

AGENDA

Tuesday 17 December 2024 at 2.00pm Council Chambers, Darlington Point

Attendees:	Councillor Ruth McRae, Mayor Councillor Robert Black, Deputy Mayor Councillor Troy Mauger Councillor Faith Bryce Councillor Robert Curphey Councillor Tim Strachan Councillor Christine Chirgwin Councillor Judith Saxvik Councillor Hayley Heath			
	General Manager, John Scarce Director Planning & Infrastructure, Garry Stoll			
Apologies:				
Minutes:	Executive Assistant, Julie Conn			
Guests:				
Agenda Topics:	 Acknowledgement of Country Recording of Meeting Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors Confirmation of Minutes Disclosure of Interest Declarations Notice of Rescission Notice of Motion Mayoral Minute Mayoral Report Delegates' Reports Officers' Reports for Consideration Reports/Minutes of Council Committees Officers' Reports for Noting Questions with Notice Meeting of Council in Confidential Session Items without Notice Closure 			

REPORTS TO MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024

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9 harGeneral Manager

R.E. MyRae.Mayor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We pay respect to the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Murrumbidgee Local Government Area, and to all Aboriginal Elders, past and present and emerging. We are committed to honouring the continuing connection that First Australians hold to Murrumbidgee's land, waters and community, as one of the oldest living cultures in human history.

RECORDING & WEBCASTING OF MEETING

In the spirit of open, accessible and transparent Government, and to ensure this meeting is open to the public, this Council meeting is being recorded, with the recording placed on Council's website following the meeting.

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R.K. MyRae

.....Mayor

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

ITEM NO: 1 - GENERAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

Council Meeting: Report Date:	17 December 2024 6 December 2024	
Author:	General Manager	
File #:	SC218	
Approval:	General Manager	

BACKGROUND

To provide information generally relating to past and future actions of the General Manager, along with specific action items being dealt with.

RECOMMENDATION

The information contained in the General Manager's monthly report be noted.

1. <u>Standing Committee on State Development, Legislative Council</u> - Ability of <u>Local Governments to Fund Infrastructure and Services</u>

The Standing Committee brought down 17 recommendations on the ability of Local Government to fund infrastructure and services. Recommendations are attached. The full report can be found at <u>Ability of Local Governments to Fund Infrastructure</u> and <u>Services</u>

I must praise the work of this Committee, and we can hope that the NSW Government adopts every recommendation as it will benefit NSW Local Government immensely.

Recommendations I wish to draw your attention too:

Recommendation 2

That the NSW Government redesign the Local Government rating system, including reassessing Council base rates, and seek to:

- implement measures, such as greater use of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework and rates benchmarking, to provide Local Government greater flexibility and latitude to set their own rates;
- emphasise the importance of continual evaluation and service delivery;
- keep rates affordable and maintain safeguards to ensure rates meet community needs;

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• examine the use of capital improved value, rather than unimproved land value, to set the variable component of rates.

The current rates methodology does not reward growth, CIV would change that, providing they remove the rates cap and other restrictive caps contained in legislation. The removal of these does not mean Council will go nuts and overcharge, it means that new growth can be captured and added to the rates system without discounting every other rate.

Recommendation 6

That the NSW Government consider grant models that:

- provide a more secure and sustainable source of funding to local Councils to achieve more equitable distribution of grants funding and provide Councils with greater discretion in relation to how funding is spent;
- take into account the preference of local Councils for predictable grants that are determined in a timely manner and assist Councils to receive grants within appropriate timeframes to support the delivery of infrastructure programs;

As we wrote in our submission, let's hope they consider providing specific grants, like 50% as of right grant for swimming pool replacement. This way we can, with certainty, save for or borrow funds to replace essential infrastructure that we would never replace without grant assistance.

Recommendation 12

That the NSW Government seek amendment to the Rural Fires Act 1997 such that Rural Fire Service assets are vested in the Rural Fire Service, with consequential amendment to the duties of Councils as public authorities to prevent the occurrence of bushfires on, and to minimise the danger of the spread of a bush fire on, or from land under its control or management.

Advocacy from the sector over many years has been recognised, halleluiah!

Recommendation 13

That the NSW Government review the depreciation methodology that applies to depreciation rates.

Personally this has been a 30 plus year ask of mine, ever since 1993 when accrual accounting was implemented.

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Recommendation 14

That the NSW Government consider excluding depreciation expenses from the calculation of the Operating Performance Ratio. Benchmark >0.00%.

2023/24 Operating Expense Ratio -13.89% 2023/24 Operating Expense Ratio (depreciation expense removed) 22.21%

Recommendation 16

That the NSW Government review the financial reporting guidelines and accounting model for Local Government.

We are not private enterprise, many of the financial standards are based on forprofit and are meaningless in our world, cost a lot to undertake and add no value to the reader.

Recommendation 17

That the NSW Government review the performance measurement ratios for local Councils.

Include FAGs as own source revenue, simply because its untied, and we can use it the same way we can use rates revenue, just small tweaks can change it all.

As you have heard me say, the ratios are just maths, and you can manipulate any way, we can make the own source revenue by turning down grants, but that helps no one.

2. Council Housing Replacement

49 Barwidgee Boulevard, Darlington Point has been sold as verbally reported at the last Council meeting. Settlement will be 12 December 2024.

21 Barwidgee Boulevard is the next house to go to market in Darlington Point, and should be vacant in January 2025 for us to inspect and refresh as needed, before placing on the market February/March 2025.

3. Powell Street Jerilderie - One Way

Council is working with TfNSW on the design of the signage and lines to be placed on Jerilderie Street, Jerilderie.

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4. Movements

Date	Meeting	Location
19 December 2025	On leave, available phone/email	Melbourne
31 Jan to 2 Feb 2025	Strategic Planning Workshop	Albury
4 February 2025	Sturt Highway Taskforce	Wentworth?
6-7 February 2025	RAMJO Board Meeting	Hillston
4 March 2025	Newell Highway Taskforce	Canberra
21 March 2025	Dentist	Albury
27-28 March 2025	Country Mayors Association	Sydney
6 May 2025	Sturt Highway Taskforce	TBA
8-9 May 2025	Country Mayors Association	Sydney
15-16 May 2025	RAMJO Board Meeting	TBA
25 July 2025	Annual Leave	Melbourne
5 August 2025	Sturt Highway Taskforce	TBA
7-8 August 2025	Country Mayors Association	Sydney
30-31 October 2025	RAMJO Board Meeting	TBA
13-14 November 2025	Country Mayors Association	Sydney
22-25 November 2025	LGNSW Conference	Penrith

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

N/A

FINANCIAL

N/A

INTEGRATED PLANS

Theme 5: Our Leadership - Looking to our Future

5.1. Demonstrating Transparent Leadership through Accountability and Community Representation

RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

N/A

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OPTIONS

Option 1 (recommendation)

The information contained in the General Manager's monthly report be noted:

Option 2

Another recommendation of Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment # 1: Recommendations from Standing Committee

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tarGeneral Manager

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ITEM NO. 2 – PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE AND SALE OF UNNAMED ROADS DARLINGTON POINT

Report Date: Author:	17 December 2024 6 December 2024 Director Planning & Infrastructure
File #: Approval:	SC177
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with additional information following notification of the proposed closure and sale of the unsealed, unnamed roads at Darlington Point, previously reported to and approved by Council subject to notification processes.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council, as the Roads Authority, close the unnamed, unsealed roads at Darlington Point adjoining the lots described in table 1 within the report;
- 2. A survey be completed for the land, with two (2) lots being created;
- 3. Council authorise the offer of the sale of the closed roads to Cavaso Farming and G Johnson for \$1,250 per hectare (plus GST);
- 4. All costs associated with the road closure including, but not limited to, survey and registration fees, valuation fees, advertising fees and solicitor fees, be borne by Cavaso Farming and G Johnson relative to their portion of land purchased;
- 5. An easement be arranged, via the Section 88B, to capture Transgrid's transmission line; and
- 6. The Common Seal of Council be affixed to any document requiring to be sealed, and delegate to the General Manager authority to sign any documentation necessary to give effect to this resolution.

BACKGROUND

A request was received from Cavaso Farming in May 2020 to purchase two "paper roads" adjoining the below lots at Darlington Point:

Table 1 – Lots adjoining roads proposed to be closed

Lot	DP
7, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 63, 64, 65, 66, 94,	DP 750908
157, 159, 160, 176, 177	
Lot 2	DP 526217

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R.K. MRae LarGeneral Manager Mayor

Lot 2	DP 609991
Lot 2	DP 866642
Lot 2	DP 1120420

Council resolved, in July 2020, to consider the closure and sale of the unnamed roads following the required process being undertaken, and, if no objections were received, the sale could continue with a purchase price commensurate with the Unimproved Land Value.



Green shaded area indicates the area to be closed

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R.K. MRae tarGeneral Manager ..Mayor

OFFICER COMMENT

Notification to the relevant authorities as required by the Roads Act 1993 has now been completed. Several replies were received advising they had no objection, and one submission was received from Transgrid who requested an easement be established to include their overhead power lines (see attached).

A late verbal submission was received from Mr Geoff Johnson, concerning the section of road bordering his property. Council's solicitors advised Council to consider the late submission and develop the option to close the roads and create 2 lots under the plan, transferring the highlighted section of road (pictured below) to Geoff Johnson and the remaining to Cavaso Farming.



Pink shaded section indicates portion adjacent to Geoff Johnson's property

A valuation has also been completed for the land, valuation \$1,250 per hectare (plus GST). Cavaso Farming have agreed to this purchase price.

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

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R.F. MKae tar_ ...General Manager .Mayor

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

Road Act, 1993

FINANCIAL

All costs associated with this matter are to be met by the purchaser. The sale proceeds are to be transferred to an appropriate reserve for use on future road projects, in accordance with Section 43 of the Roads Act 1993.

INTEGRATED PLANS

3.3 Our road network (reserve) is well-maintained, functional, and continually improved.

<u>Deliverable 3.3.1</u> Work together to maintain and develop a highly functioning road network (reserve), including roads, footpaths, bridges cycleway, kerb and guttering, and drainage system.

3.3.1.1 Review/deliver a staged program of accessibility and maintenance improvement to Murrumbidgee's rural and town road network and road hierarchy.

RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

- Public notification and advertisement in a local newspaper was completed, including notification of the proposal to the relevant authorities. Submissions opened on 7 August 2024 and closed on 5 September 2024.
- Kell Moore Solicitors

OPTIONS

Option1 (recommendation)

That:

- 1. Council, as the Roads Authority, close the unnamed, unsealed roads at Darlington Point adjoining the lots described in table 1 within the report;
- 2. A survey be completed for the land, with two (2) lots being created;
- 3. Council authorise the offer of the sale of the closed roads to Cavaso Farming and G Johnson for \$1,250 per hectare (plus GST);
- 4. All costs associated with the road closure including, but not limited to, survey and registration fees, valuation fees, advertising fees and solicitor fees, be

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..Mayor

R.K. MRae LarGeneral Manager

borne by Cavaso Farming and G Johnson relative to their portion of land purchased;

- 5. An easement be arranged, via the Section 88B, to capture Transgrid's transmission line; and
- 6. The Common Seal of Council be affixed to any document requiring to be sealed, and delegate to the General Manager authority to sign any documentation necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Option 2

Council not adopt the recommendation.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment # 2: Submission from Transgrid

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R. K. MRae

..Mayor

REPORTS/MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

ITEM NO. 3 - COLEAMBALLY SPORTS PRECINCT USER GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Council Meeting:	17 December 2024
Report Date:	4 December 2024
Author:	Coleambally Sports Precinct User Group
File #:	SC84
Approval:	Director Planning & Infrastructure
	_

Minutes of the meeting of the Coleambally Sports Precinct User Group held at the Coleambally Stadium on Wednesday 4 December 2024, commencing 5.00pm

1.	Present:	Councillor Robert Black (Chairperson), Councillor Christine Chirgwin, Councillor Tim Strachan, Councillor Hayley Hea Garry Stoll, Sue Mitchell (Minutes) – Murrumbidgee Counci			
		Shawn Iddles, Alister Burge, Phil Burge, Jacob Breed, Jacquelyn Marks – Coleambally Cricket Club.			
		Justin Buchanan, Glen Tooth, Diana Tooth, Alison Hayes, Michael Breed – Coleambally Football Netball Club (CFNC).			
Hayley Heath, Paul Muir – Coleambally/Darling Junior Rugby League Football Club (CDPJRLFC).					
		Kendra Fattore – Darlington Point/Coleambally Rugby League Football Club (DPCRLFC).			
		Keith Burge – Coleambally Lions Club.			
		Kristy-Lee Payne – Coleambally Community Gym.			
2.	Apologies:	Casey Gilbert – DPCRLFC Bec Norris, Scott Shields – CDPJRLFC Cate Hardy, Perry Hardy – Coleambally Squash Club			
3.	Introduction	1: Councillor Robert Black introduced Garry Stoll, Director of Planning and Infrastructure and outlined the purpose of the meeting.			

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R. E. MRae harGeneral Manager ...Mayor

4. Update on Completion of Masterplan works

Installation of a new cricket wicket No 1 Oval

Discussion held regarding placement of pitch and practice nets.

- Coleambally Cricket Club would prefer to keep using No 3 Oval.
- All other groups unanimously agreed.
- All cricket machinery and equipment stored at No 3 Oval would require additional storage at No 1.
- If cricket practice nets were placed at No 1 Oval, car parking would be reduced.
- Placement of pitch on No 1 oval would interfere with pre-season football training and games.
- Concerns of damage to new pitch during football season and difficulty in re-establishing the wicket in time for the cricket season.
- Concerns that during the football season with the number of AFL and rugby league games played on the oval each week damaging the surface of the pitch.
- Concerns with junior rugby league needing 3 ovals for their football carnivals.
- Objections had previously been raised to installation on No 1 Oval.

Installation of individual electricity and gas meters

Garry Stoll outlined plan for installation of separate meters for each sporting group and use of pin to turn electricity/lighting off and on. Need further information.

Completion of road works

Sealing and marking of carpark to be finalised.

User Agreements

Garry Stoll discussed Memorandums of Understanding that had been sent to groups in April 2023 to be implemented following installation of meters. Committee members unaware of having received these documents by email. To be re-sent to each organisation as committee members had changed. Representatives would like more discussion on these agreements before finalisation.

Other Works?

Netball Club has received a grant from Bendigo Bank to erect shelters on netball courts.

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tarGeneral Manager

R.K. MRae .Mayor

5. General Business

Maintenance items

- Community gym toilet floods needs plumbing repairs.
- No 2 Oval amenities drainage issues.
- Basketball backboards need replacing.
- Netball courts have hairline cracks need sealing.
- The timekeeper's box leaks from all four walls and soaks the carpet.
- Gutters facing the oval overflow and cause water to pour out.
- Leak in the stadium window that faces towards the netball courts.
- The kitchen sink in the canteen leaks has caused slips and falls for volunteers.
- In the opposition change rooms the taps on basins are loose.
- In the home change rooms the taps on the basin are also loose and the toilet and shower leak.
- In the stadium the toilet door locks aren't working properly have had people locked in unable to get out. The toilet seats are loose and the door jamb on the main door needs to be replaced.
- The netball shed door doesn't lock.
- Roller door at the stadium doesn't lock.
- Toilets behind gym need repairs.
- Playground behind amenities needs maintenance especially softfall.
- Topdressing of No 2 and No 3 Ovals required.

<u>Wish list</u>

- Lights on No 1 Oval not adequate old/dangerous. Quote for \$250,000 for replacement has been received by CFNC for grant applications. Application has so far been unsuccessful.
- Fence around playground needs to be replaced with security pool fencing for safety of children.
- Temporary fencing panels at netball court need to be replaced, safety issue for children crossing road – need offset bollards to slow people before crossing.

SEE LETTER FROM COLEAMBALLY CRICKET CLUB BELOW

6. Next Meeting

Late March 2025 – to be confirmed. Two meetings per year to be held.

7. Closure

The meeting closed at 6.00pm

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tarGeneral Manager

R.K. MRae

.Mayor

Coleambally Cricket Club 'NOMADS' Coleambally NSW 2707

ABN 47 726 728 099

27/11/2024



I am writing on behalf of the Coleambally Cricket Club regarding the proposed work at the Coleambally Sports Precinct. Firstly, the Cricket Club would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our perspective on this project and are extremely grateful for the grants you have secured for the Cricket Club and the community but believe it could be better utilised at our existing oval (No. 3 oval).

As voiced at the meeting on Wednesday 4th December numerous community clubs are concerned about a cricket wicket being installed at No. 1 oval. A main concern was maintenance of the wicket and timing of use. The cricket club would be expected to maintain the pitch for their season which will be difficult after two footy clubs have utilised the ground for their seasons. This will increase the cost on the cricket club as new machinery will need to be purchased to bring the pitch to acceptable compliance for our season. We will also expect that other users of the ground do not walk, run or use the pitch during our season as to not ruin the wicket, which is made difficult as other clubs have pre-season and practice matches during this time.

Moving the work to No. 3 oval will be aimed at enhancing the facilities and overall experience for all users in the community. Our club would like to expand/grow to more grades to involve more of the community in our sport and would require better and more suitable facilities to achieve this.

Our main priority at this time is a new wicket and training nets but we have put together a list of specific projects that we think are the best use of the grant money and then have added other projects that we hope to be considered in future years. To assist, the Cricket Club will be looking at raising money in donations and grants to assist with this proposal or future projects and we have already enquired with Cricket NSW who have advised upon approval they would contribute \$40,000 to each project (both the wicket and nets) and they also have contractors who would be willing to work with the council in building the cricket pitch.

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R.K. MRae 1 arGeneral Manager

EXIES COLEAMBALLL CRICKET CLUB "NOMADS"

.Mayor

- 1. A new 4 Pitch Wicket We have researched the cost of construction of a new wicket, estimated at \$82,500. This will provide a professional grade playing surface for cricket matches and practice sessions.
- 2. New 3 Lane Retractable Training Nets The estimated cost for this project is \$150,000. As our club continues to grow these will be an important asset to the club's training/practice sessions for all grades.
- 3. Clubrooms We propose the construction of new clubrooms that will include a function room, kitchenette, amenities for both male and female users, and an awning at the front with a concrete base. This facility will serve as a central hub for cricket community events and gatherings, providing a versatile space for game days and various functions.
- 4. Drainage and Top Dressing for the Oval To ensure the oval remains in top condition year-round, we plan to implement drainage improvements and top dressing. Additionally, new water lines will need to be installed to support these upgrades and maintain the quality of the playing surface.
- 5. Picket Fence around the Oval Finally, we would like to eventually propose the installation of a picket fence for around the oval. This will enhance the aesthetic appeal of the venue while providing a clear boundary for both players and spectators.

These projects represent a significant investment in our local sporting infrastructure, aimed at fostering a vibrant and thriving community through improved facilities. We believe that these enhancements will benefit current and future generations, promoting active and engaged lifestyles.

We kindly request the council's approval and support for these proposed improvements. Should you have any questions or require further information the club would like to have a representative attend a council meeting to discuss further.

Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Shawn Iddles - 0448299875 President Coleambally Cricket Club

Jacquelyn Marks - 0459911576 Secretary/Treasurer Coleambally Cricket Club

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tarGeneral Manager

R.K. MRae .Mayor

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR NOTING

ITEM NO. 4 - MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024

Council Meeting:	17 December 2024
Report Date:	5 December 2024
Author:	Accountant
File #:	SC133
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council's Responsible Accounting Officer is required to present Council with a monthly report setting out details of Council's investments.

This report sets out details of all money Council had invested under section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* as at the end of November 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

Council note the monthly Investment Reports identifying all money Council has invested under section 625 of the *Local Government Act* 1993.

BACKGROUND

As at 30 November 2024, Council's total invested funds were \$28,637,789, as detailed in the attachment.

Investment performance for the current month and year-to-date (YTD) is measured monthly against the 90-Day Bank Accepted Bill (BAB) Rate, as published by the Reserve Bank of Australia. The YTD BAB Rate will be calculated as the simple average of the monthly BAB rates for the period being measured. Murrumbidgee Council's money-weighted rate of return (MWRR) outperformed the BAB rate for both the month and the financial year to date.

At the October 2024 Council meeting, Council resolved to remove special concessions for the Bendigo Bank. These changes to the policy have been reflected in the attachment.

The divestment of these investments, such that Council complies with the new policy, has commenced, however due to the amount of funds invested this will take some time. As a result, Council is not currently in compliance with the revised policy: 50% of funds are currently invested with Bendigo Bank compared with the

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LarGeneral Manager

R.K. MRae .Mayor

individual counterparty limit of 14% for an A-rated institution and, overall, 73% of funds are invested with an A-rated institution compared to the overall credit quality limit of 60% set by Council. Over the coming months, further funds will be divested from Bendigo Bank to bring Council's investments back in line with the limits established in the Investment Policy.

OFFICER COMMENT

I certify that, other than remaining investments with Bendigo Bank as noted above, the investments have been invested in accordance with the Local Government Act and Regulations and the Murrumbidgee Council Investment Policy.

Kaitlin Salzke

Responsible Accounting Officer

SUSTAINABILITY

NIL

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

- Local Government Act 1993;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Guidelines);
- Murrumbidgee Council Investment Policy.

FINANCIAL

Nil, for information only.

INTEGRATED PLANS

Leading By Example

5.1.3 Maintain sound legislative decision-making that is ethical, accountable and transparent.

RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

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LarGeneral Manager

R.E. MRae Mayor

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

- General Manager
- Chief Financial Officer
- Finance Manager
- Finance Customer Service

OPTIONS

Option 1 (recommendation)

Council note the monthly Investment Reports identifying all money Council has invested under section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment # 3: Investments as at 30 November 2024

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R. K. MRae ..Mayor

ITEM NO. 5 – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION - NOVEMBER 2024

Council Meeting:	17 December 2024
Report Date:	6 December 2024
Author:	Director Planning & Infrastructure
File #:	SC210
File #: Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Information report provided to Council on development applications approved under delegation during November 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

The information contained in the Development Applications Approved under Delegation, November 2024 Report be noted.

BACKGROUND

DA25-2024	42 Barwidgee Boulevard Darlington Point	15/11/2024	Approved (Delegation)	
Description:	Consideration in determining application:			
Detached domestic storage shed	The development application was assessed under Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Neighbour notification and agency referral was not required.			
DA29-2024	4 Bellbird Street Coleambally	21/11/2024	Approved (Delegation)	
Description: Consideration in determining application:				
Detached domestic storage shed	The development application was assessed under Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Neighbour notification and agency referral was not required.			

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R. E. MRae

.....Mayor