



REGIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

1 JULY 2025

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **REGIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Tuesday, 1 July 2025**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Executive Support on 6393 8391.

AGENDA

1 INTRODUCTION.....3

1.1 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests
and less than significant non-pecuniary interests.....3

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES.....5

2.1 Minutes of the Economic Development Community Committee Meeting
- 4 June 2025.....5

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee at this meeting.

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 JUNE 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1252

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Industry & Business Engagement Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Economic Development Community Committee held a meeting on 4 June 2025. The minutes are attached for the Committee's consideration.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "11.2 Enhance opportunities for local business to grow and prosper".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Economic Development Community Committee at its meeting held on 4 June 2025.**
- 2 That the minutes of the Economic Development Community Committee from its meeting held on 4 June 2025 be adopted.**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 EDCC 4 June 2025 Minutes
- 2 EDCC 4 June 2025 Agenda, D25/67707 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 4 JUNE 2025

COMMENCING AT 8.00AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr Frances Kinghorne (Chairperson)(via Teams), Cr Tony Mileto (Mayor), Cr Graeme Judge, Reginald Kidd (Teams), Michael Banks, Russell Tym (8.07am), Julia Andrews, Pete Morrison, Ben Chiarella, Jack Evans, Kellie Pickering, Luke Knight, Melissa O'Brien, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Manager Economic Development, Industry & Business Engagement Lead

Cr Mileto chaired the meeting with Cr Kinghorne joining the meeting online

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Member M Banks/Cr G Judge

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Tammy Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr Melanie McDonell, Cr Marea Ruddy, Amy Gormly, Ricky Puata and Gary Norton for the Economic Development Community Committee meeting on 4 June 2025.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Mr R Kidd/Cr F Kinghorne

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 2 April 2025 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Economic Development Community Committee meeting held on 2 April 2025.

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 CHAIRPERSON PRESENTATION - REGIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1012

The Chairperson gave a recap of the Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee meeting held 6 May 2025. The topics included the confirmation of a change from quarterly to bi-monthly meetings for the Economic Development Community Committee as well as support for the Orange Rail Action Group to the Joint Organisation and relevant Ministers.

RECOMMENDATION

Cr F Kinghorne/Mr R Kidd

That the verbal presentation by the Chairperson be acknowledged.

3.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES - UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR THE OLD ORANGE SALEYARDS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1013

The Director Corporate & Commercial Services updated the Committee on the approval of the Development Application for Lots 21, 23 & 24 Edward Street, commonly referred to as the Old Saleyards. The DA was approved at the previous night's Council meeting and will now allow for the development of 10 Lots for sale, and 1 lot as a detention basin.

RECOMMENDATION

Cr G Judge/Member M Banks

That the verbal presentation by the Director Corporate & Commercial Services be acknowledged.

4 GENERAL REPORTS

4.1 PROGRESS ON RAIL SERVICES FOR ORANGE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/821

The Committee commented that this appears to be a stalling tactic from government and ongoing advocacy is required. Cr Kinghorne provided context that feasibility study also looking at provision of rolling stock and timetabling into Sydney in addition to siding and crew requirements

RECOMMENDATION

Cr F Kinghorne/Member J Evans

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the Progress on the Rail Services for Orange.

4.2 MARCH 2025 QUARTERLY UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/847

RECOMMENDATION**Cr F Kinghorne/Mr R Kidd**

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the March 2025 Quarterly Update.

4.3 NSW INDUSTRY POLICY

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1016

RECOMMENDATION**Member J Evans/Cr F Kinghorne**

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the NSW Industry Policy.

4.4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2028

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/823

During the discussion on the Action Plan, Member Reg Kidd raised the issue of recycling old solar panels. The Director Corporate & Commercial Services circulated the information via Teams prior to the end of the meeting, therefore it is not included in the Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION**Member J Gordon/Cr F Kinghorne**

That the Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan be updated.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

A question was raised by Member Reg Kidd about the stops on the Indian Pacific rail service and why it doesn't stop at Orange anymore. The Indian Pacific now caters to the experimental visitor who is paying a premium for their journey rather than just getting from point A to point B. The trip from Sydney to Perth leaves Sydney on a Wednesday at 13.55 and arrives at Broken Hill Thursday morning. This is the only stop in NSW on the Sydney to Perth journey where the minimum off-peak ticket is \$2,590. On the return trip the train stops in NSW at Katoomba only. The minimum off-peak ticket is \$2,890. Comparatively, there are around nine (depending on the day) train or train/coach services that run from Central to Orange with non-concession fares starting from \$21.15. Trips from Orange to Broken Hill start from \$68.20. This makes stops by the Indian Pacific in Orange unviable as a mode of transport.

The committee had an extended discussion on the lack of suitable housing in Orange to support key worker migration. Committee sought further clarity on timing of Affordable Housing Strategy and want the opportunity to develop specific actions to support this when ready.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.17AM.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

4 JUNE 2025

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Wednesday, 4 June 2025** commencing at **8.00AM**.

David Waddell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Tony Boland on 6393 8250.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building. The Committee Clerk will now identify the emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Apologies and Leave of Absence	3
1.2	Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
1.3	Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests	3
2	PREVIOUS MINUTES	4
2.1	Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 02 April 2025.....	5
3	PRESENTATIONS	9
3.1	Chairperson Presentation - Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee	9
3.2	Director Corporate and Commercial Services - Update on Development Application for the old Orange Saleyards.....	11
4	GENERAL REPORTS.....	12
4.1	Progress on Rail Services for Orange.....	12
4.2	March 2025 Quarterly Update.....	25
4.3	NSW Industry Policy.....	31
4.4	Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan 2025 - 2028	37

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

1 INTRODUCTION

MEMBERS

Cr Frances Kinghorne (Chairperson), Cr Tony Mileto (Mayor), Cr Tammy Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr Melanie McDonell, Cr Graeme Judge, Cr Marea Ruddy, Reginald Kidd, Gary Norton, Michael Banks, Anthony Healey, Russell Tym, Timothy Hall, Catherine Lawrence, Julia Andrews, Pete Morrison, Ben Chiarella, Jack Evans, Kellie Pickering, Luke Knight, Amy Gormly, Ricky Puata, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Manager Economic Development, Business Project Officer

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Economic Development Community Committee at this meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 2 April 2025 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Economic Development Community Committee meeting held on 2 April 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 14 May 2025 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Economic Development Community Committee meeting held on 14 May 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 2 April 2025
- 2 Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 14 May 2025

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE
ON 2 APRIL 2025
COMMENCING AT 8:02 AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr Frances Kinghorne (Chairperson), Cr Tony Mileto (Mayor), Cr Tammy Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor) via Teams, Cr Melanie McDonell via Teams, Cr Graeme Judge, Cr Marea Ruddy, Reginald Kidd via Teams, Gary Norton, Michael Banks, Russell Tym, Catherine Lawrence, Julia Andrews, Pete Morrison, Ben Chiarella, Kellie Pickering, Luke Knight, Ricky Puata, Josh Gordon, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Manager Economic Development, Industry & Business Engagement Lead, Economic Development Projects Lead.

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Member R Kidd/Member R Tym

That the apologies be accepted from Jack Evans and Amy Gormly for the Economic Development Community Committee meeting on 2 April 2025.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Member R Kidd/Member R Tym

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 3 July 2024 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Economic Development Community Committee meeting held on 3 July 2024.

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

2 APRIL 2025

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - CODE OF CONDUCT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/349

RECOMMENDATION

Member G Norton/Cr M Ruddy

That the Economic Development Community Committee acknowledge the requirements set by the Code of Conduct, and members commit to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct at all times while on Committee/Council business.

3.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - CHARTER

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/355

RECOMMENDATION

Member R Kidd/Member J Andrews

That the Charter for the Economic Development Community Committee be adopted noting the change in meeting cycle from quarterly to bi-monthly (every 2 months).

3.3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - 2025 MEETING DATES & TIMES

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/356

RECOMMENDATION

Cr M Ruddy/Cr G Judge

That the Economic Development Community Committee note the meeting dates, times and locations for the remainder of 2025.

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

2 APRIL 2025

3.4 ORANGE RAIL ACTION GROUP UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/344

The Committee suggested that ORAG be asked to assist in lobbying for the reinstatement of the rail siding from East Fork to Ash Street as industrial organisations, current and future, can utilise this to distribute nationally rather than road transport to Parkes to change to rail.

RECOMMENDATION

Cr M Ruddy/Member J Andrews

1. That Council Acknowledge the report from the Orange Rail Action Group (ORAG).
2. That Council continue to support ORAG in its lobbying for overnight stabling of a seamless passenger train service to Sydney, and rail infrastructure upgrades aimed at delivering faster rail and shorter travel times.
3. That Council continue to lobby the Central NSW Joint Organisation to support calls for improved passenger and freight rail services, and faster rail to the Central West.
4. That Council Lobby the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, The Honourable Jenny Aitchison MP and the Minister for Regional NSW and the Minister for Western NSW, the Honourable Tara Moriarty MLC to extend the Bathurst Bullet to Orange and stable the train overnight in Orange.
5. That Council Lobby our local member, Mr Phil Donato, to encourage him to keep lobbying both ministers to get the Bullet stabled in Orange.

3.5 2025 CBD AUDIT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/342

The Committee discussion suggested a targeted vacancy rate of less than 10% is desirable. The report was presented as an outline of the current state of shop vacancies, but not an analysis on underlying causes due the many contributing factors (cost of living, business conditions, interest rates etc). Committee is interested in discussion with leasing agents and landlords to get some insights into reasons

A Committee suggestion to focus on reducing Summer St vacancies is to explore the feasibility of Council subsidising a vacant shop front to support new businesses.

RECOMMENDATION

Member R Kidd/Member R Tym

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the CBD Audit and provide feedback to staff.

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

2 APRIL 2025

3.6 RETAIL POD REVIEW

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/473

There was agreement from the Committee that the current location isn't ideal and the pods in their current position are unlikely to stimulate enough activity to enable a business to graduate to Summer St. However, the pods are a great asset that could be used to activate strategic areas of the CBD.

RECOMMENDATION

Member B Chiarella/Cr M Ruddy

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the retail pod review and provide feedback to staff.

3.7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2028

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/357

Committee noted there has been an improvement in DA processing times recently. Committee noted that in local housing industry, the supply side of builders/construction not an issue, but complex approval processes and lack of suitable land is a limiting factor. A member noted that there would be value in identifying if Orange is experiencing trunk infrastructure constraints. Committee noted the need for better materials to attract residents, but noted the ongoing issue around affordable housing childcare etc and the need to be balanced in attraction techniques.

RECOMMENDATION

Cr F Kinghorne/Cr M Ruddy

1. That the outgoing Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan be noted.
2. That the Economic Development Community Committee consider and discuss items to be included on the New Action Plan.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.31AM

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 CHAIRPERSON PRESENTATION - REGIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

The Chairperson, Cr Kinghorne, will provide an update to the Committee on the Regional & Economic Development Community Committee of 6 May 2025 when the last Community Committee minutes were presented to Council for adoption.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**4 JUNE 2025**

**3.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES - UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT
APPLICATION FOR THE OLD ORANGE SALEYARDS**

The Director Corporate and Commercial Services will provide an update to the Committee on the outcome of the Development Application for the redevelopment of the old Orange Saleyards to be developed into new industrial blocks. The DA is due to be discussed at the Council meeting on the evening of 3 June 2025.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

4 GENERAL REPORTS

4.1 PROGRESS ON RAIL SERVICES FOR ORANGE

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/821

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Industry & Business Engagement Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the meeting of 2 April 2025, the Committee received a report about the activities from the Orange Rail Action Group (ORAG) and recommended to Council to continue actively pursuing additional rail services for Orange, and particularly the extension of the Bathurst Bullet to Orange.

On 17 April 2025, the Minister for Regional Transport, the Hon. Jenny Aitchison, held a media opportunity at the Orange Railway Station. Members of ORAG, Council and other local organisations were invited to the media opportunity, at which the Minister announced the \$2 million funding of a feasibility study to investigate the possibility of stabling some of the new regional rail fleet at Orange Railway Station. The feasibility study is expected to be released in 2027.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “14.2. Strengthen public and private rail, coach and air services”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the Progress on the Rail Services for Orange.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

At the media opportunity on 17 April 2025 at the Orange Railway Station, Minister Jenny Aitchison announced a \$2 million feasibility study to investigate the possibility of stabling some of the new regional rail fleet at Orange Railway Station. This study follows strong community advocacy for improved rail services in the region, including efforts by Orange Rail Action Group, Orange City Council and Member for Orange, Phil Donato.

The study aims to explore options for overnight train stabling, which could lead to better-timed and more frequent passenger services between Orange and Sydney. If trains could be parked overnight at Orange, it would allow greater options for passenger train journeys to and from Orange and the central west. The findings will help develop a concept proposal for a new stabling yard adjacent to the station. The Minister expects the results of the feasibility study to be released in 2027.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**4 JUNE 2025****4.1 Progress on Rail Services for Orange**

Attachment 1 is the press release from the media opportunity that was held on 17 April 2025. Attachment 2 is the community consultation report by Transport for NSW for the Orange Passenger Rail Services. The consultation was held between 18 October 2022 and November 2024. The

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Ministerial Press Release, D25/47245
- 2 Orange Passenger Rail Community Consultation Report April 2025, D25/47246



Investigations into Orange train stabling facility

nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/investigations-into-orange-train-stabling-facility

29 April 2025

Published: 17 April 2025

Released by: Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

 Listen

The Minns Labor Government is investing \$2 million to investigate the viability of stabling some of the New Regional Rail Fleet at Orange, as work continues to strengthen regional transport connectivity by listening to local communities.

Today's announcement follows ongoing advocacy from the local Member for Orange, Phil Donato and the wider orange community for improved rail services in the region.

Public consultation undertaken last year highlighted the local desire for better timed, more frequent rail services, with the community consultation report, formed by over 800 submissions being released today.

These investigations now underway by Transport will help inform suitable options and develop a concept proposal for a new stabling yard adjacent to the Orange Railway Station.

If trains could be parked overnight at Orange, it would allow greater options for passenger train journeys to and from Orange and the central west.

Further details about the investigations will be shared with the community as the proposal progresses, along with ongoing consultation with rail staff and the service unions.

Following this initial phase, the project would be subject to a feasibility assessment before design, procurement or construction could begin.

The Orange Passenger Rail Community Consultation Report April 2025 can be found at www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au

Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport Jenny Aitchison said:

"I have been very clear, that we can only deliver more connected local communities by listening to local voices and that is what we have done.

"I have heard loud and clear the strong community support for more frequent and better timetabled public transport connections between Orange and Sydney.

"I commend Phil and the local community on their strong advocacy for increased rail services and I look forward to continuing to work with and listen to them as we enter this next phase.

"I'm pleased Orange is being considered as a stabling facility for some of the new Regional Rail Fleet trains and I'm sure the Orange community will welcome news that we are taking this next step in investigating potential service improvements."

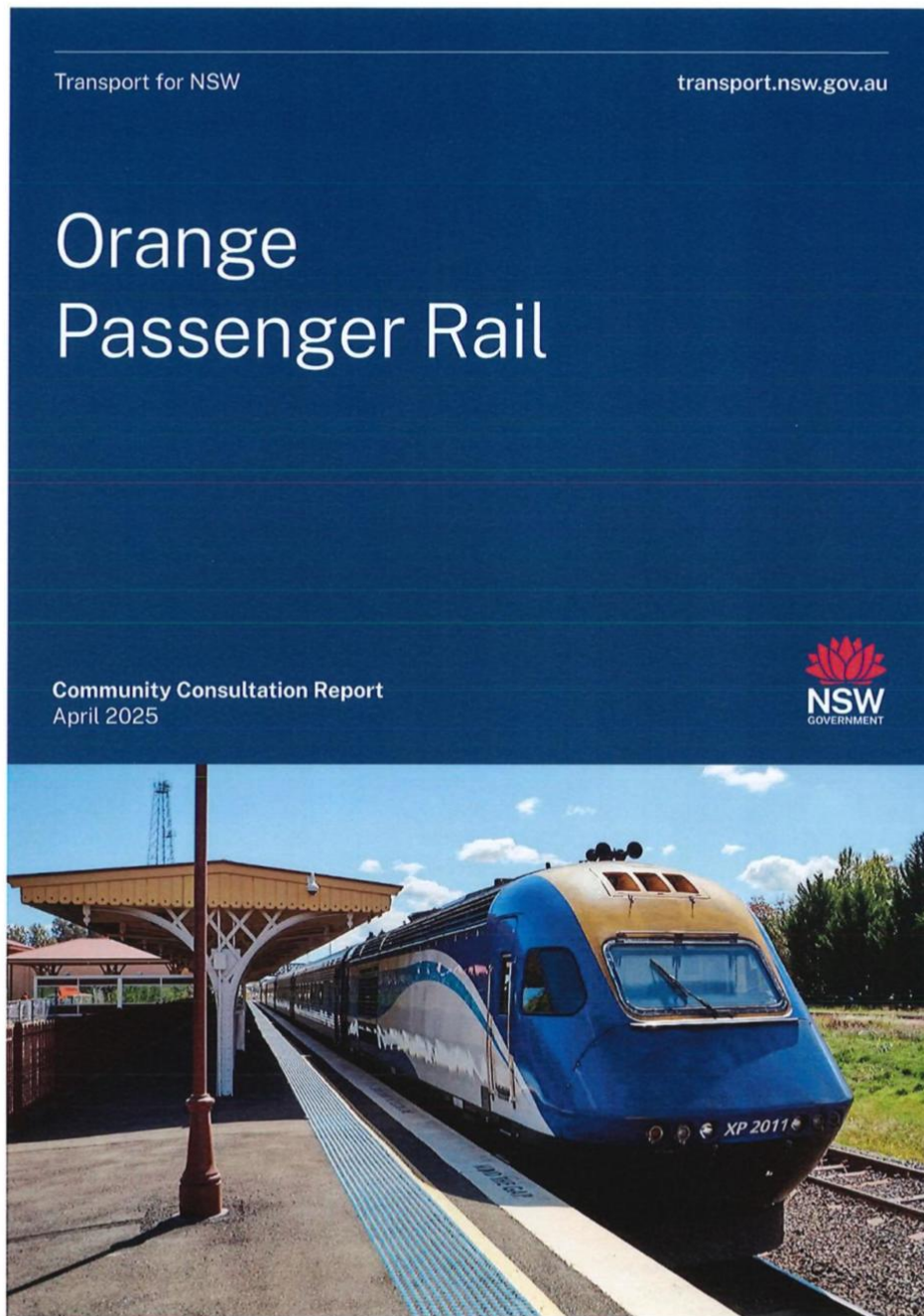
Member for Orange Phil Donato said:

"Improving rail connections to Orange would provide widespread economic benefits to the whole region through increased tourism and better access to employment and education.

"It's early days for the proposed train stabling yard but Orange would receive significant infrastructure development and expand as a passenger rail hub, building on the city's proud railway history dating back nearly 150 years."

NSW Labor Duty MLC for Labor, Stephen Lawrence said:

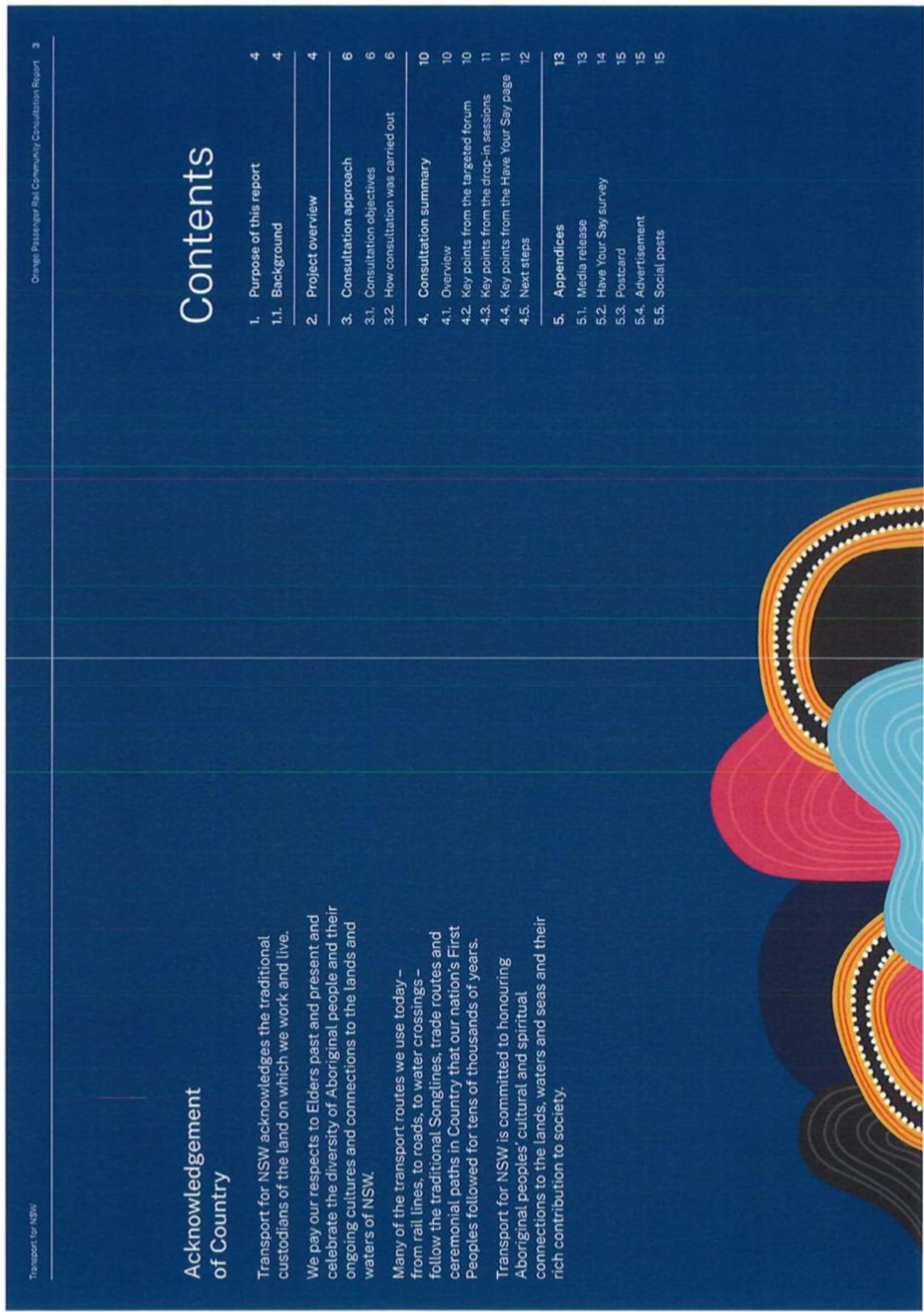
"As Duty MLC I have certainly heard the advocacy of the Orange community and their local MP Phil Donato on improving train services for Orange. This \$2 million investment is a great start and I look forward As Duty MLC to seeing the results of the investigation of the viability of stabling some of the new regional train fleet at Orange".



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 2 Orange Passenger Rail Community Consultation Report April 2025





Transport for NSW

1. Purpose of this report

1.1. Background

This consultation report provides an overview of the consultation undertaken, key findings and feedback received by the community and stakeholders through the targeted forum, drop-in session and submissions received via the online engagement platform.

In September 2024, the NSW Government announced that it would engage with Orange and surrounding communities to understand community views on future passenger rail services for Orange. As part of this engagement, Transport for NSW consulted and engaged directly with the Orange community as well as surrounding towns and villages between 18 October 2024 and November 2024.

2. Project overview

The purpose of this engagement was to listen to the community and gather feedback that will help inform decision making about potential future improved passenger rail options for Orange and surrounds.

There are a number of complex infrastructure, operational and rolling stock considerations that will form part of the planning for future services. Patronage, timetable and journey times, fares and crewing requirements will also be considered as part of any future design of services.

While the existing Bathurst Intercity train service provides an important and popular daily return train connection to Sydney, we are considering all possible options for Orange and the wider Central West. There is no specific timeline for any decision.

The Bathurst Intercity service is operated by Sydney Trains, and the Opal network only extends as far west as Bathurst. Orange is currently serviced by NSW TrainLink with trains and coaches that require pre-booking and are designed for long-distance journeys.

Transport hosted a forum on 31 October 2024, held in the Greenhouse function room at the Orange Ex-Service Club, that brought together around 40 key stakeholders, including local government, rail groups, Aboriginal parties, and representatives from the education, business, and health sectors.

The forum was followed by a drop-in session in the afternoon, with 40 members of the community in attendance. The drop-in session was promoted for the wider community to attend.

The wider community was also invited to provide feedback on Orange passenger rail services via an online survey.

The goal was to gather specific information on community needs, expectations, and the potential viability of options to help inform decision-making.

This feedback was received through an online Have Your Say consultation webpage, which closed on 22 November 2024 with 841 submissions received.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 2 Orange Passenger Rail Community Consultation Report April 2025

The consultation was promoted via a range of communication channels to target key stakeholder groups and individuals for the forum, as well as promoting the opportunity for the wider community to provide feedback via the online channels and drop-in session.

Table 2: Communication tools utilised

Tool/Activity	Description
Media release See Appendix 5.1	A media release was distributed via the project website and through engagement with local media: • Orange community having a say on rail services (29 October 2024).
Have Your Say Survey See Appendix 5.2	Online survey which was open for a total of 35 days, from Friday 18 October to Friday 22 November 2024. • 3,563 views • 2,836 visitors • 841 survey contributions.
Postcard See Appendix 5.3	A total of 1,000 postcards were distributed to key locations in Orange and surrounds.
Email invitation to stakeholder lists	Email invitations were sent to stakeholder lists inviting them to the targeted forum and community drop-in session. • 85 emails were sent for the targeted forum • 139 emails were sent for the drop-in session.
Newspaper advertisement See Appendix 5.4	Newspaper advertisements were published advising the Have Your Say website consultation was open, and information regarding the drop-in session. • Two advertisements in the Central Western Daily.
Digital advertisement - Facebook See Appendix 5.5	A social media campaign consisting of three social media posts promoting the Have Your Say website and community drop-in session. • Total reach of 41,785 with 2,178 engagements.
Radio advertisement	Radio advertisements were broadcast advising the Have Your Say website consultation was open and information regarding drop-in session. • 24 radio advertisements in total across Hit 105.9 Central West and Radio 2EL - Orange.

3. Consultation approach

3.1. Consultation objectives

The primary goal of the engagement was to gather feedback that will help inform decision making about potential future passenger rail options for Orange and consider any improvements.

- Current needs: Understanding how existing rail services impact daily life, access to essential services, and overall connectivity.
- Expectations: Gauging what the community expects from future rail services, including frequency, routes, and amenities.
- Viability of options: Assessing the feasibility of various options to improve rail services, considering community input and practical constraints.

3.2. How consultation was carried out

We consulted with the community between October and November 2024.

Our approach to consultation provided an opportunity for community members and stakeholders to provide their feedback via various channels including online, in person at the forum and drop-in session or via mail, email or phone contact with the project team.

For the forum, we invited several stakeholders from local government, rail groups, Aboriginal parties and representatives from the education, business and health sectors. This enabled Transport to collect feedback on how the community wishes to travel around and out of the region, and what type of services would best meet that need.

Table 1: Consultation tools and engagement outcomes

Tool/Activity	Description
Have Your Say website https://our.say.nsw.gov.au/orange-passenger-rail	An online engagement portal which hosted the survey for community members to complete.
Targeted stakeholder forum	A targeted stakeholder forum was held on Thursday 31 October 2025, from 12pm to 3pm at the Greenhouse Orange. • 40 key stakeholders in including local government, rail groups, Aboriginal bodies and representatives from the education, business and health sectors attended.
Community drop-in session	A community drop-in session was held on Thursday 31 October, from 4pm to 6pm at the Greenhouse Orange. • 40 community members attended.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 2 Orange Passenger Rail Community Consultation Report April 2025

<p>Transport for NSW</p> <h2>4. Consultation summary</h2> <h3>4.1. Overview</h3> <p>The project team interacted with around 80 people during the targeted forum and community drop-in session. Valuable feedback and supporting information was provided by a range of stakeholder groups including local government, community, education, business and health sectors.</p> <p>During the targeted stakeholder forum the groups were asked to provide their input on three key questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question 1: What is the impact of Current Rail Services and Connections from Orange to Sydney?• Question 2: What would a good service from Orange look like?• Question 3: Design your own ideal service <p>Facilitators from Transport were seated at each table to assist discussions and record responses. Participants rotated between stations, discussing each question and providing feedback prior to moving to the next station.</p> <p>During the second half of the forum, attendees were then asked to put forward two options on what an Orange service could look like as well as an opportunity to design their own service. They were split into three groups and each table talked through the constraints, positives, negatives, risks and opportunities for each option. Each group moved between options after 10 minutes.</p>	<h3>4.2. Key points from the targeted forum</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timetable adjustments: Many find the early 4:40am coach departure from Orange inconvenient, preferring later options like 6:30am or 8:00am.• Travel preferences: Elderly and young people find bus options unsuitable. A seamless train service with fewer stops is preferred.• Accessibility: Difficulties for people with disabilities, elderly, and young families. Safety concerns with late return trips.• Cost and convenience: Alternatives to rail are more expensive. Improved rail services could reduce the need for overnight stays and make travel more affordable.• Tourism and economy: Better rail services could boost tourism and the local economy, providing easier access for students, medical professionals, and tourists.• Frequency: Services should run 7 days a week with multiple daily options.• Connectivity: Better connections with buses and other transport modes. Integrated ticketing and seamless transfers are important.• Amenities: Power outlets, Wi-Fi, and comfortable seating are essential for business travellers.	<h3>4.3. Key points from the drop-in sessions</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel preference: A service with fewer stops is preferred. Services should run 7 days a week with multiple daily options. Require more travel shuttle services to connect with Orange trains.• Cost: Desire for Opal Card services to be extended to Orange.• Amenities: Wi-Fi, power outlets and stations facilities such as toilets should remain open.• Accessibility: Difficulties for people with disability or mobility issues transitioning from train to coach, safety concerns with late return trips and the Orange station being closed.• Frequency: More services with timing options to allow people more time in Sydney.• Connectivity: Integrated ticketing and seamless transfers are important.• Recreation: Trains need more capacity for groups of cyclists and their bikes. Would be great if the services had bike racks to wheel bikes on and off trains.• Cleanliness: The Bathurst Bullet needs a revamp and an upgrade, a very old service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 34.3% were over 55 years old- 1.2% answered prefer not to say• Accessibility needs: Some respondents have disabilities or special accessibility requirements. <h3>2. Impact of rail transport</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to services: Rail transport significantly impacts access to essential services, employment, training, and education.• Frequency of use: Usage varies from daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, to never.• Purpose of travel: Common reasons include holiday/leisure, medical appointments, school/study, and business purposes. <h3>3. Current Rail Services</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bathurst Services: Mixed feedback on the usage of the service, with reasons for both use and non-use.• Timetable challenges: Many find the current timetable inconvenient, particularly the early departures and late arrivals (via connecting coach).• Connecting transport: Issues with connecting transport, especially for elderly or disabled passengers. <h3>4. Suggestions for improvement</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More frequent services: Strong demand for more frequent services, especially from Orange to Sydney.• Direct services: Preference for direct services without the need for bus transfers.• New routes: Requests for new routes to Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, and other regional towns.• Bike facilities: Need for better facilities to carry bikes, including roll-on bike storage. <h3>5. Service Quality and Comfort</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comfort and cleanliness: Complaints about the comfort and cleanliness of current services.• Modern facilities: Requests for modern trains with better amenities like charging ports, Wi-Fi, and comfortable seating.
	<h3>4.4. Key points from the Have Your Say page</h3> <h4>1. Demographics and Accessibility</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locations: Respondents were from various locations including Dubbo, Murrumbidgee, Sydney, Bathurst, Forbes, and more.- 68.7% live in the Orange Local Government area- 25.6% live in Central NSW but outside of the Orange Local Government area- 5.6% answered other• Age groups: The survey includes a diverse age range:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1.8% were under 21 years old- 62.5% were 21-55 years old		




ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 2 Orange Passenger Rail Community Consultation Report April 2025

5. Appendices

5.1. Media release



Transport for NSW Media Release

Orange Passenger Rail to be a game-changer for the region

The NSW Government is pleased to announce that the Orange Passenger Rail project has been selected as one of the key infrastructure projects for the region. This project will provide a direct rail link between Orange and Sydney, significantly reducing travel times and improving connectivity for the region. The project is a key part of the NSW Government's commitment to improving public transport and infrastructure across the state.

The project will involve the construction of a new rail line from Orange to Sydney, with a total length of approximately 150km. The project is expected to be completed by 2030, and will provide a direct rail link between Orange and Sydney, significantly reducing travel times and improving connectivity for the region.

The project is a key part of the NSW Government's commitment to improving public transport and infrastructure across the state. The project will provide a direct rail link between Orange and Sydney, significantly reducing travel times and improving connectivity for the region.

Media released: 01/04/2025

- 11. Additional Comments**

 - Infrastructure improvements: Suggestions for infrastructure improvements like tunnels through the Blue Mountains.
 - Community impact: Importance of rail services for reducing road traffic and environmental impact.

Overall, the feedback highlights a strong demand for more frequent, reliable, and comfortable rail services directly connecting Orange to Sydney, with better integration of regional transport options and modernised facilities to enhance the travel experience.
- 4.5. Next steps**

Feedback and insights gathered during this engagement period has provided us with specific information on community needs, expectations and travel preferences, which will help us to inform decision making about potential improvements to rail and other transport connections.

Issues such as patronage, timetable and journey times, fares and crewing requirements will be considered as part of any future design of service provision.

Community consultation is an important component of the planning process and this feedback will assist with developing and prioritising any future initiatives.

As a next step Transport for NSW will continue investigations regarding potential improvements to passenger train services. These investigations will consider all options for improved rail connections following public consultation last year which showed strong community support for better timed and more frequent services.
- 6. Economic and Environmental Impact**

 - Economic benefits: Improved rail services could boost tourism and provide better access to employment and education.
 - Environmental benefits: Rail travel is seen as a more environmentally friendly option compared to driving.

7. Accessibility and Integration

 - Integration with other transport: Need for better integration with other public transport forms.
 - Opal Card system: Calls for extending the Opal card system to cover more regional services.

8. User experience and comfort

 - Positive feedback: Some users appreciate the comfort and predictability of rail travel.
 - Negative feedback: Concerns about the cleanliness, maintenance, and onboard amenities.

9. Broader regional connectivity

 - Regional hubs: Better connectivity to other regional areas like Parkes, Dubbo, and beyond.
 - Tourism and Active Transport: Inclusion of bike-friendly facilities to promote tourism and active transport.

10. Specific Suggestions

 - Extend Bathurst Services: Many suggest extending the service to start from Orange.
 - High-Speed rail: Introduction of high-speed rail services to reduce travel times.
 - Reopen other rail lines: Reinstatement of services to smaller towns and villages to improve regional connectivity.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 2 Orange Passenger Rail Community Consultation Report April 2025

5.2. Have Your Say survey

www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/orange-passenger-rail

Four sample survey questionnaires are displayed, each with a header section and a main body of questions. The questions are organized into sections, with some sections containing multiple-choice options and others containing open-ended text boxes. The surveys are labeled 'Page 1 of 1' and 'Page 2 of 1'.

5.3. Postcard



5.4. Newspaper advertisement



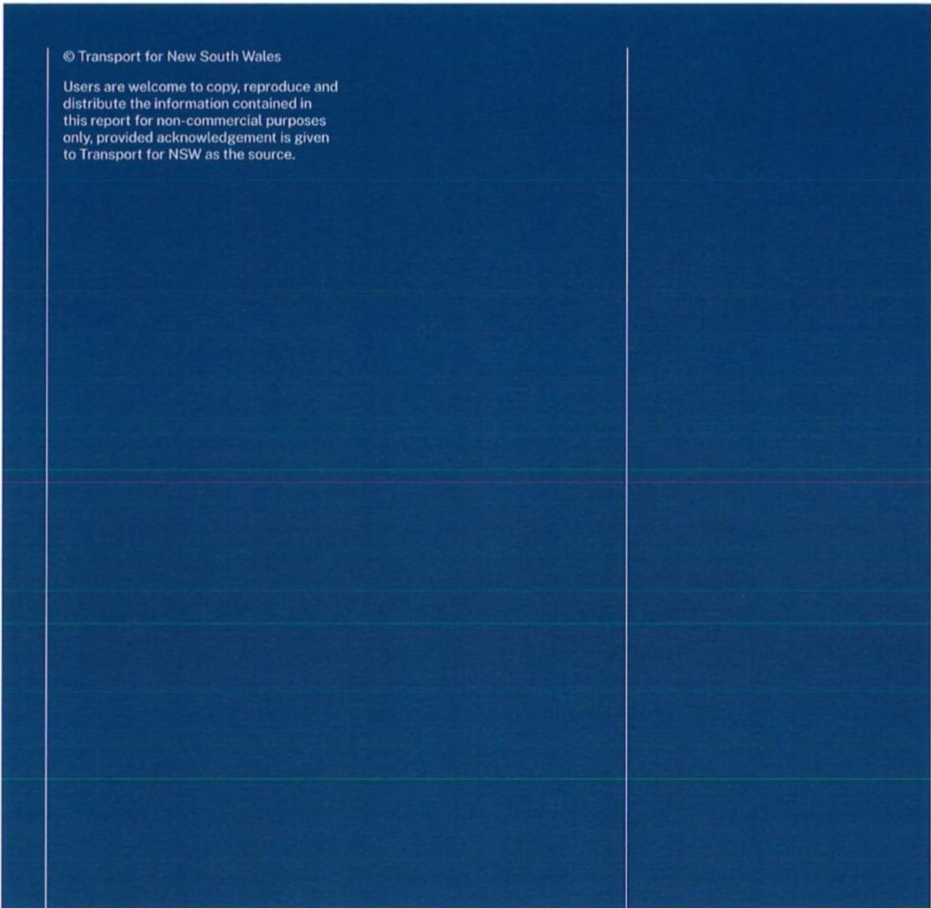
5.5. Social posts



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 2 Orange Passenger Rail Community Consultation Report April 2025



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

4.2 MARCH 2025 QUARTERLY UPDATE

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/847

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Industry & Business Engagement Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council now produces quarterly updates on economic and labour market related data. The latest update for March 2025 is attached.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “13.4. Enhance opportunities for local business to grow and prosper”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the March 2025 Quarterly Update.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on the Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Our Region Snapshot March Quarter 2025, D25/61025



Population

The growth of 0.8% is the second highest annual rate of growth in 5 years for the Orange LGA. The growth in 2019 (prior to Covid-19) was 1.4%. While it is not possible to capture all reasons for the reduced growth over the past four years, the likely influencing factors include: slowdown in construction due to availability of (and increase in costs of) construction materials; remote working didn't require relocation to fill a role therefore less people moved; and increased interest rates affecting the housing market.

	Population 30/6/2024	Change since 30/6/2023	% growth last year	% growth p.a. last 5 years	% growth p.a. last 20 years
Orange LGA	44,610	▲ 374	▲ 0.8%	0.7%	1.0%
OCB	66,274	▲ 516	▲ 0.8%	0.6%	0.9%
CNSW	183,849	▲ 828	▲ 0.5%	0.3%	0.5%
NSW	8,479,314	▲ 138,115	▲ 1.65%	1.1%	1.2%

Source: Estimated resident population, Local Government Areas, Australia

All geography levels have shown a higher growth rate in population over the past 12 months than the average for the past 5 years. This could be the effect of Covid-19, interest rates and work-from-home issues, similar to the explanation above.

Labour Market

The Orange region relies on the interconnectedness of the labour market across Cabonne and Blayney. Labour market data for our region is best reviewed alongside the combined Orange, Cabonne and Blayney Local Government Areas, also known as the Functional Economic Region (FER). The data is for the December 2024 quarter and the change from the corresponding December 2023 quarter. This data is generally released three months after the end of the reporting period with the March 2025 data likely available in July 2025.

	UE rate 12/2024	Change since 12/2023	UE persons 12/2024	Change since 12/2023	Labour force 12/2024	Change since 12/2023
Orange	2.1%	▲ 0.8%	518	▲ 206	25,209	▲ 1,222
OCB FER	1.8%	▲ 0.6%	690	▲ 277	37,719	▲ 1,862
NSW	3.9%	▲ 0.3%	175,481	▲ 239,444	4,686,400	▲ 125,701

Source: Small Area Labour Markets - Jobs and Skills Australia

Even with a 0.8% growth in the past 12 months, the unemployment rate in Orange and the OCB FER continues to remain very low, yet the labour force continues to grow. This slight growth in unemployment and the labour force will continue to lead to a slight easing in the labour shortages experienced over the past 4 - 5 years.

Housing

The housing market appears to be softening for purchasers, yet the rental market remains strong, contributing to affordability challenges for part of the community. There were 1,117 houses and 337 units leased in the year ending March 2025 in Orange. There were 729 houses and 76 units sold in Orange in the same period.

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Attachment 1 Our Region Snapshot March Quarter 2025

4 JUNE 2025

	Location	Building	Value	Change in 12 months
Sales	Orange	House	\$690,000	-1.4%
		Unit	\$450,000	-10.0%
	Sydney	House	\$1,691,731	+4.0%
		Unit	\$823,467	+1.8%
Rent	Orange	House	\$550/week	+1.9%
		Unit	\$450/week	+7.1%
	Sydney	House	\$870/week	+2.3%
		Unit	\$725/week	+2.1%

Source: Sources: realestate.com.au (April 2025), rent.com.au (April 2025) & Domain.com.au (March 2025)

- **Rental properties:** accounted for 32.6% or a third of all properties in Orange at the 2021 Census. It is estimated that the rental property vacancy rate is currently around 0.9%. The vacancies have dropped from 1.2% in December to 0.9% in March 2025. As there were 5,269 rental properties (houses and units) at the 2021 Census, this suggests there are around 47 properties available to rent.
- **Affordability:** The reduction in the vacancy rate and the continuing increase in rents suggests that housing remains tight and hard to come by. Affordability remains a concern for renters, with many rental properties listed in excess of \$700 per week. To be considered affordable, someone renting a unit at the median price would need to be on an income of \$78,000 a year and someone renting a house on the median price would need an annual income of \$95,300 to be considered affordable.
- **Short-Term Rental Accommodation ("AirBnB"):** There are 282 non-hosted properties listed in the Orange LGA, which is 8 more than the end of the December quarter. There are currently 82 hosted properties, down by 13 properties since the December quarter and down by 21 since September quarter. The non-hosted STRA stock equates to 1.7% of the total housing stock or 5.2% of the rental housing stock, which is consistent with the NSW average and lower than some other tourism destinations.

The Economy

Both the Resident and Visitor Local Spend have contracted leading to an overall reduction in the Total Local Spend.

	Mar Qtr 2025	Mar Qtr 2024	Change \$	Change %
Total Local Expenditure	\$307.21M	\$309.75M	-\$2.54M	-0.8%
Resident Local Spend	\$180.40M	\$181.71	-\$1.32M	-0.7%
Visitor Local Spend	\$126.82M	\$128.04M	-\$1.22M	-1.0%

Expenditure data sourced from Spendmapp by Geografia

	Mar Qtr 2025	Mar Qtr 2024	Change \$	Change %
Resident Escape Spend	\$67.24M	\$64.76M	\$2.48M	3.8%
Resident Online Spend	\$158.27M	\$145.60M	\$13.99M	8.7%

Expenditure data sourced from Spendmapp by Geografia

Resident Spend

- **Escape spend** is where residents are spending their money outside of Orange (not including online). There has been a increase of 3.8% compared to the corresponding quarter the previous year. This is marginally more than the underlying inflation rate and doesn't suggest a significant growth in residents travelling elsewhere.
- **Online Spend** is purchases made online, regardless of physical location, for example, a purchase from Amazon will show up in this section as will a 'Click and Collect' purchase at Bunnings or a phone app purchase of a coffee in the CBD. This category again has grown substantially at 8.7%.

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Attachment 1 Our Region Snapshot March Quarter 2025

4 JUNE 2025

Total Spend by category			
Expenditure Category	March 2025 Qtr	March 2024 Qtr	Growth
Grocery Stores & Supermarkets	\$58.23 M	\$59.27 M	-1.7%
Professional Services	\$43.18 M	\$42.43 M	1.8%
Specialised & Luxury Goods	\$42.65 M	\$41.36 M	3.1%
Transport	\$38.14 M	\$40.36 M	-5.5%
Dining & Entertainment	\$35.25 M	\$34.05 M	3.5%
Department Stores & Clothing	\$27.70 M	\$27.78 M	-0.3%
Bulky Goods	\$16.26 M	\$16.42 M	-1.0%
Specialised Food Retailing	\$13.75 M	\$14.34 M	-4.1%
Personal Services	\$9.99 M	\$9.63 M	3.7%
Travel	\$9.03 M	\$9.98 M	-9.5%
Furniture & Other Household Goods	\$5.85 M	\$5.46 M	7.2%
Light Industry	\$4.61 M	\$5.71 M	-19.2%
Trades & Contractors	\$1.48 M	\$1.96 M	-24.2%
Other	\$1.09 M	\$1.01 M	8.1%

The strongest growth category was Furniture and Other Household Goods at 7.2% and Other at 8.1%.

The greatest reductions in expenditure were in Trades and Contractors (-24.2%), Light Industry (-19.2%) and Travel (-9.5%). In the March 2024 Quarter, the Trades and Contractors received a total of \$663,150 in January 2024, \$645,440 in February and \$647,200 in March 2024. January is renowned as the month that trades and contractors take holidays. This could indicate an urgency over the Christmas 2023 period to complete projects.

Spending Demographics

Please note: This data is from a program that is currently being trialed in Beta version. Feedback is sought on the usefulness of this data.

Total Local Expenditure

The expenditure for the March quarter in 2025 fell across most of the cohorts in comparison to March quarter 2024. This was more pronounced in the younger cohorts of 18-24 years and 25-34 years with the greatest drop in the male 25-34 age group. The likely reasons include the cost of living and higher interest rates which are most likely to affect young families and particularly those purchasing a property.

Total Expenditure Growth - March Quarter 2025 v March Quarter 2024



ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Attachment 1 Our Region Snapshot March Quarter 2025

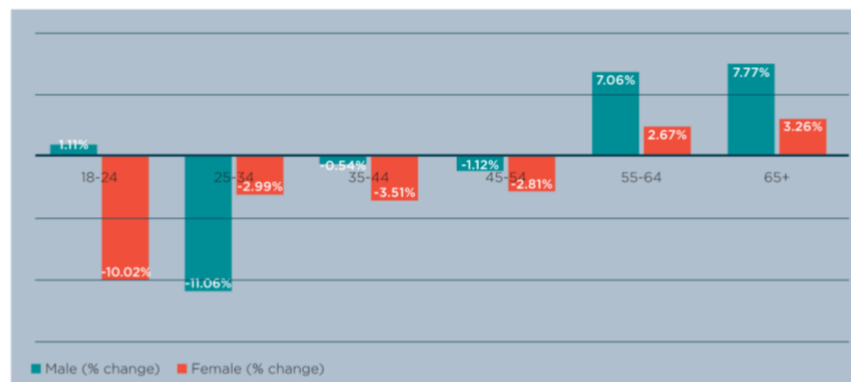
4 JUNE 2025

The cohort of over 65's showed strong growth in total expenditure which could be attributed to parents and grand parents in that cohort purchasing for family members in the younger cohorts to help alleviate the cost of living.

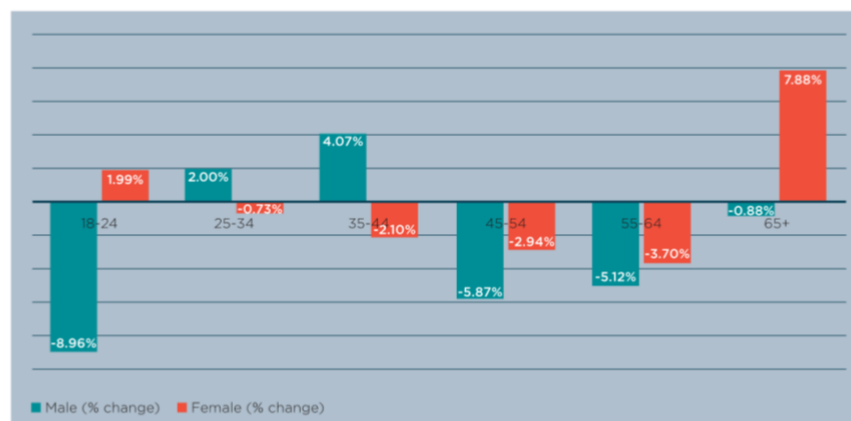
Local Resident Expenditure

The local resident expenditure saw sharp falls in the 18-24 female and 25-34 male cohorts. The majority of growth was 55-64 male and 65+ male cohorts. The likely reasons include the cost of living and higher interest rates which are most likely to affect young families and particularly those purchasing a property.

Resident Spend Growth - March Quarter 2025 v March Quarter 2024



Visitor Expenditure Growth - March Quarter 2025 v March Quarter 2024



The March quarter has seen a drop in both male and female visitors in the 45-54 and 55-64 cohort. The two cohorts are a key part of our visitor economy and could well be suffering the effects of cost of living and interest rate pressures. The largest reduction was in the 18-24 male cohort. There is no obvious reason for such a large fall in spending, particularly when the female cohort in this age group increased their spending. A possible (but not verified) reason is the completion of major projects where the visitors were here for an extended period in 2024 but the project completed and they left prior to the March Quarter 2025.

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

4.3 NSW INDUSTRY POLICY

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1016

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Industry & Business Engagement Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State Government has released the NSW Industry Policy. The Government views this policy as a forward-looking agenda for a resilient, sustainable and productive NSW economy. The Policy aims to address key social and economic challenges with three "Core Missions":

1. Housing
2. Net Zero & Energy Transition
3. Local Manufacturing

The Policy provides a long-term vision and commitment to give businesses the confidence to invest and grow in NSW. It foresees a proactive role for government but one that is underpinned by close cooperation and coordination with industry and other stakeholders. A summary of the Plan is attached for the information of the Committee.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "13.4. Enhance opportunities for local business to grow and prosper".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the NSW Industry Policy.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The attached document is a summary of the NSW Industry Policy. The full 60 page policy can be found at <https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au/assets/2025-Policy-and-Strategies/NSW-Industry-Policy/Investment-NSW-NSW-Industry-Policy-V8-accessible.pdf>

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 NSW Industry Policy Summary, IC25/11348



NSW Industry Policy summary

The NSW Government is committed to building a better NSW with a thriving economy. A thriving NSW economy benefits everyone, creating more and better jobs, improving the way we make and do things, and driving prosperity and wellbeing for the people of NSW.

What is the NSW Industry Policy?

This NSW Industry Policy sets out our long-term vision for the economic future of NSW and calls on all stakeholders to work together to further strengthen our economy.

Through the NSW Industry Policy, we're driving collaboration across industry, innovation and trade to give businesses the confidence they need to invest and grow in NSW.

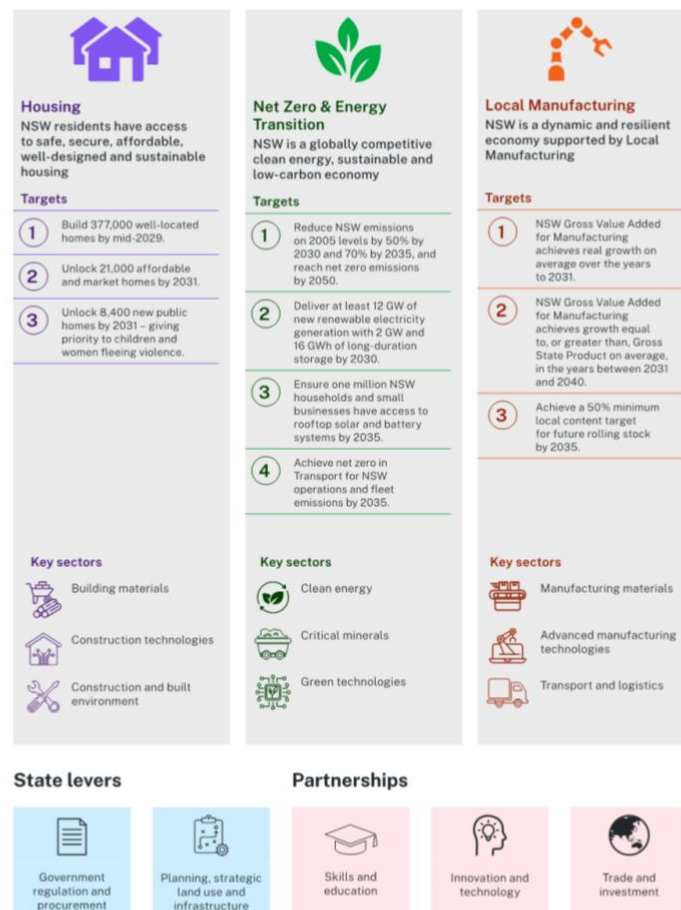
The NSW Industry Policy was informed by targeted consultation with industry peak bodies, academia and engagement with NSW Government agencies.

Three connected missions

The NSW Industry Policy takes a mission-based approach to solving critical challenges faced by the state.

We're focusing on advancing the government's strategic priorities across 3 connected missions:

1. **Housing** – Improving housing supply, one of the state's most immediate challenges, is critical for realising NSW's economic potential.
2. **Net Zero & Energy Transition** – We have the opportunity to make NSW industry a winner in the global transition to a cleaner economy.
3. **Local Manufacturing** – A stronger local manufacturing industry will improve the resilience of the NSW economy by diversifying our industry base.

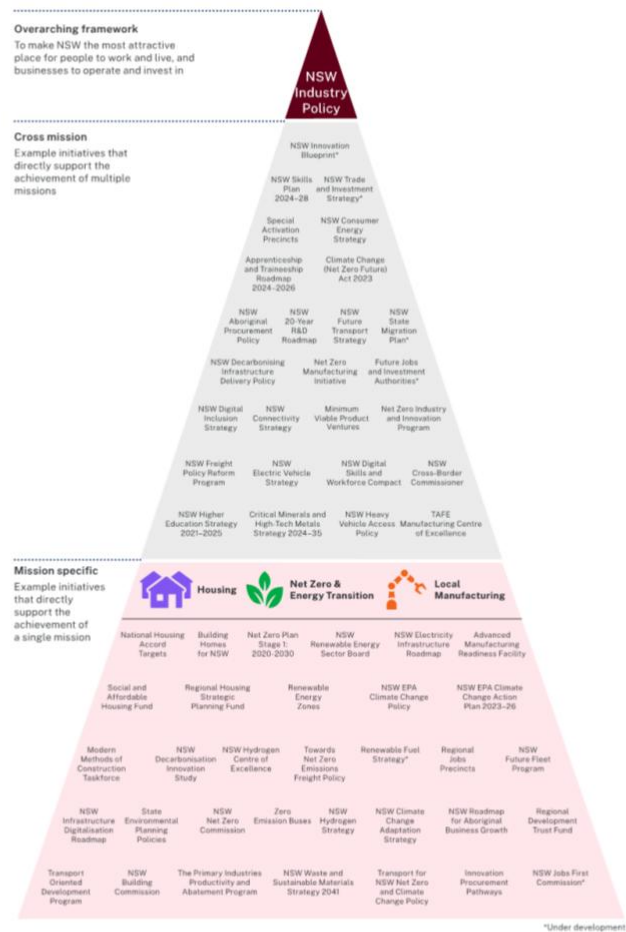


A framework for collaboration

Industry policy can be broadly defined as a set of government interactions that target the transformation of the structure of economic activity in pursuit of some public benefit.

This NSW Industry Policy will harness existing initiatives and send a collective signal of the priorities for the NSW economy. As such, the new NSW Industry Policy provides a framework for the NSW Government to drive:

- collaboration and information sharing with industry and other stakeholders
- coordination and cohesion across NSW Government policies, programs and agencies
- collaboration with the Australian Government and other state and territory governments on industry policy
- oversight to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of actions.

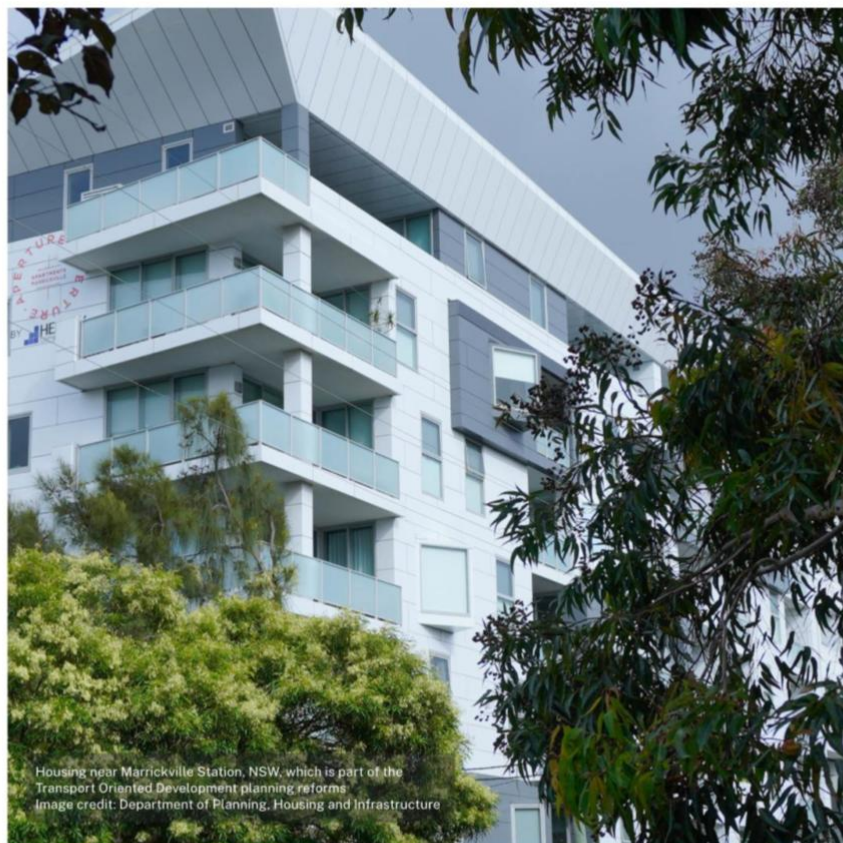


What this means for NSW

The new NSW Industry Policy promotes a forward-looking agenda and sets the government's strategic priorities of Housing, Net Zero & Energy Transition, and Local Manufacturing as missions. Through these 3 missions, the NSW Government aims to steer resources to the parts of the economy where actions are most likely to yield the greatest public benefits, foster the cooperation needed to find effective solutions and coordinate action across different stakeholders.

To realise opportunity from the challenges facing the state, the NSW economy needs to be performing at its full potential. Emphasis will be placed on the roles of skills and education, innovation and technology, and trade and investment as contributors to productivity, economic growth, and resilience, including in regional areas.

NSW will leverage its comparative strengths to respond to challenges and seize opportunities which demand a rapid transformation of its industries. Providing clear industry policy direction will give certainty and confidence for investors, innovators and industry to act, and underpins a strong and robust economy to deliver higher living standards for the NSW community.



Housing near Marrickville Station, NSW, which is part of the Transport Oriented Development planning reforms
Image credit: Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

CS1461

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

4.4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2028

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/823

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Industry & Business Engagement Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has noted the important role that Community Committees play in providing feedback and input into Council's operations. Committees can also offer ideas and suggestions to be considered as part of Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, and related annual budget.

As a means of recording ideas, suggestions and activities made and undertaken by members, each Committee will develop and review on an ongoing basis an Action Plan.

This report provides the opportunity for the Committee to review the Action Plan and consider items to be added.

The Action Plans Review and Update will be a standard item at each meeting.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.3. Provide opportunities for widespread and quality engagement, and where appropriate, shared decision making".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Items on the Action Plan will not necessarily be put into Council's program of works or budget. Rather, the Action Plan will be used by the Committee and staff to provide suggestions for Council's consideration and track specific tasks, projects or requests of the Committee.

Items may short-term or long-term goals or activities that can be worked on over time.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan be updated.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

An update to the Committee's Action Plan will be a standard item on every agenda for discussion and review.

The Committee Clerk will ensure the Action Plan identifies possible budget and resourcing implications, and how an item links to Council's Delivery/Operational Plan or could be proposed for future Delivery/Operational Plans.

The previous Committee Action Plan is attached, and the Committee is requested to review and consider items to be included in our new Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan - 2025, D25/27683

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 1 Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan - 2025



COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

D25/27683

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
Affordable housing and housing availability are issues for the C'tee to monitor	5.3. Improve housing supply, diversity and affordability	Bring ideas or relevant information to the attention of the C'tee	Committee members	Nil	2/4/2025	Ongoing	Workshop with HillsPDA held 14 May 2025.	30/4/25
EDCC Meeting to be held the morning following the first Council meeting of the month.	15.3. Provide opportunities for widespread and quality engagement, and where appropriate, shared decision making	Book room and equipment; send invites; change Charter	Industry & Business Engagement Lead	Nil	2/4/2025	Completed	Meetings booked and invites sent. Charter adjusted for bi-monthly meetings.	2/4/2025
Check with Australia-Wide Coaches as to why the Coach now returns from Sydney so early.	14.3. Support initiatives for improved connectivity between Orange and capital cities and regional towns.	Find out why the timetable was changed.	Staff	Nil	2/4/2025	Completed	Email sent 3/4/2025 containing advice from Australia-Wide Coaches	3/4/2025

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 1 Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan - 2025



D25/27683

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
Refer to ORAG to investigate options for reinstating the rail siding from East Fork to Ash Street	14.3. Support initiatives for improved connectivity between Orange and capital cities and regional towns	Find out from UGL if reinstatement of rail siding is feasible.	ORAG/staff	Nil	2/4/2025		To be passed back to ORAG for consideration at their next meeting.	30/4/2025
Data update	13.4. Enhance opportunities for local business to grow and prosper	Send out JO placemat plus links to new data publications	Industry & Business Engagement Lead	Nil	2/4/2025	Completed	Information contained in an email sent 3/4/2025	3/4/2025
Improve relocation collateral.	13.1. Attract and grow strategic investment.	Review websites and other collateral	Staff	Nil	2/4/2025	Ongoing	Staff are working on overhauling all business development and relocation branding and collateral. This will be added to the review. Orange City Council pages updated May 2025	30/4/2025
Assess costs and viability of pod relocation	13.4. Enhance opportunities for local business to grow and prosper	Send a report to the Executive Leadership Teams identifying opportunities	Staff	Unknown	2/4/2025	Ongoing	In progress.	30/5/2025

Economic Development Community Committee - Action Plan

2



D25/27683

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
Feasibility of utilizing main street shop fronts to support ne business	13.4. Enhance opportunities for local business to grow and prosper	Discussion with leasing agents and landlords to get some insights	Staff	Unknown	2/4/2025	Ongoing	Real estate agents were invited to a session to discuss employment lands and housing affordability. No one showed up.	30/5/2025

SUPPORTING INFORMATION ON COMPLETING AND UPDATING THE ACTION PLAN
The Community Committee Action Plan outlines what the committee will contribute during the Council term. It should be **updated at least after each meeting**, and otherwise as required.

This template is provided to assist in developing the action plan, and to provide consistency across all community committees.

Action/Project: The general activity or project that the committee is providing advice and information on for Council, or is going to undertake themselves.

Community Strategic Plan Reference: The Community Strategic Plan is Council’s chief planning document. It outlines the aspirations and needs of the Orange community and is a 10-year plan to guide Council and community activity. Linking activities to the goals outlined in this plan helps keep everyone working toward the same vision.

Tasks: These are the individual tasks that need to be undertaken to complete the action or project successfully. There may only be one task, or there may be several tasks included in a project.

Responsibility of: Is this an action or project that Council and its staff are responsible for, or is this something the community committee is going to undertake?

Cost Implications: Are there any costs involved with the project? If any recommendations are being made that impact the already approved Council budget, this needs to go to a full general Council meeting for discussion and resolution.

Start and End Dates: Some activities will be short term activities, some will be for a much longer period, perhaps even across the entire Council term. Providing start and end dates gives the committee (and Council) a timeline and targets to work towards. Dates can always be adjusted as needed.

Comments/Progress: Any time there is movement or progress regarding an action or project, it is recorded to keep track of where it is up to and what needs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2025

Attachment 1 Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan - 2025



[D25/27683](#)

to happen next.

Updated: Record the date of when the last changes to an activity or project were made. This will help identify any projects or initiatives that may have stalled and need action to be moved along.