-fees/annual-pet-permit-fees>
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pets/nsw-pet-registry/breeders/register-breeding-animal>
- Information relating to the processing of registration fees is available in Companion Animals Guideline 1 – Registration Agents, available on OLG's website at
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2026-02/companion-animals-guideline-1-registration-agents.pdf>
- Information on the new functionality and separate payments for registration and the additional fee for non-desexed animals that are not exempt can be found by contacting Pet Helpline 02 4428 4100.
- Contact pets@olg.nsw.gov.au for information about the fees.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Whitworth".

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Annual Reporting of Labour Statistics
Circular Details	Circular No 26-13/ 9 July 2026 / A1009905
Previous Circular	25-15 Annual Reporting of Labour Statistics
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Human Resources Staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- **Wednesday, 4 March 2026** has been chosen as the “relevant day” for councils to report on their labour statistics in their annual reports under section 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation).
- OLG will extract labour statistics data from all NSW councils’ annual reports. Councils must clearly record this data in their annual reports in line with the requirements of the Regulation.

What will this mean for council?

- In their 2025/26 annual reports, councils must publish a statement of the total number of persons who performed paid work for them on **Wednesday, 4 March 2026** including, in separate statements, the total number of the following:
 - the number of persons directly employed by the council:
 - on a permanent full-time basis
 - on a permanent part-time basis
 - on a casual basis
 - under a fixed-term contract
 - the number of persons who continue to be employed by the council as “senior staff” within the meaning of the now repealed provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), under the transitional arrangements in the Act



- the number of persons engaged by the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person
- the number of persons supplied to the councils, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee.

Key points

- Section 217 of the Regulation requires a “relevant day” to be fixed after the end of each financial year for the purpose of reporting councils’ labour statistics and must be a different day to the one fixed for the previous year.
- The collection of labour force data across the sector assists in developing and evaluating programs to deliver the Government’s election commitment of increasing the number of apprentices and trainees in councils.

Where to go for further information

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brett Whitworth'.

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	Local Government Asset Valuation Discussion Paper
Circular Details	Circular 26-14 / 17 July 2026 / A993337
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council finance staff
Contact	Sector Policy and Frameworks / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Response to OLG

What's new or changing?

- In March 2024, the Legislative Council's State Development Committee undertook a review into the ability of councils to fund infrastructure and services (the Inquiry) and provided recommendations on a way forward.
- The Government's response supported 15 of the Inquiry's 17 recommendations and committed to examine alternate asset valuation methodologies.
- The Office of Local Government (OLG), in consultation with the Expert Advisory Panel, has developed the *Local Government Asset Valuation Discussion Paper* (the Discussion Paper) which seeks feedback from the sector on the preferred model of asset valuation for the local government sector in NSW.

What will this mean for council?

- OLG produces the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (the Code) to prescribe the financial reporting requirements of councils in NSW. This includes mandatory reporting requirements for asset valuation measurement.
- OLG is reviewing whether the current asset valuation methodology continues to be the most appropriate for NSW councils.



- The Discussion Paper has been developed to provide information, outline options and generate discussion and feedback from the local government sector and key stakeholders.
- OLG will assess all submissions as part of the review process and feedback received will inform the next steps of the review.

Key points

- Local governments across NSW manage diverse portfolios of assets critical to community wellbeing, including roads, parks, buildings, and sewerage and water infrastructure. In 2024, the State's 128 general purpose councils recorded \$235 billion in assets including \$209 billion in Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment.
- The Discussion Paper considers the following options for asset valuation methodology:
 - **Option 1** – continue with the revaluation model,
 - **Option 2** – transition to the cost model, or
 - **Option 3** – use a mixed approach with different models for different asset classes.
- The Discussion Paper contains information and discussion questions on the three options and is seeking feedback from the local government sector and other key stakeholders on these options.

Where to go for further information

- The Discussion Paper is available on the OLG 'Financial Sustainability' webpage at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/programs-and-initiatives/financial-sustainability-reforms>.
- Feedback is welcome from councils, individual councillors, council staff and key industry stakeholders, and is due by **5pm 11 September 2026**.
- Written feedback can be provided via the online Feedback Form or by downloading a copy of the Feedback Form and sending to OLG:
 - **By Email:** olg@olg.nsw.gov.au OR
 - **By Post:** Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541.
- Submissions should be clearly labelled '**Asset Valuation Methodology Feedback**'.

A blue ink signature of Brett Whitworth.

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

ITEM 11.3 CASH ON HAND AND INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 30th JUNE 2026 & 31st JULY 2026

REPORTING SECTION: Executive
AUTHOR: Rebecca Wilson – Administration Officer

Summary:

This report provides a summary and analysis of Council's cash and investments for the period ending 31st July 2026.

Background:

The investment portfolio consists of bank accounts and fixed rate interest bearing deposits. The portfolio is regularly reviewed to maximise investment performance and minimise risk. Council's investment portfolio is not subject to share market volatility.

Comparisons are regularly made between existing investments with available products that are not part of Council's portfolio, but that meet Council's policy guidelines.

All investments at 31st July 2026 are compliant with the Relevant Reference Documents and Policies listed later in this report.

Current Position:

Council at 31st July 2026 held a total of \$1,126,145.78 in on-call and interest bearing deposits with financial institutions within Australia. All investments are held with approved deposit taking institutions with a short term rating A-2(A2)/BBB or higher. Council does not have any exposure to unrated institutions.

30th June 2026

Investment Number	Date invested	Amount \$	Lodged With	Rate % per annum	Term	Due Date
General Fund Bank Account Balance		\$750,102.05	CBA	3.75%		N/A
	05.02.2026	\$500,000.00	MyState Bank Limited	4.60%	180days	04.08.2026
TOTAL		\$1,250,102.05				

31st July 2026

Investment Number	Date invested	Amount \$	Lodged With	Rate % per annum	Term	Due Date
General Fund Bank Account Balance		\$126,145.78	CBA	3.75%		N/A
	05.02.2026	\$500,000.00	MyState Bank Limited	4.60%	180days	04.08.2026
	22.07.2026	\$500,000.00	Judo Bank Pty Ltd	4.95%	91days	21.10.2026
TOTAL		\$1,126,145.78				

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Local Government Act (NSW), 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
Ministerial Investment Order 5th January 2016
Investment Policy

Governance issues:

Nil

Environmental issues:

Nil

Financial Implications:

As per report

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Constituent Councils
Residents of Constituent Councils
Financial Institutions

Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer

1. I hereby certify that the investments listed in the attached report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, the *Investment Order (of the Minister) 5th January 2016* and Council's Investments Policy.
2. I hereby certify that Council's cash book and ledger have been reconciled to the bank statement as at the end of month.

Michael J Urquhart

General Manager – Responsible Accounting Officer

Conclusion:

As at 31st July 2026, Council's available cash and invested funds totalled \$1,126,145.78

Cash and Investment Reports – 30 th June 2026 and 31 st July 2026
Recommendation: That the investment report for 30th June 2026 and 31st July 2026 be received and noted. Moved: Seconded:

Attachments:

Nil

ITEM 11.4 FOURTH QUARTER OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025/2026 & ANNUAL DELIVERY PROGRAM STATUS

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Michael Urquhart

Summary:

This report provides Council with the status of the fourth quarter Operational Plan Targets for 2025/2026 and yearly Annual Delivery Program.

Background:

Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to adopt an Operational Plan and this report comments on the status of the Operational Plan and Annual Delivery Program to which the performance targets have been achieved.

Current Position:

The fourth quarter Operational Plan and Annual Delivery Program Status Report is attached for Council's information.

At this point in time, a vast majority of the performance targets have been met, while a small number of projects are on-going. Status comments explain the position.

Governance issues:

Council must comply with the IP & R legislation as outlined in the Local Government Act 1993.

Environmental issues:

NIL

Stakeholders:

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Constituent Councils
NSW Office of Local Government

Financial Implications:

Budget allocations have been made in the Operational Plan 2025/2026.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

NIL

Conclusion:

Council should note the progress made during the fourth quarter Operational Plan for 2025/2026 and yearly Annual Delivery Program.

Fourth Quarter Operational Plan 2025/2026 and Annual Delivery Program

Recommendation:

Council accept the progress made on the 2025/2026 Operational Plan as at 30th June 2025 and Annual delivery Program 25/26.

Moved:

Seconded:

Attachments:

Fourth Quarter Operational Plan for 2025/2026 and Annual Delivery Program Status Report



Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Operational Plan Status report

2025/26

As of 30th June 2026.

Principal Activities of Council

Statement of Principal Activities to be undertaken to achieve objectives

Note: In the following tables the column headed “BA & SO” provides in order, a reference to the Main Business Activity Priorities number and the Strategic Objective number from the Business Activity Strategic Plan.

1. Provide information to Council to allow decisions at Council Meetings					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Ensure Business Paper is ready for distribution.	2.3	GM	At least 7 days, working days prior to the Council Meeting.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying.
Provide recommendations to Council when possible.	2.3	GM	Include in business paper for Council’s consideration.		Complying Recommendations provided for all reports.

2. Respond to Councillor inquiries related to the administration function					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Provide information to Councillors within Council’s policy guidelines	2.3	GM	On day requested where possible, or within 5 working days (unless request requires detailed investigation).	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Provide written information as requested	2.3	GM	Within 5 working days (unless request requires detailed investigation)		Complying Normally as a report to Council

3. Update Council policy register					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Update new or amended administration policies in Council's policy register.	2.3	GM	Within 14 days of adoption or amendment	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Review Council administration policies.	2.3	GM	Within 2 months of expiry of policy or every 2 years		Complying Policy reviews complete.

4. Provide information to public in a timely and effective manner					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Ensure Council business papers are made available in hard copy at Council's office.	2.1	GM	At least 3 working days before the Council meeting.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Ensure other public information is made available at Council's office.	2.1	GM	As soon as practicable after it becomes public information.		Complying
Ensure business papers are provided to constituent councils.	2.1	GM	Post to General Managers at the same time as Councillors' business papers.		Complying
Ensure minutes, business papers and other information is posted to Council's website.	2.1	GM	As soon as practicable.		Complying

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

5. Ensure all statutory requirements are completed and financial returns and plans are completed and lodged by the due date					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Quarterly Budget Review Statements and Delivery Programme Review to Council.	2.2	GM	August, October, February and April Meetings.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Audited Financial Statements to Office of Local Government.	2.2	GM	By the end of October.		Complying 24/25 Financial adopted by Council November 25.
Financial Data collection return.	2.2	GM	By date specified by Office of Local Government.		Complying November 2025
Notice of meeting at which audited reports are to be presented.	2.2	GM	Prior to December meeting.		Complying November 2025
Audited Financial Reports presented to public					
Draft Operational Plan and Budget on public exhibition.	2.2	GM	February meeting.		Complying adopted June 2026
Operational Plan and Budget to be adopted	2.2	GM	Following April meeting.		Complying adopted June 2026
	2.2	GM			

6. Ensure all other statutory returns are completed and lodged by the due date					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Pecuniary Interest Returns.	2.2	GM	30 September annually.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying Annual return tabled October 2025.
Council's Annual Report prepared and lodged with Office of Local Government	2.2	GM	30 November annually.		Complying Adopted November 25.
Other returns as required by Office of Local Government, Department of Primary Industries, or others	2.2	GM	No later than return date specified		Complying As and when required

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

7. Implementation of Council decisions					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Implement Council decisions following Council meeting	2.2	GM	Within 10 working days of Council Meeting For prosecutions, within 2 months of Council resolution	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying and on time Nil prosecutions

8. Continue to ensure the provision of finance to Council from available sources					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Liaise with constituent councils regarding the level of Council contributions and the apportionment of contributions.	2.4	GM	Continuously.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying Emailed constituent Councils on 8 th January 26 advising average IPART Rate Peg increase of 3.56%
Letter to Constituent Councils concerning Council's proposed Delivery Plan and Budget estimates for the forthcoming financial year, and the contribution sought from constituent councils.	2.4	GM	30 April.		Complying formally advised Constituent Councils on the 11 th May 2026. (Email)
Application to Department of Primary Industries for grants under NSW Weeds Action Programme as necessary.	2.4	GM	As required under Weeds Action Programme.		Complying 25-26 to 25-29 WAP Applications lodged and approved.
Provide grant returns to Department of Primary Industries.	2.4	GM	As required under Weeds Action Programme 1520		Other grant works and private works projects sought with DPIRNSW.
	2.4 & 1.4	GM	As required		

Pursue opportunities for securing grant funds from other available sources.					
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9. Continue current financial management direction and review Business Activity Strategic Plan and Delivery Programme					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Review Business Activity Strategic Plan.	2.1 & 2.4	GM	Continuously	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying, adopted June 2025
Review Delivery Programme.	2.1 & 2.4	GM	Continuously		Review complete May 2026.
Provide adequate funds for employee leave entitlements.	2.3	GM	Maintain reserve of at least 50% of Long Service Leave liability		As at 30 th June 2025 the reserve was 69.8% of the liability.

10. Provide financial information and advice to Council					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Provide financial advice as required.	2.2 & 2.3	GM	At Council meetings	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying on-going
Provide quarterly update on financial trends relating to Council’s expenditure.	2.2 & 3	GM	At Council Meeting following end of quarter		Complying on-going
11. Ensure that Council’s Operational Plan and Budget is considered in order to allow adoption by 30 June each year					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

Draft Plan to be presented to Council.	2.2	GM	February Meeting.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Draft Plan adopted to allow 28 day public exhibition. Draft Plan to be adopted following consideration of any submissions received.	2.2	GM	April Meeting.		Complying

12. Promote the Council's interests through participation with relevant organisations					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Participate in Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee activities through attendance at meetings and supply of information as required to assist the lobbying of State and Federal Governments.	1.1	GM	Attend meetings and provide information as requested.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Staff attend meetings.

13. Provide active support for LGNSW					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Provide information as requested by LGNSW to assist it to lobby governments.	3.1	GM	Information to be provided by the date requested.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying as and when required
Utilise the services of LGNSW to further Council's interests	3.1	GM	As and when required by Council.		Complying as and when required

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

14. Actively pursue politicians to further Council’s interests					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Invite politicians to attend Council meetings.	3.1	GM	Politicians to be invited to Council meetings as required.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Member for Barwon Roy Butler invited to May 26 meeting.
Meet with State and Federal Politicians to promote the interests of Council.	3.1	GM	As required		Local Member attended May 26 meeting via Teams. Biosecurity Commissioner also attend May 26 via Teams .
15. Minimise the risks associated with all functions of Council					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Identify new risks associated with Council’s functions.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Analyse and prioritise all risks identified.	2.3	GM	Within 3 months after identification.		Training for staff in 2025/26 continues
Minimise exposure through rectification of risks.	2.3	GM	Within budget constraints.		Training budget
Update policy on the use of contractors.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.		Scheduled 25/26
Review risk management policy.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.		Scheduled 25/26
Update Risk Assessments	2.3	GM	When resources allow.		Council has in place new SOP’s and CMCC has in place a Traffic Guidance

					System to replace old TCP's.
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16. Ensure Council staff are aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to WH&S , risk management and EEO					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Provide training to staff on relevant legislation.	2.3	GM	Ongoing as identified.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying on-going
Provide training on EEO to staff.	2.3	GM	Ongoing as required.		Staff provided update by GM 2025 Scheduled for 2025/26 To be completed 2025/26 Complete May 26
Provide staff with training on risk management.	2.3	GM	Ongoing as required.		
Review and update staff training programme.	2.3	GM	Annually.		
Review EEO Management Plan.	2.3	GM	As required		
17. Maintain and update Council’s records management system					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Monitor record keeping procedures to ensure that they provide the best method of maintaining an accurate record of Council’s activities.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying.
Review record keeping procedures with a view to updating and computerizing.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.		Commenced not yet complete
18. Implement system of information technology capable of providing information that is relevant and timely					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Agenda –31st August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

Monitor reporting system ability to provide information requirements.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Monitor technology improvements and assess future requirements.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.		On-going new tablets purchased June 26. Update 25-26 and on-going
Update Council’s computer system, both hardware and software, to ensure that it enhances management and record keeping (as resources allow).	2.3	GM	As required.		
Review Council’s website and implement systems for expanding content and keeping content up to date.	2.1 & 3.2	GM	Ongoing.		
19. Compile accurate data on the condition of current Council assets					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Maintain assets register for all assets over \$5,000.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Monitor the condition of those assets	2.3	GM	Ongoing.		Complying
Identify maintenance requirements for those assets.	2.3	GM	Ongoing.		Complying
Cost maintenance requirements and incorporate into annual budget.	2.3	GM	As identified.		Maintenance as required Complying in conjunction with Senior Biosecurity Officer

20. Introduce a system for electronic mapping of invasive weed infestations and the automation of Weeds Officers' reports					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Monitor the introduction of electronic mapping of invasive weed infestations and the automation of Weeds Officers' reporting procedures.	1.3 & 2.3	GM SBO	In conjunction with year 1 WAP 2020 2025.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying mapping on-going
Expand the introduction of electronic mapping of invasive weeds infestation and the automation of Weeds Officers' Reporting Procedures to the whole of Council's Area of Operations. Continue the training of staff in the use of the system in order to ensure it's most efficient and effective use.	1.3 & 2.3 1.3 & 2.3	GM SBO GM SBO	In conjunction with year 1 WAP 2020 / 2025. Ongoing.		Continuing Complying Training as necessary Use of drones to assist with weed identification complete

21. Compile data on Council's current vehicle and plant fleet – condition and usage					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Analyse Council's current vehicle and plant fleet and its activities and assess future vehicle and plant needs.	2.3	GM	Ongoing	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying Reviewed May 2026.

22. Ensure access to competitively priced chemicals for weeds control programmes					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Ensure access to competitively priced chemicals for weeds control programs.	1.2	GM	As required	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying on-going assessment of prices when purchasing

23. Actively pursue the control of invasive weeds along roadsides in Council's area					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Inspect roadsides prior to control works to ensure that control programmes are efficient and effective.	1.3	SBO	At least one week prior to spraying.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying inspections carried out
Carryout necessary control works in line with Council's Budget allocations.	1.3	SBO	As seasonal conditions / and available funding permit.		Works continuing
Respond to reports of invasive weeds on roadsides.	1.3	SBO	Carry out inspection within 7 days of notification.		All reports responded to
Carry out control works in accordance with Council's policy and budget allocations.	1.3	SBO	As required		Complying

24. Actively pursue the control of invasive weeds on private lands					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Inspection of private lands to assist landowners to fulfill their legal responsibilities in relation to invasive weeds.	1.2 & 3.2	SBO	At least 250 inspections per quarter.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying on-going
Provide information to landowners on invasive weeds control	1.2 & 3.2	SBO	If not done at time of inspection then within 1 week.		Complying on-going
Respond to invasive weed complaints	1.2 & 3.2	SBO	Initial inspection within 10 working days.		Complying on-going

25. Actively pursue the control of invasive weeds on vacant Crown lands					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Inspect vacant Crown land parcels to facilitate application to DPI for funds for necessary control works.	1.2	SBO	Prior to submission of application.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Inspect vacant Crown lands to ensure obligations for invasive weed control are being met.	1.2	SBO	As required as resources are available.		Complying
Provide information to Department of Lands on invasive weed control requirements	1.2	SBO	Within 10 working days of inspection.		Complying
Respond to complaints for invasive weeds on vacant Crown Land	1.2	SBO	Initial inspection within 10 working days.		Complying
26. Actively pursue the control of invasive weeds on land held by Forests of NSW					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Inspect areas proposed to be clear felled in coming financial year.	1.2	SBO	Within 28 days of receipt of <i>Harvesting Plan of Operations</i> .	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	When advised
Advise Forests NSW of proposed clear fell areas that are potential weeds risks.	1.2	SBO	Within 14 days of inspection.		
Follow up to ensure control work is carried out on potential weeds risks.	1.2	SBO	Prior to Spring each year.		
Inspect areas surrounding standing forests and “land bank” areas.	1.2	SBO	Ongoing as resources permit, or in response to complaints within 10 working 14 days after inspection.		
Advise Forests NSW of areas that pose a risk of weeds spreading to adjoining land.	1.2	SBO			

27. Actively pursue the control of invasive weeds on other public authorities land					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Inspect lands of public authorities to ensure obligations for invasive weeds control are being met.	1.2 & 1.3	SBO	Ongoing.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Complying
Provide information to public authority on invasive weed control requirements.	1.2 & 1.3	SBO	Within 10 working days of inspection.		Complying
Respond to complaints regarding invasive weeds on lands of public authorities.	1.2 &1.3	SBO	Initial inspection within 10 working days.		Complying
28. Conduct aerial spraying programmes for invasive weeds					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Organise programmes for aerial spraying of invasive weeds throughout the year as seasonal conditions permit and demand requires.	1.2	GM/SBO	As required.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	As and when required. Parkinsonia and Rubber Vine programs continue. As and when required
Publicise aerial spraying programmes in local media, and as occasion permits, to ensure maximum landholder participation.	1.2	GM/SBO	As required.		
Organise aerial spraying (involving all weeds officers) throughout Council’s area in accordance with programmes.	1.2	SBO	In accordance with Programmes		No program organised

29. Actively pursue regional resources sharing with neighbouring councils and other public authorities to provide cost benefits to Council in the provision of services					
Required Activity	BA & SO	Resp	Target	Performance Measure	Status as at 30th June 2026
Pursue resource sharing through regular interaction with nearby councils and other public authorities to discuss regional weed plans and coordinated approaches to weed control	1.1	GM	Liaise with appropriate members and officers of surrounding councils and other public authorities as required.	Satisfactory completion of task in accordance with target level.	Continuing. GM active member of WCCN. Senior biosecurity officer attends regional meetings. Joint control works with neighboring Councils.



**Castlereagh Macquarie County
Council
Delivery Programme
2025/26 – 2028/29**

Prepared in accordance with the provisions contained in the Local Government Act 1993

County Council- Vision and Mission Statements

Vision

To prevent, contain or reduce the invasion of Invasive Plants within the County Council area.

Mission

To provide effective integrated weed management systems utilizing the latest technology to all Constituent Councils fairly and equitably in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF COUNCIL

Principal activities to achieve main business activity priorities

1. Strategic objective – Building Relationships

Build strong relationships with other natural resource managers having responsibilities in, or adjacent to, the County Council's area of operations through a program to improve liaison between natural resource managers.

Strategy

Foster a spirit of cooperation with other natural resource managers.

Activities

- Attend seminars, workshops, etc., conducted by other natural resource managers where appropriate.
- Encourage natural resource managers to participate in Council activities, such as public meetings and workshops. Share information with other natural resource managers.
- Host an annual meeting between natural resource managers to foster good relations and to provide a convenient forum for the exchange of information and the facilitation of cooperation.
- Encourage and establish personal contact between Council staff and staff of other natural resource managers. A data base of contacts staff and others in other natural resource managers.
- Investigate and promote joint works for Invasive weed control by natural resource managers.
- Where appropriate, endeavour to have natural resource managers, particularly private occupiers, enter into joint arrangements for Invasive weed control work.
- Investigate what incentives the Council might offer to private occupiers to enter into joint arrangements for Invasive weed control work.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Council has good relationship with neighbouring Council's, and State and Federal Agencies in particular DPI and LLS. CMCC was successful with new projects such as the Unincorporated Area management, Rubber Vine project and private works for DPIRNSW in the Cobar Shire on Hudson Pear. Council staff have assisted with Emergency Response to invasive weed outbreaks with adjoining LCA's. CMCC is conducting special projects for transport of bio control to neighbouring State Agencies. CMCC staff attend quarterly meetings of all agencies and other LCA's from the regions.

2. Strategic objective – Invasive Weeds Control

Ensure the effectiveness of the Council's role in improving the natural environment through a reduction in Invasive weeds.

Strategy

Ensure that the Council is aware of any presence of Invasive weeds in its Area of Operations.

Activities

- Conduct a regular and systematic program of property visits to private landholders and any infestations of Invasive weeds found on property visits are mapped and properly recorded.
- Ensure that weed infestations on roads are mapped and properly recorded.
- In conjunction with public authorities, conduct a regular and systematic program of property visits to land of public authorities and ensure weed infestations on land of public authorities are mapped and properly recorded.
- Respond promptly to complaints about the presence of Invasive weeds.
- Provide assistance and support to private occupiers in controlling Invasive weeds on their land and to prepare Property Weed Management Plans for their land and assist in the preparation of the Plans.
- Conduct a regular program of property visits to enhance the Council's knowledge of weed control work carried out on private land, and ensure that private landholders are provided with accurate and timely advice on their weed control obligations.
- Actively pursue the control of Invasive weeds on vacant Crown land and regularly inspect vacant Crown land to ensure weed control obligations are being met.
- Facilitate application for necessary funds to finance weed control work by the Council on vacant Crown land.
- Provide information to the responsible Department on the state of Invasive weed control on vacant Crown land.
- Actively pursue the control of Invasive weeds on land of Forests NSW and inspect areas proposed to be clear felled in coming financial year that are potential weed risks and follow up to ensure control work is carried out on potential weed risks.
- Conduct aerial spraying programs for Invasive weeds.
- Publicise aerial spraying in local media, and as occasions permits, to ensure maximum landholder participation.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Property inspections are documented with generally good landowner/occupier control compliance. Invasive weeds infestations are generally reduced across the county area on roadsides and Council controlled lands. A large number of land

managers require continual prompting to control weeds. CMCC has been successful with Good Neighbour application for projects around Harrisia Cactus in the Warren Shire. Staff to undertake SEINS training in order to commence Risk approach to non-compliance.

3. Strategic objective – Invasive Weeds Controls - Roadsides

Improve the effectiveness of the control of Invasive weeds on roads by promoting changes in management techniques and cooperative action.

Strategy

Ensure that all occupiers are aware of their obligations to control Invasive weeds on roads.

Activities

- Include in the Council's advisory and extension material an explanation of the circumstances in which occupiers are required to control Invasive weeds on roads.
- Where appropriate, bring to the public's notice via press releases and by other appropriate means the obligations on occupiers to control Invasive weeds on roads.
- Where occupiers are failing to control weeds on roads, as required by the Act, bring the requirements to their attention in writing.
- Commence a program of inspections to identify all Invasive weed infestations on roads in the Council's area of operations and ensure they are properly recorded.
- Prepare a program of work for the control by the Council of Invasive weeds on roads where the responsibility for control is the Council's, giving priority in the program of work to isolated infestations and to infestations where the level of infestation on adjoining and adjacent land is low or where occupiers of such land have an approved Property Weed Management Plan for the control of the weed.
- Include in the Council's annual estimates adequate provision to fund the program of work for the control of Invasive weeds on roads.
- Where the adjoining occupier is liable for the control of Invasive weeds on a road and the work is not being undertaken, encourage the occupier to comply with the obligations and where this is unsuccessful use the regulatory powers, in accordance with this Strategy, to enforce compliance.
- Pursue alternatives for the control of Invasive weeds on roads.
- Investigate means to achieve the revegetation of roadsides with indigenous species.
- Encourage road authorities to revegetate roadsides with indigenous species and to institute work practices which minimise disturbance of roadsides by road

construction and maintenance work.

- Investigate the use of constituent council Weeds Officers for the control of Invasive weeds on roads where they are undertaking weed control on the road for other purposes (road maintenance or environmental weed control).

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Landowner/occupier control compliance levels are good. Council has in 2025/2026 a comprehensive roadside invasive weed control program in all LCA's. The bio control program in conjunction with the chemical application for roadsides in Walgett Shire is working well with great success.

4. Strategic objective – Invasive Weeds Controls Funding

Secure funding, where possible, to assist occupiers in their management of Invasive weeds by encouraging policy change by NSW State Government and other funding authorities.

Strategy

Provide assistance and support to occupiers in securing funding for Invasive weed control.

Activities

- Endeavour to ensure that the Council is aware of all sources of funding for Invasive weed control.
- Encourage occupiers to apply for grants to assist with Invasive weed control wherever possible and appropriate and provide assistance to occupiers in applying for grant funds for weed control work.
- Write to State and Federal politicians regularly drawing attention to the necessity for increased funding for Invasive weed control and for a broadening of the eligibility criteria.
- Encourage Constituent Councils to increase support for the Council because of the public goods that flow from Invasive weed control.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Council has been proactive with its assistance to DPIRNSW for the Unincorporated Area, Rubber vine and Cobar Shire inspection and compliance programs. Projects funded by DPIRNSW. Council staff keep abreast of the available grants and private work projects funded by DPIRNSW and others. General Manager has written to Minister for Agriculture regarding ongoing funding for weed control. Staff assist community organisations with grant funding applications for control works on crown lands.

5. Strategic objective- Communication Policies

Improve communications between the Council and its community through increased use of electronic and other media.

Strategy

Improve the Council's profile in the community.

Activities

- Keep under review the appropriateness of the council's corporate logo and ensure that the corporate logo appears on all Council publications, advertisements, uniforms, letterhead, Council office, etc.
- Investigate the feasibility and benefit of holding Council's Ordinary meetings at least once each year in the area of each of the constituent councils.
- Any Ordinary Council meeting should be held on a day, at a time, and at a venue that will encourage attendance and participation.
- Inform members of the Council's community of the Council's activities and seek input into the Council's operations.
- Ensure that each of the public meetings is advertised widely and that members of the Council community are invited, and encouraged, to attend.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Council has renewed its Web Page to allow for improved communications with residents, landowners and occupiers of land. Council has also adopted an advertising policy to assist with communications to the general public on all things concerning Council operations and invasive weed management. Articles also posted to the Western Plains App. Council meetings advertised on CMCC web page. Constituent Councils advised of meeting dates and venues. Council has commenced live streaming of its meetings and copies can be found on the Council web site.

6. Strategic objective – Community Consultation

Improve the accountability of the Council to its community by providing more open access to information and public participation.

Strategy

Encourage members of the Council's community to take an interest in the Council's affairs.

Activities

- Ensure that, through improved communications between the Council and its community, members of the Council's community are aware of the Council and its role.
- Inform members of the Council's community of their rights to be kept informed of the Council's activities via newspaper advertisements and other Council publications.
- Ensure that members of the Council's community receive meaningful information on the Council's operations.
- Early in each financial year, prepare a leaflet containing succinct and meaningful information, in plain English, on the Council's operations for the past year and its planned operations and budget for the current year.

- Publicise the availability of the leaflet and have staff hand a copy to any member of the Council's community with whom they come in contact, or send out, with the rate notices of constituent councils or otherwise.
- Establish a proper complaints handling procedure.
- Ensure that all complaints are recorded in the database.
- The General Manager to investigate all complaints and to make a determination on an appropriate response.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Information readily available to community. Council staff participated in community consultation events to showcase best practice control measures and provide information on land manager weed biosecurity requirements and compliance methods. Complaints are recorded and followed up in the records system. Articles placed in Constituent Council newsletters. In June 2026 staff have developed brochures for Green Cestrum and Parthenium Weed, and these will be distributed in July 26 to landowners.

7. Strategic objective- Administration

Develop an efficient and effective Council administration for the management of Invasive weeds through improved training, procedures and use of technology.

Strategy

Engage and retain sufficient skilled staff to provide administrative services to the Council.

Activities

- Constantly monitor the workload of all staff and as necessary, engage additional staff, or provide other support, to meet the fluctuating workload of the Council.
- Ensure that all staff receive continuing training as required.
- Investigate the employment of a Community Liaison Officer to assist Weeds Officers in their education and advisory function.
- Provide up to date computer and other technological facilities including drones for inspections.
- Continue and enhance the present practice of entering into arrangements with constituent councils, or others, for obtaining GIS data.
- Provide an efficient records management system and appropriate storage for both soft and hard copies.
- Continually update and enhance the Council's website (www.Invasiveweeds.org.au)

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Council has a highly effective electronic records management system operated by highly skilled personnel. Records are kept in accordance with the State records Act 1998. Council Biosecurity Officers receive training in the Biosecurity Act, investigations and landowner compliance. Council maintains a fleet of computers with a highly efficient and effective property inspection program. CMCC in conjunction with Lands Registry and Iconyx have put in place a system for regular update of land ownership in the County area.

8. Strategic objective- Funding Arrangements

Secure the Council's financial position by promoting stronger funding arrangements with funding bodies and seeking alternative sources of funds.

Strategy

Secure alternative sources of funding for the Council's ordinary operations.

Activities

- Lobby politicians to have the Invasive weed control grant programs increased.
- Investigate the availability of grant funds from other sources to assist the Council in its ordinary operations.
- Lobby public authorities for funding of weed control work on roads.
- Investigate alternative sources of grant funds for identifiable council weed control projects, such as serrated tussock control.
- Maximise income from fees, charges and income producing operations.
- Investigate opportunities for the Council to enhance income from its operations.
- Ensure that all operations carried out on a contract or agreed basis on behalf of others, including the control of weeds on private property by arrangement with the landholder, are properly costed and the cost fully recovered.
- Ensure that the Council does not undertake weed control work for which the Council does not have a statutory obligation unless the work is properly costed and charged at its true cost.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Additional income streams identified with private works for constituent Councils. Council has commenced projects for DPIRNSW in the Unincorporated Area and Cobar Shire. Other projects include provision of bio control agents to QLD and SA control agencies.

9. Strategic objective- Lobbying

Increase public awareness of the impact of Invasive weeds on the community and the cost to the community of Invasive weeds through contact with community leaders and public awareness campaigns.

Strategy

Increase politicians awareness of weeds.

Activities

- Write to politicians at every opportunity drawing attention to the importance of weeds and their impact on the community.
- Encourage interested groups in the community to lobby politicians about weeds issues and provide background material for their use in doing so.
- Invite politicians to Council meetings and to any other Council activities such as field days, community meetings, etc.
- Foster an interest in weeds in the local and rural press and news media and generate an interest in weeds by means of press releases in relation to any relevant Invasive weed matter, such as scientific advances, research, new control initiatives, council activities, and such like.
- Publicise weed matters within the Council's community and ensure that the importance of weeds is emphasised in all Council publications.
- Continue and enhance the practice of having constituent councils include with rate notices a suitable information brochure about Invasive weeds and the work of the Council.
- Continue and enhance the practice of having constituent councils include with Section 149 and 603 certificates a suitable information brochure about Invasive weeds and the work of the Council and advising of the desirability of having a pre-purchase inspection about the Invasive weed status of land.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Council has made the general public and relevant politicians aware of the invasive weeds position in the CMCC LCA area.

In May 26 both the Member for Barwon Roy Butler and the NSW Biosecurity Commissioner attended the Ordinary meeting and took onboard Council concerns about no CPI indexation to WAP Funding and cacti sales in NSW.

10. Strategic objective- Technology

Enhance the educational and advisory role of the Council through the provision of a range of written and electronic material and staff promotion of this role.

Strategy

Ensure that the Council fulfils its educations and advisory role.

Activities

- Ensure that Weeds Officers are aware of the importance of the educational and advisory role.
- Keep the training of Weeds Officer up to date so that they are better able to

- fulfil the educational and advisory role.
- Provide assistance to occupiers in completing Property Weed Management Plans and applying for the Council's approval to such plans.
- Council staff to attend at local agricultural shows and provide facilities for distributing educational and advisory material and provide advice on Invasive weed matters (perhaps jointly with Department of Primary Industries).
- Target solicitors and conveyancers and educate them on Invasive weed problems and how they might best protect their clients.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

Continuing.

Council undertakes a comprehensive publicity program each year with community programs held at Agquip and local agricultural shows, Lightning Ridge Opal festival. Other information days are held when necessary to highlight new and emerging weeds, new control measures and to enforce landowner compliance with the Biosecurity Act. Biosecurity Officers receive relevant training and in 2025/26 Senior Biosecurity Officer is participating in a training program about communicating with land managers. Other training undertaken this year is investigations for biosecurity officers.

11. Strategic objective – Regulatory Powers

Improve the effectiveness of the Council's regulatory role by the strategic use of the regulatory powers and appropriate publicity.

Strategy

To use the Council's regulatory powers, where necessary, to enforce the requirements of the Act with regard to Invasive weed control.

Activities

- Institute a program of inspections to ensure compliance by private occupiers with programs of work set out in approved Property Weed Management Plans.
- The General Manager will, in accordance with this Plan and other Council policies, authorise the issue of a penalty notice, or the prosecution of an occupier or owner, at the General Manager's discretion and after consultation with the Senior Biosecurity Officer, where it appears that an offence against the Act or the regulations has been committed.
- The General Manager will authorise the issue of a penalty notice, or the prosecution of an occupier or owner, only where the General Manager is satisfied that such action –
 - (a) is necessary to enforce compliance by the offender with the Act and all other methods to encourage compliance have been unsuccessful, or,
 - (b) will serve as an example to others and will encourage the control of Invasive weeds and further the implementation of this Strategy.
- The General Manager will authorise the issue of a penalty notice in preference to prosecution action.

- Publicise the Council's intention to use its regulatory powers to enforce the requirements of the Act with regard to Invasive weed control.
- Include in the Council's advisory and extension material an explanation of Councils regulatory powers and the circumstances in which the Council will use its regulatory powers to enforce the requirements of the Act.
- Weeds Officers to explain, both orally and in writing, to occupiers, and where appropriate, owners, who are failing to meet the requirements of the Act, the regulatory consequences that may follow their continued failure to comply with the requirements of the Act.
- Emphasise in press releases and on all appropriate public occasions that the Council will use its regulatory powers to enforce the requirements of the Act where there is continued failure by occupiers and owners to comply with the Act.
- Ensure that the powers of inspection are used strictly in accordance with the Act and the Council's priorities.
- Before entering premises the Council will make every reasonable endeavour to contact the occupier to discuss its intention to enter and will endeavour to secure the occupier's consent to the entry, and a permanent record of the circumstances and details of all oral consents by occupiers to enter premises will be kept.
- Endeavour to secure the cooperation of public authorities in controlling Invasive weeds on land that they occupy.
- Where a public authority has failed to comply with Section 13, and the Council has been unsuccessful in securing its cooperation in controlling Invasive weeds on land that it occupies, recommend to the Minister that a weed control notice be given by the Minister to the public authority.
- Ensure that the regulatory powers are used fairly and impartially and in accordance with this strategy.
- All staff are to be made aware of the provisions of this plan relating to the use of regulatory powers.
- The General Manager to thoroughly investigate all complaints concerning the use of the regulatory powers.
- Institute a program of random reviews of instances where a failure of occupiers or owners to comply with the Act has not resulted in regulatory action to ensure that the matters were managed in accordance with this strategy.
- Report to the Council the result of any reviews conducted.

Status as at 30th June 2026.

No legal action to date.

Property inspections are documented with generally good landowner/occupier control compliance. Invasive weeds infestations are generally reduced across the county area. Council in June 2024 approved the introduction of a new compliance system that will

commence operations in 2025/26. Council has received a number of complaints concerning non-compliance and these are being followed up with the landowners. Council has taken the approach to educate land managers about invasive weeds and their control for overall long-term benefits for the community and environment.

ITEM 11.5 REVISED INVESTMENT POLICY

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Michael Urquhart

Summary:

Council must review its Investment Policy each year in accordance with the provisions of its policy.

Background:

Each year Council must review its Investment policy. The writer has examined the policy to ensure it meets current legislation and the Office of Local Government guidelines and now submits a revised policy for Council's consideration.

Current Position:

The revised Investment Policy was last adopted in 2025. The policy makes provision to maximise the rate of return on invested funds in terms of Institutional balances. Only minor changes were made to the investment policy and changes are in red.

Governance issues:

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government Act 1193 – Investment Order dated 5th January 2016

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

Trustee Act 1925 (NSW)

Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board

Environmental issues:

N/A

Stakeholders:

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Financial institutions

Constituent Councils

County Council LGA Ratepayers

Financial Implications:

Council investments are made in accordance with the Investment policy.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

N/A

Conclusion:

There General Manager is recommending the revised Investment Policy be adopted.

Revised Investment Policy

Recommendation:

That;

1. the report be received.
2. Council adopts the revised Investment Policy as presented.

Moved:

Seconded:

Attachments:

Revised Investment Policy



INVESTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Adoption Date: 26 August 2025

Review Date: 31 August 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides the framework in which council funds are to be invested. The council has developed this policy to ensure it or its representatives exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in investing council funds.

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a framework for the investing of surplus Council funds at the most favourable rate of interest available whilst having due regard of risk and security for investments ensuring its liquidity requirements are being met.
- Whilst exercising the power to invest, consideration must be given to the preservation of capital, liquidity and the return on investment.
- Preservation of capital is the principal objective of the investment portfolio. Investments are to be placed in a manner that seeks to ensure the security and safeguarding of the investment portfolio. This includes managing credit and interest rate risk within identified thresholds and parameters.
- Investments should be allocated to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet all reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements as and when they fall due, without incurring the risk of significant costs due to the unanticipated sale of investments.
- Investments are expected to achieve a market average rate of return in line with Council's risk management guidelines.

Council Policy Reference

Investment Policy and Procedures – August 2024

Related CMCC Policies

Financial Management Policy and Procedures

Purchasing Policy

Fraud Control Policy

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Draft Investment Policy and Procedures – August, 2025

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council – Investment Policy and Procedures – 25th August 2025

Statutory Requirements

Trustee Act 1925 (NSW)

Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board

Government References

Local Government Act (1993) – Sections 12, 413 and 625

Local Government Act (1993) – Revised Ministerial Investment Order – ~~5th January 2016~~ ~~42 January, 2014~~

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 212

NSW OLG Investment Policy Guidelines – May, 2010

Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting – Update 27 – 29 March, 2019.

NSW OLG Circulars relating to Investments 06/70, 08/48, 09/20,

Formatted:
Superscript

Investment Guidelines

1. Authority for Investment

All investments are to be made in accordance with:

- Local Government Act 1993 – Section 625, Section 413 and Section 12
- Local Government Act 1993 – Revised Ministerial Investment Order dated 5th January 2016
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021~~96~~ – Clause 212
- Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- Trustee Act 1925 (NSW) – Section 14

2. Delegation of Authority

The General Manager has the authority to invest surplus funds and may delegate this function to the Administrative Officer. All investments must be signed by two (2) signatories. The following officers have the authority to sign investments:

- General Manager
- Administrative ~~ive~~ Officer

3. Ministerial Order

The Minister for Local Government issued a revised order pursuant to Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 dated 5 January, 2016.

4. Prudent Person Standard

Council investments will be managed with the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise. As Trustees of public monies, Officers are to manage Council's investment portfolio to safeguard the portfolio in accordance with the spirit of this investment policy and not for speculative purposes.

5. Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Council Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and management of Council's investment portfolio. This policy requires Officers to disclose any conflict of interest to the General Manager.

Independent advisors are also required to declare that they have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

6. Forms of Investment

All forms of investment for the purposes of Section 625 (2) of the local Government Act 1993 are by Order of the Minister notifying forms of investment. A copy of the Investment Order is attached as "Annexure A".

7. Legislative Obligations

All investments are to be made exercising care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise in managing the affairs of another person. Investments that are high risk, speculative or hazardous in nature are to be avoided.

8. Legislative Requirements

All investments are to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, with particular regard to the following:

- The purpose of the investment
- The desirability of diversifying council investments
- The nature of and risk associated with council investments
- The desirability of maintaining the real value of the capital and income of the investment
- The risk of capital or income loss or depreciation
- The potential for capital appreciation
- The likely income return and the timing of income return
- The length of the term of the proposed investment
- The Period for which the investment is likely to be required
- The probable duration of the investment
- The liquidity and marketability of a proposed investment during, and on the determination of, the term of the investment
- The aggregate value of the assets of the council
- The effect of the proposed investment in relation to any tax liability
- The likelihood of inflation affecting the value of the proposed investment
- The costs (including commission, fees and charges) of making a proposed investment
- The results of any review of existing council investments
- Such other matters as appropriate

9. Prohibited Investments

In accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order, this investment policy prohibits but is not limited to any investment carried out for speculative purposes including:

- Derivative based investments
- Principal only investments or securities that provide potentially NIL or negative cash flow and
- Stand-alone securities issues that have underlying options, forward contracts and swaps of any kind.

10. Operational Requirements

- The working account balance of Council is to be kept at a level no greater than is required to meet Council's immediate working operational requirements except where the rate of return is comparable to the rate of return of other investments

- The Administration ~~on~~ Officer will notify the General Manager that excess funds exist in the working account or that an existing investment is due for maturity and funds are not required to meet Council's immediate working operational requirements
- The General Manager will authorise the Administration ~~on~~ Officer to investigate investment options

11. Quotations

- Three (3) quotations will be obtained from authorised institutions before making an investment
- The Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting requires that Council maintains a separate record of these quotations
- All quotations are to be attached to the investment authorisation to be signed by the authorised signatories and filed in the Financial Investment Voucher Folder

12. Risk Management Guidelines

Investments are to comply with the following criteria:

- Preservation of capital – the requirement for preventing losses in an investment portfolio's total value (considering the time value of money)
- Institutional Diversification
 - Not less than three (3) quotations shall be obtained from authorised institutions when an investment is made
 - Individual investments shall not exceed \$500,000
 - The maximum amount to be held by any one (1) institution at any one time shall not exceed forty (40%) percent of the total portfolio at the time when the deposit was made
 - All term deposit investments are to be made with authorised deposits taking institutions covered under the Australian Government Guarantee
- Maturity Risk
 - The investment portfolio shall be invested within the following constraints:

OVERALL PORTFOLIO MATURITY		
Portfolio % < 1 Year	Minimum - 40%	Maximum – 100%
Portfolio % > 1 Year, < 3 Years	Minimum – 0%	Maximum – 60%
Portfolio % > 3 Years, < 5 Years	Minimum – 0%	Maximum - \$40%
Portfolio % > 5 Years	Minimum – 0%	Maximum – 10%

13. Market/Credit Risk

Consideration shall be given to the risk that the fair value or the future cash flows of an investment will fluctuate due to changes in market prices, or the risk of failure to repay principal or pay interest of an investment.

14. Liquidity Risk

- Investment maturity shall correspond with cash flow requirements

- Access to a minimum \$100,000 or 5% of the investment portfolio is available within seven (7) days

15. Investment Register

The Code of Accounting Practice requires Council to maintain a separate record of money it has invested under Section 625 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993. The record must specify:

- Date the investment is made
- The amount of money invested
- Particulars of the security or form the money is invested
- Name of the institution
- Due date and term of the investment
- If available, the rate of interest to be paid
- The amount of money that the Council has earned, in respect to the money invested
- The investment number consisting of three digits/financial year (e.g. 123/19)
- When being rolled over, the investment being closed should refer to the new investment number. When the new investment is being made the investment number of the closed investment should be recorded

An Investment Register is held by Council both in hard copy and electronically. The Investment Register held in hard copy contains all information as above and any documentation relating to the investment and is maintained by the Administration Officer. An electronic copy of all investment information is to be filed in Council's records under Financial Management – Investments.

16. Financial Investment Voucher Folder

- The Financial Investments Voucher Folder is maintained and updated by the Administration Officer with all correspondence both inward and outward relating to the investment
- Each Investment will be allocated a section labelled with the investment number
- The section within the folder will contain all correspondence, confirmation of the term deposit/investment, coupon payment advices etc.
- All correspondence must be filed in Council's records under Financial Management – Investments

17. Maturity

Once an investment has matured the following may occur:

- Rollover the investment – if it is determined that the investment will be rolled over (taking into account Part 8 of this procedure), then the investment will be rolled over and issued with a new investment number. The interest paid and the new investment number will be recorded in the investment register under the number of the investment being rolled over. The new investment number will refer to the previous investment number.

- Redeem the investment - Interest paid, principal repaid will be recorded in the investments register.

18. Reports on Council Investments

The Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO) must provide Council with a written report detailing all money that Council has invested. The report must be made up to the last day of the month immediately preceding the meeting. The Information must be presented in accordance with Section 625 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993 and must be presented at each ordinary meeting of Council under the provisions of Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021~~95~~⁹⁵. This report must include a certificate as to whether or not the investment has been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's investment policy.

19. Independent Investment Advisors

- Any investment advisor or investment dealer acting on behalf of Council must be licenced with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission
- These third parties are expected to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in managing the affairs of another person
- This procedure is to be presented to all third parties to ensure that they are delivering appropriately and complying with Council's requirements, including the Ministerial Investment Order
- The RAO should obtain written confirmation from independent financial advisors that they do not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to the investment they are recommending or reviewing including that they are not receiving any commissions or other benefits in relation to the investments they bare recommending or reviewing
- Product manufacturers/distributors should be excluded from being appointed investment advisors to Council.

20. Withdrawal of Investments

- In the event that a credit rating of a security, company or body issuing the security falls below the minimum requirement, as set out in the Minister's Order, Council must make all necessary arrangements to withdraw the deposit as soon as possible
- In the case of existing securities excluded by a recently revised Investment Order, they are to be grandfathered. These investments become ultra vires under the new Investment Order and can continue to be held to maturity, redeemed or sold. Before disposing of these investments Council will seek independent financial advice by an independent investment advisor or dealer licenced by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission ASIC) (www.asic.gov.au).

21. Annual Review

Investment performance will be reviewed monthly and the outcomes will be reported to Council. The investment policy and procedures will be reviewed annually, or immediately following the release of any OLG Guidelines or Circulars aimed at assisting Councils in developing investment policy or procedures.

APPENDIX “A” – Ministerial Order

[illegible]

APPENDIX “B” – INVESTMENTS REGISTER

Investment Number	Date invested	Amount \$	Lodged With	Rate % per annum	Term	Due Date	Interest \$
Details							

Investment Number	Date invested	Amount \$	Lodged With	Rate % per annum	Term	Due Date	Interest \$
Details							

Investment Number	Date invested	Amount \$	Lodged With	Rate % per annum	Term	Due Date	Interest \$
Details							

Investment Number	Date invested	Amount \$	Lodged With	Rate % per annum	Term	Due Date	Interest \$
Details							

Investment Number	Date invested	Amount \$	Lodged With	Rate % per annum	Term	Due Date	Interest \$
Details							

ITEM 11.6 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025/2026

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Michael Urquhart

Summary:

This report recommends that the Draft Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2026 be referred for audit.

Background:

Section 413, 415 and 416 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires the Council's General Purpose Financial Reports for the year ending 30 June 2026 to be prepared, referred to audit and audited by 31 October 2026.

Council is required to authorise the referral of the Annual Financial Reports consisting of the General Purpose Report to Council's Auditor.

Section 413 of the Local Government Act 1993, also requires that the Financial Reports must be accompanied by a Statement by Council and Management made pursuant to section 413 (2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 and made pursuant to a resolution of Council.

Section 418 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993, states that as soon as practicable but not more than 5 weeks after the Audit Report is received, Council must give notice that a Meeting will be held to present the Financial Reports and the Auditor's Report to the public. Such public notice must include a summary of the Financial Reports.

Current Position:

The end of year financials are audited by the independent contractor engaged by the NSW Audit Office.

As well as moving to refer the statements to audit, Council is required at this time to sign the statement by Councillors and Management within the financial statements for the General Purpose Financial Statements.

The report recommends that the General Manager be delegated the authority to authorise the Financial Statements for issue to the Office of Local Government, and to the public before formal adoption at the next available Council meeting.

Council staff have completed the draft financial statements and they shall be referred to audit to the NSW Audit Office as the nominated external independent auditing body.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Local Government Act (1993)

Local Government General Regulation 2021

Governance issues:

Full disclosure and transparency in activities relating to financial management will be met by provision of final financial statements to be tabled at a later meeting of Council.

Environmental issues:

There are no identified environmental issues.

Stakeholders:

Members of Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Office of Local Government
NSW Audit Office

Financial Implications:

The Financial Reports represent Council's financial position as at 30 June 2026.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

NIL.

Conclusion:

It is now appropriate that action be taken in accordance with the Local Government Act in relation to the 2025/2026 Financial Reports. The draft financials were presented to the ARIC at its meeting on Thursday 20th August 2026.

Annual Financial Statements 2025/2026
Recommendation: 1. The Draft Annual Financial Reports for 2025/2026 be referred to Council's Auditor. 2. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, General Manager be authorised to sign the necessary Financial Statements. 3. On receipt of the Audit Report, a copy be forwarded to the Office of Local Government and any other relevant statutory body. 4. Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to set the date at which the Auditor's report and the Financial Statements be presented to the public, additionally be reviewed/adopted by Council formally as required, subject to Section 418 of the Local Government Act 1993 and its requirements. Moved: Seconded:

Attachments:

Section 413 statements for signature.

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made thereunder
- the Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 31 August 2026.

Doug Batten
Chairperson
31 August 2026

Noel Kinsey
Deputy Chairperson
31 August 2026

Michael Urquhart
General Manager
31 August 2026

Michael Urquhart
Responsible Accounting Officer
31 August 2026

ITEM 11.7 PAYMENT OF EXPENSES & PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS - POLICY

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Michael Urquhart

Summary:

The revised policy was presented to Council in June 2026 and was advertised for a period of 28 days.

Background:

Each year Council must review its “Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors” policy. The revised policy is then placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days for public comment.

Current Position:

Council has placed the revised policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with no submissions received from the public.

Governance issues:

Local Government Act 1993.

Local Government General Regulation 2021.

Environmental issues:

NIL.

Stakeholders:

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Castlereagh Macquarie County Councillors

Financial Implications:

Provision made for various expenses in budget, in accordance with the policy.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

NIL

Conclusion:

The Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors policy is tabled for Council’s consideration.

Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors - Policy
Recommendation: That ; 1.the General Manager’s report be received. 2. Council having note received any submissions during the public exhibition period, now formally adopts the “Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors” policy as tabled. Moved: Seconded:

Attachments:

Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy



PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR MEMBERS POLICY

Adoption Date: 26th August 2024

Review Date: 26th August 2025

Responsible Officer: General Manager

POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred or to be incurred by Members. The policy also ensures that the facilities provided to assist Members to carry out their civic duties are reasonable.

OBJECTIVES

To ensure that the details and range of expenses paid and facilities provided to the Members by the Council are clearly and specifically stated, fully appropriate to the importance of office, are consistently applied and transparent, and are acceptable to the community.

To ensure that the Members are reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their roles as a Councillor.

To ensure that election to Council is open to all by ensuring that no one would be financially or otherwise disadvantaged in undertaking the civic duties of a Councillor.

Table of Contents

1. Background	3
2. Payment of Expenses	3
2.1 General	3
2.2 Advance Payment	3
2.3 Specific	4
2.3.1 Conferences, seminars, training and educational expenses and approval of attendance	4
2.3.2 Registration, accommodation and air travel	4
2.4 Meals	4
2.5 Spouse or partner expenses	4
2.6 Travelling expenses	4
2.6.1 General	4
2.6.2 Travel	5
2.6.3 Overseas travel	5
2.7 Care and other related expenses	5
2.8 Use of Council resources	5
2.9 Giving of gifts and benefits	6
3. Status of the Policy	6

1. Background

Members must act lawfully, honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out their functions under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act. This is required under section 439 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and reinforced in the Code of Conduct made under section 440.

The purpose of this policy is to establish, where practicable, clear limits for all expenses and facilities, including a process for the approval, reconciliation and reimbursement for all such expenses and facilities. Members can only receive reimbursement for expenses and the use of facilities clearly identified in this Policy.

This policy does not permit a private benefit (other than a non-incidental private benefit) to be gained from expenses and facilities nor does it permit the payment of a general expense allowance.

Councillor/Member annual fees do not fall within the scope of this policy.

This policy has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the 'Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for mayors and Members in NSW' in effect at the time of adoption by Council. This policy only applies in relation to Council business or related social activities/functions. For the purposes of this policy, the Council Christmas celebration or other equivalent function is deemed to be a Council related social function.

2. Payment of Expenses

2.1 General

Reimbursement of costs and expenses will only be made:

1. in accordance with the monetary limits prescribed in this policy, and
2. on lodgment of a completed Claim Form within three months of the cost or expense being incurred, such Claim Form including, unless required otherwise by this policy:
 - an itemised account of the expenditure, and
 - valid GST receipts.

For periods less than a full year, for example, after a local government general election, the reimbursement of costs and expenses will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

Reasonable out of pocket or incidental travel expenses incurred (such as telephone or facsimile calls, refreshments, internet charges, taxi fares, parking fees and tolls) will be reimbursed subject to production of valid GST receipts or a signed statutory declaration itemising the expenses.

2.2 Advance Payment

Advance payment for meals and incidentals by cheque or EFT is available provided a completed Claim Form has been lodged with sufficient notice to allow for preparation of the advance. Payment for meals will not exceed the maximum allowable rates prescribed in the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) 'Reasonable Travel and Meal Allowance Expenses' Determination, as applicable for the date of travel.

A full reconciliation of all expenses incurred (including valid GST receipts) against the amount of the advance must be provided within two weeks of return from the event. All unspent funds must be returned.

2.3 Specific

2.3.1 Conferences, seminars, training and educational expenses and approval of attendance

Attendance at conferences and seminars must be approved by Council in advance of the event. If time does not permit, then the General Manager and Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson (for attendance by the Chairperson) may approve such attendance, taking account of: relevance; benefit to Council; and budget availability.

Where staff does not attend an event, the Member on return from the event must provide a written report to Council detailing highlights and in particular, aspects of the event relevant to Council business and/or the local community.

2.3.2 Registration, accommodation and air travel

All bookings are to be arranged through the Administration Officer.

Payment for registration, accommodation and air travel must:

- wherever possible, be paid direct by Council to the provider; and
- not exceed the maximum allowable rates prescribed in the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) 'Reasonable Travel and Meal Allowance Expenses' Determination, as applicable from time to time.

Maximum reimbursement for each meal will be as follows in accordance with the ATO determination for County Areas.

- Breakfast \$30.35
- Lunch \$34.65
- Dinner \$59.75

2.4 Meals

The cost of meals not provided as part of the registration fee or accommodation package will be reimbursed in accordance with maximum allowable rates prescribed in the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) 'Reasonable Travel and Meal Allowance Expenses' Determination, as applicable from time to time.

If valid GST receipts are not provided then reimbursement will be at 50% of the ATO 'Reasonable Travel and Meal Allowance Expenses' Determination rate.

2.5 Spouse or partner expenses

Council will meet the reasonable costs of the spouse or partner or an accompanying person of a Member for attendance at an official Council function within the local government area that are of a formal or ceremonial nature. Reasonable costs are limited to the ticket, meal and/or direct cost of attending the function. Peripheral expenses incurred by spouses, partners or accompanying persons such as grooming, special clothing and transport are not reimbursable expenses.

2.6 Accommodation and meals

In circumstances where it would introduce undue risk for a Member to travel to or from official business in the late evening or early morning, reimbursement of costs for accommodation and meals on the night before or after the meeting may be approved by the General Manager. This includes where a meeting finishes later than 9.00pm or starts earlier than 7.00am, and the Member lives more than 50 kilometres from the meeting location.

Council will reimburse costs for accommodation and meals while Member's are undertaking prior approved travel or professional development outside the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council LCA.

2.7 Travelling expenses

2.7.1 General

The driver is personally responsible for all traffic or parking fines incurred while travelling in private or Council vehicles.

When travelling by car every attempt must be made to car pool with other Members or Council staff.

2.7.2 Travel

All travel relating to Council business must be undertaken by utilising the most direct route and the most practicable and economical mode of transport subject to any personal medical considerations.

A Member that travels using their private car will be reimbursed at the appropriate kilometer rate in accordance with the *Local Government (State) Award 2026* or airfare rate, whichever is the lower. Evidence of current vehicle registration and compulsory third party insurance coverage must be provided to the General Manager prior to travel.

Alternative methods of transport will be reimbursed following the production of valid GST receipts.

2.7.3 Overseas travel

International travel relating to Council business must be avoided unless it can be demonstrated that direct and tangible benefits can be established for both the Council and local community. The travel must be documented in a Report to Council and considered and approved by a full meeting of the Council prior to the travel being undertaken.

The Report must identify the Members nominated to undertake the travel and detail the purpose of the travel and expected benefits derived from the travel. The duration, itinerary and approximate total cost of the visit must also be provided.

2.8 Care and other related expenses

Members will be entitled to claim reimbursement for the reasonable cost of care arrangements to allow the performance of normal civic duties and responsibilities while attending:

1. Council meetings;
2. Council Committee meetings;
3. Other essential Council related business (for example, conference, seminars, briefing sessions/workshops called by Council, the Chairperson or the General Manager).

This includes reimbursement for up to one hour before and after an event.

'Care and other related expenses' means childcare expenses and the care of elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family members of Members. Childcare expenses will only be reimbursed in relation to children of the Member that are up to and including the age of 16 years.

The cost of care arrangements will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 per financial year per Member, subject to lodgment of a completed Claim Form supported by valid GST receipts and details of the Council related activity that was attended. Expenses are not reimbursable if care is provided by an immediate family member, spouse or partner or someone who ordinarily resides with the Member.

Council will make provision for the payment of other related expenses associated with the special requirements of Members such as disability and access needs, to allow them to perform their normal civic duties and responsibilities. For any Member with a disability, the Council may resolve to provide reasonable additional facilities and expenses which may be necessary for the performance of their duties.

2.9 Use of Council resources

Members must not, as a result of Council funded and approved expenditure, obtain more than incidental private benefit from the provision of equipment and facilities. This includes travel bonuses such as 'frequent flyer' schemes or any other such loyalty programs. It is acknowledged that incidental use of Council equipment and facilities may occur from time to time. Such

incidental use is not subject to a compensatory payment to Council. Where more substantial private use does occur, reimbursement to Council of the value of that private use is required. The value of 'private use' in this context is the proportional private use/business use percentage.

Any resources provided under this Policy must not be used for personal interests. This includes but is not limited to the following: a Members re-election; any political party event or activity.

2.10 Giving of gifts and benefits

Where it is appropriate for a Councillor to give a gift or benefit (for example, on a Council business related trip or when receiving visitors), these gifts and benefits should be of a token value only (refer to Council's Code of Conduct and Gifts, Benefits and Bribes Policy).

Version	Adopted Date	Minute No.	Details of Review
2	16 November 2020	11/20/8	Adoption of Revised Policy
3	19 October 2021	10/21/8	Adoption of Revised Policy
4	29 August 2022	08/22/08	Adoption of Revised Policy
5	28 August 2023	06/23/07	Adoption of Revised Policy
6	26 August 2024	04/24/09	Adoption of Revied Policy
7			Adoption of Revied Policy

ITEM 11.8 MOTION TO 2026 NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Michael Urquhart

Summary:

This motion is presented to Council for submission to the 2026 NSW Local Government Conference. Council seeks support from the conference for the NSW Government to apply annual indexation to funding under the 2026-2029 NSW Weeds Action Program.

Background:

The NSW Weeds Action Program provides funding to Local Control Authorities (LCA's) to manage priority weeds and meet their obligations under the Biosecurity Act 2015. Councils rely on this funding to undertake inspections, education, compliance activities and weed control works.

Current Position:

The proposed 2026-2029 NSW Weeds Action Program does not include indexation of funding. As costs for wages, fuel, equipment and contractor services continue to rise, councils will be required to deliver the same level of services with reduced real funding, cost shifting to Local Government.

Governance issues:

Local Government Act 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
Weeds Action Program 26-29

Environmental issues:

Effective weed management helps protect native vegetation, biodiversity, agricultural land and waterways. Reduced funding capacity may lead to poorer weed control outcomes and increased spread of invasive species, creating long-term environmental impacts.

Stakeholders:

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Constituent Councils
County Council LGA Ratepayers
Local Government NSW
DPIRNSW

Financial Implications:

Without grant funding CPI indexation, LCA's will need to absorb increasing operational costs or reduce service levels. This places additional pressure on already constrained council budgets and may affect the delivery of weed management programs.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Not lodge the motion.

Conclusion:

The NSW Government should apply annual indexation to the 2026-2029 NSW Weeds Action Program to ensure councils can continue delivering effective weed management services and meet their legislative responsibilities.

Motion To 2026 NSW Local Government Conference

Recommendation:

That Council formally submits the attached motion “Indexation of NSW Weeds Action Program Funding” for inclusion in the 2026 NSW Government Conference business paper.

Moved:

Seconded:

Attachments:

CMCC Motion to the 2026 NSW Local Government Conference – “Indexation of NSW Weeds Action Program Funding”

Motion: Indexation of NSW Weeds Action Program Funding

That Local Government NSW:

1. Recognise that invasive weeds represent one of the most significant biosecurity, environmental and agricultural threats facing New South Wales, resulting in substantial economic, environmental and social impacts across urban, rural and regional communities.
2. Note with concern that the NSW Government's funding allocations for the NSW Weeds Action Program for the 2026–2029 funding period do not include annual indexation provisions.
3. Acknowledge that maintaining grant funding at nominal 2025 levels over the life of the program represents a reduction in real funding capacity due to rising labour, fuel, contractor, equipment, chemical and operational costs.
4. Recognise that the absence of indexation will directly diminish the capacity of Local Control Authorities and regional weed management organisations to undertake on-ground invasive weed prevention, surveillance, containment, eradication and compliance activities.
5. Advocate to the NSW Government to reverse its decision and provide annual indexation to NSW Weeds Action Program funding throughout the 2026–2029 program period, ensuring funding levels maintain their real value and overall effectiveness.
6. Call on the NSW Government to work collaboratively with local government and biosecurity stakeholders to develop a sustainable, long-term funding model that reflects the increasing costs associated with invasive weed management and biosecurity risk mitigation across New South Wales.

Conference Position Statement

Invasive weed management is a cornerstone of effective biosecurity, agricultural productivity, environmental stewardship and natural resource management in New South Wales. Early intervention and ongoing control programs are significantly more cost-effective than managing widespread infestations after establishment in the environment.

The NSW Weeds Action Program provides critical funding that enables Local Control Authorities to fulfil their responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2015, undertake compliance and education activities, respond to emerging weed threats and coordinate regional control programs.

However, the decision to provide no indexation for the 2026–2029 funding period effectively reduces the real value of the grant each year. Escalating costs associated with wages, vehicles, fuel, herbicides, equipment, contractor services and compliance activities will significantly erode the purchasing power of grant funding, therefore shifting the additional cost burden to Local Control Authorities.

Failure to adequately resource invasive weed management increases the risk of weed establishment and spread, resulting in greater long-term costs to landholders, councils, primary industries, biodiversity and the broader community.

Annual indexation is necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the NSW Weeds Action Program and ensure local government can continue to deliver critical biosecurity outcomes on behalf of the people of New South Wales.

Submitted by: Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Category: Environment, Biosecurity and Natural Resource Management

ITEM 11.9 IMPORTANT DATES – UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Michael Urquhart

Summary:

A list of upcoming meetings and events is provided for Members information.

Background:

This report provides Members with an overview of upcoming meetings and events that Castlereagh Macquarie County Council staff are involved in.

Current Position:

Members are requested to raise any queries prior to the meetings listed.

Conclusion:

Provided there are no changes it is appropriate to receive and note the information.

Important Dates For Members - Upcoming Meetings & Events
Recommendation: That Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events. Moved: Seconded:

Attachments:

Calendar of events 2026

IMPORTANT DATES - Upcoming Meetings and Events –2026

DATE	MEETING/FUNCTION	LOCATION	NOTES
30 August – 1 September 2026	Lightning Ridge Opal Festival	Lightning Ridge	Senior Bio security officer
1 August 2026	Central West Regional Meeting	Parkes	Senior Bio security officer
18 – 20 August 2026	Ag Quip	Gunnedah	Senior Bio security officer
20 August 2026	ARIC Meeting	Teams Meeting	ARIC Committee, GM & Deputy Chair
31 August 2026	CMCC Council Meeting	Gilgandra	Members, GM, Senior Biosecurity Officer & Administration Officer
1 st September 2026	Central West Regional & Operations Meeting	Parkes	Senior Biosecurity Officer
19th September 2026	Weeds County Council Network	Teams Meeting	GM
22 nd October 2026	Macquarie Valley and Lachlan Weeds Committee Meeting	Orange	Senior Biosecurity Officer/Warren Biosecurity Officer
26 October 2026	CMCC Council Meeting	Coonamble	Members, GM, Senior Biosecurity Officer & Administration Officer
4 November 2026	NSW Bio Control Meeting	Lightning Ridge	Senior Bio security officer
4 November 2026	Hudson Pear Taskforce Meeting	Lightning Ridge	Senior Bio security officer
4 November 2026	Harrisia Taskforce Meeting	Lightning Ridge	Senior Bio security officer
12 November 2026	North West Weeds Meeting	Bingara	Senior Biosecurity Officer/North West Biosecurity Officer
19 November 2026	ARIC Meeting	Teams Meeting	ARIC Committee, GM & Deputy Chair
30 November 2026	CMCC Council Meeting	Coonamble	

			Members, GM, Senior Biosecurity Officer & Administration Officer
8 December 2026	Central West Regional Meeting	Nyngan	Senior Bio security officer

12. BIOSECURITY REPORT

ITEM 12.1 QUARTERLY BIOSECURITY REPORT

REPORTING SECTION: Biosecurity Control Works
AUTHOR: Andrea Fletcher

Summary:

The attached report provides an update of biosecurity matters in the County Council area.

Background:

Council has an obligation in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015 to prevent, eliminate, minimise, and manage biosecurity risks in the County Council local government area.

Current Position:

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council provides funding to resource its obligation in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015, and the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan set out the activities, objectives and performance measures necessary for compliance.

Governance issues:

Biosecurity Act 2015
Local Government Act 1993

Environmental issues:

Any environmental issues are detailed in the attached update.

Stakeholders:

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Constituent Councils
County Council LGA Ratepayers

Financial Implications:

Control and compliance operational expenditure matters are funded from the annual operational budget.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

There are no alternate options.

Conclusion:

The Senior Biosecurity Officer submits the attached report for Councils information.

Quarterly Biosecurity Report
Recommendation: That the report be received and noted Moved: Seconded:

Attachments: Report for Senior Bio Security Officer

Senior Biosecurity Weed Officer – Operational Report

10th June to 17th August 2026

LOCAL ISSUES WITH PRIORITY WEEDS

Coonamble

- African Box Thorn
- Green Cestrum
- Hudson Pear
- Tiger Pear

Gilgandra

- African Box Thorn
- Green Cestrum
- Hudson Pear
- Tiger Pear

Warrumbungle

- African Box Thorn
- Blackberry
- Green Cestrum
- Honey Locust
- Hudson Pear
- Tiger Pear

Baradine area *Opuntia rioplatensis* (below pic)



Warren

- African Box Thorn
- Green Cestrum
- Harrisia Cactus
- Tiger Pear

Walgett

- Hudson Pear Pallida & Tunicata
- Parthenium
- Riverina Pear Elata spp. (below)

NEW ISSUES FOR MEMBER COUNCIL AREAS

Tropical Soda Apple – all CMCC council areas including the Unincorporated area Western.



As part of the multi-agency effort to control tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*) in NSW and interstate the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has conducted follow-up trace forward work to provide intelligence on potential movement of tropical soda apple in livestock from properties where tropical soda apple has been recorded. The first tracing exercise was conducted in 2012 and resulted in the discovery of individual plants located 1500 km from the source infestation sites.

Data from the DPIRD Biosecurity Information System - Weeds, NSW Local Land Services Farms, and the National Livestock Identification System have been overlayed to trace cattle movements from properties with a known infestation.

Tropical soda apple can be spread through livestock movements when cattle eat the fruit and spread viable seed in their manure for up to 6 days after consumption. The attached spreadsheet details the movements (relevant to your local control authority area) of animals within 7 days of leaving an infested property between 1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026.

While it is generally expected that cattle producers withhold their cattle and maintain good hygiene practices to discharge their Biosecurity Duty, there is still a residual risk that the movement of stock will result in weed spread.

The exercise has identified 76 movements of interest in NSW, and 39 in Queensland. The NSW movements of interest occur over 19 Local Control Authorities (LGAs) across the State.

Recommended action

DPIRD recommends the identified properties be inspected as soon as practical to reduce potential impacts to your region. DPIRD supports local control authorities undertaking these inspections as part of their delivery of the NSW Weeds Action Program, within a timeframe that suits the needs of the individual organisation.

Any inspections resulting in detection of Tropical soda apple must have records entered in the Biosecurity Information System (BIS) Weeds.

Provision of information

This intelligence is provided under section 387(2) of the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act), for the purpose of exercising a biosecurity risk function (relating to the prevention, elimination, minimisation or management of a biosecurity risk). The information provided is confidential and must not be re-distributed or shared with any other person, stakeholder or constituent Council, who is not engaged in the administration of the Act.

If the information provided is not sufficient to exercise biosecurity risk functions, DPIRD may be able to disclose further information. The disclosure of any additional information would be considered as 'personal information' and subject to further restrictions under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*. Therefore, requests for additional information will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and avoided wherever possible.

Inspections are being scheduled.

Coonamble

Compliance African Box Thorn

Gilgandra

NIL to report

Warrumbungle

Green Cestrum compliance Castlereagh River

Duty to Control Aquatic Weeds – Biosecurity Act

This one has come up before, with a landholder saying that the green cestrum in the creek is not his problem as the creek was Crown land up to the high-water mark.

It is true that almost all named rivers, creeks and streams are Crown land. You can see that on any cadastral map, including Google maps.

However, Schedule 1, Clause 4 of the Biosecurity Act, and in particular sub-clauses 4(1) and 4(2) say that:

If the land of an occupier is situated on opposite sides of a watercourse, river or inland water (tidal or non-tidal), a biosecurity duty imposed on an occupier of the land under Part 3 to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds on that land extends to weeds located on the land between those sides.

If a watercourse, river or inland water (tidal or non-tidal) is situated between land occupied by different occupiers, a biosecurity duty imposed on each occupier under Part 3 to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds extends to weeds located on the land between the boundary of the land and any fence erected to define the boundary of the land or, if there is no such fence, to the middle line of the watercourse, river or inland water.

An occupier of land is required to comply with any mandatory measures relating to weeds on land referred to in subclause (1) or (2) as if the occupier were dealing with those weeds.

An occupier may enter a watercourse, river or inland water for the purpose of discharging the occupier's biosecurity duty in relation to weeds or complying with a mandatory measure or biosecurity direction given in connection with weeds.

A local control authority may, by order, exempt the whole or part of a watercourse, river or inland water in the area for which it is local control authority from the operation of subclause (1) or (2), or both, if, in its opinion, the depth or width of the watercourse, river or inland water is such that, in the circumstances, it would be unreasonable to apply the provisions concerned.

A local control authority is to be responsible for weeds located on a watercourse, river or inland water in the area for which it is local control authority if subclause (1) or (2), or both, do not apply to the prevention, elimination or minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by those weeds because of an exemption granted by a local control authority or the Secretary under this Act.

This clause does not apply to land referred to in clause 5.

So, sub-clause 4(1) says that if a landholder owns both sides of a river or stream, their GBD for weeds extends to land within the river or stream.

Sub-clause 4(2) is a bit more messy.

Sub-clause 4(2) says that if different landholders own land on opposite sides of a river or stream, their GBD extends to the centre line of the stream, UNLESS a fence has been erected to define the boundary, in which case their responsibility extends to the fence.

This is where Sub-clause 4(2) gets messy. This provision is drawn directly from the Noxious Weeds Act. However, when referring to a fence defining the property boundaries at a river or stream, the NW Act used the term “give and take fence”.

Now, I know what this means as would most farmers and graziers. But apparently the Parliamentary Counsel (PC) did not when redrafting this provision for the Biosecurity Act. So, the PC has attempted to use standard language to describe a “give and take fence” and in doing so has made a bit of a hash of it.

The thing the PC didn't consider was, what if there are two fences? What if each landholder erects their own fence at the high-water mark of the river or stream?

Each landholder can then claim that their fence is the boundary for the purposes of Sub-clause 4(2), meaning that Crown lands could have the GBD for weeds in the river or stream.

Personally, I think that NW Act definition is what the PC intended and that GBD for weeds extends to the centre line of the stream or to a give and take fence.

The Parliament made these provisions knowing that most rivers and streams are Crown land.

So, I think it is clear that the Parliament intended that landholders would be required to control weeds in rivers and streams under the current and the previous legislation.

Warren

NIL to report

Walgett

Concerns Local Land Services Hudson Pear Program

Following up key stakeholders involved in the Electricity line maintenance potentially spreading Hudson Pear. (ETS)

INSPECTIONS

2025/2026 WAP (Weeds Action Plan) report submitted 17/8/2026. CMCC meet all inspection targets and activities for Northwest, Central West and Western Unincorporated funding.

Other weeds funding programs;

Parkinsonia Walgett & Brewarrina Shires Target meet. Groundwork achieving reduction in plant numbers and infestations. Program has been approved by DPIRD to continue program 2026/2027.

Parkinsonia Unincorporated Area Target meet. Groundwork achieving reduction in plant numbers and infestations. Program has been approved by DPIRD to continue program 2026/2027.

Rubber Vine Unincorporated Area Target meet. Groundwork achieving results however a new infestation was detected in June 2026 at a nearby paddock of an historic infestation.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Hudson Pear Biological material from mass rearing facility in Lightning Ridge will be delivered to QLD DPI. This project is funded by DPIRD NSW.

Hudson Pear monitoring Stephens Creek Unincorporated area, project ongoing and funded by DPIRD NSW.

Warrumbungle Shire - A new strain of cochineal for Velvety Tree Pear called Cerambycid will be released at an infestation Baradine Road. The material has been sourced from Biosecurity QLD. The site will be monitored and mass reared at the Lightning Ridge Mass Rearing Facility.

NEW & EMERGING ISSUES FOR THE CMCC REGION

Warrumbungle Shire – B-Double roll over on Newell Highway. 30 tonne Barley spilt onto adjoining property and damaging fences. Both truck and barley are from QLD. CMCC working with landholder and monitoring the highway and site for any possible weed germinations.



GENERAL OPERATIONS

Biosecurity Information System (BIS) data update The following plants, which are all native to NSW have been removed from BIS. DPIRD is no longer recording the presence of these native plants in our database:

- Azolla *Azolla* species
- Black roly-poly *Sclerolaena muricata*
- Bracken fern *Pteridium esculentum*
- Duckweed *Lemna disperma*
- Fishbone fern *Nephrolepis cordifolia*
- Galvanised burr *Sclerolaena birchii*
- Sifton bush *Cassinia sifton*
- Silky oak *Grevillia robusta*
- Sweet pitosporum *Pitosporum*

Gazania is currently the subject of active national and state-level reviews to determine if its sale should be banned.

While it has long been known as a common garden escapee, recent developments have significantly elevated its priority for Australian biosecurity.

The Push for an NSW Sale Ban: South Australia is currently the only state where selling *Gazania* is entirely illegal. However, following new research from La Trobe University showing how destructive the weed is to agricultural and native environments, the Invasive Species Council and farming groups are heavily lobbying NSW and other states to implement a synchronized ban.



Active Herbicide Trials: Because *Gazania* has an inherent tolerance to most standard chemical sprays, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is currently funding ongoing field trials. These trials aim to establish effective chemical control recommendations for land managers.

Spotlight on State priority weeds

Meadow knapweed

Meadow knapweed (*Centaurea x moncktonii*), a naturally occurring hybrid of brown knapweed (*C. jacea*) and black knapweed (*C. nigra*), is listed as prohibited matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. It is a significant biosecurity risk to NSW because of its aggressive, fast growing, suppresses the growth of other plants and is unpalatable to stock. Meadow knapweed reproduces by seed (a single plant produces 1,000 to 18,000 seeds annually) and vegetatively by resprouting from crown and root fragments. It is not well established how long seeds remain viable in the soil, but it is assumed that longevity is like other knapweed species being 2 to 5 years.

Meadow knapweed was first detected on Bellevue Road, just east of Tenterfield, NSW on 7 March 2019. DPIRD led a multi-agency delimitation surveillance exercise in April 2019. Approximately 75 hectares of meadow knapweed were detected across eight premises. Since then, Tenterfield Shire Council have conducted monthly inspections of the infested premises and DPIRD have coordinated annual surveillance responses. For the past 2 years scent detection dogs like Dash (Figure 2) have been utilised with great success at finding isolated and juvenile meadow knapweed plants.

Currently, 3 IPs are being actively managed in the delimitation stage. The remaining 5 IPs are now considered eradicated as no plants or seedlings have been found for the last 5 years - this is a fantastic achievement!

Mouse-ear hawkweed

Mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) is a small perennial herb from the daisy family (Asteraceae) and is listed as prohibited matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. First detected in 2015, it is currently confined to the Kosciuszko National Park and considered the highest-risk weed species threatening NSW alpine ecosystems and grazing lands. The invasion history of mouse-ear hawkweed overseas highlights the seriousness of the threat. In New Zealand, it spread across more than 6 million ha, becoming dominant vegetation, reducing agricultural productivity and rendering eradication unachievable.

As a prohibited matter species, mouse-ear hawkweed presents a high biosecurity risk. The requirement under the Act is not ongoing management, but the prevention and total eradication of the weed before it becomes established. Key biosecurity risks associated with mouse-ear hawkweed include:

- severe ecological threat: forms dense mats that outcompete native alpine vegetation and productive pasture species
- rapid establishment: reproduces through wind-borne seeds, root fragments, stolons, allowing infestations to spread quickly.
- legislative requirement for eradication: classified as prohibited matter across NSW because it is rare and targeted for total eradication.

Eradication options must be carefully considered in light of the significant threat this species poses to NSW. Action is required because mouse-ear hawkweed poses a severe environmental risk; "practicable" measures mean immediate reporting, strict hygiene and destruction of the plant rather than partial control. To support eradication efforts, DPIRD has led multi-agency surveillance responses since 2023 to delimit known infestations in NSW in collaboration with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Hawkweed Team.



Current surveillance relies on intensive ground searches conducted on foot by trained personnel and detection dogs.



One of the recent detections of Mouse-ear hawkweed at Strzelecki Creek in Kosciuszko National Park

Prohibited Matter Responses

Parthenium weed

A parthenium weed delimitation response at Croppa Creek was conducted on 29 and 30 of April 2026. The area surveyed was adjacent to Wyellen Park that have not yet been delimited. No parthenium weed plants were detected during the response.

Scent detection dogs were also deployed to survey the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC), Dunromin and Stock Road at Gunnedah for parthenium weed on the 15 and 16 June 2026. There were no plants were detected at AELEC or Dunromin, while 3 small plants were identified and removed from the Stock Road site.

An additional casual Grain Harvester Regulatory Officer has been recruited to support the parthenium border inspection program, ensuring DPIRD has a full seasonal team available to inspect incoming grain-harvesting machinery for the 2026-27 harvest season. This year's inspection program will commence on Monday 28th September and run through to first week of December 2026.

Rubber vine

All known rubber vine infested premises continue to be monitored for re-growth by Castlereagh Macquarie County Council as the LCA for the Unincorporated Area of Western NSW. 6-IP located in Tibooburra, in the States far West, continues to be the only infestation that is requiring on-going control of re-growth. Re-inspection of this site was carried out during April 2026; re-growth was treated and a new plant found growing just outside of the property was also controlled.

A suspected rubber vine plant was also recorded at Narromine.

Siam weed

DPIRD is currently developing a statewide weed preparedness program for NSW that will strengthen readiness for possible future incursions. The program will focus on rapid response planning, incorporating early detection, identification of high-risk introduction pathways, preferred delimitation and control techniques, and targeted research to support effective prevention, preparedness and response.

Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) is an emerging biosecurity threat to NSW. Flowerheads vary in colour from light purple to white.



Yellow burrhead

Yellow burrhead plants were detected and seized following online surveillance undertaken by DPIRD in collaboration with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QLD DPI). In 2022, intelligence indicated the species may be being illegally sold in Lismore, Newcastle and Shellharbour. DPIRD coordinated inspections and ongoing monitoring of four suspected incursion sites with the relevant Local Control Authorities (LCAs).

In March 2026, the Illawarra District Weeds Authority identified two yellow burrhead plants in a Shellharbour backyard. The species was confirmed by the Botanic Gardens of Sydney's National Herbarium of New South Wales, with specimens added to the NSW State Priority Weeds Reference Collection. Community intelligence suggests the plants originated from a Sydney street market. In response, Fairfield City Council have undertaken targeted inspections of the street market, no additional plants have been identified.

Yellow Burrhead is one of the weed species targeted under the National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program (NTWEP). Led by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, this national cost-share program outlines detailed response actions to be implemented when a target weed species is detected. NSW DPIRD, the Illawarra District Weeds Authority, and Fairfield City Council are continuing to implement the requirements of the NTWEP Response Plan 2024-2028 in response to this new incursion in the State.

Parkinsonia

The Prickle Bush Taskforce met on 23 June 2026 to support coordinated cross-agency action and provide strategic direction for prickly bush management.

Following review by the Prickle Bush Taskforce, the Parkinsonia Situation Report No. 2, the Parkinsonia Communications and Awareness Plan and the Parkinsonia Report Card have been finalised.

A practical identification resource has also been developed to assist weed officers and other professionals working in weed management to recognise and distinguish between eight prickly bush species encountered in the field. The resource covers Prickly acacia, Karoo acacia, Mimosa, Parkinsonia, Mimosa bush, Mesquite, Honey locust and Mysore thorn.

Tropical soda apple

The tropical soda apple trace forward was successfully launched and continued with a second round of data processed and distributed to LCAs mid-July. In total 1,652 movements, consisting of 12,673 head of cattle between September 2021 and March 2026 have been traced across 47 Local Government Areas.

This trace work remains a critical component of tropical soda apple surveillance and control, as the species is a Control Order priority weed that readily spreads through livestock movements. To assist in project evaluation and monitoring, LCAs are asked to select tropical soda apple as the species and include a comment in the inspection records linking to the trace forward activity, e.g. "Trace forward inspection".

Seeds can remain viable after ingestion by cattle and be dispersed to new locations via manure, making the identification and monitoring of at-risk cattle movements essential for early detection, targeted surveillance and preventing the establishment of new infestations.

New Weed Alert – Be On The Look Out!

Blue palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*)

Many people from the North West and Western areas know about parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), one of the original 20 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). It is under an 'All of NSW' Control Order and also prohibited from sale. A single plant of a sister species *Parkinsonia florida* (blue palo verde - literally meaning the blue-green stick (or tree)) has recently been found from near Broken Hill and confirmed at the National Herbarium of NSW (Figure 5).

The main differences between blue palo verde and parkinsonia are that the flower petals of blue palo verde are only yellow and that the stems/branches tend towards a blue-green colour. In contrast, the petals of parkinsonia tend to have red or brown splashes of colour and the

stems/branches are green. Blue palo verde is native to south-eastern USA (California, Nevada and Arizona) and northern Mexico. Popular in North American 'desert' horticulture, it is the State tree of Arizona, the City tree of South Miami, and hybrids of it with other parkinsonia species exist. This find may be the first time the species has been found naturalising outside of its native range. Like its sister species, it is likely that blue palo verde will spread aggressively along riparian areas should it escape. It is timely to be on the lookout for this species, particularly where parkinsonia occurs but also around western towns and gardens.

Reproducing by seed, this large, perennial bushy shrub or small tree also has photosynthetic stems. It naturally occurs in arid and semi-arid areas, particularly in riparian areas, washes and floodplains. It can also tolerate a range of soil types and we consider it will grow anywhere west of the Newell highway. It only has small thorns or spines to 1-7 mm long, with these no where near as long as other 'prickle bushes' like parkinsonia (with spines 3-20 mm), mesquite (*Prosopis* spp., spines 15-60 mm long), another WoNS species prickly acacia (*Vachellia indica*, spines 10-50 mm), or mimosa bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*, spines to 25 mm) which arrived before European colonisation.



National Established Weed Priorities (Weeds of National Significance)

Governments agree new national established weed priorities

The National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) has endorsed 14 national established weed priorities, following a prioritisation process under the NEWP initiative that aims to improve weed management in Australia.

In agreeing the new national established weed priorities, governments are not agreeing to any regulatory changes. Regulatory decisions on weed management are the responsibility of individual state and territory governments.

The national established weed priorities represent an opportunity for interested governments, industry and community organisations to work together on improving the management of one or more species on the list. Jurisdictions or government agencies may choose to not collaborate due to no or limited negative impacts occurring or a focus on other priorities in that jurisdiction.

Fifteen of the 29 species assessed met the criteria for a 'nationally significant weed'. The 14 species below were endorsed as national established weed priorities:

- African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)
- Amazon frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*)
- Arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

- Calotrope (rubber bush) (*Calotropis procera*)
- Giant rat's tail grass (GRT) (*Sporobolus pyramidalis*)*
- Harrisia (*Harrisia martinii*)*
- Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*)
- Olive (*Olea europaea*)
- Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- Sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*)
- Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*)
- Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*)*
- Tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*)
- Wandering trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)

Buffel grass

NBC agreed to undertake further work before making a decision on Buffel grass as a national established weed priority under the NEWP initiative. This process will be led by an NBC working group who will provide advice back to NBC by December 2026.

Buffel grass presents a unique and complex case that requires further consideration. Buffel grass is of interest to a broad range of stakeholders. It is a highly valued pasture grass for the cattle industry. Conversely, Buffel grass has significant negative impacts, such as in conservation areas, and requires management to reduce these negative impacts.

The NEWP assessment report identified that:

Buffel grass is causing nationally significant negative environmental and cultural impacts in Australia (current and potential)

there are feasible actions to reduce the negative impact of Buffel grass where it is causing negative impacts

the treatment of Buffel grass within the NEWP framework needs to be carefully considered to ensure it does not adversely impact grazing systems where it is highly valued; and

national coordination on actions, such as improved control methods, would achieve efficiencies and avoid duplication of effort across conservation and First Nations groups and other landholders that are required to manage Buffel grass.

LCA audits

Local government (LCA) has statutory weed biosecurity functions under the under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Department implements a biosecurity audit program to assess the capacity of LCAs to meet their functions and duties for weeds biosecurity under the Act. This is measured against the NSW Standard for Weed Management Capacity, available at:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/invasive-plants-and-animals/weeds/local-government-and-weeds/guidelines-and-standards>.

The Standard outlines how LCAs establish processes to deliver quality practice in weed management. It applies to the corporate, policy, procedural, compliance, and managerial components that LCAs need to have in place to implement sound weed management structures to meet their statutory obligations.

The Standard covers five main areas:

- partnerships, engagement, and adoption
- a skilled and informed workforce

- assessment, monitoring, and recording
- effective and professional use of regulation
- reporting and analysis.

Audits are conducted by an initial self-assessment by the LCA, followed by an in-depth face to face interview with the Biosecurity Auditor. On completion of an audit, the LCA receives a report with recommendations and/or requirements for improvement. To date, 18 audits have been completed, and 7 audits are currently in progress.

2027 NSW Weeds Conference host announced

The Weed Society of NSW announced in late July that the Western Sydney Weeds Authority has been selected to host the 2027 NSW Weeds Conference.

13. QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

14. CONFIRMATION DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: 26th October 2026, in Coonamble.

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

Time: