



AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 19 May 2026

9:00 am

CCEC Chambers, 49 Stockyard Street, Cunnamulla



49 Stockyard Street
Cunnamulla Qld 4490
www.paroo.qld.gov.au

Notice of Ordinary Meeting of Council

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of Paroo Shire Council is to be held on Tuesday, 19 May 2026, at the Cunnamulla Chambers, CCEC Building, 49 Stockyard Street, Cunnamulla commencing at 9:00am.

AGENDA

1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Council would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which this meeting is taking place and Elders both past and present.

We also recognise those whose ongoing effort to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures will leave a lasting legacy for future Elders and leaders.

3 ATTENDANCES

Mayor	Suzette Beresford	Chairperson
Deputy Mayor	Rick Brain	
Councillor	Joann Woodcroft	
Councillor	Corissa Jackson	
Councillor	Tomas King	

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chief Executive Officer	Martin Leech
Director Corporate Services	Sarmad Habib
Interim Director of Infrastructure	David Burges (via Teams)

4 MOTION OF SYMPATHY

Recommendation: That Council move a motion of sympathy for the late Richard John Hagan and the late Uncle Herbert "Herb" Wharton AM and the late Doreen Allen.

5 MAYOR MOTION

NIL.

6	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
	<i>Recommendation:</i>	
	<i>That Council adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 April 2026 as a true and correct record of that Meeting.</i>	
7	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	18
8	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
9	MAYOR	
9.1	Mayor's Report	19
10	OFFICERS REPORTS	
10.1	Chief Executive Officer	
10.1.1	Action Items Register Report	21
10.1.2	Grant Applications Report	33
10.1.3	Human Resources Report	35
10.1.4	Rural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Amendment	38
10.1.5	Rural Advisory Committee Unconfirmed Minutes – 22 April 2026	55
10.2	Community	
10.2.1	Community Services Report	65
10.2.2	Community Grant Expenditure Report	69
10.2.3	Cunnamulla Swimming Pool Report	71
10.2.4	Library Services Report	82
10.2.5	Tourism Report	86
10.2.6	Cunnamulla Hot Springs Report	100
10.2.7	Rural Lands and Compliance Report	103
10.2.8	Local Laws and Illegal Dumping Report	106
10.2.9	Community Grant Application: Eulo Polocrosse Club Inc.	109
10.2.10	Community Grant Application: Sacred Heart Parish School PPF	124
10.3	Infrastructure	
10.3.1	Infrastructure Operations Status Report	126
10.3.2	2025-26 Works Program Status Report	135
10.3.3	Restoration of Essential Public Assets Status Report	149
10.3.4	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme Works Program	163
10.3.5	Planning Scheme Review	166
10.4	Corporate Services	
10.4.1	Financial Position Update Report	241
10.4.2	Capital Budget Update Report	253
10.4.3	Customer Service Report	257

11 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

12 LATE REPORTS

Nil

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING



UNCONFIRMED

**ORDINARY MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday 21 April 2026

CCEC Chambers, 49 Stockyard Street, Cunnamulla

UNCONFIRMED

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Ordinary Council Meeting was declared open at 9:06 am.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Council would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Kunja People, of the land on which this meeting is taking place and Elders both past and present. We also recognise those whose ongoing effort to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures will leave a lasting legacy for future Elders and leaders.

3 ATTENDANCE

Mayor	Suzette Beresford	Chairperson
Deputy Mayor	Councillor Rick Brain	
Councillor	Joann Woodcroft	
Councillor	Corissa Jackson	
Councillor	Tomas King	

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chief Executive Officer	Martin Leech
Director of Corporate Services	Sarmad Habib
Interim Director of Infrastructure	David Burges (via Teams)

4 MOTION OF SYMPATHY

Council Resolution (RES.M26/93)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Brian

That Council move a motion of sympathy for the late Elizabeth Dawn ("Betty") Land.

Carried unanimously.

5 MAYORAL MOTION

Nil.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Council Resolution (RES.M26/94)

Moved: Cr Woodcroft
Seconded: Cr Brain

That Council adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 March 2026 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried unanimously.

7 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with Chapter 5B of the Local Government Act 2009, **Councillor King** declared a Declarable Conflict of Interest with item 10.2.10 Community Grant Application – Cunnamulla RSL as Councillor King's Aunt, Ruby Gamble, is the Secretary of the Cunnamulla RSL.

Councillor King will leave the Ordinary Meeting when this matter is considered and will take no part in discussions in relation to the Community Grant Application by the Cunnamulla RSL and will not participate in voting on this matter.

In accordance with Chapter 5B of the Local Government Act 2009, Councillor King declared a Prescribed Conflict of Interest with Agenda Item 12.1 RFT 2026-024 Hungerford Road: Winning and Crushing of Gravel Report as he has previously sub-contracted to one of the tenderers (Tuckwell Transport & Earthmoving Pty Ltd) and may do so again in the future.

Councillor King will leave the Ordinary Meeting when this matter is considered and take no part in discussions in relation to RFT 2026-024 Hungerford Road: Winning and Crushing of Gravel Report and did not participate in voting on this matter.

9 MAYOR

9.1 Mayor's Report

Council Resolution (RES.M26/95)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr Brain

That Council receive and note the Mayor's Report.

Carried unanimously.

10 OFFICER REPORTS

10.1 Chief EXECUTIVE OFFICER

10.1.1 Action Items Register Report

Council Resolution (RES.M26/96)

Moved: Cr Woodcroft
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council receive and note the Action Items Register Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 Grant Application Report**Council Resolution (RES.M26/97)****Moved: Cr Jackson****Seconded: Cr King***That Council receive and note the Grant Application Report.***Carried unanimously.****10.1.3 Human Resources Report****Council Resolution (RES.M26/98)****Moved: Cr King****Seconded: Cr Brain***That Council receive and note the Human Resources Report.***Carried unanimously.****10.1.4 Workplace Health and Safety Report****Council Resolution (RES.M26/99)****Moved: Cr Woodcroft****Seconded: Cr Brain***That Council receive and note the Workplace Health and Safety Report.***Carried unanimously.****10.1.5 Model Meeting Procedures****Council Resolution (RES.M26/100)****Moved: Cr King****Seconded: Cr Jackson***That Council adopt the new Model Meeting Procedures (revised March 2026) as presented.***Carried unanimously.**

10.2 Community

10.2.1 Community Services Report

Council Resolution (RES.M26/101)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr Woodcroft

That Council receive and note the Community Services Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.2.2 Community Grant Expenditure Report

Council Resolution (RES.M26/102)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council receive and note the Community Grant Expenditure Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.2.3 Cunnamulla Swimming Pool Report

Council Resolution (RES. M26/103)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr Woodcroft

That Council receive and note the Cunnamulla Swimming Pool Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.2.4 Library Services Report

Council Resolution (RES. M26/104)

Moved: Cr Brain
Seconded: Cr King

That Council receive and note the Library Services Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.2.5 Tourism Report

Council Resolution (RES. M26/105)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr King

That Council receive and note the Tourism Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.2.6 Cunnamulla Hot Springs Report**Council Resolution (RES. M26/106)****Moved: Cr Brain****Seconded: Cr King**

That Council receive and note the Cunnamulla Hot Springs Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.2.7 Rural Lands Compliance Report**Council Resolution (RES. M26/107)****Moved: Cr Jackson****Seconded: Cr King**

That Council receive and note the Rural Lands Compliance Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.2.8 Request for Views Conversion of Tenure Lot 6 / KU48**Council Resolution (RES. M26/108)****Moved: Cr King****Seconded: Cr Brain**

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report by the Rural Lands Compliance Officer to the Ordinary Meeting dated 21 April 2026.*
- 2. Resolve that Council respond to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development advising that Council has no objections regarding the conversion to freehold of GHPL 15/1655 comprising Lot 6 on Crown Plan KU48.*
- 3. Authorise the CEO to inform the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development in writing before the 31 April 2026 that Council has no objections regarding the conversion of the GHPL 15/1655 comprising Lot 6 on Crown Plan KU48 to freehold but requests that a condition of the conversion be that the off alignment section of the Rockwell Road within Lot 6/KU48 is surveyed at the applicant's expense and a road opening/closing action occur and the off alignment section of the Rockwell Road be recorded on its current alignment.*

Carried unanimously.

10.2.9 Request for Views Conversion of Tenure Lot2/BAN109 & Lot1/BAN96

Council Resolution (RES. M26/109)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Woodcroft

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report by the Rural Lands Compliance Officer to the Ordinary Meeting dated 21 April 2026.
2. Resolve that Council respond to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development advising that Council has no objections regarding the conversion to freehold of GHPL 15/1615 comprising Lot 2 on Crown Plan BAN109 and GHPL 15/1616 comprising Lot 1 on Crown Plan BAN96.
3. Authorise the CEO to inform the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development in writing before the 31 April 2026 that Council has no objections regarding the conversion of the GHPL 15/1615 comprising Lot 2 on Crown Plan BAN109 and GHPL 15/1616 comprising Lot 1 on Crown Plan BAN96 to freehold but requests that a condition of the conversion be that the off alignment section of the Ardgour Road within Lot 1/BAN96 is surveyed at the applicant's expense and a road opening/closing action occur and the off alignment section of the Ardgour Road be recorded on its current alignment.

Carried unanimously.

In accordance with Chapter 5B of the Local Government Act 2009, **Councillor King** declared a Declarable Conflict of Interest with item 10.2.10 Community Grant Application – Cunnamulla RSL as Councillor King's Aunt, Ruby Gamble, is the Secretary of the RSL Club.

Councillor King left the Ordinary Meeting at 10:15 am and took no part in discussions in relation to the Community Grant Application by the Cunnamulla RSL and did not participate in voting on this matter.

10.2.10 Community Grant Application – Cunnamulla RSL

Council Resolution (RES. M26/110)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr Brain

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Community Grant Application from Cunnamulla RSL Sub-branch.
2. Approve a direct cash funding donation of \$3,600 towards the cost of ANZAC Day pipers and an ANZAC Day breakfast.

Carried unanimously.

Councillor King rejoined the Ordinary Meeting at 10:22 am.

Ordinary Meeting broke for morning tea at 10:22 am and re-commenced at 10:50 am.

10.2.11 Community Grant Application: Yowah Opal Festival

Council Resolution (RES. M26/111)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the Community Grant Application from Yowah Opal Mining Community Service Inc for the Yowah Opal Festival on 17 to 19 July 2026.*
2. *Approve the waiver of hire fees for the use of the following equipment with an estimated hire fee of \$1,860:*
 - 1 Generator - \$450
 - 4 x portable toilets - \$960
 - 1 Cold room - \$450
 - 8 x Rubbish blue bins – no charge
3. *Approve sponsorship of a cash donation of \$2,000 towards the cost of running the festival.*
4. *Require Paroo Shire Council's support be acknowledged during the event and in promotional material.*

Carried unanimously.

10.2.12 Community Grant Application – Cunnamulla ICPA

Council Resolution (RES. M26/112)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the Community Grant Application from Cunnamulla ICPA.*
2. *Approve direct cash funding of \$600 to contribute towards the cost of a welcome BBQ.*
3. *Approve the waiver of hire fees for a BBQ trailer (\$300) and the use of John Kerr Park and associated facilities between 9 and 11 September 2026.*
4. *Require Paroo Shire Council's support be acknowledged during the event and in promotional material.*

Carried unanimously.

10.2.13 Community Grant Application – Cunnamulla Fishing & Restocking Club

Council Resolution (RES. M26/113)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Brain

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Community Grant Application from Cunnamulla Fishing & Restocking Club Inc.
2. Approve the waiver of hire fees for the use of the John Kerr Park facility at a value \$120 being two (2) days for oval lights.
3. Approve a direct cash funding donation of \$2,000 towards the costs associated with event expenses and prizes for a major fishing competition to held on 2-3 May 2026.
4. Require Paroo Shire Council's support be acknowledged during the event and in promotional material.

Carried unanimously.

10.3 Infrastructure

10.3.1 Infrastructure Operations Status Report

Council Resolution (RES.M26/114)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr King

That Council receive and note the Infrastructure Operations Status Report

Carried unanimously.

10.3.2 2025-26 Works Program Status Report

Council Resolution (RES. M26/115)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Woodcroft

That Council receive and note the 2025-26 Works Program Status Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.3.3 Restoration of Essential Public Assets Status Report

Council Resolution (RES. M26/116)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr King

That Council receive and note the Restoration of Essential Public Assets Status Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.3.4 John Kerr Park (Tennis Courts) Amenities Building Report**Council Resolution (RES. M26/117)**

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council receive and note the John Kerr Park (Tennis Courts) Amenities Building Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.4 Corporate Services**10.4.1 Financial Position Update Report****Council Resolution (RES. M26/118)**

Moved: Cr Brain
Seconded: Cr King

That Council receive and note the Financial Position Update Report.

Carried unanimously.

10.4.2 Capital Budget Update Report**Council Resolution (RES. M26/119)**

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr Woodcroft

That Council receive and note the Capital Budget Update Report.

Carried unanimously.

Ordinary Meeting broke for lunch at 12:39 pm and re-commenced at 1:21 pm.

10.4.3 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes**Council Resolution (RES. M26/120)**

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council receive and note the Unconfirmed Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes held on 16 March 2026.

Carried unanimously.

10.4.4 Review of Internal Audit Policy

Council Resolution (RES. M26/121)

Moved: Cr Brain
Seconded: Cr Woodcroft

That Council endorse and adopt the revised GP-032 Internal Audit Policy.

Carried unanimously.

10.4.5 Customer Service Report

Council Resolution (RES. M26/122)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council receive and note the Customer Service Report.

Carried unanimously.

11 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil.

In accordance with Chapter 5B of the Local Government Act 2009, Councillor King declared a Prescribed Conflict of Interest with Agenda Item 12.1 RFT 2026-024 Hungerford Road: Winning and Crushing of Gravel Report as he has previously sub-contracted to one of the tenderers (Tuckwell Transport & Earthmoving Pty Ltd) and may do so again in the future.

Councillor King left the Ordinary Meeting at 1.29 pm and took no part in discussions in relation to RFT 2026-024 Hungerford Road: Winning and Crushing of Gravel Report and did not participate in voting on this matter.

12 LATE REPORTS

Pursuant to Section 254J(3)(g) of the Local Government Regulation (LGR) 2012, it is recommended Council resolve to treat this report as confidential due to the necessity to discuss negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

Council Resolution (RES. M26/123)

Moved: Cr Brain
Seconded: Cr Woodcroft

That Council resolve to move into Closed Session.

Carried unanimously.

Council Resolution (RES. M26/124)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr Brain

That Council resolve to re-open the meeting to the public.

Carried unanimously.

12.1 RFT 2026-024 Hungerford Road: Winning and Crushing of Gravel**Council Resolution (RES. M26/125)**

Moved: Cr Brain
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council

1. *Accept the Tender from Schmidt Plant Hire Pty Ltd for the price of \$780,663.28 excluding GST under Vendor Panel Marketplace Public (Plant & Equipment - Hire or Construction & Operation) arrangements; and*
2. *Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to exercise the functions and powers assigned to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract, including any necessary contract variations, with Schmidt Plant Hire Pty Ltd at a total cost of \$780,663.28 excluding GST.*

Carried unanimously.

Councillor King rejoined the Ordinary Meeting at 1:48 pm

Pursuant to Section 254J(3)(g) of the Local Government Regulation (LGR) 2012, it is recommended Council resolve to treat this report as confidential due to the necessity to discuss negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

Council Resolution (RES. M26/126)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr Brain

That Council resolve to move into Closed Session.

Carried unanimously.

Council Resolution (RES. M26/127)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Woodcroft

That Council resolve to re-open the meeting to the public.

Carried unanimously.

12.2 Gamarren Road – Supply and Delivery of Cover Aggregate and Bitumen

Council Resolution (RES. M26/128)

Moved: Cr Jackson
Seconded: Cr King

That Council

1. *Accept the tender from Austek Asphalt Services Pty Ltd for the price of \$355,123.20 excluding GST under Local Buy pre-qualified suppliers LB313 Road and General Civil Construction; and*
2. *Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to exercise the functions and powers assigned to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract, including any necessary contract variations and Rise & Fall adjustments for bitumen and diesel, Austek Asphalt Services Pty Ltd with at a total cost of \$355,123.20 excluding GST.*

Carried unanimously.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting was declared closed at 1:54 pm.

MINUTES CERTIFICATE

This is to confirm that the minutes constitute a true and correct record of the proceedings at the meeting.

Suzette Beresford
Mayor
Date: 19 May 2026

Martin Leech
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 19 May 2026

Business arising from Paroo Shire Council Ordinary meetings



Date	Agenda Item	Subject	Action required	Responsibility	Status
7 March		Water strategy to support road works	Develop a strategy around the supply of water to ensure we have sufficient access to water to enable road repairs to continue	DOI	This will be considered in further detail and the cost benefit analysis explored.
21 April		Mobile phone policy	To review existing mobile device policy and strengthen controls including use of work phones and use of personal phones at work	DCS/CEO	Pending
21 April		Swimming pool repairs	Damaged door and broken toilet lid to be repaired	Building Officer	Being scheduled
21 April		2WEB subscription	To investigate what arrangements does Council have with this radio station	DCS	Pending
21 April		Old poles at JKP	Explore alternative uses and determine if any group would like to use them	DOI	Pending
21 April		Star pickets beside council offices	They have been there for an extended period. Work on road needs to be completed	DOI	Work completed

9.1

Mayor's Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Office of the Mayor
Author: Suzette Beresford, Mayor
Attachments: NIL

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the meetings and events that Mayor Beresford attended in April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Mayor's Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not Applicable.

Discussion

Set out below is a summary of meetings and events attended by the Mayor in April 2026:

Date	Meeting and Events attended
1/4/26	ABC radio interview with Jess on Outback River Lights Festival Meeting with Yowah representatives Virtual meeting with DETSI regarding the development of the avoided clearing and native reforestation carbon farming method
2/4/26	SWQROC Economic Development Advisory Committee virtual meeting
7/4/26	2WEB radio interview with Nathan Chaired Council Workshop
8/4/26	Together with CEO, EDO and Tourism Team Leader, met with Kooma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC board members
10/4/26	Border Regional Organisation of Councils meeting at Cunnamulla LGAQ virtual update on fuel
11/4/26	Noorama Races
13/4/26	4RRFM radio interview with Costo on Outback River Lights Festival ABC radio interview with Lachlan Ford on ORLF
14/4/26	Local Disaster Management Group meeting and training SWQROC EDAC virtual meeting with the Next Economy regarding the SWQ Future Economy Strategy
15/4/26	Virtual meeting with Laura Crossing, KPMG regarding future funding models for the Wild Dog Barrier Fence Meeting with ratepayer regarding their property
16/4/26	LGAQ Elected Members Update for Councillors and Executive Staff

Date	Meeting and Events attended
18/4/26	Opening of the Outback River Lights Festival ABC radio interview with Sally Rope
21/4/26	Chaired Council Ordinary Meeting
22/4/26	USQ Drought Hub workshop looking at actions/projects from the SWQ Regional Drought Resilience Plan suitable to be funded under the Future Drought Fund Paroo Rural Advisory Group meeting in conjunction with Councillors and Senior Staff
23/4/26	Virtual interview meetings with three applicants for the position of Director of Infrastructure conducted by panel of CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor
25/4/26	Anzac Day dawn and mid-morning services
28/4/26	SWQROC meeting in St George with CEO
29/4/26	SWQROC meeting continued Insurance Roundtable No 2 and site inspections of flood mitigation
30/4/26	With CEO attended the Eulo Hall to view the draft plan for the new bridge over the Paroo River being displayed by DTMR

10.1.1 Action Items Register Report

Council Workshop: 5 May 2026
Department: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Author: Chief Executive Officer
Attachment: 1. Action Item Register

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on items that were raised during the Cunnamulla, Eulo, Noorama, Wyandra and Yowah Community Consultation Visits requesting information, action or follow up. Items completed before the recent community consultations have been removed and new matters arising added.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Action Items Register Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not Applicable.

Discussion

Council hold community consultation sessions in Cunnamulla, Eulo, Noorama, Wyandra and Yowah. An action items register was developed for each location, with officers providing updates on the progress on these items (Attachment 1).

The Action Items Registers have been updated in line with discussions at the previous month's Council meeting and at the Town Site Visits and follow up by the responsible officer.

Budget/Financial Implications

Multiple items may have considerable budget impacts both from an operational and capital budget. Council's ability to action requested works will be aligned to Councils adopted budget.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan

Theme: 1. Excellence in Governance
1.3 Deliver excellence in customer service

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Reputation & Civic Leadership Failure to undertake action on requested items by the community.	Items requested by the community for action are undertaken. These items are multiple risks, namely budgetary and level of service provisions. Items may also be other entities to manage and deliver, which may raise unrealistic community expectations of Council.
Failing to meet community expectations	Community, social and cultural infrastructure services that do not align with community expectations or are not sufficiently responsive to changed / evolving community expectations or are beyond Council's capacity for delivery.

Consultation

Community consultation session was held at each of Cunnamulla, Eulo, Noorama, Wyandra and Yowah.

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

NOORAMA

Actions/Issue Request	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
NOORAMA – Community Meeting raised items 19th May 2025				
Signposting	Provide signposts at start of each road showing names of rural properties on that road	DOI	June 2026	<p>2/10 Awaiting mock up design from supplier.</p> <p>4/11 Council agreed to trial a sign on Jobs Gate Road and then ask for feedback from the community. A copy of the road sign will be posted on Facebook</p> <p>17/11: Pilot sign discussed at Community consultation and amendments suggested</p> <p>11/12: Mock-up presented to December workshop and minor amendments agreed to improve ease of use.</p> <p>20/1: Sign has been ordered</p> <p>19/05: Footings have been designed.</p> <p>Poles have been ordered.</p> <p>Works scheduled for 20th May.</p>
NOORAMA – Community Meeting 17 November 2025				
At next PRAG meeting have a road map of the Shire and workshop each quadrant noting the maintenance required.	<p>Advise community of their PRAG members via FB and request they contact their representative regarding road maintenance within their quadrant.</p> <p>A suitable map be provided to the December workshop with suggested road classifications</p>	DOI/Council	Dec 2025	<p>20/1: Road classification provided in Dec 25 workshop.</p> <p>17/3: Maintenance schedule is currently being revised and finalised.</p> <p>19/5: Discussed at PRAG meeting – listing of all roads in shire to be provided and classified by tier.</p>
Transfer of lease to amalgamated Noorama group – Noorama Picnic Racing and Community Group Inc. is still in progress	Follow up on lease transfer	CEO/DCS	Feb 2026	<p>20/1: Will be actioned in February 2026</p> <p>17/3: Still awaiting documentation from Noorama.</p>

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

Actions/Issue Request	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
NOORAMA – Community Meeting 11 May 2026				
Black section of Talbarea Road requires gravel to make it all weather	Road repair to be undertaken involving application of gravel base.	DOI	Dec 2026	
Australian Early Development Census identified that 0-8 years Paroo Shire children are increasingly vulnerable to being ill-prepared to enter school. Early intervention is required.	Council to identify potential funding sources for an Early Childhood development coordinator in Paroo Shire. Library staff to be trained to identify development needs in early years children to assist referrals.	CEO/Mayor	Dec 2026	
Feedback from PRAG representatives to other landowners in the quadrant needs improvement.	Council to raise improved communication at the next PRAG meeting.	CEO/Mayor	Q1 PRAG meeting	

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

WYANDRA

Action/Issue Request	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
WYANDRA – Community Meeting 20 November 2025				
Hall building – broken windows in kitchen above sink and behind fridge	Arrange for repairs to be undertaken	DOI/ Building Officer	Feb 2026	20/1: On schedule 17/2: Building Officer in the process of boarding up windows so sashes can be repaired in Cunnamulla workshop. 17/3: Prior to boarding up the windows it was identified that the windows are part of the contracted W4Q works. Once the hall is restumped the windows will be replaced and the disabled ramp replaced/repaired. 19/5: Scope of work at hall finalised with contractor. Contractor completing minor housing jobs then other non-council works for 6 weeks. Work to recommence June 2026.
Remove large satellite-type dish in front of hall if possible	Investigate the purpose of the large dish in front of the Wyandra hall and have removed if not needed	DOI/ Building Officer	June 2026	17/3: This is another component of W4Q works and will be done at the time of the restumping. 19/5: Refer to the above re timelines.
Racecourse water line	May need checking as was fixed by locals due to no response from Council	DOI	March 2026	17/3: Plumbing team to inspect when they are next in Wyandra 19/5: Waterline inspected, leak located and fixed on 13 May 2026

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

Action/Issue Request	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
<p>Mt Alfred Road potholes in bitumen need patching.</p> <p>Sandy and Deep Creek – poor vision on oncoming vehicles</p>	<p>Program bitumen patching</p> <p>Sandy Creek – remove shrubs on side of road to improve visibility</p> <p>Deep Creek – inspect and report for discussion – reduced speed signs suggested</p>	<p>DOI</p>	<p>April 2026</p>	<p>20/1: On schedule</p> <p>17/3: Inspection will occur in March with a view to fix potholes (when we have a patching machine available) and clearing of shrubbery.</p> <p>19/5: External patching machine has been engaged to undertake urgent sealed pavement repairs in May / June 2026. Mt Alfred Road will be on the priority list. Contractor mobilised to site on 4 May.</p> <p>Visibility improvements and reduced speed signage to be investigated.</p>
<p>Improve street lighting – particularly from free camp area to hotel where tourists tend to walk at night.</p> <p>Request for streetlight at southern end of Moody Street</p>	<p>Investigate and provide report with estimated costs to Council workshop for discussion.</p>	<p>DOI</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>17/3: Council staff have spoken with Ergon. Ergon are going to provide details of the process involved to request these works. Once we are aware of the process we will lodge an application. Council will also look at alternative, more cost effective, lighting solutions.</p> <p>19/5: Staff have followed up with Ergon and CRE and are looking to have this resolved and power to the free camp area shortly.</p>
<p>How to attract more tourists to the town</p> <p>Consider having a manned tourism information centre during the tourist season</p>	<p>Develop a tourist trail of interesting sites to visit</p> <p>Investigate if having a manned facility is practical and/or improved tourist signage</p>	<p>Tourism Officer/ Media & Marketing Officer</p>	<p>June 2026</p>	<p>11/12: Discussions with media and tourism team. A number of locations in Wyandra already have QR codes providing information regarding points of interest. The project will formalise a trail incorporating these and other points of interest.</p> <p>17/3: Media & Marketing to visit Wyandra in March/April to develop a plan</p> <p>19/5: Media and Tourism team have contacted Progress Association to arrange a visit.</p>

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

Action/Issue Request	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
WYANDRA – Community Meeting 13 May 2026				
Lighting required at right hand side of the hall for when people meet in the park	Install external lighting to provide coverage of the park to support local events	DOI	Dec 2026	
Irrigation system at front of town not working	PCS to investigate and repair	DOI	May 2026	19/5: The issue has been identified; new parts ordered and will be installed w/c 18 May.
Town needs an accessible emergency defibrillator	Council to install an emergency defibrillator. Location to be determined	DOI	Sept 2026	
Community has limited first aid coverage	Council to investigate if community funding through the CRRO program could assist with holding a first aid course in the community	CRRO	Sept 2026	
Community does not know which members of PRAG represent their community	Council to display a full list of PRAG members on the Council website	Media Lead	June 2026	
Lighting at entrance to town from Mitchell Highway	To be raised again with TMR.	Mayor/CEO	June 2026	
Availability of mains water stop cocks around the town to isolate any leaks	Council to assess availability of stopcocks and determine if additional are required.	DOI	Dec 2026	
Progress association requested to hold a key to the Wyandra Hall to act as an emergency spare	Council to provide key	CEO	May 2026	19/5: Spare key has been signed out by the CEO on behalf of the Progress Association and will be delivered to Wyandra.
Significant water leak in Moody Street (Marshall's house)	Council to investigate and repair.	DOI	May 2026	19/5: The issue has been rectified and leak stopped on 13 May 2026.

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

EULO

Action/Issue Request	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
EULO Community Meeting held on 24 November 2025				
Eulo Development Association support the proposed establishment of a Mechanical Display in Eulo.	EDA to select preferred site via community meeting and communicate this to Council. Council will promote meeting via Facebook website, and newsletter Council to locate previous design concept and if unable to be found CEO to visit Eulo to develop new drawing Council to support development application.	CEO Mayor/CEO	Feb 2026	17/2: Council awaiting feedback from EDA. 17/3: Meeting has been held, a preferred site identified. Council to investigate current ownership of the preferred site and the practicality of its location. A design of the site will be required if land is assessed as available. 19/5: site is on a reserve specified for landing ground aircraft. Lengthy and potentially costly process to excise land. Letter to be sent to steering committee that airport site is not suitable but would support location near the Diprotodon area subject to resolving drainage issue.
Large satellite dish at entrance to town	Investigate role satellite dish plans and plan for its removal in the long term if no longer required	CEO	June 2026	
Develop a walkway from the river camping areas to town including solar lighting	To advocate for a pathway from the new bridge into town whilst concept plans are being developed. Likely to be dependent on whether old bridge is retained or not.	Mayor/CEO	Feb 2026	17/2: Awaiting detailed plans from TMR regarding road design. Community consultation from TMR will inform whether this will be feasible to include in new bridge works. 17/3: Community consultation is likely to happen mid-April 2026 21/4: Consultation date set for 30 April 2026 19/5; Matter to be raised with TMR re bridge design
Eulo dump needs fixing	Requires signage Consider using fenced area as a dedicated metal, concrete and green waste transfer station Remove metal/concrete in pit to extend life of pit	DOI	Feb 2026	17/3: Vegetation clearing permit obtained to undertake clearing as necessary. 21/4: If funding secured for Cunnamulla Transfer station, it is intended to use skip bins to collect household rubbish and transfer to Cunnamulla. Skips would be in fenced area to prevent feral pig ingress.

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

Action/Issue Request	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
Lino flooring in kitchen and doctor's rooms is old and dirty and well passed its use by date	Flooring in the kitchen and doctor's rooms at Eulo Hall to be replaced	DOI	March 2026	17/2: Building officer inspected the floor. Supplier and quotes being researched. 19/5: Order has been placed for works to be undertaken.
EULO Community Meeting held on 12 May 2026				
Existing waste facility is too close to the airport.	PSC to investigate relocation of waste facility In short term investigate the use of skips with lids to control waste being blown away from the facility. Increase community education about recycling	DOI	Dec 2026	
Speeding vehicles through town including trucks and caravans are a danger to the community and visitors.	PSC to discuss with TMR the reduction of the speed limit in Eulo to 40 kph	CEO/Mayor	June 2026	
Second bore requires repair and follow up	Second bore to be assessed to identify works required and to ensure back up for main bore. Solution to ensure water is available for emergency services and PSC vehicles to be considered.	DOI	July 2026	19/5: tender for works has been awarded and when complete a fire hydrant will be installed to assist SES and council vehicle fill up with water. The second bore will also be connected to the first bore to act as a back-up. Overhead tank has not been used for a number of years and removal to be considered once hydrant installed.

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

YOWAH

Action/Issue	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
Yowah – Community Meeting 24 November 2025				
VAST system rollout – approx. 32 properties remain to be installed	Town orderly to coordinate completion of the roll-out of the VAST systems when residents return to their homes next year.	DCS	June 2026	19/05: contractor has been on leave. Will be contacted to complete work.
Yowah – Community Meeting 12 May 2026				
Illegal fires and dumping at waste facility are an environmental issue	PSC to explore installation of a solar powered security camera to deter / identify people misusing the facility	DOI	July 2026	
Airport toilet facilities and shaded wait area are inadequate	PCS to make repairs to existing toilet facilities to ensure adequate functioning services available.	DOI	July 2026	
	Shade structure to be investigated and subject to cost installed.	DOI	Nov 2026	

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

CUNNAMULLA

Action/Issue	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
CUNNAMULLA Community Meeting 19 November 2025				
Road inspections – could it include collection of signs or fixing signs rather than just driving the road	Ensure all roads within the Shire are regularly inspected and include sign collection/replacement	DOI	Dec 2025	20/1: Council intends to reinstate a dedicated road inspection position who will also cover grid inspections, fixing signs and retrieving signs not in use. 19/05: Focus of new Deputy DOI will be roads
Provision of Shire road grading programme	Submit draft document shown to PRAG to December workshop for discussion	DOI	Dec 2025	17/3: Draft grading schedule is completed. It is currently being revised and finalised 5/5: Currently being looked into in conjunction with the rural road hierarchy issue. 19/05: Discussed at May workshop and PRAG meeting.
Decrease speed sign to 40km/hr on Cuttaburra Crossing	Consider installing decreased speed signs on all Shire causeways/floodways	DOI	March 2026	17/2: Rockwell Rd signs to be erected at the same time. 17/3: Crew is working on Jobs Gate Road. When project finished they will install new signage.
Flood signage on Cuttaburra Rd	Installation of new signs at each end of Cuttaburra Rd advising motorists when the road is closed	DOI	June 2026	19/5: The following has been included in the Local Resilience Action Plan: Installation of automated road open / road closed / caution signage at key locations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eulo Toompine Road (southern end intersection with the Bulloo Development Road) - Jobs Gate Road (western end intersection with the Mitchell Highway) - Cuttaburra Road (northern end intersection with the Bulloo Development Road) - Amenda Tinnenburra Road (eastern end intersection with the Mitchell Highway) - Mt Alfred Road (eastern end at Wyandra) Funding is being pursued for these upgrades.

COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS STATUS UPDATE

Action/Issue	Identified Action	Responsible Person	Timeline	Comment
CUNNAMULLA Community Meeting 19 November 2025				
Contractors from outside of Paroo Shire are using Cunnamulla waste facility free of charge. Unfair to local residents	PSC to investigate usage and consider adopting new service charges and how this could be policed	DOI	Nov 2026	
The bushwalk on west side of river needs to be reopened.	PCS to discuss matter with Kunja Aboriginal Corporation with a view to reopening the walk but ensuring it respects the traditional owners of the land and is safe	CEO	Nov 2026	
Emma Street road condition (Wicks to Watson) is very poor. Needs significant rework.	PCS to investigate repairs works required and cost. Develop a town road maintenance plan.	DOI	Dec 2026	
Town needs industrial land	PCS to investigate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making available any council owned surplus land 2. Acquisition of land from state 	CEO	Nov 2026	
Council staff appear to be using council vehicles outside of hours.	PCS to review and update (as required) policy and inform all staff of the policy	CEO	Sept 2026	
PRAG and others would like to see budget before it is adopted	PCS to hold a community presentation of the budget the week prior to the budget being adopted in June	Mayor/CEO	June 2026	

10.1.2 Grant Applications Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Author: Alison Shaw, The Right Grant
Attachment: Submitted Grant Applications

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on grant applications as at the end of April 2026 as prepared by Alison Shaw of The Right Grant.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Grant Applications Report

Discussion

Refer to Attachment 1 for updates on grant applications that have been submitted in the period of May 2025 to April 2026.

The following summary of grant submissions highlights we have a strong record of success in our grant applications.

Status	Grant sought	%age of total grants
Successful	6,696,357	59%
Pending	4,008,646	35%
Unsuccessful	599,794	5%
Total	11,304,797	100%

Attachments

1. Submitted Grant Applications.

Attachment 1: Submitted Grant Applications

Attachment 1: Submitted Grant Applications

Funding body	Department/ Provider	Project	Total Project Cost	Council Contribution	Amount Requested	Status	Comments
QLD Climate Resilient Councils Funding	State	Paroo Shire Flood Mitigation Study	158,000	-	158,000	Unsuccessful	
Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program - Round Two	Federal	Indigenous Trainee Tourism Officer position.	246,590	-	246,590	Successful	Funding over 3 years
Disaster Ready Fund RD 3	Federal/State	IT Connection for Cunnamulla's Local Disaster Coordination Centre.	142,794	-	142,794	Unsuccessful	
QLD Racing – Infrastructure Grant	QLD Racing	Shed for starting stalls and to cover transportable buildings – jockeys' room etc.	96,500	-	96,500	Pending	
Community Gambling Benefit Fund	State Govt.	Cunnamulla Bowls Club upgrade greens.	100,000	-	100,000	Successful	Application submitted on behalf of the Cunnamulla Bowls Club as Council lease the facility to the bowls club
Safer Communities Funding	State Govt.	Funding for expansion of the existing CCTV network across the township of Cunnamulla	91,467	19,019	72,448	Successful	
Safer Communities Funding	State Govt.	Funding for expansion of the existing CCTV network across the township of Cunnamulla	532,416	133,132	399,284	Successful	
Scheme Supply Fund 2024-2026 - Pathway 1 - Allocation	State Govt.	Update planning scheme	100,000	-	100,000	Successful	
Australia Day 2026 Community Grant	Federal	Funding for Aust Day events in Cunnamulla, Wyandra, Yowah and Eulo.	10,000	-	10,000	Successful	
Country Roads Connect (crc) program	State Govt.	Upgrade to 8Km section of Jobs Gate Rd	7,635,252	1,942,626	5,692,626	Successful	\$1,942,626 from other source: TIDS
FY26 Resilience Grant Application	RACQ	Emergency Kits	27,641	484	27,157	Successful	Submitted via Eulo Development Assn.
Digital Starter Grant	State Govt.	Digital Inclusion – Cunnamulla Library	10,249	-	10,249	Successful	
Digital Starter Grant	State Govt.	Digital Inclusion – Yowah Library	10,004	-	10,004	Successful	
Regional Tourism Infrastructure Grant	State Govt.	The Robber's Tree – Phase 1	299,000	-	299,000	Unsuccessful	Project did not generate direct economic benefit compared to other applications
Resource Recovery Boost Fund Stream 1	State Govt.	Paroo Shire Resource Diversion Transfer Station	2,277,587	280,607	1,996,980	Pending	
Fighting Illegal Dumping Partnership Program - Round 1A	State Govt.	Funding to support the Environmental Field Officer (Illegal Dumping Officer) position	433,811	163,811	270,000	Pending	Council contribution is oncosts, vehicle expenses, promotions expenses, administration and PPE necessary for the role.
Community Gambling Benefit Fund	State Govt.	Marquees for events	15,272	2,500	12,772	Pending	
Rural Libraries Qld Places and Spaces Grant	State Govt.	New Carpet for the Cunnamulla Library	32,785	-	32,785	Pending	
Western Queensland Events Boost Fund	State Govt.	Funding support for Outback River Lights Festival	28,000		28,000	Successful	
Telstra's Connected Communities Grant	Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)	Paroo Digital Connect	13,288	3,288	10,000	Pending	Funding for ipads and training to strengthen digital capability - targeting seniors and youth.
Regional Activation Fund	State Govt.	Specific Infrastructure Planning Project for the William Street / Florence Street site	345,900		345,900	Pending	
Regional Activation Fund	State Govt.	Specific Infrastructure Planning Project for the Wicks St site	369,000		369,000	Pending	
Games On!	State Govt.	Stage 1A - Cunnamulla Swimming Pool & John Kerr Park Master Plan	950,000	211,001	738,999	Pending	Expression of Interest
Safer Communities Funding RD2	State Govt.	Installation of security gate at Council Depot	135,711		135,711	Pending	
Total Grants Submitted			14,061,265	2,756,468	11,304,797		

10.1.3 Human Resources Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Corporate Services
Author: HR Manager
Attachments: NIL

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on advertised positions, employee changes, and positions to be advertised and importantly to provide insight into People & Culture's human resource strategy.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Human Resources Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not Applicable

Discussion

April Outgoing Staff x 2

- 1 x Trainee Admin Depot (3 April)
- WHS Officer – (30 April)

April Incoming Staff x 1

- 1 x Multi Skilled Labourer – (24 April)

Positions advertised or to be advertised:

- Finance Manager – outsourced agency.
- Director of Infrastructure – outsourced agency – offer made
- Work Health Safety Officer
- Local Laws Officer

Filled positions – commence May x 5

- Town Orderly – Wyandra (1)
- Plumber Apprentice (x1)
- Plumber Trainee (x1)
- General Labourer – Town Maintenance Crew (x1)
- Administration Officer – Infrastructure (x1)

Agency Contracted Workers – March/April/May

- 1 x Local Laws commenced 16 April – 3-month contract

Employee Changes/Transfers x 1

- Team Leader Communities (22 April)

Moving forward:

Hire for Attitude, Train for Skill

It is difficult to recruit locally with minimal options. If we cannot find the perfect local candidate, PSC needs to look at investing in targeted training aligned with business needs that will lead to career pathways aka succession planning and importantly staff retention.

Staff Performance Appraisals are underway. Feedback should be available for the June Council Meeting.

The focus is to secure interest from staff in obtaining their future development plans and matching this against the needs of the business.

Traineeships/Apprenticeships – May Update

All in registration and sign-up: Total 6 / Active 5

New

1. Plumber Apprenticeship – Commence May
2. Plumber Trainee – Commence May

Commenced

3. Traineeship Certificate IV Tourism and Travel Traineeship
4. Traineeship Certificate III in Water Industry Operations – Treatment Plant Operator
5. Apprenticeship 1 x Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology – new employee working in Workshop

Cancelled

6. Traineeship Certificate III Business Admin – Employee worked in Depot

Staffing Statistics – April 2026

	Community Support & Engagement			Infrastructure	Office of the CEO	Parks & Gardens	Water & Sewerage	Workshop & Fleet	Grand Total
Female	17	10	6	2	2	0	0	37	
Male	5	2	32	2	8	4	4	57	
Grand Total	22	12	38	4	10	4	4	94	

Gender	Community Support & Engagement			Infrastructure	Office of the CEO	Parks & Gardens	Water & Sewerage	Workshop & Fleet	Grand Total
Casual	13	0	5	1	1	0	0	20	
Full Time	8	10	32	3	7	4	4	68	
Part Time	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	6	
Grand Total	22	12	38	4	10	4	4	94	

People & Culture 3-month Focus - Ongoing

1. In 2025–26, we will develop Parro Shire Council's first Employee Value Proposition (EVP) to help attract and retain people with the right skills and attributes.
2. Review *Performance Review* documents, train supervisors to extract Training Needs Analysis information: *underway*
3. Fair Work Casual Conversion Training for Supervisors - *underway*
4. Process to capture casualisation at correct time and run reports - *underway*.
5. Packs to go out to all casual employees - *underway*.
6. People & Culture continuous improvement policy register e.g. updated legislations.
7. Calendar of workplace training events
8. Introduce new Healthy Workplace Relationships inclusive of Grievance process Policy completed for review.
9. Smoking in and around the Workplace Policy
10. Mobile phone and recording device Policy.

All of Council – Staffing

Budget/Financial Implications

As per approved 2025/26 Budget.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Local Governments Act 2009

Local Government Regulations 2012

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan:

Theme:

- 1 Excellence in Governance
 - 1.1 Provide a safe workplace including wellbeing support
 - 1.2 Provide leadership training and team building to ensure a coordinated, connected and learning organisation

Risk Management

The following risk/s are relevant to the matters considered in this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Staff Housing	Minimal availability to offer staff to encourage move to Cunnamulla

Consultation

Chief Executive Officer.

10.1.4 Rural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Amendment

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Author: Martin Leech
Attachments: 1. Revised Terms of Reference

Purpose

To consider changes to the terms of reference for the Rural Advisory Committee following on from the previous Rural Advisory Committee meeting and the requirements of the Terms of Reference.

Recommendation

That Council receive, endorse and adopt the revised Terms of Reference of the Rural Advisory Committee as presented.

Previous Council Resolutions

Council Resolution (RES.M24/216)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council:

- 1. endorse the Terms of Reference for the Rural Advisory Committee; and*
- 2. nominate Councillor Jackson, Councillor King, Councillor Woodcroft as the Councillor representatives on the Rural Advisory Committee for the 2-year period ending 31 August 2026; and*
- 3. nominate Mayor Beresford as an Observer on the Rural Advisory Committee for the 2-year period ending 31 August 2026.*

Carried unanimously.

Discussion

The terms of reference for the Rural Advisory Committee were adopted on 17 September 2024.

The committee has no specific legislative basis apart from being aligned to the local government principles and Councillor responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2009 (LGA).

Subsequent to the adoption of the Terms of Reference, changes were suggested by the committee but were never ratified by the full Paroo Shire Council in open session.

This was raised in the Rural Advisory Committee meeting held on 22 April 2026 and at that meeting it was agreed that the changes should be ratified by resolution of Paroo Shire Council.

The revised Terms of Reference are set out as an attachment to this report.

Budget/Financial Implications

There are no anticipated financial or budget implications with advisory committees.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

There are no specific statutory requirements with regards to advisory committees, however, advisory committees are a governance system to aid Councillors in discharging their obligations and are established in line with local government principles.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan

Theme: 1. Excellence in Governance

1.3. Harness a culture of accountability and extensive community consultation

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Reputation, Community & Civic Leadership Failure to properly understand and represent the interests of the community.	Councillors are expected to provide leadership and direction to the community and need to be provided with adequate support by Council in order for them to fulfil their duties. The rural advisory committee assists Councillors in the performance of their duties and enables enhanced communication and support for the community

Consultation

Development of a Rural Advisory Committee was formulated following community consultation sessions held across the Shire.

Terms of Reference were developed through the Office of the CEO.



RURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE
~~September 2024~~ May 2026

Purpose.....	3
Objectives	3
Principles.....	3
Membership	4
Applications.....	4
Term	4
Councillors	4
Council Officers.....	5
Meetings.....	5
Decision Making and Voting Rights	5
Quorum.....	5
Chair	5
Secretariat.....	5
Meeting and Minutes.....	5
Reporting Meeting Outcomes	6
Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality.....	6
Review	7

DOCUMENT CONTROL			
Version	Date	Author	Reviewer
		Name	Name
Rev 0	30.07.2024	Scott Osman (SO)	
Rev 0.1	03.09.2024	Scott Osman (SO)	
1.0	17.09.2024	Scott Osman (SO)	Adopted by Council
2.0	19.05.2026	Martin Leech - CEO	Adopted by Council

Rural Advisory Committee

Purpose

The Rural Advisory Committee has been established to provide advice to the Paroo Shire Council in relation to broad-based road infrastructure and rural community issues. The Rural Advisory Committee is an advisory committee of Council with a Councillor or Councillors nominated on a two yearly basis. The establishment of a Rural Advisory Committee provides an important forum for identifying region-wide issues and opportunities and advising Council about effective policy and service provision regarding roads and rural related matters within the Paroo local government area.

The Rural Advisory Committee has a purely strategic focus. The committee should focus on issues and opportunities that are relevant across the entire region. The committee should provide specialist advice to Council as an input into decisions that impact region-wide Council policy. The Rural Advisory Committee has no delegated decision making power from Council.

Objectives

The objectives of the Committee are:

- Assets are managed and used to meet the needs of the community and provide for current and future generations;
- Quality community infrastructure that are well used and accessible;
- Infrastructure and community support that meets community needs;
- Connected and effective community groups;
- Strategic advice and input relating to the development of Council's plans and policies;
- Discussion regarding 'special interest' topics as determined by Council;
- Participation in the ongoing consultation, review and implementation of rural related strategic documents;
- Input into Council's processes where requested eg provide feedback regarding projects to be considered by Council for submission to external funding programs;
- Provision of feedback to group on priorities for individual committees;
- Update group of progress of key issues; and
- Identification of synergies between groups and links to progressing the Community and Council Plan.

Principles

- Be inclusive, open minded and respectful of everyone's perspective
- Put our personal agendas aside and provide advice for the greater good of the diverse Paroo Shire community
- Challenging and exploring are an integral part of what we do and how we operate
- Represent and commit to the value of the committee

- Actively participate and engage in the work of the committee
- Be punctual, well prepared, timely with responses and we follow through
- Be realistic about what we can achieve
- Have a strong focus on outcomes

Membership

The Rural Advisory Committee will consist of the following membership structure:

- ~~All Councillors including the Mayor maximum of three (3) Councillor representatives;~~
- ~~Chief Executive Officer will be an ex officio officer of the group.~~
- Two (2) Council Officers, Director of Infrastructure and Director of ~~Corporate Services~~ **Community Support and Engagement** or other officers as directed by the Chief Executive Officer; and
- A maximum of eight (8) representatives from within the Paroo Shire with a maximum of two (2) representatives from each quadrant of the shire.

It is expected that each member will attend a minimum of 75% of meetings annually. If a member attends less than 75% of meetings annually, Council could appoint a replacement member if deemed necessary.

Applications

The process to appoint community members will be advertised on Council's internet site, social media and through local networks. Applicants must make application via an expression of interest process. Applications will be assessed based upon their interest, knowledge and expertise relating to:

- Leisure, sporting and health and fitness trends;
- Roads infrastructure;
- Community capacity building;
- Community networks;
- A working knowledge of the rural environment within Paroo Shire; and
- The provision of services provided within a Local Government context.

Term

Non-Councillor members on the Committee will be appointed for a maximum term of two years. At the conclusion of each term, pending Council approval, new Committee members will be appointed via the aforementioned application process.

Councillors

~~Council will appoint Councillor representation every two years.~~

The role of Councillors is to participate in the meetings, listen to community and stakeholder views and keep the Council informed, through reports on committees by Councillors at Council meetings, on issues of community interest being considered at meetings.

Council Officers

Council officers will be nominated to support the committee by the Chief Executive Officer as required to provide advice and administrative support to the committee.

Meetings

Decision Making and Voting Rights

As this is an advisory committee, voting on issues is not required. Any recommendations will generally be developed through consensus. Where a matter cannot be agreed, the differing opinions should be clearly expressed in the notes of the meeting.

The Committee acts in an advisory capacity only and has no delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of Council.

Quorum

A quorum will be fifty per cent (50%) of the Committee membership plus one.

Any proxy attendance should be notified to Council's nominated officer at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

The Committee may invite observers to meetings from time to time. This is at the discretion of the committee.

Guests may also be invited to attend and participate at meetings, this would generally be for a specific purpose and/or specified period of time. This is at the discretion of the committee.

Chair

The role of Chairperson will be undertaken by the Mayor or a Councillor. The appointed Chairperson is responsible for the conduct of meetings, ensuring fair and equitable opportunities for views and opinions to be voiced and discussed by the Advisory Committee. A Deputy Chairperson should be elected to chair meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Secretariat

Administration support will be provided by Council.

Meeting and Minutes

Agendas and Minutes must be prepared for each meeting of the Committee. The Agenda must be provided to members of the Committee not less than seven days before the time fixed for the holding of the meeting.

The Chairperson must arrange for minutes of each meeting of the committee to be kept.

The Minutes of a Committee meeting must:

- a) Contain details of the proceedings and recommendations made;
- b) Be clearly expressed;
- c) Be self-explanatory; and
- d) In relation to recommendations recorded in the minutes, incorporate relevant reports or a summary of the relevant reports considered in the decision making process.

Draft Minutes must be:

- a) Submitted to the Committee Chairperson for confirmation within seven days of the meeting;
- b) Distributed to all Committee Members following confirmation from the Chairperson and within 14 days of the meeting; and
- c) Submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for formal endorsement.

Minutes must be approved by the Chairperson before being published or distributed and then formally endorsed at the subsequent meeting.

Agendas and Minutes of the Committee will be made available on Council's intranet.

Agendas and notes from meetings are not required to be made available to the public.

Reporting Meeting Outcomes

A report of each Rural Advisory Committee meeting is to be presented to all Paroo Shire Council Councillors and Executive.

Minutes of each meeting will be provided to all Councillors of the Paroo Shire Council

A report of the Rural Advisory Committee activities will be presented to the Council by 30 June annually.

Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

The *Local Government Act 2009* identifies direct and indirect conflicts of interest which require disclosure as and when they arise. Members of the Rural Advisory Committee must be fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to the management of interests in relation to the discharge of their duties as members of the Rural Advisory Committee.

Any matter deemed by a member to represent a Conflict of Interest will be reported to the Chairperson and the Council's Governance team either prior to a meeting or before the specific item is discussed and dealt with in line with the Act and any relevant Council policies or guidelines.

It is intended that the Rural Advisory Committee will be a forum for discussing proposed policies and actions that may impact the Paroo community.

It is envisaged that members will be provided with information that is not available in the public realm. It will be critical that committee members are seen as a group that can be trusted with confidential information.

The Rural Advisory Committee's ability to fulfil its purpose will be severely hampered if trust is undermined in any way. Given the level of confidentiality that will be associated with some of the information provided to members, any discussion with non-committee members is limited to information already available to the public.

Confidential discussion will not be disclosed without the Chairperson's prior approval.

Review

To be reviewed biennially - at the commencement and midway through term of Council.



RURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE
May 2026

Purpose.....	3
Objectives.....	3
Principles.....	4
Membership.....	4
Applications	4
Term	4
Councillors.....	5
Council Officers	5
Meetings.....	5
Decision Making and Voting Rights	5
Quorum	5
Chair.....	5
Secretariat	5
Meeting and Minutes	6
Reporting Meeting Outcomes	6
Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality.....	7
Review	7

DOCUMENT CONTROL			
Version	Date	Author	Reviewer
		Name	Name
Rev 0	30.07.2024	Scott Osman (SO)	
Rev 0.1	03.09.2024	Scott Osman (SO)	
1.0	17.09.2024	Scott Osman (SO)	Adopted by Council
2.0	19.05.2026	Martin Leech - CEO	Adopted by Council

Rural Advisory Committee

Purpose

The Rural Advisory Committee has been established to provide advice to the Paroo Shire Council in relation to broad-based road infrastructure and rural community issues. The Rural Advisory Committee is an advisory committee of Council with a Councillor or Councillors nominated on a two yearly basis. The establishment of a Rural Advisory Committee provides an important forum for identifying region-wide issues and opportunities and advising Council about effective policy and service provision regarding roads and rural related matters within the Paroo local government area.

The Rural Advisory Committee has a purely strategic focus. The committee should focus on issues and opportunities that are relevant across the entire region. The committee should provide specialist advice to Council as an input into decisions that impact region-wide Council policy. The Rural Advisory Committee has no delegated decision making power from Council.

Objectives

The objectives of the Committee are:

- Assets are managed and used to meet the needs of the community and provide for current and future generations;
- Quality community infrastructure that are well used and accessible;
- Infrastructure and community support that meets community needs;
- Connected and effective community groups;
- Strategic advice and input relating to the development of Council's plans and policies;
- Discussion regarding 'special interest' topics as determined by Council;
- Participation in the ongoing consultation, review and implementation of rural related strategic documents;
- Input into Council's processes where requested e.g. provide feedback regarding projects to be considered by Council for submission to external funding programs;
- Provision of feedback to group on priorities for individual committees;
- Update group of progress of key issues; and
- Identification of synergies between groups and links to progressing the Community and Council Plan.

Principles

- Be inclusive, open minded and respectful of everyone's perspective
- Put our personal agendas aside and provide advice for the greater good of the diverse Paroo Shire community
- Challenging and exploring are an integral part of what we do and how we operate
- Represent and commit to the value of the committee
- Actively participate and engage in the work of the committee
- Be punctual, well prepared, timely with responses and we follow through
- Be realistic about what we can achieve
- Have a strong focus on outcomes

Membership

The Rural Advisory Committee will consist of the following membership structure:

- All Councillors including the Mayor;
- Chief Executive Officer will be an ex officio officer of the group.
- Two (2) Council Officers, Director of Infrastructure and Director of Corporate Services or other officers as directed by the Chief Executive Officer; and
- A maximum of eight (8) representatives from within the Paroo Shire with a maximum of two (2) representatives from each quadrant of the shire.

It is expected that each member will attend a minimum of 75% of meetings annually. If a member attends less than 75% of meetings annually, Council could appoint a replacement member if deemed necessary.

Applications

The process to appoint community members will be advertised on Council's internet site, social media and through local networks. Applicants must make application via an expression of interest process. Applications will be assessed based upon their interest, knowledge and expertise relating to:

- Leisure, sporting and health and fitness trends;
- Roads infrastructure;
- Community capacity building;
- Community networks;
- A working knowledge of the rural environment within Paroo Shire; and
- The provision of services provided within a Local Government context.

Term

Non-Councillor members on the Committee will be appointed for a maximum term of two years. At the conclusion of each term, pending Council approval, new Committee members will be appointed via the aforementioned application process.

Councillors

The role of Councillors is to participate in the meetings, listen to community and stakeholder views and keep the Council informed, through reports on committees by Councillors at Council meetings, on issues of community interest being considered at meetings.

Council Officers

Council officers will be nominated to support the committee by the Chief Executive Officer as required to provide advice and administrative support to the committee.

Meetings

Decision Making and Voting Rights

As this is an advisory committee, voting on issues is not required. Any recommendations will generally be developed through consensus. Where a matter cannot be agreed, the differing opinions should be clearly expressed in the notes of the meeting.

The Committee acts in an advisory capacity only and has no delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of Council.

Quorum

A quorum will be fifty per cent (50%) of the Committee membership plus one.

Any proxy attendance should be notified to Council's nominated officer at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

The Committee may invite observers to meetings from time to time. This is at the discretion of the committee.

Guests may also be invited to attend and participate at meetings, this would generally be for a specific purpose and/or specified period of time. This is at the discretion of the committee.

Chair

The role of Chairperson will be undertaken by the Mayor or a Councillor. The appointed Chairperson is responsible for the conduct of meetings, ensuring fair and equitable opportunities for views and opinions to be voiced and discussed by the Advisory Committee. A Deputy Chairperson should be elected to chair meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Secretariat

Administration support will be provided by Council.

Meeting and Minutes

Agendas and Minutes must be prepared for each meeting of the Committee. The Agenda must be provided to members of the Committee not less than seven days before the time fixed for the holding of the meeting.

The Chairperson must arrange for minutes of each meeting of the committee to be kept.

The Minutes of a Committee meeting must:

- a) Contain details of the proceedings and recommendations made;
- b) Be clearly expressed;
- c) Be self-explanatory; and
- d) In relation to recommendations recorded in the minutes, incorporate relevant reports or a summary of the relevant reports considered in the decision making process.

Draft Minutes must be:

- a) Submitted to the Committee Chairperson for confirmation within seven days of the meeting;
- b) Distributed to all Committee Members following confirmation from the Chairperson and within 14 days of the meeting; and
- c) Submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for formal endorsement.

Minutes must be approved by the Chairperson before being published or distributed and then formally endorsed at the subsequent meeting.

Agendas and Minutes of the Committee will be made available on Council's intranet.

Agendas and notes from meetings are not required to be made available to the public.

Reporting Meeting Outcomes

A report of each Rural Advisory Committee meeting is to be presented to all Paroo Shire Council Councillors and Executive.

Minutes of each meeting will be provided to all Councillors of the Paroo Shire Council

A report of the Rural Advisory Committee activities will be presented to the Council by 30 June annually.

Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

The *Local Government Act 2009* identifies direct and indirect conflicts of interest which require disclosure as and when they arise. Members of the Rural Advisory Committee must be fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to the management of interests in relation to the discharge of their duties as members of the Rural Advisory Committee.

Any matter deemed by a member to represent a Conflict of Interest will be reported to the Chairperson and the Council's Governance team either prior to a meeting or before the specific item is discussed and dealt with in line with the Act and any relevant Council policies or guidelines.

It is intended that the Rural Advisory Committee will be a forum for discussing proposed policies and actions that may impact the Paroo community.

It is envisaged that members will be provided with information that is not available in the public realm. It will be critical that committee members are seen as a group that can be trusted with confidential information.

The Rural Advisory Committee's ability to fulfil its purpose will be severely hampered if trust is undermined in any way. Given the level of confidentiality that will be associated with some of the information provided to members, any discussion with non-committee members is limited to information already available to the public.

Confidential discussion will not be disclosed without the Chairperson's prior approval.

Review

To be reviewed biennially - at the commencement and midway through term of Council.

10.1.5 Rural Advisory Committee Unconfirmed Minutes – 22 April 2026

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Author: Martin Leech
Attachments: 1. Rural Advisory Committee Unconfirmed Minutes – 22 April 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the minutes of the unconfirmed Rural Advisory Committee meeting held on 10 July 2025.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the unconfirmed meeting minutes of the Rural Advisory Committee meeting minutes held on 22 April 2026.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not applicable

Discussion

The Rural Advisory Committee has no specific legislative basis apart from being aligned to the local government principles and Councillor responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2009 (LGA).

The unconfirmed minutes of the Rural Advisory Committee meeting held on 22 April 2026 are presented for information purposes only and to inform Council of matters discussed at the meeting.

Budget/Financial Implications

There are no anticipated financial or budget implications with advisory committees.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

There are no specific statutory requirements with regards to advisory committees, however, advisory committees are a governance system to aid Councillors in discharging their obligations and are established in line with local government principles.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan

Theme: 1. Excellence in Governance
1.3. Harness a culture of accountability and extensive community consultation

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Reputation, Community & Civic Leadership Failure to properly understand and represent the interests of the community.	Councillors are expected to provide leadership and direction to the community and need to be provided with adequate support by Council in order for them to fulfil their duties. The rural advisory committee assists Councillors in the performance of their duties and enables enhanced communication and support for the community

Consultation

Rural Advisory Committee members and chair of meeting have contributed to the content of the unconfirmed minutes.



Unconfirmed Minutes of the Paroo Rural Advisory Group Meeting held 22 April 2026 at the CCEC Cunnamulla

1. Meeting Open and Welcome

Mayor Beresford welcomed members and opened the meeting at 1:37 pm.

Carol Godfrey highlighted that as the Terms of Reference had not been updated, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were unable to chair the meeting. Cr King noted that he was unwell and may have to depart the meeting early and as such had delegated the right to chair the meeting to Mayor Beresford.

Action Item Arising: The updated terms of reference are to be endorsed by a full Council meeting to allow the Mayor or a Councillor to chair the Paroo Rural Advisory Group Meeting.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Council would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which this meeting is taking place and Elders both past and present. We also recognise those whose ongoing effort to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures will leave a lasting legacy for future Elders and leaders.

3. Attendance:

Mayor Suzette Beresford
Cr Rick Brain
Cr Corissa Jackson
Cr Joann Woodcroft
Cr Tom King
Martin Leech - CEO
David Burges – Interim Director of Infrastructure (via Teams)

Alastair Webb (via Teams)
Carol Godfrey
Clare Steele
Don Dunsdon (via Teams)
Sam Clements
Sam Todd

Apologies:

Andrea McKenzie
Colin Ickeringill -Rural Lands Compliance Officer
Sarmad Habib – Director Corporate Services

4. Confirmation of minutes dated 24 October 2025

The minutes from the previous “informal” meeting held on 24 October 2025 were noted.

The minutes were not endorsed as the meeting had not formally been called.

5. Matters Arising From Previous Meeting

The following matters arising from the previous meeting were discussed:

- Group requested advocacy for thinning out/fodder harvesting in the Land Act. Current draft restricts this occurring.
- Re Stock Routes – continue to be under review but nothing has changed. Council will investigate any movement at the SWQROC level.
- Discussion regarding the remainder of funding from NSW for the Wild Dog Fence Project on the Qld/SA border. NSW have withdrawn future funding citing cost especially in relation to fencing on the South Australian border. NSW border councils via BROCC are advocating strongly for completion of the fence but being told “no funds and no need”.

Both cross border commissioners are aware of the issue.

Local Queensland land owners want to build their own “barrier fence” but may require Queensland Government approval as the rabbit fence was moved 15 metres within Queensland. Mayor Beresford suggested that landowners wishing to do this may want to write to Minister Dale Last, Dept of Natural Resources, to progress the issue.

6. Standing Agenda Items

6.1 Shire Roads – Construction/Maintenance/REPA Flood Damage Repairs

David Burges updated the Group with the following information:

- 25/26 maintenance programs all going well with TIDS and CRC complete and only slashing works remaining to complete RMPC works.
- DRFA repairs on flood damaged roads progressing well in a quadrant pattern project managed by Shepherd.

Discussion Points

- Discussion held around completing maintenance works on “gaps” in the DRFA work. David Burges explained that this is starting to happen with at least two additional pieces of work occurring recently and Shepherd proactively working with Council. David Burges requested that if anyone in the PRAG identified gaps in DRFA road works that they should contact him directly so the ability to fill the gap can be made.
- Discussion relating to top sealing existing bitumen and the need to get on top of patching to avoid expensive resealing. A maintenance schedule for resealing and patching is being developed.

Council's Paveline machine was old and prone to breakdowns. It has recently been sold and a purchase order raised to engage a third party contractor to address the Council back log – with the Gamarren Road and Jobs Gate Road.

- Discussion regarding the use of multiple contractors in the same quadrant. It was explained that this was due to scheduling and also risk mitigation.
- Discussion regarding use of pegs in the road to identify potential gaps in road work. As previously noted Council is working with Shepherd to identify these gaps and resolve on a real basis but if gaps identified please contact David Burges.
- Discussion around regrowth in table drains. Again contact David Burges or ideally use the Snap, Send & Solve app to ensure enquiry directed to the right department and response can be tracked.
- Grids policy was raised and group directed to the website where the Grid and Gate Policy is displayed ([grid-and-gate-policy.pdf](#)).
- Discussion regarding contractors cleaning grids when they have caused the grids to become filled. David Burges noted that 10-12 grids had been cleaned previously but will ask Shepherd to closely monitor this with contractors and ensure grids are cleaned. Again, if an issue is identified please use Snap, Send & Solve app to report.

- Discussion on roads classification and the need to confirm roads within each Tier. Hierarchy to be considered at next Council workshop.

The group asked to be provided the below information:

- Statement of what services are provided now according to tier
- Statement of what the new suggest changes are and justifications around change in services.
- List of all shire roads and their current and proposed tiering.
- A baseline of what is an acceptable and equitable starting point for a shire road. This includes all aspects of the roads including grids.
- How the grid policy fits into this new approach.

The group highlighted that given the level of rates they pay, maintenance of the rural road network should be allocated more funding. It was noted that \$1 million is allocated from Council budget for rural roads, an increase from \$750,000 the previous year. It was highlighted the level of DRFA funded works on rural roads currently underway should improve the quality of the rural road network and assist the maintenance funding to go further.

6.2 TMR

David Burges updated the Group with the following information:

- Eulo bridge – information / consultation session to be held 30 April at Eulo Hall.
- Hungerford Road – work now approved by TMR and due to commence very soon (likely early May)
- Gamarren Road will have a reseal carried out starting until late July and finishing August.
- Jobs Gate Road – sealed rehabilitation on-going
- Culvert repair 12 km north of Wyandra is being planned. Will require surrounding land to dry out to enable construction of a by-pass road before main highway works can commence.
- Planning for RMPC works in 26/27 is underway.

6.3 Rural Lands

No update

6.4 Stock Routes

- No major changes to policy
- Tiering system re stock routes may be looked at, with Council having no objection to a review of secondary stock routes.
- Details of who looks after stock routes to be provided to Carol Godfrey.

6.5 Biosecurity

- Mayor Beresford had tabled a report to the group summarising the Wild Dog Barrier Fence meetings she has attended and discussions with KPMG who are undertaking a study on the Wild Dog Barrier Fence.
- It was noted that the cost of the fence is \$32,000 per kilometre. It was also noted that the fence was not maintained so landowners had to make their own repairs at their expense so why should they contribute to a fence that is not maintained – noting it is not maintained because it is hard to find someone to do the work.
- Carol Godfrey noted that an exclusion fence plus two rows of barbed wire fence has been proven to be the best deterrent to stop the dogs jumping the basic exclusion fencing.
- If anyone wants to attend the Wild Dog Committee meetings then they need to approach Peter Lucas.
- Discussion regarding how baiting is undertaken with more aerial deployment.
- It was noted the volume of baiting is increasing.
- Council provides the 1080 poison. Hearts are used over solid meat due to cost considerations. Subsidies discussed and Council to provide a breakdown of the cost of the baiting program and where subsidies are provided.
- Discussion regarding the different costings of baiting between fenced and unfenced properties in the Shire and why this is different.

6.6 Policies

No update

6.7 Communication

Community Consultation Dates

Monday	11 May 2026	10:00 am	Noorama
Tuesday	12 May 2026	10:00 am	Yowah
Tuesday	12 May 2026	1:30 pm	Eulo
Wednesday	13 May 2026	10:00 am	Wyandra
Wednesday	13 May 2026	5:30 pm	Cunnamulla

Mayor Beresford noted that the Radio Digital Concentrators are being withdrawn in 2027 with Telstra only indicating that rural communities should transition to Starlink.

It was noted that rural NBN (Sky Muster) is unreliable and regularly drops out and that people have moved over to Starlink.

7. General Business Items

Future Drought Funds Communities

Mayor Beresford gave an overview of the workshop that had been held that morning and the priorities for funding that had been agreed, being:

1. Local capacity to share drought information from farms
2. Building business skills to better manage drought impacts
3. Farm and agricultural awareness of business opportunities
4. Improvement in access to community support services
5. Focus on local wisdom/traditional knowledge
6. Maintain an adequate workforce during drought

A draft report from the workshop will be tabled at the SWQROC meeting in St George next week.

Mayor Beresford encouraged greater participation in such events/workshops as they are targeted at the rural community.

Flood Mapping

CEO provided an update on positive discussions with QRA in respect of funding a number of projects under the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program.

Specifically under the Flood Risk Management program (\$10 million), Council is seeking funding to undertake Lidar capture, Level 3 flood studies and floor level capture for Cunnamulla, Eulo and Wyandra. If funding allows, Council is also trying to secure funding to undertake a floodplain study and plan for Cunnamulla and Wyandra.

David Burges outlined that under the Total Flood Warning Review program (\$5 million) and specifically the “Installing flood/disaster mitigation/ warning infrastructure”, based on items already included in our LRAP, Council is seeking funding to enable the installation of automated road open / road closed / caution signage at key locations including:

- Eulo Toompine Road (southern end intersection with the Bulloo Development Road)
- Jobs Gate Road (western end intersection with the Mitchell Highway)
- Cuttaburra Road (northern end intersection with the Bulloo Development Road)
- Amenda Tinnenburra Road (eastern end intersection with the Mitchell Highway)
- Mt Alfred Road (eastern end at Wyandra)

The outcome of any funding allocation is pending.

Carol Godfrey thanked Council for installing a flood marker in Moon Creek.

Future strategic ideas

CEO noted that Council is moving toward a greater focus on strategic projects.

Two areas that the group noted for inclusion in such strategic considerations are:

1. Adopting a holistic approach to the road network
2. Digital connectivity and telecommunication hotspots citing Winton/Longreach examples

Any other general matters

CEO noted:

1. Changes to smoke detectors requires an alarm in all bedrooms and common areas and they must be hard wired, with a battery back-up. These rules have applied to accommodation providers and rental properties previously but they are now going to apply to all properties. If you are found to be non-compliant it may impact your insurance.
2. Guy Davenport has been appointed as the Community Recovery and Resilience Officer – with a focus on activating local groups to be prepared and resilient in future disasters.

8. Action items arising

- a) The updated terms of reference are to be endorsed by a full Council meeting to allow the Mayor or a Councillor to chair the Paroo Rural Advisory Group Meeting.
- b) Improve communications in newsletter etc regarding upcoming road works – especially DRFA.
- c) Road hierarchy to be considered at next Council workshop.
- d) Details of who looks after stock routes to be provided to Carol Godfrey.
- e) Council to provide a breakdown of the cost of the baiting program and where subsidies are provided.

9. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3:54 pm

10.2.1 Community Services Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Community & Environmental Services
Author: Community Services Team Leader
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the activities undertaken by the Community Services Team for the month of April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Community Services Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not applicable

Discussion

1. Community Support – Service Program Outcomes

Service Users this Month	Target Hours of service delivered	Actual Hours of service delivered	Number of occasions of service
Link people with formal and informal support	35	35	30 - 50
Create social connections and inclusion	35	48	40 - 60
Integrate local community action	35	38	20 - 40

Services Provided this Month	% of time allocated
Link people with formal & informal support (<i>information, assistance, advice, and referral to other support services</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interagency coordination and communication between service providers• Ongoing stakeholder engagement to support service access and referral pathways• Coordination and planning of structured support groups in partnership with Strong Families, Strong Communities	25%
Create Social Connections and Inclusion (<i>e.g., Touring Shows, NAIDOC, Qld Week, Cunnamulla Fella Roundup etc.</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ANZAC Day Morning Service held 25/04/2026 in partnership with the RSL Cunnamulla District Branch• ANZAC Day Main Afternoon Service held 25/04/2026 in partnership with the RSL Cunnamulla District Branch• Community engagement and coordination activities supporting commemorative events across the community	20%
Integrate local Community Action (<i>interagency, RADF, Regional Council Network, Multicultural Subcommittee community meeting, Paroo Shire Business Network, community reference group etc.</i>)	15%

Services Provided this Month	% of time allocated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Strong Families, Strong Communities to recommence structured support group delivery at the Community Youth Centre • Ongoing partnership planning with CACH, Deadly Choices and Men's Shed groups • Coordination with local organisations and stakeholders to support community service delivery • Planning and submitting Future Plan for RADF funding and delivery 	
Development (<i>study, leadership programs, information stalls etc.</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation and coordination support for Disability Awareness Training conducted 21/04/2026 at the Kookaburra Room, Civic Centre Cunnamulla • Engagement with community members to promote available services and Council programs 	10%
Community Education (<i>workshops, programs, information stalls etc.</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community participation and awareness activities delivered through Disability Awareness Training • Promotion of available community support services and stakeholder engagement opportunities 	15%
Program Reporting (<i>daily, monthly and P2i quarterly</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of P2i quarterly reporting for Community Services • Completion of P2i quarterly reporting for Youth Support Services • Ongoing internal reporting and documentation requirements 	15%

Programs	Actions / Reports	Status
Youth Services Program	Service delivery currently under review and aligned to compliance requirements	Paused
Community Support DV and Mental Health session	Delivery of DV/mental Health and AOD (Alcohol and Other Drugs) support sessions out of the youth centre for 18yo+ community members	Active
Interagency Coordination	Ongoing stakeholder engagement and coordination	Active

1.1. Highlights for the month – PSC supported events

Date	Event / Activity	Location
21/04/2026	Disability Awareness Training	Kookaburra Room - Civic Centre Cunnamulla
25/04/2026	ANZAC Day Morning Service - Strong community attendance	Cunnamulla
25/04/2026	ANZAC Day Main Afternoon Service - Strong community attendance	Cunnamulla

1.2. Upcoming Community Events and Activities

Date	Event / Activity	Location
11/05/2026	Fractured Fairy Tales Production	Paroo Shire Hall - Cunnamulla
12/05/2026	Domestic Violence Awareness March	Cunnamulla
16/06/2026	Queensland Chamber Orchestra	Paroo Shire Hall - Cunnamulla
17/06/2026	Queensland Chamber Orchestra	Paroo Shire Hall - Cunnamulla
24/06/2026	Pramkicker Tour Production Show	Paroo Shire Hall - Cunnamulla
29/06/2026	Skateboarding Workshops	Cunnamulla Skatepark
30/06/2026	Skateboarding Workshops	Cunnamulla Skatepark

2. Community Collaborations and Future Planning

During this reporting period, the Communities Team maintained coordination across service providers, internal departments and community stakeholders to support aligned service delivery and community outcomes.

Key collaboration activities included:

- Ongoing interagency engagement to support coordinated service delivery across the region
- Collaboration with Strong Families, Strong Communities to recommence structured support group delivery within the Community Youth Centre
- Continued partnership planning with CACH and Deadly Choices regarding future program delivery and service coordination
- Cross-organisational engagement supporting community wellbeing, awareness activities and future planning initiatives

Planning activities have focused on the delivery of upcoming community events and strengthening partnerships to support sustainable and coordinated service delivery.

3. Community Programs supported

Community Programs supported	Date	Location
Domestic Violence Awareness March	12/05/2026	Cunnamulla

Budget/Financial Implications

The community services delivered within this report are all funded through the 2025-26 operational budget.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Theme: 2. Our people and strong communities

Program Area: 2.6 Foster and promote safe, active and healthy communities

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Reputation, Community & Civic Leadership Adverse risk to the community due to ineffective, inaccurate and/or inappropriate communication and relationship/ stakeholder management	The delivery of community services to the region provides much needed support to various sectors of the community. The non-provision of these services could have a detrimental impact of the physical and mental well-being of some of the community.

Consultation

Community Support Officer

Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (CHDE)

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services & Child Safety

CACH, Lifeline, CMA P-12 SS, Sacred Heart School, Inter-Agency, QPS, RESQ+, RADF, TRACC

Department of Premier and Cabinet

10.2.2 Community Grant Expenditure Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Community & Environmental Services
Author: Community Services Team Leader
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on Community Grant Expenditure for the period ending 30 April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Community Grants Expenditure Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not applicable.

Discussion

The expenditure YTD is shown in the following table.

Job Cost	Description	This Year	Committed	Total
1410-0002	Community Donations (Cash)	\$20,695.65	\$8,400.00	\$29,095.65
1410-0002-0004	Noorama Picnic Race Club Inc		\$800.00	\$800.00
1410-0002-0001	Yowah Opal Mining Community		\$2,000.00	
1410-0002-0012	Cunnamulla Senior Citizens	\$1,235.65		\$1,235.65
1410-0002-0014	Eulo Polocrosse Club Inc	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
1410-0002-0018	Cunnamulla Amateur Swimming Club	\$12,460.00		\$12,460.00
1410-0002-0066	Fishing & Restocking Club Inc		\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
1410-0002-0019	Cunnamulla Rowing Club	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00
1410-0002-0067	Cunnamulla Bowls Club		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
1410-0002-0080	ICPA		\$600.00	\$600.00
1410-0002-0070	CEFP	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
1410-0003	Donations - In Kind Contributions	\$45,297.28	\$119.80	\$45,417.08
1410-0003-0008	Cunnamulla District Race Club	\$123.88		\$123.88
1410-0003-0009	Sacred Heart 110 Yrs Reunion	\$7,360.92		\$7,360.92
1410-0003-9121	HOPE Deadly Recruits	\$33.58		\$33.58
1410-0003-9202	YOMSCI Opal Festival	\$9,379.59		\$9,379.59
1410-0003-9211	TRACC	\$11,000.00		\$11,000.00
1410-0003-9212	CM A PoloX Club	\$206.66		\$206.66
1410-0003-9215	Cunnamulla Golf Club Inc	\$311.87		\$311.87
1410-0003-9216	Wyandra Progress Assn	\$19.91		\$19.91

Job Cost	Description	This Year	Committed	Total
1410-0003-9219	Noorama Races	\$5,211.82		\$5,211.82
1410-0003-9222	Eulo Gymkhana & Motorbike Ass.	\$1,723.56		\$1,723.56
1410-0003-9225	Cunnamulla Show Society	\$6,430.22		\$6,430.22
1410-0003-9229	Stars of Charlotte Plains	\$922.15		\$922.15
1410-0003-9239	Charlotte Plains MNT	\$239.46	\$119.80	\$359.26
1410-0003-9242	Fishing & Restocking Club Inc	\$2,333.66		\$2,333.66
1410-0004	Donations - Fee Waiver	\$1,727.34		\$1,727.34
1410-0004-0001	CMA P-12 State School	\$1,347.34		\$1,347.34
1410-0004-0004	Eulo Development Association	\$220.00		\$220.00
1410-0004-0005	Care Outreach	\$160.00		\$160.00
Grand Total:		\$67,720.27	\$8,519.80	\$76,240.07

The annual budget for this activity s \$100,000.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan

Theme: 2. Our people and Strong Communities

Program Area: 2.6 Foster and promote safe, active and healthy communities

Risk Management

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable.

10.2.3

Cunnamulla Swimming Pool Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Community
Author: Sarmad Habib
Attachments: 1. April Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the activities undertaken by the Pool Contractor for the month of April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Cunnamulla Swimming Pool Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not applicable.

Discussion

As set out in the attached report, the pool was operational for 99.2% of full capacity.

Pool closed for winter on 3 May 2026.

Budget/Financial Implications

Provision is made in the annual budget for the operations and maintenance of the Cunnamulla Pool.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Various health and safety regulations apply to the operations of a community pool.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Theme: 2. Our people and strong communities

Program Area: 2.6 Foster and promote safe, active and healthy communities

Risk Management

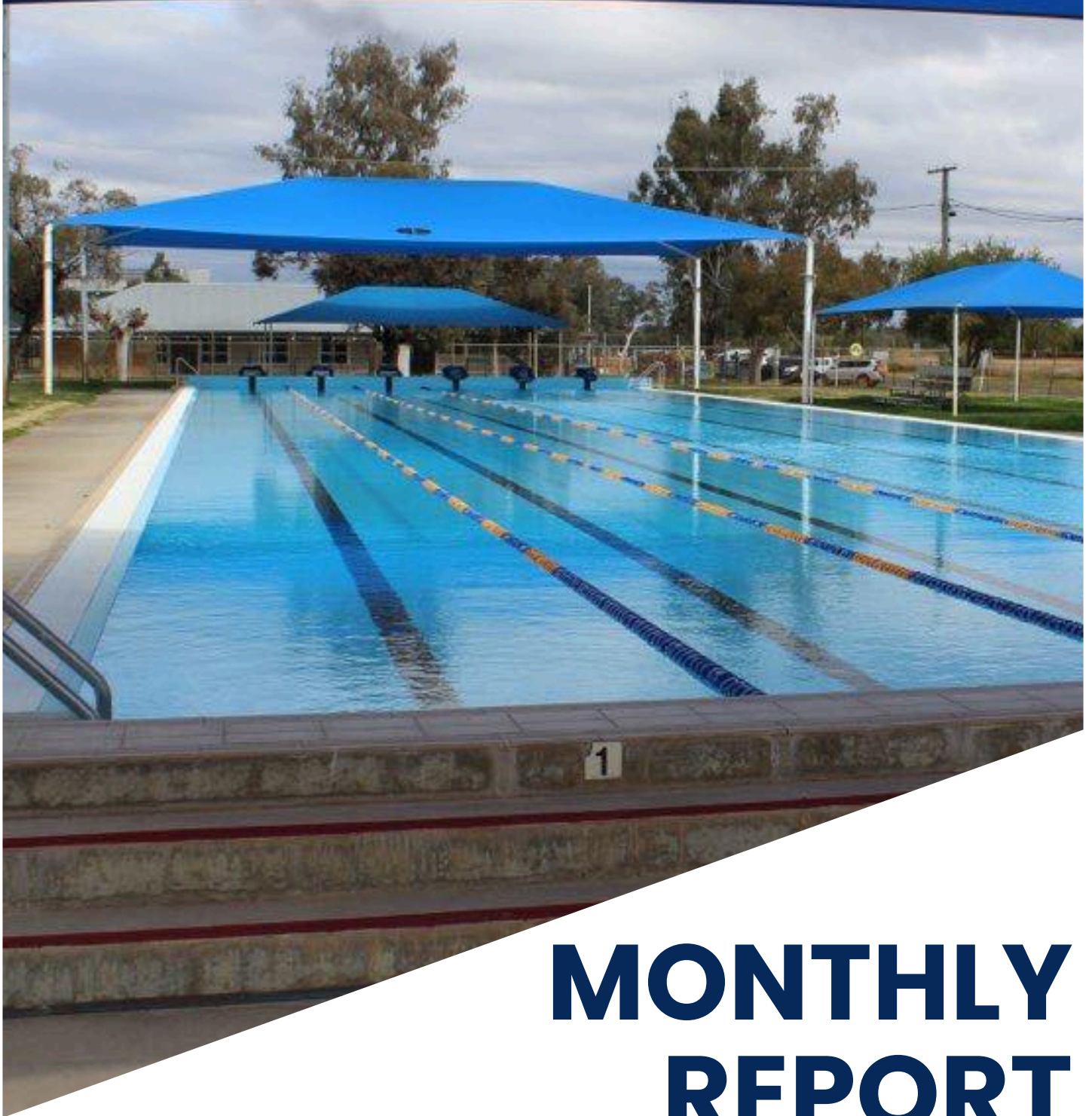
The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Reputation, Community & Civic Leadership	The delivery of swimming pool and ancillary services to the region provides much needed sporting and recreational opportunities.
Safe places for recreation and sports.	The engagement of a specialist pool contractor is to deliver on this expectation.

Consultation

N/A



MONTHLY REPORT

CUNNAMULLA SWIMMING POOL
APRIL 2026

CONTENTS

- 03 General Summary
- 04 Operational Overview
- 05 Patronage & Attendance Report
- 06 Patronage & Attendance Report (Continued)
- 07 Incidents & Supervision Summary
- 08 Repairs & Requests
- 09 Maintenance & Orders
- 10 Pool Closures & Hire Summary

GENERAL SUMMARY

The Cunnamulla Swimming Pool maintained consistent operations throughout April 2026, recording 264 total patron entries across scheduled operating periods.

Attendance levels were lower compared to March 2026, reflecting the transition into cooler seasonal conditions and the corresponding reduction in recreational pool usage. Despite this decrease, the facility continued to maintain consistent community utilisation throughout operational periods.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

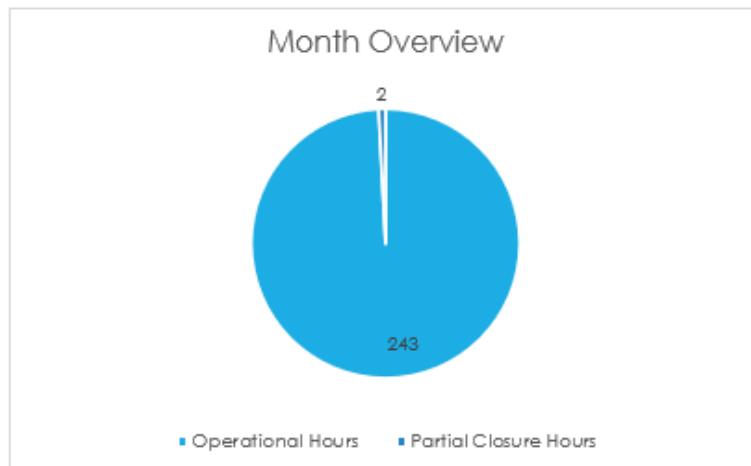
Pool Operating Dates	1 Apr – 30 Apr 2026
Weekly Pool Hours	56 hours
Operational Availability	~99%
Total Pool Entries	264
Peak Attendance	10 April - 49 Patrons
Youth Season Passes Sold	0
Adult Season Passes Sold	2
Programs Delivered	No structured programs conducted
Incidents Recorded	4 Minor

Please note: Total entry figures exclude session pass holders & pool hire events.

DAY	MORNING	MIDDAY	AFTERNOON
Monday	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday	6:00am - 8:00am	10:00am - 2:30pm	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Wednesday	6:00am - 8:00am	10:00am - 2:30pm	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Thursday	6:00am - 8:00am	10:00am - 2:30pm	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Friday	6:00am - 8:00am	10:00am - 2:30pm	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Saturday	6:00am - 8:00am	10:00am - 2:30pm	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Sunday	7:00am - 9:00am	10:00am - 2:30pm	3:00pm – 5:00pm

cunnamulla@allaboutaquatics.com.au
0455 051 115

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW



Total Days of Operation

Excluding contractual Monday closures, the facility was scheduled to operate for 26 days during April 2026.

- The pool remained operational across all scheduled operating days, with only one minor temporary disruption recorded due to a power outage on 9 April 2026.
- This represents approximately 99% operational availability across all contracted operating days for the month.

Peak Attendance

During April 2026, total attendance reached 264 patrons.

- 10 April recorded the highest daily attendance with 49 total entries.
- Strong participation was evident within the 10–17 year age group, which represented the largest proportion of facility usage during the reporting period.

Operational Impact

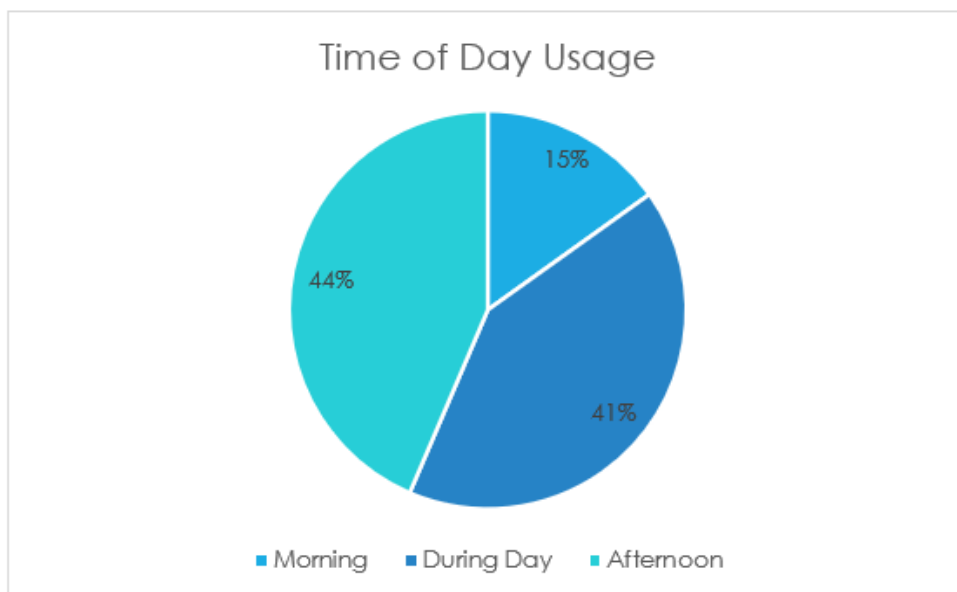
Operational disruptions during April were minimal, short in duration, and unavoidable, relating to a temporary power failure that resulted in a delayed opening on one occasion. Overall attendance decreased compared to the previous month, reflecting cooler seasonal conditions and reduced recreational swimming demand. Despite lower patronage, the facility continued to provide stable and reliable service delivery throughout the month.

PATRONAGE & ATTENDANCE REPORT

PATRONAGE & ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

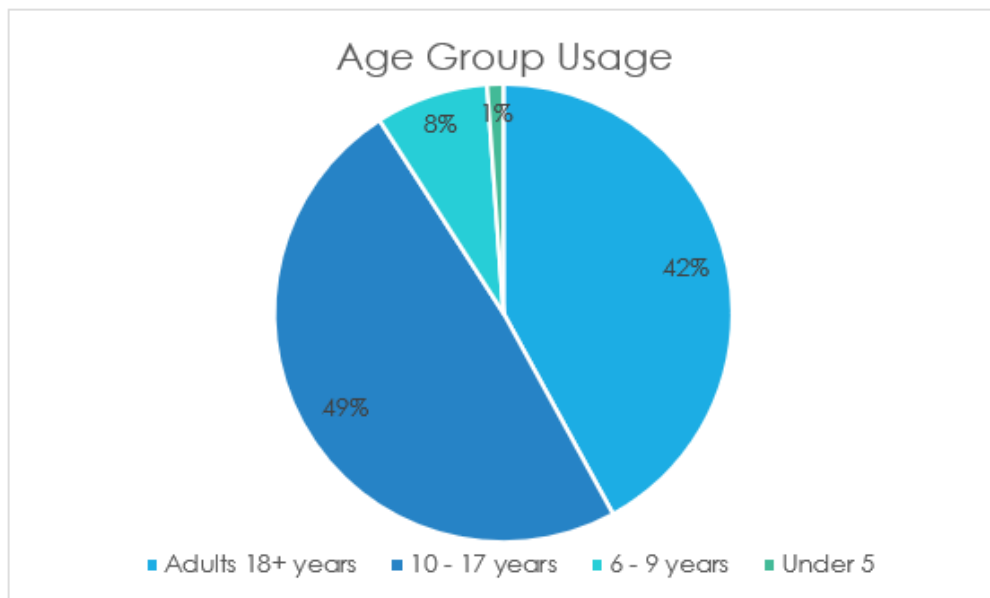
Date	Morning	During Day	Afternoon	Adults 18+	10-17 years	6-9 years	Under 5	Totals	Notes - including pool hire and programs
1-Apr-26	4	0	8	6	6	0	0	12	
2-Apr-26	4	9	7	12	8	0	0	20	
3-Apr-26	2	5	5	5	7	0	0	12	
4-Apr-26	3	9	3	7	8	0	0	15	
5-Apr-26	1	7	5	5	7	0	1	13	
6-Apr-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Normal Monday Closure
7-Apr-26	4	12	8	11	11	2	0	24	
8-Apr-26	2	13	9	9	13	2	0	24	
9-Apr-26	0	14	12	10	12	3	1	26	Pool Closed 6-8am - power failure
10-Apr-26	1	26	22	10	36	3	0	49	
11-Apr-26	0	0	7	2	4	1	0	7	
12-Apr-26	5	0	2	7	0	0	0	7	
13-Apr-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Normal Monday Closure
14-Apr-26	1	5	0	4	0	2	0	6	
15-Apr-26	1	4	2	3	4	0	0	7	
16-Apr-26	1	2	10	4	5	4	0	13	
17-Apr-26	3	0	1	4	0	0	0	4	
18-Apr-26	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
19-Apr-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20-Apr-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Normal Monday Closure
21-Apr-26	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	3	
22-Apr-26	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	3	
23-Apr-26	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	
24-Apr-26	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	
25-Apr-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26-Apr-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27-Apr-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Normal Monday Closure
28-Apr-26	1	1	7	3	4	2	0	9	
29-Apr-26	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	4	
30-Apr-26	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	40	109	115	111	129	21	3	264	

Please note: Entry figures exclude session pass holders & pool hire events.



Afternoon sessions accounted for the majority of attendance (44%), indicating peak community use occurs after school hours.

PATRONAGE & ATTENDANCE REPORT



Youth aged 10–17 years represented the largest user group during April 2026, accounting for approximately 49% of total attendance.

STAFFING

Pool Manager

Alina, Rebecca

Supervisor

Te-Neka, Ella

Lifeguard

Joan, Roy

Grounds Maintenance

Jamie



INCIDENT & SUPERVISION SUMMARY

INCIDENT REPORT

All incidents recorded during April 2026 were minor in nature and managed appropriately by on-duty staff in accordance with standard operational and first aid procedures. No emergency response actions or external medical assistance were required.

DATE	DETAILS	OUTCOME / ACTION
02/04/26	Nosebleed	No first aid required
03/04/26	Snake Sighting	Snake safely relocated
11/04/26	Child Slipped	No first aid required
12/04/26	Staff member feeling faint	No first aid required

SUPERVISION REPORT

No supervision issues were recorded during April.

All pool operations were conducted in accordance with standard supervision procedures and lifeguard safety protocols. Staff maintained active supervision of all aquatic areas during operational hours to ensure a safe environment for patrons.



REPAIRS & REQUESTS SUMMARY

REPAIRS & REQUESTS

DATE	DETAILS	STATUS
04/03/26	Salinity Tester not working, replacement required	Outstanding
06/03/26	Picnic table damaged, requires repair/replacement	Outstanding
24/03/26	Pool Plus Chlorine is hardened and clumping, unable to use in the chlorinator system. Requires replacement.	Outstanding
02/04/26	Plaster on wall in Boys toilet coming off framing	Repaired 15/04/26
07/04/26	Holes in boys toilet	Repaired 15/04/26
07/04/26	Water damage, splitting and separation to ceiling outside disabled toilets	Awaiting Repair
09/04/26	Power fault - Pool Plant room	Rectified 09/04/26
09/04/26	Little Dolphin and long lead not working after power surge	Awaiting Repair
11/04/26	Hole in grass near sprinkler - recurring issue	Awaiting Repair
23/04/26	Chlorine feeder fails to dose chlorine	Awaiting Repair

POOL MAINTENANCE & ORDERS SUMMARY

POOL MAINTENANCE

DATE	DETAILS
13/04/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backwash completed

POOL ORDERS

All pool equipment and supply orders are placed through Paroo Shire Council in accordance with council procurement procedures.

DATE	DETAILS	QTY
20/04/26	Sulphuric Acid 20L Drum	7
21/04/26	Palintest DPD 1/250 box	6
21/04/26	Palintest DPD 3/250 box	6
21/04/26	Palintest pH Phenol Red / 250 box	6



POOL CLOSURES & HIRE SUMMARY

POOL CLOSURES

DATE	DETAILS
09/04/26	Pool opening delayed until 8:00am due to power failure.

POOL HIRE

DATE	DETAILS
11/04/26	Colour Fun Run



10.2.4 Library Services Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Community Support & Engagement
Author: Kayce Hooper, Library Services
Attachments: Poster for Book Club Senior & Junior

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the activities relating to Library Services within the Shire for the month of April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Library Services Report.

Discussion

Cunnamulla Library

Cunnamulla Library continues to serve as a vital community hub, providing accessible resources and learning opportunities. Over the past reporting period, library usage has remained strong, with steady attendance at literacy initiatives and digital skills workshops. Ongoing investment in updated collections, technology, and flexible spaces has enhanced experience and supported community needs.

We have now advertised expression of interest out for Senior and Junior Book club hoping we get the numbers to host both programs.

State Library will be visiting Cunnamulla and Yowah Library this month for training purposes, and discussions on Monkey Baa Theatre Company that will be doing a tour in 2027 showcasing “where is the Green Sheep”.

First 5 Forever

First 5 Forever playgroup sessions at the Cunnamulla Library are ongoing, supporting early childhood development and encouraging family engagement with library services. Initial sessions have seen growing and enthusiastic attendance, with caregivers and children participating in storytelling, songs, and play-based learning activities. These sessions are helping to build routine library use among young families while promoting early literacy and social connection. Continued promotion and community partnerships are expected to grow participation over time.

Yowah Library

Yowah Library continues to provide an important access point for information, digital services, and community resources despite currently low attendance levels. Usage reflects the town’s small and fluctuating population. The library remains a valuable asset for residents requiring internet access, quiet study space, and essential services.

Statistics: April

	Cunnamulla	Yowah
Open Days	24	4
Items Loaned	148	0
Average loans per day	6	0
Visitor Statistics	899	14
Average Visitors Per Day	37	1
Adult Membership	475	93
Junior Membership	188	3
New Members	2	0
Requests made	27	0

Budget/Financial Implications

Library services are funded through the adopted 2024-25 operational budget.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Activities undertaken by the Library Services Team align with Corporate Plan Priority Area:

2.4 Vibrant libraries and inclusive flexible learning and skilling.

Consultation

Library Services.

SENIOR BOOK CLUB

Expression of Interest

Love books?
Love a good chat?

We're looking for seniors who enjoy reading and would like to join a friendly, relaxed book club.

Great books better company!



INTERESTED?
Contact the library on
46558490

CUNNAMULLA LIBRARY



Share stories. Make friends. Enjoy great reads together.

JUNIOR

BOOK

CLUB

Love books?
Let's read,
chat and
have fun
together!

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

AT THE

CUNNAMULLA LIBRARY



DISCOVER GREAT BOOKS



SHARE IDEAS & CHAT



FUN ACTIVITIES



MAKE NEW FRIENDS



AND MORE!

FOR
GRADES
3 TO 6



INTERESTED?
CONTACT US!
4655 8490

Tell us you're interested
and help shape our
Junior Book Club!

10.2.5 Tourism Report

Council Meeting:	19 May 2026
Department:	Tourism
Author:	Tammy Oldham, Tourism Team Leader (Acting)
Attachments:	1: Update Outback River Lights Festival 2026 2. Cunnamulla Fella Roundup

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the progress of the Tourism Program for April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Tourism Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not applicable.

Discussion

1. Visitor Information Centre

Visitor numbers for April 2026 were **1,056**—an increase compared to April 2025 which saw 917 visitors in the same period. This is a positive outcome for the beginning of the 2026 Tourism season despite the fuel challenges, and reflects increased visitations over the Easter Long Weekend, Outback River Lights Festival and ANZAC Day Races.

243 people visited the “Time Tunnel” exhibition in April.

We have now received approval from Kunja to proceed with the planned museum upgrades and will be commencing work on the new Yumba exhibit in May. This is an exciting development that has taken approx. 3 years of persistent follow-up to achieve.

Tour groups have started to come through, with 2 groups attending the Centre in April.

Fuel cost and availability continue to be of concern to travelers throughout April, with some local accommodation providers confirming they have been getting cancellations due to fuel concerns, including over the Easter and Festival weekends.

2. Activities

2.1 Remote Jobs & Economic Development (RJED) Grants

Our tourism trainee has commenced the Cert IV in Travel and Tourism. This item has now been finalized with no further updates.

2.2 Art Gallery

The Exhibition opening night on Thursday 9th April was a great success, with approx. 50 in attendance, showcasing the Festival Art & Sculpture Competition entries. Our next exhibition is expected to begin on 21st May.

3.1. All Aboard Sound and Light Show

104 people viewed the show in April – All aspects continue to run without issue. Volunteer-led weekend showings are due to commence from Saturday 2nd May. A snake hazard risk was raised by Tourism staff in April due to excessive grass overgrowth on the tracks at the back of the station. This matter was referred to QR.

3.2. Local community engagement and business development

Tourism has continued to actively promote local community organizations, events and activities through the weekly What's On Guide as well as via social media throughout April, as well as engaging local community members, businesses and organizations as part of the Outback River Lights Festival programming. Approximately \$20,000 was spent locally on the festival weekend, including accommodation, food and festival activities. Tourism updates are now sent out weekly Thursday via email to all local tourism businesses and community groups.

3.3. Cunnamulla Major Events Steering Committee

Refer separate report from Council Workshop including Outback Riverlights Post-Event Report (Attachment 1) and Cunnamulla Fella Roundup (Attachment 2).

3.4. Tourism Signage And Flags

Town flags continue to be updated regularly around town to reflect current events. Both ORLF and ANZAC themed flags were strategically erected to help promote and enhance both events in April.

3.5. SWQROC / Natural Sciences Loop

The Group are currently in talks with Pete Murray re: development of a SWQROC Tourism Promo video to promote the region for trade shows and for use by each council as a further tool in promoting tourism via social media and other channels. This is a relatively low-cost initiative at \$600+GST per council and on that basis we have supported this initiative to go ahead. The next meeting is scheduled for Wed 20th May.

3.6. OQTA

The cancellation of the Big Red Bash and Fuel has been a major discussion point with OQTA, but there have been no further actions that we are aware of.

3.7. Matilda Way

Renewed energy is being injected into the Matilda Way group, with growing social media reach being achieved in April. The meeting on 27 April discussed refreshing Matilda Way signage and developing a "photo opportunity" style initiative for each town along the route to encourage more travelers. Initial investigations into renewed signage are currently underway within the shire, with two possible locations identified. The next meeting is scheduled for Tues 2nd June.

3.8. Adventure Way

No further updates

3.9. Drive Inland

No further updates in April. Next meeting is planned for 18 June.

3.10. TEQ /Tourism Group /QTIC

The VIC has entered the QLD Tourism Tiny Towns awards. An announcement will be made on 8th May if we have made it as a finalist.

The VIC has also nominated for the Queensland Tourism Awards again in 2026, with submissions due in July.

4. Marketing & PR

4.1 Social Media and Digital Marketing – Cunnamulla Tourism

The social media and digital reach for Cunnamulla Tourism was 190,000 views over April with over 14,000 people engaging with the page.

Our website had 3,300 active users in April

We are currently investigating amendments to the Tourism Website to allow an online shopping portal, as is detailed in our strategic plan.

Visitor Feedback

Trip Advisor: 0 new reviews for the period. Our overall status remains at 4.6 stars.
Google: 3 new reviews Our rating has remained at 4.6
Wikicamps: 0 new review for VIC

4.2. Media and Digital Marketing – Cunnamulla Hot Springs

Social media and digital reach was 16,400 views for April 2026.

Engagement was 233 across both Facebook and Instagram.

The Cunnamulla Hot Springs website had 2,600 active users in April

We have utilized a QR code to encourage more Google reviews which has had some great early successes and promises well for the future

Visitor Feedback

Trip Advisor: 0 new reviews for the period. Overall status is 4.7 stars.
Google: 4 new reviews, our rating remains at 4.4
Wikicamps: 0 new reviews for Hot Springs rating of 4.8

5. Visitor Statistics

Visitors April 2026:	1056	April 2025:	917
Sales Apr 2026: (EX GST)	\$13,262	Apr 2025:	\$11,783
Total Sales Year To Date 2026: (EX GST)	\$137,304	Year To Date 2025:	\$153,659
All Aboard Apr 2026: (VIC EFTPOS, Ex GST)	\$2,000	Apr 2025:	\$1,259
All Aboard YTD (VIC EFTPOS EX GST)	\$26,637	YTD 2025	\$26,908

Budget/Financial Implications

Operations are inside current 2025/26 Budget provisions.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Theme: 1. Excellence in Governance
Program Area: 1.5 Deliver excellence in customer service
Theme: 2 Our People and Strong Communities
Program Area: 2.1 Celebrate cultural diversity, history and traditions
2.5 Support for leadership programs and youth pathways
Theme: 3 Prosperous Economy
Program Area: 3.2 Grow and enhance tourism

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Financial	No financial risks are flagged at present
Quality	There are no quality risks we are aware of.
Time	None
Amenity / Environment	Snake hazard risk for the Cunnamulla All Aboard was raised by Tourism Staff in April, relating to grass overgrowing the train tracks.
Other	The fuel availability and pricing continues to be an area of concern for visitors and has affected numbers,

Consultation

TEQ, OQTA, Cunnamulla Hot Springs, Various Tourism and Non Tourism Businesses throughout the Shire. PSC Infrastructure department.

OUTBACK RIVER LIGHTS FESTIVAL 2026



1 POST EVENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

Prepared by T.Oldham, Tourism Team Leader (Acting)

Reviewed by I.Stone, Economic Development Officer

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026 Outback River Lights Festival was delivered successfully over **three nights and two days from 17–19 April 2026**.

Overall, the event was operationally smooth, well organised and delivered with very few issues. Feedback received from the community, visitors, vendors and performers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the festival as a major success.

While visitor attendance was lower than originally planned, this was largely expected due to the ongoing national fuel supply concerns at the time of the event. Widespread media coverage regarding fuel shortages and advice to avoid unnecessary travel significantly impacted visitation, with many prospective attendees cancelling or choosing not to travel.

Despite this, **local community attendance was strong**, particularly for the Lantern Parade, evening entertainment and family-friendly activities. Community support continues to grow each year, and the festival remains an important social, cultural and economic event for the region.

Estimated direct cost to Council is approximately **\$80,000** (final reconciliation pending).

Peak attendance at any one time was estimated at **approximately 250 people, with 500-700 attendees across the weekend** (noting many attendees participated in multiple activities). Across all programmed events, total attendances were estimated at **1,500–1,600**.

Although flooding, road closures and fuel concerns have impacted attendance outcomes over the past three years, the festival continues to demonstrate significant long-term benefits for the community and region.

Proposed dates for the 2027 festival are:

9–11 April 2027 (preferred option – weekend before school returns in QLD)

2–4 April 2027 (mid QLD school holidays; potential clash with Noorama Picnic Races – their Date TBC)

16–18 April 2027 (first weekend back for QLD schools; during NSW school holidays)

1.2 EVENT OVERVIEW

The festival program was designed to balance visitor attraction with strong community participation. A total of **30 main events** were delivered, with repeat sessions and crossover programming resulting in **39 separate activations**.

Program Categories

Food Experiences (7)

- Long Table Dinner (ticketed)
- Bush Tucker Cooking Masterclass (ticketed)
- CHS Soak & Savour x2 (ticketed)
- Ranger Nick Cooking Demonstrations x6 (free)
- Nullawokka Cooking Demonstrations x2 (free)
- Make a Cunnamulla Creeper (free)
- Cupcake Decorating Workshop (free)

Arts & Creative Activities (7)

- Lantern Painting x2
- Face Painting x2
- Boomerang Painting x2
- Geometric Lantern Workshop
- Art & Sculpture Competition
- Community Art Mural
- Sculptural Lantern Workshop

Light Installations & Night Activations (10)

- Light Garden
- Glow Zone
- Shire Hall Projections
- Light Up a Tree Competition
- Yarning Tent Projections
- Inflatable Cloud Projections
- Lantern Parade
- Fireworks Finale
- Fire-Twirling Performances x2
- Permanent Fairy Light Installations to 8 trees

Music & Entertainment (3)

- Lloyd Saunders x3
- Katelann Maree & Maddie Cail x2
- Creatures of Habit x2

Family Friendly Activities (7)

- Circus & Fire Workshops x4
- Discovery Science Workshops x2
- Cupcake Decorating
- Lantern Making
- Face Painting
- Boomerang Painting
- Community Art Mural

Cultural Programming (6)

- Kunja Welcome to Country / Opening Ceremony
- Bush Tucker Cooking Experiences
- Bush Poets Breakfast
- Campfire Stories & Songs with Bushie
- Ranger Nick Camp Oven Cooking
- Boomerang Painting

Planning & Delivery

Planning commenced in **November 2025**, approximately five months prior to the event.

By March 2026, approximately **99% of planning and logistics were finalised**, which contributed to the smooth delivery of the festival and minimised last-minute issues.

The most significant external challenge was the escalation of conflict in the Middle East, which created fuel supply concerns nationally. This resulted in strong media messaging around conserving fuel and avoiding discretionary travel.

Although mitigation measures were undertaken, including strong social media promotion and the promotion of the SWQ Fuel Tracker platform, public perception in metropolitan markets remained a major barrier to visitation.

Marketing Outcomes

Building on the successful 2025 strategy, the 2026 campaign focused heavily on **social media, television and radio advertising**.

Additional support was received through the **Western Queensland Event Boost Grant** (Flood Recovery Package), allowing further investment in marketing and programming.

Advertising was intentionally designed to promote not only the festival, but also the Paroo region more broadly to generate longer-term tourism benefits.

Paid Campaign Reach

- **781 radio advertisements** across St George, Roma and Toowoomba
- **3,323 Channel 10 TV advertisements** across Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba
- **3,983 Channel 7 Central TV advertisements** across regional Australia
- **350,000 paid social media ad views**
- **10,000 website visits**

Additional Promotion

- 514,000 Facebook page views in the six weeks prior
- Nearly 1 million total social media impressions
- 100 posters distributed regionally
- Two letterbox drops across the Shire (1,200 total)
- Radio interviews with ABC Queensland and 2WEB
- ABC Radio Competition throughout Brisbane, Partnership with OQTA
- ATDW listings promoting through tourism channels including Queensland.com and OutbackQueensland.com
- Extensive sharing to travel groups and regional noticeboards

Social Media Audience Demographics

65% female audience

Brisbane and Toowoomba: 11.2%

Cunnamulla: 4.7%

Sydney: 3.5%

Ipswich / Gold Coast / Sunshine Coast: 6%

Charleville: 1.7%

Age groups strongest between 35–65+

Financial Overview

Estimated direct cost to Council: **\$80,000** (final figures pending)

Expenditure Breakdown

Over **\$30,000 spent locally** through wages, accommodation and local suppliers

Approx. **\$10,000 spent within SWQROC region**

Approx. **\$15,000 in capital purchases** providing future event benefits

Approx. **\$10,000 in strategic advertising**

A major cost saving in 2026 was replacing a large-scale light finale with **Shire Hall projections**, featuring local school children's artwork. This delivered strong community value at a reduced cost.

The fireworks display again received excellent feedback and provided strong value for money.

Attendance Summary

Across the 39 programmed events:

1,500-1,600 total attendances estimated

Peak crowd of approximately **250 attendees at one time**

Analysis of VIC attendance data indicates that of the estimated 500–700 festival attendees, approximately 22% were from Paroo Shire, 45% travelled from elsewhere in Queensland, and the remaining 33% were interstate visitors.

The data also shows a strong uplift in visitor nights during the festival period, with a 500% increase in stays of two or more nights compared with the previous week. This suggests that while overall accommodation bookings were lower than anticipated, those who did attend were more likely to extend their stay and spend multiple nights in the region.

Accommodation Impacts

Accommodation providers reported widespread cancellations due to fuel concerns, estimated at: **240 advance bookings lost**. Additional unknown losses from drive-market visitors and caravan travellers.

What Worked Well

Strong Community Participation

Local attendance remained strong, particularly at:

- Lantern Parade
- Evening concerts
- Family activities
- Light displays

We have seen community involvement in the festival increase year on year, through selection of events facilitated by the local community and also increased participation of the community in many of the events.

The community backing of the festival is important and provides a strong basis for a quality event that will also appeal to visitors.

Festival Location

The Shire Hall / Village Green precinct has now proven itself as the preferred long-term location due to:

- Central positioning
- Better containment
- Improved atmosphere
- Strong activation opportunities

Signature Experiences

The following were particularly successful:

- Long Table Dinner
- Lantern Making and Parade
- Fireworks Finale
- Yarning Tent programming
- Light Up a Tree Competition
- Community Art Mural
- Art Exhibition Opening
- Family circus and fire workshops

Food Programming

The strong food focus continued to be a standout element, with ticketed and free experiences both well supported.

Sponsorship

All sponsorship packages were sold, generating **\$17,000** in support.

Challenges / Areas for Improvement

External Factors

Fuel supply concerns and elevated fuel prices significantly impacted visitor travel decisions in the lead-up to the festival. Local accommodation providers reported reduced bookings overall, with many advising cancellations in the weeks prior to the event.

Occupancy rates varied considerably across the Shire, ranging from approximately 30% to 100%, depending on the property and customer base. The Warrego Hotel and Club Boutique Hotel both reported full occupancy, noting that Club Boutique's bookings were largely associated with an existing tour group rather than festival visitation.

Conversely, both the Hotel Cunnamulla and Oxford Hotel reported low occupancy levels during the festival period, with a substantial number of cancellations attributed to fuel concerns and reduced travel confidence.

Most other accommodation providers reported occupancy levels between these two extremes, with the consistent overall sentiment that visitation numbers were lower than expected.

Stage Positioning

Late afternoon sun affected performers between 2pm–4pm. Minor reorientation could be considered.

Sunday Programming

Sunday afternoon attendance was the weakest period, particularly markets and repeat music acts. We believe if tourism had not been affected by the current fuel situation this weak period would not have been noticeable.

Food Vendor Capacity

While local vendors performed strongly, an additional 1–2 quality food vendors would improve diversity and reduce queues. – Noting we were let down once again by an external food vendor with no notice.

Long Table Dinner Value Review

Food quantity and perceived value should be reviewed. Consider a local caterer for main meal and dessert, with specialty canapés retained.

Cultural Programming Opportunities

Visitors expressed interest in deeper traditional cultural experiences, particularly within opening ceremony programming. Requires further discussion with Kunja Aboriginal Corporation to explore options.

Lessons Learned from 2025 Applied Successfully

Several improvements from 2025 were successfully implemented in 2026:

- Contracting a local operator to manage the Arts Hub reduced volunteer reliance
 - Focusing ticketed experiences on food rather than art improved sales
 - Light Up a Tree competition replaced underperforming garden competition
 - Later evening programming improved use/enjoyment of lighting installations
 - Golf buggy “Turtle-mobile” solved lantern parade audio issues
-

Opportunities for 2027

Food & Beverage Expansion

Potential partnerships with:

- Western Spirits Gin
- St George Wines
- Outback Date Farms
- Eulo Honey

Licensed Bar Investigation

Review benefits and risks of BYO versus licensed community-run bar.

Long Table Dinner Refresh

Potential entertainment concepts:

- Magician
- Circus / aerial / contortion act
- New menu concept with local catering

Town-Based Fringe Events

Opportunity for:

- Pre-festival welcome event at local hotels
- Official after-party activations
- Greater town-wide business involvement

Local School Participation and Activations

Subject to the final 2027 event dates, there is an opportunity to increase involvement from local schools through pre-event workshops, student art projects, parade participation and school-based fundraising activities. Greater school engagement would strengthen community ownership of the festival while creating additional family participation.

Scheduling will be an important consideration, as dates falling within Queensland school holidays may limit the ability for schools, students and staff to participate fully. Selecting dates during the school term may provide stronger opportunities for collaboration and activation.

Conclusion

Despite difficult external conditions, particularly the fuel crisis and ongoing travel uncertainty, the 2026 Outback River Lights Festival was a successful event that delivered strong community outcomes, positive regional promotion and growing local pride.

The event continues to mature each year, with stronger programming, improved delivery systems and increasing community ownership. With refined scheduling, expanded food offerings and more favourable travel conditions, the festival is well positioned for continued growth in 2027.

Attachment 2

Cunnamulla Fella Roundup

Date set: 12 September 2026

Progress to date

- Bull Pit Bull riding have been notified of the Council's decision – Further confirmations have been received from Bull Pit Bullriding, marketing materials are currently being produced and BPBR are planning a visit to site over coming months
- Outback Barrel Racing –Mixed messaging is coming through various channels. Notably the organisation is currently in limbo and trying to re-structure.
- As previous if the organisation isn't available we will look at alternatives including the Dusty Demons
- The National Barrel Horse Association has also been in contact as an alternative organiser
- It may be possible to have Barrel Horse racing in the morning and Motorcycle Barrels in the afternoon reaching 2 different markets

We are waiting a

10.2.6 **Cunnamulla Hot Springs Report**

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Community & Environmental Services
Author: Nyajema Jang, Hot Springs Team Leader
Attachment: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the progress of the Hot Springs for April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Cunnamulla Hot Springs Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not Applicable.

Discussion

1) Facility Maintenance

- Working collaboratively with Council's plumbing team to develop strategies to resolve some technical issues, required to improve the reliability of the Hot Springs water systems. They have started putting plans together on how to resolve the issues.
- Door for the staff room has been repaired
- Mirror for the Indoor Pool repaired

2) Staffing

A monthly staff meeting was successfully held during the month and a number of action items noted including:

- In the process of recruiting more staffs for CHS now that guest numbers are increasing.

3) Opening Times and Unexpected Closures

- Guest numbers were high during River Light Festival.
- The Soak & Savour Package was a success and guest have given feedback to run it again next year. Thank you to Carla Murpy for the Charcutier box for the guest. Guest enjoyed an experience to bathe at night and had the opportunity to watch the fireworks and enjoy the music near the Shire Hall.

4) Local community engagement and group bookings

The following matters are for noting:

- Following the success of the Local Pass scheme, these passes will be retained throughout the year ahead. We've had positive feedback from locals regarding the local pass being continued.
- Deadly Choice Colour Run was a success, and winner received a pass to come in for a bathe.
- Our Trade Travel groups are officially back with large group number of 12-24 visiting every fortnightly.

5) Workplace Health and Safety

The following matters are for noting:

- No major WHS incidents reported this month.
- Ongoing training and resourcing needs are being undertaken to ensure a safe environment for both guests and staff.

6) Financial and operational statistics

Financial

• Bathing Entry (including the local pass)	\$21,719
• Retail	\$1,230
• Food & Beverage	\$1,613
• Towel Hire	\$621
• Local Pass	\$5,105
• Multi Visit	
○ 2 visit entry	\$1,885
○ 2 visit entry	\$315
○ 2 visit concession/senior	\$1,100
○ 3 visit	\$630
○ 3 visit entry child	\$150
○ 3 visit entry- concession/senior	\$420
○ 5 visit entry child	\$145
○ 5 visit entry- concession/senior	\$460
○ Total multi visit	\$5,105

Entry numbers

• Adult:	459
• Senior/Concession:	207
• Child:	88
• Infant:	8
Total:	762

Visitation was substantially higher at 762 compared to 391 the prior month.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Theme: 3. Prosperous Economy

Program Area: 3.2 Grow and enhance the tourism industry

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Reputation, Community & Civic Leadership Council continues to be seen to advocate and promote tourism for the benefit of the wider community and industry.	The delivery of tourism services drives visitors to the region. The tourism visitors benefit the Paroo Shire economy.

Consultation

PSC Tourism Team, Infrastructure, Plumbing Team, Work Health & Safety.

10.2.7 Rural Lands and Compliance Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Community and Environmental Services
Author: Colin Ickeringill, Rural Lands Compliance Officer
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide Council with an update on the activities undertaken by the Rural Lands & Compliance Unit for the month of April 2026

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Rural Lands Compliance Report.

Discussion

1. Activities

1.1. Wild Dog & Pest Control

- 2 wild dog scalps were handed in to claim the bounty, 1 female and 1 male dog were handed in by a local property owner from the east of the shire.
- Element 5 noxious weed spraying has been undertaken on state-controlled roads. Species targeted so far have been Coral Cactus, Tiger Pear cactus and Mimosa. This work will be ongoing through the month of May.
- The bait meat quantities have been coming in from the area representatives for the upcoming coordinated baiting campaign. On top of the already requisitioned 16 ton a further 2 ton of meat has had to be ordered to accommodate the participating landholders.
- At the request of Gavin O'Connor from the DPI a large amount of Tiger Pear bio control was harvested from a local site and given to Gavin at Wyandra after an inspection of the town common was undertaken. Gavin was able to trade some Harrisia Cactus bio control for the Tiger Pear bio.
- The report from council outlining the weed work undertaken during March under the Collaborative Weed Control project with Southern Queensland Landscapes was finished and submitted to Chris Crafter.

1.2. Customer Requests.

- Council received a request from a local resident about the removal of a deceased cat from under the gym located in Watson St. The body was located and after some careful work the carcass was removed and disposed of.
- Council's RLCO received a report of an injured kangaroo from tourists that had arrived in Cunnamulla from Bollon. They were able to provide GPS coordinates to locate the injured animal. The animal was located approximately 50 kilometres east of Cunnamulla and was humanely euthanised.
- Council's RLCO received a call from a concerned resident after they discovered an injured goat in the aerodrome paddock. The goat was located and appeared to have a broken leg. It was dispatched and disposed of at the animal waste dump.

- On Saturday the 25th April a local resident and owner of a horse located in the Pony Club paddock attended the RLCO's residence and reported that his horse was badly injured and needed to be euthanised. Permission was sought and given by the PSC CEO. The horse was located and after the necessary notification to the QPS was euthanised. The horse was later buried on site.
- After receiving a report from a local business owner regarding increased feral cat activity that was impacting his business, 5 cat traps were set on 4 consecutive nights at the business premises. 1 feral cat was trapped over the 4 nights that they were set.

1.3. Stock Route Fences & Waters

- Council received a report from a local grazier regarding a gate that had been installed over a grid on a road that they use to access their property. Council's RLCO travelled out to the location to ascertain whether the gate was a fixture or a temporary measure. The neighbouring landowner that had installed the gate said it was only temporary and was to stop sheep jumping the grid while they were in a holding paddock waiting to be shorn. The complainant was informed of the outcome and instructed to call
- The stock route agistment permit granted to a local livestock owner experiencing dry conditions was extended for a further 28 day period.
- Reports of a beast having been hit by a vehicle on the Bollon Road were acted upon. Approximately 3 kilometres along the road a weaner was discovered deceased on the roadway. The animal was removed from the road and the owner of the animal notified.
- Council's RLCO has been receiving requests from drovers regarding Stock Route Travel permits within the Paroo Shire. The necessary information has been forwarded to the drovers but am yet to hear back from them.

1.4. Town Commons

- An impromptu cattle muster was conducted at Wyandra on Wednesday the 1st April after a local landholder asked if he could muster the common with a helicopter to repatriate some agistment cattle that had inadvertently escaped his property and ended up on the common. This was hastily arranged and as many people notified as possible due to the timing of the request. Council's RLCO attended and all cattle mustered were taken to the Rosevale cattle yards for drafting. At the end of the day 43 head of cattle were removed from the common and returned to their respective owners.

1.5. Processes and Policy- Nil

1.6. Miscellaneous

- The Element 5 and 6 project proposals for 2026-27 were completed and sent through to TMR.
- A new water source was found for the goats living in the aerodrome paddock. This is so they will water and camp up during the day away from the buildings and the residence located within the reserve.
- Council's RLCO completed Working at Heights training and was deemed competent.
- Have been assisting with some Local Laws work, untidy and overgrown allotments and Prescribed Activity Permits.

Budget/Financial Implications

All activities have been provided for in Council's Operational Budget

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Various

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Theme: 4 Environmental sustainability

Program Area: 4.2 Foster a shared vision for the environment through collaborations with all land managers
4.3 Best practice biosecurity and pest and land management
4.4 Protect and enhance waterways, water sources and manage town water services

Risk Management

Not Applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

10.2.8 Local Laws and Illegal Dumping Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
 Department: Community and Environmental Services
 Authors: Colin Ickeringill RLCO, Stuart Timmis LLO and Christina Spence EFO
 Attachments: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the activities undertaken by the Compliance Department for the month of April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Local Laws and Illegal Dumping Report.

Discussion

1. Activities

	No. of requests received	Attacks / Dangerous	Wandering	Vaccinations	Euthanized	Surrendered	Rehomed	Barking / Noise	Impounded	Notices Issued	Comments
Cats	4				4						
Dogs	3		2			2			2		
Horses	1				1						
Pig											
Sheep											
Goats	1				1						
Kangaroos	1				1						
Ant Nests											
Birds											
Snakes											
Untidy Allotments										6	
Excess Water											
No. of animals impounded									2		
No. of rehomed animals											
No. of animals euthanized					7						
No. of notices issued										6	

1.1. Administration

- 2 Prescribed Activity Permits were issued in April.
- One PAP was reissued to a local business wishing to continue conducting activities including outdoor dining and seating for patrons on the footpath.
- The second PAP was issued to a local health organisation wanting to host an activity to promote domestic violence prevention.

1.2. Animal Management

- 2 dogs were impounded during April. One dog was found to be unregistered. The owner was identified and issued a Notice of Impounding. The other dog was visiting town from Charleville and returned to the owner after it was found to be registered in the Murweh Shire.
- 2 dogs were surrendered for rehoming. LuckyPaws will collect these dogs sometime in May.
- Regular morning and afternoon patrols have been undertaken, with problematic areas noted. The frequency of roaming dogs seems to have temporarily declined, with the public's awareness of increased patrols.
- Council employees Wayne Koop and Stuart Timmis attended a Dangerous Dog handling course that was held in Goondiwindi on the 16th April. Both praised the training and said it was very informative and will help them to work with and around potentially dangerous dogs. An area of the training highlighted other potential safety gear available, this matter to be investigated further.
- Cat traps were deployed at various locations around Cunnamulla after Council received requests from residents.
- 2 deceased felines that appeared to have been struck by a vehicle were removed from local streets after they were discovered during routine patrols.

1.3 Community and Environmental Management

- 1 overgrown allotment was identified, and the owners issued a compliance notice.
- 3 Reasonable Entry Notices were issued to allotment owners within Cunnamulla after they failed to action work to clear overgrown vegetation after being issued a Compliance Notice. Quotes were received from Council and a local contractor for these 3 allotments. The allotment owners failed to comply with the Reasonable Entry Notice, and all 3 allotments were cleared of the overgrown vegetation by either council or the local contractor. After the work was undertaken all 3 owners of these allotments were sent a Notice of Amount Payable with the amount to be paid within 30 days.
- Council received a customer request regarding an allotment in Yowah that the complainant described as overgrown. At the request of Authorised Officers, the town orderly captured pictures of the allotment and sent them through. A desktop inspection was undertaken, and the allotment was deemed to not be overgrown as stated. The resident that reported the allotment was called and informed about council's decision to not issue the owner of the allotment a notice about overgrown vegetation.

1.4 Illegal Dumping/Environment

- On 6th of April 2026 council received reports from a concerned resident that a substance potentially harmful to the environment had been spilt in the driveway of a local business and was being carried off the premises by vehicles onto the paved surface of the road. The report was investigated immediately and confirmed that a viscous liquid possibly oil was found to have been spilt in the driveway of the business. Repeated attempts to contact the business owner were unsuccessful which empowered council to send staff and material to soak up the liquid before it could enter the storm water system and cause any environmental harm or damage the paved road surface. Council staff monitored the site and after a period the sand that was spread to soak up the substance was removed and disposed of.
- Council officers continued to observe the dumping of green waste on a parcel of crown land adjacent to a tourist facility after the owner was approached about the dumping and instructed to discontinue the illegal dumping and take all green waste to the Cunnamulla waste facility. This site will be continually monitored.
- There have been several reports of illegal dumping from the Yowah town orderly. Council officers will continue to monitor these and gather as much information as possible to achieve desirable outcomes.

Budget/Financial Implications

All activities have been provided for in council's Operational Budget

Legislative/Statutory Implications

Various

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Theme: 1. Excellence in Governance

Program Area: 1.3 Enable strategic implementation with high levels of accountability

1.5 Deliver excellence in customer service

1.6 Transparency in processes and strong governance

Risk Management

Not Applicable

Consultation

Not Applicable

10.2.9 Community Grant Application: Eulo Polocrosse Club Inc.

Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Community Support and Engagement
Author: Community Services Support Officer
Attachments: 1. Community Grant Application
2. Bank Statement and Public Liability Insurance

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a request from Eulo Polocrosse Club Inc. for in-kind support and direct cash for the following for their event on 6 and 7 June 2026.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the Community Grant Application from Eulo Polocrosse Club Inc.*
- 2. Agree to in-kind assistance in relation to the supply of a water truck for the 6th & 7th June to be delivered on the 5th June (with an estimated value \$1,440)*
- 3. Agree to direct (cash) funding support of \$3,000 towards the cost of QAS attendance at the event.*

Previous Council Resolutions

NIL

Discussion

The Eulo Polo Crosse Carnival will be held on 6th & 7th June 2026. It is the annual community run event organised entirely by volunteers.

It brings together players, families and spectators from across the region promoting community spirit, sport and local engagement,

The event not only showcases the sport of polocrosse but also supports local businesses and strengthens community ties by attracting visitors to the Eulo area.

Council has supported it in previous years.

Budget/Financial Implications

Water truck hire - \$1,440
Direct (cash) funding - \$3,000

Total - \$4,440

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan

Theme: 2. Our People and Strong Communities

2.1 Celebrate Cultural Diversity, history and traditions

2.6 Foster and promote safe, active and healthy communities

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Failure to support a local committee to provide a sporting experience for their community.	Failure to support a local encourages health and wellbeing for community members both within our Shire and surrounding areas.

Consultation

Infrastructure Administration Officer, Eulo Polocrosse, David Burges, Steven Mitchell, Guy Davenport



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

Assistance and grants made available by Council are aimed at building community capacity and/or providing supplementary funding to assist with social, cultural, recreational and environmental outcomes that contribute to the development of inclusive and sustainable community groups throughout the Paroo Shire.

Assistance from Council can take the form of a waiving of hire fees, in-kind assistance, a grant or sponsorship.

The Community Grants Policy outlines the grants, waiver of site/venue fees and in-kind assistance programs available to eligible community organisations and the process for applying for this assistance from Council. The Community Grants Policy is available to view at www.paroo.qld.gov.au/policies.

APPLICATIONS OPEN ON 1 JULY (OF THE RELEVANT FINANCIAL YEAR) AND WILL BE AN ONGOING PROCESS UNTIL COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY GRANTS BUDGET IS FULLY COMMITTED.

All applications have to be submitted and approved by Council at a monthly Council Meeting, so **please ensure that applications are lodged at least two months prior to the event or activity**. If your event or activity is only two weeks away, please contact Council on the details below to discuss your application prior to submitting your form.

No applicant can be guaranteed funds, nor can any applicant be guaranteed to receive the full amount requested.

How and when will I be notified?

Successful applicants will receive an approval letter and a purchase order (if relevant) for the funding amount within two weeks of approval. Your community organisation will be required to submit an invoice for payment. If your application was for in-kind assistance and/or a waiving of site/venue fees only, a purchase order will not need to be provided to you.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive a notification letter. For feedback on your application, please refer to the contact phone number given in your notification letter.

For more information please contact:

Community Support Officer

Phone: (07) 4655 8400

Email: council@paroo.qld.gov.au

To lodge your application:

Email: council@paroo.qld.gov.au

In person: Attn: Community Grants Program

CCEC Building, 49 Stockyard Street, Cunnamulla

By post: Attn: Community Grants Program

Paroo Shire Council
PO Box 75

Cunnamulla Q 4490



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

SECTION 1: GUIDELINES

INFORMATION ABOUT FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

- The decision of Council on grant applications is final.
- Council expects acknowledgment of financial support, including logos/branding on all printed material, online/ social media and mentions in media releases (Council will provide logos and banners for use as requested).
- All successful recipients will be recorded in a grants register which Council will have the right to publish as they see fit.
- All funds are GST free.

GRANT/FUNDING AMOUNTS

- Council includes a provision for Community Donations in its Annual Budget.
- Grants are limited to the allocation adopted in the budget and are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Funding must be available within the allocated budget in any financial year.
- Funding outside or in excess of the budgeted annual allocation may, upon consideration and assessment, be permitted by resolution of Council.

TYPE OF GRANTS

The categories of grants available are:

1. Waiver of hire fees

Waiver of hire fees for Council facilities e.g. halls, pool hire, Portaloo etc. This includes any hire fee detailed in Council's annual Fees and Charges Schedule. Security deposits will not be waived unless under exceptional circumstances.

Category 1 grants are delegated to the CEO for approval to a maximum amount of \$500. All grants approved under this delegated authority will be reported to Council in the subsequent month's Council report.

2. In-kind assistance

In-kind assistance or donation may include labour, machinery and materials being loaned, given or donated for use by the organisation. It should be noted that in-kind donations, while no money changes hands, still have a monetary value. This may be made up of various components including but not limited to:

- Use, repairs and maintenance of equipment
- Employee costs
- Transportation costs
- Plant costs

In-kind donations such as labour, machinery and materials are highly dependent on availability. A Council employee/operator must accompany all machinery. If the employee does not agree to volunteer their time, then the community organisation must make a suitable arrangement with the employee for their time e.g. pay them from their own funds or subtract the value of hours required from their total approved funding.



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

3. Direct (cash) funding

Direct funding is a cash amount that is donated by Council, to an organisation with the recipient organisation being responsible for expenditure and management of the funds.

Category 3 grants require an acquittal to be completed after the project, event or activity has been completed.

Category 3 grants require a copy of a relevant bank statement detailing current balances.

4. Sponsorship

Sponsorship for major events that have a regional economic benefit, particularly in relation to tourism.

Category 4 grants are available to private enterprise, businesses or for-profit organisations.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to submit an application under the Community Grant Program, the applicant must:

- Be a community organisation, group or club that is a not-for-profit incorporated organisation and is located within the Paroo Shire Council local government area; OR
- Be a community group or club auspiced by a not-for-profit incorporated organisation located within the Paroo Shire Council local government area; and
- Have current public liability insurance or proof of exemption; and
- Have met acquittal conditions for all previous Council funding where applicable.

CRITERIA

- Applicants must demonstrate strong community benefit or need and support for the project, event or activity e.g. will it contribute to economic development, tourism, liveability, or promote active, safe and healthy communities.
- The applicant or proposed project, event or activity must be based within the Paroo Shire Council local government area; or clearly demonstrate benefit to the Paroo Shire Council communities.
- The applicant must demonstrate attempts have been made to raise funds from other sources to assist with the project, event or activity.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate financial viability and / or competence to achieve the stated goals of the project, event or activity.
- Where applicable, applicants must have acquitted previously awarded grants in order to be considered for a new application.
- Applicants must not have any overdue debt with Council unless a payment arrangement is in place.
- Projects, events or activities will generally not be funded from multiple Council funding programs and will only be approved at Council's discretion.



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

The following entities and applications are ineligible under the community grants program and will not be considered for funding:

- Government agencies or departments of local, state or federal government
- Educational, religious or medical organisations
- Private enterprise, businesses or for-profit organisations with the exception of the sponsorship category of grant
- Applications whereby some or all of Council funds will be donated to another cause
- Applications which fund:
 - a. Wages or salaries for staff
 - b. Recurrent costs or day to day operations of a group e.g. electricity, phone, rent, meals, wages
 - c. Retrospective funding
 - d. Equipment or other expenditure that are personal or for personal gain or for individual pursuit
 - e. Private and commercial ventures or activities with the exception of the sponsorship category of grant
 - f. Part or all of Council rates
 - g. Items that would otherwise be funded by State or Government bodies

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Council may approve a Community Grant outside of the above in exceptional circumstances or where an overriding community need or benefit can be demonstrated by the applicant.

THE APPLICATION

All applications should be typed or neatly handwritten on the application form provided below with any relevant support documentation attached. Any applications not made on this form will be returned to the applicant for the form to be completed.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

All community grants are subject to the following conditions:

- The grant funds cannot be used for any other purpose than that for which the grant is awarded
- Funds that cannot be used for the specified purpose must be returned to Council
- If a grant recipient wishes to modify the intended use of the grant, they must submit a written request to Council detailing the alterations at least 30 days prior to the project, activity or event commencing.
- The grant recipient will obtain all necessary permits or approvals relating to the project, activity or event for which the grant is awarded.
- Applicants give permission for Council to use the grant information for promotional and public information, including (where deemed appropriate by Council) the use of photographs, publications, annual reports etc



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

acknowledging Council's financial contribution.

- Successful applicant details, including the name of the organisation, amount and purpose of the grant, will be published on Council's website.
- A register of grants to community organisations will be kept for disclosure in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

FUNDING ACQUITTAL (Category 3 Direct Cash Funding Only)

For category 3 funding, the recipient will acquit the grant as soon as practicable after completion of the project, activity or event. If the acquittal is not received within three months of the completion date, future applications, or the amount provided by Council when considering future applications may be affected.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CONDITION

As a condition of funding, successful applicants are required to actively and publicly acknowledge Council's support in all published material associated with the funded project, activity or event.

A copy of Council's logo can be provided to all successful recipients on request.

Funding recipients must ensure that Council's positive reputation is maintained at all times.



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

SECTION 2: APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT DETAILS			
Contact person:	Shonnell Turner		
Position in organisation:	Secretary		
Organisation name:	Eulo Polocrosse Club Inc.		
Contact phone number:	0459394002	Contact mobile number:	
Contact email:	eulopolox@gmail.com		
Postal address:	20 Eulo Street		
Suburb:	Eulo	State:	Qld
		Post code:	4491
ABN:	98386731421		
Incorporation:	LA12511		

ORGANISATION DETAILS	
President:	Patrick Beresford
Secretary:	Shonnell Turner
Treasurer:	Hugh Banks
Other committee members:	Ben



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

APPLICATION DETAILS <i>Please tick all that apply</i>	
What assistance are you applying for?:	
1. Waiver of hire fees - <i>if yes, please complete "Waiver of Hire Fees" section below</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. In-kind assistance - <i>if yes, please complete "In-Kind Assistance" section below</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
3. A cash grant - <i>if yes, please complete "Direct (Cash) Funding" section below</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
4. Sponsorship – <i>if yes, please complete "Sponsorship" section below</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a brief description of the project, event or activity you are applying for assistance for:	
<p>The Eulo Polocrosse Carnival is held, 6th & 7th June 2026 it is annual community run event organized entirely volunteers. It brings together players, families and spectators from across the region promoting community spirit, sport and local engagement. The event not only showcases the sport of polocrosse but also supports local businesses and strengthens community ties by attracting visitors to the Eulo area.</p>	

1. WAIVER OF HIRE FEES	
Event location <i>i.e. which council facility</i>	
Mobile catering equipment including quantity <i>e.g. 1 x cold room, 1 x generator</i>	
Date facility and/or equipment required:	
If required more than once, please detail: <i>e.g. every Wednesday from 6-7pm from 1/7/22 for a period of 3 months.</i>	
Please provide any other relevant information (if any):	
<i>(Office use only)</i> Value of hire fees is \$.....	



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL
**Community Grants Guidelines
 and Application Form**

2. IN-KIND ASSISTANCE			
Please provide details of the assistance requested from Council: <i>(attach additional information when submitting your application form if required.)</i>			
Description <i>e.g. water truck, mow field etc.</i>	Date required	Location	\$ Value <i>(office use only)</i>
Water truck to water the playing fields	6th & 7th June 2026	Eulo Polocrosse Grounds	

3. DIRECT (CASH) FUNDING <i>Please detail the amount of funding you are requesting and what it is for.</i>	
Description <i>e.g. facilitator fee, BBQ food items for lunch, event signage etc.</i>	Cost \$
Eulo Polocrosse Club Inc. also request funding for the employ of QLD Ambulance Services on the 6th & 7th of June 2026 to be present at the event	\$3000
TOTAL	\$ 3000

4. SPONSORSHIP	
Event details	
Sponsorship details	
Benefits to Council	
Amount \$	\$



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

ORGANISATION CONTRIBUTION <i>Please detail monetary and/or in-kind contributions</i>	
Description <i>e.g. volunteer hours to organise/run event, other event costs organisation is paying for themselves</i>	Approximate \$ total <i>If relevant</i>
The 8 local volunteers spend numerous hours throughout the year preparing the grounds and coordinating the event.	
This time committed ensures the grounds are safe and set up well to guarantee the event runs smoothly.	
The approximate cost for volunteer's hours and cost of running the event.	
TOTAL	\$ 25,000

PLEASE CHECK THE ELIGIBILITY OF YOUR APPLICATION AGAINST COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY

	APPLICANT TO COMPLETE		OFFICE USE ONLY	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Are you a community organisation, group or club that is a not-for-profit incorporated organisation and is located within the Paroo Shire Council local government area; OR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you a community group or club auspiced by a not-for-profit incorporated organisation located within the Paroo Shire Council local government area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you or the auspicing organisation have evidence of your not-for-profit status e.g. constitution, registration etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Do you have current public liability insurance or proof of exemption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you met acquittal conditions for all previous Council funding (category 3 grants only).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you demonstrated strong community benefit or need and support for the project, event or activity e.g. will it contribute to economic development, tourism, liveability, promote active, safe and healthy communities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you or your proposed project, event or activity based within the Paroo Shire Council local government area; or clearly demonstrates benefit to the Paroo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants Guidelines and Application Form

Shire Council communities.				
Have you demonstrated attempts to raise funds from other sources to assist with the project, event or activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you demonstrate financial viability and / or competence to achieve the stated goals of the project, event or activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any overdue debt with Council unless a payment arrangement is in place.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your project, event or activity rely on funding from multiple Council funding programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you provided a recent copy of a relevant bank statement with your application (category 3 grants only)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS ATTACHED.

This declaration requires the signature of the applicant or representative of the organisation.

I certify that I am authorised by the applicant to prepare and submit this application for the Paroo Shire Council Community Grants program. I have read the guidelines relating to the funds and certify that the information provided in this form is lawfully true and correct.

The organisation named in this application accepts all legal and financial responsibility associated with this application and any funds granted should this application be successful.

I agree to provide Council with additional information if required to assess this application. I agree to comply with all requirements of the Community Grants program.

I will acknowledge the support of Paroo Shire Council in all relevant promotional and printed material.

Signature

Shonnell Turner

Full name of person making application

26/04/2026

Date

To lodge your application:

Email: council@paroo.qld.gov.au

By post: Attn: Community Grants Program

In person: Attn: Community Grants Program

Paroo Shire Council

Paroo Shire Council Main Office,

PO Box 75

CCEC Building, 49 Stockyard Street, Cunnamulla

Cunnamulla Q4490

The information collected in this form will be used by Council for a lawful purpose directly related to the functions and activities of the Council. Your personal details will not be disclosed to a third party outside the process of dealing with your application, except where required by legislation (including the Right to Information ACT 2009) or as required by the Public Records Act 2002.

Last updated November 2025

Page 9



NAB Community Fee Saver Account

For further information call the Business Servicing Team on 13 10 12



/043153

THE TREASURER
EULO POLOCROSSE CLUB INC
YARALLA
8915 MUNDA MUNDA ROAD
CUNNAMULLA QLD 4490

Account Balance Summary

Opening balance	\$11,112.73	Cr
Total credits	\$500.00	
Total debits	\$1,257.55	
Closing balance	\$10,355.18	Cr

Statement starts 28 February 2026
Statement ends 31 March 2026

Outlet Details

Cunnamulla
38 Jane St, Cunnamulla Qld 4490

Account Details

EULO POLOCROSSE CLUB



Transaction Details

Date	Particulars	Debits	Credits	Balance
28 Feb 2026	Brought forward			11,112.73 Cr
10 Mar 2026	[Redacted]	[Redacted]		[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]		[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]		9,855.18 Cr
20 Mar 2026	/ 074405.....		500.00	10,355.18 Cr

Summary of Government Charges

Government	From 1 July to date	Last year to 30 June
Withholding tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Account Debit (BAD) tax	\$0.00	\$0.00

Bank Accounts Debits (BAD) Tax or State Debits Duty has been abolished for all states & territories effective 1/7/2005. Any amount shown on this statement applies to debits processed on or before 30/06/2005.

For further information on any applicable rebates, fees or government charges, please refer to the NAB's "A Guide to Fees & Charges" booklet. Please retain this statement for taxation purposes

Explanatory Notes

Please check all entries and report any apparent error or possible unauthorised transaction immediately.
We may subsequently adjust debits and credits, which may result in a change to your account balance to accurately reflect the obligations between us.

For information on resolving problems or disputes, contact us on 1800 152 015, or ask at any NAB branch.

060699171731 / E-43163 S-81613 I-163225

CONFIRMATION OF COVER

This Confirmation of Cover is issued as a matter of information only and confers no rights upon the holder, and has been issued by us in our capacity as agents for the insured noted below.

This document does not constitute an insurance policy and does not confer any rights under the insurance policy to any party, and does not alter or extend the insurance coverage provided by the policy. All insurance coverage described is subject to the terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the actual insurance policy.

Insured : Polocrosse Australia Ltd. including state and Territory offices, affiliated clubs, incorporated Zones, members/ Players, officials, coaches, visiting international teams and their Members and officials, temporary players and volunteers

State : Queensland Polocrosse Association Inc.

Location : Australia Wide

Limits of Liability : Public Liability \$20,000,000 any one occurrence
Products Liability \$20,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate any one period of insurance

Insurer : Liberty International Underwriters

Policy Number : 491175

Expiry Date : 31 December 2026 16:00 hours



Signed for and on behalf of
Elkington Bishop Molineaux Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd

Date of Issue : 31 December 2025

Disclaimer:

This confirmation of cover document confirms the currency of the insurance policy on the date of issue of this document. This document does not constitute a representation or assurance that the policy will remain current until the expiry date noted. Elkington Bishop Molineaux Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd ABN 31 009 179 640 (EBM) is under no obligation to inform any party if the insurance policy is assigned, altered, lapsed, cancelled, or becomes unenforceable.

10.2.10 Community Grant Application: Sacred Heart Parish School PPF

Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Community Support and Engagement
Author: Community Services Support Officer
Attachments: 1. Community Grant Application

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a request from Sacred Heart Parish School PPF for direct (cash) funding donation to assist families with the costs associated with students attending Grade 5/6 school camp.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the Community Grant Application from Sacred Heart Parish School PPF.*
- 2. Agree to direct (cash) funding support of \$2,750 to assist families with the costs associated with students attending Grade 5/6 school camp.*

Previous Council Resolutions

NIL

Discussion

Eleven Sacred Heart students in Grade 5/6 will be attending their school camp to Dubbo and Canberra in August to visit the Zoo, Parliament House and the snow.

With Sacred Heart Primary School attending independently (i.e. not with another school), and with increased fuel prices, this year's camp will be significantly more expensive for students to attend with a total cost to the families of approx. \$1,250 per student.

The PPF are seeking Council's support to the value of \$2,750 (\$250 per student) to reduce the overall cost to families. Families have been and will continue to raise the additional \$11,000 (\$1,000 per child) needed through fundraising activities including a Trivia Night, money boards and raffles.

A financial contribution towards the camp will reduce the pressure on families. This camp will allow for an incredible learning opportunity and amazing experience for all students involved.

The PPF operates its finances through the Sacred Heart Primary Schools bank account as well as comes under their ABN and Public Liability, therefore these documents were not provided as part of the application.

Budget/Financial Implications

Direct (cash) funding - \$2,750

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan

Theme: 2. Our People and Strong Communities

2.1 Celebrate Cultural Diversity, history and traditions

2.6 Foster and promote safe, active and healthy communities

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Failure to support a local PPF Committee to support students in a learning opportunity	Failure to support the PPF to help the reduction of school camp costs to allow affordability for children to attend and take part in an incredible learning opportunity and amazing experience outside of Cunnamulla.

Consultation

Lauren Schmidt - Sacred Heart Parish School PPF

10.3.1

Infrastructure Operations Status Report

Council Meeting:	19 May 2026
Department:	Infrastructure
Authors:	Director of Infrastructure and Staff
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work undertaken in the Infrastructure Department for the month of April 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Infrastructure Operations Status Report.

Discussion

Works Coordinator - Shire Road and Town Maintenance and RMPC

- RMPC claim for February was \$195,000
- Shoulder grading was completed on the Charleville Road.
- Tractor slashing of the Mitchell Highway has completed the Charleville Road and almost completed the Barrington Road. It will be followed by the Bollon & Thargomindah Roads.
- TMR has approved repair of flood damage on the Eulo-Hungerford Road. We are in the process of getting the Gravel pushed in three pits.
- Gravel tenders have been rewarded for the winning and crushing for the Element 16 resheeting funding. We plan to resheet 6km for TMR and will commence in conjunction with the Eulo Hungerford Road Flood Damage.
- Signs and pothole patching of Barrington Road.
- Monthly Inspections and defect tracking of the six TMR roads.
- Mt Alfred Road, Tinnenburra Road were slashed by a contractor.
- An extra \$30,000 will be approved for the RMPC to assist with the increased cost of fuel.
- The submission of Council Traffic Registration Scheme has been approved, and Council has 18 months approval to work on TMR roads



**Town Maintenance Crew –
RMPC Works**

- Bollon Road. Guidepost run/ road signage.

Shire Roads

- Jobs gate road pothole patching and signage.
- Glencoe road signage.
- Eulo Toompine Road remove damaged grid and replace with 8m grid – Chainage 145.15.
- Emergency call out Maruya Nurran road.
- Jandell road grid clean outs (customer request.)



Town maintenance

- Pothole patching town streets. Kerb repair and stormwater maintenance repair damaged pipe causing sinkhole Stockyard Street.

Flood Damage

- Linden-Nebine Road pothole patching and signage.
- Coongoola Lane pothole patching and signage.

Other works

- Racecourse maintenance.
- Tree pruning for parks and gardens.
- Dig water main bursts for plumbers Emma Street, hospital, Wyandra.
- River lights bump in/out. Eulo Gymkahana, Noorama races

Private Works

- CACH block de-grass and lay gravel pad.
- Slashing vacant block for auction.

Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) – Funded 25/26

- The TMR TIDS project for this year has been completed, 9km of new sealed pavement was completed.
- Claims to TMR have been finalised with full expenditure achieved.

Roads to Recovery (RTR) - Funded

- Gamarren Road will undergo resealing of the existing bitumen and rehabilitation of failing pavement under Roads to Recovery funding, with a total project value of \$2,000,000. Works are now planned to commence in late July 2026. The rehabilitation phase is scheduled from 27 July to 7 August 2026, followed by seal and reseal works from 10 August to 13 August 2026. Bitumen tenders have been issued.

Hungerford Road Flood Damage DFRA (TMR) – Funded

- The Hungerford Road flood damage works include heavy formation grading over 61,266 metres. The total funded amount is \$4,150,476. The gravel tender has been successfully awarded, and the contractor has commenced works on site. Works started on 5 May 2026 and are scheduled for completion by 4 September 2026. The project is currently in the early stages and progressing as planned.

Forecast for May

- Flood damage works on Middleton Road – heavy formation grading from 5 May 2026 to 15 May 2026.
- Flood damage works on Jobs Gate Road – heavy formation grading commencing from 18 May 2026.
- Construction of pad and ground works for the Cunnamulla Fuel Dispensary.
- Commencement of the Hungerford Road flood damage project for TMR.
- Installation of TIDS signpost.

Parks & Gardens

- The Parks and Gardens team completed their routine monthly maintenance program, including mowing and watering across town street gardens, small parks, the Hot Springs precinct, river walk, cemetery, bushland areas and the eastern town entrance.
- Regular maintenance and mowing were also carried out at John Kerr Park.
- Cemetery: 1 funeral was held during this period. General maintenance, including mowing and whipper snipping, was undertaken, with continued progress on the old cemetery clean-up.
- At the Hot Springs, ongoing garden maintenance continued, including weed treatment.
- Routine cleaning of the Cunnamulla War Memorial Fountain was maintained.
- Ongoing support has been provided to Wyandra following the resignation of the orderly. Currently, two Parks and Gardens team members are servicing Wyandra twice per week, with demand expected to increase in line with rising tourism activity.
- Assistance provided in Eulo with mowing and weed trimming due to equipment breakdowns.
- Noorama Races – Delivery of 15 additional bins for Noorama Races.
- Anzac Day CBD set up for ceremony and road closures as well as pack up.
- River lights bump in – assisted town crew and tourism set up for river lights festival and pack up.

Senior Technical Officer

RMPC Schedule 2 Expenditure Profile for YTD 2025/26

1	1/7/25	31/7/25	\$190,000.00	\$157,228.00	\$157,228.00
2	1/8/25	31/8/25	\$380,000.00	\$467,895.60	\$625,123.60
3	1/9/25	30/9/25	\$570,000.00	\$222,588.20	\$847,711.80
4	1/10/25	31/10/25	\$760,000.00	\$359,629.00	\$1,207,340.80
5	1/11/25	30/11/25	\$980,000.00	\$33,833.00	\$1,241,173.80
6	1/12/25	31/12/25	\$1,080,000.00	\$75,640.00	\$1,316,813.80
7	1/1/26	31/1/26	\$1,180,000.00	\$44,934.00	\$1,361,747.80
8	1/2/26	28/2/26	\$1,390,000.00	\$135,178.00	\$1,496,925.80
9	1/3/26	31/3/26	\$1,650,000.00	\$229,509.20	\$1,726,435.00
10	1/4/26	30/4/26	\$1,760,000.00	\$195,000.00	\$1,921,435.00
11	1/5/26	31/5/26	\$1,870,000.00		
12	1/6/26	30/6/26	\$2,001,102.00		

- Routine reporting of water sampling, Quarry quantities, RMPC claims and project plans and heavy vehicle permit applications have also been done during the month.
- Assisting with the TIDS/CRC Project, Organize Sealing contractors and Contractors.
- Work on TMR Flood Damage Quality assurance
- Complete DWQMP implement recommendations.
- Assist with the REX baggage handling
- REX audit completed
- 26-27 FY RMPC contract to be submitted early May.

Forecast for May

- Continuing work on the DWQMP recommendations
- Road inspections for RMPC
- Planning and managing the Jobs Gate Flood Damage & RTR Projects
- Quarry Pit returns for Quarter
- Water testing for Quarter
- Planning TMR Hungerford Road Flood Damage

Water and Sewerage

- Water main repairs: 3
- Water service repairs: 2
- Sewer blockages: 2 private works
- Q Build requests – 2 water service repairs and 2 sewerage blockages.
- Requests for maintenance: 0
- Private works total – 10
- **Hot Springs** – pool pumps
- **Cunnamulla Pool** – Dosing machine ongoing issue.
- **Council assets** – 3 Water – 3 Sewage
- **Wyandra**
 - 1 water main replaced
- **Yowah**
 - 1 water service repair.
- **Eulo**
 - Bore replaced

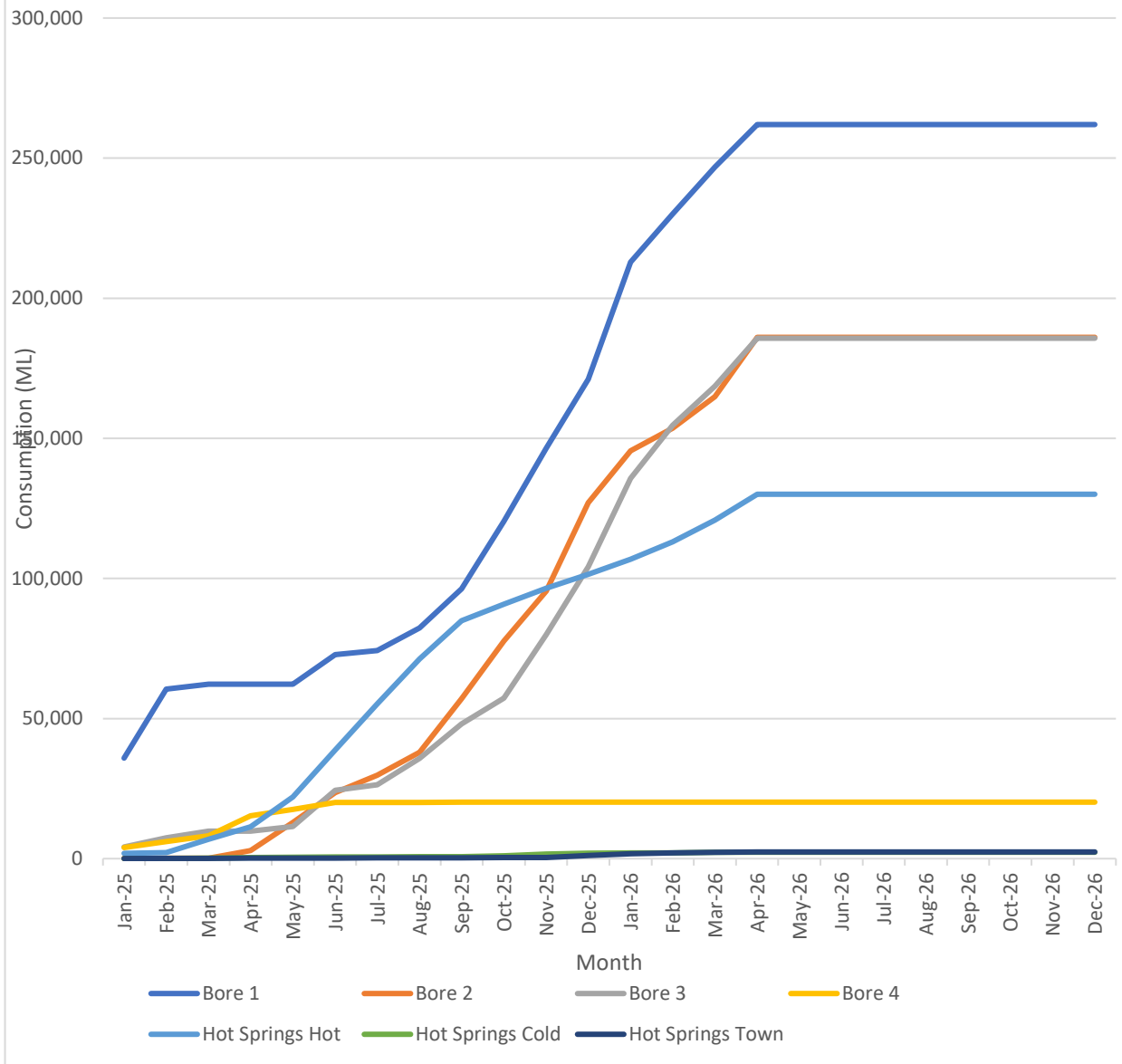
Bores – Water flow usage

Bore	Prior Month Usage (kl)	Prior Cumulative Usage (kl)	Current Month Usage (kl)	Updated Cumulative Usage (kl)
1	16767	246852	15132	261984
2	11293	164857	21186	186043
3	14019	168647	17079	185726
4	0	20164	0	20164

Hot Springs water usage

	Prior Month Usage (kl)	Prior Cumulative Usage (kl)	Current Month Usage (kl)	Updated Cumulative Usage (kl)
Hot Water	7766	120812	9238	130050
Cold Water	176	2216	69	2285
Town Supply	206	2207.7	179	2386.70

Cunnamulla Water Consumption



APRIL 2026 WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

UNIT #	VEHICLE DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION OF WORK
318	Grader	grader was brought to town for warranty as had blown a drive seal grader also had first 250 hour service
315	Grader	full engine service and check over
503	Action water tanker	air actuators for water sprays replaced hydraulic water pump rebuilt
328	Yowah john deere tractor	tractor has had major repairs to front diff and transmission and hydraulics and is ready to go back to Yowah
3000	John Deere	tractor is in shed for engine to be stripped down for major repairs
375	Drum roller	roller is back in the yard after having a major failure on jobs gate road we are currently waiting on parts availability and prices
280	Kenworth	PTO hydraulic pump replaced truck was also serviced and clutch was adjusted
305	Yowah zero turn mower	mower is currently in workshop for repairs electric clutch full service and new belts transmission drive belts to be replaced as well
249	Moore drop deck trailer	Trailer needs a wheel alignment waiting on quotes for traveling heavy vehicle wheel alignment company for travel dates to our area currently the trailer is destroying tyres too quickly
510	AAA Water tanker	new remote electrical box for water sprays has arrived from AAA and was sent to us at nil cost to council in good will that we might look and them for any future purchases
248	UD prime mover	swing bracket made to hold hydraulic hoses
347	Isuzu mr tipper	full workshop inspection air leaks fixed truck is usable, but all parts have been ordered
596	Generator on trailer	generator from jobs gate road camp was shutting down radiator cleaned engine serviced and emergency stop fixed
346	Hino tipper	rear brakes not working parts have been ordered

339	CAT loader	loader was serviced in workshop, and batteries were replaced oil leak on transmission was fixed
159	Plumbers truck	truck has transmission and crane issue circuit board for crane has been ordered transmission is getting hot when towing vac trailer plumbers will be using workshop truck for towing until the transmission issues are sorted
331	Caterpillar skid steer	hydraulic slasher new blades and new hydraulic hoses
276	Rubbish truck	truck had a major break down we were lucky enough to be able to hire Quilpie shires spare truck while ours was getting fixed we also engaged Garwood's in Sydney to send a tec out to do a full inspection and fix any other faults and hopefully that's something that we can do every 12 months
273	Street sweeper	electrical fault was found in truck and is now operational we would also like to send the truck back to MIE in Brisbane for an inspection by the manufacturer when possible

10.3.2

2025-26 Works Program Status Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Infrastructure
Author: Director Infrastructure
Attachments: 1. Works Program Gantt Chart

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the 2025-26 capital works program.




Recommendation

That Council receive and note the 2025-26 Works Program Status Report.















Previous Council Resolutions









Not applicable.

Discussion

On track	Requires monitoring / some risk	Requires action / considerable risk
		

Project	Notes	Budget	Status
TIDS – Jobs Gate Road Upgrade to Seal	Project completed	\$2,140,166	
Country Road Connect 25-26	Project completed	\$1,250,000	
R2R - Eulo Toompine Road Drainage Upgrade	Project completed. Project defects currently being addressed	\$755,126	
R2R- Floodway (Jobs Gate Road)	Project completed.	\$751,000	
R2R – Gamarren Road Rehabilitation and reseal	Project planned for May / June 2026 onwards. Bitumen tender awarded.	\$1,960,450	
Hungerford Road TMR Flood Damage	Possession of the Site received from TMR. Work commenced May 2026. Gravel tender awarded.	\$4,150,476	
LGGSP - JKP Masterplan	Master plan completed.	\$211,200	
W4Q- Cunnamulla Swimming Pool and John Kerr Park Master Plan Stage 1	Tender awarded for 2 x amenities buildings. Other works being scoped.	\$600,000	
W4Q - Children’s Training Track (Road Safety Focus)	Project completed	\$250,000	

Project	Notes	Budget	Status
W4Q - Housing Upgrade including Wyandra Hall	Childcare stumps work completed. Front stair completed. 11 Mabel St stumps Completed. 5 Ivan st work is completed. 9 Francis St - Restumping is complete 100%. 7 Louise St - Floor has been leveled. Yet to complete works - Roof space insulation and internal handrail to stair. Completion 60%. Other works are currently progressing. Wyandra Hall scope under review.	\$550,000	
W4Q - Airport Fuel Upgrade	Ground preparation works completed. The contractor expects to commence construction works on site on 20 June 2026.	\$350,000	
MIFF / POW - John Kerr Park Lighting	Lighting upgrade works have been completed. Removal of the existing poles and project handover programmed for mid-May.	\$822,808	
Childcare Centre	Works under progress.	\$50,000	
C/O - Eulo Playground Rubber Soft Fall	Works completed	\$60,000	
C/O - Eulo Main Street Irrigation 200m	Works completed	\$60,000	
C/O – Eulo Landfill	Environmental clearances have been obtained. Clearing/fencing work to start.	\$85,000	
C/O - Robbers Tree Project	Concept design has been completed, and funding has been applied for to progress construction of Stage 1. Funding application was unsuccessful.	\$25,000	
C/O - Solar PV systems – Depot / Hall / VIC / Library	Works completed	\$141,441	
Replacement – 2WD Utility x 2 Unit 213 Extra Cab Unit 219 Dual Cab	One unit has been delivered. Delivery expected for remaining by end of May 2026.	\$130,000	
Replacement – 4WD Utility x 4 Unit 116 Extra Cab Unit 119 Dual Cab Unit 202 Single Cab Unit 203 Crew Cab	Three units have been delivered. Delivery expected for remaining by end of May 2026.	\$280,000	
Replacement – Wagon SUV x 2 Unit 106 Kluger Wagon Unit 107 Prado Wagon	Delivered	\$160,000	
Tipping Truck (Unit 247) (UD)	Delivered	\$290,000	
Grader (new)	Delivered.	\$585,000	

Project	Notes	Budget	Status
Tipping Truck (Unit 252) (UD)	Delivered	\$290,000	
Dog Trailer (Unit 423) (Water tanker)	Delivered	\$100,000	
Dog Trailer (Unit 424) (Water tanker)	Delivered	\$100,000	
Small Tipper (Unit 346)	Purchase order has been raised.	\$100,000	
Tractor (Unit 322)	Delivered	\$80,000	
Emulsion Tank	Quote documents have been received. Waiting on decision in relation to the replacement of the jetpatcher.	\$110,000	
SES Vehicle	PO has been issued Delivery uncertain at this stage.	\$60,235	
Small Plant	Being allocated as required in consultation with relevant staff.	\$50,000	

Budget/Financial Implications

As detailed above

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Corporate Plan

- Theme: 2 Our People and Strong Communities
- Theme: 3 Prosperous Economy
- Theme: 4 Environmental Sustainability

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Financial	<p>Inadequately defined project scopes can lead to cost overruns.</p> <p>A lack of timely project planning and delivery may jeopardise approved grant funding.</p> <p>Regular reporting and implementation of sound project management processes will mitigate this risk.</p>
Quality	<p>A lack of clear scope and project planning can result in less than desired quality outcomes.</p> <p>Implementation of sound project management processes will mitigate this risk.</p>
Time	<p>A lack of clear scope and project planning and delivery can result in lower works program completion rates.</p> <p>Regular reporting and implementation of sound project management processes will mitigate this risk.</p>
Environmental	<p>Many projects have an element of environmental risk. Regular reporting and implementation of sound project management processes will mitigate this risk.</p>

Consultation

Relevant Infrastructure Services staff

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Job Cost Code	PM / Contra	Baseline Cost	Start	Finish	Duration	Precedence	% Complete	Resource Names	Gantt Chart (June to January)											
1		2025-26 Works Program			\$0	Wed 11-06-25	Wed 14-10-26	68.2 wks?		78%													
2		Road Construction Crew			\$0	Tue 30-09-25	Fri 29-05-26	32.8 wks?		50%													
3		TIDS - Jobs Gate Road	2506-01		\$2,140,126	Tue 30-09-25	Fri 13-03-26	21.8 wks		100%													
4		Camp Establishment and Fit Out			\$0	Tue 30-09-25	Fri 03-10-25	0.8 wks		100%													
5		Push and screen gravel			\$0	Tue 30-09-25	Fri 10-10-25	1.8 wks	4SS	100%													
6		Drainage works			\$0	Mon 23-02-26	Fri 13-03-26	3 wks		100%													
7		Formation			\$0	Tue 07-10-25	Tue 21-10-25	2.2 wks		100%													
8		Base			\$0	Thu 16-10-25	Thu 06-11-25	3.2 wks	7SS	100%													
9		Seal 1			\$0	Tue 28-10-25	Mon 03-11-25	1 wk	8SS	100%													
10		Seal 2			\$0	Tue 04-11-25	Mon 10-11-25	1 wk	9	100%													
11		CRC- Jobs Gate Road			\$1,250,000	Tue 27-01-26	Wed 25-03-26	8.4 wks?		100%													
12		Push and screen gravel			\$0	Tue 27-01-26	Mon 23-02-26	4 wks		100%													
13		Formation			\$0	Tue 03-02-26	Mon 09-02-26	1 wk		100%													
14		Gravel Haulage			\$0	Tue 27-01-26	Mon 23-02-26	4 wks		100%													
15		Base			\$0	Mon 16-02-26	Sat 21-03-26	5.2 wks		100%													
16		Seal 14mm			\$0	Wed 01-04-26	Thu 02-04-26	0.4 wks	15	100%													
17		seal 7mm			\$0	Wed 08-04-26	Wed 08-04-26	0.2 wks		100%													
18		Shoulder works			\$0	Thu 09-04-26	Fri 17-04-26	1.4 wks		100%													
19		RTR - Gamarren Road Rehab and Reseal	2550-01		\$2,000,000	Mon 27-07-26	Fri 14-08-26	3 wks		7%													
20		Procurement stage			\$0	Mon 27-07-26	Thu 13-08-26	2.8 wks		50%													
21		Push and screen gravel			\$0	Wed 01-04-26	Wed 08-04-26	1.2 wks		50%													
22		Rehab			\$0	Mon 29-06-26	Fri 07-08-26	6 wks		0%													
23		Seal and Reseal			\$0	Mon 10-08-26	Fri 14-08-26	1 wk	22	0%													
24		Hungerford Road TMR Flood damage			\$4,150,476	Mon 11-05-26	Wed 14-10-26	22.6 wks		1%													
25		Preliminaries Procurements & Site Establishment			\$0	Mon 11-05-26	Tue 12-05-26	0.4 wks		75%													
26		Resheeting			\$0	Wed 13-05-26	Fri 22-05-26	1.6 wks	25	0%													
27		Heavy formation grading			\$0	Mon 25-05-26	Wed 14-10-26	20.6 wks	26	0%													
28		RMPC Crew			\$0	Thu 18-09-25	Wed 08-07-26	40 wks		60%													
29		RMPC			\$0	Thu 18-09-25	Thu 30-04-26	30.2 wks		26%													
30		RMPC Charleville Road Element 15			\$0	Thu 18-09-25	Thu 30-04-26	30.2 wks		20%													
31		RMPC - Bollon Charleville Formation grading Element 15			\$0	Thu 30-10-25	Wed 12-11-25	2 wks	30	100%													
32		RMPC-Bollon Heavy Shoulder grading Element 15			\$0	Thu 27-11-25	Wed 10-12-25	2 wks		100%													

Project: 2025-26 Works Program Date: Fri 08-05-26	Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
	Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
	Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
	Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Job Cost Code	PM / Contract	Baseline Cost	Start	Finish	Duration	Precedence	% Complete	Resource Names	Gantt Chart (June to January)											
33		RMPC - Hungerford Road Resheet Element 16			\$425,000	Thu 18-09-25	Wed 18-02-26	5 wks		0%													
34		Bollon Charleville Road TMR Flood Damage			\$2,000,000	Wed 01-10-25	Tue 16-12-25	11 wks	33	100%													
35		Camp establishment			\$0	Wed 01-10-25	Tue 07-10-25	1 wk		100%													
36		Secure gravel and water supply			\$0	Wed 15-10-25	Tue 25-11-25	6 wks	35	100%													
37		Establishment			\$0	Wed 01-10-25	Tue 07-10-25	1 wk	36	100%													
38		Heavy and medium formation grading			\$0	Wed 08-10-25	Tue 16-12-25	10 wks	37	100%													
39		RTR Eulo Toompine Road - Contract	2506-C		\$600,000	Wed 11-06-25	Tue 30-09-25	16 wks		100%													
40		Installation of culverts			\$0	Wed 11-06-25	Tue 30-09-25	16 wks		100%													
41		LGGS - JKP Masterplan	2440-0	Dave	\$211,200	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 12-09-25	10 wks		100%													
42		Scope finalisation and procurement			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%													
43		Contract award			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks	42	100%													
44		Delivery			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 12-09-25	10 wks	43	100%													
45		W4Q - Stage 1 Swimming Pool Upgrade and John Kerr park	1430-0		\$600,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 05-06-26	46 wks		57%													
46		Scope finalisation			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 29-08-25	8 wks		100%													
47		Design and documentation			\$0	Mon 01-09-25	Fri 05-12-25	14 wks	46	100%													
48		Procurement			\$0	Mon 08-12-25	Fri 13-02-26	8 wks	47	50%													
49		Contract award			\$0	Mon 16-02-26	Fri 13-03-26	4 wks	48	0%													
50		Construction			\$0	Mon 16-03-26	Fri 05-06-26	12 wks	49	0%													
51		W4Q - Housing Upgrade	2390-0		\$500,000	Tue 02-09-25	Mon 13-04-26	30 wks		65%													
52		Scope finalisation			\$0	Tue 02-09-25	Mon 08-09-25	1 wk		100%													
53		Design			\$0	Tue 09-09-25	Mon 15-09-25	1 wk	52	100%													
54		Procurement			\$0	Tue 16-09-25	Mon 29-09-25	2 wks	53	100%													
55		Delivery			\$0	Tue 30-09-25	Mon 13-04-26	26 wks	54	60%													
56		W4Q - Airport Fuel Upgrade	2410-0		\$200,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 03-07-26	50 wks		64%													
57		Scope finalisation			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 18-07-25	2 wks		100%													
58		Procurement			\$0	Fri 12-09-25	Thu 18-09-25	1 wk		100%													
59		Contract award			\$0	Fri 19-09-25	Thu 16-10-25	4 wks	58	100%													
60		Ground Works			\$0	Mon 20-04-26	Fri 24-04-26	1 wk		0%													
61		Construction including offsite fabrication			\$0	Mon 15-06-26	Fri 26-06-26	2 wks		0%													
62		Testing and commissioning			\$0	Mon 29-06-26	Fri 03-07-26	1 wk	61	0%													
63		MIFF - John Kerr Park Lighting	2440-0		\$822,808	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 22-05-26	44 wks		93%													
64		Scope finalisation and procurement			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%													
65		Contract award			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks	64	100%													

Project: 2025-26 Works Program Date: Fri 08-05-26	Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
	Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
	Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
	Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Job Cost Code	PM / Contractor	Baseline Cost	Start	Finish	Duration	Precedence	% Complete	Resource Names	Gantt Chart (June to January)											
66	✓	Soil testing, footing design and lighting design certification			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks	65	100%		Gantt bar for 66: July 07-07											
67	✓	Pre-construction incl building approval and certification			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks	65	100%		Gantt bar for 67: July 07-07											
68	✓	Lighting upgrade			\$0	Mon 25-08-25	Fri 20-03-26	28 wks	67	100%		Gantt bar for 68: Aug 25 - Mar 26											
69	📅	Dismantle of old pole			\$0	Mon 11-05-26	Thu 14-05-26	0.8 wks	68	0%		Gantt bar for 69: May 11-14											
70	📅	Final Handover			\$0	Fri 15-05-26	Fri 22-05-26	1.2 wks	69	0%		Gantt bar for 70: May 15-22											
71	📅	Childcare Centre	2390-C		\$50,000	Tue 02-09-25	Mon 19-01-26	18 wks		67%		Gantt bar for 71: Sep 02 - Jan 19											
72	✓	Scope finalisation			\$0	Tue 19-08-25	Mon 29-09-25	6 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 72: Aug 19 - Sep 29											
73	✓	Procurement			\$0	Tue 30-09-25	Mon 10-11-25	6 wks	72	100%		Gantt bar for 73: Sep 30 - Nov 10											
74	📅	Construction			\$0	Tue 11-11-25	Mon 05-01-26	6 wks	73	0%		Gantt bar for 74: Nov 11 - Jan 05											
75	✓	C/O - Eulo Playground Rubber Soft Fall	2440-0		\$60,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 75: Jul 07 - Sep 26											
76	✓	Scope finalisation			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 76: Jul 07											
77	✓	Procurement			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks	76	100%		Gantt bar for 77: Jul 07											
78	✓	Installation			\$0	Mon 15-09-25	Fri 26-09-25	2 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 78: Sep 15 - Sep 26											
79	✓	C/O - Eulo Main Street Irrigation 200m	2440-0		\$60,000	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 20-10-25	15.2 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 79: Jul 07 - Oct 20											
80	✓	Scope finalisation			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 80: Jul 07											
81	✓	Procurement			\$0	Tue 16-09-25	Mon 22-09-25	1 wk		100%		Gantt bar for 81: Sep 16 - Sep 22											
82	✓	Delivery			\$0	Tue 23-09-25	Mon 20-10-25	4 wks	81	100%		Gantt bar for 82: Sep 23 - Oct 20											
83	📅	C/O - Robbers Tree Project	2440-0	Dave	\$25,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 30-01-26	28 wks		99%		Gantt bar for 83: Jul 07 - Jan 30											
84	✓	Scope finalisation			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 29-08-25	8 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 84: Jul 07 - Aug 29											
85	✓	Signage design			\$0	Mon 10-11-25	Fri 30-01-26	10 wks	84	100%		Gantt bar for 85: Nov 10 - Jan 30											
86	✓	History / text project			\$0	Mon 10-11-25	Fri 30-01-26	10 wks	85	100%		Gantt bar for 86: Nov 10 - Jan 30											
87	📅	Procurement / fabrication			\$0	Fri 30-01-26	Fri 30-01-26	0 wks	86	0%		Gantt bar for 87: Jan 30											
88	📅	Installation			\$0	Fri 30-01-26	Fri 30-01-26	0 wks	87	0%		Gantt bar for 88: Jan 30											
89	✓	Solar PV systems – Depot/Hall/VIC/Library	2390-0	Dave B	\$141,441	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 24-10-25	16 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 89: Jul 07 - Oct 24											
90	✓	Scope finalisation			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 90: Jul 07											
91	✓	Procurement			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks	90	100%		Gantt bar for 91: Jul 07											
92	✓	Installation			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 24-10-25	16 wks	91	100%		Gantt bar for 92: Jul 07 - Oct 24											
93	📅	Eulo Landfill	2170-0		\$85,000	Tue 04-11-25	Mon 26-01-26	10 wks		32%		Gantt bar for 93: Nov 04 - Jan 26											
94	📅	Approvals			\$0	Tue 04-11-25	Mon 01-12-25	4 wks		80%		Gantt bar for 94: Nov 04 - Dec 01											
95	📅	Clearing and grubbing			\$0	Tue 02-12-25	Mon 15-12-25	2 wks	94	0%		Gantt bar for 95: Dec 02 - Dec 15											
96	📅	Fencing			\$0	Tue 16-12-25	Mon 12-01-26	2 wks	95	0%		Gantt bar for 96: Dec 16 - Jan 12											
97	📅	Excavation and site clean up			\$0	Tue 13-01-26	Mon 26-01-26	2 wks	96	0%		Gantt bar for 97: Jan 13 - Jan 26											
98	📅	Plant Program			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Tue 30-06-26	49.4 wks?		85%		Gantt bar for 98: Jul 07 - Jun 30											
99	📅	Replacement - 2WD Ute x 2	2460-?		\$130,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-02-26	32 wks		75%		Gantt bar for 99: Jul 07 - Feb 27											
100	✓	RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks		100%		Gantt bar for 100: Jul 07 - Sep 26											
101	✓	Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	100	100%		Gantt bar for 101: Sep 29 - Oct 24											
102	📅	Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-02-26	16 wks	101	50%		Gantt bar for 102: Oct 27 - Feb 27											

Project: 2025-26 Works Program
Date: Fri 08-05-26

Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Job Cost Code	PM / Contra	Baseline Cost	Start	Finish	Duration	Pre% Complete	Resource Names	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Janua
103		Replacement - 4WD Ute x 4	2460-??		\$280,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-02-26	32 wks	88%									
104		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks	100%									
105		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	104 100%									
106		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-02-26	16 wks	105 75%									
107		Replacement - Wagon SUV x	2460-??		\$160,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-02-26	32 wks	100%									
108		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks	100%									
109		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	108 100%									
110		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-02-26	16 wks	109 100%									
111		New - Grader	2460-??		\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 07-11-25	18 wks	100%									
112		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 29-08-25	8 wks	100%									
113		Tender award			\$0	Mon 01-09-25	Fri 26-09-25	4 wks	112 100%									
114		Delivery			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 07-11-25	6 wks	113 100%									
115		Replacement - Heavy Truck Unit 247 for Prime Mover	2460-??		\$290,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-03-26	36 wks	100%									
116		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks	100%									
117		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	116 100%									
118		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-03-26	20 wks	117 100%									
119		Replacement - Heavy Truck Unit 252 for Prime Mover	2460-??		\$290,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-03-26	36 wks	100%									
120		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks	100%									
121		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	120 100%									
122		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-03-26	20 wks	121 100%									
123		Replacement - Trailer Unit 423 for 30000L Water Tanker	2460-??		\$100,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-03-26	36 wks	100%									
124		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks	100%									
125		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	124 100%									
126		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-03-26	20 wks	125 100%									
127		Replacement - Water Tank Unit 424 for 30000L Water Tanker	2460-??		\$100,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-03-26	36 wks	100%									
128		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks	100%									
129		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	128 100%									
130		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-03-26	20 wks	129 100%									
131		Replacement - Tractor Unit 322	2460-??		\$60,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-03-26	36 wks	100%									
132		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks	100%									
133		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	132 100%									
134		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-03-26	20 wks	133 100%									
135		Replacement - Truck Light Unit 346	2460-??		\$100,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-03-26	36 wks	44%									
136		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks	100%									
137		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks	136 100%									
138		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-03-26	20 wks	137 0%									

Project: 2025-26 Works Program
Date: Fri 08-05-26

Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Job Cost Code	PM / Contract	Baseline Cost	Start	Finish	Duration	Precedence	% Complete	Resource Names	Gantt Chart (June to January)											
139		Emulsion Tank	2460-??		\$100,000	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 27-03-26	36 wks?		39%													
140		RFT			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks		100%													
141		Tender award			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 24-10-25	4 wks?		50%													
142		Delivery			\$0	Mon 27-10-25	Fri 27-03-26	20 wks?		0%													
143		Small Plant	2460-??		\$50,000	Mon 07-07-25	Tue 30-06-26	49.4 wks		80%													
144		Various			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Tue 30-06-26	49.4 wks		80%													
145		REPA September 2022		Sheph	\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 16-01-26	26 wks		100%													
146		REPA works all quadrants			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 26-09-25	12 wks		100%													
147		QRA close out			\$0	Mon 29-09-25	Fri 16-01-26	14 wks	146	100%													
148		REPA January 2024		Sheph	\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 22-05-26	44 wks		100%													
149		QRA Submissions and approv			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%													
150		RFT pavement materials			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%													
151		RFT REPA works			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%													
152		Tender awards			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks	150	100%													
153		REPA works all quadrants			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 13-02-26	30 wks	152	100%													
154		QRA close out			\$0	Mon 16-02-26	Fri 22-05-26	14 wks	153	100%													
155		REPA March 2025		Sheph	\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 03-07-26	50 wks		64%													
156		Emergent works			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Mon 07-07-25	0 wks		100%													
157		QRA submissions and approv			\$0	Mon 07-07-25	Fri 21-11-25	20 wks	156	95%													
158		RFT			\$0	Mon 24-11-25	Fri 16-01-26	6 wks	157	60%													
159		Tender awards			\$0	Mon 19-01-26	Fri 13-02-26	4 wks	158	40%													
160		REPA works all quadrants			\$0	Mon 16-02-26	Fri 03-07-26	20 wks	159	40%													

Project: 2025-26 Works Program
Date: Fri 08-05-26

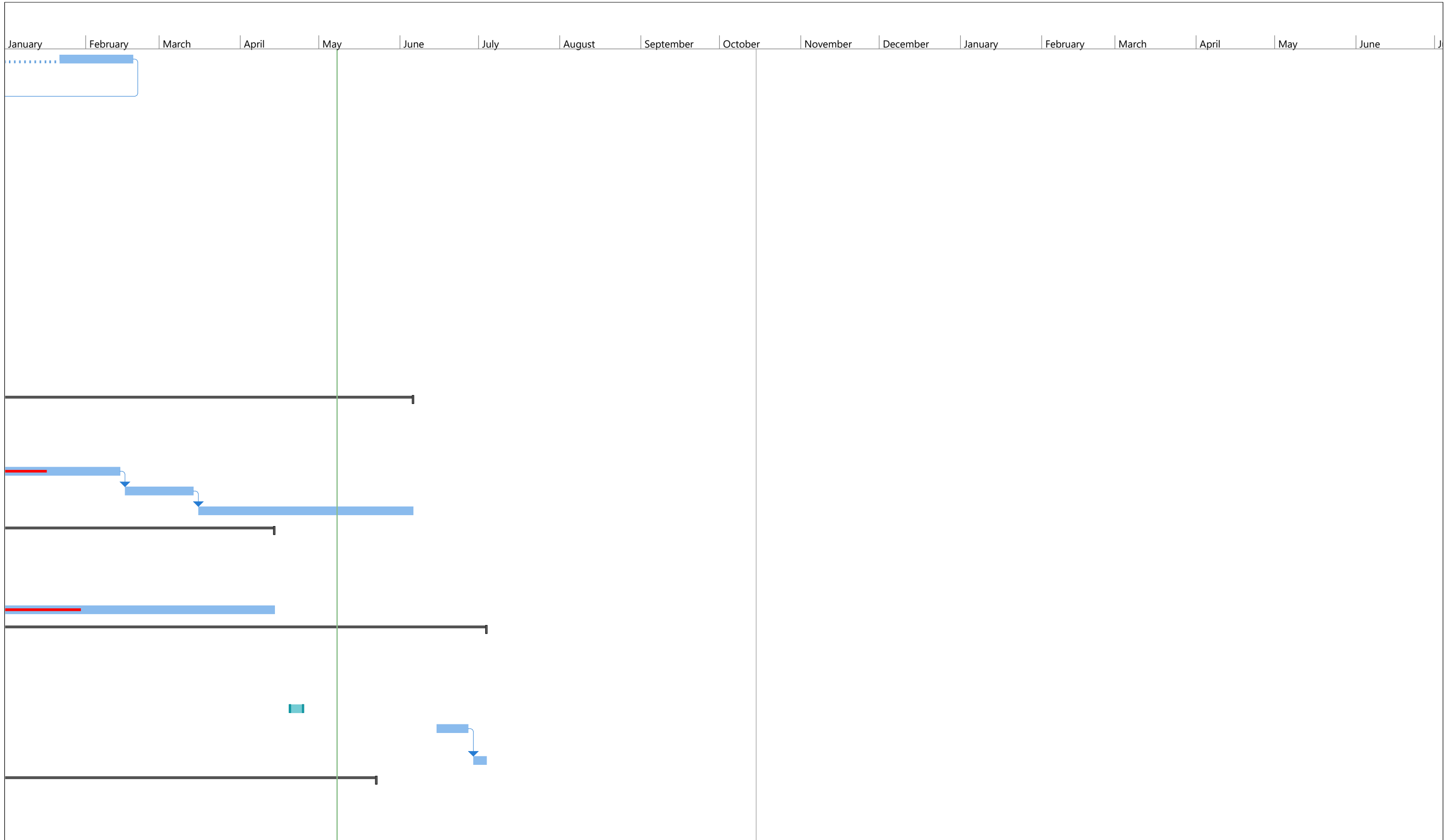
Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			

January February March April May June July August September October November December January February March April May June



Project: 2025-26 Works Program
Date: Fri 08-05-26

Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			



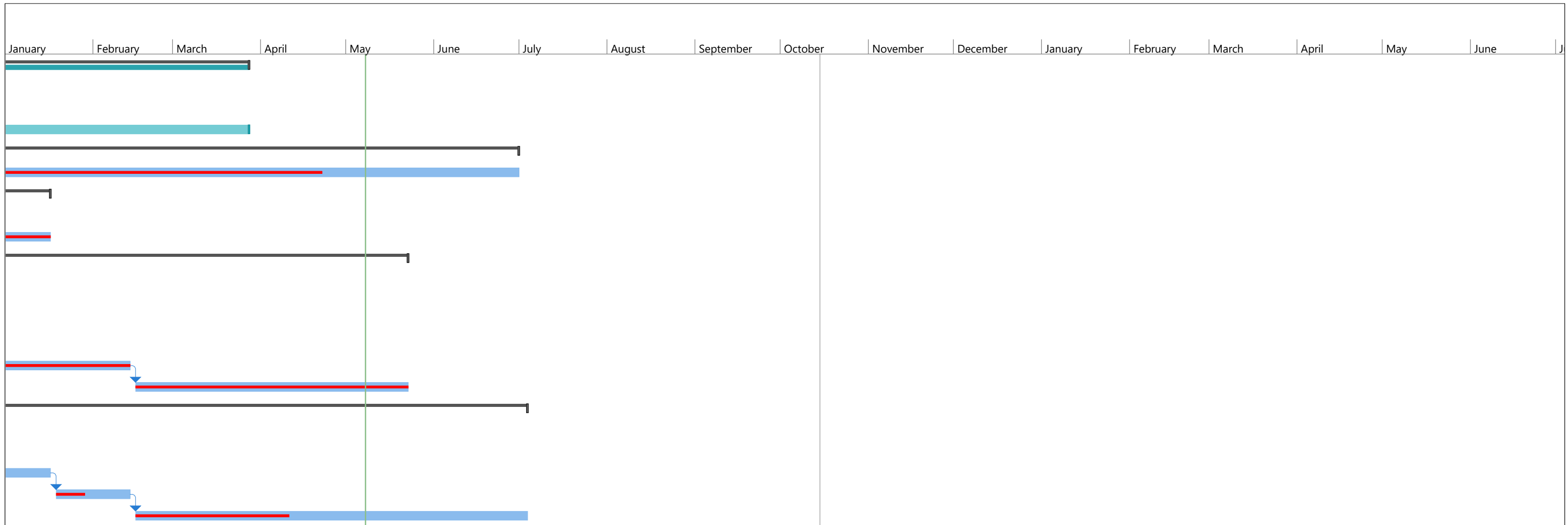
Project: 2025-26 Works Program
Date: Fri 08-05-26

Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			



Project: 2025-26 Works Program
Date: Fri 08-05-26

Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			



Project: 2025-26 Works Program
Date: Fri 08-05-26

Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			

10.3.3

Restoration of Essential Public Assets Status Report

Council Meeting:	19 May 2026
Department:	Infrastructure Services
Author:	Technical Officer
Attachments:	1. Shepherd Services Report – March 2025 Event

Purpose

To provide Council with an update on Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA) flood recovery works for the month of April 2026, including progress on reconstruction delivery, and submission development.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Restoration of Essential Public Assets Status Report.

Background

Shepherd Services, in collaboration with contractors and Council, continues to deliver the DRFA-funded flood recovery program. This report provides an overview of progress and financial status for active projects.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not applicable.

Discussion

This report provides a comprehensive update from Shepherd Services in relation to the following flood event:

- March 2025 Event - Delivery and Data Collection & Submission Building.

The REPA reconstruction program continues to perform strongly across Paroo Shire, with delivery and material production working well together to support ongoing works. While there have been some minor delays due to seal truck availability in Tuckwell delivery package, overall progress remains on track, with contractors maintaining momentum through staging and moving between work fronts.

Approximately 2,289 sites have been assessed, with 2,192 approved for reconstruction. Total funding remains at around \$66 million, with one submission outstanding for the Cunnamulla Levee remedial works

Total Approved Submissions to Date:

Submission 59 (NWQ): \$7.9M – 75,000 t gravel

Submission 63 (NWQ): \$11.36M – 100,000 t gravel

Submission 66 (NEQ): \$12.34M – 100,000 t gravel

Submission 65 (SEQ): \$10.88M – 115,000 t gravel

Submission 64 (SWQ): \$13.24M – 108,000 t gravel

Submission 67 (SEQ): \$9.2M – 75,000 t gravel

Submission 72 (NWQ & NEQ): \$690K – 5,500 t gravel

Submission 71 (Eulo Levee Wall): \$455K – 4,650 t material

Submission 74 (Moruya Narran Section): \$69K – 577 t material

Delivery Packages and Contractor Progress

Northwest Region

Package 1 – Eulo & Surrounds (Tuckwell): Nearing completion with remaining pavement reconstruction and two-coat sealing works on Eulo–Toompine Road. Minor delays have occurred due to seal truck availability, with support being sought from Murweh Shire.

Package 2 – Humbern & Yerrel Roads (Russell Grader Hire): Reconstruction has commenced on Tilbooroo Road, with mobilisation to Yerrel scheduled. Works on Penaroo Road are planned to commence later this month.

Package 3 – Old Charleville Road & Nancy Bird Walton Way (Schmidt Contracting): Completed 17 March 2026.

Package 4 – Humbern Road & Surrounds (Russell Grader Hire): Nearing completion, with pavement reconstruction work underway. Two-coat sealing will follow Package 2 completion, with Packages 2 and 4 programmed for completion by 16 June 2026.

Package 5 – Mt Alfred / Western Warrego & Surrounds (Schmidt Plant Hire): Progressing north along Western Warrego Road, with works scheduled to commence on Mt Alfred Road from 21 May 2026, continuing west toward Yali Talpa Road.

Northeast Region

Schmidt Contracting: Heywood Road is now complete. Works are progressing along Linden Nebine Road, with a targeted completion date of 1 June 2026, followed by commencement on Koonawarra Road from 9 June 2026.

Russell Grader Hire: Scheduled to commence Northeast works on Elmina Road from 16 June 2026, following completion of Yerrel Road.

Tuckwell: Currently active in the Northeast, with Murrumbah Road completed. Crews are mobilising to Ardgour and Moruya Narran this week.

Material Production

Material production remains strong, with approximately 380,000 tonnes produced to date out of a total requirement of around 580,000 tonnes. Production in the North area is now complete, with current operations focused across the Southeast and Southwest to support ongoing and upcoming work.

Southwest Quadrant - Production is ongoing at Trunkey Hill Pit following completion of the Kungie pits. While plant issues have delayed the commencement of works by Russell Grader Hire in the Southwest quadrant, production is scheduled to commence at Moonjarie Pits from 11 May 2026, with no anticipated impact to the overall program.

Southeast Quadrant - Production is continuing at Gilruth Plains #1, with planned mobilisation to Murrawondah Pit, followed by South Glen on Munda Munda Road.

Budget/Financial Implications

All REPA activities are jointly funded through the Australian and Queensland Governments and administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. All eligible costs are fully reimbursable apart from a modest “trigger point” payment by Council.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan.

- Theme: 4. Environmental Sustainability
4.5 Effective disaster management planning and response

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Weather impacts	Rainfall and flooding delaying works and access.
Budget escalation	Cost estimates increasing due to scale of March 2025 event.

Consultation

These risks are being managed through monthly coordination meetings with Council, QRA, and Shepherd Services, which also serve to track progress, approvals, and contractor delivery.



Project Management Services

Paroo Shire Council DRFA Project

Western Queensland Surface Trough &
Associated Rainfall and Flooding
21 March – 19 May 2025

April 2026



shepherdservices.com.au





Project Management Services

Paroo Shire Council – WQ Surface Trough & Associated Rainfall and Flooding Progress Report

April 2026

Table of Contents

Project Summary	3
Project Dashboard	4
Project Quality Management.....	4
Project Schedule Management	4
Project Communications Management	7
Safety.....	7
Project Scope Management.....	7
Project Quality Management.....	7
Project Risk Management	8
Project Integration Management	8
Financial Dashboard	9
Project Procurement Management	10
Project Stakeholder Management.....	10

SUBJECT:	PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL – WQ SURFACE TROUGH & ASSOCIATED RAINFALL AND FLOODING MONTHLY REPORT
DATE:	04/05/2026
PREPARED BY:	Mark Christian, SHEPHERD Services
ISSUED TO:	Paroo Shire Council
FILE REF:	25123





Project Summary

The REPA program continues to perform strongly across the region. While minor delays have been experienced due to seal availability, overall delivery remains on track, supported by effective coordination between material production and construction activities. Approved funding remains at **\$66 million**, with one submission outstanding for the Cunnamulla Levee remedial works.

Delivery Progress

Northwest Region

Package 1 – Eulo & Surrounds (Tuckwell): Nearing completion with remaining pavement reconstruction and two-coat sealing works on Eulo–Toompine Road. Minor delays have occurred due to seal truck availability, with support being sought from Murweh Shire.

Package 2 – Humeburn & Yerrel Roads (Russell Grader Hire): Reconstruction has commenced on Tilbooroo Road, mobilisation to Yerrel scheduled this week. Work on Penaroo Road is planned to commence later this month.

Package 3 – Old Charleville Road & Nancy Bird Walton Way (Schmidt Contracting): Completed 17 March 2026.

Package 4 – Humeburn Road & Surrounds (Russell Grader Hire): Nearing completion, with pavement reconstruction work underway. Two-coat sealing will follow Package 2 completion, with Package 2 and 4 works programmed for completion by 16 June.

Package 5 – Mt Alfred / Western Warrego & Surrounds (Schmidt Plant Hire): Progressing North along Western Warrego Road, with works scheduled to commence on Mt Alfred Road from 21 May, continuing west toward Yali Talpa Road.

Northeast Region

Schmidt Contracting: Heywood Road is now complete. Works are progressing along Linden Nebine Road, with a targeted completion date of 1 June, followed by commencement on Koonawarra Road from 9 June.

Russell Grader Hire: Scheduled to commence Northeast works on Elmina Road from 16 June, following completion of Yerrel Road.

Tuckwell: Currently active in the Northeast, with Murrumbah Road completed. Crews are mobilising to Ardour and Moruya Narran this week.

Material Production

Material production continues with approximately **380,000 tonnes** of gravel produced to date out of a required **585,000 tonnes**. Northern part of the Shire production is now complete.

Southwest Quadrant: Production ongoing at Trunkey Hill Pit following completion of Kungie pits. While plant issues have delayed Russell Grader Hire commencement in the Southwest, production is scheduled to begin at Moonjarie Pits from 11 May, with no impact to the overall program.

Southeast Quadrant: Production continuing at Gilruth Plains #1, with planned mobilisation to Murrawondah Pit, followed by South Glen on Munda Munda Road.

Upcoming Works and Procurement

Two Southwest delivery packages are scheduled for market release on **3 June**, ahead of the **21 July Council Meeting**, with construction planned to commence in early **August**. This timeline allows sufficient duration for completion within program constraints. The program remains ahead of schedule, with delivery and production well aligned. Despite minor operational constraints, performance continues to be supported by strong contractor output, effective resource allocation, and proactive planning.

Project Dashboard

Claim	Submissions	Total Projects	Projects Completed	Projects Completed %
WQ Surface Trough & Associated Rainfall & Flooding 21 March -19 May 2025	10	1	1	25%

Project Quality Management

Quality Documentation

Quality documentation in accordance with relevant technical specifications.

Project Schedule Management

QRA Damages Works Program for approved treatments to date:

Road No.	Asset Name	Actual/Planned Start Date	Actual/Planned Completion Date	% Complete
PSC.0059.2425T.REC				
728	Blackgate Road	22/02/2026	02/03/2026	100.00%
729	Bluff Road	02/03/2026	11/03/2026	100.00%
701	Eulo Toompine Road	14/01/2026	20/05/2026	57.19%
714	Farnham Plains Road	13/04/2026	25/04/2026	100.00%
709	Hazelfield Road	06/04/2026	15/04/2026	100.00%
702	Jandell Road	03/04/2026	20/04/2026	100.00%
713	Koomerang Road	09/03/2026	16/03/2026	100.00%
704	Moama Road	19/03/2026	29/04/2026	100.00%
718	Nancy Bird Walton Way	15/02/2026	17/03/2026	100.00%
716	Penaroo Road	03/04/2026	07/07/2026	0.00%
719	Tilbooroo Road	19/04/2026	13/06/2026	83.61%
705	Yerrel Road	03/04/2026	30/05/2026	0.00%
720	Yowah Opal Fields Road	14/04/2026	20/04/2026	100.00%
PSC.0063.2425T.REC				
717	Claverton Park Road	25/02/2026	04/03/2026	100.00%
721	Coongoola Lane	02/03/2026	17/08/2026	99.37%
706	Humburn Road	15/01/2026	15/06/2026	98.28%
700	Mount Alfred Road	12/01/2026	17/08/2026	0.01%
726	Nooralaba Road	09/02/2026	28/02/2026	100.00%
505	Old Charleville Road	09/02/2026	17/03/2026	100.00%
711	Rosevale Road	26/02/2026	04/03/2026	100.00%
710	Western Warrego Road	03/03/2026	13/05/2026	86.15%
722	Yalli Talpa Road	24/05/2026	17/08/2026	0.00%



Road No.	Asset Name	Actual/Planned Start Date	Actual/Planned Completion Date	% Complete
PSC.0064.2425T.REC				
800	Amenda Tinnenburra Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
211	Arthur Street	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
221	Broad Street	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
615	Burrenbilla Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
819	Coonberry Plains Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
805	Cuttiburra Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
811	Glencoe Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
802	Glentuckie Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
806	Gumahah Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
224	Ivan Street	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
801	Kywong Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
224mary	Mary Street	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
817	Neverfail Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
814	Ningaling Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
812	Pabra Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
816	Paddabilla Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
807	Pitherty Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
804	Rockwell Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
818	Rocky Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
405	Shea Street	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
810	Tarko Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
803	Terraldon Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
727	Waihora Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
813	Warden Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
218	Watson Street	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
619	Weir Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
808	Weira Park Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
809	Wittenburra Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
815	Wombah Road	30/06/2026	08/12/2026	0.00%
PSC.0065.2425T.REC				
603	Bundaleer South Plains Road	29/11/2026	10/05/2027	0.00%
609	Camden Road	29/11/2026	14/03/2027	0.00%
607	Charlotte Plains Road	29/11/2026	14/03/2027	0.00%
601	Fernlee Road	29/11/2026	10/05/2027	0.00%
608	Gamarren Road	29/11/2026	14/03/2027	0.00%
604	Munda Munda Road	29/11/2026	10/05/2027	0.00%
600	Murra Murra Road	29/11/2026	10/05/2027	0.00%
606	Widgeegoara Road	29/11/2026	14/03/2027	0.00%
620	Yallabee Road	29/11/2026	14/03/2027	0.00%
618	Yaralla Road	29/11/2026	10/05/2027	0.00%





Road No.	Asset Name	Actual/Planned Start Date	Actual/Planned Completion Date	% Complete
PSC.0066.2425T.REC				
513	Ardgour Road	03/05/2026	05/07/2026	0.00%
504	Bendena Road	29/06/2026	12/07/2026	0.00%
723	Clovelly Road	10/05/2026	05/07/2026	0.00%
501	Coongoola Charlottevale Road	03/05/2026	05/07/2026	0.02%
500	Elmina Road	15/06/2026	30/07/2026	0.00%
503	Koonawarra Road	29/06/2026	12/07/2026	0.00%
502	Linden Nebine Road	12/01/2026	14/06/2026	30.88%
512	Mooru Road	13/06/2026	30/07/2026	0.00%
506	Moruya Narran Road	10/05/2026	05/07/2026	0.00%
510	Murrumbah Road	26/04/2026	29/04/2026	100.00%
508	Truganinni Road	08/04/2026	12/04/2026	100.00%
507	Yarmouth Road	10/05/2026	05/07/2026	0.00%
PSC.0067.2425T.REC				
613	Bluegrass Road	29/11/2026	01/04/2027	0.00%
611	Huntley Downs Road	29/11/2026	01/04/2027	0.00%
605	Jobs Gate Road	09/02/2026	31/05/2027	14.85%
602	Middleton Road	28/04/2026	21/04/2027	0.00%
612	Padua Park Road	29/11/2026	01/04/2027	0.00%
628	Penetrate Downs Road	29/11/2026	07/04/2027	0.00%
629	Randwick Downs Road	29/11/2026	01/04/2027	0.00%
617	Robina Downs Road	29/11/2026	01/04/2027	0.00%
616	Talbarea Road	29/11/2026	07/04/2027	0.00%
614	Thurulgoona Road	29/11/2026	01/04/2027	0.00%
610	Waverly Mintaka Road	29/11/2026	07/04/2027	0.00%
PSC.0071.2425T.REC				
ELW	Eulo Levee Wall	23/08/2026	25/10/2026	0.00%
PSC.0072.2425T.REC				
500	Elmina Road	07/01/2026	09/08/2026	0.36%
706	Humeburn Road	03/04/2026	15/06/2026	0.00%
506	Moruya Narran Road	10/05/2026	05/07/2026	0.00%
718	Nancy Bird Walton Way	03/06/2026	30/06/2026	0.00%
PSC.0073.2425T.REC				
706	Humeburn Road	05/03/2026	15/06/2026	66.67%
605	Jobs Gate Road	29/11/2026	07/04/2027	0.00%
619	Weir Road	30/06/2026	02/02/2027	0.00%
PSC.0074.2425T.REC				
506	Moruya Narran Road	04/02/2026	05/07/2026	0.40%





Project Communications Management

- Weekly communications with the Paroo Superintendent.
- Monthly Report to the Paroo Shire Council CEO.
- QRA Update Meetings held monthly with the Paroo Shire Council CEO, the QRA Council Representative, and SHEPHERD Services.
- SHEPHERD Services end of swing 'Activity Update Report' shared with all relevant stakeholders bi-monthly (distributed at end of swing).
- Requested access to Paroo Monthly Newsletter and Facebook for additional activity communications.

Safety

SHEPHERD Services has reviewed and implemented a Safety and Health Management Plan to support the project management of the DRFA works being delivered in the Paroo Shire.

Item	Monthly Target	April 2026
Incidents	Nil	0
Pre-Start	Daily	28
Safety Meeting	Daily - Agenda item on Pre-Start	28
Safety Consultation	Daily - Consulted at Pre-Start	28
Safety Alerts	As required	0
Inductions (New Employees/Contractors)	As required	0
Safety Initiatives	As required	1

Project Scope Management

Scope Definition

The scope is in accordance with eligible QRA approved sites and reconstructed in accordance with QRA guidelines and treatments.

Scope Changes

Project	Scope Change	Status
Submissions 59, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 71, 72, 73 and 74	Moruya Narran, and Elmina Roads in the Northeast have now been assessed for inspection. Separate submissions have been lodged with QRA for approval	Approved

Project Quality Management

Quality Documentation

Quality documentation shall be in accordance with DRFA and QRA guidelines and processes.

Project Risk Management

Community Concerns

None reported.

QRA Reporting/Submission Risks

Monthly progress reporting to QRA, updated program of works to the QRA and Council, and submission of a risk and mitigation strategy to the QRA and Council.

Incident Update

Nil

Other

Nil

Project Integration Management

Element	Issue	Outcome	Status
Pre-Construction	Gravel production has concluded in the North for the delivery packages with gravel production crews now producing in the South	Ongoing	In Progress
Construction	Construction is progressing strongly in the Northwest and Northeast, with one package in the Northwest now complete. Council is also assisting with reconstruction works on a section of Jobs Gate Road in the Southeast.	Ongoing	Commenced
Post Construction		Will be Monitored in accordance with Risks and Mitigation Strategy	Scheduled completion by April 2027
QRA Reporting	Activity updates for 'end of swing' and Monthly Reporting are continuing. QRA Monthly Project Updates also provided.	Ongoing	In Progress

Decisions – Approved

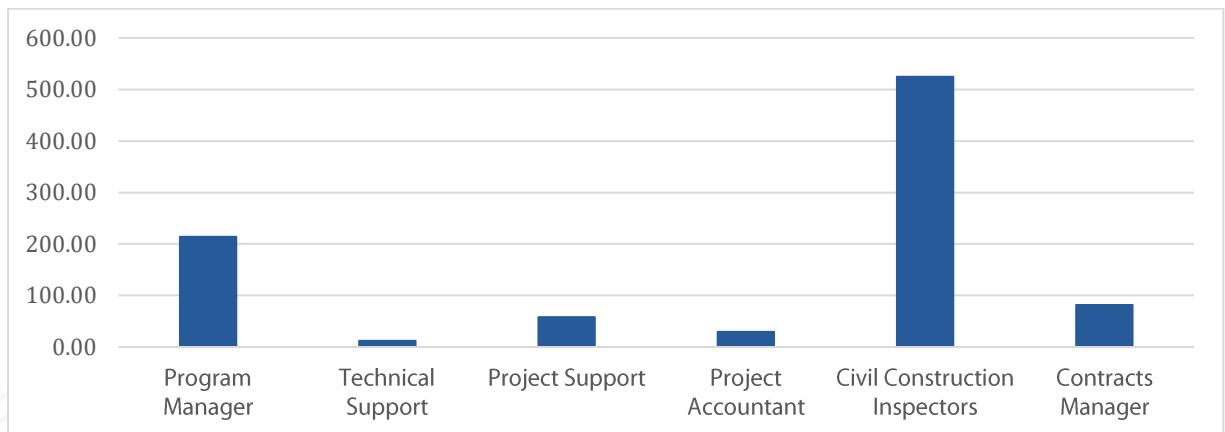
Gravel material source pit extraction approval – Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI).

Financial Dashboard

Data as at 07/04/2026

Event / Submission	Project Funding Amount	Expenditure to Date	Variance	Funding vs Expenditure %
Flood Damage NSW Zone PSC.0059.2425T.REC	\$7,930,017.15	\$2,223,005.22	\$5,707,011.93	28.03%
Flood Damage NW_2 PSC.0063.2425T.REC	\$11,365,380.40	\$2,179,652.73	\$9,185,727.67	19.18%
Flood Damage SW PSC.0064.2425T.REC	\$13,242,759.96	\$72,577.07	\$13,170,182.89	0.55%
Flood Damage SE_1 PSC.0065.2425T.REC	\$10,882,501.01	\$59,213.51	\$10,823,287.50	0.54%
Flood Damage NE PSC.0066.2425T.REC	\$12,343,290.46	\$197,541.48	\$12,145,748.98	1.60%
Flood Damage SE_2 PSC.0067.2425T.REC	\$9,205,370.35	\$156,295.06	\$9,049,075.29	1.70%
Eulo Levee Wall PSC.0071.2425T.REC	\$455,134.45	\$300.00	\$454,834.45	0.07%
Flooded Roads PSC.072.2425T.REC	\$694,619.64	\$2,728.80	\$691,890.84	0.39%
Flood Damage - Missing Seal Pavements PSC.0073.2425T.REC	\$212,959.91	\$0.00	\$212,959.91	0.00%
Moruya Narran Road - Flooded Section Ch. 11330 PSC.0074.2425T.REC	\$69,818.74	\$0.00	\$69,818.74	0.00%

SHEPHERD April Project Hours



Current Invoicing – SHEPHERD Services

Tax Invoice No. 5868 was issued by SHEPHERD Services on 28 April 2026, with payment due by 28 May 2026.

Local Spend

Expense Category	April 2026	2026 YTD
Accommodation	\$9,613.32	\$50,740.90
Catering	-\$44.00	\$165.00
Office Equipment	\$0.00	\$97.95
Sundry	\$166.45	\$679.45
Tools & Equipment	\$22.60	\$22.60
Vehicle Maintenance & Fuel	\$8,587.66	\$28,962.00
Donations / Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$18,346.03	\$80,667.90

* Based on settled transactions as of 30 April 2026.

Projected Invoicing – SHEPHERD Services

An invoice for May 2026 will be issued by SHEPHERD Services on 31 May 2026.

Projected Invoicing – Forecasted Hours

The forecast hours for May 2026 are tabled below.

Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Resource Names
General Manager	2 Hours	Fri 01/05/2026	Sat 31/05/2026	Cameron Shields
Onsite Project Management	300 Hours	Fri 01/05/2026	Sat 31/05/2026	
Project Manager	300 Hours	Fri 01/05/2026	Sat 31/05/2026	Mark Christian
Technical Support	50 Hours	Fri 01/05/2026	Sat 31/05/2026	
Manager Systems	50 Hours	Fri 01/05/2026	Sat 31/05/2026	Ashley Edmestone
Senior Mgt. Accountant	20 Hours	Fri 01/05/2026	Sat 31/05/2026	Julianne Peacock
Civil Inspectors	300 Hours	Fri 01/05/2026	Sat 31/05/2026	Ben Keylar Phil Samson Glen Eagles David Taylor

Project Procurement Management

Contractor Engagement

All contractors delivering works are to be engaged under Paroo Shire Council procurement policies and guidelines.

Invoicing shall be in accordance with contract and purchase order conditions.

Project Stakeholder Management

Stakeholder Engagement

QRA update meetings are conducted monthly with Paroo Shire Council, SHEPHERD Services representatives and QRA RLO representative to discuss the open submissions.

Other

Nil



GPO Box 422, Brisbane Q 4001

P: (07) 4911 2716

E: info@shepherdservices.com.au

W: shepherdservices.com.au

Shepherd Services Pty ACN 611 140 946

RACAS[®]

POWERED BY SHEPHERD

road asset condition assessment system

10.3.4 Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme Works Program

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Infrastructure Services
Author: David Burges
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to formalise an amendment to the current four (4) year Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) program.

Recommendation

That Council amend the 2026/27 Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme Program as follows:

Paroo SC		\$8,493,808		\$1,061,726	\$1,061,726	
Project Description	Chainage Location	Total Cost	Project	DTMR Funding	Council 2026/27	Summary Work Description
Jobs Gate Road	Various sections	\$1,028,452		\$514,226	\$514,226	Rehabilitation of various sections of sealed road pavement including bitumen surfacing. Additional sections of crack sealing and resealing as funding permits.
Humburn Road	0.0 – 118.3 km	\$500,000		\$250,000	\$250,000	Rehabilitation of various sections of sealed road pavement. Resealing of rehab sections and numerous sealed pavement floodways over the length of the road. Various drainage improvements.

Previous Council Resolutions

The current program was reviewed in February 2025.

Council Resolution (RES.M25/49)

Moved: Cr King
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council

- 1. Nominate Jobs Gate Road upgrade to sealed standard as the 2028/29 FY TIDS project utilising the full TIDS funding allocation; and*
- 2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to amend the scope of the 2024/2025 program to ensure funds can be expended in the current financial year.*

Carried unanimously.

Discussion

The TIDS program is jointly funded on a 50/50 basis with Council and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). Council was requested to confirm their program for the 2026/27 financial year so that the matter could be tabled at the SWRRTG TC meeting held on 7 May 2026.

Details of the previously approved program are provided in the following table.

Paroo SC		\$8,493,808	\$1,061,726	\$1,061,726	
Project Description	Chainage Location	Total Cost	Project DTMR Funding	Council 2026/27	Summary Work Description
Jobs Gate Road	60.0 - 70.0 km	\$1,028,452	\$514,226	\$514,226	Rehabilitation of Existed Sealed Pavement - various Sections
Jobs Gate Road	131.0 - 139.0 km	\$1,728,452	\$864,226		Rip, add material. compact and seal
Jobs Gate Road	119.0 - 127.0 km	\$2,123,452	\$1,061,726		Upgrade to sealed standard - Rip, add material. compact and seal
Humeburn Road	25.0 - 95.0 km	\$700,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	Gravel Resheeting, Rip, Compact various sections
Humeburn Road	0.0 - 120.0 km	\$395,000	\$197,500	\$197,500	Repair Culverts, stabilise Floodways, repair Stone Pitching (multiple sections)
Humeburn Road	37.0 - 39.0km	\$395,000	\$197,500		Rip, add material. Cement stabilize, compact & add culverts Floodway
Jobs Gate Road	110.0 - 119.0 km	\$2,123,452	\$1,061,726		Rip, add material, compact and seal

Interim Director of Infrastructure inspected Humeburn Road and noted that the unsealed sections had been fully restored after the March 2025 flood and were in very good condition except for one small section. This precluded the need for the \$700,000 resheet project.

The inspection also noted that some sections require resealing, including most of the many floodways along the length of the road.

Based on the above and due to time constraints, the following amended program was submitted to the SWRRTG Technical Committee for later approval by the SWRRTG group at their next meeting.

Paroo SC		\$8,493,808	\$1,061,726	\$1,061,726	
Project Description	Chainage Location	Total Cost	Project DTMR Funding	Council 2026/27	Summary Work Description
Jobs Gate Road	Various sections	\$1,028,452	\$514,226	\$514,226	Rehabilitation of various sections of sealed road pavement including bitumen surfacing. Additional sections of crack sealing and resealing as funding permits.
Humeburn Road	0.0 – 118.3 km	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	Rehabilitation of various sections of sealed road pavement. Resealing of rehab sections and numerous sealed pavement floodways over the length of the road. Various drainage improvements.

In light of the substantial rehabilitation required on Jobs Gate Road and the overall need for reseals on various sealed roads, it is recommended that the full four year TIDS program be reviewed in due course.

Budget/Financial Implications

Council will need to make provisions for all projects in future budgets, matching the TMR funding allocation.

The total annual allocation is \$1,061,726.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Not applicable

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Corporate Plan.

Theme: 3. Prosperous Economy

3.6 Lobby and partner for safe and efficient transport networks

Risk Management

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Council Meeting:	19 May 2026
Department:	Infrastructure Services
Author:	David Burges
Attachments:	1. Councillor Workshop Summary 2. Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on the review of their Planning Scheme being undertaken by Reel Planning Pty Ltd.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the “Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review – Background Study to Support Housing Related Planning Scheme Amendments May 2026”.

Previous Council Resolutions

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in December 2025, Council resolved to appoint Reel Planning to undertake a State Government funded review of the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme.

Major Amendment Paroo Planning Scheme

Council Resolution (RES.M25/466)

Moved: Cr Brain
Seconded: Cr Jackson

That Council accept the quotation from Reel Planning Pty Ltd for RFQ 2026-012 Major Amendment – Paroo Shire Planning Scheme (Qld Gov Scheme Supply Fund) for the price of \$95,000 excluding GST.

Carried unanimously.

Discussion

Council was successful in obtaining funding through Pathway 1 of the State Government’s Scheme Supply Fund. This funding will facilitate a regional housing needs assessment that will in turn be used to inform amendments to the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme. The intent of the project is to facilitate the progression key initiatives outlined in Council’s Local Housing Action Plan and to resolve issues identified in the current scheme to enhance overall effectiveness, particularly in relation to the provision of housing.

An on-site workshop was held with Councillors and Reel Planning on 03 February 2026 and the outcomes of that workshop informed the draft *Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review* document.

The draft *Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review* report was discussed at a subsequent workshop held on 05 May 2026.

The outcomes of that workshop have been used to refine the draft report.

A copy of the workshop outcomes is provided as Attachment 1.

A copy of the final *Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review* Report is provided as Attachment 2.

The program for the project is provided in the following table. In consultation with Council, the housing needs assessment and planning scheme review were combined into a single report as attached.

Project initiation	Jan-26
Housing needs assessment	Mar-26
Planning scheme review	May-26
Draft planning scheme amendment package	Jul-26
Prepare state interest review submission	Aug-26
State interest review	Sept to Dec-26

Council’s endorsement of the attached report will allow the project to proceed in a timely manner.

Budget/Financial Implications

This project is being funded to the value of \$100,000 under the Queensland Government Scheme Supply Fund program.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Planning Act 2016

Planning Regulation 2017

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Theme: 2 Our People and Strong Communities

Program Area: 2.3 Provide inviting spaces and facilities to meet community needs

Theme: 3 Prosperous Economy

Program Area: 3.3 Nurture and build the overall business and industry sector

Risk Management

Not applicable

Consultation

Councillor workshop 03 February 2026

Councillor workshop 05 May 2026

PAROO SHIRE HOUSING STUDY & PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

BACKGROUND WORK TO INFORM HOUSING-RELATED PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENTS

COUNCILLOR BRIEFING: HOUSING STUDY AND PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW REPORT

Date: Tuesday 5 May 2026 (1pm to 2pm)
Hosted by: Paroo Shire Council
Presenter: Reel Planning (Cathy Lee)

BRIEFING PURPOSE

To brief Councillors on the draft Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review Report ahead of the report's tabling at a future Council meeting (once finalised) for Council's consideration and endorsement. The scope, findings and reform directions of the investigation were presented, to highlight key issues and implications ahead of consideration. To obtain Councillor feedback on key housing and planning issues identified in the draft Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review, and to test proposed reform directions prior to finalisation of the report. No decision or endorsement is sought at this stage.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Councillor and EMT feedback generally aligned with the proposed reform directions, with discussion focusing on how the planning scheme operates in practice and where it may unintentionally constrain housing delivery. The conversation highlighted a number of recurring themes around clarity, flexibility, and the need to better support incremental and context-appropriate development outcomes.

1. TINY HOMES AND SMALL DWELLING TYPOLOGIES

Discussion highlighted a broader misunderstanding within the community regarding the relationship between dwelling use and building form. Some people use "tiny home" as a catch-all term, but it can cover a permanent dwelling (e.g. small house on slab or stumps), a relocatable/ transportable structure, or a movable dwelling (on wheels) (caravan-type). Others think the term means a distinct or exempt housing type, without planning controls. In effect, they represent a range of building forms – from permanent structures to movable dwellings or caravans – yet still function as a dwelling for planning purposes.

It was raised that additional clarity to communicate that planning controls relate primarily to the use of land (e.g. number of dwellings on a lot), rather than the specific construction or mobility of a structure, would be helpful. This clarity would be of assistance in explaining why the placement of multiple tiny homes on a single lot may still be constrained by dual occupancy or multiple dwelling provisions, regardless of whether the structures require building approval.

Discussion also covered secondary dwellings/ permanent but subordinate structures – their occurrence, their siting and the size of secondary dwellings. These dwellings should remain subordinate to the primary dwelling and do not evolve into a de facto second house on the lot. Issues such as boundary setbacks, privacy, site layout and infrastructure servicing were identified as important factors influencing acceptability.

BRISBANE

1/9 Camford Street,
Milton Qld 4064

(07) 3217 5771

mail@reelplanning.com

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

62 Wilkinson Street, Wandal,
Rockhampton Qld 4700

(07) 4927 3878

mail@reelplanning.com

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Unit 101, 27-29 Wharf Street,
Cairns City Qld 4870

(07) 4281 6885

mail@reelplanning.com

At the same time, secondary dwellings were acknowledged as a practical and low-risk mechanism for supporting incremental housing supply in a constrained market. This highlights the need for planning provisions that strike an appropriate balance – enabling their delivery while maintaining clear controls around scale, siting, and amenity outcomes.

2. DUAL OCCUPANCY AND MULTIPLE DWELLINGS

Discussion focused on whether current planning controls are unnecessarily constraining opportunities for small-scale infill development, particularly in relation to minimum lot sizes and assessment pathways. Councillors generally agreed that, in principle, dual occupancy development could be appropriately supported on lots of around 800m², with multiple dwellings considered suitable from approximately 1,000m², subject to appropriate design and servicing outcomes.

Importantly, there was agreement that these lot sizes should not, in themselves, trigger impact assessment for dual occupancy within the General Residential Zone, and potentially multiple dwellings. Rather, where development meets defined standards relating to siting, design, access and infrastructure, it should be capable of being assessed through a code assessable pathway. This would reduce unnecessary barriers while still maintaining appropriate oversight of development outcomes.

The discussion also highlighted the need to more clearly distinguish between dual occupancy and multiple dwellings within the planning scheme, to ensure consistent interpretation and application of provisions. Overall, the reform direction supports a more enabling framework for incremental density, while relying on well-defined codes to manage amenity and servicing considerations.

3. INDUSTRIAL LAND SUPPLY

The apparent shortage of industrial land was discussed, noting that while demand is evident, the scale and nature of that demand is not yet well understood. Demand is often expressed through informal enquiries and operational pressures rather than formal development applications.

Discussion highlighted the need to move beyond a simple assessment of the total amount of zoned industrial land, and instead consider the availability of land that is genuinely suitable and serviceable for industrial purposes. Factors such as lot size, access, infrastructure, and site constraints can significantly limit the effective supply of industrial land, even where zoned capacity appears sufficient.

A recurring issue raised was the need for caretaker accommodation in association with industrial uses, which may further influence land demand and suitability. This reinforces the importance of ensuring that planning provisions are sufficiently clear and flexible to support the operational needs of local businesses.

4. WORKFORCE ACCOMMODATION

Discussion considered the most appropriate locations for workforce accommodation, including within industrial areas and on rural land. It was acknowledged that Paroo's needs differ from larger resource-based regions, with demand likely to be smaller in scale and more dispersed.

BRISBANE

1/9 Camford Street,
Milton Qld 4064

(07) 3217 5771

mail@reelplanning.com

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

62 Wilkinson Street, Wandal,
Rockhampton Qld 4700

(07) 4927 3878

mail@reelplanning.com

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Unit 101, 27-29 Wharf Street,
Cairns City Qld 4870

(07) 4281 6885

mail@reelplanning.com

There was general agreement that future provisions should be proportionate to this context, with planning scheme amendment work to consider appropriate locations, scale, and forms of development.

5. PRECINCT-BASED REDEVELOPMENT

Discussion considered the redevelopment potential of government-owned land in three precincts across Cunnamulla, with general support for a more coordinated, precinct-based approach. Minimum lot sizes of around 400m² for detached housing were considered unlikely to deliver optimal outcomes, and may not align with market preferences or site conditions. Instead, it was recognised that these areas are more likely to support attached or semi-attached housing typologies, where built form, site layout and overall density become more relevant considerations than individual lot size.

This highlights an opportunity for the planning scheme to include tailored precinct-based provisions that focus on achieving a desired density and built form outcome, rather than relying solely on minimum lot size controls. Such an approach would provide greater flexibility in how development is delivered, while ensuring it aligns with the intended character and function of the precinct.

6. COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDERS (CHPS)

Discussion covered the value of understanding the requirements and operating models of community housing providers (CHPs), particularly given their key role in delivering non-market housing in regional and remote areas. It was noted that any prior engagement or discussions with providers would be valuable in informing the study and should be shared where available.

It is recognised that CHPs typically favour housing models that are efficient to construct and manage, including smaller, clustered or attached dwelling typologies that can be delivered at scale. In contrast, dispersed or large-lot detached housing can be more challenging to deliver and maintain, particularly in remote contexts where management and servicing costs are higher.

This reinforces the need for planning settings that support flexible housing typologies, provide certainty in assessment pathways, and enable forms of development that are economically and operationally viable for community housing providers. Targeted engagement with CHPs during the formal consultation stage will be important to further refine preferred dwelling types, configurations, and delivery constraints.

7. CARBON FARMING

Discussion supported the change to make carbon farming activities, particularly permanent plantations, assessable development under the planning scheme. There was general support for establishing a clearer and more consistent approach through the planning scheme, including a defined code assessable pathway.

In this context, it was recognised that the development of appropriate assessment benchmarks will be critical to ensuring a transparent and consistent approach to decision-making. Council guidance will be important in identifying preferred outcomes and key matters of interest, such as land management practices, environmental considerations, and potential land use conflicts.

BRISBANE

1/9 Camford Street,
Milton Qld 4064

(07) 3217 5771

mail@reelplanning.com

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

62 Wilkinson Street, Wandal,
Rockhampton Qld 4700

(07) 4927 3878

mail@reelplanning.com

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Unit 101, 27-29 Wharf Street,
Cairns City Qld 4870

(07) 4281 6885

mail@reelplanning.com

To support this process, examples of assessment frameworks from other jurisdictions and working groups will be provided to inform the development of locally appropriate benchmarks.

8. OTHER MATTERS

Outside the planning scheme itself, the potential influence of rating arrangements on housing supply, noting that settings which discourage holding undeveloped land could support improved development outcomes.

While this sits outside the immediate scope of the review, it was acknowledged as an important broader policy consideration with implications for housing availability.

SUMMARY

Overall, Councillor feedback reinforced the key finding that while the planning scheme is strategically sound, the operational settings in the planning scheme can be refined to reduce unnecessary barriers and support practical housing delivery in a remote context.

NEXT STEPS

Reel Planning

- Finalise the Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review Report, incorporating feedback from the Councillor briefing and addressing any additional matters raised.
- Provide the Final Report to Council for consideration.
- Subject to Council endorsement, commence preparation of a planning scheme amendment package, including drafting provisions and supporting material to give effect to the report recommendations.
- Commence work on the supporting technical information that will be required to facilitate State interest review and approval processes.
- Initiate early discussions with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning to confirm approach, scope, and statutory requirements.

Council

- Consider and formally endorse the final Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review Report.
- Resolve to use the endorsed report as the basis for progressing amendments to the planning scheme.
- Authorise Reel Planning to prepare the necessary planning scheme amendment documentation and supporting material.
- Provide strategic direction on key matters where further policy input is required (e.g. carbon farming assessment benchmarks, local heritage register updates).
- Facilitate any relevant information sharing (e.g. previous discussions with community housing providers or industry stakeholders) to inform the community consultation stages of work.

BRISBANE

1/9 Camford Street,
Milton Qld 4064

(07) 3217 5771

mail@reelplanning.com

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

62 Wilkinson Street, Wandal,
Rockhampton Qld 4700

(07) 4927 3878

mail@reelplanning.com

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Unit 101, 27-29 Wharf Street,
Cairns City Qld 4870

(07) 4281 6885

mail@reelplanning.com

Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review

BACKGROUND STUDY TO SUPPORT HOUSING-RELATED
PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENTS

May 2026

PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

PREPARED BY REEL PLANNING | URBAN AND RURAL STRATEGIES

CONTENTS

PART A – HOUSING STUDY	6
CHAPTER 1 – PAROO SHIRE SETTLEMENT AND HOUSING CONTEXT	7
1.1 Location, Scale and Population Context	7
1.2 Settlement Pattern and Township Roles	8
1.3 Remoteness and Service-Based Housing Demand	9
1.4 Physical Environment and Hazard Context	9
1.5 Economic Transition and Housing Implications	10
1.6 Implications for Housing Analysis	10
CHAPTER 2 – HOUSING NEEDS AND SUPPLY ANALYSIS	12
2.1 Population and Dwelling Trends	12
2.2 Land Supply and Development Content	18
2.3 Dwelling Supply and Housing Stock Characteristics	22
2.4 Dwelling Turnover and Market Responsiveness	25
2.5 Housing Gaps and Opportunities	25
PART B – PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW	28
CHAPTER 3 – LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CONTEXT	29
3.1 Queensland’s Planning and Development Framework.....	29
3.2 State Planning Policy and Regional Planning Context.....	30
3.3 Building Regulation and the Queensland Development Code	31
3.4 Separation of Planning and Building Functions	31
3.5 State Housing Reform Context	32
3.6 Implications for the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme Review	33
CHAPTER 4 – OPERATION OF THE CURRENT PLANNING SCHEME	35
4.1 Strategic Housing Intent.....	35
4.2 Assessment Pathways for Housing Uses in Practice	36
4.3 Natural Hazard and Assessment Escalation	37
4.4 Secondary Dwellings and Infill Housing Types	40
4.5 Tiny Homes and Movable Dwellings	41
4.6 Treatment of Non-Market and Workforce Housing	42
4.7 Carbon Farming and Permanent Plantation Transitions	42
4.8 Other Misalignments.....	43
4.9 Implications for Housing Delivery	45
CHAPTER 5 – PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW AND FINDINGS	46
5.1 Aligning Hazard-Related Assessment with Risk and Regulation.....	46
5.2 Facilitating Secondary Dwellings as Low-Risk Infill Housing.....	47
5.3 Clarifying Treatment of Modern Prefabricated Housing.....	49
5.4 Supporting Proportionate Workforce Accommodation	51
5.5 Facilitating Small-Scale Attached Living Options	54

5.6 Renewal of Ageing Public and Non-Market Housing Stock.....	56
5.7 Shop-Top Housing in Existing Buildings	57
5.8 Managing Permanent Plantation and Carbon Farming	59
5.9 Clarifying the Proper Scope of Local Planning Regulation.....	60
CHAPTER 6 – AMENDMENT OPTIONS AND DELIVERY PATHWAYS.....	63
6.1 Cunnamulla – Housing Renewal and Housing Diversity	63
6.2 Township Opportunities – Incremental and Mixed-Use Housing.....	65
6.3 Settlement Structure and Zoning Parameters	66
6.4 Implementation Considerations and Next Steps.....	66
6.5 Future Settlement Expansion – Long-Term Considerations	67
6.6 Overall Outcome	68

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Queensland context map – location of Paroo Shire
Figure 1.2: Paroo Shire townships and settlement pattern
Figure 1.3: ABS remoteness classification – Paroo Shire
Figure 2.1: Estimated resident population and projections, Paroo Shire (2016–2046)
Figure 2.2: Land tenure – Cunnamulla, Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah
Figure 2.3: Residential and township lot size distribution
Figure 2.4: Indicative subdivision feasibility on a traditional quarter-acre lot
Figure 2.5: Occupied private dwellings by structure, Paroo Shire (2021)
Figure 2.6: Carbon farming distribution in Australia
Figure 2.7: Carbon farming in south-west Queensland
Figure 4.1: Indicative assessment escalation for standard housing due to overlay triggers
Figure 4.2: Sites where new housing requires planning approval due to hazard mapping
Figure 6.1: Indicative housing renewal precincts – Cunnamulla

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1: Snapshot of Paroo Shire – key characteristics
Table 1.2: Township roles and housing function summary
Table 2.1: Summary of Key Housing Indicators
Table 2.2: Household composition and age profile – Paroo Shire and Queensland
Table 2.3: Social housing tenancies by management type and dwelling size
Table 2.4: Residential building approvals, Paroo Shire (selected years)
Table 2.5: Employment by industry, Paroo Shire (2021)
Table 2.6: Zoned land supply within townships
Table 2.7: Vacant and unimproved lots by zone and location
Table 2.8: Residential and township lot size distribution
Table 4.1: Strategic housing intent by zone
Table 4.2: Intended assessment pathways for housing uses
Table 4.3: Actual assessment outcomes for common housing types in practice
Table 4.4 – Sites where new housing requires planning approval
Table 4.5 – Comparison of lot sizes
Table 5.1 – Matters currently regulated in the planning scheme vs State regulation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paroo Shire is a distinctive part of western Queensland, characterised by strong community ties, deep cultural heritage, and a service-based economy that supports a wide regional catchment. Its townships play a critical role in providing health, education, emergency, governance and community services across a very large and remote geography. The long-term resilience of these communities depends on the ability to sustain essential services, attract and retain workers, and support households to age in place within established settlements.

This Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review project was initiated in response to growing recognition at both the local and State levels that housing availability and suitability have become a system-level constraint in remote and regional Queensland. Targeted improvements to the way planning schemes operate are recognised as one practical lever to facilitate strategic housing outcomes, reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers, improve industry certainty and better enable feasible housing development. Through the Queensland Government's housing reform agenda and funding programs, councils such as Paroo Shire have been supported to review their planning schemes to ensure they function effectively in contemporary regional contexts.

Accordingly, this Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review has been undertaken as a housing-focused, evidence-led project, aligned with Council's Local Housing Action Plan and informed by direct engagement with Council officers and an understanding of on-the-ground delivery conditions. The focus is on how Paroo Shire's planning framework can most effectively support housing renewal, adaptation and delivery within existing townships so that people can continue to live, work and contribute in Paroo Shire, and public and private investment in housing delivers lasting community value.

HOUSING CONTEXT AND KEY FINDINGS

Paroo Shire has a small and broadly stable population, with the necessary serviced residential and Township-zoned land capable of accommodating incremental housing over the life of the planning scheme.

Housing pressure arises from:

- a structurally thin and low-volume housing market
- limited diversity within an ageing housing stock dominated by detached dwellings
- very high construction and logistics costs associated with remote delivery
- strong reliance on Council- and State-provided housing for essential workers and vulnerable households
- the sensitivity of housing delivery to time, cost and regulatory certainty in a very remote context.

The Housing Study finds that housing demand is recurrent rather than growth-driven, shaped by service-based employment, workforce turnover, ageing in place and changing household composition. Even in a stable population setting, these dynamics generate ongoing housing pressure where the existing housing stock and private market may not have the flexibility or capacity to respond to.

LAND SUPPLY AND SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE

The Housing Study confirms that Paroo Shire has sufficient zoned and serviced land to meet foreseeable housing needs within the life of the planning scheme. Housing demand remains concentrated within:

- Cunnamulla, as the Shire's primary residential, service and employment centre
- the smaller townships of Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah, which function as mixed-use service towns with substantial amounts of vacant Township-zoned land within their existing footprints.

The study finds that there is no strategic justification for the expansion of township footprints of the within the life of the current planning scheme. While long-term settlement expansion options including additional

industrial-zone land exists in some locations, particularly south of Cunnamulla, these are noted for strategic context only and do not form part of the recommended planning response.

The analysis also demonstrates that large residential and Township-zoned lots exist across the shire, however these sizes do not automatically translate into practical subdivision capacity. Lot configuration, frontage constraints, access requirements and servicing costs mean that single lot subdivision-led housing delivery is unlikely to be feasible at scale. More effective housing outcomes are achieved through incremental infill, secondary dwellings, replacement housing and adaptable use of existing lots, rather than through reductions to minimum lot sizes or speculative subdivision rights.

HOUSING STOCK CHARACTERISTICS AND MARKET FUNCTION

Paroo Shire's dwelling stock is overwhelmingly dominated by detached housing, with very limited representation of smaller, attached or multi-unit dwelling types, especially within the private market. This structure has remained effectively unchanged over time and does not align well with:

- the high proportion of lone-person and small households
- an ageing population seeking to downsize or age in place
- recurrent demand from service-based and rotational workers.

Despite an overall sufficiency of dwellings in numeric terms, very low turnover, minimal new construction and a constrained private rental market mean that the housing system lacks flexibility and responsiveness. As a result, housing pressure is experienced as availability and suitability stress, rather than as a conventional affordability or growth-driven shortage.

Non-market housing plays a central and ongoing role in Paroo Shire's housing system. Council- and State-owned housing functions as core housing infrastructure rather than a residual safety net, supporting essential workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households, older residents and vulnerable cohorts. Much of this stock is ageing and, in some locations, clustered on well-located sites that are not well suited to one-for-one replacement under standard low-density controls.

OPERATION OF THE CURRENT PLANNING SCHEME

The review finds that the strategic intent and zoning framework of the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 remain appropriate. Housing is correctly consolidated within existing townships, and there is no immediate need for additional residential land supply.

However, housing delivery is frequently constrained at the operational level, due to:

- assessment escalation triggered by flood and bushfire overlays
- conservative categorisation of modest housing types
- lot-size thresholds that escalate assessment without enabling feasible outcomes
- duplication between planning controls and State-regulated building standards
- lack of clear, low-risk pathways for secondary dwellings, modular housing, and adaptive reuse.

In a very remote, low-volume market, these mechanisms can have a disproportionate impact. Additional approval steps, documentation requirements and interpretive uncertainty can determine whether small-scale, low-impact housing is delivered at all.

PLANNING SCHEME REFORM DIRECTIONS

Part B of this report translates the Housing Study evidence in Part A into a targeted package of planning scheme reform findings and amendment options. The focus is on improving clarity, proportionality and certainty, rather than altering settlement patterns, zoning intent or hazard resilience standards.

The recommended reforms include:

- realigning flood and bushfire assessment so that standard dwelling houses and secondary dwellings on serviced land can proceed through accepted or low-risk pathways where appropriate building standards are met
- clearly normalising secondary dwellings as a low-risk infill housing response
- removing lot-size thresholds for assessment escalation for some higher-density living options, and introducing appropriate assessment benchmarks to govern neighbourhood amenity, density and site layouts
- clarifying the treatment of modern modular and prefabricated housing as legitimate permanent dwellings
- providing proportionate assessment pathways for workforce and ancillary accommodation appropriate to a remote service economy
- enabling precinct-based renewal of ageing public and non-market housing stock in suitable, well-located areas
- facilitating modest shop-top housing and residential reuse within existing buildings where impacts are limited.

Across all recommendations, the planning scheme is recalibrated to focus on genuine land-use impacts, while relying on State building regulation to manage construction, resilience and technical compliance.

OVERALL OUTCOME

Collectively, the Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review provide a clear, place-based evidence base, and a set of targeted, implementable planning responses suited to Paroo Shire's very remote context.

The outcome is a more efficient and robust planning framework that:

- supports housing diversity and renewal within existing townships
- improves feasibility for incremental housing delivery
- enables renewal of public and non-market housing stock
- maintains safety, resilience and statutory compliance
- reflects the realities of housing delivery in a stable, high-cost and low-volume environment.

PART A – HOUSING STUDY

This Housing Study has been prepared to provide a clear, contemporary and place-based understanding of housing need, housing supply and housing delivery conditions across Paroo Shire. It responds to the reality that, in a very remote local government area with a stable population and a thin housing market, housing outcomes are shaped less by growth pressures and more by feasibility, suitability and the way existing housing stock and land are able to adapt over time.

The purpose of the Study is to establish a robust evidence base that explains:

- *how Paroo Shire’s housing system currently functions in practice*
- *the nature of housing need in a stable, high-cost and low-volume delivery environment*
- *the extent and characteristics of existing dwelling stock and serviced land supply*
- *the realistic pathways through which housing renewal, diversity and adaptability can occur within existing townships.*

By grounding housing need in recent demographic data, land supply analysis and on-the-ground delivery conditions, the study provides a sound platform for informed decision-making and proportionate planning responses.

The scope of this Housing Study is intentionally focused on housing outcomes within Paroo Shire’s existing townships, particularly Cunnamulla, Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah, consistent with established settlement patterns and Council policy. The analysis brings together multiple strands of evidence, including:

- *Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data (2021) relating to population, households, dwelling stock and tenure*
- *updated Estimated Resident Population data and Queensland Government population projections*
- *Queensland Regional Profiles and administrative datasets relating to housing approvals, sales activity and rental market indicators*
- *Council land, zoning and servicing information*
- *desktop analysis of lot sizes, configuration and development readiness.*

The emphasis throughout the Study is on understanding how housing is delivered in practice in a very remote context, rather than testing hypothetical capacity or growth scenarios. This approach recognises that the presence of zoned land or large residential lots does not necessarily translate into delivered housing, particularly where development occurs at very low volumes and is highly sensitive to cost, time and regulatory certainty.

CHAPTER 1 – PAROO SHIRE SETTLEMENT AND HOUSING CONTEXT

This chapter establishes the settlement, demographic, economic and environmental context within which housing outcomes in Paroo Shire occur. It highlights the implications of population stability, extreme remoteness, service-based housing demand and hazard exposure for housing delivery and explains why housing pressures in the Shire are shaped more by feasibility, suitability and regulatory operation than by land supply or growth dynamics.

1.1 LOCATION, SCALE AND POPULATION CONTEXT

Paroo Shire is a very remote local government area in south-west Queensland, covering approximately 47,000 square kilometres and characterised by long distances between small and dispersed settlements, large pastoral lands, open Mitchell Grass flood plains and Mulga lands. The Shire is located several hours from regional centres and functions at a scale and density unique to remote pastoral economies.

The Shire has a small population in absolute terms, numbering in the order of 1,700 residents across the local government area. Population levels have remained broadly stable over recent decades, with modest fluctuations rather than sustained growth or decline. This stability masks a high degree of residential mobility associated with service provision, seasonal employment and workforce turnover, which is explored in later sections of this Study.

Settlement is highly concentrated. The majority of the population resides within a small number of established townships, with Cunnamulla operating as the primary population, service and employment centre. Outside these townships, settlement is sparse and closely linked to rural land use.

The combination of a relatively small population size, very large geographic area and extreme remoteness has important implications for housing outcomes. Housing demand cannot be interpreted through aggregate growth metrics alone. Instead, housing pressures arise from how well the existing housing stock aligns with household needs, workforce requirements and service delivery functions within a constrained and low-volume market.

Figure 1.1: Queensland Context Map



Figure 1.2: Paroo Shire Townships



Table 1.1: Snapshot of Paroo Shire at a glance

Land Area	47,614.9 km ²
Population (latest estimated)	1,724 persons
Classification	Very Remote
Number of townships	4
Primary service centre	Cunnamulla
Average annual rainfall	362 mm

1.2 SETTLEMENT PATTERN AND TOWNSHIP ROLES

Paroo Shire has a highly consolidated and stable settlement pattern that has evolved over a long period in response to remoteness, servicing constraints and the role of townships as focal points for community life and employment. Cunnamulla functions as the Shire’s primary residential, service and administrative centre. It accommodates the majority of the population and housing stock and hosts essential services including health, education, government administration, retail and community facilities. Housing demand associated with service provision, government employment, health, education and community support is therefore predominantly directed to Cunnamulla.

The smaller townships of Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah operate as mixed-use service towns at a much smaller scale. These settlements support low-intensity residential uses alongside commercial, tourism, community and operational activities, providing services to surrounding rural areas and travellers. Housing outcomes in these townships are necessarily incremental and sporadic, reflecting very small populations, low development volumes and limited employment bases. However, their role as local service centres means that housing availability in these locations remains important to broader settlement resilience.

Across the Shire, settlement boundaries are long-established and closely aligned with existing infrastructure, servicing and land tenure patterns.

Table 1.2: Township role and housing function summary

Township	Primary Role	Housing Function	Typical Housing Demand Characteristics
Cunnamulla	Shire’s primary residential, service and administrative centre	Principal location for permanent housing, government employee accommodation, social housing and service-based workforce housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadest range of housing demand, including permanent residents, mobile service workforces, single-person households, families and vulnerable cohorts Ongoing pressure for suitable rental and council/state-provided housing Demand sensitivity to workforce turnover rather than population growth
Eulo	Small mixed-use service town supporting surrounding rural activities and tourism	Low-volume, incremental residential housing integrated with commercial, tourism and operational uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporadic demand associated with local business operators, rural and tourism-related workers and long-term residents Limited market turnover Housing delivery highly responsive to specific needs rather than market signals
Wyandra	Small rural service township on transport corridor	Limited residential function supporting local services and passing trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very small and intermittent housing demand Housing largely tied to local employment or long-term residency Minimal private market activity with reliance on existing stock

Township	Primary Role	Housing Function	Typical Housing Demand Characteristics
Yowah	Small settlement with tourism and heritage function	Seasonal and niche residential use combined with tourism and visitor activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular and seasonal housing demand • Limited permanent population • Housing primarily adapted from existing stock with minimal new delivery

1.3 REMOTENESS AND SERVICE-BASED HOUSING DEMAND

Paroo Shire is classified as very remote, and this characteristic is important in understanding how housing is delivered and how housing need is experienced. Long distances to regional centres, limited local construction capacity and reliance on extended supply chains translate directly into higher construction and renovation costs, reduced economies of scale and constrained delivery options.

In this context, housing demand is driven less by population growth than by the Shire’s role as a service hub. Health, education, emergency services, local government, tourism and community services rely on the ability to attract and retain a mobile workforce. Even with a stable population, ongoing workforce churn creates repeated, short-term and transitional housing demand that must be met within a very limited housing market.

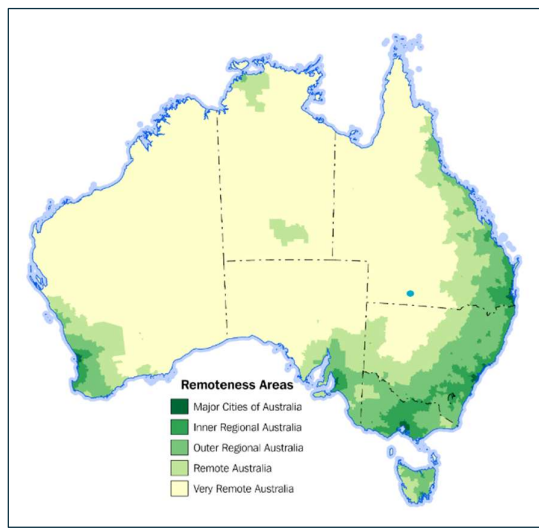


Figure 1.3: ABS Remoteness Index. Source: ABS 2026

The concentration of services in Cunnamulla reinforces the importance of effective housing delivery within the township. Where housing is unavailable, unsuitable or slow to deliver, service delivery itself is affected. The housing system therefore plays a broader enabling role in community resilience and service continuity than would be the case in larger or more diversified urban markets.

1.4 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARD CONTEXT

Flooding and bushfire are recurring and well-understood features of Paroo Shire’s physical environment. Townships have historically developed and adapted to these conditions over time through settlement location, local mitigation measures and building responses rather than avoidance.

Figure 2.4: Floodplain mapping

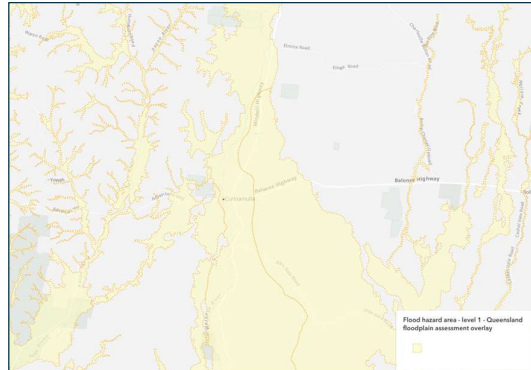
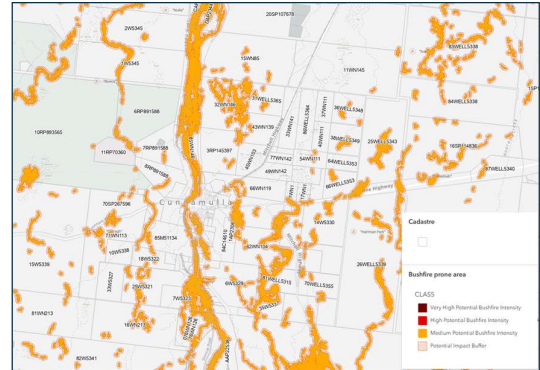


Figure 2.5: Bushfire prone area mapping



Importantly, areas subject to flood or bushfire exposure are not peripheral or exceptional; they form part of the established township fabric. Housing need must therefore continue to be met in locations subject to hazard

exposure, with risk managed in a manner that recognises existing settlement patterns and servicing arrangements.

This context is relevant to housing planning not because it precludes development, but because it reinforces the need for proportionate and well-aligned regulatory responses that recognise hazards as a lived and managed condition rather than a justification for excluding housing from large parts of existing townships.

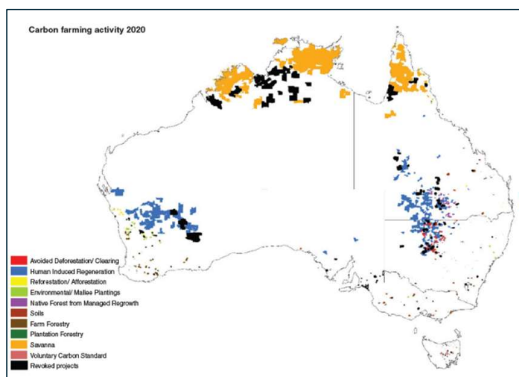
1.5 ECONOMIC TRANSITION AND HOUSING IMPLICATIONS

Paroo Shire’s economy has traditionally been anchored in grazing, tourism and service provision. In recent years, changes in rural land use - particularly the expansion of carbon farming and permanent vegetation projects – have had some effect on historic workforce and settlement patterns.

In some cases, these land-use transitions have reduced on-property occupation and day-to-day rural employment, increasing reliance on township-based accommodation for land managers, contractors and associated service providers. While these changes do not necessarily increase overall population, they can shift housing demand more sharply toward towns, particularly Cunnamulla.

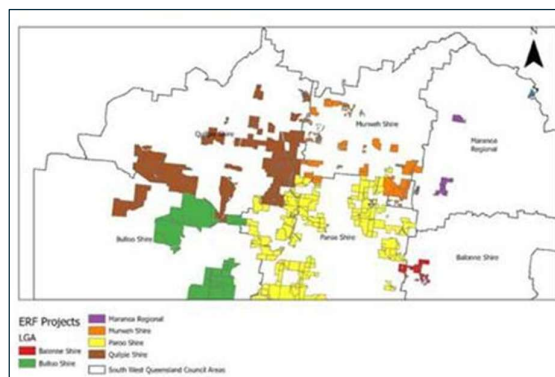
These dynamics underline the importance of adaptable township housing stock and incremental housing responses. Housing pressures may arise even in the absence of growth, where the location, duration or nature of employment changes but the housing system lacks flexibility.

Figure 2.6: Carbon farming distribution in Australia



Source: *The Rangeland Journal*, February 2020

Figure 2.7: Carbon farming in Southwest Queensland



Source: *Queensland Country Life*, 11 December 2024

1.6 IMPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING ANALYSIS

Paroo Shire’s settlement pattern, remoteness, hazard context and economic structure have an impact on housing needs and outcomes by:

- increasing sensitivity to cost, timing and regulatory certainty, with even modest approval complexity affecting housing feasibility
- reinforcing the central role of Council- and State-provided housing in meeting essential worker and vulnerable household needs
- shaping housing demand around incremental, low-volume and site-based delivery, rather than subdivision-led or market-driven greenfield development
- concentrating housing need within existing, serviced townships, with limited capacity to redirect demand to alternative locations
- requiring housing to continue to be delivered in hazard-affected areas, with flood and bushfire treated as lived conditions managed through proportionate design and building regulation
- intensifying reliance on township-based housing due to economic transition and reduced on-property rural occupation
- limiting the effectiveness of growth-based or expansion-led housing strategies in a stable-population, very remote context.

The implications outlined above provide the foundation for the detailed housing analysis that follows and for the targeted Planning Scheme Review in Part 2 of this report.

In a stable-population, very remote context such as Paroo Shire, it is unlikely that housing outcomes are driven by growth dynamics or land scarcity. Instead, the greater influences are likely to be how effectively the existing housing system can adapt to changing household needs, workforce patterns and delivery constraints over time. This places particular importance on understanding:

- how population characteristics and household composition translate into functional housing demand
- how the existing dwelling stock performs in terms of suitability, condition and diversity
- how land supply, lot configuration and servicing interact with delivery feasibility
- how Council- and State-provided housing contributes to system-wide resilience; and
- how planning controls operate in practice to either enable or constrain incremental, low-risk housing delivery.

Accordingly, the remainder of the Housing Study focuses on examining population and dwelling trends, land supply and development readiness, housing stock characteristics and identified housing gaps within existing townships. This analysis is intentionally grounded in delivery reality rather than theoretical capacity, recognising that the presence of zoned land or large lots does not necessarily translate into delivered housing in a very remote, low-volume market.

These findings then directly inform the Planning Scheme Review in Part 2 of the report. While the strategic settlement framework for Paroo Shire remains appropriate, the evidence indicates that housing outcomes are highly sensitive to how planning controls function at the operational level. The review therefore concentrates on assessment pathways, regulatory proportionality and role clarity, with a view to identifying targeted amendments that better align the planning scheme with local housing needs, risk profiles and delivery conditions.

CHAPTER 2 — HOUSING NEEDS AND SUPPLY ANALYSIS

This chapter examines how Paroo Shire’s housing system functions in practice, drawing on demographic data, dwelling stock analysis, land supply assessment and market indicators. The analysis focuses on the matters relevant to delivering housing outcomes in a very remote, low-volume market and identifies the structural housing gaps and opportunities that inform the Planning Scheme Review in Part B.

2.1 POPULATION AND DWELLING TRENDS

3.1.1 POPULATION SIZE AND CHANGE

Paroo Shire has a small population in absolute terms, numbering approximately 1,700 residents, and population levels have remained broadly stable over recent decades. Recent Estimated Resident Population data and Queensland Government projections indicate modest year-to-year fluctuations rather than sustained growth or decline. This stability is expected to continue over the life of the planning scheme.

While this pattern suggests that additional residential land supply is not required to accommodate population growth, it does not imply an absence of housing demand. In a small and thin housing market, even modest changes in household formation, service delivery arrangements or workforce patterns can generate acute housing pressure. Population stability therefore masks important structural dynamics that shape housing need.

Figure 2.1: Estimated Resident Population and Projections – Paroo Shire (2016–2046)

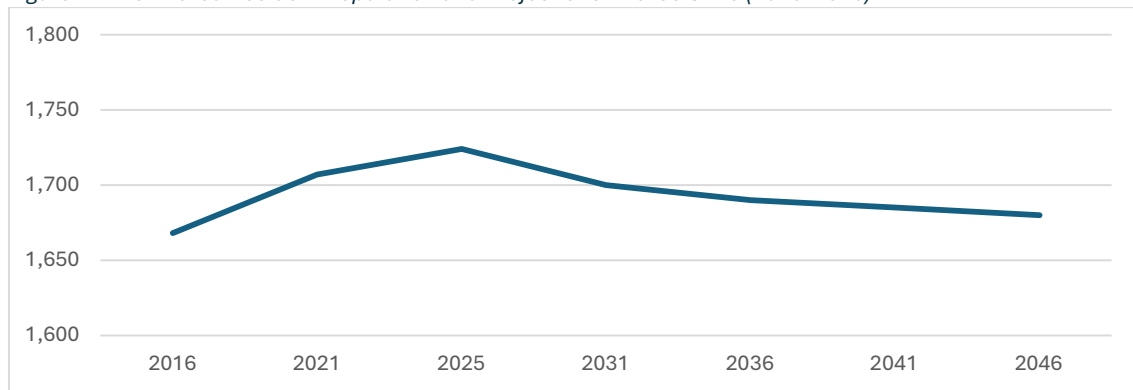


Table 2.1: Summary of Key Housing Indicators

Estimated population	~1,700 people
Zoned residential + township land	~855 lots
Occupied private dwellings (including rural areas)	~700 dwellings
Unoccupied private dwellings (including rural areas)	~270 dwellings
Average number of people per household	2.2-2.4 persons

2.1.2 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Household composition in Paroo Shire differs from Queensland averages in several key respects. The Shire has a higher proportion of lone-person households, and a high proportion of two-person/ couples without children households, reflecting an ageing population and a workforce profile skewed toward single-person or couple households associated with service delivery, government employment and rotational work.

At the same time, the Shire has a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, which is younger on average and more likely to live in larger or multi-generational households. These overlapping demographic characteristics generate diverse housing needs that are not well served by a uniform housing stock dominated by larger detached dwellings.

Table 2.2: Household composition and age profile – Paroo Shire vs Queensland

Indicator	Paroo Shire	Queensland
Household composition		
Lone-person households	37.0%	24.6%
Couple households without children	28.4%	28.8%
Couple households with children	29.8%	31.2%
One-parent families	14.8%	15.6%
Group households	1.9%	5.0%
Age profile		
Population aged 0–14 years	21.0%	18.9%
Population aged 15–64 years	58.2%	65.5%
Population aged 65 years and over	20.8%	15.6%
Median age (years)	44	38
Indigenous population share		
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (% of total population)	35.9%	4.6%

Source: ABS Census 2021 QuickStats

2.1.3 NON-MARKET HOUSING AND MARKET THINNESS

Housing pressures in Paroo Shire are not driven by population growth or high levels of residential mobility. Instead, the evidence indicates a structural housing system constraint, characterised by a small and inflexible private market and a sustained reliance on non-market housing to meet ongoing need.

Queensland Housing Profiles demonstrate that social and community housing plays a substantive and ongoing role in the local housing system. As at 30 June 2020, Paroo Shire contained 106 social housing tenancies, the majority of which were public housing dwellings, with community housing providing a smaller but complementary role. The social housing stock is dominated by two- and three-bedroom dwellings, indicating provision for long-term household accommodation rather than short-stay or transitional housing. In the context of a Shire with a population of approximately 1,700 people, this confirms that non-market housing functions as a core component of supply, rather than a residual safety net.

Table 2.3: Social housing tenancies

	Type	Number of dwellings	Percent
Management type	Public housing	92	86.8%
	Community housing	14	13.2%
	Indigenous community housing	0	
Dwelling size	1-bedroom	27	25.5%
	2-bedroom	21	19.8%
	3-bedroom	50	47.2%
	4-bedroom	8	7.5%
	5+-bedroom	0	

Housing Register data reinforce this conclusion. As at 31 December 2025, the Housing Register recorded 13 active applications, all assessed as being in very high need. Applications are concentrated among single-parent households and older single-person households, with dwelling requirements predominantly in the one- to three-bedroom range. Several applications have remained active for extended periods, confirming that housing need in Paroo Shire is persistent rather than short-term or cyclical. The high proportion of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants and applicants with disability indicators further highlights the intersection of housing need, ageing and supported accommodation requirements.

The constrained nature of the private housing market is reinforced by limited availability of alternative housing pathways. There are no National Rental Affordability Scheme dwellings in the Shire and no recorded uptake of State private-market support mechanisms such as bond loans, rental grants or Home Assist Secure. This indicates that, unlike in larger centres, private rental assistance programs do not operate as an effective safety valve when housing pressure emerges.

Indicators of private housing delivery further demonstrate market thinness and limited responsiveness. Residential building approvals occur sporadically, with extended periods of no new dwelling approvals and isolated one-off approvals rather than any continuous development pipeline. This episodic pattern of delivery confirms that the private market lacks the depth to respond to incremental changes in demand without stress.

Table 2.4: Residential building approvals – Paroo Shire (selected years)

Reporting period	New houses approved	Other dwellings approved	Total residential approvals
2019–20	0	0	0
2020–21	0	0	0
2021–22	1	0	1
2022–23	0	0	0
2023–24	0	0	0
2024–25	0	0	0
12 months to Feb 2026	1	0	1

Taken together, the evidence indicates that housing pressure in Paroo Shire is best understood as a function of system thinness and structural inflexibility, rather than affordability stress or growth-driven shortage. Housing outcomes are highly sensitive to small changes in household composition, public housing availability or service delivery arrangements because there is limited capacity within the private market to absorb change.

This context reinforces the importance of incremental, adaptable housing responses within existing townships, including renewal of ageing social housing assets, modest infill, and housing forms aligned with the needs of smaller households and ageing residents. Expansion-led or growth-based housing strategies are unlikely to address the core constraints identified.

2.1.4 SERVICE-BASED AND WORKFORCE-RELATED HOUSING DEMAND

Paroo Shire’s employment profile is weighted toward service-based industries, including public administration and safety, health care and social assistance, education and training, accommodation and food services, and Council-delivered local services. These sectors underpin essential government, community and visitor functions across a broad regional catchment. In remote locations such as Paroo, these roles commonly rely on non-local, rotational or periodically replaced workers, even where overall employment numbers remain modest and population levels are stable.

Table 2.5: Employment by industry – Paroo Shire (2021)

Industry	Employed persons	Share of employed workforce
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	156	24.4%
Public Administration and Safety	116	18.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	89	13.9%
Education and Training	54	8.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	39	6.1%

Industry	Employed persons	Share of employed workforce
Construction	38	6.0%
Other industries	146	22.9%
Total employed persons	638	100.0%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2021, compiled in regional profiles for Paroo Shire

While this employment structure does not generate sustained population growth, it gives rise to ongoing, low-volume housing demand that is recurrent rather than one-off. Demand is typically concentrated in rental accommodation that is appropriately sized, serviced and located close to employment and services, rather than in larger detached dwellings designed for long-term family occupation.

In larger housing markets, this form of recurrent workforce demand is usually absorbed through normal rental turnover. In Paroo Shire, however, the capacity of the housing system to respond is constrained by very limited private rental availability, low dwelling turnover and a high baseline reliance on social housing. As a result, housing stress can arise even where aggregate dwelling numbers appear sufficient, and population levels are stable.

Workforce-related demand interacts most strongly with the smaller end of the housing stock, including one- and two-bedroom dwellings suitable for single workers and couples without children. This is the same segment of the market under persistent pressure in the Housing Register, where applications are concentrated among older single-person households and single-parent families requiring one- to three-bedroom dwellings. This overlap means that even modest workforce inflows can place pressure on the same limited pool of housing relied upon by vulnerable local households.

Importantly, the issue is not the scale of workforce demand itself, but the lack of system slack within the local housing market. With minimal new private rental supply, negligible turnover and no effective alternative pathways through private market assistance programs, even small changes in service delivery arrangements or staffing cycles can have disproportionate impacts on availability. Pressure arises from the interaction between a structurally thin housing system and forms of workforce demand that are inherent to the Shire's service and governance role.

2.1.5 LAND SUPPLY AND LOT CHARACTERISTICS

Paroo Shire has an adequate supply of zoned and serviced residential and township land to meet foreseeable housing needs within the life of the planning scheme, and housing pressure is not driven by land availability.

Table 2.6: Land Use Zoning Types and Areas in Towns

Zone	Cunnamulla		Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah	
	# of Lots	Area of Lots (m ²)	# of Lots	Area of Lots (m ²)
Centre	129	146,576		
General residential	578	1,095,313		
Industry	23	579,619		
Recreation and open space	9	894,332	1	32,780
Rural	64	3,223,095	3	910,840
Rural residential	14	402,180		
Township	16	157,366	246	957,601
Total	833	6,498,481	250	1,901,221

However, the relationship between zoned land and delivered housing is not linear in a very remote, low-volume market. The presence of zoned land does not in itself translate into practical or feasible housing outcomes. Instead, housing delivery is shaped by where land is located, how it is configured, and whether development can proceed feasibly under prevailing market and delivery conditions.

GIS-based analysis undertaken for this study maps all residential and Township-zoned land by lot size, location and development status. This analysis shows that:

- vacant and underutilised residential and Township-zoned land is dispersed throughout existing township footprints, rather than concentrated in large, contiguous development areas
- lot sizes are generally large, particularly in the smaller townships, reflecting historical subdivision patterns typical of remote service towns
- a majority of zoned lots exceed traditional suburban lot sizes, with a high proportion above 1,200 m² and many exceeding quarter-acre dimensions
- most vacant and underutilised lots are located within established township grids, with direct road access and proximity to existing servicing and infrastructure
- while a small number of larger, contiguous undeveloped parcels exist in parts of Cunnamulla, these do not operate as coordinated greenfield estates and are not representative of the township land supply as a whole.

Table 2.7: Unimproved Lots in Towns

Zone	# of Lots	# Vacant Lots	Area of Vacant Lots (m ²)	% of Zone Lots	% of Zone Area
Cunnamulla					
Centre	129	5	3,553	3.9%	2.4%
General residential	578	51	131,065	8.8%	12.0%
Industry	23	6	12,142	26.1%	2.1%
Rural residential	14	3	95,190	21.4%	23.7%
Township	16	7	84,750	43.8%	53.9%
Total	833	72	326,700	8.6%	5.0%
Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah					
Township	250	101	558,051	40.4%	58.2%

This dispersed spatial pattern favours incremental infill and site-based redevelopment over estate-style development or coordinated subdivision. At the same time, it constrains the feasibility of large-scale land release or staged development models that rely on development scale, economies of coordination, or speculative take-up.

Table 2.8: Residential and Township lot size distribution

Size of Lots	Cunnamulla	Eulo	Wyandra	Yowah	Subtotal	% of Total
≤800m ²	103	1	8	0	112	10.3%
801–1,000m ²	148	1	6	0	155	14.3%
1,001–1,200m ² (¼ acre)	190	0	7	1	198	18.3%
1,201–2,023m ² (¼- ½ acre)	192	5	52	77	326	30.1%
2,024–4,046m ² (½-1 acre)	58	10	8	0	6	7.0%
4,047–8,093m ² (1- 2 acre)	56	52	8	0	116	10.7%
≥8,094m ² (>2 acres)	86	4	3	7	100	9.2%
Total	833	73	92	85	1083	100.0%

While large lot sizes provide theoretical physical capacity for additional dwellings, practical development potential across Paroo Shire's townships is constrained by lot configuration, frontage width, access arrangements and servicing considerations.

A preliminary review of typical residential lot layouts indicates that:

- many residential lots lack sufficient frontage to support straightforward subdivision without creating rear-lot/ battle-axe configurations
- subdivision of traditional quarter-acre lots would require substantial reductions in existing minimum lot size standards to be technically feasible
- even where subdivision is technically achievable, the cost of reconfiguration, additional servicing and approval processes may exceed likely market returns under prevailing conditions.

Testing of typical lot dimensions identified that a residential lot of approximately 1,012m² (traditional quarter-acre) with a frontage of less than 20m cannot realistically be subdivided into two functional lots under modest minimum lot size reductions. At a theoretical level, subdivision would require minimum lot sizes in the order of 500m². In practice, once allowance is made for access handles (typically 3.5–5 m wide), setbacks, servicing constraints and usable building envelopes, the rear lot would generally need to be approximately 600m², leaving a front lot of approximately 400m².

Accordingly, any meaningful subdivision yield from the existing residential fabric would require minimum lot size thresholds in the General residential and Township zones to be reduced from 800m² and 1,000m² respectively to closer to 400m². Even then, subdivision would be feasible only on a limited subset of well-configured sites. In a very remote and low-volume housing market, such changes are unlikely to translate into delivered housing at scale and may instead create speculative development rights without construction activity.

By contrast, the latent capacity of large residential and Township-zoned lots is more realistically realised through secondary dwellings, adaptable housing forms, replacement housing and site-based redevelopment, rather than through formal reconfiguration of titles.

2.1.6 DEVELOPMENT READINESS AND FEASIBILITY

Development readiness in Paroo Shire is shaped less by planning or land-use entitlement and more by feasibility constraints associated with very remote delivery conditions. These constraints include:

- high construction and transport costs
- reliance on external trades and itinerant labour
- lack of economies of scale due to very low development volumes
- sensitivity to time, cost and uncertainty within approval processes.

Under these conditions, vacant zoned land cannot be assumed to represent “ready” housing supply. Even modest increases in regulatory burden, approval timeframes or documentation requirements can render otherwise suitable housing projects unviable. Housing delivery is therefore most likely to occur where:

- sites are already serviced
- development can proceed incrementally rather than as a large, coordinated project
- design and approval pathways are clear, proportionate and predictable
- risk is managed efficiently.

These factors are particularly important for non-market housing providers and small-scale private proponents, who operate within tightly constrained budgets and delivery programs and lack the capacity to absorb extended delays or approval uncertainty.

2.1.6 IMPLICATIONS OF POPULATION AND DWELLING TRENDS

Taken together, the land supply assessment demonstrates that Paroo Shire’s housing challenge is not simply a function of insufficient zoned land. While the overall quantum of residential and Township-zoned land is finite, housing outcomes are constrained to a greater degree by:

- the gap between theoretical land capacity and deliverable supply

- the cost and risk profile of development in a very remote context
- the extent to which planning controls facilitate or impede incremental, low-risk housing delivery within existing townships.

Accordingly, improving housing outcomes in Paroo Shire depends primarily on enabling feasible development on land that is already zoned, serviced and located within established township footprints, rather than on expanding the overall supply of residential land. The effectiveness of the planning framework in supporting infill development, housing adaptation and incremental renewal within existing townships is therefore central to addressing identified housing needs within the life of the current planning scheme.

2.2 LAND SUPPLY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTENT

2.2.1 OVERVIEW OF ZONED LAND SUPPLY

Paroo Shire contains a substantial supply of freehold land zoned for residential or township purposes relative to its population size and foreseeable housing demand. The freehold land is concentrated almost entirely within established townships, reflecting long-standing settlement patterns and the location of infrastructure, services and employment.

Figure 2.2: Land Tenure – Cunnamulla, Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah



In strategic terms, the existing planning framework provides sufficient zoned land to accommodate anticipated housing needs over the life of the planning scheme. There is no evidence that housing pressure in Paroo Shire is driven by an overall shortage of residential or Township-zoned land. Instead, the key issue is the extent to which housing can be feasibly delivered on land that is already zoned and serviced, given prevailing market conditions, lot characteristics and development constraints.

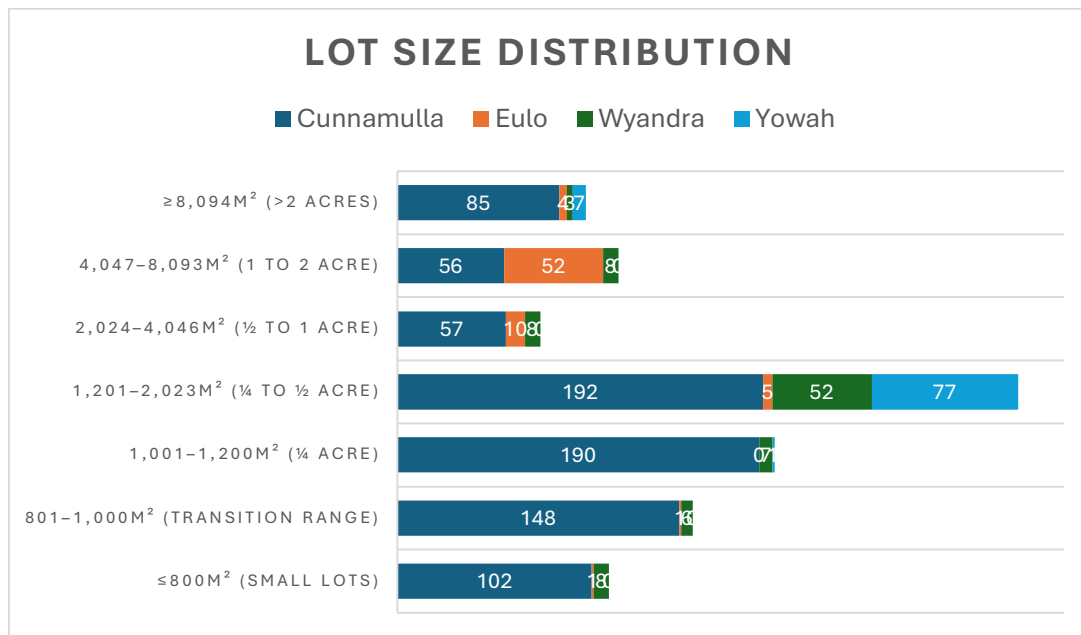
This distinction between zoned capacity and deliverable supply is critical in a very remote, low-volume housing market such as Paroo Shire, where development outcomes are highly sensitive to cost, timing and regulatory certainty.

2.2.2 SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AVAILABLE LAND

Across Paroo Shire’s townships, vacant and underutilised residential and Township-zoned land is dispersed throughout existing settlement footprints, rather than concentrated in large or master-planned development areas. This dispersed pattern reflects historic subdivision practices typical of remote service towns and limits opportunities for coordinated or staged residential development.

Lot sizes within residential and Township zones are generally large by conventional urban standards. While this provides physical capacity for additional dwellings, lot configuration often constrains practical development outcomes. Many lots are characterised by narrow frontages, deep lot depths and single street access, which can limit building envelopes and complicate site servicing.

Figure 2.3: Lot Size Distribution



While large lot sizes provide physical capacity for additional dwellings, practical development potential across Paroo Shire’s townships is constrained by lot configuration, frontage width, access arrangements and servicing considerations.

A preliminary review of typical residential lot layouts in Paroo Shire indicates that:

- many lots could lack sufficient frontage to support straightforward subdivision without creating battle-axe configurations
- subdivision on quarter-acre blocks would require substantial reductions in current allowable minimum lot size to be feasible
- even where subdivision is technically possible, the cost of reconfiguration, additional infrastructure servicing and approvals may exceed likely market returns under prevailing conditions.

As a result, the latent capacity of large lots is more readily realised through secondary dwellings, adaptable or attached housing forms and site-based redevelopment, rather than through subdivision-led housing delivery.

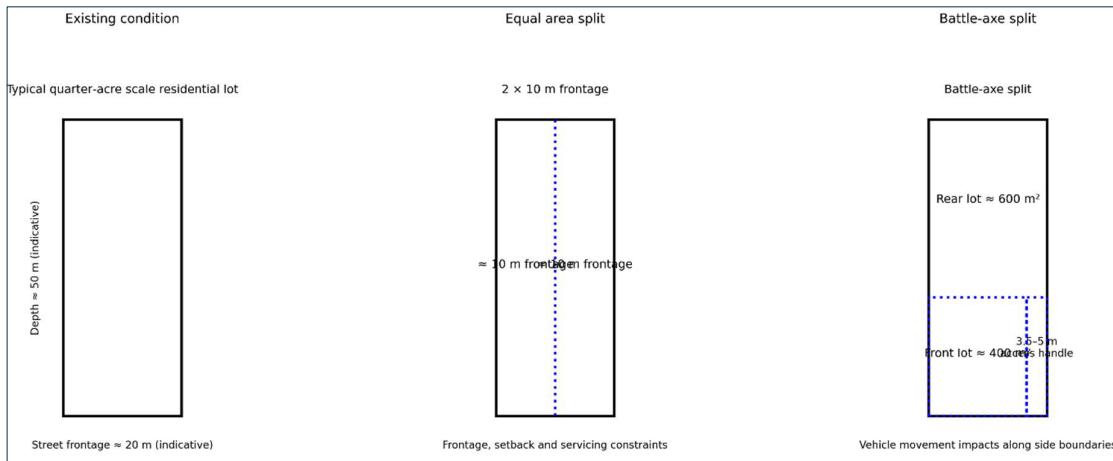
While large lots provide theoretical development capacity, the practical potential for subdivision is strongly influenced by lot depth, frontage width and access constraints. In many residential streets, lots are relatively narrow and deep, with a single street frontage. Subdivision of a typical residential lot therefore commonly

requires a battle-axe or rear-lot configuration, including a dedicated access handle, rather than a simple frontage split.

Testing of typical lot dimensions identified that:

- a residential lot of approximately 1,012m² (traditional quarter-acre) with a frontage of less than 20m cannot realistically be subdivided into two functional lots under modest minimum lot size reductions
- at a theoretical level, subdivision of such a lot would require minimum lot sizes in the order of 500m²
- in practice, once allowance is made for access handles (typically 3.5–5 m wide), setbacks, servicing and usable building envelopes, the rear lot would generally need to be approximately 600m², leaving a front lot of approximately 400m².

Figure 2.4: Subdivision analysis



Accordingly, any meaningful subdivision yield from the existing lot fabric would require a minimum lot size threshold in the General residential and Township zone from 800m² and 1,000m² respectively to closer to 400m², rather than incremental reductions from existing standards. Even then, subdivision would be feasible only on a limited subset of well-configured sites

In smaller townships such as Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah, large Township-zoned lots are common, and a significant proportion of serviced land remains vacant within the existing town grid. Despite this apparent surplus, development remains sporadic, reflecting low market demand, limited construction capacity and the absence of economies of scale, rather than planning constraints.

In Cunnamulla, the majority of residential land is located within the General residential zone, with smaller areas of Township, Centre, Rural residential and Industry zoning. Vacant residential land exists across several locations within the established urban area but again tends to be fragmented and suited to incremental infill rather than estate-style development.

Overall, the spatial distribution of available land favours site-based responses such as individual dwelling construction, secondary dwellings, replacement housing and small-scale redevelopment, rather than coordinated subdivision or greenfield expansion.

2.2.3 LOT CONFIGURATION AND PRACTICAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

While many residential and Township-zoned lots in Paroo Shire exceed traditional minimum lot size thresholds, desktop assessment indicates that practical subdivision potential is limited on most sites. Subdivision would frequently require battle-axe or rear-lot configurations, involving access handles, additional infrastructure connections and reduced building envelopes.

In a low-volume market with high construction and logistics costs, these additional requirements materially affect development feasibility. Modest reductions in minimum lot size standards would not, in isolation,

unlock meaningful development capacity across the existing lot fabric. More substantial changes would be required to alter subdivision feasibility, but such changes would likely create speculative development rights without resulting in delivered housing.

As a result, the latent capacity of large residential and Township-zoned lots is more realistically realised through additional dwellings on existing lots, adaptable housing forms, or replacement of ageing dwellings, rather than through formal reconfiguration of titles.

This finding supports a planning response that prioritises incremental and adaptable housing delivery, aligned with local market capacity, rather than pursuing subdivision-led housing strategies that are unlikely to be taken up in practice.

2.2.4 DEVELOPMENT READINESS AND FEASIBILITY

Development readiness in Paroo Shire is shaped less by planning entitlement and more by delivery feasibility. High construction and transport costs, reliance on itinerant trades, limited local workforce availability and the absence of development scale all influence whether projects proceed.

Housing delivery is therefore most likely to occur where:

- land is already serviced
- development can proceed incrementally
- approval pathways are clear and proportionate
- approval risk and timeframes are minimised.

Even modest increases in regulatory burden or assessment complexity can determine whether otherwise suitable housing projects proceed or are abandoned. This sensitivity reinforces the importance of planning controls that function proportionately in practice, particularly for low-impact and anticipated housing forms.

Vacant zoned land cannot be assumed to represent “ready” housing supply. In a very remote context, deliverable housing capacity is best understood through the interaction of lot characteristics, servicing, feasibility and regulatory certainty, rather than through zoned land area alone.

2.2.5 IMPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING DELIVERY WITHIN EXISTING TOWNSHIPS

The land supply and feasibility assessment confirms that settlement expansion is not required to meet foreseeable housing needs in Paroo Shire within the life of the current planning scheme.

In Cunnamulla, freehold Rural-zoned land exists to the south of the current General residential zone that could, if Council chose to pursue expansion in the future, be investigated through a planning scheme amendment. Any such expansion would require detailed consideration of infrastructure provision, hazard constraints and land-use impacts, and would need to be supported by demonstrated demand and a viable delivery mechanism. This option is therefore noted for long-term strategic context only and does not form part of the recommended housing response.

The smaller townships of Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah must be considered in a different context. While these settlements contain substantial supplies of vacant and underutilised Township-zoned land within their existing footprints, their capacity for outward expansion is significantly constrained by land tenure arrangements. Surrounding land is predominantly Reserve land rather than freehold, meaning that any expansion beyond current township boundaries would require complex and long-term processes outside Council’s direct control, including State land disposal and, where applicable, the extinguishment of Native Title through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

These processes are inherently multi-agency, time-intensive and uncertain, and would also require new infrastructure provision and servicing investigations. Given the very low population levels, sporadic development activity and high proportion of vacant serviced lots already available within existing township footprints, expansion-led housing would represent a disproportionate response to housing need and would be

unlikely to be taken up by the market without substantial public investment or a material change in demand drivers.

Accordingly, while settlement expansion cannot be ruled out over the very long term, it does not represent a necessary or practical housing response within the life of the current planning scheme. Housing needs in Paroo Shire are more effectively addressed through infill development, adaptation of existing dwellings and incremental take-up of vacant serviced lots within established township boundaries.

While the Housing Study confirms that there is sufficient zoned residential and township land, feedback from Council and local stakeholders indicates that the situation for industrial land is more constrained.

The effective supply of industrial land is influenced not only by total zoned area, but by whether sites are of a suitable size, configuration and location, and whether they are able to be efficiently serviced and accessed for industrial purposes. Fragmented parcels, constrained sites or land lacking appropriate infrastructure may contribute to an apparent surplus in zoning, while providing limited practical opportunities for new or expanding businesses.

Demand for industrial land in Paroo Shire is typically expressed through operational pressure, informal enquiries and business constraints, rather than through a consistent pipeline of formal applications. This reflects the low-volume development environment and can obscure the extent of underlying demand. In this context, evidence suggests that the effective supply of industrial land is more limited than total zoned capacity may indicate, and may become increasingly constrained over time without further investigation of suitable and serviceable land options.

2.3 DWELLING SUPPLY AND HOUSING STOCK CHARACTERISTICS

2.3.1 OVERVIEW OF DWELLING SUPPLY

In aggregate terms, there is a sufficient number of dwellings to accommodate Paroo's stable population. Census and administrative data indicate that the total dwelling stock exceeds the number of occupied households, with a mix of occupied, vacant and intermittently used dwellings across the area. Housing challenges are therefore not driven by numeric shortage alone, but by the structure, condition, suitability and turnover of the existing stock, combined with the constraints of a very remote delivery environment.

Dwelling supply is highly concentrated within established townships, particularly Cunnamulla, which accommodates the majority of the Shire's population, services, employment and housing stock. The smaller townships of Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah contain much smaller absolute dwelling numbers but are characterised by substantial reserves of vacant and under-utilised serviced Township-zoned land within existing settlement footprints. This confirms that housing pressure is not associated with an absence of zoned or serviced land, but with the practical ability to deliver and adapt dwellings in suitable locations.

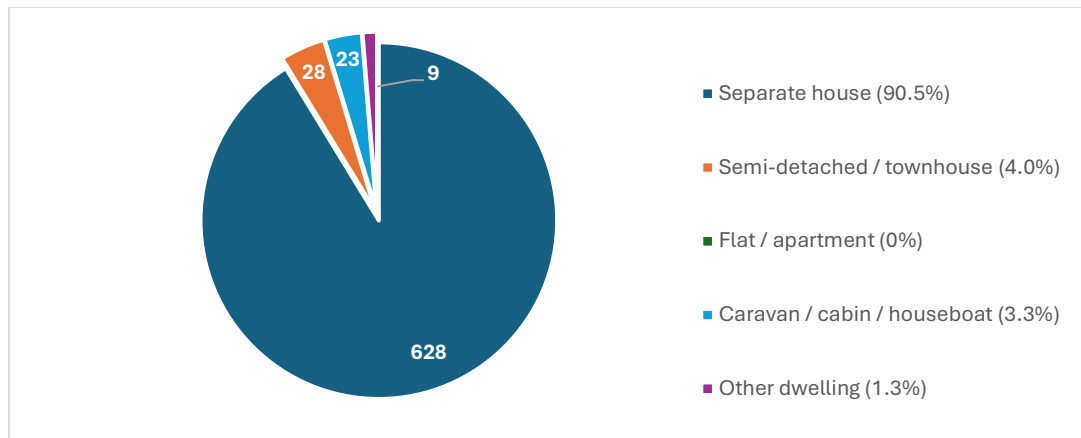
2.3.2 DWELLING STRUCTURE AND HOUSING DIVERSITY

The existing dwelling stock is overwhelmingly dominated by detached housing, with very limited representation of attached, semi-detached or multi-unit forms. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data indicate that approximately nine in ten occupied private dwellings in the Shire are separate houses, with negligible apartment or flat-style housing and only a small proportion of semi-detached dwellings.

This structural profile has remained effectively unchanged since the preparation of the Local Housing Action Plan (LHAP) for Paroo Shire and is consistent with the most recent Queensland Regional Profiles data.

Figure 2.5 illustrates the dominance of detached housing in Paroo Shire relative to Queensland overall. The lack of smaller and attached dwelling types constrains choice for lone-person households, older residents seeking to downsize, and service-based workers requiring modest, low-maintenance accommodation. As discussed in earlier sections, this contributes to inefficient use of the existing stock and places disproportionate pressure on a thin rental market despite an overall sufficiency of dwellings.

Figure 2.5: Paroo Shire: Occupied private dwellings by structure (ABS 2021)



2.3.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING HOUSING STOCK

The existing housing stock in Paroo Shire is overwhelmingly characterised by single detached dwellings, generous lot sizes, and a predominance of older housing constructed during earlier settlement and service-town development periods.

Smaller dwelling types, attached housing forms and purpose-designed accommodation for single-person households, older residents or temporary and service-based workers are extremely limited. As a result, the housing stock does not align well with contemporary household needs, including:

- a high proportion of lone-person households
- an ageing population
- recurrent demand from service-based and rotational workers.

In practical terms, this mismatch results in inefficient use of the housing stock, with larger detached dwellings frequently occupied by small households or single residents, while limited choice exists at the smaller, lower-maintenance end of the market. The lack of diversity in dwelling types constrains options for downsizing, ageing in place, supported living arrangements and workforce accommodation, even where land and dwellings exist in aggregate.

2.3.4 DWELLING TURNOVER AND MARKET RESPONSIVENESS

An additional constraint on housing outcomes in Paroo Shire is the very low level of turnover within the existing dwelling stock. Residential sales volumes are low, rental listings are limited, and new dwelling delivery occurs only episodically. This combination means that dwellings do not circulate readily through the market, reducing the system's capacity to respond to even modest changes in demand.

Private rental market activity is particularly constrained. Available rental dwellings are absorbed quickly and re-enter the market infrequently. In this context, household movement, service delivery changes or workforce replacement cycles cannot be accommodated through normal market churn. Instead, pressure is displaced onto Council- and State-owned housing, informal or unsuitable accommodation arrangements, or continued occupation of dwellings that no longer match household needs.

This pattern confirms that housing pressure in Paroo Shire is structural rather than cyclical, arising from low responsiveness and limited adaptability rather than affordability escalation or speculative demand.

2.3.5 COUNCIL- AND STATE-OWNED HOUSING STOCK

Council- and State-owned housing plays a critical and ongoing role in meeting housing need across Paroo Shire. Unlike larger urban markets where public housing operates as a residual safety net, non-market housing in Paroo functions as core housing infrastructure, supporting:

- essential and government service workers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households
- older residents
- low-income households
- residents with limited or no access to the private rental market.

A significant proportion of this housing stock is ageing and reflects earlier assumptions about household size, dwelling layout and construction standards. While much of the stock remains functional, maintenance pressures are increasing, and the suitability of some dwellings no longer aligns with contemporary household composition, accessibility needs or service-based demand.

Critically, Council- and State-owned housing in Paroo Shire is not evenly distributed. Instead, a substantial proportion of ageing public and community housing stock is spatially clustered in a small number of locations within Cunnamulla that differ in size, configuration and locational context from surrounding residential fabric. These clusters include:

- older State-owned housing near Centenary Park along the Warrego River, north of Louise Street
- community housing at 15 Broad Street within the same inner-town catchment
- ageing Council-owned housing south of Louise Street near the river, comprising Lots 2–6 on RP198741, with a combined area of approximately 4,300m².

These sites are centrally located, well serviced and close to open space, community facilities and services. However, their size and configuration mean that one-for-one replacement under standard low-density residential controls is unlikely to deliver efficient or appropriate outcomes over time.

In addition, Council owns several strategically located vacant or under-utilised parcels within Cunnamulla capable of supporting future housing delivery, including:

- Lots 8–15 on RP1957 at the corner of Florence Street and William Street (approximately 2ha)
- three irregular blocks fronting Wicks Street between Alice Street and Watson Street (approximately 1.4 ha combined).

Collectively, these Council- and State-owned sites share key characteristics:

- they are clustered or contiguous rather than isolated
- they are larger and more irregular than typical suburban lots
- they are well located relative to services and infrastructure;
- they are already in public or aligned ownership, enabling coordinated planning and staging.

These attributes indicate that renewal of non-market housing stock in Paroo Shire is most realistically achieved through precinct-based approaches, rather than lot-by-lot replacement. The implications of this for zoning, assessment pathways and planning scheme operation are examined later in this chapter and inform the targeted reform directions set out in Chapter 4.

2.3.6 IMPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING RENEWAL

Taken together, the dwelling supply assessment confirms that improving housing outcomes in Paroo Shire will rely less on increasing the total number of dwellings and more on:

- improving stock suitability and diversity
- facilitating renewal of ageing Council- and State-owned housing assets

- enabling more efficient use of well-located serviced land
- supporting housing forms that align with contemporary household needs and service-based demand.

This reinforces the importance of planning mechanisms that support adaptation, renewal and coordinated redevelopment within existing townships, rather than expansion-led or speculative housing supply responses.

2.4 DWELLING TURNOVER AND MARKET RESPONSIVENESS

An additional factor contributing to housing pressure in Paroo Shire is the very low level of turnover within the existing dwelling stock. While aggregate dwelling numbers may appear sufficient relative to population size, the evidence indicates that dwellings do not circulate readily through either the ownership or rental market. This low turnover significantly constrains the system's ability to respond to changes in demand.

Indicators of new housing supply demonstrate that replacement and additional dwelling delivery occurs only sporadically. Residential building approval data show extended periods with no approvals, punctuated by isolated one-off approvals rather than any continuous pipeline of construction. Over the seven-year period from 2019–20 to early 2026, only two new dwellings were approved in total, confirming the absence of a development cycle that would normally refresh or expand the housing stock over time.

Turnover in the established housing stock is similarly limited. Residential dwelling sales occur at very low volumes, with only 37 sales recorded in the 12 months to September 2025. While this level of activity is not unusual in very remote locations, it confirms that dwelling stock changes hands infrequently, limiting opportunities for households to move within the local market or for housing to adjust to changing household needs.

Private rental market activity further reinforces the conclusion that turnover is minimal. Rental bond lodgement data show extremely low levels of rental transactions, with only a small number of lodgements recorded across all dwelling types over a 12-month period. This indicates that the rental market operates at very low volumes, rather than cycling dwellings through regular tenant turnover. In practical terms, available rental dwellings are typically absorbed quickly and do not re-enter the market in a predictable way.

The combined effect of low construction activity, limited sales turnover and minimal rental movement is that the existing housing stock functions as a largely static pool of dwellings. In this context, even modest changes in demand, such as household formation, ageing in place, service-based workforce turnover or changes in public housing availability, cannot be readily absorbed. Pressure therefore emerges not because the total number of dwellings is insufficient, but because the system lacks the flexibility and turnover required to reallocate dwellings efficiently.

This lack of responsiveness reinforces earlier findings that housing pressure in Paroo Shire is structural rather than cyclical. With limited new supply and low turnover within the existing stock, housing outcomes are shaped primarily by how well the current dwelling mix aligns with local needs and how effectively planning controls enable adaptation, renewal and incremental infill within established townships.

2.5 HOUSING GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The preceding analysis demonstrates that housing pressure in Paroo Shire do not arise from land scarcity or inappropriate settlement patterns. Instead, housing outcomes are shaped by the interaction of a structurally thin housing market, a high reliance on non-market housing, a limited private rental sector, and the feasibility constraints associated with a very remote delivery environment.

In this context, the key housing gaps affecting Paroo Shire are structural rather than cyclical and are most evident at the level of dwelling type, tenure and delivery pathway rather than total dwelling numbers.

2.5.1 KEY HOUSING GAPS

The Housing Study identifies the following priority housing gaps:

- **Mismatch between dwelling stock and household needs**

The existing housing stock is dominated by detached three-bedroom dwellings on large lots, while demand is concentrated among smaller households, older residents, single-parent families and service-based workers. There is a limited supply of smaller, adaptable and lower-maintenance dwellings capable of meeting these needs.
- **Persistent reliance on non-market housing**

Social and community housing functions as a core component of the local housing system rather than a residual safety net. Housing Register evidence confirms sustained unmet demand from households in very high need, with limited capacity for the private market to absorb this demand.
- **Thin and inflexible private rental market**

The private rental sector operates at extremely low volumes, with minimal turnover and limited choice. Housing pressure is therefore experienced primarily as availability and suitability stress, rather than affordability stress in the conventional sense.
- **Constraints on feasible new supply**

Although sufficient zoned and serviced land exists, housing delivery is constrained by lot configuration, construction costs, logistics, limited economies of scale and sensitivity to time and regulatory certainty. Subdivision-led or speculative development models are unlikely to be viable under prevailing conditions.
- **Limited capacity to redirect demand**

Given settlement structure, servicing constraints and land tenure patterns, particularly in Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah, housing demand cannot readily be displaced to alternative locations if delivery within existing townships is constrained.

2.5.2 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN EXISTING TOWNSHIPS

Notwithstanding these gaps, the study identifies a series of realistic housing opportunities that can improve outcomes over time without altering settlement structure or expanding township boundaries.

- **Incremental infill on existing serviced land**

Vacant and under-utilised residential and Township-zoned land within existing townships provides ongoing opportunity for low-volume infill, replacement housing and incremental renewal where approval pathways are clear and proportionate. Additionally, opportunities for modest increases in dwelling yield through dual occupancies and small-scale multiple dwellings on appropriately sized lots represent a realistic pathway to improving housing diversity. Realising this potential depends on planning settings that support these forms through proportionate, code-based assessment pathways rather than escalation to impact assessment.
- **Secondary dwellings and adaptable housing forms**

Large lot sizes and low-density development patterns create inherent capacity for secondary dwellings and adaptable housing responses. These forms are particularly well suited to ageing-in-place, family-based living arrangements and modest workforce accommodation where planning controls enable their take-up.
- **Renewal of public and non-market housing assets**

A significant proportion of ageing Council- and State-owned housing stock is located on well-serviced and strategically positioned land within Cunnamulla. Targeted renewal and reconfiguration of these assets represents one of the most viable pathways to delivering more suitable and efficient housing outcomes over time.
- **Modular and prefabricated housing delivery**

Contemporary modular construction aligns well with the remote delivery environment, offering potential reductions in cost, build time and delivery risk where planning frameworks support permanent outcomes.

- **Adaptive reuse and mixed-use housing outcomes**

Township and centre areas contain under-utilised buildings and land that may support modest residential reuse or shop-top housing, contributing to housing diversity and local workforce needs without changing settlement patterns.

2.5.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING RESPONSES

Taken together, the identified housing gaps and opportunities confirm that improved housing outcomes in Paroo Shire will not be achieved through growth-led supply responses or land release alone. Instead, effective responses lie in:

- enabling feasible, low-risk infill and replacement housing on existing lots
- supporting renewal of ageing Council- and State-owned housing stock in appropriate locations
- ensuring planning frameworks do not introduce disproportionate regulatory barriers to incremental housing delivery
- maintaining clarity around the role of non-market housing as core infrastructure within a very remote housing system.

The implications of these findings are examined in Chapter 3, which reviews how the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 operates in practice and identifies targeted opportunities to better align assessment pathways, development controls and regulatory effort with the realities of housing delivery in a stable, very remote context.

PART B – PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

Part B – Planning Scheme Review translates the evidence and findings of the Housing Study in Part A into a focused review of how the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 operates in practice to support housing delivery. While Part A establishes a robust, place-based understanding of housing need, supply, market conditions and delivery constraints, Part B examines whether the current planning framework effectively enables the types of housing outcomes that are realistically achievable in a stable, very remote local government area.

Rather than revisiting strategic settlement directions or land supply—which the Housing Study confirms are generally appropriate—this part of the report concentrates on the operational performance of the planning scheme. It assesses how zoning, tables of assessment, overlays, development codes and definitions interact in practice, and whether these mechanisms support or inadvertently constrain feasible, low-impact and locally appropriate housing responses identified in Part A.

Part B therefore functions as an applied and outcome-focused companion to the Housing Study. It identifies specific points where assessment escalation, regulatory duplication or lack of clarity disproportionately affect housing delivery in a low-volume, high-cost context, and sets out targeted, proportionate planning scheme reform directions. Together, Parts A and B form an integrated evidence-to-implementation framework, ensuring that recommended planning responses are grounded in local housing realities and focused on improving feasibility, certainty and delivery within existing townships.

CHAPTER 3 – LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CONTEXT

This chapter outlines the statutory and policy framework governing land-use planning and building regulation in Queensland, with a particular focus on the separation of planning and building functions. It provides the legislative context necessary to understand how the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 operates as a categorising and assessment instrument and identifies the constraints and opportunities this framework presents for housing delivery in a remote local government context.

3.1 QUEENSLAND'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

3.1.1 PLANNING ACT 2016 – STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

The *Planning Act 2016* establishes Queensland's land-use planning and development assessment framework. It:

- authorises local governments to prepare planning schemes
- establishes the categories of development (accepted, code and impact assessable)
- requires planning schemes to operate consistently with State legislation and statutory planning instruments.

Under the Act, planning schemes are categorising and assessment instruments. They determine whether planning approval is required for development and, where approval is required, the benchmarks against which development is assessed. The Act does not authorise local planning schemes to regulate building construction except where expressly permitted by other legislation.

3.1.2 PLANNING REGULATION 2017 – ZONES, DEFINITIONS AND ASSESSMENT RULES

The Planning Regulation 2017 supports the *Planning Act 2016* by prescribing:

- allowable zone types under Schedule 2
- use definitions and administrative terms
- limits on what development may or may not be made assessable, and
- circumstances where local categorising instruments cannot impose additional assessment requirements.

The Regulation is particularly relevant to residential and accommodation uses across the shire because it constrains the extent to which planning schemes can escalate assessment for development that is otherwise accepted or low-risk under State law.

Land within Cunnamulla is classified into allowable zones:

- Residential zones: General residential zone
- Centre zones: Centre zone
- Recreation zones: Recreation and open space zone
- Industry zones: Industry zone
- Other zones: Rural zone, Rural residential zone and Township zone.

For towns outside Cunnamulla, the Schedule 2 recognised Township zone under the Planning Regulation 2017 is used. While it may accommodate residential uses, it is not a residential zone by default. The application of State-regulated categorisation mechanisms depends on whether the Township zone, or a precinct within it, is of a substantially similar type to a listed Schedule 2 residential zone for the purposes of the Planning Regulation 2017. In Paroo Shire, where the Township zone operates as a mixed-use zone without residential-only precincting, residential-specific State categorisation mechanisms do not automatically apply.

This context is important for understanding why some residential-specific State categorisation mechanisms do not automatically apply and must be expressly provided for through the planning scheme if intended.

3.2 STATE PLANNING POLICY AND REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT

3.2.1 STATE PLANNING POLICY

The State Planning Policy (SPP) expresses State interests that must be appropriately integrated into local planning schemes, including interests relating to:

- housing supply, choice and affordability
- liveable communities
- natural hazard risk and resilience
- infrastructure integration
- regional economic development.

While these interests apply statewide, their local implementation must be proportionate to the settlement context. In remote, low-growth shires such as Paroo, the SPP supports a focus on:

- maintaining housing suitability and resilience within existing townships
- enabling diversification of housing types where feasible
- managing natural hazards through risk-appropriate, performance-based responses rather than blanket development constraints.

3.2.2 REGIONAL PLAN

The Central West Regional Plan 2009 provides the statutory regional planning framework for Paroo Shire. It emphasises:

- consolidation of development in established townships;
- protection of rural and grazing land
- maintenance of resilient, serviceable communities.

The Housing Study confirms that the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme already reflects these strategic directions. The recommended amendments do not alter the Regional Plan response but seek to improve how the planning framework operates in practice for housing delivery.

3.2.3 LOCAL HOUSING ACTION PLAN

Paroo Shire Council adopted its LHAP in March 2023, developed jointly with the Queensland Government and the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC) to respond to immediate, emerging and long-term housing challenges across the Shire. The LHAP provides a coordinated framework for housing responses and is intended to complement – not duplicate – existing Council actions and the Queensland Housing Strategy.

The LHAP identifies locally specific housing challenges, including:

- high construction costs
- an ageing and undersupplied housing stock
- zero rental availability
- heavy reliance on Council-delivered housing
- significant workforce-based demand
- low market viability
- emerging needs among older residents.

Key actions relevant to this study include:

- encouraging secondary dwellings, small dwellings and modular on existing blocks
- reviewing planning scheme density and housing types
- supporting mixed use development options
- repurposing unused commercial space

- encouraging infill development within serviced town areas.

The findings of the LHAP are embedded throughout this Housing Study and directly inform the planning scheme amendment recommendations.

3.3 BUILDING REGULATION AND THE QUEENSLAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

3.3.1 BUILDING ACT 1975 AND BUILDING REGULATION

The *Building Act 1975* and associated Building Regulation 2021 establish a separate statutory system governing how buildings are designed and constructed in Queensland. This system is administered through building approval and certification processes and applies independently of whether a planning approval is required.

Critically, the *Building Act 1975* limits the matters that may be regulated by local planning schemes in relation to building work. Planning schemes may regulate building matters only where expressly permitted, primarily through:

- designation of hazard areas (e.g. flood or bushfire)
- limited siting and amenity variations for certain classes of buildings.

Outside these limited circumstances, planning schemes cannot regulate building construction standards.

3.3.2 QUEENSLAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODE

The Queensland Development Code (QDC), made under the *Building Act 1975*, applies mandatory, statewide building standards. It incorporates and supplements the National Construction Code (NCC).

Together, the QDC and NCC regulate:

- structural and fire safety
- siting, setbacks and site cover for Class 1 and Class 10 buildings
- minimum flood and bushfire construction standards
- energy efficiency and amenity
- building performance and resilience outcomes.

These requirements apply regardless of whether development is accepted or assessable under a planning scheme. Building certifiers are responsible for ensuring compliance.

Local planning schemes cannot regulate contrary to, or duplicate, these requirements. Where construction matters are restated in planning scheme codes, they risk duplicating the building approval process and creating unnecessary assessment escalation without improving safety or amenity outcomes.

3.4 SEPARATION OF PLANNING AND BUILDING FUNCTIONS

Queensland's statutory framework deliberately separates planning and building roles:

- Planning schemes determine where development may occur and when planning approval is required, focusing on land-use impacts, location, and suitability
- Building regulation governs how buildings are designed and constructed, through uniform technical standards applied statewide.

Accepted development does not remove regulatory oversight. Instead, it reflects a policy position that low-risk, anticipated development should proceed directly to building certification, without an intermediate planning approval step.

This separation is particularly important in remote and low-volume development environments. Unnecessary overlap between planning and building regulation can introduce disproportionate cost, delay and uncertainty, even where development meets all safety and performance standards.

3.5 STATE HOUSING REFORM CONTEXT

3.5.1 HOUSING AS A WHOLE-OF-SYSTEM PRIORITY IN QUEENSLAND

In recent years, housing has emerged as a whole-of-system policy priority across Queensland. Housing availability and suitability are now recognised as foundational to economic resilience, social wellbeing and workforce supply, particularly in regional and remote areas where essential services rely on the ability to attract and retain staff. In this context, housing is no longer treated solely as a market or land-supply issue, nor as a narrow planning issue. Instead, it is approached as an enabling system that spans land-use planning, building regulation, infrastructure delivery, funding mechanisms and service provision.

This system-wide framing is especially relevant in remote local government areas such as Paroo Shire, where housing outcomes are shaped by feasibility, delivery risk and the cumulative effect of regulatory processes on very low-volume development.

3.5.2 RECOGNITION OF PLANNING REGULATION AS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR

Within this broader policy setting, planning regulation is increasingly acknowledged as one contributing factor to housing constraints in some locations. While planning controls are not the sole determinant of housing outcomes, State reviews and reform directions have identified that:

- planning schemes can create measurable friction where low-risk, anticipated housing forms are subject to disproportionate assessment triggers
- the compounding effect of multiple regulatory layers can materially affect feasibility in small or fragile housing markets.

Importantly, this recognition does not imply a general weakening of planning controls. Rather, it reflects a policy position that planning regulation should focus on genuine land-use impacts and avoid duplicating matters already regulated through the building and certification system or escalating assessment in circumstances where risk can be effectively managed through established standards.

3.5.3 EXPECTATIONS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Against this backdrop, local governments are increasingly expected to act where planning scheme amendments can assist housing delivery, particularly by removing unnecessary friction for low-risk development. This expectation is reflected in:

- targeted State funding programs to support planning scheme updates and supply-enabling amendments
- policy guidance that emphasises focused, operational amendments rather than wholesale rezoning or strategic expansion.

The emphasis of this approach is not on mandating housing growth outcomes, particularly in stable or low-growth shires, but on ensuring that planning schemes operate efficiently and proportionately in practice. This includes ensuring that accepted and code-assessable pathways are available where intended, and that assessment effort is directed toward development that presents genuine planning impacts.

3.5.4 TARGETED REGULATORY REFORM TO UNLOCK HOUSING SUPPLY

Recent and proposed State-level reforms adopt a targeted approach to unlocking housing supply, rather than broad or uniform deregulation. Key areas of focus include:

- enabling the use of existing land holdings (including land held by churches, charities and community organisations) for community and affordable housing

- improving clarity and flexibility for secondary dwellings, rooming accommodation and other small-scale housing forms
- modernising zone purposes, definitions and assessment categories to better support housing diversity
- facilitating delivery models suited to contemporary housing needs, construction methods and market conditions.

These reforms are particularly relevant to regional and remote contexts, where housing diversification is most likely to occur through incremental infill, secondary dwellings, adaptive reuse or modular construction, rather than through large-scale development or greenfield expansion.

3.5.5 EMPHASIS ON FASTER PATHWAYS FOR LOW-RISK HOUSING AND SEPARATION OF ROLES

A consistent theme across State housing reform is the prioritisation of faster, clearer pathways for low-risk housing, coupled with a stronger separation between planning and building regulation.

Key principles underpinning this direction include:

- reducing unnecessary assessment triggers for development that is anticipated and low impact
- ensuring planning assessment focuses on land-use suitability, location and amenity impacts
- relying on the building approval and certification system to regulate detailed construction standards, resilience outcomes and technical compliance.

The anticipated adoption of the Queensland Housing Code forms part of this broader reform agenda, reinforcing the role of State-mandated building standards in managing siting, amenity and resilience outcomes for certain classes of residential development. Consistent with the Building Act 1975, local planning schemes are not intended to duplicate or restate these requirements, nor to escalate planning assessment solely to confirm compliance with building standards that apply regardless of planning approval.

3.6 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PAROO SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

The Housing Study for Paroo Shire and the Planning Scheme Review have been undertaken within this evolving policy environment. The recommended amendments do not seek to introduce settlement-expanding housing outcomes or to weaken safety, hazard resilience or amenity protections. Rather, they respond to State reform principles by:

- focusing on the operation of the planning scheme as a categorising and assessment instrument
- removing or refining provisions that unnecessarily escalate low-risk housing to higher levels of assessment
- clarifying assessment pathways for housing types that are already anticipated or enabled under State legislation
- avoiding duplication of matters regulated through the QDC and NCC.

In a very remote, low-volume housing market such as Paroo Shire, alignment with these principles is particularly important. Small changes in approval pathways, timeframes or interpretive risk can determine whether modest housing proposals proceed at all. By aligning local planning controls with contemporary State housing reform directions, the planning scheme can better support feasible, incremental housing delivery while remaining consistent with statutory roles, responsibilities and risk management objectives.

Accordingly, in reviewing the operation of the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 with respect to housing delivery and efficiency, the legislative context above also has several key implications:

- Planning controls should focus on categorisation and assessment pathways, not detailed construction requirements
- Low-risk housing forms on serviced land should not be escalated to planning assessment solely because building compliance must be demonstrated

- Flood and bushfire planning provisions should identify hazard exposure and assessment triggers, while leaving construction responses to the QDC and building certification system
- Duplicated or outdated building provisions within development codes should be rationalised to improve clarity and legal certainty.

The targeted amendments recommended in Chapter 6 are grounded in this statutory and policy context. They do not alter the strategic intent of the planning scheme or weaken safety, resilience or amenity protections. Instead, they:

- realign assessment pathways with State-regulated development categories
- reduce unnecessary MCU triggers for anticipated housing
- clarify the role of hazard mapping and terminology
- remove duplication of matters already governed by State building legislation.

Collectively, these changes support a clearer, more efficient and legally robust planning framework – one that is better suited to Paroo Shire’s remote context and housing delivery environment, while remaining fully aligned with Queensland’s planning and building system.

CHAPTER 4 – OPERATION OF THE CURRENT PLANNING SCHEME

This chapter reviews how the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 operates in practice for housing and accommodation uses. It assesses the interaction between zoning, assessment pathways, overlays and development codes, and identifies where otherwise anticipated housing outcomes are escalated to higher levels of assessment. The analysis focuses on operational performance rather than strategic intent, highlighting where regulatory proportionality and role clarity influence housing feasibility and delivery.

4.1 STRATEGIC HOUSING INTENT

The Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 establishes a zoning framework that, in strategic terms, supports the consolidation of housing within existing serviced townships and discourages dispersed residential development in rural areas. This approach is consistent with State planning policy, regional planning directions and long-standing settlement patterns within the Shire.

In Cunnamulla, the scheme applies a multi-zone structure that accommodates housing across several zones with different roles and expectations. The General residential zone accommodates the majority of detached housing and is intended to support low-density residential living on serviced land. The Centre zone provides for mixed-use outcomes, including residential uses in conjunction with commercial and community activity, while the Rural residential zone supports low-density housing on larger lots at the urban edge. Smaller areas of Township-zoned land are also present in Cunnamulla, performing a transitional or mixed-use function.

Table 4.1: Strategic Intent for Housing by Zone

Zone	Intended Role	Anticipated Housing Forms
General residential	Primary residential areas	Dwelling houses, secondary dwellings, attached dwellings on larger lots
Township	Mixed-use small towns	Dwelling houses, secondary dwellings, compatible attached accommodation
Centre	Mixed-use core	Mixed use and attached housing
Rural residential	Low-density edge housing	Single dwellings on large lots
Rural	Agricultural land	Rural-related housing and farm-stay accommodation only

In the smaller settlements of Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah, a simplified framework applies. The Township zone performs a deliberately mixed-use role, accommodating residential, commercial, community, tourism and limited industrial activities within the same zone, with surrounding Rural-zoned land limiting residential development to rural-related housing. This structure reflects the small size of these settlements, their multifunctional character, and the need for flexibility in low-volume development environments.

Across the scheme, the zone intents generally anticipate low-density, detached housing as the predominant residential form, supported by secondary dwellings and, in more limited circumstances, dual occupancies, dwelling units and other accommodation types. More intensive housing forms such as retirement living or care facilities are generally subject to higher levels of assessment, reflecting traditional planning assumptions about amenity, infrastructure capacity and character.

On its face, the planning scheme's strategic framework and zone intents therefore provide a sound basis for housing within the existing townships of Paroo Shire. The extent to which this intent is realised in practice depends on how housing uses are categorised and assessed through the tables of assessment, and how overlays and development codes interact with those provisions.

4.2 ASSESSMENT PATHWAYS FOR HOUSING USES IN PRACTICE

The Paroo Shire Planning Scheme applies a graduated assessment framework intended to align the level of assessment with the scale, intensity and potential impacts of development. In principle, standard residential development within serviced residential and township areas is anticipated to proceed with lower levels of assessment, while larger or more complex accommodation types attract greater scrutiny.

At a high level, the scheme's Tables of Assessment reflect this intent. Detached dwelling houses and secondary dwellings are identified as the most basic and anticipated housing forms, with accepted or code-assessable pathways available in residential and township zones. Small-scale housing intensification, such as dual occupancies and multiple dwellings, is generally intended to be subject to code assessment where impacts can be managed through development standards, with impact assessment reserved for larger-scale or higher-intensity proposals.

Table 4.2 summarises the assessment pathways that would reasonably be expected based on zone intent and primary housing provisions of the planning scheme, before consideration of overlays and secondary triggers.

Table 4.2: Summary of Planning Scheme Intent for Housing Type

Housing Type	General Residential	Township	Centre
Dwelling house	Accepted	Accepted	Not intended
Secondary dwelling	Accepted	Accepted	Not intended
Dual occupancy	Code	Code	Code
Multiple dwellings	Code / Impact	Code / Impact	Code
Rooming accommodation	Accepted / Code	Code / Impact	Code / Impact
Dwelling unit	Impact	Accepted / Code	Accepted / Code
Retirement/ care	Code / Impact	Code / Impact	Impact

In practice, however, the category of assessment applied to housing is often determined less by the housing use itself and more by the interaction between zoning, overlay mapping, lot size triggers and the availability or absence of clearly defined use terms. As a result, housing forms that are strategically anticipated within a zone may still default to code or impact assessment, even where their scale and impacts are limited and consistent with surrounding development.

Across the General residential zone in Cunnamulla and the Township zones in all settlements, detached dwelling houses and secondary dwellings may proceed as accepted development only where land is not affected by flood or bushfire overlays. Where overlay mapping applies, otherwise standard residential development is escalated to code assessment. This escalation occurs automatically at the categorisation stage and increases approval timeframes, documentation requirements and approval risk, even for low-impact housing on serviced lots.

More diverse housing forms – including dual occupancies, multiple dwellings, rooming accommodation, community residences and residential care – are frequently subject to code or impact assessment across most zones, often irrespective of scale or local context. Lot size thresholds play a significant role in this escalation. Development on lots below 1,000m² commonly defaults to impact assessment, even where sites are fully serviced and located within established residential areas. Evidence and stakeholder feedback indicate that these triggers may not align with feasible or appropriate development outcomes on serviced residential lots, particularly where impacts can be effectively managed through code-based provisions.

In addition, some housing and accommodation types are not clearly or consistently defined within the Tables of Assessment. Where a proposed use is omitted or ambiguously categorised, it may default to a higher level of assessment than intended, introducing interpretive risk for applicants and uncertainty in assessment outcomes.

In a very remote and low-volume housing market such as Paroo Shire, these assessment outcomes have practical consequences. Even modest escalation in assessment level can materially affect feasibility, particularly for incremental infill housing, secondary dwellings and replacement housing that relies on streamlined approval pathways to proceed.

Taken together, the interaction of zone provisions, overlay mapping, lot size thresholds and use-term categorisation means that a substantial proportion of otherwise anticipated housing becomes assessable development. This occurs even in circumstances where site-specific risks could be managed through performance-based design and compliance with established building standards.

Table 4.3 illustrates how those intended pathways are frequently altered in practice once overlay mapping, lot size thresholds and categorisation rules are applied.

Table 4.3: Summary of Actual Assessment Outcomes for Common Housing and Accommodation Uses

Housing / Accommodation Type	General Residential	Township	Centre	Industry / Rural
Dwelling house / Secondary dwelling	● ☑	● ☑	◆ Not intended	◆ Not intended
Dual occupancy	☑ ≥1000m ² ◆ <1000m ²	☑ ≥1000m ² ◆ <1000m ²	☑	◆
Multiple dwellings (small scale)	☑ ≥1000m ² ◆ <1000m ²	☑ ≥1000m ² ◆ <1000m ²	☑	◆
Community residence (small scale)	● ◆	◆	◆	◆
Rooming accommodation	● ◆	◆	◆	◆
Residential care / Retirement	◆	◆	◆	◆
Caretaker accommodation	☑	☑	☑	Mixed
Employee / Workforce accommodation	◆	◆	◆	◆

Legend

- = Accepted development / low-risk housing and assessment pathway
 - ☑ = Code assessable / manageable risk
 - ◆ = Impact assessable / high regulatory burden for higher impacts
- Mixed labels show the level of escalation that can occur

This mismatch between strategic intent and operational outcomes is a recurring theme across the planning scheme. It does not arise from an absence of support for housing in principle, but from the cumulative effect of multiple regulatory triggers that elevate assessment before the low-impact nature of development can be demonstrated. The implications of these assessment pathways for housing delivery are explored further in Sections 3.3 to 3.7.

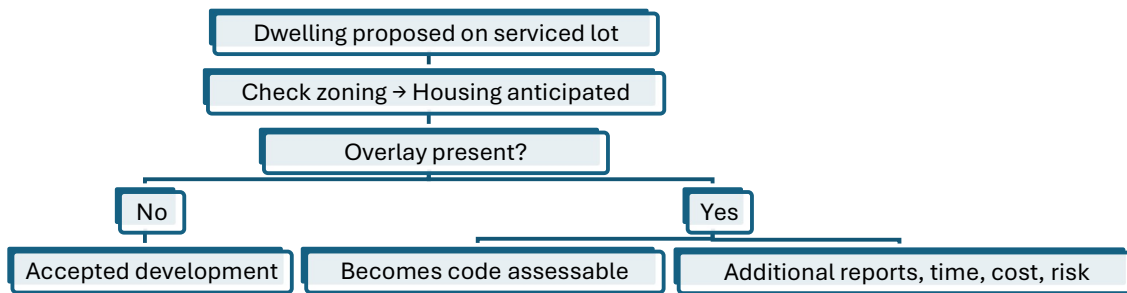
4.3 NATURAL HAZARD AND ASSESSMENT ESCALATION

Flood and bushfire hazard overlays apply to portions of all Paroo Shire townships. These overlays perform an important strategic function by identifying areas subject to natural hazard exposure and signalling the need for appropriate design and construction responses. However, their operation within the planning scheme has a significant influence on how housing development is categorised and assessed in practice.

Under the current planning scheme, the presence of flood or bushfire overlay mapping commonly escalates the category of assessment for residential development. Standard, low-impact housing forms – including

dwelling houses and secondary dwellings on serviced residential lots – that would otherwise be accepted development become code assessable solely as a result of overlay application. This escalation occurs at the categorisation stage, before any site-specific design response to hazard risk can be demonstrated.

Figure 4.4: Determining Level of Assessment for Dwelling Houses



Once escalated, development is assessed against a range of planning scheme provisions, including the relevant zone code, the natural hazard overlay codes and the General Development Code. In flood- and bushfire-affected areas, this assessment typically engages performance outcomes relating to matters such as minimum floor levels, building siting, building form, material resilience and hazard response (for example, performance outcomes PO19–PO24 of the General Development Code). These provisions focus on ensuring that buildings are appropriately designed to respond to identified hazard risks.

Irrespective of whether a planning approval is required, the same development is subsequently subject to the building approval and certification process. At this stage, compliance with the QDC and the NCC is mandatory, including requirements for flood-resilient construction, bushfire construction standards, minimum habitable floor levels and other hazard-related building outcomes.

In practice, this means that hazard-related outcomes for housing development are addressed sequentially across multiple regulatory stages. Planning assessment escalated by overlay mapping considers hazard response through planning scheme codes, while building approval and certification later requires compliance with State-mandated construction standards addressing the same risk profile. The planning scheme does not replace or remove the need for building regulation, and building certification applies regardless of the category of planning assessment.

In a remote and low-volume housing market such as Paroo Shire, this early escalation in assessment can have disproportionate effects on feasibility. Additional approval steps, documentation requirements, timeframes and interpretive risk are introduced before hazard-responsive design outcomes can be demonstrated through established building standards. The cumulative effect is that a significant proportion of serviced township land is subject to higher regulatory burden for otherwise low-risk, anticipated residential development, reducing the practical reach of accepted development pathways and constraining incremental housing delivery.

Flood and bushfire overlays apply to parts of all townships within Paroo Shire. While these overlays serve an important role in identifying natural hazard exposure, their operation within the planning scheme has a significant influence on housing assessment pathways.




In several locations, otherwise standard residential development becomes code or impact assessable solely due to the presence of overlay mapping, regardless of whether flood or bushfire risk can be effectively managed through compliance with the QDC or other performance-based measures. This has the effect of escalating regulatory requirements at an early stage in the assessment process.


In a remote and low-volume development environment, this escalation can have disproportionate impacts on housing feasibility, particularly for incremental housing types such as secondary dwellings, modular housing or small-scale redevelopment.

Table 4.4 consolidates the number and extent of sites where anticipated housing, specifically dwelling houses, would be subject to elevated assessment solely because of hazard mapping. The table illustrates that:

- A substantial share of township-serviced land in Eulo is captured by flood and bushfire overlays.
- Parts of Cunnamulla with subdivision and infill potential is captured by bushfire hazard considerations, with a precinct closer to the river requiring flood assessments.
- Hazards escalate otherwise low-risk residential development from accepted development (not requiring planning approval) to code assessment before performance-based design solutions can be considered.
- The accepted-development pathway is therefore available on only a minority of sites, despite strong strategic intent to support infill and incremental housing delivery on existing lots.

Table 4.4: Sites where new housing would require planning approval

Locality	Map	Trigger	# of Sites/ Area
CUNNAMULLA			
Sites between Alice Street, Garden Street, Bedford Street and the Warrego River		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bushfire hazard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood hazard	10-15 Approximately 12 acres (50,000m ²)
Land south of Bedford Street between Garden Street and Watson Street		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bushfire hazard <input type="checkbox"/> Flood hazard	20 Approximately 20 acres (80,000m ²)
Land along Ivan Street around Florence Street		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bushfire hazard <input type="checkbox"/> Flood hazard	10-15 Approximately 3 acres (13,000m ²)

Locality	Map	Trigger	# of Sites/ Area
EULO			
Sites between Eulo Street and the levee		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bushfire hazard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood hazard	35 Approximately 40 acres (165,000m ²)
TOTAL	75-85 sites, over 75 acres of land		

Hazard areas do not trigger higher levels of assessment for other housing forms. Many attached dwelling forms are code assessable in the General residential zone and the Township zone when the lot is $\geq 1,000\text{m}^2$ in area, and others impact assessable, where the planning framework required performance-based design responses to the constraints.

4.4 SECONDARY DWELLINGS AND INFILL HOUSING TYPES

Secondary dwellings and other small-scale infill housing types represent one of the most practical and feasible opportunities for housing diversification within Paroo Shire’s existing townships. Large residential and Township-zoned lots, stable population levels and an incremental development environment mean that modest increases in dwelling yield delivered through additional dwellings on existing serviced land are more realistic than subdivision-led or project-based housing delivery.

Under the Planning Regulation 2017, secondary dwellings form part of a dwelling house and, in some circumstances, may constitute accepted development. In principle, this State-based framework is intended to facilitate low-risk residential infill on appropriately sized and serviced lots.

In practice, however, secondary dwellings sit in an uncertain position within the planning framework. The interaction between zone provisions, overlay mapping, development codes and local interpretation means that proposals for secondary dwellings are not always treated as routine or anticipated housing outcomes. Where flood or bushfire overlays apply, otherwise straightforward secondary dwellings are escalated from accepted development to code assessment, increasing approval complexity and cost for development that is generally low-impact and consistent with surrounding residential character.

In addition, the planning scheme provides limited guidance on how secondary dwellings are expected to function in township contexts. Matters such as scale, separation, servicing and amenity are addressed across multiple codes, but without a clear and consolidated set of benchmarks specific to secondary dwellings. This can result in uncertainty for applicants and assessors as to whether proposals are supported in principle and can create the perception that secondary dwellings are discretionary or exceptional rather than part of the normal residential fabric.

Other infill housing types including small attached dwellings, adaptable housing and modest clustered outcomes face similar challenges. While enabled in principle within residential, centre and township zones, these forms are often subject to assessment escalation triggered by lot size thresholds, use-term categorisation or overlays, even where their scale and impacts are limited. In a low-volume market, these layers of uncertainty and escalation can be sufficient to deter development altogether.

In a very remote housing market such as Paroo Shire, where housing delivery is highly sensitive to time, cost and approval certainty, the cumulative effect of these assessment pathways constrains the take-up of secondary dwellings and other incremental infill housing forms. This constrains housing diversity and adaptability within existing townships, despite strong alignment between these housing types and identified local needs.

The implications of the current treatment of secondary dwellings and infill housing types for assessment pathways, feasibility and housing delivery are examined further in Chapters 3 and 4.

4.5 TINY HOMES AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS

An observable interest in “tiny homes” in Paroo Shire is reflective of the broader trends of rising construction costs, labour constraints and supply chain limitations which are affecting the feasibility of conventional housing. Smaller and prefabricated dwellings are increasingly viewed as flexible, lower-cost options for single workers, smaller households and transitional or workforce-related demand. In a context where housing pressure is driven by feasibility and delivery conditions rather than land supply, these forms of housing are often perceived as a practical response within existing townships.

At the same time, enquiries regarding tiny homes highlight a recurring source of uncertainty within the planning system: the distinction between the physical form of a structure and the land-use outcomes it creates. This section clarifies the application of the planning scheme to small and movable dwellings and confirms that, while such forms are not prohibited, they are regulated through standard land-use controls relating to the number, arrangement and servicing of dwellings. The role of the planning scheme is therefore to manage land-use outcomes, rather than to regulate construction types.

A “tiny home” is not a defined planning term. In practice, it can be used to refer to a range of small structures, including prefabricated or relocatable dwellings or structures on wheels similar to caravans. For planning purposes, the determining factor is use. Where a structure is used for ongoing habitation, it is treated as a dwelling or accommodation use regardless of size, mobility or construction method. This reflects the statutory separation between planning, which regulates land use and the number of dwellings on a site, and building regulation, which governs construction standards.

Under the planning scheme, tiny homes do not constitute a separate development category. While distinctions may arise between structures fixed to land and those on wheels or serviced and un-serviced dwellings, these do not alter the fundamental planning position. Where a structure is used for ongoing habitation, it is treated as a dwelling or accommodation use, and is regulated accordingly. Placement of a single tiny home used for residential purposes on a lot will generally be treated as a dwelling house use, or as part of a dwelling house use where it functions as a secondary dwelling (subordinate in size to the primary dwelling). Where more than one tiny home is proposed and each provides independent accommodation, the development will typically constitute a dual occupancy (two dwellings) or a multiple dwelling (three or more). These uses are subject to development assessment depending on zoning, lot size and applicable overlays. The physical characteristics of the structure do not alter this outcome.

This distinction is directly relevant to enquiries regarding the placement of multiple tiny homes on a single lot. While a single dwelling, or a dwelling with one secondary dwelling, is generally anticipated, two independent tiny homes will constitute a dual occupancy, and three or more a multiple dwelling. These outcomes are not accepted development and require planning approval. The relevant consideration is not the size of the structures, but the creation of a number of dwellings on a single allotment.

The planning scheme regulates these outcomes through standard land-use controls rather than specific provisions for small or movable structures. Key considerations include the number of dwellings per lot, applicable assessment pathways, servicing, access and amenity. Constraints arise from how development functions on the land, rather than from the form or mobility of buildings. This is consistent with the broader finding that housing outcomes in Paroo Shire are shaped by feasibility and the operation of planning controls rather than land supply.

This issue also intersects with the role of secondary dwellings, which provide a practical form of incremental infill within both General residential and Township zone areas. However, where multiple small structures are introduced without appropriate subordination, separation or servicing, they may function as multiple dwellings and trigger higher levels of assessment. These outcomes are managed through controls on scale, siting and spatial relationship, rather than through restrictions on dwelling form.

Across Queensland and comparable regional and remote areas, tiny homes are not regulated as a distinct planning use. Councils generally apply consistent principles: structures used for habitation are treated as dwellings or accommodation, caravans and movable dwellings are regulated separately where relevant, and standard assessment pathways apply where multiple dwellings are proposed. In some cases, guidance material is used to support consistent interpretation rather than introducing new definitions.

In this context, tiny homes do not represent a gap in the planning scheme, but an issue of interpretation. No new land-use category is required. The scheme should continue to regulate outcomes on the land—specifically the number, arrangement and servicing of dwellings—while recognising that modular and prefabricated forms can contribute to normal residential development where appropriately managed.

In responding to enquiries, Council can apply a consistent position: a “tiny home” is not a defined planning term; approval requirements depend on how the structure is used; one dwelling may be permitted subject to the planning scheme; and more than one independent dwelling on a lot will generally require approval as a dual occupancy or multiple dwelling.

4.6 TREATMENT OF NON-MARKET AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

Social housing, Council-provided affordable housing and employee or workforce accommodation are not expressly differentiated from standard residential development in many parts of the planning scheme. As a result, the redevelopment or establishment of these housing types is often subject to the same density assumptions, assessment pathways and built-form expectations as private detached housing. Workforce accommodation in Paroo Shire in particular functions as a supporting component of the housing system, rather than a standalone land-use demand driver.

Given the important role of non-market housing and workforce accommodation in Paroo Shire’s housing system – and the need to renew ageing assets over time – the way these forms of housing are regulated has a material influence on housing delivery outcomes. In particular, assessment pathways and density controls do not always reflect the operational requirements, staging flexibility or feasibility constraints faced by public, affordable or employee housing providers.

4.7 CARBON FARMING AND PERMANENT PLANTATION TRANSITIONS

The Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 operates in a context of ongoing rural land-use change, including challenges particularly associated with carbon farming and permanent plantation activities. These activities are lawful and increasingly prevalent rural land uses within the Shire and are generally consistent with the overarching intent of the Rural zone to support land-based economic activity.

In recent years, however, large areas of rural land have transitioned from active pastoral use to carbon farming and permanent vegetation management regimes. In many cases, these transitions involve reduced on-property occupation, lower levels of day-to-day land management presence, and a shift away from traditional station-based housing and employment arrangements. While these changes do not necessarily increase the total population of the Shire, they can materially alter where people live and how housing demand is experienced.

Observed effects of this transition include reduced occupation of rural dwellings, potential increased reliance on township-based accommodation for land managers, contractors and service providers, and episodic or rotational workforce demand associated with monitoring, compliance and land management activities. In a very remote context, these dynamics reinforce the role of townships as the primary location for housing associated with service delivery and land-use management.

Under the current planning scheme, carbon farming and permanent plantation activities are generally regulated as rural land uses that are either accepted development or subject to limited development assessment. This reflects their consistency with Rural zone intent and avoids unnecessary regulation of lawful land management practices. Assessment is typically undertaken on a site-by-site basis, focused on the rural land itself.

However, the scheme provides limited mechanisms to recognise or respond to the cumulative settlement and housing implications of land-use transition occurring at scale. In particular, the current framework has limited capacity to consider reductions in on-property occupation over time, indirect effects on township housing demand and availability, or broader implications for service delivery and settlement patterns. As a result, large-scale transitions can occur without their collective impacts being readily visible within the planning system.

In a local government area with a small and thin housing market, cumulative changes in rural land use can have disproportionate effects. Where rural occupation declines and township housing becomes the default accommodation for workers and service providers, pressure is transferred to an already constrained housing system. These effects tend to emerge incrementally rather than through individual development proposals and are not easily addressed through existing assessment pathways.

The review therefore identifies a disconnect between land-use change occurring in rural areas and housing demand and service pressures experienced within townships. While the planning scheme appropriately supports carbon farming and permanent plantation as lawful rural land uses, its current operation does not clearly articulate how the broader settlement implications of such transitions are to be identified, monitored or managed. The implications of this finding for potential planning scheme amendments are considered in Chapter 4.

4.8 OTHER MISALIGNMENTS

Review of assessment pathways across zones identifies a number of additional misalignments between the housing and accommodation needs identified in Chapter 2 and how those uses are categorised and assessed under the current planning scheme.

A recurring issue is the high frequency of impact assessment for accommodation types that can be modest in scale and commonly required in small regional and remote towns, including community residences, retirement facilities, residential care and rooming accommodation. In many cases, these uses default to impact assessment regardless of scale, location or surrounding context. This approach reflects legacy planning assumptions rather than contemporary best practice for small towns that rely on flexible, lower-cost and socially oriented housing models.

Lot-size thresholds represent a further misalignment. In Cunnamulla, the 1,000m² trigger for dual occupancies and multiple dwellings can escalate development to impact assessment on otherwise serviced and well-located sites. Lot size threshold escalate proposals to the highest level of assessment despite likely having impacts that can be effectively managed through appropriately designed code provisions. These thresholds can have the effect of constraining modest housing diversity while not meaningfully enabling feasible subdivision or redevelopment outcomes, and is inconsistent with the need for proportionate assessment in a low-volume housing market.

Table 4.5: Comparison of Lot Sizes

Zone	Comparable regional and remote approaches	Paroo Shire Min. Lot Size	Level of Assessment	Hazard Assessment Escalation	Notes
Rural	20–40ha typical rural standard within proximity of towns, 100+ha away from towns	5,000ha	Code	Flood and bushfire overlays may restrict design	Large lots maintain agricultural use but limit rural living options
Rural residential	0.5–2ha common in regional areas	2ha	Code	Flood mapping common near towns	
General residential	600–800m ² typical	800m ²	Code	Flood/ bushfire hazards design only	
Industry	General industry: 1,000-2,000m ² , Heavy industry: 2,000-5,000m ²	1,000m ²	Code		
Township	Often range from 1,000m ² to 1ha	1,000m ²	Code	Moderate overlay effects	
Centre	No numeric minimum. Lot size is driven by design, built form, parking, access, and commercial feasibility	400m ²	Code	Minor impacts	

Community residence uses are impact assessable in almost all cases, which is inconsistent with State guidance promoting normalisation, integration and proportionate regulation of supported living models. This categorisation can create unnecessary regulatory burden for accommodation that functions more like standard residential use than intensive institutional development.

Tourist and short-term accommodation presents a similar issue. In a tourism-dependent Shire such as Paroo, small-scale visitor accommodation, particularly within township settings, forms an important part of the local economy and supports service viability. However, the planning scheme is comparatively restrictive in the way tourist and short-term accommodation is treated in Township and Centre zones. In practice, assessment pathways for these uses are often more onerous than those applied in comparable regional and remote local government planning schemes, even where development is modest in scale and compatible with surrounding mixed-use environments. This can limit the ability of townships to respond flexibly to visitor demand and seasonal workforce needs.

Across these use types, hazard overlays remain the single greatest driver of unintended assessment escalation, particularly in Cunnamulla and Eulo. As described in Section 3.3, overlay mapping frequently elevates otherwise anticipated development to code or impact assessment before site-specific risk mitigation measures can be demonstrated.

Taken together, these issues highlight structural misalignments in how housing and accommodation uses are categorised and assessed, rather than failures of strategic intent. Anticipated infill and accommodation forms—including dwelling houses, secondary dwellings and small-scale residential and visitor accommodation on serviced township land—are often subject to disproportionate assessment due to the cumulative interaction of hazard mapping, lot-size triggers and legacy use-term categorisation.

These misalignments affect feasibility, certainty and delivery timing in a very remote, low-volume development environment. The implications of these operational settings for housing and accommodation delivery are addressed in the concluding section of this chapter and inform the targeted reform levers set out in Chapter 4.

The review of planning scheme operation also identified a consistent theme in relation to industrial land. While land is zoned for industry, provisions relating to lot size, access, servicing and allowable ancillary uses (such as caretaker accommodation) can influence whether land is functionally available for industrial purposes.

In practice, industrial land supply constraints are more closely related to usability than to total zoned area. Limitations in site size, servicing capacity or flexibility of use may reduce the ability of local businesses to establish or expand operations, even where zoned land is present.

4.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING DELIVERY

Housing delivery constraints in the Shire are primarily operational rather than strategic. The planning scheme broadly supports consolidation of housing within existing townships and provides an appropriate zoning framework for a stable, remote settlement context. However, the way in which development is categorised and assessed in practice has a disproportionate influence on whether anticipated housing is delivered at all.

Across multiple housing and accommodation types, assessment pathways are frequently escalated through the cumulative interaction of hazard overlays, lot-size thresholds, use-term categorisation and legacy drafting assumptions. In many cases, otherwise modest, low-impact and zone-anticipated housing is subject to code or impact assessment before site-specific risks or impacts can be demonstrated and managed through performance-based design and established building standards.

In a very remote and low-volume housing market such as Paroo Shire, this early escalation has practical consequences. Increased approval timeframes, documentation requirements and interpretive uncertainty can materially affect feasibility for incremental infill housing, secondary dwellings, replacement housing, public and non-market housing renewal, workforce accommodation and small-scale visitor accommodation. Even where impacts are limited and consistent with surrounding development, the regulatory burden associated with assessment escalation may be sufficient to deter housing delivery altogether.

These outcomes do not reflect a lack of strategic intent within the planning scheme, nor a shortage of zoned or serviced land. Rather, they highlight the importance of ensuring that assessment pathways are proportionate to risk, scale and context, and that accepted and code-assessable development functions as intended for low-risk and anticipated housing forms within existing townships.

This investigation has found that improved housing outcomes in Paroo Shire can be influenced by refining how the planning scheme operates as a categorising and assessment instrument, rather than by altering settlement patterns, expanding residential land supply, or introducing new strategic directions. The implications of these operational findings inform the targeted reform levers set out in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 5 – PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW AND FINDINGS

This chapter translates the evidence from the Housing Study in Part A and the operational review into a targeted set of planning scheme reform findings. The focus is on improving how the planning scheme functions as a categorising and assessment instrument by realigning assessment pathways, clarifying regulatory roles and removing unnecessary duplication with State building and infrastructure regulation. The findings identify proportionate amendments capable of materially improving housing feasibility and certainty in a very remote, low-volume development environment.

5.1 ALIGNING HAZARD-RELATED ASSESSMENT WITH RISK AND REGULATION

5.1.1 PURPOSE

To ensure that standard, low-risk residential development on serviced land is subject to assessment pathways proportionate to its scale and impact, while maintaining appropriate flood and bushfire resilience outcomes through established building design and construction standards.

This reform lever responds directly to the findings in Section 4.3, which demonstrate that the current operation of flood and bushfire overlays within the planning scheme results in early and widespread escalation of assessment for housing forms that are otherwise anticipated and low impact.

5.1.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

The presence of flood and bushfire overlay mapping currently operates as a categorising trigger for residential development across significant portions of Paroo Shire’s townships. Dwelling houses and secondary dwellings that would otherwise constitute accepted development are elevated to code assessment solely as a result of overlay application, regardless of scale, context or prior servicing.

Once escalated, development is assessed against multiple layers of planning scheme provisions, including the applicable zone code, natural hazard overlay codes and the General Development Code. In flood- and bushfire-affected areas, this frequently engages performance outcomes relating to minimum habitable floor levels, building siting, material selection, building form and hazard response (including, for example, performance outcomes PO19–PO24 of the General Development Code).

Irrespective of whether a planning approval is required, the same development is subsequently subject to the building approval and certification process. Compliance with the QDC and the NCC is mandatory in all cases and includes detailed and enforceable requirements for flood-resilient construction, bushfire construction standards and minimum habitable floor levels.

In practice, this means that hazard-related outcomes for standard residential development are addressed sequentially across separate statutory processes. In a remote, low-volume housing market such as Paroo Shire, this early escalation of planning assessment introduces additional timeframes, documentation requirements and interpretive risk before performance-based building responses can be demonstrated. The cumulative effect is a disproportionate regulatory burden on low-impact, anticipated housing forms, reducing feasibility without altering the ultimate safety or resilience outcome achieved.

5.1.3 REFORM APPROACH

The planning scheme can be amended to better align hazard-related assessment triggers with their appropriate regulatory function, by distinguishing between:

- the identification of hazard exposure, which remains essential for risk awareness and design response
- the management of construction outcomes, which is governed through State-mandated building regulation applying irrespective of planning assessment level.

These reforms are intended to improve feasibility for incremental, low-impact housing outcomes and do not anticipate cumulative density change beyond the scale of existing township character. They do not remove flood or bushfire considerations from the planning framework, but refine how those considerations influence categorisation and assessment so that low-risk, standard residential development is not automatically subject to planning approval where hazard risks are appropriately managed through development code benchmarks and building regulation.

5.1.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Tables of Assessment

Amend the Tables of Assessment for the General residential zone and Township zone to allow dwelling houses (which includes secondary dwellings) to be accepted development subject to requirements, notwithstanding the presence of flood or bushfire overlays, where relevant development code benchmarks are met.

Retain code or impact assessment for residential development of greater scale, intensity or complexity, or where site-specific constraints warrant broader land-use assessment.

Development Code Interaction

Confirm that compliance with the applicable acceptable outcomes of the General Development Code relating to flood and bushfire response (including outcomes addressing minimum floor levels and resilient construction) is sufficient to demonstrate planning scheme compliance for standard residential development.

Ensure that performance outcomes continue to apply where acceptable outcomes cannot be achieved, without default escalation of the category of assessment.

5.1.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

This reform lever is intended to:

- Maintain robust flood and bushfire resilience outcomes through continued compliance with the QDC and NCC
- Reduce disproportionate assessment escalation for low-risk, zone-anticipated residential development
- Improve feasibility and certainty for incremental housing delivery in a fragile, high-cost construction environment.
- Ensure that planning assessment effort is focused on genuine land-use, amenity and locational impacts, rather than matters already addressed through State building regulation.

By realigning hazard-related assessment triggers with risk and regulatory function, the planning scheme can better support housing diversity and renewal within existing townships, while preserving safety, resilience and statutory compliance.

5.2 FACILITATING SECONDARY DWELLINGS AS LOW-RISK INFILL HOUSING

5.2.1 PURPOSE

To unlock existing residential capacity within Paroo Shire's townships by clarifying and operationalising the planning framework for secondary dwellings, so that their development can be taken up in practice as a low-risk, lower-cost housing response. This includes supporting ageing-in-place for families and long-term residents, accommodating small households and workforce needs, and enabling modest, incremental increases in housing density without altering township character or requiring additional land supply.

This reform lever focuses on improving awareness, certainty and scheme translation of existing entitlements, rather than introducing new development rights.

5.2.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

Secondary dwellings represent one of the most practical and achievable forms of incremental housing delivery within Paroo Shire's existing townships. Large residential and Township-zoned lots, stable population levels and low development volumes mean that additional dwellings on existing serviced land provide a realistic pathway to improve housing choice, support ageing-in-place, accommodate changing household structures and respond to workforce-related demand without altering settlement boundaries or township character.

Under the Planning Regulation 2017, secondary dwellings form part of a dwelling house and, in certain circumstances, may constitute accepted development. In planning terms, secondary dwellings are therefore anticipated as a low-risk infill housing outcome rather than a separate material change of use or a higher-order residential activity. However, their take-up in practice has been constrained by a combination of uncertainty about assessment pathways, the interaction between planning and building regulation, and the absence of clear, locally expressed planning benchmarks addressing scale and amenity.

While secondary dwellings are not assessed through a separate planning use category or material change of use pathway, building work associated with secondary dwellings is and will continue to be regulated through the building approval and certification system. At present, this occurs through assessment against the NCC and relevant QDC provisions that apply to Class 1 buildings, including siting requirements. The forthcoming Queensland Housing Code is also expected to provide clear and uniform size, design and siting standards for secondary dwellings, reinforcing the role of the building system in managing construction, siting and technical compliance.

In this context, the role of planning regulation and the planning scheme is not to regulate building work or duplicate State building standards, but to manage secondary dwellings as a land-use outcome. This includes providing clarity around matters such as the number of secondary dwellings per lot, their relative size and scale, siting relationships and amenity impacts, and their integration within established residential areas. Where planning schemes lack clear, proportionate benchmarks for these outcomes, there is a tendency for secondary dwellings to be treated as discretionary or even to be escalated unnecessarily into planning assessment to address matters that are more appropriately resolved through the building regulatory framework.

5.2.3 REFORM APPROACH

The approach to secondary dwellings in the planning scheme can be strengthened to explicitly acknowledge, translate and operationalise the existing State policy and regulatory framework, ensuring that their planning categorisation and assessment pathways are clear, accessible and consistently applied.

The intent of this reform is not to encourage indiscriminate densification, but to normalise secondary dwellings as a legitimate, low-impact form of infill housing on serviced lots, consistent with township character and amenity expectations. Providing clear benchmarks and definitions reduces interpretive risk, supports community understanding, and allows secondary dwellings to function as intended under the Planning Regulation 2017.

This reform lever therefore focuses on normalising secondary dwellings as a routine and low-risk form of infill housing by:

- clearly articulating their anticipated role within residential and township areas
- aligning planning assessment pathways with their low-impact nature
- ensuring that planning controls address land-use scale and amenity matters only, while construction outcomes continue to be managed through the building approval system and, in future, the Queensland Housing Code.

5.2.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Tables of Assessment

- Clarify that secondary dwellings are an anticipated residential outcome within the General residential and Township zones.
- Where secondary dwellings meet defined development benchmarks, confirm their status as accepted development subject to requirements on serviced lots, consistent with the Planning Regulation 2017 and Schedule 6.

Development Codes

- Introduce clear acceptable outcomes for secondary dwellings addressing:
 - the maximum number of secondary dwellings per lot (one)
 - scale or gross floor area relative to the primary dwelling
 - setbacks and separation distances to manage privacy and amenity
 - access, parking and servicing appropriate to township contexts.
- Retain performance outcomes to allow flexible design responses where site-specific constraints exist, without default escalation to code or impact assessment.

Definitions and Scheme Clarity

- Clarify the Administrative definition and intent of secondary dwellings to distinguish them from:
 - multiple dwellings
 - temporary or relocatable accommodation
 - short-term or visitor accommodation.
- Ensure scheme terminology recognises that secondary dwellings are intended as permanent, adaptable housing outcomes, capable of being delivered using contemporary construction methods.

5.2.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

These amendments are intended to:

- Ensure residential land within existing townships can be utilised to full potential.
- Support ageing-in-place and family-based living arrangements through flexible housing options.
- Enable low-cost, incremental increases in housing supply that are feasible in a high-cost construction environment.
- Improve awareness and certainty for Council, landowners and the community regarding existing secondary dwelling entitlements.
- Ensure that amenity and neighbourhood character are protected through clear, proportionate planning controls rather than ad-hoc or inconsistent assessment.

By clearly translating State planning provisions into local scheme operation, secondary dwellings can function as an effective and routine infill housing response aligned with Paroo Shire's housing needs, lot size characteristics and delivery realities.

5.3 CLARIFYING TREATMENT OF MODERN PREFABRICATED HOUSING

5.3.1 PURPOSE

To remove uncertainty and interpretive risk associated with modular and prefabricated housing, enabling these construction methods to function as legitimate, permanent and feasible housing responses within Paroo Shire's townships. This reform lever supports timely, cost-effective and incremental housing delivery in a remote, high-cost construction environment, without altering built-form expectations or township character.

5.3.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

Modern modular and prefabricated housing represents an increasingly important housing delivery method in remote and regional contexts. Factory-built construction can reduce build times, improve cost certainty and lessen reliance on limited local trades, making it well suited to Paroo Shire’s construction environment.

The planning scheme was prepared at a time when modular and prefabricated housing was less commonly used as a permanent residential solution. Some scheme provisions therefore reference “relocatable”, “temporary” or “non-permanent” structures in a way that reflects earlier assumptions about housing delivery, rather than contemporary construction practice.

In practice, this creates ambiguity as to whether modern modular dwellings are anticipated as permanent housing outcomes, despite achieving built-form and amenity outcomes comparable to conventionally constructed dwellings. Where modern modular housing complies with the NCC and is permanently fixed on site, its impacts relate to land use, siting, scale and amenity – not construction method. The absence of clear scheme guidance therefore introduces unnecessary interpretive risk and discourages use of an otherwise practical and effective delivery model.

5.3.3 REFORM APPROACH

The planning scheme can be reviewed to ensure that no wording could reasonably be interpreted as implying that modular or prefabricated housing is not a legitimate construction method for permanent residential development, provided built-form, siting, servicing and amenity outcomes are achieved.

This reform does not seek to privilege modular housing over traditional construction, nor to mandate its use. Rather, it aims to ensure that planning assessment focuses on what is built and how it functions, rather than how it is constructed, consistent with contemporary building practice and State building regulation.

5.3.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Definitions and Terminology

- Ensure that references to “relocatable” or “temporary” structures do not apply to modular or prefabricated dwellings that are permanently affixed to land and comply with the NCC and QDC.
- Where necessary, update definitions or explanatory notes to distinguish temporary uses or structures from permanent dwellings delivered through alternative construction methods.

Development Codes

- Review General Development Code and relevant zone code provisions to ensure that:
 - built-form and character outcomes are expressed in terms of scale, siting and appearance, rather than construction technique
 - benchmarks or extrinsic material (e.g. Editors Notes) do not inadvertently discourage compliant modular housing proposals.
- Where applicable, introduce or refine acceptable outcomes to provide objective benchmarks that modern modular housing can readily achieve.

Assessment Guidance

- Clarify, through scheme provisions or associated factsheets and guidance, that modular and prefabricated housing intended as permanent accommodation is to be assessed in the same manner as conventionally constructed housing of equivalent form and scale.

5.3.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

This reform lever is intended to:

- Reduce approval uncertainty and interpretive risk for modular and prefabricated housing proposals.
- Support timely and cost-effective housing delivery in a remote construction environment.

- Ensure that assessment focuses on land-use impacts, built form and amenity outcomes, rather than construction methodology.
- Enable households, Council and housing providers to utilise modern construction techniques without compromising planning objectives or township character.

By clarifying the planning scheme’s treatment of modular and prefabricated housing, Paroo Shire can better align its regulatory framework with contemporary building practices and expand the range of viable housing delivery options available within existing townships.

5.4 SUPPORTING PROPORTIONATE WORKFORCE ACCOMMODATION

5.4.1 PURPOSE

To provide clear, lawful and proportionate planning pathways for workforce and ancillary accommodation that support Paroo Shire’s service, industry and project-based employment needs, while relieving pressure on permanent housing stock and maintaining township amenity, rural land function and settlement structure.

This reform lever recognises workforce accommodation as a prescribed use under the Planning Regulation 2017 and seeks to ensure the planning scheme manages that use in a manner appropriate to Paroo Shire’s remote context, without creating unintended residential outcomes.

5.4.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

Paroo Shire experiences ongoing housing demand associated with workforce mobility, seasonal employment and project-based activity linked to government services, infrastructure delivery, tourism and rural industries. This demand is typically small in scale, dispersed across different land uses, and associated with service delivery, infrastructure, tourism and rural industries, rather than large-scale, centralised workforce accommodation. This distinguishes local demand from resource-based regions and requires a proportionate and flexible planning response. In a remote context, daily commuting from townships or homesteads is often impractical, creating a genuine operational need for temporary, location-specific accommodation.

Since the adoption of the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme, the Planning Regulation 2017 has replaced the former use term “non-resident workforce accommodation” with the prescribed use “workforce accommodation”. Workforce accommodation is narrowly defined and applies only to accommodation provided in connection with a resource extraction project, a project identified in the planning scheme as a major industry or infrastructure project, or a rural use. The definition no longer operates as a general form of non-permanent or non-resident accommodation and expressly excludes rural workers’ accommodation.

This represents a substantive shift in meaning from the former non-resident workforce accommodation use, which was broader in scope and not explicitly tied to defined project types.

The Industry zone intent refers to non-resident workforce accommodation in greenfield industry areas. However, this use term is no longer recognised under the regulation, and workforce accommodation is not consistently listed or supported within the Tables of Assessment for the Industry or Township zones, resulting in default impact assessment.

In practice, this creates uncertainty for applicants and raises questions about the appropriate long-term role of township or industrial land for accommodation purposes, particularly in a township-based service economy where industrial land performs a critical and finite function. The absence of clear, bounded pathways carries the risk that workforce accommodation could evolve into unmanaged or de facto residential development if not carefully controlled.

In a remote local government area with limited industrial land supply, unrestricted provision of workforce accommodation within Industry zones risks alienating land required for long-term industrial and service uses. Conversely, well-located township areas offer greater capacity to accommodate temporary and project-based workers while maintaining access to services and integration with existing settlement patterns.

Further, some workforce accommodation demand is more accurately characterised as short-term, service-based housing rather than accommodation associated with a defined project or rural use. In these circumstances, short-term accommodation within the Township zone can provide an appropriate pathway for small-scale workforce housing, where supported by clear assessment criteria and management requirements.

The reform approach recommended in this report therefore focuses on clarifying and supporting proportionate pathways for workforce accommodation within appropriate township and rural contexts, while retaining the ability to consider limited, clearly ancillary workforce accommodation in industrial areas where it can be demonstrated not to compromise the long-term availability and function of industrial land. The planning scheme could introduce an administrative term such as “local workforce”, clarifying that short-term accommodation used to house a limited number of locally employed workers may be assessed under the short-term accommodation provisions, provided that scale, amenity and management outcomes are appropriately controlled.

5.4.3 REFORM APPROACH

The planning scheme can be amended to clearly recognise workforce accommodation as a lawful and necessary accommodation type, while applying assessment pathways that are proportionate to its scale, location and function.

The availability of caretaker accommodation within industrial areas was identified as an operational need during stakeholder engagement. Clear and proportionate pathways for such accommodation can influence the suitability and take-up of industrial land, particularly in remote contexts where on-site presence is often required.

The intent of this reform is not to facilitate large-scale accommodation campuses typical of resource regions, but to enable smaller-scale, distributed workforce accommodation outcomes that reflect the operational needs of a remote service economy, and to:

- distinguish workforce accommodation from permanent residential development
- ensure assessment discretion is retained where needed
- allow small-scale, clearly ancillary accommodation to proceed efficiently where impacts are predictable
- prevent the erosion of permanent housing supply or township amenity.

This is achieved through a tiered, risk-based assessment framework aligned with zone intent.

5.4.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Tables of Assessment

- Amend the Tables of Assessment to explicitly include workforce accommodation as a listed use under the Planning Regulation 2017 and to apply assessment pathways that reflect the scale, function and location of the accommodation within Paroo Shire’s zoning framework. Ensure that workforce accommodation pathways are available across appropriate zones, including Township, Rural and, where clearly ancillary, Industry zones, reflecting the dispersed and operational nature of demand.
- Township Zone:
 - Make workforce accommodation code assessable development where it:
 - is located within an existing serviced township
 - is clearly associated with, and subordinate to, a lawful non-residential use (including commercial, community, tourism, service or infrastructure-related activities), and
 - is of a scale and intensity that can be appropriately managed through the Township zone code and General Development Code provisions relating to amenity, access, servicing and management.

- Make short-term accommodation code assessable development where it is of a scale and intensity that can be appropriately managed through the Township zone code and General Development Code provisions relating to amenity, access, servicing and management
- Retain impact assessment for workforce accommodation proposals that:
 - are standalone in nature, rather than ancillary to a primary use
 - are of a larger scale or intensity, or
 - are likely to result in amenity, servicing or land-use compatibility impacts inconsistent with the intended mixed-use role and scale of township areas.
- Rural Zone:
 - Enable accepted development subject to requirements for small-scale workforce accommodation where all of the following criteria are satisfied:
 - the accommodation directly supports a rural use, essential service or infrastructure activity occurring on, or in close proximity to, the site
 - the accommodation is clearly ancillary and subordinate to the primary rural or operational use
 - the scale of accommodation is strictly limited and does not create an independent residential outcome
 - objective benchmarks relating to hazard exposure, access, siting and servicing under the General Development Code and Rural Zone Code are achieved, and
 - no dispersed settlement pattern or rural residential outcome is created.
 - Require code assessable development where one or more of the above criteria are not met, allowing site-specific consideration of scale, location, ongoing management and impacts.
 - Retain impact assessment for workforce accommodation proposals that:
 - are larger in scale
 - are not clearly linked to a rural, infrastructure or essential service activity, or
 - would result in fragmentation of rural land, dispersed settlement or outcomes inconsistent with the long-term intent of the Rural zone.

This approach recognises the multifunctional role of Paroo Shire’s townships while ensuring workforce accommodation does not evolve into unmanaged or de facto permanent residential development and maintaining firm controls to protect rural land, landscape values and settlement structure.

Definitions and Use Categorisation

- Remove references to non-resident workforce accommodation throughout the planning scheme, which is no longer a defined use under the Planning Regulation 2017.
- Ensure consistent use of the prescribed use term workforce accommodation throughout the planning scheme.
- Confirm that the planning scheme does not modify or conflict with the statutory definition of workforce accommodation but clearly articulates how the use is supported or constrained through zone intent, assessment pathways and performance standards.
- Where helpful for assessment clarity, introduce supporting administrative terminology (for example, relating to local workforce or ancillary accommodation) to assist in applying performance outcomes, without creating new use categories or altering statutory meanings.
- Add an Administrative term for “local workforce”.

Development Codes

- Ensure that development code provisions applicable to workforce and ancillary accommodation focus on:
 - amenity impacts
 - siting and access
 - interface with sensitive uses
 - clear connection to the primary lawful use on the site.

- Avoid applying residential density or design standards that are not relevant to the ancillary or temporary nature of the accommodation.

5.4.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

Under these amendments:

- Workforce accommodation is clearly recognised and intentionally managed within the planning scheme.
- Code assessment is the primary pathway in appropriate township and rural contexts, providing sufficient discretion to manage impacts without imposing disproportionate regulatory burden.
- Accepted development subject to requirements is limited to clearly defined, low-risk and ancillary accommodation outcomes.
- Permanent housing areas and township amenity are protected by avoiding inappropriate residential-style workforce accommodation.

This approach ensures the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme gives proper effect to the Planning Regulation 2017, supports essential workforce needs in a remote context, and safeguards the long-term role and availability of permanent housing.

5.5 FACILITATING SMALL-SCALE ATTACHED LIVING OPTIONS

5.5.1 PURPOSE

To ensure that dual occupancies and small-scale multiple dwellings on serviced residential land are supported through proportionate, code-based assessment pathways that reflect their scale, impact and role in delivering incremental housing diversity within Paroo Shire's townships.

This reform lever responds to the need for more flexible and feasible housing outcomes in a very remote, low-volume market, where modest increases in dwelling yield represent a practical pathway to improving housing availability and suitability.

5.5.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

Current planning controls are not consistently supporting small-scale attached living options, particularly dual occupancies and low-density multiple dwellings, despite their alignment with local housing needs.

In particular:

- minimum lot size thresholds operate as a primary trigger for escalation to impact assessment
- development on lots below 1,000m² in the General residential zone may default to higher levels of assessment, regardless of scale, servicing and context.

This approach can result in otherwise modest, low-impact proposals being subject to disproportionate regulatory requirements. In a very remote development environment, where housing delivery is highly sensitive to time, cost and approval certainty, this escalation can materially affect feasibility.

Evidence and stakeholder feedback indicate that:

- dual occupancies can be appropriately accommodated on lots of approximately 800m²
- small-scale multiple dwellings can be supported from approximately 1,000m², where design, access and servicing outcomes are met
- assessment pathways based primarily on lot size do not align with the actual impacts of development or the ability of development codes to manage those impacts.

Accordingly, the current reliance on lot size as a determinant of assessment level represents a misalignment between planning controls and feasible housing outcomes.

5.5.3 REFORM APPROACH

The planning scheme can be recalibrated to support small-scale attached housing through a clearer and more proportionate assessment framework that aligns assessment level with development scale and impact, rather than with arbitrary lot size thresholds alone.

The intent of this reform is not to introduce high-density residential outcomes, but to:

- enable modest increases in dwelling yield within existing townships
- support housing diversity for smaller households, ageing residents and workforce accommodation
- reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers to feasible infill development.

This can be achieved by:

- expanding the role of code assessment for any dual occupancies and small-scale multiple dwellings
- ensuring that development meeting defined siting, design and servicing benchmarks can proceed through predictable and proportionate pathway
- reserving impact assessment for proposals of a scale or intensity that may give rise to broader planning impacts.

5.5.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Tables of Assessment

- Amend the Tables of Assessment in the General residential and Township zones to provide code assessable pathways for:
 - dual occupancies on lots of approximately 800m² or greater, with applicable code provisions
 - small-scale multiple dwellings on lots of approximately 1,000m² or greater, where development remains consistent with low-density character and can be managed through code-based standards.
 - Remove or reduce reliance on minimum lot size thresholds that automatically trigger impact assessment for these uses where impacts can be managed through development codes.

General Development Code

- Refine code provisions as needed to clearly manage:
 - building scale, height and setbacks
 - site layout, access and parking
 - private open space and amenity
 - servicing, including water, wastewater and stormwater.
- Ensure that codes provide objective and achievable benchmarks suitable for a remote context, avoiding unnecessary complexity or duplication with building regulation.

5.5.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

This reform lever is intended to:

- enable small-scale, incremental increases in housing supply within existing serviced areas
- support housing diversity without altering overall settlement structure or character
- improve development feasibility by reducing unnecessary approval barriers
- ensure that planning assessment effort is proportionate to risk and impact
- provide clarity and consistency in the treatment of dual occupancies and multiple dwellings.

By aligning assessment pathways with the scale and impact of development, the planning scheme can better support practical and deliverable housing outcomes in Paroo Shire's very remote context, while maintaining appropriate standards for amenity, servicing and built form.

5.6 RENEWAL OF AGEING PUBLIC AND NON-MARKET HOUSING STOCK

5.6.1 PURPOSE

To ensure the planning scheme supports the renewal and adaptation of ageing housing stock in appropriate locations by enabling flexible, precinct-based planning responses, without requiring expansion of settlement boundaries or additional residential land supply.

This reform lever recognises that, in a stable, low-growth context such as Paroo Shire, improvements in housing diversity and suitability are most likely to be achieved through redevelopment and intensification of selected areas within existing townships, rather than through dispersed infill or greenfield expansion.

5.6.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

A substantial proportion of Paroo Shire's publicly owned or managed housing stock is ageing and dominated by detached dwellings on relatively large lots. While this lot size profile provides physical capacity for adaptation, the existing planning scheme largely assumes a uniform low-density residential outcome across the General residential zone, with limited differentiation between sites or precincts with greater redevelopment potential.

In practice, this can constrain the renewal of ageing public housing stock where:

- site configuration differs from surrounding blocks
- access, frontage or internal block conditions do not align with standard suburban assumptions
- proximity to services and existing infrastructure supports more efficient land use outcomes
- modest increases in dwelling yield would improve feasibility for renewal or replacement.

Without a mechanism to recognise and manage these variations at a precinct scale, redevelopment proposals that depart from standard lot or density assumptions may default to higher levels of assessment or be discouraged altogether, even where broader planning impacts could be acceptably managed.

5.6.3 REFORM APPROACH

The planning scheme can better support public housing renewal by explicitly enabling precinct-based variation within established public housing areas, where site characteristics, infrastructure availability and surrounding context justify alternative residential outcomes.

This approach does not seek to introduce blanket density increases for non-market housing across all residential areas. Rather, it provides a structured mechanism to:

- identify limited areas where more efficient land use is appropriate
- guide redevelopment toward sites with the greatest capacity to absorb change
- manage built-form, access and amenity impacts in a coordinated way
- improve feasibility for renewal of ageing housing stock.

Precinct planning allows local variation to be addressed deliberately and transparently, rather than through ad hoc departures from zone standards on a site-by-site basis.

5.6.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Precinct-Based Planning Mechanisms

- Introduce a framework within the planning scheme that enables the identification and application of Residential Renewal Precincts (or equivalent precinct-based overlays or code variations) within the General residential zone, where alternative residential outcomes may be supported.
- Within identified precincts, the planning scheme may:
 - allow smaller lot sizes or alternative dwelling configurations
 - support modest increases in dwelling yield relative to standard zone provisions

- provide tailored built-form, access and site-layout provisions
- apply specific performance outcomes that reflect local context rather than uniform suburban assumptions

Assessment Pathways

- Ensure that redevelopment within designated renewal precincts is subject to code assessable development, where proposals comply with precinct-specific benchmarks addressing scale and built form, including:
 - interface with adjoining development
 - access, servicing and parking
 - amenity impacts, including privacy and streetscape transitions
- Impact assessment should be reserved for proposals that exceed precinct parameters or raise site-specific planning considerations not anticipated by the precinct framework.

5.6.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

This reform lever is intended to:

- support feasible and efficient renewal of ageing Council- and State-owned housing stock within existing residential areas
- enable a greater diversity of dwelling types in well-located parts of Cunnamulla
- improve feasibility for redevelopment without expanding settlement boundaries
- concentrate higher-intensity outcomes in locations best able to accommodate change
- retain overall residential character by managing intensity through precinct-specific controls
- ensure public and non-market housing providers can redevelop existing assets without disproportionate regulatory burden.

By enabling planned variation within established residential zones, the planning scheme can better respond to local conditions and housing needs, while maintaining certainty for landowners, the community and decision-makers.

5.7 SHOP-TOP HOUSING IN EXISTING BUILDINGS

5.7.1 PURPOSE

To enable modest increases in housing diversity within existing townships by providing proportionate assessment pathways for dwelling units and shop-top housing located within existing buildings, where no external building work is proposed and amenity impacts are limited.

This reform lever supports incremental, low-cost housing delivery that aligns with the intended mixed-use role of township and centre areas, without altering built form expectations, settlement patterns or zoning intent.

5.7.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

The planning scheme currently provides limited practical support for dwelling units and shop-top housing within the Centre zone and Township zone, even where such development involves the reuse of existing buildings and does not result in external building work or changes to streetscape character.

In many cases, these residential uses are subject to impact assessment, irrespective of scale or physical change. This assessment level is typically applied even where:

- accommodation is located wholly within an existing building
- the external form, height and appearance of the building are unchanged
- servicing and access are already established
- the development is consistent with the mixed-use intent of the zone.

In a remote and low-volume development context, the requirement for impact assessment introduces disproportionate time, cost and approval uncertainty for development that presents minimal land-use or amenity risk. As a result, otherwise suitable opportunities for residential reuse above shops or within vacant commercial floor space are rarely taken up in practice.

5.7.3 REFORM APPROACH

The planning scheme can better support housing diversity and adaptive reuse by recalibrating assessment pathways for dwelling units and shop-top housing located within existing buildings, where impacts are predictable and capable of being managed through objective standards.

This approach recognises that the planning risk associated with internal residential conversion is fundamentally different from that associated with new buildings or increased site intensity. Where no external building work is involved, key planning considerations relate primarily to use compatibility, servicing and operational amenity, rather than built-form or neighbourhood character.

Importantly, this reform does not seek to promote higher-density residential development in township centres, nor to change the strategic role of the Centre or Township zones. It is limited to enabling low-risk residential outcomes that are already contemplated by the zoning framework but are not currently facilitated in practice.

5.7.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Tables of Assessment

- Amend the Tables of Assessment in the Centre zone and Township zone to provide a code assessable or accepted development subject to requirements pathway dwelling units where the development:
 - is located within an existing building
 - does not involve external building work resulting in changes to height, bulk or streetscape presentation
 - complies with applicable servicing, access and amenity benchmarks.
- Allow code assessment or retain impact assessment for proposals that:
 - involve new buildings or building extensions
 - materially increase site intensity or traffic generation
 - introduce external amenity or compatibility impacts beyond those anticipated in the zone.

Development Code Application

- Ensure that assessment pathways are assessed against relevant General Development Code and zone code provisions relating to:
 - access and servicing
 - acoustic and operational amenity
 - safety and interface with adjoining non-residential uses.

5.7.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

This reform lever is intended to:

- unlock low-cost housing opportunities through reuse of existing buildings
- support housing diversity for small households, workers and older residents
- improve utilisation of underused commercial floor space within townships
- reduce approval cost and uncertainty for low-impact residential development
- maintain centre vitality without altering built-form or settlement expectations.

By aligning assessment pathways with the actual planning risk posed by internal residential conversion, the planning scheme can better deliver its intended mixed-use outcomes and support incremental housing supply in Paroo Shire's townships.

5.8 MANAGING PERMANENT PLANTATION AND CARBON FARMING

5.8.1 PURPOSE

To ensure that large-scale transitions from active agricultural use to permanent plantation or carbon-related land management are subject to proportionate planning assessment, recognising their potential cumulative impacts on land management, settlement patterns and community resilience, while retaining land-use rights and avoiding unnecessary regulatory burden.

5.8.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

Paroo Shire has experienced an increase in large-scale carbon farming and permanent plantation activities. These land uses differ from traditional grazing and agricultural systems in that they may involve reduced on-property occupation, lower management presence and long-term changes to land condition, access and fire regimes.

Under the current planning scheme, permanent plantation and related land-use changes may occur as accepted development. At scale, this can result in significant cumulative effects, including reduced rural population, changing demand for services, increased fire and pest management concerns, and broader impacts on township viability and community networks.

These outcomes are not attributable to carbon farming as an economic activity, but to the nature and scale of land-use transition and the shift away from actively managed and occupied rural land.

5.8.3 REFORM APPROACH

This reform does not seek to prohibit or discourage carbon farming or permanent plantation. Rather, it introduces a proportionate assessment pathway that recognises when land-use change is of a scale or nature that warrants planning consideration.

The planning scheme can achieve this by requiring code assessable development for permanent plantation activities, ensuring impacts are addressed through clear, objective and outcome-focused assessment benchmarks, without removing land-use rights or introducing discretionary decision-making.

5.8.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Tables of Assessment

- Amend the Tables of Assessment to make permanent plantation code assessable development in the Rural zone.
- Retain permanent plantation as a consistent and supported rural land use, with no change to zone intent or land-use permissibility.

Development or Use Code Provisions

- Introduce or apply a tailored code to assess permanent plantation against objective performance outcomes relating to:
 - ongoing land and fire management arrangements
 - pest and weed control
 - access and infrastructure impacts
 - interface with adjoining rural and settlement land
 - cumulative effects where large areas transition from active agriculture.
- Ensure assessment is limited to land-use impacts and management outcomes and does not extend to regulation of carbon markets or economic activity.

5.8.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

This reform lever is intended to:

- retain landholder rights to pursue carbon farming and permanent plantation
- ensure large-scale land-use transitions are visible within the planning system
- support community resilience, safety and land management outcomes
- provide Council with a proportionate mechanism to address cumulative impacts
- avoid unnecessary escalation to impact assessment

By requiring code assessment rather than accepted development, the planning scheme can more appropriately respond emerging land-use patterns while remaining consistent with State planning policy and performance-based planning principles.

5.9 CLARIFYING THE PROPER SCOPE OF LOCAL PLANNING REGULATION

5.9.1 PURPOSE

To ensure the planning scheme regulates matters that are properly within the scope of local land-use planning, while removing duplication of building and infrastructure regulation already administered under State legislation and statutory referral processes.

This reform lever supports clarity, proportionality and efficiency in development assessment by reinforcing the intended separation between:

- planning schemes as categorising and land-use assessment instruments
- State systems that regulate building construction and transport infrastructure impacts.

5.9.2 ISSUE IDENTIFIED

The review has identified that the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme 2019 contains development code provisions that duplicate or restate matters regulated under:

- the QDC and NCC
- State-controlled road assessment processes administered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR).

These provisions appear within zone codes and the General Development Code and include Performance Outcomes, Acceptable Outcomes, notes and cross-references relating to:

- minimum habitable floor levels
- building setbacks and site cover for Class 1 buildings
- flood and bushfire construction standards
- access, setbacks, buffers and layout impacts associated with State-controlled roads.

These matters are already regulated through State legislation and apply regardless of whether development is accepted or assessable under the planning scheme.

In practice, retaining such provisions in the planning scheme duplicates regulation, escalates assessment unnecessarily, or introduces additional time, cost and interpretive risk without improving safety, resilience or infrastructure performance outcomes.

This duplication can have a disproportionate effect in a very remote, low-volume development environment such as Paroo Shire, where even minor regulatory friction can determine whether modest housing proposals proceed at all.

Table 5.1: Matters currently regulated in the planning scheme vs State regulation

Matter currently regulated in the planning scheme	Where it is already regulated	Why planning regulation is duplicative
Minimum habitable floor levels	QDC MP3.5/ NCC Vol 2	Applies to all Class 1 buildings regardless of planning approval
Flood-resilient construction	QDC MP3.5	Planning approval does not alter construction standard
Bushfire construction standard	NCC Volume 2 (AS 3959)	Triggered through building approval; planning codes duplicate outcome
Class 1 building setbacks and siting	QDC MP1.1	Mandatory statewide siting requirements
Access to State-controlled roads	Assessment referral to DTMR	Matters resolved through referral, not local code assessment

The review has identified that Section 1.5 of the scheme does not clearly reflect the contemporary statutory separation between land-use planning and building regulation established under the *Planning Act 2016* and *Building Act 1975*. Updating Section 1.5 to clearly define the limited circumstances in which building work is regulated by the planning scheme would reinforce the proper scope of local planning control, reduce duplication with State building regulation, and support more proportionate and efficient assessment pathways for housing development in Paroo Shire.

5.9.3 REFORM APPROACH

The planning scheme should be amended to clearly delineate the role of local planning regulation by removing provisions that regulate matters:

- governed under State building legislation (including the QDC and NCC)
- subject to statutory referral under the Planning Regulation 2017.

This approach does not remove regulation or oversight. Rather, it:

- ensures that construction and infrastructure matters continue to be managed through the appropriate State systems
- enables the planning scheme to focus on land-use suitability, location, amenity interfaces and settlement outcomes.

A more concise and focused code framework is appropriate and consistent with contemporary best practice, particularly in remote and low-growth contexts.

5.9.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Removal of duplicated Building and Construction Standards

- Amend the planning scheme to remove development code provisions (including Performance Outcomes, Acceptable Outcomes, notes and cross-references) that duplicate or restate matters regulated under the QDC and NCC, including but not limited to:
 - minimum habitable floor levels;
 - minimum setbacks and site cover for Class 1 buildings; and
 - flood and bushfire construction standards.

Removal of duplicated State-controlled road provisions

- Amend the planning scheme to remove provisions within zone codes and development codes that regulate access, setbacks, buffers, layout or impacts relating to State-controlled roads where those matters are subject to referral to the DTMR under the Planning Regulation 2017.

Review the content of zone codes and the General Development Code

- After removal of duplicated provisions, zone codes should typically focus on:
 - land-use role and intent, including anticipated residential and non-residential outcomes
 - interface and amenity matters, including basic built-form relationships and transitions to sensitive uses
 - location-specific considerations such as flooding context (as location, not construction) and proximity to services
 - strategic differentiation between zones.

Zone codes should not regulate numerical setbacks, driveway geometry, sight lines, floor levels or engineering standards already controlled by the QDC or other State instruments.

- After removal of duplicated provisions, the General Development Code should typically address:
 - high-level amenity impacts across zones, such as noise, privacy and overshadowing
 - functional site matters, including access in principle and servicing availability
 - identification of risk areas, such as flood-affected or bushfire-affected land (not construction response)
 - local matters not otherwise regulated, such as township character cues and site relationships.

5.9.5 INTENDED OUTCOME

These amendments are intended to:

- improve clarity and legal certainty within the planning scheme
- reduce unnecessary assessment escalation for low-risk development
- reinforce the separation of planning and building functions under State law
- maintain appropriate safety, resilience and infrastructure outcomes through existing State regulatory systems
- ensure the planning scheme is efficient, proportionate and fit-for-purpose for a very remote, low-volume development environment.

CHAPTER 6 – AMENDMENT OPTIONS AND DELIVERY PATHWAYS

This chapter demonstrates how the recommended planning scheme reforms would operate in practice across Paroo Shire’s townships. It illustrates realistic housing renewal, infill and adaptation opportunities that can be delivered within the existing settlement framework through improved assessment proportionality and regulatory clarity. The chapter focuses on feasible, site-based and incremental delivery pathways and outlines implementation considerations to support effective application of the amended scheme.

6.1 CUNNAMULLA – HOUSING RENEWAL AND HOUSING DIVERSITY

6.1.1 CONTEXT

As Paroo Shire’s principal residential and service centre, Cunnamulla contains the majority of the Shire’s housing stock and presents the clearest opportunity for improved housing outcomes within the existing township footprint. The opportunities identified below illustrate how the targeted reforms in Chapter 4 can facilitate incremental infill, renewal and housing diversification without rezoning, settlement expansion or changes to township structure.

6.1.2 INCREMENTAL INFILL THROUGH SECONDARY DWELLINGS AND ADAPTABLE HOUSING

Under the existing planning framework, secondary dwellings are anticipated in principle but have been under-utilised due to uncertainty around assessment pathways and the interaction between planning and building regulation. The reforms outlined in Section 4.2 respond directly to this issue by clarifying the planning status of secondary dwellings as a low-risk infill housing form and by ensuring that planning controls focus on land-use scale and amenity only.

In practice, these reforms could enable incremental dwelling supply to occur across established neighbourhoods without altering residential character, requiring subdivision or triggering unnecessary planning approvals. Over time, this supports more efficient use of the existing housing stock while aligning with local demand and delivery capacity.

While dual occupancies can contribute to housing diversity in some locations, the lot size, configuration and feasibility constraints identified in this study indicate that scheme-wide changes to minimum lot size or assessment thresholds would be unlikely to deliver practical housing outcomes in Paroo Shire. As a result, more targeted and deliverable responses are prioritised. More feasible opportunities for housing diversity exist through dual occupancies and small-scale multiple dwellings on appropriately sized lots, where supported by proportionate code-based assessment pathways.

6.1.3 RENEWAL OF PUBLIC AND NON-MARKET HOUSING PRECINCTS

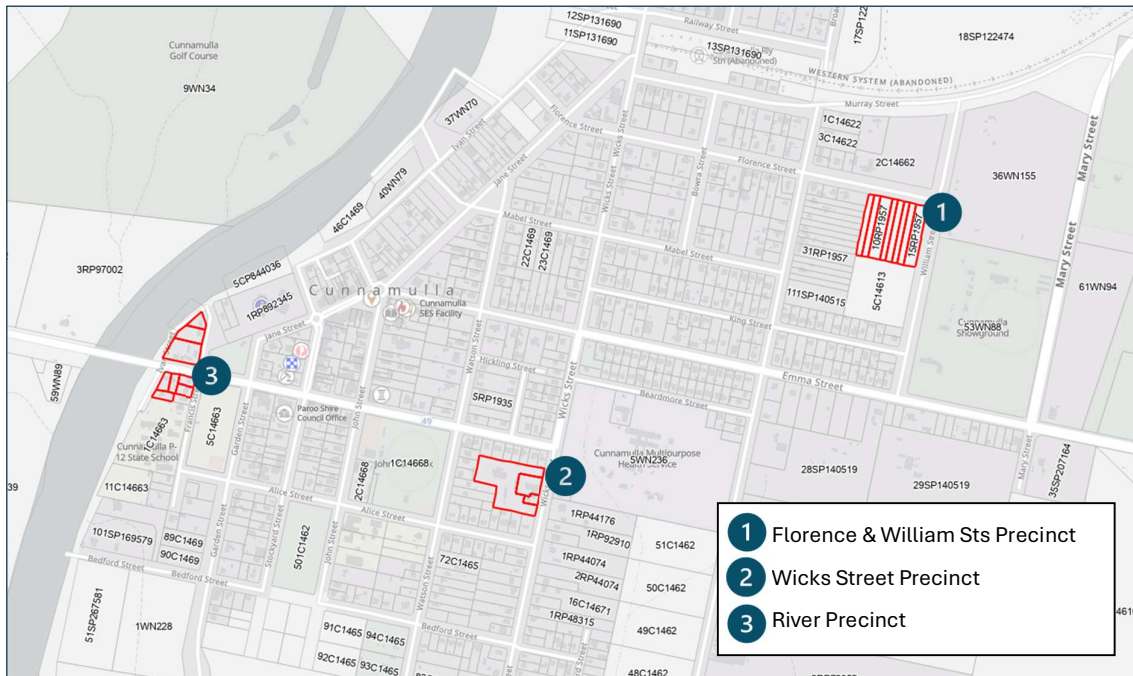
Cunnamulla contains several clusters of Council- and State-owned housing that differ from the surrounding residential fabric in terms of lot size, configuration and tenure. These areas present opportunities for coordinated renewal that are not well supported by standard lot-based residential controls.

The precinct-based reform approach outlined in Section 4.5 provides an enabling mechanism for renewal of ageing public and non-market housing stock in appropriate locations. This approach allows modest increases in dwelling yield and more efficient site layouts where infrastructure, servicing and surrounding context can support change.

Within Cunnamulla, indicative renewal precincts illustrate how this approach could improve housing suitability, accessibility and delivery efficiency without introducing large-scale redevelopment or altering the broader residential character of the town. These include:

- Florence Street/ William Street Precinct**
 Lots located at the corner of Florence Street and William Street form a cohesive group of General residential zoned land with a configuration, frontage pattern and service access that distinguishes them from standard suburban blocks. The location provides an opportunity for:
 - smaller lot residential development
 - dual occupancies or small clusters of dwellings
 - adaptable housing suited to ageing residents or smaller households
 - redevelopment of ageing stock at a modestly higher density.
- Wicks Street Internal Block Precinct**
 These land parcels present a different set of redevelopment opportunities. Its internal position, fragmented boundaries and limited streetscape interface make it well suited to a tailored precinct approach that could support:
 - alternative access and site-layout arrangements
 - increased dwelling yield relative to standard detached housing
 - courtyard or townhouse-style outcomes
 - coordinated redevelopment to improve utilisation of under-performing land.
- River-adjacent Precinct (north and south of Louise Street)**
 This precinct represents a further example where a precinct-based approach could support gradual renewal of ageing stock. While this area is affected by flood considerations, it is centrally located within the township, serviced, and long-established as a residential area. In this context, a precinct-based framework would enable:
 - coordinated replacement of ageing dwellings over time
 - increased dwelling yield relative to standard detached housing
 - improved dwelling suitability and accessibility
 - more efficient use of well-located public land
 - design responses that align with applicable State building and flood standards.

Figure 6.1: Housing Renewal Precincts



These examples illustrate how the precinct-based mechanisms enabled in Chapter 4 could be applied in practice to support renewal of ageing public and non-market housing stock and the delivery of smaller, more adaptable dwellings within Cunnamulla’s existing township footprint.

Any future application of precinct-based planning in Cunnamulla should be guided by the following principles:

- redevelopment occurs entirely within the existing township footprint
- servicing capacity and infrastructure availability are confirmed
- built-form transitions to surrounding development are appropriately managed
- density increases are modest and location-specific
- flood and bushfire resilience outcomes continue to be achieved.

Detailed precinct planning, including exact boundaries, benchmarks and built-form expectations, would be undertaken as a separate process informed by community engagement and technical analysis.

6.1.4 INFILL DEVELOPMENT ON HAZARD-AFFECTED LAND

Large parts of Cunnamulla are affected by flood and bushfire overlays. Under the current planning scheme, this has routinely escalated otherwise low-risk residential development to code or impact assessment, even on serviced lots with established settlement patterns.

The hazard-related reforms outlined in Section 4.1 recalibrate this outcome by aligning planning assessment with land-use considerations, while relying on State building standards to manage construction responses. In practice, this materially expands the effective area within which modest infill, replacement housing and secondary dwellings can occur with improved certainty, without diminishing hazard resilience outcomes.

6.2 TOWNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – INCREMENTAL AND MIXED-USE HOUSING

6.2.1 CONTEXT AND ROLE OF THE SMALLER TOWNSHIPS

Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah function as small, remote service townships with mixed residential, commercial, community, tourism and operational roles. These settlements operate at very low development volumes, contain a high proportion of vacant or under-utilised serviced lots, and are characterised by large lot sizes and a deliberately flexible Township zoning framework.

In these townships, housing challenges are driven by feasibility, delivery risk and the way the planning scheme operates in practice. The opportunities outlined support incremental, low-risk housing responses within existing township footprints, without introducing new residential zones, altering settlement boundaries or undermining the intended mixed-use role of these locations.

6.2.2 INCREMENTAL HOUSING ON EXISTING SERVICED LOTS

The Township zones in Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah contain a substantial supply of vacant and under-utilised serviced land relative to population size. Lot sizes are generally large, reflecting historic subdivision patterns and providing inherent flexibility for incremental housing delivery without subdivision.

The secondary dwelling reforms outlined in Section 4.2 play an important role in these townships. By clarifying assessment pathways and normalising secondary dwellings as a low-risk infill housing outcome, these reforms enable additional dwellings to be delivered on existing lots to respond to ageing-in-place needs, family-based living arrangements and short-term or service-related accommodation demand.

In a low-volume market, these incremental responses are often more feasible and appropriate than subdivision or multi-unit development, while remaining consistent with township character and infrastructure capacity.

6.2.3 MODULAR AND PREFABRICATED HOUSING AS PERMANENT DWELLINGS

Modern modular and prefabricated housing offers particular advantages in small, remote townships, where construction costs, labour availability and logistics can materially affect feasibility. As outlined in Section 4.3, clarifying that modular and prefabricated dwellings are legitimate permanent housing outcomes removes unnecessary interpretive risk and supports timely delivery.

Within the smaller townships, outcomes to encourage are:

- replacement of ageing or uninhabitable dwellings
- delivery of modest new housing on vacant serviced lots
- flexible responses to changing household needs without reliance on prolonged on-site construction.

These outcomes do not alter settlement structure or density patterns but improve practicality and choice within the existing housing stock.

6.2.4 ADAPTIVE REUSE AND MIXED-USE HOUSING OUTCOMES

The Township zoning framework is intentionally mixed-use, reflecting the multifunctional nature of small settlements. In practice, however, opportunities for internal residential reuse or small-scale mixed-use housing have often been constrained by assessment escalation, even where physical change is limited.

The reforms outlined in Section 4.6 enable proportionate pathways for residential reuse within existing buildings where amenity and servicing impacts are manageable. In Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah, this may support:

- modest residential use above or behind commercial premises
- accommodation associated with local businesses or services
- improved utilisation of under-used building stock within township centres.

These outcomes support local workforce needs and township viability while remaining consistent with the intended role and scale of the Township zone.

6.2.5 WHY PROPORTIONALITY MATTERS IN SMALL TOWNSHIPS

In very small settlements, the consequences of planning assessment escalation are magnified. Where development proposals are rare and typically modest in scale, additional time, cost or uncertainty can be sufficient to prevent housing delivery altogether.

The reforms in Chapter 4 are therefore especially important in Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah. By ensuring that accepted and code-assessable pathways operate as intended for low-risk development, the planning scheme can support incremental housing outcomes without introducing new development pressure or compromising amenity.

6.3 SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE AND ZONING PARAMETERS

The opportunities identified in this chapter are confined to the existing settlement framework established by the Paroo Shire Planning Scheme and do not require:

- expansion of township boundaries
- rezoning of Rural or Reserve land
- introduction of new or higher-density residential zones
- coordinated or speculative development approaches.

The analysis demonstrates that improved housing outcomes can be achieved within the current Township zoning framework through proportionate assessment pathways and reforms targeted at feasibility and delivery conditions, rather than changes to settlement structure or zoning intent.

6.4 IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

6.4.1 SCOPE AND SEQUENCING OF REFORM

The recommended planning scheme reforms are intended to operate as a targeted, operational amendment focused on improving assessment proportionality, role clarity and delivery certainty. They do not alter Paroo Shire's settlement hierarchy, zoning framework or strategic land-use intent.

Once implemented, the amended planning scheme would have a framework more responsive to incremental changes to housing needs over time. There is no requirement for immediate or coordinated development activity, and no assumption of housing delivery outcomes beyond those driven by local demand and delivery feasibility.

Where more detailed planning is required – such as precinct-based renewal of public or non-market housing – this work can be undertaken progressively and separately from the planning scheme amendment. These future steps do not need to be resolved as part of the current amendment and can proceed as and when resources, partnerships and delivery programs allow.

6.3.2 ROLE OF COUNCIL AND DELIVERY PARTNERS

Council's role under the amended framework is intended to be primarily enabling and facilitative, including:

- administering clearer and more proportionate assessment pathways for low-risk housing
- providing guidance to landowners and housing providers on new or clarified entitlements (particularly for secondary dwellings and adaptive reuse)
- working with State agencies and housing providers to support renewal of ageing public and non-market housing stock where appropriate.

Importantly, the amended planning scheme would improve certainty for private landowners and housing providers by reducing interpretive risk and unnecessary escalation of assessment. It does not require Council to act as a developer, nor does it impose new delivery obligations beyond Council's existing housing and asset-management roles.

6.5 FUTURE SETTLEMENT EXPANSION – LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS

This study does not recommend settlement expansion as a housing response within the life of the current planning scheme. Existing zoned and serviced land provides sufficient capacity to accommodate foreseeable housing needs through infill, renewal and diversification.

Notwithstanding this position, Cunnamulla is not constrained by Reserve tenure in all directions. Freehold rural-zoned land exists to the south of the town and the current General residential zone extent. If Council elected to pursue settlement expansion in the future, this land could be investigated for inclusion within the General residential zone through a planning scheme amendment, subject to infrastructure, servicing and hazard considerations.

In contrast, outward expansion of the smaller townships of Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah presents fundamentally different challenges. Each township is surrounded by Reserve land rather than freehold land. Future expansion would therefore require:

- extinguishment of Native Title
- completion of an ILUA
- divestment and sale of State-owned land to Council
- subsequent rezoning and servicing investigations.

These processes are complex, multi-agency and long-term in nature and are well beyond the scope and timeframe of the current planning scheme. Accordingly, this study does not find immediate demand or need for settlement expansion for the smaller townships. The inclusion of this discussion is intended only to acknowledge the steps that would be required should Council seek to pursue township expansion in the future, beyond the life of this planning scheme.

While this study finds that residential and township land supply is sufficient within the life of the planning scheme, a different position may apply to industrial land over the longer term.

Feedback from Council indicates that supply constraints are already evident in relation to suitable and serviceable industrial land in Cunnamulla, with demand emerging through operational pressures rather than formal development activity.

Given the limited scale of existing industrial land, and the importance of industrial uses in supporting local service delivery, transport, construction and rural industries, it is reasonable to expect that additional industrial land will be required beyond the life of the current planning scheme.

Future planning should therefore consider:

- identification of additional industrial land in locations with appropriate access and infrastructure
- consolidation or rationalisation of existing fragmented industrial areas
- ensuring flexibility for ancillary uses such as caretaker accommodation where required for operational viability.

6.6 OVERALL OUTCOME

Taken together, the Housing Study and Planning Scheme Review confirm that Paroo Shire's housing challenges are driven by structural characteristics of a very remote, low-volume housing system and the way planning controls operate in practice. The existing settlement pattern, township structure and zoning framework remain appropriate for the Shire's needs over the life of the planning scheme.

The analysis demonstrates that improved housing outcomes are most realistically achieved through better utilisation, adaptation and renewal of existing townships, rather than through settlement expansion. Incremental infill, secondary dwellings, replacement housing, adaptive reuse and precinct-based renewal of ageing public and non-market housing represent the most feasible and effective pathways for addressing identified housing needs within the life of the current planning scheme.

The recommended planning scheme reforms respond directly to these findings. They do not seek to alter settlement structure, zoning intent or hazard resilience standards. Instead, they recalibrate how the planning scheme functions as a categorising and assessment instrument—improving clarity, proportionality and certainty for low-risk, anticipated housing outcomes, while continuing to rely on State building regulation to manage construction, resilience and technical compliance.

The outcome would be a planning framework that is better aligned with the realities of housing delivery in Paroo Shire: one that supports housing diversity and renewal within existing townships, enables more feasible incremental delivery, and strengthens the role of housing as essential community infrastructure underpinning service provision, workforce attraction and long-term settlement resilience.

10.4.1 Financial Position Update Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Finance
Author: Finance Department
Attachments: 1. Monthly Financial Report – April 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on our current financial position and financial performance year to date.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Financial Position Update Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not applicable.

Discussion

This report provides an overview of the financial performance for the month of April 2026 and the financial position at month end.

This report is prepared on a partial accruals basis to give the most accurate representation of the Council's financial performance and position.

Budget/Financial Implications

All financial implications are outlined within the body of this report.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 2009.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan

Theme: Excellence in Governance

Goal Statement: Accountable leadership and strong governance with integrity and accountability for optimum organisational performance.

1.6 Undertake best practice financial and risk management

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Constrained Revenue	Limited capacity to raise revenue and heavy reliance on State and Commonwealth government for funds and financial assistance do deliver programs, operations and services.

Consultation

Finance Department.

Paroo Shire Council Financial Dashboard

for the month ending April 2026

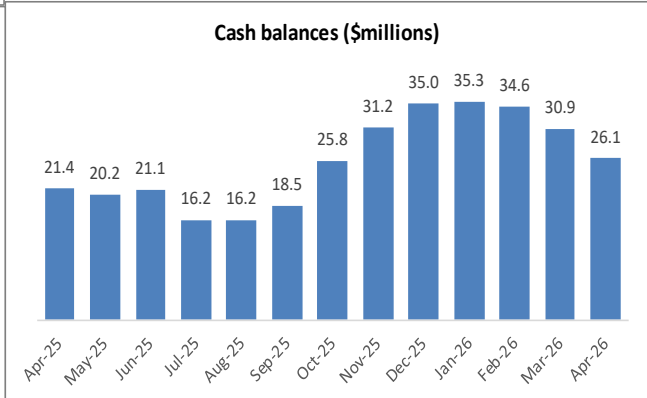
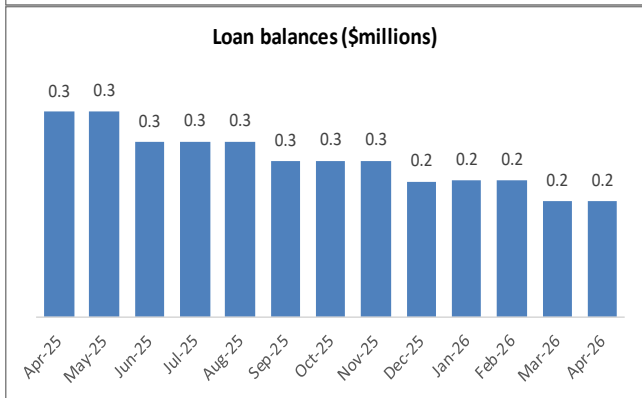
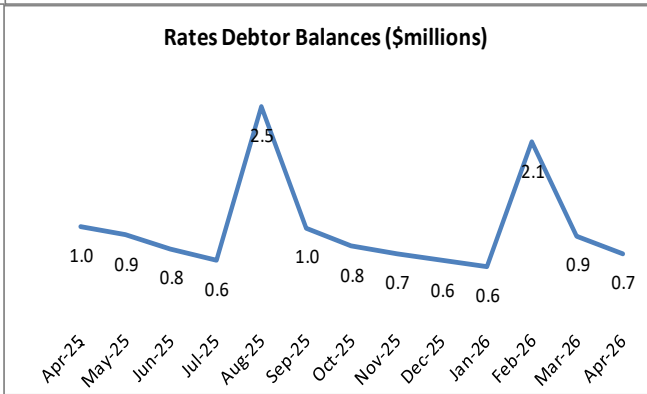
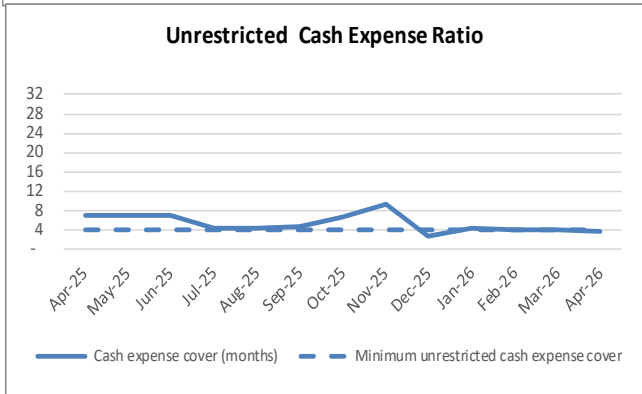
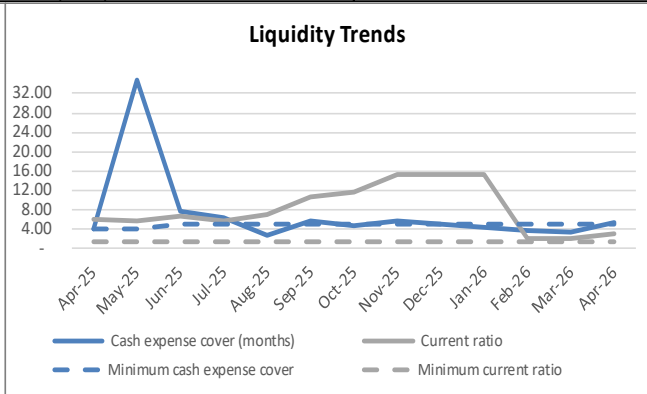
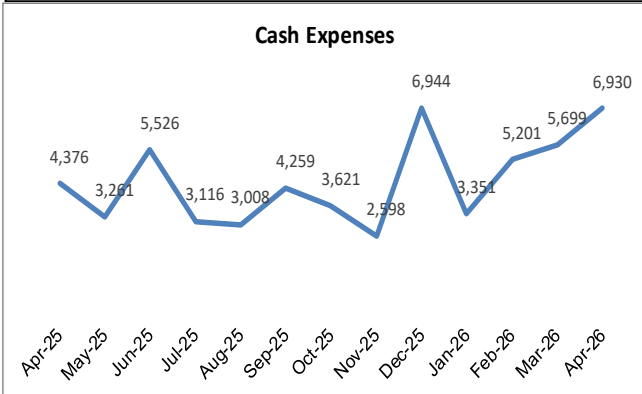
(all amounts in \$millions)

Income statement	YTD	Budget YTD	Variance	Last YTD	Variance
Revenue	\$45.7	\$49.6	(\$3.9) ●	\$43.3	\$2.4 ●
Expenses	\$44.7	\$45.8	\$1.0 ●	\$38.0	(\$6.7) ●
Net result	\$1.0	\$3.8	(\$2.8) ●	\$5.3	(\$4.3) ●

Balance sheet	April 2026	Jun 2025	Movement	Last YTD	Movement
Total assets	\$374.4	\$355.7	\$18.7 ●	\$354.4	\$20.0 ●
Total liabilities	\$12.8	\$5.5	(\$7.3) ●	\$5.8	(\$7.0) ●
Total equity	\$361.6	\$350.2	\$11.4 ●	\$348.6	\$13.0 ●

Cash flow	YTD	Last YTD	Movement
Operating cash flow	\$10.1	\$8.6	\$1.5 ●
Capex	(\$9.1)	(\$2.0)	\$7.2 ●
Other investing cash flow	\$4.1	\$4.7	(\$0.6) ●
Loan repayments	(\$0.1)	(\$0.2)	\$0.1 ●
Net cash flow	\$5.0	\$11.1	(\$6.1) ●

Unrestricted Cash expense cover
5 months ●
Current ratio 3:1 ●
Unrestricted Cash Balance \$16.2 ●



Financial performance

Cash inflows for the year to date include:

- Grant revenue –
 - Council received 50% of the Financial Assistance Grant for FY26 in June 2025 which has resulted in an unplanned budget variance. Further instalments of \$4.148m has been received during FY26 YTD.
 - In FY26 YTD, Council has received \$26.812m in flood damage revenue. A contract liability has been recognised at month end totalling \$8.419m, which represents advance payments received for the 2025 program. Revenue will be drawn down as expenditure is incurred.
 - In FY26 YTD, Council has received \$3.927m in capital funding for roads projects.
- Materials and services are tracking behind budget, primarily due to the timing of flood damage works. This is expected to normalise over the remainder of the financial year. Refer Appendix A for a summary of expenditure to date compared to approved submission values.
- Overall financial performance is sound.

Financial position

- Council's cash position has strengthened since June 2025 due to the receipt of flood damage and recoverable works revenue.
- Council has recognised contract assets totalling \$3.231m and contract liabilities totalling \$9.499m at month end. Contract assets and contract liabilities will fluctuate based on the timing of works progressing, relative to the timing of grant funding received by Council. A summary of contract assets and liabilities is provided in the table in Appendix B.
- Aside from the above, there have been no significant changes, outside of normal business operations, to the composition of Council's assets and liabilities during the period.
- A summary of Council's current capital projects is attached to this report.

Cash flow

- Closing cash balance was \$26.1 million (\$16.2 million unrestricted).
- Operating cash flow was \$5.0 million surplus, which is lower than the same period last YTD.
- Capital expenditure is significantly higher in comparison to the last YTD.
- Net cash flow is significantly lower than last YTD.
- The forecast cash balances are expected to vary during the year based on the timing of income being received and expenses being incurred.

Liquidity

- Council maintains 4 months of cash expense cover and 5 months of unrestricted cash expense cover ratio.
- Current ratio is 3:1 (\$2 of current assets to every \$1 of current liabilities). This has increased due a significant increase in cash balances. Contract liabilities are recognised and are a major contributor in increase of liabilities, mainly due to the advance payments received from QRA for flood repair damage.
- Short and long-term forecasts indicate that Council will remain in a sound financial position with

Rates Debtor Position

- The Council's overall arrears position as at 30 April stands at \$723,875.47.
- This balance is primarily driven by the two most recent levy cycles, which together make up the majority of outstanding amounts:
 - 2nd Levy:** \$438,124
 - 1st Levy:** \$184,738
- Combined, these two levies account for \$622,862, representing 86% of total arrears.
- This concentration in the most recent levy periods indicates that the arrears profile is heavily weighted toward short-term debt, which is typically the most recoverable segment. Older arrears remain comparatively low, reducing long-term financial risk.

ARREARS RECOVERY UPDATE – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following the issuance of Notices of Intention to Sell, Council initially identified 28 properties with a combined arrears balance of \$429,823.
- As a direct result of the statutory notice process, the number of eligible properties reduced to 11. Continued compliance with the Auction notice requirements further reduced this number to 4 properties by the 1 May auction date.
- During this period, Council received approximately \$96,000 in arrears payments across 7 properties, significantly reducing the outstanding balance prior to auction.
- At the auction day
 - 3 properties were successfully sold, contributing further arrears recovery
 - 1 property remained unsold and will now progress to a tender process, ensuring all statutory recovery mechanisms are fully utilise as the LG Act 2009 and LG Regulations 2012.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Paroo Shire Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the period ending 30 April 2026

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	\$ Variance to YTD Budget	% Variance to YTD Budget	2026 (Full Year) Budget	2025 Actual
Income						
Revenue						
Recurrent revenue						
Net rate and utility charges	4,398,872	4,622,247	(223,375)	0%	4,622,247	4,528,169
Fees and charges	525,302	177,670	347,632	196%	213,204	249,388
Rental income	86,677	147,500	(60,823)	-41%	177,000	120,365
Interest received	876,213	782,353	93,860	12%	938,824	1,143,599
Sales - contract and recoverable works	6,456,198	6,502,140	(45,942)	-1%	7,802,568	5,279,752
Other recurrent income	44,271	7,006	37,265	532%	8,407	177,393
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	23,278,571	30,498,415	(7,219,844)	-24%	36,598,098	31,535,287
Internal revenue	5,808,353	3,909,318	1,899,035	49%	4,691,182	-
Total recurrent revenue	41,474,457	46,646,650	(5,172,193)		55,051,530	43,033,953
Capital revenue						
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4,268,129	2,955,698	1,312,432	44%	3,546,837	7,524,253
Gain /(loss) on sale of non-current assets	-	-	-	0%	-	-
Total capital revenue	4,268,129	2,955,698	1,312,432		3,546,837	7,524,253
Total income	45,742,586	49,602,347	(3,859,761)		58,598,367	50,558,207
Expenses						
Recurrent expenses						
Employee benefits	(6,618,433)	(5,888,983)	(729,450)	12%	(7,066,780)	(7,507,440)
Materials and services	(25,356,839)	(28,693,113)	3,336,274	-12%	(34,431,735)	(24,649,970)
Finance costs	(89,846)	(29,167)	(60,679)	208%	(35,000)	(103,312)
Depreciation and amortisation	(6,853,999)	(7,233,446)	379,447	-5%	(8,680,135)	(8,707,709)
Internal expenses	(5,808,353)	(3,909,318)	(1,899,035)	49%	(4,691,182)	-
Total recurrent expenses	(44,727,470)	(45,754,027)	1,026,557		(54,904,832)	(40,968,432)
Capital expenses	-	-	-		-	(4,360,382)
Total expenses	(44,727,470)	(45,754,027)	1,026,557		(54,904,832)	(45,328,814)
Net result attributable to council	1,015,116	3,848,320	(2,833,204)		3,693,533	5,229,393

Commentary:

- Grant revenue –
 - Council received 50% of the Financial Assistance Grant for FY26 in June 2025 which has resulted in an unplanned budget variance. Further instalments of \$4.148m has been received during FY26 YTD.
 - In FY26 YTD, Council has received \$26.812m in flood damage revenue. A contract liability has been recognised at month end totalling \$8.419m, which represents advance payments received for the 2025 program. Revenue will be drawn down as expenditure is incurred.
 - In FY26 YTD, Council has received \$3.927m in capital funding for roads projects.
- Materials and services are tracking behind budget, primarily due to the timing of flood damage works. This is expected to normalise over the remainder of the financial year. Refer Appendix A for a summary of expenditure to date compared to approved submission values.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Paroo Shire Council
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 April 2026

	2026 YTD Actual	2025 Actual	2026 (Full Year) Budget
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	26,102,315	21,050,931	19,180,400
Trade and other receivables	1,720,786	2,968,961	1,566,727
Inventories	1,573,845	961,618	802,320
Contract assets	3,231,112	4,405,296	2,000,000
Total current assets	32,628,058	29,386,806	23,549,447
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	329,653,155	336,391,471	356,204,169
Capital works in progress	12,080,163	2,955,981	-
Total non-current assets	341,733,318	339,347,452	356,204,169
TOTAL ASSETS	374,361,376	368,734,258	379,753,616
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	651,735	4,109,071	3,327,821
Contract Liabilities	9,498,683	1,402,798	1,000,000
Provisions	820,351	820,679	794,579
Borrowings	52,529	133,936	25,123
Total current liabilities	11,023,298	6,466,484	5,147,523
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	1,632,898	1,605,929	909,201
Borrowings	140,884	157,798	132,676
Total non-current liabilities	1,773,782	1,763,727	1,041,877
TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,797,080	8,230,212	6,189,400
NET COMMUNITY ASSETS	361,564,297	360,504,046	373,564,217
Community Equity			
Asset revaluation reserve	195,714,950	195,714,949	190,234,240
Retained surplus/(deficiency)	165,849,347	164,789,097	183,329,976
TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY	361,564,297	360,504,046	373,564,217

Commentary:

- Council's cash position has strengthened since June 2025 due to the receipt of flood damage and recoverable works revenue.
- Council has recognised contract assets totalling \$3.231m and contract liabilities totalling \$9.499m at month end. Contract assets and contract liabilities will fluctuate based on the timing of works progressing, relative to the timing of grant funding received by Council. A summary of contract assets and liabilities is provided in the table in Appendix B.

- Aside from the above, there have been no significant changes, outside of normal business operations, to the composition of Council's assets and liabilities during the period.
- A summary of Council's current capital projects is attached to this report.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Paroo Shire Council
Statement of Cash Flows
For the period ending 30 April 2026

	2026 YTD	2026 (Full Year)
	Actual	Budget
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from customers	33,559,927	12,646,426
Payments to suppliers and employees	(36,118,532)	(41,476,528)
	(2,558,605)	(28,830,103)
Interest received	876,213	938,824
Rental income	86,677	177,000
Non-capital grants and contributions	11,782,947	36,748,097
Borrowing costs	(89,846)	(35,000)
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	10,097,386	8,998,818
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(9,124,182)	(10,140,850)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Capital grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4,146,712	2,774,241
Net cash inflow (outflow) from investing activities	(4,977,470)	(7,366,608)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayment of borrowings	(98,321)	(133,183)
Net cash inflow (outflow) from financing activities	(98,321)	(133,183)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	5,021,595	1,499,027
Cash at beginning of reporting period	21,080,720	17,681,374
Cash at end of reporting period	26,102,315	19,180,400

After taking contract liabilities and internal reserves (outlined below) into account, Council's unrestricted cash position is approximately \$16.2 million.

Internal and external cash restrictions are as follows:

Description	Source	Amount
Contract liabilities (*)	External	9,498,683
Building reserve (*)	Internal	403,330
Community housing reserve (*)	Internal	-

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Paroo Shire Council
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the period ending 30 April 2026

	2026 YTD Actual	2026 (Full Year) Budget
Asset revaluation surplus	195,714,950	190,234,240
Retained surplus	165,849,347	183,329,976
	361,564,297	373,564,217

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY RATIOS

Type	Measure	Target (Tier 7)	Actual Current Year	Council Narrative
Liquidity	Unrestricted cash expense cover ratio	Greater than 4 months	5.00	The unrestricted cash expense cover ratio is an indicator of the unconstrained liquidity available to a council to meet ongoing and emergent financial demands, which is a key component to solvency. Council is currently meeting the target which indicates council has sufficient liquidity to continue operating for an extended period of time based on current monthly expenses.
Operating performance	Operating surplus ratio	n/a	-7.84%	The operating surplus ratio is an indicator of the extent to which operating revenues generated cover operational expenses. Council currently has a negative operating surplus ratio.
	Operating cash ratio	Greater than 0%	8.90%	The operating cash ratio is a measure of council's ability to cover its core operational expenses and generate a cash surplus excluding depreciation, amortisation, and finance costs. Council's operating cash ratio is currently ahead of target.
Asset management	Asset sustainability ratio	Greater than 90%	36.51%	The asset sustainability ratio approximates the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by a council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives. Council's asset sustainability ratio is currently behind target.
	Asset consumption ratio	Greater than 60%	175.32%	The asset consumption ratio approximates the extent to which council's infrastructure assets have been consumed compared to what it would cost to build a new asset with the same benefit to the community. Council's asset consumption ratio is currently exceeding target.
Debt servicing capacity	Leverage ratio	0 - 3 times	0.05	The leverage ratio is an indicator of a Council's ability to repay its existing debt. It measures the relative size of the Council's debt relative to its operating performance. Council's leverage ratio is within the target range.
Financial capacity	Council-controlled revenue	n/a	11.87%	Council controlled revenue is an indicator of a council's financial flexibility, ability to influence its operating income, and capacity to respond to unexpected financial shocks.

APPENDIX A – 2025 FLOOD DAMAGE PROGRAM SUMMARY

Submission Name	Approved Value	Received to 30 April 2026	Expenditure to 30 April 2026	Remaining
Flood Damage NSW Zone PSC.0059.2425T.REC	7,930,017	2,373,558	2,716,388	5,213,629
Flood Damage NW_2 PSC.0063.2425T.REC	11,365,380	3,409,614	2,284,682	9,080,698
Flood Damage SW PSC.0064.2425T.REC	13,242,760	3,972,828	182,439	13,060,321
Flood Damage SE_1 PSC.0065.2425T.REC	10,882,501	3,264,750	184,459	10,698,042
Flood Damage NE PSC.0066.2425T.REC	12,343,290	3,702,987	925,893	11,417,398
Flood Damage SE_2 PSC.0067.2425T.REC	9,205,370	2,761,611	110,745	9,094,626
Eulo Levee Wall PSC.0071.2425T.REC	455,134	136,540	5,246	449,888
Flooded Roads PSC.072.2425T.REC	694,620	208,386	7,659	686,960
Program preparation and management	-	-	5,078,113	-5,078,113
	66,119,073	19,830,274	11,495,624	54,623,449

APPENDIX B – CONTRACT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES – 30 APRIL 2026

Program Name	Contract Assets	Contract Liabilities
Department of Statement Development	207,399	
DRFA Program		8,419,483
LRCI Phase 2	340,888	
LRCI Phase 3	796,942	
LRCI Phase 4	920,927	
Roads to Recovery 2024 - 29	976,972	
W4Q 24-27		358,688
LGSSP JKP Masterplan, ACIF Flood Light Upgrade		608,325
Gravel Royalties		99,724
	3,243,128	9,486,241

Contract assets represent works performed for which cash is yet to be received. Contract liabilities represent cash received in advance of works being undertaken.

APPENDIX C – RESULTS BY FUNCTION – 30 APRIL 2026

ANALYSIS BY FUNCTION AS AT 30 APRIL 2026

	REVENUE ANALYSIS						EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS					NET RESULT		
	OPERATING REVENUE (BUDGET)	OPERATING REVENUE (YTD ACTUAL)	CAPITAL REVENUE (BUDGET)	CAPITAL REVENUE (YTD ACTUAL)	REMAINING BUDGET (OPERATING)	REMAINING BUDGET (CAPITAL)	REMAINING BUDGET (TOTAL)	OPERATING EXPENDITURE (BUDGET)	OPERATING EXPENDITURE (YTD ACTUAL)	DEPRECIATION EXPENDITURE (BUDGET)	DEPRECIATION EXPENDITURE (YTD ACTUAL)	REMAINING BUDGET (TOTAL)	FUNCTION RESULT - YTD ACTUAL	FUNCTION RESULT - ANNUAL BUDGET
AIRPORT	450,000	491,369	-	-	(41,369)	-	(41,369)	693,500	821,515	104,607	160,373	(183,781)	(490,519)	(348,107)
ASSETS ADMINISTRATION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,000	22,328	-	-	57,672	(22,328)	(80,000)
CELEBRATIONS & FUNCTIONS	10,000	8,000	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	38,000	34,082	-	-	3,918	(26,082)	(28,000)
CEMETERIES	138,915	68,635	-	-	70,280	-	70,280	152,600	166,368	-	-	(13,768)	(97,733)	(13,685)
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	284,577	159,350	-	-	125,227	-	125,227	284,758	215,082	-	-	69,676	(55,732)	(181)
COMMUNITY HOUSING	62,000	58,534	-	-	3,466	-	3,466	64,800	32,253	-	-	32,547	26,281	(2,800)
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE OFFICER	-	167,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167,250	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	-	110,089	-	-	(110,089)	-	(110,089)	296,413	199,046	-	-	97,367	(88,957)	(296,413)
COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDED PROGRAMS	-	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-	(10,000)	-	34,000	-	-	(34,000)	(24,000)	-
COUNCIL BUILDINGS	52,050	28,353	-	-	23,697	-	23,697	750,000	1,152,938	1,959,192	883,381	672,873	(2,007,966)	(2,657,142)
COUNCIL OWNED HOUSES	85,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	250,000	137,211	-	-	112,789	(137,211)	(165,000)
COUNTRY ROADS CONNECT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CUNNAMULLA HOT SPRINGS	559,400	228,588	-	-	330,812	-	330,812	642,981	362,788	-	-	280,193	(134,200)	(83,581)
DEPOT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,000	30,304	-	-	54,696	(30,304)	(85,000)
DISASTER MANAGEMENT	658,360	19,469	60,235	-	638,891	60,235	699,126	13,900	14,863	-	-	(963)	4,606	704,695
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	2,894	500	-	-	2,394	-	2,394	313,000	232,012	-	-	80,988	(231,512)	(310,106)
ENG. PLAN & ENV - ADMINISTRATION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	157,494	369,311	-	-	(211,817)	(369,311)	(157,494)
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	5,788	7,214	-	-	(1,426)	-	(1,426)	10,300	62,815	-	-	(52,515)	(55,601)	(4,512)
EXECUTIVE	5,513	19,104	-	-	(13,591)	-	(13,591)	937,514	868,207	-	-	69,307	(849,103)	(932,001)
FESTIVALS AND EVENTS	50,000	10,127	-	-	39,873	-	39,873	303,000	122,423	-	-	180,577	(112,296)	(253,000)
FINANCE	3,566,440	3,424,644	-	-	141,796	-	141,796	1,351,400	1,438,227	-	-	(86,827)	1,986,417	2,215,040
FLOOD DAMAGE	22,042,760	17,819,688	-	-	4,223,072	-	4,223,072	22,042,760	17,521,145	-	-	4,521,615	298,543	-
GOVERNANCE	11,112,226	4,324,149	-	-	6,788,077	-	6,788,077	440,000	294,186	-	-	145,814	4,029,964	10,672,226
HALLS & RECREATION FACILITIES	-	17,862	-	-	(17,862)	-	(17,862)	-	-	-	-	-	17,862	-
HUMAN RESOURCES & EMPLOYMENT CREATION	49,500	96,081	-	-	(46,581)	-	(46,581)	499,000	560,294	-	-	(61,294)	(464,213)	(449,500)
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	516,100	445,594	87,823	70,765	87,564	(516,359)	(603,923)
LEVEE BANKS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,500	6,128	80,307	68,987	37,693	(75,114)	(112,807)
LIBRARY	500	51,823	-	-	(51,323)	-	(51,323)	200,999	176,439	-	-	24,559	(124,616)	(200,499)
PARKS & GARDENS	-	-	687,704	113,332	-	574,372	-	400,000	412,205	-	-	(12,205)	(298,873)	287,704
PEDESTRIAN NETWORK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	324,646	-	-	175,354	(324,646)	(500,000)
PEST & WEED CONTROL	177,000	221,706	-	-	(44,706)	-	(44,706)	369,310	481,723	-	-	(112,413)	(260,018)	(192,310)
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	108,925	36,303	-	-	72,622	-	72,622	125,000	57,315	-	-	67,685	(21,011)	(16,075)
PLANT OPERATIONS	2,650,000	2,932,893	-	-	(282,893)	-	(282,893)	1,325,000	1,480,892	616,598	446,058	14,648	1,005,944	708,402
PRIVATE WORKS	150,000	5,491	-	-	144,509	-	144,509	120,000	8,261	-	-	111,739	(2,770)	30,000
PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY	35,000	19,515	471,732	330,212	15,485	141,520	157,005	161,755	116,710	-	-	45,045	233,018	344,977
QUARRY MANAGEMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	35,901	-	-	(5,901)	(35,901)	(30,000)
RADF	42,500	42,500	-	-	-	-	-	57,500	52,500	-	-	5,000	(10,000)	(15,000)
REFUSE TIPS	140,897	98,743	-	-	42,154	-	42,154	474,546	226,468	-	-	248,078	(127,725)	(333,649)
RIVERBOAT OPERATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	60,000	-	(60,000)
RMPC - STATE ROADS	6,432,230	5,686,610	-	-	745,620	-	745,620	5,145,784	3,018,541	-	-	2,127,243	2,668,069	1,286,446
ROAD CONSTRUCTION	-	-	2,327,166	3,792,598	-	(1,465,432)	(1,465,432)	-	-	5,213,281	4,547,620	665,660	(755,023)	(2,886,115)
ROAD MAINTENANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	922,475	-	-	77,525	(922,475)	(1,000,000)
ROADS TO RECOVERY	1,713,190	41,650	-	-	1,671,540	-	1,671,540	1,713,190	748,546	-	-	964,644	(706,895)	-
SEWERAGE	539,863	535,413	-	-	4,450	-	4,450	277,000	330,339	321,076	275,984	(8,247)	(70,910)	(58,213)
STAFF RESOURCES	2,075,434	2,813,418	-	-	(737,983)	-	(737,983)	2,075,434	2,395,574	-	-	(320,140)	417,844	-
STOCK ROUTES & RURAL LANDS	7,500	40,675	-	-	(33,175)	-	(33,175)	93,663	90,266	-	-	3,397	(49,591)	(86,163)
STORES	140,748	197,637	-	-	(56,889)	-	(56,889)	87,113	144,446	-	-	(57,332)	53,191	53,634
STORM WATER	41,154	39,927	-	-	1,227	-	1,227	-	-	-	-	-	39,927	41,154
SWIMMING POOL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	460,000	372,313	-	-	87,687	(372,313)	(460,000)
TIED GRANTS	-	-	-	31,988	-	(31,988)	(31,988)	-	-	-	-	-	31,988	-
TOURISM	185,000	260,422	-	-	(75,422)	-	(75,422)	511,400	501,869	-	-	9,531	(241,447)	(326,400)
TOURISM ALL ABOARD	35,000	11,966	-	-	23,034	-	23,034	45,000	28,251	-	-	16,749	(16,284)	(10,000)
TRAIC	66,000	66,000	-	-	-	-	-	66,000	-	-	-	66,000	66,000	-
TV TRANSLATORS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	188	-	-	19,812	(188)	(20,000)
WASTE MANAGEMENT	439,530	403,269	-	-	36,261	-	36,261	175,000	111,227	-	-	63,773	292,043	264,530
WATER	782,548	780,291	-	-	2,257	-	2,257	336,525	335,513	350,921	400,832	(48,899)	43,946	95,102
WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	232,700	261,827	-	-	(29,127)	(261,827)	(232,700)
YOUTH PROGRAM	153,088	119,197	-	-	33,891	-	33,891	153,089	95,915	-	-	57,174	23,282	(1)
Grand Total	55,051,530	41,474,457	3,546,837	4,268,129	13,659,323	(721,292)	12,938,031	46,171,028	37,873,467	8,733,805	6,853,999	10,177,367	1,015,120	3,693,534

10.4.2 Capital Budget Update Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Corporate Services
Author: Sarmad Habib, Director Corporate Services
Attachments: 1. Capital Budget Update / Grants Expense Update

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on our current financial position in relation to overall Capital Projects and Grants.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Capital Budget Update Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not applicable.

Discussion

This report provides an overview of the financial performance for the month of April on capital works and grants expended.

This report is prepared on a partial accruals basis to give the most accurate representation of the Council's financial performance and position.

There are no significant budget risks to be brought to Council's attention at this time.

Budget/Financial Implications

All financial implications are outlined within the body of this report.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 2009.

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan

Theme: Excellence in Governance

Goal Statement: Accountable leadership and strong governance with integrity and accountability for optimum organisational performance.

1.6 Undertake best practice financial and risk management

Risk Management

The following risks are relevant to the matters considered within this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Constrained Revenue	Limited capacity to raise revenue and heavy reliance on State and Commonwealth government for funds and financial assistance do deliver programs, operations and services.

Consultation

Director of Corporate, Governance and Risk, Finance Consultant.



CAPITAL BUDGET

Budget 2026 YTD Expenses

PROJECTS									
Project Name	Funding Source	New / Carry Over	Total Project Value (Lifetime)	Capital/Other Funding (Lifetime)	Council Contribution	Spent in Previous Years	Expenditure Remaining	YTD Spent	Budget Remaining
TIDS 2026	TIDS 2026	New / Carry Over	2,154,332	1,077,166	1,077,166	-	2,154,332	2,161,754	7,422
Country Road Connect - Jobs Gate Road	CRC	New	1,250,000	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	1,425,250	175,250
Eulo Tompline Reseal	RTR 2025	Carry Over	1,713,189	1,713,189	-	809,410	877,121	18,592	858,529
Garmarren Road Reseal	RTR 2025	Carry Over				26,658			
Eulo Tompline widening and Culvert(Ext TIDS 2025)	RTR 2026	NEW	647,610					647,610	
Garmarren Road Rehab	RTR 2026	NEW	1,360,800	1,713,189			1,713,189		993,992
Garmarren Road Reseal	RTR 2026	NEW	598,560					71,587	
Job Gates Road Floodways *2 (Widgegoara CK)	RTR 2026	NEW	751,511						
LRCI P4 - Water Control System	LRCI P4	New	871,240	871,240	-	873,493	2,253	94,718	96,971
W4Q - Stage 1 Swimming Pool Upgrade	W4Q	New	600,000	600,000	-	-	600,000	99,747	500,253
W4Q - Childrens Training Track (Road Safety Focus)	W4Q	New	250,000	250,000	-	252,932	2,932	24,298	27,230
W4Q - Housing Upgrade	W4Q	New	550,000	550,000	-	-	550,000	185,008	364,992
W4Q - Airport Fuel Upgrade	W4Q	New	350,000	350,000	-	-	350,000	145,377	204,623
JKP Masterplan	LGSSP	New	211,200	126,720	84,480	55,783	155,417	126,023	29,394
John Kerr Park Lighting	MIF	New							
	CA	New	824,000	303,719	87,975	56,074	767,926	498,250	269,675
	Play our way	New							
TOTALS			11,811,151	9,088,693	1,077,166	2,471,826	7,694,033	4,876,061	2,817,972

OTHER PRIORITY CAPEX									
Description		New / Carry Over	Project Value	Capital/Other Funding	Council Contribution	Expenditure in Previous Years	Expenditure Remaining	YTD Spent	Budget Remaining
Veterans Memorial Wall		New	65,000	45,000	20,000	-	65,000	34,538	30,462
Cricket Nets		New	140,000	30,000	110,000	2,802	137,198	-	137,198
QFPI (Exclusion fencing project)		Carry Over	725,000	725,000	-	734,625	9,625	36,434	46,059
Christmas Tree		New	45,000	-	45,000	-	45,000	51,360	6,360
TV Transmission Upgrades		New	265,300	-	265,300	-	265,300	265,350	50
CCTV Network Upgrades		Upgrade	623,883	471,732	152,151	-	623,883	379,870	244,013
Eulo Landfill		Carry Over	85,000	-	85,000	662	84,338	36,222	48,116
Playground Rubber Soft Fall		Carry Over	60,000	-	60,000	-	60,000	53,204	6,796
Eulo Main Street Irrigation 200m		Carry Over	60,000	-	60,000	-	60,000	52,481	7,519
Robbers Tree Project		Carry Over	25,000	-	25,000	-	25,000	20,200	4,800
Childcare Center		Carry Over	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000	59,370	9,370
Solar PV systems – Depot Hall/ VIC & Library		New / Carry Over	141,441	70,721	70,721	-	141,441	102,625	38,816
TOTALS			2,285,624	1,342,453	943,172	738,089	1,547,535	1,091,654	455,881

PLANT REPLACEMENT / PURCHASE									
Description		New / Carry Over	Project Value	Capital/Other Funding	Council Contribution	Expenditure in Previous Years	Expenditure Remaining	YTD Spent	Budget Remaining
<i>Plant Replacements: 2025</i>									
Hilux Ute		Carry Over	50,500		50,500		50,500	71,604	21,104
Hilux Ute		Carry Over	50,500		50,500		50,500	71,604	21,104
Hilux Ute		Carry Over	50,500		50,500		50,500	71,604	21,104
Hilux Ute		Carry Over	50,500		50,500		50,500	71,553	21,053
Hilux Ute		Carry Over	50,500		50,500		50,500	71,623	21,123
Hilux Ute		Carry Over	50,500		50,500		50,500	71,623	21,123
Prado SUV		Carry Over	52,850		52,850		52,850	71,623	21,123
SUV		Carry Over	70,000		70,000		70,000	71,623	21,123
Hino Truck Tipper		Carry Over	310,000		310,000		310,000	387,273	77,273
Dog Trailer		Carry Over	75,000		75,000		75,000	-	75,000
Steel Water Tank		Carry Over	25,000		25,000		25,000	-	25,000
Steel Water Tank		Carry Over	25,000		25,000		25,000	75,245	50,245
Western Star Prime Mover		Carry Over	450,000		450,000		450,000	387,273	62,727
<i>New Plant:</i>									
Traffic Lights		Carry Over	25,000		19,000	6,000	19,000	-	19,000
Flat Bed Trailer 15m		Carry Over	30,000		30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000
Mini Excavator and Trailer		Carry Over	45,000		45,000	-	45,000	47,400	2,400
Small Plant		Carry Over	160,000		135,170	24,830	135,170	75,245	59,925
<i>Plant Replacements: 2026</i>									
Tipper Truck (247)		New	286,818	25,000	261,818		286,818	286,818	0
Dog Trailer (423)		New	147,480	10,000	137,480		147,480	144,980	2,500
Tipper Truck (252)		New	286,818	25,000	261,818		286,818	286,818	0
Dog Trailer (424)		New	147,480	10,000	137,480		147,480	144,980	2,500
Cat 12m Grader (312)		New	585,000	160,000	425,000		585,000	524,000	61,000
Small Tipper (346)		New	100,000	20,000	80,000		100,000		100,000
SUV		New	64,125	25,000	39,125		64,125	64,125	-
SUV		New	64,125	-	64,125		64,125	64,125	-
Hilux		New	59,200	20,000	39,200		59,200	53,818	5,382
Hilux		New	59,200	20,000	39,200		59,200	59,200	-
Hilux		New	58,050	20,000	38,050		58,050		58,050
Hilux		New	58,050	20,000	38,050		58,050		58,050
Hilux		New	43,165	20,000	23,165		43,165	43,165	-
Hilux		New	43,165	20,000	23,165		43,165		43,165
Tractor (322)		New	60,000	2,000	58,000		60,000	72,467	12,467
Emulsion Tank		New	90,000	-	90,000		90,000		90,000
Water Snorter		New	20,000	-	20,000		20,000		20,000
Seca Project Muni		New	20,000	-	20,000		20,000		20,000
Small Plant Allowance		New	50,000	-	50,000		50,000		50,000
SES Vehicle		New	60,235	60,235	-		60,235		60,235
TOTALS			3,873,761	457,235	3,385,696	30,830	3,842,931	3,146,542	696,390

TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			17,970,537	10,888,381	5,406,034	3,240,745	13,084,500	9,114,257	3,970,243
----------------------------------	--	--	-------------------	-------------------	------------------	------------------	-------------------	------------------	------------------

Grants Report				Revenue		Expense	
Grant Name	Project Name	Total Grant Allocation	Received in Previous Years	Received in 2025	Total Received	Spend to Date	Remaining
LRCI P4	Scada and Electrical Renewal	\$ 821,240.00	\$ -	\$ 328,496.00	\$ 328,496.00	\$ 968,210.73	-\$ 146,970.73
	Yapunyah Lodge	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 106,530.62	-\$ 56,530.62
	Cemetery Improvement Projects (Columbarium)	\$ 102,160.00	\$ -	\$ 40,864.00	\$ 40,864.00	\$ 71,952.93	\$ 30,207.07
	Footpath Upgrades	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 325,557.72	\$ 74,442.28
	Roadworks (Towns Streets)	\$ 161,749.00	\$ -	\$ 64,699.60	\$ 64,699.60	\$ 63,942.00	\$ 97,807.00
	Totals	\$ 1,535,149.00	\$ -	\$ 614,059.60	\$ 614,059.60	\$ 1,536,194.00	-\$ 1,045.00
W4Q	Stage 1 Swimming Pool Upgrade	\$ 600,000.00	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 99,747.00	\$ 500,253.00
	Childrens Training Track (Road Safety Focus)	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 277,229.63	-\$ 27,229.63
	Housing Upgrade	\$ 550,000.00	\$ -	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 185,008.23	\$ 364,991.77
	Airport Fuel Upgrade	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 145,377.18	\$ 204,622.82
	Totals	\$ 1,750,000.00	\$ -	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 707,362.04	\$ 1,042,637.96
Totals		\$ 3,285,149.00	\$ -	\$ 1,489,059.60	\$ 1,489,059.60	\$ 2,243,556.04	\$ 1,041,592.96

10.4.3 Customer Service Report

Council Meeting: 19 May 2026
Department: Corporate Services
Author: Amanda Watson – Team Leader, Administration.
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the progress of complaints or requests for private works logged in Council's Customer Request system.

Recommendation

Council receive and note the Customer Service Report.

Previous Council Resolutions

Not Applicable.

Discussion

Administration & Infrastructure staff are continuing to monitor the Customer Request System and update as information becomes available.

Opening Outstanding Requests	68
New Requests	66
Subtotal	134
Outstanding Requests Completed	50
New Requests Completed	43
Total Completed in April	93
Closing Outstanding Requests	41

Requests received in April	
Animals	9
Assets	5
Building Control	
Complaints	2
Compliments	1
Drainage	2
Driveway	1
Facilities	
Footpaths	1
Grids	1

Requests received in April	
Health	1
Other	
Overgrown Allotments	1
Parks & Gardens	10
Private Works	1
Roads	1
Rubbish	16
Sewerage	6
Stock routes & Reserves	1
Stores	1
Test	
Water	6
Total	66

93 requests were completed in the month of April, reducing some backlog but not enough to offset all outstanding requests.

Ageing of outstanding requests as at 30th April 2026

Closing Outstanding Requests	90 days	60 days	30 days	Current
Animals				4
Building Control	1			
Facilities		1		
Noise				
Other				
Overgrown / Untidy Allotment				1
Parks & Gardens				
Stock routes & Reserves				
Roads			1	1
Rubbish				4
Sewerage	2	1		3
Water				3
Footpaths				1
Abandoned Vehicles				
Stores	1			
Private Works				
Internal Request				
Complaints			2	1
Compliments				
Drainage				1
Assets	4	2	2	3
Driveway Work				
Grids	1			
Health				1
Total	9	4	5	23

Customer Services Request Performance Summary

Month	Requests Received	Resolved Same Month	Resolved Subsequent	Total Resolved	Resolution Rate	Same Month %	Outstanding
May	92	74	18	92	100%	80.43%	0
June	85	56	29	85	100%	65.88%	0
July	90	59	31	90	100%	65.56%	0
August	61	30	31	61	100%	49.18%	0
September	56	14	42	56	100%	25.00%	0
October	70	36	32	68	97%	51.43%	2
November	54	30	24	54	100%	55.56%	0
December	66	44	19	63	95%	66.67%	3
January	59	44	11	55	93%	74.58%	4
February	49	25	20	45	92%	51.02%	4
March	52	24	23	47	90%	46.15%	5
April	66	43	0	43	65%	65.15%	23
TOTAL	800	479	280	759	95%	60%	41

Key Metrics Explained (Updated to End of April)

1. Overall Resolution Rate – 95%

By the end of March, **759 of 800 requests** were resolved, giving an overall resolution rate of **95%**. This reflects strong long-term performance and a consistent ability to close the majority of customer requests across the reporting period.

2. Same-Month Resolution Efficiency – 59.9%

Across the full reporting period (May–April), **479 of 800 requests** were resolved within the same month they were received.

This results in a **same-month resolution efficiency of 59.9%**, meaning just under **6 in 10 requests** are completed within the same month.

This updated figure shows a moderate level of responsiveness overall, but also highlights that 40% of requests require follow-up in later months, which becomes more challenging during periods of high demand or reduced staffing.

3. February, March & April Performance Trend

Performance dipped in February and March, but the data shows a strong improvement in April, where the team closed the highest number of requests across the entire reporting period. This demonstrates a clear recovery in productivity and a renewed focus on reducing the backlog.

February

- Same-month resolution: 51.02%
- Outstanding cases: 4
- Resolution rate: 92%

March

- Same-month resolution: 46.15%
- Outstanding cases: 5
- Resolution rate: 90%

April — Significant Improvement

- Opening outstanding requests: 68
- New requests received: 66
- Total workload: 134
- Outstanding requests completed: 50
- New requests completed: 43
- Total completed in April: 93 (*highest monthly total in the full year*)
- Closing outstanding requests: 41
- Same-month resolution: 65.15%
- Resolution rate: 65%

April marks a **major uplift in performance**, with the team completing more requests than in any other month.

Despite inheriting a heavy backlog from February and March, the team made substantial progress by closing **93 cases**, demonstrating improved coordination, stronger throughput, and a clear shift back toward operational stability.

SNAP SEND SOLVE REQUESTS (APRIL 2026)

OVERVIEW

Snap Send Solve went live for all residents on 11th April 2026.

During April 2026, the Council received 9 service requests via Snap Send Solve. These requests covered a range of types including damaged street signs, sewer leaks/blockages, water leaks, overgrown vegetation, park issues, assets, and trees.

The data shows strong performance for closed requests, but growing risk in open requests.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Request Volume

- **9 total April requests**
- Mix of asset, vegetation, water, sewer, and signage issues

Handling Performance

- **Time to View:** 0–14 days
- **Time to In Progress:** 0–14 days
- **Time to Closed:** 0–18.5 days for closed requests
- Handling times show inconsistency, with some reports viewed immediately and others taking up to two weeks.

Compliance (30-day threshold)

- **55.6%** of April requests were 30 days
- **44.4%** remain Not Closed

Customer service team will be monitoring closely the progress of all requests coming from the SSS platform. Still in its early stages process will be improved to have better results.

Budget/Financial Implications

As per approved 2025/26 Budget.

Legislation/Statutory Implications

Local Governments Act 2009

Local Government Regulations 2012

Corporate Plan and/or Operational Plan

Operational Plan:

- Theme:
- 1. Excellence in Governance
 - 1.4 Deliver Excellence in Customer Service

Risk Management

The following risk/s are relevant to the matters considered in this report:

Risk Summary

Risk	Explanation
Failure to offer ongoing communication with customers to provide optimal customer service.	Accountable leadership and strong governance with integrity and accountability for optimum organisational performance.

Consultation

Council Practical System, Administration Staff.