



**Central  
Tablelands  
Water**

**Business Paper**

**Ordinary Meeting of  
Central Tablelands Water**

**17 December 2025**

**Canowindra**



Friday, 12 December 2025

## Notice to Members

Your attendance is requested at an Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held at the Canowindra Services Club, Canowindra on Wednesday, 17 December 2025 at 10am.

### Public Forum

### Agenda

1. Opening Meeting
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Recording of Meeting Statement
4. Apologies and Applications for a Leave of Absence by Members
5. Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)
6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings
7. Disclosures of Interests
8. Chairperson's Minute
9. Councillor Representation
10. Notices of Motion
11. Reports of Staff
12. Questions on Notice
13. Confidential Matters
14. Late Reports
15. Conclusion of the Meeting

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. Harris", is written above the printed name.

C. Harris  
**General Manager**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

### **RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT**

In accordance with the Central Tablelands Water Code of Meeting Practice, this meeting is livestreamed. The live stream will allow members of the public to view the proceedings of the Council meetings. The objective of this service is to eliminate geographic and other access barriers for the community wishing to learn more about Council's decision-making processes.

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The live stream is primarily set up to capture the proceedings of the Council meeting and members of the public attending a Council meeting need to be aware they may be recorded as part of the proceedings.

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**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2025**

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**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**5.1) MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 29 October 2025, being minute numbers 25/076 to 25/095 inclusive, be confirmed.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 29 October 2025

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water held at Weddin Shire Council Chambers, Grenfell on Wednesday 29 October 2025, commencing at 10.12am**

**Present**

Cr. Andrew Rawson	Chairperson	Cabonne
Cr. Craig Gosewisch	Deputy Chairperson	Blayney
Cr. John Newstead		Blayney
Cr. Marlene Nash		Cabonne
Cr. Paul Best		Weddin
Cr. Jan Parlett		Weddin
Charlie Harris	General Manager	
Peter McFarlane	Director Finance & Corporate Services	
Lynette Safranek	Executive Manager Corporate Services	
Claire Wright	Executive Management Accountant	
Achal Deo	Governance & Executive Support Officer	
James O'Loughlin	Network Operator Grenfell	

**REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK**

**25/076 RESOLVED:**

That Council approves the attendance of Deputy Chairperson Cr. Craig Gosewisch to the Ordinary Meeting on 29 October 2025 via audio-visual link.

(Cr. Best/Cr. Parlett)

**4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY MEMBERS**

Nil

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**5.1) MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20 AUGUST 2025**

**25/077 RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 20 August 2025, being minute numbers 053 to 075 inclusive, be confirmed.

(Nash/Parlett)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Nil

## **7. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Nil

## **8. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTES**

### **8.1) BRIEFING OF MEETING WITH MINISTER ROSE JACKSON**

#### **25/078 RESOLVED:**

That the Chairperson's Minute, as read, be accepted and the contents therein be noted and endorsed.

*Carried*

## **9. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION**

Nil

## **10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

## **11. REPORTS OF STAFF**

### **11.1) LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2025 (CM.CF.1)**

#### **25/079 RESOLVED:**

That Council note the report regarding the LGNSW Water Management Conference 2025.

Cr. Best/Cr. Newstead

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

### **11.2) STRATEGIC PROJECTS (CA.PJ.1)**

#### **25/080 RESOLVED:**

That Council receive and note the progress update on the Safe and Secure Water Program SSWP216.

Cr. Best/ Cr. Nash

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

### **11.3) OFFICE CLOSURE FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR PERIOD (CM.ME.1)**

#### **25/081 RESOLVED:**

That Council Note the closure of the Blayney Office for the period 24 December 2025 to 6 January 2026.

Cr. Best/ Cr. Parlett

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**11.4) RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER (CA.ME.1)**

**25/082 RESOLVED:**

That Council endorse the appointment of Claire Wright, Executive Management Accountant, as Council's Responsible Accounting Officer.

Cr. Nash/ Cr. Parlett

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**11.5) OPERATIONS AND PROJECT UPDATES (CA.PJ.1)**

**25/083 RESOLVED:**

That Council note the update provided on operations and projects currently underway.

Cr. Best/ Cr. Newstead

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**11.6) 2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT (CM.RP.2)**

**25/084 RESOLVED:**

That Council note and adopt the 2024/25 Annual Report.

(Cr. Parlett/Cr. Newstead)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**11.7) AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (CM.AU.4)**

**25/085 RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Note this report on the Impending Vacancy on the Audit, Risk Improvement Committee (ARIC) Chairperson.
2. Appoint Ron Gillard as an Independent Member and Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), from the CNSWJO Regional Panel for ARIC Independent Members, for one term effective from 15 February 2026 to 14 February 2030.

(Cr. Parlett/Cr. Best)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch



**11.8) CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATE (CM.CP.2)**

**25/086 RESOLVED:**

That Council note the information provided within the Corporate Services Update.

(Cr. Nash/Cr. Best)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**11.9) POLICY REVIEWS (CM.PL.1)**

**25/087 RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Endorse the Drug & Alcohol, Concealed Leaks, and Procurement Cards policies and place them on public display for a period of 28 days; and
2. If no substantial submissions are received during the public display period, the documents be adopted.

(Cr. Newstead/Cr. Parlett)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**11.10) CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE (CM.PL.1)**

**25/088 RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Endorse the amendments to the Draft Code of Meeting Practice (v6);
2. Resolve to hold their Ordinary Council Meetings on the third Wednesday, every 2 months, except for January, from 10.30am;
3. Place the endorsed Draft Code of Meeting Practice (v6) on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and receive public submissions for a period of 42 days; and
4. Receive a report at the next Ordinary Council Meeting following conclusion of the submission period, to consider any submissions received.

(Cr. Newstead/Cr. Parlett)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**11.11) CNSWJO MODERN SLAVERY RISK ASSESSMENT PROJECT 2024-25 UPDATE (CM.PO.1)**

**25/089 RESOLVED:**

That Council note this report.

(Cr. Best/Cr. Newstead)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

**11.12) FINANCIAL STATEMENT COMPLETION 2024/25 (FM.FR.1)**

**25/090 RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Note the completion and lodgement of the 2024/25 Financial Reports, and
2. In accordance with Section 418 of the Local Government Act 1993 set the 17 December 2025 as the meeting date where the auditors and financial reports will be presented to the public and a public notice be issued accordingly.

(Cr. Best/Cr. Parlett)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett, Cr. Gosewisch

***Preceedings in brief:***

This meeting was adjourned at 11.57am, seconded by Cr.Best

Cr. Gosewish left the meeting at 11.57am

Meeting resumed at 1.02pm

**11.13) FINANCIAL MATTERS - INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025 (FM.BA.1)**

**25/091 RESOLVED:**

That the information in relation to Cash and Investments at 30 September 2025 be noted.

(Cr. Nash/Cr. Newstead)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett

**11.14) QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - 30 SEPTEMBER 2025 (FM.FR.1)**

**25/092 RESOLVED:**

That Council adopt the budget review statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2025 and the variations therein be voted.

(Cr. Nash/Cr. Newstead)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett

**12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Nil

***Preceedings in brief:***

Cr. John Newstead left the meeting at 1.33pm

### **13. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**25/093 RESOLVED:**

That, as the business for the Ordinary Meeting has now concluded, Council Proceed into Committee of the Whole to discuss the items referred to in the report.

(Cr. Best/Cr. Parlett)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett

**13.1) GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

*This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (a) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals.*

**25/094 RESOLVED:**

That the Chairperson's Minute, and the following recommendations be accepted, and the contents therein be noted and endorsed.

That Council:

1. Receive and note the General Manager Performance Review Panel's Report for 26 August 2024 to 30 June 2025.
2. Note the Performance Review process was facilitated by Ms Kath Roach, SINC Solutions.
3. Notes the General Manager's performance for the review period as determined by the panel was 'better than satisfactory' including an 'exceeds expectations' in eight (8) objective/achievement categories. In the majority of the other categories he was generally well above the minimum level in meeting expectations.
4. Given the 'more than satisfactory' performance criteria has been met, the Total Remuneration Package of the General Manager increase for the duration of the contract by 5.5%, which includes the 0.5% superannuation guarantee charge which came into effect on 1 July 2025, and this increase should commence on 20 August 2025 being the date the performance review was completed.
5. Delegate the Chair and General Manager to finalise the 2025/2026 General Manager Performance Agreement.
6. Delegate the Chair the authority to finalise and sign all relevant documentation as required.

(Cr. Parlett/Cr. Best)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett

**25/095 RESOLVED:**

That, as the deliberation of the Committee is concluded, the Council reconvene the Ordinary Meeting.

(Cr. Parlett/Cr. Best)

*Carried*

Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett

**14. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of Central Tablelands Water will be held at Canowindra on Wednesday, 17 December 2025 at 10am

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 1.45pm

(Cr. Best/ Cr. Parlett)

Carried: Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Best, Cr. Parlett

## **8. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTES**

### **8.1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Author:** Chairperson

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Chairperson's Minute, as read, be accepted and the contents therein be noted and endorsed.

#### **LGNSW Conference**

The recent LGNSW Conference in Penrith, attended by approximately 900 delegates from across NSW, provided an excellent opportunity for networking and advocacy with Local Government peers.

While the bulk of the proceedings were focussed on refining LGNSW advocacy priorities, a few notable speakers and panel sessions produced lively debate and questioning. The NSW Premier, Chris Minns highlighted the rationale behind the recent planning reforms that are designed to 'fast track' urgently needed affordable housing in NSW. While these reforms don't directly affect CTW operations, the philosophy around them assumes increased State control over developments, and hence a reduced role for local councils and councillors in determining what is best for their own communities. While the battles will largely be fought in metropolitan areas, rural and regional councils should maintain a watchful eye on how these reforms play out over the next few years, as they will inevitably change the relationship between LG and the State.

All rural councils and county councils, including CTW, are heavily reliant on State and Federal funding for capital works, and therefore our relationships with higher levels of government are critical to ensure our longevity and financial sustainability. Equally, State and Federal Governments require a strong and viable local government sector to deliver the 'coalface' services that State agencies are just not equipped for. There is always a balance to be maintained, and in the view of the Chair of the Planning Institute (panellist at the conference) the current planning laws are the most 'top down' she has witnessed in over 30 years. While this is concerning, her suggestion, backed by the NSW Planning Secretary, was for local councils to present viable alternatives that deliver on the NSW Govt priorities, especially about investment in affordable housing. This requires respectful and positive engagement between our sector and State Govt agencies, and especially for State agencies to be open to listening to local views and experience.

The best way that CTW can support the State's agendas on housing is to improve water security in our region. This is the Achilles heel for investment in our region, especially in a time of highly variable and changing climates. Our ongoing water security projects (Sub-Regional Town Water Security Project and the Belubula Water Security Project) should deliver the business cases for increased capital investment in water infrastructure, hopefully including an augmented Lake Rowlands.

Of final note from the LGNSW conference, the Riverina Water submission (supported by CTW) to have county councils included in the development application process was passed unanimously and will become part of the LGNSW advocacy agenda. The conference also carried a LGNSW Board submission to continue advocacy for sustained funding and local control of regional water utilities.

**CNSWJO Meetings**

The General Manager and I have been attending various CNSWJO meetings and sub-committees. At the recent Board meeting in Sydney, CTW was voted on to the Priority 6: Regional Water Security and Productive Water portfolio Mayor's advocacy group and as with past practice, I will be the nominal chair of that committee.

I have also been voted on to the new Priority 7: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation portfolio Mayor's advocacy group and hope to develop agendas that see all councils in our region adequately address ongoing climate risks.

These portfolio Mayor groups help refine the advocacy agendas for the whole group of councils and county councils that make up the JO. CNSWJO is a highly regarded and productive JO in NSW and has a good track record in engagement with State and Federal agencies. Their assistance with a range of common issues and parliamentary inquiry submissions is invaluable and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank JO staff for their support and continued professionalism.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## 11. REPORTS OF STAFF

### 11.1) **CNSWJO BOARD MEETING - 12 NOVEMBER 2025 (CM.CF.3)**

**Author:** General Manager

**IP&R Link:** Strategic Priority 3: Regional Leadership and Collaboration

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council Note the report from the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meeting on 12 November 2025.

#### **REPORT**

This report provides advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Sydney on 12 November 2025.

The CNSWJO Board met in Sydney at The Grace Hotel to align with the Board's visit to NSW State Parliament on 13 November 2025. Speakers to the Board meeting were Matt Armstrong, NBN; Ed Nicholas, Tribe Infrastructure Group, and Jordan Welden-Iley from the CNSWJO who provided a presentation on cyber security.

More detail on reports to the meeting can be found in the Minutes on the [CNSWJO website](#).



*Images: The CNSWJO Board, peak agencies and Ministers at the meetings in Sydney on 12 and 13 November 2025*

### 2024/25 Annual Performance Statement

The CNSWJO is required to submit an Annual Performance Statement (the Statement) by 30 November 2025. The Statement reports progress on the implementation of CNSWJO's Strategic Plan.

The Statement highlights a strong return on investment for members of 6.28:1, cost savings of almost \$2.6m, and over \$1.86m in grant funding. The Statement provides detail of the value to members, the various collaboration opportunities, communication and media, submissions, recognition through awards, and an overview of the activities and successes of each of the JO's 7 key strategic regional priorities.

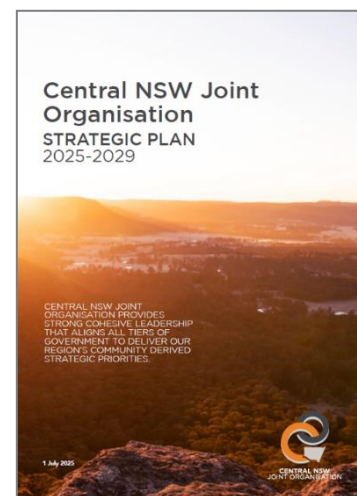
A copy of the [2024/25 Annual Performance Statement](#) is attached, or can be found on the CNSWJO website.



### Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029

The Board adopted the Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029, taking immediate effect, and the Portfolio Mayors for the priorities for the SSRP 2025-2029 are:

- Priority 1: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration - Cr Kevin Beatty
- Priority 2: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services - Crs Neil Westcott and Bruce Reynolds
- Priority 3: Improved and fit-for-purpose infrastructure in health and ageing - Crs Phyllis Miller, John Medcalf and Neil Westcott
- Priority 4: Telecommunications - Crs Kevin Beatty and Phyllis Miller
- Priority 5: Regional transport planning and infrastructure prioritisation - Crs Andrew McKibbin, Bruce Reynolds and Paul Smith
- Priority 6: Regional water security and productive water - Crs Paul Smith, Tony Mileto, Robert Taylor, Bruce Reynolds and Andrew Rawson
- Priority 7: Climate change adaptation and mitigation - Crs Cass Coleman, Neil Westcott and Andrew Rawson



The [SSRP](#) can be found on the CNSWJO website.

### Advocacy

Updates were provided in relation to advocacy for the regional prosperity, health, transport, water and energy portfolios.

In the context of a changing political framework, the way in which advocacy is facilitated via the JO has been considered and a new advocacy framework which aims to streamline, clarify, and improve regional advocacy through the JO was adopted.

The following submissions were endorsed:

1. [Submission to Inquiry into Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform](#)
2. [Submission to the NSW EPA on Climate Change Licensee Reporting Requirements](#)
3. [Submission into the Review of the Operations of the NSW Reconstruction Authority regarding the NSW East Coast severe weather from May 2025](#)



**Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing**

The Board was provided with a draft discussion paper prepared by CNSWJO in relation to lessons learned from member councils regarding Voluntary Planning Agreements in the context of renewable energy developments.

All member councils have been engaged in the development of this discussion paper. The Board endorsed the draft discussion paper and the CNSWJO Planners Group will consider the paper and provide advice back to the Board on which actions to progress at a regional level and what further support can be provided to member councils.

**Procurement and Contracts**

Delegates to the Board meeting noted the ongoing growth of the Regional Procurement and Contract Management Program with its associated cost savings to member councils. There are currently 20+ regional contracts available for use by members, with a further 10 under development. Details of the available contracts can be found at [www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/contracts-register](http://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/contracts-register).

**Regional Resilience Program**

The Evacuation Centre Assessments project (funded under the Disaster Ready Fund) has been finalised, and the reports now provide councils and CNSWJO with a strong evidence base to strengthen evacuation facilities, with future work flagged to assess Emergency Operations Centres.

The Board endorsed the Regional Evacuation Centre Assessment report.

**Regional Prosperity**

Advice was provided to the Board on endorsed priorities identified for regional prosperity including the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025.

Concerns raised by legal experts and Local Government NSW (LGNSW) on changes to the planning laws announced by the NSW Premier in September were highlighted.

Where numerous challenges have been identified with the legislation, Local Government NSW (LGNSW) is following its passage closely and continuing to prosecute the importance of ensuring that the essential role of democratically elected councils remains central to the planning framework in NSW. Also, that any statutory rules, environmental planning instruments, and policies are developed in a genuinely collaborative manner with local government to maintain public trust and confidence in the planning system. CNSWJO continues to maintain a watching brief in this space as peak agencies such as LGNSW and CMA are leading the charge.

**Telecommunications**

Some members have raised concerns around the need to do more in this space. In response, a presentation was received from nbn Local in relation to the development of a Regional Digital Plan. The Board endorsed the development of a regional plan which aims to provide baseline digital connectivity information for the region, determine priorities and set a platform to support and advocate on behalf of the community for digital connectivity improvements throughout the Central NSW Region. The plan will be developed in collaboration with RDA Central West, NBN Local, Telstra and other key stakeholders.

This has also been identified as an action for the CNSWJO in partnership with RDACW in the Parkes, Forbes, and Lachlan Regional Drought Resilience Plan.

## **Transport**

The draft Central West Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan has recently been released by Transport for NSW, with feedback sought until 14 December. CNSWJO intends to lodge a submission.

The JO continues to participate in the Central NSW Integrated Transport Group which meets four times per year with representatives from CNSWJO, Transport for NSW (TfNSW), Inland Rail, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), and member councils. The Group discusses opportunities, challenges and developments with direct implications for the region's transport planning and priorities.

## **Water**

Where CNSWJO is leading the state in its work in Water Loss Management and Water Efficiency, the Water and Regional Development Manager and Chair of the Western Councils' Water Alliance (WCWA) co-presented on the roll-out of the program to the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) and WCWA at this year's Local Government NSW Water Management Conference in Albury on 10 September. This presentation focussed on the opportunity through the Productivity and Equality Commission's report on Alternate Funding Models for Local Water Utilities for the State government to incentivise collaboration.

A 2026 University of Sydney Major Industry Project Placement Scheme (MIPPS) project proposal has been submitted. This project builds on previous projects in water efficiency and aims to explore the relationship between pump scheduling, water demand, and energy use across council water networks. It will build an evidence base that can help councils better understand opportunities for cost savings, operational efficiency, and more sustainable water-energy management.

The Water and Regional Development Manager attended the Murray Darling Association 2025 National Conference in Griffith on 1-2 October. This presented a great opportunity to hear first-hand from a broad cross section of stakeholders from across the Basin, reflecting interests in irrigation, industry, local government, biosecurity, and the environment.

## **Regional Energy Report**

The Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) Round 3 program commenced on 1 July 2025, with \$253K in funding through to 31 December 2026. The Round 3 approach is to be broad to allow for flexibility as opportunities and grants arise, with the main focus areas being:

- Distributed Energy Resources (DER),
- Energy Security, Capacity and Affordability,
- Resilience
- Emissions, including fleet
- Data and cost savings, and
- Water.

The [E Venture Map](#), led by CNSWJO to promote spontaneous EV tourism across NSW, is being progressed to finalisation in 2025, with promotion and physical signage roll-out.

Various other EV resources are being rolled out to members through the JONZA program.

## **Quarterly Review of the CNSWJO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priorities**

### JO Chairs' Forum

The Forum brings together all NSW JO's along with other alliances of councils from across NSW three times per year. Its purpose is to exchange information on best practice and excellence in the pursuit of strategic regional priorities, joint advocacy and collaboration activities for the benefit of local councils and their communities right across rural and regional NSW.

The current chair of the Forum is Cr Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton Council and Chair of Hunter JO, along with Deputy Chair Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne Council and Chair of Central NSW JO. The Hunter JO currently provides the secretariat to the Forum.



The 7 August meeting in Sydney consisted of a workshop around the potential cross-JO approach to a collaborative community benefit sharing for renewable energy developments framework. This proposed approach was well-received, and Hunter JO as the Chair of the Forum is seeking formal participation from JO's. CNSWJO, via the Chair and the previous resolution of the Board, has agreed to participate in this collaborative approach.

### Spend on Aggregated Contracts

The following table shows the spend by member councils through regional contracts from 1 July to 30 September.

SPEND	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	Supply contracts	Roads/ Transport contracts	Energy contracts	RDOCS contracts	Training	Total
Bathurst	\$369,275	\$4,000	\$0	\$33,799	\$0	\$871,380	\$9,570	\$0	<b>\$1,288,025</b>
Blayney	\$0	\$5,718	\$0	\$44,267	\$0	\$90,316	\$2,289	\$0	<b>\$142,591</b>
Cabonne	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,203	\$0	\$120,079	\$0	\$0	<b>\$160,282</b>
Central Tablelands Water	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,497	\$0	\$102,262	\$0	\$0	<b>\$124,759</b>
Cowra	\$31,324	\$3,640	\$0	\$29,987	\$0	\$247,245	\$0	\$0	<b>\$312,196</b>
Forbes	\$538,527	\$3,575	\$0	\$237,868	\$0	\$267,670	\$3,368	\$0	<b>\$1,051,008</b>
Lachlan	\$0	\$4,689	\$0	\$42,464	\$0	\$176,916	\$0	\$0	<b>\$224,069</b>
Lithgow	\$0	\$3,900	\$0	\$48,979	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$52,879</b>
Oberon	\$0	\$1,300	\$231	\$17,952	\$0	\$53,955	\$2,687	\$0	<b>\$76,125</b>
Orange	\$407,566	\$10,700	\$14,458	\$32,393	\$0	\$1,055,979	\$6,959	\$5,400	<b>\$1,533,454</b>
Parkes	\$76,430	\$2,730	\$0	\$23,803	\$0	\$484,818	\$7,094	\$4,200	<b>\$599,075</b>
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Weddin	\$48,521	\$0	\$0	\$37,050	\$0	\$44,177	\$1,975	\$0	<b>\$131,724</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,471,644</b>	<b>\$40,252</b>	<b>\$14,689</b>	<b>\$611,262</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,514,795</b>	<b>\$33,942</b>	<b>\$9,600</b>	<b>\$5,696,185</b>

### Savings on Aggregated Contracts and Other Programming

The following table shows the savings achieved by member councils through regional contracts and other regional programs from 1 July to 30 September.

SAVINGS	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	Supply contracts	Roads/ Transport contracts	Energy contracts	Training	Legal advice re Procurement	Participation in regional procurement	Total
Bathurst	\$19,436	\$651	\$0	\$3,240	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	<b>\$29,327</b>
Blayney	\$0	\$1,430	\$0	\$4,427	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	<b>\$12,856</b>
Cabonne	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,204	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	<b>\$10,204</b>
Central Tablelands Water	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	<b>\$7,500</b>
Cowra	\$5,528	\$593	\$0	\$3,307	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	<b>\$16,427</b>
Forbes	\$28,344	\$582	\$0	\$23,954	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	<b>\$62,880</b>
Lachlan	\$0	\$917	\$0	\$5,441	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	<b>\$16,358</b>
Lithgow	\$0	\$635	\$0	\$5,022	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	<b>\$11,657</b>
Oberon	\$0	\$212	\$99	\$1,841	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	<b>\$7,152</b>
Orange	\$24,074	\$1,938	\$6,196	\$3,969	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$36,178</b>
Parkes	\$4,023	\$444	\$0	\$3,949	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	<b>\$14,416</b>
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Weddin	\$3,524	\$0	\$0	\$4,606	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	<b>\$10,130</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$84,927</b>	<b>\$7,401</b>	<b>\$6,295</b>	<b>\$66,460</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$235,083</b>
									Cost to members	<b>\$105,250</b>
									<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,833</b>

**Grant Funding**

The following table shows the grant funding received for member councils for the 25/26 FY to date.

GRANT FUNDING - 25/26 FY	Water	Training/ HR/WHS	Roads/ Transport	Energy	Tourism	Disaster Resilience	Other	Total
Bathurst	\$9,593	\$20,430	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$33,188</b>
Blayney	\$0	\$8,890	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$12,055</b>
Cabonne	\$9,593	\$0	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$12,758</b>
Central Tablelands Water	\$9,593	\$88,530	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$101,288</b>
Cowra	\$9,593	\$2,600	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$15,358</b>
Forbes	\$9,593	\$0	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$12,758</b>
Lachlan	\$9,593	\$7,330	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$20,088</b>
Lithgow	\$9,593	\$16,600	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$29,358</b>
Oberon	\$9,593	\$7,850	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$20,608</b>
Orange	\$9,593	\$73,210	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$85,968</b>
Parkes	\$9,593	\$520	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$13,278</b>
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Weddin	\$0	\$1,040	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$4,205</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$95,930</b>	<b>\$227,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$37,980</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$398,890</b>

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 CNSWJO Annual Performance Statement

**11.2) LGNSW 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - DELEGATES REPORT (CM.CF.1)**

**Author:** General Manager  
**IP&R Link:** Strategic Priority 3: Regional Leadership and Collaboration – 3.2:  
Regional Leadership in the Water Sector – 3.1: Regional collaboration  
and partnerships

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council note the delegates report on the LGNSW 2025 Annual Conference.

**REPORT**

This report is presented by Cr Parlett.

This year's Annual Conference was held in Penrith with over 1000 local Government representatives attending. CTW General Manager, Charlie Harris; Chair, Andrew Rason, and Cr Jan Parlett, had a very busy three days, that included many highlights (mentioned below) and outcomes that will steer LGNSW advocacy and direction for the next 12 months.

**Sunday 23rd November – Day 1**

A warm and heartfelt Welcome to Country was given by Julie Jones Webb, acknowledging we were meeting on Dharug Country. Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, President LGNSW, welcomed everyone and introduced Cr Todd Carney the hosting Mayor of Penrith City Council.

**The Bluett Award Presentation**

Paul Baybrooks, Mark Ferguson, and Gail Giles-Gidney, the Bluett Trustees, presented the prestigious awards to:

- Camden Council – Metropolitan/major regional honour
- Leeton Council – Regional/rural category

**Ministerial Addresses**

David Reynolds, Chief Executive, LGNSW introduced the Hon Chris Rath MLC - Shadow special Minister of State, and Shadow Minister for Local Government. Mayor Matt Burnett, ALGA President gave an ALGA Update before introducing the Hon Ron Hoenig MP, NSW Minister for Local Government. The Ministers took some questions from the floor, the hot topics being the recently passed Planning Reforms, housing issues, and the concerns regarding the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

**Signing of extended MOU between LGNSW and the Country Mayors Association**

President LGNSW Cr Phyllis Miller OAM and Chair Country Mayors Association Rick Firman OAM, Temora Shire Council signed the agreement of partnership, continuing the alliance of the two organisations working together for better outcomes with the issues affecting our Councils and communities.

**Keynote Address:** Opportunities and Risks for Local Government with rapid AI Development was presented by Nick Abrahams, highlighting the AI impact and considerations Councils currently experience.

**Monday 24th November – Day 2**

I started the day attending the ALGWA Breakfast - Partnered by Maddocks. Ooma Khurana from Maddocks introduced the Keynote Speaker, Karla Grant. Karla is the Host and Executive Producer of NITV and SBS's Living Black programme, and has 30 years in the media industry. Carla's story, her determination, passion, dedication, and resourcefulness were inspiring.

The Breakfast also offered a great opportunity for networking and discussion with fellow female Councillors regarding issues their Councils are facing. Yes, lack of funds, roads, lack of female representation, and housing crisis were common issues to rural and Sydney based Councils.

### **Premier's Address**

David Reynolds Chief Executive LGNSW welcomed everyone and introduced Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier of NSW. Premier Minns thanked Councillors and Councils, acknowledging the hard work they do with service delivery to their communities.

The Premiere spoke of the current housing crisis, the recent planning reforms, and the \$250 million FreshStart Program that is funding apprenticeships and trainees at all Councils in NSW.

### **Presidents Address**

President Cr Phyllis Miller OAM introduced Cr Julie Griffiths AM, who presented the annual Financial Report.

This was followed by the President commencing the overseeing of voting on the 136 motions that had been submitted by Councils. Many motions were hotly debated, required a clarity of division of vote, and at times the "Chair" was required to give clarity of direction, ruling, and move things along. President Phyllis playfully and confidently guided delegates through the majority of motions that covered topics ranging from increased funding support for local water utilities, FAGS funding, addressing the housing crisis, renewable energy, Model Code of Meeting Practice, declared natural disasters, and more.

By the end of the day 115 of the 136 motions put forward were resolved, leaving 21 motions to be determined by the incoming board. The outcomes from these motions provide the direction for LGNSW'S advocacy to the State and Federal Governments for the next 12 months.

President Phyllis Miller then paid tribute to Cr Darriea Turley AM, for her service to Local Government, and in her role as previous LGNSW President, announcing Cr Turley as a new Patron.

### **LGNSW Conference Dinner**

It included the presentation of the LGNSW Service Awards.

## **Tuesday 25th November – Day 3**

### **Guest Speakers:**

- **NSW Planning Reforms two years in: How to optimise outcomes for all communities**, Sue Wheatherley, MPIA (Fellow) NSW president, planning institute of Australia (NSW); Hon Stuart Ayers, CEO Urban Development institute of Australia (NSW); and Kiersten Fishburn Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Provided information and answered questions from the floor that addressed the planning reform issues and problems. The need for Infrastructure and services – are they complimentary, existing, or needing funding. More Social/affordable rentals are needed to meet demand.

- **Positive Community Engagement**, Kylie Legge Founder and CEO, Place Score; Cinnamon Dunsford, Planner, Locale Consulting Principal; Stuart Reeve, Executive Director, Micromex Research and Consulting. Highlighted the need and ways to achieve broader and more accurate community input and engagement.

**Announcement 2026 Annual Conference**

Wollongong will host the Conference from 22-24 November 2026, with the Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Cr Tania Brown issuing a warm invitation.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**11.3) STRATEGIC PROJECTS STAGE 2 - SAFE AND SECURE WATER PROGRAM (CA.CO.1)**

**Author:** General Manager  
**IP&R Link:** Strategic Priority 1: Provide a high quality and reliable drinking water supply – Strategic Priority 2: An efficient, sustainable and customer focused organisation

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Endorse the project budget of \$375,348 ex GST on the basis that it is funded 50/50 with the NSW Government, to be reflected in the December Quarterly Budget Review Statement.
2. Accept the quote of \$60,117 ex GST from City Water Technology for the assessment of the capacity of the Blayney and Carcoar Water Treatment Plants.
3. Accept the quote of \$89,290 ex GST from NSW Public Works for the modelling of the reticulation network in Blayney, Canowindra, and Millthorpe.

**REPORT****Background**

Council has successfully secured funding under the Safe and Secure Water Programs Stream 2 through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to undertake a strategic planning initiative aimed at strengthening the future direction of Central Tablelands Water (CTW).

These works will clearly identify the long-term challenges and costs involved in providing service to our customers, enabling CTW to make fully informed decisions.

The works to be completed as part of this project are:

1. Review and update of Levels of Service framework.
2. Asset condition assessment of the Carcoar and Blayney water treatment plants (WTP), pump stations, and reservoirs.
3. Carcoar and Blayney WTP process capacity assessment.
4. Network capacity and capability assessment for Canowindra, Millthorpe, and Blayney to understand their capacity to meet current and future requirements.
5. Development of Total Asset Management Plans.
6. Preparation of the Long Term Financial Plan, ensuring linkages between finances and asset management.
7. Completion of a detailed Water Supply Risk Assessment and Emergency Response Plan, integrated into the Business Continuity Plan.
8. Development of a Resourcing and Workforce Plan.
9. Review and update Strategic Plan.

Pending timely approvals from DCCEEW, it is targeted to complete these works for adoption by June 2026.



### Request for Quotations

Following concurrence from DCCEEW on the scope of works developed, quotes have been called to deliver specialist consultants deliverables for Task 3: Carcoar and Blayney WTP Capacity Assessment, and Task 4: Network Capacity Assessment Blayney, Canowindra, and Millthorpe.

With increasing water treatment requirements, along with increased demand through higher than expected growth in Canowindra, Millthorpe, and Blayney, Council is looking to undertake a detailed assessment of its infrastructure within these towns.

The objective is to understand any constraints in meeting levels of service, health-based targets, and regulatory requirements into the future. Council is seeking an assessment against the name-plate capacity (9ML/d for Carcoar, 6ML/d for Blayney) to understand what the constraints may be, and when they would impact Council's capacity to meet its levels of service. Along with the constraints within the reticulation network.

The deliverable will be information on potential upgrades and timings to meet service expectations for both the treatment plants and the reticulation network, along with a high-level consideration of the benefits of moving to a single plant for comparison as requested by DCCEEW.

### Quotation Process & Probity

Council developed a clear scope of works for these tasks, with approval from DCCEEW that they align with the funding deed requirements. These scopes of work were sent to four (4) companies that are known to Council and have the capacity to undertake the work:

- Atom Consulting
- City Water Technology
- NSW Public Works, and
- Premise.

As the market has been tested previously on this project in partnership with Cabonne Shire Council, these companies are considered to have the capacity to deliver and demonstrated value.

The invitation to quote was emailed to each consultant on Wednesday, 19 November 2025, with the response closing at 11am Thursday, 4 December 2025. At time of closing, CTW had received submissions from each of the companies for different components of the works, as described in the table below:

Company	Task 3 WTP Assessment	Task 4 Network Assessment
Atom Consulting	Yes	No
City Water Technology	Yes	No
NSW Public Works	Yes	Yes
Premise	No	Yes

During the quote period, no clarifications were requested, no addendums were issued, and all submissions were received prior to the closing time. All members of the Evaluation Panel have signed Conflict of Interest declarations, stating they hold no conflict of interest with the submitting companies.

### Evaluation Methodology

An Evaluation Plan was developed to guide the assessment process. It proposed three members who had voting rights, and an advisor from DCCEEW, to provide surety that the quotes align with the grant funding requirements.

The evaluation methodology followed a four-stage process, with each company having to pass through each stage to be considered.

### Conformance Check

A pass/fail assessment of meeting mandatory criteria, along with an opportunity to exclude any quote that had provided a price so excessive it is unlikely to demonstrate value for money.

### Non-Price Scoring

Scoring was undertaken on a 0-10 scale for all non-price criteria. A clear marking rubric is developed to aid consistency in scoring. A score of 6 is considered acceptable and meets the minimum expectation.

### Verification

Prior to acceptance, the Evaluation Panel was able to seek clarifications, reference checks, or any other information required to ensure confidence in the company's capacity to deliver the works.

### Value for CTW

Price was scored using inverse proportionality where the lowest price scores maximum points. Unusually low prices will be checked to ensure the company has fully understood the requirements. Additionally, the Evaluation Panel may choose to pass over any tenderer that has scored less than 4 on any assessment item, as they may not represent value for money regardless of price.

### Assessment Weightings

Weightings have been derived using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) which enables a comparative assessment between all criteria, essentially ranking their relative importance. This was performed for both tasks, with the same weighting applied across them.

Criterion	Weighting (%)	Key Evidence Required
Price	37%	Pricing schedule
Capability & Experience	22%	Track record of delivery, CVs of team, past experience in task
Methodology	22%	Demonstrated understanding of the scope, clearly articulated steps, clearly defined any assumptions, quality assurance
Timeline	13%	Expected timeline to complete the work
Local Benefit	6%	Location relative to Central Tablelands Water or Central West JO
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Each member of the Evaluation Panel scored the submissions independently, with advice sought from DCCEEW on any potential risks for consideration by the Panel. Scores were then averaged to determine the submission that provides the greatest value for CTW.

**Evaluation Outcome: Task 3 WTP Assessment**

Three submissions were received for Task 3 WTP Assessment. The final scoring after averaging the scores is shown below.

Criteria	Weighting	Atom Consulting	City Water Technology	NSW Public Works
Pricing	37%	28.93	36.77	31.86
Capability	22%	18.42	18.42	14.74
Methodology	22%	18.42	15.47	15.47
Timeline	13%	2.56	6.82	4.26
Local Benefit	6%	2.70	2.70	2.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>71.03</b>	<b>80.18</b>	<b>69.03</b>

City Water Technology is considered the best overall value for this scope of works, with the lowest cost, and strong balance of technical knowledge. Their proposal includes working with CTW staff to understand the constraints from our operators, which assists in providing buy in from the staff and captures impacts that are challenging to identify through desktop only analysis. City Water Technology has quoted \$60,117 excluding GST for this work.

**Evaluation Outcome – Task 4 Network Assessment**

Two submissions were received for Task 4 Network Assessment. The final scoring after averaging the scores is shown below.

Criteria	Weighting	NSW Public Works	Premise
Pricing	37%	36.77	25.25
Capability	22%	17.68	17.68
Methodology	22%	18.42	20.63
Timeline	13%	8.52	9.38
Local Benefit	6%	2.70	5.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>84.10</b>	<b>78.35</b>

NSW Public Works is considered the best value, having suitably demonstrated their capacity to deliver the works and providing a moderately lower cost than Premise. They have also completed work in recent times under the Sub Regional Town Water Strategy, which links closely to the work that is proposed within this scope. NSW Public Works has quoted \$89,290 excluding GST for this work.

**Funding Deed**

Council has worked closely with DCCEEW in the development of the scope of works, however the funding Deed is not yet finalised, with these quotes a key input into the project costs and funding deed. It is expected that the Deed can be resolved by January 2026.

The current estimates for all nine (9) tasks, using the quoted prices for tasks 3 and 4, stands at \$375,348, inclusive of project management fees and a \$22,000 contingency.

The changes from the \$332,354 figure reported to the August Council meeting considers the following:

1. Due to the delays in finalising the Deed, we are leveraging the opportunity to bring forward a task linked to the planned revaluation in 2026/27. This is valued at \$20,000 and will be completed as part of Task 2.

2. Incorporation of a \$22,000 contingency.
3. Addition of CTW staff time allocated towards the project totalling \$37,920.
4. Addition of \$9,500 to build better capacity within our asset management system following a review of our asset structure.

These items are considered within the scope of works, and the updated pricing has been sent to DCCEEW to enable the finalisation of the Deed. It is planned to be completed by January 2026.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The budget estimate proposed in August of \$332,354 has now been confirmed at a project total of \$375,348, and is the figure presented to DCCEEW for Stage 2 funding Deed.

Council has allocated \$300,000 in its 2025/26 operation budget to deliver Stage 2 of the project. This budget consists of 50% grant funding and 50% CTW funding, noting the original budget has CTW and DCCEEW contributing \$150,000 each.

The increase to the project cost results in an increased CTW contribution. The revised project total has CTW's contribution of \$187,674, 50% of the total costs, an increase of \$37,674 to Council's 2025/26FY budgeted contribution.

The additional work leveraged in Task 2 for bringing forward the planned revaluation was budgeted for next financial year at a cost of \$20,000.

The staff time allocated to the project of \$37,920 is budgeted within CTW general operating budget.

The above two items total \$57,920 and is budgeted for in 2025/26 and 2027/28 financial years, covering the variance of \$37,674 and therefore no additional funding will be required.

Assuming concurrence from DCCEEW and timely execution of the Funding Deed, these amendments will be identified through the December QBRS.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The procurement has complied with all requirements under:

- CTW Procurement Policy,
- Local Government Act 1993 and
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**11.4) PRINCIPLES FOR DECISION-MAKING – BELUBULA WATER SECURITY PROJECT (WS.SP.25)****Author:** General Manager**IP&R Link:** Strategic Priority 1: Provide a high quality and reliable drinking water supply – Strategic Priority 3: Regional Leadership and Collaboration

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council

1. Endorse the principles outlined in this report as the foundation for decision-making on the Belubula Water Security Project.
2. Incorporate the principles into all Belubula Water Security Project planning, assessment, and reporting processes.
3. Advocate for ongoing stakeholder engagement and transparent communication throughout the project lifecycle by the Belubula Water Security Project, Project Control Group.

**REPORT**

The Belubula Water Security Project (BWSP) is a critical initiative aimed at improving water security, reliability, and resilience for the Central Tablelands Water (CTW) and the region supported by the Belubula River. The outcomes of this project will have generational impacts and therefore remain a significant priority for CTW. This report outlines a set of high-level principles to guide Council's decision-making, ensuring alignment with CTW's mission and values, NSW Government strategies, and community expectations. These principles provide a consistent framework for evaluating options, mitigating risks, and delivering sustainable outcomes.

**Background**

CTW supplies drinking water to approximately 15,000 consumers across 14 towns and villages in Blayney, Cabonne, and Weddin LGAs, with additional bulk supply arrangements. The BWSP seeks to address long-term water security challenges, including drought resilience, infrastructure upgrades, and compliance with regulatory frameworks. NSW Government has committed to supporting regional water security projects through funding and strategic oversight. CTW has been advocating for and promoting the benefits of an augmented Lake Rowlands for decades. The augmentation of Lake Rowlands and benefits to our region was specifically identified in the 2009 CENTROC Water Security Study as a critical element in obtaining water security to our region. This study demonstrated the importance of augmenting Lake Rowlands and verification of the advocacy CTW has made and continues to make for this project.

With the development of the BWSP and the variety of options being considered, CTW has developed the following principles based on its mission, vision, and values, and the strategic context provided by NSW Government water strategies and project documentation.

## Principles

- 1. Water Security and Reliability Strategic focus: Prioritise infrastructure that not only meets current demand but anticipates future growth and climate variability, ensuring intergenerational security.**

Infrastructure decisions must enhance regional town water security and ensure reliable supply for current and future demand, mitigating drought and climate impacts. This includes meeting levels of service objectives and ensuring that water availability is resilient to climate variability. The project should avoid the severe social and economic consequences experienced during previous droughts by providing a dependable source of water for households, businesses, and essential services.

- 2. Ownership and Governance Strategic focus: Reinforce CTW's leadership role while leveraging State expertise for delivery efficiency and maintaining clear accountability frameworks.**

CTW will remain the asset owner and operator of Lake Rowlands and the associated infrastructure, with clear governance structures ensuring accountability and transparency. Formal agreements such as Project Delivery Deeds will define roles and responsibilities between CTW, DCCEE NSW and other key Stakeholders. Governance must ensure that decision-making authority remains with CTW for all infrastructure that CTW currently own, will own, or operate while leveraging State expertise for delivery of the final business case.

- 3. Water Quality Strategic focus: Position water quality as non-negotiable, embedding advanced treatment standards, and proactive risk management.**

All project components must maintain or improve drinking water quality standards, complying with regulatory requirements under the Water Management Act 2000 and NSW Health guidelines. Infrastructure design and operational protocols should prioritise water treatment integrity and safeguard against contamination risks, ensuring public health and confidence in the supply of safe drinking water.

- 4. Environmental Sustainability Strategic focus: Integrate biodiversity and cultural heritage protections as core project outcomes, aligning with community and regulatory expectations.**

Decisions must safeguard environmental flows, biodiversity, and cultural heritage, meeting obligations under the EPA Act, Biodiversity Conservation Act, Fisheries Management Act, NPWS Act, and EPBC Act. Environmental impact assessments and mitigation strategies must be integral to planning approvals, ensuring that the project supports ecological health and respects Aboriginal water rights and heritage assets.

- 5. Financial Sustainability and Affordability Strategic focus: Ensure transparent communication on cost impacts and pursue external funding aggressively to protect affordability for customers.**

The project must deliver value for money to CTW customer base, balancing capital and operational costs with affordability for customers. Any impact to water quality resulting from any option being proposed must incorporate costs of augmented water treatment plants into the economic modelling.

Whole-of-life costs should be considered, and impacts on typical residential bills assessed and communicated transparently. Any increase to typical residential bills should be reflective of tangible, ongoing and consistent benefits to customers. Funding strategies

should leverage NSW and Federal programs to minimise financial burden on ratepayers while ensuring long-term equity across generations and economic viability.

Opportunity and avoided costs must be identified and reflected in the economic modelling for each option.

**6. Regional Collaboration Strategic focus: Build enduring partnerships that deliver shared benefits and strengthen regional resilience.**

Council decisions should consider regional town water needs and foster partnerships with local councils, state agencies, and stakeholders in achieving town water security for the region. Collaboration will enable shared infrastructure benefits, reduce duplication, and strengthen regional resilience and water security. The Project is to incorporate the findings of the Sub Regional Town Water Strategy - Stage 1 feasibility study, in its options assessment and modelling, specifically providing potable water to Orange. This principle reflects CTW's vision and values as a regional leader and collaborative partner.

**7. Resilience and Adaptability Strategic focus: Design for flexibility, enabling adaptation to technological advances and evolving compliance requirements.**

Infrastructure should be designed for climate resilience and adaptable to future technological and regulatory changes. This includes flexibility in design to accommodate population growth, emerging water treatment technologies, evolving compliance requirements and adaptation to climate variabilities. Adaptability ensures that investments remain relevant and effective over generations for the region.

**8. Dam Safety and Risk Management Strategic focus: Treat dam safety upgrades as an opportunity to set benchmarks for risk management and operational excellence.**

Upgrades must leverage the opportunity to meet current dam safety standards and actively manage operational, construction, and environmental risks through structured frameworks. The avoided costs associated with dam safety upgrades with augmenting Lake Rowlands must be recognised in the economic modelling. Risk management should address market capacity, delivery timeframes, and community expectations, ensuring that safety and reliability are never compromised.

**9. Compliance and Regulatory Alignment Strategic focus: Demonstrate alignment with state and federal strategies to secure funding and streamline approvals.**

All decisions must align with NSW Water Strategies, Regional Water Strategies, and Basin Plan requirements to ensure legal compliance and funding eligibility. Business cases must demonstrate alignment with government policy, robust risk mitigation, and adherence to planning and works approvals processes. CTW maintain that current ownership and operational alignments to the State's strategies will be retained, and that any change to these will not adversely impact on CTW's core strategic objectives.

**10. Community Engagement and Transparency Strategic focus: Foster trust through proactive engagement and clear articulation of project benefits and trade-offs.**

The project should ensure proactive stakeholder engagement and clear communication of benefits, risks, and costs to build trust and social license. Engagement should be structured, consistent, and inclusive, addressing community expectations and providing transparency throughout the project lifecycle. All engagement is to comply with NSW Regional Communities Consultation Guide and the Water Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Policy.

**11. Monitoring and Evaluation Strategic focus: Embed continuous improvement through robust performance metrics and transparent reporting.**

The project needs to establish performance indicators and report progress regularly to stakeholders to ensure accountability and continuous improvement. Request detailed briefings by the PCG to the CTW board at bi-monthly council meetings.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

No direct budget implications

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil



**11.5) OPERATIONS AND PROJECT UPDATES (CA.PJ.1)**

**Author:** General Manager  
**IP&R Link:** Strategic Priority 2: An efficient, sustainable and customer focused organisation

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council note the update provided on operations and projects currently underway.

**REPORT*****Customer Service***

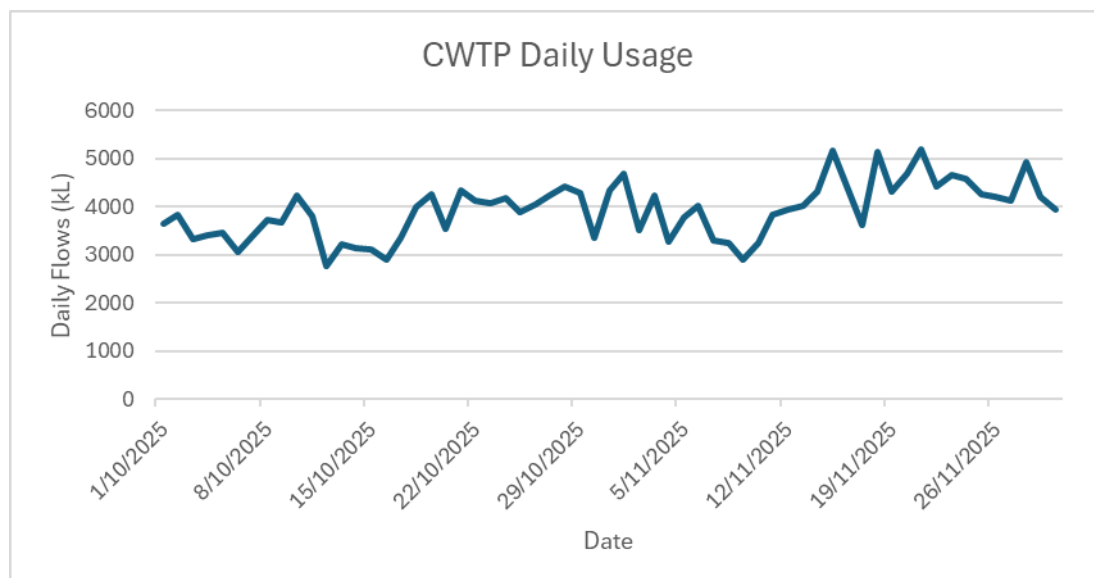
Council received 143 Customer Service Requests during October and November. The requests ranged from 67 relating to a meter or service matter (typically leaking service or faulty valve), 52 meter replacements, 5 hydrant leaks, 4 water quality, 4 low pressure, 10 general maintenance, and 1 no water report.

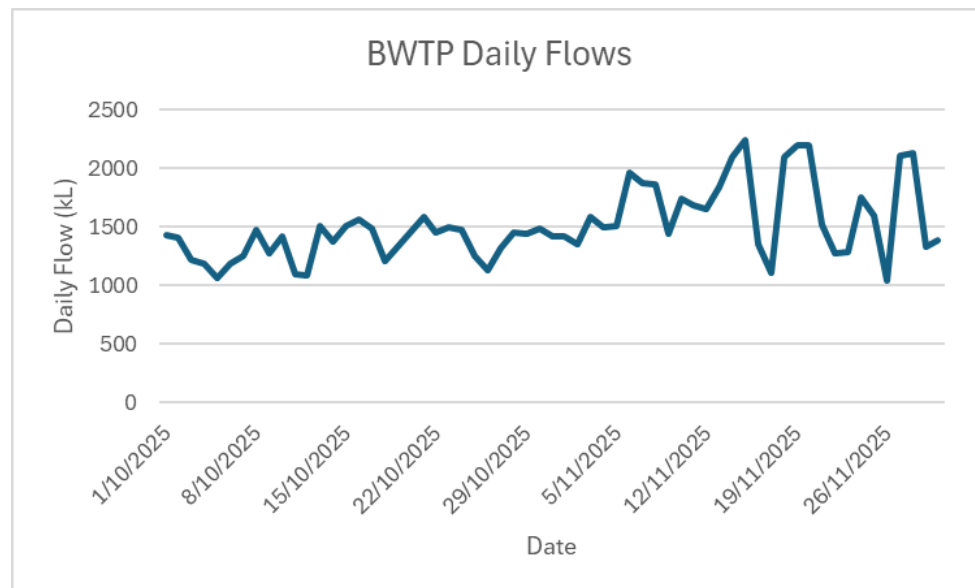
Three (3) Main breaks were repaired during the same period. All were recorded during business hours.

There were ten (10) complaints during October and November. These were investigated and issues were found to be as a result of customer infrastructure.

***Treatment Plant Water flows***

Water Treatment Plant Daily Flows for October and November 2025.





### **Lake Rowlands Level**

Lake Rowlands levels as of 1 December was 94%.

### **Water Meters**

Council have recently implemented a focus on a replacement program for all water meters that have exceeded 7,000kL including assessing meters that have low (zero) readings for the quarter. The exchange program reflects maintaining confidence in the accuracy of the water meter. Each meter installed in a CTW service must comply with AS3565.4 criteria for accuracy, being within -4% and +4% of the actual value. As a meter ages the accuracy will deteriorate with usage of the meter, this typically results in meters recording a figure lower than the actual volume passed through the meter. CTW has employed a program to replace water meters when they have exceeded 7,000 kL or if there is a failure of a meter. This ensures that accuracy of the meter is maintained.

### **Smart Meters**

CTW have been working with the Central NSW Joint Organisation Water Alliance on undertaking a project to review opportunities to employ smart meters into our network with other Councils within the JO. CTW staff have been involved in presentations from smart meter providers to demonstrate their equipment and capabilities. This project is in its early stages, and it is difficult to compare providers as the platforms and offerings are different. CTW along with the Alliance intend to continue reviewing this technology and will look to develop a set of principles and requirements when considering our options.

### **Sub Regional Town Water Strategy (SRTWS)**

Council have been advised of its success in the application through the NSW State Government for the National Water Grid Funding to progress the Sub Regional Town Water Strategy to Stage 2.

CTW, Orange and Cabonne Councils met with Minister Jackson and MP Phil Donato requesting support for the project. There was a subsequent letter sent to Mr Donato requesting representation to the Minister for the support of the SRTWS. The support requested was:

1. Ministerial support for the project; supporting a proactive approach to securing the regions long-term water supply issues.
2. Technical support; this request is in the form of departmental resources to support the technical development of the infrastructure and hydrology assessment, and overall

governance associated with development of a regional water supply grid. This support is intended to assist in the development of the PBC.

3. Providing financial co-contribution of \$281,000, being 25% of the project estimate in recognition of the collaboration and support from the State Government for Stage 2 of the project.

We have been informed through MP Phil Donato's office that the NSW Government have advised that "Capacity to provide support beyond general advice is likely to be extremely limited as the Department is not funded to provide support to projects it is not responsible for delivering."

The Minister has also stated "there is no new NSW funding available to support this project".

The apparent lack of support from the NSW Government is disappointing. However this project presents great opportunity to collaborate with Orange and Cabonne Councils to ensure water security for future generations of our region. The lack of NSW Government support will require the 3 Councils to commit to funding the entirety of the Co-contribution of the project.

### ***Belubula Water Security Project (BWSP)***

The Project has suffered some disruption due to the sudden resignation of the Project Manager (PM) in October. The Chair of the Project Control Group (PCG) indicated the project team will continue its work whilst they engage a new Project Manager.

The workshop scheduled for early December to review consultants' reports was postponed due to the lack of information and the delays caused by the resignation of the PM.

The Chair of the PCG has indicated they are committed to completing the FBC by June and that no extensions of time or funding will be available.

The General Manager has expressed concern to the PCG of the lack of consultation from the consultants in relation to CTW input on technical elements of the project that impact on CTW assets or potential future assets. The risk of the consultants using assumptions that have not been critiqued or had input from CTW is likely to lead to inaccurate inputs to the design and modelling of the project. The PCG and current project team lead have committed to ensuring the consultants undertake a thorough review of the reports and assumptions directly with CTW prior to completing the reports for review by the PCG.

### **Asset Revaluation**

The Central NSW Joint Organisation Water Alliance has undertaken a joint procurement project to engage a suitably qualified consultant to undertake the revaluation of water and sewer assets required by Local Government water utilities. The revaluation is required to be finalised in the 2026/27 financial year. The selection of the consultant has been finalised and we have requested that CTW be one of the first to undertake the field work required for the revaluation to leverage the projects that we are undertaking through the Strategic Project (see separate report).

### **Gooloogong Bore**

The health guidelines for Manganese dropped from 0.5 mg/L to 0.1 mg/L in July this year. In November staff started the Gooloogong bore in readiness for the upcoming season. This includes running pump, testing chlorine injection system, and flushing the reservoir. Samples of the bore water were taken and tested. The results of the levels of Manganese in the sample water was 0.11 mg/L, slightly above the new health guidelines.

In consultation with NSW Health, we were advised that we were required to meet the new guidelines, even though the bore only operates for a few days / weeks of the year. After flushing for several days and elevated chlorination concentrations the samples from bore 2 showed

results at 0.085 mg/L. Staff have been considering treatment options for this that will be reasonably practicable given the infrequent operations of this bore. Any new treatment infrastructure will require additional funding into the future.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

2025/26 Operation plan

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**11.6) AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) (CM.AU.1)**

**Author:** Executive Manager Corporate Services  
**IP&R Link:** – 2.2: Sound & Sustainable Financial Management

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Note the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2025, and
2. Endorse the updated 4-year Internal Audit plan for 2025/26 to 2028/29 financial years.

**REPORT**

The confirmed Minutes of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) meeting held on 13 November 2025 are presented for Council's consideration.

Items covered at these meetings included:

- General Managers Update
- Corporate Services Update
- Approval ARIC Member and Chair: the Committee appointed Ron Gillard as an Independent Member, and Chairperson for one term from 15 February 2026.
- Policy Reviews: policies that were presented to the October Council meeting.
- Internal Audit Action Plan: an update on the progress of resolving the Fraud Health Risk Assessment and Project Management Audit recommendations.
- 2024/25 Annual Report
- Financial Statement Completion: Mary Ann Estocapio provided an overview of the Engagement Closing Report (ECR) and Report on the Conduct of the Audit (ROCA). Mary presented key findings, observations, and recommendation from the audit process.
- 4-year Internal Audit Plan Update: the Committee endorse amendment of the 4-year audit program to run from 2025/26 to 2028/29 financial years, covering: Drinking Water Management System; Procurement Cards and Councillor Expenses; Procurement – All Other Forms; and Record Keeping System.
- Superannuation for ARIC Members: the Committee noted the guidance received from the ATO and endorsed the proposed approach for future remuneration to Committee members. Since the meeting, there have been further discussions between the incoming Chair and Council in relation to the proposed superannuation payments.
- Quarterly Budget Review Statement

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 CTW ARIC - 13 November 2025 - Minutes

**11.7) POLICY REVIEWS (CM.PL.1)**

**Author:** Corporate Service Manager  
**IP&R Link:** – 1.2: Ensure Compliance and Regulation

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Endorse the following policies and place them on public display for a period of 28 days:
  - Access Information (GIPA) policy and Information Guide (GIPA)
  - Assets Disposal Policy
  - Related Parties Policy
  - Financial Assistance and Donations Policy
  - Unconnected Vacant Land Availability Charge Policy
  - Statement of Business Ethics Policy
2. If no substantial submissions are received during the public display period, the documents be adopted.
3. Policies endorsed under this Recommendation shall take precedence over previous Council resolutions where applicable.

**REPORT**

Staff continue to review, update, and develop policies to ensure they align with legislative and best practice requirements.

Attached are policies for Council's review and endorsement:

- Policies reviewed and updated
  - Access Information (GIPA) policy and Information Guide (GIPA)
  - Asset Disposal
  - Related Parties
- New policies
  - Financial Assistance & Donations
  - Unconnected Vacant Land Availability Charge
  - Statement of Business Ethics.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Any costs associated with these policies are incorporated into the current budget.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

As indicated in each document.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Draft Access Information (GIPA) Policy
- 2 Draft Information User Guide (GIPA)
- 3 Draft Asset Disposal Policy
- 4 Draft Related Party Disclosure Policy
- 5 Draft Financial Assistance and Donations Policy
- 6 Draft Unconnected Vacant Land Availability Charge
- 7 Draft Statement of Business Ethics

# **11.8) CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE (CM.PL.1)**

**Author:** Corporate Service Manager  
**IP&R Link:** – 1.2: Ensure Compliance and Regulation

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt Draft Code of Meeting Practice presented to the meeting.

## **REPORT**

At the October 2025 Council meeting, we presented a draft Code of Meeting Practice document which was endorsed and placed on public exhibition for a period of 42 days, in accordance with the Office of Local Government.

The draft Code of Meeting Practice was updated prior to public exhibition with the decision points at the October Council Meeting.

There were no submissions during the public exhibition period, and we present the document for Council's adoption.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Local Government Act 1993, Sections 360 and 361

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Draft Code of Meeting Practice

**11.9) CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATE (CM.CP.2)**

**Author:** Executive Manager Corporate Services  
**IP&R Link:** Strategic Priority 2: An efficient, sustainable and customer focused organisation

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council note the information provided within the Corporate Services Update.

**REPORT****Work Health & Safety**

- We had two incidents since last meeting.
- No lost work hours.
- CTW held an all staff Wellbeing Morning Tea on 21 October at the Blayney Office. We took this opportunity to farewell Council's DFCS, Peter McFarlane.

**Risk**

Staff are working on finalising the Enterprise Risk Register and aim to have it ready for review by Council at their February 2026 meeting.

**Human Resources**

Thirteen (13) staff commenced their Cert III Water qualifications with workshops held at the Blayney WTP on 27, 28 and 29 October by Fusion Training Solutions. The second series of workshops are due in February 2026.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the new Technical Officer resigned his position after only one week. Interviews were conducted of other shortlisted candidates, and we are assessing a candidate who may commence on 5 January 2026.





## **Governance**

The Executive Manager Corporate Services and Executive Management Accountant attended Exercise WARATAH. It was a Cyber Security Exercise for NSW Local Government hosted by Australia Signals Directorate. We attended the session hosted at Orange City Council on 2 November. This exercise highlighted the need for CTW to not only have updated Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery plans, but that staff are aware of their responsibilities. Both plans are currently under review, with an expectation of presenting them to the February 2026 Council meeting.

The Executive Manager Corporate Services participated in the following activities to ensure CTW remains up to date in relation to current activities and best practices within water and local government:

- Corruption Prevention Network Lunchtime Seminar: From scandal to strategy - Evidence-based approaches to upskilling in fraud and corruption prevention: 15 October
- OLG Webinar: 2025 Model Meeting Code: 16 October
- OLG Webinar: Net Zero - Catalysing Action through Collaboration: 16 October
- Integrated Planners Member Network Forum: 6 November
- Remembrance Service, Blayney: 11 November
- AI Defect Detection & Legal Risk - Navigating the 'Actual Knowledge' Challenge: 26 Nov
- Exercise WARATAH: Cyber Security Exercise for NSW Local Government, Australia Signals Directorate: 2 December
- LGNSW HR Network Forum, Orange City Council: 3 December.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

All expenditure required is within the Operational Plan.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (State) Award
- NSW WHS Act 2011

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

### 11.10) **INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2025 AND 30 NOVEMBER 2025** **(FM.BA.1)**

**Author:** Executive Management Accountant  
**IP&R Link:** Strategic Priority 2: An efficient, sustainable and customer focused organisation – 2.2: Sound & Sustainable Financial Management – 2.2.1: Review and monitor Councils financial position.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council note the report on Cash and Investments at 31 October 2025 and 30 November 2025.

#### **REPORT**

##### **Investment Commentary**

Financial markets focused on the RBA's decision to hold the cash rate at 3.60%. Short-term bank bill yields edged higher, with three-month bills at 3.66% at the end of November. Government bond yields also rose, reflecting persistent inflation pressures and expectations that rates will remain elevated in the near term.

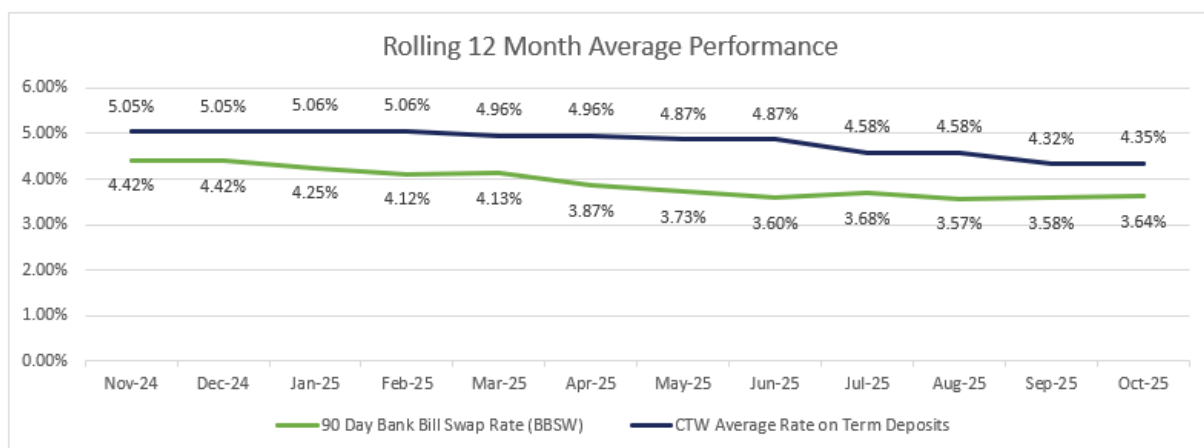
The increase in short-term term deposit yields provide opportunities to secure favourable rates while maintaining liquidity and capital security. Council is continuing to lock in 12-month terms for deposits unless an exceptional rate is being offered. Council's Finance Officer is constantly assessing if a better outcome, both risk and return, can be achieved by changing institutions.

##### **Portfolio Performance: 31 October 2025**

##### **Performance**

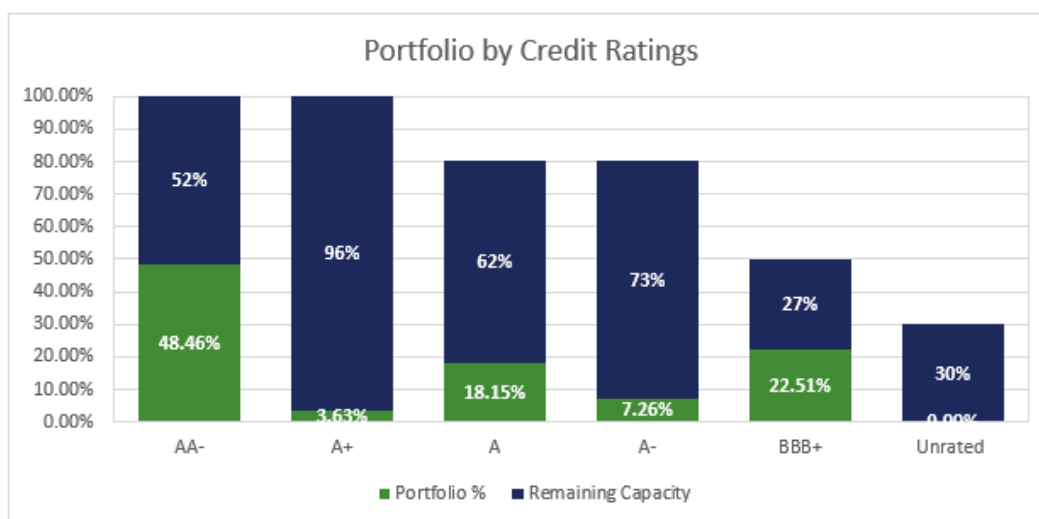
CTW's average rate of return on investments at 31 October 2025 was 4.35% against the 90 day Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) of 3.64%.

CTW's portfolio is consistently delivering returns above the performance benchmark. Interest earned and accrued for the financial year to 31 October 2025 totals \$220,643.34.

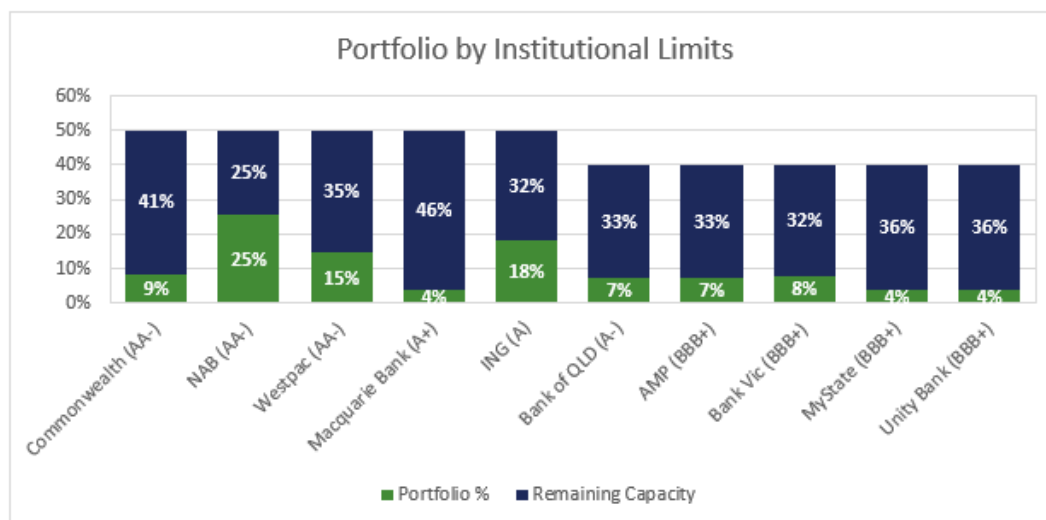


##### **Compliance**

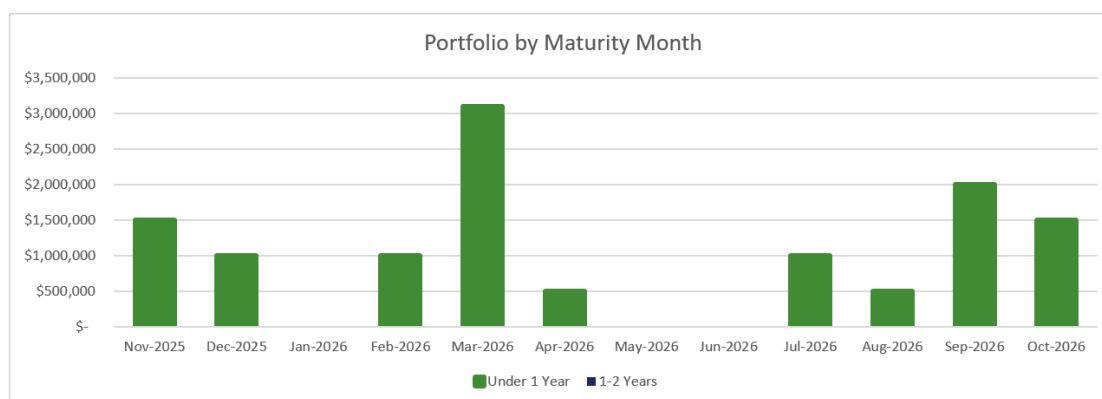
At the end of October 2025, investments were compliant with Council's Investment Policy limits by Credit Ratings, Institutions, and Maturity as shown below.



To minimise risk to CTW's investment portfolio CTW's investment policy limits the amount that can be invested by credit rating group (known as counterparty limits). Risk is considered to be lower with higher credit rated institutions, but returns potentially higher with lower credit rated institutions, therefore investments are balanced for risk and return.



To achieve diversification CTW's investment policy limits the total investment in any single institution based on the institution's credit rating. These limits work in conjunction with the above total credit rates (counterparty) limits. The remaining capacity shown is subject to compliance with the above credit rating limits.



Overall Council's portfolio is diversified across a variety of institutions, credit ratings and maturities, with sufficient capacity for favourable term deposit opportunities. Council has no exposure to unrated authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs). Council will seek to smooth maturities through-out the year and align with capital works schedules.

A list of investments held at 31 October 2025 is attached.

Most of Council's cash and investments are held in restrictions as per the table below:

<b>31 October 2025</b>	<b>(000's)</b>
Cash and Investments	13,722
<b>Less Restrictions</b>	
External	249
Internal	12,973
<b>Total Restrictions</b>	13,222
Unrestricted Cash	500

External restrictions are funds set aside for specific purposes such as grant funds or developer contributions.

Internal restrictions (sometimes referred to as internal allocations) are determined by Council through the development of the Operational plan, by the Quarterly Budget Review process or by special resolution of Council.

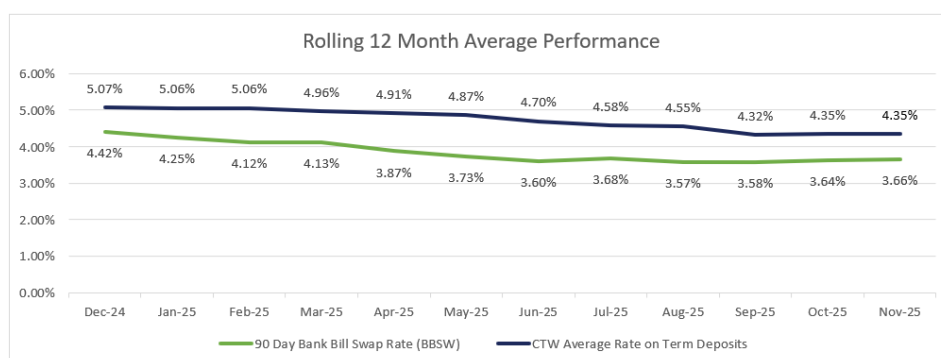
Unrestricted cash is available to meet any unexpected expenditure that may arise. It is notable that the unrestricted cash level can be impacted by the level of debtors and creditors held at the reporting date (increased cash level can indicate a higher level of creditors and/or a lower level of debtors and a lower cash level can indicate a higher level of debtors and/or a lower level of creditors).

## Portfolio Performance: 30 November 2025

### Performance

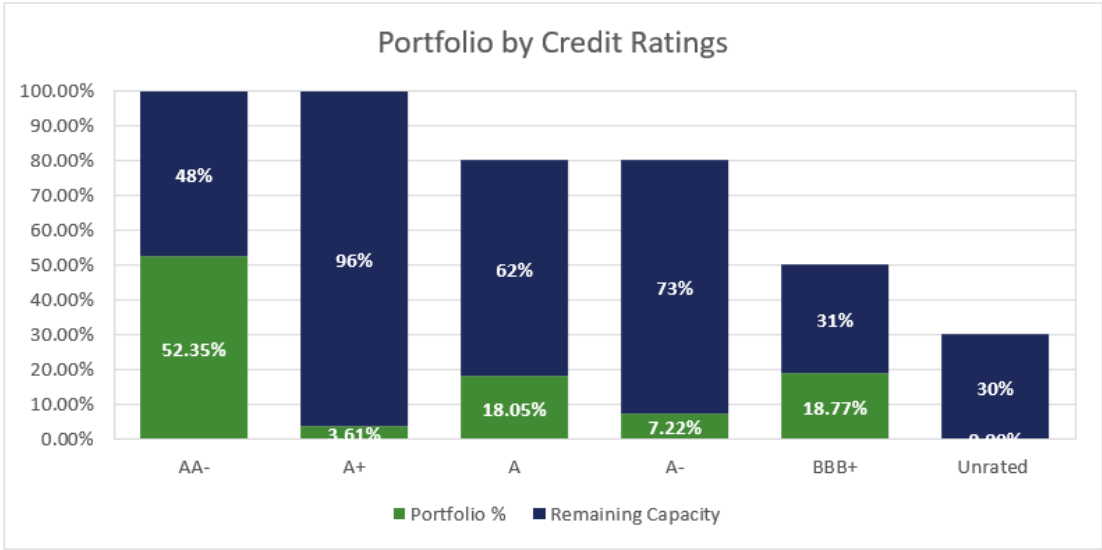
CTW's average rate of return on investments at 30 November 2025 was 4.34% against the 90 day Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) of 3.66%.

CTW's portfolio is consistently delivering returns above the performance benchmark. Interest earned and accrued for the financial year to 30 November 2025 totals \$287,928.01.

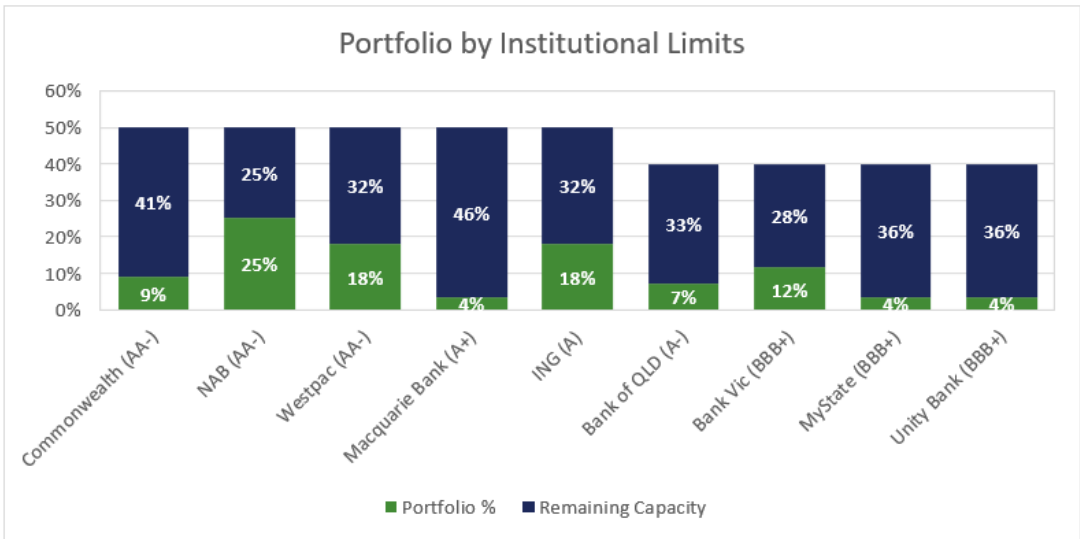


Compliance

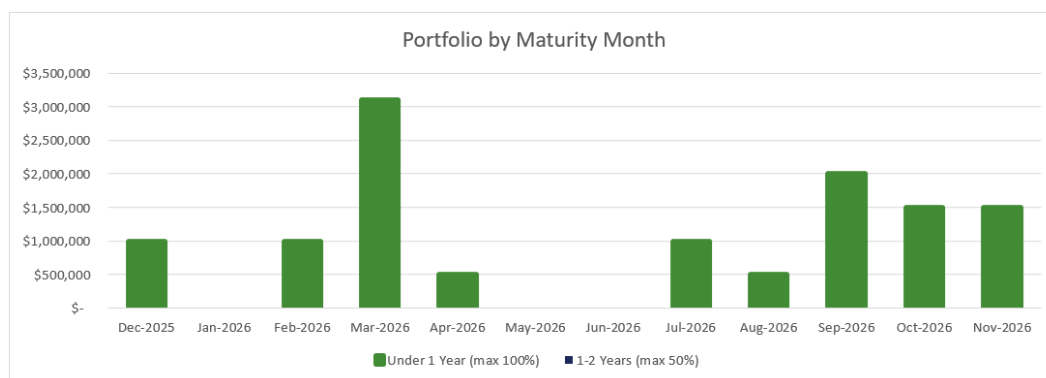
At the end of November 2025, investments were compliant with Council’s Investment Policy limits by Credit Ratings, Institutions, and Maturity as shown below.



To minimise risk CTW’s investment policy limits the amount that can be invested by credit rating group (known as counterparty limits). Risk is considered to be lower with higher credit rated institutions, but returns potentially higher with lower credit rated institutions, therefore investments are balanced for risk and return.



To achieve diversification CTW’s investment policy limits the total investment in any single institution based on the institution’s credit rating. These limits work in conjunction with the above total credit rates (counterparty) limits. The remaining capacity shown is subject to compliance with the above credit rating limits.



Overall Council's portfolio is diversified across a variety of institutions, credit ratings and maturities, with sufficient capacity for favourable term deposit opportunities. Council has no exposure to unrated authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs). Council will seek to smooth maturities through-out the year and align with capital works schedules.

A list of investments held at 31 November 2025 is attached.

Most of Council's cash and investments are held in restrictions as per the table below:

<b>30 November 2025</b>	<b>(000's)</b>
Cash and Investments	13,851
<b>Less Restrictions</b>	
External	250
Internal	13,101
<b>Total Restrictions</b>	13,351
Unrestricted Cash	500

External restrictions are funds set aside for specific purposes such as grant funds or developer contributions.

Internal restrictions (sometimes referred to as internal allocations) are determined by Council through the development of the Operational plan, by the Quarterly Budget Review process or by special resolution of Council.

Unrestricted cash is available to meet any unexpected expenditure that may arise. It is notable that the unrestricted cash level can be impacted by the level of debtors and creditors held at the reporting date (increased cash level can indicate a higher level of creditors and/or a lower level of debtors and a lower cash level can indicate a higher level of debtors and/or a lower level of creditors).

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Council's 2025/26 operational budget forecast a reduction in the interest rates over the course of the financial year so budgeted annual interest income is expected to be achieved. Average funds invested is also higher than anticipated due to delays in the capital program resulting from staffing shortages.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The investment summaries presented in this report represent Council's total investments as of 31 October 2025 and 30 November 2025 in accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993.

I hereby certify that the investments listed in this report have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.



Claire Wright  
Responsible Accounting Officer

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Investments October 2025
- 2 Investments November 2025

**11.11) ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2025 (FM.FR.1)**

**Author:** Executive Management Accountant  
**IP&R Link:** Strategic Priority 2: An efficient, sustainable and customer focused organisation – 2.2: Sound & Sustainable Financial Management – 2.2.1: Review and monitor Councils financial position.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Receive the 2024/25 Financial Statements and Auditors Reports, and
2. Note the Final Management Letter.

**REPORT**

The Audit Reports for the 2024/25 Financial Statements have now been received and are presented in accordance with section 419(1) of the Local Government Act 1993

Council has provided public notice that the Financial Statements and Auditor's Reports will be presented at this meeting in accordance with section 418 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 and has invited public submissions on the audited financial statements in accordance with Section 420 of the Local Government Act 1993 with submissions open until 24 December 2025.

Council's Audited Financial Statements are available on Council's website at [www.ctw.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ctw.nsw.gov.au) and at Council's Office at 30 Church Street, Blayney. Any submissions, questions or queries can be directed to [water@ctw.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water@ctw.nsw.gov.au)

Ms Katy Henry on behalf of the Audit Office of NSW will outline the Report on the Conduct of the Audit (ROCA) and the Auditor's Reports at this meeting.

Key comparable metrics were included in the Financial Statement Completion Report presented at the 29 October 2025 Council meeting.

The Final Management Letter from the Audit was received on 20 November 2025 and outlines the items raised during Audit. These items will be tabled with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to monitor the completion of actions. No significant nor unexpected issues were raised, and details can be found in the attachment.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The operating result before capital was \$450k higher than estimated in the Quarter 3 Budget Review 2024/25, primarily due to lower than estimated gain on sale (\$100k) but higher than estimated interest (\$68k), and lower than estimated employee costs (\$375k) and materials and contracts (\$153k).

Actioning of items in the Final Management Letter could require additional expenditure, particularly the Information Asset Register, any significant cost impacts will be reviewed before being recommended to Council for adoption.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil



**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Audited Financial Statements - 2024-25
- 2 Report on the Conduct of the Audit 2025
- 3 Audit Final Management Letter 2025

## **12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

(General Manager)

No questions on notice were received.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil