



AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council

29 September 2026

Statement of Ethical Obligations

The Mayor and Councillors are reminded that they remain bound by the Oath/Affirmation of Office made at the start of the council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of Eurobodalla Shire Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act, to the best of their skill and judgement. The Mayor and Councillors are also reminded of the requirement for disclosure of conflicts of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the Agenda or which are considered at this meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORUYA**

ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

COMMENCING AT 12:30 PM

AGENDA

(Proceedings of this meeting will be recorded as per Eurobodalla Shire Council's Code of Meeting Practice)

- 1. WELCOME**
- 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
- 3. APOLOGIES**
Nil
- 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
4.1 Ordinary Meeting held on 25 August 2026
- 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**
(Declarations also to be made prior to discussions on each item)
- 6. PUBLIC FORUM**
- 7. MAYORAL MINUTES**
Nil
- 8. NOTICES OF MOTION**
Nil
- 9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM COUNCILLORS**
Nil
- 10. PETITIONS**
Nil

Page No.

11. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

GMR26/012	Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26 12 Month Performance Update	4
GMR26/013	Draft Submission to the NSW Local Government Grants Commission on the Proposed Financial Assistance Grants Methodology	11
GMR26/014	Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 - Referral for Audit	17
GMR26/015	Investments made as at 31 August 2026	21
GMR26/016	Audit Risk and Improvement Committee - Meeting Minutes 1 April 2026	25

12. PLANNING, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

PER26/025	Emissions Reduction Plan	37
PER26/026	Development Application Performance Report - July 2025 - June 2026	43

13. INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

IR26/011	Tomakin Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade	50
IR26/012	Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee - Representatives	55
IR26/013	Local Transport Forum No. 2 for 2026-27	61

14. COMMUNITY, ARTS AND RECREATION REPORTS

CAR26/016	Reopen the Batemans Bay Community Centre for Community Use	63
CAR26/017	Batemans Bay Community Centre Draft Fees and Charges	70
CAR26/018	Narooma School of Arts Funding Request	75

15. DELEGATE REPORT

DR26/002	ALGA National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress 2026	77
----------	---	----

16. URGENT BUSINESS

17. DEALING WITH MATTERS IN CLOSED SESSION.....80

18. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

MARK FERGUSON
GENERAL MANAGER

**GMR26/012 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN
2025-26 12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

S012-T00025

Responsible Officer: Mark Ferguson - General Manager

Attachments: 1. Under Separate Cover - Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26 12 Month Performance Update

Community Goal: 5 We are an engaged community with progressive leadership

Community Strategy: 5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership

Delivery Program Link: 5.2.2 Implement effective governance and long-term planning, including integrated planning and reporting

Operational Plan Link: 5.2.2.1 Engage across community and Council to deliver Integrated Planning and Reporting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Council's progress in implementing the community's vision and goals as outlined in the Integrated Planning and Reporting suite of documents: the [Community Strategic Plan](#) – Our Eurobodalla 2042, the [Delivery Program](#) 2025-29, and [Operational Plan](#) 2025-26.

The Delivery Plan 2025-29 consists of 55 activities for the Council's term, and the Operational Plan 2025-26 includes 181 operational actions for the year. On 30 June 2026, 94% of actions were reported as achieved, and 6% of actions were reported as off track.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26 12 Month Performance Update report.

BACKGROUND

Local councils in NSW are required to undertake planning and reporting activities in accordance with the local government Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework.

In accordance with Section 404 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the [Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines](#) for Local Government, Council is required to provide progress reports with respect to the activities detailed in the Delivery Program every six months.

The Community Strategic Plan - Our Eurobodalla 2042, outlines a community vision for the future, five corresponding goals, and 17 strategies to achieve these goals.

Council developed the Delivery Program 2025-29 in response to the Community Strategic Plan - Our Eurobodalla 2042, which details 55 activities for the period to work towards the community's aspirations.

Annually, Council develop and adopt an Operational Plan, which is Council's 'work plan' for the year. The work plan aligns with the Delivery Program and contains annual actions to work towards the higher plans. Council's Operational Plan 2025-26 contains 181 actions.

On 30 June 2026, 94% of Operational Plan actions were reported as achieved, and 6% of actions were reported as off track:

**GMR26/012 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26
12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**S012-
T00025**

Goals	Achieved	Off Track	Total
Our community - Eurobodalla welcomes, celebrates and supports everyone.	42	0	42
Our economy - We have a strong economy with learning, employment and business opportunities.	24	2	26
Our environment - We sustain our shire by balancing growth and protecting our natural environment.	25	5	30
Our infrastructure - Our community has reliable and safe infrastructure networks and community facilities.	46	2	48
Our civic leadership - We are an engaged community with progressive leadership.	34	1	35

During the year, Council has remained committed to supporting the four key priorities of the Delivery Program 2025-29: housing diversity, affordability, and liveability; financial stewardship; connections between towns and villages; and climate action and sustainability.

Some annual achievements include:

- Council established the Housing Improvement Advisory Committee (as per Council resolution PER25/026 on 16 December 2025) and is developing an interim Affordable Housing Policy. The policy will outline proposed affordable housing targets and planning controls and incentives to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Council's Housing Improvement Committee supported advocacy to the NSW Government for Southern Cross Housing to manage the Homes NSW social housing portfolio across Bega Valley and Eurobodalla under a long-term management arrangement.
- The Moruya Housing Infrastructure Project delivered one rural road reconstruction, three roundabouts, three pedestrian crossings, one pedestrian refuge, one footpath and traffic-calming measures to support future housing needs in Moruya.
- Council progressed the new Animal Shelter project, including completing community consultation on the development application, which will help inform the final plan. It is expected that a progress report will be provided to Council by December 2026.
- Council completed and endorsed the Bay Pavilions service review in late 2025. Council extended the current contract with Aligned Leisure for one year until June 2027 and endorsed an in-house model for delivering theatre and meeting room facilities from 1 July 2026, along with the development of new tenders for aquatic, gym and café services from 1 July 2027. The Bay Pavilions attracted 279,441 visits during the year, hosted 57 theatre performances attended by more than 13,600 people, and continued to grow as a major community and cultural hub.

**GMR26/012 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26
12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**S012-
T00025**

- Council developed the draft Mogo Trails Management Plan to support the transition to an in-house trail management and maintenance model. The trails are already generating additional visitation to businesses and attractions across the region.
- Council completed the urban road restoration projects and road resealing program, delivering more than 363,000m² of road rehabilitation across Eurobodalla.
- Council completed major road projects, including the Borang Creek Bridge upgrade, the Sylvan Street and George Bass Drive roundabout, and the Broulee Road and George Bass Drive roundabout.
- Council has commenced work on the Princes Highway roundabout in Moruya, supporting the future Moruya Emergency Services Precinct, Eurobodalla Regional Hospital and South Moruya growth area. The project is expected to be completed by December 2026.
- New pathway links at Northcove Road, Long Beach, and George Bass Drive, Malua Bay improved pedestrian safety and connectivity by removing longstanding gaps in the pathway network.
- The Surf Beach Emergency Services Precinct is operational.
- Council completed construction of the Long Beach coastal protection rock revetment and Surfside inundation levee and has prepared the Wharf Road rock revetment project for construction pending property acquisition.
- Council developed a draft Emissions Reduction Plan and will workshop it with the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee before reporting it to Council in 2026-27.
- The Bay Pavilions reduced energy consumption by approximately 20% during 2025-26 following the implementation of two information management systems that track and report facility power usage. Council completed the design for an additional 700kW of rooftop solar, which will significantly reduce power consumption and costs once installed.
- Council treated 276 hazard reduction sites (231 hectares) in accordance with the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan to manage and maintain Asset Protection Zones.

Additionally, Council continued to support our community to enhance overall community wellbeing through a range of actions. Some highlights include:

- Council celebrated NAIDOC Week, National Children's Week, and Seniors Week.
- Council installed new tourism wayfinding signage across key towns and gateways, celebrating the region's unique natural beauty and rich Indigenous heritage.
- Council hosted the inclusive All Abilities Dinner Dance with support from people with disability, including a skills development and employment component.
- Council's Y Drive program supported 580 learners, resulting in 226 provisional licences, 130 learner licences and 30 people regaining a full licence.
- Council's Youth Services delivered 68 youth programs and activities to almost 4,500 young people, including Youth Week events, the Currents Battle of the Bands, wellbeing workshops, employment programs and school-based initiatives.
- Council distributed \$178,685 through the Community Grants and Donations Program, supporting local events, community wellbeing initiatives, schools and community organisations.

**GMR26/012 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26
12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**S012-
T00025**

- Council provided a two-week free green waste drop-off period at waste management facilities in late 2025.
- Council supported 26 Landcare groups and hundreds of volunteers to undertake weed control, revegetation, habitat restoration and environmental education projects across Eurobodalla.
- Council completed significant upgrades at Bill Smyth Rugby Oval, Hanging Rock Soccer Oval and Gundry Soccer Oval, improving sports facilities for local clubs and athletes.

On 30 June 2026, 10 actions were flagged as off track:

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Directorate	Progress Update
2.1.1.1 Finalise a revised Economic Development Strategy	Planning Housing and Environment	The first stage of consultation is complete with 90 surveys and two submissions received focusing on business opportunities, barriers to growth and activation ideas. There were 12 one-to-one meetings conducted and three drop-in sessions in Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma. The information in conjunction with revised economic reports will inform the draft strategy. The review is progressing but has experienced delays due to emerging operational priorities. Work will continue to develop the draft strategy anticipated by late 2026. <i>A revised action is included in the Operational Plan 2026-27: 2.1.1.1 Finalise and implement the early-stage actions of the Economic Development Strategy.</i>
2.2.1.5 Create and implement a hyper-local campaign to activate residents to invite their friends and relatives to visit Eurobodalla	Community Arts and Recreation	Phase 1 (Meet a Local) is currently underway and the first two "Meet a Local" pilot videos have been completed. Meet a Local concept print executions have also been developed. Anticipated launch is November 2026. <i>A revised action is included in the Operational Plan 2026-27: 2.2.1.5 Launch and implement the Meet a Local campaign.</i>
3.1.1.4 Establish virtual fences within priority wildlife corridors	Planning Housing and Environment	A total of 8.6km of existing virtual fencing was maintained over the year at three locations: 1.1km along Blairs Road and Cullendulla Drive, Long Beach, 4.8kms along Dunns Creek Road, Woodlands, 2.7km along Tomakin Road, Mogo. Delays in new installations were caused by the investigation and repair of vandalism to the existing fences at Dunns Creek Road. A further 500 metres of virtual fencing

**GMR26/012 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26
12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**S012-
T00025**

		has been delivered which will be installed on Hector McWilliam Drive, Tuross in the 2026-27 financial year. <i>This action is recurrent and is included in the Operational Plan 2026-27: 3.1.1.4 Establish virtual fences within priority wildlife corridors.</i>
3.2.3.1 Finalise the Batemans Bay and Moruya Floodplain Risk Management Plans	Planning Housing and Environment	Council endorsed public exhibition of both plans earlier this year. Community consultation has now closed, and community feedback has been reviewed and considered. Final amendments are being made to both studies before they will be presented to Council for adoption by the end of 2026. <i>This action is included in the Operational Plan 2026-27: 3.2.3.1 Finalise the Batemans Bay and Moruya Floodplain Risk Management Plans.</i>
3.2.3.2 Commence preparing a floodplain management plan for Mogo, Mossy Point, Tomakin and Broulee	Planning Housing and Environment	Council is finalising the floodplain management plan for Batemans Bay and Moruya to ensure compliance with the NSW Floodplain Risk Management Process set out in the Flood Risk Management Manual (2023). The preparation of plans for Mogo, Mossy Point, Tomakin, and Broulee has been deferred until funding is secured to complete the project. Council has applied for funding under the 2026-27 Floodplain Management Grant program, with funding outcomes expected to be announced in October 2026. <i>This action is not included in the Operational Plan 2026-27.</i>
3.3.1.1 Finalise the Batemans Bay Masterplan	Planning Housing and Environment	At the October 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, the draft Batemans Bay Masterplan was presented to Council. Council resolved that further community consultation was needed, particularly to engage directly with groups that had lodged submissions. Since then, Council has met with interested parties, including landowners, developers, and community groups, to gain a deeper understanding of the issues raised. This engagement was followed by endorsement of a Project Management Plan and response to the Probity Report at the June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting (PER26/016). It is proposed to present a revised draft masterplan to the December Council meeting. <i>This action is included in the Operational Plan 2026-27: 3.3.1.1 Finalise the Batemans Bay Masterplan.</i>

**GMR26/012 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26
12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**S012-
T00025**

3.3.1.2 Prepare a planning proposal to implement the finalised Batemans Bay Masterplan	Planning Housing and Environment	Preparation of a planning proposal to inform a future amendment to the Eurobodalla Local Environmental Plan 2012 is dependent upon the revised Batemans Bay Masterplan being adopted by Council. <i>This action is included in the Operational Plan 2026-27: 3.3.1.2 Prepare a planning proposal to implement the finalised Batemans Bay Masterplan.</i>
4.1.4.1 Finalise the review and update of Council's Pathway Strategy	Planning Housing and Environment	The Project Control Group has been well established for more than 12 months, bringing together representatives from key areas across Council, including engineering, open space and environmental services. Community consultation was completed in mid-2026 through a combination of face-to-face engagement and online surveys. Feedback gathered is informing the development of the draft strategy, which is scheduled to be presented to Council in early 2027 to endorse public exhibition. <i>This action is included in the Operational Plan 2026-27: 4.1.4.1 Finalise the review and update of Council's Pathway Strategy.</i>
4.3.1.2 Complete the expansion of Surf Beach Waste Facility including enabling works on phase two landfill cell and an extension to the organics processing area	Planning Housing and Environment	The Surf Beach landfill expansion works have experienced delays. Works are continuing and will be completed in the 2026/27 financial year. <i>This action is not included in the Operational Plan 2026-27.</i>
5.3.2.3 Seek endorsement of a property strategy to support management of council land and property	Community Arts and Recreation	The draft property strategy is being reviewed considering current council strategic priorities, particularly the Housing Strategy. It is expected that the strategy will be presented to Council for endorsement in the 2026-27 financial year. <i>A revised action is included in the Operational Plan 2026-27: 5.3.2.3 Progress development and implementation of the Property Strategy</i>

Further information can be found in the attached Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26 12 Month Performance Update report.

**GMR26/012 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26
12 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**S012-
T00025**

Legal

In accordance with Section 404 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines for Local Government, Council is required to provide progress reports with respect to the activities detailed in the Delivery Program every six months.

Policy

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan draws on and implements actions contained in related Council policy documents.

Financial

Council's progress in delivering the Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26 has been supported by funding allocated through the adopted 2025-26 budget. Financial stewardship remains a key priority of the Delivery Program, with financial performance and year-end results reported separately through Council's Annual Financial Statements and Annual Report.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26 12 Month Performance Update report is an informing document for the community and will be published on council's website.

CONCLUSION

The Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26 12 Month Performance Update report provides an update of Council's progress to achieving our community's vision and goals as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan – Our Eurobodalla 2042.

**GMR26/013 DRAFT SUBMISSION TO THE NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT
GRANTS COMMISSION ON THE PROPOSED FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE GRANTS METHODOLOGY**

S012-T00025

Responsible Officer: Mark Ferguson - General Manager

Attachments: 1. Draft Submission to Grants Commission - Proposed Methodology

Community Goal: 5 We are an engaged community with progressive leadership

Community Strategy: 5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership

Delivery Program Link: 5.2.3 Advocate and collaborate to advance the region and address local issues

Operational Plan Link: 5.2.3.2 Actively participate in Local Government NSW and other sector organisations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NSW Local Government Grants Commission is undertaking consultation on a proposed new methodology for allocating Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to councils across New South Wales. The proposed methodology seeks to improve transparency, simplify the allocation process, utilise more reliable and independently sourced data, and better reflect relative financial need.

A draft submission has been prepared on behalf of Eurobodalla Shire Council for consideration by Council. The submission generally supports the proposed methodology, subject to several minor modifications and requests for further clarification regarding data sources, treatment of grant funding and implementation arrangements.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the attached submission prior to its lodgement with the NSW Local Government Grants Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the attached submission to the NSW Local Government Grants Commission – Proposed Methodology Consultation.

BACKGROUND

The NSW Local Government Grants Commission has commenced consultation on a proposed new methodology for the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants.

The review has been undertaken in response to concerns regarding the complexity of the current methodology, the reliability of some data inputs and the transparency of funding outcomes. The proposed methodology adopts a balanced budget approach and places greater reliance on independently sourced data and measures of relative need.

Financial Assistance Grants are an important source of untied funding for local government and support the delivery of essential services and infrastructure to communities across New South Wales.

The Commission has invited councils to provide submissions on the proposed methodology, with submissions closing on 9 October 2026.

GMR26/013	DRAFT SUBMISSION TO THE NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION ON THE PROPOSED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS METHODOLOGY	S012-T00025
------------------	---	--------------------

CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

Financial Assistance Grants are an important source of untied funding for Council. The proposed methodology may influence the future distribution of grant funding between councils; however, no financial commitment arises from the recommendation contained in this report. The submission seeks to ensure Council's views are considered as part of the consultation process before a final methodology is adopted.

CONCLUSION

The proposed methodology represents a significant change to the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants across the NSW local government sector. While the draft submission generally supports the principles underpinning the proposed approach, it also identifies several areas where additional information and clarification are required.

Endorsement of the attached submission will ensure Council's views are considered as part of the Commission's consultation process and contribute to the development of a transparent, equitable and sustainable methodology for the future allocation of Financial Assistance Grants.



Our Ref: S014-T00007

9 September 2026

The Chair
NSW Local Government Grants Commission
grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Proposed Methodology – Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant allocation 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed methodology for the allocation of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance (FA) Grant.

Eurobodalla Shire Council (ESC) is a regional local government area located on the South Coast of NSW, characterised by dispersed communities and significant infrastructure assets.

Financial Assistance Grants are an important source of funding for ESC and support the delivery of essential services and infrastructure to the community. The grants provide an important and reliable source of untied funding that supports Council's ability to deliver services and infrastructure across the Shire.

ESC supports the proposed methodology for the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants, subject to several minor modifications and further clarification regarding data sources, modelling assumptions and transitional arrangements.

The review undertaken by the Local Government Grants Commission is welcomed. It supports the Commission's objective of delivering a methodology that is simpler, more transparent, and based on reliable and independently sourced data. The proposed balanced budget approach is a significant improvement on the current methodology and aligns with approaches used in most Australian jurisdictions.

The indicative estimate provided separately by the Commission suggests an increase in ESC's allocation under the proposed methodology. Support for the methodology is based on the principles, transparency, and robustness of the model rather than the projected funding outcome.

Alignment with Principles

The proposed methodology is broadly aligned with the National principles for the allocation of grants under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (The National Principles).



ESC is supportive of the proposed approach of allocating the per capita minimum grant component before assessing relative need. This approach is transparent, easy to understand, and consistent with the intent of the Commonwealth funding framework. The move to a balanced budget methodology is supported as it considers both expenditure requirements and revenue-raising capacity when assessing relative need.

Practicality and Implementation

ESC supports the Commission's objective of reducing complexity and improving confidence in grant allocations. The proposed methodology appears to significantly reduce the administrative burden on councils by minimising reliance on council-supplied datasets and increasing the use of independently sourced and verifiable information. ESC agrees with the Commission's assessment that several of the existing cost drivers have become increasingly difficult to validate and have reduced confidence in the current methodology. The proposed approach should result in more consistent and reliable data inputs across the local government sector while reducing reporting effort for councils.

Transparency and Clarity

While ESC supports the direction of the proposed methodology, additional information would improve transparency and assist councils in understanding how allocations are determined. The consultation materials provide a useful overview of the proposed framework; however, they do not provide sufficient detail to fully understand the relationship between the inputs and the funding outcomes. Providing this information would improve understanding, increase confidence in the methodology, and support meaningful consultation across the sector.

It is noted that updated correspondence was provided on 4 September 2026 outlining indicative funding changes and documented summary of the proposed methodology changes "Attachment A". ESC considers that it would have been more transparent to have provided this information and context in advance of the scheduled in-person consultation sessions.

Data Sources and Indicators

Clarification is sought regarding the treatment of operating grants within the assessment of revenue capacity. While the use of a rolling average may smooth year-to-year fluctuations, it remains unclear how one-off grant-funded programs will be treated within the model. This is particularly relevant for councils impacted by natural disasters. Councils receiving significant disaster recovery funding often experience corresponding expenditure increases that are directly associated with those grants. The methodology should ensure that councils experiencing significant natural disaster events are not inadvertently disadvantaged through the treatment of external funding that is outside their control.

ESC supports the proposed local roads methodology and, in particular, the use of recognised industry cost indices such as Rawlinsons. The proposed approach appears more transparent and readily verifiable than the current methodology and should provide a more reliable basis for assessing relative infrastructure



costs across the State. Clarification is sought on the changes from the existing methodology and proposed data sources, particularly where large variances in reported road network lengths exist due to both the quality of the asset data and explicit definitions of what roads are included.

ESC supports the inclusion of indicators that recognise the service delivery needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Recognising these factors is consistent with the National Principles and assists in ensuring councils with higher levels of need are appropriately considered within the allocation process.

Potential Impacts

ESC acknowledges the rationale for the proposed methodology and the potential benefits of more reliable data, greater consistency with approaches used in other states, and a stronger focus on relative financial need. However, the redistribution of funding is likely to result in significant impacts for some councils, particularly regional councils experiencing material reductions in grant allocations. These councils may need to adjust long-term financial plans and operating budgets, and the scale of change may create perceptions of "winners" and "losers" across the sector. Appropriate transition arrangements and clear communication will be important to supporting successful implementation.

Risks and Unintended Consequences

ESC has identified the following potential risks and unintended consequences:

Treatment of External Grant Funding

Without further clarification, the inclusion of operating grants within revenue assessments may unintentionally distort grant outcomes for councils receiving significant one-off funding.

Transparency of Modelling

Limited visibility of modelling assumptions may reduce councils' ability to understand changes in grant allocations and could undermine confidence in the methodology.

Significant funding redistribution may create financial planning challenges for councils experiencing material reductions in grant allocations.

ESC seeks clarification regarding whether capping and collaring arrangements, or an alternative transition mechanism, will continue to apply under the new methodology.

Ongoing Data Review

The Commission should ensure that the underlying indicators and datasets are periodically reviewed to maintain relevance and reliability over time.



Suggested Improvements

ESC recommends that the Commission:

1. Publish the council-level indicative funding outcomes used during consultation.
2. Clarify the treatment of operating grants, particularly significant one-off grants.
3. Confirm whether capping and collaring arrangements, or alternative transitional measures, will apply when the methodology is implemented.
4. Establish a periodic review process to ensure data sources and indicators remain current and fit for purpose.

Additional Comments

Overall, ESC supports the proposed methodology and believes it represents a substantial improvement on the current approach. Subject to the clarifications and enhancements outlined above, ESC considers the methodology to be broadly consistent with the principles of equity, transparency, effort neutrality and horizontal fiscal equalisation.

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline Sullivan
Chief Financial Officer

**GMR26/014 DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE
2026 - REFERRAL FOR AUDIT**

**S011-
T00002**

Responsible Officer: Jacqueline Sullivan - Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Under Separate Cover - Annual Financial Statements - GPFS 2026 Draft
2. Under Separate Cover - Annual Financial Statements - SPFS 2026 Draft

Outcome: 5 Our engaged community with progressive leadership

Focus Area: 5.3 Work together to achieve our collective vision

Delivery Program Link: 5.3.1 Provide strong corporate and financial management that is ethical, fair, transparent and accountable

Operational Plan Link: 5.3.1.1 Provide sound and strategic financial management and reporting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's resolution to refer the draft Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 to audit. Under Section 413(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* Council must prepare Financial Statements for each year and must refer them for audit as soon as practicable after the end of that year.

The audit will be conducted by Crowe Australasia on behalf of the NSW Audit Office. Once audited, the Financial Statements are scheduled to be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council 24 November 2026 and will also be made available to the community for comment.

Under Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act*, a council's financial statements must include a statement by the council expressing its opinion on those statements. The required format for this statement is prescribed in Section 215 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation*. This statement appears on page 4 of the General-Purpose Financial Statements and page 3 of the Special Purpose Financial Statements. It confirms that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable legislative requirements and professional accounting standards.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the draft Annual Financial Statements (including the General-Purpose Financial Statements and the Special Purpose Financial Statements) for the year ended 30 June 2026 be referred to audit.
2. That the statement by councillors and management be made pursuant to section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended) and signed by the mayor, deputy mayor (or councillor), general manager and responsible accounting officer with reference to both the General Purpose Financial Statements and the Special Purpose Financial Statements.

**GMR26/014 DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE
2026 - REFERRAL FOR AUDIT**

**S011-
T00002**

BACKGROUND

Under Section 413(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* Council must prepare Financial Statements for each year and must refer them for audit as soon as practicable after the end of that year.

This process ensures transparency and accountability in Council's financial reporting.
The Financial Statements include:

- **General Purpose Financial Statements** – Prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, to present Council's consolidated financial performance and position.
- **Special Purpose Financial Statements** – Prepared to meet obligations under the National Competition Policy and assess the financial performance of Council's water supply and sewerage services as well as its declared business activities: Batemans Bay Beach Resort and Bay Pavilions.

Council must also provide a formal statement confirming that the Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and accounting standards.

Table 1: Key dates in the Financial Statement preparation process:

Date	Milestone
29 September 2026	Council resolves to refer the draft Financial Statements for audit.
23 October 2026	NSW Audit Office issues the Independent Auditor's Reports.
31 October 2026	Lodgement of audited Financial Statements with the Office of Local Government (as required under Section 416(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>)
24 November 2026	Presentation of audited Financial Statements at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

It should be noted that if the draft Financial Statements are materially amended following the audit, the statement by management and councillors may need to be re-signed to reflect any updated financial results.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy

Local Government Act 1993 and the regulations made thereunder.

Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

Other policies as required for preparation of the Special Purposes Financial Statements.

**GMR26/014 DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE
2026 - REFERRAL FOR AUDIT**

**S011-
T00002**

Financial

Council's draft consolidated operating result before capital grants and contributions for the year ended 30 June 2026 was a deficit of \$8.51 million (\$14.27 million deficit in 2025). This was an unfavourable result when compared with the original budgeted deficit of \$1.52 million.

The improvement in the operating result compared with the prior year was largely influenced by the timing of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant prepayment. Council received \$12.4 million in prepayments during 2025-26 compared with \$6.1 million in the previous year. Excluding the impact of this timing difference, Council's underlying operating performance was broadly consistent with the prior year. Employee costs and materials and services expenditure reduced following Council's transition out of Community Care and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service delivery, with these reductions largely offset by a corresponding decrease in user charges and fee revenue.

The variance to the original budget reflects the cumulative impact of a number of budget adjustments and operational outcomes that were reported throughout the year in the Quarterly Budget Review Statements. The most significant favourable variances related to the timing of Financial Assistance Grant funding, higher investment income and stronger than anticipated user charges and fee revenue. These favourable movements were more than offset by higher asset disposal losses, increased depreciation expense and employee termination payments, resulting in an operating result that was below the March QBRS forecast.

Capital expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2026 totalled \$62.71 million, compared with the March QBRS forecast of \$77.65 million. The variance primarily reflects the timing of project delivery rather than project cancellation. Despite the variance to the March forecast, actual expenditure remained broadly aligned with Council's original adopted capital program of \$64.01 million. This reflects continued improvement in Council's ability to develop realistic and achievable capital works programs.

Council's cash and investments decreased by \$5.82 million to \$173.73 million. Most of this decrease can be attributed to an increase in amounts owed to Council at year end, which had been recognised as revenue but not yet received in cash. Unrestricted cash remains stable at \$10.00 million.

The Annual Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended), the [Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting](#) (Code) and the Australian Accounting Standards. Council employs professionally qualified officers to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements and accounting standards.

This year's Code again excludes certain performance indicators (ratios), as they are currently under review by the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG). While these ratios are no longer part of the Code, OLG will continue to collect the relevant data through the Financial Data Return. Council will continue to report these ratios in the Annual Report using the existing methodology, ensuring transparency and continuity in financial performance reporting.

No matters or occurrences have come to attention that would materially affect the Financial Statements or disclosures therein, or that are likely to materially affect the future results or

**GMR26/014 DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE
2026 - REFERRAL FOR AUDIT**

**S011-
T00002**

operations of Council. In addition, staff and management have not been advised by the external Auditor of any notable issues during the interim audit conducted in April 2026.

On 21 September 2026, Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) held a special meeting to review and discuss the draft General Purpose Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026. At that time, the draft Financial Statements were substantially complete and provided a sound basis for review. ARIC noted that the following disclosure notes were still being finalised and were therefore not available for review:

- E1 Risks Relating to Financial Instruments Held
- E2 Fair Value Measurement
- E3 Contingencies
- F1 Key Management Personnel
- F2 Audit Fees
- G2-1 Commitments
- G3-1 Events Occurring After the Reporting Date

The draft Financial Statements attached to this report are the same version reviewed by ARIC and do not yet include the above disclosure notes. ARIC requested that management provide a final version of the 2025-26 Financial Statements, identifying any changes made since the version reviewed on 21 September 2026, once the remaining disclosures have been completed.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The audited Financial Statements will be presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 24 November 2026. They will be attached to the public agenda for this meeting and made available seven days prior. In addition, the audited Financial Statements will be included as an appendix to Council's Annual Report, which will also be presented at the November meeting.

Council's Financial Statements and Annual Reports are available on Council's website.

CONCLUSION

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with all relevant standards and are ready for audit. Subject to Council's resolution, the Financial Statements can be signed by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor (or Councillor), General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer as required under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

GMR26/015 INVESTMENTS MADE AS AT 31 AUGUST 2026

**S011-T00006,
S012-T00025**

Responsible Officer: Jacqueline Sullivan - Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Under Separate Cover - ESC Investments - August 2026

Community Goal: 5 We are an engaged community progressive leadership.

Community Strategy: 5.3. Well managed and governed resources systems and processes

Delivery Program Link: 5.3.1 Demonstrate future focussed corporate and financial management that is ethical, sustainable, transparent and accountable

Operational Plan Link: 5.3.1.1 Provide strategic financial management and services guided by the Finance Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to:

- Certify that Council's investments in financial instruments have been made in accordance with legislation and policy requirements.
- Provide information and details of investments.
- Raise other matters relevant to Council investing cash.

DATE OF CERTIFICATON OF INVESTMENTS: 31 August 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That the certification of investments as of 31 August 2026, made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Council's Investment Policy and the provision of Clause 1 (Reg. 212) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, be received.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy

As at the certification date stated above, Council's investment portfolio is compliant with Council's Investment Policy adopted by Council on 23 September 2025 (Minute 25/148). A summary of holdings by risk category is summarised below in Table 1.

GMR26/015 INVESTMENTS MADE AS AT 31 AUGUST 2026

**S011-T00006,
S012-T00025**

Table 1 – Policy Risk Categories

S&P Long Term Category	Current Holdings	Maximum Holdings
NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp)	0%	100%
AAA to A	63.31%	100%
A-	13.29%	40%
BBB+ to BBB	23.39%	30%
BBB- & Below	0%	5%

Investment holdings summary

Table 2 provides a summary of cash and investment balances as at the certification date. Fossil fuel free refers to institutions that have no exposure or no longer directly finance projects in the fossil fuel industry but still have some exposure from historical funding.

Table 2 – Investment holdings by category

Category	(\$)	% of Portfolio
Term Deposits – Green*	5,000,000	3.13%
Term Deposits – Fossil Fuel Free Institutions	64,000,000	40.06%
Term Deposits	90,753,503	56.81%
Total Investments	159,753,503	
At Call Deposit	5,841,924	
Cash at Bank (Operating Account)	22,482,095	
Total Cash Accounts	28,324,018	
Total Cash and Investments	188,077,521	

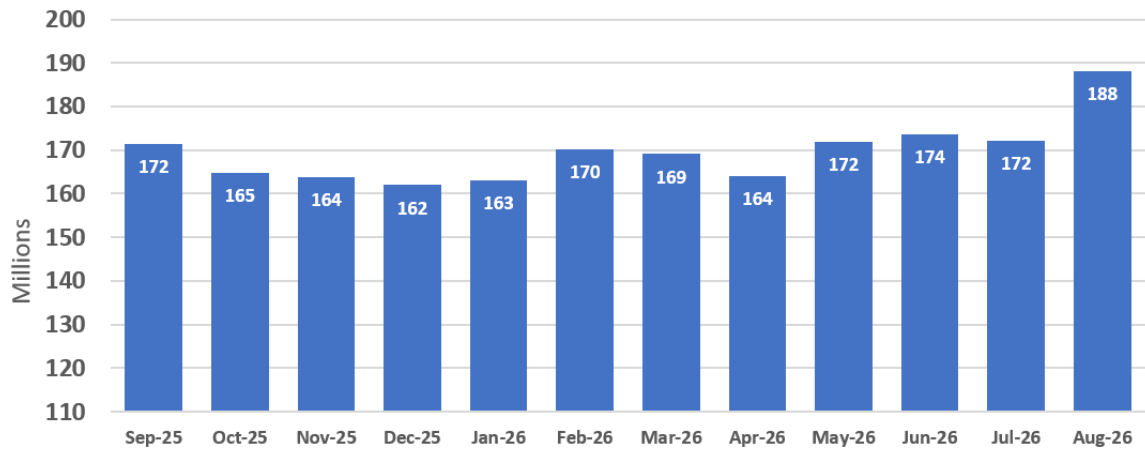
*Green term deposits certified by the Climate Bonds Standard.

Cash and investments increased by \$16 million in August 2026 due to receipt of rates revenue in August.

GMR26/015 INVESTMENTS MADE AS AT 31 AUGUST 2026

S011-T00006,
S012-T00025

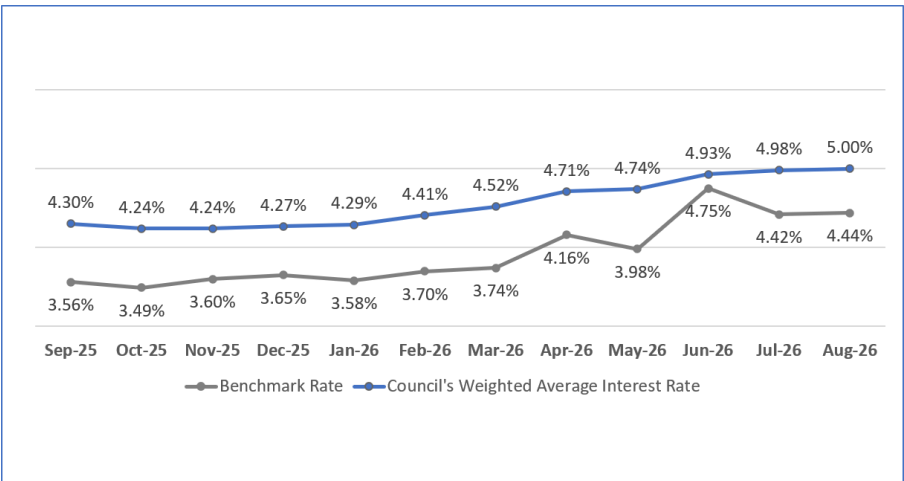
Graph 1 – Total Cash and Investment Balances (12 months)



Performance

The weighted average monthly return on Council’s investments for the certified period is 5.00%, surpassing the Council policy benchmark of 4.44% (AusBond Bank Bill Index 1 month annualised). Graph 2 compares Council’s weighted average return to the benchmark rate over a 12-month period. The benchmark rate reflects current short-term market interest rates and investor expectations of future movements in official interest rates. Council's investment returns tend to move more gradually because the portfolio contains investments secured at different times and for varying terms. As a result, Council's returns will not always move in line with short-term market fluctuations.

Graph 2 – Investment performance over 12 months



The Monthly YieldHub reports prepared on behalf of Council by [Curve Securities](#) are attached to this report. These reports provide visibility over the diversification and performance of Council’s investment portfolio. Curve Securities are term deposit and fixed income specialists servicing over 200 Local, State and Federal Government clients.

GMR26/015 INVESTMENTS MADE AS AT 31 AUGUST 2026

**S011-T00006,
S012-T00025**

Along with the YieldHub reports, Council gains access to a broad range of Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADIs), competitive investment rates, streamlined onboarding processes for investment products and a secure online tracking and reporting platform. Council does not pay Curve directly; Curve receives commission from participating banks, and Council continues to source rates directly from institutions.

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to provision of Clause 1 (Reg. 212) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I hereby certify that these investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and related regulations. Further details on Council's investments are outlined in the attached investment report.

**GMR26/016 AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - MEETING
MINUTES 1 APRIL 2026**

**S004-
T00048**

Responsible Officer: Scott Westbury - Corporate Manager Governance and Risk
Attachments: 1. ARIC Meeting Minutes April 2026
Community Goal: 5 We are an engaged community progressive leadership.
Community Strategy: 5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership
Delivery Program Link: 5.2.2 Implement effective governance and long-term planning
Operational Plan Link: 5.2.2.7 Facilitate the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in line with guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) is an advisory committee to Council. The NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) has issued comprehensive Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW which outline the purpose of the ARIC, the Statutory Framework, the role of the governing body, the role of the general manager, and the role, composition and criteria for membership of the ARIC.

A requirement of the OLG Guidelines is that ARIC meeting minutes be present at a subsequent Ordinary Meeting of Council. As such, the minutes of the meeting held 1 April 2026 are presented to this Ordinary Meeting of Council by way of this report.

This report provides a summary of the meeting with a copy of the minutes attached for Council to receive and note.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the minutes of the ARIC meeting held on 1 April 2026.

CONSIDERATIONS

The key items covered at the meeting included:

- FY2026 Financial Audit Engagement Plan
- Updated Internal Audit Plan – Centium undertaking 2 audits while an in-house Internal Auditor is recruited
- Status updates on open items from previous internal audits
- Auditor-General 2025 audit report findings
- Risk framework update
- Aged Care Reforms
- Detailed update on hazardous materials management
- Council's Insurance Program

CONCLUSION

This report summarises Council's ARIC meeting held on 1 April 2026, with minutes attached separately for Council to receive and note.



Minutes

Audit Risk and Improvement Committee

1 April 2026

**MINUTES OF THE
AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE GLASS MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
ON WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2026
COMMENCING AT 11:00AM**

PRESENT: Grant Doran – Independent Member (in the Chair)
Nick Derera – Independent Member (via audio visual link)
Jodi Keast – Independent Member (via audio visual link)
Councillor Sharon Winslade
Jason Gilbert – External Auditor, Crowe Australasia (via audio visual link)

Staff: Mark Ferguson, General Manager
Jacqueline Sullivan, Acting Director Finance and Corporate Services
Scott Westbury, Corporate Manager, Governance and Risk
Lauren Evans, Minute Secretary

1. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY, APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners.

The Chair advised the Committee that the meeting would be recorded using the AI transcript platform 'Firefly' for the purpose of preparing meeting minutes only. The Committee discussed the use of Microsoft Copilot AI Software, noting that it is Council's authorised AI tool for security control purposes. It was agreed that, going forward the meeting will be transcribed using Microsoft Copilot, facilitated by the minute secretary.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF 3 DECEMBER 2025

The Committee resolved to approve the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 3 December 2025, subject to several minor wording amendments and clarifications. The minutes will be amended and emailed to the Committee for final review. The minutes will then be presented to the Council Meeting on 28 April 2026.

Nick requested the minutes be distributed to the Committee earlier than current process of sending with the agenda papers for the next meeting. It was agreed that moving forwards the minutes will be distributed to the Committee following review by the Chair.

4. EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE – JASON GILBERT, CROWE AUSTRALASIA

a) FY2026 Audit Engagement Plan

The Committee was briefed by Jason Gilbert who advised that planning for the FY2026 Audit is underway. Jason presented the FY2026 Audit Engagement Plan.

Grant asked whether there would be a rotation of the External Auditor. Jason advised that Crowe operates under a five-year rotation of audit delivery staff.

Jason advised the interim Audit is scheduled for mid-April.

Nick asked how any Eurobodalla-specific matters would be addressed. Jason advised that any Eurobodalla-specific issues would be captured through the audit process, including the identification of associated risks.

Jodi asked how risks are identified given there are currently no documented risks. Jason advised that a planning meeting was held with management in February, where emerging risks for Eurobodalla were discussed. Any risks identified will be incorporated into the Engagement Plan. Jason also advised that, as part of the document drafting process, the Audit Office reviews the plan and provides input.

Jodi queried the focus on management override of controls, related party disclosures, and the use of data mining. Jason advised this process had been discussed and noted that the NSW Audit Office has access to the ASIC audit database. Jason advised this could potentially be built into the audit process for Committee consideration.

Sharon commented on potential risk from contracts being repeatedly awarded to the same provider. Scott advised that this is addressed in Council's Procurement Policy.

The General Manager raised depreciation, noting that a more flexible approach is emerging. Jason advised this has been an ongoing discussion across the sector; however, Council remains constrained by OLG Financial Reporting Requirements and applicable accounting standards.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee notes the information contained in the report on the FY2026 Audit Engagement Plan.

Jason Gilbert left the meeting at 11:23am.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

a) In-house recruitment process/status

The Committee was briefed by Scott Westbury regarding the recruitment for an in-house Internal Auditor position, following the update to the Internal Audit Charter which was adopted by Council in December 2025.

Scott advised following a 4 week advertisement of the position, there was only one applicant which subsequently withdrew the day prior to interview. Concerns were noted regarding the difficulty in attracting suitable candidates to the area for a part-time role. As a result, the General Manager in consultation with People and Safety and the Corporate Manager Governance and Risk, has agreed to change the position to full-time, with a broader focus.

It was noted that the current timeline anticipates having an Internal Auditor in place by mid-July. The General Manager to discuss with People and Safety the possibility of progressing the role to market without requiring Staff Consultative Committee approval.

b) Internal Audit updated plan, next steps

Scott advised that he had contacted Centium regarding an interim contract to conduct 2 internal audits while recruitment of the in-house Internal Auditor takes place. Based on the updated Internal Audit Plan prepared by ARIC at their informal meeting held January 2026, scope and pricing was requested for internal audits on Fraud and Corruption, and Child Safe Standards and Compliance. This information was provided to the Committee with the agenda papers.

Jodi raised fraud and corruption, noting that ICAC has an established framework, including the *Corruption and Control Maturity Guide* (February 2023). Jodi queried whether the audit would assess Council against this framework. Scott advised he would discuss this matter offline with Centium and report back to ARIC.

In relation to Child Safety, the Committee sought clarification on whether the audit would be a desktop review or involve site visits. Scott advised he would confirm the audit methodology with Centium and report back to ARIC.

The Committee asked whether any concerns had been reported to the Office of the Children's Guardian. The General Manager advised there had been one historic claim. He further noted that the Office of Local Government (OLG) had recently made contact regarding a matter; however, this had not progressed. The General Manager advised that OLG is currently implementing a funnelled approach to managing reportable incidents.

Sharon raised concerns regarding compliance with Child Safe Standards in relation to contractors, particularly third-party providers such as those engaged for pools, parks, and garden maintenance. Scott advised he would confirm with Centium that these would be included and report back to ARIC.

Grant asked the Committee for guidance on the prioritisation of actions in the ARIC Four Year Audit Plan 2026-28. Nick proposed prioritising Child Safety audits. Jodi supported this approach, with Sharon noting unanimous agreement from the Committee.

Jodi asked if Council has the capacity to undertake both audits concurrently. Scott advised he would review this, noting the intention to complete two audits before June.

Sharon queried whether a costing had been undertaken. Scott advised that the estimated cost is approximately \$120,000 - \$130,000 to engage a qualified Internal Auditor, while individual audits conducted by Centium cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per audit.

The General Manager commented that engaging a consultant provides an external perspective, while an internal auditor embedded within the organisation can build accountability and support continuous improvement.

Grant noted that the Internal Audit Plan is intended to be a living document that evolves over time.

Actions:

- Scott to discuss with Centium whether the audit will assess Council against the ICAC Fraud and Corruption Framework and report back to the Committee.
- Scott to seek clarification from Centium regarding whether the child safety audit will include site visits and cover contractors, and provide feedback to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee notes the information contained in the report on the Internal Audit - Updated Plan 2026, and endorses the updated draft plan, including the Centium proposal and scope, with first priority being the Child Safe audit.

6. COUNCIL UPDATES

a) Open Action Items from previous ARIC minutes

Scott reviewed the open action items from previous ARIC meeting minutes and queried whether the Committee wished for ongoing action items to remain as a standing agenda item at each meeting. The Chair supported this approach to enable effective tracking of outstanding actions.

b) Open Items from previous internal audits

Scott reviewed the open items from previous internal audits. He asked whether the Committee wished to retain open action items as a standing agenda item at each meeting. The Chair confirmed this approach, noting it would assist in tracking progress.

The Committee requested that report title be updated to Internal and External Audit Open Action Items, reflecting that open external audit items are also listed.

Nick queried when the open items listed under the Internal and External Audit Open Action Items would be closed. Scott advised that good progress had been made in each open Internal Audit, in particular the reduction in the number of open "high risk" items. It was also noted that some items had delayed progress due to key roles being vacant.

The Committee discussed each of the open internal audits, being WHS, Cyber Security and Asbestos.

Jodi, noting her role as a member of ARIC, expressed concern regarding the Asbestos Audit, particularly in relation to actions that have been deferred to 2027. Scott advised that a detailed update on Asbestos Management would be provided by the recently appointed Hazardous Materials Coordinator as a separate agenda item later in the meeting.

Scott advised that he would continue to monitor progress and follow up with the relevant managers, for each of the open audit items.

The General Manager noted that there has been a significant positive shift in organisational culture regarding WHS embeddedness.

Jodi referred to the audit finding regarding the inability to locate lung function testing records in Council's document management system. Scott advised that, with assistance from the WHS team, the iCare Lung Bus report had been located and confirmed as completed in 2023. It was further confirmed that Council is up to date with all required testing and documentation, with no exposure and no risk of non-compliance.

Recommendation 11 – Health Testing: Scott to update the commentary to reflect that lung function testing was completed in 2023 and that WHS has confirmed testing is current and compliant.

Actions:

- Scott to update the commentary to reflect that lung function testing was completed in 2023 and that WHS has confirmed testing is current and compliant.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee notes the information contained in the report on Internal Audit Open Action Items.

c) General Manager Update including legal matters

The General Manager advised that a significant proposed organisational restructure was announced approximately six weeks ago and has since concluded the exhibition period. The proposed structure reduces the organisation from four directorates to three, with the net effect being the removal of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services position and redistribution of functions into Community, Arts and Recreation Services (CARS) or directly to the General Manager. The Governance and Risk function will move under People and Culture.

The General Manager explained that the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer will report directly to the General Manager, and the Chief People Officer role will incorporate people, safety, and governance functions. These changes are intended to strengthen oversight of two key risk areas—finance and governance—while also achieving cost reductions through a streamlined executive structure. As part of this, the Executive Manager Public Affairs role will be redesigned to a divisional manager role which will sit under CARS. Further structural changes have also been proposed within the Planning and Environment directorate to provide stronger emphasis on Environment, Housing and Compliance.

During the exhibition period, several positions were identified as redundant. A number of staff submissions were received, raising concerns, suggesting changes, and providing constructive feedback. The General Manager advised that this feedback is being considered and will be reported back to the organisation in the coming week. Overall feedback has been largely positive. It is also proposed to have a Coordinator General Manager's Office (incorporating the EA function). Approximately twelve staff consultation sessions were held, along with individual discussions, which were generally well received.

He also noted current cost pressures, including fuel and staff cost increases, and the impact on the organisation. While fuel availability is not currently an issue, Council will launch a car-pooling initiative the following day, particularly targeting staff who live outside Moruya.

The General Manager advised that Council is currently managing two court matters relating to planning issues, both of which have involved Section 38 conferences:

- A dual occupancy matter at Denhams Beach involving a seawall constructed without approval, which will proceed to a hearing.
- A low-cost housing proposal at Narooma (approximately 200 lots), which proceeded to conciliation without agreement and is now subject to judicial determination, with a decision expected in the coming months.

Nick requested a copy of the new organisational structure, which the General Manager advised will be available next week.

d) CFO Update (includes Auditor General 2025 report)

Jacque advised that the report be taken as read, noting that the key priorities at present are the budget and the preparation of the financial statements. She provided context regarding procurement and contract management arrangements and confirmed that these functions sit under the Chief Financial Officer.

It was noted that the previous procurement guidelines link had been removed from the OLG website following a website update. Jacquie advised that the new guidelines adopt a lifecycle approach to procurement, focusing on the full lifecycle of sourcing and contract management.

Jodi queried whether there were any key matters arising from the Code of Accounting Practice that the Committee should be aware of in preparation for end-of-financial-year reporting. Jacquie confirmed there are no significant changes to the Code that would impact Council.

The Committee discussed whether the Finance team is adequately resourced to meet all tasks associated with the preparation of the financial statements and statutory deadlines. Jacquie advised that while there are some current vacancies, recruitment is underway and contractual support can be engaged during peak periods. She confirmed that risk mitigation strategies are in place. Nick commented on whether the task list was manageable, noting that advice had already been provided.

The Committee sought clarification on how procurement governance would be implemented across the organisation. Jacquie advised that while frameworks and policies can be developed, effective implementation and staff understanding are critical, and training will be more beneficial. She noted that Local Government Procurement provides governance support to councils. Nick indicated he would request a progress update following implementation at the next meeting.

In response to a query regarding Council's financial position relative to other NSW councils, the General Manager advised that of approximately 85 regional councils, around 75 are currently reporting deficits, equating to approximately 90% of councils, and that the situation has worsened over the past decade.

Sharon asked whether ARIC was aware of the General Manager's recent appointment to an expert advisory panel. The General Manager advised that he has been appointed to an Auditor-General led expert advisory panel, to advise the Minister on financial sustainability across NSW councils. The Committee congratulated the General Manager on his appointment.

Jacquie referred to the Internal Audit report and its key takeaways. It was agreed that a summary of the key findings would be circulated to the Committee. The General Manager also noted commentary from the Auditor-General regarding "fit for purpose" audits, similar in concept to the former "Fit for the Future" framework.

Actions:

- Jacquie to email a summary outlining the key findings from the Audit Office of NSW report *Local Government 2025*, together with high-level commentary on Eurobodalla Shire Council's position and response in relation to each finding.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee notes the information contained in the Finance Status Update report.

e) Governance Update – key Council Decisions Resolved (includes Batemans Bay Masterplan Probity Report)

Scott provided an update of key decisions resolved by Council since the previous ARIC meeting, including that an Extraordinary Council Meeting was held on 10 March 2026 to consider the Batemans Bay Masterplan Probity Report. As a result of the meeting, an external workshop on the Batemans Bay Masterplan will be held on 14 April. The workshop will be open to the public and livestreamed. The purpose of the session is to discuss key elements of the Masterplan before undertaking further community engagement.

The Committee discussed whether the future scope of the Masterplan is sufficiently clear. It was noted that while the Masterplan concept is supported, it requires a realistic assessment of what is achievable in the context of growth projections and delivery capability. A clearer focus on implementation was identified as necessary. Concern was raised that community engagement may have been more effective if undertaken earlier in the process, and reference was made to the Council site that has since been removed from the scope.

The Probity Report was noted as identifying several areas where processes could have been improved.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee notes the information contained in the Governance Update.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

a) Status update and timelines

The Committee was briefed by Scott Westbury on the current risk management framework and provided the opportunity to ask questions.

The Chair raised concerns regarding the residual risk associated with Council's capacity to plan for and respond to a significant disaster, noting that despite the existence of a Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO), the risk rating remains high. The Chair requested a summary outlining the current controls and issues contributing to this rating.

Scott advised that a Business Continuity Planning (BCP) session had recently been held with the Leadership Team and that a report will be shared once finalised. He further advised that all sub-plans require review and that the Risk Team will meet with each sub-plan owner to review and update their plans, with particular focus on maximum outage times.

The Chair requested that a report on the BCP session and learnings be provided to the next Committee meeting.

The General Manager noted that reliance on LEMO arrangements alone is insufficient and highlighted the need for an Incident Control Group to provide coordinated corporate response capability, in addition to community response arrangements involving emergency services. He advised that the current core crisis continuity team within the BCP framework requires revision to function as an operational group at Level 3 of the organisation.

Scott confirmed that testing of the Business Continuity Plan, previously listed as an open audit action item, has now been completed and closed.

Nick supported the General Manager's comments and noted that four risks remain rated as high. While acknowledging that mitigation plans are in place, Nick expressed the view that these risks are critical to the organisation and that effective implementation should result in a lower risk rating over time.

Action

- Scott to provide an update on disaster preparedness and the findings of the BCP simulation exercise to the next ARIC meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee notes the information contained in the Risk Management Framework Update.

b) Open insurance claims

Scott advised that he had not previously briefed ARIC on this matter. He noted that he meets quarterly with Statewide Mutual to review open insurance claims and that a current list of open claims was provided to the Committee.

Jodi queried whether there were any systemic issues arising from the claims history that the organisation needs to address. She also recommended that personal information on the Statewide claims list, including claimants' names, should be removed noting that such details were not necessary for Committee oversight.

Scott agreed to amend the reporting format going forward by removing personal identifiers and using claimant titles only, with names redacted.

Scott further advised that, in terms of key learnings, one notable claim related to a playground injury that occurred after Christmas. As a result, Council reviewed its recreational spaces to ensure appropriate signage is in place at Council-owned sites.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee notes the information in the report on Open Insurance Claims.

8 IMPROVEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Kim Bush and Kathy Arthur joined the meeting at 12.50pm.

a) Aged Care Reforms – Kim Bush

Kim Bush provided an update on Aged Care Reforms, noting that recent presentations had been delivered to the Executive Leadership Team and Councillors. It was confirmed that a snapshot summary will be circulated to the Committee.

The Chair asked whether Council maintains a register in relation to aged care services. Kim advised that Council is compliant under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP).

The General Manager noted that all direct care services are outsourced. The Chair highlighted the importance of maintaining sector support funding during the transition period to ensure continuity of services for older residents.

Actions:

- Snapshot summary to be circulated to the Committee with meeting minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee notes the information contained in the report on Aged Care Reforms.

Kim Bush left the meeting at 12.59pm

Paul Santos and Carl Ginger arrived at 12.59pm

b) Asbestos Management Update – Paul Santos

Carl Ginger introduced Council's new Hazardous Materials Coordinator, Paul Santos.

The Chair noted that the asbestos audit was conducted approximately three years ago and has remained a focus of ARIC due to the risks to the community and staff. The Committee sought an update on the current risk profile and the actions required to manage organisational and staff risks.

Paul Santos advised that work has commenced to address the audit findings and to establish robust systems for managing asbestos and hazardous materials risks going forward.

Paul provided an overview of progress to date:

- Consultants were engaged in 2022, with hygienists engaged in 2023.
- An Asbestos Management Policy was drafted in 2025 but remains in draft form.
- In February 2026, a Hazardous Materials Coordinator was appointed, enabling renewed focus on the program.
- Existing documentation has been reviewed, and a debrief undertaken. The policy is being updated to ensure alignment with all relevant legislation and codes, noting that further refinement is required following the release of new guidance.
- A Hazardous Materials Framework is being developed alongside rollout guidelines.
- A suite of hazardous materials registers is planned to be in place by June 2026, including asbestos management plans for individual sites.
- A broader remediation plan is targeted for completion by December 2026, subject to budget and capacity considerations.

Paul further advised that work is underway with the People and Safety team to identify training requirements for staff and contractors, and to establish appropriate registers to maintain compliance with WorkSafe obligations. Community-facing information, including FAQs and guidance for contractors and builders undertaking public works, is also being developed.

Scott queried the rollout of signage for buildings that have already been surveyed, noting the importance of signage being in place ahead of final policy endorsement. Carl advised that signage will not yet be in place before June, but implementation will occur as soon as practicable. Engagement is also underway with sporting and community groups that use Council facilities.

Nick noted that 67 buildings have been surveyed to date, with approximately 188 sites remaining. He sought clarity on risk management arrangements in the interim period. Carl advised that surveyed buildings present minimal risk, buildings are not continuously inhabited, and all requests for works are individually assessed. High-risk sites will be addressed immediately, with remaining surveys to be completed by external providers subject to available funding.

The Chair asked whether controls are in place to manage contractor risk. Carl confirmed that this is addressed through the required contractor documentation.

Jodi raised questions regarding health monitoring requirements for staff and sought clarity on current arrangements. Scott advised that this is a workplace health and safety matter and will be taken on notice. Paul confirmed that a staff health register is being developed, with work underway to confirm staff testing history and future requirements.

Jodi also noted that Recommendation 11 relating to health testing appears as closed on the audit action register and requested that it be reopened.

Actions:

- Paul Santos to provide the Committee with a further update on progress at the June ARIC meeting on the asbestos audit open action items and strengthening hazardous materials management.

- Recommendation 11 (Health Testing) to be reopened on the Audit Action Items Register.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee notes the information contained in the report on Asbestos Management.

Paul Santos, Carl Ginger and Kathy Arthur left the meeting at 1.21pm

c) Council's Insurance Program – Statewide Mutual – Scott Westbury

Scott Westbury provided an overview of Council's insurance arrangements with Statewide Mutual. In response to a question from Jodi regarding how often insurance quotes are reviewed, Scott advised that Council participates in the Statewide Mutual scheme, with Statewide acting as a broker to source the most cost-effective insurances for Council. He noted that Statewide Mutual negotiates insurance arrangements on behalf of member councils and also provides legal services in relation to claims management.

Nick asked for clarification on the total value of claims for the current financial year. Scott advised that this information would be taken on notice and provided to the Committee.

Actions:

- Scott Westbury to provide the Committee with total insurance claims information for the current financial year.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee notes the information in the report on Council's insurance program.

d) Council's Major Projects and Project Management Governance – Grant Doran

Grant advised that the Committee would discuss Major Projects and Project Management offline with the General Manager.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

10 NEXT MEETING

The next ARIC Meeting will be held on 17 June at 9am.

Meeting closed at 1.43pm

PER26/025 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

Responsible Officer: Gary Bruce - Director Planning, Housing and Environment

Attachments: 1. Under Separate Cover - Emissions Reduction Plan 2026-2040
2. Under Separate Cover - Emissions Reduction Opportunities Report (Consultant Report)

Community Goal: 3 We sustain our shire by balancing growth and protecting our natural environment

Community Strategy: 3.2 Respond to our changing climate and natural hazards

Delivery Program Link: 3.2.1 Reduce Council's contribution to the effects of man-made climate change through the implementation of the Climate Action Plan

Operational Plan Link: 3.2.1.3 Implement the revised Emissions Reduction Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A draft Emissions Reduction Plan has been developed to show the Council operational changes required to ensure the targets set in the adopted Climate Action Plan (2022) and Net Zero Guidelines (2023) are met. These targets include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from the 2005–2006 baseline by 2030, sourcing 100% of electricity from renewable energy by 2030, and achieving Net Zero emissions by 2040.

The Emissions Reduction Plan provides a coordinated and prioritised program of actions across Council operations to deliver these outcomes. The next three years are critical to establishing the infrastructure, systems and policy settings required to meet the 2030 targets, particularly in high-emissions areas such as Waste, Facilities and Fleet.

Annual reviews of the Plan will enable Council to adapt to new information and technologies, market conditions and emerging opportunities, ensuring the emissions reduction pathway remains effective and cost efficient.

This report seeks endorsement of the plan and associated resourcing to enable timely implementation and position Council to meet its legislated and strategic emissions reduction commitments.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the Emissions Reduction Plan 2025–2040
2. That Council endorse the establishment of new budgets to support implementation of the Emission Reduction Plan, including
 - I. Bay Pavillion and Narooma Pool solar installations budget of \$1.1 Million for Financial Year 2026/2027.
 - II. Solar recurring annual budget of \$200,000
 - III. Moruya Admin Building EV charging infrastructure budget of \$50,000 for Financial Year 2026/2027.
 - IV. Depots EV charging infrastructure budget of \$175,000 in Financial Year 2027/2028.

PER26/025 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

BACKGROUND

Council adopted the Climate Action Plan in 2022 and Net Zero Guidelines in 2023, committing to ambitious emissions reduction targets. The Emissions Reduction Plan (Attachment 1) is an operational requirement for Financial Year 2026/2027 and establishes the actions required to achieve these targets.

The plan is informed by detailed technical investigations including emissions data validation, the Emissions Reduction Opportunities Report (Attachment 2) and feasibility assessments for solar infrastructure and EV charging. The Opportunities Report shows how Council can meet its target of Net Zero by 2040 with a 70% reduction in emissions from the 2025 validated baseline. Net Zero will require some offsetting of the remaining emissions however projects have been planned to prioritise energy reduction primarily and then use carbon offsetting mechanisms to meet the certified Net Zero claim.

Emissions are currently monitored by Council's Natural Environment and Sustainability Division and reported internally through the Sustainability Matrix Group. Anticipated State Government requirements for emissions reporting will further strengthen the need for robust monitoring and governance arrangements.

The Plan is intended to be reviewed annually in line with Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) cycle to respond to evolving technologies, market conditions and funding opportunities.

CONSIDERATIONS

The primary areas of focus for emissions reduction to 2030 are Waste Services, Facilities (electricity use), and Fleet. These areas represent the largest sources of Council emissions and provide the greatest opportunity for early reduction.

The record of emissions from council operations in financial year 2025/26 was validated recently by consultants and is recorded as 42,274 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

Key emission sources are:

- Landfill gas emissions 28,700 tCO₂e
- Electricity consumption 7,200 tCO₂e
- Fleet/fuel use 2,824 tCO₂e
- Wastewater 5% 2011 CO₂e

Waste

Although emission reduction programs have been implemented including waste minimisation and gas flaring, landfill gas is still the largest source of Council emissions, contributing approximately 68% of measurable operational emissions.

The introduction of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services represents the most significant opportunity to reduce emissions.

Feasibility studies are underway to determine the most suitable options for FOGO processing and the selected processing model will influence the scale of emissions reductions. It is

PER26/025 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

proposed that the Emission Reduction Plan is reviewed and updated annually to allow the consideration of this new information.

Other landfill gas reduction projects including monitoring landfill gas volumes, expanding flaring when conditions are suitable and continually assessing the feasibility of electricity generation from landfill gas capture. This is currently not feasible but may be in the future.

Electricity and Facilities

Electricity use is a significant source of Council emissions and presents a key opportunity for reduction through a structured transition to renewable energy. Council facilities already house 780kW of solar and the first battery system was installed recently at Narooma Leisure Centre which eliminates electricity grid consumption and costs.

The Plan shows the priority is to first reduce the reliance on grid electricity by undertaking energy efficiency and solar installation projects and then use electricity contracts to procure 100% renewable energy by 2030.

It recommends a systematic rollout of solar energy across Council facilities, delivering both emissions reduction and long-term cost savings. While certified renewable energy can be procured to meet targets, this approach is likely to be more costly over time than upfront investment in solar infrastructure.

Priority for upgrades is based on the highest energy users, including the Bay Pavilions and aquatic facilities. Detailed desktop analysis has refined these priorities, incorporating payback periods and site constraints.

Aquatic Centres

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 16 December 2025 ([Min. 25/231](#)), Council endorsed the development of a solar installation plan for its aquatic facilities. Council engaged a company to develop this plan and provide recommendations to maximise solar energy and reduce ongoing electricity costs.

The outcome from this plan was a recommendation to install an additional 600kw solar system at the Bay Pavilions and 190kw solar system at Narooma pool. This will build on the savings and reduction in energy consumption already achieved with the implementation of the Bay Pavilions Energy Audit.

The following table outlines current power consumption, investment, anticipated savings per year and the return on investment and payback period.

LOCATION	POWER CONSUMPTION	INVESTMENT	SAVINGS Per Year	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
Bay Pavilions	\$703,816	\$1 Million	\$200,000	5 Years
Moruya Pool	\$44,615	\$0	\$0	-
Narooma Pool	\$190,020	\$300,000	\$55,000	5.45 Years

An ongoing annual budget allocation of \$200,000 is proposed to support the staged rollout of solar infrastructure and it is recommended that Council continue to pursue grant funding to further increase delivery.

PER26/025 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

Transport Fuel and Fleet

Transitioning the fleet to electric vehicles is a key component of the Plan and will be implemented progressively in line with asset replacement cycles.

While light vehicle electrification is commercially viable, heavy vehicles remain constrained by high capital costs and limited market availability. A staged approach is proposed, including trialling EV vehicles in the staff fleet pool, promoting EVs as novated leases and leasebacks, and seeking grant funding where available.

Supporting actions include development of council's asset management plan which will include a fleet strategy to optimise the use of vehicles and transition to EVs.

Other council operations

Other areas of Council operations will contribute to emissions reduction over time, including wastewater management, electrification of gas systems, and financial and procurement practices. These actions will generally align with existing asset renewal and upgrade cycles.

It is noted that achieving Net Zero will likely require some level of carbon offsetting in the longer term; however, offsets are proposed as a last resort after all feasible reduction measures have been implemented.

Opportunities to generate income through emissions reduction initiatives, such as energy generation and carbon projects, are also being explored.

Financial

The Emissions Reduction Plan is designed to maximise the use of existing operational budgets and align with planned asset renewal programs. However, implementation will require targeted new investment including co-contributions to leverage grant funding opportunities. External funding opportunities will be sought whenever they are available to increase financial capacity.

Many initiatives are expected to deliver long-term cost savings through reduced energy consumption and operational efficiencies.

Key budget requirements include:

Budgets confirmed for Financial Year 2026/2027 include:

- Moruya Admin Building solar installation \$200,000 (revoted from Financial Year 2025/2026)
- Moruya Admin Building electrical upgrades to support EV charging \$70,000 (revoted from Financial Year 2025/2026)
- Bay Pavilions solar installation \$200,000 (already approved in Financial Year 2026/2027 budget)
- Climate Action and Emissions Reduction Program (CAP Fund) \$50,000 recurrent budget for:
 - Climate Action Plan implementation and coordination
 - Technical specialist support and consulting services
 - Emissions monitoring and reporting platform subscriptions

PER26/025 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

- Data collection, analysis, and annual reporting requirements

Proposed new budgets:

Financial Year 2026/2027

- Bay Pavilions solar installation \$800,000
- Narooma Pool solar installation \$300,000
- Moruya Admin Building EV charging infrastructure \$50,000

Proposed future budget allocations

- Solar Infrastructure Program – \$200,000 recurring budget from Financial Year 2027/2028
- EV Charging Infrastructure Program (depots) – \$175,000 one off budget in Financial Year 2027/2028.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The Emissions Reduction Plan has been developed through internal consultation across all divisions. Ongoing implementation will be coordinated through the Sustainability Matrix Group, comprising relevant divisional managers, and with advice from the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC).

At the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee workshop held on 1 September 2026, the Committee supported progression of Council's Emissions Reduction Plan to Council, subject to:

1. Completing the Draft Waste Strategy by December 2026
2. Providing the Fleet Strategy component of Council's Asset Management Plan to the CEAC for input by December 2026. The CEAC notes that this may require additional resources.
3. Adopting the Waste Strategy and Fleet Strategy (component of the Asset Management Plan) by 30 June 2027.
4. Developing a management framework to guide and maximise the generation, management and use of carbon credits and renewable energy certificates (action has been updated in Draft ERP)
5. Providing an implementation timeline and monitoring framework that enables transparent reporting of progress identifying additional resource requirements.

Future engagement will include collaboration with regional partners (including CRJO), industry stakeholders and, where relevant, the community, particularly for initiatives such as FOGO implementation and broader emissions reduction programs.

PER26/025 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

CONCLUSION

The Emissions Reduction Plan provides a structured and prioritised approach to achieving Council's emissions reduction targets. The next four years are critical to delivering key actions across Waste, Facilities and Fleet, supported by enabling work across other divisions.

A coordinated, whole-of-Council approach will be required, including preliminary investigations and systems development across Water and Sewer, Finance, Property and IT to inform future investment needs beyond 2030.

Implementation will be led through the Sustainability Matrix Group and supported by a staged program of actions that maximises the use of existing resources while identifying targeted additional investment and leveraging grant opportunities where available.

The Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure Council can respond to emerging opportunities, incorporating new information, technologies, and changes in energy and carbon markets to maintain progress toward emissions reduction targets.

Endorsement of the Plan will enable Council to progress implementation and position the organisation to achieve its 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction commitments.

**PER26/026 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PERFORMANCE REPORT -
JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026**

S012-T00025

Responsible Officer: Gary Bruce - Director Planning, Housing and Environment

Attachments: 1. Average assessment days over time
2. Average lodgement days over time
3. Development application assessment performance table
4. Development application lodgement performance

Community Goal: 3 We sustain our shire by balancing growth and protecting our natural environment

Community Strategy: 3.3 Balance development between the needs of people, place and productivity

Delivery Program Link: 3.3.3 Provide receptive and responsive development assessment services Code Operational Plan action

Operational Plan Link: 3.3.3.1 Assess and determine development applications

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information relating to Councils performance in the processing of development applications and to provide a summary of the Council League Table.

The [Council League Table](#) was established in July 2024 by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Department) to monitor the performance of development applications in NSW. The dashboard depicts the performance of all councils in NSW and specifically captures data on the lodgment and assessment timeframes.

The current mandate for lodgment of development applications is seven days and the average being achieved by Council from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 was eleven days. With a total of 34% of applications meeting the lodgment mandate.

The current mandate for assessment of development applications is 105 days and the average being achieved by Council from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, period was 67 days. Last financial year, 84% of applications were determined within the mandated 105-day timeframe.

The data shows that Council is performing strongly in relation to development assessments and that some further refinement of the lodgment process is still required to meet the mandate.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Development Application Performance Report – July 2025 to June 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Order 2024 (Statement of Expectations Order)(Order) was issued by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public spaces on the 1 July 2024. It outlines the expectations for councils regarding planning and development assessments to enhance transparency and accountability.

**PER26/026 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY 2025 -
JUNE 2026**

**S012-
T00025**

The Order was established to support councils in expediting their planning processes, particularly in housing delivery. The key features of the Order include:

- performance monitoring – a framework for monitoring council performance against set expectations
- criteria for evaluation – the Department of Planning will assess councils based upon various criteria, including housing targets, development application performance and percentage of applications process with expected timeframes
- consequences for non-compliance – if councils do not improve their performance, the Minister for Local Government may issue a Performance Improvement Order.

Under the Order, the Minister has set specific timeframes relating to lodgment and assessment of development applications. These targets vary between councils and take into consideration recent performance and assessment backlogs.

The advent of the NSW Planning Portal has meant that development application performance data is available in real time. As such, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has created the Council League Table to enable the community to compare the performance of councils not only against the Minister's Order, but also with each other.

CONSIDERATIONS

The information contained within the attachments has been extracted directly from the Departments Council League Table on 26 August 2026. It encompasses the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

The NSW Planning Portal and Council League Table report on development application processing by gross days. Previously, many councils reported their development application statistics by net days. The difference between these two reporting timeframes is that gross days include the time taken when the applicant is providing further information.

Assessment of Development applications

Councils' average assessment timeframe was 67 days, that is well within the expected 105-day benchmark. Of the 436 applications assessed during this period, 84% were determined within the Ministerial mandated timeframe. This is an increase from 71% on the previous reporting period ending June 2025.

Council may be aware not all assessments result in favorable determinations. In these circumstances, every effort is made to advise applicants at the earliest opportunity if an application is unlikely to receive consent. Pending how the applicant wishes to proceed, applications may be withdrawn or refused.

Lodgement of development applications

Council is working toward meeting the Ministerial expectation for lodgement timeframes. Eurobodalla Shires average lodgement period is eleven days, compared with the Ministerial benchmark of seven days. Of the 460 applications lodged, 158 were processed within the expected timeframe.

**PER26/026 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY 2025 -
JUNE 2026**

**S012-
T00025**

This still represents a significant improvement from the previous reporting period (ending June 2025), where Council was averaging 22 days against the Minister's target of 14 days. At that time, 184 of 482 applications met the expected timeframe.

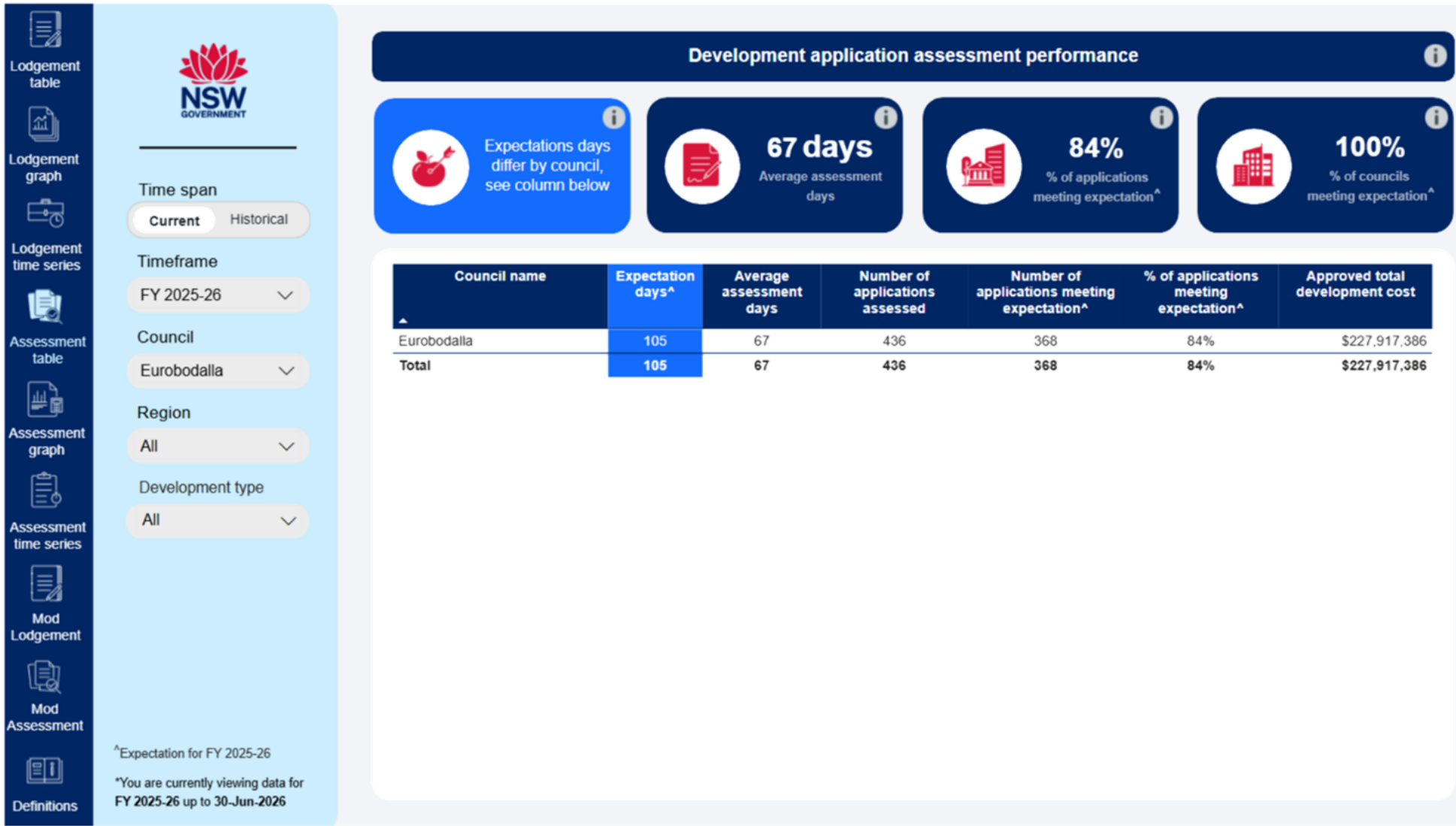
Council is endeavouring to ensure applications are lodged to a standard that is deemed as close to "assessment-ready" as possible. This includes ensuring applications are accompanied by relevant plans and accompanying reports and any lodgment fees are paid. Incomplete applications are returned to the applicant.

CONCLUSION

This report provides Council with information relating to Councils performance in the processing of development applications and provides a summary of the Council League Table. The report indicates Council is performing strongly in relation to development assessments and meeting the mandate timeframe, however further refinement of the lodgment process is still required in order to meet the required timeline.









Development application lodgement performance

7 days

Lodgement days expectation ^

11 days

Average lodgement days

34%

% of applications meeting expectation ^

0%

% of councils meeting expectation ^

Council name	Average lodgement days	Number of applications lodged	Number of applications meeting expectation ^	% of applications meeting expectation ^	Total development cost
Eurobodalla	11	460	158	34%	\$213,341,607
Total	11	460	158	34%	\$213,341,607

IR26/011 TOMAKIN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

S029-T00004

Responsible Officer: Graham Attenborough - Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments: 1. Under Separate Cover - Business Case - Tomakin Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade

Community Goal: 4 Our community has reliable and safe infrastructure networks and community facilities

Community Strategy: 4.3 Service our community with resilient water, waste, sewage, and stormwater infrastructure

Delivery Program Link: 4.3.2 Provide safe, reliable and sustainable water and sewer services, guided by the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy

Operational Plan Link: 4.3.2.6 Commence the Tomakin Sewerage Treatment Plant upgrade

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The northern Eurobodalla sewerage system is experiencing capacity constraints. The Batemans Bay and Tomakin Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) are operating near or beyond maximum capacity, routinely exceeding their practical treatment limits, limiting the system's ability to accommodate additional wastewater flows.

To address these challenges, Council's long-term strategy, as defined in its approved Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCMS) 2022, is based on cross-catchment load sharing along with the augmentation of the existing plants at Tomakin and Batemans Bay. Land availability restrictions at Batemans Bay STP mean the options for increasing capacity at that plant are very limited.

The strategy relies on three integrated pillars:

1. Augmenting and upgrading the Tomakin STP to increase regional capacity. This is the main enabling project. This is the main enabling project and subject of this paper.
2. Diverting sewerage loads from Batemans Bay STP into the upgraded Tomakin plant, with diversion works occurring concurrently to align with completion of Tomakin upgrade.
3. Completing the Batemans Bay Stage 3 Clarifier upgrade project, optimising the plant's operational capacity by 2040, depending on growth.

This report seeks Council's endorsement to proceed with the next phase of the Tomakin STP Augmentation Project, including completion of the detailed design, preparation of tender documentation and progress of statutory approvals. The business case for the Tomakin STP Upgrade is provided as an attachment to this report for further detail.

A further report will be presented to Council following completion of the design and tender process, including updated project costs and recommendations for construction procurement.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council acknowledges that augmentation of the northern region sewerage system is required to address existing capacity constraints, accommodate future population growth and maintain regulatory compliance.

IR26/011 TOMAKIN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

S029-T00004

2. That Council acknowledges the Tomakin Sewage Treatment Plant augmentation is the key enabling project within Council's adopted regional wastewater strategy, supporting future load diversion from Batemans Bay and optimisation of both treatment plants.
3. That Council acknowledges failure to proceed with augmentation presents increasing strategic, environmental, operational and growth risks to the northern region sewerage network ie doing nothing is not an option.
4. That Council approves progression of the Tomakin Sewerage Treatment Plant Augmentation Project to the next phase, including completion of detailed design, preparation of tender documentation and obtaining the necessary statutory approvals.
5. That Council receives a further report following completion of the detailed design and tender process, including updated project costs and a recommendation regarding construction contract procurement.

BACKGROUND

Forecast population growth across the Batemans Bay catchments, combined with climate-driven increases in peak wet-weather flows, means that the existing sewerage system configuration can no longer reliably service current and future loads. These issues cannot be addressed through operational optimisation alone.

Tomakin STP has insufficient capacity to reliably treat current and future peak season loads arising from population growth within the existing catchment. Analysis of plant data demonstrates significant seasonal variability in influent flows, driven primarily by holiday occupancy during Christmas and Easter periods. Average dry weather flows during these periods already approach the practical treatment limits of the plant.

The Batemans Bay STP is also experiencing operational strain as wastewater loads are near maximum capacity, with dry weather inflows during peak seasons exceeding design limits. This issue is intensified during wet weather events, resulting in the diversion of untreated wastewater into emergency storage and can lead to unauthorised discharges.

The augmentation of Tomakin STP is the optimal regional approach to address these issues, as it maximises existing asset utility, using existing council land and improves water recycling options.

This project will divert significant sewer loads from the Batemans Bay catchment and restore critical operational headroom to Batemans Bay STP, safely absorbing future growth trends and futureproofing both facilities for the long term.

The Tomakin STP Upgrade is required to support growth, maintain environmental compliance and meet the long-term wastewater management needs across the northern Eurobodalla. Without this investment, Council faces increasing risk of environmental non-compliance, constraints on housing growth, increasing operational costs and reduced resilience during peak tourism and wet weather events.

The upgrade will unlock regional growth, protect waterways and beaches, improve service reliability and provide capacity for future generations.

Tomakin STP – Proposed Upgrade

Currently, the Tomakin STP services the communities of Rosedale, Guerilla Bay, Mogo, Tomakin, Mossy Point, and Broulee. The plant was commissioned in 1985 as a continuous

IR26/011 TOMAKIN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

S029-T00004

extended aeration facility and can treat up to approximately 10,000 EP (Equivalent Person), corresponding to an average dry weather flow (ADWF) of approximately 2,200 kL/day.

Hydraulic limitations at the inlet works under peak wet-weather conditions were partially addressed through construction of a balance tank in 2016; however, the overall plant capacity remains constrained by the biological treatment and clarification processes, especially to meet increased environmental licence requirements for nutrient removal and disinfection.

Analysis of plant data demonstrates significant seasonal variability in influent flows, driven primarily by holiday occupancy during Christmas and Easter periods. Average dry weather flows during these periods already approach the practical treatment limits of the plant.

Recent maximum dry flow events have exceeded the nominal plant capacity of 2,200 kL/day on multiple occasions, with extreme wet weather events resulting in daily inflows significantly above the plant's practical capacity. These occurrences place stress on treatment performance, sludge handling systems, and downstream receiving waters.

Diversion of the Malua Bay and Lilli Pilli catchments from Batemans Bay STP is expected to increase average dry weather flows to Tomakin STP by approximately 500 kL/day, with significantly higher hydraulic demand during peak wet weather events. These loads cannot be accommodated within the existing plant configuration. In addition, longer-term population growth projections cannot be accommodated.

The timing and scale of the Tomakin STP upgrade is directly linked to the performance of Batemans Bay STP, which is also stressed under concurrent peak loading and wet weather events.

The upgrade represents a significant renewal and expansion of critical wastewater infrastructure, transitioning the plant from a system operating at its practical limits to one capable of reliably servicing current and future demand. The project will add additional treatment capacity of 15,000 EP bringing the overall plant capacity to 25,000 EP.

CONSIDERATIONS

Legal

The required statutory approvals are summarised below and will be addressed during completion of the detailed design.

Summary of Approvals and Requirements

Agency	Requirements	Reference
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Determination of REF	Part 5 of EP&A Act
Dol- Lands and Water	Approval to provide/augment sewerage services	Section 60 LG Act 1993
EPA	Variation to EPL No 2851	Section 58 of POEO Act 1997

POEO – Protection of the Environment Operations Act
EP&A – Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

LG – Local Government Act

IR26/011 TOMAKIN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

S029-T00004

The proposed augmentation of the STP will require the addition and modification of conditions within the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL).

Policy

The project aligns with key Council policy principles, including:

- Sustainable and efficient delivery of essential infrastructure
- Protection of receiving environments and water quality
- Servicing of existing and approved urban growth areas
- Long term asset planning and intergenerational equity.

Environmental

Built in 1985, Tomakin STP was not designed to meet the current increased EPA licence requirements for nutrient removal and disinfection. The EPA accepts that local water utilities require time to comply with changing requirements and Council is progressively upgrading all of its plants, with Tomakin a priority as the worst performing plant.

A review of effluent monitoring results during the 2025–26 reporting period identified repeated exceedances of EPA licence limits for total phosphorus (TP). These exceedances are consistent with the absence of chemical dosing facilities at Tomakin STP and limited process resilience under variable hydraulic conditions.

The proposed upgrade will deliver the following environmental enhancements:

- The proposed augmentation includes chemical dosing for phosphorus removal and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection to improve compliance and public health protection.
- Odour control will be enhanced through provision of a new odour control system at the covered balance tank. The optional provision of aerobic digesters instead of sludge lagoons will further reduce odour emissions.
- Solar capacity will expand significantly from 16.5 kWp (Kilowatt peak) to 160 kWp. This upgraded array will generate up to 700 kWh of clean, sustainable energy daily, substantially lowering the plant's carbon footprint and operational costs.
- Expansion of on-site recycled water for washdown, dust suppression activities and internal operational purposes.
- Provision for off-site recycled water for community and other beneficial re-use.

Economic Development Employment Potential

Completion of the proposed augmentation of the northern region sewerage infrastructure will increase capacity in the region by approximately 13,300 EP (Equivalent Person).

By using an accepted conversion rate of 3 EP per household this equates to approximately 4,428 new homes. Based on projected population growth identified in the 2022 IWCMS this adequately addresses long term sewerage infrastructure requirements in the northern area out to at least 2050.

The estimated project cost of \$62 million will support increased economic activity in the local community, sustaining local businesses and construction related companies.

IR26/011 TOMAKIN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

S029-T00004

Financial

Design work has intermittently progressed on the Tomakin STP Upgrade project since 2018 and is currently approximately 75% complete.

In March 2026 NSW Public Works produced an updated project estimate based on recent tenders it received from similar projects in NSW.

The estimate includes a conservative contingency which considers risks arising from completing design development, market risk at tender stage and construction stage contingency risk.

The project will be funded from the Sewer fund. The fund will be financed through a mixture of cash reserves and loan financing required to deliver the sewer 10-year delivery program of works.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The community will be kept informed of the project progress and construction timelines as the project gets closer to the construction stage.

CONCLUSION

The Tomakin STP Upgrade is required to support current peak loads, growth, environmental compliance and to meet the long-term wastewater management needs across the northern region of Eurobodalla. Without this investment, Council faces increasing risk of environmental non-compliance, constraints on housing growth, increasing operational costs and reduced resilience during peak tourism and wet weather events. The upgrade will unlock regional growth, protect waterways and beaches, improve service reliability and provide capacity for future generations.

The business case for the Tomakin Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade is provided as an attachment to this report for further detail.

**IR26/012 MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE -
REPRESENTATIVES**

OP0108-S010

Responsible Officer: Graham Attenborough - Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments: 1. Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
2. Under Separate Cover - Confidential - Representatives - Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee

Community Goal: 4. Our community has reliable and safe infrastructure networks and community facilities.

Community Strategy: 4.4 Ensure community facilities and public spaces are clean, safe and have great amenity

Delivery Program Link: 4.4.2 Plan for, and deliver safe and accessible recreation opportunities, guided by the Recreation and Open Space Strategy and Asset Management Plan

Operational Plan Link: 4.4.2.6 Deliver annual maintenance activities for marine infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's advisory committees provide advice to Council on a range of issues and offer a valuable opportunity for information exchange with our community.

Council conducted an expression of interest (EOI) process, from 20 August until 11 September 2026, inviting community members with relevant knowledge, skills or experience in marine boating and fishing facilities to apply for Council's Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

The EOI resulted in the submission of ten (10) applications, reflecting a wide range of users of Council marine facilities and geographical locations across the shire.

The Committee's Terms of Reference were adopted on 28 July 2026 (Motion 26/102) and are attached to this report.

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the nominations received for the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee and to recommend the appointment of representatives, as per the confidential attachment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint ten (10) community representatives to the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee for the duration of this term of Council, as recommended in the Confidential Attachment to this report.

BACKGROUND

A robust advisory committee framework strengthens governance and leadership by providing clear and transparent processes for the community to advise Council on particular areas.

At the 28 July 2026 Council meeting, Council resolved the following:

26/102 MOTION *Councillor Schutz/Councillor Johnson*

1. That Council endorses the formation of a Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee for the duration of the term of this Council.

**IR26/012 MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE -
REPRESENTATIVES**

**OP0108-
S010**

2. *That Council adopts the Terms of Reference for the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee, as tabled at the meeting.*
3. *That Council appoints the Chair and delegate to the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee and determines the method of voting for delegate and chair be by show of hands.*
4. *That Council approves the appointment of Chair and delegate be for the term of Council.*
5. *That Council advertises for representatives to the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee.*

Council further resolved:

26/103 MOTION *Councillor Schutz/Councillor Turner*

That Council approve the appointment of Councillor Amber Schutz as Chair and Councillor Mick Johnson as Committee Delegate of the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee for the remainder of the Council term.

An expression of interest process was available through Council's website, for community representatives from 20 August until 11 September 2026. During this period, a media release, Facebook post and radio interview were undertaken. During this time, ten (10) nominations were received.

In line with the Terms of Reference, the nominations were assessed, with ten (10) recommended, as per the confidential attachment.

Advisory committees are an important way that Council engages with its community and stakeholders. Committee members contribute their experience and knowledge and provide advice and feedback for consideration by Council.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee will function as a non-delegated advisory committee of Council, in line with existing advisory committees.

The Committee will help Council understand community needs, review priorities and identify opportunities to improve marine facilities for boating, fishing and other water-based activities.

The composition of this committee includes up to ten (10) community representatives who can demonstrate an active connection to the Eurobodalla community and current knowledge, skills or involvement in the marine environment, either professionally or through community-based organisations.

Advisory committees are an important way for Council to engage with the community and stakeholders. Committee members contribute their experience and knowledge and provide advice, feedback, perspective and recommendations to Council.

In Council's Community Engagement Framework advisory committees are considered to be one of the highest levels of engagement and a way of partnering with the community.

The confidential attachment to this report recommends ten (10) people for appointment by Council.

**IR26/012 MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE -
REPRESENTATIVES**

**OP0108-
S010**

Legal

The provision of a Marine infrastructure Advisory Committee is not a legislative requirement, as is the case with a number of Council advisory committees. However, Council has resolved to establish the committee to bring together local knowledge, user experience and Council planning to support safe, accessible and well-maintained marine infrastructure that benefits residents, visitors and other marine users.

The attached Terms of Reference for the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee were adopted on 28 July 2026.

Social Impact

Having community members with experience, skills and knowledge of marine facilities on the committee enables an exchange of information from our local community, bringing an awareness of current and future strategic priorities, and promoting safe boating and fishing.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Advisory committees are an important way that Council engages with its community and stakeholders. Committee members contribute their experience and knowledge and provide advice and feedback for consideration by Council.

In Council's Community Engagement Framework advisory committees are considered to be one of the highest levels of engagement and a way of partnering with the community.

Council conducted an expression of interest process for community members, which was available through Council's website, from 20 August until 11 September 2026.

The community was informed about the opportunity to submit an expression of interest to join the advisory committee through the following communication channels:

- Council's website and Facebook page, and
- Media release distributed to local media
- Council's boating and fishing network
- Radio promotion.

CONCLUSION

Council's advisory committees provide advice to Council on a range of issues and offer a valuable opportunity for information exchange with our community.

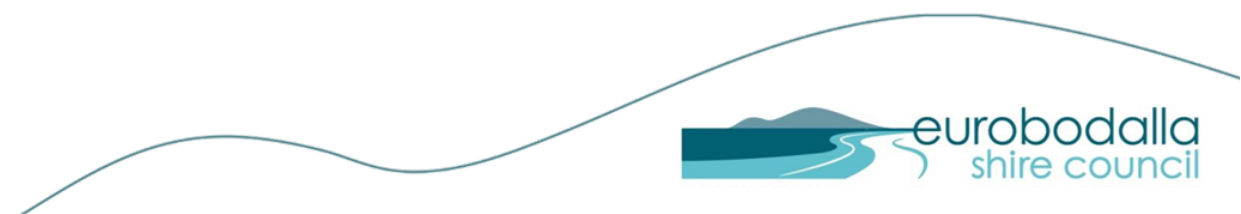
Council values the input from advisory committees as they provide a valuable opportunity for engagement with our community.

This report recommends the appointment of ten (10) nominated representatives, for the duration of this term of Council, to the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Date: July 2026



Purpose

To advise and make recommendations to Council and to support and help review priorities for council controlled marine infrastructure through the Eurobodalla shire.

Title and Delegations

- The Committee shall be referred to as the Marine Infrastructure Advisory Committee.
- The Committee shall function as a non-delegated advisory committee of Council. Refer to Council's Guidelines for Meeting Practice – Advisory Committees for further detail.

Objectives

The Committee serves as a strategic, community-led advisory body that works in partnership with Council to:

- Promote effective consultation and communication between Council, Councillors, all government bodies and the Shire's marine users (boating and fishing communities)
- Promote and advertise the shire's marine infrastructure to attract increased usage, events and recognition to the overall benefit of the community
- Advise on Council's strategic priorities regarding the installation, improvement and maintenance of marine infrastructure through the shire.
- Promote safe boating and fishing for all participants and to advise on programs (such as the life rings for rock platforms) to enhance this.
- Advise on opportunities for children and people with a disability to participate in water-based activities.

Membership of the Committee

- Community members have voting rights.
- The Chairperson is an elected Councillor and has voting rights.
- The selection of community members should consider representatives who have:
 - Membership of relevant associations or clubs (Fishing game club, Dive Club etc)
 - The ability to work collaboratively with others.
 - An appreciation of the role of Local Government.
 - Geographic spread across the shire (e.g. representatives from Narooma, Moruya, and Batemans Bay)
 - A diversity of specialisation
 - Experience, skill set and contribution within the marine advocacy environment.

Composition

- Up to ten (10) community representatives who have an active connection to the Eurobodalla Shire community with contemporary knowledge, skills or involvement in the marine environment, professionally or through involvement with community-based organisations
- One Councillor as Chair, plus one designated alternate Councillor (selected by Council).

The Committee may also choose to have the following participants as required to provide technical advice and guidance but they will not have voting rights:

- a) Council staff
- b) other agency representatives as required.

General Meetings

- The Committee is to meet a minimum of four times per annum.
- In the event the Chairperson is absent from a meeting, an alternate Chair may be nominated by the Chair or the Committee or as nominated by Council.

Delegations of Committee

To advise Council. Refer to Council's Guidelines for Meeting Practice – Advisory Committees for further detail about delegations.

Variation to the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference may be added to, repealed, or amended by the General Manager, in consultation with or upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Governance

The Committee is governed by the Guidelines for Meeting Practice – Advisory Committees, adopted by Council. Members are expected to comply with Council's Code of Conduct and relevant policies.

Appendix – Reference Documents

- Guidelines for meeting practice -Advisory Committees
[Guidelines-for-meeting-practice.pdf](#)
- Model Code of Conduct for Local Government in NSW
[Model Code of Conduct – Office of Local Government NSW](#)

IR26/013 LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM NO. 2 FOR 2026-27

**S030-
T00018**

Responsible Officer: Graham Attenborough - Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments: 1. Under Separate Cover - Local Transport Forum No. 2 for 2026-27 - Minutes and attachments

Community Goal: 4 Our community has reliable and safe infrastructure networks and community facilities

Community Strategy: 4.1 Provide integrated active transport networks to enable a connected and accessible Eurobodalla

Delivery Program Link: 4.1.1 Advocate for and provide improved, accessible and resilient transport services and infrastructure

Operational Plan Link: 4.1.1.6 Coordinate the Local Transport Forum

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Transport Forum is primarily a technical review committee. It advises Council on traffic control matters that relate to prescribed traffic control devices or traffic control facilities for which Council has delegated authority.

Recommendations arising from the Local Transport Forum No. 2 held 19 August 2026 are as follows:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council approve the following acts for determination from Local Transport Forum No. 2 for 2026-27:

- **2027.RT.002 George Bass Drive and Oceanview Way intersection, Tomakin**

That Council plan 4774-A-7 George Bass Drive and Oceanview Way intersection, Tomakin, be approved.

- **2027.RT.003 Albert Street Raised Pedestrian Crossing, Moruya**

That Council plan 4841-H-4 Albert Street raised pedestrian crossing, Moruya, be approved.

- **2027.RT.004 Garland Street 'Give Way', Moruya Airport**

That Council plan 2815-Q-3 Garland Street, Moruya 'Give Way' and associated line marking be approved.

- **2027.RT.005 Heath Street extension, Broulee**

That the submitted plan 834-7A-10 Heath Street, Broulee, be approved.

BACKGROUND

The Eurobodalla Local Transport Forum Meeting No. 2 for 2026-27 was held on 19 August 2026.

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by Councillor Sharon Winslade (Chair), Daniel Weekes (ESC Traffic Coordinator), James Thompson (ESC Transport and Stormwater Engineer), Katherine

IR26/013 LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM NO. 2 FOR 2026-27

**S030-
T00018**

Buttsworth (ESC Road Safety Officer), Justin Miles (Transport for NSW), Grady Cadogan (Maintenance Planning Officer), Senior Sgt Angus Duncombe (NSW Police), Diana Dallas (ESC A/g Infrastructure Support Coordinator), Lesley English (ESC Depot Admin Support), and Michelle Kempston (ESC Senior Administration Support Officer).

APOLOGIES

Councillor Amber Schutz, Thomas Franzen (ESC Division Manager, Technical Services), Chief Inspector John Sheehan (NSW Police), Senior Sgt Scott Britt (NSW Police), Blair Oliver (Transport for NSW), Scott McNairn (ESC Events Coordinator), Breanna Shepherd (ESC Events Officer), Kelly-Ann Marshall (ESC Surveillance Officer), Nellie Pryke (Member for Bega Representative).

CONCLUSION

The minutes of the Eurobodalla Local Transport Forum Meeting No. 2 for 2026-27 are attached to this report and provide further background for the recommendations.

**CAR26/016 REOPEN THE BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY USE**

S023-T00001

Responsible Officer: Kathy Arthur - Director Community, Arts and Recreation Services

Attachments: 1. Under Separate Cover - Confidential - Expressions of Interest Submissions

Community Goal: 5 We are an engaged community with progressive leadership

Community Strategy: 5.3 Well managed and governed resources, systems and processes

Delivery Program Link: 5.3.2 Manage land and property under Council control and develop a strategy to guide future actions

Operational Plan Link: 5.3.2.3 Progress development and implementation of the Property Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to outline work undertaken to action Council's resolution to reopen the Batemans Bay Community Centre for community use.

The report addresses the eight issue areas outlined in the resolution (Min. 26/55).

An assessment of the current condition and compliance of the facility has been undertaken, with essential cleaning, maintenance and renewal tasks completed, as well as the preparation of a long term renewal and rejuvenation plan for further works, pending a budget allocation.

Financial information in relation to anticipated revenue, operating costs and potential lease/licence financial information has been considered, as well as operational requirements.

Running parallel to this work Council conducted an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to identify community demand, the types of uses and preferred booking options, as well as to gauge interest in a potential lease, licence or shared model arrangement.

Council received 17 submissions via an online form and two written submissions via email for a total of 19 submissions. Over 90% of the submissions indicate that they wish to book the facility directly with Council. All of the EOIs and a lease proposal are included as Attachment 1.

To support the process further a successful Open Day was held at the Batemans Bay Community Centre on 12 August, with approx. 65 community members attending.

Based on community sentiment, expressed via submissions and correspondence over the past few months, as well as discussions held at the Open Day, there is a clear community desire for the facility to be reopened and run by Council as a bookable space and community hub for the whole community to use.

Under the recommended approach, staff will be rostered on site on weekdays, opening the centre from 8.30-4.30 Monday to Friday. This will help foster community connectedness, a community hub and enable the toilets to be open to the general community on weekdays.

The viability of this option is further reinforced when reviewing financial considerations in relation to operational costs and the opportunity to offset these costs with bookings revenue.

As such, this report is recommending that Council reopen and directly manage the Batemans Bay Community Centre as a bookable facility and community hub.

**CAR26/016 REOPEN THE BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY USE**

S023-T00001

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council reopens the Batemans Bay Community Centre for community use and directly manages the facility as a bookable venue.
2. That Council allocates a \$20,000 expenditure budget for the remainder of the 2026-2027 financial year, with an annual ongoing budget established thereafter as part of the Operational Plan process.
3. That Council endorse the preparation of a solar panel installation plan for the centre.

BACKGROUND

The Batemans Bay Community Centre opened as a bookable facility from the 1990's until 2021, with a range of rooms and spaces available to book at either a commercial or community rate.

From 2021 until late 2025 the facility was leased to a local community-based service provider.

Council conducted an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process for a new lease in November 2025, with two submissions from local not for profit community organisations received. Both later withdrew from the process. The facility is currently unoccupied.

On 26 May 2026 Council resolved the following (Minute 26/55):

THAT Council supports the reopening of the Batemans Bay Community Centre for community use and requests a further report be presented to the September meeting of Council, prior to the allocation of funds, addressing:

1. *The current condition and compliance of the facility;*
2. *Required maintenance, rehabilitation and upgrade works;*
3. *Estimated capital and recurrent operating costs;*
4. *Opportunity costs, including loss of potential lease revenue;*
5. *Operational, staffing and security requirements;*
6. *Potential lease, licence or shared-use models;*
7. *Demonstrated community demand and stakeholder consultation;*
8. *Options for achieving a financially sustainable long-term community outcome;*

And that any proposed funding allocation be considered as part of that subsequent report and the 2026-2027 Operational Plan process.

To support the achievement of the Council resolution Council staff have worked through the above actions to inform the recommendations back to Council, as outlined in this report.

CONSIDERATIONS

Each of the required actions, as per the 26 May 2026 Council resolution have been addressed.

The following summary against each is provided to inform Council of the results.

1. **The current condition and compliance of the facility;**
2. **Required maintenance, rehabilitation and upgrade works;**

**CAR26/016 REOPEN THE BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY USE**

S023-T00001

3. Estimated capital and recurrent operating costs;

The Batemans Bay Community Centre has most recently been used and configured as office space. It has also been vacant for approximately 12 months.

To address items 1, 2 and 3 of the resolution, facilities management staff undertook an assessment of the facility, developing a three stage renewal and reactivation program of works.

To prepare the facility for reopening and community use, stage 1 of the renewal and reactivation program has been implemented, covering essential maintenance, compliance and required upgrades. The aim has been to ensure a fresh, welcoming, clean and compliant facility that meets community needs. This has been achieved.

Key works included electrical and data rectification, installation of LED and security lighting, plumbing upgrades and hot water replacements, HVAC servicing and replacement of vandalised equipment, flooring restoration, pest and fire compliance services, external cleaning and repairs, garden maintenance and fence repairs.

The cost of stage 1 works was \$47,784, funded from residual facilities capital funding from 2025-2026. The completion of stages 2 and 3 of the renewal and regeneration plan, if/when they proceed, will require a budget allocation.

Staff have developed estimated operating costs for the Batemans Bay Community Centre based on historical costs from the previous four years across the network of Council facilities, as well as costs identified specifically at the community centre during the recent refurbishments.

The draft operating budget is \$72,000. Operating costs include cleaning, maintenance (facility and garden), waste collection, pest control, security, fire compliance, utilities, cleaning supplies, internal rates and charges and corporate overheads.

A small component of the proposed maintenance budget includes small-scale capital requirements, with any larger capital/renewal items identified in stages 2 and 3 of the renewal and reactivation program, anticipated to be delivered over several financial years, with budgets yet to be allocated.

4. Opportunity costs, including loss of potential lease revenue;

From 2021 until 2025 the Batemans Bay Community Centre building was leased to a local community-based service provider. The lease per annum was initially \$76,000, rising to \$86,000 by the conclusion of the lease.

The lessee paid all outgoings, including cleaning, maintenance, utilities and Council rates (excluding water rates). As such, Council did not carry the cost of operating the facility. If Council pursued a lease similar to the one in place from 2021 to 2025, the revenue would potentially be up to \$86,000 per year (\$258,000 over 3 years), with no operating costs. However, this is not recommended.

Council conducted an Expression of Interest in July/August 2026 to gauge community demand and preferences (as per Min 26/55). One submission was received via the online form proposing a lease arrangement with a local community-based organization.

Under the proposal the organization has requested a lease fee of \$60,000 over three years (Yr 1 \$0; Yrs 2 and 3 \$30,000 each), with the lessee retaining all revenue from bookings and Council

**CAR26/016 REOPEN THE BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY USE**

S023-T00001

covering all operational costs (utilities, cleaning, maintenance, insurance, furnishings etc) at approx. \$72,000 per year or \$216,000 over three years. Over a 3 year period, this option would cost Council approx. \$159,000. Under this proposal the potential lessee would staff the facility with volunteers and open from 8.30 – 4pm.

By comparison, if Council operates the facility directly, the estimated revenue of \$52,000 (\$156,000 over three years) would offset operating costs of \$72,000 (\$216,000 over 3 years). Over a 3 year period, this option would cost Council approx. \$60,000.

This report recommends Council manage the facility directly as a bookable venue with staff onsite, rather than establishing a lease with a third party for the operation of the Batemans Bay Community Centre.

5. Operational, staffing and security requirements;

As stated, the estimated operating cost for Batemans Bay Community Centre is \$72,000 (including overheads). This figure does not include the cost of permanent staff on site.

This report recommends the rostering of existing Council staff at the community centre and the opening of the centre from 8.30-4.30pm Monday to Friday. The aim of this will be to support the development of a vibrant community hub at the venue and ensure the toilets are open to the public on weekdays.

For evening or weekend bookings, when staff are not on site, community members would still be able to book and access the facility using keys/alarm codes, as they do at Council's other bookable halls and facilities, such as the Dr Mackay Community Centre in Moruya. Regular users might also be issued with keys for such situations.

Over the past four years Council has put considerable effort into improving the process to book facilities; revamping information on the website, upgrading the bookings platform to Bookable, improving the process for security and key allocation across the network and providing training to users. These improvements will further assist community members to book the facility.

6. Potential lease, licence or shared-use models;

As advised, one submission proposing a lease arrangement was received during the recent Expression of Interest process. Under the proposal, the submitting organisation has proposed:

- A 3 year lease. No payment to Council in year 1, then \$30,000 per year for years 2 and 3.
- Council would pay Insurance, cleaning, maintenance, electricity, internet, infrastructure arrangements and furniture and fittings to accommodate at least 260 people, and all other costs as they arise, estimated to be \$72,000 per annum including overheads.
- Council would pay all capital costs at the centre.
- The lessee would manage all bookings.
- The lessee would staff the facility using volunteers from 8.30am to 4pm weekdays.
- The proposal does not indicate which rooms (office/other) might be used exclusively by the lessee and which rooms/spaces might be available to the community.
- The lessee would apply Council's adopted fees and charges and retain the revenue.

**CAR26/016 REOPEN THE BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY USE**

S023-T00001

- The lessee proposes a management committee be put in place between Council and the lessee as part of the lease. The management of this committee would be an additional cost to Council.

The proposal does include a focus on positive community outcomes. However, progressing this lease proposal is not recommended.

7. Demonstrated community demand and stakeholder consultation;

Council conducted an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to gauge community demand and intended uses, inviting individuals and organisations to make a submission detailing applicant type (individual, community group, charity etc) and how they wish to use the facility. A copy of each submission is provided as Attachment 1 to this report. The following is a summary of the key results:

5 individuals and 14 groups made a submission for a total of 19 submissions via the online form or via email.

9 were registered charities or NFP organisations and 5 were community or sporting groups, with no commercial or government agencies submitting.

The type of bookings nominated were varied, with one room weekly and day bookings the most selected, and occasional, evening and multiple bookings several times per week also selected.

15 submissions indicated they were not interested in leasing or licencing the whole facility. They wanted to be able to book rooms/spaces.

3 selected the lease/licence arrangement on the online form. Of that:

- One requested a homeless hub to operate once per week, offering to assist in seeking funds to support the initiative, but did not propose a lease directly.
- One person appears to have selected the lease/licence option in error, as the submission was accompanied by a detailed email requesting that Council directly manage the community centre rather than leasing/licencing the facility.
- One suggested full management of the facility. Council wrote to this organisation on 14 August seeking further details to inform this report. A response and proposal was received and included in Attachment 1. A more detailed summary was provided under Item 6. Potential lease, licence or shared-use model of this report.

1 proposal, received via email, recommended that Council investigate a licence arrangement with a local service provider (not specified) to create a community hub, but did not propose a lease directly.

This feedback indicates that the majority of potential users are charities, community and sporting groups.

The majority (90% +) prefer the option to directly book the facility rather than support a lease, licence or shared use (or other) model.

**CAR26/016 REOPEN THE BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY USE**

S023-T00001

In addition to the EOI process Council held an Open day on 12 August from 10am to 1pm. The event was very successful, with approx. 65 community members and four Councillors attending. Feedback was very positive.

8. Options for achieving a financially sustainable long-term community outcome

As stated, the draft operating cost has been estimated at \$72,000 (including overheads).

The recommended option for achieving a financially sustainable outcome and meeting the stated wishes of the community is for Council to reopen and directly manage/operate the facility, with revenue from bookings offsetting operating costs, thereby reducing the net cost to Council.

To support financial stewardship and the community's desire for a bookable venue and the provision of a community hub at the centre, the rostering of existing Council staff on site is proposed.

This will enable the centre to be open from 8.30-4.30 weekdays, supporting users on site, supporting the creation of a vibrant community hub and enabling the provision of public toilets on weekdays.

This option will also deliver the added benefit of Council outreach services, meetings with community members on site and direct service delivery being available in the northern part of the shire.

This report recommends that Council also endorses the development of a solar plan for the facility, with the outcomes to be incorporated into stages 2 and 3 of the renewal and rejuvenation plan. This will assist in reducing the electricity costs, estimated to be approx. \$5,000 per annum, thereby improving sustainability. The development of the plan will be achieved in-house using existing funds.

The recommendation includes a request for a \$20,000 expenditure budget for the remainder of the 2026-2027 financial year. This will enable cleaning and other contracts to be established and operating.

Social Impact

The reopening of the Batemans Bay Community Centre for community use will have a positive social impact, enabling a range of community groups and organisations to book the space, fostering a connected community hub. This action will also demonstrate that Council has listened to the community.

Financial

An estimated operating budget of approx. \$72,000 has been developed, including all cleaning, maintenance, utilities, insurance, security, compliance, internal rates and overhead costs. This will be offset by bookings revenue.

Capital budget requirements will be developed for the 2027-2028 financial year.

**CAR26/016 REOPEN THE BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY USE**

S023-T00001

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

To assist in addressing items 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Council resolution, Council conducted an Expression of Interest process in July/August. This was promoted via a media release and across social media.

As a result, Council received 17 online submission forms and 2 emailed submissions from the community.

In addition, Council conducted an Open Day at the Batemans Bay Community Centre on 12 August from 10am – 1pm, with approx. 65 community members and four Councillors attending. The event was highly successful and positive.

CONCLUSION

This report has been prepared to outline work undertaken to address Council's resolution to reopen the Batemans Bay Community Centre for community use.

The report addresses the eight issue areas outlined in the resolution (Min. 26/55).

Council conducted an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to identify community demand, with 19 submissions, including one lease proposal received.

Based on community sentiment, expressed via submissions and correspondence over the past few months, as well as discussions held at the Open Day, there is a clear community desire for the facility to be reopened and run by Council as a bookable space, with staff onsite, creating a positive community hub for the whole community to use and participate in.

The viability of this option is further reinforced when reviewing financial considerations in relation to operational costs and the opportunity to offset these costs with bookings revenue, as well as support community expectations.

As such, this report is recommending that Council reopen and directly manage the Batemans Bay Community Centre as a bookable facility and community hub.

CAR26/017 BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES

S011-T00005

Responsible Officer: Kathy Arthur - Director Community, Arts and Recreation Services

Attachments: 1. Batemans Bay Community Centre Proposed Fee Structure
2. Batemans Bay Community Centre Floor Plan

Community Goal: 5 We are an engaged community with progressive leadership

Community Strategy: 5.1 Our community is informed and participates in decision making

Delivery Program Link: 5.1.2 Provide a range of opportunities for the community to be consulted and engaged, guided by the Community Engagement Strategy

Operational Plan Link: 5.1.2.1 Invite community members to participate in decisionmaking by providing a broad range of engagement opportunities in line with the Community Engagement Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council endorsement to adopt draft fees and charges for the hire of the Batemans Bay Community Centre rooms and spaces.

On 26 May 2026 Council resolved to support the reopening of the Batemans Bay Community Centre (Minute 26/55) for community use.

On 30 June 2026 Council resolved to place draft fees and charges on public exhibition.

In order for community members and groups to book the facility, adopted fees and charges need to be in place, in line with legislative requirements.

The draft fees and charges were placed on public exhibition from 6 July until 3 August 2026. One submission was received.

The exhibited fees were based on adopted 2026-2027 fees and charges for comparable Council spaces and rooms at several Council owned sites around the shire. Specific rates and comparison sites, as well as a floorplan denoting each bookable space, were included as information to assist community members during the exhibition period.

This report recommends adoption of the exhibited fees and charges for the Batemans Bay Community Centre.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the draft fees and charges for the Batemans Bay Community Centre, as detailed in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

The Batemans Bay Community Centre operated as a bookable facility from the 1990's until 2021, with a range of rooms/spaces available to book at either a commercial or community rate.

In the 2018-2019 financial year (prior to Covid) there were 24 regular users and multiple casual users and user groups in place at the Batemans Bay Community Centre, with an annual revenue of approximately \$52,000. The majority of users received a discount of up to 40%, as regular hirers at a community rate.

CAR26/017 BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES

**S011-
T00005**

It is envisaged that with similar diverse usage comparable revenue could be achieved once the centre reopens to bookings, with the potential for a wide range of community groups to benefit.

CONSIDERATIONS

The draft Fees and Charges for the Batemans Bay Community Centre are in line with the venue rates in place at existing/like Council community facilities. As stated, a floorplan with rates identified against each space/room was included with the public exhibition documentation, to assist community members.

There are eight (8) bookable spaces within the Batemans Bay Community Centre, based on a range of configurations, including the hall, meeting rooms and kitchen.

One submission was received during the exhibition period. Table 1 outlines the submission and proposed response:

Table 1

How the proposed draft fees compare with what was charged before SEARMS, how do these new draft fees compare with what's on offer at the PAV, and is there a waiver provision for NFP groups available as is the case in the Soldiers Club?	The proposed fees and Charges for the Batemans Bay Community Centre are based on existing fees, including the Moruya Library meeting room and category A, B and D room hire fees, as per Council's adopted fees and charges. These options were selected as they best align with the type of room/space and facilities offered at the centre, ensuring equity with like facilities in the shire. In response to the question on how fees compare to the period prior to the lease with SEARMS, the fees for 2018-2019 have been reviewed. Factoring in annual CPI increases, the fees have not changed markedly. For example, the small meeting room (meeting room 1) was \$18.40 per hour. It is now proposed at \$20 per hour. The whole Hall was \$49 per hour. It is now proposed to be \$59 per hour. The whole Hall for a full day was \$338. It is now proposed at \$350. Previously there was a \$15 per hour fee for the use of the kitchen. The draft fees on exhibition do not list a separate fee for the kitchen. Rather, kitchen hire is included in the hire of the Hall, areas 1 and 2. The Bay Pavilions has a range of spaces and rooms, which are quite different in terms of size, purpose and facility inclusions. The fees and charges include a standard rate and a lower community rate. For example, the rehearsal studio community rate is \$38 per hour compared to \$44 per hour for a standard rate. Council supports community, sporting and recreational groups in its Fees and Charges, with a 20% discount for regular hirers and a further 20% discount for community groups. For example, the draft fees and charges for the small meeting room at the Batemans Bay community Centre includes a \$20 per hour rate. This reduces to \$12 per hour once the 40% discount is applied.
--	--

CAR26/017 BATEMANS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES

**S011-
T00005**

Financial

In the 2018-2019 year (prior to Covid) there were 24 regular users and multiple casual users and user groups in place at the Batemans Bay Community Centre, with an annual revenue of approximately \$52,000. The majority of users received a discount as a regular hirer, at the community rate.

It is envisaged that with similar diverse usage, comparable revenue would be achieved if/when the Batemans Bay Community Centre is reopened to bookings from across the community, with a wide range of community groups and individuals benefiting.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The draft fees and charges for the Batemans Bay Community Centre were publicly exhibited 6 July until 3 August 2026. Council publicised the process via a media release and via its website. One submission was received.

We informed the community of the public exhibition process via Council's website and a media release.

CONCLUSION

Council resolved to support the reopening of the Batemans Bay Community Centre for community use. To enable bookings, Council needs to have adopted fees and charges in place.

This report recommends that Council adopts the draft fees and charges for the Batemans Bay Community Centre.

Attachment 1.

Proposed fee structure for Batemans Bay Community Centre

ROOM	HOURLY RATE	REGULAR HIRE DISCOUNT 20 %	COMMUNITY HIRE DISCOUNT 20 %	COMBINED DISCOUNT 40 %	DAY RATE	REGULAR HIRE DISCOUNT 20 %	COMMUNITY HIRE DISCOUNT 20 %	COMBINED DISCOUNT 40 %
Small meeting room	\$20.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$12.00	\$115.00	\$92.00	\$92.00	\$69.00
Display area	\$24.00	\$19.20	\$19.20	\$14.40	\$138.00	\$110.40	\$110.40	\$82.80
Meeting room 1 & 2	\$32.00	\$25.60	\$25.60	\$19.20	\$185.00	\$148.00	\$148.00	\$111.00
Combined meeting rooms	\$51.00	\$40.80	\$40.80	\$30.60	\$300.00	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$180.00
Hall 1 & 2	\$37.00	\$29.60	\$29.60	\$22.20	\$213.00	\$170.40	\$170.40	\$127.80
Combined Hall	\$59.00	\$47.20	\$47.20	\$35.40	\$350.00	\$280.00	\$280.00	\$210.00

Small room fee aligns with Moruya Library meeting room hire fee

Display area fee aligns with Category D room hire fee

Meeting room 1 & 2 fee aligns with Category A room hire fee

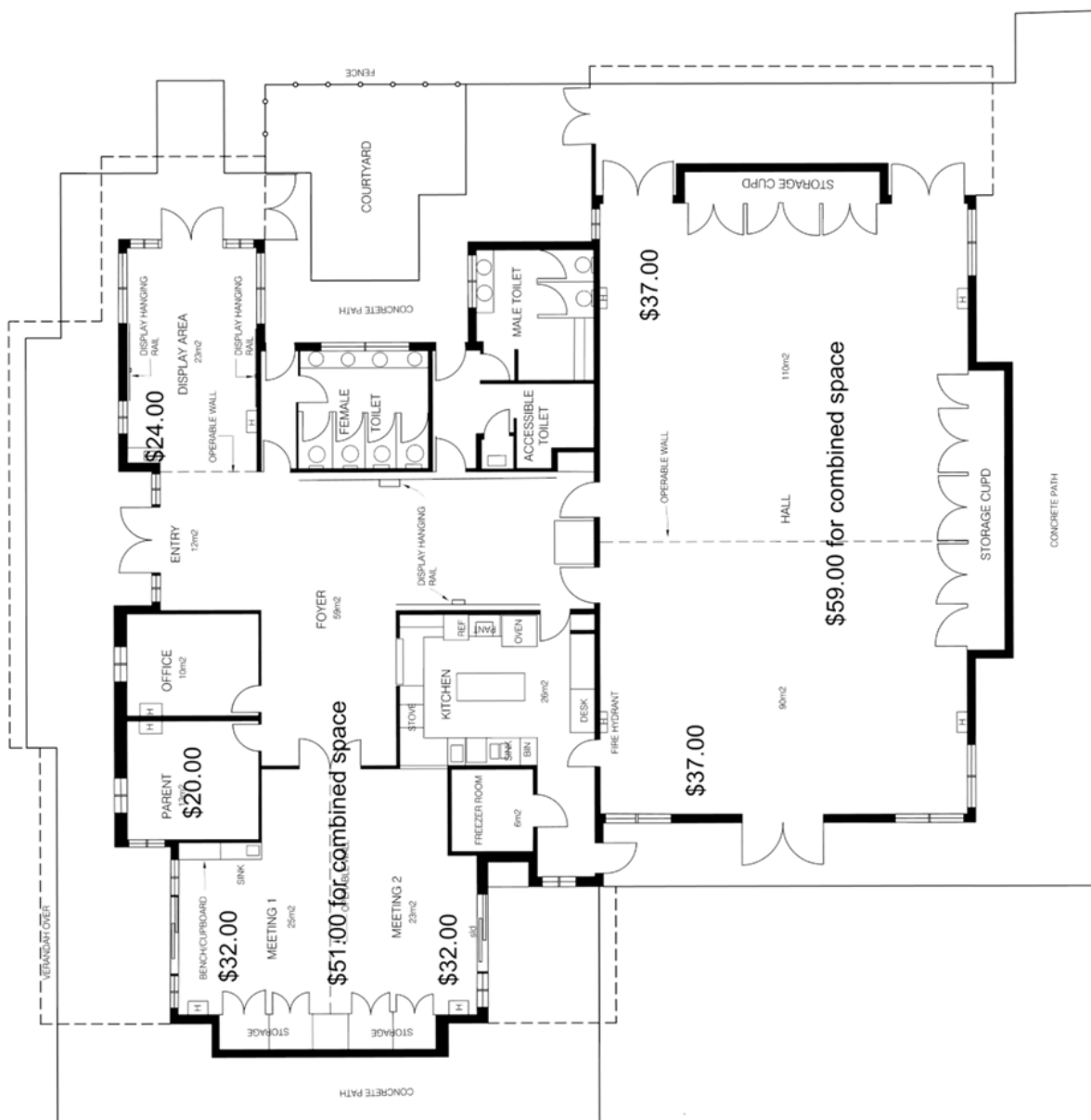
Hall 1 & 2 fee aligns with Category B room hire fee **

Combined meeting room and hall hire fees provide a 20 % discount on the hire of both rooms

Kitchen hire is included in the hire of Hall 1 & 2.

** All fees are based on values in the draft 2026/2027 fees and charges.

Attachment 2.

[illegible]

CAR26/018 NAROOMA SCHOOL OF ARTS FUNDING REQUEST

S026-T00013

Responsible Officer: Kathy Arthur - Director Community, Arts and Recreation Services

Attachments: 1. Under Separate Cover - Confidential - Narooma School of Art Proposal Package

Community Goal: 5 We are an engaged community with progressive leadership

Community Strategy: 5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership

Delivery Program Link: 5.2.1 Be proactive leaders and an effective governance body with a focus on better outcomes for our community

Operational Plan Link: 5.2.1.2 Administer the Community Grants and Donations Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Narooma School of Arts Inc (NSoA) has operated successfully for 130 years, supporting a range of arts and cultural activities in Narooma on behalf of the community.

The NSoA is currently constructing the Narooma Arts Centre (NAC). Council's Creative Arts Strategy 2026-2032 recognises the Narooma Arts Centre as an important addition to the region's cultural landscape.

The NSoA has submitted a proposal to Council, seeking seed funding to support initial operation of the new facility, specifically a part-time position. The proposal and associated documents are included with this report as Confidential Attachment 1.

This report recommends the allocation of the requested funding for a three year period.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council provides the Narooma School of Arts Inc (NSoA) \$55,016 per year for the next three financial years, commencing in 2026-2027, to fund the Volunteer and Studio Coordinator position at the facility.
2. That Council review the funding arrangement in 2028-2029.

BACKGROUND

The NSoA has held, managed and enhanced land and facilities in Narooma on behalf of the community for the cultivation of Literature, Sciences and Creative and Performing Arts for 130 years.

Over the past 10 years the NSoA has attracted \$10 million in grant funding to design and build the Narooma Arts Centre (NAC), a solar and battery system for the new building and address issues at Narooma Memorial Hall.

The NSoA volunteer management committee enables the operation of three enterprises in Narooma; the NAC, Café and Narooma Cinema. It is an independent, not for profit organisation dedicated to serving the community.

The construction of the NAC is nearing completion, with an anticipated opening in October 2026. Once open it will provide a state of the art gallery, three flexible studios and a small café. It will be fully accessible, with ramped street access at the front and a lift at the rear.

CAR26/018 NAROOMA SCHOOL OF ARTS FUNDING REQUEST

S026-T00013

CONSIDERATIONS

In August 2026 the NSoA committee submitted a proposal to Council seeking financial assistance for initial operations, specifically to fund a part-time position. The request included a proposal document, a copy of their strategic plan, a wages table and position description, floorplan and a draft Income and Expenditure summary for the 2027 calendar year. All of the documents are included as Confidential Attachment 1.

The NSoA has 193 members and 70 volunteers. The business model currently relies on a robust volunteer team. This will increase with the opening of the NAC, with 5 exhibitions planned across the remainder of 2026 once the centre opens. As such, supporting the team of volunteers for the NAC will be essential to its success.

Specifically, the NSoA is seeking \$55,016 per annum for three years to fund a part-time Volunteer and Studio Coordinator position to be employed at the NAC, for a total Council contribution of \$165,048 over the 3 year period.

If Council determines to support the funding request, it is recommended that the following criteria be included under the terms of the arrangement:

- The NSoA provides an annual financial summary report to Council for each of the 3 financial years, from 2026-2027
- The NSoA acknowledges Council's support in its publications and NAC promotions
- A review of the arrangement is conducted in 2028-2029, at the end of the 3 year period.

Financial

The provision of \$55,016 per year to the NSoA will require the allocation of new funding.

CONCLUSION

The Narooma School of Arts Inc (NSoA) has operated successfully for 130 years, supporting a range of arts and cultural activities in Narooma on behalf of the community.

The NSoA has submitted a proposal to Council, seeking seed funding to support initial operation of the new facility, specifically \$55,016 per annum for three years to fund a Volunteer and Studio Coordinator position to be employed at the NAC.

This report recommends the allocation of the requested funding for a three year period.

**DR26/002 ALGA NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE CONGRESS 2026**

S004-T00019

Responsible Officer: Rob Pollock - Councillor

Attachments: 1. ALGA Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress 2026 -
Communique

Community Goal: 5 We are an engaged community with progressive leadership

Community Strategy: 5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership

Delivery Program Link: 5.2.3 Advocate and collaborate to advance the region and address local
issues

Operational Plan Link: 5.2.3.1 Develop and maintain strategic partnerships to advance
Eurobodalla

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress 2026 is a national forum bringing together local government leaders, infrastructure professionals, technical specialists and industry representatives to consider issues affecting the delivery, management and funding of local roads, transport and community infrastructure.

The Congress was held in Queensland from 25-26 August 2026. Council's representative at the Congress was Councillor Rob Pollock who was joined by Council's Division Manager Major Projects, Philip Oste.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Delegate's Report from Councillor Rob Pollock on the ALGA National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress 2026 be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

The 2026 Congress addressed a range of issues directly relevant to Council's infrastructure responsibilities.

In the opening session, Cairns Mayor Amy Eden welcomed delegates and highlighted the region's priorities and ambitions for resilient, well-planned growth. Senator Susan McDonald, Shadow Minister for Resources and Shadow Minister for Northern Australia, and Matt Smith MP also addressed the Congress, reinforcing the importance of strong partnerships with local government to deliver the infrastructure, services and economic opportunities communities need.

The Commonwealth Treasury session on enabling infrastructure highlighted that achieving national housing and productivity goals depends on local roads, water, drainage and community facilities being properly funded and sequenced.

Road safety was a central priority for Congress. Key themes included:

- Local government infrastructure funding and financial sustainability
- Road asset management and renewal

**DR26/002 ALGA NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE CONGRESS 2026**

**S004-
T00019**

- Heavy vehicle management and the use of data
- Road safety and influencing driver behaviour through infrastructure design
- Infrastructure planning, funding and sequencing
- Accessible and inclusive active transport networks and infrastructure design.

These themes are particularly relevant to regional coastal councils where limited financial and technical resources must be balanced against extensive road networks, ageing infrastructure, increasing heavy-vehicle movements and the need to respond to natural disasters.

A key message from the Congress was that local government infrastructure challenges cannot be addressed solely through individual projects. Long-term asset management, workforce capability, reliable data, appropriate design, sustainable funding and strategic infrastructure planning must be considered collectively.

Themes of particular interest to our Council are:

Supporting Housing

Council sought and received over \$11 million in state funding to enable the Moruya housing infrastructure project to proceed. By building roads, drainage, footpaths and upgrading the local water and sewer systems, this new infrastructure will encourage development of available land to support greater housing availability and diversity.

Asset Management

The 2026 National State of the Assets Report highlighted the scale of the national infrastructure renewal challenge, identifying up to \$280 billion in infrastructure renewal and upgrade demand across Australian councils over coming decades.

We are managing this challenge by focusing on strengthening our asset management and renewal planning processes and ensuring that infrastructure investment decisions are supported by reliable condition, risk and lifecycle information. This is reflected in our adopted Resourcing Strategy and underlying Asset Management Plan.

Road Safety and Infrastructure Design

The Congress considered how emerging road safety treatments and infrastructure can influence driver behaviour and contribute to improved road user safety. Our Council has a demonstrated history of embedding road safety in projects, namely road renewal and upgrade programs, which has proven successful in including relatively low-cost infrastructure treatments at identified locations, and seeking grant funding to implement larger upgrades and treatments, such as the Broulee Roundabout.

The congress Communique is provided as an attachment to this report, and outlines the purpose and outcomes of the conference.

CONCLUSION

The Congress provided an opportunity to gain an understanding of the national challenges facing local government infrastructure delivery and to compare Eurobodalla Shire Council's practices with approaches being adopted by other councils.



2026 National Local Roads, Transport & Infrastructure Congress – Cairns Communique

Local government leaders, infrastructure professionals, industry experts and government representatives gathered in Cairns from 24–26 August 2026 for the National Local Roads, Transport & Infrastructure Congress.

Delegates acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Cairns region and paid respect to Elders past and present.

The Congress focused on the infrastructure councils need to support housing growth, safer and more connected communities, resilient supply chains and stronger local economies.

In the opening session, Cairns Mayor Amy Eden welcomed delegates and highlighted the region's priorities and ambitions for resilient, well-planned growth. Senator Susan McDonald, Shadow Minister for Resources and Shadow Minister for Northern Australia, and Matt Smith MP also addressed the Congress, reinforcing the importance of strong partnerships with local government to deliver the infrastructure, services and economic opportunities communities need.

The Commonwealth Treasury session on enabling infrastructure highlighted that achieving national housing and productivity goals depends on local roads, water, drainage and community facilities being properly funded and sequenced. Councils must be engaged early in planning and supported with sustainable, predictable funding to deliver infrastructure in the right place at the right time.

Road safety remained a central priority. Sessions highlighted how road design, speed management and safer intersections can influence driver behaviour, as well as the responsibilities of road managers at level crossings and the importance of strong temporary traffic management, asbestos and silica safety practices.

The Congress also demonstrated how better information and technology can improve local decisions. Delegates explored the National Automated Access System for heavy vehicles, artificial intelligence and data tools for asset management, and vehicle-to-grid technology as community expectations of infrastructure continue to evolve.

Presentations on fuel security and supply chain resilience underscored the essential role of local roads and council operations in keeping freight moving and communities supplied during disruption. Delegates also examined the opportunities and challenges created by e-scooters, e-bikes, walking and other active transport options.

Inclusive infrastructure was another strong theme, with practical guidance on embedding accessibility and universal design into planning, project delivery and asset management so communities are safer and easier to navigate for people of all abilities.

Local examples, including Cairns Regional Council's Gordonvale Water Security Project, showed how long-term investment can secure essential services, support population growth and strengthen regional resilience. Updates on federal grants and programs gave councils practical information to help progress local priorities.

The Congress concluded with a clear message, local government is a critical delivery partner for Australia's housing, transport, safety and productivity priorities. Delegates left Cairns with practical ideas, stronger partnerships and a shared commitment to advocate for sustained investment in the infrastructure every community relies on.

17. DEALING WITH MATTERS IN CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council can exclude members of the public from the meeting and go into Closed Session to consider confidential matters, if those matters involve:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals; or
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer; or
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; or
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed;
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret,
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law; or
- (f) matters affecting the security of the council, councillors, council staff or council property; or
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege or information concerning the nature and location of a place; or
- (h) an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.

and Council considers that discussion of the material in open session would be contrary to the public interest.

In accordance with Section 10A(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a council, or a committee of a council, may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A GUIDING CHECKLIST FOR COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Do you stand to gain personally at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. There are two types of conflict: Pecuniary – regulated by the *Local Government Act* and Department of Local Government; and Non-Pecuniary – regulated by Codes of Conduct and policy, ICAC, Ombudsman, Department of Local Government (advice only).

THE TEST FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of "corruption" – using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest.

IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS

- 1st** Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in?
- 2nd** Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?
- 3rd** Do my private interests conflict with my official role?

Whilst seeking advice is generally useful, the ultimate decision rests with the person concerned.

AGENCY ADVICE

Officers of the following agencies are available during office hours to discuss the obligations placed on Councillors, Officers and Community Committee members by various pieces of legislation, regulation and Codes.

CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL	WEBSITE
Eurobodalla Shire Council Public Officer	4474-1000	council@esc.nsw.gov.au	www.esc.nsw.gov.au
ICAC	8281 5999	icac@icac.nsw.gov.au	www.icac.nsw.gov.au
The Office of Local Government	4428 4100	olg@olg.nsw.gov.au	www.olg.nsw.gov.au
NSW Ombudsman	1800 451 524	info@ombo.nsw.gov.au	www.ombo.nsw.gov.au

Reports to Committee are presented generally by 'exception' - that is, only those items that do not comply with legislation or policy, or are the subject of objection, are discussed in a report.

Reports address areas of business risk to assist decision making. Those areas include legal, policy, environment, asset, economic, strategic and financial.

Reports may also include key planning or assessment phrases such as:

- Setback* Council's planning controls establish preferred standards of setback (eg 7.5m front; 1m side and rear);
- Envelope* taking into account the slope of a lot, defines the width and height of a building with preferred standard of 8.5m high;
- Footprint* the percentage of a lot taken up by a building on a site plan.