



# Business Papers 2025

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
**WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2025**

*A prosperous and progressive  
community we proudly call home*







PO BOX 156  
MUDGEE NSW 2850

86 Market Street MUDGEE  
109 Herbert Street GULGONG  
77 Louee Street RYLSTONE

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23 May 2025

Dear Councillor,

MEETING NOTICE  
**Extraordinary Meeting**

28 MAY 2025

Public Forum at 17:30pm

*Council Meeting commencing at conclusion of Public Forum*

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Notice is hereby given that the above meeting of Mid-Western Regional Council will be held in the Council Chambers, 86 Market Street, Mudgee at the time and date indicated above to deal with the business as listed on the Meeting Agenda.

The meeting will be live streamed on Council's website.

Members of the public may address Council at the Public forum, which is held at 5.30pm immediately preceding the Council meeting. Speakers who wish to address Council are invited to register by 4.00pm on the day prior to the Council Meeting by contacting the Executive Assistant to the Mayor and General Manager.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BRAD CAM", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER



AGENDA

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## Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet, the Wiradjuri people and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

### Item 1: Apologies

### Item 2: Disclosure of Interest

Councillors are reminded of their oaths of affirmations of office taken at their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose conflicts of interest when they arise and ensure they are managed appropriately.

If an interest is declared, Councillors should leave the Chambers prior to the commencement of the discussion of an item.

### Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes

Nil

## Item 4: Corporate Services

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### 4.1 Submissions to the Draft 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025-2029 Delivery Program

REPORT BY THE FINANCIAL PLANNING COORDINATOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
TO 28 MAY 2025 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400103, FIN300555

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### That Council:

1. receive the report by the Financial Planning Coordinator and Chief Financial Officer on the Submissions to the Draft 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025-2029 Delivery Program;
  2. receive all public submissions to the Draft 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025-2029 Delivery Program as listed below, with the General Manager required to respond to each submission as follows:
    - 2.1 Chris Mader be thanked for their submissions and Council confirms that the Operational Plan and Delivery Program has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines.
    - 2.2 Mark Farthing be thanked for their submission and Council confirms that whilst Council will not currently make amendments to the Draft Operational Plan, Council will undertake further investigations;
    - 2.3 Mudgee Aero Club be thanked for their submission and Council confirms Council has a limited amount of resources, and the demand for community initiatives is higher than what Council can fund;
  3. make the following amendments to the Draft 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025-2029 Delivery Program as exhibited;
    - 3.1 amend the Operational Plan Actions, Performance Measures and Targets with minor administrative changes, for clarity, order and appropriateness;
    - 3.2 include the March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement budget amendments;
    - 3.3 add two new services and relevant actions to the 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025-2029 Delivery Program for Destination Marketing and Visitor Servicing;
    - 3.4 include other budget amendments from the 21 May 2025 meeting for;
-



**3.4.1 Tourism Service and Regional Marketing**

**3.4.2 Acceptance of Changing Places Grant**

**3.4.3 Expansion of lease childcare facilities**

**4. make the following changes to the 2025/26 Fees and Charges as exhibited:**

**4.1 Planning and Development fees which fall under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 will be increased by 2.32% as determined by Schedule 4 of the Regulation; and**

**5. note that the amended Draft 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025-2029 Delivery Program will be brought back to Council at the June Ordinary Council Meeting for endorsement, including making of the rates.**

## Executive summary

Council has been through an extensive planning process over the past few months to determine which projects and initiatives would be undertaken across the next four financial years, culminating in the Draft 2025/26 Operational Plan and Draft 2025-2029 Delivery Program.

Following the public exhibition period, which closed 16 May 2025, this report seeks to consider submissions and make recommended changes based on those submissions.

## Disclosure of Interest

Nil

## Detailed report

At its meeting of 16 April 2025, Council endorsed the Draft 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025-2029 Delivery Program to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. The exhibition period closed on Friday 16 May 2025, with three public submissions received to date (refer to Attachment 1).

FROM	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION	COUNCIL RESPONSE
<b>2.1 Chris Mader (attachment 1)</b>	1. Breach of Democratic Principles 2. Illegitimate Alignment with Foreign Entities 3. Corporate Model of Governance 4. Failure to Uphold Sovereign Self-Governance	Council confirms that the Operational Plan and Delivery Program has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines as set by the Office of Local Government which includes consultation with the Community in line with our Community Engagement Strategy.
<b>2.2 Mark Farthing (attachment 1)</b>	Streetlight in Atkinson Street Mudgee	Council will undertake investigations to determine the need for streetlights at Atkinson Street Mudgee between Meares Street and Nicholson Street Mudgee.
<b>2.3 Mudgee Aero Club (attachment 1)</b>	Mudgee Airport Hangar Sealing	Council confirms that the hangar apron is currently capable of withstanding the traffic of the aircraft for which it is designed and there is no requirement for the aerodrome apron to be paved.

In addition to community submissions, management submissions are also discussed below. These include some new initiatives and carry forward projects deferred at the March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review.

The following submissions have been received from Council's Management Team:

### **3.1 Amend the Operational Plan Actions, Performance Measures and Targets with minor administrative changes, for clarity, order and appropriateness;**

Minor changes to wording and formatting to improve clarity of the document for the reader.

### **3.2 March Quarterly Budget Review Statement**

At the 21 May Ordinary Council meeting, the March Quarterly Budget Review Statement was presented and proposed to defer some budgets from 2024/25 to 2025/26. Therefore, it is recommended that any budgets that are approved to be deferred are also reflected in an amended Operational Plan for 2025/26. Once these recommendations have been approved, the changes will be incorporated into the 2025/26 Operational Plan and presented to Council at the June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting for adoption.

### **3.3 Service additions for Destination Marketing and Visitor Servicing (Report 7.1)**

At the 21 May Ordinary Council meeting, the motion carried for Report 7.1 included that Council:

- require a management submission to the draft Delivery Program 2025/29 and Operational Plan 2025/26 to include relevant servicing actions and budgets for Destination Marketing and Visitor Servicing

### **3.4 Other Approved Budget Changes from the 21 may meeting**

Other budget amendments were approved at the 21 May Council meeting. These amendments will be incorporated into the 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025-2029 Delivery Program presented in June.

#### **3.4.1 Tourism Service and Regional Marketing (Report 7.1)**

The motion carried included that Council:

- amend the 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 budgets as listed in the Financial Implications section of this report

This will involve adding two new services, Destination Marketing and Visitor Servicing.

The below operating budget allocation is recommended:

Revenue	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
MRTI Retained Earnings	\$100,000			
Industry Investment - Packages	\$325,000	\$350,000	\$400,000	\$450,000
Visitor Servicing Revenue	\$380,000	\$393,000	\$407,000	\$421,000
	\$805,000	\$743,000	\$807,000	\$871,000
Less:				
COGS	\$190,000	\$197,220	\$204,714	\$212,493
Employee costs	\$716,152	\$743,366	\$771,614	\$800,935
Contractors	\$597,810	\$620,527	\$644,107	\$668,583
Administrative costs	\$50,800	\$52,730	\$54,734	\$56,814

	\$1,554,762	\$1,613,843	\$1,675,169	\$1,738,825
Surplus/(deficit)	(\$749,762)	(\$870,843)	(\$868,169)	(\$867,825)
Current budget allocation	\$872,719	\$898,901	\$921,373	\$944,407
Transfer to commercial reserves	\$122,957	\$28,058	\$53,204	\$76,582

### 3.4.2 Acceptance of Changing Places Grant (Report 8.10)

The motion carried included that Council:

- if successful, amend the budget as follows:

3.1 2025/26 set an expenditure budget of \$176,692. \$78,804.30 to be funded by grants, and \$97,887.70 to be funded by VPA funds;

3.2 2026/27 set an expenditure budget of \$66,073. \$33,036.50 to be funded by grants, and \$33,036.50 to be funded by VPA funds;

### 3.4.3 Expansion of leased childcare facilities (Report 9.5)

The motion carried included that Council:

- amend the Budget to change the funding source for the childcare facility expansion as follows:

4.1 2025/26 – change the funding source from grant funding to loan funding for an amount of \$1,000,000 for the construction of expanded childcare facilities;

4.2 amend the 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28, budgets to revise operating allocations as set out in the financial implications section of this report.

The revised operating budgets for the Lady Gowrie facility are as follows:

\$	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
<i>Lease revenue</i>	49,986	70,219	91,542	94,288
<i>less costs</i>				
<i>Maintenance</i>	3300	4800	6600	6798
<i>Subtotal</i>	46,686	65,419	84,942	87,490
<i>Loan Repayments</i>		64,147	128,294	128,294
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	46,686	1,272	-43,352	-40,804

## CHANGES TO THE 2025/26 FEES AND CHARGES AS EXHIBITED

Recommended changes to fees and charges after exhibition are:

### 4.4.3 Statutory Fee changes for the Planning and development fees

The Statutory Planning and Development fees fall under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. These fees are adjusted for inflation annually per Schedule 4 of the Regulation using the Sydney Consumer Price Index CPI for March quarter as published by the

Australian Bureau of Statistics. The CPI for the March 2025 quarter is 2.32% and these statutory fees have been updated accordingly.

## Community Plan implications

Theme	Good Government
Goal	Strong civic leadership
Strategy	Provide clear strategic direction through the Community Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plans

## Strategic implications

### Council Strategies

Relevant Integrated Planning and Reporting Strategies are considered during the process of developing the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, including the Community Strategic Plan, and Resourcing Strategies.

### Council Policies

Relevant Integrated Planning and Reporting Policies may influence the way the Delivery program and Operational Plan are developed, for example the Asset Management Policy.

### Legislation

Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that:

- 1) A council must have a plan (it's "Operational Plan") that is adopted before the beginning of each year and details the activities to be engaged in by the council during the year as part of the delivery program covering that year.
- 2) An Operational Plan must include a statement of the Council's revenue policy for the year covered by the Operational Plan. The statement of revenue policy must include the statements and particulars required by the regulations.
- 3) A council must prepare a Draft Operational Plan and give public notice of the draft indicating that submissions may be made to the council at any time during the period (not less than 28 days) that the draft is to be on public exhibition. The council must publicly exhibit the draft operational plan in accordance with the notice.
- 4) During the period of public exhibition, the council must have for inspection at its office (and at such other places as it may determine) a map that shows those parts of its area to which each category and sub-category of the ordinary rate and each special rate included in the draft operational plan applies.
- 5) In deciding on the final operational plan to be adopted, a council must consider any submissions that have been made concerning the draft plan.
- 6) The council must post a copy of its operational plan on the council's website within 28 days after the plan is adopted.

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan documents will be brought back to Council at the June Ordinary Council Meeting for endorsement and will then be made available on Council's website.

## Financial implications

There are no new budget amendments proposed in this report.

## Associated Risks

Not Applicable

AMANDA AVNELL  
FINANCIAL PLANNING COORDINATOR

NEIL BUNGATE  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

LEONIE VAN OOSTERUM  
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

22 May 2025

*Attachments:* 1. Attachment 1 - Submissions to the Draft Operational Plan and Delivery Program.

### APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Formal Objection to Draft Operational Plan 2025/26 and Delivery Program 2025-2029  
**Date:** Monday, 28 April 2025 1:21:33 PM

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**To Whom It May Concern,**

I submit this formal public objection to the Draft Operational Plan 2025/26 and Delivery Program 2025-2029 ("the Plans") currently on public exhibition.

**Grounds for Objection:**

**1. Breach of Democratic Principles**

The Plans are developed and implemented without genuine democratic participation by the Common People. True democracy demands that all governance derives from the will of the People, not from bureaucratic administration or internal committees. The current Plans fail to provide any mechanism for direct democratic approval or veto by the community.

**2. Illegitimate Alignment with Foreign Entities**

The Plans explicitly adopt and align Council activities with foreign frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is unacceptable for local governance to be influenced or directed by any foreign nation, foreign NGO, or supranational body, including but not limited to the UN, WEF, or similar organizations. Local governance must remain solely accountable to the People of the Mid-Western Region.

**3. Corporate Model of Governance**

The Plans emphasize a corporate service delivery model focused on 'advocacy', 'partnerships', and 'efficiency', rather than direct accountability to the People. Governance must be citizen-driven, not managed as a business enterprise treating residents as customers.

**4. Failure to Uphold Sovereign Self-Governance**

There is no provision within the Plans to evidence informed, voluntary, and individual consent of the governed. Democracy requires meaningful participation and consent. Administration without direct People-led oversight is governance without legitimacy.

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**Demand for Redress:**

I demand that the Mid-Western Regional Council:

- Immediately halt the advancement of these Plans until a democratic process ensuring direct community oversight and consent is established.
- Remove all alignments with foreign governance frameworks, organizations, or agendas that have not been explicitly consented to by the People.
- Publicly recommit to local, democratic governance free from any foreign influence.
- Establish clear, transparent mechanisms for democratic approval and oversight of all major plans and programs.

Failure to address these critical issues will constitute further evidence of governance that does not reflect the democratic will of the People and will be lawfully and publicly challenged.

**Sincerely,**


Chris Mader

## Document on Public Exhibition



Submitted on	7 May 2025, 5:14PM
Receipt number	4
Related form version	5

### Your Details

First name	Mark
Last name	Farthing
Email	

A copy of your submission will be sent to this email address.

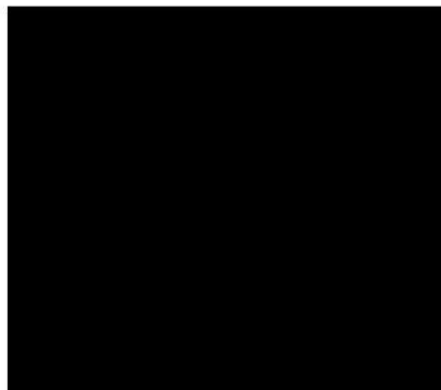
### Your Submission

What document would you like to provide feedback on?	Draft Delivery Program 2025/29 and Draft Operational Plan 2025/26
Please provide a detailed description of your submission	1 x extra Street light in Atkinson Street Mudgee between Meares Street and Nicholson Street Mudgee

### Declaration

<b>Privacy Statement &amp; Terms and Conditions</b> I have read and accept the <a href="#">privacy statement</a> , any above statements and applicable <a href="#">terms and conditions</a> as listed on Council's website.	I have read and accept the above and any applicable terms and conditions.
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Signature	Name of signatory: Mark Farthing
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## Document on Public Exhibition



Submitted on	14 May 2025, 7:47PM
Receipt number	5
Related form version	5

### Your Details

First name	Mudgee Aero Club
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Last name	Mudgee
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Email

A copy of your submission will be sent to this email address.

### Your Submission

What document would you like to provide feedback on?	Draft Delivery Program 2025/29 and Draft Operational Plan 2025/26
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Please provide a detailed description of your submission	CPP ID.26050 The Aero club believes that further consideration should be given to our proposal resulting in a recommendation. The grassed area referred to is on airport land. Council as lessee of Lot 87 Tim Lonergan Drive may have a responsibility and a duty of care to provide all weather access to Lot 87. It is the only lot on the airport that does not have all weather access.
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### Declaration

#### Privacy Statement & Terms and Conditions

I have read and accept the [privacy statement](#) any above statements and applicable [terms and conditions](#) as listed on Council's website.

I have read and accept the above and any applicable terms and conditions.

Signature

Name of signatory: Robert Duffy Secretary/Treasurer

## Item 5: Community

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### 5.1 Local Traffic Committee - Alternate Councillor Representative

REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR COMMUNITY  
TO 28 MAY 2025 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400113, GOV400087

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Acting Director Community on the Local Traffic Committee - Alternate Councillor Representative; and**
  2. **endorse Councillor Cornish as the alternate representative on the Local Traffic Committee**
- 

#### Executive summary

At the April Council meeting, Councillor Cornish asked that a report be returned at the next meeting for Council to consider adding him as the alternate representative of the Local Traffic Committee

#### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

#### Detailed report

The Local Traffic Committee at Mid-Western Regional Council plays a key advisory role in managing and regulating traffic matters on local roads within the Council area. It operates under delegation from Transport for NSW (TfNSW), in accordance with the Transport Administration Act 1988 and Road Transport Act 2013.

Note that Council, at its meeting held on 16 October 2025, confirmed Councillor Karavas as the returning Council representative on the Local Traffic Committee, and no alternate representative was provided as only one Councillor was recommended to be added to the Committee.

The LTC meets monthly, and minutes are provided to the Council for review at the next Council meeting.

## Community Plan implications

Theme	Good Government
Goal	Good communications and engagement
Strategy	Encourage community access and participation in Council decision making

## Strategic implications

### Council Strategies

Community Plan

### Council Policies

Not Applicable

### Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

## Financial implications

The attendance by Councillors at these external committees and other organisations may incur a travel cost to Council, provision for which is included in the budget.

## Associated Risks

Not Applicable

RICHARD CUSHWAY  
ACTING DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

19 May 2025

*Attachments:* Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER

## Item 6: Urgent Business Without Notice

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### URGENT BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE

As provided by Clauses 19 & 20 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice (Clause 14 LGMR).

### GIVING NOTICE OF BUSINESS

19. (1) The Council must not transact business at a meeting of the Council:
- (a) unless a Councillor has given notice of the business in writing at least two (2) days prior to the day on which the agenda and business paper is prepared and delivered to Councillors; and
  - (b) unless notice of the business has been sent to the Councillors in accordance with Clause 6 of this Code. (see Section 367 LGA & Clause 14(1) LGMR)
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply to the consideration of business at a meeting if the business:
- (a) is already before, or directly relates to a matter that is already before the Council (see Clause 14(2)(a) LGMR); or
  - (b) is the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting as provided by Clause 12(1) (see Clause 14(2)(b) LGMR); or
  - (c) is a matter or topic put to the meeting by the chairperson in accordance with Clause 21 (see Clause 14(2)(c) LGMR); or
  - (d) is a motion for the adoption of recommendations of a committee of the Council; (see Clause 14(2)(d) LGMR); or
  - (e) relates to reports from officers, which in the opinion of the Chairperson or the General Manager are urgent;
  - (f) relates to reports from officers placed on the business paper pursuant to a decision of a committee that additional information be provided to the Council in relation to a matter before the Committee; and
  - (g) relates to urgent administrative or procedural matters that are raised by the Mayor or General Manager.

### BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE

20. (1) Despite Clause 19 of this Code, business may be transacted at a meeting of the Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors. However, this can happen only if:
- (a) a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting; and
  - (b) the business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency. Such a motion can be moved without notice. (see Clause 14(3) LGMR)
- (2) Despite Clause 30 of this Code, only the mover of a motion referred to in subclause (1) can speak to the motion before it is put. (see Clause 14(4) LGMR)