

NOTICE OF ORDINARY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers on **Tuesday, 18 February at 4.00pm.**

Agenda

1. Submission of Questions for Next Meeting
2. National Anthem
3. Prayer
4. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners:

“I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. I pay my respects to our Elders past and present and thank them for the contribution they have made, and continue to make, in the cultural identity of our nation.”

5. Commencement of recording
6. Apologies
7. Declarations of Interest

At this juncture, Councillors should indicate any items in which they have an interest and therefore will not be participating in discussion or voting.

8. Confirmation of Minutes
 - Ordinary meeting held on 17 December 2024
9. Listing of matters to be considered in Closed Council

The following matters are listed to be considered in Closed Council in line with the confidentiality policy of Council and Clause 10A (2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, relating to:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business
- (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 the law
- (f) matters affecting the security of the council, councillors, council staff or council property
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.

- Procedural Motion to close Council to Press and Public
- Reports from Servants to Closed Council Meeting
 - Tender T27/24 Server Refresh Project (d)
 - Aged Care Clinical Governance (a)
 - The Gil Library Hub Project Financial Update (d)
 - Tender T28/24 Gilgandra Speedway Upgrade Project (d)
- Procedural Motion to re-open meeting to Press and Public

10. Reports

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Neeves', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Neeves
General Manager

Procedural Motion – to exclude Press and Public

“That by reason of the confidential nature of the matters to be considered in line with the confidentiality policy of Council and Clause 10(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, relating to financial matters, staff matters, industrial matters, acceptance of tenders, personal affairs of private individuals, possible or pending litigation and such other matters considered appropriate – the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting.

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MAYORAL MINUTE - 1/25
MAYORAL COMMITMENTS

SUMMARY

To advise of the Mayor's activities since the 17 December 2024 meeting.

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18/12/24	Jack Towney Christmas Function
21/01/25	St Ambrose Restoration Meeting
21/01/25	Premier's Department Consultation with Regional Communities Community Listening Session – Narrabri; and Narrabri Work Camp Visit
25/01/25	Australia Day Prelude Concert
26/01/25	Australia Day including Ambassador's Mayoral Tour
29/01/25	Meeting with General Manager and Director of Aged Care and Disabilities in relation to the Christmas Shut down Period for the Waste Facility and Cardboard Recycling Capacity
29/01/25	Telstra and Gilgandra Region Meeting via Teams
30/01/25	Interview with ABC National News broadcaster regarding Telstra Service Shortcomings
07/02/25	Meeting with Deputy Mayor and General Manager regarding outcomes of the Executive Leadership Team's February Meeting in relation to this Month's Council Meeting Business Paper
12/02/25	A Meeting with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Commissioner: Corruption Risks of Councillors – Webinar
18/02/25	Council Workshops and Roads Inspection; and Council Meeting

Principal Activity Lead

Policy Implications Nil

Budget Implications Nil

Delivery Program Actions **4.2.1.1**
Implement the Community Engagement Strategy to inform, involve, empower, consult, and collaborate with stakeholders

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

D Batten
Mayor

MAYORAL MINUTE – 2/25
2025 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SUMMARY

To advise of the 2025 Australian Local Government Women’s Association Annual Conference (ALGWA) and determine attendance.

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The 2025 Australian Local Government Women’s Association Annual Conference (ALGWA) will be held from Thursday, 1 May 2025 to Saturday 3 May 2025 in Griffith by Griffith Council. The venue and further details of the event will be provided closer to the date.

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Lead
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	TBD closer to the date
<u>Delivery Program Actions</u>	4.3.5.2 Ensure Council attendance at relevant forums and that State and Federal Members are invited to local civic functions and community celebrations

RECOMMENDATION

For Council to determine attendance and save the date

D Batten
Mayor

DATES AND TIMES FOR ORDINARY MEETINGS

SUMMARY

To consider the date and time of Council's ordinary meetings.

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The first Clause of Council's Code of Meeting Practice refers to meeting requirements as follows:

- 1.1 Council is required to meet at least ten (10) times each year, each time in a different month. *(Section 365 Local Government Act 1993)*
- 1.2 If the Mayor receives a request in writing signed by at least two (2) Councillors, the Mayor must call an extra-ordinary meeting of Council to be held as soon as practicable but in any event within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the request. *(Section 366 Local Government Act 1993)*
- 1.3 Ordinary Meetings of Council are currently held on the third Tuesday of each month, commencing at 4 pm. *(Council resolution)*

At the 8 October 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting, Council meeting dates were considered, and it was resolved as follows:

1. *That Council continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at 4pm.*
2. *Review at February 2025 Council Meeting*

Therefore, in accordance with the above resolution this matter has again been presented for Council's consideration.

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Lead
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Delivery Plan Actions</u>	4.3.1.1 Ensure all governance targets and statutory requirement are met in line with the relevant Acts and Regulations and Council policy

RECOMMENDATION

For Council's consideration and determination.

David Neeves
General Manager

REVIEW OF POLICIES

SUMMARY

To advise of an annual review of Council’s policies.

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Council’s policy register has been reviewed by staff in line with Council’s Delivery Program.

There are proposed changes to the following policies:

Policy/Policies	Amendment(s)	Reason
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Uniform Policy • Overtime/Time-In-Lieu-Flexi Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend Local Government (State) Award 2020 to Local Government State Award 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reflect current legislation and regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses and Facilities – Mayor & Councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove at 2.2.3 “the relevant Director, or an officer nominated by the Director” replace with “or as per the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy” • Remove at 3.2.2 “double room or twin share” • Include the wording at 3.4.1(a) “for those residing outside of the residential area in the Gilgandra Township.” • Add at 3.6.1 after ‘meals’ “refreshments” • Amend the paragraph under 3.8 to ‘3.8.1’ and insert a 3.8.2 as follows “Where travel by motor vehicle is used it should be undertaken by Council vehicle where available, or by private vehicle subject to prior approval of the General Manager.” • Amend references from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reflect Council’s current practices • To reflect current legislation and regulation

	<p>Local Government (State) Award 2017 to Local Government State Award 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert at Part 5 – Care Arrangements after ‘sick immediate family members’ the following “relating to official Council business as resolved by resolution of the Council.” • Add paragraph 7.3 – Superannuation as follows “Pursuant to Section 254B of the Act, the Council shall make a superannuation payment as a contribution to a superannuation account nominated by a councillor, being the same amount the Council would have been required to contribute under the Commonwealth superannuation legislation as superannuation if the Councillor were an employee of the Council.” 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Grievances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend references from Local Government (State) Award 2017 to Local Government State Award 2023 • Amend “Clause 36” to “Clause 37” • Amend the Responsible Officer from “Director Growth and Liveability” to “Executive Leader of Transformational Change” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reflect current legislation and regulation • To reflect Council’s current operational functions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Motor Vehicle Licence Disqualification/Suspe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the Responsible Officer from “Director Growth and Liveability” to “Executive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reflect Council’s current

nsion	Leader of Transformational Change”	operational functions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Periods of Leave Without Pay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend references from Local Government (State) Award 2020 to Local Government State Award 2023 Amend the Responsible Officer from “Director Growth and Liveability” to “Executive Leader of Transformational Change” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect current legislation and regulation To reflect Council’s current operational functions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Mobile Phones/Communication Devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend references from Local Government (State) Award 2014 to Local Government State Award 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect current legislation and regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Protective Equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove “Yellow Red” under Casual Pool Staff Amend “HR UV Policy” to “UV Exposure and Sun Protection Policy” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unnecessary reference To reflect Council’s current policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend “Human Resources Manager” to “People and Culture Manager” Amend “Council’s Criminal Record Checks/Working with Children Checks Policy to “Council’s Employee Compliance Policy” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect Council’s current policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UV Exposure and Sun Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend references from Local Government (State) Award 2017 to Local Government State Award 2023 Amend the Responsible Officer from “Director Growth and Liveability” to “Executive Leader of Transformational Change” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect current legislation and regulation To reflect Council’s current operational functions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Record & Working with Children Checks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As <i>attached</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect current legislation and regulation To reflect Council’s

		current operational functions
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A full listing of all Council's current policies is available on our website:
www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au/council/your-council/council-policies

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Lead
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Amendments, as outlined above, to Council's policy register
<u>Budget Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Delivery Program Actions</u>	4.3.1.1 Ensure all governance targets and statutory requirements are met in line with the relevant Acts and Regulations and Council policy

RECOMMENDATION

That the various changes to Council's policy register, as outlined, be adopted.

David Neeves
General Manager

2025 NAIDOC WEEK SCHOOL INITIATIVES

SUMMARY

To advise Council of the request from Koori Kids to donate funds to the 2025 NAIDOC Week School Initiatives.

.....

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

Council has previously supported NAIDOC Week celebrations by way of donation to Koori Kids, who provide school based initiatives during NAIDOC week. Koori Kids propose to coordinate another school based initiative this year between 6th and 13th July. The initiative will be coordinated in partnership with the Department of Education, Department of Health, Transport for NSW, NSW Health, Catholic Schools NSW, and Department of Premier & Cabinet.

The initiative will consist of a creative competition where students will have the opportunity to be involved in colouring-in/short story and creative/essay writing competitions as well as an educational component. Participation will be open to all primary and secondary school students within the community.

Koori Kids is not currently an organisation included in Council's 'Donations' Policy and Council has previously applied for the Aboriginal Affairs NAIDOC Grants Program to provide a donation. Unfortunately, this year Council was notified of the request of a \$450.00 donation towards this year's initiative after the closing date of the NAIDOC Grants Program.

Koori Kids proposes to use the \$450.00 donation towards the costs for printing and distributing of information packs, posters, and entry forms to school across Council's local government area. Council will be acknowledged for their contribution through logo inclusion as an associate partner on information packs sent to schools throughout Council's local government area.

Principal Activity

Enjoy

Policy Implications

Nil

Budget Implications

This is not budgeted for and will require an additional vote to the donations budget line item

MEETING OF: GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD ON: 18 FEBRUARY 2025

Delivery Program Actions

2.2.2.2

Encourage participation of all cultures in activities and events

2.1.3.2

Provide a range of activities for youth

RECOMMENDATION

Given that the request would result in an additional budget allocation, Council decline the invitation to contribute to the 2025 NAIDOC Week School Initiatives.

David Neeves
General Manager

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION – 41 MILLER STREET, GILGANDRA

SUMMARY

To consider waiving fees associated with the Development Application for change of use of 41 Miller Street, Gilgandra.

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Council has recently purchased 41 Miller Street, Gilgandra for the purpose of office accommodation. The site was formerly constructed as a Tavern and a development application for a “Change of Use” is required. The fees associated with this “Change of Use”, are \$5,820.

FEE QUOTATION 2024 -25		
Office Use	Date	14/01/2025
Please process via receipting system only	Applicant	GSC
	Application Reference #	2024/###
	Email	council@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au
	Contract Cost	\$600,000.00
	Type of Development	Change of use
160501	DA Fee	\$2,436.00
990628	Planning Reform Fee (includes \$5.00 GSC Admin. Fee)	\$384.00
160502	s7.12 Developer Contributions	\$3,000.00
160501	Amended DA/CC	\$0.00
	Total Cost	\$5,820.00
Quotation only - Fees set under Council policy.		

Some fees are prescribed in legislation whilst others are set by Council in its annual fees and charges for development within the Shire.

The DA Fee is a prescribed fee under legislation that goes towards Council’s cost recovery for staff to assess the development application. The planning reform fee is a statutory fee that is levied on developers, collected by Council but is paid to the NSW Government. The s7.12 Developer Contribution is a policy set by Council to levy commercial developments for a contribution towards the future works prescribed in the policy and as amended from time to time.

Council has no discretion to waive the Planning Reform fee of \$384 and is payable to the NSW Government. The DA fee is the costs associated with assessing developments and should be honoured. Where Council has discretion is whether to levy the s7.12 contribution or to authorise an exemption for project.

In this instance, Council would be effectively be paying twice. There are costs associated with the development that have a benefit to the CBD Activation and

beautification strategies which in effect is what the objective of collecting s7.12 contribution is for.

Noting that Council does not have full discretion on waiving all fees, it does have the opportunity to depart from the Developer Contribution Policy by exempting it self from paying the s712 Contribution fee.

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Grow
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	\$5,820 payable by Council to Council
<u>Delivery Program Actions</u>	3.1.1.1 Implement the Gilgandra Activation Blueprint to support local businesses to thrive – including Grow Gilgandra transformation projects

RECOMMENDATION

That the s7.12 Developer Contribution fee for Change of Use of 41 Miller Street, Gilgandra from a Tavern to Office accommodation for Council operating purposes be waived.

Dianne Thomas
Acting Director Aged Care and Disabilities

SERVICE REPORT – ORANA LIVING & CARLGINDA ENTERPRISES

SUMMARY

To present a service report for Council's NDIS functions.

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Following a review of the services, a Plan for Continuous Improvement for Orana Living is in place and staff are working towards completing the actions and outcomes identified. Recommendations and actions are significant.

Actions currently being undertaken include:

- Exploring recruitment of four new care staff under the Labour Agreement which will reduce the reliance on agency staff.
- MedSig electronic medication management system for clients to be introduced in the coming weeks. This will be a significant change and will require substantial staff training and monitoring over the initial period and ongoing support.
- Working towards a strategic completing a strategic planning session for NDIS services delivered by Orana Living and Carlginda Enterprises for inclusion in the Council's Community Strategic Plan which may include:
 - Survey of participants and their families/carers to identify the expectations and perspectives of participants and families on employment requirements
 - Consideration of a strategic redesign of the existing housing model for Orana Living to better support participants
 - Consideration of respite options for persons with a disability
 - Review of marketing programs and options
 - Providing additional staff training for the NDIS in leadership, management and updates to NDIS models (NDS Training)
 - Source and implement a new digital rostering and timesheet system to enable tracking of actual service against roster of care and enable
 - Implementing a comprehensive digital client management system that includes: automated onboarding/offboarding functionality, wait list feature, digitised financial set up process including creation of debtor records and accounting system integration; and compliance with regulatory requirements.
 - Providing specific NDIS training for Councillors to ensure there is consistency in governance oversight
- Office staff have started the process of moving in preparation for the move to 41 Miller Street, Gilgandra.

- DIAP currently under review with alignment to operational outcomes in both Aged Care and Disabilities which will be included in Council's overarching Community Strategic Plan

Carlinda Enterprises continues to sort the recycling service to Gilgandra and Bogan Shire Councils with 17 supported employees. Employee hours have been reduced to reflect the ageing of the employees. Additional suitable work opportunities for supported employees have been identified and will be trialled as resources permit.

In due course, an NDIS report, providing a similar style of reporting will be provided to Council on a monthly basis.

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Live
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Delivery Program Actions</u>	1.3.2.2 Develop and maintain programs with individualised goals to improve life skills, independence and employment opportunities for clients of Orana Living and support them to maintain relationships with families, carers and friends within the community 1.3.3.1 Maintain and increase employment and training opportunities for supported employees of Carlinda Enterprises

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

Dianne Thomas
Acting Director Aged Care and Disabilities

TOWN WATER SUPPLY ISSUE

SUMMARY

To inform Council of an issue at the water treatment plant and actions taken to restore the Gilgandra water supply to normal operation.

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Councillors would be aware of a recent appeal that Council made to the Gilgandra community to conserve water. This is in relation to a clear water pump failure that occurred on 24 January 2025. The failure has limited the treatment plant's capacity to match the high demand associated with the hotter months.

There are normally two pumps that convey treated water from the clear water tank at the treatment plant to the reservoirs, with one being roughly twice the size of the other. The larger pump was the pump that failed meaning the output from the treatment plant is severely curtailed.

In peak periods when the daily water demand exceeds 3.2ML, the service load of the pumps is approximately 15hrs per day. The failure of the large pump has increased the smaller pump's load so that it was running 24hrs per day and could not sustain the height of water in the reservoirs. This prompted the request to the community to conserve water. The appeal has resulted in a decrease in consumption by around 18% on hot days and has averted the need to impose formal water restrictions for the present.

Sourcing another pump is not a straight forward matter. These pumps are not universal and are highly configured to the treatment plant that they service. At a cost of about \$90,000, they are also not a spare part that Council keeps in stock. These factors combined mean that it is not likely that another town with a treatment plant would have anything similar or a part that suppliers can supply at short notice.

The failed pump has been removed and transported to Newcastle for stripping down and inspection. As of 11 February 2025, the pump has been mostly dismantled and it has been established that a main shaft is bent with worn diffusers. A replacement shaft would have to be sourced from the USA.

In the meantime, staff have been in discussions with suppliers trying to locate a replacement in the event that it was unrepairable. One was found that matched the capacity of the failed pump but unfortunately has cast iron componentry, which is not desirable in a chlorinated environment.

Initially staff were informed it could be available in one week. Conversely, when a quote was provided it stated availability was three-four weeks. Staff questioned this and were told it was a standard lead time because there would need to be some configuration when it arrived at the supplier. The supplier did

offer to ceramic coat the cast iron components but this would take additional time to dismantle, coat and reassemble before shipping.

As the repair time for the failed pump is unknown and options are scarce, the replacement was ordered at a cost of \$50,000. The intent will be to install the pump without ceramic coating to manage the immediate situation with a view to modifications and/or repairs in the future when more information is at hand. Any installations or changeovers will be planned for the cooler months.

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Live
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	\$50,000 unplanned repairs
<u>Delivery Program Actions</u>	1.2.1.4 Provide a potable Gilgandra town water supply that meets Australian Drinking Water standards

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on the Gilgandra water supply issue.

Daryl Colwell
Director Infrastructure

QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW 31 DECEMBER 2024

SUMMARY

To detail the variances to the original estimates for the 2024/25 financial year as presented in the Quarterly Budget Review as at 31 December 2024. In addition, to report as to whether the Quarterly Budget Review indicates that the financial position of Council is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimates adopted by Council.

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List of Budget Changes Previously Adopted by Council

Note	Description	When Done	Income Change	Expense Change	Resp.
1101	Wages & Other Employee Costs	Sept		\$25,000	DGL
1103	Administration Expenses			\$19,887	DGL
1124	Plant Running Expenses			\$14,321	DI
1125 - 1129	Employee Overhead Costs			-\$445,913	DGL
1140	Administration Expenses			\$15,000	ELTC
1304	Development Income		-\$679		DGL
1401	Domestic Waste Management			\$41,000	DGL
1410	Other Waste Management Income		\$8,445		DGL
1500	Wages & Other Employee Costs			\$25,000	DACD
1501	Community Services Administration Expenses			\$2,000	DACD
1510	Gilgandra Youth Service Income		-\$25,000		DGL
1511	Gilgandra Youth Service Expenses			\$51,440	DGL
1521	Gilgandra Community Care Expenses			-\$31,861	DACD
1522	Gilgandra Community Transport Income		-\$10,000		DACD
1523	Gilgandra Community Transport Expenses			-\$35,000	DACD
1600	Housing Expenses			\$3,000	DGL
1611	Medical Centres Expenses			\$4,800	DGL
1612	Dentist Expenses			-\$5,000	DGL
1651	Street Lighting Expenses			-\$30,000	DI
1700	Gilgandra Library Income		\$1,866		DGL
1701	Gilgandra Library Expenses			\$69,176	DGL
1760	Heritage Income		\$5,000		DGL
1901	Gravel Pits Income		\$30,000		DI
1902	Gravel Pits Expenses			\$30,000	DI
1941	Roads to Recovery Expenses			\$188,830	DI
1981	Aerodromes Expenses			\$30,000	DI
2015	Economic Development Income		\$81,050		DGL
2016	Economic Development Expenses			-\$35,452	DGL
2801	Financial Assistance Grant		-\$4,757,486		DGL
2803	Interest Income		\$90,000		DGL

2900	Transfers from Reserves		\$8,374,280		Various
2901	Transfers to Reserves			\$470,913	Various
2903	Capital Income		\$2,002,428		Various
2904	Capital Expenditure			\$5,382,386	Various
	Total General Fund		\$5,799,904	\$5,789,527	
3000	Water Supply			-\$6,157	DI
4000	Sewerage Services			-\$4,091	DI
5000	Orana Living		\$5,000	-\$365,555	DACD
7000	Cooee Villa Units			-\$10,166	DACD
8000	Cooee Lodge Hostel		\$200,000	-\$53,841	DACD
8500	Jack Towney Hostel		\$490,000	\$438,409	DACD
	Total Gilgandra Shire Council		\$6,494,904	\$5,788,126	

Result

The overall result for General Fund for this review as at 31 December 2024 is a \$556,110 decrease to the estimated deficit at year end to an estimated result of a \$100,356 surplus (depreciation not included).

Water Fund has no change to the estimated result at year end of a \$71,959 deficit (depreciation not included).

Sewer Fund has no change to the estimated result at year end of a \$322,143 surplus (depreciation not included).

Orana Living has a \$17,000 increase to the estimated deficit at year end to an estimated result a \$47,446 deficit (depreciation not included).

Carlinda Enterprises no change to the estimated result at year end of an \$18,372 surplus (depreciation not included).

Cooee Villa Units has a \$38,285 increase to the estimated surplus at year end to an estimated result of a \$237,305 surplus (depreciation not included).

Home Care Packages has no change to the estimated surplus at year end of a \$62,016 surplus (depreciation not included).

Cooee Lodge Hostel has no change to the estimated surplus at year end of a \$253,403 surplus (depreciation not included).

Jack Towney Hostel has no change to the estimated surplus at year end of a \$66,883 surplus (depreciation not included).

The overall result for this review as at 31 December 2024 is a \$577,395 increase to the estimated surplus at year end for Council as a whole to an estimated result of a \$941,073 surplus (depreciation not included).

Details - Notes

The following notes are to be read in conjunction with the Quarterly Budget Review documents and contain a detailed description of the variances to Council's budget. These changes are listed in the variance columns.

GENERAL FUND

Note 1000 (page 1)

Councillors

\$10,000 additional expense

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

The additional \$10,000 is to cover the cost of attendance to the Local Government conference.

Note 1100 (page 2)

Corporate Support Income

\$29,959 additional income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

The additional income of \$29,959 is made up of an increase in insurance rebates of \$8,769 (from \$50,000 to \$58,769) and an increase in grant funding of \$21,190 for the Emergency Services Levy work (from \$0 to \$21,190).

Note 1102 (page 2)

Interest on Borrowings

\$237,500 less expense

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

The proposed new borrowing of \$3,000,000 this year will not be required as the second industrial subdivision will not commence until 25/26. The borrowing will be carried forward. Also, the projected borrowing of \$1,600,000 for the residential subdivision last year did not take place and the repayments were included in the 24/25 estimates.

The interest payment for the \$1,600,000 loan was \$80,000 and the interest payment for the \$3,000,000 loan was \$157,500.

Note 1108 (page 2)

Civic Activities

\$7,902 additional income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

The additional \$7,902 is funding for Australia Day activities.

Note 1302 (page 3)

Planning Income

\$40,000 additional income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

A higher than estimated level of activity with regards to Planning has resulted in additional income for Development Application Fees of \$10,000 (from \$25,000 to \$35,000) and Development Contribution Fees of \$30,000 (from \$20,000 to \$50,000). The additional \$30,000 is offset by a transfer to reserves on page 10.

Note 1304 (page 3)

Development Income

\$2,000 additional income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

A small increase in income of \$2,000 in this area.

Note 1410 (page 4)

Other Waste Management Income

\$10,000 additional income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

The additional \$10,000 is the result of tipping charges to date being at a higher level than anticipated.

Note 1510 (page 5)

Gilgandra Youth Services Income

\$20,000 less income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

The original budget estimates included an amount of \$25,000 for activities income. The actual amount as at 31st December is just \$240 and it is highly unlikely that the estimate will be achieved. As a result, the budget has been reduced by \$20,000 to \$5,000.

Notes 1600 & 1601 (page 6)

Housing Income and Expenses

\$26,219 additional income

\$18,200 additional expense

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

The change to the income reflects the current rental arrangements and usage while the changes to the expenses is the result of an increase in maintenance requirements.

Note 1700 (page 7)

Gilgandra Library Income

\$1,500 less income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

A reduction in the estimated income to be received from room hire in the new library. This is the result of the delay in occupying the building.

Note 1710 (page 7)

Public Halls Income

\$2,500 additional income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

An increase in hall hire income based on usage year to date.

Note 1751 (page 7)

Gilgandra Fitness Centre Expenses

\$20,000 less expense

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

An amount of \$24,000 was included in the budget for maintenance works at the gym. These works included \$6,000 replace the existing lighting and \$14,000 to reinstate the sauna room that is currently being used for storage. The works will not be carried out in the 24/25 year and are currently under review.

Notes 2010 & 2012 (page 9)

Cooee Heritage Centre Income & Expenses

\$6,000 less income

\$6,000 less expense

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

A reduction in sales income (from \$75,000 to \$69,000) that is offset by reduced costs for the purchase of goods.

Notes 2015 & 2016 (page 9)

Economic Development Expenses

\$16,457 additional expense

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

An additional amount of \$16,457 is required for the initial costs associated with the Arthur Butler Aviation Museum project.

Note 2050 (page 9)

Lease Income - Property

\$12,548 additional income

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

A positive adjustment to the original budget as a result of the actual lease agreements in place.

Note 2901 (page 10)

Transfers to Reserves

\$30,000 additional expense

The following is the transfers to reserves for this budget review:

- Developer Contribution Fee: \$30,000 additional expense which is offset by additional operating income on page 3.

Note 2903 (page 11)

Capital Income

\$317,913 additional income

IT Capital

\$280,453 additional income. This additional funding is offset by additional capital expense of the same amount.

Industrial Subdivisions

\$2,550,00 less income. The estimated cost for the subdivisions was \$7,205,000 and this was funded as follows:

- Grant: \$3,642,706
 - Loan: \$3,000,000
 - Reserves: \$562,294
-

As the cost has been reduced by \$5,550,000 at this review, the income has also been reduced by the same amount with the grant income portion being \$2,550,000.

Library – SCCF Round 3

\$14,960 additional income. This additional funding is offset by additional capital expense of the same amount.

SCCF Round 3 – Community Noticeboard

\$22,500 additional income. This additional funding is offset by additional capital expense of the same amount.

Note 2904 (page 11)

Capital Expenditure

\$317,913 additional expense

The following are the capital variance explanations:

IT Capital

\$280,453 additional expense that is offset by additional capital income.

Library Upgrade

\$14,960 additional expense that is offset by additional capital income.

SCCF Round 3 – Community Noticeboard

\$22,500 additional expense that is offset by additional capital income.

Industrial Subdivisions Schiers and Lummis

\$5,550,000 less expense. For Lummis Subdivision, there have been changes to the scope and the contract price has come down to \$1,280,000 (as compared to the estimate of \$2,470,000). When adding back a contingency for variations and extras, the amended estimate of \$1,600,000 has been included.

For Schiers Subdivision, it is expected that works will not commence until 25/26 and, as a result, the budget has been reduced by \$4,680,000 from \$4,735,000 to \$55,000 to cover preliminary costs.

The reduced expense of \$5,550,000 is offset by reduced capital income of \$2,550,000 and reduced loan income of \$3,000,000.

Notes 2905 & 2906 (page 11)

Loan Income & Repayments

\$3,000,000 less income

\$263,639 less expense

Responsible Officer: Director Growth & Liveability

As previously mentioned in this report, the budget for the industrial subdivisions in 24/25 has been reduced by \$5,550,000. As a result, the associated loan income of \$3,000,000 is not required and will be carried over to 25/26.

The \$263,639 reduction in loan repayments is the result of the \$3,000,000 loan not going ahead this year and the \$1,600,000 loan for the residential subdivision not required last year. The repayments for these two loans were \$136,432 and \$127,207 respectively.

Note 3000 (page 14)

WATER SUPPLY

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure

There are no changes.

Note 4000 (page 15)

SEWERAGE SERVICES

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure

There are no changes.

Note 5000 (page 16)

ORANA LIVING

\$17,000 additional expense

Responsible Officer: Director Aged Care & Disabilities

The additional expenses are made up of the following:

- \$2,000 for cleaning costs at CAS – Life Skills centre.
- \$15,000 for overtime payments at 59 Waugan Street.

Note 6000 (page 17)

CARLGINDA ENTERPRISES

Responsible Officer: Director Aged Care & Disabilities

There are no changes.

Note 7000 (page 18)

COOEE VILLA UNITS

\$72,300 additional income

\$34,015 additional expense

Responsible Officer: Director Aged Care & Disabilities

The additional income of \$72,300 is made up of an increase in rental income of \$52,300 due to a higher level of occupancy that estimated and an additional \$20,000 in service fees for those occupants that are yet to pay their lump sum amount.

The additional expense of \$34,015 is made up of an increase of \$11,968 in the administration fee to Cooee Lodge, an increase of \$13,000 in rates and water charges and an increase of \$9,047 in building maintenance costs.

Note 7500 (page 19)

HOME CARE PACKAGES

Responsible Officer: Director Aged Care & Disabilities

There are no changes.

Note 8000 (page 20)

COOEE LODGE

Responsible Officer: Director Aged Care & Disabilities

There are changes to the expenses estimates but the overall result is no change to the budget bottom line.

Note 8500 (page 21)

JACK TOWNEY HOSTEL

Responsible Officer: Director Aged Care & Disabilities

There are changes to the expenses estimates but the overall result is no change to the budget bottom line.

Finance Manager's Comments / Recommendations

General Fund

The original budget estimate for General Fund was an end of year result of a \$466,131 deficit (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$400,783 deficit (depreciation not included) which is an improvement of \$65,348.

This result should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Water Fund

The original budget estimate for Water Fund was an end of year result of a \$78,116 deficit (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$71,959 deficit (depreciation not included) which is an improvement of \$6,157 and should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Sewer Fund

The original budget estimate for Sewer Fund was an end of year result of a \$318,052 surplus (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$322,143 surplus (depreciation not included) which is an improvement of \$4,091 and should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Orana Living

The original budget estimate for Orana Living was an end of year result of a \$401,001 deficit (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$47,446 deficit (depreciation not included) which is an improvement of \$353,555 over the course of the year and should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Carlginda Enterprises

The original budget estimate for Carlginda Enterprises was an end of year result of an \$18,372 surplus (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of an \$18,372 deficit (depreciation not included) which is no change to the estimated budget. This result should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Cooee Villa Units

The original budget estimate for Cooee Villa Units was an end of year result of a \$188,854 surplus (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$237,305 surplus (depreciation not included) which is an improvement of \$48,451. This result should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Home Care Packages

The original budget estimate for Home Care Packages was an end of year result of a \$62,016 surplus (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$60,016 surplus (depreciation not included) which is no change to the estimated budget. This should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Cooee Lodge

The original budget estimate for Cooee Lodge was an end of year result of a \$438 deficit (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$253,403 surplus (depreciation not included) which is an improvement of \$253,841 and should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Jack Towney Hostel

The original budget estimate for Jack Towney Hostel was an end of year result of a \$15,292 surplus (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$66,883 surplus which is an improvement of \$51,591. This result should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Overall Position

The original budget estimate for Gilgandra Shire Council was an end of year result of a \$343,100 deficit (depreciation not included). This review indicates an estimated result of a \$439,934 surplus (depreciation not included) which is an improvement of \$783,034. This result should be viewed as being satisfactory compared to the original budget.

Estimated Financial Performance Indicators

The ratios for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are actual ratios for Council's information while those for 2024/25 are an estimate only until the financial statements are completed and are subject to change.

	Benchmark	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
Operating Performance Ratio	> 0.00%	2.84%	8.30%	7.42%
Own Source Revenue Ratio	> 60.00%	65%	60.25%	53.84%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	> 2.00:1	3.85:1	4.85:1	3.84:1
Debt Service Cover Ratio	> 3.00 x	7.00 x	14.54 x	7.33 x
Rates & Charges Outstanding	< 10.00%	10.00%	12.74%	10.30%
Cash Expense Cover Ratio	> 6.00 x	11.00 x	10.71 x	10.93 x
Building & Infrastructure Renewal Ratio	> 100.00%	95.00%	74.68%	74.22%
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio	< 2.00%	1.00%	0.90%	1.47%
Asset Maintenance Ratio	> 100.00%	100.00%	154.09%	93.02%

Principal Activity Lead

Policy Implications Nil

Budget Implications Review of Annual Budget

Delivery Program Actions **4.3.3.1**
 Prepare annual Budgets, Long Term Plan Reviews, Quarterly Budget Reviews and Annual Statements and place investments in line with legislative requirements and Council policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That, subject to any decisions regarding the variances as reported, the Quarterly Budget Review document and report as at 31 December 2024 be adopted.

Neil Alchin
Director Growth and Liveability

2024/25 QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL PLAN REVIEW Q2 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

SUMMARY

To consider progress with Council's 2024/25 Operational Plan during Q2 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

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Separately enclosed with this business paper is the 2024/25 Operational Plan Review document for Q2 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Highlights for the Quarter by Community Strategic Plan theme include:

Live

- Council and NDIS governance of the supported employment service is currently being met.
- Gilgandra Waste Facility operates 7 days a week and continues to improve.
- The Waste facility OP shop continues to be supported well by locals and travelers alike.
- An Interagency Meeting was held on the 28th of November, attended by 14 people representing 12 services. Services are working together to improve outcomes for residents.
- Childcare Strategy works are well underway, with community consultation and draft strategy complete. Next, the project team will look at strategies and outcomes for inclusion as actions in the CSP.
- Provision of animal shelter and ranger services in ongoing with a focus on responding to customer requests and proactive approach to managing overgrown blocks. In Quarter 2; 32 dogs impounded, 3 returned, 27 rehomed; 18 cats impounded, 1 returned, 15 cats rehomed; 1 calf impounded & returned.
- Telecommunications Black Spot funding proposal was submitted. Councils GSC Guest WIFI network was expanded to the Shire Hall, Cooee Lodge, Jack Towney, the pool and Orana Living. Further expansion to the Library Hub and town plaza is underway.

Enjoy

- Project works to update the Gilgandra Region Active Transport Strategy are underway; RFQ has been advertised.
 - Volunteers were all sent individual thank you cards at Christmas.
 - The Youth Strategy consultants have completed Stage One consultation, and provided Discovery Report and Engagement (Consultation) Report Stage 1.
-

- The GIL Library Hub building received an Occupation Certificate on 30 January, 2025, and the process of relocating the library resources to the new building began on 3 February. The GIL Library Hub will open for business on Monday 3 March.
- Baby Rhymetime sessions- 138 children & 53 adults attended this quarter
- Across the Children's programs (LEGO, Tech, Science, Crafty Storytime & Electronics @ the Library) 168 children & 95 adults attended.
- The new CHC deck shelter was installed.
- Approx 7,500 visitors to the CHC across October - December
- Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by local Elder Ralph Naden and dancers was a highlight element at the recent Australia Day Award Ceremony.
- Application for Local Government Heritage Funding (2025-27) submitted
- Create NSW grant application submitted for 'the big GILGANDRA: music, murals and activities' project in line with plans to grow for the Goin' to Gil Festival Weekend.

Grow

- 2024 Christmas Shop local Program had over 13,000 entries, which directly contributed over \$1.3M to the Gilgandra Region economy.
- Rezoning process for Industrial Land completed
- The Castlereagh Country Drought Plan finalised with feedback and submitted back to NSW Government for Ministerial endorsement.
- 5 Aero Park lots have been sold.
- Grant application submitted for Federal Government Active Transport Fund for the construction of Windmill Walk works as part of the Castlereagh River beautification and Real Country ecotourism infrastructure projects.

Lead

- 6 positions advertised, 4 successfully filled
 - Fresh Start Program Grant funding conditionally approved for 3 positions; Trainee Activities Officer, Apprentice Chef and Apprentice Parks & Gardens
 - Mobile device management and Cyber Security Manual (including AI policy) drafts submitted to ELTC for ELT review.
 - 11 new DAs lodged during Q2, data as per Department Planning League Table. Average lodgement days - 11, with 91% meeting state govt. expectation of 14 day lodgement. Total development value assessed \$2,583,557.
 - Draft Community Engagement Strategy endorsed by Council for public exhibition.
-

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Lead
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	Actions delivered in line with 2024/25 budget.
<u>Delivery Program Actions</u>	4.3.2.1 Review Council's Integrated Plans in line with NSW State Government guidelines

RECOMMENDATION

That progress on the 2024/25 Operational Plan Review for Q2 1 October to 31 December 2024 be noted.

Neil Alchin
Director Growth and Liveability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

SUMMARY

To present the Gilgandra Region Community Engagement Strategy (CES) for consideration of adoption following public exhibition period.

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The CES provides the framework for Gilgandra Shire Council (GSC) consultation processes, and will guide our community consultation, when developing the 2025/26 Community Strategic Plan.

The CES is required to be reviewed within three months of Local Government Elections.

In line with legislation, GSC reviewed its CES, and following the December 2024 Council meeting, the draft document was placed on public exhibition.

The Draft CES document was available on the GSC website, as well as advertised:

- By email
- In the Gilgandra Weekly
- On GSC social media pages

Feedback was sought through:

- Have Your Say online form
- In person at Council offices
- By email to council@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au
- In writing to the General Manager PO Box 23 Gilgandra NSW 2827
- By phone (02) 6817 8800

Submissions closed 4 February, 2025 and there were nil submissions received to the Have Your Say regarding the CES.

Findings From Youth Strategic Planning and Collaboration :

Preliminary research and consultation from the Gilgandra Region Youth Strategy indicates that youth engagement will be a key deliverable to assist in achieving the vision of this strategy.

Further, youth engagement was highlighted within the Gilgandra Region Child Care (0-12) Strategy as a recommendation, *“for consulting with children, young people and their families on plans that impacts children’s wellbeing”*.

It is suggested that a section is highlighted within the CES at the 'Who We Engage With' section reflecting specific Youth Engagement tools directly connected with NSW Government Young People Participation, and the Federal Government's Youth Engagement Toolkit.

WHO WE ENGAGE WITH

STAKEHOLDERS

Gilgandra Shire Council stakeholders include:

- Gilgandra Region residents
- Gilgandra Region ratepayers
- Community organisations and groups
- Councillors and council staff
- Schools, education and training institutions
- Businesses and industry
- Government agency and statutory bodies
- Other Councils
- Regional and peak industry bodies
- Interest groups
- Council Committees
- Visitors / event goers
- Suppliers
- Service or facility users
- Media

ENGAGING WITH HARD TO REACH GROUPS

Traditionally, some groups of people have been more challenging to engage with effectively. These have included:

- People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- Indigenous people
- Older people
- Youth
- People with a disability
- People with low levels of literacy
- People from disadvantage socio-economic backgrounds

Gilgandra Shire Council will use a variety of strategies to engage hard to reach groups. These include:

- Ensuring community engagement activities are promoted through a number of different media eg newspapers, free publications, over the radio, online and through flyers.
- Using plain english both to promote community engagement and during community engagement .
- Following appropriate cultural protocols and ensuring that the person/s involved in engagement have the authority to speak on behalf of their community or group.
- Avoiding using assumptions, generalisations, or insensitive language about people from CALD backgrounds or their beliefs.
- Seeking the support of agencies (including sections of Council) that provide services to special needs groups.
- Providing incentives to encourage groups and/or individuals to become involved in community engagement.
- Using age appropriate methods for children and young people.
- Taking the opportunity to carry out engagement at activities, events or festivals in the Community.
- Councillors and staff going out to conduct engagement sessions in the communities.

NSW Government excerpt:

Why is it important to involve young people?

The term 'young people' refers to people aged 12 to 24. This is when young people transition from childhood to adulthood, and from dependence to independence.

Young people are innovative, creative, and energetic. Young people don't just want to participate - they want to be involved in a meaningful way, and to make a difference.

Working with young people to shape the services and programs offered to them ensures their needs are being met. Better outcomes are also more likely to be achieved.

Engaging young people in your organisation empowers them to get involved in a genuine and purposeful way. It ensures that their ideas and opinions are respected, considered and acted upon.

Watch this video to see why the NSW Government is committed to ensuring all young people are supported to overcome challenges and realise their potential.

Objectives for Gilgandra Region may include:

- Providing young people with an opportunity to express ideas, views, raise youth issues, enjoy and express themselves and create opportunities for participation from a growth, social, wellness perspectives across a range of activities
- Offer the opportunity to the wider community to hear from young people and celebrate their contributions within the community
- Raise awareness on youth issues and opportunities
- Support future generations needs

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Lead
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Delivery Program Actions</u>	4.3.2.1 Review Council's Integrated Plans in line with NSW State Government guidelines

RECOMMENDATION

That the Gilgandra Region Community Engagement Strategy is adopted, with the addition of the youth engagement component.

Neil Alchin
Director Growth and Liveability

GILGANDRA CULTURAL PRECINCT (GCP) OVERNIGHT PARKING TRIAL REVIEW

SUMMARY

To review the impacts of the GCP Overnight Parking Trial, following the extension of the initial twelve month trial period, and determine next steps.

Background

- Since 2012, Council has received numerous media posts, as well as formal and informal correspondence in relation to caravanning and camping, with a particular focus on free camping.
- In June 2015, Council held a workshop to consider free camping, highlighting the negative feedback from public social media groups, regarding Gilgandra's lack of free overnight parking (see presentation in the attachments to this business paper).
- In 2017, Council undertook a research project into free camping in Gilgandra in conjunction with Dubbo Regional Council. This resulted in a report being prepared by Consultant THSA for Council's consideration (see in attachments). Council did not take any further action at that time.
- In 2019, Council met with all stakeholders providing Caravan and Camping services and facilities in our Region and subsequently considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services (see in attachments). This report outlined the views of the Caravan Park owners, and those establishments providing free camping options.

Council subsequently resolved the following in 2019:

RESOLVED 119/19	Cr Mockler/Cr Wrigley
That Council supports an ongoing trial of Freedom Camping at commercial businesses, under the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That these are primitive camping arrangements and these sites should not offer amenities that paid commercial caravan parks provide – i.e. water, showers, electricity and/or 24 hour access to toilet facilities.2. That these sites limit the numbers of Freedom Camping spaces available to ensure the safety of people accessing these facilities and to place a reasonable cap on the amount of spaces available in Gilgandra.3. That Freedom Camping locations provide occupancy data and visitor profile information to Council to assist in marketing efforts, and Council's decision making on Freedom camping.4. That Council write to the industry participants, confirming Council's current position in relation to freedom camping.5. That Council work with the owners of the Tooraweenah Caravan Park to facilitate the installation of a publicly accessible caravan dump point that is managed by the Caravan park operators on an ongoing basis.	

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. That Council continue to monitor visitation levels - in both commercial, paid camping facilities and Freedom Camping sites and adjust the conditions of the Freedom Camping trial based on feedback from all stakeholders.7. That the volunteers at the Coo-ee Heritage Centre be notified accordingly of these trial arrangements. |
|---|

- In September 2020, Council's Economic Development Committee (EDC) considered a proposal to trial the establishment of an overnight free rest area in Gilgandra. This was in response to the growing demand from self-contained recreational vehicles and caravaners visiting our region (see report in attachments with this business paper).

The Economic Development Committee made the following recommendation to Council:

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION 21/20	W Morris/Cr Wrigley
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Committee support in principle Council's proposal to trial an overnight rest area for fully self-contained recreational vehicles at Coo-ee Oval as outlined in this report.2. That the Committee note that stakeholder feedback and an Overnight Rest Area Blue Print plan will be provided to the next committee meeting.	

This recommendation was subsequently adopted by Council at its meeting of 15 September 2020.

"Economic Development Committee"

8 September 2020

Proceedings in Brief

The Director Corporate Services pointed out two significant recommendations from the Economic Development Committee, being:

- Proceeding with the Grow Gilgandra campaign – 3 tiers of funding; and
- A two year trial of an overnight rest area, for fully self-contained recreational vehicles at Coo-ee Oval.

RESOLVED 186/20	Cr Walker/Cr Baker
That the above listed Committee minutes be adopted.	

- The GCP Overnight Parking Trial was planned to be implemented towards the end of Autumn 2021 to coincide with both the migration north of the "grey nomads" and the completion of the GCP project and reopening of the CHC.
 - Due to subsequent delays in the reopening of the CHC, the trial officially commenced in May 2023.
-

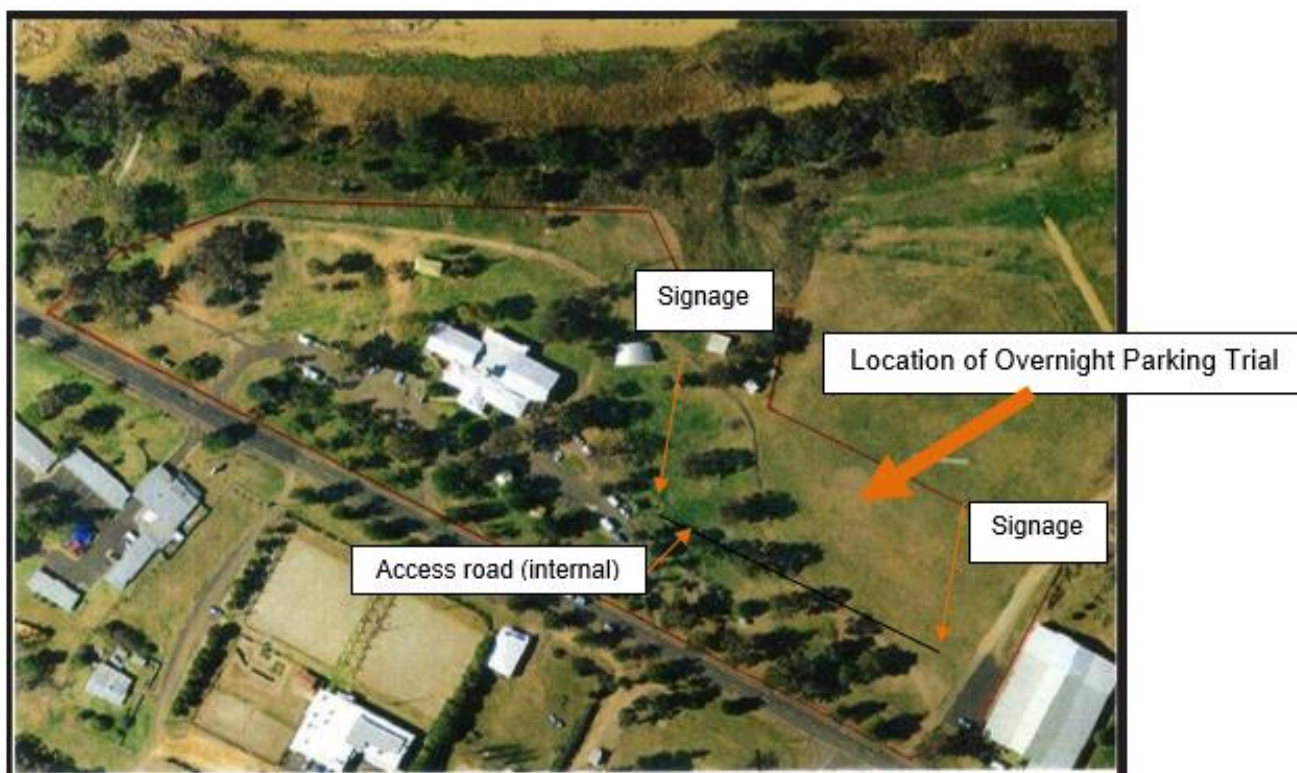
At its May 2023 Meeting, the Economic Development Committee made the following recommendation, which was subsequently adopted by Council:

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION 10/23	Cr Batten/D Clouten
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the progress of the Coo-ee Overnight Parking trial be noted and the future steps as outlined in this report be endorsed including the trial period to be reduced from 2 years to 12 months.2. That the Overnight Parking Area be named after Wes Morris to recognise his service to the Committee and community over many years.3. That ongoing reports be provided to the committee through the trial period.	

- In May 2024, a report with the findings of the trial was presented to Council.

GCP Overnight Parking Trial

The Coo-ee Oval was the chosen location for the trial, given its proximity to the Newell Highway and GCP, which includes the Windmill Walk, Gilgandra Museum and the CHC.



As previously reported, the trial has been carried out to assess the benefits and impacts in the Gilgandra Region including: economic; visitation; operational; private operators; and growth.

Measures of Success

The success of the GCP Overnight Parking trial is being measured against the following key objectives:

- Our community positively embraces, advocates and promotes the trial
- Gilgandra Region profile as a place to visit and stay is lifted
- There is no negative impact to local residents
- There is a direct benefit to Gilgandra businesses through increased visitor numbers and associated spend
- Visitors who utilise the overnight parking area become advocates for the Gilgandra region
- Gilgandra becomes recognised as an RV friendly town
- There is minimal impact on Councils resources to implement and maintain the overnight parking area

The trial also aligns with the strategic objectives of the **Destination Country and Outback NSW Destination Management Plan:**

- Facilitate and enable the development or enhancement of world-class visitor experiences and accommodation

along with the NSW Government's **Visitor Economy Strategy 2030:**

STRATEGIC PILLARS:

1. SHOWCASE OUR STRENGTHS: Key result areas:
 - a. Increased average length of stay and yield (spend per visitor)
 - b. Growth in visitation and expenditure for regional destinations
 - c. Higher levels of repeat visitation
2. FACILITATE GROWTH
 - a. Increased public and private sector investment in visitor infrastructure
 - b. Improved access to visitor destinations and visitor attractions
 - c. Increased visitor satisfaction with accommodation and experiences

No facilities have been provided other than parking, and it is intended to have minimal impact on local caravan park operators, with regular consultation and data collection involved.

The 12 month trial consists of the following:

- Ten (10) available spaces
 - Permit system – bookings strictly required
 - Length of stay is capped at 48 hours maximum
-

- Impacts will be closely monitored to measure the social and economic benefits to the Gilgandra region
- Outcomes both positive and negative will be reviewed, with a view to consider edits to the trial, reduction, conclusion or further pursuit post the trial period
- The trial will target only those fully self-contained travellers that would otherwise bypass Gilgandra if an overnight parking option was not available
- Promotion of all choices of accommodation in Gilgandra Region, as well as locally available businesses and services, in digital and print forms being provided to the visitors.

A report was provided to the Economic Development Committees August 2023 meeting on progress with the trial (see in attachments).

Stakeholder Feedback

Gilgandra Caravan Park

- Initial correspondence from the Lessee of the Gilgandra Caravan Park expressing concerns around the GCP Overnight Parking trial, requesting the opportunity to negotiate a rent reduction (see attachments to this business paper).
- A letter of complaint from the Lessee regarding Council's regulation of the GCP Overnight Parking trial, along with the response provided by the Director of Growth and Liveability (separately included in the attachments to this meeting).

Summary of a letter of 13 November 2023 (see attachments) is as follows:

- Provision of details of occupancy rates at Gilgandra Caravan Park as a comparison over the past two years. This identifies a significant reduction in occupancy rates since the introduction of the GCP Overnight Parking trial, with a corresponding reduction in revenue
 - Suggesting that approximately half of those using the GCP Overnight Parking trial area were likely to stay at the Gilgandra Caravan Park, if the trial area was unavailable
 - Suggesting that visitors staying in the Gilgandra Caravan Park are more likely to visit the CBD than those from the GCP Overnight Parking trial area
 - Suggesting that the trial is taking business from the Caravan Parks, and propping up the Sporties business
 - Questioning Council's competitive neutrality given Council is the Lessor of the Caravan Park
 - Advising that the impact of reduced income has meant plans to upgrade Park amenities have been put on hold
 - Requesting the GCP Overnight Parking trial be ended, and if not agreed, seeking a meeting to discuss compensation for losses
-

Rest A While Caravan Park

Have provided a letter to Council (separately attached):

- Indicating loss of business to them and others due to the introduction of free camping
- Expressing concerns with establishments associated with free camping in Gilgandra offering additional services such as showers and toilets
- Questioning Council's ability to police the free camping sites in Gilgandra, and habits of the users
- Questioning the location of the GCP Overnight Parking trial and whether people will walk to the CBD
- Expressing that the extension of another six (6) months for the trial has a big effect on their park and others (sent in response to an email notifying the outcome of the May Council meeting).
- The owners have since sold this caravan park and the new owners have closed the caravan park side of the park (sent in response to an email notifying the outcome of the May Council meeting).

Tooraweenah Caravan Park

- Expressed concerns with Council's ability to manage the various issues associated with operating the GCP Overnight Parking trial, including policing the number of caravans using the overnight parking (they have done their own counts and seen up to 16).
 - Have provided data on occupancy rates through the initial 12-month trial period (see attachments)
 - Mrs Quilter has resigned her position on the Economic Development Committee "to focus all my efforts on trying to compete with all the free camping in Gilgandra."
 - Advising they "have been talking to other caravan park owners in nearby shires and they are describing the amount of free camping in Gilgandra as being the 'Cubby Station' of the Newell Highway"
 - See what GSC are doing with free overnight camping in Gilgandra as a road block stopping businesses reaching them
 - Expressed concerns with establishments associated with free camping in Gilgandra offering additional services such as showers and toilets that Caravan Parks are required to meet.
 - Suggest we look at a box at the overnight parking to collect receipts to show the level of spend in town
 - Strong perception that free and cheap campers are looking to rort the system wherever they can.
-

- Feel that Tooraweenah, and in particular, the caravan park gets left out of promotional opportunities when compared to Gilgandra.

Barneys Caravan Park

- In discussions have expressed concerns with establishments associated with free camping in Gilgandra offering additional services such as showers and toilets.

Gilgandra Sporties Club

- In discussions have advised that Council's GCP Overnight Parking trial has negatively impacted their overnight parking occupancy
- There is some spin off from GCP Overnight Parking into the Club for bowls, meals and refreshments
- Generally, consider a neutral result

Railway Hotel

- In discussions have advised that Council's Overnight Parking Area has negatively impacted their overnight parking occupancy
- Consider that the increased freedom camping is positive for Gilgandra overall

Royal Hotel

- No noticeable impact other than people coming to the pub that are staying in the Cooee overnight area
- Consider that the increased freedom camping is positive for Gilgandra overall and needs to be retained and promoted

CHC Visitors

- September 22 – May 23 = 14,777
- September 23 – May 24 = 20,509
- May 24 – January 25 = 12,905

Gilgandra Museum

- Definitely noticing more people coming through the Museum
 - Answered YES to supporting the continuation of the initiative
 - As far as it impacts the museum, very positive
-

Coone Overnight Parking Users (see detailed survey results in attachments)

- Over 60% indicated they would not have stayed in Gilgandra if overnight parking was not available
- Approximate spend in Gilgandra 70% \$50 to \$200
- 99% would recommend the site to other travellers (9.1 out of 10 average rating)
- Over 75% visited the CBD
- 35% visited local attractions
- Over 80% consider Gilgandra to be an RV friendly town
- Over 70% were interstate visitors
- 60% were 65+ yrs. of age
- Over 80% were using Gilgandra as an overnight stop as part of an adventure
- Over 90% did not use any other accommodation in our region
- 73% were familiar with the Great Western Plains Campaign, whilst over 35% were familiar with Real Country and #LocalLegends
- 58% use paid Caravan Parks at least once a fortnight, 42% use free camping only.

Local Businesses (see survey results summary in attachments)

- Local businesses are in support of the GCP Overnight Parking
- There is a need for both paid and free sites for tourists within Gilgandra Region
- Increase in foot traffic through Gilgandra CBD, however no increase in business income
- Tourists are commenting positively on Gilgandra CBD
- Self-contained campers, alongside the CHC, have minimal need to enter the CBD
- Is it in the right location to fully support Gilgandra CBD?
- How would it be policed long-term?
- How do we draw these tourists into the CBD from the CHC?
- One business mentioned that “40% of my sales are attributed to sales to travellers, so wouldn’t be able to survive without these provisions”.

Caravan and Camping Options in the Orana Region

Research via Council Websites and Wiki Camps reveals that there are numerous free and low-cost camping sites identified across the Orana Region in addition to Caravan Parks (see attachments to this business paper).

Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia

The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia Limited (CMCA), which has 70,000 members, has been advocating with councils for many years to provide freedom

camping options. This group has now developed a CMCA RV Park Network – Council concept which involves the CMCA operating its own RV Parks (see attachments to this business paper.

Summary

- The local Caravan Parks consider that free camping has a direct impact on their financial viability.
- The local Caravan Parks are an important part of our local economy
- Services and experiences offered by Caravan Parks are evolving to meet changing demands
- Caravanners and campers indicate in surveys that they use both Caravan Parks and free camping sites, and plan/choose their trips around these options.
- The number of fully self-contained/self-sufficient recreational vehicles continues to grow, and with this growth, the demand for choice of camping options also grows
- The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia is very proactive in pursuit of free and low cost options for its members
- The number of free and low cost camp sites across the region, NSW and Australia continues to grow
- The visitor economy is important to Gilgandra, and the attraction of visitors is competitive with other towns and regions
- The GCP Overnight Parking trial has been very well received by users
- CBD businesses are in support of initiatives that increase tourism and the visitor economy
- CBD businesses have seen a significant increase in foot traffic and travellers to the region
- The benefits of the positive promotion of Gilgandra Region (through social media, word of mouth etc) by travellers who are stopping and staying should not be underestimated

Council will workshop the data and feedback received in detail ahead of 4.00pm Council meeting.

Where To From Here

Should Council determine it wishes to continue to support the concept of a variety of options for RV's and campers in our region, there are a number of issues to be considered, including:

- Does Council want direct involvement, or should it be left to the private sector
- Is the current location the most appropriate to gain maximum visitor economy benefit, or are there alternatives i.e. closer proximity to the CBD etc
- Does Council wish to pursue low-cost camping options with potential providers i.e. local Caravan Park owners

Principal Activity

Enjoy

<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	Potential reduction in lease income
<u>Delivery Program Actions</u>	2.2.1.1 Implement the Gilgandra Cultural Precinct Strategic Plan to increase visitation benefitting the regional and economic development of the Gilgandra Region* 2.3.1.2 Implement the Gilgandra Activation Blueprint to connect the CBD tourist anchor and revitalised river corridor - including the Gilgandra Cultural Precinct transformation project* 2.3.1.3 Establish and monitor a trial overnight parking area for fully self-contained recreational vehicles* 2.3.1.4 Work with tourism providers, retail and accommodation to increase online presence, including online bookability, itinerary, purchases and communications 3.1.1.1 Implement the Gilgandra Activation Blueprint to support local businesses to thrive - including Grow Gilgandra transformation projects*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council note the data collected and feedback provided by stakeholders in relation to the GCP Overnight Parking trial
2. That Council continue with its overnight parking area in its current form and monitor progress to ensure measures of success in line with the objectives, with a view of maximising benefits to the Gilgandra Region visitor economy.
3. That over the next 2 years the current location be reviewed and consideration given to Council involvement vs privately operated, along with exploring opportunities with local caravan park owners for them to become involved in low cost camping
4. That Council note the concerns raised by the local Caravan Park owners in relation to the financial impact freedom camping has on their business, and hold regular discussions with them around opportunities to support their businesses to evolve.

Neil Alchin
Director Growth and Liveability

GILGANDRA FILM FESTIVAL 2025 - HALL HIRE REQUEST

SUMMARY

To consider a request from the Gilgandra Film Festival for a Council to waive Shire Hall Hire fees for the Gilgandra Film Festival to be held in May 2025.

.....

Sue Armstrong, Gilgandra Film Festival Manager, has written to Council as follows:

“Dear Mayor Batten and Councillors

The Gilgandra Film Festival committee has booked the Shire Hall for the dates Thursday 1st May to Sunday 4 May. These are to enable set-up on the Thursday and finalise the event on the Sunday.

This year we will be having the Primary School Student's Documentary Night on Friday 2nd May. on Saturday 3rd May we are looking at introducing an Afternoon Matinee as well as the Evening showing.

We believe strongly in giving our community the opportunity to see wonderful documentaries without having to travel to the big cities. For the second year in a row, we are very excited to have primary school students learning about the craft of film-making and to show those documentaries to the Gilgandra community. It gives such a sense of pride to the participating schools and students.

You have been an enormous help to us for the past two years. Your support has been marvellous. We therefore ask for your consideration this year, in once again giving us free hall hire for 2025 showings.”

Council has assisted the Gilgandra Film Festival in previous years by way of a \$10,000 contribution in 2023 and 2024.

The Gilgandra Film Festival also have a successful application under the It's GREAT Program for funding to the value of \$10,000 towards event delivery in 2025.

In 2024, Council was also successful in a grant application for the Foundation For Rural & Regional Renewal to the value of \$10,000 for the installation of a new modern projector and retractable digital screen which is used for the Festival.

<u>Principal Activity</u>	Enjoy
<u>Policy Implications</u>	Nil
<u>Budget Implications</u>	\$803 from donations and contributions budget

MEETING OF: GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD ON: 18 FEBRUARY 2025

Delivery Program Actions

2.1.3.1 Support community groups with promotion of activities and assistance with applications for external funding.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council provide a \$803 contribution by waiving the Shire Hall hire fee for the 2025 Gilgandra Film Festival.
2. That Council's Activation and Communications team provide assistance to the Gilgandra Film Festival by way of communications, marketing and promotions of the event.

Neil Alchin
Director Growth and Liveability

ARTHUR BULTER AVIATION MUSEUM REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION

SUMMARY

To consider a request from the Arthur Bulter Aviation Museum (ABAM) for a Council contribution towards the ABAM Airshow to be held on Saturday, 5 April 2025.

.....

Gary Weston, ABAM Present, has written to Council as follows:

Dear David

I am writing to you and council today to inform you that Arthur Butter Aviation Museum (ABAM) is having a really exciting event at the aerodrome on the Saturday 5th April 2025. This event will bring many visitors from local to far distances and interstate, both pilots and general public.

The event is an Airshow put on by the very famous and well respected Paul Bennent Airshows. Paul performs at all big airshows such as Gold Coast, Newcastle ,Avlon and Temora. Paul and his company is putting this on for a fraction of the cost to what it would normally. Thanks to the generosity of Paul Bennent and Temora Museum and also a lot of his mates, we are going to have a spectactutar performance.

The aviation community is so keen to help get our goal of a modern state of the art Museum as Arthur Butlers history really needs to be preserved and put on disptay and what better place than Tooraweenah where it all started in the Gilgandra shire .

The airshow includes performances from Wolf Pitts Pro, Sky Aces, P40 Kitty Hawk ,Spitfire, and the DC3 which was an aircraft that Arlhur Butter himself regulary flew in and out of Tooraweenah. There will be many other aircraft performing and the public will be able to get up close and personal which will be very unique to an airshow.

This event would normally cost in the vicinity of \$130 K Paul is charging \$30 K which as you can see is a very generous gift. We get all the gate takings.

We are asking whether council would please consider help fund this event in some way of cash and certainty promoting through Gil Shires network on social media. We as a committee are out collecting sponsorship from Business houses both to local and surrounding districts and going ok but would really like to have our goal met of covering the costs without relying on the gate takings as we would love that to be our profit.

I have enclosed a sponsorship package that we have been sending and handing to potential sponsors.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please give this one considerable consideration as we know it will promote Gilgandra Shire and put us on the aviator and tourist map especially when the Museum is up and running.”

Council’s Director of Growth and Liveability, and Activation and Communications Manager have had initial meetings with ABAM. ABAM believe an event of this nature will attract a crowd of approx. 2,000 aircraft enthusiasts and spectators from across the region to Tooraweenah.

ABAM have confirmed the following input for the event:

Paul Bennet Air Show

- Paul Bennet Air Show to provide insurances for pilots and aircrafts
- Approval from CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) > CASA application submitted – risk assessment also submitted (24hr block insurances & risk assesment coverage)
- Notice to airmen regarding airspace ‘ownership’ for the day
- Control tower set up on the day
- Fleet (DC3) aircraft flying continuously
- Risk Assessments - lead up and day of (major risk assessment on the day)
- Area mapped out to ensure enough space for aircrafts and spectators etc.
- Paul Bennet to provide security:
 - Aircraft not to come within 500ft of the crowd (in air)
 - No flying over crowd
 - Ground is 20ft
 - Local SES & RFS have already, including first aid
 - Other first aid will also be on site, including rescue helicopter and rescue group (out of Sydney)
- Paul Bennet team to create ticketing through Ticketek

ABAM has requested the following assistance from Council:

- GSC insurances will cover spectators
- Parking Assistance – have enquired into neighbouring land for use of parking on the day
- Highway Signage to promote the event
- Assistance sourcing quotes for portable toilets
- Donation/ financial support – see letter above
- ABAM to submit a Local Activity Approval to Council

- **Other event details:**
 - Aircraft to start arriving Wednesday prior to the event and to operate/stay to the following Wednesday ‘Adventure flights’ available to public following the event

While Council’s insurance cover cannot extend to the event, given it is not a Council event, assistance can be provided to ABAM in sourcing appropriate cover.

It is understood that ABAM has negotiated off road parking for spectators with the owner of lands adjacent to the Aerodrome.

Council staff will assist with suggestions for advertising material, portable toilet hire advice, and the local activity approval.

Council currently holds a trust for the Arthur Butler Memorial Committee with a total budget of \$11,820, which may be allocated towards one of the sponsorship packages.

Seperately attached are the full details of the sponsorship packages being offered for the event, in summary:

Packages	Amount	Inclusions
1 Wolf Pitts Pro	\$ 1,000.00	Signage on the day, advertisements in pamphlets, announcements over P/A to crowd
2 Sky Aces	\$ 3,000.00	Advertising across social media, signage on the day, advertisements in pamphlets, announcements over radio multiple times, as well as direct relation to this information and free VIP passes (including lunch and drinks throughout the day)
3 P40 Kitty Hawk	\$ 5,000.00	Advertising across social media, signage on the day, advertisements in pamphlets, announcements over radio multiple times, as well as direct relation to this information and free VIP passes (including lunch and drinks throughout the day)
4 DC 3	\$ 10,000.00	Advertising across social media, signage on the day, advertisements in pamphlets, announcements over radio multiple times, as well as direct relation to this information and free VIP passes (including lunch and drinks throughout the day)
5 De Hvailland Dove Project	\$ 500.00	listing on the sponsorships board and three (3) free passes to enter
	\$ 1,000.00	listing on the sponsorships board, five (5) free passes to enter and a lifetime discount of 10%
	\$ 2,500.00	listing on the sponsorships board, five (5) free passes to enter and a lifetime discount of 10% and an invitation to the grand opening of the Dove's display in Tooraweenah
	\$ 5,000.00	listing on the major sponsorship board, signage posted on the hanger wall, lifetime free entry and an invitation to the grand opening of the Dove's display in tooraweenah.
	\$ 10,000.00	listing on the major sponsorship board, signage posted on the hanger wall, lifetime free entry and an invitation to the grand opening of the Dove's display in tooraweenah and VIP passes to all Arthur Butler Aviation Museum Events.

Principal Activity Enjoy

Policy Implications Nil

Budget Implications A cash contribution or purchase of a sponsorship package which could come out of the trust fund held by Council.

Delivery Program Actions

2.1.3.1 Support community groups with promotion of activities and assistance with applications for external funding.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That noting the potential positive impact of the event to local region economy, Council consider a cash contribution or one of the above sponsorship package opportunities as presented by ABAM.
2. That Council's Activation & Communications team provide assistance to ABAM by way of event planning guidance, communications, marketing and promotions of the event.

Neil Alchin
Director Growth and Liveability

(RC.SP.1)

NSW GOVERNMENT REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES – HUNTER PARK SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL PRECINCT STAGE 1

SUMMARY

To confirm support for an application under the NSW Governments Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program for the delivery of Stage 1 of the Hunter Park Sports and Recreational Precinct Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre.

.....

Vision: To create a Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre which provides for a modern youth centre, gymnasium and outdoor public swimming pool which supports the growth and development of sports and recreation in Gilgandra.

Grant Opportunity

The NSW Government Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program is an open competitive program delivering \$50 million to improve social and economic outcomes for regional NSW, and will support initiatives that promote regional economic development and contribute to job creation and retention consistent with the Trust's key focus areas of:

- Aboriginal economic development and enterprise
- Community connection and capacity building
- Improving regional service delivery
- Sustainable regional industries

The NSW Government's Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program provides funding to deliver infrastructure projects that can create economic opportunities, provide a public benefit, and grow employment.

The intended objectives of the grant opportunity are to:

- Enable regional industries to grow and adapt to structural and environmental change
- Deliver sustainable Aboriginal economic, social, and cultural wellbeing by encouraging Aboriginal business development, enterprise and strengthening on-Country connections
- Empower regional communities to maximise the potential of their people, infrastructure and environment
- Increase access, quality, and sustainability of services to better meet the needs of people in regional NSW

To be eligible your project must:

- Align with one of the Trust's key focus areas
- Align with one or more of the objectives of the *Regional Development Act 2004* as outlined within the guidelines
- Have the required co-contribution, or provide reasons why an exemption from the mandatory co-contribution is required
- Deliver regionally significant regional economic development outcomes, with regionally significant defined as improving outcomes in 2 or more LGAs.

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and may include:

- Construction costs for infrastructure development, expansion or upgrades that would not be considered business-as-usual activities and operations
- Project management and project assurance support
- Contingency costs of up to 25% of the total eligible project costs being claimed under the grant to allow for any cost escalations
- The purchase of equipment that relates specifically to the delivery of the service or program

Funding amount:

\$500,000 to \$5 million to deliver infrastructure projects

Grant funding requested:

\$5,000,000

Council Co-contribution

\$2,000,000 (*already included in the LTFP*)

Total Project Budget:

\$7,000,000

Funding Timelines:

Activity

Applications Close
Approval and announcement of
successful applicants

Funding deeds executed

Project completion

Timeframe

Thursday, 20 February
Successful applicants will be notified
from 26 May 2025 or as soon as
possible after a decision has been made.
Contracting processes will commence
once an applicant has signed and
returned their letter of conditional offer
and confidentiality agreement.
Projects must **commence within 6
months** of the commencement date of
the funding deed and be **completed
within 4 years** for infrastructure projects

Project Scope

Delivery of the following elements of Hunter Park Sports and Recreational Precinct Stage 1:

- Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre
- Splash Park to compliment the Gilgandra Swimming Pool facilities

Stage 1 Exclusions

Given the size of the grant opportunity and revised costing estimates, the following elements of the concept plan have not been included in the grant application:

- Tennis Courts upgrade
- Car Parking facilities
- One indoor basketball court
- Amenities and offices associated with the upgraded 50m swimming pool (stage 2)

A meeting with local Sporting Groups is scheduled for Wednesday 20 February 2025 and the grant opportunity and revised scope will be an agenda item for discussion.

Principal Activity Enjoy

Policy Implications Nil

Budget Implications Council has allocated a \$2m contribution to the project in the LTFP

Delivery Program Actions **2.1.1.1**
Provide a range of recreational and sporting facilities which enable the community to pursue active recreational pursuits
2.1.1.2
Identify and pursue external funding opportunities for the Hunter Park Sporting and Recreational Precinct construction

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council confirm support for an application under the NSW Governments Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program to the amount of \$7,000,000 for Stage 1 of the Hunter Park Sports and Recreational Precinct Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre

2. That Council confirm its \$2,000,000 co-contribution commitment to the project pending successful grant outcomes
3. That the reduction in the scope of stage 1 concept plans in line with revised cost estimates be confirmed for this grant opportunity

Neil Alchin
Director Growth and Liveability

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION AND NOTATION

SUMMARY

To present reports for information and notation.

.....

- Statement of Bank Balances (Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation No. 93) and Investment Balances
- Matters Outstanding from Previous Council Meetings
- Questions for Next Meeting
- Development Applications

Any questions which Councillors may have in relation to these reports and/or issues to be raised, should be brought forward at this time.

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AND INVESTMENT BALANCES

SUMMARY

Statement of Bank Balances and Investment Balances
 To present the following information relative to the above report headings:

.....

1. Statement of Bank Balances (Local Government Financial Management Regulation No.19) – Month of December 2024.
2. Certificate of Bank Reconciliation – Month of December 2024.

Details of investments as at 31 January 2025 (Local Government Financial Management Regulation No.19).

CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT	31-Dec-24	\$2,245,873.91
Plus: Receipts		\$4,326,494.96
Less: Payments		\$3,755,246.48
CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT	31-Jan-25	<u>\$2,817,122.39</u>

STATEMENT BALANCE AS AT	31-Dec-24	\$2,244,737.11
Plus: Receipts		\$4,293,571.91
Less: Payments		\$3,722,369.58
STATEMENT BALANCE AS AT	31-Jan-25	<u>\$2,815,939.44</u>

Plus: Unpresented Receipts		\$1,282.95
Less: Unpresented Payments		\$100.00
RECONCILED BALANCE AS AT	31-Jan-25	<u>\$2,817,122.39</u>

Cashbook balance as at 31 January 2025:	\$2,817,122.39
Investments held as at 31 January 2025:	\$33,000,000.00
Total Cash & Investments Held as at 31 January 2025:	<u>\$35,817,122.39</u>

The bank balances in each of the funds as at 31 January 2025 are:

General Fund	\$12,807,652.40
Water Fund	\$3,537,818.89
Sewer Fund	\$3,378,149.49
Orana Living	\$5,347,604.15
Carlinda Enterprises	\$533,045.57
Cocee Villa Units	\$4,010,315.15
Cocee Lodge	\$4,734,549.94
Jack Towney Hostel	\$975,294.44
Trust Fund	\$492,692.36

Balance as per Total Cash & Investments Held: \$35,817,122.39

Details of Council's investments are as follows:

(1)	\$1,000,000.00	For 274 days	5.10%	Due	03-Sep-25	With Defence
(2)	\$1,000,000.00	For 365 days	4.65%	Due	04-Sep-25	With Bendigo
(3)	\$1,500,000.00	For 365 days	4.75%	Due	04-Mar-25	With Bendigo
(4)	\$2,000,000.00	For 182 days	5.00%	Due	11-Apr-25	With Bank of Qld
(5)	\$2,000,000.00	For 182 days	4.80%	Due	24-Feb-25	With Bank of Qld
(6)	\$2,000,000.00	For 181 days	4.95%	Due	07-Apr-25	With Bank of Qld
(7)	\$1,000,000.00	For 93 days	4.85%	Due	05-Mar-25	With IMB Bank
(8)	\$2,000,000.00	For 180 days	4.90%	Due	24-Mar-25	With IMB Bank
(9)	\$2,000,000.00	For 151 days	4.85%	Due	23-Jun-25	With IMB Bank
(10)	\$1,000,000.00	For 151 days	5.05%	Due	07-Apr-25	With NAB
(11)	\$2,000,000.00	For 210 days	5.00%	Due	08-May-25	With NAB
(12)	\$3,000,000.00	For 270 days	5.20%	Due	07-Feb-25	With NAB
(13)	\$3,000,000.00	For 333 days	5.20%	Due	22-Apr-25	With NAB
(14)	\$2,000,000.00	For 181 days	5.05%	Due	07-Apr-25	With NAB
(15)	\$1,000,000.00	For 180 days	5.10%	Due	28-May-25	With NAB
(16)	\$2,000,000.00	For 91 days	5.00%	Due	07-Apr-25	With NAB
(17)	\$2,000,000.00	For 182 days	5.10%	Due	26-May-25	With NAB
(18)	\$2,500,000.00	For 182 days	5.09%	Due	05-May-25	With Suncorp
Total						\$33,000,000.00
Investments:						

OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

SUMMARY

To provide an update in relation to matters previously resolved at Council Meetings requiring further action to be taken.

.....

<u>Res. No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action</u>
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July 2022

141/22	Compulsory Acquisition by Agreement Of Road Reserves and Licence Agreement	No further progress, remains outstanding
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October 2024

177/24	Planning Proposal Update – Industrial Land	Report to future meeting once gazettal of the plan is complete
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PROGRESS ON “QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING”

SUMMARY

To inform Council of appropriate action which has or will be taken in relation to Councilors “Questions for Next Meeting” outstanding from previous meetings.

.....

August 2024

Gil Library Hub

Report to future Council Meeting.

October 2024

Purchase of the Tavern

Reported to December Council meeting.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Council League Table

As of 1 July 2024, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure is now publicly monitoring timeframes and expectations set for lodgment and assessment of development applications for all Local Government Areas in New South Wales. This will become a new addition to the monthly Notation Report.

Council is expected to:

1. Lodge DAs within 14 days of submission to the planning portal.
2. Determine DAs (including DAs determined by a local planning panel) as soon as practical and whichever is the lesser of Council's previous financial year average, or within an average of 115 days. Gilgandra previous financial year average was 55 days.

December 2024 – Lodgement Timeframes

Average lodgement days	Number of applications lodged	Number of applications meeting expectation (14-day lodgement)	% of applications meeting expectation (14-day lodgement)	Total development cost
22	1	0	0%	\$705,000

January 2025 – Lodgement Timeframes

Average lodgement days	Number of applications lodged	Number of applications meeting expectation (14-day lodgement)	% of applications meeting expectation (14-day lodgement)	Total development cost
16	2	1	50%	\$1,040,000

MEETING OF:
HELD ON:

GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL
18 FEBRUARY 2025

December 2024 – Assessment Timeframes

Expectation days*	Average Assessment days	Number of applications assessed	Number of applications meeting expectation	% of applications meeting expectation	Total development cost
55	35	3	2	67%	\$1,928,220

January 2025 – Assessment Timeframes (no applications approved)

Expectation days*	Average Assessment days	Number of applications assessed	Number of applications meeting expectation	% of applications meeting expectation	Total development cost
55		0	0		0

MEETING OF:
HELD ON:

GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL
18 FEBRUARY 2025

December Development Application Details

The following development applications were approved during December 2024

DA Number	Applicant's Name	Application	Property address	Total Development Cost
2024/564	Chelsea Broom	Shed	52 Wamboin Street, Gilgandra	\$9,995
2024/565	Brian Mulholland	Alterations and additions (dwelling)	41 Federation Street, Gilgandra	\$55,000
			December	\$64,995
			Total 2024	\$17,828,371.35

January Development Application Details

No development applications were approved during January 2025

DA Number	Applicant's Name	Application	Property address	Total Development Cost
			January	\$0
			Total 2025	\$0

RECOMMENDATION

That the reports be noted.

David Neeves
General Manager
