



13 August 2025

To All Councillors

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers, on Wednesday, 20 August 2025 at 6.30pm, for the purposes of transacting the undermentioned business.

AGENDA:

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(1)	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LAND OWNERS	
(2)	OPENING PRAYER	
(3)	RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE , OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK	
(4)	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
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(15)	COUNCILLORS' REPORTS		

‡ - Denotes that Report is for notation only.



Principles for Local Government

Exercise of functions generally

The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by Councils:

- a) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
- b) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
- c) Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
- d) Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
- e) Councils should work co-operatively with other Councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
- f) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
- g) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
- h) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
- i) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

Council's Values

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Respect
- Excellence
- Teamwork

Our Community's Vision

Cessnock will be a cohesive and welcoming community living in an attractive and sustainable rural environment with a diversity of business and employment opportunities supported by accessible infrastructure and services which effectively meet community need.

Cessnock – thriving, attractive and welcoming.

Our Community's Desired Outcomes

- A connected, safe and creative community.
- A sustainable and prosperous economy.
- A sustainable and healthy environment.
- Accessible infrastructure, facilities and services.
- Civic Leadership and effective governance.



Council Code of Conduct

Council adopted its current Code of Conduct on 23 October 2024. This Code provides details of statutory requirements and gives guidance in respect of the way in which pecuniary and conflict of interest issues must be disclosed. Councillors took an oath or affirmation at the commencement of their term of office under section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and are therefore obligated under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage their conflicts of interest.

Generally, the Code outlines the following issues:

1. Councillors are under an obligation at law to disclose any interest they may have in any matter before the Council as soon as practicable and to refrain from being involved in any consideration or to vote on any such matter where required and out outlined in the Code of Conduct.
2. Councillors must disclose any interest in any matter noted in the business paper prior to or at the opening of the meeting.
3. The nature of the interest shall be included in the disclosure.
4. Councillors shall immediately and during the meeting disclose any interest in respect of any matter arising during the meeting which is not referred to in the business paper.
5. All disclosures of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
6. All disclosures of interest shall as far as is practicable be given in writing.
7. Any member having a pecuniary or non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest shall leave the meeting and remain absent while the subject of the interest is being considered by Council.
8. The meeting shall not discuss any matter in which a Councillor has a pecuniary or non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest while the Councillor is present at the meeting.



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**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY 2025, COMMENCING AT
6.30PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor D Watton (in the Chair) and Councillors Dixon, Grine, Harrington, Hill, Jurd, King, Lea, Madden, Mason, Palmowski and Hawkins.

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting General Manager (Director Planning and Environment)
Acting Director Planning and Environment (Development Services Manager)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
Acting Development Services Manager (Development Services Coordinator)
Strategic Planning Manager
Communications & Engagement Manager
Principal Community Engagement Officer
Help Desk Officer
Council Services Team Leader

**ATTENDANCE BY
AV LINK / LEAVE OF
ABSENSE:**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill
 Seconded: Councillor Harrington

186
RESOLVED that Council permit Councillor Madden to attend the 16 July 2025 Ordinary Council meeting by audio-visual link due to work commitments.

That the Leave of Absence previously granted for Councillor Pascoe 14 – 20 July be noted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd
 Seconded: Councillor Lea

187
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 June 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI7/2025

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

That Councillors now disclose any interests and reasons for declaring such interest in the matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

PE20/2025 - DA 8/2023/753/1 for a staged Development comprising the Demolition of an Existing Dwelling, Swimming Pool and Shed and the Construction of Tourist and Visitor Accommodation, a Function Room, Swimming Pool, Studio/Workshop for Guest Activities, Managers Residence Ancillary Parking and Landscaping - 437 Talga Road LOVEDALE NSW 2325 – Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Significant Conflict for the reason that she put in a submission as a resident against the application. Councillor Jurd advised that she would leave the Chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

PE22/2025 Planning Proposal 18/2025/1/1 - Expansion of Additional Permitted Use Area: Residential Flat Buildings at The Vintage, Pokolbin – Councillor Mason declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that he managed the account for the applicant during his time at former employment. Councillor Mason advised he would remain in the chamber and take part in discussion and voting as the relationship was a former business one and he has no financial or other ties to the developer/applicant.

PE10/2025 - Exhibition of draft Development Control Plan - The Vintage - Councillor Mason declared a Non Pecuniary Less Than Significant Conflict for an Agenda item previously considered by Council for the reason that he managed the account for the applicant during his time at former employment. Councillor Mason apologises to Council and the Community for the omission.

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Significant Conflict for the reason that she put in a submission as a resident against the application. Councillor Jurd left the Chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 6.41pm

The following people addressed the meeting of Council:

Speakers	Company	For / Against	Report	Page No.	Duration
Wayne James		Against	PE20/2025 - DA 8/2023/753/1 for a staged Development comprising the Demolition of an Existing Dwelling, Swimming Pool and Shed and the Construction of Tourist and Visitor Accommodation, a Function Room, Swimming Pool, Studio/Workshop for Guest Activities, Managers Residence Ancillary Parking and Landscaping 437 Talga Road LOVEDALE NSW 2325	41	3 mins

EXTENSION OF TIME

Moved:

Councillor Harrington

Seconded:

Councillor Hill

188

RESOLVED

That an extension of time of one minute be granted to Wayne James to complete presentation.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (11)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Wes Wilson	Wilson Planning	For	<p>PE20/2025 - DA 8/2023/753/1 for a staged Development comprising the Demolition of an Existing Dwelling, Swimming Pool and Shed and the Construction of Tourist and Visitor Accommodation, a Function Room, Swimming Pool, Studio/Workshop for Guest Activities, Managers Residence Ancillary Parking and Landscaping</p> <p>437 Talga Road LOVEDALE NSW 2325</p>	41	3 mins
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PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE20/2025

SUBJECT: DA 8/2023/753/1 FOR A STAGED DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING THE DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING DWELLING, SWIMMING POOL AND SHED AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF TOURIST AND VISITOR ACCOMMODATION, A FUNCTION ROOM, SWIMMING POOL, STUDIO/WORKSHOP FOR GUEST ACTIVITIES, MANAGERS RESIDENCE ANCILLARY PARKING AND LANDSCAPING

437 TALGA ROAD LOVEDALE NSW 2325

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Mason

1. That:

- (i) **Development Application No. 8/2023/753/1 for a staged development comprising the demolition of an existing dwelling, swimming pool and shed and the construction of tourist and visitor accommodation, a function room, swimming pool, studio/workshop for guest activities, managers residence, ancillary parking and landscaping on Lot 280 DP 830846, No. 437 Talga Road Lovedale, be approved pursuant to Sections 4.16 and 4.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, subject to the conditions contained in Enclosure 2 with the following amendments to conditions 30, 73 & 74.**

Condition 30 amended to require upon inspection a register of functions, including patron numbers and event dates.

1. Plan of Management

An amended Plan of Management is to be prepared and submitted to Council for approval prior to the issue of a CC. The Plan of Management is to include (but not limited to) the following:

- The recommendations of the submitted Noise Impact Assessment Report No. 24-2941-R1, dated June 2024.
- A complaints handling register including the procedures involved in responding to complaints and appropriate action undertaken.
- Functions register detailing event dates and guest numbers to be available for Council inspection upon request.

Condition 73 amended to reduce Sunday and Public Holiday operating hours to 8pm.

2. Hours of Operation

- The function room is permitted to operate between the hours of 8.00am and 11.30pm, ***Monday to Saturday and between the hours of 9.00am to 8.00pm on Sundays and public holidays.***
- Outdoor wedding ceremonies and functions are permitted within the internal courtyard area only between the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm.
- Waste collection, loading and deliveries for the purpose approved are to occur only between the hours 7.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Saturday.

Condition 74 amended to restrict functions greater than 60 people to no more than 12 functions in a 12 a month period.

3. Maximum Number of Patrons – Functions

The maximum number of patrons permitted to attend functions at the premises is restricted to a maximum of 110 at any one time. ***No more than 12 functions are permitted per year where patron numbers exceed 60 people.***

(ii) The reasons for the decision (having regard to any statutory requirements applying to the decision) and consideration of community views are as follows:

- The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, is consistent with the objectives of the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP 2011)*.
- The proposed development is, subject to the recommended conditions, consistent with the objectives of the *Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP 2010)*; any variations to prescribed standards within this Plan have been adequately addressed.
- The proposed development is considered to be of an appropriate scale and form for the site.
- The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, will not result in unacceptable adverse impacts upon the natural or built environments.
- Any issues raised in submissions have been taken into account in the assessment report and where appropriate, conditions of consent have been imposed to reasonably mitigate potential impacts. Council has given due consideration to community views when making the decision to determine the application.

(iii) The details contained above be publicly notified pursuant to Section 2.22 and Clause 20(2) of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

2. That Council notify in writing the persons who made a submission with regard to the proposed development, of Council's decision

Foreshadowed Motion

Councillor Harrington

An assessment of the application has been carried out in accordance with Section 4.15(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The proposal is considered to be inconsistent with the matters for consideration under the Act. Accordingly, the application is refused for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development is inconsistent with the objective of the RU4 Primary Production Small Lots zone of the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011* for the reasons outlined below:
 - a. The proposed development is not considered to be a compatible land use, taking into account development on surrounding properties and potential amenity impacts,
 - b. The siting and design of the proposed development does not minimise the potential for conflict between adjoining uses, and
 - c. The proposed development is not considered to be of an appropriate scale having regard to the natural characteristics and constraints of the land (Section 4.15(1)(a)(i) *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).
2. The proposed development is inconsistent with Chapter E.3 – Vineyards District of the Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010, specifically the application fails to meet the required front and side setbacks required under section 3.2.5 (Section 4.15(1)(a)(iii) *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).
3. The proposed development will result in an unacceptable social impact on the locality (Section 4.15(1)(b) *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).
4. The subject site is not considered suitable for the following reasons:
 - a. The proposed development is inconsistent with the establish rural character of the area (Section 4.15(1)(c) *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).
5. The proposed development is not in the public interest (Section 4.15(1)(e) *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Hill

Seconded: Councillor Mason

189

RESOLVED

1. That:

- (ii) **Development Application No. 8/2023/753/1 for a staged development comprising the demolition of an existing dwelling, swimming pool and shed and the construction of tourist and visitor accommodation, a function room, swimming pool, studio/workshop for guest activities, managers residence, ancillary parking and landscaping on Lot 280 DP 830846, No. 437 Talga Road Lovedale, be approved pursuant to Sections 4.16 and 4.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, subject to the conditions contained in Enclosure 2 with the following amendments to conditions 30, 73 & 74**

Condition 30 amended to require upon inspection a register of functions, including patron numbers and event dates.

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- The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, is consistent with the objectives of the ***Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP 2011).***
- The proposed development is, subject to the recommended conditions, consistent with the objectives of the ***Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP 2010)***; any variations to prescribed standards within this Plan have been adequately addressed.
- The proposed development is considered to be of an appropriate scale and form for the site.

- The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, will not result in unacceptable adverse impacts upon the natural or built environments.
- Any issues raised in submissions have been taken into account in the assessment report and where appropriate, conditions of consent have been imposed to reasonably mitigate potential impacts. Council has given due consideration to community views when making the decision to determine the application.

(iii) The details contained above be publicly notified pursuant to Section 2.22 and Clause 20(2) of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

2. That Council notify in writing the persons who made a submission with regard to the proposed development, of Council's decision

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Harrington
Councillor Madden	Councillor King
Councillor Mason	Councillor Lea
Councillor Palmowski	Councillor Watton
Councillor Hawkins	
Total (6)	Total (5)

CARRIED

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 7.09pm

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ALL REPORTS BY ENGLOBE OR INDIVIDUALLY WITH NOMINATED EXCEPTIONS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
190

RESOLVED

That having read and considered the reports in the agenda related to items

OFFICERS REPORTS

‡ CC44/2025	Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025 - Request for Attendance and Motions.....	58
‡ CC46/2025	Investment Report - June 2025	65
‡ CC47/2025	Resolutions Tracking Report	70

Council adopt the recommendations as printed in the business papers for those items.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM5/2025

SUBJECT: HOSTING OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA IN CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

MOTION Moved: Councillor Watton
191
RESOLVED

1. That Council writes to Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, extending a formal invitation to visit the Cessnock Local Government Area;
2. That Council authorises the Mayor's Office to coordinate with the Governor-General's office to explore suitable dates and event opportunities as part of the proposed visit.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM6/2025

SUBJECT: COST SHIFTING ONTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton

192

RESOLVED

1. That Council note the findings of the LGNSW Cost Shifting report for the 2023/2024 financial year; and
2. That Council place a copy of the cost shifting report on Council's website so that our communities can access it; and
3. That Council writes to the Premier, the NSW Treasurer, the NSW Minister for Local Government and the State Member of Cessnock seeking that they urgently address these costs through a combination of regulatory reform and appropriate funding.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU7/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE21/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT VILLAGES STRATEGY - OUTCOMES OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
193

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the Villages Strategy.

FOR	AGAINST
------------	----------------

Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	

Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE22/2025

SUBJECT: PLANNING PROPOSAL 18/2025/1/1 - EXPANSION OF ADDITIONAL PERMITTED USE AREA: RESIDENTIAL FLAT BUILDINGS AT THE VINTAGE, POKOLBIN

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Grine **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
194

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the outcome of the community consultation for the Planning Proposal 18/2025/1/1 - Expansion of Additional Permitted Use Area, Residential Flat Buildings at the Vintage, Wine Country Drive / McDonalds Drive, Pokolbin.
2. That Council forwards the Planning Proposal 18/2025/1/1 to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces with a recommendation that the plan be made pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (11)

AGAINST

Councillor Jurd

Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC44/2025

**SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 -
REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE AND MOTIONS**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
195
RESOLVED

1. That Councillors wishing to attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025 make an application to attend the conference to the General Manager by 1 August 2025 so that Council can determine attendees at the meeting of 20 August 2025.
2. That Councillors consider possible motions for the conference and that they be provided to the General Manager by 1 August 2025 for consideration/endorsement by Council at the meeting of 20 August 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
------------	----------------

Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC45/2025

SUBJECT: DOUBTFUL DEBT WRITE-OFFS - SUNDRY DEBTORS - LOST LIBRARY ITEMS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
196

RESOLVED

1. That Council resolve to write off \$23,063.82 as listed in Enclosure 1 as bad debts against the provision for doubtful debts, in accordance with Clauses 213(5) (a) and (c) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 as the debts are not lawfully recoverable or the Council believes on reasonable grounds that an attempt to recover the debt would not be cost effective.
2. That these write-offs will be included in the Financial Statements for 2024-25.

Councillor Grine left the meeting, the time being 7.48pm

Councillor Grine returned to the meeting, the time being 7.50pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Madden
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC46/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - JUNE 2025

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Hill

Seconded: Councillor Palmowski

197

RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for June 2025 and notes that:

- **Investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy, which is in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order.**
- **Council's month end cash and investments balance was \$97,128,190.**

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC47/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
198
RESOLVED

That Council receives the report and notes the information in the Resolutions Tracking Report.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Lea

Attendance at Barkuma's NAIDOC Family Fun Day 2025

Date: Tuesday, 8 July 2025

Location: Binarri Jinama-Gu, Cessnock

Event Host: Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre

Theme: NAIDOC Week 2025 – *“The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy”*

Overview:

On Tuesday 8 July 2025, I attended Barkuma's NAIDOC Family Fun Day at Binarri Jinama-Gu in my capacity as a Councillor of Cessnock City Council. This vibrant community event, hosted by Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre, was a key celebration during NAIDOC Week, aligning with this year's national theme, *“The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy.”*

Highlights:

- Community stalls, children's activities, art workshops, and live music celebrating Indigenous culture and contributions.
- Strong attendance from local families, Elders, service providers, and community leaders.
- Opportunities for dialogue around local initiatives supporting Aboriginal youth, families, and community development.

Reflections:

The event powerfully reflected the resilience and pride of our First Nations peoples and the importance of cultural connection in shaping future generations. Barkuma's leadership in creating a welcoming, inclusive space for celebration and education deserves high commendation.

I engaged with a range of community members, including young people, Elders, and local service providers. Key themes raised included the importance of culturally safe youth programs, support for Indigenous-led organisations, and ongoing community-led decision-making.

Recommendations:

- That Council continue to support NAIDOC Week events as a critical expression of reconciliation, respect, and community strength.
- That Council explore opportunities to deepen partnerships with Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre and other Aboriginal-led organisations in the region.
- That Council consider identifying future funding or in-kind support for events at Binarri Jinama-Gu to ensure these celebrations grow in reach and impact.

Conclusion:

Barkuma's NAIDOC Family Fun Day was a powerful reminder of the strength, vision, and legacy being cultivated in our local first nations community. I thank Barkuma for their leadership and look forward to continuing to walk alongside our first nations partners in building a stronger, more inclusive Cessnock.

MAYORAL SUMMARY

19 June 2025 to 15 July 2025

19 June – Local Government Procurement hosted their Networking meeting at Rydges Resort in Lovedale and I was invited to Open and Welcome for the event on behalf of Cessnock City Council.

19 June - Roundtable Discussion with The Hon. Yasmin Catley MP Minister for the Hunter & The Hon. Courtney Houssos MLC Minister for Natural Resources – topic: Outlining the NSW Government's Future Jobs and Investment Authority.

20 June - 2CHR Interview – Post Ordinary Meeting

24 – 27 June – National General Assembly ALGA

1 July - Cessnock Fire Station Opening

2 July - Mount View High School NAIDOC Assembly

5 July - Cessnock LGA Naidoc Family Fun Day - Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation – Speech

9 July - Mayor Watton & Clayton Barr MP Catchup

10 July – Media Event: South Cessnock Bund Wall Project

11 July - Hunter Valley Police District Awards Presentation Ceremony in Denman

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 8.03pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 20 August 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**

Disclosures Of Interest

Report No. DI8/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Corporate Governance Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now disclose any interests and reasons for declaring such interest in the matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

SUMMARY

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 regulate the way in which Councillors and nominated staff of council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public trust.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussions, voting on that matter, and require that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Mayoral Minute

Report No. MM7/2025

General Manager's Unit



MAYORAL MINUTE No. MM7/2025

**SUBJECT: DIGITAL INCLUSION AND MOBILE COVERAGE BLACKSPOTS IN
THE CESSNOCK LGA**

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council write to the Federal Minister for Communications, the NSW Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, and relevant telecommunications providers outlining the urgent need to address mobile coverage blackspots in our LGA, such as Bucketty and surrounding communities.
2. That Council request inclusion of Cessnock LGA in future rounds of the Mobile Black Spot Program and any relevant funding initiatives.
3. That Council advocate for a coordinated approach to mobile service delivery in regional NSW that prioritises public safety and economic participation.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Our rapidly growing Local Government Area continues to face challenges in the area of digital inclusion, particularly in mobile phone service coverage. Reliable mobile connectivity is no longer a luxury – it is an essential service for safety, commerce, education, and community wellbeing. Several communities in our region continue to experience poor or non-existent mobile phone reception. The most pressing of these is the Bucketty area and surrounds, which currently have **no mobile coverage**. This is not only a barrier to communication and economic participation, but it also poses a significant public safety risk in the event of emergencies, bushfires, or accidents.

With population growth and an increase in visitors to our region, the lack of coverage is becoming increasingly dangerous. The Cessnock LGA, like many regional communities, deserves access to the same level of connectivity as metropolitan areas. The presence of mobile coverage blackspots undermines our ability to attract and support residents, businesses, and tourism.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Mayoral Minute

Report No. MM8/2025

General Manager's Unit



MAYORAL MINUTE No. MM8/2025

**SUBJECT: NSW GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council write to the NSW Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government requesting that the NSW Government begin contributing to telecommunications infrastructure funding in line with other states and territories.
2. That Council seek the support of the Hunter Joint Organisation to lobby collectively for this policy change.
3. That Council request that the NSW Government prioritise high-risk, no-coverage areas such as Bucketty in any future mobile coverage funding programs.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Telecommunications infrastructure in regional Australia is typically delivered through a partnership model involving all levels of government alongside the telecommunications industry. In most states and territories, State Governments contribute funding to ensure regional and remote communities are connected. However, NSW appears to be an outlier in this space, with the majority of infrastructure funding for regional mobile coverage improvements coming solely from the Federal Government and telecommunications companies. This leaves communities like ours disadvantaged compared to their interstate counterparts, where State Governments contribute their fair share.

The absence of NSW State Government funding in line with other jurisdictions is creating inequity in service delivery and limiting the capacity to address mobile coverage blackspots. This situation is particularly concerning for high-risk and growing communities in our LGA, such as Bucketty and surrounds, which have **no mobile reception**. The responsibility to ensure safe, reliable, and accessible telecommunications services should be shared across all levels of government. The current funding model in NSW risks leaving many regional areas behind in the area of digital inclusion.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Motions of Urgency

Report No. MOU8/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *MOTIONS OF URGENCY*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Corporate Governance Manager*

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now indicate if there are any matters of urgency which they believe should be conducted at this meeting of Council.

SUMMARY

Under Clause 9.3 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, business may be transacted at a meeting of Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors. This can only happen if a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting, the Mayor rules that the business is of great urgency and the business notified in the agenda for the meeting has been disposed of.

Only the mover of such a motion can speak to the motion before it is put.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

SUBJECT: *REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Regulatory Services Manager*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the revised Compliance and Enforcement Policy (Policy). The revised Policy has been updated in line with the NSW Ombudsman Guidelines and with policies adopted by Councils of a similar size and demographic as Cessnock. The revised Policy has removed excess jargon as well as information that was not required to provide a more concise and user-friendly document.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the revised Compliance and Enforcement Policy 2025 to replace the existing policy.

BACKGROUND

The Compliance and Enforcement Policy (Policy) is required to be reviewed and updated regularly. The existing Policy had its last major review in 2020.

The review of the Policy included gaining an understanding of the different approaches taken by similar Councils across NSW following the introduction of the Ombudsman New South Wales 'Guidance for organisations'. This review was undertaken with the view to create a revised Policy for Cessnock local government area using the lessons learnt from other Councils in recent years.

The result of this review has created a more concise and user-friendly Policy by removing unnecessary information that is already addressed in legislation and case law.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the draft Policy be adopted by Council to replace the existing policy.

OPTIONS

1. The revised Policy be adopted by Council. ***This is the recommended option.***
2. To further amend the revised Policy prior to adoption.
3. Not support the revised Policy

CONSULTATION

- Regulatory Services Coordinators
- Executive Leadership Team

Planning and Environment

Report No. PE23/2025

Planning and Environment



STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

The revised Policy aligns with the following objectives:

- Objective 1.4 Foster safe communities.
- Objective 3.1 Protect our biologically diverse natural environment.
- Objective 5.3 Ensure we are accountable and responsive to our community.

b. Other Plans

Nil

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

This report has regard to the Ombudsman New South Wales 'Guidance for organisations' that identifies NSW public sector agencies obligations to undertake compliance enforcement in accordance with adopted policies.

b. Financial Implications

The revised Policy will support the Regulatory Services team in undertaking enforcement and compliance action.

c. Legislative Implications

Nil

d. Risk Implications

Without an up-to-date policy, enforcement action under taken by Council staff may be inconsistent with current NSW requirements.

e. Environmental Implications

The purpose of the revised Policy is to promote regulatory compliance whilst actively seeking to identify, mitigate or eliminate potential risks that may impact the natural and built environments.

f. Other Implications

Nil

Planning and Environment

Report No. PE23/2025

Planning and Environment



CONCLUSION

The Compliance and Enforcement Policy was last updated in 2020. The revised Policy has been updated in line with the NSW Ombudsman guidelines as well as Councils of a similar size and demographic as Cessnock.

The revised Policy is a more concise and fit for purpose Policy.

ENCLOSURES

- 1 ➡ Current Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- 2 ➡ Proposed Compliance and Enforcement Policy

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC48/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *PROPERTY MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

SUMMARY

This report responds to a Council-resolution for a review of existing policy governing leasing agreements with sporting clubs with a view to simplifying processes and supporting sustainability of local clubs.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised Property Management Policy 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Property Management Policy (Policy) provides clarity and guidance on how Council will manage its property assets portfolio in accordance with legislative and operational requirements. The Policy (**Enclosure 1**) was initially adopted in 2018 and revised in 2023.

At the meeting held 21 May 2025, Council considered an Urgency Motion and resolved “*that Council urgently reviews the existing policy governing leasing agreements with sporting clubs with a view to simplifying processes and supporting sustainability of local club.*”

Section 6 of the Policy deals with *Leasing and Licensing of Council Property* and separately deals with licences granted over community land, primarily to community-based, not for profit organisations, and commercial leases or licences granted over operational land held for investment purposes. The Policy stipulates Council enter into all licences and leases in accordance with the Property Management Guideline (Guidelines).

REPORT/PROPOSAL

The Policy ensures Council manages, develops and invests in land and property assets in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and policy-related guidelines and protocols. The Guidelines were last revised and adopted by the Executive Leadership Team on 9 June 2023.

The Policy has been reviewed and is considered fit for purpose to ensure equitable and consistent application for groups seeking to use Council land or facilities under an agreement. For Councillors information, an extract of relevant sections of the Guidelines that guide leasing and licensing of Council and managed Crown land.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC48/2025

Corporate and Community Services



Eligibility criteria for community or sporting groups

8.12 Where a Council property is deemed to be eligible to lease or licence part or all the property, a community or sporting group will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The group is not operating for the profit or (direct or indirect) gain of its individual members.
- The group is financially viable.
- The group has a Committee of Management with established accountability and reporting methods.
- The group adheres to all relevant Council policies.
- The group is able to demonstrate that the use of the property will further the strategic objectives of the Cessnock local government area.

8.13 A community or sporting group may be required to complete an application form to exclusively lease or licence all or part of a Council property.

8.14 Council will consider rental subsidies for community or sporting groups in accordance with clause 8.3. Where a community or sporting groups pays the minimum fee as prescribed in Council's fees and charges, they will generally be responsible for the all costs associated with the facility including, but not limited to, building insurance, long-term maintenance and structural integrity of the property.

Crown land (council as the trustee)

8.15 The Crown Land Management Act 2016 commenced on 1 July 2018 stipulating council managers of dedicated or reserved Crown land must manage the land under the Local Government Act 1993 as if it were community land, including in relation to the leasing and licensing of community land. Councils are no longer required to seek the Minister for Lands' approval for dealings such as leases or licences.

8.16 The purpose for which leases and licences are granted over Crown land managed by Council must be authorised in a plan of management prepared and adopted in accordance with the provisions of Division 2 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act 1993.

8.17 Councils are eligible to apply for grants from the Public Reserve Management Fund Program to support management and maintenance of Crown reserves.

Management Mechanisms

8.3 Council manages its properties through a number of mechanisms including:

8.3.1 Developing Plans of Management and regimes for the use, maintenance and development of properties controlled by Council.

8.3.2 Entering into leases, licences or service agreements to regulate the use and occupation of properties.

8.3.3 Ensuring property is used for its designated purpose in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in a lease or licence agreement or in accordance with a specified Plan of Management.

8.3.4 Ensuring that the principle of competitive neutrality is applied.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC48/2025

Corporate and Community Services



8.3.5 Ongoing review of the property portfolio to determine performance, utilisation, need and provision.

OPTIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

- Property Services
- Director Corporate and Community Services
- Chief Financial Officer

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

A sustainable and healthy environment -

- Objective 3.2: Better utilisation of existing open space

Civic leadership and effective governance -

- Objective 5.3: Ensuring Council is accountable and responsive to the community

b. Other Plans

Nil

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

With regard to lease or license of Council sporting facilities, the Policy mandates use of procedural attachments to the Guidelines which are designed to pilot effective and legislatively compliant conduct in all aspects of Council property management.

b. Financial Implications

Nil

c. Legislative Implications

Nil

d. Risk Implications

The Policy and related Guidelines manage Council's exposure to legal, financial and reputational risk through mandatory compliance with comprehensive procedures designed to ensure transparent, equitable and compliant Council property management.

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



e. Environmental Implications

Nil

f. Other Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

Adoption of the revised Policy and periodic review of related Guidelines and procedures ensures processes will be simplified and local sporting clubs will continue to be supported.

ENCLOSURES

- 1 ➡ Draft Property Management Policy _ with tracked changes _ 20-08-2025

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC49/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: ***ADOPTION OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2025-2029***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: ***Community & Cultural Development Manager***

SUMMARY

This report to Council seeks adoption of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029.

BACKGROUND

The *NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014* mandates local councils to have a Disability Inclusion Action Plan and requires a review of their Plan every four years, meaning for Council the current Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025 is due for review.

A draft Plan was presented at the Council Meeting held 18 June 2025 and it was resolved to place it on public exhibition. The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029 was publicly exhibited from 19 June to 18 July 2025.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

3 submissions were received from internal and external sources during the exhibition period. Table 1 outlines the submissions received and the action taken as a result of the submissions.

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



Table 1 – Actions arising from submissions during the exhibition period

Submission	Action taken	Relevant action in the plan	Page number
An anonymous submission was received that stated only 'It's ok, but need more accessibility options'.	The Plan once adopted will be developed and made available in an accessible format, i.e., an easy read version.	N/A	N/A
A submission was received reporting challenges navigating a kerb at a pedestrian crossing within the Cessnock CBD.	As this was not a submission relating to the draft Plan, a customer request was lodged to report the matter and the respondent was provided with the reference number.	N/A	N/A
A submission was received asking that the Plan include 2 actions for emergency preparedness and disaster resilience of people with disability.	2 new actions were added to the Plan.	Action 2.10 and Action 2.11 added.	42

A copy of the Plan is provided at **Enclosure 1** and a copy of the exhibited Plan is available on Council's 'Together Cessnock' website <https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/draftdiap2025>.

OPTIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Development of the draft Plan commenced in 2024. Engagement with the community commenced from 27 July 2024 and concluded 8 September 2024. Over 350 people including people with disability, family and friends of people with disability, carers and local service providers participated in the consultation process.

The community was consulted in a variety of ways with the aim to ensure all who had a desire to participate in the consultation were able to and it included:

- Together Cessnock page with a video explaining what the Plan was about and why it was important for Council to talk to people about it. The page also included an online survey and a discussion board.
- Direct email invitations to participate in the consultation.
- One-on-one meetings (via phone and in person).
- Engagement at community events.
- Social media engagement (posts with likes/comments/shares).
- Stakeholder/agency meetings.

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The consultation findings were also discussed with Business Units across Council and 19 internal stakeholder meetings were held to further define the actions Council could take.

The draft Plan was publicly exhibited during June and July 2025 with 3 submissions received.

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

The Delivery Program 2025-2029 includes the action 1.1.4 'Improve opportunities for people with disability to access services, activities, facilities and information'.

b. Other Plans

N/A

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

N/A

b. Financial Implications

Delivery of actions arising from the Plan will predominantly be incorporated into Council's existing operational budget and some actions will be subject to grant funding opportunities. Where grant funding is sought, it has been noted in the Plan.

c. Legislative Implications

The *NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014*, Part 2 Division 3, Section 14 Review and remake of plans (Disability Inclusion Action Plans) requires:

- Council to review its current four-year Disability Inclusion Action Plan before it ends, meaning for Council this is prior to 30 June 2025.
- In reviewing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, Council must consult with people with disability.
- Within 12 months after the completion of the review, Council must have in place a Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Legislation also requires Councils to report on their progress towards implementation of their Plan in the Annual Report.

d. Risk Implications

Nil

e. Environmental Implications

Nil

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f. Other Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029 provides an opportunity to further build on accessibility and inclusivity across our community and is recommended to be adopted by Council.

ENCLOSURES

[1](#) ➡ Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC50/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *CARRY FORWARDS AND REVOTES 2025-26*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

SUMMARY

As per the Project Authorisation and Revotes Policy, the Responsible Accounting Officer is required to report to Council outlining requested revotes. Approved revotes will be added to the budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes that there are no revotes proposed.
2. That Council notes that the following carry forward expenditure is automatically carried forward as per Clause 211(3) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*:
 - Carry forward operating expenditure of \$1,641,541.
 - Carry forward capital expenditure of \$8,453,393 for capital projects commenced prior to 30 June 2025.

And that General Funds component of the above is \$767,092.

BACKGROUND

The Project Authorisation and Revotes Policy (Policy) applies to programs or projects which have approved budgets that are, or are likely to be, either a work in progress, not commenced, or not commenced but be at least contracted to be carried out or provided at the end of the financial year. The Policy covers the scope of Clause 211 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Expenditure under the regulation is divided into two categories:

1. Work in Progress – these are projects that have incurred a cost or a commitment as at the end of the financial year. Council terminology is that these are noted as carry forward expenditure.
2. Unspent allocations – projects that have not incurred a cost or a commitment as at the end of the financial year. Council terminology is that these are noted as a revote.

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



Clause 211(3) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* notes:

All such approvals and votes lapse at the end of a council's financial year. However, this subsection does not apply to approvals and votes relating to—

- (a) work carried out or started, or contracted to be carried out, for the council, or*
- (b) any service provided, or contracted to be provided, for the council, or*
- (c) goods or materials provided, or contracted to be provided, for the council, or*
- (d) facilities provided or started, or contracted to be provided, for the council,*

before the end of the year concerned, or to the payment of remuneration to members of the council's staff.

This clause has the effect of an automatic rollover for projects and commitments commenced prior to the end of the financial year. Consequently, these projects as per point 2 of the recommendation are only for noting.

Council's finance team worked with all departments to determine amounts required to be carried forward or revoted for the financial year 2025/26. Managers were required to provide a rationale for the needed expenditure which were subsequently reviewed against future budget allocations. As per the Policy, the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) were provided details on proposed carry forwards and revotes for endorsement prior to Council submission.

Operating Expenditure

As a general rule, operating expenditure is not accepted unless for unspent grant funded programs or are already committed via contract or resolution, due to the additional operating expenditure having a negative effect on council's operating result. Where programs are underspent for the prior year but have a budget for the coming year no revote is endorsed.

\$1,641,541 of carry forward operating expenditure was endorsed by the ELT as outlined below:

- \$1,395,875 in commenced projects. (Carry forwards)
- \$245,666 in projects not commenced but with committed expenditure, ie contracts and purchase orders in place. (Carry forwards)

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC50/2025

Corporate and Community Services



This consists of \$1,471,245 of grant funds and \$170,296 of general funds for projects below:

Program	\$ Carry forward
Grant-Greta Oval Bush Regeneration	17,608
Grant - Artificial Intelligence in NSW Planning Council Early Adopter Grant Program	90,069
Grant - Background Studies for Anambah to Branxton Regionally Significant Growth Area	676,060
Grant - Local Priority Program - Digitisation of local history photographs	20,000
Grant - Local Priority Program - Engage Literacy Teacher	9,190
Grant - Illegal Dumping Prevention EPA	126,476
Grant - ARGN1025 LR EPAR Package 2 Unsealed Roads	246,836
Grant - Koala Community Engagement	7,290
Grant - Update of the Cessnock Flood Planning Framework Policies and Planning Instruments	47,000
Grant - Cessnock Commercial Precinct - Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan	178,666
Grant - Sawyers Gully Flood Study	52,050
Lidar flood system	168,296
Schools Grants - Environment & Waste	2,000
Total	1,641,541

Capital Expenditure

By their nature capital projects tend to be completed across multiple financial years. The ELT endorses \$8,453,393 of capital expenditure, which are all projects currently in progress.

\$2,428,911 of this expenditure is from grant funded projects, \$4,099,775 from the Waste Reserve, \$719,177 from the plant reserve and \$596,796 general funds. The balance is from a mix of available Loan Funds, Developer Contributions and other reserves.

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Capital Project	\$ Carry forward
PMF-2022-005 Black Creek, Stage 2 Flood Risk Management	75,161
PMF-2022-004 Greta Floodplain Risk Mgt Study	65,526
Local Priority Library - Replace after hours Shutes	8,240
Local Priority Program Library - Minor Furniture Items	15,631
Local Priority Program - Hublet Unit for Kurri Kurri Library	2,523
PMF-2022-006 South Cessnock Flood Mitigation Const	167,694
CBS-2021-001 Doyle Street Cessnock I&D	38,608
CDR-2024-006 Thomas St North Rothbury Betterment	276,905
Domestic Waste Management Disposal - Capital	267,060
CFW-2021-003 New Landfill Development	3,832,715
PACC - Capital	25,379
RBC-2022-005 CPAC Refurbishment	17,975
Depot Pavement Works	10,056
Storage Construction	50,000
Heavy Vehicle Capital Replacement	220,527
Leaseback Vehicle Capital Replacement	498,649
CFT-2019-003 Wollombi Road Wollombi Intersection	654,447
CPW-2018-005 Branxton to Greta Cycleway	415,385
CPW-2022-004 Bridges Hill to Wine Country Drive	39,642
CPW-2023-001 Dalwood Rd East Branxton Shared Path	23,380
CPW-2024-004 Cessnock to Abermain Shared path	35,988
CPW-2024- Kurri Kurri to Testers Hollow-Cliftleigh/Gillieston	143,326
CPW-2025-003 Pokolbin Pathways Stages	159,211
CRR-2025-Sandy Creek Road	587,570
Anderson Avenue Paxton _ Active Transport Connection	71,114
RRL-2024-010 Heddon St, Heddon Greta-Ph1 Inv&Design	79,612
CAP-043 B`ment of Wollombi Walking shared path	120,289
RRL-2025 Middle Road Paxton - Construction	15,152
RCC-2022-001 Cessnock CBD Civic Stg 2 Lib Shared Z	7,715
CTB-2023-001 Church St to Anvil Ck Bridge Nth Side	142,675
RBR-2025 Turner Park - Tennis Clubhouse Changerooms	78,846
CFR-2024-004 Kurri Kurri Sportsground Upgrades	247,618
RFR-2025 Cessnock Hockey Fence	45,885
CFR-2022-007 Cessnock Regional Skate Park	12,889
Total	8,453,393

OPTIONS

N/A

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC50/2025

Corporate and Community Services



CONSULTATION

Management team
Council finance staff
Executive Leadership Team

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

Requested expenditure touch on all areas of the Delivery Program.

b. Other Plans

Nil

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Project Authorisation and Revotes Policy outlines requirements for Council to approve carry forward and additional expenditure

b. Financial Implications

Financial implications are as outlined in the report.

c. Legislative Implications

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

d. Risk Implications

Not approving carry forward expenditure exposes Council to having to potentially repay grants or breach contracted payments and may deprive the community of projects outlined in the previous Operational Plan.

e. Environmental Implications

Nil

f. Other Implications

Nil

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC50/2025

Corporate and Community Services



CONCLUSION

Council is required to authorise the requested additional expenditure as outlined in the report as per the Regulation and Council Policy.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC51/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025
- ATTENDANCE, VOTING DELEGATES, AND MOTIONS*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Corporate Governance Manager*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to determine Councillor attendance and voting delegates for the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes that Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hawkins, Hill and Lea and have expressed interest in attending the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.
2. That Council supports attendance at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025 of *[insert names of Councillors]*.
3. That Council determines that *[insert names of Councillors]* each exercise *[insert number]* of the four voting entitlements for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.

BACKGROUND

The LGNSW Annual Conference 2025 (Conference 2025) is scheduled to be held in Penrith from Sunday 23 November to Tuesday 25 November 2025. Details about the Conference 2025 are available at <https://lgnswconference.org.au/>.

Council needs to determine attendees, voting delegates, and endorse any motions proposed for submission to the Conference 2025.

Board Elections

Councillors wishing to be involved in setting the strategic direction and policy position of LGNSW may nominate for a position on the LGNSW Board. Nominations open 1 July 2025 and close 21 October 2025. Information is available on the LGNSW website.

Voting

Pursuant to the Members' voting entitlement of the LGNSW, Cessnock City Council is entitled to 4 votes for voting on motions, and 4 vote for voting in Board elections. Votes are exercised by one or more voting delegates appointed by Council.

If less than four Councillors attend the Conference 2025, Council needs to determine how many voting entitlements may be exercised by each Councillor in attendance.

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



Motions

Each year, LGNSW members submit a range of motions to the LGNSW Annual Conference. These motions relate to strategic local government issues which affect members state-wide and introduce new or emerging policy issues. They are debated and resolved by Conference delegates, with successful resolutions establishing LGNSW's policy positions and guiding LGNSW's advocacy priorities for the year ahead.

Council may submit motions for discussion at the Conference 2025 in accordance with the criteria.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Attendance

Councillors wishing to attend the Conference 2025 were requested to make application to the General Manager by 1 August 2025, in accordance with Council resolution and Council's *Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy*.

Requests to attend have been received from Mayor Watton and Councillors Hawkins, Hill, Lea and Palmowski.

Voting delegates

Council needs to determine which attendees will exercise Council's voting entitlements.

Motions

Councillors were requested to notify the General Manager of any suggested motions by 1 August 2025 so that Council could determine the motions to be referred to the Association at this meeting. At the date of this report, no motions were submitted.

CONSULTATION

Interim General Manager
Director Corporate & Community Services

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

This report is linked to the Community's Desired Outcome Objective 5 "Civic Leadership and Effective Governance".

b. Other Plans

N/A

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Application for attendance to the LGNSW Annual Conference is in accordance with the adopted *Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy*.

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b. Financial Implications

Funding is nominally allocated for attendance in the Councillors conference budget. That is, Council Policy provides for attendance and should this be taken up, a budget adjustment will be required at quarterly review to allocate the funding.

The cost per attendee is approximately \$2,500 with a total cost to Council of approximately \$12,500 for five attendees.

c. Legislative Implications

N/A

d. Risk Implications

N/A

e. Other Implications

N/A

CONCLUSION

This report provides information on the LGNSW Annual Conference 2025 and provides Council with the opportunity to determine Councillor attendance and voting delegates.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC52/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *INVESTMENT REPORT - JULY 2025*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

SUMMARY

Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) and Council's Investment Policy (the Policy) requires a monthly report to Council detailing all money invested.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Investment Report for July 2025 and notes that:

- **Investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy, which is in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order.**
- **Council's month end cash and investments balance was \$88,860,580.**

BACKGROUND

A monthly report to Council detailing money invested as per the Act, Regulation and Policy.

REPORT

Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer

The Responsible Accounting Officer has certified that this report is produced in accordance with Clause 212 of the Regulation and that all investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulation and Policy.

General Investment Commentary

Council officers monitor and manage the cash and investment portfolio by taking into consideration credit ratings of financial institutions, interest rates offered for periods of investment, counterparty exposures and cash flow requirements.

Following assessment of projected cash flow requirements, surplus funds are invested in accordance with the Policy. Investment returns of the portfolio to the end of July 2025 are exceeding budget.

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Investment Portfolio Information

Table 1 Total cash and investments held by Council as at 31 July 2025

Invest No	Financial Institution Investment Held With	Invest Type	Interest Coupon Term	Maturity	Current Coupon Rate	Par Value \$'000
	Commonwealth Bank	CASH			3.50%	1,012
	Commonwealth Bank	At Call			4.35%	24,041
	Commonwealth Bank	At Call			3.50%	746
1243	AMP Bank	At Call			2.25%	558
1523	National Bank	TD	363	23-Sep-25	4.90%	4,000
1527	Suncorp Bank	TD	312	19-Nov-25	5.05%	5,000
1528	Suncorp Bank	TD	245	05-Nov-25	4.70%	3,000
1529	Bank of Queensland	TD	189	10-Sep-25	4.75%	2,000
1530	Suncorp Bank	TD	182	23-Sep-25	4.70%	4,000
1531	National Bank	TD	147	24-Sep-25	4.42%	5,000
1532	National Bank	TD	209	25-Nov-25	4.32%	5,000
1533	National Bank	TD	270	10-Feb-26	4.33%	2,500
1534	Bank of Queensland	TD	275	05-Mar-26	4.20%	6,000
1535	Bank of Queensland	TD	183	03-Dec-25	4.30%	2,500
1536	Bank of Queensland	TD	218	07-Jan-26	4.30%	5,000
1537	Suncorp Bank	TD	365	03-Jun-26	4.14%	4,000
1538	Suncorp Bank	TD	299	21-Apr-26	4.24%	2,500
1539	AMP Bank	TD	183	03-Dec-25	4.45%	2,500
1540	Bank of Queensland	TD	218	28-Jan-26	4.37%	2,000
1541	Suncorp Bank	TD	272	30-Mar-26	4.30%	3,000
1463	Treasury Corporation	Growth Fund				4,504
TOTAL						88,861

Table 2 Level of funds held and the percentage invested with financial institutions

Financial Institution	Credit Rating	Institution Maximum	Amount \$'000	% of Portfolio
National Australia Bank	AA-	40%	16,500	26.40%
Suncorp Bank	AA-	40%	21,500	34.40%
AMP Bank	BBB+	15%	2,500	4.00%
Bank of Queensland	A-	40%	17,500	28.00%
Treasury Corporation	Unrated	30%	4,504	7.20%
TOTAL			62,504	100.00%

In accordance with the Policy, figures in Table 2 above exclude cash and at call balances in Council's main operating account held with the Commonwealth and AMP banks.

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Investment in NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp)

TCorpIM Funds are unit trusts. Distributions are made annually and are automatically reinvested into the fund to buy additional units. As this investment is held for medium to long-term capital appreciation, gains or losses will only be realised on redemption of the investment.

The July 2025 unrealised return was a gain of \$30,584 or 0.68% (0.68% annualised).

Table 3 NSW Treasury Corporation Performance Summary (June 2025)

	10 years (% pa)	7 years (% pa)	3 years (% pa)	1 year %	FYTD %	1 month %
IM Medium Term Growth Fund	419	4.11	6.87	8.13	8.13	1.29
Benchmark: CPI + 2.0% p.a. (over rolling 5 years)	4.73	5.18	6.25	4.79	4.79	0.39
Return above benchmark p.a.	(0.54)	(1.07)	0.62	3.34	3.34	0.90

Table 4 Investment types, risk, amount and percentage invested compared to total.

Investment Type	Risk Assessment		Amount	% Of
	Capital	Interest	\$'000	Portfolio
Term Deposits	Low	Low	58,000	65.27%
Cash/At Call Deposits	Low	Low	26,356	29.66%
Capital Growth Fund	Medium	Medium	4,504	5.07%
TOTAL			88,861	100.00%

Table 5 Comparison of interest rates, earnings and balances this year to last year

Performance Measures	This Year	Last Year
Investment Portfolio Average Interest Rate (year to date)	4.65%	6.37%
BBSW Average Interest Rate (year to date) *	3.60%	4.49%
Actual Investment Interest Earned (for the current month)	\$305,275	\$302,364
Actual Investment Interest Earned (year to date) ^	\$305,275	\$302,364
Revised Budget Investment Interest (year to date)	\$229,167	\$208,333
Original Budget Investment Interest (annual)	\$2,750,000	\$2,500,000
Revised Budget Investment Interest (annual)	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000
TCorp unrealised movement (year to date)	0.68%	1.87%

Investment and Cash Balances (Par Value) #	This Year	Last Year
Opening Balance as at 1 July	\$97,128,204	\$83,084,775
Closing Balance as at 31 July	\$88,860,580	\$73,171,910

* BBSW 90-day Bank Bill Reference Rate (performance measure as per Council's Investment Policy)

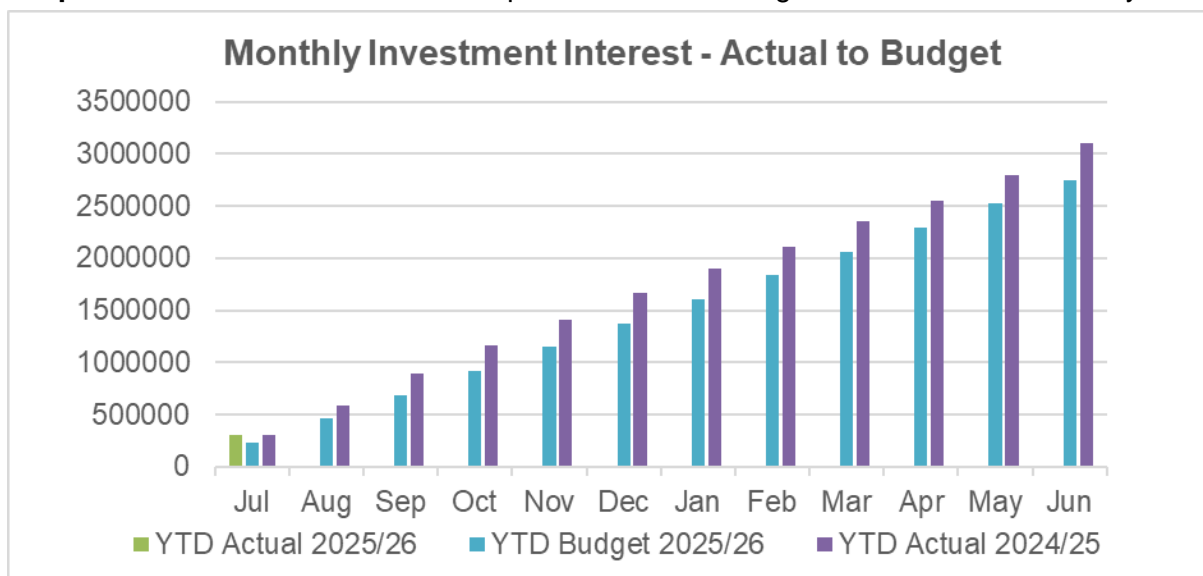
^ Excludes TCorp unrealised returns

Excludes Section 355 Committee cash held

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services

**Graph 1** Actual interest earned compared to revised budget and actual interest last year**Table 6** Internal and external restrictions over cash and investments held

Month End Totals \$'000	Jul 2025	Jun 2025	May 2025	Apr 2025	Mar 2025	Feb 2025
External Restrictions	81,418	87,214	75,097	65,828	59,434	61,357
Internal Restrictions	7,349	9,823	9,671	3,450	3,450	3,800
Total Restrictions	88,767	97,037	84,768	69,278	62,884	65,157
<i>Prepaid grant expenditure to be reimbursed</i>			-	-	-	-
Unrestricted	94	91	399	942	303	826
Total Cash & Investments	88,861	97,128	85,167	70,220	63,187	65,983

*The restricted funds shown above for July and August are provisional and are subject to change through the financial statement process. This will only be final once audited and published in the annual financial statements. Material changes will be advised to Council.

CONSULTATION

- Director Corporate and Community Services
- Chief Financial Officer
- Finance staff

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC52/2025

Corporate and Community Services



STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

Investment returns are an integral part of funding for future services and community expectations within the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. This report is a part of Council's governance framework – providing feedback on the progress against the investment policy and budget. This is in line with the community's desired outcome of: "*Civic Leadership and Effective Governance*" and more specifically links to strategic direction:

5.3.2: Our Council's processes are efficient and transparent;

5.3.3: Our Council is financially sustainable.

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

b. Financial Implications

Investment returns are included in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Amendments are affected through the Quarterly Budget Review process. Investment portfolio performance is detailed within the report with comparisons to prior year and budget.

A portion of the portfolio and its associated investment income is restricted as it relates to funds from developer contributions, payments in advance for grant projects, Domestic Waste Management, and stormwater management income to be applied to specific purposes and not available for general operational projects.

c. Legislative Implications

This report meets Council's statutory obligations under the Act and Regulation.

d. Risk Implications

Investment risks are detailed within this report.

e. Other Implications

There are no environmental, community, consultative or other implications to this report.

CONCLUSION

The report details investments held at month end and meets Councils reporting obligations.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC53/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Corporate Governance Manager*

SUMMARY

The enclosure contains pending actions from previous meetings as well as completed actions for period 08 July 2025 to 11 August 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the report and notes the information in the Resolutions Tracking Report.

ENCLOSURES

- [1](#) ➡ Completed Actions
- [2](#) ➡ Outstanding Actions

Works and Infrastructure

Report No. WI8/2025

Works and Infrastructure



SUBJECT: ***REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP & FEE WAIVING - AUSTRALIAN POSTIE BIKE GRAND PRIX***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: ***Infrastructure Manager***

SUMMARY

Council has been approached by the organisers of the 2025 Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix, who are seeking Council support for the event that is to be held in the streets of the Cessnock Business District (CBD) on the weekend of 25 and 26 October 2025.

The Grand Prix is an annual not-for-profit event being run by the Cessnock Motor Cycle Club (CMCC) to entertain the local community and benefit local businesses. 2025 marks the 11th anniversary of the inaugural running of this popular civic event which has been safely and successfully conducted since 2014, other than a forced two-year hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This report details the sponsorship and fee waiving request for the upcoming 2025 event and it has been prepared in line with Council's Community Sponsorship and Fee Waiving Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council supports the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix on the weekend of 25 and 26 October 2025, by providing the following in-kind support:

- a) Waive all Council application fees require to run the 2025 event by way of transfer from the Tourism Related Projects Reserve;**
- b) Erection and removal of relevant variable message boards and road closure/detour signage as required by Council and Transport for NSW, under the approved Traffic Management Plan and Traffic Control Plan; and**
- c) Install banner pole and waste receptacle promotional signs; provide additional general waste bins throughout the designated event area of the circuit; and removal of collected waste at the conclusion of the event.**

BACKGROUND

The CMCC is hosting its tenth Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix event in the streets of the Cessnock CBD over the weekend of 25 and 26 October 2025.

Organisers of the event have approached Council seeking support for the event. This report details the sponsorship requested and seeks Council's endorsement to provide such support.

Works and Infrastructure

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Works and Infrastructure



REPORT/PROPOSAL

In previous years, the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix has attracted riders, their families and support crews from all over Australia. It is anticipated that this year's event will again draw large numbers of people to the Cessnock LGA.

The community event is run on a not-for-profit basis with any surplus funds at the completion of the event being donated to the Cessnock District Rescue Squad and / or local NSW Rural Fire Service.

Development Application 8/2022/258/1 granting consent for the event operates from 7 September 2022 and lapses on 7 September 2027.

The majority of the costs associated with hosting the event are being covered by the CMCC, with most of these funds being raised via the collection of competitor / team entry fees and the sale of track advertising to local businesses. To further assist with hosting the event, CMCC has approached Council seeking the following support:

1. Waiving all Council application fees in conjunction with the 2025 event;
2. Erection and removal of the relevant variable message boards, banner pole signage, waste receptacle signage and road closure / detour signage as required by Council and TfNSW; and
3. Provision of additional general waste bins throughout the main spectator and PIT areas of the circuit and removal of collected waste at the conclusion of the event.

In previous years Council has provided in-kind support for the event as follows:

- Waived all Council application fees in conjunction with the event;
- Supplied all approved road closure signage as stipulated in the Traffic Control Plan (TCP);
- Installed CBD banner pole and waste receptacle signage;
- Supplied four (4) Variable Message signs which were installed prior to the event to notify road users of the up-coming event as per the traffic management plan (TMP);
- Supplied accredited staff to erect and perform all road closures at 5.00AM on the morning of the event and remove all signage and re-open roads at completion of event;
- Re-established Special Event Alcohol Free Zone (SEAFZ) on streets in the vicinity of the event, not already being encompassed by an existing Alcohol-Free Zone; and
- Endorsed and promoted the event wherever possible in local media and functions, due to the positive exposure and high number of people that the event attracts to the City of Cessnock.

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Works and Infrastructure

The estimated cost to provide the requested support is outlined in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 - Eligible items for sponsorship

Eligible items for Sponsorship		Estimated Cost
1.	Waive all Council application fees in conjunction with the 2025 event;	\$600
2.	Supply four (4) Variable Message Signs (VMS) to be installed prior to the event to notify commuters of the up-coming event as per the Traffic Management Plan (TMP);	\$3,000
3.	Supply all TfNSW approved road closure signage as required in the Traffic Control Plan (TCP); Install CBD banner pole and waste receptacle promotional signage. Supply accredited staff to erect and perform all road closures at 5.00am on the morning of the event and remove all signage and re-open roads at the completion of the event;	\$8,000
4.	Due to the anticipated increase of refuse on the day resulting from anticipated crowd numbers, supply additional garbage bins in areas where spectators will gather and remove the collected waste at the conclusion of the event.	\$3,500
5.	As part of a Police request to make the streets in the vicinity of the event alcohol free, we ask Council assistance in implementing this request and supplying the required signage. Supply and affix date decal to existing Special Event Alcohol Free Zone signage as an extension of the existing Alcohol-Free Zone in the Cessnock CBD.	\$400
6.	Support the event wherever possible in local media and functions, due to the positive exposure that the event brings to the City of Cessnock.	\$0
TOTAL COST OF ELIGIBLE ITEMS		\$15,500

In reviewing the requests, Council officers have determined that in-kind support detailed in **Table 1** above can be provided from the Miscellaneous & Property Reserve (Tourism Related Projects Reserve). This does not include Council staff to maintain extra garbage bins during the event. This task can be undertaken by CMCC volunteers.

OPTIONS

The preferred option is that Council supports the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix on the weekend of 25 and 26 October 2025 by providing the support as listed above.

Alternatively, Council may provide no support for the requests or limited support. This is not the preferred option as the event has social and economic benefits to the broader community consistent with Council's community goals.

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation: Internal consultation on this matter has occurred as follows:

- Community and Cultural Development Manager;
- Works and Operations Manager;
- Environment & Waste Services Manager; and
- Economic Development and Tourism Manager.

Works and Infrastructure

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External Consultation: External consultation on this matter has occurred as follows:

- Representatives of CMCC

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

The proposed in-kind sponsorship for this event aligns with the following objectives of the *Delivery Program 2022-26*:

- Objective 1.2 – Our community organisations have opportunities to work together to develop and deliver services;
- Objective 2.3 – Increasing tourism opportunities & visitation in the area; and
- Objective 5.3 – Ensuring Council is accountable and responsive to the community.

b. Other Plans

N/A

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Community Sponsorship and Fee Waiving Policy.

b. Financial Implications

The cost of providing the assistance is estimated to be \$15,500. This does not include the request for staff to man extra garbage bins. The in-kind support for the above can be provided from the Miscellaneous & Property Reserve (Tourism Related Projects).

c. Legislative Implications

Local Government Act 1993 – Section 356 - allows a council to financially assist others.

d. Risk Implications

Reputational Risk:

Appreciation for Council's support for each annual running of the APBGP has been publicly expressed in social media, print media and television presentations. By not providing the requested assistance for the 2025 event Council may not be acknowledged favourably by the 10,000 people who enthusiastically attend this free-admission event each year.

e. Environmental Implications

Organisers have indicated they will operate under the Return and Earn Scheme with the recycling of cans and bottles. Proceeds will be donated to local charities or schools.

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Works and Infrastructure



Mandatory use by competitor teams of enviro-mats for placement under race bikes during refueling to prevent potential soil contamination in the event of a spill.

f. Other Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

The annual running of the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix is a much-anticipated event on the City's social / entertainment calendar. Based on the principle of supporting events that provide opportunity for the community to work together and promote visitation across the Cessnock LGA, it is recommended that Council provide in-kind sponsorship for the 2025 running of the event.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Notices Of Motion

Report No. BN11/2025

General Manager's Unit



NOTICES OF MOTION No. BN11/2025

SUBJECT: ***PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE SHARED ZONE AND INSTALL TEMPORARY FOOT CROSSINGS ON CHARLTON STREET, CESSNOCK***

COUNCILLOR: ***Jessica Jurd***

MOTION

1. That the Council investigate the removal of the shared zone on Charlton Street to replace it with marked foot crossings to enhance pedestrian safety in the area.
2. That Councillors receive past reports and information outlining the reasons behind the off-centre roundabout, which is constructed on pavers that are ineffective, as well as the current condition of the shared zone.
3. That Councillors receive all information available about future plans for the CBD, to be able to make an informed decision, when it's time to fix this intersection.

It is my intention to move the above motion at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 20 August 2025.

RATIONALE

The current shared zone on Charlton Street has proven to be unsafe, as there have been numerous instances where motorists fail to give way to pedestrians. The introduction of temporary zebra crossings would provide clearer guidance for both drivers and pedestrians, significantly improving safety for all users of the roadway.

Obtaining information to understand what went wrong, along with future-proofing insights, will contribute to better planning.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

DELIVERY PROGRAM:

Sgd: Jessica Jurd

Date: 12 August 2025

Notices Of Motion

Report No. BN11/2025

General Manager's Unit



DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

1. Council officers have completed an investigation into a revised treatment for the Cooper Street and Charlton Street intersection and a report was presented to the Ordinary Council meeting of 17 July 2024 (WI21/2024). The revised treatment focussed on improving vehicular and pedestrian safety, which included marked pedestrian crossing in accordance with the point raised. Also included in the revised treatment, was a proposal to rectify the pavers with a more suitable and maintenance free pavement treatment.
2. The existing (roundabout) intersection treatment was approved by the Local Traffic Committee in 2018 and constructed in 2019 as part of the original shared zone treatment.
3. The draft Strategic CBD Public Domain Plan Review will be briefed to Councillor's prior to going out on public exhibition for community feedback.

Based on the July 2024 report the indicative costs of the proposed treatment is estimated to be \$500K to \$525K. Noting that there would need to be an allowance for an estimated increase in costs from the 2024 report costs. There is currently no funding allocated in the 2025/26 Operational Plan for this to be implemented as a construction project and Council would need to reallocate funding from another project if Council elected to progress these works.

ALTERNATE MOTION:

1. That the General Manager investigate options to remove the shared zone at the Cooper and Charlton Streets intersection and reinstate marked foot crossings to enhance pedestrian safety in the area.
2. That Councillors be provided a briefing on the draft CBD Public Domain Plan and how it proposes to address the pedestrian safety concerns before going on public exhibition.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report