



Memo to: Mayor Watton

Copy to: All Councillors, General Manager, Directors, Senior Leadership Group and Communications & Engagement Team

From: Robert Maginnity, Director Corporate and Community Services

Subject: Cybersecurity - Planning and Associated Costs

Date: 5 February 2026

Reference: CRM 2356/2026

Mayor Watton and All Councillors

I refer to your enquiry regarding Councils cybersecurity planning and associated costs:

“Cybersecurity is a major factor for any business or organisations these days. Because of the high level importance of this ongoing matter, could you please advise me as to how much per annum council is planning to spend on cybersecurity per annum? Inclusive of relevant staff needed etc.”

The current budget for cyber security for FY 25/26 is \$352,074 and the current draft budget for FY26/26 is \$422,896. The increase is reflective of increases in software license costs for existing software packages used in the monitoring, management and defence of cyber risk.

These amounts are inclusive of employee costs.

Councillors should note that cybersecurity has an increasing focus from the Audit Office of NSW due to the increasing risk that it poses to government agencies and councils and for Council this is routinely audited and reported on each year via the audit process.

With a global trend among most IT software and systems providers to move services into a cloud-based hosting and data storage, Council faces a risk that the location of storage of data cannot be controlled or guaranteed. While Council works to ensure major service providers use data storage facilities in Australia, the risk of supplier failures or changes in legislation in other countries could expose Council to data loss or recovery costs beyond Council's capacity, should those risks materialise. This unavoidable distribution of data and services across multiple providers also blurs the boundaries of what is inside or outside of Council's control, requiring specific measures to manage this risk.

Councils adopted Cyber Security Plan outlines actions already implemented or planned to manage this risk, with updates on the plan reported to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.

Please note a copy of this memo will be uploaded to the Council website.