

BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING

THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2025

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

24th April 2025 commencing at 8.30 am

1. OPENING OF MEETING

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Warren Shire Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands within Warren Shire and acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who reside within this Shire.

3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, 27th March 2025.

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

6. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

Nil.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Meeting of the Roads Committee held on Tuesday, 8th April 2025 (C14-3.28)

Meeting of the Plant Committee held on Tuesday, 8th April 2025 (C14-3.8)

Meeting of Manex held on Monday, 14th April 2025 (C14-3.4)

8. REPORTS OF DELEGATES

Item 1	Meeting of the Alliance Western Councils Board held on Friday, 7th March 2025	(C14-6.5)
Item 2	Meeting of the NSW Public Libraries Association Central West Zone held on Friday, 21st March 2025	(L2-7)
Item 3	Meeting of the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils (NSW) Incorporated held on Thursday, 27th March 2025	(C14-6.3)
Item 4	Annual General Meeting and General Meeting of the Outback Arts Incorporated held on Monday, 31st March 2025	(C17-2)
Item 5	Meeting of the Warren Interagency Support Services held on Thursday, 10th April 2025	(C3-9)

9. REPORTS TO COUNCIL**POLICY**

General Manager Reports

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Item 3	Review of Loss of Drivers Licence Policy (P13-1, S12-29)	Page 25
Item 4	Review of Secondary Employment Policy (P13-1, S12-1)	Page 31
Item 5	Review of Media Policy (P13-1, C8-1, M4)	Page 40
Item 6	Review of Councillor Access to Information Policy (P13-1, C14-5.1)	Page 52
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10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

11. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

12. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Report of the General Manager

Item 1 Warren Levee Bank Rehabilitation & Riverbank Rock
 Armouring Works (C13-103, G4-1.89)..... Page 1

Report of the Divisional Manager Engineering Services

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13. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

14. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Roads Committee

Meeting held in Council's Community Room at 115 Dubbo Street
Warren on Tuesday, 8th April 2025 commencing at 10.02am

PRESENT:

Councillor Noel Kinsey (Chair)
Councillor Greg Whiteley
Councillor Dirk McCloskey
Councillor Mark Kelly
Councillor Tony Wass
Gary Woodman (General Manager)
Mahmud Kaiser (Roads Infrastructure Manager)
Prasant Sharma (Asset Technical Officer Roads) (Observer)
Sylvester Otieno (Divisional Manager Engineering Services)
Ray Egan (Flood Restoration and Special Projects Manager)
Stephen Smith (Roads Overseer) (Observer)
Angie Tegart (Minute Taker)

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Andrew Brewer who was absent due to external commitments, and it was **MOVED** McCloskey/Kelly that the apology be accepted, and a leave of absence be granted for this meeting.

Carried

ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD 12TH JANUARY 2025

MOVED McCloskey/Kelly that the Minutes of the Meeting held on, Tuesday, 12th January 2025 be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

ITEM 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12TH JANUARY 2025

Nil

ITEM 4 ACTION CHECKLIST

- Temporary Signage on Bridge Contract Work on RR7515 be restood and tidied up as soon as possible by the contractor. (DMES)

MOVED Wass/Kelly that the information be received and noted and that the items marked with an asterisk (*) be deleted.

Carried

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Roads Committee

Meeting held in Council's Community Room at 115 Dubbo Street
Warren on Tuesday, 8th April 2025 commencing at 10.02am

ITEM 5 REPORTS

ITEM 5.1 DROVING OF LOOSE ANIMALS ON SHIRE ROAD POLICY (P13-1)

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

MOVED McCloskey/Wass that:

1. The information be received and noted;
2. The proposed changes to the Draft Droving of Loose Animals on Shire Road Policy be incorporated and the Draft Policy be reported to a future Council Meeting.

Carried

ITEM 5.2 ISSUE OF TEMPORARY GRAZING PERMITS ON COUNCIL CONTROLLED DEDICATED PUBLIC ROADS WHERE TRAVELLING STOCK ROUTES DO NOT EXIST POLICY (R4-18, R7-1, R7-3, F2-1)

RECOMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

MOVED Kelly/Wass That:

1. The information be received and noted;
2. The proposed changes to the Draft Issue of Temporary Grazing Permits on Council Controlled Dedicated Public Roads where Travelling Stock Routes Do Not Exist Policy be incorporated, and the Draft Policy be reported to a future Council Meeting.

Carried

ITEM 5.3 STOCK CONTROL ON COUNCIL CONTROLLED DEDICATED PUBLIC ROADS POLICY (P8-3, P4-1, F2-1)

RECOMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

MOVED Wass/Kelly That:

1. The information be received and noted;
2. The proposed changes to the Draft Stock Control on Council Controlled Dedicated Public Roads Policy be incorporated and the Draft Policy be reported to a future Council Meeting.

Carried

ITEM 5.4 PROPOSED COMBINATION – STOCK CONTROL ON COUNCIL ROADS RESERVES POLICY (P8-3, P4-1, F2-1)

RECOMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

MOVED McCloskey/Kelly That:

1. The information be received and noted;
2. The proposed changes to the Draft Proposed Combination - Stock Control on Council Roads Reserves Policy be incorporated and the Draft Policy be reported to a future Council Meeting.

Carried

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Roads Committee

Meeting held in Council's Community Room at 115 Dubbo Street
Warren on Tuesday, 8th April 2025 commencing at 10.02am

ITEM 5.5 RURAL VEHICULAR ACCESS POLICY (R4-21)

RECOMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

MOVED Wass/Kelly That:

1. The information be received and noted;
2. The proposed changes to the Draft Rural Vehicular Access Policy be incorporated and the Draft Policy be reported to a future Council Meeting.

Carried

ITEM 5.6 URBAN VEHICULAR ACCESS POLICY (R4-21)

RECOMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

MOVED Whiteley/McCloskey That:

1. The information be received and noted;
2. The proposed changes to the Draft Urban Vehicular Access Policy be incorporated and the Draft Policy be reported to a future Council Meeting.

Carried

ITEM 5.7 STOCK GRIDS POLICY (R2-1)

RECOMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

MOVED McCloskey/Kelly That:

1. The information be received and noted;
2. The proposed changes to the Draft Stock Grids and Gates Policy be incorporated and the Draft Policy be reported to a future Council Meeting.

Carried

ITEM 5.8 TRAFFIC COUNTER SUMMARY AND TRENDS (R4-1)

MOVED Kelly/Wass that the information be received and noted.

Carried

ITEM 5.9 FENCING OF COUNCIL ROADSIDES (R4-1)

MOVED Kelly/Wass that the information be received and noted.

Carried

ITEM 5.10 ROAD WORK PROGRAM – 2024/25 – PROGRESS REPORT (R4-10)

MOVED McCloskey/Kelly that the information be received and noted.

Carried

ITEM 5.11 FLOOD PAYMENT CLAIM REPORT (F8-9.5, F8-9.7, F8-9.9)

MOVED McCloskey/Kelly that the information be received and noted.

Carried

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Roads Committee

Meeting held in Council's Community Room at 115 Dubbo Street
Warren on Tuesday, 8th April 2025 commencing at 10.02am

ITEM 5.12 ASSET AI DEMONSTRATION

(R4-10)

MOVED Whiteley/Kelly that the information be received and noted.

Carried

ITEM 6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

ITEM 7 NEXT MEETING

1st July 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

PLANT COMMITTEE

Attached are the Minutes of the Meeting of the Plant Committee held on Tuesday 8th April 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Plant Committee held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 be received and noted.

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
Minutes of the Plant Committee Meeting
held in the Community Room, 115 Dubbo Street Warren
Tuesday 8th April 2025 commencing at 12.17pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Greg Whiteley (Acting Chair)

Councillor Noel Kinsey

Councillor Mark Kelly

Gary Woodman (General Manager)

Sylvester Otieno (Divisional Manager Engineering Services)

Jason Boyd (Workshop Coordinator)

Ray Egan (Flood Restoration Special Projects Manager) (Observer)

Stephen Smith (Roads Overseer) (Observer)

Angie Tegart (Engineering Services Administration Officer) (Minute Taker)

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew Brewer and Councillor Dirk McCloskey who were absent due to external commitments, and it was **MOVED** Kinsey/Kelly that the apologies be accepted, and a leave of absence be granted for this meeting.

Carried

ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12TH JANUARY 2025

MOVED Kinsey/Kelly that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 12th January 2025 be accepted as true and correct record of the meeting.

Carried

ITEM 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12TH JANUARY 2025

Nil

ITEM 4 ACTION CHECKLIST

MOVED Kelly/Kinsey that the information be received and noted and that the items marked with an asterisk (*) be deleted.

Carried

ITEM 5 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MOVED Wass/Kelly that the information be received and noted.

Carried

MANEX MINUTES

Attached are the Minutes of the Meeting of Manex Committee held on Monday, 14th April 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manex Committee held on Monday, 14th April 2025 be received and noted.

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
Minutes of the Manex Committee Meeting
held in Council's Community Room on
Monday, 14th April 2025 commencing at 2.34 pm

PRESENT:

Gary Woodman	General Manager
Joe Joseph	Infrastructure Projects Manager
Jody Burtenshaw	EA to the Mayor and General Manager
Bradley Pascoe	Divisional Manager Finance & Administration
Sylvester Otieno	Divisional Manager Engineering Services
Raymond Burns	Town Services Manager
Mahmud Kaiser	Roads Infrastructure Manager (Chair)
Ray Egan	Flood Recovery and Special Projects Manager (2.56 pm)
Scott Hosking	Work Health & Safety/Risk Officer (2.43 pm)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Erica Kearnes, Jillian Murray, Maryanne Stephens and Susan Balogh who were absent due to external commitments and it was **MOVED** Woodman/Burns that a leave of absence be granted for this meeting.

Carried

2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil.

3 ACTION CHECKLIST

MOVED Woodman/Burns that the information be received and noted and the items marked with an asterisk (*) be deleted.

Carried

4.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE MATTERS

4.1.1 Marketing and Communications Update (GM)

MOVED Woodman/Otieno that the information be received and noted.

Carried

4.1.2 The Western Plains App Monthly Report (GM)

MOVED Woodman/Otieno that the information be received and noted.

Carried

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
 Minutes of the Manex Committee Meeting
 held in Council's Community Room on
 Monday, 14th April 2025 commencing at 2.34 pm

4.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE MATTERS

CONTINUED

4.1.3 Preparation of the May 2025 Council Newsletter (GM)

Item	Responsible Officer
HEADER OR FOOTER ITEMS	
Registration of Local Contractors on VendorPanel	DMFA, CC
Subscription to Newsletter	GM
VIC Volunteer Advertising	EDVM
PRIORITY MATTERS	
From the Mayors Desk	(EA/GM/Mayor)
Vacant Positions	Finance Officer – Payroll/HR Officer
Road Maintenance Construction Program for April/May 2025	FRSPM/RIM/DMES
Levee Rehabilitation Project Update	IPM
Dog Pound Project Update	IPM
Country Heartline Project	EDVM
Carter Oval Youth Sports Precinct	TSM
Warren Town Flood Study	DMES
Equine Fencing Warren Showground/Racecourse	TSM
Victoria Park Female Friendly Amenities Update	IPM
ANZAC Day	GM
Draft Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan	GM/DMFA
Delivery of new Motor Grader and Trucks	DMES
LOWER PRIORITY MATTERS	
Women of Warren Shire	GM
Responsible Pet Ownership	MHD
RR202 Marthaguy Road Flood Damage and Towards Zero Safety Roads Update	FRSPM/RIM/DMES
RR333 Carinda Road Towards Zero Safer Roads Update	RIM
Alcohol Free Zones on Public Roads and Parks	TSM/DMES

MOVED Woodman/Egan that the information be received and noted.

Carried

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
 Minutes of the Manex Committee Meeting
 held in Council's Community Room on
 Monday, 14th April 2025 commencing at 2.34 pm

4.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE MATTERS

CONTINUED

4.1.4 Suggestions in the Council Suggestion Boxes (GM)

Nil.

4.1.5 Policy Review Plan (GM)

MOVED Woodman/Otieno that the information be received and noted.

Carried

4.2 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT MATTERS

4.2.1 Warren Shire Council Contract Register (DMFA)

MOVED Otieno/Woodman that:

1. The information be received and noted; and
2. Finalised Contracts be removed.

Carried

4.2.2 Warren Shire Council Grants Register (DMFA)

MOVED Burns/Egan that the information be received and noted.

Carried

4.2.3 Manex Member Advice on Large Payments for Investment Strategy Information (DMFA)

Estimated major expenditure for April 2025:	Estimated income / payments for April 2025:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bitumen Reseals \$500,000 (RIM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RMCC Reseals \$392,444 (RIM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Victoria Amenities Progress Payment \$120,000 (IPM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council received \$1,550,302 (ex. GST) for the Heavy Patching Works.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exclusion Fence – Showground/Racecourse \$120,000 (TSM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Towards Zero Road Safety Program Marthaguy Road - \$955,518 (RIM) Note: We have submitted the Payment Claim for the Milestone 1, but we did not receive the payment yet.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction of Evaporation Lagoon \$100,000 (TSM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Towards Zero Road Safety Program Carinda Road - \$828,595 (RIM) Note: We have submitted the Payment Claim for the Milestone 1, but we did not receive the payment yet.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CCTV Condition Inspection – Sewer mains \$70,000 (TSM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RMAP Q3 Payment Claim - \$232,737 (including Culvert Cleaning works)

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
 Minutes of the Manex Committee Meeting
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4.2.3 Manex Member Advice on Large Payments for Investment Strategy Information (DMFA)
 Continued

Estimated major expenditure for April 2025:	Estimated income / payments for April 2025:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Levee rock cartage \$160,000 (IPM) ▪ RMCC Reseals \$392,444 (RIM) ▪ Marthaguy Road – Sealing \$200,000 (RIM) ▪ Marthaguy Road – Neill Earthmoving \$150,000 (RIM) ▪ Marthaguy Road – Stabiliser \$100,000 (RIM) ▪ Carinda Road – Mt Foster Material \$100,000 (RIM) ▪ Bridges \$450,000 ▪ New Motor Grader \$500,000 ▪ New Trucks \$350,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tripartite Agreement Payment Claim - \$4,327,909 for AGRN 1034 EPA RW has been submitted. Council should receive the Payment in 6 monthly instalments, we are expecting receiving \$721,318 soon.

MOVED Burns/Woodman that the information be received and noted.

Carried

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Manex Committee Meeting held in Council's Community Room on
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4.3 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

4.3.1 Flood Recovery Works (DMES/FRSPM/RIM)

Event Name	Event Description	Work Completion Deadline	Budget	Payment Claim	Claim Received	Claim Submission Status
AGRN 960 EPA	NSW Storms and Floods from 10 March 2021 onwards	30.06.2024	\$2,203,177.37	\$2,203,177.37	\$2,188,791.95	Works completed. \$2,188,791.95 worth of Payment claim has been received.
AGRN 1025 EW	NSW Severe Weather and Flooding: 27 June 2022 onwards	30.06.2023	\$58,436.06	\$58,436.06	\$50,869.85	Works completed. Payment claim has been submitted. Council received a Funding Letter for \$50,869.85, which is \$7,566.21 less than the Payment Claim. Some invoices dated prior to the event were inadvertently included in the submission.
AGRN 1025 IRW	NSW Severe Weather and Flooding: 27 June 2022 onwards	30.06.2025	\$340,590.34	\$340,590.34	\$303,427.85	Works completed. \$303,427.85 worth of Payment claim has been received.
AGRN 1034 EW	NSW Flooding from 14 September 2022 onwards	30.06.2023	\$970,205.27	\$970,205.27	\$107,465.53	Works completed. Payment claim has been submitted. Council received \$107,465.53 following the reconciliation of the advanced payment.
AGRN 1034 IRW	NSW Flooding from 14 September 2022 onwards	30.06.2023	\$874,774.07	\$174,422.76 ¹	\$137,260.26	Works completed. Payment claim has been submitted. Council received \$137,260.26 after the deduction of Council's Contribution.
AGRN 1034 EPA RW	NSW Flooding from 14 September 2022 onwards	30.06.2026	\$6,076,520.03 (From 1 st Submission)	\$698,345.00 ¹	\$0.00	Works completed. Payment claim has been submitted.
	Regional Roads		\$4,887,402			Works have been started. A Partial Payment claim has been submitted.
	Local Roads		\$3,768,416	\$4,327,909.38 ²		The work associated with this payment claim was completed as part of the AGRN 1034 IRW event.
Total				\$8,773,086.18	\$2,787,815.44	
Unclaimed Amount				#4,985,270.74		

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

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4.3 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

CONTINUED

\$1 Million funds have been provided by a special restoration grant, so the amount currently yet to be paid is \$4,985,270.74

1. After the Deadline of the Construction Timeframe of the AGRN 1034 IRW Event, this Event has been renamed as the AGRN 1034 EPA RW. Council has submitted a partial claim of \$698,345 under the AGRN 1034 EPA RW.
2. Application Submitted for the Tripartite Agreement, 50% of Total Approved Fund.

4.3.2 Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) (DMES/FRSPM/RIM)

Project	Estimate / Budget	Comments
Heavy Patching 2024-25	\$1,597,062	The Council received a Work Order for Heavy Patching valued at \$1,367,804.60, covering 62 patches with a total area of 18,240 m ² . Heavy patching works commenced in September 2024. The scope of the Heavy Patching Works for flood-damaged areas has been updated, with 9 additional patches selected for repair; all of them are in Milawa area. Council received the new Work Order which includes additional 9 Patches. Following the recent JPA, an additional patch (158 m ²) near the railway has been added. All the Patching Works have been completed. The Council has already submitted the Payment Claim except the Line Marking Cost. The Council also received the Payment Certificate worth of \$1,550,302.70 (ex. GST). The payment will be available within 15th April 2025.
Milawa Pavement Rehabilitation – 3.25km	\$1,391,926	Council received the Payment Claim worth of \$1,116,305 which excludes the Final Sealing Works and the Line Marking. The Linemarking Works have been completed in March. Final sealing Works will be completed in 2025/26 Financial Year.
RMAP Activities – 2024/25 and Culvert Replacement	\$850,945 + The Cost associated with Culvert Replacement.	Under Scheduled Maintenance: 22 Culverts will be cleaned (Estimated Budget, \$92,890). Culvert cleaning works is still going on and it will be completed in January 2025. Four Culverts have been repaired (Estimated Budget is \$293,019). Also, One Culvert will be replaced at Oxley Highway in this Financial Year. A Work Proposal has been submitted to TfNSW. Conseth Solutions is working for all the culvert related works. (RIM/DMES)
Reseal Works 2024-25	\$442,319.58	The Work Proposal has been submitted to TfNSW for the Reseal Works on Segment 295 and Segment 300. Total Area of the Reseal Works is 34,060 m ² . Reseal Works have been completed already. The Council has submitted the Payment Claim worth of \$392,444.58 (ex. GST) has been submitted.

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

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4.3 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

CONTINUED

4.3.3 Capital Works Program – 2024/25 (DMES/FRSPM/RIM) as detailed within the report.

Project	Budget	Expend/ Comm	Resp	Comment
Bridges Renewal Program RR 7515 Warren Road Replacement of Newe Park Bridge and Marthaguy Creek Bridge	\$5,010,000	\$4,432,559	DMES	Applications for extension of time have been submitted to TfNSW (acting for BRP) and Restart NSW. Marthaguy Creek Bridge: Structure (Deck, Guardrails, etc.) has been completed. Road Works (approach to the Bridge) need to be done. It will be started after the completion of Newey Bridge Road Approach Works. Additional Silt Protection Works will start at the right-hand side (towards Coonamble) of the Bridge. Also, Bridge Rail needs to be installed after the Road Works. Newe Park Bridge: The Deck of the Newe Park Bridge has been completed. Back Filling and Guardrail installations have been completed on Newe Park Bridge. The road approach works on Newe Park Bridge have been completed.
Urban Unsealed Roads Resheeting	\$15,750	\$1,012	RIM	Ongoing.
Resheeting of SR62 Buddabadah Road (GPR/FAG) - \$430,500 & LRCI - \$170,100.00	\$600,600	\$150,000	RIM	After the Road Committee Meeting, 4 additional roads will be considered for the potential re-sheeting works. Roads are in the following: SR 62-Buddabadah Road – 2 km SR 75 - Pineclump Soldiers Rd – 1 km SR 87 - Cremorne Road – 1 km SR 95 - Gunningba Road – 1 km

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

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4.3 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

CONTINUED

4.3.3 Capital Works Program – 2024/25 (DMES/FRSPM/RIM) as detailed within the report.

Project	Budget	Expend/ Comm	Resp	Comment
				SR 97 - Kianga-Marebone Road – 1 km The total budget will be allocated across the five roads.
*Collie Bourbah Road Reseal Seg2 (LRCI)	\$102,736.76	\$102,736.76	RIM	Completed
*Collie Dubbo Road Reseal (R2R)	\$89,745.58	\$89,745.58	RIM	Completed
Bundemar Street (Burton-Readford) Reseal (R2R)			RIM	Will be deferred to Next Year due to Budget Restriction.
Nevertire Bogan Road Reseal (Segment 26 – 1 st Half) (RLRP/RERRF)	\$35,000.00	Waiting for the Invoice	RIM	Completed
Tottenham Road Reseal (Segment 24 – 1 st Half) (RLRP/RERRF)	\$56,000.00	Waiting for the Invoice	RIM	Completed
*Narromine Street (Clyde-Warren) Reseal (R2R, LRCI)	\$38,556.06	\$38,556.06	RIM	Completed

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Manex Committee Meeting held in Council's Community Room on
Tuesday, 18th March 2025 commencing at 2.30 pm

4.3 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

CONTINUED

4.3.3 Capital Works Program – 2024/25 (DMES/FRSPM/RIM) as detailed within the report.

Project	Budget	Expend/ Comm	Resp	Comment
*Bullagreen Road Reseal Seg 2(R2R)	\$71,314.77	\$71,314.77	RIM	Completed
Dubbo Street (Stafford St to Hilton Ln)	\$85,000.00	Nil	RIM	Will be starting soon
Stubbs Avenue	\$15,000.00	Nil	RIM	Will be starting soon
NSW Disaster Ready Fund – Electronic Signage at Reddenville Break and Stoney Creek Crossing.	\$77,021.00	Nil	DMES	Grant successful. Funding Deed agreement has been done.
Safer Roads Program – Carinda Road, Segment 62 to 70; Shoulder Widening.	\$3,949,000 \$450,000 co-contribution	\$502,593	DMES/RIM	Design has been completed. An application for extension of time and additional funding has been submitted to TfNSW. Works have been started. 1 km length of Road has been sealed.
Safer Roads Program – Marthaguy Road, Segment 12 to 20; Safety Improvements.	\$4,290,000 \$450,000 co-contribution	\$207,253	DMES/RIM	Design has been completed. An application for extension of time and additional funding has been submitted to TfNSW. Works have been started. 2 Culverts have been replaced, and 1 Subgrade Works are going on for 1 km length of Road; this will be sealed in next week.
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (Commonwealth)	\$3,512,560 Made up of \$2,813,215	\$2,943,643	DMES/ RIM	Rehabilitation & Seals – 8 km has already been sealed. 4km of Shoulders (segment 10) have been sealed.

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4.3 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

CONTINUED

4.3.3 Capital Works Program – 2024/25 (DMES/FRSPM/RIM) as detailed within the report.

Project	Budget	Expend/ Comm	Resp	Comment
and Fixing Local Roads Round 4 Nevertire – Bogan Road, Segment 4,6,8 and 10 Rehabilitation.	grant & \$699,345 Council			Line Marking has been completed. Few Pavement Defects have been rectified through Heavy Patching Works. Also, Head Walls of 3 Culverts have been replaced. Line Marking works will be organised now.
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (Commonwealth) Rifle Range Road, Oxley Highway and Ellengerah Road Intersections Construction	\$176,815	\$37,096	DMES/ RIM/ FRSPM	Being scoped and programmed. TfNSW has declined request to upgrade SH11 intersection. Ellengerah Road Intersection to be made safer.
Floodplain Management Program (DCCEEW) – Warren Town Flood Study	\$226,308	Nil	DMES	Awaiting DCCEEW approval of revised Workplan prior to appointing the Consultant formally.

MOVED Woodman/Otieno that the information for Items 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 be received and noted and items marked with an asterisk (*) be deleted.

Carried

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
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4.3 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MATTERS **CONTINUED**

4.3.4 2024 Calendar of Events at Showground/Racecourse (TSM/IPM)
MOVED Burns/Otineo that the information be received and noted.

Carried

4.4 HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT MATTERS

4.4.1 Warren Shire Council September to December 2022 Flood and Storm Damage Claim for Waste Facility/Garbage Matters (AGRN 1034) (MHD)

Event	Subcategory	Estimate	Status
AGRN 1034	EW	\$82,389.10	Claim for temporary tip and waste disposal. Works completed. Claim re-submitted 4th April 2024. \$82,389.10 has been paid.
AGRN 1034	EPA RW	\$220,500	Claim for re-construct internal access road. Submitted 4th April 2024. Claim certified by Council engineer as requested. Followed up again on 1st April 2025.
AGRN 1034	EPA RW	\$38,983.86	Claim for other works associated with flooding of tip. Re-submitted 4th April 2024. Claim signed by Council November 2024. Followed up again on 1st April 2025.

Table Legend

AGRN – Australian Government's Registration Number

IRW – Immediate Reconstruction Works

EW – Emergency Works

EPA RW – Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works

MOVED Woodman/Otieno that the information be received and noted.

Carried

4.5 WORK HEALTH & SAFETY RISK MATTERS

4.5.1 Risk Management Plan – Asset Risk Plan – Stormwater & SQUIDS

MOVED Burns/Woodman that the information be received, noted and the Risk Management Plan – Asset Risk Plan – Stormwater & SQUIDS be endorsed.

Carried

4.5.2 Risk Management Plan – Asset Risk Plan – Water Pollution

MOVED Burns/Woodman that the information be received, noted and the Risk Management Plan – Asset Risk Plan – Water Pollution be endorsed.

Carried

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4.5 WORK HEALTH & SAFETY RISK MATTERS **CONTINUED**

4.5.3 Work Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – 3 April 2025

MOVED Woodman/Otieno that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Work Health and Safety Committee held on Thursday, 3rd April 2025 be received and noted, and the following recommendations be adopted:

Item 4.2 Vaccine Update **(S12-14.1)**

That the implementation of vaccination provision be during the employment process with mandatory follow-up requirements.

Item 4.3 Staff Training **(S12-14.1)**

That the Work Health and Safety Risk Coordinator arrange refresher training for all Work Health and Safety Committee Members.

Item 4.8 Policy/Procedure Updates **(12-14.1)**

That the Draft Incident Reporting and Investigation Guideline and Draft Managing Psychosocial Hazards in the Workplace Policy be presented to MANEX for approval.

Item 4.9 Legislative Updates **(S12-14.1)**

That:

1. The Committee recommend implementing an annual hearing test program for all employees that are required to frequently use hearing protection as a control for noise that exceeds the exposure standard; and
2. A review and implementation of a crystalline silica management plan.

Carried

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4.6 HUMAN RESOURCES

4.6.1 Determination of Vacant Positions in accordance with the Workforce Plan (GM)

Position	Permanent/ Contract	Responsible Officer	Status
Treasurer / Management Accountant	Permanent	DMFA	Action subject to Draft 2025/2026 Estimates.
Utilities Maintenance Team Leader	Permanent	DMES	Advertising with an open closing date.
Utilities Maintenance Team Member	Permanent	DMES	Advertising with an open closing date.
Light Plant Operator - Relief	Permanent	DMES	Advertising with an open closing date.
Light Truck Driver (Water)	Contract at least 2 Years	DMES	Advertising with an open closing date.
Light Plant Operator – Roller	Contract at least 2 Years	DMES	Advertising with an open closing date.
Light Plant Operator – Roller (2)	Permanent	DMES	Advertising with an open closing date.
Heavy Diesel Mechanic	Permanent	DMES	Advertising with an open closing date.
Apprentice Heavy Diesel Mechanic	Permanent	DMES	Commenced 10 April 2025. Signed up 11 April 2025 with MAS.
Cleaner	Permanent	MHD	Advertising with an open closing date.
Trainee Tourism Information Officer	Trainee – 2 years	EDVM	Advertising with an open closing date.
Trainee Administration Officer	Trainee – 2 years	GM	Subject to OLG approval of application.
Trainee Plant Operator	Trainee – 3 years	DMES	Subject to OLG approval of application.
Senior Records Officer / Service NSW	Permanent	DMFA	New position description to be arranged then advertise.
Finance Clerk – Debtors / Service NSW	Permanent	DMFA	Position description to be updated then advertise.

Items marked with an () asterisk and have been highlighted grey indicate that they have been finalised and are to be removed from the listing.*

MOVED Otieno/Burns that the information be received and noted.

Carried

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5.1 OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULARS

(L5-3)

Date	Circular No.	Description	Comment/Action
9.4.25	25-05	Onsite Wastewater Management Guidelines	Noted
10.4.25	25-06	Rating Information 2025-26	Noted

5.1 OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULARS

CONTINUED

MINISTERIAL CIRCULARS

Date	Circular No.	Description	Comment/Action
Nil			

MOVED Otieno/Burns that the information be received and noted.

Carried

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Manex Committee Meeting held in Council's Community Room on
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5.2 OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC TASKS

CONTINUED

Councils are required to submit several reports and returns/surveys annually, as required by the [Local Government Act 1993](#) and by OLG policy. The [Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework](#) details the reporting requirements that are mandated in the Local Government Act.

The Calendar of Compliance includes key deadlines for strategic management tasks for all Councils and Joint Organisations in NSW. Statutory and other reporting deadlines are not limited to those included in the Calendar of Compliance.

The OLG Calendar of Compliance & Reporting Requirements 2024-25 is available to view [here](#). A hard copy has been provided to Manex Members via an email sent on Monday, 8th July 2024.

		April 2025	Status		May 2025	Status
Finance	30	Public bodies to provide Council with a list of parcels of land to which rate rebate applies [LGA s 600(5)]	Noted	31	Last day for RAO to submit quarterly budget review statement to council [LG Reg cl 203(1)]. Councils are requested to send a copy of the QBRs to finance@olg.nsw.gov.au	Noted to be presented May 2025 Council Meeting (DMFA).
	30	Fourth quarter rates instalment notices to be sent [LGA s562(5)]	Noted	31	Last day for requests to Valuer General for estimates of changes in the value of land for which supplementary valuations are required to be furnished [LGA s513]	Noted
	30	Income Adjustments for Newly Rateable Crown Land due	Noted	31	Fourth quarterly rates instalment due [LGA s562(3)(b)]	Noted
Governance						
Grants		Local Government Recovery Grants – AGRN 1012, 1025, 1030/34 - YTD Reporting due	Noted	1	Low-cost Loan Initiative Interim Progress Report due	N/A

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

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5.2 OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC TASKS

CONTINUED

		April 2025	Status		May 2025	Status
				4	Local Infrastructure Renewals Scheme (LIRS) portal opens for claims for the month	N/A
					LIRS Progress/Final Report Due	N/A
Companion Animals						
Other					Expected third installment of 2024-25 Financial Assistance Grants	Noted
Education						

MOVED Woodman/Burns that the information be received and noted.

Carried

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6 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES (I2-11.1)

- 6.1 Draft Project Management Procedure
- 6.2 Draft Performance Management Procedure
- 6.3 Grievance and Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedure

MOVED Otieno/Woodman that the Draft Project Management Procedure, Draft Performance Management Procedure and Grievance and Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedure be adopted.

Carried

7 MARCH 2025 DRAFT MINUTES AND APRIL 2025 DRAFT BUSINESS PAPER

The Committee previewed the April 2025 Business Paper and the March 2025 Draft Minutes and actions required were placed on the Action Checklist in Item 1 of the General Manager's Report.

8 CORRESPONDENCE AND CUSTOMER REQUESTS STATUS

The correspondence list and the outstanding request/actions list were circulated. It was requested that the Responsible Officers update the outstanding complaints/actions list and return to the Engineering Administration Officer/Works Clerk.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE

- The General Manager gave the Committee an overview of the process for the scheduled Estimates Workshop with Councillors on Wednesday, 16th April 2025.
- The General Manager discussed the draft Estimates Document and how it is to be presented for the Workshop.
- The General Manager discussed the outstanding April 2025 Council Meeting reports including the Divisional Manager Finance & Administration Policy Reports, EV Charging Stations Report and Committee of the Whole Closed Council Reports.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.05 pm.



Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, 7 March 2025

Western Plains Cultural Centre

Draft Minutes Board Meeting

Date: Friday, 7 March 2025
Time: 8.32 am
Venue: Meeting Room 2, Western Plains Cultural Centre

ATTENDEES:

Clr Glen Neill (Chair)	Mayor	Bogan Shire Council
Derek Francis	General Manager	Bogan Shire Council
Clr Lachlan Ford	Mayor	Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	General Manager	Bourke Shire Council
Clr Tom Stanton	Mayor	Brewarrina Shire Council
David Kirby	General Manager	Brewarrina Shire Council
Bob Stewart	Administrator	Central Darling Shire Council
Greg Hill	General Manager	Central Darling Shire Council
Clr Jarrod Marsden	Mayor	Cobar Shire Council
Peter Vlatko	General Manager	Cobar Shire Council
Clr Danny Keady	Mayor	Coonamble Shire Council
Paul Gallagher (MS Teams)	General Manager	Coonamble Shire Council
Clr Josh Black	Mayor	Dubbo Regional Council
Murray Wood	General Manager	Dubbo Regional Council
Clr Doug Batten	Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
David Neeves	General Manager	Gilgandra Shire Council
Clr Des Kennedy	Mayor	Mid-Western Regional Council
Brad Cam	General Manager	Mid-Western Regional Council
Clr Craig Davies	On behalf of Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Jane Redden	General Manager	Narromine Shire Council
Megan Dixon	General Manager	Walgett Shire Council
Clr Greg Whiteley	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Clr Kathryn Rindfleish	Mayor	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Lindsay Mason	General Manager	Warrumbungle Shire Council



ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisa Schiff, Executive Officer, Alliance of Western Councils

Lisa Grisinger, Executive Assistant CEO, Dubbo Regional Council

Gerry Collins, Director Western, Regional Coordination, Premier's Department

1. WELCOME

Glen Neill assumed the Chair and welcomed attendees, including Paul Gallagher and Lisa Schiff who attended online.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered by the Chair.

3. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from the following members:

Clr Ewen Jones	Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Clr Jasen Ramien	Mayor	Walgett Shire Council
Gary Woodman	General Manager	Warren Shire Council

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil declarations of interest were made.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1. ALLIANCE OF WESTERN COUNCILS BOARD MEETING – 8 NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLVED David Neeves/Clr Greg Whiteley, that the minutes of the Alliance of Western Councils Board meeting held on 8 November 2024 be confirmed.

**Carried
2025/1**

5.2. MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1. GENERAL MANAGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GMAC) MEETING – 28 FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLVED David Neeves/Peter Vlatko, that the minutes of the General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) meeting held on 28 February 2025 be confirmed.

**Carried
2025/2**

6.2. MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

7. MURRAY DARLING BASIN

- **Grace Mang**, General Manager, Basin Plan Review Strategy and Integration, Murray Darling Basin Authority, was in attendance.
- **Peter Thomas**, Regional Engagement Officer, Murray Darling Basin Authority, was in attendance.
- **Phil Coates**, Murray-Darling Basin Economics, Evidence and engagement, DCCEEW, was in attendance.
- **Shona Whitfield**, Regional Engagement Officer, Barwon-Darling (Northwest NSW), Murray Darling Basin Authority, was in attendance.

Discussions were held with Grace, Peter, Phil and Shona regarding the following matters:

- Focus on supporting the Alliance during drought.
- Importance of critical human needs within the Murray Darling Basin Plan (particularly the Northern Plan) and the need for State Government contributions in this regard.
 - Water quality and quantity of surface water downstream would assist in improving critical water needs.
 - Longer planning periods required.
- Biodiversity Offset Scheme – impacts on LGAs, including river weirs and lack of consideration of human impacts.
- NSW Productivity and Equality Commission Final Report on Review of Funding Models for Local Water Utilities – lack of action in respect of Section 9, Provision of Services in Western NSW.
- Congratulations to the Murray Darling Basin Authority for meeting councils in their respective areas/LGAs and running seminars.
- Granting of funding for connectivity works within the Barwon-Darling without consideration of water requirements of surrounding impacted towns.
- Importance of a positive relationship between State and Federal water authorities.
- Water Sharing Plans – need to be better aligned as they can often contradict each other and in this regard, the Murray Darling Basin Plan needs a mechanism to enable stronger enforcement of such alignment/integration.

- Overall use of averages within planning is a fundamental failure as the weather system does not operate in averages, however, it was noted that planning is set up for averages so they must be used.
- Buy backs and impacts on community when water is purchased by large corporations. Published trading strategy advises that additional work is required on the approach in the North, including from a socio-economic angle.
- Importance of water infrastructure in Western NSW to support communities.

8. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA (RDA) ORANA

- **Justine Campbell**, Chief Executive Officer, was in attendance.
- Attached as Appendix 1 - Presentation provided by Justine.
- Attached as Appendix 2 – Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) fact sheet.
- Attached as Appendix 3 - About Us brochure.

In addition to the presentation, discussions were held with Justine regarding the following matters:

- Provision of support for RDA Orana to maintain the Orana DAMA and prevent the State Government from taking it over and placing it statewide following a State Government review and feasibility study.
 - Justine will write to individual councils to request letters of support in respect of the Orana DAMA remaining with RDA Orana.
- Orana Hunter Golden Highway Taskforce – invites to be distributed by Justine's team.

RESOLVED Brad Cam/Clr Doug Batten, that the Chair write to the following Ministers providing support and advocating for the Orana Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) to remain with RDA Orana and not be placed with the State:

- The Hon. Steven Wahn, MP – NSW Government Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.
- Hon Andrew Giles MP – Australian Government Minister for Skills and Training.

**Carried
2025/3**

9. DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPRD)

- **Craig Jenkins**, Director, Economic Development Network, Regional Development and Delivery was in attendance online.
- **Angela Shepherd**, Deputy Director, Orana Far West, Regional Development and Delivery was in attendance.
- Attached as Appendix 4 - Presentation provided by Craig and Angela.



In addition to the presentation, discussions were held with Craig and Angela regarding the following matters:

- Regular briefings in respect of procurement to commence from 18 March 2025, with the first briefing being held in Dubbo.
- Local Government Economic Development Officers Workshop will be held on 9 April 2025 in Narromine – economic development and tourism staff encouraged to attend.
- Influx of government and non-government agencies competing for work in regional/rural NSW as a result of the funding models and not consulting with each other - the Premier's Service Model currently being developed will set out principles for consulting with regional communities.
- Regional Development Trust – assessment and rollout of funding. Regional consultation will be undertaken.
- Engagement with Local Government and funding to support Aboriginal communities – individual meetings with Craig Jenkins can be arranged.
- Tourism development and State Government interaction – Destination NSW is the governing tourism body.
- Councils currently looking at how they can use drought funding for tourism.
- Focus on Indigenous programs and initiatives in the regions – NSW Aboriginal Land Council is the governing body for local Aboriginal land councils, however, it is noted that Department of Regional NSW are working with Aboriginal community owned businesses to provide support.

10. DUGALD SAUNDERS MP, MEMBER FOR DUBBO ELECTORATE

- **Ben Walker**, Advisor - Leader of the NSW Nationals, was also in attendance.

Discussions were held with Dugald regarding the following matters:

- Government funding and budget estimates including availability of funding, capacity to deliver, consultation and co-contributions.
- Crime in Western NSW.
 - Regional Crime and Regional Youth Crime Reform Bill 2025 – an Act to amend the Bail Act 2013, the Children (Criminal proceedings) Act 1987 and the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 in relation to doli incapax, bail and sentencing of youth; and for related purposes.
 - Police numbers in rural NSW – gaps in incentives and attraction due to issues around education, housing, liveability, under resourcing and burnout/mental health.
- Support for Orana Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) remaining with RDA Orana.
- Reforms to the Model Code of Meeting Practice and need to lobby through LGNSW.
- Gaps in education including areas such as strategy, accountability, funding, transparency and improving in/advocating for rural areas.

11. TELSTRA

- **Ian George**, Regional Engagement Manager, New England & Western NSW, Telstra Regional Australia was in attendance.
- **Michael Marom**, Northern NSW Regional General Manager, Telstra Business Regional Australia was in attendance online.
- **Ian Abbott**, Senior Sales Specialist lot Industry Sales was in attendance online.
- Attached as Appendix 5 - Email from Ian George attaching the presentation, a high level IoT overview and a document to assist customers in respect of configuration of GO Repeater to boost 4G signal.

In addition to the presentation, discussions were held with Ian, Michael and Ian regarding the following matters:

- Connectivity and blackspot issues in Regional/Rural NSW since decommissioning of the 3G Network.
 - Affects on community including emergency management and business/farming operations.
 - Fixed broadband recommended rather than reliance on mobile phones in respect of emergency preparedness.
 - Individual councils encouraged to provide specific blackspot and connectivity issue details to Ian George, including mobile phone numbers, dates, locations etc.
 - 3G Helpline launched to support customers – call 1800 990 853 between 8am and 7pm Monday to Friday AEDT.
- Black spot funding issues including inaccurate maps, co-contribution requirements and the connections-based model.
- Growing network demands and capital expenditure/investment.
- Towers - replenishment programs, battery systems and onsite generators, particularly in remote areas.

RESOLVED David Neeves/Clr Greg Whiteley

1. That the AWC Chair write to Telstra outlining the region's general concerns around the service reduction which has occurred as a result of the closure of the 3G Network, with a copy of such correspondence to be provided to the following:
 - a. Australian Government Minister for Communications, The Hon Michelle Rowland MP.
 - b. Australian Government Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Catherine King MP.
2. That Telstra be requested to provide a formal response and detail the program of works planned for the AWC region, including indicative timeframes.
3. That individual councils detail their specific concerns and provide examples directly to Telstra via Ian George.

**Carried
2025/4**

12. PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSIONER REPORT AND THE REPORTS SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR WATER UTILITIES IN REGIONAL NSW

- Brad Cam addressed the AWC regarding this matter.
- Attached as Appendix 6 – Report on Local Water Utility Funding.

RESOLVED Peter Vlatko/Clr Craig Davies, that the AWC make representations to DCCEEW and the Minister for Water, the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, advising that current governance arrangements with the AWC through the Western Councils Water Alliance are suitable for implementing Recommendation 16 of the Productivity and Equality Commissions report for the member councils of the Alliance.

**Carried
2025/5**

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

The following items of General Business were discussed:

- Lisa Schiff provided an update on the draft AWC Strategic Plan – a final draft will be provided following feedback from GMAC.
- Congratulations was extended to Lindsay Mason who was recently appointed General Manager of Warrumbungle Shire Council.
- Discussions on presentation provided by Professor Drew on Thursday, 6 March 2025 regarding Western Alliance Sustainability and performance.
- Potential invitation to Brett Whitworth to a future meeting to discuss plans for Local Government, particularly related to issues in Western NSW and other relevant policy settings.
- Gerry Collins attended to represent Premier's Department and is available to support the AWC and provide the views of the AWC to the Premier's Department. The following matters were also discussed with Gerry:
 - Community Strategic Plans.
 - Implementation Plan for Community Consultation Bill.
 - Strategies on performance and discipline in schools.
 - Recent engagement with Phyllis Miller including discussions on FAGs.
 - Regional Development Trust membership and funding.
- Clr Josh Black provided an update on the PCYC Sprots Hub funding.
- Road Maintenance Council Contracts (RMCC) funding for capital works has been exhausted. This causes issues for rural councils as they rely on the funding for employment of staff and road maintenance.
- Roadside slashing funding allocations have reduced significantly, with RFS advising it is due to budget constraints.
- RFS vehicles and maintenance levels – issues with vehicles being serviced/maintained in Dubbo and not locally.
- Electricity contracts – AWC still aligned in respect of these contracts.
- Invoicing for Local Government Elections has not yet been distributed to councils.
- Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) Collection Legislation and seeking of exemptions for rural/remote areas.
- The next meeting of the AWC will be on 16 May 2025 in Gilgandra.
- The next meeting of the GMAC will be on 2 May 2025 in Dubbo.

RESOLVED Jane Redden/Clr Greg Whiteley

1. That Brewarrina Shire Council seek further detail be from Professor Drew, including costings, in respect of his proposal on Western Alliance Sustainability and performance and provide to the Alliance.
2. That an independent review panel be established to review any report provided by Professor Drew, should the Professor be engaged.

**Carried
2025/6**

RESOLVED Bob Stewart/Jane Redden, that Brett Whiteley, Deputy Secretary, Local Government – NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and Gerry Collins be invited to attend the a future meeting of the AWC to discuss plans for Local Government, particularly related to issues in Western NSW and other relevant policy settings.

**Carried
2025/7**

RESOLVED Clr Josh Black/Clr Doug Batten, that AWC chair write a letter to the NSW Premier providing support for the Dubbo PCYC Sports Hub facility to be funded, requesting that funding of \$48M be allocated in the budget for the Sports Hub.

**Carried
2025/8**

RESOLVED Brad Cam/Leonie Brown, that Holly Davies of Transport for NSW be invited to attend a future meeting of the AWC to discuss Road Maintenance Council Contracts (RMCC) Capital Works Funding.

**Carried
2025/9**

RESOLVED Clr Greg Whiteley/Clr Des Kennedy, that Dubbo Regional Council contact RFS to extend an invitation to attend a future AWC meeting to discuss:

- Why roadside slashing budgets have been reduced.
- Removal of RFS assets from council budgets and into RFS budgets.
- Maintenance of vehicles.

**Carried
2025/10**

RESOLVED Clr Glen Neill/Clr Jarrod Marsden, that the AWC Chair write to The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC, NSW Minister for the Environment, to raise concerns in respect of the legislated requirement for Food and Organic Collection (FOGO) in rural areas.

**Carried
2025/11**

14. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 1.23 pm.

Regional Development Australia
Orana



Introduction

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana is an incorporated, not for profit association and registered charity, led by a regional board of industry and government representatives.

- We support economic and social development across 12 local government areas within the Orana
- Build partnerships and work across all levels of government
- Support regional business, community and Indigenous development
- We identify, develop and support strategic projects to encourage regional growth



Orana regional snapshot



Top industries - employment

- Health care and social assistance
- Education and training
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Retail trade
- Construction



total area of the region is

190,000 km² or 25 %
of NSW



124,696

people call the Orana home

15.5%

are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



\$27B

annual economic output



54,887

jobs in the region

12
local government areas



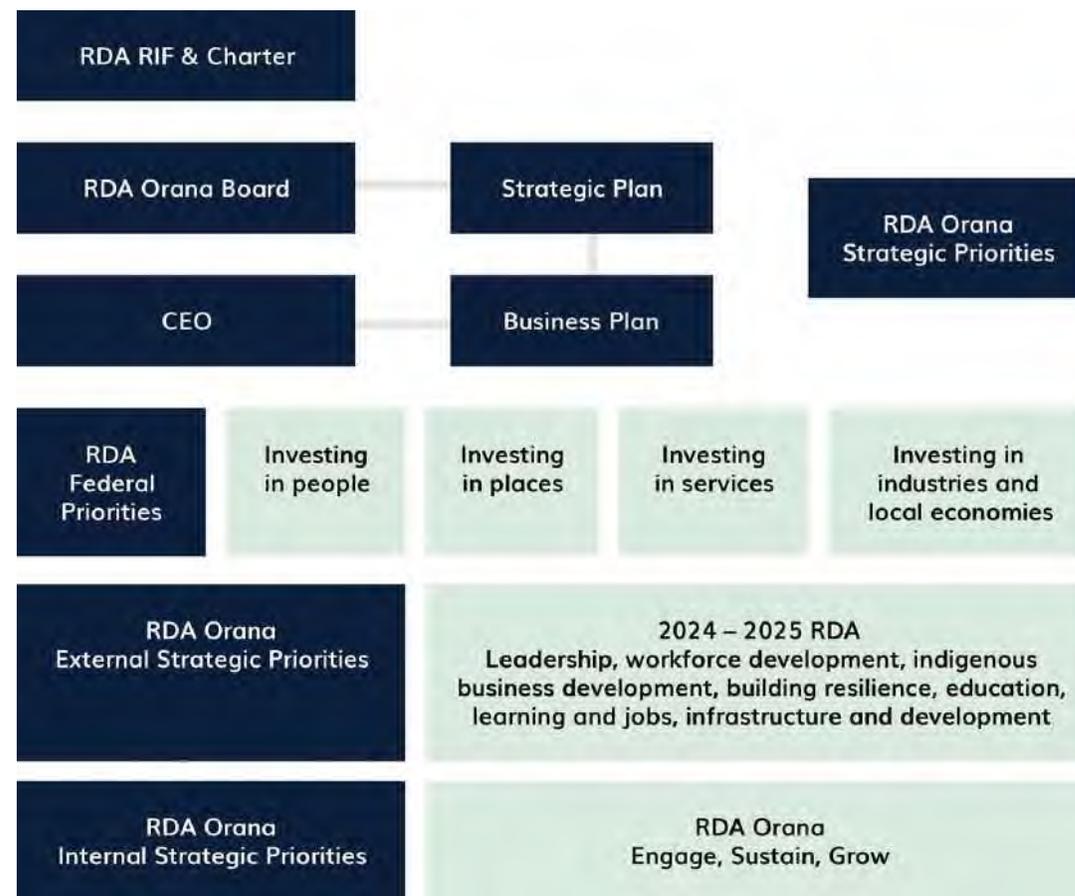
4.1%

unemployment rate

RDA Orana Structure

RDA Orana is part of a national network of 50 committees across Australia's capital cities and region

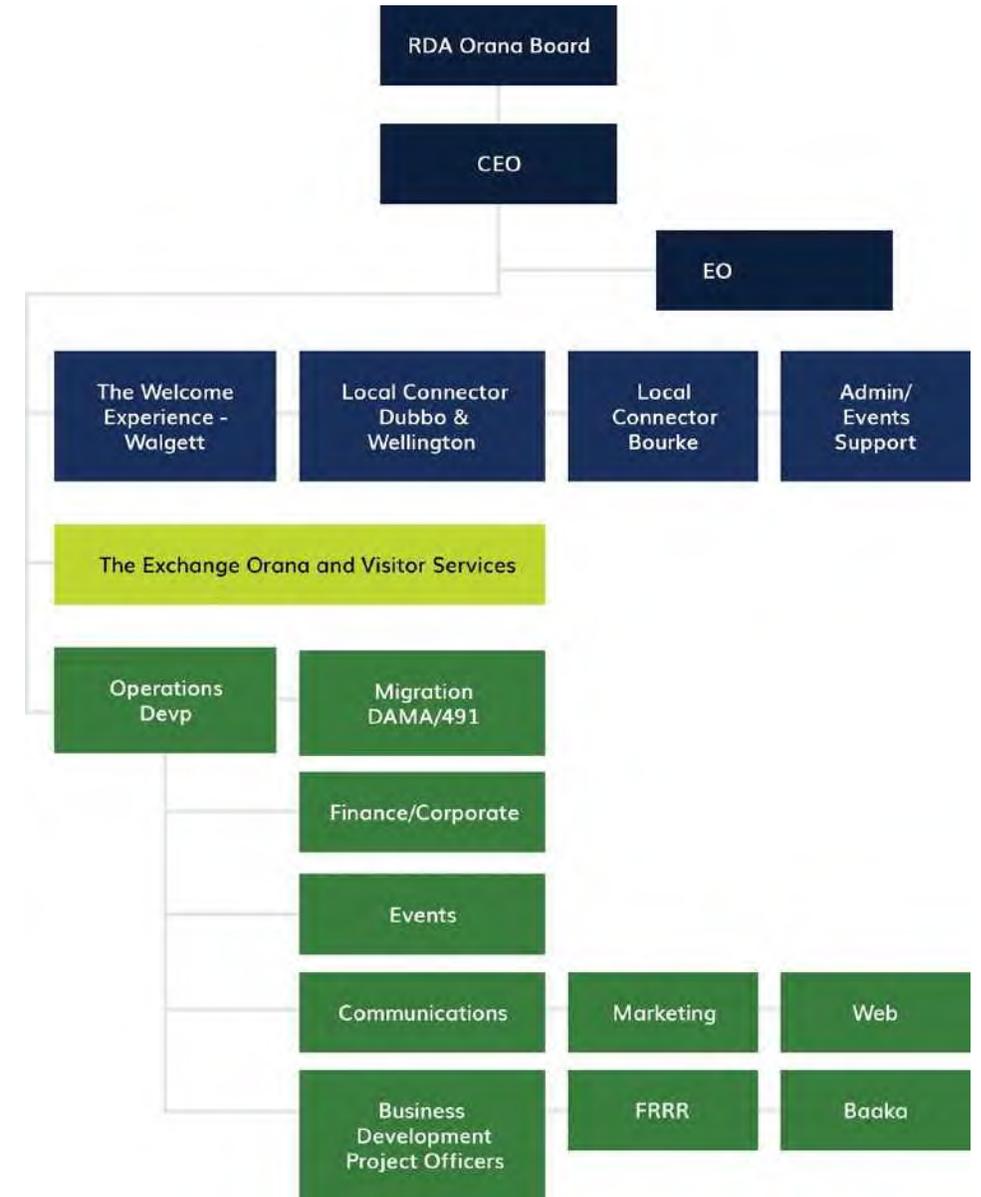
It is underpinned by the RDA Charter, which emphasises greater strategic alignment across all levels of government and regional planning and identifies and advocates important long-term investment priorities.



RDA Orana Operations Team

RDA Orana has been operating since 2009 and is part of a national initiative charged with leading economic development across the region.

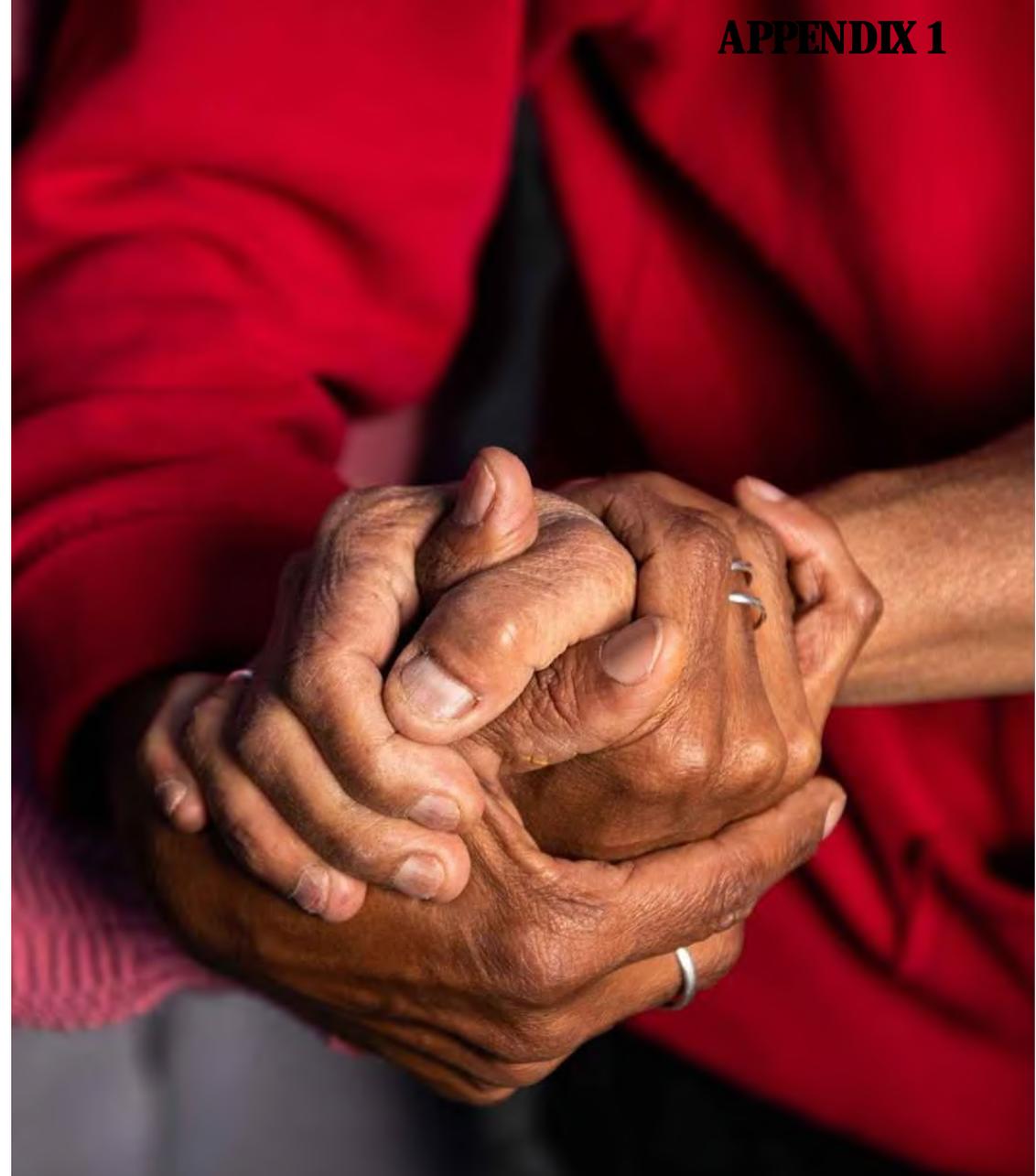
Using well developed capabilities, we work to identify, develop and support strategic projects that encourage regional economic and social growth.



RDA Orana Projects

We work with government, business and organisations to implement and execute projects and programs that benefit the Orana region.

- The Welcome Experience
- INGA Innovation Hub
- Orana Hunter Golden Highway Taskforce
- Drought Community Project (FRRR)
- Baaka Cultural and Art Centre
- MAWA Indigenous Engagement/Compact
- Research and data papers



Events and Education

Our events calendar allows regional people to attend seminars and conferences without travelling to a metropolitan city

- Inland Growth Summit
- Resources, Energy and Industry Innovation Forum
- Orana Youth Forum
- Orana Outlook Forum
- The Exchange Orana - events program
- The Vault Talent Bank - regional micro training
- The Connection Table
- Australia Rural Leadership Foundation
- Australian Institute of Company Directors



Workforce Strategy

RDA Orana's workforce strategy focuses on building and supporting our region's workforce.

- **Orana Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)**
- Migration applications - 494
- The Vault Talent Bank
- The Jobs Board Orana
- The Welcome Experience
- The Orana Grants Hub
- The Connection Table
- The Exchange Orana



Orana Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)

The Orana DAMA is the only DAMA in NSW, providing employers with access to skilled migrant workers to address regional labor shortages.

In April 2024, the Federal Government approved geographical expansion to the Orana DAMA, expanding coverage to 41 additional local government areas, including the RDA regions of Central West, Murray, Riverina, and Southern NSW - now covering 60% of NSW.



Communications, marketing and engagement

- Stakeholder relations
- Weekly newsletters, social media, marketing, media relations, strategic communication and planning
- Advocacy and engagement with LGAs, state and federal government, business, organisations and community groups



RDA Initiatives

THE EXCHANGE ORANA

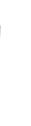
A community working space for start-ups and the wider business community, as well as providing conferencing and event facilities and a meeting place for our 12 local government stakeholders.

The Welcome Experience

A concierge service to help essential service workers feel more at home in their new communities by helping them to settle and establish connections and build relationships with personalised support.

the Jobs board orana

An online recruitment platform aimed at promoting the jobs available in the Orana region, linking employers to employees.



RDA Initiatives



the Vault Talent Bank is a dedicated online directory connecting individuals, businesses, and organisations with skilled professionals, consultants, start-ups, and creatives who live and work in our vibrant region.



INGA supports business development across regions while focusing on growing capability to enable access to local opportunities and increasing investment in regional NSW.



The Resources, Energy and Industry Innovation Forum, brings together industry leaders, government representatives, and stakeholders to explore the evolving landscape of the new energy sector.



RDA Initiatives

INLAND GROWTH SUMMIT

The annual Inland Growth Summit highlights important topics that affect the growth of inland Australia and shines a spotlight on thought leaders and entrepreneurs who are making inland Australia more innovative, economically vibrant and inclusive.

ORANA OUTLOOK

The annual Orana Outlook Forum provides an overview into the year ahead, focusing on key industry sectors including tourism, energy, transport, housing, agriculture, health, government, culture and community.

ORANA YOUTH FORUM

The event brings together students from across the region with training providers, employment services, businesses and tertiary institutions to provide a greater understanding of what possibilities are available after finishing school.

RDA Initiatives



A free service designed to help local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits, and individuals stay informed about the latest funding opportunities.



RDA Orana is providing management support for the establishment and development of the \$9.5M centre, that will become a keeping place for art, language and artefacts for the Barkintji people of the lower Darling River and a tourist destination for far west NSW.



The Taskforce will advocate outcomes from the Orana Hunter Golden Highway Transport business cases and lobby the government for better road and rail services to ensure the highway remains a reliable and efficient transport link to our region.





RDA Orana CEO Justine Campbell

4 March 2025



An Australian Government Initiative



ORANA

Keeping the Orana DAMA in regional NSW

February 2025

What is the Orana DAMA

- Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana holds the only Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) agreement in NSW (from 2019) covering 60% of the state and includes five RDA regions: the Orana, Central West, Southern NSW, Murray and Riverina across 53 LGA's.
- There are a total of 129 occupations currently under the Orana DAMA
- Some of these occupations are eligible for TSMIT, English, Qualifications and Age concessions.
- ALL occupations are eligible for a permanent residency pathway.
- The recent geographical expansion under Orana into the Central West, Southern NSW, Murray and Riverina RDA's has piloted a very successful Orana DAMA delivery model through the RDA network.

Why keep it local

- The NSW State Government is currently undertaking a review of their migration services with the view of taking over the Orana DAMA and placing it statewide.
- If the State Government is to be the DAR of the NSW DAMA, in this current setting where coastal areas are considered regional, we will again be competing with those larger areas for workforce, which defeats the purpose of the DAMA being designed for 'regional' areas.
- Regional NSW is the backbone of the state - we grow the food and fibre, mine the minerals for our country and exports and are about to power the state

through renewable energy developments. Our regional businesses and industries are crying out for labour and can't compete with metro cities and regional coastal towns.

- RDA's are best place to deliver this regional program into the regions being placed in the regions, working across local, state and federal government and regional businesses.
- Region decisions, regional delivery, regional relationships.

The Orana DAMA model

- RDA Orana presented a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)—Geographic Expansion Business Model to the Federal Minister for Immigration in 2023, with a view to trial it as a potential pilot for a National DAMA Inland model. This pilot model was approved and rolled out successfully.
- RDA Orana is the DAR (Designated Area Representative) with dedicated DAMA officers in the 4 RDA areas.
- The current delivery model of the Orana DAMA through the RDA regional network has enabled continued integrity, timely applications and endorsements of the DAMA process with "on-the-ground" relationships in our RDA regions.

Orana DAMA success

As the Designated Area Representative (DAR), RDA Orana has:

- a deep understanding of the specific needs and challenges of regional and remote businesses.

- enabled continued integrity, responsive, timely applications and endorsements of the DAMA process with “on-the-ground” relationships in our RDA regions through the RDA DAMA delivery mode.
- can meet face to face and talk to businesses via phone/online when needed.
- has a connection with businesses and communities in the region
- Since the geographical expansion of the Orana DAMA there has been a 60% increase in enquiry about the Orana DAMA.
- The current Orana DAMA variation with the Australian Government is requesting to:
 - Expand into the RDA regions of Northern Inland and Far West NSW
 - Requesting the addition of another 63 occupations to be added with various concessions.

DAMAs nationally

- There are currently 13 DAMAs in Australia. Since its inception in 2019 there are 2,022 applications endorsed across the country.
- The Orana DAMA DAR co ordinates meetings between all national DARs.

Current Orana DAMA statistics

RDA region*	Applications endorsed Jan 25	Positions endorsed Dec 24
Orana (2019)	79	378
Central West	16	63
Murray	4	8
Riverina	17	31
Southern NSW	7	14
Total	123	494

*Central West, Murray, Riverina and Southern NSW statistics are since the Orana DAMA geographical expansion in 2024.

Contact

Orana DAMA DAR – Justine Campbell

dama@rdaorana.org.au

Orana DAMA map

The following map shows the current RDA regions covered by the Orana DAMA (green) and current proposed geographical expansion to include the Far West and Northern Inland regions in grey.



Regional Development Australia Orana



Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana is an incorporated, not-for-profit association and registered charity, led by a regional board of industry and government representatives.

We support economic and social development across the Orana region by building partnerships and working with all governments and agencies to respond to local priorities and needs.

Using well developed capabilities, we assist in identifying, developing and supporting strategic projects that encourage regional economic and social growth.

The organisation works with 12 local government stakeholders along with the state and federal government to gather local insights, data and intelligence that contribute to evidence-based decision-making.

On a local level RDA Orana has identified key strategic priorities:

- leadership
- workforce development
- Indigenous business development
- building resilience
- education
- learning and jobs
- infrastructure and development

Our federal priorities include investing in people, investing in places, investing in services and investing in industries and local economies.

Orana RDA snapshot

Orana DAMA



123
Orana DAMA applications endorsed since 2019

60% NSW
covered by the Orana DAMA including 53 local government areas and 5 RDA regions: Orana, Central West, Southern NSW, Murray and Riverina



494
Orana DAMA positions endorsed since 2019

600 +
attendees



at annual events, conferences and networking opportunities

The Welcome
Experience Orana

35

essential workers relocated and settled across the region since November 2024

Golden Highway Taskforce

Will lobby the government for better road and rail services to ensure the highway remains an efficient transport link to the regions



The Jobs Board Orana

The Jobs Board Orana is an AI derived Orana specific jobs board connecting employers to employees across 12 local government areas



3 offices

opened in Bourke, Walgett & Wilcannia

60,000km

travelled across the region building relationships in 2024



40+

members of **The Vault Talent Bank** since initial launch in 2024

Acquired

The Exchange Dubbo, now known as **The Exchange Orana**



\$79B

worth of grants promoted through the **Orana Grant Hub**



\$29M

lodged in grant applications



16,000

subscribers to the RDA Orana fortnightly newsletter

How we work in our region

Our current projects

We work with government, business and organisations to implement and execute projects and programs that benefit the Orana region.

- The Welcome Experience
- INGA Innovation Hub
- Orana Hunter Golden Highway Taskforce
- Drought Community Project (FRRR)
- Baaka Cultural and Art Centre
- MAWA Indigenous Engagement
- Research and data papers

Events and education

Our regional event calendar allows regional people to attend seminars and conferences without travelling to a metropolitan city - we bring the speakers to you.

- Inland Growth Summit
- Resources, Energy and Industry Innovation Forum
- Orana Youth Forum
- Orana Outlook Forum
- The Exchange Orana - events program
- The Vault Talent Bank - regional micro training
- The Connection Table
- Australia Rural Leadership Foundation
- Australian Institute of Company Directors

Workforce development

RDA Orana's workforce strategy is focused on building and supporting our own workforce.

- Migration applications - 494
- Orana Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)
- The Vault Talent Bank
- The Jobs Board Orana
- The Welcome Experience
- The Orana Grant Hub
- The Connection Table

Communications, marketing and engagement

- Stakeholder relations
- Fortnightly newsletters, social media, marketing, media relations, strategic communication and planning
- Advocacy and engagement with LGAs, state and federal government, business, organisations and community groups

Business development

- Business development services (grant writing, feasibility studies, operational planning, governance, fee-for-service, publication development)
- The Exchange Orana
- Inland NSW Growth Alliance
- Executive services

Orana regional snapshot



Top industries - employment

- Health care and social assistance
- Education and training
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Retail trade
- Construction



total area of the region is **190,000 km2** or **25 %** of NSW

54,887
jobs in the region



12
local government areas



124,696
people call the Orana home

15.5% are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



\$27B
annual economic output



4.1%
unemployment rate

RDA Orana initiatives



RDA Orana offers professional business development services on a fee for service basis, designed to help businesses and organisations in the Orana region achieve their goals and contribute to the future growth of our region.



The Exchange Orana is a community working space located in the heart of Dubbo, for start-ups and the wider business community, as well as providing conferencing and event facilities and a meeting place for our 12 local government stakeholders.



A concierge service to help essential service workers feel more at home in their new communities by helping them to settle and establish connections and build relationships with personalised support, including finding housing, schooling for children, jobs for partners and joining community groups.



The only DAMA in NSW covering 60% of regional NSW, allows employers to seek and source migrant workers to fill essential employment and skill gaps to help grow the regional economy and keep regional businesses moving forward.



An on-line platform that provides access to all grants available to the region and a fee for service grant writing resource.



A database of skilled regional professionals to build connections and assist in the region's growth and development.



An on-line recruitment platform aimed at promoting the jobs available in the Orana region, linking employers to employees.



Is designed to support critical industry and business development in the Orana and Central West regions of NSW aligned to priority industries.



The forum brings together industry leaders, government representatives and stakeholders to explore the evolving landscape of the new energy sector. The forum provides a platform of in-depth discussion on merging innovations, the challenges and opportunities facing the region.



The summit aims to highlight topics that affect the growth of inland Australia and bring the community, business leaders, and all levels of government together to advocate for change and raise the awareness of issues affecting the Orana region.



The forum provides an overview for the year ahead, focusing on key industry sectors including tourism, energy, transport, housing, agriculture, health, government, culture and the community.



The forum brings together students from across the region to engage with training providers, employment services, businesses and tertiary institutions to provide a greater understanding of what possibilities are available after finishing school.



RDA Orana is providing management support for the establishment and development of the \$9.5M centre, that will become a keeping place for art, language and artefacts for the Barkintji people of the lower Darling River and a tourist destination for far west NSW.



The Taskforce will investigate outcomes from the Orana Hunter Golden Highway Transport studies and lobby the government for better road and rail services to ensure the highway remains a reliable and efficient transport link to the regions.

For further information contact:

RDA Orana CEO, Justine Campbell | Phone: (02) 6885 1488 | Email: ceo@rdaorana.org.au

www.rdaorana.org.au

Department of Primary Industries
and Regional Development



Western Alliance of Councils meeting

7 March 2025

Director, Craig Jenkins - Economic Development
Network, Regional Development & Delivery

Deputy Director, Angela Shepherd - Orana Far West,
Regional Development & Delivery



Regional Economic Development



Our Purpose

We aim to leave a lasting legacy for regional NSW by working with key stakeholders, communities and businesses to drive sustainable economic development and high value job creation/retention.



- The Department of Regional NSW became the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on 1 July 2024.
- Reflects the NSW Government's commitment to supporting the growth of primary industries through a greater focus on extension services, research and development, and regional economic development.
- New Regional Economic Development Division (RED) works with key stakeholders and businesses to identify opportunities for sustainable economic development, new industry activation, improved economic outcomes for Aboriginal communities, increased local content and business attraction.
- The team delivers and supports a range of initiatives to help businesses to establish, expand and prosper.
- It ensures alignment with priorities of the NSW Government, including the NSW Closing the Gap Priority Reforms and key areas of focus for the Regional Development Trust Fund.

Regional Economic Development



Who we are

Business Attraction and Future Industries

We are regional NSW's dedicated Investment Promotion Agency, established to ensure regional NSW is the preferred choice for international and domestic investors.

Regional Aboriginal Partnerships and Outcomes

We strive to advance Aboriginal communities in regional NSW through place-based, culturally strong, Aboriginal-led economic development activities.

Economic Development Network (EDN)

Economic development specialists spread across regional NSW to deliver and support a range of initiatives to help businesses to establish, expand and prosper.



What we do

- Hold deep subject matter expertise across a range of priority sectors like Defence, clean economy and agrifood.
- Specialise in location profiling to match prospective investors with suitable locations.

- Support regional Aboriginal business, employment and training aspirations.
- Deliver the RAPP Program to improve social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal communities across regional NSW.

- Lead place-based economic development initiatives
- One-stop-shop for existing scale up and growth businesses
- Key focus on procurement and manufacturing



Our goal

- To be recognised as the best regional economic development agency in Australia

FY2025 results to date

- **Outcomes driven** team that has facilitated capital investment and delivered job creation in collaboration with our partners



\$230 million
 capital investment



147
 job creation (FTE)

Our Priorities



1

Lead role in driving economic development in regional NSW

2

Provide single facilitation point into NSW Government for growth businesses

3

Lead business attraction and activation of new industries

4

Aboriginal partnerships and economic development

5

Build on existing manufacturing capability in regional NSW

6

Increase local/regional content in Government tenders

Our Responsibilities



Business Growth

- One-stop-shop for existing scale up (10+ jobs) and growth (20+ jobs) businesses
- Referral point for all business support programs (regional, state or federal) and services
- Increase capability in export support in partnership with TradeStart
- Continue to deliver Targeted Workforce Development Scheme



Future Industries

- Continue to develop deep subject-matter expertise in key engine and new industries
- Develop future industries that will support the attraction of new businesses/investment (*support*)
- Work with those industries and regions in economic transition



Manufacturing Capability

- Support regional manufacturers to grow and prosper
- Chair a Regional Manufacturing Network
- Support the rollout of RIAP Manufacturing initiative including lean manufacturing
- Promote RNSW's manufacturing capability and success stories

Our Responsibilities



Local Content/ Procurement

- Bring state and local government together with industry groups to achieve maximum outcomes from major projects
- Work in partnership with ICN to build data integrity, undertake training and increase local/regional content from major projects



Drive Economic Development

- Undertake proactive business aftercare to support long-term growth aspirations
- Match new investors with suitable locations (support on footloose/ lead on location specific)
- Seek out and support projects that enhance and improve economic sustainability of our regions
- Work with our engine industries to lay a platform for economic growth and improved productivity



Aboriginal Economic Development

- Support RAPO to maximise procurement outcomes for Aboriginal businesses through major business and government infrastructure projects
- Support RAPO to increase sustainable regional Aboriginal employment by facilitating relationships with growing regional businesses and new investors

Our focus industries

Agrifood



- Food and beverage production
- Protein and ingredients
- Intensive horticulture
- Future focus on Blue economy & Agtech

Clean Economy



- Energy production (hydrogen), storage and component manufacturing
- Circular economy (recycling and biofuels)
- Critical minerals with a focus on downstream activities & batteries
- Future focus on SAF, Recycling, Batteries and Solar panels

Technology



- Aerospace/space
- Knowledge services
- Defence
- Medtech
- Future focus on rail manufacturing

Manufacturing & Procurement



- Support regional manufacturing growth
- Support policy development for regional NSW (including domestic procurement) - rolling stock, REZ infrastructure, solar panel manufacturing
- Leveraging Commonwealth support including National Reconstruction Fund
- Delivering RIAP manufacturing initiative

Regional Aboriginal Partnerships & Outcomes (RAPO)

Cultural strengthening

- Building the capacity and capability of businesses and ACCOs

Growing the business sector

- Creating opportunities through developing businesses and influencing the government and private sector

Improving employment

- Increasing sustainable and meaningful place-based employment opportunities

Cross-government influence

- NSW Closing the Gap Priority Reform 5, digital connectivity, housing, renewable energy, water strategies, public policy

Through a team of regionally-placed Aboriginal staff members, RAPO provides strong cultural partnerships, to support regional Aboriginal business, employment and training aspirations.



Current Key RAPO Projects in Western

- Broken Hill -Hydrostor Partnership - partnership with NSW treasury
- Wilcannia Careers Expo –pathways to jobs for mob!
- NSW Rugby Creates Chances – Leadership and Employment Pathways Program (Narromine, Brewarrina, Warren, Coonamble & Walgett)
- Marathon Health Wellness Worker Traineeship Program –29 trained health professionals across 7 Western communities.
- CWO Renewable Energy Zones – First Nations Fund Grants
- 2025 Gather & Grow Expo's in
- \$285 000+ in RAPP R2 Grants live in Western Region
- \$927 000+ in Regional Development Trust Grants in Western Region
- Ongoing business uplift support for the ACCO sector.



Business Growth and Driving Economic Development in the West

- Tourism is a key industry – number of projects funded including
 - Cobar Ward Oval
 - Coonamble Bore Baths
 - Brewarrina Cultural Tourism
 - Back o Bourke Centre
 - Baaka Cultural Centre
 - Bourke signa

Tourism diversifies the economy, creates jobs and benefits the region activation and regional approach to maximise benefits

- Connectivity is important for our communities
 - \$10m Air Services subsidies
 - Funding to upgrade Bourke, White Cliffs and Deniliquin Airstrips

Connectivity has social and economic benefits for the region

- Western Workforce Activation Package
 - Bourke, Cobar and Broken Hill accessed over \$5m to establish more places and to staff their childcare centres.

Access to childcare increases the participation rate for the local workforce, improving the ability of business to recruit staff



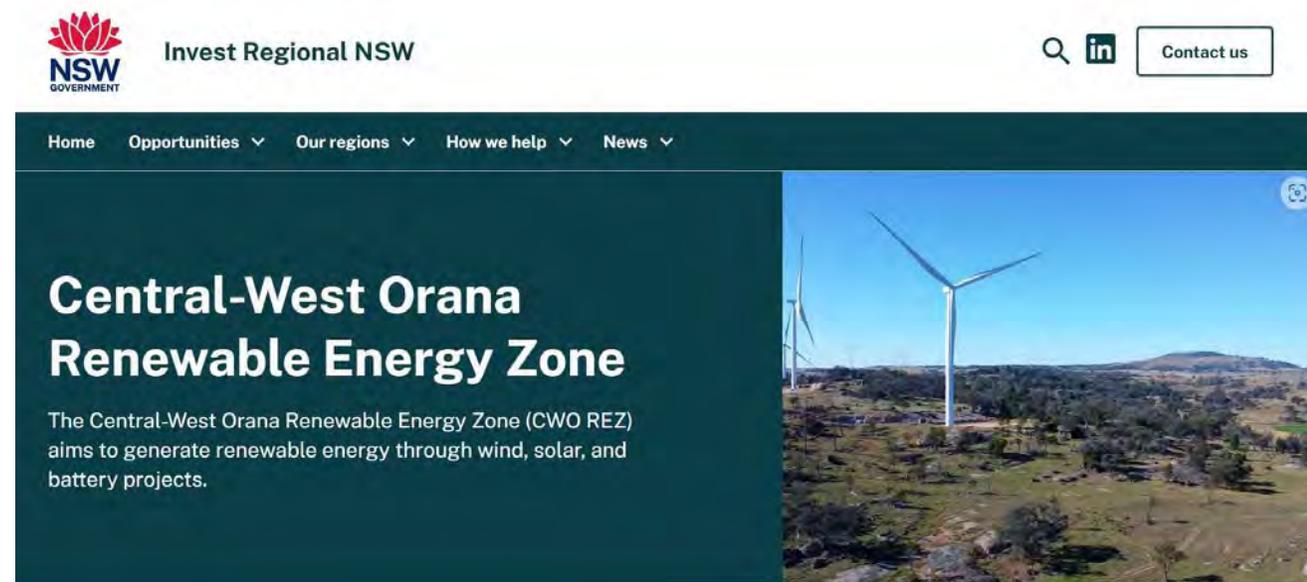
Collaboration to build local business

1. Bourke Business Night –working together to highlight opportunities, services available and how we can drive local business –38 attendees, 14 individual follow ups, establishing business chamber and future events. Next quarter –TFI to present on business expansion plans and how local businesses can get involved.
2. Cross Border Industry Taskforce –Wentworth and Balranald area. Bringing local business leaders together to identify workforce needs and develop solutions to meet them
3. SW Tourism Plan –bringing businesses together to maximise benefits from Lightstate project and in line with Drought Plan priorities



Collaboration to build local business

1. CWO REZ local procurement initiatives – landing page, business briefings, procurement workshops Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone | Invest Regional NSW
2. Manufacturing Business initiatives – TWDS workforce development projects, Lean Manufacturing audits, manufacturing business networking and education nights



Coming Soon

Manufacturing Business Networking Nights - DUBBO

Find out how AI and technology changes can help your business, what is a Power Purchasing Agreement and how will it reduce your energy costs, what's a business audit and why have one and much more

March/April 2025



Collaboration to build local business

1. Local government economic development officers workshop – sharing ideas from different shires, outlining funding opportunities for community projects and learning from each other
2. Major project briefings in conjunction with ICN to increase the ability of local businesses to participate in large local projects.
3. Work closely with the Joint Organisation on a range of projects – Pub Route, Airservices, Drought etc

Local Government EDO Network

All Council EDO officers invited to Narromine early April

Learn from each other, discover current opportunities, project updates and collaborate

GMs please encourage your staff to attend

Invites out shortly

Activating Major Projects - Cobar Ward Oval



Project Case Study: Cobar Ward Oval

Cobar Community Hub – \$17,126,382 plus GST



Approved Grants & Community Contributions:

1. Regional NSW – Infrastructure Grant: \$4,415,900.00
2. Building Better Regions Fund: \$6,700,000.00
3. Cobar Shire Contribution: \$800,000.00
4. Kubby House Childcare Contribution: \$30,000.00
5. Cobar Blues Football & Netball Club: \$25,000.00
6. Resources for Regions Rd8 - \$1,375,134.00
7. SCCF5 - \$1,004,703.00 (Lighting)
8. SCCF5 - \$188,105.0 (Little's A's)
9. SCCF4 - \$724,190.00 (Oval Realignment)
10. NSW Showgrounds Stimulus Program (Car park) - \$348,273.20

The funding supports eight smaller projects:

- Early Learning Centre
- The Pavilion
- Ward Oval Lighting Upgrade
- Car Park Upgrades
- Storage Sheds
- Ward Oval Realignment
- Ward Oval Stable Upgrades
- Cobar Little A's – Facility Upgrades

Project Impact - This funding aims to enhance community infrastructure, improve sports and recreation facilities, and provide better amenities for local residents.

Baaka Cultural Centre



Building due for completion (handover to Baaka set for February 2025)

February 2025



Successful grants include fit out, artist workshop, language recording studio, yarning circle etc. Operational funds and staff close.

\$700,000



Aboriginal Participation rates for build (target was 25%)

48%



Business creation project for workshops and support for community eg: tourism operations, cleaners, caterers, gardeners, maintenance and local artists

March / April 2025

- Operational funding – artist studio successful, staffing and Centre underway
- Recruitment will comprise of full-time, part-time and casual local employment
- Opportunities to provide trainee and apprentice roles in partnership with other local groups such as the school and council
- Grand opening target June
- Governance Training Project for board and community November 2024, aiming for more ongoing

Lisa Grisinger

From: George, Ian <Ian.George@team.telstra.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 8:47 AM
To: Glen Neill; Lisa Schiff
Cc: Marom, Michael; Lisa Grisinger
Subject: Alliance Western Councils | Meeting Friday 7 March | Telstra
Attachments: Telstra Update - Alliance Western Councils - Mar 2025.pdf; Telstra IoT - High Level.pdf; 45046972_7.pdf

CAUTION: This email came from outside the organisation. Be cautious clicking links and do not open attachments unless they are expected.

Hi Glen

I hope you are doing well. I wanted to extend our thanks to you and the AWC team for giving us the opportunity to provide a Telstra update for your members.

As we were a bit pressed for time and had to rush through some points towards the end, I am sharing the presentation with you along with a high-level IoT overview for your members' reference.

We appreciate that the 3G closure has caused some frustration among customers. To address this, I would like to draw your attention to three pages in the presentation:

Page 7, which talks about support post the 3G network closure,

Page 12, Satellite-to-Mobile or Direct to handset (DTH) connectivity via LEO sat - The close proximity and improved responsiveness of LEO Sats is also underpinning the emergence of direct to handset (DTH) technology. DTH is one of the most exciting areas in the whole telco space and lays the pathway towards a future where outdoor connectivity for basic mobile services, starting with text messages before eventually voice and low-rates of data, may be possible from some of Australia's most remote locations.

Page 25 provides information about the Regional Tech Hub's free and independent advice contacts.

Additionally, we have included a PDF that will help customers check if their Telstra GO Repeater is set up to boost the 4G signal, as we have found that many boosters fix the connectivity issues once updated.

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to let us know. We're here to help!

Kind regards,

Ian

Ian George
Regional Engagement Manager
New England & Western NSW
Telstra Regional Australia

0417 290 713
ian.george@team.telstra.com
www.telstra.com

Telstra recognises and acknowledges the existing, original, and ancient connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to the lands and waterways across the Australian continent. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



This email may contain confidential information.
If I've sent it to you by accident, please delete it immediately.

General



Alliance Western Councils

Telstra Update

March 2025



Telstra Regional Australia – Your local Telstra team

Michael Marom

Regional General Manager, Northern NSW

E: michael.marom@team.telstra.com

Ian George

Regional Engagement Manager New England & Western NSW

ian.george@team.telstra.com

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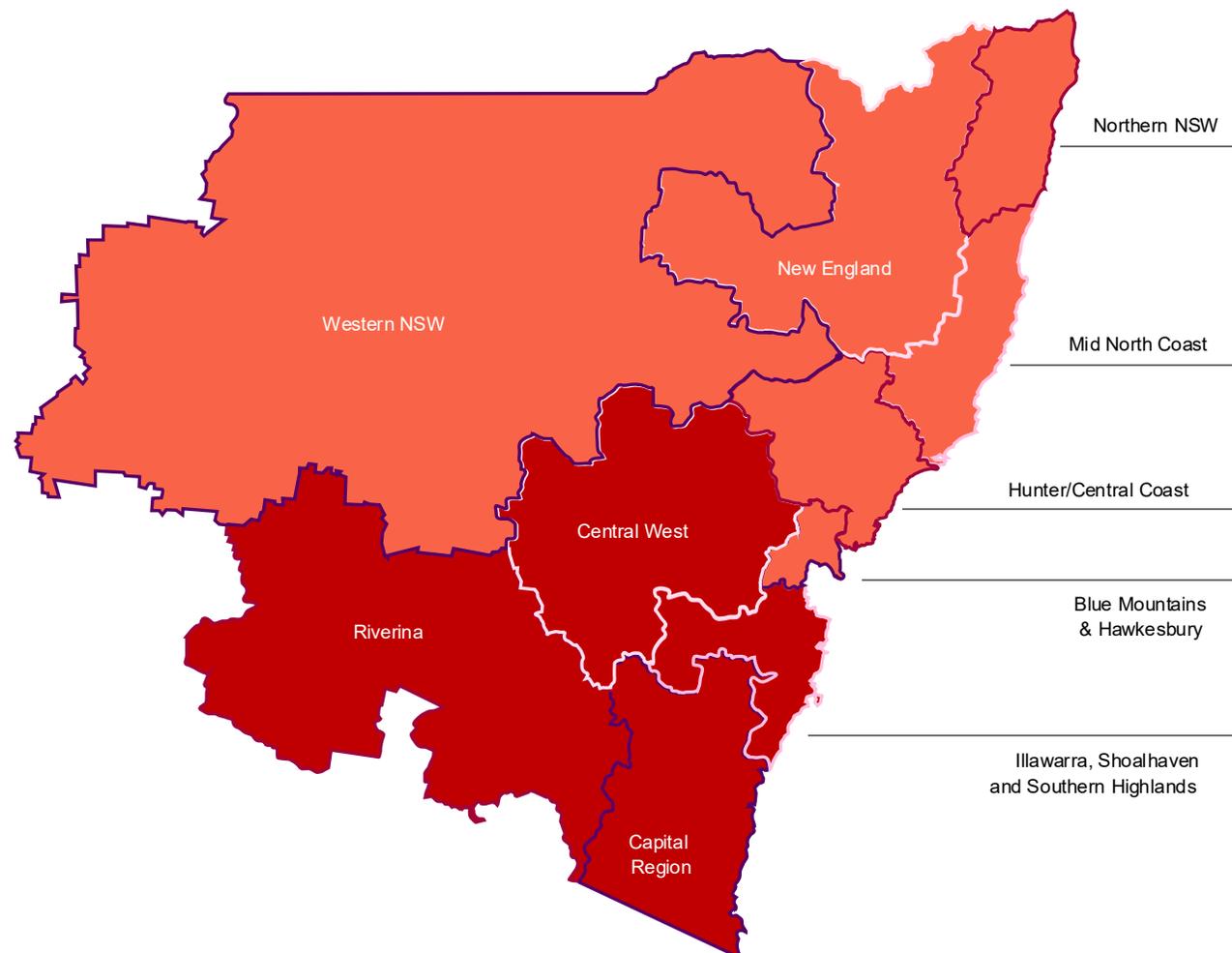
Chris Donnelly

Regional Engagement Specialist Northern NSW

Chris.donnelly@team.telstra.com

Central NSW Team mailbox (manned)

telstracentralnsw@team.telstra.com





Mobile Network Overview



Investment in our mobile network is continuing

Regional coverage is continuing to grow

- Our mobile network today reaches 99.6% of the population and covers over 2.7 million km²
- Rollout continues and **by mid 2025:**
 - 4G coverage will exceed 2.74M km²
 - 5G will reach 95% of the population
- Our IoT coverage is even greater than our mobile coverage (~4.4 million km² for NB-IoT now and will be almost 5 million km² by end FY25)
- We're also continuing to participate in co-investment programs (for example Regional Connectivity & Mobile Blackspot Programs)
- Over the 7 years to end FY22 Telstra will have invested \$11bn in our mobile network nationally with \$4bn of this invested in our regional mobile network



More than
2.7 MILLION km²
Largest coverage area in Australia



Demand for data has grown dramatically and continues to grow rapidly

Mobile data demand currently growing at ~30% per annum

Fixed data demand currently growing at ~10% per annum

Telstra Mobile network

FY17-22

5x

Mobile network
Traffic growth

April 2023

8.6 petabytes

Mobile network data
usage daily

Telstra Fixed network

FY17-22

3x

Fixed network
Traffic growth

April 2023

54 petabytes

Fixed network data
usage daily



Post 3G Closure



Support post the 3G network closure

We have launched our [3G Helpline](#) to further support our customers who need more help with the transition.

Key Messages:

- Customers can call **1800 990 853** between 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday AEDT
- Different device types and the diversity of Australia's landscape mean that each customer's experience is unique, which is why we want to work directly with each customer to help troubleshoot
- The helpline is staffed by a team of agents with deep knowledge on the transition to help troubleshoot why mobile experience may have changed
- [Telstra.com/3Gclosure](https://www.telstra.com.au/3Gclosure) is our main hub with guidance for customers to self-serve some of the basic troubleshooting

TEX Link: <https://www.telstra.com.au/exchange/telstra-3g-network-shutdown--accessing-support-and-transitioning>



Bars on Phones

- Bars on phones continue to be a source of confusion for our customers, many believing that a reduction in bars correlates to a reduction in experience.
- Signal bars differ between technologies and mobile devices.
- Not always a good indicator of coverage and performance.
- Almost every device is different when it comes to bars - no standards uniformly shared across all manufacturers.
- There is no direct correlation between bars and user experience on one technology compared to another.
- Because 4G is a newer, more efficient technology it is essentially meaningless to compare signal bars between what it delivers and what 3G delivered.



The left results show 3G receiving higher bars, but a far lesser overall experience in both download and upload speeds compared to the 4G service on the right.

See full article, published in our regional newsletter: [Telstra Regional Newsletter - Bars on Phones](#)



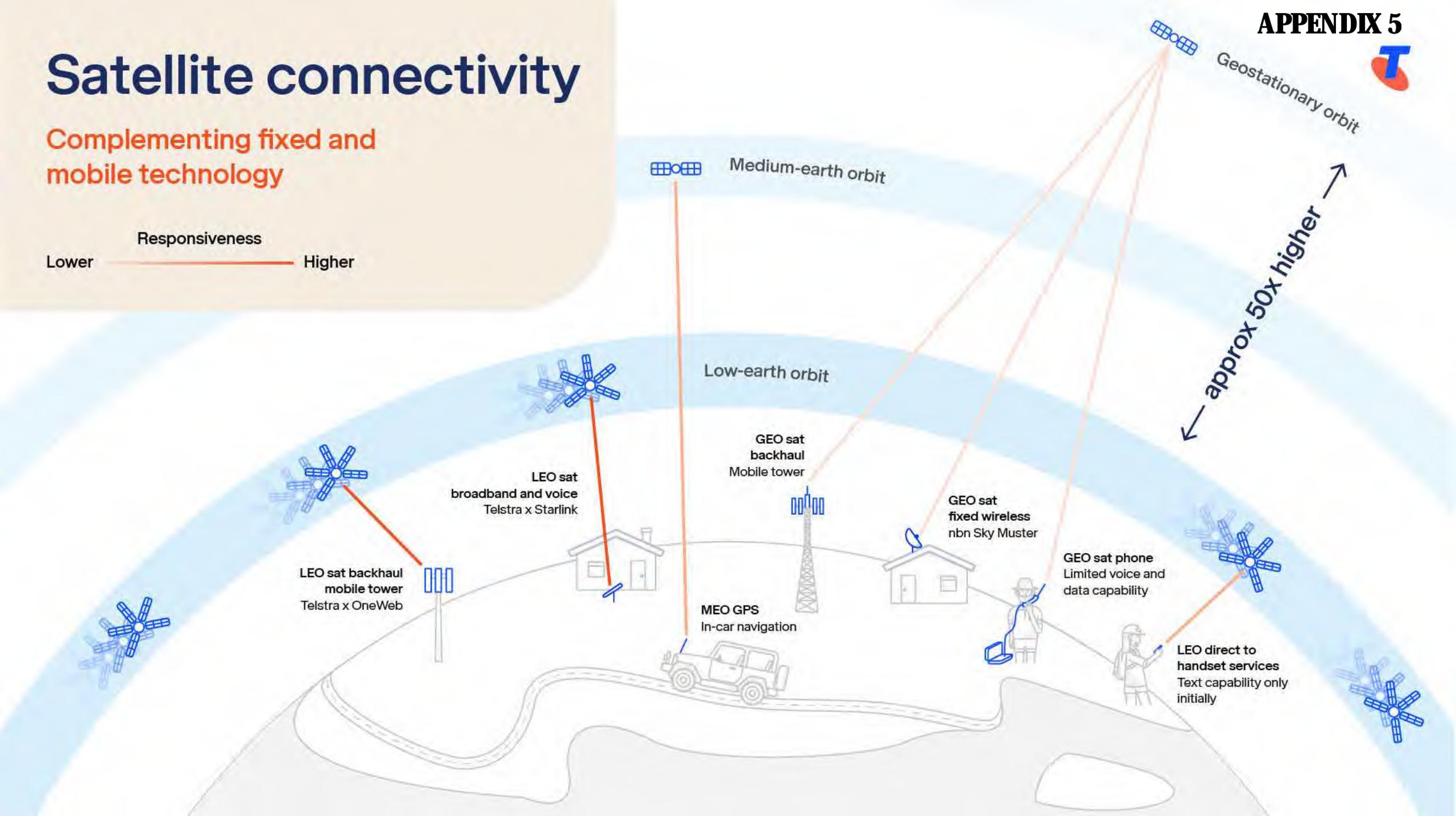
Emerging Technologies



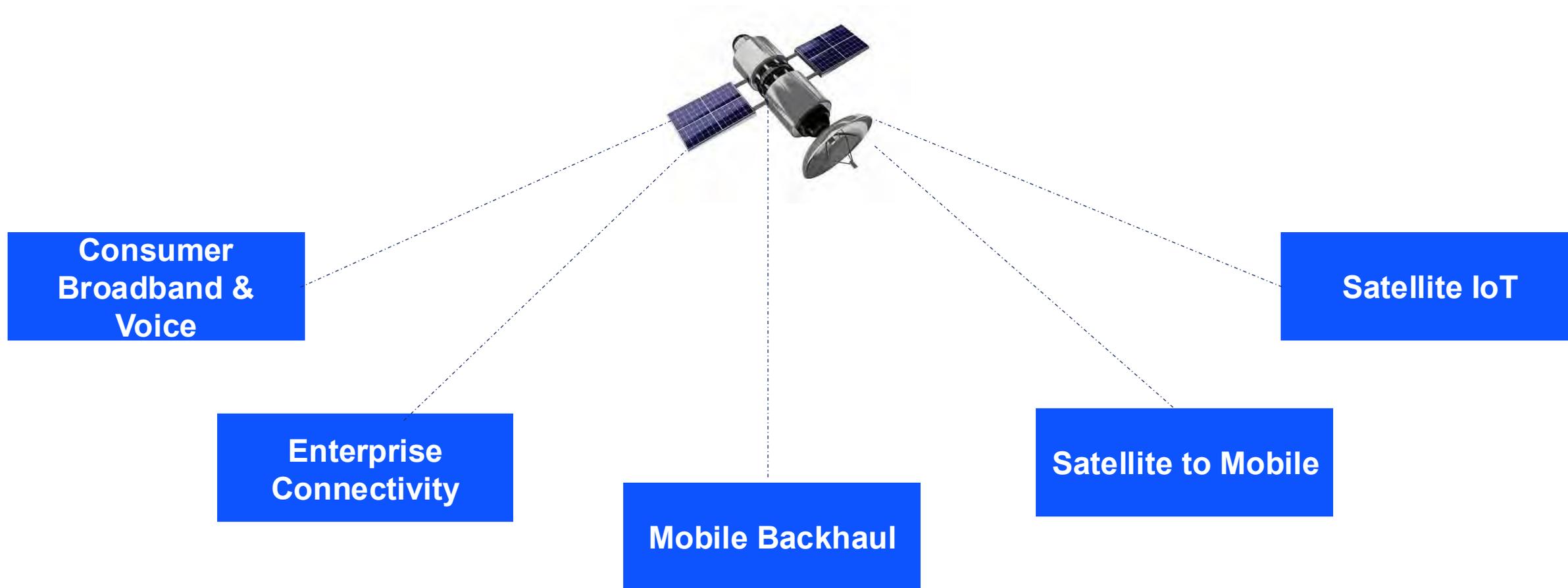
Satellite connectivity

Complementing fixed and mobile technology

Responsiveness
Lower ————— Higher



We're at an inflexion point in satellite technology (capacity, speed and latency) which is improving existing and facilitating new use cases 





New Low-Earth Orbit satellite solutions complements our existing terrestrial networks enhancing our leadership



OneWeb LEO partnership

- LEO enabled backhaul to remote mobile sites will improve the customer experience, improve the economics of further coverage expansion and be a new option for improving reliability in disaster prone areas

Satellite home internet

- Provides a cost-effective USO compliant solution, with coverage and broadband speeds better than ADSL
- [Telstra Satellite home internet with Starlink is here – here's what you need to know](#)

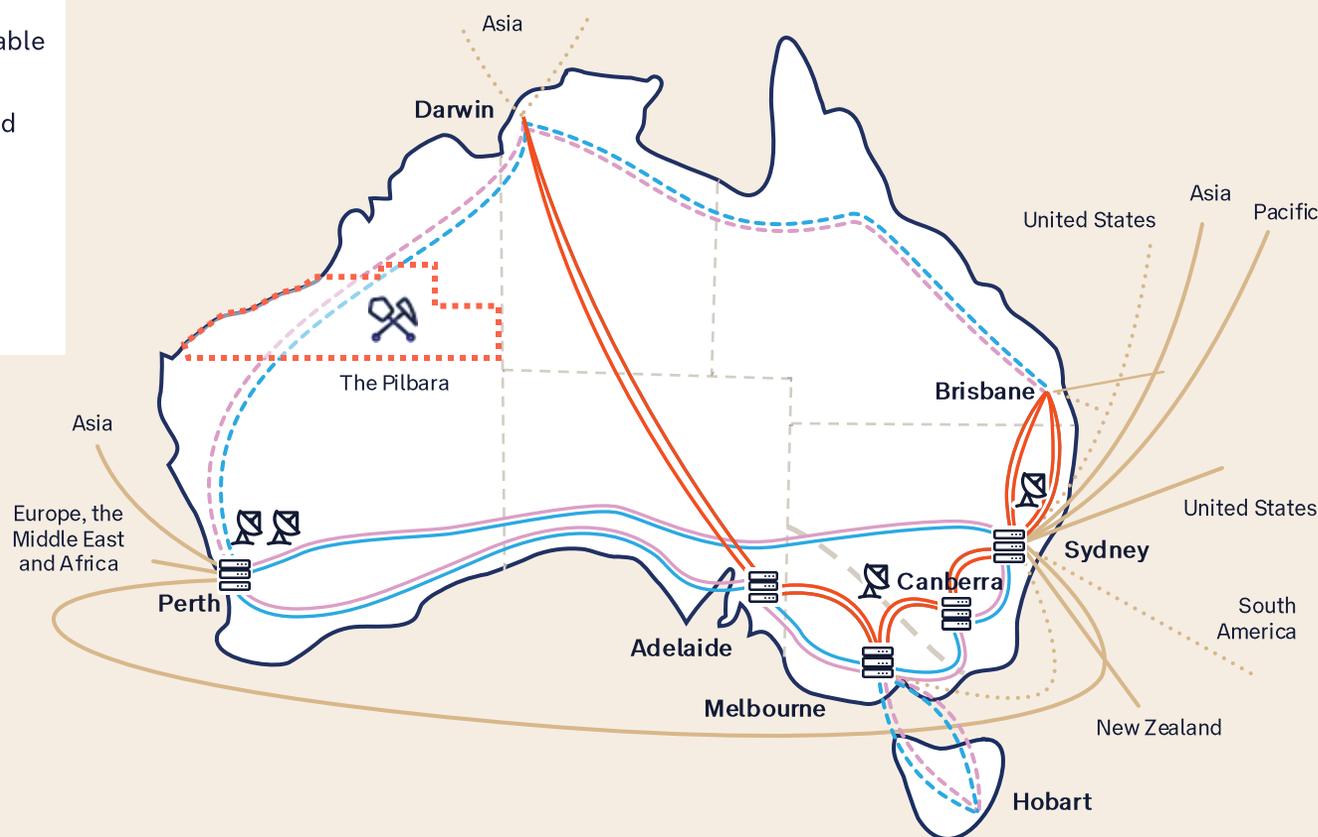
Satellite to Mobile

- Will complement terrestrial mobile, initially supporting text and eventually voice and data to smartphones across most of Australia, albeit outdoor with clear line-of-sight only
- [Telstra to bring SpaceX's Starlink Satellite-to-mobile technology to our customers](#)

Investing in our future Extending our fibre footprint

KEY

- Data centres
- International subsea cable connection points
- Path subject to demand
- Express path
- Foundation path
- Additional foundation and express paths



Our Intercity investment

- Only national project of its type
- Fully funded with construction underway
- When complete will support more capacity than all other fibre networks combined

Two separate cables to connect all capital cities



- Express Path Ultra-Fast ULL fibre
- Foundation Path with regional access points
- On and off ramp infrastructure for regional and remote connectivity
- Transmission rates of up to 650Gbps. Express connectivity between capital cities of up to 55Tbps per fibre pair (vs today's 8.8Tbps)





Telstra's engagement with RTIRC

Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee

Our positive outlook for regional and remote Australia's future

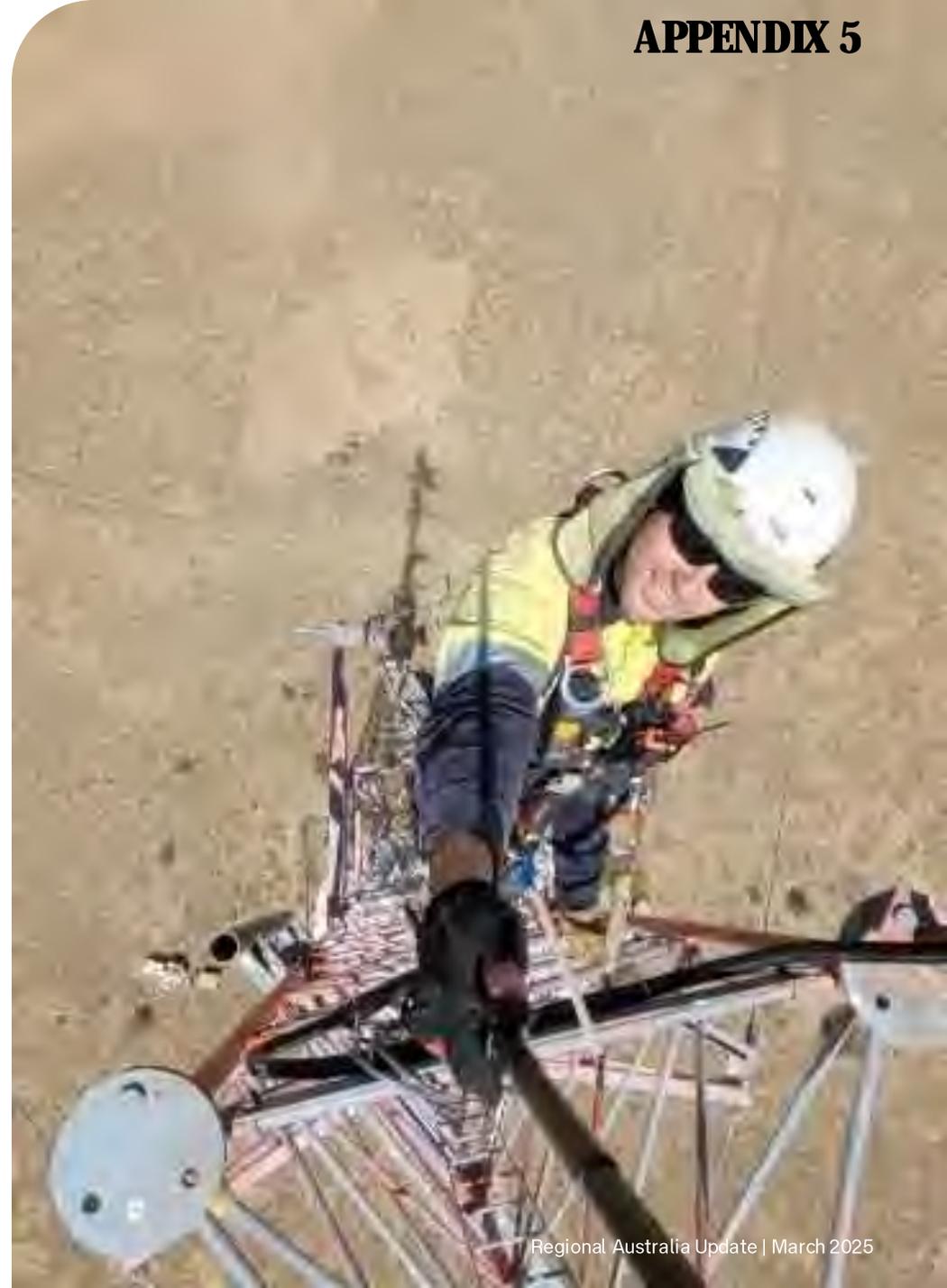
At Telstra we believe a thriving and digitally connected regional and remote Australia is fundamentally important to our nation.

Regional and remote Australia is home to almost 10 million people, and according to the Regional Australia Institute is expected to continue growing to just under 10.5 million people by 2032.

Telstra is committed to regional Australia and that is reflected in our investments and services. Our people are on the ground in communities and we engage directly with our customers and a wide range of industry and community groups representing people who live, work or study in regional and remote Australia.

This is important so we can appreciate the challenges, needs and ambitions of regional Australian telecommunications consumers.

Our commitment is also reflected in our engagement with the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC), including attending all Committee hearings so we can listen and more deeply understand specific questions or concerns.





Our perspective 4 key priority areas for improvements



1. Access to more capable and more reliable regional services

2. Resilient regional communities and networks

3. Empowered regional consumers

4. Universal Service Obligation (USO) regulation that supports better regional outcomes



1. Access to more capable and more reliable regional services

Top Customer Priorities

Mobile network performance and resilience
Transition from legacy technologies to new technologies

Efforts to focus on

- a) Network investment to expand connectivity supporting modern regional needs
- b) Continued efforts to improve network capacity and reliability
- c) Supporting customers in transitioning to modern networks
- d) Well-designed investment programs, policies, and regulations

Recommend

1. Government and regulators create a **positive environment for strong levels of ongoing industry investment in regional telecommunications infrastructure**. This includes support to keep deployment costs down and a pro-investment approach to policy and regulation that allows those investing in infrastructure to stay competitive and earn sustainable returns.
2. Government and regulatory policy ensure **continued mobile network operator (MNO) access to sufficient spectrum at sustainable market prices** and **allow 3G exit**, so MNOs can meet modern regional capacity demands.
3. Policy makers, regional and remote customers, and communities alike **embrace the potential of more capable and more reliable modern technologies**.
4. Invigorate and **optimise future co-investment initiatives and prioritise deployment related reforms** and cost reduction to make it simpler, faster and more efficient to extend and improve regional connectivity.

2. Resilient regional communities and networks



Top Customer Priorities

Power resilience and reliability

Efforts to focus on

- a) Improving power resilience and reliability
- b) Developing robust telecommunications networks
- c) Continuing to improve access to communications during and after disaster situations
- d) Helping ensure customers can use technology safely

Recommend

- 5. Governments and the energy sector **respond to the inherent reliance of telecommunications on the energy sector** by prioritising improvements to reduce the incidence and scale of mains power outages in regional and remote areas.
- 6. Governments, telecommunication and energy sectors engage in **strategic planning and co-investment across energy and telecommunication infrastructure to improve resilience** in both networks. This could extend to encouraging and capturing energy company investments in new innovations to support their power systems and supply for example, standalone power systems.
- 7. **Energy companies to prioritise connection and restoration of power for critical telecommunications infrastructure** (as part of business-as-usual operations, as well as in cases of Mass Disruption events).
- 8. **Improved information sharing and collaboration** when it comes to: (1) planned and unplanned power loss situations (including real-time and accurate restoration estimates); and (2) improving power resilience to climate change and disasters.



3. Empowered regional consumers

Top Customer Priorities

Access and affordability
Connectivity literacy and digital ability

Efforts to focus on

- a) Continuing to break down affordability and digital ability
- b) Supporting thriving First Nations communities
- c) Improving connectivity literacy and more advanced digital skills
- d) Access to trustworthy information that is meaningful

Recommend

9. **Further contributions** across government, industry and the community sector to **ensure all Australians can afford to stay connected**.
10. **Support thriving regional First Nations communities** by prioritising future efforts around the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group (**FINDIAG**) **Initial Report** recommendations.
11. **Prioritise** government and community efforts to **uplift digital ability and connectivity literacy of individuals and businesses** in regional and remote locations; and to grow and retain advanced digital skills within regional communities.



4. Universal Service Obligation (USO) regulation that supports better regional outcomes

Top Customer Priorities

Modern USO regulations

Efforts to focus on

- a) Modernising current universal service guarantees
- b) Taking advantage of modern technologies to deliver the USO
- c) Aligning USO and Statutory Infrastructure Provider (SIP) service standards
- d) Stability in the funding bases for the connectivity obligations
- e) Strengthening mobile services outside of the USO framework

Recommend

12. **Remove the requirement for Telstra to use the outdated copper network to deliver USO telephone services in much of regional Australia.**
13. In modernising universal service arrangements, we consider that **access to public phone infrastructure should continue.**



Local Government Connectivity Planning



Local Government Connectivity Planning

Telstra has been undertaking a connectivity planning process to help support the vision for thriving, successful regional.

We believe working collaboratively with local government we can gain deep knowledge of the region, its challenges, needs and potential.

If you are interested in discussing Connectivity Planning for your Council, please reach out.



IoT Content for Council Discussions

Ian Abbott

Senior Specialist IoT

National Lead Local Government

It's not about the data you collect - it's what you do with it. Our IoT solutions are built with simplicity and integration at their core, empowering you to focus on the outcomes, not the tech.





Regional Tech Hub



The Regional Tech Hub – Your hub for free and independent advice

The Regional Tech Hub is funded by the Australian Government's Better Connectivity Plan and is run by the National Farmers' Federation. If you live or work in rural, regional and remote Australia, we are here to help you with your phone or internet.

The Regional Tech Hub offers tailored one-on-one advice to address your specific issues and follows through until your case is resolved or all your questions are answered.

There are plenty of ways to get in touch with the team.

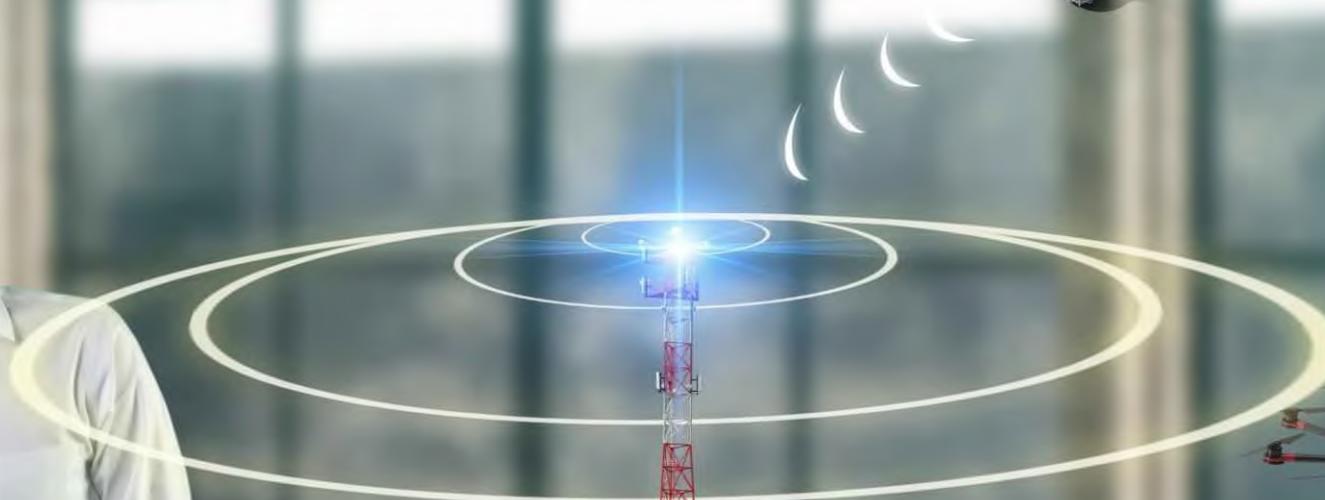
<https://regionaltechhub.org.au/>

Ph: 1300 081 029





Thank you



Telstra IoT – High Level Overview



Telstra IoT Pillars – FY25

WHAT:



Connectivity

Includes:

- LTE, NB-IOT and Cat-M1 options.
- M2M Control Centre.
- Module and Device Certifications
- Developer Guidelines
- Dedicated Customer support.



Safety & Compliance

Enabling:

- real-time monitoring and data collection from various devices and sensors
- organisations to quickly identify and address potential safety hazards,
- a safer work environment.



Operational Efficiency

Seamless integration and optimisation of Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) systems:

- Enhancing operational performance,
- reducing costs, and
- improving decision-making processes.



Sustainability

By leveraging IoT devices, organisations can

- collect and analyse data in real-time to
- optimise resource usage,
- reduce waste, and
- enhance operational efficiency.



Telstra IoT Pillars – FY25

WHY:



Connectivity

Telstra's network offers extensive coverage, ensuring reliable connectivity even in remote and rural areas.

Customers benefit from advanced technology, and comprehensive support, enabling them to optimise their operations.



Safety & Compliance

Enterprises, need to maintain high standards of safety and compliance, which are critical for their operations.

By leveraging Telstra's IoT solutions, customers can benefit from reduced operational risks, improved efficiency, and enhanced regulatory compliance.



Operational Efficiency

Helps to reduce cost, increase revenue, lower business risk and increase machine utilisation.

By integrating IT and OT systems, businesses can streamline processes, reduce manual interventions, and automate complex tasks.



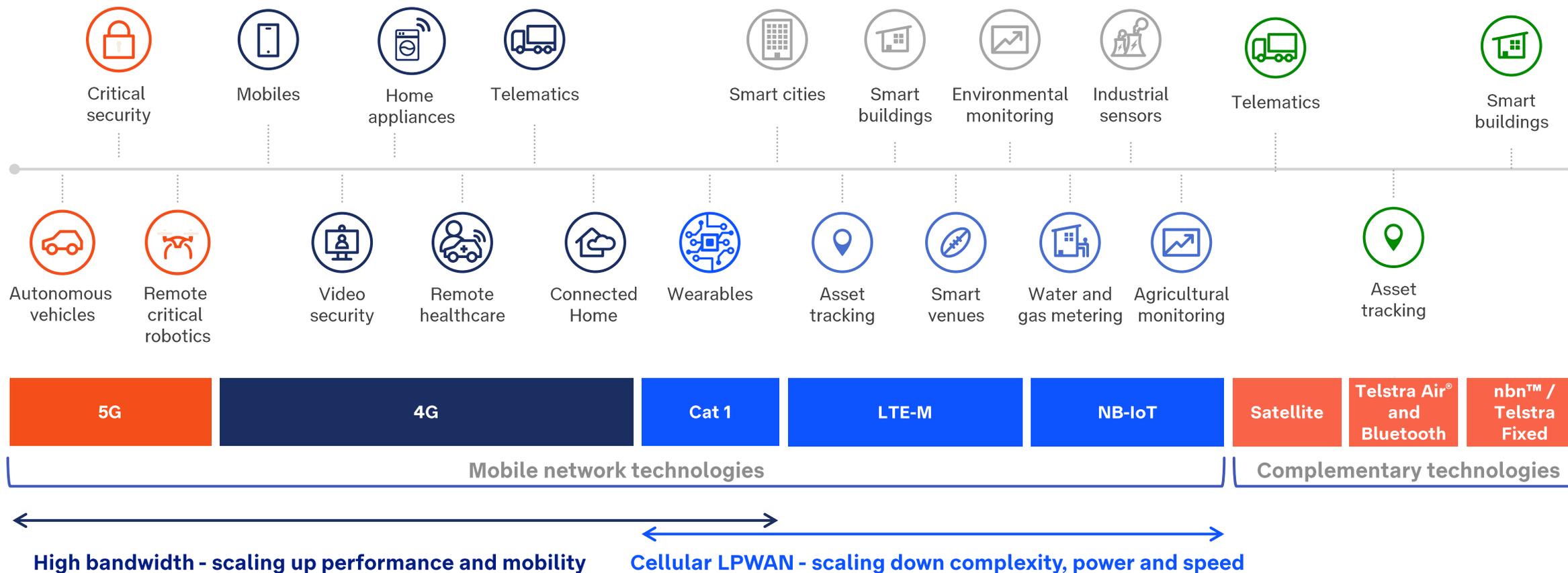
Sustainability

Telstra's extensive network and IoT solutions are designed to optimise resource usage, reduce waste, and enhance operational efficiency, which are critical components of sustainable practices.



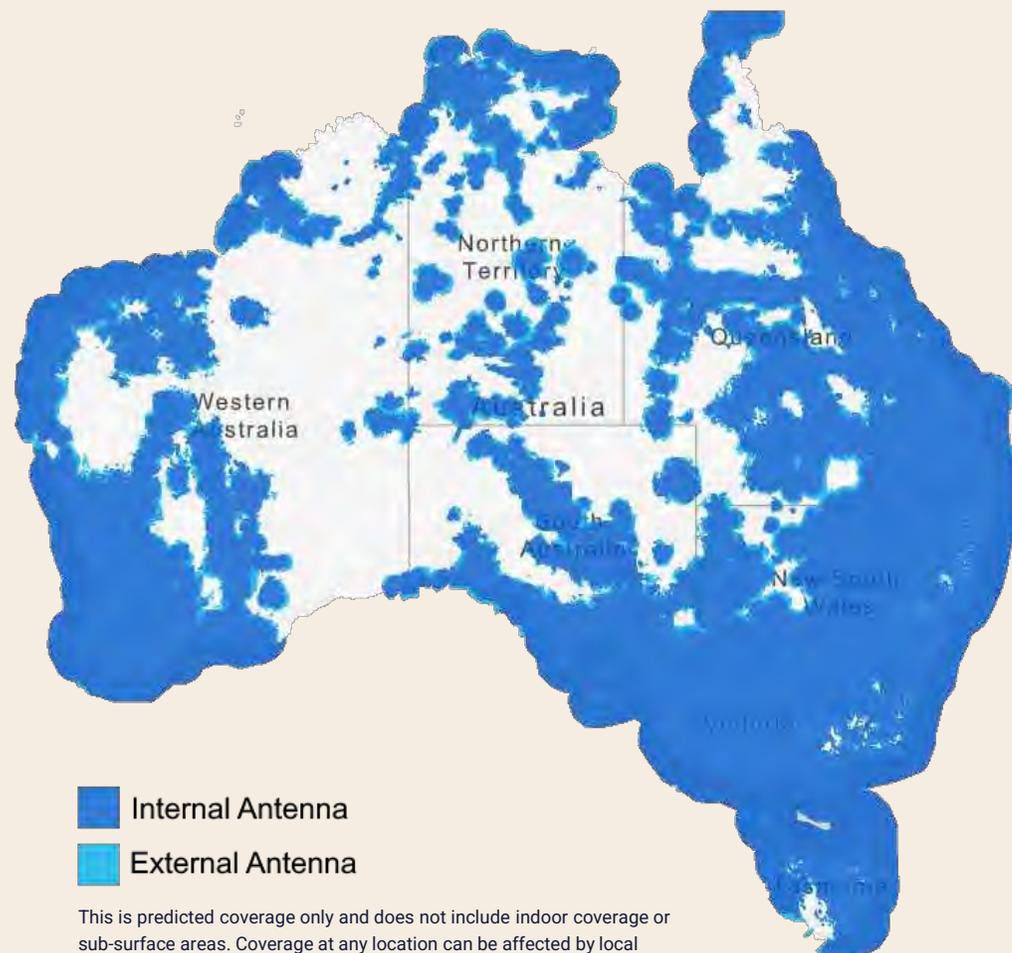
Telstra's network technologies for a diverse ecosystem

Our Network can scale up and down for a diverse range of IoT use cases





Australia's largest mobile IoT network

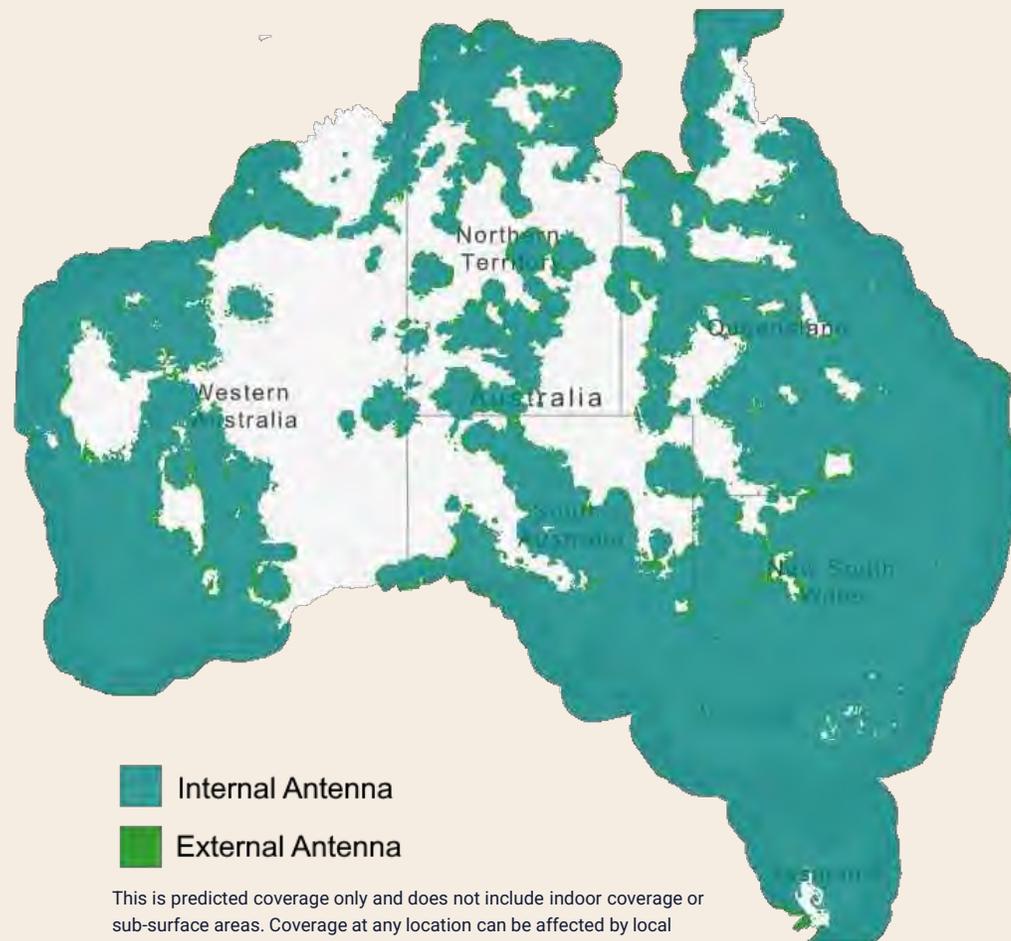


This is predicted coverage only and does not include indoor coverage or sub-surface areas. Coverage at any location can be affected by local building density, terrain and vegetation. Speed and performance may vary with your location, device, and demand on the network.

Around
3.9 million sq km
for LTE-M devices



Australia's largest mobile IoT network



This is predicted coverage only and does not include indoor coverage or sub-surface areas. Coverage at any location can be affected by local building density, terrain and vegetation. Speed and performance may vary with your location, device, and demand on the network.

Over
4.9 million sq km
for NB-IoT devices



Telstra Telematics Solutions

Comprehensive fleet and asset management solutions

Telstra, with its ownership of MTDATA along with partnerships with industry's leading providers, possess a strong capability in delivering and focusing on fleet management and asset solutions.

We continue to innovate and bring to market enhanced safety and efficiencies for fleets and assets of all types which includes duress, driver coaching/feedback and rating, advanced camera solutions with AI/ML that will detect and notify distracted and drowsy drivers along with predictive maintenance and real-time tracking.



Fuel and Maintenance Management

Track vehicle maintenance schedules & monitor fuel consumption to identify ways to reduce costs, such as reducing idling time.



Asset and Inventory Management

Valuable assets and inventory within the fleet are tracked and managed.



Driver Safety & Monitoring

Collect data on driver behaviour, such as speed, braking, and idling



Data Collection

The central system gathers data from all the vehicles in real-time. This data includes location, speed, direction, motor sensors and more.



Compliance and Regulatory Support

Comply with industry regulations and standards





Fleet management trends and challenges



Rising costs

The cost of fuel continues to be a main concern, with prices increasing at an unusually fast rate in 2023.¹

The conversion to EVs is one of the largest expenses, followed by purchasing new vehicles. Supply chain issues continue to affect EV availability and cost.²

Over 1/3 of survey respondents were concerned about increasing wage demands.²



Worker safety

Vehicle incidents accounted for 42% of all worker fatalities in 2022 and were the most common incident.³

Businesses are increasing their focus on safety to keep staff happy (especially important during the current skills shortage⁴) and comply with legislation.



Staff satisfaction

Demand for workers has increased by 42% from 2021 to 2022⁴, making it difficult to find qualified staff and leading to increased wages.

The transport and logistics workforce is ageing 2.2 times faster than all industries, with average age >45.⁵



Environmental sustainability

The Australian government has set a target of net zero emissions by 2050, so companies are under increased pressure to accurately track fleet emissions and implement effective target-reduction strategies.⁶

Transport emissions have been rising since 1990.⁷ Around the world, 70% of companies are considering or have implemented hybrid or EV in their fleet in the next three years.⁸

1. [Why are fuel prices rising and when will they go down?](#), NRMA 2023
2. [Top challenges for Fleet Managers in 2023](#), Fleet Auto News 2023
3. [Key Work Health and Safety Statistics Australia, 2023](#), Safe Work Australia
4. [2022 Skills Priority List – Key Findings Report](#), National Skills Commission 2022

5. [Industry outlook – transport and logistics](#), Australian Industry Standards 2021
6. [The biggest new trends in fleet management in 2023](#), Shell 2023
7. [Key transport and logistics trends in Australia to watch out for in 2023](#), PASA 2023
8. [Fleet and Mobility Barometer 2023 report](#), Custom Fleet 2023



Telematics – Understanding the Basics



Driver performance coaching

With routine fleet performance reports and driver scorecards, you can identify areas of improvement for your drivers and reward those who are performing well.



Accident notifications

Vehicle collision notifications and data retrieval allows you to take steps.



Better safety for your assets

Get notified on unwanted asset activity to prevent theft or after-hours use.



Improved dispatch and response times

Utilise near real-time tracking to help you locate the nearest driver for optimal dispatch and inform your customers of unexpected delays.



Proof of service

Alert customers to completed deliveries by sending them notifications as the driver leaves their location.



Provide more accurate arrival estimates

Inform customers as to how far away a driver might be from their destination.



Simplified project management

The Fleet Complete Task Tracker application will help manage assignments and projects on one interface. See all open, pending and completed jobs on one screen and manage your mobile personnel accordingly.





Telematics – Understanding the Basics

LOW-COST BATTERY-OPERATED ASSET TRACKING



- Easy to install device onto any asset without the need to hardwire
- Over 10+ years battery life on user-replaceable 3 x AA Lithium or Lithium Thionyl Chloride (LTC) batteries for extreme temperature operation
- IP67 rated housing ensures the device can withstand fine dust, high-pressure spray, and submersion for 30 minutes in 1m of water
- Periodic or optional movement-based tracking - tracks assets throughout the day and/ or when movement occurs, entering sleep mode when inactive to conserve power and data usage



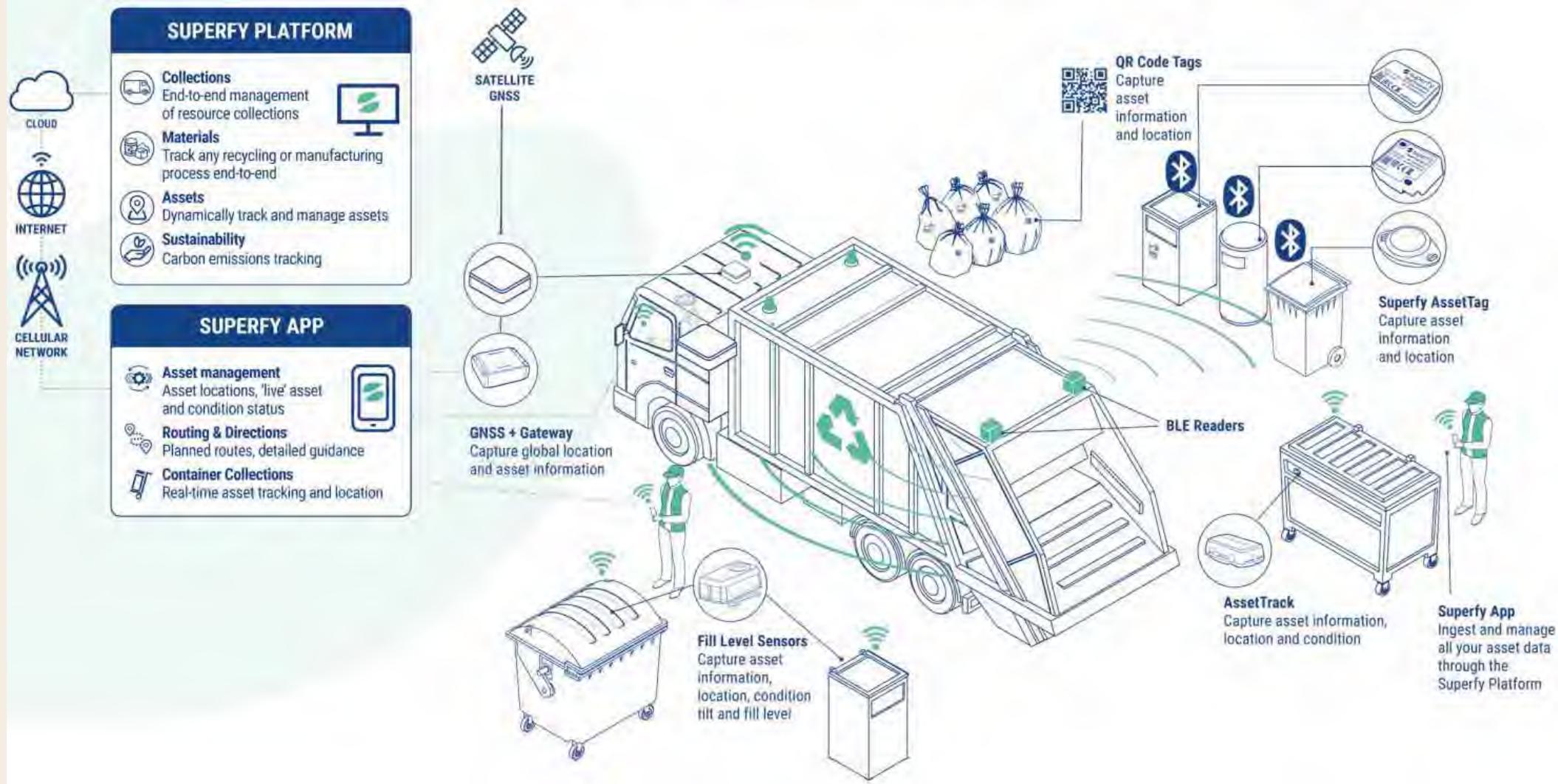
SOLAR ASSET TRACKING

- Easy to install device
- No need to replace batteries
- More regular polling rates
- Does need clear view of sky to get charge



Waste Management On a Page

Waste & Recycling Management Application - Locate / Route / Service / Report





Informed Waste Management



Key Benefits

- Accurate and real time fill level measurement
- Optimized route and bin swaps
- Real time maintenance tracking
- Detailed analytics on operational performance



Compactor Bins

Superfy Smart Compactor

Saving time and money with smart waste and recycling management

Key Benefits

- Reduces number of bins required to manage litter
- Reduces collections traffic & associated emissions
- Reduces public disturbance related to collections
- Zero litter bin running costs
- Reduces overall cost of litter collection service
- Creates advertising revenue channel for Councils
- Reduces unsightly overflowing litter receptacles
- Removes litter bins as source of food for vermin

Superfy S210

Outdoor solar compacting bin





Attentis

Connected Weather Station and Environmental Monitoring Solution





Gases

Multiple optical particle counters detect and disseminate particles based on size and shape – PM 0.3, 1, 2.5, 10, CO, CO2, NO2, SO2 etc.



Pollen

Type recognition through laser measurement of size and shape



Fire detection

Visible and non-visible flame recognition through wavelength detection



Weather

Ultra sonic measurement of barometric pressure, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, rainfall – detailed micro-climate weather



Thermal imaging / temperature

Measuring up to 80,000 individual points of surface temperature, delivered in individual readings



Visual

Ultra high definition video and still imaging, image overlay technology



Soil moisture

Self-powered, wireless communication, intelligent



Vibration

Measured in multiple data formats to comply with all Australian standards



Movement

Structural movement (towers, bridges, buildings, structures, etc) to 0.1 of a degree via remote sensors



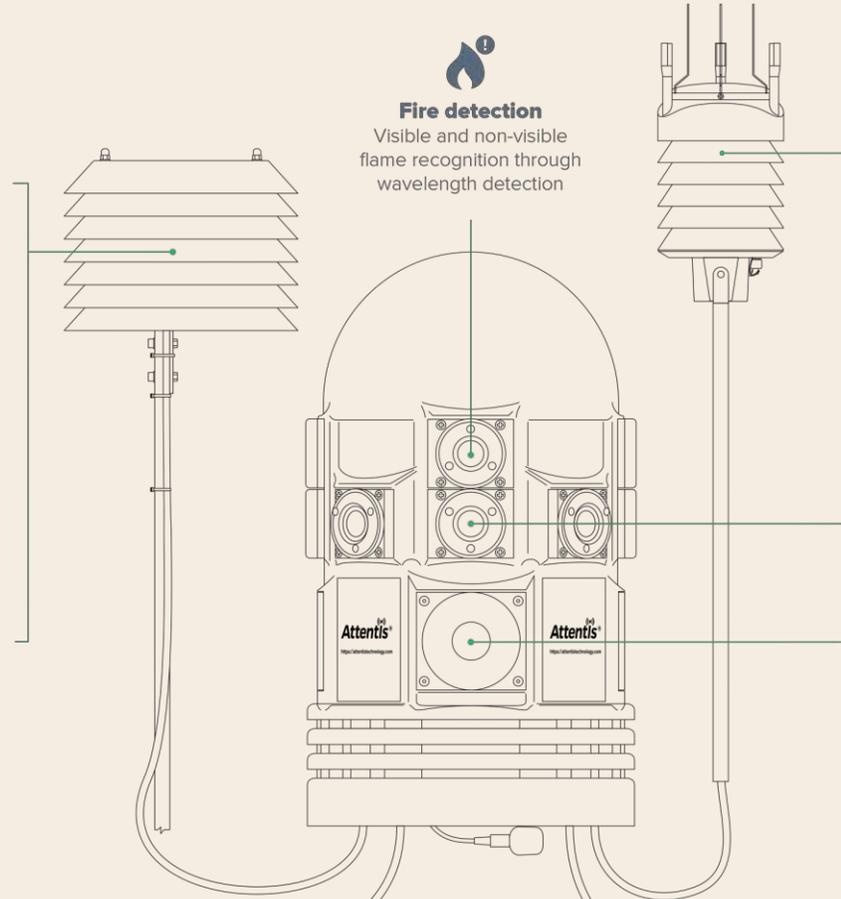
Audio

Fine scale recording and playback via individual MP3 files



Floods

Ultrasonic measurement of depth of rivers in real time



Attentis



General



Smart Water Metering

Taggle monitors and digitizes the end-to-end water cycle...



Automated
Water Metering



Sewer
Monitoring



Water
Infrastructure
Monitoring



Stormwater
Monitoring

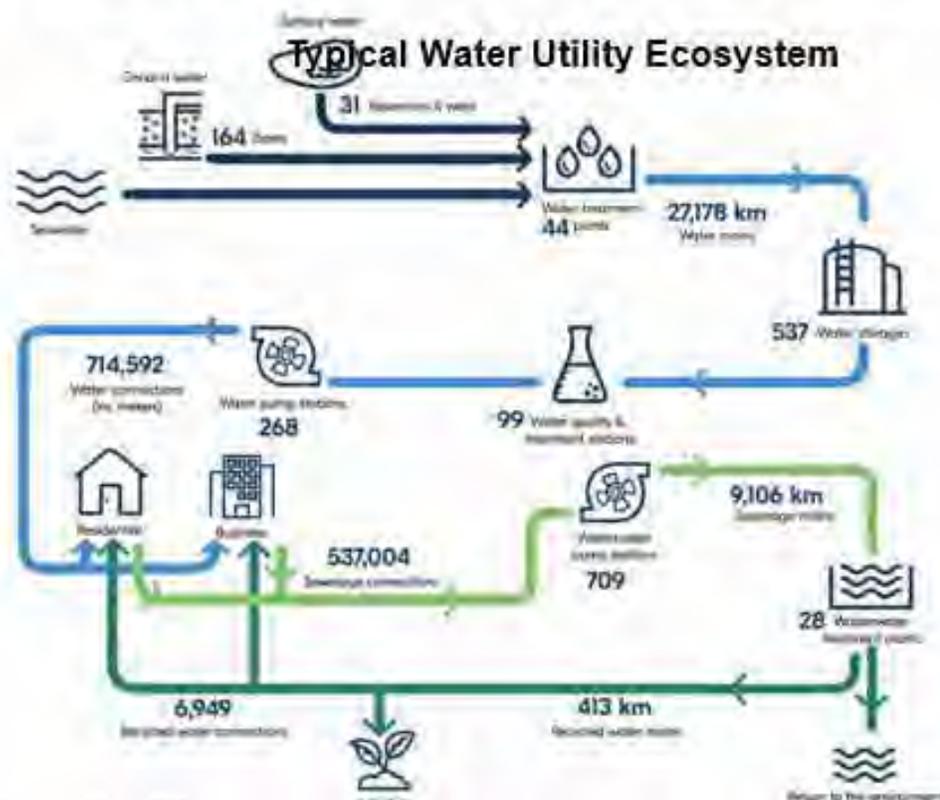
taggle[®]

Taggle Systems - Commercial in Confidence



Smart Water Metering

Smart Meters and Sensors monitor the end-to-end water cycle delivering data & insights to enable councils and water utilities to:



- ✘ Reduce Leaks
- ✘ Reduce NRW
- ✘ Manage consumer demand
- ✘ Optimise water network investment
- ✘ Achieve timely accurate billing
- ✘ Increase consumer engagement



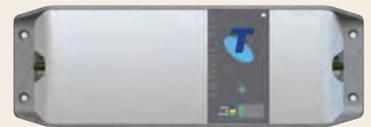
3G Closure: Check if your Telstra GO Repeater is configured to boost 4G signal

Telstra GO Repeaters (GO G31, GO G41, GO ROAM R41) operate on both 3G and 4G and will not be impacted when 3G closes from 28 October 2024.

However, in some instances they may have been configured to only operate on 3G.

We encourage you to check your GO Repeater settings, using a smartphone with the Cel-Fi WAVE app installed to see if its correctly configured to boost 4G signals.

Telstra GO (G31) Repeater



Telstra GO G41 Stationary Repeater



Telstra GO ROAM R41 Mobile Repeater



Instructions to check your GO Repeater settings can boost 4G signals:

1

Download the **Cel-Fi WAVE app** available from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store on your smartphone.



2

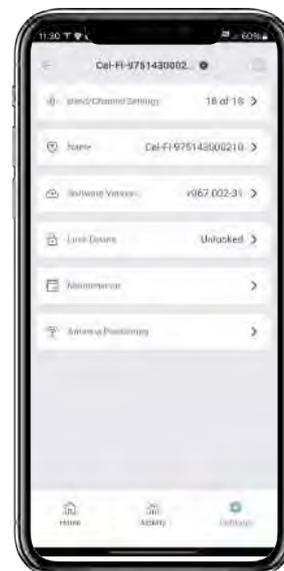
Open the WAVE app on your smartphone and ensure you are in close proximity to your GO Repeater to allow it to connect through Bluetooth.

Follow instructions to:

- Check your GO Repeater in the Cel-Fi WAVE app using a smartphone.
- Tap on Settings > Band/Channel Settings > expand the 4G selection and ensure that each Band is toggled on (indicated as blue).

3

Congratulations your GO Repeater will now be configured to boost 4G signals.



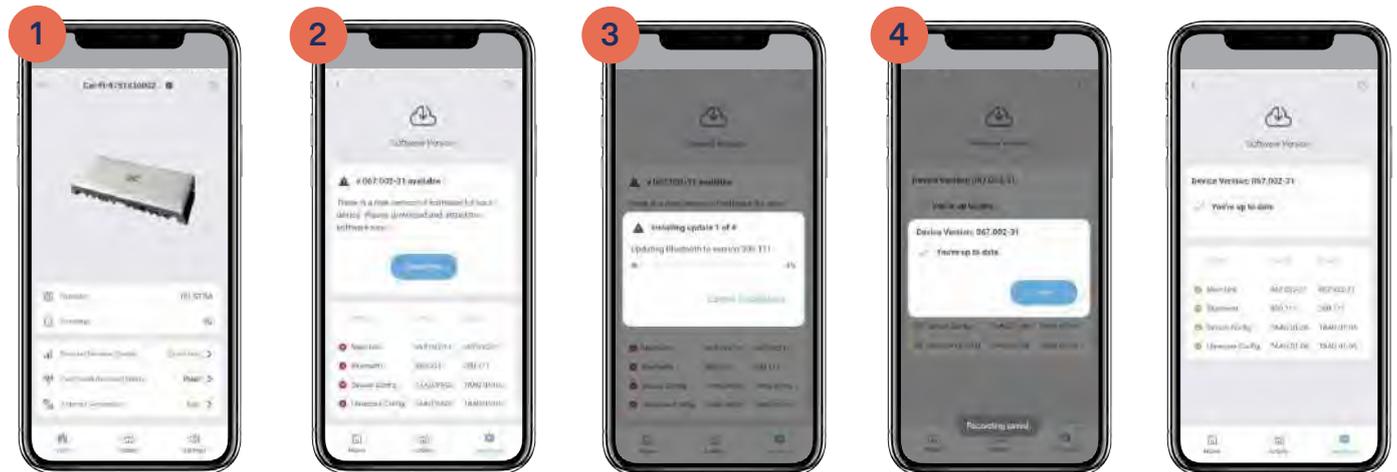
Check if your Telstra GO Repeater software is update to date

Instructions to check your GO Repeater settings:

Download the Cel-Fi WAVE app available from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store on your smartphone.

Open the WAVE app on your smartphone and ensure you are in close proximity to your GO Repeater to allow it to connect through bluetooth.

- 1 Check your GO Repeater in the Cel-Fi WAVE app using a smartphone.
- 2 Tap on Settings > Software Version > if there is a Software Update available, tap on "Update now" and wait until the update has been completed.
- 3 You will be able to monitor the progress on the WAVE app.
- 4 Congratulations your GO Repeater has been updated.



Check your Telstra Go Repeater external antenna is compatible

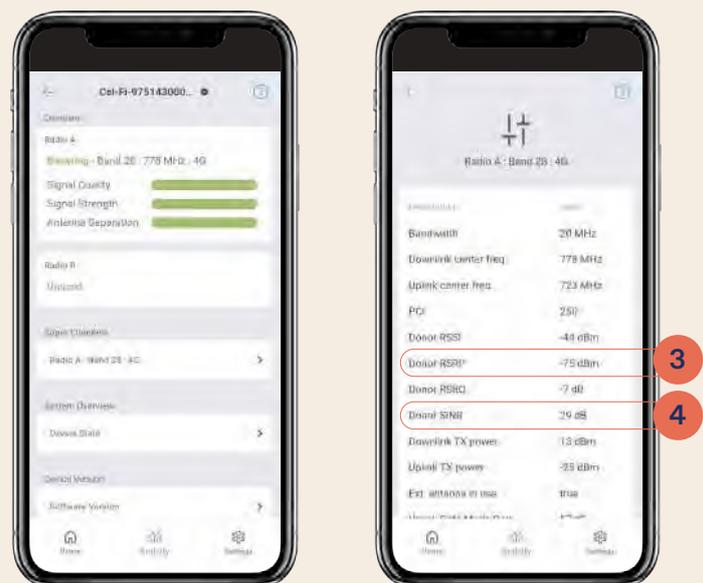
To ensure you are getting the best possible 4G experience when 3G closes on 28 October 2024, use the instructions to check if your current antenna is compatible with the 4G network.

- 1 Open the Cel-Fi WAVE app on your smartphone and ensure you are in close proximity to your GO Repeater to allow it to connect through Bluetooth.
- 2 Check your GO Repeater in the Cel-Fi WAVE app using a smartphone.
 - Tap on Activity
 - Under Super Channels tap on Radio A: Band <number*>: 4G to see more details about the boosted signal.

***This number may be 3, 28, 1 or 7 depending on your device and the available frequencies from your local tower.**

- 3 **Signal Strength Test:**
If Donor RSRP level is between -40 and -110 dBm this is good. Anything outside of this range please contact us on **1800 305 307** to discuss your options.

In this example '-75 dBm' is good.



- 4 **Signal Quality Test:**
If the Donor SINR is showing 0 dB or a negative number please contact us on **1800 305 307** to discuss your options.

In this example '29 dB' is good.

Alliance of Western Councils on local water utility funding

Brad Cam

Summary of report

This report considers progressing the Productivity and Equality Commissioner's recommendations for western councils in the *Review of funding models for local water utilities*.

Recommendation

That the Alliance of Western Councils makes representations to DCCEEW and the Minister for Water, the Hon Rose Jackson MLC that the current governance arrangements with the Alliance of Western Councils through the Western Councils Water Alliance are suitable for implementing Recommendation 16 of the Productivity and Equality Commissions report for the member councils of the Alliance of Western Councils.

Consultation

- Western Councils Water Alliance – Technical group
- NSW Water Directorate
- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

Background

The NSW Productivity and Equality Commission (PEC) provided the Minister for Water on 19 July 2024 the final report of the Review of Local Water Utilities (LWU) Funding Models.

Recommendation 16 is to ***Immediately establish a reform process to identify and implement the most efficient and effective structure for providing water and sewerage services in Western NSW.*** *The reform process should ensure councils and customers retain responsibility for any decision-making pertaining to their council's involvement. The reform process should be conducted on an opt-in basis.*

Recommendation 17 is to ***Develop a Strategic Business Case (SBC) for CSO funding to Western NSW LWUs based on the output of the reform process.*** *The Commission considers that a new Western NSW LWU entity could be the first candidate for a CSO agreement.*

A Community Service Obligation (CSO) implies that some councils will not be able to achieve full cost recovery for their water and sewerage business in the long term via fixed and user charges to their customers. It is important to note that some councils have been perceived by the PEC not to have recovered the full cost of operating their water and sewerage business, when the long-term costs of planned maintenance, renewal and operation are considered, measured against comparable western councils. In other words, councils will need to address under-charging for water and sewerage services comparable to other Local Water Utilities whilst considering the opportunities for government support.

The Productivity and Equality Commissioner has suggested that the proposed approach to funding for the LWU sector relies on:

- *The NSW Government establishing clear long-term policies and increasing its focus and effort to building collaborative approaches with LWUs who need most assistance to address sector, regional, and local water issues.*
- *Local councils taking greater responsibility for lifting the performance of their LWUs and for specifying any support required from the NSW Government, including CSO funding and regional water solutions, consistent with user pays principles in the first instance.*

Local councils will benefit from a more predictable and stable funding environment, enabling better planning and management of water and sewerage services. Long term support better targeted to those communities with the greatest need through the introduction of a CSO payment mechanism.

Seven months later, DCCEEW are continuing to explore structures for providing water and sewerage services in Western NSW. There is an urgent need to move on with implementation of funding reform for local water utilities in regional NSW. The existing Western Council Water Alliance model (formerly Orana Water Utilities Alliance) has a proven track record and should be supported and reinforced rather than create new support structures. Implementation of a Community Service Obligation was recommended by the PEC to inform the 2026 budget of the NSW government. It appears

that the Minister now will not be in a position to provide a response to the Commissioner's report before June 2025 at the earliest. This will delay the potential for funding assistance for western council Local Water Utilities.

Discussion

As recently as 19 February 2025 there has been continuing discussion at DCCEEW about new structures that include county councils, new council owned corporations or leveraging existing state owned corporations to deliver support for water and sewerage services. While new structures might be appropriate for a small number of councils outside of the Alliance of Western Councils, the most efficient, simplest and timely approach would be to fund the existing Western Councils Water Alliance. Further analysis will lead to further delay in implementing financial support for our member councils.

The PEC recommended the following Councils may be eligible for a CSO based on remoteness criteria (Section 9.1.1). Western Councils Water Alliance members highlighted:

1. Balranald SC - Far South West JO
2. Bogan SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
3. Bourke SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
4. Brewarrina SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
5. Carrathool SC - RAMJO
6. Central Darling SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
 - *Note: An alternative relationship possible with Essential Water, Broken Hill already has an explicit CSO*
7. Cobar SC (what about Cobar Water Board?) - Western Councils Water Alliance
8. Coonamble SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
9. Hay SC - RAMJO
10. Lachlan SC - Central NSW JO
11. Moree Plains SC - New England JO
12. Narrabri SC - New England JO
13. Walgett SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
14. Warren SC - Western Councils Water Alliance

15. Warrumbungle SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
16. Wentworth SC - Far South West JO

When financial performance criteria for cost recovery are considered, there are potentially additional councils that could be included in the CSO funding model:

17. Cabonne SC - Central NSW JO
18. Narromine SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
19. Gilgandra SC - Western Councils Water Alliance
20. Gwydir SC - Namoi JO
21. Uralla SC - New England JO
22. Walcha SC - New England JO

The Minister for Water has indicated that she is interested in moving quickly with a new CSO funding model for Local Water Utilities, however DCCEEW have not delivered to the timeline recommended by the Productivity and Equality Commissioner. DCCEEW has led extended discussions on organisational structure for CSO delivery, notwithstanding that the Western Councils Water Alliance (formerly the Orana Water Utilities Alliance) is already a successful model for delivering Local Water Utility assistance in western NSW.

The organisational structures under consideration for delivering the CSO model included new county councils, new council owned corporations and state-owned corporations. There doesn't appear to be any sound reason to further delay the implementation process to consider alternative models to the Western Councils Water Alliance. Almost all eligible councils consulted so far have insisted that they wish to continue to own and operate their water and sewerage services, retaining service delivery at the local council level.

Financial implications

Further delay to the implementation of a CSO model for western council Local Water Utilities will delay urgently needed funding assistance.

Legal implications

Review of the Western Councils Water Alliance structure may be required to comply with funding requirements, and legal advice may be required.

If DCCEEW and the Minister for Water insist on alternative governance models, then a council owned corporation would appear to be the next most appropriate model,

strictly noting that each participating council must retain ownership of its water and sewerage assets and service delivery. Legal advice would be recommended on the constitution and structure of a council owned corporation to best fit local government requirements.

Risk implications

Water and sewerage infrastructure condition is generally in a declining trend. This increases the risk of serious water and sewerage service failure, impacting communities and businesses. CSO funding is required to assist with strategic investment in water and sewerage assets to reduce risk.

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
Delegates Report by Councillor P Serdity
to the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held in the
Council Community Room, Warren on Thursday 24th April 2025

ITEM 2 CENTRAL WEST ZONE LIBRARY MEETING

(L2-7)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received and noted.

I attended the Central West Zone Library Meeting with Librarian Erica Kearnes, held at the Central Tablelands Collection Facility at Bathurst on 21st March 2025. This was also our Annual General Meeting.

The following Office Bearers were elected for the 2025 year.

Chair	Councillor Les Lambert - Narromine Shire Council
Vice Chair	Councillor Bill Jayet - Parkes Shire Council
Secretary/Treasurer	Jennifer Lawrence - Orange City Library
Minute Secretary	Rachel Gill - Mudgee Library

Councillors were provided with a list of the Councillor details for all members of the Central West Zone which is a total of 25 Councils.

An update of the Motions that were put forward at the 2024 by our Zone was provided.

Motion

Moved Councillor Les Lambert (Narromine Shire Council), seconded Councillor Bill Jayet (Parkes Shire Council) that the association should address the issue of Federal and State Governments' increased reliance on Public Libraries for eGovernment services.

Update

APLA in discussion with a number of Federal Government Departments regarding the provision of funding when requesting Libraries to undertake information provision. Further update available following APLA Meeting in March.

Late Motion

Moved Councillor Les Lambert (Narromine Shire Council) seconded Councillor Bill Jayet (Parkes Shire Council) that NSWPLA investigate the increased cost of Trove being passed onto Libraries relating to the change to the funding model (per capita to usage), including Resource sharing model/platform.

Reports for Libraries

The various Libraries both present and those on the Teams Meeting proceeded to provide a report on the activities in progress around the Zone. One of the highlights from our North Western Library Group was the completion of the new Gilgandra Library which has taken over 4 years to complete and it a wonderful addition to the community.

Libraries have reported that the Dolly Parton Book Project is not providing any stats that can be utilized by our Libraries and are not looking to renew this project when it comes to an end. It appears that the "1000 Books Before School" is a more worthwhile Program. Libraries are also

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
Delegates Report by Councillor P Serdity
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ITEM 2 CENTRAL WEST ZONE LIBRARY MEETING

CONTINUED

looking at other ways in which they can attract more young readers to the libraries, as when the young readers move on to Boarding School the stats are reflecting the drop in this age group until they are back on holidays etc. and the borrowing goes back up again.

Parkes Library also have a Recycling Program which involves having some boxes set up in the foyer area and I will be endeavoring to follow-up on this Program as soon as possible.

Broken Hill are also in the process of building a new Library and it is moving along fast at this time.

After the Meeting we had the opportunity to have a guided tour of the Collections Facility which houses art, books and other library, museum items when not on display. It is a massive facility and well used by both Bathurst and the wider communities at a storage fee.

It is becoming obvious that our Libraries are trying to expand and now including pop-up areas for use by the wider community at a reasonable fee.

Our next meeting will be in Parkes on 19th September 2025.

Councillor Pauline Serdity
Warren Library Delegate



CENTRAL WEST ZONE MEETING
21 March 2025, 10am – 1pm
Central Tablelands Collection Facility
20 Leena Street, Bathurst
Online – via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Cr. Bill Jayet (Parkes Shire Council)
Cr. Katie Dicker (Mid-Western Regional Council)
Cr. Ruth Fagan (Cowra Shire Council)
Cr. Pauline Serdity (Warren Shire Council)
Cr. Peter Florence (Cobar Shire Council)
Cr. Elaine West (Bathurst Regional Council)
Cr. Alan Chandler (Broken Hill Shire Council)
Cr. Ben Fry (Bathurst Regional Council)
Cr. Les Lambert (Narromine Shire Council)
Tracey Dawson (Parkes Shire Council)
Kerryn Jones (Parkes Shire Council)
Sam Sheppard-Boros (Mid-Western Regional Council)
Kathryn McAlister (Macquarie Regional Library)
Nadia Lowe (Macquarie Regional Library)
Erica Kearnes (Warren Shire Council/North-Western)
Jennifer Lawrence (Central West Library)
Patou Clerc (Bathurst Shire Council)
Jane Siermans (Cobar Shire Council)
Victoria Murray (Bathurst Library)
Jane Goudge-Cook (Bathurst Regional Council)
MaryClare Thatcher (Bathurst Regional Council)
Rhiannon Mijovic (Oberon Council)
Deputy Mayor Steven Ring (Lithgow City Council) (Online Attendance)
Liz McCutcheon (Gilgandra Shire Council) (Online Attendance)
Phillipa Scarf (SLNSW) (Online Attendance)
Deirdre Bryson (Broken Hill City Council) (Online Attendance)

Apologies

Cr. Lauren Trembath (Oberon Council)
Cr. Jen Cowley (Dubbo Regional Council)
Cr. Michael Neill (Weddin Shire Council)
Cr. Amber Bunter (Gilgandra Shire Council)
Cr. Marea Ruddy (Orange City Council)
Cr. Michele Herbert (Forbes Shire Council)
Cr. Penelope Heuston (Warren Shire Council)
Cr. Dallas Tout (Wagga City Council)
Alan Dalton (Cowra Shire Council)
Brooke Whaley (Bogan Shire Council)
Marg Duggan
Deborah Kelly (Lachlan Shire Council)
Julie Baker (Oberon Council)
Julie Gaynor (Walgett Shire Council)

Rachel Gill (Mid-Western Regional Council)
Terry Mills-Edward (Cowra Council)
Adele Casey (NSWPLA)
Deanne Britton
Nina Hooper (Forbes Shire Council)
Cameron Morley (SLNSW)

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

1. Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country and welcome by NSWPLA Central West Zone Chairperson Cr. Les Lambert.

2. Apologies

Attendees and apologies noted.

Moved Cr Bill Jayet *Secoded Erica Kearnes*

3. Introductions

Introductions by those present.

4. Election of Office Bearers

MOTION: That Cr. Les Lambert be nominated for the position of Chairperson for a period of one (1) year.

Moved Cr. Pauline Serdity *Secoded Cr. Bill Jayet*

MOTION: CARRIED

MOTION: That Cr. Bill Jayet be nominated for the position of Deputy Chairperson for a period of one (1) year.

Moved Cr. Ruth Fagan *Secoded Erica Kearnes*

MOTION: CARRIED

MOTION: That Jennifer Lawrence be nominated for the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

Moved Cr. Ruth Fagan *Secoded Kathryn McAlister*

MOTION: CARRIED

MOTION: That Rachel Gill be nominated for the position of Minute Secretary.

Moved Erica Kearnes *Secoded Sam Sheppeard-Boros*

MOTION: CARRIED

5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes (11 October 2024 - Narromine)

Two amendments required – change of ‘Erica Kearns’ to ‘Erica Kearnes’ in attendance list. Change from ‘Mudgee’ to ‘Mid-Western Regional Library’ in item 11.

MOTION: That the previous minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record when amendments are made.

Moved Cr. Les Lambert *Secoded Kathryn McAlister*

MOTION: CARRIED

6. NSWPLA Annual General Meeting – Central West Zone Motions

Late Motion 1 – No further updates.

Late Motion 2 – No further updates.

An overview was provided on Trove services for new Councillor information and reference.

Cr. Ruth Fagan raised concerns about regional communities missing valuable heritage information and suggested discussing it at the APLA meeting in March.

Patou Clerc explained that NSWPLA previously supported libraries with funding, but rising costs made this unsustainable, particularly due to cost disparities between small and large libraries.

Cr. Ruth Fagan agreed that further investigation is needed.

Philippa Scarf from SLNSW clarified that historic newspapers on Trove are free and accessible to everyone. She added that local libraries can use Local Priority Grants for collection-related expenses, as long as they specify the purpose.

MOTION: The Central West Zone Libraries recommend that the NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) further investigate the ongoing costs of Trove, exploring potential solutions. Cr. Les Lambert to investigate further.

Moved Cr. Ruth Fagan

Seconded Cr. Pauline Serdity

MOTION: CARRIED

7. Councillor Insight (first-time local government Councillor)

Discussion was opened to the room regarding first time local government Councillor insights.

Cr. Elaine West accepted and provided comment on her experience as a first-time local government Councillor.

8. NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) Central West Zone Councillor Representatives (list for distribution)

List provided in papers for distribution.

9. State Library of NSW Report

Attached.

The State Library report covered subsidy and grant discussions, with \$4.3 million to be distributed to public libraries. Expenditure papers and state library statistics will be published.

Public library infrastructure grants are approved and awaiting announcement from the minister.

State Library has commenced research on the value and impact of public and state libraries, thank you to libraries on project reference committee who provided interviews with staff and patrons. Upcoming findings will be shared when finalised.

Ongoing online training includes a new module on Gale state-wide databases.

10. NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) Report

Attached.

11. Library Mangers' Reports – Overview of significant projects/services/events

Attached.

Bathurst: Provided demonstration of 'Mind Alive Collection' a Dementia friendly collection of kits, including puzzles, conversation starters, large print books, activities, etc. All items in collection can be borrowed by institutions or individuals.

Deakin and Charles Sturt Universities School of Information and Library Studies received a research grant to study Australian public libraries and social capital. Bathurst Library, starting in September 2025, will participate, with a research assistant analyzing programming, policies, and strategic plans, and conducting

focus groups with staff and the public. Six Australian public libraries will be involved. The findings will be shared with all libraries, highlighting current practices and areas for development.

Local Writers Showcase - created to support and inspire community writers. An expression of interest was sent to local community members, and a showcase event was organized, inviting authors to network with each other and the audience.

Bogan: Awaiting finish of furnishing project.

Bourke: No attendees available to comment, report is included in papers.

Parkes: Elvis story time at library was well attended by public.
Library ambassador program ongoing, inducted new library ambassadors recently.
Partnering with local Meals on Wheels to promote Home Library service.

Macquarie Regional: Currently in second year of five-year improvement plan.
IT and Cybersecurity systems have been merged with Dubbo Regional Councils' IT system to ensure compliance and provide better protection to databases.
Dubbo Regional Council has a new representative for the NSWPLA Central West Zone meetings – Cr. Jen Cowley.

Mid-Western Regional: Rachel Gill still in acting position, returning in April to substantive role.
Strongly recommends taking part in State Library 'Actively Anti-Racist Training' course. State Library representative highlighted that the course is included in the Learn with Novelist course to start soon.

North-Western: Currently running Community Survey.
At Warren Library, received \$30,000 'Connecting Seniors Grant', using grant money to install new accessible technologies in the library space.
Joining with local tourism group to collect oral history stories from residents.

Broken Hill: Deirdre Bryson is currently on a temporary contract as a Library Coordinator.
Currently working on building a new 15-million-dollar facility, which is going up rapidly. 6 months estimated until building will be suitable to be moved into.
Outback letter box library – a program to deliver books to remote stations is going well.
New mobile library van being delivered in the coming weeks.

Cobar: Started 1000 Books Before School program.

Lithgow: No attendees available to comment, report is included in papers.

Gilgandra: New library building has been opened on 3 March, 2025, after 4 years of construction works.
Some works still ongoing, expecting formal opening to commence in late August, 2025.
Running new program – 'Little STEAM Saturdays' for 3–6-year-olds, great engagement.
Gilgandra Reads Everything Around Town Day (GREAT Day) is upcoming, local schools will attend.

Central West: Trialling new operational hours at Cowra, now open 9am – 6pm.
Great numbers of attendance at recent Author Talks.

Progress ongoing for Grenfell to join Central West Libraries, hoping to have this confirmed before next NSWPLA Central West Zone Meeting.

Oberon: No written report submitted to include in papers.
Careers expo and youth focused activities planned to be held in library.
Reintroduced Story Time after almost 12 months of program not running.
Acquired social media page to raise engagement.

12. Next Meeting Location and Date

Next Zone Meeting to be held on September 19, 2025, in Parkes NSW.

Next Manager's meeting to be held afternoon prior, September 18, 2025, in Parkes NSW.

General Business:

Dolly Parton Imagination Library - Cr. Ruth Fagan enquired into the benefits of the program, and if they were comparable to the cost now funding is no longer offered.

Kathryn McAlister explained that Macquarie Regional Library, if it wished to continue with the Dolly Parton program would need to use special project funds from State Library, diverting money from other planned programs. Public libraries are funded by councils, and already offer a wide range of services.

Liz McCutcheon noted the program's success in reaching new audiences through the health program: the program opened a channel of communication with new parents and community members who had never been library patrons before.

Cr Les Lambert acknowledged the funding concerns.

Cr Ruth Fagan suggested using this opportunity to reach newborns and children by offering a new book or library card to encourage lifelong membership.

Cr. Ruth Fagan requested a list of the alternate options available (e.g. 1000 Books Before School, 'Paint the Town Red', etc.) be made available, to recommend to her Council.

'Born to Read' program – Cr. Bill Jayet enquired on the status of this, Kathryn McAlister advised no further updates have been received from NSWPLA. Updates will be provided when received.

Meeting closed at 1.00pm

Late reports as attached:

1. NSWPLA Update – February 2025 (pg. 6)
2. Gilgandra Report (pg. 10)

NSWPLA Update - February 2025



SWITCH 2024

Survey results for 2024.

Question	2024(%)	2023 (%)
Satisfied with ease of registration	95	98
Satisfied or very satisfied with the networking opportunities provided	95	95
Satisfied or very satisfied with information obtained/presentations	95	95
Planning to implement new ideas, programs to their libraries following the conference	85	86
Delegates from rural and regional NSW	61	58
Delegates from Sydney Metro	36	39
Delegates from interstate	3	4
Delegates spent time at exhibitor stands	98	97
Delegates intend to attend SWITCH again	94	90
Delegates recommend SWITCH conference	97	95

From:
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nswpla.org.au

A cross section of comments are shown below:

- The keynote speaker Dom Thurbon, challenging ways of thinking. The overall quality of talks was very high, with interesting insights into AI



- All of the information about AI and how Libraries will need to incorporate it was really enlightening. The Lightning Talks were and insight into other Libraries and their creativity and flexibility; hearing others in our space share their successes and failures was really valuable.
- I thought the content was great, my only issue was I struggled with the long periods in the seats...
- Would be nice to have a panel or lightning talk about what it's like to run a small country branch/library service... I spoke to so many interesting people who have had this experience and can share their wisdom - they really do do it all!
- I would love to see a Mobile Library component each couple of years / outreach
- Another well run event. Thanks Adele and team
- More lightning talks
- Adele did a great job and SWITCH is always one of the best conference held each year. The only small improvement I would suggest is the music was a little to loud during dinner which made it a bit difficult to have conversation.
- This was certainly one of the better conferences I have attended – can't really suggest any improvements

2024 Annual Awards

The Annual Awards were announced at SWITCH 2024 with the following outcome:

Innovation In Outreach Services

Population Under 10,000

Winner - Balranald Shire Council - Book Tasting

Winner - Temora Shire Council - Intergenerational Preschool - bringing our generations together

Population 10,000 – 30,000

Winner - Gunnedah Shire Council – Senior Engagement Talks (SETs)

Population 30,000 – 100,000

Winner - Coffs Harbour City Council— Our Wild World of Reptiles

Highly Commended - Clarence Valley Council – On Record - Celebrating our Seniors

Population Over 100,000

Winner - Randwick Council— Spark in the Park

Highly Commended - Blacktown City Council – 2024 Multicultural Baby Rhyme Time at Blacktown City Libraries

Multicultural Awards

Multicultural Excellence Award – Metropolitan – Northern Beaches



Multicultural Excellence Award – Rural/Regional – Wagga Wagga City Council

Multicultural Excellence Award – Individual – Susie Rowe, Leeton

Life Membership

Gary Ellem – Clarence Valley Council

Angie Meers – Kempsey Shire Libraries (Retired)

The following retired Library professionals were recognized:

- Jim Maguire
- Roniet Meyerthal
- Mark Norman
- Gary Ellem

All awards and information have been uploaded to the NSWPLA Website.

SWITCH 2025

Trade and Sponsorship Exhibition

The Trade and Sponsorship opportunities were released at SWITCH 2024. To date the executive officer has secured 2 Tables and 34 Booths with a number of new exhibitors.

Registration

Early bird registration will open in April. Registration fees are to be determined in a later agenda item.

Conference Program

The conference program is well underway and the Call for Papers will be released soon.

Annual Awards

The 2025 Annual Awards will be released late July / early August. The Executive Officer has been in discussions with a supplier regarding the sponsorship of an emerging leader to attend SWITCH 2025. More information will be provided if successful.

Mentoring Program

The mentoring program for 2024-2025 has commenced. NSWPLA are sponsoring five library staff across NSW.

Councillor Representatives

If you haven't advised NSWPLA of your councillor representative, please do to ensure they are included in NSWPLA communications.



Library Careers / Positions Vacant

NSWPLA has a position vacant page available for use for libraries across NSW. If you have a vacancy, complete the form and it will be put on the website. Vacancies can be located at:
https://nswpla.org.au/#news&page=positions_vacant

NSWPLA eNews

All the latest news is distributed through the eNews. [Subscribe here.](#)

Gilgandra Report – Central West Zone NSWPLA 21 March 2025

1. New building

We moved into our new building during February, and opened on 3 March in the GIL Library Hub. The new building has:

- Two small bookable rooms for 2 people, one with after-hours access.
- One larger Multipurpose Room for 40 people with after-hours access, equipped with a large screen and video conferencing, and video conferencing. For library programs and bookable for community.
- A Tech Space, equipped with 3 gaming computers, a large screen, two VR headsets, 3D printing, and a small sound studio, which is still being set up.

So this is our third week of opening, and we have been pleased to welcome many new members, and people using the space to work, study and spend time. Our opening hours have increased by 13 hours: now open Monday to Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-12.

The date for the formal opening has not yet been set, but may be in late August.



Frontage of building on Miller Street



Staff and Mayor Batten on first day of opening



Circulation Desk





Multipurpose Room



Children's area, opening onto enclosed courtyard



Tech Space



Bookable Room with after-hours access

2. Recent happenings

The Library organizes the annual Seniors' Luncheon, which includes the presentation of the Senior Citizen of the Year award and entertainment. This was held one week after our opening, on 10 March, in the Shire Hall. 115 people attended, and enjoyed a meal prepared by Gilgandra High School Hospitality students, with entertainment by local musicians and singers, including students from both primary schools. We also had information stalls, including Service Australia, Service NSW, various care services, the Gardening Club, Historical Society and local Fire & Rescue, who promoted their free in-home fire safety checks and free smoke detector installation.

We started a new program in the new building- Little STEAM Saturdays. This is a Saturday morning story time for ages 3-6 years, with an emphasis on science, tech, engineering, art and maths. So far we have had two Saturday sessions, and each has been well-attended, with some fathers bringing their children.



Little STEAM- Bee Bots in the children's courtyard & plaza





Little STEAM attendees giving their mummy and daddy robots directions

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 27th MARCH 2025. ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & IN PERSON.

Present

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chair)
Cr Tony Lord (Ex Comm)
Richard Jane
Mayor Bruce Reynolds
Mark Dicker
Mayor Des Kennedy
Mayor Jarrod Marsden
Brad Byrnes
Heather Nicholls
Mayor Greg Whiteley

Orange City Council
Bland Shire Council
Forbes Shire Council
Blayney Shire Council
Blayney Shire Council
Mid-Western Regional Council
Cobar Shire Council
Cabonne Shire Council
Cabonne Shire Council
Warren Shire Council

Observer

Jonathon Edgecombe

Lithgow City Council

By Video Link

Cr Dennis Brady (Dep Chair)
Cr Scott Bailey (Ex Comm)
Ron Zwicker
Thomas Quinn
Diedre Stuart
Emma Henderson
Kent Boyd
Peter Batten

Lachlan Shire Council
Walgett Shire Council
Wollongong City Council
Wollongong City Council
Wollongong City Council
Bland Shire Council
Parkes Shire Council
Cabonne Shire Council

Apologies

Cr Phyllis Miller OAM (Dep Chair)
Cr Chris Roylance
Steve Loane OAM
Cr Jim Hickey (Ex Comm)
Gary Woodman
Brad Cam
Cr Jason Ramien
Andrew Brown
Mathew Deeth
Benn Banasik
Greg Tory
Cr Josh Black
Murray Wood

Forbes Shire Council
Forbes Shire Council
Forbes Shire Council
Broken Hill City Council
Warren Shire Council
Mid-Western Regional Council
Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Shire Council
Wollondilly Shire Council
Wollondilly Shire Council
Lachlan Shire Council
Dubbo Regional Council
Dubbo Regional Council

Speakers

Hon Stephen Lawrence
Hon Jenny Aitchison MP
Michael & Belinda Comminos
Nick Lucchinelli & Anil Lambert

Labor MLC
Minister for Roads & Regional Transport
Astrolabe
Horton Advisory

In attendance

Greg Lamont
Martin Rush
Ingrid Moores (as Minute Taker)
Andrew Callow

FTG – MERC Executive Officer
FTG – Director Policy
FTG – Policy Officer
FTG – Intern

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 27th MARCH 2025. ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & IN PERSON.

1. Welcome

The Chair, Councillor Kevin Duffy welcomed Executive Committee members, Executive Officer, Greg Lamont and FTG persons Martin, Ingrid and Anthony, thereafter opened the meeting at 12:05pm.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land that the meeting was held on and paid his respects to the Elders past, present & emerging.

3. Apologies

OM 1/2025 Resolved (Cr Reynolds/Cr Marsden) That the apologies submitted as listed above be received and noted.

4. Disclosure of Interests

No Disclosure of Interest

5. Speakers

OM 2/2025 Resolved (Cr Lord / Cr Brady) That the item on speakers be considered after items 6-11 are dealt with.

6. Adoption of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held 14th November 2024

OM 3/2025 Resolved (Cr Brady, Cr Lord) That the minutes of the Ordinary General meeting held on 14th November 2024 be received and noted and there was no business arising.

7. Business Arising from Ordinary General Meeting held on 14th November 2024.

Nil

8. Adoption Minutes of Executive Committee held on 6th December 2024.

OM 4/2025 Resolved (Cr Brady, Cr Duffy) That the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on the 6th of December 2024 be received and noted and there was no business arising.

9. Business Arising from Executive Committee held on 6th December 2024

Nil

10. Adoption of the Minutes of Executive Committee held on 27th March 2025

Executive Officer, Greg Lamont gave a brief recap of the resolutions made in the Executive Committee meeting the was held on the morning prior to the Ordinary Meeting on the 27th of March 2025.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 27th MARCH 2025. ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & IN PERSON.

11. Business Arising from Executive Committee held on 27th March 2025.

Discussion was had around the selection of the speakers - Hon Paul Scully (Proposed Planning Changes), Hon Steve Kamper (Management of Crown Lands & Leases), Hon Penny Sharpe (Renewable Energy) and Hon Courtney Houssos (Natural Resources).

A question was asked around the order that they are organised to speak, and the suggestion was made that the association reach out to their respective offices with our meeting dates and schedule them to suit their availability.

Discussion was also had around the proposed meeting dates as some members had clashes with other organisations which would also affect other members and so a suggestion was made to move the AGM to the afternoon of Friday the 14th of November as that was found to be a more suitable time for most members.

There was also acknowledgement of FTG and the work that had gone into the first of the visits to member councils and that the feedback was that visits had been a worthwhile exercise.

OM 5/2025 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Reynolds) That the minutes of the Executive Committee held on 27th March 2025 be received and noted and that the business arising be received and noted.

Martin Rush suggested that before the executive Officer report and Policy Officer report that the meeting be suspended to hear the presentation from Michael Comninos and his team on the Campaign presentation.

OM 6/2025 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Reynolds) to suspend standing orders at 12:28pm to hear from the respective speakers.

Speakers

(1) The Resources & Energy Communities Campaign Strategy presented by Michael Comninos of Astrolabe and Horton Advisory's Anil & Nick.

The Campaign strategy was presented by Michael Comninos from Astrolabe. With him there was Belinda Comninos from Astrolabe and Nick Lucchinelli and Anil Lambert from Horton Advisory.

Michael explained the campaign methodology which includes looking at the evidence base, designing the campaign and staging it to anticipate traction. He discussed the importance of creating a permission structure for decision makers to act and generating "earned media" by providing journalists with interesting stories and insights to report on. The goal of the campaign was being to create a virtuous cycle where pressure leads to impact and more traction.

There was clarification of the need to realign funding to cover all energy projects, not just mining, as well as the importance of considering both positive and negative impacts on communities.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 27th MARCH 2025. ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & IN PERSON.

Michael emphasised the importance of making regional NSW prominent to metropolitan and national media by presenting stories of families and communities impacted by mining and energy production that are relatable to the communities of Western Sydney.

There was a discussion on the positive and negative impacts of mining communities and that mining is positive for the state but there needs to be a better deal for regional communities. The campaign would focus on the impact of funding cuts on community infrastructure and the need for government revenue to support these community projects.

A question was asked around the impact of the timing of the federal election and it was discussed that the campaign would be more at a state level. It was also mentioned the need for partnerships and that the campaign would also help to increase awareness and drive membership of the association.

(2) The Honourable Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport.

The Honourable Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport arrived to provide an update on regional transport and roads.

Minister Aitchison introduced her senior staff members who were there to make notes of the issues raised during this meeting – Christine Boyd (Chief of Staff) and Anna Dickie (Regional Director – Northen).

The minister discussed:

- The Government's commitment to improving road infrastructure for oversized mass vehicles.
- The importance of collaboration between the state and local governments.
- The need for better road infrastructure to support renewable energy projects.
- The importance of timing and coordination in managing large scale projects.
- The need for a whole-of-government approach to transport and logistics
- The need for community feedback and collaboration in addressing transport and infrastructure challenges.

Council delegates were able to each ask a question of concern for their council and the Minister spoke to each of those concerns. A member council raised concerns about the impact of forestry projects on local roads.

Minister Aitchison was then called to parliament, and her senior advisor Anna was able to continue in her place to finish responding to the rest of the questions and concerns.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 27th MARCH 2025. ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & IN PERSON.

(3) The Honourable Stephen Lawrence, Duty MLC.

The delegates then heard from The Honourable Stephen Lawrence the Duty MLC for Dubbo, Cootamundra, Orange, Bathurst and Barwon regions. Mr Lawrence offered his assistance to the Association in contacting ministers and getting issues heard.

There was mention if it could be possible to not have Newcastle and Wollongong included in regional NSW. Mr Lawrence agreed that Newcastle and Wollongong are important but are not regional.

Mr Lawrence had to leave the meeting at this time and a short break was taken.

OM 7/2025 Resolved (Cr Lord/Cr Marsden) to recommence standing orders at 1:56pm.

12. Executive Officer Report

Delegates requested that the Executive Officer's report be deferred to be dealt with as Item 14, so that Martin Rush, Policy Officer for MERC could present the Policy Officer report as he had to take another meeting.

OM 8/2025 Resolved (Cr Lord/Cr Marsden) to defer the Executive Officers report from Item 12 to be dealt with as Item 14.

13. Policy Officer Report

Martin Rush, Policy Director FTG provided an update on policy initiatives. He emphasised the importance of the resources and energy communities campaign and that Michael Comminos and colleagues seem quite confident in what they are offering which will have a great effect on ministers.

A question was asked to do with the cost for each member council and this was answered with the scope of the campaign would be based on the funds received. Michael Comminos would be asked to approach the Hunter Joint Organisation as he already has a very good working relationship with them. It was also mentioned that the process will include the need to seek other partnerships or contributions from other organisations like the Mining and Energy Union.

The potential return on investment and the importance of collegiality among councils was also mentioned. It was also mentioned that the timeframe for the campaign would be from July to December.

OM 9/2025 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Marsden) that the Policy Officer Report be received and noted, and the resources and energy community advocacy campaign be endorsed.

14. Executive Officer Report

Executive Officer, Greg Lamont had discussed some issues raised from his Executive Officer report earlier in the meeting when talking about Business Arising from the Executive Committee meeting held this morning.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 27th MARCH 2025. ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & IN PERSON.

He discussed the finances and the potential new memberships and the importance of the visitation and the campaign for attracting new memberships.

He also mentioned the speaker list as discussed earlier and the confirmation of meeting dates to aim for Thursday the 5th of June, Thursday the 11th of September as per this meeting and Friday the 14th of November at 1:30pm after the Country Mayors meeting.

The discussion then moved onto the formation of subcommittees for quarrying, benefit sharing and VPAs. The idea would be to have a champion in a council who can lead the committee and benefit their council and others.

There was mention of the complexities of quarries and they too are taking a lot from council areas without contributing and giving back to the communities of where they are taking.

It was proposed that there be a resolution to seek assistance from councils in setting up committees for quarrying, rating and VPAs. In response, the need for concrete issues to be addressed before writing to councils was emphasised.

There was also a suggestion for there to be a subcommittee to address energy production and its financial impact. Several members suggested the importance of focussing on the campaign to increase membership to fund the organisation and ensuring that Ministers pay attention to the Associations issues and concerns for their respective communities.

A comment was made as to how does the Association work to strengthen its political support. It was noted that members would like to put subcommittees on hold and focus on the current campaign for the next 6 months.

OM 10/2025 Resolved (Cr Marsden/Cr Reynolds) that the Executive Officer Report be received and noted.

15. General Business

A discussion was had around the Association formally supporting the Regis Mine. Mayor Reynolds was grateful but shared some of the long-term challenges they are facing.

There was also a thank you to Jonathon Edgecombe of Lithgow City Council for his attendance as an observer.

16. Close – the meeting closed at 3:00pm.

The minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary General Meeting held on 5th of June 2025 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary meeting held on 27th of March 2025.

.....
Cr Kevin Duffy,
Chairperson

OUTBACK ARTS

OUTBACK ARTS INCORPORATED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES Outback Arts Creative Arts Centre, 31st March 2025, 10:10 am

WELCOME: Meeting was opened, and attendees were welcomed by Jamie-Lea Trindall, acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet across the Outback Arts region.

ATTENDANCE:

Kylie Harvey, Ros Jackson, Pip Goldsmith, Jane Keir, Donna Jefferies, Maxime Nina.

Staff: Jamie-Lea Trindall,

Apologies: Lillian Simpson, Emily Stanton

Motion: that the attendance and apologies be accepted.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Pip Goldsmith

1. MINUTES OF LAST AGM HELD ON 3rd April 2023

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 16th April 2024 were circulated to all members.

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 16th April 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Donna Jefferies

CARRIED

2. CHAIRPERSON REPORT –

Notes: I'm proud to highlight the exceptional work accomplished by Jamie-Lea, Polly and Brailey in addressing the cultural needs of our region while laying the groundwork for the continued creativity of this expensive part of New South Wales.

The diversity projects and the LGAs reflect unique characteristics. The exciting purchase in 2024 of the Plaza theatre, and plans for its refurbishment and restoration continue to recognize the need for creativity and connection in our community. Music lessons, line dancing sessions, traveling shows, and a place to rehearse and put on local performances is encouraging the outback arts region to be producers and not simply consumers of the arts.

Highlight in 2024 was season 3 of the Outback Outloud podcast this time focusing on villages, Emma and Caroline from Signal Creative have a knack of being able to uncover stories about

our region and present them in a fresh way, great listening for a road trip, and very encouraging to actually go and visit villages.

Additionally, we see exciting developments in the future within the CASP funding program which remains a vital platform for local projects and initiatives. I look forward to the announcement of the next round of projects to be supported.

Motion: Chair report be accepted.

Moved: Kylie Harvey

Seconded: Pip Goldsmith

CARRIED

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

3.1 TREASURERS REPORT – Ros Jackson

Notes: Just read from the notes 2024 has been a successful financial year, ending December 2024 with a surplus of \$140,627.

The purchase of the Plaza Theatre, a project that began in 2023, and that was settled in February of 2024, is reflected in the audit although it does influence the surplus as the property purchase is deemed an asset resulting in a surplus.

During 2024 outback arts implemented their stock take policy for the gallery. It's been a success. This was done as per the order request of 2023, and the future recommendation is to now implement sign off sheets.

The auditor has some general recommendations about how outback arts can continue continually improve management of its inventory stock taking, and the process of capitalizing, depreciating asset purchases.

As well as some minor adjustments regarding how Outback Arts accounts for some items in MYOB. Otherwise there's nothing significant to report.

I will leave it to Jamie-Lea to provide more detailed information regarding any additional income and expenditure information if that is required.

And I would like to commend Jamie-Lea, Polly and Bookkeeper Greg for doing a fantastic job, keeping everything on track.

Motion: that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Jane Keir

CARRIED

3.2 Auditors report

Notes: as per treasurers' response to the Auditors recommendation above.

Motion: that the 2024 Auditor's report be accepted.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Donna Jefferies

CARRIED

4. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF OUTBACK ARTS FOR 2025

(Jamie-Lea Trindall chaired the election)

4.1 Confirmation of Nomination for Council Representatives

- Outback Arts Inc constitution rule 27.1 regarding the appointment of local government representatives as follows: "Each Council contributing financially to the organisation has the option to appoint one delegate directly to the board".
- According to the Outback Arts Inc. Constitution rule 27.6 each member elected to the board will, subject to these rules, hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting one year following the date of the member's election or co-option but is eligible for re-election or re-co-option provided the member has not held that position for more than two consecutive terms.
- According to the constitution Council Board delegates are exempt from written nomination forms and hold their nomination to their board unless otherwise noted, due to this clause the representatives of each local government area within the Outback Arts region are:

Bourke Shire Council – Maxime Nina

Bogan Shire Council – Emily Stanton

Brewarrina Shire Council – Trish Frail

Cobar Shire Council – Lillian Simpson

Coonamble Shire Council – Pip Goldsmith

Walgett Shire Council – Jane Keir

Warren Shire Council – Ros Jackson

4.2 Nomination for Community Representative Members

The ED confirmed that there are three delegate positions available for community organisations or independent members on the Outback Arts Board. There have been three nominations received.

1. Kylie Harvey

2. Donna Jefferies

3. Vacant – To co-opt

Motion: That Kylie Harvey and Donna Jefferies be elected as Community Representative Members.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Jane Keir

CARRIED

5. Vote for

All positions were open for nominations.

Chairperson

Nomination received: Kylie Harvey

Motion: That Kylie Harvey, as the only nominee, is elected to the position of Chair for 2025.

Moved: Jane Keir

Seconded: Donna Jefferies CARRIED

Vice-Chairperson

Nominations received: Pip Goldsmith

Motion: That, Pip Goldsmith as the only nominee, is elected to the position of Vice-Chair for 2025.

Moved: Kylie Harvey

Seconded: Donna Jefferies

CARRIED

Treasurer

Nomination received: Ros Jackson

Motion: That Ros Jackson, as the only nominee, be appointed as Treasurer of Outback Arts for 2025.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Kylie Harvey

CARRIED

Appointment of the Auditor for 2025 financial year being 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Motion: That the appointed auditor for the 2025 financial period be Thomas McCarthy.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Pip Goldsmith

CARRIED

Appointment of the 2025 signatories

Motion: That Catherine Goldsmith and Barbara Deans to be removed as signatories on all Outback Arts accounts. Kylie Harvey, Jamie-Lea Trindall, Ros Jackson and Pip Goldsmith to be signatories of all Outback Arts accounts and Greg Vaughn as bookkeeper including online banking access with the removal of Catherine Goldsmith and Barbara Deans.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Second: Pip Goldsmith

CARRIED

Appointment of the 2025 Public Fund Sub Committee

Public Fund (Sub Committee to the Board)

The Fund will be administered by a management committee or a subcommittee of the management, a majority of who, because of their tenure of some public office or their professional standing, have an underlying community responsibility, as distinct from obligations solely in regard to the cultural objectives of Outback Arts Inc.

Motion: That the 2025 Public Fund Committee members are Kylie Harvey, Jamie-Lea Trindall, Ros Jackson and Pip Goldsmith

Moved: Jane Keir

Seconded: Donna Jefferies

CARRIED

Appointment of the 2026 CASP board representatives

Motion: That Kylie Harvey and Jane Keir are the 2026 CASP Board representatives.

Moved: Pip Goldsmith

Second: Ros Jackson

CARRIED

Appointment of the Constitutional Sub Committee

Motion: That Kylie Harvey and Ros Jackson are the Constitutional Sub Committee members.

Moved: Pip Goldsmith

Second: Donna Jefferies

CARRIED

Motion: That the staff wages are increased per most recent CPI rate at the next full pay period following the Board meeting.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Second: Jane Keir

Date for the next Annual General Meeting to be held 30th March 2026

Meeting closed at 10.30 am CLOSE



GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

Outback Arts Coonamble and Zoom 10:30am

WELCOME: Meeting was opened, and attendees were welcomed by Kylie Harvey, acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet across the Outback Arts region.

ATTENDANCE:

Kylie Harvey, Ros Jackson, Jane Keir, Donna Jefferies, Pip Goldsmith, Maxime Nina
Staff: Jamie-Lea Trindall

Apologies: Emily Stanton, Lillian Simpson, Trish Frail

Motion: That the attendance and apologies be accepted.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Jane Keir

1. MINUTES - Board Meeting;

Minutes from the last General Meeting held on 1st October 2024 were circulated to all members.

Motion: That the minutes of the General Meeting on 1st October 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Jane Keir

2. BUSINESS ARISING

Notes: no business arising to note

3. REPORTING

3.1 CHAIRS REPORT

Notes: As tabled during the AGM

Motion: That the Chairs report be accepted

Move: Kylie Harvey

Seconded: Ros Jackson

3.2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAM OPERATION REPORT

Notes:

- Current core funding arrangement is under rollover status for 2025. The 4 year funding submission was done in October 2024, and we had expected the outcome notice by mid to late March. Those applicants that are not recommended in this round will be submitting 2 year funding applications. This is an unusual time in the Create NSW funding time where notable changes have been made to the way in which we are funded. Jamie-Lea noted that she was very confident in our submission and look forward to receiving the outcome soon to be able to plan projects including for 2026.
- Historically the state RADOs were funded equally through a negotiated round. The changes made in 2024 include being assessed in a competitive round with increased chances to be funded on an individual basis allowing our organisation to include program funding and increases to funding request.
- CASP project funding will change administration process from 2026, Currently it is supported through Create NSW Smarty grants which we will not have access to after this year. We are looking at new models of online application process in preparation for that. This may allow OBA to increase our designated pool of funds reflective of project increases as the CASP fund has not changed amounts for several years.
- Aboriginal Arts Officer position has been well advertised over the past 12 months and we are now moving to partnership in order to deliver the outcomes on this IVAIS grant. We have established a partnership with Muda Corporation; Bourke Aboriginal Art Gallery to support wage costs to open the Gallery. We have also signed up to a virtual AAO service that will achieve one on one support with our artists, phone calls and direct support for artists to access markets and sales opportunities.
- Summary of grants submitted recently
- Staffing; we have retained Emma Hoy who was contracted as part of Signal Creative last year and worked with OBA on project basis across the last 8 years. She is working remotely one day a week to assist with project development, grant submissions and website redesign including additional services that will be launched on Creative Country with an Industries business listing. The website redesign will integrate all three sites to be more inclusive and interactive across projects and sites.
- Marketing video for OBA is being planned for second half of 2025.
- Outback Outloud season 4 will be coming to the villages on our western side of the region potential places are Louth, Nymagee, The Marra, Hermidale, Weilmoringle, Girilambone.
- Hello Coonamble successful funding of \$50,000 from Coonamble Shire Council for theatre production June to August, attracting new audiences and ABC Backroads tv episode.
- Successful funding of \$200,000 through Clubs NSW Category 3 Infrastructure towards the renovation of the Plaza Theatre. This is timely in receiving as this outcome is desirable for our fundraising strategy timeline.
- Waste2Art partnership with Netwaste is now open to accepting entries from across all of our LGAs that do not have their own Waste2 Art competition. A great outcome for our regional artists wishing to entre into the more competitive round of regional exhibition that Netwaste run across 18 LGAs.

Motion: That the Executive and Operations report be accepted.

Move: Pip Goldsmith

Seconded: Ros Jackson

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Ros Jackson noted the attached financial documents.

Motion: That the treasurers report attached is accepted.

Moved: Ros Jackson

Seconded: Kylie Harvey

Motion: That the 2025 Draft Budget is adopted

Moved: Ros Jackson

Second: Jane Keir

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Presented the 2025 Draft Annual Report

Motion: That the Draft Annual Report is accepted for circulation

Move: Jane Keir

Seconded: Ros Jackson

Presented: the successful funding letter for Clubs NSW Infrastructure Category 3 towards the Plaza refurbishment. And the Successful Regional Arts Fund project for Outback Outloud Season 4 to be recorded in 2025

Motion: That the correspondence register is accepted.

Move: Pip Goldsmith

Seconded: Donna Jefferies

Notes:

- The annual Advisory Council meeting for Regional Arts NSW is being held in May, our Chair Kylie Harvey would usually attend but is unable and Ros Jackson has accepted the offer to attend on behalf of the Outback Arts Board.
- Jane Keir discussed the need for a Walgett Shire Council report to address any return on investment queries from the new councillors and General Manager.
- Jamie-Lea agreed to complete and circulate the Quarterly Report with Minutes following this meeting for all members to use in their reporting back to Council. And create a Return on Investment report for Walgett Shire.
- It was discussed the retirement of our Bookkeeper is looming and we are actively seeking a replacement. If there are any bookkeepers known in the area that may be interested in working with a NFP arts org to reach out.

Next meeting to be advised: July

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
Delegates Report by Councillor S Derrett
to the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held in the
Council Community Room, Warren on Thursday 24th April 2025

ITEM 5

WARREN INTERAGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

(C3-9)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received and noted.

MINUTES OF THE WARREN SUPPORT SERVICES INTERAGENCY MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL COMMUNITY ROOM, WARREN ON 10th April 2025.

MEETING OPENED: 1pm

1. **PRESENT:** Clr Sarah Derrett, Maryanne Stephens (Manager Health and Development Services) and Fleur Magick Dennis (Senior Project Officer – Warren Local Aboriginal Land Council).
Via Teams – Carmel Hannelly (Transport for NSW), Yvonne Warman (Mission Australia), and Lianne Clark (Warren Multipurpose Health Service).

2. **APOLOGIES:** Clr Pauline Serdity and Clr Ros Jackson.
Moved: Clr Sarah Derrett Seconded: Carmel Hannelly

Carried

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 20th February 2025.
Moved: Clr Sarah Derrett Seconded: Maryanne Stephens

Carried

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**
Nil.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
Nil.

6. **ACTION CHECKLIST:** No further updates to the checklist at this time.

7. **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES:**

Carmel Hannelly – Transport for NSW

- TfNSW continues to work with Warren Youth Club with TARP grant.
- Carmel and team have been delivering the Towards Zero presentation to Tafe Students in Dubbo, Orange, Cowra, Forbes, Mudgee, Nyngan, Moree, Cobar, Lithgow and Bathurst.
- Have delivered to approx 550 students with around 8 more classes to do.
- Tafe students are at a high risk travelling long distances to attend Tafe. Focus of our presentation is Speed, Fatigue, Animals, Alcohol/Drugs and Driver distraction/Mobile Phones.
- Delivering Road Safety in the Workplace to Catholic Care at the end of April – Please reach out if your organisation is interested in a similar presentation for your team.
- Double Demerits - Easter (Apr 17-21), Anzac Day (Apr 24-27).

WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
Delegates Report by Councillor S Derrett
to the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held in the
Council Community Room, Warren on Thursday 24th April 2025

ITEM 5

WARREN INTERAGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

CONTINUED

#SafetyNeverTakesAHoliday

- With Easter, the school holidays and ANZAC Day all in April this year, it's going to be a busy month of travel on NSW roads. #SafetyNeverTakesAHoliday. Last Easter public holiday period, 5 people were killed on NSW roads, down from 7 people killed in 2023. **Transport for NSW** wants you to hop on board and promote road safety awareness – it could save someone's life.

Get involved

- Download and share creative assets from the [toolkit](#).
- Follow the [NSW Road Safety Facebook](#) page and share our 'safety never takes a holiday' posts between 11 and 27 April 2025.
- Publish your own road safety messaging using the tagline and #SafetyNeverTakesAHoliday across your social channels, newsletters and websites.
- Visit the [NSW Centre for Road Safety](#) website for more info on staying safe on the road.
- Test how tired you might be before heading out on the road at [testyourtiredself.com.au](#).
- Download and use the [Speed Adviser app](#), a driver's aid to help you stay under the speed limit.
- Visit [livetraffic.com](#) for real-time updates on traffic conditions, including road closures.
- Register on the [Towards Zero Collaboration Hub](#) today for the latest news, toolkits, events and more. For registration help, use our how-to guide.

Yvonne Warmon – Mission Australia

- Currently providing outreach service to Warren 3 days per week, (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) through Specialist Homelessness Services program, Staying Home Leaving Violence program and the upcoming Stronger Together program.
- Working closely with Barnardos, Warren Youth Centre and other local service providers.

Fleur Magick Dennis – Warren Local Aboriginal Land Council

- Reconciliation week activities upcoming.
- NAIDOC Week to be observed this year with a community event to be held at Carter Oval on Saturday 18th October.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Expressions of interest or suggestions for guest speakers at upcoming Interagency meetings was requested. Fleur Magick Dennis volunteered to speak at the June meeting and Carmel Hannelly volunteered to speak at the August meeting.
- Maryanne Stephens advised that the development of a timetable of community services available in Warren is currently being investigated.

9. Date of Next Meeting:
Monday 16th June 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1:56pm.