Central Tablelands Water

Business Paper

Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water

26 August 2026

Blayney

Central Tablelands Water

Thursday, 20 August 2026

Notice to Members

Your attendance is requested at an Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held at the Blayney on Wednesday, 26 August 2026 at 11.00am.

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

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.

By speaking at a Council Meeting, you agree to be audio and visually recorded. Please ensure that when you speak at this Council Meeting you are respectful to others and always use appropriate language.

Whilst Council will make every effort to ensure that live streaming service is available, it takes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for technical issues beyond its control. Live streaming is a free public service and is an official record of Council meetings. Minutes will be made of all Council meetings and published within 2 weeks after the meeting. For a copy of the recording or Minutes, please refer to Council's website.

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INDEX OF REPORTS
OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF CENTRAL TABLELANDS WATER
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2026

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1) MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 17 June 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17 June 2026

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water held at Canowindra, on Wednesday, 17 June 2026, commencing at 10.30am

Present

Cr. Andrew Rawson, Chairperson	Cabonne Council
Cr. Craig Gosewisch, Dep. Chair	Blayney Shire Council
Cr. Marlene Nash	Cabonne Council
Cr. John Newstead	Blayney Shire Council
Cr. Jan Parlett	Weddin Shire Council

Charlie Harris	General Manager
Lynette Safranek	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Claire Wright	Executive Management Accountant
Achal Deo	Governance & Executive Support Officer

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

26/026 RESOLVED:

That a leave of absence be granted to Cr. Paul Best following receipt of an apology for non-attendance.

(Cr. Rawson, Cr. Newstead)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1) MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 2026

26/027 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 30 April 2026, being minute numbers 26/015 to 26/025 inclusive, be confirmed.

(Cr. Parlett/ Cr. Nash)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil

7. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

8. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTES

8.1) COUNCILLOR CTW REPRESENTATION (CA.CO.1)

26/028 **RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Andrew Rawson, Chairpson

9. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION

Nil – refer to report 8.1

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

11. REPORTS OF STAFF

11.1) RESCISION OF 2025 CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE RESOLUTION (CA.CO.1)

26/029 **RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Rescind Resolution 25/088 for the adoption of the 2025 Code of Meeting Practice
2. Resolve to revert to CTW's 2022 Code of Meeting Practice
3. Resolve to include livestream or audio recording of Council bi-monthly meetings
4. Resolve to continue with agreed meeting dates and times set by resolution for 2026/27.

(Cr. Newstead/Cr. Parlett)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

11.2) AUTOMATIC FILLING STATIONS (WS.MO.4)

26/030 **MOTION:**

That Council:

1. Resolve that the Eugowra Automatic Filling Station is not reinstated.
2. Endorse the General Manager to negotiate an alternative Metered Standpipe Model at Eugowra with a one-off capital allocation of $10,000 in 2026/27 to fund installation.
3. Acknowledge the automatic filling stations are not recovering costs and therefore are being subsidised by Council's current customers.

(Cr. Newstead/Cr. Gosewisch)

Amendment

RESOLVED:
That Council:

1. Resolve that the Eugowra Automatic Filling Station is not reinstated.
2. The General Manager provide a report back to Council about alternative standpipe model, subject to a response from community groups.
3. Acknowledge the automatic filling stations are not recovering costs and therefore are being subsidised by Council's current customers, and that a review of the pricing model for all automatic filling stations be undertaken and a report be brought back to Council.

(Cr. Nash, Cr. Parlett)

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

Cr Craig Gosewisch left the meeting at 11.01am and returned at 11.02am

11.3) <u>OPERATIONS AND PROJECT UPDATES (CA.PJ.1)</u>

26/031 RESOLVED:

That Council note the Operations and Project Updates report.

(Cr. Newstead/Cr. Gosewisch)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

11.4) <u>LOW COST LOANS INITIATIVE GRANT FUNDING (FM.LO.1)</u>

26/032 RESOLVED

1. That Council endorse development of an application to the Low-Cost Loans Initiative (LCLI) grant funding through the NSW Government for augmentation of Trunk Main A and improvements to the Carcoar Water Treatment Plant.
2. That a report be bought to the August meeting for Council consideration to submit an application.

(Cr. Nash/Cr. Parlett)

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

11.5) <u>INVESTMENT REPORTS FOR APRIL AND MAY 2026 (FM.BA.1)</u>

26/033 RESOLVED:

That Council note the Investment Report for the periods 30 April and 31 May 2026.

(Cr. Gosewisch/Cr. Newstead)

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

11.6) <u>INTERNAL CASH RESTRICTIONS (FM.BU.1)</u>

26/034 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Approve the internal cash restriction transfers for the financial year ended 30 June 2026, as detailed in this report, based on estimated year end results.
2. Delegate authority to the General Manager and Executive Management Accountant to adjust these transfers based on actual results to ensure an Unrestricted Cash balance of $500,000.

(Cr. Parlett/Cr. Nash)

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

11.7) <u>POLICY REVIEWS (CM.PL.1)</u>

26/035 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Endorse the following policies and place them on public exhibition for a period of 28 days:
   - Procurement
   - Data Breach
   - Investment and Restricted Assets
2. If no substantial submissions are received during the public exhibition period, the policies are considered to be adopted.
3. Policies endorsed under this recommendation shall take precedence over previous Council resolutions where applicable.

(Cr. Newstead/Cr. Gosewisch)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

11.8) <u>RURAL WATER SUPPLY POLICY (CM.PL.1)</u>

26/036 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the submission received during the exhibition period.
2. Adopt the Rural Water Supply Policy (CTW-PR004) with the amendments outlined in this report.
3. Authorise the General Manager to make minor editorial amendments prior to publication, if required.

(Cr. Parlett/Cr. Nash)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

11.9) <u>UNCONNECTED LAND AVAILABILITY CHARGE POLICY (CM.PO.1)</u>

26/037 MOTION:

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report reviewing the Unconnected Land Availability Charge and Policy.
2. Affirm the legislative basis for levying a water availability charge on eligible unconnected land under Section 552 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.
3. Adopt the revised CTW-PR052 (Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy, version 1.2) as presented, maintaining the existing framework for discretionary exclusions and the 50% charging concession.

(Cr. Nash/Cr. Parlett)

AMENDMENT

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report reviewing the Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy.
2. Affirm the legislative basis for levying a water availability charge on eligible unconnected land under Section 552 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.
3. The revised CTW-PR052 Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy-v1.3 be placed on public exhibition for a period not less than 28 days and return it to the August Council meeting for adoption.

(Cr. Parlett/Cr. Gosewisch)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

Proceedings in brief:

The meeting was paused at 1.16pm and recommenced at 1.32pm.

11.10) AUGUST 2026 COUNCIL MEETING DATE ADJUSTMENT (CA.CO.1)

26/038 RESOLVED:

That Council resolve to move its August 2026 meeting to Wednesday 26 August 2026, commencing at 11.00am.

(Cr. Gosewisch/ Cr. Nash)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

11.11) 2026/27 INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING DOCUMENTS (CA.CO.1)

26/039 RESOLVED:

In accordance with Sections 402-406 and 532 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Clause 219 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, and following the statutory period of 28 days of public exhibition and staff review, Council adopt the following documents and make its fees and charges for 2026/27:

- Business Activity Strategic Plan 2022-32

- Delivery Program 2027-2030 and Operational Plan 2026/27
- Long-Term Financial Plan 2027-2036
- Annual Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy 2026/27
- Workforce Management Strategy 2027-2030

(Cr. Gosewisch/ Cr. Newstead)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

11.12) <u>2022-26 DELIVERY PROGRAM 6-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT (CA.CO.1)</u>

26/040 RESOLVED:

That Council note the final 6-month progress report of the 2022-2026 Delivery Program covering the period January to June 2026.

(Cr. Gosewisch/Cr. Nash)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

11.13) <u>AUDIT RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) (CM.AU.1)</u>

26/041 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee Minutes for the meeting held on 6 May 2026, and
2. Adopt the draft Internal Audit Charter endorsed by the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee.

(Cr. Gosewisch/Cr. Nash)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

11.14) <u>CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATE (CM.CP.2)</u>

26/042 RESOLVED:

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

(Cr. Parlett/Cr. Newstead)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

13. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

26/043 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. Newstead/Cr. Parlett)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

13.1) <u>REQUEST TO WAIVER SECTION 64 WATER CONTRIBUTIONS (CA.CO.1)</u>

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (di) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

26/044 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Does not have a policy framework or adopted DSP provision that enables the discretionary waiver or reduction of Section 64 charges on a case-by-case basis.
2. CTW will only charge actual costs for the installation of the service connection for the Lot 150 / DP 750182, with a maximum set at the quoted amount.

(Cr. Newstead/Cr. Parlett)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

26/045 RESOLVED:

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

(Cr. Gosewisch/Cr. Newstead)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

26/046 RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

(Cr. Gosewisch/Cr. Newstead)
Carried
Cr. Rawson, Cr. Nash, Cr. Gosewisch, Cr. Newstead, Cr. Parlett

<u>14. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING</u>

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Central Tablelands Water will be held in Blayney on Wednesday, 26 August 2026 at 11am.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at **2.13pm**.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTES

8.1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Author: Chairperson

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REPORT

The General Manager and I recently attended the CNSWJO Board meeting in Canberra, which included several meetings with Ministers and advisory staff in Federal Parliament. Cr Best was also there representing Weddin Shire. We received presentations from NBN, Telstra, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, the Productivity Commission and the National Water Grid.

Representations with Ministers, advisors and Departmental staff focused on key regional concerns, primarily the Great Western Highway reconstruction, telecommunications upgrades, renewable energy rollouts, and the recent Inland Rail announcements. We were able to highlight aging water and sewer infrastructure as significant barriers to development of our region, and this remained a key theme throughout the day in Parliament.

Of note was the MDBC's recognition of critical town water in their planning, as this need had been a strong message coming from stakeholders in our region (including CTW). While town water is a relatively small user of available water compared to irrigation and the environment, it is nevertheless of fundamental importance to sustain our populations as they deal with oncoming climate change. We are entering a period of increased volatility in rainfall with an overprint of increasing average and extreme temperatures, all leading to potential vulnerability for our town water supplies. Most councils, including CTW are relying on infrastructure that was created during the post-WW2 boom in water development in NSW, most of which is now coming to end-of-life condition. Upgrading or replacement of this infrastructure requires financial assistance from both State and Federal Governments and requires bold decisions to be made that reflect the national importance of our region's productivity. Recognition of this by the MDBC, the NWG and Productivity Commission was a key outcome for us on the day.

I'd like to thank Kate Barker and the staff of the CNSWJO for organising this day of Ministerial meetings in Canberra.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11. REPORTS OF STAFF

11.1) LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 (CM.CF.1)

Author: General Manager
IP&R Link: Strategic Priority 3: Regional Leadership and Collaboration – 3.1: Regional collaboration and partnerships – 3.2: Regional Leadership in the Water Sector – 3.3: Regional Water Security

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approve the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and General Manager or his representative, to attend the 2026 Local Government NSW Annual Conference in Wollongong, from 22 to 24 November 2026.
2. Appoint the Chairperson, or his chosen delegate, to be the voting delegate at the Conference.

REPORT

The Local Government NSW Annual Conference is being held in Wollongong, from Sunday 22 November to Tuesday 24 November 2026. This conference brings together councillors, board members, general managers and senior staff from regional, country and metropolitan councils across New South Wales to consider policy motions, hear from industry experts, and discuss emerging issues affecting local government.

Council is an associate member of Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and is entitled to participate in conference proceedings and nominate a voting delegate.

This Conference is the annual policy-making event. It is the event of the year where local government councillors come together to share ideas, debate issues, and work towards a better future.

Previously, the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Councillors, and General Manager have attended this conference, and it is anticipated that Council would be represented.

As early bird registrations for this conference close on 30 September, this report seeks interest from councillors who are interested and available to attend the conference. By accessing early registration, Council will save $315 per registration.

Further information regarding the conference program is available via the following link: https://lgnswconference.org.au/program/

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Budget for attendance is included in the 2026/27 Operational Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Nil

ATTACHMENTS
Nil.

11.2) LOW COST LOANS INITIATIVE APPLICATION (FM.LO.1)

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

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RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Endorse the preparation and submission of an application for the NSW Government's Low Cost Loans Initiative program, for the upgrade of Trunk Main A and the Carcoar Water Treatment Plant.
2. Note the estimated project costs of $8.5 million, the potential financial benefits associated with the projects, and the Low Cost Loans Initiative.
3. Resolve to fund $779,329 from Council's infrastructure reserves for the preparation of the Preliminary works, subject to successful outcome of the application to the Low Cost Loan Initiative program.
4. Receive a future report detailing the outcomes of the funding application, and if successful, financing arrangements, project delivery considerations and impacts on the Long Term Financial Plan.

REPORT

Background
At its June 2026 meeting, Council endorsed the investigation of an application to the NSW Government's Low Cost Loans Initiative (LCLI) and requested a further report outlining the infrastructure requirements, financial implications and strategic benefits associated with the proposal.

This LCLI is the fifth round of a NSW Government funding program designed to support infrastructure that enables and accelerates housing growth in regional New South Wales. This is the first funding round in which County Councils are eligible to apply.

The program provides a subsidy of up to 50 per cent of loan interest costs for eligible infrastructure projects. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that:

- The organisation meets the Office of Local Government's key financial performance benchmarks; and
- The proposed infrastructure directly enables or supports additional housing supply.

Council satisfies the required financial benchmarks and has identified infrastructure investments that are critical to supporting future population and housing growth across its constituent council areas.

Infrastructure Requirements

Trunk Main A Upgrade

Trunk Main A is a critical component of Council's bulk water transfer system. The existing pipeline is approaching the end of its service life and is already identified for replacement within the Long Term Financial Plan.

Since the June report, further investigations have been undertaken to determine the most appropriate replacement strategy. The assessment concluded that a 450mm diameter pipeline would provide sufficient gravity-driven capacity to meet forecast demand well beyond 2053 demand forecast of 12 ML/d, subject to growth occurring generally in line with current projections.

The assessment considered a 600mm diameter pipeline at an estimated cost of approximately $8 million. This option would provide sufficient capacity to support potential future regional water transfers to neighbouring areas such as Parkes and Forbes. While discussions have commenced with those councils regarding future regional supply opportunities, no commitment has been received that would justify the additional investment at this time.

Accordingly, the 450mm diameter pipeline is considered the most cost-effective and prudent option. Should future regional water supply opportunities emerge, additional capacity can be achieved through targeted pumping upgrades rather than significant upfront pipe oversizing.

The preliminary estimated cost of the Trunk Main A upgrade is $5.53 million, including a 20% percent contingency, reflecting the preliminary nature of the design and ongoing construction market uncertainty and price escalation.

Component	Estimated Cost
450 mm pipeline augmentation	$3,927,160
Contingency	$785,432
Total	**$4,712,592**

Carcoar Water Treatment Plant

Future growth will require several targeted upgrades to the Carcoar Water Treatment Plant to improve operational reliability, treatment performance and capacity.

A detailed review of the treatment plant identified sludge management as a key operational constraint. The existing sludge drying system consists of six drying beds operated in three alternating groups. During periods of wet weather and lower evaporation, particularly throughout winter, the current arrangement can limit drying effectiveness and operational flexibility. To address this issue, it is proposed to construct an additional four sludge drying beds, increasing drying capacity and extending operational cycling times.

Further upgrades to improve treatment reliability and resilience include improvements to chemical dosing and critical plant redundancy.

The estimated cost of the proposed works includes a 30% contingency due to the preliminary level of design development completed for these works.

Component	Estimated Cost
Sludge Drying Beds	$1,204,672
PAC System Upgrade	$600,000
Standby Blower	$50,000
Fluoride Dosing Upgrade	$400,000
ACH Dosing Pump	$60,000
Polymer Dosing Pump	$30,000

Contingency	$668,754
Total	**$3,013,426**

Projects Costs

Several preliminary investigations are required, including a Review of Environmental Factors, geotechnical reporting and project management plans. These works will provide greater certainty on project scope, costs and tender requirements. It is proposed that Council fund the preliminary investigations from infrastructure reserves, separate to the loan amount, so the necessary reports can be completed and tenders sought before Council commits to the final loan with the financial institution. The LCLI requires works to commence within 12 months, and the proposed timeframe allows the preliminary investigations and required documentation to be completed within that period. The total estimated cost of the infrastructure program is:

Component	Estimated Cost
Trunk Main A upgrade	$4,712,592
Carcoar Water Treatment Plant upgrades	$3,013,426
Total Loan Estimate	**$7,726,018**
Preliminaries	$779,327
Total Project Estimate	**$8,505,345**

The proposal is to complete the preliminary investigations to provide a level of certainty of project costs and then report back to Council prior to execution of the Deed.

Financial Implications

The replacement of Trunk Main A is already incorporated within Council's Long Term Financial Plan and would ordinarily be funded from Council reserves. An assessment has therefore been undertaken to determine whether borrowing under the LCLI would provide a financial advantage compared with utilising Council's existing cash reserves. Over the past 12 months, Council's investment portfolio has generated an average return of approximately 4.47%. Preliminary discussions with lending institutions indicate borrowing rates are likely to be approximately 6.5%.

Under the LCLI funding model, Council would seek a loan for the project value of approximately $7.73 million, excluding the Preliminary costs of $779,327. Based on a 20-year loan at an indicative interest rate of 6.5%, annual principal and interest repayments are estimated at approximately $693,000. Total interest paid over the loan term would be approximately $6.13 million. If Council is successful in obtaining the maximum 50% interest subsidy available under the LCLI, the subsidy could reduce total interest costs by approximately $3.07 million over the life of the loan, significantly improving the affordability of utilising a loan to fund the infrastructure augmentation.

A key benefit of the project is that it removes an existing capacity constraint that currently limits Council's ability to service both future residential growth and major industrial demand. The increased capacity would allow Council to pursue these opportunities concurrently, rather than balancing one against the other, creating the potential for additional water sales revenue and broader economic growth within the region.

While the capital and financing costs of the project are significant, the works would deliver long-term strategic and financial benefits. Increased capacity would support future residential, commercial and industrial growth and ensure a secure and reliable water supply is available to service future development.

Loan funding enables the works to be delivered sooner than with a reserves-funded approach. Earlier delivery would bring forward the benefits of the project, including increased water sales, new customer connections and the associated revenue stream. Loan funding would also provide the opportunity to renew Trunk Main A with greater capacity than may be achievable through self-funding alone. This would better position Council to accommodate future growth while maximising the value and service potential of the asset over its expected 70-year life.

Participation in the LCLI program would reduce the overall cost to customers through assistance with eligible interest costs, improving the affordability of the project while extending the availability of Council's cash reserves and providing more financial flexibility and liquidity. While the project will ultimately be funded by customers through loan repayments, earlier delivery and increased capacity provide the opportunity for additional revenue to be generated sooner. The income would assist in offsetting loan repayments and ensuring the benefits of the investment are realised earlier than would otherwise be possible.

The key differentiators from the Long Term Financial Plan adopted by Council include:

- acceleration of trunk main A from 2028-30 to 2027-28 and increase in from $3.6m to $5.5m
- additional capital work in 2027/28 for Carcoar WTP of $3m offset against $14m water treatment augmentation in 2033/34
- increase in operational borrowing costs (interest) of $3.05m across the 10 years
- increase in grant funding by $1.9m across the 10 years
- increase in principal repayments of $1.85m across the 10 years
- potential increase in revenue due from water sales of $3.9m across the 10 years
- increase and accelerate loan funding to $7.7m in 2027/28 from the water treatment augmentation of $5.15m in $2033/34.

If the interest repayments can be partially offset by additional water sales and loan funding the acceleration of the project is similar in financial performance and sustainability as the adopted Long Term Financial Plan.

Strategic Considerations
The proposed projects align with Council’s strategic objectives by improving infrastructure reliability, supporting constituent council growth, strengthening long-term water security and maintaining financial sustainability. They also provide critical enabling infrastructure for future housing development across the region, directly aligned with the objectives of the LCLI and strengthening Council's eligibility under the program.

While future regional water supply arrangements with neighbouring councils may emerge, there is currently insufficient certainty to justify larger regional-scale infrastructure. The proposed approach meets current growth forecasts while retaining flexibility to respond to future opportunities.

Conclusion
The upgrade of Trunk Main A and the Carcoar Water Treatment Plant represents a strategic investment in the future capacity, reliability and resilience of Council's infrastructure network. Both projects address identified service and operational needs while ensuring the organisation is well positioned to support forecast population growth and housing development across its constituent council areas.

The NSW Government's Low Cost Loans Initiative presents a unique opportunity to deliver these works sooner and at a significantly reduced financing cost. The availability of an interest subsidy of up to 50% has the potential to improve the affordability of the projects, extend Council's reserves and aid long-term financial sustainability.

Given the strategic importance of the infrastructure, the alignment with regional growth objectives, and the potential financial benefits available through the program, it is considered appropriate for Council to proceed with the submission of an application under the Low Cost Loans Initiative for the full project value of $7.7 million. This approach positions Council to meet future demand while continuing to provide reliable and sustainable water services to the communities it serves.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council's Long Term Financial Plan has already identified the replacement of Trunk Main A and capital upgrades at the water treatment plant as required renewals due to age, capacity and strategic importance to the water supply network.

The availability of subsidised loan funding provides an opportunity to accelerate delivery while reducing the long-term financing cost of the project. Combined with the potential for increased water sales resulting from future growth, the proposal is expected to contribute positively to the long-term financial sustainability of Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Low Cost Loans Initiative requires applicants to demonstrate that proposed infrastructure supports future growth and housing supply.

While the proposed projects are not currently identified within the Development Servicing Plan, substantial evidence exists through planning investigations, growth forecasts and the Safe and Secure Water Program Strategic Projects to demonstrate the need for the upgrades and their role in supporting future development across the region.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.3) INVESTMENT REPORTS FOR JUNE AND JULY 2026 (FM.BA.1)
Author: Executive Management Accountant
IP&R Link: – 2.2.1: Review and monitor Councils financial position.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the Investment Report for the periods 30 June 2026 and 31 July 2026.

REPORT

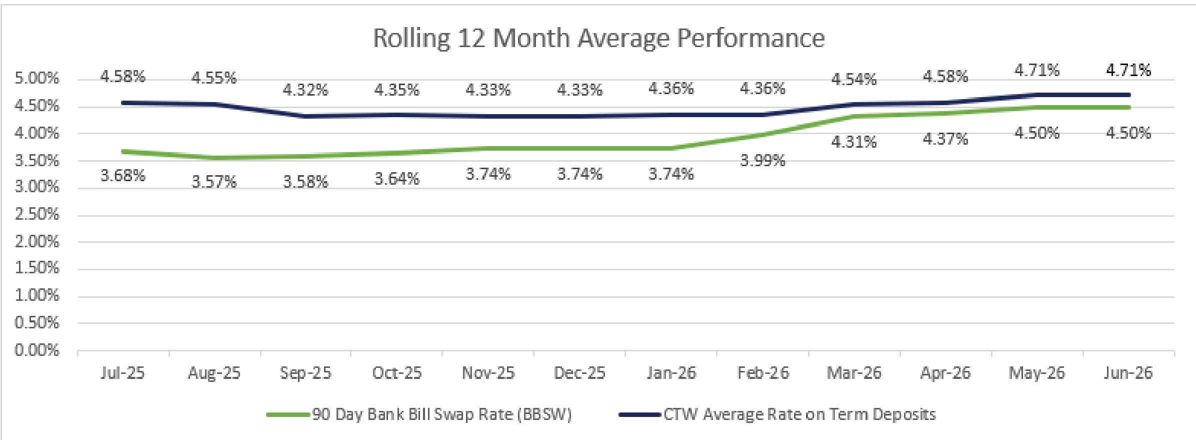
Investment Commentary
The Reserve Bank of Australia increase and then maintained the cash rate at 4.35% during the period, noting that inflation remains above target and that monetary policy will need to remain restrictive until there is greater confidence that price pressures are easing sustainably. While some indicators suggest economic growth is moderating, the RBA has continued to emphasise the risk of persistent inflation and remains prepared to tighten policy further if required. Government bond yields have remained relatively firm, reflecting ongoing inflation concerns, elevated energy prices and uncertainty in global economic conditions. Money market rates have also remained at comparatively high levels, supporting strong returns on short-term investments.

Council is continuing to lock in 12-month terms for deposits unless an exceptional rate is being offered or a maturity gap can be filled with a favourable rate. Council's Finance Officer is constantly assessing if a better outcome, both risk and return, can be achieved by changing institutions whilst operating in policy limits.

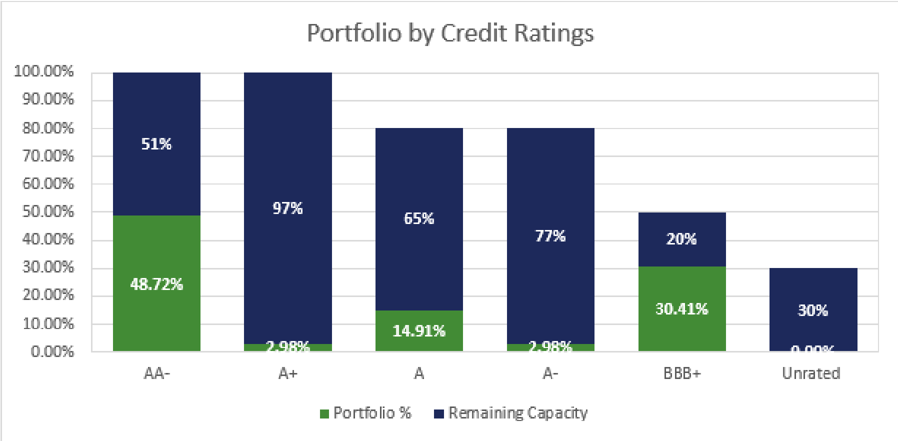
Portfolio Performance: *30 June 2026*

Performance
CTW's average rate of return on investments at 30 June 2026 was 4.61% against the 90 day Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) of 4.46%.

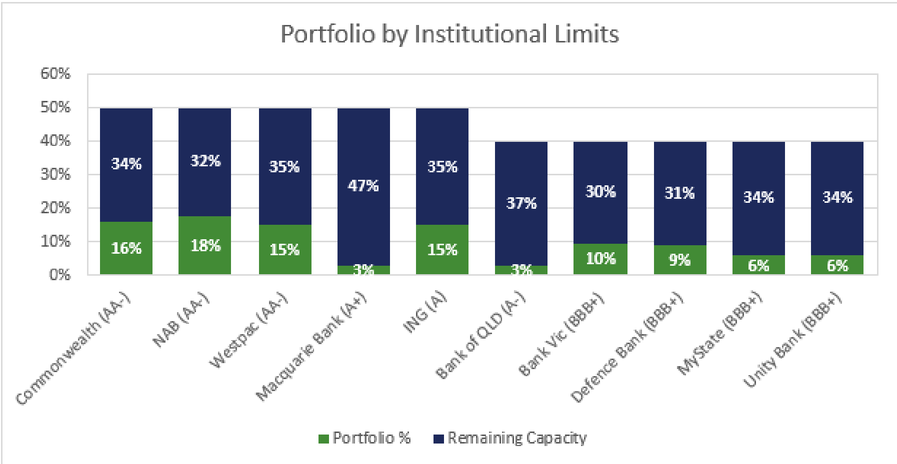
CTW's portfolio is closer to the performance benchmark based on the increased market rates as investments are secured at historical rates. Interest earned and accrued for the financial year to 30 June 2026 totals $662,427.



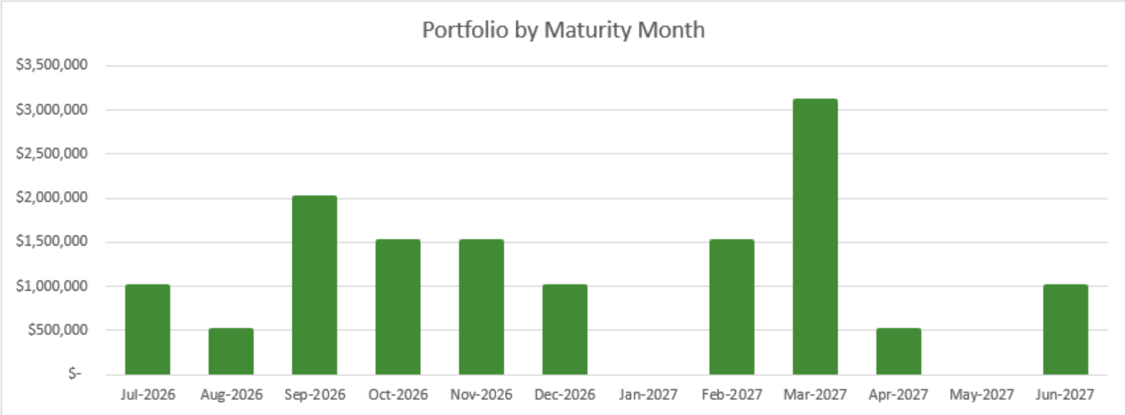
Compliance
At the end of June 2026, investments were compliant with Council's Investment Policy limits by Credit Ratings, Institutions, and Maturity as shown below.



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 30 June 2026 is attached.

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

30 June 2026	**(000s)**
Cash and Investments	16,772
Less Restrictions	
External	377
Internal	15,545
Total Restrictions	**15,922**
Unrestricted Cash	850

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

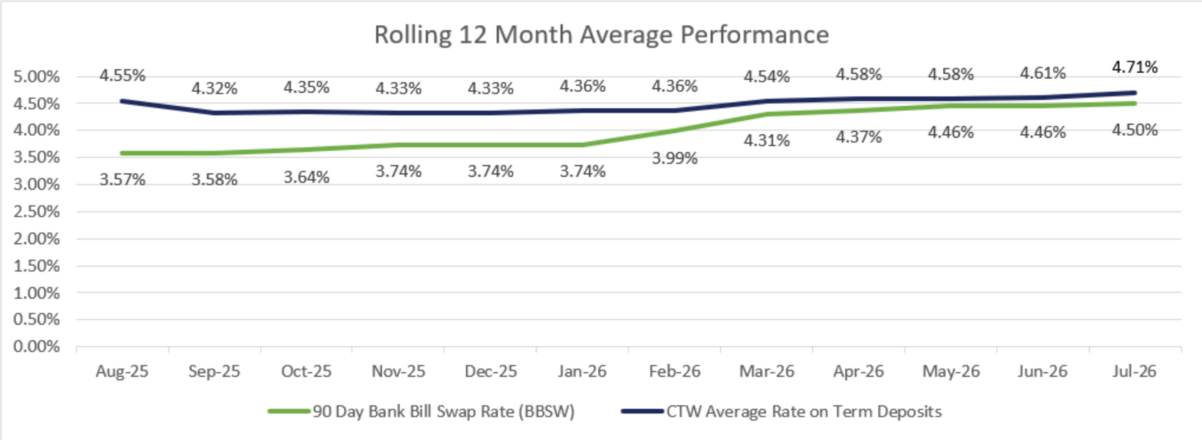
Internal restrictions (sometimes referred to as internal allocations) are determined by Council through the development of the Operational plan, by the Quarterly Budget Review process or by special resolution of Council.

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: *31 July 2026*

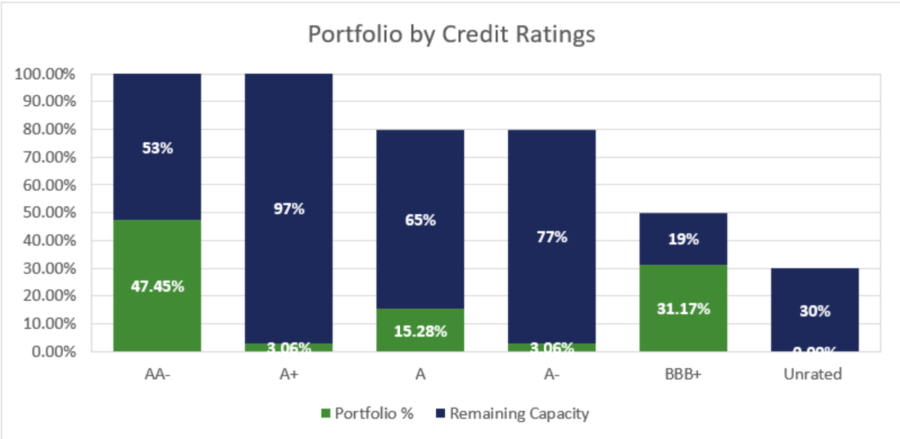
Performance
CTW's average rate of return on investments at 31 July 2026 was 4.71% against the 90 day Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) of 4.50%.

CTW's portfolio will begin to lag behind the performance benchmark based on the increased market rates as investments remain at historically available rates. Interest earned and accrued for the financial year to 31 July 2026 totals $86,116.

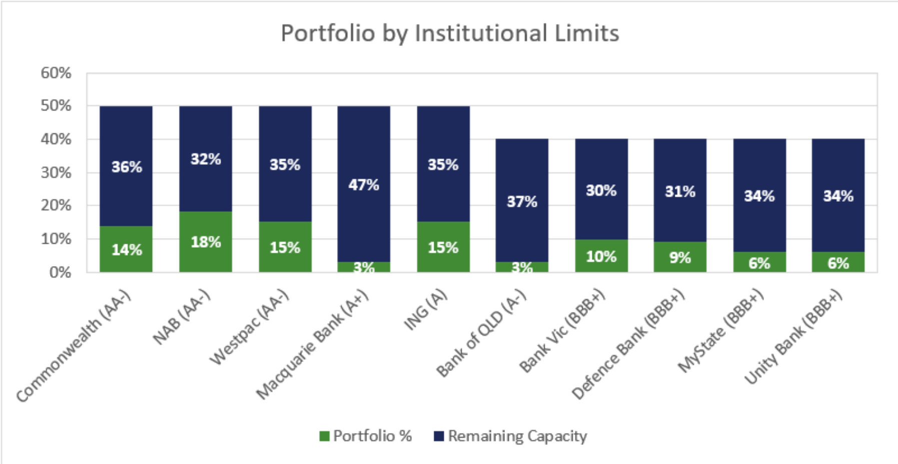


Compliance

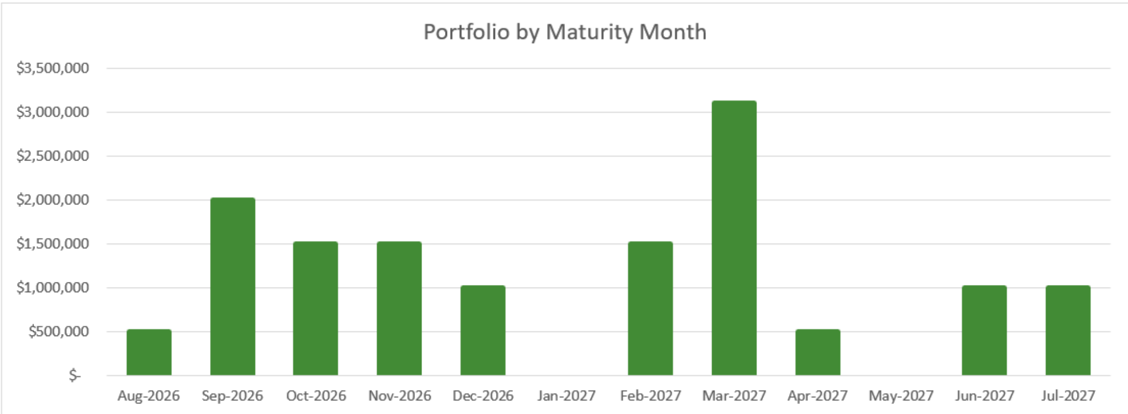
At the end of July 2026, investments were compliant with Council's Investment Policy limits by Credit Ratings, Institutions, and Maturity as shown below.



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 July 2026 is attached.

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

31 July 2026	**(000s)**
Cash and Investments	16,364
Less Restrictions	
External	383
Internal	15,131
Total Restrictions	**15,514**
Unrestricted Cash	850

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

Internal restrictions (or internal allocations) are determined by Council through the Operational Plan, Quarterly Budget Review process or by special resolution of Council.

Unrestricted cash is available to meet any unexpected expenditure. 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

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The investment summaries presented in this report represent Council's total investments as of 30 June 2026 and 31 July 2026 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 June 2026
2 Investments July 2026

11.4) REVOTE OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AT 30 JUNE 2026 (FM.BA.1)

Author: Executive Management Accountant
IP&R Link: – 2.2.1: Review and monitor Councils financial position.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council revote the capital projects, as presented in this report, from 2025/26 to the 2026/27 Operational Plan and budget.

REPORT

This report is to recommend the revote of capital projects not completed during the 2025/26 financial year. These revotes, if adopted by Council will form part of the 2026/27 Operational Plan and will be incorporated into the September 2026 Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

It is noted that some capital projects were already rescheduled during the year via adoption in 2025/26 Quarterly Budget Review Statements. Only the projects in the adopted budget for March 2026 can be revoted. The recommended projects have been considered in consultation with the relevant staff and the management team.

The recommendation includes projects that have been committed by way of purchase order or contract, and planned works. The amount recommended for revote in the table below is the balance of the project budget to be incorporated in 2026/27 financial year.

As a rule, unspent operational expenditure is not revoted unless there is firm commitment by purchase order or contract, or the funds relate to incomplete grants or contributions. Council has one incomplete operational grant to be carried over into 2026/27 which is included below.

RECOMMENDED REVOTES

Project		Amount	Comment	Funding Source
	Records Management System	$106,033	Project ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	Acquisition of Crown Lands	$50,000	Program ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	Smart Metering Project	$145,999	Project ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	Telemetry Upgrades	$126,575	Project ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	Blayney Office - Outdoor Drainage and Yard Seal	$98,427	Project ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	Computer Hardware	$5,308	Ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	Depot Upgrades - Canowindra, Grenfell and Blayney	$371,865	Project ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	PSV Replacement at Pit 1	$51,136	Work yet to occur	Infrastructure restriction
	Carcoar WTP – Equipment Renewals	$49,188	Work yet to occur	Infrastructure restriction
	Carcoar WTP - Chlorine Lifting System	$49,491	Work yet to occur	Infrastructure restriction
	Carcoar WTP - PLC upgrade	$70,000	Project ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	Quandialla Site Upgrades - Electrical/Telemetry, Bore Site	$71,926	Project ongoing	Infrastructure restriction

Project		Amount	Comment	Funding Source
	Reservoir access ladders	$159,071	Project ongoing	Infrastructure restriction
	Lake Rowlands Destratification Upgrades	$24,884	Work yet to occur	Infrastructure restriction
	Carcoar Fluoride Plant Upgrade	$100,000	Work yet to occur	100% grant funded
	Millthorpe Reservoir Recoating	$48,965	Work yet to occur	Infrastructure restriction
	Grey's Hill Reservoir Recoating	$55,085	Work yet to occur	Infrastructure restriction
	Canowindra Town Reservoir Renewal - Relining	$10,950	Work yet to occur	Infrastructure restriction
Capital Budget Revotes		**$1,594,903**		
	SSWP Strategic Projects Stage 2 – Operating Income – Operating Expenditure	 $37,174 ($49,566)	Project ongoing	75% grant funded and 25% council co-contribution
Net Operational Cost Revote		**$12,392**		
Total Revotes		**$1,607,295**		

All these revotes are fully funded from the sources detailed above.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

- These revotes, if approved, will be incorporated into the September 2026 Quarterly Budget Review Statement.
- The additional capital budget of $1,594,903 will increase the adopted Capital Budget for 2026/27 from $4,192,324 to $5,787,227.
- The additional operational income of $37,174 and expenditure of $49,566 will decrease the adopted budgeted operating surplus result before capital for 2026/27 from $81,002 to $68,610.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Clause 211 (1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 requires that Council must not incur a liability for expenditure of money unless a meeting of Council has:

a. approved the expenditure, and
b. voted the money necessary to meet the expenditure.

The adoption of the revoted works will allow funding for those works to be included in the 2026/27 Operational Plan and budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.5) UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025/26 (FM.FR.1)

Author: Executive Management Accountant
IP&R Link: – 2.2.1: Review and monitor Councils financial position.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Refer its draft Annual Financial Statements to audit in accordance with Section 416(1) of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. Endorse that the Annual Financial Statements present fairly Council's operating result and financial position for the year, and that the Financial Reports are in accordance with Council's accounting and other records.
3. State that it is not aware of any matter that would render the Annual Financial Statements false and misleading in any way.
4. In accordance with section 413 (2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993, authorise the Chairperson, Councillor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer to sign the required Statements relating to the Annual Financial Statements once finalised.
5. Pursuant to Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, delegate authority to the General Manager to issue the Annual Financial Statements to the Office of Local Government upon receipt of the Auditor's Reports.
6. Endorse the restrictions as listed in Note C1-3 of the General Purpose Annual Financial Statements.

REPORT

In accordance with sections 413(1) and 416(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council's financial reports are required to be prepared and audited within four (4) months after the end of the financial year.

A draft set of Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 has been prepared and is presented to Council for review as part of being referred for audit. The Financial Statements have been compiled in accordance with:

- The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended);
- The Local Government (General) Regulations 2021;
- The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements; and
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

As the Financial Statements are not yet audited, they are subject to amendment during the audit process.

As required by Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must provide an opinion on the General Purpose Financial Statements in the approved form. The Chairperson, Councillor (Deputy Chair), General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer are required to sign the statutory statements on behalf of Council following consideration of the draft Financial Statements.

Following completion of the audit, any amendments arising from the audit process will be incorporated into the final presentation of the audited Financial Statements. Delegation is requested that upon receipt of the Auditor's Reports the General Manager will authorise the lodgement of the audited Financial Statements with the Office of Local Government in accordance with statutory reporting requirements.

Financial Statement Commentary
The following commentary is provided to assist Council in its review of the draft Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026. The commentary highlights key changes and notable movements and should be read in conjunction with the attached statements.

- B2-1 – Annual Charges: reflects the 20% increase in availability charge and introduction of unconnected land availability charge
- B2-2 – User Charges: a significant increase in consumption was experienced in the last quarter of the financial year
- B2-2 – Other Income: a significant increase in the number of new connection installations and connection upgrades in private works
- B2-4 – Operating grants: Safe & Secure strategic projects and FreshStart trainee grants
- B2-4 – Capital contributions: TfNSW contributed $284k to a trunk main relocation
- B2-4 – Unspent grants & contributions: s64 balance of $374k. Mains extensions from previous years cleared ($26k) as there is no work outstanding
- B2-5 – Interest: higher term deposit interest rates and a higher investment balance created additional interest income
- B3-1 – Payroll tax: reduction due to trainee exemption
- B3-2 – Training expenditure: WHS essential training now up to date
- B3-3 – Depreciation: incorporation of an adjustment for a previous year where a pump station was over depreciated by $325k due to the residual life of one year not being updated after renewal. Following discussion with the Auditor the reversal has been processed in 2025/26.
- C1-3 – Reserves: Unrestricted Cash has been increased to align with the investment policies' availability requirements
- C1-4 – Receivables: the number of accounts unpaid has increased in line with the 20% increase on availability charges. D1-1 Credit Risk reflects that the majority of these are current and not overdue.
- C1-7 – Impairment: a number of assets were reviewed as they have not been operated for multiple years, are not actively maintained, and their operational condition and future life is uncertain or highly conditional. The assets remain in place and are owned by CTW but are not currently capable of providing a level of service reflected in their carrying value.
- D3-1 – Contingencies has not been updated, information from Vision Super has not been received.

A number of contributing unforeseen factors contributed to the operating result:

- A significant increase in water consumption during quarter four with approximately 500kL of water consumed, compared with an average 350kL in the preceding quarters, exceeding normal seasonal increases.

- Staff vacancies and turnover throughout the year reduced the total salaries and wages costs. Staff also used accrued leave, reducing employee leave entitlement costs. The original budget assumed a greater number of positions to be filled during the year and higher applicable award rates.

- A lack of available resources reduced the amount spent on materials and contracts specifically on the maintenance of assets, this is a cost deferral rather than a cost saving.

- A review of asset register calculations and previous depreciation resulted in lower depreciation expense than originally budgeted due to an adjustment to the useful life of a renewed pump station.

Council is expected to report a significant operating surplus for 2025/26. The result is higher than would ordinarily be expected and is largely attributable to a number of non-recurring factors. The result strengthens Council's financial capacity and will assist in funding future capital works, infrastructure renewals and other strategic priorities.

Over the next 15 years, a significant proportion of Council's existing infrastructure assets will reach the end of their useful lives and require renewal or replacement. The result assists Council in preparing for these future obligations and contributes to the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation. As such, the entirety of the result is committed to future capital projects.

Cash Restrictions, Reserves and Unrestricted Cash
Council is requested to endorse the restrictions disclosed in Note C1-3 of the General Purpose Financial Statements. These restrictions have been reviewed and reconciled against the cash and investment balances at 30 June 2026.

Management allocated $850,000 as the unrestricted cash balance to align with Council's Investment Policy requirement that *working capital be maintained at a minimum of 5% of the total cash and investments*.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1 Unaudited Annual Financial Statements 2025/26

11.6) DISCLOURE OF INTERESTS RETURNS (GO.CO.3)

Author: Executive Manager Corporate Services

IP&R Link: Strategic Priority 2: An efficient, sustainable and customer focused organisation – 2.3: Continuous Improvement Whilst Managing Risk – 2.5: A Compliant Organisation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the Disclosure of Interests Returns submitted by Councillors and Designated Persons for the period ending 30 June 2026.

REPORT

In accordance with Section 440AAB of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Disclosure of Interests Returns completed by Councillors and Designated Persons must be tabled at the first Council meeting held after the prescribed lodgement date.

Accordingly, the Disclosure of Interests Returns for the period ending 30 June 2026 have been received and are tabled for Council's information. Returns have been submitted by all Councillors who held office as at 30 June 2026, together with the General Manager, Executive Manager Corporate Services, Executive Management Accountant, and the independent members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), all of whom are classified as Designated Persons under the Act.

The tabling of these returns satisfies Council's legislative obligations regarding the disclosure of interests by Councillors and Designated Persons.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1 Disclosure of Interest Returns

11.7) AUDIT RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) (CM.AU.1)

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Note the Minutes of the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee meeting held on 6 August 2026, and
2. Adopt the draft ARIC Workplan and 2025/26 Annual Report, as endorsed by the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee.

REPORT

The Minutes of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) meeting held on 6 August 2026 are submitted for Council's information and consideration (Attachment 1).

The Committee considered a range of reports and governance matters (Attachment 2):

- General Manager's Update
- Financial Update
- Audit Actions Update
- Corporate Services Update
- Policy Reviews
- ARIC Workplan Update
- ARIC Annual Report 2025/26
- Standing Items and Notifications

ARIC Workplan 2026-2028

The ARIC Workplan (Attachment 3) was reviewed by the Independent Chair and endorsed by the Committee at its meeting on 6 August 2026. The Workplan outlines the key activities, reviews and areas of focus for the Committee for the remainder of the current Council term (2026-2028).

The Workplan will be used by both staff and Committee members to monitor and fulfil ARIC responsibilities in accordance with the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*.

Council is requested to formally adopt the ARIC Workplan 2026-2028 to support the effective governance, risk management, compliance and audit oversight functions of the Committee.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1 CTW ARIC August Meeting Minutes
2 CTW ARIC August Meeting Agenda & Reports
3 CTW ARIC Workplan

11.8) Council Meeting Location (CA.CO.1)

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Resolve that all Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings of Central Tablelands Water continue to be held at the Darrell Sligar Centre, Blayney, as the principal meeting venue for the remainder of this term of Council; and
2. Note that Councillors may attend meetings remotely by audio-visual link in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

REPORT

Recent amendments to the Local Government Code of Meeting Practice now permit County Council Councillors to attend meetings by audio-visual link, subject to legislative requirements and Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice. This provides greater flexibility for elected representatives to participate in meetings when unable to attend in person.

Given these legislative changes, staff are requesting Council to consider whether its meeting venue arrangements should be amended. It is recommended that the Darrell Sligar Centre in Blayney remain the principal venue for all Council meetings, with remote attendance available to councillors where appropriate.

Central Tablelands Water has historically conducted Council meetings in Blayney, Grenfell, and Canowindra. The venue provides an established location that is centrally situated within the organisation's operational area and has suitable facilities to accommodate Council meetings, staff presentations and members of the public.
Recent amendments to the Local Government legislative framework have expanded the ability of councillors to participate in meetings remotely through audio-visual technology. These changes provide flexibility for councillors whilst maintaining transparency and public access requirements.
The amendments mean that councillors are no longer required to be physically present at the designated meeting location in order to participate in Council meetings, provided legislative requirements are satisfied.

Discussion
Recent amendments to the Local Government meeting provisions allow Country Council Councillors to participate in Council meetings by audio-visual link, subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, and Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice. This provides councillors with greater flexibility to participate in meetings without the need to travel to a physical meeting location.

Historically, Council meetings have been held at the Darrell Sligar Centre in Blayney, Weddin Shire Council in Grenfell, and different locations in Canowindra. The Blayney venue has proven to be a practical and effective location for conducting Council meetings and remains the preferred location for several operational reasons.

The Darrell Sligar Centre is already equipped with the technology and infrastructure required to support Council meetings, including audio-visual equipment, internet connectivity and facilities suitable for both in-person and remote participation. This allows meetings to be conducted efficiently without additional setup costs or logistical arrangements.

Alternative meeting locations present a number of challenges. Whilst the Weddin Shire Council Chambers in Grenfell may be available for use, the travel required councillors and staff is substantial. In addition, the previous meeting venue in Canowindra is no longer available, meaning an alternative venue would need to be identified and assessed for suitability.

Maintaining a single principal meeting venue at the Darrell Sligar Centre provides:
- Consistency for councillors, staff and members of the public.
- Access to established meeting technology and equipment.
- Reduced administrative effort associated with sourcing and preparing alternative venues.
- Cost efficiencies by avoiding venue hire, staff and equipment transport and technology setup costs.
- A reliable location capable of supporting hybrid meetings involving both in-person and remote attendance.

Importantly, retaining the Darrell Sligar Centre as Council's principal meeting venue does not restrict councillors' ability to participate remotely. Councillors who are unable to attend in person may attend via audio-visual link in accordance with relevant legislative requirements and Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

This approach allows Council to realise the benefits of the legislative amendments while maintaining an efficient and cost-effective meeting arrangement.

Risk Management Implications
Retaining a single designated meeting venue reduces operational and administrative risks associated with multiple meeting locations, including technology availability, venue suitability and meeting logistics.

The availability of remote attendance further reduces the risk of councillors being unable to participate due to travel, weather events, illness or work commitments.

Conclusion
The recent legislative amendments provide greater flexibility by enabling councillors to attend meetings remotely. However, they do not remove the need for Council to nominate an appropriate physical meeting location.

Given that the Darrell Sligar Centre is already equipped with the necessary technology and meeting infrastructure, and noting the limited suitability of alternative venues, it is considered the most practical, efficient and cost-effective location for Central Tablelands Water meetings. Retaining the Darrell Sligar Centre as Council's principal meeting venue will ensure ongoing operational efficiency while allowing councillors to utilise remote attendance provisions when required.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant additional financial implications associated with this recommendation. Meeting at the Blayney Darrel Sligar Centre is expected to be the most cost-effective option, as it utilises an established venue and existing meeting infrastructure, and reduced the travel time and cost for Councillors and staff. Council travel expenses are included in the operation plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is consistent with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice.

Councillors will continue to have the ability to attend meetings remotely in accordance with legislative requirements while Council maintains a principal physical meeting location.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.9) SECTION 356 DONATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (LS.CO.1)

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Resolve an allocation of $2,500 for Category 1 Community Section 356 Donations and Financial Assistance applications, and
2. Resolve an allocation of $23,251 for Category 2 Section 356 Donations and Financial Assistance for the 2026/27FY.

REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the allocation of funding under Central Tablelands Water's Financial Assistance and Donations Program for the 2026/27 financial year.

Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 permits councils and county councils to provide financial assistance to organisations and community groups where a public benefit can be demonstrated.

During 2026/27, Council has reviewed and updated its Financial Assistance and Donations Policy to ensure alignment with the requirements of Section 356 of the Local Government Act and to provide a clear, transparent and consistent framework for the assessment and approval of financial assistance requests.

The policy establishes eligibility criteria, assessment requirements and funding categories to ensure that financial assistance is distributed fairly and supports initiatives that provide a benefit to the communities serviced by Central Tablelands Water.

Applications received under the Financial Assistance and Donations Program have been assessed against the eligibility criteria contained within the Financial Assistance and Donations Policy.

The proposed allocations support community initiatives that contribute to social wellbeing, community participation, local events and activities, and broader community outcomes within the Central Tablelands Water operational area.

The recommended allocations are considered to be consistent with the objectives of the policy and represent an equitable distribution of available funding within the approved budget allocation (refer Attachment 1).

Council's consideration and endorsement of the recommended funding allocations will enable successful applicants to proceed with planned activities and projects during the 2026/27 financial year.

Risk Implications

The adopted policy provides a transparent and accountable process for the assessment and allocation of financial assistance, reducing the risk of inconsistent decision-making and ensuring compliance with legislative requirements.

Conclusion

The recommended allocations have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Assistance and Donations Policy and are considered to provide positive community outcomes while ensuring compliance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act. Approval of the recommendations will enable funding to be distributed to eligible applicants during the 2026/27 financial year.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A total of $23,251 has been allocated within the adopted 2026/27 budget for Financial Assistance and Donations.

The additional allocation of $2,500 will be incorporated through a budget adjustment to be presented as part of the next Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with:

- CTW Financial Assistance and Donations Policy; and
- Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

ATTACHMENTS

1 S356 Financial Assistance and Donations - 2026/27FY

11.10) WORKFORCE STRATEGY UPDATE (CM.AG.3)

Author: Executive Manager Corporate Services
IP&R Link: – 2.4: A Capable And Effective Workforce

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the minor amendments to the organisational structure as presented.

REPORT

As part of Council's ongoing review of workforce requirements and service delivery needs, and following consultation with relevant staff, several minor amendments have been made to the organisational structure (Attachment 1). These changes are intended to improve operational efficiency, support project delivery, and ensure the structure accurately reflects current positions and workforce requirements.

The positions highlighted in green within the attached organisational structure represent the following amendments:

Capital Works Project Leader
This position has been established as a 12-month trial to support the formation of a dedicated Capital Works team. The role is intended to strengthen Council's capacity to deliver capital projects and address project delivery challenges resulting from resource constraints and workforce shortages.

Meter Reader
This position was inadvertently omitted from the organisational structure presented as part of the 2026/27 Workforce Strategy review. The amendment corrects this omission and ensures the structure accurately reflects existing operational roles.

Storeperson and Operator
This position is being reintroduced to improve the management and efficiency of Council's stores operations. The role is proposed as a hybrid position, combining part-time Storeperson responsibilities with Network or Water Operator duties to create a full-time position and maximise operational flexibility.

Corporate Services Officer
This position represents an upgrade of the existing Governance Executive Support Officer role. Following consultation with the current incumbent, the position has been reviewed and upgraded to align to the workforce management plans and future needs of the organisation. The revised position will be advertised and recruited externally. The current employee has elected to take extended leave prior to a planned departure from Council in early 2027.

Finance Support Officer
This position consolidates two existing part-time roles into a single full-time position. The change has been undertaken following consultation with the current position holder and is intended to improve efficiency, role clarity, and service delivery within the Finance team.

Water Network Trainee
Council currently participates in the Office of Local Government's Fresh Start Traineeship Program and had engaged two Water Network Trainees under the initiative. One trainee has recently resigned approximately 12 months into the two-year traineeship program. The organisational structure has been updated to accurately reflect the current staffing position.

CONCLUSION

The proposed amendments are minor in nature and reflect operational requirements, workforce planning considerations, and administrative updates. The changes will assist Council in maintaining service delivery, improving organisational effectiveness, and ensuring the organisational structure accurately reflects current and planned staffing arrangements.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Capital Works Project Leader position will be expended from existing capital funds.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1 Organisation Chart at August 2026

11.11) POLICY REVIEWS (CM.PL.1)

Author: Corporate Service Manager
IP&R Link: – 2.5.1: Achieve operational compliance through effective governance.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Endorse the following policies for public exhibition for a period of 28 days:
   - Cyber Security Policy
   - Health & Wellbeing Policy

2. Note that, should no substantial submissions be received during the public exhibition period, the above policies will be deemed adopted without the need for a further report to Council.
3. Adopt the *Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy* following completion of the second public exhibition period and consideration of submissions received.
4. Note that policies adopted under this resolution supersede any previous Council resolutions or policy provisions to the extent of any inconsistency.

REPORT

Council staff continue to review, update and develop policies to ensure they remain compliant with legislative requirements, reflect contemporary best practice, and support the effective governance and operation of Central Tablelands Water.

Policies for Public Exhibition
The following policies have been developed and/or reviewed and are presented to Council for endorsement to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days:

- Cyber Security Policy
- Health & Wellbeing Policy

These policies have been prepared to strengthen organisational governance, risk management, employee wellbeing, and compliance obligations.

Following the exhibition period, should no substantive submissions be received, the policies will be deemed adopted.

Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy
The Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy was amended following Council's consideration at the June Council Meeting and subsequently placed on public exhibition for a further period of 28 days.

During the exhibition period, Council received one (1) submission in relation to the proposed policy.

Submission Summary

- Mr Rob Jenson lodged a submission regarding the policy. Details of the submission are provided in Attachment 3.

Council staff have reviewed and considered the matters raised in the submission. The issues identified have previously been considered during the development and review of the policy

and do not present any new information or circumstances that would warrant further amendment.
Accordingly, no changes have been made to the policy as a result of the submission.

It is therefore recommended that Council adopt the Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy as exhibited (Attachment 4).

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Operational Plan, if required

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1 Draft Cyber Security Policy
2 Draft Health & Wellbeing Policy
3 Submission - Rob Jensen
4 Draft Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy

11.12) LEGISLATIVE REGISTER (CA.CO.1)

Author: Executive Manager Corporate Services
IP&R Link: – 2.5: A Compliant Organisation – 2.5.1: Achieve operational compliance through effective governance.

RECOMMENDATION:

That council:

1. Endorse the Statutory Compliance Register; and
2. Note that the register will be maintained and reviewed periodically to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

REPORT

The Statutory Compliance Register has been prepared to identify the key legislative obligations applicable to Central Tablelands Water (Council) and to allocate responsibility for compliance and oversight across the organisation. The Register provides a structured framework to assist Council, management and staff in understanding the legislations that govern Council's operations and the internal policies, procedures and systems that support compliance.

As a local water utility operating within New South Wales, Council is required to comply with a broad range of Commonwealth and State legislation governing governance, workplace relations, work health and safety, environmental protection, records management, privacy, public accountability and water management.

The Statutory Compliance Register (Attachment 1) consolidates these obligations into a single reference document and identifies:

- Relevant legislation and associated regulations;
- The purpose and relevance of each legislative instrument;
- Responsible officers and business areas;
- Key policies, procedures and operational controls supporting compliance; and
- Areas of accountability across the organisation.

The Register includes legislative requirements relating to, but not limited to:

- Local Government Act 1993;
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011;
- Water Management Act 2000;
- Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009;
- Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022;
- State Records Act 1998; and
- Privacy Act 1988.

The implementation and ongoing maintenance of a legislative compliance framework is recognised as a fundamental component of sound governance and risk management. The Register provides a clear line of accountability by identifying the responsible officers for each legislative requirement and linking those obligations to Council's policies, procedures and operational practices.

The Register also supports:

- Enhanced organisational awareness of statutory obligations;
- Effective governance and internal controls;
- Risk identification and mitigation;

- Compliance monitoring and reporting; and
- Continuous improvement of policies and operational procedures

The Register will serve as a living document and will be reviewed periodically to ensure legislative references remain current and reflect any changes to organisational responsibilities, policies or operational practices.

The Register has been developed through a review of legislative obligations, existing organisational policies and operational responsibilities across the organisation. Relevant managers and responsible officers will continue to review the Register as part of ongoing governance and compliance activities.

Risk Management Implications
The Statutory Compliance Register is a key governance and risk management tool that assists Council to identify, monitor and manage legislative compliance obligations. The Register contributes to reducing the risk of regulatory breaches, financial penalties, legal liabilities and reputational damage arising from non-compliance.

Conclusion
The Statutory Compliance Register provides Council with assurance that it has identified the principal legislative obligations relevant to its operations and has established accountability and supporting controls to manage compliance. Endorsement of the Register will strengthen Council's governance framework and support ongoing statutory compliance across the organisation.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the endorsement of the Statutory Compliance Register. Ongoing compliance activities are undertaken within existing operational budgets.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Register supports and complements Council's governance framework and associated policies, procedures and internal controls, including those relating to work health and safety, risk management, records management, public access to information, fraud and corruption prevention, code of conduct obligations and environmental management.

ATTACHMENTS

1 CTW Legislative Register - 2026

11.13) CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATE (CM.CP.2)

Author: Executive Manager Corporate Services
IP&R Link: Strategic Priority 2: An efficient, sustainable and customer focused organisation – Strategic Priority 3: Regional Leadership and Collaboration – 3.1: Regional collaboration and partnerships

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REPORT

Please find below an overview of recent activities within the Corporate Services department.

Work Health & Safety

Work Health and Safety (WHS) remains a key organisational priority, with a continued focus on maintaining a safe workplace, promoting employee wellbeing, and ensuring compliance with legislative obligations.

During the reporting period:

- Regular workplace risk assessments were undertaken across operational sites.
- Incident reports continued to be reviewed and monitored, with three motor vehicle incidents during the reporting period (2x kangaroo and 1x fallen tree). There were no staff injuries in any of these incidents.
- Staff participation in mandatory WHS training remained positive, including inductions, and first aid programs.
- Development of a new **Health & Wellbeing Policy** was completed to support employee health, resilience, and wellbeing initiatives across the Council.
- Fleet Management providers have been providing staff with demonstration on their safety features, including when staff are working in isolation or out of mobile reception. A decision on fleet management was not reached at the time of righting this report.

The Council continues to promote a proactive safety culture through consultation, awareness activities, and continuous improvement initiatives.

Information Technology

Information Technology services continued to focus on operational reliability, cyber security, and business system improvements.

Key activities included:

- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of critical information technology infrastructure and business systems.
- Implementation of system updates, security patches, and software upgrades to support system performance and security.

- Continued review of cyber security controls and organisational preparedness in response to evolving threats.
- Development of a new Cyber Security Policy to formalise organisational expectations and risk management practices.
- Support provided to staff in relation to system access, hardware replacement, software implementation, and troubleshooting activities.
- Participation at the Council Cyber Security Partnership held on 22 July, which 86 NSW councils attended. The group is currently being led by Cyber Security specialists based in the Northern Beaches and Federation Councils. This partnership is made up of council staff who give their time to discuss Cyber Security actions across other councils and interest groups to assist keep all councils safe.
- Ongoing review of information technology risks and business continuity arrangements.

The IT environment remains stable, with a continued focus on reducing cyber security risks and improving operational resilience.

Risk
Risk management activities continued to support the identification, assessment, and mitigation of organisational risks.

Key activities included:

- Ongoing review of strategic and operational risks across business functions.
- Monitoring of identified corporate risks and implementation of mitigation strategies.
- Review of cyber security risks and associated controls.
- Integration of risk considerations into policy development and organisational decision-making processes.
- Support provided to managers in undertaking risk assessments associated with projects, operational activities, and procurement processes.
- Continued focus on legislative compliance risks, business continuity, and organisational resilience.
- Active participation by the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) Committee members in a desktop exercise held on 22 July by council's insurer Statewide and Marsh. This mock exercise focused on a situation where the Blayney Office building had a fire overnight and was not accessible for a substantial period of time. This exercise helped to finalise the draft BCP documentation and provide members with the opportunity to learn about their roles and responsibilities should such a circumstance arrive.

Risk management remains embedded within operational and strategic planning processes to support informed decision making and sustainable service delivery.

Human Resources
Human Resources activities remained focused on workforce planning, employee engagement, recruitment, performance development, and policy review.

Key activities during the reporting period included:

- Coordination of recruitment activities for three vacant positions across Council. All positions were filled, with the most recent being the appointment of an Executive Manager Operations & Technical Services in August.
- Ongoing review and update of position descriptions to align with current organisational requirements and workforce planning objectives.
- Administration of annual performance reviews and probationary processes.

- Support provided to managers and employees regarding employee relations matters and award interpretation.
- Processing of leave applications and personnel administration activities.
- Continued implementation of onboarding and induction processes for new employees.
- Development and review of people and culture policies to support organisational compliance and employee wellbeing.

Recruitment and retention continue to present challenges across the local government and water utility sectors; however, workforce planning and employee development initiatives remain a focus.

Communications & Media
Corporate communications activities continued to support stakeholder engagement, community awareness, and organisational transparency.

Key activities included:

- Preparation and publication of community newsletter included with the July Water Notices. This edition includes articles on amended meter reading dates, financial update, welcome of new staff, and the Staff Wellbeing Day.

- Ongoing management of website content and design to ensure information remains current and accessible.

- Staff promotional campaigns on “Why I like to work at CTW” and “Local Government Week”. Both these programs promoted Council staff through social media post. The success of these programs can be demonstrated by the number of community members viewing the Facebook posts:

  - Over 3,000 – Why I like to work at CTW, and

  - Almost 5,500 – Local Government Week.

- Development of internal staff communications relating to cyber security awareness, a June council meeting summary, a financial update, introduction of new staff, and much more.

- Support provided for community engagement activities associated with policy consultation and public exhibition processes.

Communication efforts continue to focus on providing timely, accurate, and informative information to customers, staff, and stakeholders.

Governance
The Governance function continued to support legislative compliance, policy management, records governance, and effective organisational decision making.

Achievements during the reporting period included:

- Review and development of *Cyber Security*, *Health & Wellbeing, and Leave (Operational) policies* in accordance with legislative requirements and best practice standards.
- Review of submissions received in relation to the *Unconnected Land Availability Charge Policy*, including preparation of recommendations for Council consideration.
- Administration of public exhibition processes for policies and governance documents.

- Ongoing oversight of records management practices and legislative compliance obligations.
- Coordination of Council reporting requirements and business paper preparation.
- Participation in the following activities:
    - StateCover Regional Workshop, with information relating to Workers Compensation and the 2026 LG Award
    - CNSWJO IT Managers Working Group
    - CNSWJO Fleet Managers Working Group
    - Cyber Hygiene Improvement Program Clinic, Australia Signals Directorate
    - CTW Monthly Water Quality and Support Meetings
    - LGNSW Employment Law Seminar
    - LG Professional Director and GM Forum
    - Council Cyber Security Partnership
    - CNSWJO WHS Group

Governance activities continue to focus on strengthening accountability, transparency, and compliance across the organisation.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

All expenditure required is within the Operational Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Cyber Security
- Health & Wellbeing
- Leave

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.14) OPERATIONS AND PROJECT UPDATES (CA.PJ.1)

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the Operations and Project Updates report.

REPORT

Executive Summary

Area	Summary
Customer service	Council received 90 Customer Service Requests during June and July. The largest category related to meter or service issues, followed by requests for meter replacements, hydrant leaks, water quality concerns, low-pressure reports, general maintenance and no-water reports.
Maintenance response	Nine main breaks were repaired, and 15 water meters were replaced during the reporting period.
Water supply position	Lake Rowlands was at 100% on 17 August 2026 and was flowing over the dam wall.
Operational resilience	During telemetry server relocation works, connectivity to the telemetry system was temporarily lost. Operators could not view reservoir levels or network pressures; however, CTW operational staff manually operated treatment plants and networks, with no service disruptions to customers.
Capital and operational projects	Key projects continued across reservoir access upgrades, reservoir waterproofing, Canowindra depot works, Blayney office yard resealing and the Telemetry / Blayney Office Upgrade Project.
Budget and policy	Works are proceeding in accordance with the budget, with no variations currently being considered or approved. Works are aligned with DCCEEW’s Regulatory and Assurance Framework.

Customer Service

During June and July 2026, Council received 90 Customer Service Requests. The requests comprised 63 relating to meter or service issues, including 15 meter replacement requests; 2 hydrant leaks; 2 water quality concerns; 3 low-pressure reports; 6 general maintenance requests; and 2 no water reports.

During the same period, 9 main breaks were repaired, and 15 water meters were replaced as part of ongoing maintenance and replacement programs.

Treatment Plant Water flows

Daily flow graphs for the Carcoar and Blayney Water Treatment Plants are provided below for June and July 2026. The graphs support ongoing operational monitoring of treatment plant demand and usage patterns.

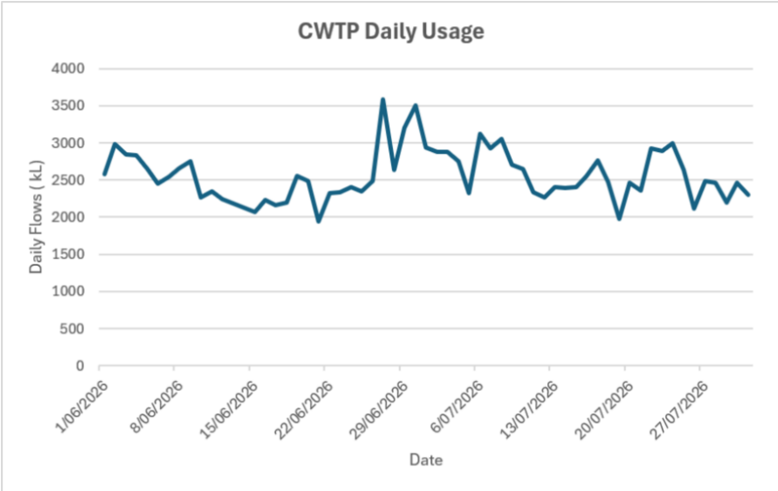


Figure 1: Water treatment plant daily flow graph from source report.

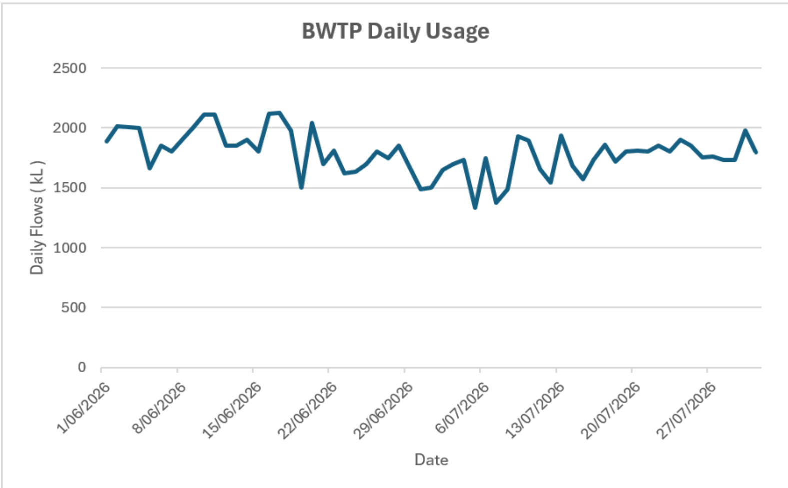


Figure 2: Water treatment plant daily flow graph from source report.

Lake Rowlands Level

As at 17 August 2026, Lake Rowlands was at 100% capacity and was flowing over the dam wall. The graph below shows storage capacity variation over the past two months.

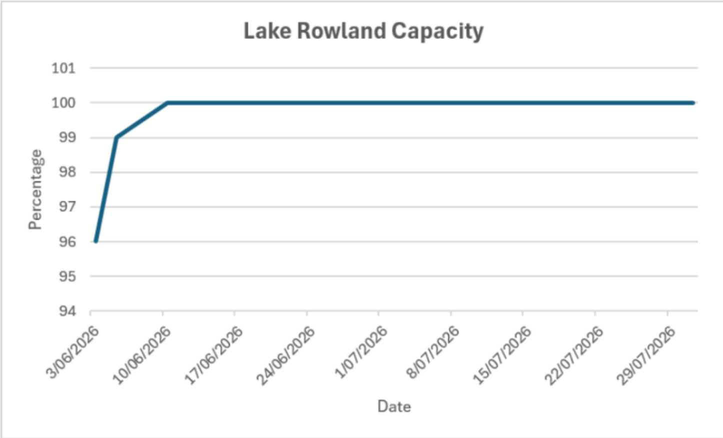


Figure 3: Lake Rowlands capacity graph from source report.

Canowindra Depot Upgrade
The project is progressing well and nearing completion. Partial Occupancy Certification has been obtained, and Council staff have relocated to the new depot facility to enable demolition of the old depot office. Construction activities are continuing, with minor variations incorporated in addressing site conditions and operational requirements identified during delivery. Remaining works include fencing, landscaping, and final finishing works. The overall scope remains substantially unchanged and is on track for completion.

Critical Reservoir Waterproofing Program
The program is in the procurement phase, with priority works identified for the Blayney Water Treatment Plant Reservoir, Milthorpe Reservoir, and Grays Hill Reservoir. An initial quotation has been received from a contractor previously engaged for similar work. A further contractor site inspection is scheduled during the reporting period to support the quotation process. The project aims to maintain the long-term integrity and reliability of critical water storage assets.

Blayney Office Yard Resealing Project
The project is in the procurement phase. Quotations have been sought from four potential contractors, with site inspections being arranged before quotation submission. The scope includes resealing of the Blayney office car park, drainage and stormwater improvements, and safety upgrades. Minor scope refinements have been incorporated to better address site conditions and enhance project outcomes.

Server and Telemetry Relocation Project
The Server and Telemetry Relocation Project progressed significantly during the reporting period. Following the successful relocation of the office server to the new server room, works commenced to relocate the telemetry server to the upgraded environment.

After the telemetry server relocation process, an unforeseen configuration and NBN connectivity issue occurred between the telemetry server, communications network and field telemetry devices. As a result, communications between the telemetry system and remote sites were temporarily interrupted, resulting in operators being unable to view reservoir levels, network pressures and other telemetry data.

Despite the temporary loss of telemetry visibility, Council operational staff implemented contingency operating procedures and continued to manually operate the water treatment plants and reticulation networks. Through proactive monitoring and operational management, water production and network operations were maintained throughout the outage period, and there were no interruptions to customer water services.

Council staff worked closely with Telstra, NBN and its IT service provider to diagnose the issue and progressively restore communications with remote telemetry sites. Following restoration of the telemetry network, a comprehensive review of the incident is being undertaken to identify contributing factors and opportunities to strengthen system resilience.

Separate NBN connectivity issues were also identified at the Blayney Water Treatment Plant, with investigations and restoration undertaken by NBN. Discussions have commenced with Council's IT service provider regarding future system enhancement works to improve network reliability and resilience.

The incident highlighted the importance of maintaining robust contingency procedures and demonstrated the capability of Council operational staff to safely manage critical water infrastructure during an extended loss of telemetry visibility. Further discussions have commenced regarding additional redundancy, system resilience improvements and network upgrades to reduce the likelihood of similar incidents occurring in the future.

Water Loss Project
The Water Loss Reduction Program continues to progress, with the annual water loss maturity assessment completed and demonstration of improvements across several key areas compared to the previous year.

Priority flow meter locations have been identified, with several major flow meters now integrated into SCADA system and continuously working.

In addition, internal teams have repaired and reinstated several flow meters at identified locations. Further upgrades and replacements are planned for a number of existing meters that have reached the end of their operation life or no longer supported due to outdated technology.

Central Tablelands Regional Water Supply Grid PBC
The Central Tablelands Regional Water Supply Grid (CTRWSG) is the official name for the second stage of the SRTWS and is being funded by the Federal Government through the National Water Grid Funding, and jointly by Central Tablelands Water, Orange City Council, and Cabonne Council, with the aim of strengthening long-term water security across participating service areas.

The project will deliver a Preliminary Business Case that aims to demonstrate the viability of the three utilities working together to strengthen long-term water security across the participating service areas.

Central Tablelands Water is the lead Council in the project and has been advised of the success of the application and funding. Delays in receiving the executed funding deed was expected and Council was provided assurance that works could commence on the project prior to execution of the deed. Project governance has been finalised, with the terms of reference for both the Steering Committee (SteerCo) and the Project Control Group (PCG) confirmed and endorsed by the SteerCo.

A project management plan has been developed and submitted to both the NSW and Australian governments for endorsement. This milestone was achieved by the initial milestone of 31 July 2026, despite delays in executing the funding deed.

The project management plan was completed considering the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK), it has looked at the project holistically and identified the key risks to the delivery of the project. The project is expected to be completed August 2028.

The first scope of works to develop the hydrology modelling is currently in development and planned to go to the market towards the end of August. This work is to identify the water security challenges and aligns with the guidelines from Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). It is expected this will take up to 3 months to undertake the work, with hydraulic modelling planned for delivery after the hydrology work is completed.

The strategy of this project aligns with broader regional water security planning, including investigations associated with the Belubula Water Security project, which is examining options such as increasing storage capacity at Lake Rowlands and potential transfer infrastructure between key catchments to enhance resilience for communities across the Belubula Valley and beyond. The CTRWSG supports integrated planning across neighbouring water utilities and reflects joint advocacy for sustainable water supply solutions for the Central Tablelands region.

Belubula Water Security Project (BWSP)
The Belubula Water Security Project continues to be managed through the established Project Control Group (PCG) governance framework. The General Manager has been seeking an extension of time, given the project's progress and the need to complete critical work within a compressed timeframe. The PCG has been advised that an extension has now been granted, with completion due by the end of October. The draft Final Business Case is expected to be provided to the PCG for initial first review at the end of August and a second review at the end of September, before the final draft is prepared for submission to Infrastructure NSW for their review.

Reservoir Ladder Upgrade Project
The program is progressing. Milthorpe Reservoir is in the design and engineering phase and is awaiting the finalised design proposal. The remaining three reservoirs are awaiting engagement of additional contractors to obtain quotations. Two contractors attended site inspections during the reporting period. The scope remains unchanged and includes engineering design, fabrication, supply and installation of compliant access ladders to improve operational safety and maintenance access.

Asset Revaluation
There has been no material update since the last report. A meeting is planned for 26 August for participating councils to confirm the methodology from Marsh on the revaluation.

Safe and Secure Water Programs Stream 2
Council successfully secured funding under the Safe and Secure Water Programs Stream 2 through the DCCEEW to undertake a strategic planning initiative aimed at strengthening the future direction of Council.

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

Since the last report in June 2026, the targeted completion date has been moved to August 2026 to enable suitable time to fully develop the documents without impacting on business-as-usual work.

The funding deed was signed by DCCEEW and Council on 16 January 2026, finalising stage 1 of the project, and officially commencing stage 2.

Following the signing of the deed, contracts were signed with NSW Public Works to deliver Task 4 - Network modelling, and City Water Technology to deliver Task 3 – Water treatment plant capacity assessment.

Updates by Task

- Task 1: Review and update of Levels of Service framework
  - This has been completed and provided under a separate report for consideration.

- Task 2: Asset condition assessment of Carcoar and Blayney water treatment plants (WTP), pump stations, and reservoirs
  - Barcode development and installation have occurred for Blayney Water Treatment Plant, and the majority of Carcoar Water Treatment Plant. Condition inspections are 90% complete.

- Task 3: Carcoar and Blayney WTP process capacity assessment
  - These reports have been completed, with works being considered in the Long-Term Financial Plan, alongside the review of the Development Servicing Plan.

- Task 4: Network capacity and capability assessment for Canowindra, Millthorpe and Blayney
  - Network modelling has been completed, with constraints identified for the future load within each of the modelled towns.
  - Key requirements will be incorporated into the Development Servicing Plan review, along with monitoring of the network to better validate the modelling completed prior to making any investment decision.

- Task 5: Development of Total Asset Management Plans
  - The draft Water Supply Asset Management Plan 2027-2056 has been completed and provides a comprehensive assessment of CTW's $195 million asset portfolio (Attachment 1). The Plan identifies key renewal, growth and water security challenges over the next 30 years, with grant funding for major projects remaining the most significant risk to long-term service sustainability. The Plan also establishes a continuous improvement program focused on asset data quality, condition monitoring, telemetry upgrades and enhanced lifecycle planning to support evidence-based investment decisions and regulatory compliance.

- Task 6: Preparation of Long-Term Financial Plan, ensuring linkages between finances and asset management
  - Development of the 30-year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is progressing as planned and is expected to be finalised by the end of August 2026. A progress update was presented at the Council strategy session on 5 August 2026, and stakeholder feedback is being incorporated into the final plan.

- Task 7: Completion of a detailed water supply risk assessment and emergency response plan, integrating into the Business Continuity Plan
  - A BCP desktop exercise was successfully conducted on 22 July 2026 with the BCP documents finalised following this exercise.

- Task 8: Development of a resourcing and workforce plan
  - This was completed and adopted by Council at their June 2026 Ordinary Meeting.

- Task 9: Review and update Strategic Plan
  - Initial drafting of this has commenced, setting out the document structure. A draft Strategic Business Plan has been completed and is provided for council's consideration (Attachment 2).

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Works are proceeding in accordance with the budget, with no variations currently being considered or approved.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Aligned with DCCEEW's Regulatory and Assurance Framework.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Water Supply Asset Management Plan
2. Draft Water Supply Strategic Plan

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

(General Manager)

No questions on notice were received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil