



# **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

# **AGENDA**

**17 FEBRUARY 2026**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ORDINARY MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Tuesday, 17 February 2026** commencing at **6:00 PM**.

Scott Maunder  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

For apologies, please contact Executive Support on 6393 8391.

## AGENDA

### EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building by the rear entrance and gather at the breezeway between the Library and Art Gallery buildings. This is Council's designated 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.

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence**

### **1.2 Livestreaming and Recording**

This Council Meeting is being livestreamed and recorded. By speaking at the Council Meeting you agree to being livestreamed and recorded. Please ensure that if and when you speak at this Council Meeting that you ensure you are respectful to others and use appropriate language at all times. Orange City Council accepts no liability for any defamatory or offensive remarks or gestures made during the course of this Council Meeting. A recording will be made for administrative purposes and will be available to Councillors.

### **1.3 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.

### **1.4 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 Councillors now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Council at this meeting.

### **1.5 Opening Prayer**



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**COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE OPEN FORUM****COUNCIL MEETING RESUMES****2 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 3 February 2026 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Council meeting held on 3 February 2026.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 3 February 2026



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE**  
**ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026**  
**COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman, Cr J Whitton

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Acting Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services (Stanford), Acting Director Technical Services (Theakstone), Communications Lead, Governance Lead, Governance Officer (Barnes), Governance Officer (Allan)

### **1.1 APOLOGIES**

#### **RESOLVED - 26/005**

**Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Whitton and that Council grant them a leave of absence from the Council Meeting of Orange City Council on 3 February 2026.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

### **1.2 LIVESTREAMING AND RECORDING**

The Mayor advised that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded.

### **1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

*\*A technical issue occurred with livestreaming, which was rectified at 7.37pm\**

## 1.4 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cr Kinghorne declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in CCL Item 5.2 – Leave of Absence as it is her request for a leave.

Cr Peterson – declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in FPC Item 2.2- 2(e) – Event Development Funding as he is a volunteer for Lonely Mountain Ultra.

### THE MAYOR DECLARED THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE OPEN FORUM AT 6.37PM.

For PDC Item 2.1 – Development Application DA 520/2024(1) Lot 91 Tanika Street

- Milva Petrini and Oliver Reeve – Urban Landscape Projects (Online)
- David Harte and Marianne Bokor – Boko Architects and Interiors (Online)

FPC Item 2.2 – Event Development Funding

- Simon Rollin – Lonely Mountain Ultra

### THE MAYOR DECLARED THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL RESUMED AT 6.52PM.

## 2 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

### RESOLVED - 26/006

Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr J Stedman

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 16 December 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 Council meeting held on 16 December 2025.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Peterson asked for clarity on the consultation and engagement with landowners who may be impacted by the Community Energy Upgrades Fund, the solar array and battery energy storage system. He is aware of several landowners who advised not being consulted or contacted and would like more information about engagement efforts for future projects.

*The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that at the time the report was provided to Council the information was correct and no objections had been received. A final resident was contacted after this, and the Chief Executive Officer is happy to provide more information in the future.*

**RESOLVED - 26/007****Cr M McDonell/Cr D Mallard**

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 22 January 2026 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Council meeting held on 22 January 2026.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**THE MAYOR DECLARED THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT 6.58PM.**

**THE MAYOR DECLARED THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL RESUMED AT 8.49PM.**

## **4 NOTICES OF MOTION/NOTICES OF RESCISSION**

### **4.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - RUGBY WORLD CUP 2027 - ADVOCACY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/25

**RESOLVED - 26/041****Cr S Peterson/Cr G Judge**

That Orange City Council initiate contact and work with our local state member, Phil Donato, Rugby Australia and other stakeholders to put forward Orange as a base for one of the international teams competing in the 2027 Rugby World Cup.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

### **4.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENT WET WEATHER PLAN**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/5

**RESOLVED - 26/042****Cr S Peterson**

That the 2026 Orange City Council Christmas Carols Event include a wet weather plan of either relocation or a delay.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

#### **4.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL MEETINGS - SCHEDULED COMMENCEMENT AND CONCLUSION TIMES**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/66

<p><b>RESOLVED - 26/043</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Cr J Stedman/Cr M Ruddy</b></span></p> <p>That this item be heard and voted on in seriatim.</p> <p>For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman</p> <p>Against: Cr K Duffy</p> <p>Absent: Cr J Whitton</p>
<p><b>RESOLVED - 26/044</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Cr J Stedman/Cr G Power</b></span></p> <p>1 That Ordinary Council meetings commence at 6.00pm (instead of 6.30pm) and the arrangement be reviewed after a period of three months.</p> <p>For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman</p> <p>Against: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor)</p> <p>Absent: Cr J Whitton</p>
<p><b>RESOLVED - 26/045</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Cr M McDonell/Cr M Ruddy</b></span></p> <p>2 That the scheduled meeting finish time be 9.30pm (instead of 10.30pm).</p> <p>For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr G Judge, , Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman</p> <p>Against: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr F Kinghorne</p> <p>Absent: Cr J Whitton</p>
<p><b>MOTION</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Cr M Ruddy/Cr J Stedman</b></span></p> <p>3 That an estimation of the annual financial cost or savings of this change as provided in the staff comment to this motion be noted.</p>
<p><b>AMENDMENT</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Cr M Ruddy/Cr K Duffy</b></span></p> <p>That part number 3 be withdrawn.</p> <p>For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman</p> <p>Against: Nil</p> <p>Absent: Cr J Whitton</p>
<p><b>THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION</b></p>
<p><b>THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>RESOLVED - 26/046</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Cr M Ruddy/Cr K Duffy</b></span></p> <p>That part number 3 be withdrawn.</p> <p>For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman</p> <p>Against: Nil</p> <p>Absent: Cr J Whitton</p>

*\*Cr Greenhalgh left the meeting with the time being 9.34pm\**

## 5 GENERAL REPORTS

### 5.1 2026 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CALL TO SUBMIT MOTIONS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2737

**RESOLVED - 26/047****Cr D Mallard/Cr M McDonell**

That proposed motions be resolved at this meeting or put to the Executive Support Manager prior to Thursday 5 February 2026 for inclusion and resolution at the Council meeting of 17 February 2026 to allow lodgement on the ALGA portal prior to 27 February 2026.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor)

### 5.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2546

*Cr Kinghorne declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in this item as it is her request for a leave, left the meeting and did not participate in discussion or voting on this item.*

**RESOLVED - 26/048****Cr K Duffy/Cr G Power**

That a Leave of Absence be granted to Cr Frances Kinghorne for 17 February 2026.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor)

*\*Cr Kinghorne returned to the meeting with the time being 9.34pm\**

*\*Cr Greenhalgh returned to the meeting with the time being 9.35pm\**

### 5.3 STAFF TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS COSTS - COUNCIL MEETINGS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/10

**RESOLVED - 26/049****Cr M McDonell/Cr D Mallard**

1. That Council note the report on the accommodation costs incurred relating to attending Council meetings.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

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**5.4 FEES AND CHARGES AMENDMENTS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2771

**RESOLVED - 26/050****Cr M Ruddy/Cr M McDonell**

That Council adopts the Cemetery related GST charge change for all Cemetery related charges excluding those listed under Miscellaneous as outlined in the report.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

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**5.5 STRATEGIC POLICY REVIEWS - EXHIBITION**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2733

**RESOLVED - 26/051****Cr M McDonell/Cr D Mallard**

That Council resolves to place the following Strategic Policies on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days:

- Strategic Policy - ST45 - Mandatory Data Breach Notification
- Strategic Policy - ST46 - Managing Council's Finances.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Peterson asked that if a ratepayer doesn't complete mandatory requirements, for example, weed removal or necessary repair, is it possible for Council to complete the actions recoup the costs when the property is next sold.

*The Chief Executive Officer advised there are a number of avenues for formal debt recovery, and that the mechanics of binding the sale of a property to works would need to be investigated.*

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**5.6 AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY - POST EXHIBITION REPORT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/28

**RESOLVED - 26/052****Cr D Mallard/Cr F Kinghorne**

The Council adopt the Orange Affordable Housing Strategy with typographical corrections made as noted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Kinghorne asked if Councillors will be able to attend the Housing Summit.

*The Director Development Services confirmed Council can attend the Housing Summit.*

**5.7 PLANNING AGREEMENT POLICY - POST EXHIBITION REPORT**

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TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/30

**RESOLVED - 26/053****Cr F Kinghorne/Cr M McDonell**

That Council adopt Strategic Policy ST57 – Planning Agreements as exhibited.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Peterson asked if the updated planning agreements do anything to cover the cost for Council of installing infrastructure.

*The Director Development Services responded that this document provides more consistency but won't fix the monetary gap. The Chief Executive Officer added that it depends on the nature of the agreement, as they can be quite specific for the actual development. Currently the contributions go into a pool, and then that enables the money to be spent across the city.*

*\*Cr Peterson left the meeting with the time being 9.49pm\**



## **6 CLOSED MEETING**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a Confidential Session of the Council meeting closed to the press and public.

In response to a question from the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer advised that no written submissions had been received relating to any item listed for consideration by the Closed Meeting of Council.

The Mayor extended an invitation to any member of the public present at the meeting to make a presentation to the Council as to whether the meeting should be closed for a particular item.

### **RESOLVED - 26/054**

**Cr K Duffy/Cr T Greenhalgh**

That Council adjourn into a Closed Meeting and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Meeting, and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Meeting be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution. This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:

#### **6.1 NSW ALGWA Conference 2026 - Nomination(s) for Councillor Attendance**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property.

#### **6.2 Submission Redaction Report 3 February 2026**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr S Peterson

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council adjourned for the conduct of the Closed Meeting at 9.50pm.

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council resumed at 9.54pm.

## 7 RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED MEETING

The Chief Executive Officer read out the following resolutions made in the Closed Meeting of Council.

### 6.1 NSW ALGWA CONFERENCE 2026 - NOMINATION(S) FOR COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2738

**RESOLVED - 26/055****Cr M McDonell/Cr M Ruddy**

That Council resolve up to two Councillors will attend the 2026 NSW ALGWA Conference being held in Blacktown from 26-29 March 2026.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr S Peterson

### 6.2 SUBMISSION REDACTION REPORT 3 FEBRUARY 2026

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/2

**RESOLVED - 26/056****Cr G Judge/Cr M Ruddy**

That the information in the Submission Redaction report be acknowledged.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr S Peterson

### THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.55PM

This is Page Number 9 and the Final Page of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 3 February 2026.

## **4 NOTICES OF MOTION/NOTICES OF RESCISSION**

### **4.1 Notice of Motion - Identification of Suitable Locations for Solar Farm Establishment in the Orange LGA**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/54

I, **CR TONY MILETO** wish to move the following Notice of Motion at the Council Meeting of 17 February 2026:

#### **MOTION**

**That Council staff prepare an options paper for consideration by Council on the appropriate location and controls of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Council has recently processed two development applications for solar farms that attracted community opposition, highlighting growing concern about the cumulative impacts of this form of development on agricultural land, rural landscapes, and community expectations. This motion requests Council staff develop an options paper for the appropriate location and controls of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure.

Should these controls be developed and implemented they will provide greater clarity and certainty in the planning framework regarding the development of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure.

It is envisaged that the options developed will have strong strategic and site-specific merit, balancing the State's renewable energy objectives with the long-term protection of agricultural productivity, environmental values, and rural landscapes that are fundamental to the identity and economy of the Orange region.

Signed Cr Tony Mileto

#### **STAFF COMMENT**

Council staff support the approach to the development of an options paper for consideration by Council.

#### **FINANCIAL/RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS**

Council staff will be required to consider and develop an options paper for Council. This is consistent with strategic and town planning objectives for Orange.

#### **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil



**4.2 Notice of Motion - Blue Green Algae Control**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/78

We, **CR STEVEN PETERSON AND CR JAMIE STEDMAN** wish to move the following Notice of Motion at the Council Meeting of 17 February 2026:

**MOTION**

**That a report be provided to Council on options and costs to reduce the risk and duration of water closures at Lake Canobolas and Gosling Creek Reserve due to blue-green algae outbreaks.**

**BACKGROUND**

During both this summer and last summer Lake Canobolas was closed for recreational water use due to red alert warnings of dangerously high concentrations of blue-green algae. Gosling Creek reserve has also been temporarily closed in recent times. This is very sub-optimal especially during school holidays and hot weather. It also reduces the return we are obtaining from recent large-scale upgrades at Lake Canobolas.

There are options to reduce the risk of these closures from this common problem in water bodies including reducing nutrient input if possible. Council could consider ultrasonic buoys which use ultrasonic sound waves to disrupt the buoyancy the algal cells and starve them of sunlight to photosynthesise. They can float and be run on solar panels. Mechanical mixing technology can disrupt the water column and push algal cells down where they die from lack of sunlight. This can also increase oxygen levels in the reservoir and lower metals and thermal stratification. Anchoring, power and servicing can be a challenge with these devices. Covers can be used to interfere with algal photosynthesis but are unlikely feasible on our larger reservoirs. An algaecide like calcium hypochlorite or copper sulfate can be used as an acute response to a bloom acting like a pesticide.

Ultimately, what, if any, options are viable depend on costs and the characteristics of those two locations. This is something we should definitely consider to avoid a third summer in a row of closures this year. I believe Council would benefit from this information to allow for analytical analysis and the right decision to be made.

Signed Cr Steven Peterson    Cr Jamie Stedman

**STAFF COMMENT**

Staff monitor water quality at Council's recreational dams in accordance with the Australian Government Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water. Results are shared with the community and the Regional Algal Co-ordinating Committee which is co-ordinated by WaterNSW.

In 2025 Council staff commissioned a high-level desktop review of short-to-medium term mitigation options for blue-green algae at Lake Canobolas.

The report considered 13 potential options, narrowed to a shortlist of three preferred technologies, including; aerators, mechanical mixers, and ultrasound systems.

The next step is to examine opportunity for pilot testing of suitable options e.g. those with nil impact on swimmer safety, accessibility to power etc. Whilst the priority is on Lake Canobolas, testing will also be considered for Gosling Creek Dam.

**4.2 Notice of Motion - Blue Green Algae Control**

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In recognising that technologies can support mitigation of blue-green algae, there are a range of variables that influence its growth over which Council has limited control, such as temperature, sunlight and nutrient input.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of pilot testing of technologies has not yet been investigated and if progressed would form a budget bid.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**4.3 Notice of Motion - Request for Council In Kind Support for Sun Safety Expo - July 2026**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/86

We, **CR STEVEN PETERSON AND CR TONY MILETO** wish to move the following Notice of Motion at the Council Meeting of 17 February 2026:

**MOTION**

**That Orange City Council gives support of the proposal by Dr. Rochelle Oei-Hicks to host a Sun Safety Expo in Orange mid-year 2026 to coincide with World Skin Health Day.**

**BACKGROUND**

Skin cancer remains a high and preventable contributor to Australia's mortality and morbidity. Half of Caucasian males have a skin cancer in their lifetime, 20% a melanoma.

The sun safety expo could be held 4th and 5th July 2026 to coincide with World Skin Health Day. It would hopefully be funded by a grant from the International League of Dermatologic Societies. Apparently, it would be the first to be held in Australia. Dr Oei-Hicks hopes to bring in brands that work in sun protection advocacy, and the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation bus that can do skin checks on the day. I plan to discuss with the couple of medical schools an idea of mine supported by Dr Oei-Hicks that this could be a good opportunity for some dermatoscopy training experience for students.

Contact with me was initially made by Dr Oei-Hicks on the evening of Australia Day, meaning there was insufficient time to add this to the agenda for the Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. In the meantime, a letter of support has been provided to the International League of Dermatologic Societies as the grant application deadline was 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

What is requested from Council includes help with the venue which she thinks would be Naylor Pavilion or PCYC, which they think they can pay for through the grant. She also wants contacts of businesses who do face painting and jumping castles, similar to the crowd at Cook Park on Australia Day to help encourage attendance. Finally, she would like some publicity through our community events page on the Orange City Council website. This is quite a modest request, with low if any cost, support should be quite achievable for this Council.

Signed Cr Steven Peterson    Cr Tony Mileto

**STAFF COMMENT**

The Mayor, Cr Peterson and the CEO have met with the proponent to discuss the event and potential support from Council. It is envisaged that the proponent will submit an application for financial support. An in principle support letter for the conduct of the event has been provided by Council.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil





**4.4 Notice of Motion - Review of Small Donations Program**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/164

I, **CR MAREA RUDDY** wish to move the following Notice of Motion at the Council Meeting of 17 February 2026:

**MOTION**

1. **Resolve to amend the Small Donations Program to operate on two application rounds per financial year, with each round allocating half of the annual budgeted amount, effective from the 2026/2027 financial year.**
2. **Request staff to undertake a review of the Small Donations Program under Strategic Policy ST32 – Donations & Grants, to implement the two-round structure resolved by Council and to strengthen governance, consistency, and value-for-money outcomes. Request that the review address:**
  - a. **Assessment processes and reporting arrangements for the two annual rounds;**
  - b. **Clearer and stronger expectations for applications, including but not limited to guidance around:**
    - **the level of detail required to assess community benefit and intended outcomes;**
    - **the provision of cost estimate information or quotes where reasonably available; and**
    - **the overall standard and completeness of applications;**
  - c. **Assessment settings that support robust, comparable, and efficient decision-making.**

**BACKGROUND**

Firstly, and importantly, I note that the intent of this resolution is not to reduce support to community organisations, but to ensure the Small Donations Program is transparent, equitable, and financially responsible, particularly in a constrained budget environment.

The Small Donations Program provides important financial support to local community and not-for-profit organisations and is currently governed by Strategic Policy ST32 - Donations & Grants.

There is an allocated budget for this program and in the past 3 years the requests have totalled over \$320,000. Already this financial year we have had over \$118,000 requested, far exceeding our annual budget of \$90,000.

Under the existing arrangements, applications are considered on a rolling, monthly basis throughout the financial year. While this model allows for flexibility, it has also resulted in inconsistent application quality, limited comparability between requests, and pressure on Councillors to make funding decisions without sufficient or consistent information, particularly in a constrained budget environment.

Moving to two structured application rounds per year enables Council to:

- **assess applications side-by-side on a more equitable basis.**
- **manage the annual budget more deliberately across the financial year; and**
- **provide clearer guidance to applicants about expectations and timing.**

Allocating half of the annual budgeted amount to each round ensures funding is distributed in a balanced and transparent manner while retaining flexibility should the overall budget change.

**4.4 Notice of Motion - Review of Small Donations Program**

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The accompanying staff review is intended to implement this two-round structure and strengthen the program's governance by improving application guidance, assessment processes, and decision-making consistency. This approach supports better outcomes for applicants, staff, and Council by ensuring requests are decision-ready and aligned with the intended purpose of the program.

This change is not proposed to reduce community access to funding. Rather, it seeks to ensure the Small Donations Program remains fair, transparent, and financially responsible, and that limited public funds are allocated with confidence and clarity.

Signed Cr Marea Ruddy

**STAFF COMMENT**

Staff will support either the current timing of assessment of Small Donations or this proposed timing of assessment and understand the benefits described in this paper.

Staff would ask that sufficient time is allowed to review and assess the applications if fewer rounds are supported. The lower number of rounds will increase the number of applications to be assessed and therefore create a wave of review work at two points in the year rather than spreading this across each month. For this to be possible a period of at least 4 weeks before the Council reports are submitted would be required to allow for appropriate assessment.

Staff would include this for Councillors consideration as part of the proposed review of the policy.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS**

Resourcing implications are discussed in the staff comment.

There are no foreseen financial implications as the overall Small Donations budget would remain the same.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Staff would review the policy (ST32 – Donations and Grants) and present it back to Council. Should the revised policy be supported by the Councillors, it would be placed on exhibition for public comment in line with normal governance policy.

**4.5 Notice of Motion - Community-Led Delivery of Pump Track Project**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/165

I, **CR MAREA RUDDY** wish to move the following Notice of Motion at the Council Meeting of 17 February 2026:

**MOTION**

**That Council:**

- 1. Request staff to engage with community member Mr Mark Britt to explore opportunities for the Pump Track project to be progressed as a community-led and community-funded initiative, including:**
  - **potential for in-kind contributions;**
  - **volunteer and trade support;**
  - **fundraising and sponsorship opportunities; and**
  - **appropriate governance, risk, and compliance considerations.**
- 2. Request staff to report back to Council on feasible delivery models and estimated costs that would enable the project to proceed earlier than would otherwise be possible through grant-funded delivery alone.**

**BACKGROUND**

I note the Notice of Motion resolved by Council in September 2023 and subsequent report to Council on 9 July 2024 in regard to options for a pump track to be constructed in Orange.

A concept design for the project, meaning a significant portion of the preliminary planning work has already been undertaken.

I have recently been approached by Mr Britt, who is very keen to see this project get off the ground as soon as possible. Mr Britt is a local builder who has indicated a willingness to assist in progressing the project through a community-led and community-funded approach, including mobilising support from local tradespeople, coordinating fundraising efforts, and building broader community support. Mr Britt has expressed a willingness to work collaboratively with Council to help deliver the project in a compliant and responsible manner.

At the same time, Council is managing a significant pipeline of major projects that are awaiting suitable external grant opportunities. As Councillors are aware, these funding opportunities are increasingly competitive and few and far between, often resulting in extended delays to otherwise well-supported community infrastructure projects.

Exploring a community-funded delivery model for the Pump Track presents an opportunity to remove one project from the grant-dependent pipeline, allowing it to progress sooner while preserving Council's capacity to pursue external funding for other priority projects.

There is a strong track record of partnering with the community to deliver significant infrastructure projects, including the Orange Adventure Playground and the Function Centre.

Where communities are willing to contribute time, expertise, and resources, Council has previously taken on a facilitative role to support delivery while ensuring appropriate governance, safety, and compliance frameworks are maintained.

**4.5 Notice of Motion - Community-Led Delivery of Pump Track Project**

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If the community is willing to get behind this project to accelerate its delivery, it is appropriate for Council to explore how it can support that effort in a structured, transparent, and responsible way.

Signed Cr Marea Ruddy

**STAFF COMMENT**

Nil.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS**

This project, should it proceed, would necessitate the allocation of staff and resources to the project. Those cost estimate would be included in the report to Council.

Council staff would also engage with and include parties that have supported the project.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Preliminary Study - Establishing a Pump Track in Orange, 2024/921 [↓](#)

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**Attachment 1 Preliminary Study - Establishing a Pump Track in Orange**

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SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY COMMITTEE

9 JULY 2024

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**3.1 ESTABLISHING A BICYCLE PUMP TRACK IN ORANGE**

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RECORD NUMBER: 2024/921

AUTHOR: Kate Shepherd, Executive Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In September 2023 Council resolved for a feasibility study to be undertaken to investigate the design and costings associated with constructing a bicycle 'Pump Track' in Orange. Council staff have liaised with Orange Mountain Bike Club and compared other Regional town constructions of similar tracks to provide the information contained in this report.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "2.2. Provide recreational activities and programs that are inclusive and meet the needs of the community".

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil aside from staff time in adopting the recommendation of this report.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council proceed with a request for quotation to develop a design and cost of a Bicycle Pump Track for the purpose of seeking grant funding options for the project.**

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's other key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Should the project proceed, delivery will be required to fit in with existing delivery program across Council projects and standard Council work schedules.	
Financial	Pump Track project is not currently included in any budget, Grant funding would have to be applied for.	
Environment	Potential Environmental risk could exist depending on the selected location should project progress.	
Compliance	Consideration would need to be given to meet the regulatory requirements applicable for project.	
People & WHS	Consideration would need to be given to meet the required guidelines applicable for project.	

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**Attachment 1 Preliminary Study - Establishing a Pump Track in Orange**

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**SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY COMMITTEE****9 JULY 2024****3.1 Establishing a Bicycle Pump Track in Orange**

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Interests in cycling activities are rapidly growing in popularity within the Orange community. These activities include, road cycling, mountain bike trails and pump/tracks. Locally there has been a high level of support from the community for Council to provide a pump track facility to assist in the increase of physical activity and healthy and active living in Orange.

The delivery of a Bicycle Pump Track would meet the following Community Strategic Plan Objectives. Objective 2 – A health and active community that is supported by sport and recreational infrastructure. *Particularly 2.1 Deliver sport and recreation facilities to service the community into the future, 2.2 Provide recreational activities and programs that are inclusive and meet the needs of the community and, 2.3 Ensure the sporting and recreational facilities, programs and activities are accessible and affordable to support health lifestyle choices.* Objective 7: More for young people to do *specifically 7.1 Provide play parks and spaces that meet the needs of a broad range of ages.* Objective 12: Sustainable tourism, events and visitor experiences, *specifically 12.2 Develop and attract a variety of events, festivals, venues and activities for locals and visitors ensuring accessibility for all.*

A pump track is generally defined a continuous track/loop of banked turns and rollers that can be ridden without pedalling. Riders use their body weight and gravity to “pump” their way around the track and maintain speed and momentum. Pump tracks can come in an array of different shapes and sizes.

Early on, pump tracks were constructed of compacted earth, however dirt pump tracks require constant maintenance and can only be used by cyclists. In recent times more and more pump tracks are lined with asphalt or constructed out of precast concrete and/or fibreglass which has a continuously smooth surface that can be utilised by a greater variety of users such as scooter riders, skaters as well as cyclists.

The construction timeline for a pump track will vary based on its size, complexity and construction composition. Smaller tracks may take a few weeks, while larger ones could require several months.

**Design**

Design would be dependent on the final location and budget/costings of the Pump Track, but of consideration for any design is:

**Progression:** The trail should cater to all skill levels, starting with gentle rollers for beginners and gradually incorporating larger rollers and berms for intermediate riders. An advanced section with high steep features resembling jumps could also be incorporated to meet the needs of advanced riders.

**Variety:** A diverse range of track features would provide a richer experience and cater to a wider range of riders.

**Zones:** To ensure safety and enjoyment, the trail should have distinct areas for different skill levels. While riders should have the option to transition between intermediate and advanced sections, the beginner section should be isolated, particularly for the safety of small children.



**Attachment 1 Preliminary Study - Establishing a Pump Track in Orange**
**SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY COMMITTEE**
**9 JULY 2024**
**3.1 Establishing a Bicycle Pump Track in Orange**
**Some Location Options for an Orange Pump Track**

1. **Glenroi Oval** - In 2018, Council moved a motion to develop a Master Plan for Glenroi Oval. In 2021 a Master Plan was adopted. Works identified within this Master Plan included a bitumen pump track in the south-west corner of Glenroi Oval. Such a facility could be approximately 1,800 m<sup>2</sup> and complement the existing amenity with the recently constructed skate park and basketball courts and is in close proximity to the Youth Hub.

Extract from current Master Plan for Glenroi Oval.

Aerial of Glenroi Oval



2. **Anzac Park** is an established and well utilised community sporting precinct with the four multiuse indoor sports courts, 10 outdoor netball courts, the cricket/football oval and existing neighbourhood skatepark and car parking and toilets facilities . can be located in the existing PCYC facility. However, the addition of a pump track would be in contrary to the existing Master Plan. Anzac Park has also previously had a BMX track constructed from compacted earth, located on the eastern side of the park which was demolished in 2021 due to the lack of used and the cost of continuous maintenance.

Extract of current Master Plan for Anzac Park

Aerial of Anzac Park



**Attachment 1 Preliminary Study - Establishing a Pump Track in Orange**
**SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY COMMITTEE**
**9 JULY 2024**
**3.1 Establishing a Bicycle Pump Track in Orange**

3. **Moulder Park** (old netball courts) – An unofficial youth precinct, with close proximity to Orange’s CBD, John Lomas skate park, the velodrome, children’s bike track and the new Multiuse Sports Court. Courts 7 and 8 may be another viable location, for a smaller scale pump track, however Moulder Park is subject to flooding therefore special consideration to the design and how it is construction is required. Courts 7 and 8 have also been an identified possible location for a future parkour installation.


**Cost**

Costs will vary depending on the design, size, and composition of the track. Small modular fibreglass tracks that can be found in holidays parks can start from \$100 000. Construction costs for asphalt tracks are approximately \$300 per square metre (noting smaller tracks are more expensive per lineal metre).

Despite a more permanent construction composition such as asphalt or concrete, any pump track requires ongoing maintenance and costs associated with the maintenance including regular inspections to ensure rider safety and ongoing maintenance works should be considered when budgeting for such a community facility. Other considerations for potential locations are supporting infrastructure such as toilet facilities, shade, seating and carparking.

**Examples of recent community Pump tracks.**

**Lithgow Pump track** – completed 18 December 2021 at a cost of \$572 000, is approximately 1890m<sup>2</sup>





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**Attachment 1 Preliminary Study - Establishing a Pump Track in Orange**

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**SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

**9 JULY 2024**

**3.1 Establishing a Bicycle Pump Track in Orange**

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**Cudal Pump track** – completed October 2022 at a construction cost of \$233 000



**Suffolk Park Track** opened July 2021 at a cost of \$506 300 to construct and is approximately 1680m<sup>2</sup>



## **5 GENERAL REPORTS**

### **5.1 Confirmation of Minutes from Policy Committee Meetings 3 February 2026**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/166

AUTHOR: Nicole Wright, Governance Lead

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council's Policy Committees (Planning and Development Committee, Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee, Finance Policy Committee, Infrastructure Policy Committee, Recreation & Culture Policy Committee, Services Policy Committee and Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee) have delegation to determine matters before those Committees.

This report provides minutes of the Policy Committees held this month. Resolutions made by the Committees are presented for adoption or amendment by Council.

#### **LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.1 Provide representative, responsible and accountable community governance".

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

#### **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 That the Minutes of the Planning & Development Policy Committee at its meeting held on 3 February 2026 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**
- 2 That the Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee at its meeting held on 3 February 2026 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**
- 3 That the Minutes of the Finance Policy Committee at its meeting held on 3 February 2026 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**
- 4 That the Minutes of the Infrastructure Policy Committee at its meeting held on 3 February 2026 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**
- 5 That the Minutes of the Recreation & Culture Policy Committee at its meeting held on 3 February 2026 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**
- 6 That the Minutes of the Services Policy Committee at its meeting held on 3 February 2026 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**
- 7 That the Minutes of the Regional & Economic development Policy Committee at its meeting held on 3 February 2026 be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

#### **FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

**5.1 Confirmation of Minutes from Policy Committee Meetings 3 February 2026**

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Inaccurate records may misrepresent decisions, affecting service planning and delivery.
<b>Financial</b>	Misstated resolutions could lead to unbudgeted expenditures or financial mismanagement.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Misstated approvals could lead to unbudgeted expenditures or financial mismanagement.
<b>Environment</b>	Errors in recorded decisions may overlook environmental commitments or risks.
<b>Compliance</b>	Failing to confirm accuracy may breach governance standards or statutory obligations.
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Mis-recorded actions could impact staff safety measures or people related decisions.
<b>Information Technology/ Cyber Security</b>	Inaccurate documentation may affect IT governance or data integrity.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**
**Planning and Development Policy Committee**

At the Planning and Development Policy Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

**Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee**

At the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

**Finance Policy Committee**

At the Finance Policy Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

**Recreation & Culture Policy Committee**

At the Infrastructure Policy Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

**Infrastructure Policy Committee**

At the Infrastructure Policy Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

**Services Policy Committee**

At the Services Policy Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

**Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee**

At the Regional and Economic Development Policy Committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, all resolutions were made under delegation, and the minutes are presented for adoption.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 PDC 3 February 2026 Minutes, 2026/117 [↓](#)
- 2 ESPC 3 February 2026 Minutes, 2026/111 [↓](#)
- 3 FPC 3 February 2026 Minutes, 2026/113 [↓](#)
- 4 IPC 3 February 2026 Minutes, 2026/116 [↓](#)
- 5 RCPC 3 February 2026 Minutes, 2026/118 [↓](#)
- 6 SPC 3 February 2026 Minutes, 2026/120 [↓](#)
- 7 REDPC 3 February 2026 Minutes, 2026/119 [↓](#)

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE****ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026****COMMENCING AT 6:58 PM**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Acting Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services (Stanford), Acting Director Technical Services (Theakstone), Communications Lead, Governance Lead, Governance Officer (Barnes), Governance Officer (Allan)

**1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****RESOLVED - 26/008****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Whitton and that Council grant them a leave of absence from the Planning & Development Committee of Orange City Council on 3 February 2026.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman,

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Nil

**2 GENERAL REPORTS****2.1 ITEMS APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF COUNCIL**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/11

**RESOLVED - 26/009****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr J Stedman**

That Council resolves to acknowledge the information provided in the report by the Coordinator Development Assessment on Items Approved Under the Delegated Authority of Council.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**2.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA 520/2024(1) - LOT 91 TANIKA STREET**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/48

**RESOLVED - 26/010****Cr G Power/Cr T Mileto**

That Council consents to development application DA 520/2024(1) for Centre-based Child Care Facility at Lot 91 DP 1284877 - Tanika Street Orange pursuant to the conditions of consent in the attached Notice of Determination.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr McDonell asked if this particular childcare facility is ready to progress to development if approved.

*The Director Development Services advise he cannot speak for the developer, but that development applications are approved for a 5-year period.*

Cr D Mallard asked if the green spaces in the plan are to be included in the unencumbered spaces.

*The Director Development Services responded that this is a matter that has been tested in court, and state guideline excludes garden beds. The proponent has the opportunity to develop under the conditions, or seek review of Council's determination, including obtaining the required exemption from the Department of Education to depart from the State Guidelines.*

**2.3 AMENDMENT TO THE ORANGE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2011 - 49-51 MOLONG ROAD - POST EXHIBITION REPORT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/74

**RESOLVED - 26/011****Cr D Mallard/Cr J Stedman**

That Council resolves to:

1. Acknowledge the Independent Hearing Report, and
2. Support the amendment to the Orange Local Environmental Plan 2011, and
3. Direct staff to request that the local plan-making authority seek to finalise the amendment and submit the request for approval to discharge interests from the land title to the Governor.

For: Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr D Mallard asked if the trees on the property will be retained.

*The Director Development Services responded that the Nicolai Gum tree at the front will be protected going forward.*

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.21PM**



**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE****HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE****ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026****COMMENCING AT 7.22 PM**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman, Cr J Whitton

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Acting Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services (Stanford), Acting Director Technical Services (Theakstone), Communications Lead, Governance Lead, Governance Officer (Barnes), Governance Officer (Allan)

**1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****RESOLVED - 26/012****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Whitton and that Council grant them a leave of absence from the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 3 February 2026.

For: Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Nil

**2 COMMITTEE MINUTES****2.1 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 5 DECEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/1

**RESOLVED - 26/013****Cr S Peterson/Cr M Ruddy**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at its meeting held on 5 December 2025.
- 2 That the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee from its meeting held on 5 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman,  
Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**2.2 MINUTES OF THE TIDY TOWNS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 4 DECEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/35

**RESOLVED - 26/014****Cr G Power/Cr M Ruddy**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Tidy Towns Community Committee at its meeting held on 4 December 2025.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.2 from the minutes of the Tidy Towns Community Committee meeting of 4 December 2025 – *Adoption of the Charter – be deferred until a workshop to develop the charter is conducted.*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Tidy Towns Community Committee from its meeting held on 4 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman  
Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.25PM**



**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE POLICY COMMITTEE****HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE****ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026****COMMENCING AT 7:26 PM**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Acting Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services (Stanford), Acting Director Technical Services (Theakstone), Communications Lead, Governance Lead, Governance Officer (Barnes), Governance Officer (Allan)

**1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****RESOLVED - 26/015****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Whitton and that Council grant them a leave of absence from the Finance Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 3 February 2026.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cr Peterson declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in FPC Item 2.2 – 2(e) – Event Development Funding as he is a volunteer of Lonely Mountain Ultra.

## **2 GENERAL REPORTS**

### **2.1 SMALL DONATIONS - REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2670

#### **RESOLVED - 26/016**

**Cr G Power/Cr D Mallard**

1 That this item be heard and voted on separately.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

#### **RESOLVED - 26/017**

**Cr M Ruddy/Cr D Mallard**

2(a) To donate \$676.00 to Mood Active Association Incorporated to contribute to the costs of running their wellbeing program in Orange to educate people with moderate mental health conditions about the benefits of using exercise to better manage their mental health challenges.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

#### **MOTION**

**Cr M Ruddy/Cr G Power**

2(b) To donate \$1,000 to Unapologetically Hers and instead offer advice and support regarding alternative funding options.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

#### **AMENDMENT**

**Cr M Ruddy/Cr M McDonell**

2(b) To REFUSE the request for \$1,000 to Unapologetically Hers and instead offer advice and support regarding alternative funding options.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION**

**THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED**

<b>RESOLVED - 26/018</b>	<b>Cr M Ruddy/Cr M McDonell</b>
2(b) To REFUSE the request for \$1,000 to Unapologetically Hers and instead offer advice and support regarding alternative funding options. For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman Against: Nil Absent: Cr J Whitton	
<b>MOTION</b>	<b>Cr M Ruddy/Cr T Greenhalgh</b>
2(c) Council determine the donation amount to Lions Club of Orange to contribute to purchasing specialised medical equipment. For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman Against: Cr K Duffy Absent: Cr J Whitton	
<b>AMENDMENT</b>	<b>Cr M Ruddy/Cr S Peterson</b>
2(c) Council DEFER the donation amount to Lions Club of Orange until additional information is received. For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman Against: Cr K Duffy Absent: Cr J Whitton	
<b>THE AMENDMENT ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION</b>	
<b>THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS CARRIED</b>	
<b>RESOLVED - 26/019</b>	<b>Cr M Ruddy/Cr S Peterson</b>
2(c) Council DEFER the donation amount to Lions Club of Orange until more detailed information is received. For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman Against: Cr K Duffy Absent: Cr J Whitton	

**2.2 EVENT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2768

**RESOLVED - 26/020**

**Cr M McDonell/Cr J Stedman**

1 That this item be heard and voted on separately.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Cr K Duffy

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**RESOLVED - 26/021**

**Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr M McDonell**

2(a) To fund the Orange Bridge Club 9-12 April 2026 to the value of \$5,000.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**RESOLVED - 26/022**

**Cr T Mileto/Cr T Greenhalgh**

2(b) To fund the Duntryleague Family Day - 12 April 2026 to the value of \$5,000.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**RESOLVED - 26/023**

**Cr M McDonell/Cr T Greenhalgh**

2(c) To fund the ADA NSW Convention - August 2026 to the value of \$1,750.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**RESOLVED - 26/024**

**Cr G Power/Cr M McDonell**

2(d) To fund the National Renewables in Agriculture Conference - August 2026 to the value of \$5,000.

For: Cr S Peterson (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

*Cr Peterson declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in this item as he is a volunteer of Lonely Mountain Ultra, left the room and did not participate in discussion or voting on this item.*

*\*In the absence of the Chair, Cr Mileto (Mayor) chaired the meeting for this item\**

**RESOLVED - 26/025**

**Cr G Power/Cr K Duffy**

2(e) To fund the Lonely Mountain Ultra – September 2026 to the value of \$10,000.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton, Cr S Peterson

**FINANCE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES****3 FEBRUARY 2026**

*\*Cr Peterson returned to the meeting with the time being 7.56pm. For efficiency, Cr Mileto (Mayor) retained the Chair until the conclusion of the meeting\**

Cr Mallard asked how Council is progressing in completing the current outstanding audit for the Auditor General's Office.

*The Chief Executive Officer confirmed Council is working towards an approved extended deadline of 28 February 2026.*

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE****Cr M Ruddy**

Cr Ruddy requested a report at the next Finance Policy Committee Meeting on the last 2 years of donations that have been given community fundraising groups .

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.59PM**



**MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE  
ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026  
COMMENCING AT 8.00 PM**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Acting Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services (Stanford), Acting Director Technical Services (Theakstone), Communications Lead, Governance Lead, Governance Officer (Barned), Governance Officer (Allan)

*\*In the Absence of the Chair, Cr Mileto (Mayor) chaired the Meeting\**

**1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****RESOLVED - 26/026****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Whitton and that Council grant them a leave of absence from the Infrastructure Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 3 February 2026.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Nil



## **2 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **2.1 MINUTES OF THE FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2725

#### **RESOLVED - 26/027**

**Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr T Mileto**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Floodplain Risk Management Community Committee at its meeting held on 8 December 2025.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.1 and 3.6 from the minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Community Committee meeting of 8 December 2025.

#### *3.1 – Floodplain Risk Management Community Committee - Charter*

*That the Charter for the Floodplain Risk Management Community Committee be updated with the following changes:*

- *Membership and Roles – add ‘(non-voting)’ after NSW State Emergency Services;*
- *Quorum – remove wording “Minimum of half voting members and one Councillor” and replace with “One (1) Councillor and one (1) community representative”.*

#### *3.6 – Update – Orange Ultimate Flood Modification Scheme – Feasibility and Design Project*

- 1 *That Council proceed with the detailed design and Review of Environmental Factors for the following FMM’s:*

*I. FMM1 – Cutcliffe Park Detention Basin*

*II. FMM7 – Ridley Oval Detention Basin*

*III. FMM8A – Glenroi Oval Detention Basin*

*IV. FMM9 – a modified project combining FMM9A and a portion of FMM9C required to mitigate FMM9A impacts:*

*a. FMM9A – East Orange Channel Works (between Icely Road and confluence with Blackmans Swamp Creek)*

*b. FMM9C – a reduced length of works to be revised through modelling - likely from Leeds Parade to McLachlan Street*

- 2 *That Council seek funding for the construction of the Flood Mitigation Measures.*

- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Community Committee from its meeting held on 8 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**3 GENERAL REPORTS****3.1 CURRENT WORKS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/46

**RESOLVED - 26/028****Cr G Power/Cr M McDonnell**

That the information provided in the report on Current Works report be acknowledged.

For: Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonnell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr M McDonnell asked when works will commence at East Orange Harvesting Wetlands.

*The Chief Executive Officer responded that a report can be provide, and that works will likely not start until September.*

Cr Greenhalgh asked if Council has attempted to contact the local Federal Member regarding recent social media related to the Sports Precinct project.

*The Chief Executive Officer responded that he is unaware of any request from the member for a for a meeting. It was agreed that there should be a meeting with Federal Member, and staff are happy to attempt to arrange this. Additionally, the Chief Executive officer would be willing to hold regular update meeting as is done with the State Member.*

Cr Greenhalgh asked if there is any progress regarding the defibrillators that need to be replaced due to recall.

*The Chief Executive Officer responded that we regularly check with the supplier, but do not yet have a date for the replacements to be received.*

Cr Peterson asked about the delay on the Conservatorium project, and if there will be any impact on the project budget either with penalties or additional costs for unbudgeted time and labour.

*The Chief Executive Officer advised that a report will be table at the next meeting.***THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.27PM**



**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & CULTURE POLICY COMMITTEE****HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE****ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026****COMMENCING AT 8.27 PM**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Acting Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services (Stanford), Acting Director Technical Services (Theakstone), Communications Lead, Governance Lead, Governance Officer (Barnes), Governance Officer

**1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****RESOLVED - 26/029****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Whitton and that Council grant them a leave of absence from the Recreation & Culture Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 3 February 2026.

For: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Nil

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**2 GENERAL REPORTS**

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**2.1 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE - WARATAH SPORTS CLUB 2024-2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2693

**RESOLVED - 26/030****Cr D Mallard/Cr K Duffy**

1. That the report on Grounds Maintenance – Waratah Sports Club be noted and
2. That Council continue the annual support for Waratah Sports Club on the same basis as previous years.

For: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr McDonell asked for clarification as to the dollar value of support that is being provided to Waratahs.

*The Acting Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services advised that the 2024/25 contributions was \$124,661 and that the contribution including inflation for 2025/26 will be \$127,278.*

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30PM**

**MINUTES OF THE SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE****HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE****ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026****COMMENCING AT 8:31 PM**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Acting Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services (Stanford), Acting Director Technical Services (Theakstone), Communications Lead, Governance Lead, Governance Officer (Barnes), Governance Officer (Allan)

**1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****RESOLVED - 26/031****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Whitton and that Council grant a leave of absence from the Services Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 3 February 2026.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Nil

**2 COMMITTEE MINUTES****2.1 MINUTES OF THE AGEING AND ACCESS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 18 NOVEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2576

**RESOLVED - 26/032****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr F Kinghorne**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Ageing and Access Community Committee at its meeting held on 18 November 2025.
- 2 That the minutes of the Ageing and Access Community Committee from its meeting held on 18 November 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE****Cr T Mileto**

Cr Mileto asked for investigation into diverting access ramp funds as the program is being underutilised to undertake works to improve accessibility for the Cook Park Guildry.

**2.2 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING 1 DECEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2711

**RESOLVED - 26/033****Cr J Stedman/Cr M McDonell**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Committee at its meeting held on 1 December 2025.
- 2 That the minutes of the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Committee from its meeting held on 1 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**2.3 HERITAGE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MINUTES - 8 DECEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2739

**RESOLVED - 26/034****Cr G Power/Cr D Mallard**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Heritage Community Committee at its meeting held on 8 December 2025.
- 2 That Council determine recommendation 3.1 from the minutes of the Heritage Community Committee meeting of 8 December 2025.
  - 3.1  
*That the Heritage Community Committee consider:*
    1. *Criteria for the Award category "Personal or Group contribution" to enable a more equitable judging process at the next meeting*
    2. *Opening the nominations for 2027 Cultural Heritage Awards earlier*
    3. *Investigating methods of marketing the Cultural Heritage Awards*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Heritage Community Committee from its meeting held on 8 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr M Ruddy (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.38PM**

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE****HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE****ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026****COMMENCING AT 8:38 PM**

---

**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr T Mileto (Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Commercial Services, Director Development Services, Acting Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services (Stanford), Acting Director Technical Services (Theakstone), Communications Lead, Governance Lead, Governance Officer (Barnes), Governance Officer (Allan)

**1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****RESOLVED - 26/035****Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Whitton and that Council grant them a leave of absence from the Regional & Economic Development Policy Committee of Orange City Council on 3 February 2026.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**1.2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Nil

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**2 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**2.1 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
22 OCTOBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2712

**RESOLVED - 26/036****Cr F Kinghorne/Cr J Stedman**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Economic Development Community Committee at its meeting held on 22 October 2025.
- 2 That Council confirm their position of not being the developer or proponent of a convention centre or permanent outdoor market.
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Economic Development Community Committee from its meeting held on 22 October 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonnell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

Cr Peterson asked if we know how effective the Buy Local Purchasing policy is, and whether it has an impact on decisions made.

*The Director of Corporate and Commercial Services responded that while data isn't available, if a decision is close, it can certainly be a deciding factor.*

Cr Peterson also asked for clarity regarding the difference in percentages report for residential spend and visitor spend, noting they seem unusual.

*Director Corporate and Commercial Services advise that resident spend and visitor spend are calculated and reported differently.*

*\*Cr McDonnell left the meeting with the time being 8.40pm\**

*\*Cr McDonnell returned to the meeting with the time being 8.43pm\**



**Attachment 7 REDPC 3 February 2026 Minutes**
**3 FEBRUARY 2026**
**2.2 MINUTES OF THE LUCKNOW COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2025**
**TRIM REFERENCE:** 2026/55

**RESOLVED - 26/037**
**Cr M McDonell/Cr T Greenhalgh**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Lucknow Community Committee at its meeting held on 11 December 2025.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 4.3(3) and (4) from the minutes of the Lucknow Community Committee meeting of 11 December 2025.  
*4.3(3) Despite the Committee resolving to allocate \$50,000 from the Lucknow Community Committee fund to go towards the construction of a new toilet block at Wentworth Park Mine in Lucknow, further investigations are required into 1) the project scope and 2) the associated costs. Once these factors have been determined, the Committee Clerk will liaise with the Committee to determine next steps.*  
*4.3(4) That the Committee spends approximately \$63,000 from the Lucknow Community Committee fund on new footpath extensions along Phoenix Mine Road from the Mitchell Highway to Chapel Hill Lane, as well as along the Mitchell Highway from Phoenix Mine Road to the Men's Shed in Lucknow.*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Lucknow Community Committee from its meeting held on 11 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**
**Cr S Peterson**

Cr Peterson requested a report on the spending and remaining balances of the budgets for the Lucknow, Spring Hill and Clifton Grove Community Committees.

**2.3 MINUTES OF THE CLIFTON GROVE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 4 DECEMBER 2025**
**TRIM REFERENCE:** 2026/56

**RESOLVED - 26/038**
**Cr F Kinghorne/Cr T Greenhalgh**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Clifton Grove Community Committee at its meeting held on 4 December 2025.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 4.3 from the minutes of the Clifton Grove Community Committee meeting of 4 December 2025.  
*4.3 – Mud Hut. That the Committee spend up to \$20,000 from the Community Committee fund to upgrade certain aspects of the Mud Hut.*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Clifton Grove Community Committee from its meeting held on 4 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton



**2.4 MINUTES OF THE SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 2 DECEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/58

**RESOLVED - 26/039****Cr M McDonell/Cr S Peterson**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Sister Cities Community Committee at its meeting held on 2 December 2025.
- 2 That the minutes of the Sister Cities Community Committee from its meeting held on 2 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**2.5 MINUTES OF THE SPRING HILL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 9 DECEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/64

**RESOLVED - 26/040****Cr M Ruddy/Cr K Duffy**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Spring Hill Community Committee at its meeting held on 9 December 2025.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 4.2(2) and 4.2(3) from the minutes of the Spring Hill Community Committee meeting of 9 December 2025.  
4.2(2)  
*That the Spring Hill Community Committee spend up to \$8,000 from the community committee fund on lighting works in Alf Read Park in Spring Hill.*  
4.2(3)  
That the Spring Hill Community Committee spend up to \$12,000 from the community committee fund on a new playground at the Recreation Ground in Spring Hill.
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Spring Hill Community Committee from its meeting held on 9 December 2025 be adopted.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor)(Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Whitton

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.48PM**



**5.2 National Local Roads Congress - Post Conference Report**

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/2439

AUTHOR: Georgina Wheeler, Executive Support Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Over 11 - 12 November 2025, Cr Duffy attended the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Bendigo. The 2025 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress presented a comprehensive program focused on roads, transport and community infrastructure.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “14.1 Work in partnership with other councils, regional organisations and State and Federal Governments”.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Councillors attend within a yearly budget allocation.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

This report is in line with Council Policy on conference attendance.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the report by the Executive Support Manager on the Regions Rising National Summit Post Conference Report be noted.**

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council’s key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Nil
<b>Financial</b>	Nil
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Nil
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Nil
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Nil

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The theme of this year’s Summit was *Reimagine* which reflected the opportunity to think differently about the future of regional Australia. Regional Australia stands at a turning point. Pressures faced are real: climate change, workforce shortages, housing stress and the need for critical infrastructure. These pressures are also catalysts for creativity. They demand action – not waiting passively for the future to be upon us, but actively reimagining what our communities can become. The Summit was an opportunity to explore ideas and hear from leaders across politics, business, community and industry who challenged everyone to think beyond the status quo shaping the next chapter for regional Australia.

## 5.2 National Local Roads Congress - Post Conference Report

### COUNCILLOR TAKEAWAYS

#### CR KEVIN DUFFY

##### Program Highlights

**Presidents Address: Mayor Matt Burnett, President, ALGA, Mayor of Gladstone Regional Council**  
He welcomed over 200 government and industry leaders, technical experts, and councils from all over the country to ALGA's 2025 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress, in Bendigo in Victoria.

He was hopeful everyone could explore how councils can strengthen road networks, improve freight connections, and introduce more sustainable transport options.

Cr Burnett was confident these sessions would spark plenty of practical discussions and give everyone a chance to learn from each other.

He was especially pleased to welcome the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, and Senator Matt O'Sullivan, Shadow Assistant Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure, and Senator for Western Australia.

The President pointed out how Australia's local governments play a pivotal role in shaping the nation's infrastructure landscape. LGAs manage roughly a third of the country's public assets. From roads and buildings to airports, water systems, and land, we manage an impressive \$600 billion worth of assets and infrastructure. That figure dwarfs our collective annual revenue, underscoring just how asset-heavy our level of government truly is. That's why ALGA continues to provide this annual event dedicated to roads and infrastructure.

#### The Government Opposition Address

The Opposition's address was presented by Senator Matt O'Sullivan, who was elected to the Australian Senate in 2019, representing Western Australia. He serves as the Shadow Assistant Minister for Fisheries, Forestry, and Infrastructure. Senator O'Sullivan is also the Deputy Chair and lead Coalition member of both the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit and the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation. His address was presented in a negative tone but didn't really have much to assist the Congress.

#### Sessions

- Representative of City of Greater Bendigo
- Jay Ellul, Director and Founder, HIGHER Corporate Consulting
- Ben Wood, Partner, Transport Professionals. Association
- Nicole McLean, Executive Director of Policy and Government Relations, Roads Australia
- William McDougall, BSc (CEng), MCILTA teenage children - that's where we can also share ideas from across the nation

#### A Grants and Funding presentation was given by Colin Steele, Managing Director of Section51

It was all about promoting his business and encouraging Councils to use his Company.

#### Session on Managing Local Governments Assets

- Steve Verity, Principal Advisor Asset Management, IPWEA
- Madeleine McManus OAM, FIEAust, CPEng, RPEV, EngExec, NER, CEO CPEE
- Another session was on Road Safety Leadership - Charting a Path to Vision Zero

**5.2 National Local Roads Congress - Post Conference Report**

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- Michael Nieuwesteeg, Austroads
- Dr Ingrid Johnston, ACRS
- Paul Durdin, Abley NZ

**Minister's Address****The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

- NSW Roads 167,000 Kilometres
- 85 % Local Government responsibility
- 48%. Unsealed
- In the 27/28 1 billion \$ for LGA's
- Same spending for Active Transport \$100 million
- Nothing available in NSW ATM
- Inland Rail - planning issues, approvals Qld don't have any planning or costs -
- When all in place, money will flow

**Transport Planning in Regional Cities Discussion**

- Dr Elliot Fishman, Director, Institute for Sensible Transport
- Brian Westley, Director, Presentation & Assets City of Greater Bendigo
- Freight and Logistics
- Russell Hamilton, A/Project Director, Inland Rail
- Michael Stokoe – Former Director Urban Freight, TFNSW
- Leon Allen, Chairman, Interport Global
- Roads Infrastructure & Funding Programs for Local Government
- Melony Czajor, Assistant Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCA)

**President Closing Remarks****Mayor Matt Burnett, President, ALGA**

The President thanked one and all for their attendance.

**Notable Learnings Relevant to Council Strategies and Operations**

This is a Conference that Senior Infrastructure staff should attend.



**5.3 LGNSW Annual Conference - Post Conference Report**

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/2713

AUTHOR: Catherine Davis, Executive Support Manager

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Over 23-25 November 2025, Councillors Greenhalgh, Judge, McDonell, Ruddy, Whitton Power, Mileto and Mallard along with the CEO attended the NSW Local Government Annual Conference in Penrith. This report outlines the program highlights and how they relate to Orange City Council's strategic direction from the perspective of each Councillor who attended.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "14.1 Work in partnership with other councils, regional organisations and State and Federal Governments".

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Councillors attend within a yearly budget allocation.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

This report is in line with Council Policy on conference attendance.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the report by the Executive Support Manager on the LGNSW Annual Conference – Post Conference Report be noted.**

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Nil
Financial	Nil
Reputation/Political	Nil
Environment	Nil
Compliance	Nil
People & WHS	Nil
Information Technology/Cyber Security	Nil

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION****COUNCILLOR TAKEAWAYS****CR TONY MILETO****Program Highlights**

The 2025 Local Government Conference, held at Panthers Penrith's, brought together senior representatives from state and local government, planning, and industry. The program featured influential speakers including Hon Ron Hoenig MP, NSW Minister for Local Government; Hon Christopher Rath MLC, Shadow Minister for Local Government; and Mayor Matt Burnett, President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). A significant highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between LGNSW and the NSW Country Mayors Association, signalling a stronger collaborative framework for rural and regional advocacy.

### 5.3 LGNSW Annual Conference - Post Conference Report

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The plenary session on “Opportunities and Risks for Local Government with Rapid AI Development” was a focal point, examining the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in service delivery, community engagement, and administrative efficiency.

#### Notable Learnings Relevant to Council Strategies and Operations

##### 1. Opportunities and Risks of AI for Local Government

The speakers emphasised that AI presents both strategic opportunities and regulatory challenges. For Orange City Council, the key takeaways included:

###### Advantages:

- Enhanced citizen service platforms through AI-driven chatbots and predictive analytics for infrastructure maintenance.
- Potential cost savings and efficiency gains from automation of repetitive tasks.
- Improved data-informed decision-making, particularly in urban planning and community engagement.

###### Disadvantages:

- Data privacy and ethical governance concerns, especially in rural contexts with smaller administrative oversight.
- Risk of digital inequity among residents without access to necessary technology or digital literacy.
- Ongoing need for workforce adaptation and training.

##### 2. NSW Planning Reforms – Two Years In

Speakers Sue Weatherley, Hon Stuart Ayers, and Kiersten Fishburn discussed progress since the 2023 reforms. The consensus was that outcomes have been mixed, with streamlined approvals but ongoing tension between state mandates and local priorities. For Orange, the discussions reinforced the importance of balancing housing growth with amenity preservation and community character. Opportunities may arise through alignment with state infrastructure priorities, but Council must continue advocating for flexible planning instruments suited to regional needs.

##### 3. Positive Community Engagement

The panel led by Kylie Legge highlighted the critical need for evidence-based engagement and measuring “place-based wellbeing.” Orange City Council could strengthen its community engagement strategies by:

- Using analytical tools like *Place Score* to quantify community sentiment.
- Ensuring engagement extends beyond consultation toward co-design with residents.
- Focusing on inclusive, transparent communication methods that improve trust and participation across demographic groups.

##### 4. Infrastructure, Investment & Tourism

Presentations from Destination NSW and the Tourism and Transport Forum underscored the essential role of integrated regional branding and investment-ready infrastructure. For Orange, the insights support ongoing initiatives promoting wine tourism, events, and sustainable transport options. Diversifying tourism offerings and enhancing connectivity will be critical to sustaining visitor growth.



### **5.3 LGNSW Annual Conference - Post Conference Report**

#### **5. Brain Power – Keynote by Todd Sampson**

Sampson's keynote on creativity and cognitive resilience encouraged innovation in local governance. The message—embracing curiosity, adaptability, and collaboration—was timely as councils navigate technological disruption and climate adaptation pressures.

#### **Conclusion**

The conference provided valuable context for shaping Orange City Council's forward strategies in governance, planning, and engagement. Key outcomes included recognition of the need for responsible AI adoption, strategic planning flexibility, and a community-first approach to decision-making. The event fostered meaningful dialogue among regional leaders and reaffirmed the importance of proactive, evidence-based local government leadership.

#### **CR TAMMY GREENHALGH**

##### **Program Highlights**

The 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference was held in Penrith from 23–25 November 2025, with more than 1,000 councillors and local government representatives in attendance.

Delegates heard from the Minister for Local Government, Ron Hoenig MP, and Shadow Minister Chris Rath MLC, who addressed recent Planning Reforms and the Model Code of Meeting Practice. Premier Chris Minns MP also attended, acknowledging the role of councils in service delivery and outlining housing reforms and the benefits of the \$250 million Fresh Start Program, which supports the employment of apprentices and trainees across NSW councils.

An extended Memorandum of Understanding was signed between LGNSW and the Country Mayors Association, strengthening collaboration on policy development and advocacy for regional, rural and remote councils.

Conference delegates considered 136 motions submitted by councils, with 115 motions debated and resolved. These motions will directly inform LGNSW's advocacy priorities to state and federal governments. The remaining motions will be determined by the incoming LGNSW Board.

I would like to request that Council write to LGNSW to provide feedback regarding the conference venue layout, noting that the separation of voting delegates from other councillors during debate limited councils' ability to confer collectively when considering motions.

As usual you always walk away with valuable insights to bring back to our community.

#### **CR GRAEME JUDGE**

##### **Program Highlights**

In addition to presentations at the Conference, I found the exposure to other Council delegates extremely valuable, learning about initiatives that other Councils have put in place was very interesting. For example, Camden Council recently put out a community satisfaction poll on how satisfied the community was with Camden Council services – the result came back 96% positive.

Hearing from NSW Ministers and Local Government NSW representatives was a highlight for me.

##### **Notable Learnings Relevant to Council Strategies and Operations**

- The continuing need to deliver more Social and Affordable Housing in all LGA's.
- There was a lot of noise from City council delegates to push for solar farms in the regional areas which was not well received from regional area Council delegates.
- There was a disconnect between Councillors who were not seated together when voting on motions was taking place. Only the voting delegates were involved and were seated in a

### **5.3 LGNSW Annual Conference - Post Conference Report**

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separate area to everyone else. This situation did not aid any discussion between Council delegates from any Council with their voting cohort. This should be rectified by LGNSW at future Conferences.

Due to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to attend Day 3 of the conference.

#### **CR DAVID MALLARD**

##### **Program Highlights**

Unfortunately, I have to say that this year's LGNSW conference was disappointing overall. I've always held that the ALGA and LGNSW annual conferences are high quality events and excellent opportunities for improving our understanding of the local government sector and many of the key challenges we deal with, but quite a few things just didn't quite work with this one. That included issues with the venue, problematic chairing of the day spent debating motions, some panel sessions that were more promotional than analytical, and a failure to recognise and include a good breadth of stakeholders, perspectives and key topics for the sector.

Having said that, there were still a couple of key highlights. The Affordable Housing Contribution Schemes for Councils workshop on the opening day was brief but had a great panel and gave a really solid overview of the ways councils can make affordable housing contribution schemes work, regardless of their size or location - but that the scheme needs to be developed carefully and strategically. There was also a good panel on urban planning and getting the best community outcomes on the final day. And the presentation from Margy Osmond, Tourism and Transport Forum CEO, on the final day was great and included some important information about the need to plan for the impact of climate change on the tourism industry's sustainability and resilience.

##### **Notable Learnings Relevant to Council Strategies and Operations**

Any council can successfully develop and implement an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme, and every council should use it as one key tool to address the housing crisis. I asked the panel to comment on some of the common arguments that might be made against such a scheme in a regional city like ours, e.g. that it will drive developers away and they'll build elsewhere instead, or that there isn't enough value uplift to capture a share of to make it feasible. The panellists had great suggestions around this and several were familiar with Orange's planning history and the great work we've already done. One useful suggestion was to consider working in partnership with nearby councils in developing a scheme, which we could look to do through our Joint Organisation. Another suggestion was to do thorough work on identifying where the greatest opportunities to capture contributions in future rezoning and redevelopment would be - some councils have engaged consultants like Atlas Economics in this sort of work.

Another key takeaway for me is the need for caution and thorough critical analysis about some of the topics that are presented to us at these conferences as great new innovations that a local government needs to adopt to transform what we can achieve. It seems there's no shortage of speakers around who'll give a presentation about generative artificial intelligence and the wonderful things it can do, while using a single slide with half a dozen one or two-word points - like "ethics", "hallucinations", "bias" - to very quickly gloss over the massive problems and risks underpinning the technology (and still completely ignoring some, like the massive environmental and energy impacts these tools have). It seems a flashy high-level talk like this is an obligatory component of the sector conferences I've been to in recent years, but it doesn't adequately establish how councils can get reliable, efficient and ethically acceptable outcomes from any specific form of AI adoption.

### **5.3 LGNSW Annual Conference - Post Conference Report**

Aside from the hyping of AI, I'm also increasingly noticing the way that organisations providing sponsorship to these conferences - who then get opportunities to speak on stage and/or promote themselves in the exhibition hall - are often contributors to some of the key challenges we face (e.g., short-term rental accommodation which contributes to our housing crisis). I hope future conferences can aim to incorporate a better range of perspectives, and not just the ones that are able to make a financial contribution to the viability of the event.

#### **CR MEL MCDONELL**

##### **Program Highlights**

Workshop on "Affordable Housing Contribution Schemes for Councils" hearing from Rebecca Pinkstone (CEO, Homes NSW), Esther Cheong (Director, Atlas Economics), Cr Brad Bunting (Mayor, Blacktown City Council), and Cr Jack Dods (Deputy Mayor, Byron Shire Council). This was a great session with real life examples from Blacktown and Byron Councils which shows that this is a viable option for local governments to help address housing availability and affordability. I would have loved for the session to go on for a little while longer as so many of us had more to ask.

My birthplace (Leeton Shire Council) was the rural/regional winner of the LGNSW Awards for their amazing work restoring and reviving the gorgeous art-deco ROXY theatre.

The ALGWA breakfast was sold out with our highest attendance ever! We heard from journalist, executive producer and presenter Karla Grant who shared some of her experiences as a First Nations woman in media and in leadership.

The real highlight though was the last session of the conference which was a presentation from Todd Sampson about brain power and human limitations, or perceived limitations. It was engaging and a fantastic way to close out the conference.

##### **Notable Learnings Relevant to Council Strategies and Operations**

The Trade exhibits were once again really interesting, especially those showcasing different housing options such as Land Lease Living which is the, in my opinion, right way to do manufactured housing estates - so they are well designed from the beginning to completion and beyond. This was a stakeholder who should be part of our upcoming Housing Summit.

The Panel discussion on the NSW planning reforms 2 years on was interesting but was further evidence that we at the local government level have more advocacy and lobbying to do to ensure the planning system works for everyone in our community.

As always, the networking and relationship development was invaluable for me.

#### **CR MAREA RUDDY**

##### **Program Highlights**

- **Integrated Housing & Land-Use Planning** - Strong consensus that housing, infrastructure and land-use must be coordinated. Clear opportunities for OCC to better align planning, DA processes and capital works sequencing to support sustainable, serviced growth.
- **Digital Transformation & Customer Experience** - Councils showcased digital lodgement systems, automated workflows and data-led decision tools delivering faster processing, better transparency and reduced staff pressure. Reinforces OCC's need to modernise internal systems and information flows.
- **Regional Identity, Events & Economic Resilience** - The session emphasised that tourism is no longer just visitor numbers; it's economic diversification, place identity and community

### 5.3 LGNSW Annual Conference - Post Conference Report

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vibrancy. Successful councils are investing in signature events, accessible experiences, and strong local branding. Relevance for Orange: strengthening our event ecosystem, enhancing accessibility, and leveraging food, wine and cultural assets to grow year-round visitation.

- **Inclusive Infrastructure & Public Spaces** - Best-practice examples highlighted accessible design, walkability and safety. Strong alignment with OCC's goals around town centre renewal and active transport.
- **Vendor Exhibition – Practical Solutions & Emerging Technology** - Engaging directly with vendors provided valuable insights into new planning tools, smart city technologies, community engagement platforms, and digital customer service solutions. Several products demonstrated real potential to streamline council processes, support compliance, and enhance community experience.

- **Keynote: Todd Sampson – Behaviour, Trust & Human-Centred Leadership**

Todd reinforced that trust, clarity and behavioural insight drive better decisions in complex environments.

Key messages:

- Authentic, transparent communication builds community confidence.
- Cognitive overload reduces decision quality. The goal should be to simplify systems and briefings.
- Consistency and vulnerability strengthen public trust.

Highly applicable to Orange City Council's governance culture and communication pathways.

#### **Notable Learnings Relevant to Orange City Council Strategies & Operations**

- **Housing Requires Integrated Internal Pathways** - Progressing supply requires coordinated planning, infrastructure, economic development and community services. OCC can strengthen this alignment to improve certainty and delivery.
- **Predictable Infrastructure Sequencing Builds Confidence** - Councils tying capital works to growth triggers create clearer expectations for communities and industry. A model applicable to Orange's future growth areas.
- **Community Trust Is Foundational** – Nothing new here. Transparent, early engagement builds social licence for major decisions. Reinforces OCC's need for clearer, more proactive communication and community engagement.
- **Digital Modernisation Enables Efficiency** - Modern platforms reduce manual processing, improve customer experience and support better internal information flow. AI is not just nice to have it's necessary. Systems need to be future proof, this isn't about replacing people it's about making system more efficient so they can perform better - a priority area for OCC.
- **Resilience Planning Must Be Embedded, Not Siloed** - Leading councils integrate inclusion, accessibility, wellbeing and social cohesion across operations. Relevant to Orange's regional role.
- **Councils Are the Front Line for Complex Social Issues** - Homelessness, safety, youth engagement and DV responses all intersect with local government. Orange will benefit from formalised partnerships and coordinated approaches

**5.3 LGNSW Annual Conference - Post Conference Report**

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**CR GERALD POWER****Program Highlights****Day one:**

The Affordable Housing session was discussing challenges and opportunities around identifying land owned by councils and how to develop these into low-income housing.

Working with local housing providers to lead this initiative in partnership with NSW Housing and Federal bodies and land developers.

**Day two:**

Presentation: Artificial Intelligence used in cities around the world.

It was interesting to hear how they used AI in identifying Pothole's and feed this information back to council staff.

**Notable Learnings Relevant to Council Strategies and Operations**

For Orange, the Red Leaf precinct that is identified affordable/ social housing it's important to create partnerships with local housing providers and State and Federal bodies in the early stages.

Orange City Council should look at how other communities are using the AI pothole technology and the feasibility of utilising this technology on Orange streets.

A motion was put forward to write to Federal Government to reduce the number of migrants coming to Australia. It's great that Voting Members voted against this motion!!

**CR JEFF WHITTON**

No additional information was submitted by Cr Whitton.



**5.4 Proposed Motions for National General Assembly - June 2026**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/161

AUTHOR: Catherine Davis, Executive Support Manager

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed motions listed in this report, if resolved by Council, will be lodged on the ALGA portal for inclusion in the National General Assembly to be held in Canberra 23-25 June 2026.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “14.1 Work in partnership with other councils, regional organisations and State and Federal Governments”.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council agree to the following motions being submitted to the National General Assembly 2026:

1. Strengthening ANCAP Assessment of Large Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety.
2. Updating Australian Design Rules to Improve Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety.
3. National Active Transport Design Standards and Guidelines.

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council’s key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Nil
Financial	Nil
Reputation/Political	Nil
Environment	Nil
Compliance	Nil
People & WHS	Nil
Information Technology/ Cyber Security	Nil

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

It is proposed that the following motions be submitted to ALGA for inclusion in the National General Assembly in Canberra 23-25 June 2026.

**Motion 1: Strengthening ANCAP Assessment of Large Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety****Motion**

That ALGA calls on the Australian Government to work with ANCAP to urgently strengthen vehicle safety assessment frameworks by:

**5.4 Proposed Motions for National General Assembly - June 2026**

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1. Requiring all large light trucks and oversized Utes sold in Australia to undergo ANCAP assessment.
2. Updating pedestrian safety testing protocols to reflect real-world impacts of high-fronted vehicles, including under-ride and drag risks.
3. Ensuring pedestrian and cyclist safety is weighted at least equally to occupant safety in overall safety ratings.
4. Improving transparency around safety scoring methodologies.

**Rationale**

Existing safety ratings do not adequately reflect the risks large vehicles pose to people outside the vehicle. Accurate, modernised safety assessments are essential to protect vulnerable road users and inform consumer choice.

**Motion 2: Updating Australian Design Rules to Improve Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety****Motion**

That ALGA calls on the Australian Government to urgently strengthen the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) to incorporate international best-practice pedestrian and cyclist safety standards, including:

1. Vehicle front-end design requirements that reduce injury severity.
2. Height, visibility, and crash compatibility standards for large vehicles.
3. Alignment with European and other leading international safety regulations.
4. Ongoing consultation with local government and road safety experts.

**Rationale**

Australia's ADRs lag behind global best practice in protecting vulnerable road users. Updating vehicle design standards is a cost-effective, preventative measure to reduce serious injury and death on Australian roads.

**Motion 3: National Active Transport Design Standards and Guidelines****Motion**

That ALGA calls on the Australian Government to develop national active transport design guidelines, informed by best-practice international standards, that:

1. Prioritise safety, accessibility, and network continuity.
2. Apply consistently across federally funded transport projects.
3. Replace discretionary or minimum-compliance approaches with clear, outcome-focused standards.

**Rationale**

Inconsistent and outdated design standards undermine safety and discourage uptake of active transport. National leadership would improve quality, consistency, and value for money.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-120>



## 5.5 Statement of Investments - December 2025 and January 2026

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/207

AUTHOR: John Thompson, Chief Financial Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a statement of Council's investments held for the period December 2025 and January 2026.

### LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "15.3 Ensure financial stability and support efficient ongoing operation".

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

### POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

- 1 Note the Statement of Investments for the period December 2025 and January 2026.**
- 2 Adopt the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.**

### FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's other key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Minimal risk exposure to our investment assets and ability to deliver services as our investments are fully compliant with our Investment Policy risk appetite and parameters.
<b>Financial</b>	Minimal risk to Council's liquidity, financial performance and position respectively. Interest rate cycle has been in a reduction phase though this may change in the period ahead. As investments redeem the renewal deposit rate is less than the redeemed rate. Average investment weighted yield will continue to decline.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Negligible risk present.
<b>Environment</b>	Most of the larger Approved Deposit Institutions (ADIs) that we invest in have a hybrid portfolio and their underlying investments are in both Renewable and Non-Renewable energy entities respectively.
<b>Compliance</b>	All investments are all fully compliant with Council's Investment Policy ST042.
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Negligible risk.
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Risk is low due to strong IT/Cyber Security controls over financial transactions and products invested in. However, vigilance is always taken with all new investments.

## 5.5 Statement of Investments - December 2025 and January 2026

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

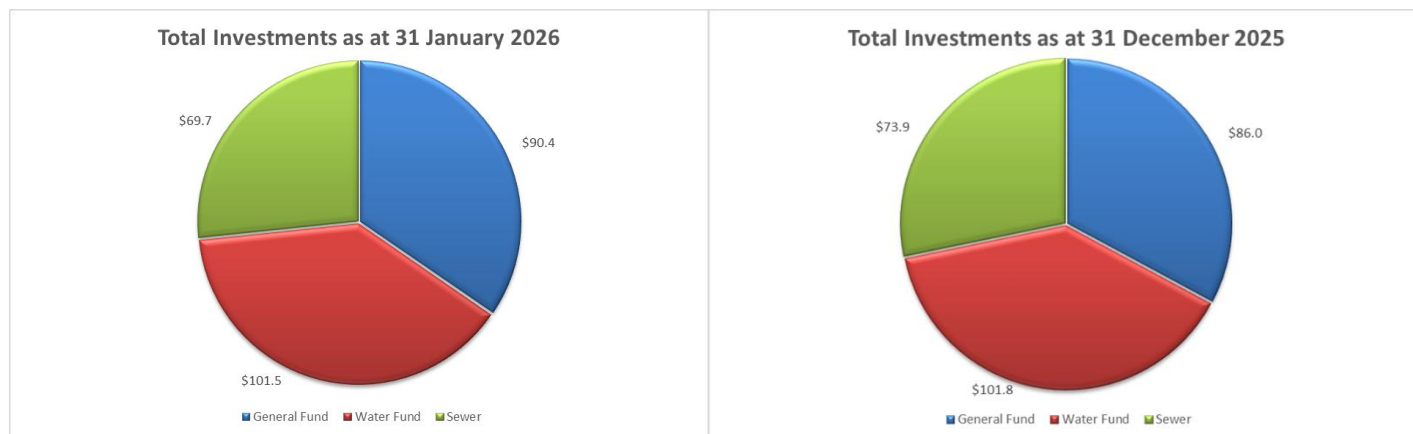
#### Statement of Investments – December 2025 / January 2026

The investments held by Council in each fund is shown below:

Fund	30/11/2025	31/12/2025	31/01/2026
General Fund	94,588,315	86,005,737	90,449,066
Water Fund	97,907,524	101,832,907	101,490,603
Sewer Fund	67,584,499	73,889,246	69,731,882
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>260,080,338</b>	<b>261,727,891</b>	<b>261,671,552</b>

See **Table 1** below:

*Table 1: Total investments as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 / January 2026*



#### Portfolio Performance

As at the end of January 2026, Council's investment portfolio remains largely secured through fixed rate term deposits (89%), with the remaining portfolio allocated to FRN In Million bonds (2%), and cash (5%).

Overall Council's portfolio remains highly liquid and diversified with approximately 67.56% of assets maturing under 12 months and no exposure to the unrated ADI sector.

All investments are within Council's risk appetite as per our investment Policy ST042.

The weighted average interest rate of **Council's investment portfolio** (refer to the **green line** in **Table 2** below) for the period ending 31st January 2026 was **4.20 percent (4.21 in December)**, which is only slightly below **Council Policy's (ST042) target** or '**mandated**' cash rate (refer to the **red line** in the chart below) of **4.35 percent** or 435 basis points (based on a target of 75 basis points above the cash rate for January at 3.60 percent).

The official cash rate did lift 25 basis points in February to 3.85 percent. Council acknowledges that it is currently not achieving its 'mandated levels', although it's performance on investments in the last 9 months has been very close to this mandated level. This is a function of the interest rate cycle and a stable interest rate environment. It will always have a lag effect to the announced official cash rates as they both increase and decrease respectively.

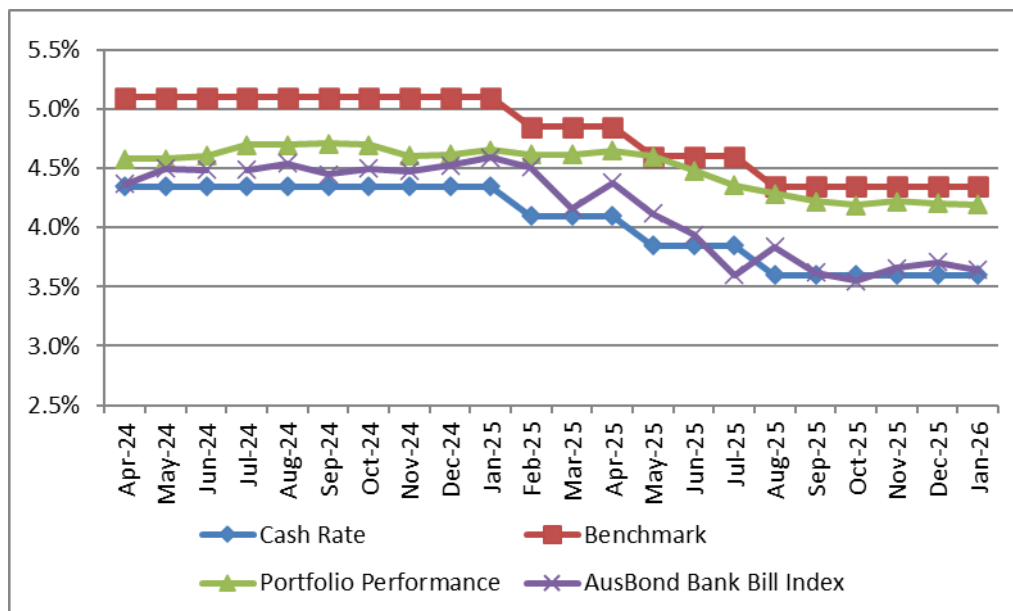
Council will continue to monitor maturing investments to ensure these are reinvested at optimum investment rates available by respective investment providers at the time balancing these with liquidity and cash flow needs. Retiring investments are reinvested to optimise returns in line with Council's Investment Policy.

### 5.5 Statement of Investments - December 2025 and January 2026

A review of the current target benchmark is underway as part of the broader review of Council's Investment Policy as discussed and agreed at the 26 June 2024 Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee (ARIC). This was tabled for ARIC in the 4 June 2025 meeting, however, has been extended for review by 31 December (in the March 2026 meeting). Any outcome will be advised to Council in due course.

For your reference Council has also compared its performances to the Bloomberg **AusBond Bank Bill Index** (Baubil or Ausbond) to provide a further benchmark (refer to the **purple line** in the below chart). This index is focused on short term Australian money market investments. For the period January 2026, the AusBond rate was 3.64 percent (noting the cash rate is 3.60 percent), (December AusBond rate was 3.71 percent with the cash rate at 3.60 percent). This is **an indicator to market expected movements in the Official cash rate**. The AusBond rate is supplied to Council by our investment consultants Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd. In hindsight we now know that official cash rates did increase in February 2026.

*Table 2: Weighted average interest rate indicators v Council's investment portfolio*



Council's Investment Policy also establishes limits in relation to the maturity terms of Council's investments as well as the credit ratings of the institutions with whom Council can invest.

The following tables provide a dissection of Council's investment portfolio as required by the Policy. The Policy identifies the maximum amount that can be held in a variety of investment products or with institutions based on their respective credit ratings.

**Table 3** shows the percentage held by Council (Holdings) and the additional amount that Council could hold (Capacity) for each term to maturity allocation in accordance with limits established by Council's Policy.

**5.5 Statement of Investments - December 2025 and January 2026**
*Table 3: Maturity – term limits*

Term to Maturity Allocation Jan-26	Maximum	Holdings	Capacity
0 - 3 Months	100.00%	31.07%	68.93%
3 - 12 Months	100.00%	36.50%	63.50%
1 - 2 Years	70.00%	12.86%	57.14%
2 - 5 Years	50.00%	19.58%	30.42%
5+ Years	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%

Term to Maturity Allocation Dec-25	Maximum	Holdings	Capacity
0 - 3 Months	100.00%	31.84%	68.16%
3 - 12 Months	100.00%	39.54%	60.46%
1 - 2 Years	70.00%	10.94%	59.06%
2 - 5 Years	50.00%	17.67%	32.33%
5+ Years	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%

**Table 4** (below) shows the total amount held, and the weighted average interest rate (or Return on investment), by the deposit parcel credit ratings respectively. The credit rating is an independent opinion of the capability and willingness of a financial institution to repay its debts, or in other words, the providers' financial strength or creditworthiness. The rating is typically calculated as the likelihood of a failure occurring over a given period, with the higher rating category (AAA) being superior due to having a lower chance of default. However, it is accepted that generally this lower risk will be accompanied by a lower return on investment and conversely the higher the risk will be accompanied by a higher weighted return.

The level of money held in the bank accounts has been added to the table to illustrate Council's ability to cover its operational liabilities that typically occur (for example payroll, materials and supplies, contracts, utilities, etc.).

*Table 4: Credit rating limits*

Credit Rating Jan-26	Maximum	Holding	Remaining Capacity	Value	Return on investment
Bank Accounts	100.00%	7.95%	92.05%	20,790,334	3.45%
AAA Category	100.00%	0.38%	99.62%	998,166	4.50%
AA Category	100.00%	35.02%	64.98%	91,638,371	3.71%
A Category	60.00%	28.79%	31.21%	75,323,233	4.72%
BBB & Unrated Category	40.00%	27.87%	12.13%	72,921,447	4.54%
				<b>261,671,552</b>	

Credit Rating Dec-25	Maximum	Holding	Remaining Capacity	Value	Return on investment
Bank Accounts	100.00%	5.67%	94.33%	14,846,797	3.45%
AAA Category	100.00%	0.38%	99.62%	999,625	4.50%
AA Category	100.00%	37.31%	62.69%	97,647,230	3.75%
A Category	60.00%	31.07%	28.93%	81,315,443	4.66%
BBB & Unrated Category	40.00%	25.57%	14.43%	66,918,795	4.56%
				<b>261,727,891</b>	

It is noted that Council still holds several long-term investments (longer term investments established several years ago) with a significantly lower than market interest rate. These investments will incur significant costs to redeem (or break) early and would thus impact Council's expected interest income. These investments will naturally be redeemed at maturity and reinvested into the best performing products at that time. It is important to note there will always

**5.5 Statement of Investments - December 2025 and January 2026**

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be a lag in our performance to the spot interest rate at any time (both on the lower side and the higher side) depending on where we are at in the interest rate cycle.

**Portfolio advice**

Council uses the services of an independent investment advisor in maintaining its portfolio of investments. Council's current investment advisor is Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd. Services provided to

Council currently include:

- monthly portfolio summary reports;
- periodic investment opportunities, in particular Floating Rate Note products from ADIs;
- advice on policy construction; and
- year-end market values for Floating Rate Note products held by Council
- a digital platform to manage all investments.

**Certification by Responsible Accounting Officer**

*Section 212(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires that a written report be presented each month at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council detailing all money that Council has invested under *Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993*.

I, John Thompson, hereby certify that all investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's Investment Policy.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026, D26/14814 [↓](#)
- 2 Orange Monthly Investment Report December 2025, D26/14806 [↓](#)



## Monthly Investment Review



**December 2025**

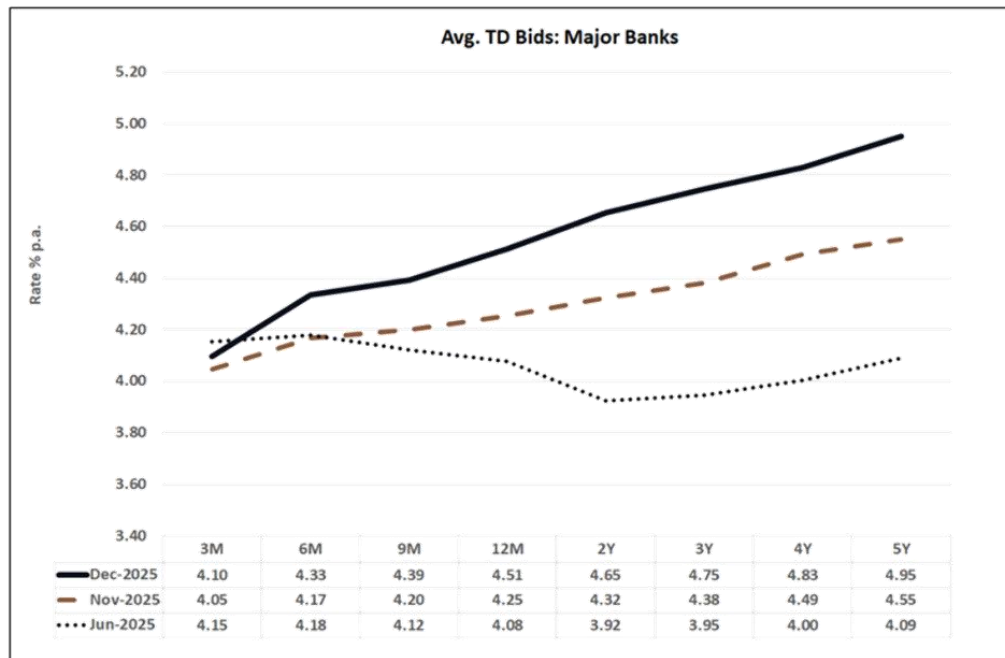
Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd  
ABN: 55 668 191 795  
Authorised Representative of InterPrac Financial Planning Pty Ltd  
AFSL 246 638  
Phone: +61 2 9053 2987  
Email: [michael.chandra@arloadvisory.com.au](mailto:michael.chandra@arloadvisory.com.au) / [melissa.villamin@arloadvisory.com.au](mailto:melissa.villamin@arloadvisory.com.au)  
Level 3, Suite 304, 80 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000



## Market Update Summary

Risk markets were mixed in December after the US Fed delivered another rate cut and signalled they could potentially continue on their easing into 2026. In contrast, other global central banks (including Australia) appear to be on a mild tightening bias, with some now forecasting the next move in official rates may be up next year should inflation remain elevated. Global bonds were sold off, with yields largely rising over the month.

In the deposit market, over December, the average deposit rates offered by the domestic major banks was up to ~15bp higher compared to where they were the previous month (November). At the longer-end of the curve (1-5 years), the average deposit rates were around 25-40bp higher compared to where they were the previous month, with the market expecting official rates to be slightly higher in coming years. The market is now factoring up to two rate hikes in 2026 should inflation remain elevated or spike further.



Source: Imperium Markets

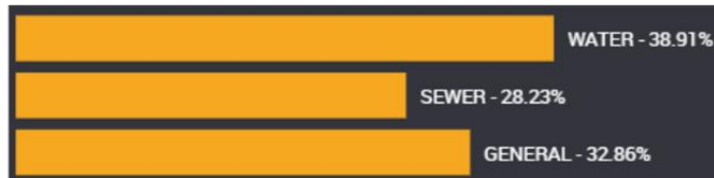




## Orange City Council's Portfolio & Compliance

### Account Breakdown

As at the end of December, the consolidated portfolio was made up in the following way:



### Asset Allocation

The aggregate portfolio is mainly directed to fixed rate term deposits (88%), with the remaining portfolio allocated to FRNs (4%), bonds (2%) and cash (6%).

Senior FRNs are currently considered 'expensive' on a historical basis but new issuances should continue to be considered on a case by case scenario for diversification purposes (duration and asset type). In the interim, staggering a mix of fixed deposits between 12 months to 3 years remains a more optimal strategy for the 'core' assets to maximise returns over a longer-term cycle, which can be supplemented by investing a small proportion of surplus funds in senior FRNs.

Should inflation be within the RBA's target band of 2-3% over the longer-term, fixed assets yielding above 4½% p.a. for 1-3 years or higher should outperform benchmark and remains acceptable.



**Attachment 1 Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026**

**Term to Maturity**

The portfolio remains highly liquid with approximately 71% of assets maturing under 12 months. There is significant capacity to invest in short-medium (1-2 years) and medium-term assets (2-5 years).

Where there is (counterparty) capacity to invest in attractive medium-longer term investments, we recommend this be allocated to any remaining attractive fixed assets for 1-3 years and senior new FRNs for 3-5 years (refer to respective sections below).

Compliant	Horizon	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 90 days	\$87,346,797	33.37%	10%	100%	\$174,381,093
✓	91 - 365 days	\$99,500,000	38.02%	20%	100%	\$162,227,891
✓	1 - 2 years	\$28,643,196	10.94%	0%	70%	\$154,566,328
✓	2 - 5 years	\$46,237,898	17.67%	0%	50%	\$84,626,048
✓	5 - 10 years	\$0	0.00%	0%	25%	\$65,431,973
		<b>\$261,727,891</b>	<b>100.00%</b>			

**Attachment 1 Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026**

**Counterparty**

As at the end of December, Council did not have an overweight position to any single counterparty. Overall, the portfolio is well diversified across the investment grade spectrum, with no exposure to the unrated ADI sector.

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	RBC Covered	AAA	\$999,625	0.38%	40.00%	\$103,691,531
✓	ANZ	AA-	\$7,515,935	2.87%	30.00%	\$71,002,433
✓	CBA	AA-	\$14,846,797	5.67%	30.00%	\$63,671,570
✓	NAB	AA-	\$37,884,776	14.47%	30.00%	\$40,633,592
✓	Westpac	AA-	\$52,246,520	19.96%	30.00%	\$26,271,847
✓	ING	A	\$20,815,291	7.95%	15.00%	\$18,443,893
✓	Rabobank	A	\$36,000,000	13.75%	15.00%	\$3,259,184
✓	BOQ	A-	\$24,500,152	9.36%	15.00%	\$14,759,032
✓	Aus. Military Bank	A-	\$2,000,000	0.76%	15.00%	\$37,259,184
✓	AMP Bank	BBB+	\$3,418,795	1.31%	10.00%	\$22,753,994
✓	Bank Australia	BBB+	\$8,000,000	3.06%	10.00%	\$18,172,789
✓	BankVic	BBB+	\$8,000,000	3.06%	10.00%	\$18,172,789
✓	Defence Bank	BBB+	\$10,000,000	3.82%	10.00%	\$16,172,789
✓	P&N Bank	BBB+	\$7,000,000	2.67%	10.00%	\$19,172,789
✓	Heartland Bank	BBB	\$3,000,000	1.15%	10.00%	\$23,172,789
✓	Judo Bank	BBB	\$5,000,000	1.91%	10.00%	\$21,172,789
✓	MyState Bank	BBB	\$13,500,000	5.16%	10.00%	\$12,672,789
✓	State Bank India	BBB	\$7,000,000	2.67%	10.00%	\$19,172,789
			<b>\$261,727,891</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

In November 2025, Bank Australia's acquisition of Australian Unity Bank was completed. As such, Council's exposure to Australian Unity Bank is now reflected under the parent company being Bank Australia.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, ANZ's takeover of Suncorp Bank was formalised, and ratings agency S&P upgraded Suncorp's long-term credit rating to that of its parent company immediately (now rated AA-). Investor's exposure to Suncorp is now reflected under the parent company being ANZ.



### Credit Quality

Overall, the entire portfolio is well diversified amongst the investment grade credit spectrum (BBB- or higher). All aggregate ratings categories are within the Policy limits. There is now large capacity to invest in the BBB and Unrated category (although TCorp's covenants which are prohibitive and fundamentally unjustified may result in additional loss of income over future financial years):

Compliant	Credit Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	"AAA" Category	\$999,625	0.38%	100.00%	\$260,728,266
✓	"AA" or Major Bank	\$112,494,027	42.98%	100.00%	\$149,233,863
✓	"A" Category	\$83,315,443	31.83%	60.00%	\$73,721,291
✓	"BBB" & Unrated Category	\$64,918,795	24.80%	40.00%	\$39,772,361
		<b>\$261,727,891</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

**Attachment 1 Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026**


### Performance

Council's performance (excluding cash holdings) for the month ending December 2025:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year	2 years	3 years
Official Cash Rate	0.30%	0.90%	1.82%	1.82%	3.85%	4.10%	4.03%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.31%	0.90%	1.83%	1.83%	3.97%	4.22%	4.11%
Council's T/D Portfolio	0.36%	1.09%	2.22%	2.22%	4.64%	4.71%	4.52%
Council's FRN Portfolio	0.40%	1.21%	2.45%	2.45%	5.19%	5.49%	5.29%
Council's Bond Portfolio	0.35%	1.06%	2.12%	2.12%	4.08%	3.99%	3.95%
<b>Council's Portfolio<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>0.37%</b>	<b>1.09%</b>	<b>2.23%</b>	<b>2.23%</b>	<b>4.65%</b>	<b>4.74%</b>	<b>4.55%</b>
<b>Rel. Performance</b>	<b>0.06%</b>	<b>0.19%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>0.52%</b>	<b>0.44%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

Performance (% p.a.)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year	2 years	3 years
Official Cash Rate	3.60%	3.60%	3.64%	3.64%	3.85%	4.10%	4.03%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	3.71%	3.64%	3.66%	3.66%	3.97%	4.22%	4.11%
Council's T/D Portfolio	4.38%	4.39%	4.46%	4.46%	4.64%	4.71%	4.52%
Council's FRN Portfolio	4.84%	4.87%	4.92%	4.92%	5.19%	5.49%	5.29%
Council's Bond Portfolio	4.25%	4.26%	4.26%	4.26%	4.08%	3.99%	3.95%
<b>Council's Portfolio<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>4.40%</b>	<b>4.40%</b>	<b>4.47%</b>	<b>4.47%</b>	<b>4.65%</b>	<b>4.74%</b>	<b>4.55%</b>
<b>Rel. Performance</b>	<b>0.69%</b>	<b>0.76%</b>	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>0.52%</b>	<b>0.44%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

For the month of December, the total portfolio (excluding cash) provided a solid return of +0.37% (actual) or +4.40% p.a. (annualised), outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.31% (actual) or +3.71% p.a. (annualised).



### Recommendations for Council

#### **Term Deposits**

Going forward, Council's ongoing strategy in placing across 12-24 months terms is likely to earn up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to shorter tenors in a normal market environment. Despite reaching the bottom of the rate cut cycle, locking in rates close to or above 4½% p.a. across 1-3 year tenors should still outperform benchmark in the long-run, on assumption that the RBA can contain inflation within their 2-3% target band.

As at the end of December 2025, Council's **deposit** portfolio was yielding 4.24% p.a. (down 2bp from the previous month), with a weighted average duration of around 360 days (~12 months). We recommend Council maintains a duration of around ~12 months in the long-run to optimise returns.

Please refer to the section below for further details on the Term Deposit market.

#### **Securities**

Primary (new) **FRNs** (with maturities between 3-5 years) are expensive on a historical basis but remains an option (particularly for those investors with portfolios skewed towards fixed assets) and should be considered on a case by case scenario. **Fixed Bonds** may also provide attractive opportunities from new (primary) issuances.

#### Council's Senior FRNs Sale/Switch Recommendations

Should there be an opportunity to sell out of low yielding FRNs and switch into a higher yielding complying assets, we will inform Council accordingly. In the current challenging economic environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.

We now recommend Council sells and switches out of the following FRN(s) at the next best opportunity given it is now yielding a low rate of return, if held to maturity.

Issuer	Rating	Maturity Date	ISIN	Face Value	Trading Margin	~Capital Price (\$)	~Unrealised Gain (\$)
ANZ	AA-	31/03/2028	AU3FN0076998	\$1,500,000	+53.5bp	\$101.062	\$15,935

We will continue to monitor any sub-optimal FRN investments and continue this strategy going forward to maximise returns where possible, and without comprising risk or liquidity.

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**Attachment 1    Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026**


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**Council's Senior Fixed Bonds**

Over calendar 2022, Council purchased into the following fixed bonds:

Issuer	Rating	Maturity Date	ISIN	Face Value	Purchase Yield	Current Yield	Unrealised Gain / Loss (\$)
NAB	AA-	25/02/2027	AU3CB0286763	\$450,000	2.90%	4.39%	-\$6,478
NAB	AA-	25/02/2027	AU3CB0286763	\$450,000	2.90%	4.39%	-\$6,478
RBC	AAA	13/07/2027	AU3CB0290682	\$1,000,000	4.54%	4.49%	\$1,395

Should there be an attractive option to sell prior to maturity after a 2-4 year holding period, we will inform Council accordingly. In all likelihood, Council will hold onto these securities for the remaining term unless official interest rates drop quickly (and significantly) prior to 2027 – the RBC line maybe up for sale prior to maturity.





## Term Deposit Market Review

### Current Term Deposits Rates

As at the end of December, we see value in the following:

ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
ING	A	5 years	5.04%
Westpac	AA-	5 years	4.85%
NAB	AA-	5 years	4.80%
BoQ	A-	5 years	4.74%
ING	A	4 years	4.93%
Westpac	AA-	4 years	4.82%
CBA	AA-	4 years	4.80%
NAB	AA-	4 years	4.75%
ING	A	3 years	4.81%
Westpac	AA-	3 years	4.75%
CBA	AA-	3 years	4.75%
NAB	AA-	3 years	4.73%
ING	A	2 years	4.72%
Westpac	AA-	2 years	4.68%
CBA	AA-	2 years	4.66%
NAB	AA-	2 years	4.65%

The above deposits are suitable for investors looking to maintain diversification and lock-in a slight premium compared to purely investing short-term.

For terms under 12 months, we believe the strongest value is currently being offered by the following ADIs (we stress that rates are indicative, dependent on daily funding requirements and different for industry segments):

**Attachment 1 Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026**


ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
Suncorp	AA-	12 months	4.62%
ING	A	12 months	4.58%
Westpac	A	12 months	4.56%
CBA	AA-	12 months	4.53%
NAB	AA-	12 months	4.50%
Westpac	A	9 months	4.53%
CBA	AA-	9 months	4.45%
ING	A	9 months	4.42%
NAB	AA-	9 months	4.40%
BoQ	A-	9 months	4.40%
Suncorp	AA-	6 months	4.54%
Westpac	A	6 months	4.43%
BoQ	A-	6 months	4.40%
CBA	AA-	6 months	4.35%
NAB	AA-	6 months	4.30%
CBA	AA-	3 months	4.20%
Westpac	AA-	3 months	4.20%
Hume Bank	BBB+	3 months	4.20%
Suncorp	AA-	3 months	4.17%
NAB	AA-	3 months	4.10%

For those investors that do not require high levels of liquidity and can stagger their investments longer term, they will be rewarded over a longer-term cycle if they roll for an average min. term of 12 months, with a spread of investments out to 5 years (this is where we see current value). In a normal market environment (upward sloping yield curve), investors could earn over a cycle, on average, up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to those investors that entirely invest in short-dated deposits.

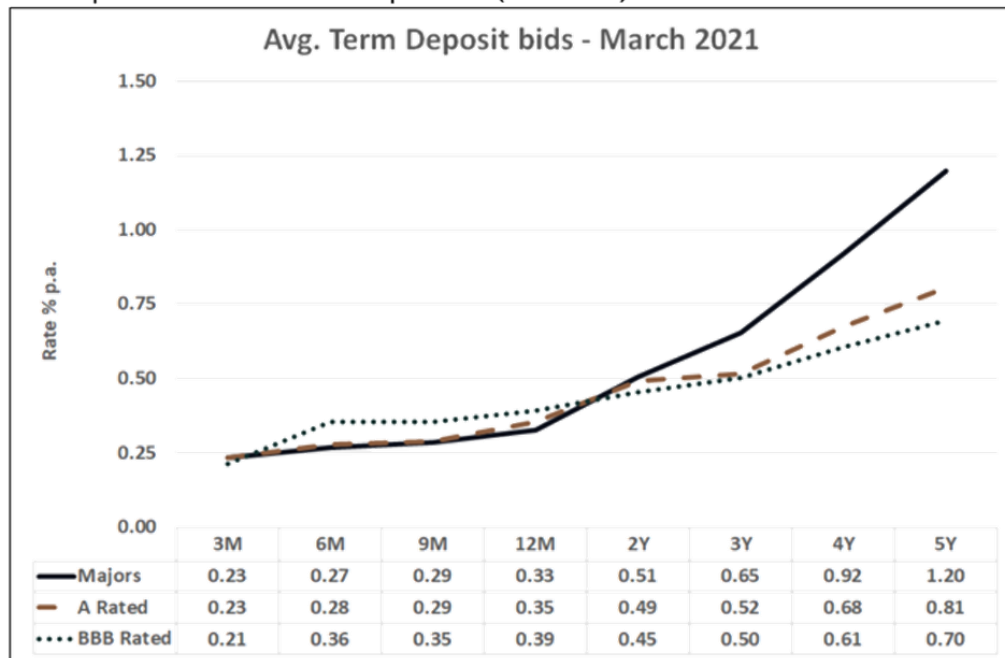
Investors should continue to consider allocating some longer-term surplus funds across 1-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates above 4¼-4½% p.a. This will provide some income protection if official rates remain steady around current levels for the foreseeable future.



### Term Deposits Analysis

Pre-pandemic (March 2020), a 'normal' marketplace meant the lower rated ADIs (i.e. BBB category) were offering higher rates on term deposits compared to the higher rated ADIs (i.e. A or AA rated). But due to the cheap funding available provided by the RBA via their Term Funding Facility (TFF) during mid-2020, allowing the ADIs to borrow as low as 0.10% p.a. fixed for 3 years, those lower rated ADIs (BBB rated) did not require deposit funding from the wholesale deposit. Given the higher rated banks had more capacity to lend (as they have a greater pool of mortgage borrowers), they subsequently were offering higher deposit rates. In fact, some of the lower rated banks were not even offering deposit rates at all. As a result, most investors placed a higher proportion of their deposit investments with the higher rated (A or AA) ADIs over the past three years.

#### **Term Deposit Rates – 12 months after pandemic (March 2021)**

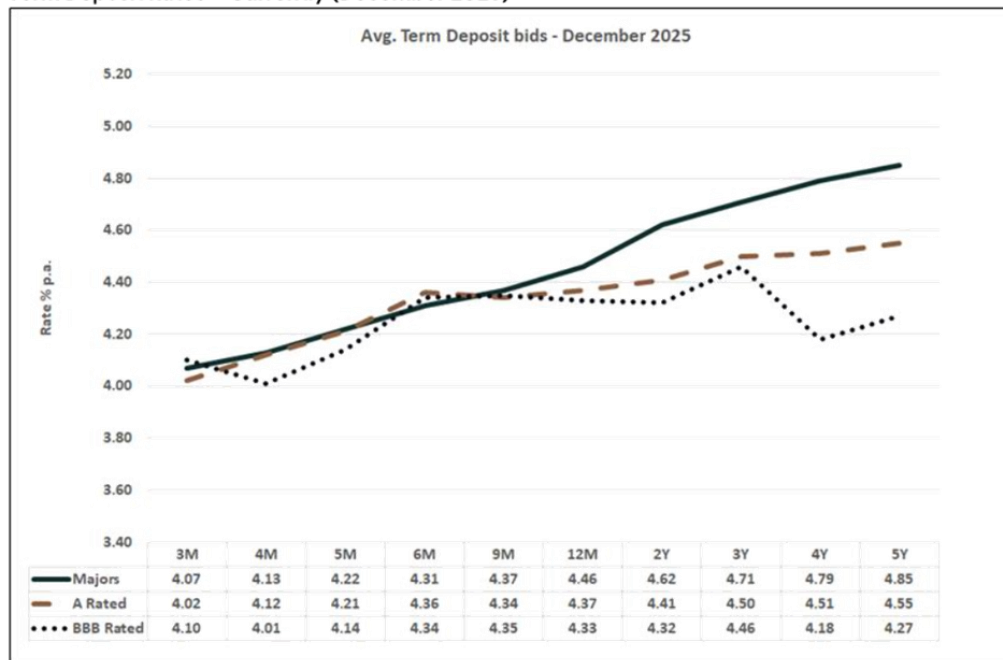


Source: Imperium Markets

The abnormal marketplace experienced during the pandemic is starting to reverse as the competition for deposits slowly increases, partially driven by the RBA's term funding facility coming to an end. In recent months, we have started to periodically see some of the lower rated ADIs ("A" and "BBB" rated) offering slightly higher rates compared to the domestic major banks ("AA" rated) on different parts of the curve (i.e. pre-pandemic environment). Some of this has been attributed to lags in adjusting their deposit rates as some banks (mainly the lower rated ADIs) simply set their rates for the week.

**Attachment 1 Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026**


Going forward, investors should have a larger opportunity to invest a higher proportion of its funds with the lower rated institutions (up to Policy limits), from which the majority are not lending to the Fossil Fuel industry or considered 'ethical'. We are slowly seeing this trend emerge, although the major banks always seem to react more quickly than the rest of the market during periods of volatility:

**Term Deposit Rates – Currently (December 2025)**


Source: Imperium Markets

**Financial Stability of the Banking (ADI) Sector**

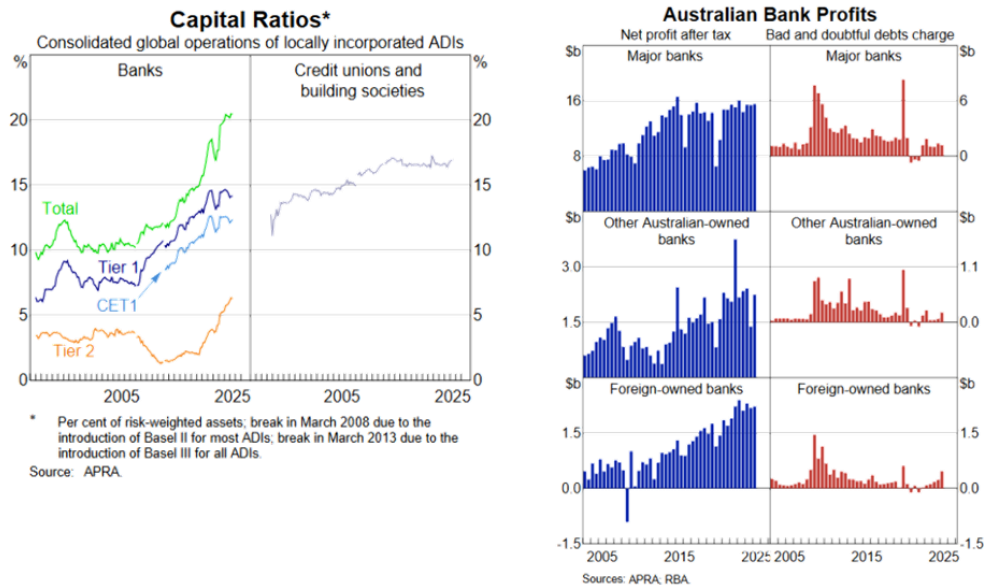
The RBA's Financial Stability reaffirms the strong balance sheet across the ADI sector. They noted that the risk of widespread financial stress remains limited due to the generally strong financial positions of most (individual) borrowers. Very few mortgage borrowers are in negative equity, limiting the impact on lenders (ADIs) in the event of default and supporting their ability to continue providing credit to the economy. Most businesses that have entered insolvency are small and have little debt, limiting the broader impact on the labour market and thus household incomes, and on the capital position of lenders (ADIs).

Australian banks (collectively the APRA regulated ADIs) have maintained prudent lending standards and are well positioned to continue supplying credit to the economy. A deterioration in economic conditions or temporary disruption to funding markets is unlikely to halt lending activity. Banks have anticipated an

**Attachment 1 Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026**


increase in loan arrears and have capital and liquidity buffers well above regulatory requirements (see *Capital Ratios chart below*). APRA's mandate is to "protect depositors" and provide "financial stability".

Over the past two decades, both domestic and international banks continue to operate and demonstrate high levels of profitability (see *Australian Bank Profits chart below*), which also covers two stress-test environments being the GFC (September 2008) and the COVID pandemic period (March 2020):



The Council of Financial Regulators (CFR) – being the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), the Australian Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), have the ultimate aim of promoting the stability of the financial system, whilst supporting effective and efficient regulation. In their latest quarterly review, the CFR agreed on the following priorities heading into 2026:

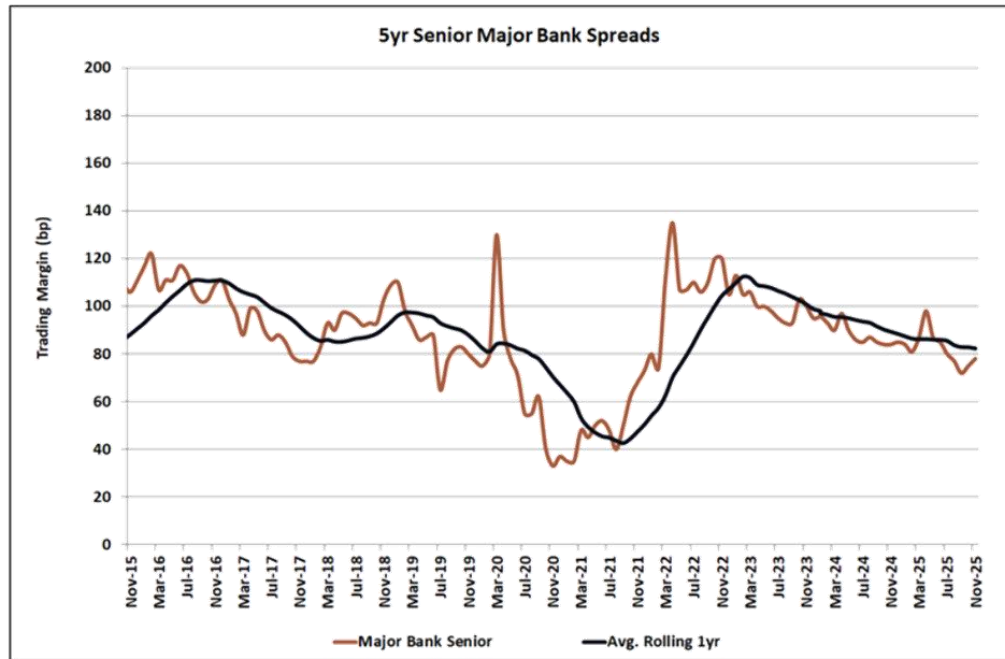
- Improving preparedness for geopolitical risks;
- Operational vulnerabilities, including cyber, third parties and AI;
- Amplification of systemic liquidity risk: further strengthening CFR and industry readiness to respond to systemic liquidity stress events; and
- High household leverage: continuing to closely monitor household leverage and bank lending standards.

The Council noted that in each of these priority areas, CFR agencies are taking forward a number of initiatives to strengthen the resilience of the financial system.



## Senior FRNs Market Review

Over December, amongst the senior major bank FRNs, physical credit securities remained relatively flat at the long-end of the curve. During the month, WBC (AA-) issued a new short 1 year senior deal at +36bp. Long-term major bank senior securities are looking 'expensive' on a historical basis, noting the 5yr margin has averaged around the +92bp level over a cycle (currently around +78bp).



Source: IBS Capital

During the month, there were minimal new issuances apart from QBank's (BBB) 2 year private placement senior FRN at +110bp. Amongst the "A" and "BBB" rated sector, the securities also remained flat at the 3-5 year part of the curve.

Overall, credit securities are slightly expensive on a historical basis but remain a good option for diversification purposes. FRNs will continue to play a role in investors' portfolios mainly based on their liquidity and the ability to roll down the curve and gross up returns over ensuing years (in a relatively stable credit environment), whilst also providing some diversification to those investors skewed towards fixed assets (and especially if the RBA's easing cycle is over).

**Attachment 1 Orange Monthly Investment Report January 2026**


Senior FRNs (ADIs)	31/12/2025	30/11/2025
"AA" rated – 5yrs	+78bp	+78bp
"AA" rated – 3yrs	+61bp	+61bp
"A" rated – 5yrs	+85bp	+85bp
"A" rated – 3yrs	+70bp	+70bp
"BBB" rated – 3yrs	+100bp	+105bp

Source: IBS Capital

We now generally recommend switches ('benchmark' issues only) into new primary issues, out of the following senior FRNs that are maturing:

- On or before mid-2028 for the "AA" rated ADIs (domestic major banks);
- On or before 2026 for the "A" rated ADIs; and
- Within 6-9 months for the "BBB" rated ADIs (consider case by case).

Investors holding onto the above senior FRNs ('benchmark' issues only) in their last few years are now generally holding sub optimal investments and are not maximising returns by foregoing realised capital gains. In the current challenging economic environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.





### Senior Fixed Bonds – ADIs (Secondary Market)

With global central banks remaining on a mild easing bias, investors may look at some opportunities in the secondary market. We currently see value in the following fixed bond lines (please note supply in the secondary market may be limited on any day):

ISIN	Issuer	Rating	Capital Structure	Maturity Date	~Remain. Term (yrs)	Fixed Coupon	Indicative Yield
AU3CB0314763	Bendigo	A-	Senior	24/10/2028	2.82	4.79%	4.86%
AU3CB0308955	BoQ	A-	Senior	30/04/2029	3.33	5.30%	4.99%
AU3CB0319879	Nova Sco.	A-	Senior	21/03/2030	4.22	5.23%	5.34%



## Economic Commentary

### International Market

Risk markets were mixed in December after the US Fed delivered another rate cut and signalled they could potentially continue on their easing into 2026. In contrast, other global central banks (including Australia) appear to be on a mild tightening bias, with some now forecasting the next move in official rates may be up next year should inflation remain elevated. Global bonds were sold off, with yields largely rising over the month.

Across equity markets, the US S&P 500 Index marginally fell -0.05%, whilst the NASDAQ declined -2.15%. Europe's main indices provide positive returns, with gain in Germany's DAX (+2.74%), UK's FTSE (+2.17%) and France's CAC (+0.33%).

The US FOMC cut by 25bp as expected to 3.50%-3.75%, and the 2026 median dot continues to show one more cut by the end of next year, less than market pricing.

The US core PCE deflator increased by +0.2% in September, in line with forecasts, bringing the annual rate down to +2.8%. The US unemployment rate rose to 4.6% in November, a four-year high. Wage growth slowed to just +0.1% m/m and +3.5% y/y.

The Bank of Canada (BoC) kept rates on hold as widely expected. Governor Macklem noted resilience evident in the latest data but said it *"hasn't fundamentally changed our view"*. Employment came in strong in November, with 53,600 positions added, pushing the unemployment rate down to 6.5%, its lowest since July 2024.

UK CPI which came in weaker than expected, with the annual headline and core measures both falling to +3.2% y/y from +3.6% and +3.4% respectively and services inflation falling to +4.4% from +4.5%.

China inflation data was near expectations. CPI jumped higher to +0.7% from +0.2% on the back of food prices going from -2.9% y/y to +0.2%. Trade data showed exports rebounded to +5.9% y/y (+4% expected) and imports disappointed at +1.9% y/y (+3.0% expected).

The OECD's global growth forecasts were little changed, seeing global GDP growth of +3.2% this year, and +2.9% next year.

The MSCI World ex-Aus Index rose +0.80% for the month of December:

Index	1m	3m	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr
S&P 500 Index	-0.05%	+2.35%	+16.39%	+21.26%	+12.75%	+12.85%
MSCI World ex-AUS	+0.80%	+3.27%	+21.71%	+21.95%	+12.77%	+12.83%
S&P ASX 200 Accum. Index	+1.30%	+3.65%	+10.32%	+11.39%	+9.89%	+9.31%

Source: S&P, MSCI



### Domestic Market

In a unanimous decision, the RBA's Monetary Policy Board left the cash rate on hold at 3.60% in December. The Statement retains the view that there remains uncertainty about the stance of monetary policy, and as always, about the outlook for economic activity and inflation too.

The unemployment rate was steady at 4.30% (4.32% unrounded) in November. That was despite some softer signs elsewhere in the report. Employment fell 21k, and the underemployment rate jumped.

Q3 GDP came in softer than expected at +0.4% q/q, versus +0.7% expected (+2.1% on an annual basis).

Dwelling prices rose by +1.0% m/m in November to be +7.5% higher over the year. Melbourne and Sydney both lagged the rest of the country, growing at +0.3% and +0.5% m/m respectively. Total dwelling approvals partially retraced the strong September result. The fall was driven by a -13.1% m/m decline in attached dwellings.

Goods trade surplus for October rose \$0.7bn to \$4.4bn. Exports rose +3.4% m/m, up by \$1.5bn. Imports rose +2% m/m, up by \$0.8bn.

The Government's Mid-Year Economic & Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) forecasts a deficit of \$36.8bn in 2025-26, a \$5.4bn improvement from the March budget.

The Australian dollar rose around +2.45%, finishing the month at US66.93 cents (from US65.33 cents the previous month).

### Credit Market

The global credit indices were mixed during the month. They remain near the levels seen in early-mid 2022 (prior to the rate hike cycle from most central banks):

Index	December 2025	November 2025
CDX North American 5yr CDS	56bp	52bp
iTraxx Europe 5yr CDS	51bp	54bp
iTraxx Australia 5yr CDS	63bp	69bp

Source: Markit



## Fixed Interest Review

### Benchmark Index Returns

Index	December 2025	November 2025
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (0+YR)	+0.13%	+0.30%
Bloomberg AusBond Composite Bond Index (0+YR)	-0.63%	-0.88%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit FRN Index (0+YR)	+0.37%	+0.34%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit Index (0+YR)	-0.25%	-0.49%
Bloomberg AusBond Treasury Index (0+YR)	-0.76%	-0.93%
Bloomberg AusBond Inflation Gov't Index (0+YR)	-1.38%	-0.76%

Source: Bloomberg

### Other Key Rates

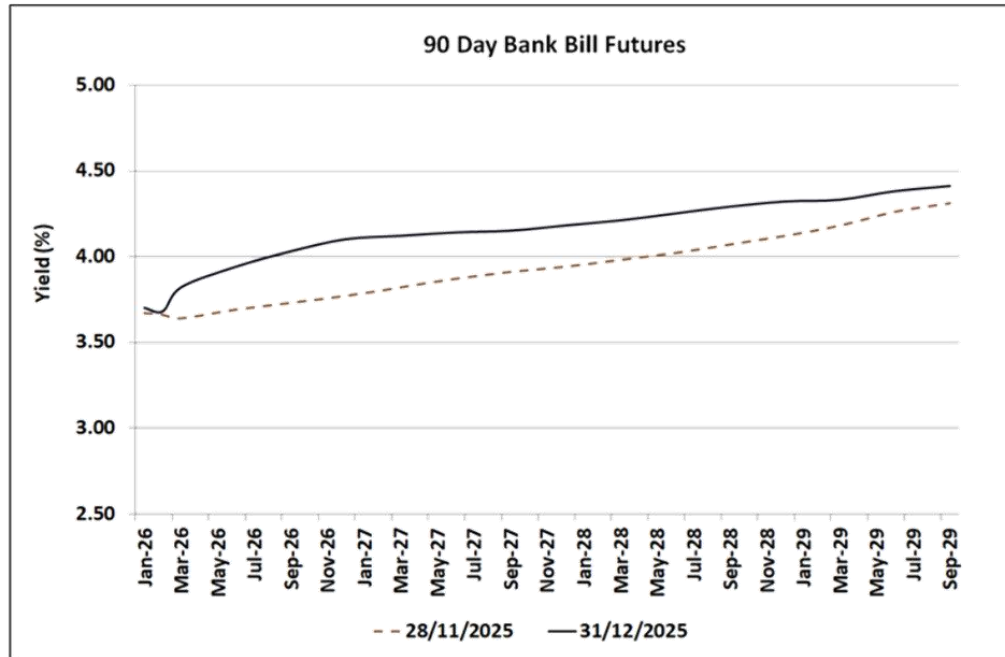
Index	December 2025	November 2025
RBA Official Cash Rate	3.60%	3.60%
90 Day (3 month) BBSW Rate	3.74%	3.66%
3yr Australian Government Bonds	4.14%	3.87%
10yr Australian Government Bonds	4.75%	4.51%
US Fed Funds Rate	3.50%-3.75%	3.75%-4.00%
2yr US Treasury Bonds	3.47%	3.47%
10yr US Treasury Bonds	4.18%	4.02%

Source: RBA, ASX, US Department of Treasury



### 90 Day Bill Futures

Bill futures rose across the board this month as the RBA moved towards a mild tightening bias. The market is now factoring up to two rate cuts in 2026, with one fully priced in by the middle of the year:



Source: ASX

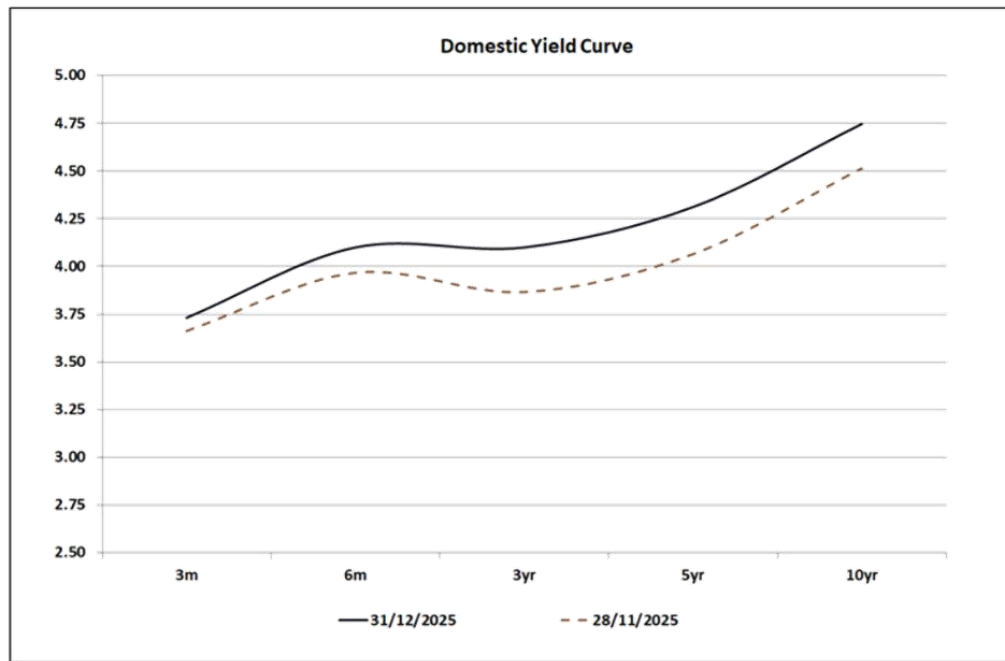


## Fixed Interest Outlook

After cutting rates in December, the US FOMC participant projections reinforce the disagreement within the committee. Three participants anticipated rates should be at 3.75%–4.00% and two thought they would end 2028 at that level. The bulk of the committee sees rates ending next year at 3.00%–3.25% and 3.50%–3.75%. The median dot for 2027 and 2028 remained at 3.00%–3.25%. US Fed Chair Powell said he does not think a hike is anyone's base case next move. He said *"what you see is some people feel we should stop here and that we're at the right place and just wait. Some feel we should cut once or more this year and next.... it is either holding here or cutting a little or cutting more than a little"*.

Domestically, the RBA Monetary Policy Board delivered a short Statement after its meeting in December, reflecting a shift in the distribution of risks to both inflation and growth. This represents a further step in a hawkish direction and sets the RBA up to deliver a February rate hike should there be more evidence of a growth pick up and, or evidence that inflationary pressures are persisting. They are evidently now on a tightening bias.

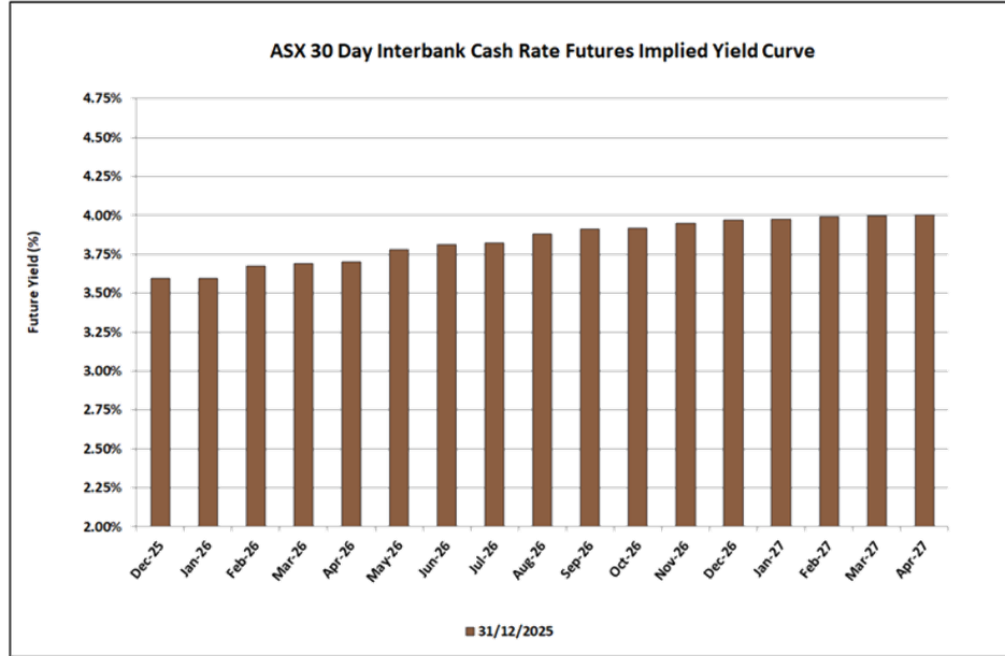
Yields rose up to 23bp at the longer-end of the curve this month:



Source: ASX, RBA



Financial markets are now pricing up to two rate hikes by the end of 2026, with February a 'live' meeting:



Source: ASX

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## Monthly Investment Review



**January 2026**

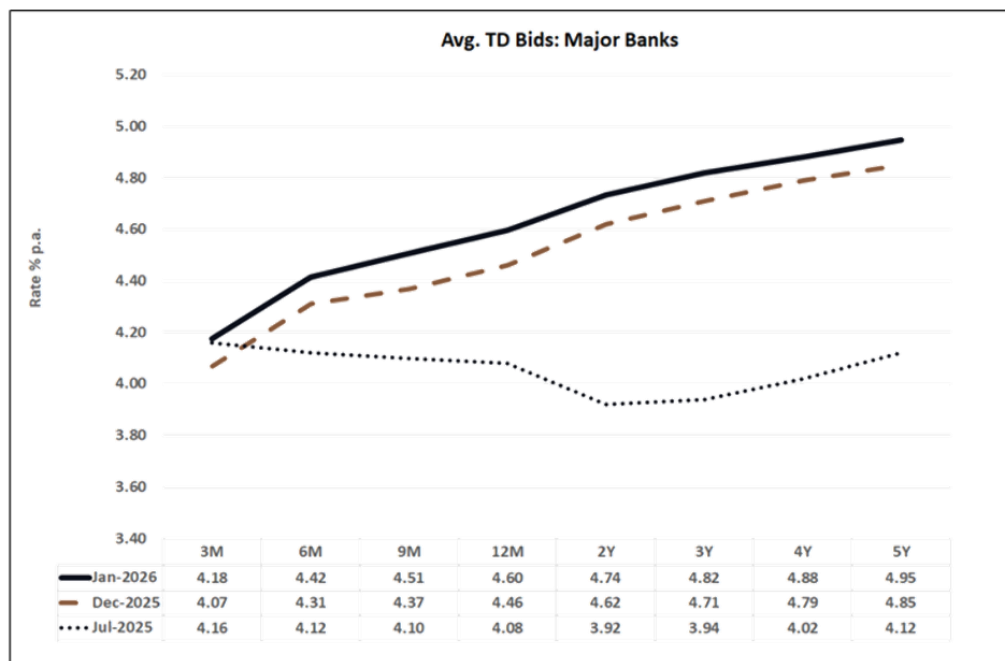
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## Market Update Summary

Financial markets were positive in January on the back of strong corporate earnings, ongoing investment and demand in the AI sector, as well as market optimism on expectation that the US Fed will continue cutting official interest rates later this year.

In the deposit market, over January, the average deposit rates offered by the domestic major banks was up to ~15bp higher compared to where they were the previous month (December). The market is now factoring up to two rate hikes in 2026 after recent signs on inflation spiking and the labour market remaining tight. At the longer-end of the curve (1-5 years), the average rates were ~10bp compared to where they were the previous month, with the market expecting official rates to be slightly higher in coming years.



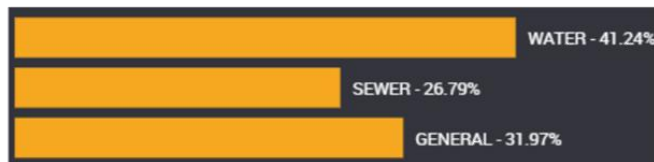
Source: Imperium Markets



## Orange City Council's Portfolio & Compliance

### Account Breakdown

As at the end of January, the consolidated portfolio was made up in the following way:



### Asset Allocation

The aggregate portfolio is mainly directed to fixed rate term deposits (89%), with the remaining portfolio allocated to FRNs (4%), bonds (2%) and cash (5%).

Senior FRNs are currently considered 'expensive' on a historical basis but new issuances should continue to be considered on a case by case scenario for diversification purposes (duration and asset type). In the interim, staggering a mix of fixed deposits between 12 months to 3 years remains a more optimal strategy for the 'core' assets to maximise returns over a longer-term cycle, which can be supplemented by investing a small proportion of surplus funds in senior FRNs.

Should inflation be within the RBA's target band of 2-3% over the longer-term, fixed assets yielding above 4½% p.a. for 1-3 years or higher should outperform benchmark and remains acceptable.



**Attachment 2 Orange Monthly Investment Report December 2025**

**Term to Maturity**

The portfolio remains highly liquid with approximately 67% of assets maturing under 12 months. There is significant capacity to invest in short-medium (1-2 years) and medium-term assets (2-5 years).

Where there is (counterparty) capacity to invest in attractive medium-longer term investments, we recommend this be allocated to any remaining attractive fixed assets for 1-3 years and senior new FRNs for 3-5 years (refer to respective sections below).

Compliant	Horizon	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 90 days	\$89,290,334	34.12%	10%	100%	\$172,381,218
✓	91 - 365 days	\$87,500,000	33.44%	20%	100%	\$174,171,552
✓	1 - 2 years	\$33,643,860	12.86%	0%	70%	\$149,526,227
✓	2 - 5 years	\$51,237,358	19.58%	0%	50%	\$79,598,418
✓	5 - 10 years	\$0	0.00%	0%	25%	\$65,417,888
		<b>\$261,671,552</b>	<b>100.00%</b>			

**Attachment 2 Orange Monthly Investment Report December 2025**

**Counterparty**

As at the end of January, Council did not have an overweight position to any single counterparty. Overall, the portfolio is well diversified across the investment grade spectrum, with no exposure to the unrated ADI sector.

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	RBC Covered	AAA	\$998,166	0.38%	40.00%	\$103,670,455
✓	ANZ	AA-	\$1,517,001	0.58%	30.00%	\$76,984,465
✓	CBA	AA-	\$20,790,334	7.95%	30.00%	\$57,711,132
✓	NAB	AA-	\$37,884,246	14.48%	30.00%	\$40,617,219
✓	Westpac	AA-	\$52,237,124	19.96%	30.00%	\$26,264,342
✓	ING	A	\$17,817,609	6.81%	15.00%	\$21,433,123
✓	Rabobank	A	\$31,000,000	11.85%	15.00%	\$8,250,733
✓	BOQ	A-	\$26,505,624	10.13%	15.00%	\$12,745,109
✓	Aus. Military Bank	A-	\$7,000,000	2.68%	15.00%	\$32,250,733
✓	AMP Bank	BBB+	\$3,421,447	1.31%	10.00%	\$22,745,708
✓	Bank Australia	BBB+	\$8,000,000	3.06%	10.00%	\$18,167,155
✓	BankVic	BBB+	\$14,000,000	5.35%	10.00%	\$12,167,155
✓	Defence Bank	BBB+	\$5,000,000	1.91%	10.00%	\$21,167,155
✓	P&N Bank	BBB+	\$7,000,000	2.68%	10.00%	\$19,167,155
✓	Heartland Bank	BBB	\$3,000,000	1.15%	10.00%	\$23,167,155
✓	Judo Bank	BBB	\$5,000,000	1.91%	10.00%	\$21,167,155
✓	MyState Bank	BBB	\$13,500,000	5.16%	10.00%	\$12,667,155
✓	State Bank India	BBB	\$7,000,000	2.68%	10.00%	\$19,167,155
			<b>\$261,671,552</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

In November 2025, Bank Australia's acquisition of Australian Unity Bank was completed. As such, Council's exposure to Australian Unity Bank is now reflected under the parent company being Bank Australia.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, ANZ's takeover of Suncorp Bank was formalised, and ratings agency S&P upgraded Suncorp's long-term credit rating to that of its parent company immediately (now rated AA-). Investor's exposure to Suncorp is now reflected under the parent company being ANZ.



### Credit Quality

Overall, the entire portfolio is well diversified amongst the investment grade credit spectrum (BBB- or higher). All aggregate ratings categories are within the Policy limits. There is now large capacity to invest in the BBB and Unrated category (although TCorp's covenants which are prohibitive and fundamentally unjustified may result in additional loss of income over future financial years):

Compliant	Credit Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	"AAA" Category	\$998,166	0.38%	100.00%	\$260,673,386
✓	"AA" or Major Bank	\$112,428,705	42.97%	100.00%	\$149,242,847
✓	"A" Category	\$82,323,233	31.46%	60.00%	\$74,679,698
✓	"BBB" & Unrated Category	\$65,921,447	25.19%	40.00%	\$38,747,174
		<b>\$261,671,552</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

**Attachment 2 Orange Monthly Investment Report December 2025**


### Performance

Council's performance (excluding cash holdings) for the month ending January 2026:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year	2 years	3 years
Official Cash Rate	0.30%	0.90%	1.80%	2.13%	3.78%	4.07%	4.05%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.30%	0.91%	1.83%	2.14%	3.89%	4.18%	4.12%
Council's T/D Portfolio	0.36%	1.09%	2.20%	2.60%	4.61%	4.70%	4.55%
Council's FRN Portfolio	0.40%	1.20%	2.43%	2.86%	5.11%	5.47%	5.31%
Council's Bond Portfolio	0.35%	1.06%	2.12%	2.49%	4.11%	4.00%	3.96%
Council's Portfolio <sup>^</sup>	0.37%	1.09%	2.21%	2.60%	4.62%	4.72%	4.57%
Rel. Performance	0.06%	0.18%	0.38%	0.46%	0.73%	0.54%	0.45%

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

Performance (% p.a.)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year	2 years	3 years
Official Cash Rate	3.60%	3.60%	3.60%	3.64%	3.78%	4.07%	4.05%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	3.64%	3.67%	3.67%	3.66%	3.89%	4.18%	4.12%
Council's T/D Portfolio	4.37%	4.38%	4.42%	4.45%	4.61%	4.70%	4.55%
Council's FRN Portfolio	4.84%	4.85%	4.88%	4.91%	5.11%	5.47%	5.31%
Council's Bond Portfolio	4.25%	4.26%	4.26%	4.26%	4.11%	4.00%	3.96%
Council's Portfolio <sup>^</sup>	4.39%	4.40%	4.43%	4.46%	4.62%	4.72%	4.57%
Rel. Performance	0.76%	0.73%	0.76%	0.80%	0.73%	0.54%	0.45%

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

For the month of January, the total portfolio (excluding cash) provided a solid return of +0.37% (actual) or +4.39% p.a. (annualised), outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.30% (actual) or +3.64% p.a. (annualised).





### Recommendations for Council

#### **Term Deposits**

Going forward, Council's ongoing strategy in placing across 12-24 months terms is likely to earn up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to shorter tenors in a normal market environment. Despite the possibility of a few rate hikes in 2026, locking in rates above 4¼-5% p.a. across 1-3 year tenors (small allocation) should still outperform benchmark in the long-run, on assumption that the RBA can contain inflation within their 2-3% target band.

As at the end of January 2026, Council's **deposit** portfolio was yielding 4.24% p.a. (unchanged from the previous month), with a weighted average duration of around 388 days (~13 months). We recommend Council maintains a duration of around ~12 months in the long-run to optimise returns.

Please refer to the section below for further details on the Term Deposit market.

#### **Securities**

Primary (new) **FRNs** (with maturities between 3-5 years) are expensive on a historical basis but remains an option (particularly for those investors with portfolios skewed towards fixed assets) and should be considered on a case by case scenario. **Fixed Bonds** may also provide attractive opportunities from new (primary) issuances.

#### Council's Senior FRNs Sale/Switch Recommendations

Should there be an opportunity to sell out of low yielding FRNs and switch into a higher yielding complying assets, we will inform Council accordingly. In the current challenging economic environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.

We now recommend Council sells and switches out of the following FRN(s) at the next best opportunity given it is now yielding a low rate of return, if held to maturity.

Issuer	Rating	Maturity Date	ISIN	Face Value	Trading Margin	~Capital Price (\$)	~Unrealised Gain (\$)
ANZ	AA-	31/03/2028	AU3FN0076998	\$1,500,000	+48.0bp	\$101.133	\$17,001

We will continue to monitor any sub-optimal FRN investments and continue this strategy going forward to maximise returns where possible, and without comprising risk or liquidity.



### Council's Senior Fixed Bonds

Over calendar 2022, Council purchased into the following fixed bonds:

Issuer	Rating	Maturity Date	ISIN	Face Value	Purchase Yield	Current Yield	Unrealised Gain / Loss (\$)
NAB	AA-	25/02/2027	AU3CB0286763	\$450,000	2.90%	4.57%	-\$6,743
NAB	AA-	25/02/2027	AU3CB0286763	\$450,000	2.90%	4.57%	-\$6,743
RBC	AAA	13/07/2027	AU3CB0290682	\$1,000,000	4.54%	4.60%	-\$64

Should there be an attractive option to sell prior to maturity after a 2-4 year holding period, we will inform Council accordingly. In all likelihood, Council will hold onto these securities for the remaining term unless official interest rates drop quickly (and significantly) prior to 2027 – the RBC line maybe up for sale prior to maturity.



## Term Deposit Market Review

### Current Term Deposits Rates

As at the end of January, we see value in the following:

ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
ING	A	5 years	5.14%
Westpac	AA-	5 years	5.01%
NAB	AA-	5 years	5.00%
ICBC Sydney	A	5 years	4.80%
ING	A	4 years	5.05%
NAB	AA-	4 years	4.95%
Westpac	AA-	4 years	4.94%
ING	A	3 years	4.98%
NAB	AA-	3 years	4.90%
Westpac	AA-	3 years	4.80%
BankVic	BBB+	3 years	4.80%
ING	A	2 years	4.92%
NAB	AA-	2 years	4.91%
Westpac	AA-	2 years	4.82%
BankVic	BBB+	2 years	4.80%

The above deposits are suitable for investors looking to maintain diversification and lock-in a slight premium compared to purely investing short-term.

For terms under 12 months, we believe the strongest value is currently being offered by the following ADIs (we stress that rates are indicative, dependent on daily funding requirements and different for industry segments):

**Attachment 2 Orange Monthly Investment Report December 2025**


ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
ING	A	12 months	4.78%
Westpac	AA-	12 months	4.76%
ICBC Sydney	A	12 months	4.75%
CBA	AA-	12 months	4.72%
NAB	AA-	12 months	4.70%
Westpac	AA-	9 months	4.70%
CBA	AA-	9 months	4.63%
ING	A	9 months	4.61%
MyState Bank	BBB	9 months	4.60%
NAB	AA-	9 months	4.58%
MyState Bank	BBB	6 months	4.60%
Westpac	AA-	6 months	4.59%
ANZ	AA-	6 months	4.57%
CBA	AA-	6 months	4.51%
Suncorp	AA-	6 months	4.50%
Heritage Bank	BBB+	3 months	4.40%
CBA	AA-	3 months	4.32%
Westpac	AA-	3 months	4.31%
MyState Bank	BBB	3 months	4.30%
ANZ	AA-	3 months	4.29%

For those investors that do not require high levels of liquidity and can stagger their investments longer term, they will be rewarded over a longer-term cycle if they roll for an average min. term of 12 months, with a spread of investments out to 5 years (this is where we see current value). In a normal market environment (upward sloping yield curve), investors could earn over a cycle, on average, up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to those investors that entirely invest in short-dated deposits.

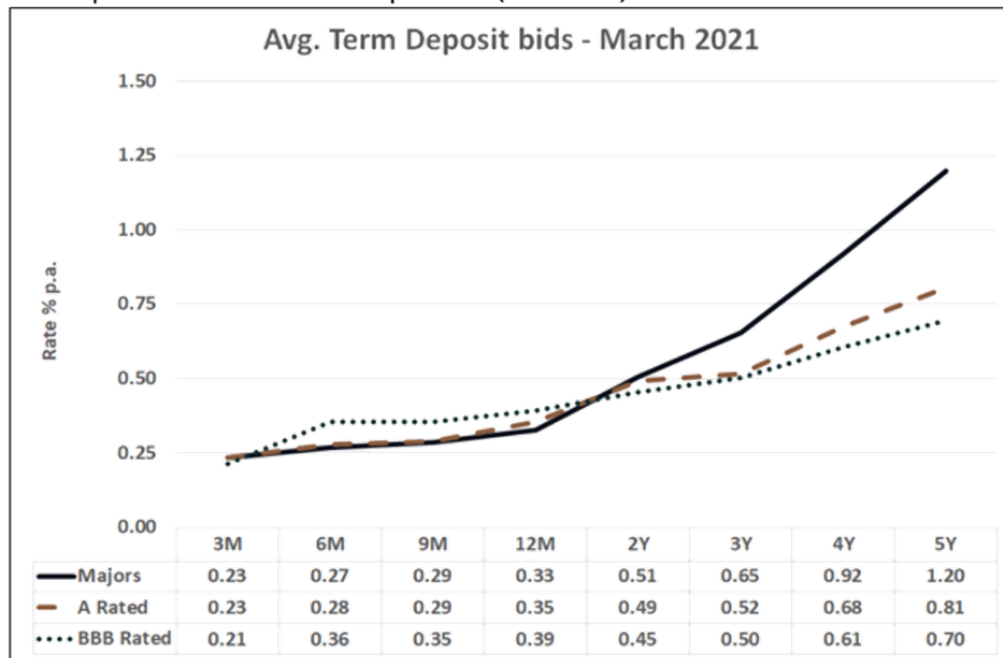
Despite the potential for a few rate hikes to get inflation under control, investors should consider allocating some longer-term surplus funds and undertake an insurance policy by investing across 1-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates above 4½% p.a. This will provide some income protection if official rates remain steady over a cycle.



### Term Deposits Analysis

Pre-pandemic (March 2020), a 'normal' marketplace meant the lower rated ADIs (i.e. BBB category) were offering higher rates on term deposits compared to the higher rated ADIs (i.e. A or AA rated). But due to the cheap funding available provided by the RBA via their Term Funding Facility (TFF) during mid-2020, allowing the ADIs to borrow as low as 0.10% p.a. fixed for 3 years, those lower rated ADIs (BBB rated) did not require deposit funding from the wholesale deposit. Given the higher rated banks had more capacity to lend (as they have a greater pool of mortgage borrowers), they subsequently were offering higher deposit rates. In fact, some of the lower rated banks were not even offering deposit rates at all. As a result, most investors placed a higher proportion of their deposit investments with the higher rated (A or AA) ADIs over the past three years.

#### **Term Deposit Rates – 12 months after pandemic (March 2021)**

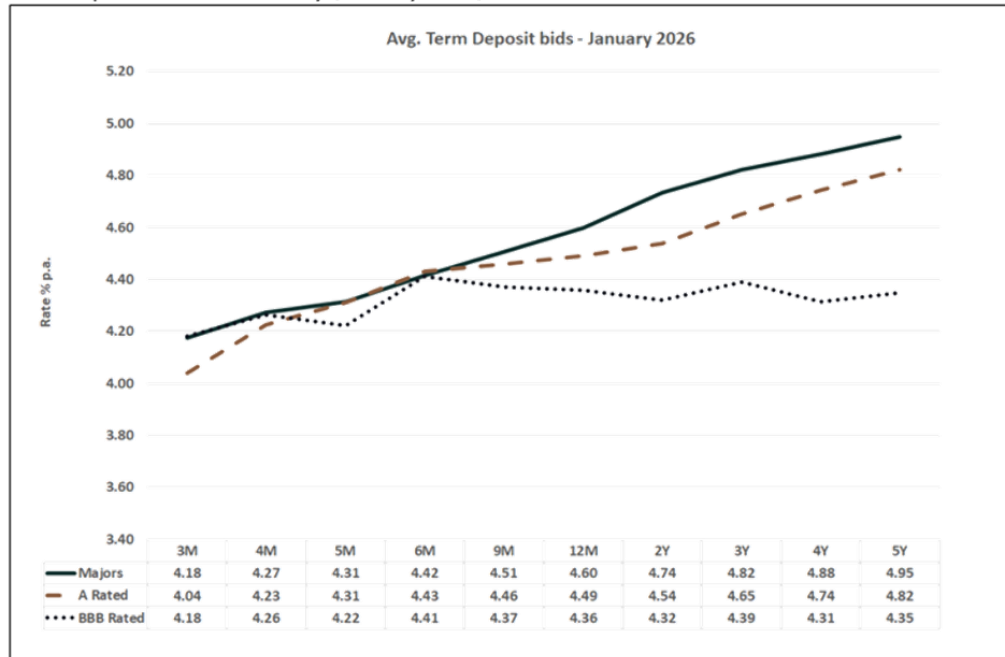


Source: Imperium Markets

The abnormal marketplace experienced during the pandemic is starting to reverse as the competition for deposits slowly increases, partially driven by the RBA's term funding facility coming to an end. In recent months, we have started to periodically see some of the lower rated ADIs ("A" and "BBB" rated) offering slightly higher rates compared to the domestic major banks ("AA" rated) on different parts of the curve (i.e. pre-pandemic environment). Some of this has been attributed to lags in adjusting their deposit rates as some banks (mainly the lower rated ADIs) simply set their rates for the week.

**Attachment 2 Orange Monthly Investment Report December 2025**


Going forward, investors should have a larger opportunity to invest a higher proportion of its funds with the lower rated institutions (up to Policy limits), from which the majority are not lending to the Fossil Fuel industry or considered 'ethical'. We are slowly seeing this trend emerge, although the major banks always seem to react more quickly than the rest of the market during periods of volatility:

**Term Deposit Rates – Currently (January 2026)**


Source: Imperium Markets

**Financial Stability of the Banking (ADI) Sector**

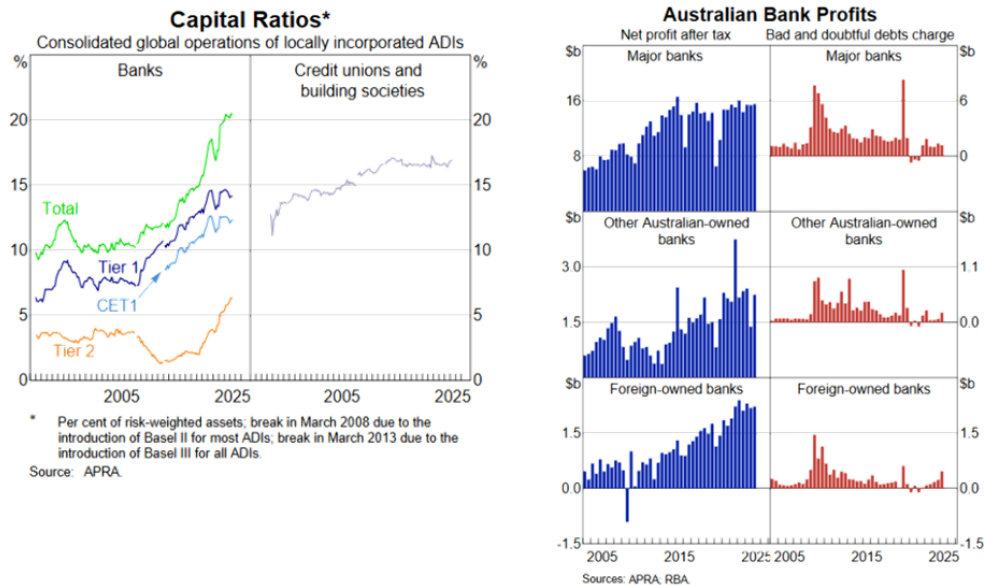
The RBA's Financial Stability reaffirms the strong balance sheet across the ADI sector. They noted that the risk of widespread financial stress remains limited due to the generally strong financial positions of most (individual) borrowers. Very few mortgage borrowers are in negative equity, limiting the impact on lenders (ADIs) in the event of default and supporting their ability to continue providing credit to the economy. Most businesses that have entered insolvency are small and have little debt, limiting the broader impact on the labour market and thus household incomes, and on the capital position of lenders (ADIs).

Australian banks (collectively the APRA regulated ADIs) have maintained prudent lending standards and are well positioned to continue supplying credit to the economy. A deterioration in economic conditions or temporary disruption to funding markets is unlikely to halt lending activity. Banks have anticipated an

**Attachment 2 Orange Monthly Investment Report December 2025**


increase in loan arrears and have capital and liquidity buffers well above regulatory requirements (see *Capital Ratios chart below*). APRA's mandate is to "protect depositors" and provide "financial stability".

Over the past two decades, both domestic and international banks continue to operate and demonstrate high levels of profitability (see *Australian Bank Profits chart below*), which also covers two stress-test environments being the GFC (September 2008) and the COVID pandemic period (March 2020):



The Council of Financial Regulators (CFR) – being the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), the Australian Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), have the ultimate aim of promoting the stability of the financial system, whilst supporting effective and efficient regulation. In their latest quarterly review, the CFR agreed on the following priorities heading into 2026:

- Improving preparedness for geopolitical risks;
- Operational vulnerabilities, including cyber, third parties and AI;
- Amplification of systemic liquidity risk: further strengthening CFR and industry readiness to respond to systemic liquidity stress events; and
- High household leverage: continuing to closely monitor household leverage and bank lending standards.

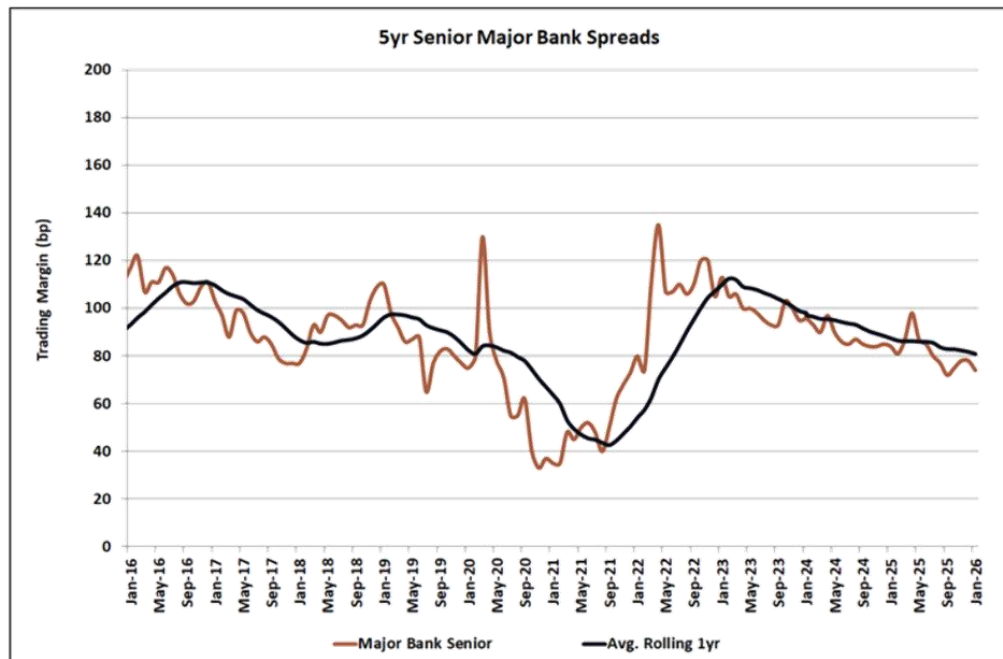
The Council noted that in each of these priority areas, CFR agencies are taking forward a number of initiatives to strengthen the resilience of the financial system.





## Senior FRNs Market Review

Over January, amongst the senior major bank FRNs, physical credit securities tightened up to 4bp at the long-end of the curve. During the month, CBA (AA-) issued a new 5 year senior security at +74bp. Long-term major bank senior securities are looking 'expensive' on a historical basis, noting the 5yr margin has averaged around the +92bp level over a cycle (currently around +74bp).



Source: IBS Capital

During the month, there were a few issuances to start off the calendar year:

- OCBC, Sydney Branch (AA-) 3 year senior FRN at +60bp
- Newcastle Greater Mutual (BBB+) 5 year senior FRN at +113bp
- Rabobank Australia (A+) 5 year senior security at +75bp
- Mizuho, Sydney Branch (A) 3 year senior FRN at +58bp
- UOB, Sydney Branch (AA-) 5 year senior security at +72bp

Amongst the "A" and "BBB" rated sector, the securities tightened up to at the 3-5 year part of the curve.

**Attachment 2 Orange Monthly Investment Report December 2025**


Overall, credit securities are slightly expensive on a historical basis but remain a good option for diversification purposes. FRNs will continue to play a role in investors' portfolios mainly based on their liquidity and the ability to roll down the curve and gross up returns over ensuing years (in a relatively stable credit environment), whilst also providing some diversification to those investors skewed towards fixed assets (and especially if the RBA's easing cycle is over).

Senior FRNs (ADIs)	31/01/2026	31/12/2025
"AA" rated – 5yrs	+74bp	+78bp
"AA" rated – 3yrs	+59bp	+61bp
"A" rated – 5yrs	+80bp	+85bp
"A" rated – 3yrs	+65bp	+70bp
"BBB" rated – 3yrs	+95bp	+100bp

Source: IBS Capital

We now generally recommend switches ('benchmark' issues only) into new primary issues, out of the following senior FRNs that are maturing:

- On or before early-2029 for the "AA" rated ADIs (domestic major banks);
- On or before early 2027 for the "A" rated ADIs; and
- Within 6–9 months for the "BBB" rated ADIs (consider case by case).

Investors holding onto the above senior FRNs ('benchmark' issues only) in their last few years are now generally holding sub optimal investments and are not maximising returns by foregoing realised capital gains. In the current challenging economic environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.



### Senior Fixed Bonds – ADIs (Secondary Market)

Investors may look at some opportunities in the secondary market. We currently see value in the following fixed bond lines (please note supply in the secondary market may be limited on any day):

ISIN	Issuer	Rating	Capital Structure	Maturity Date	~Remain. Term (yrs)	Fixed Coupon	Indicative Yield
AU3CB0314763	Bendigo	A-	Senior	24/10/2028	2.73	4.79%	4.97%
AU3CB0308955	BoQ	A-	Senior	30/04/2029	3.24	5.30%	5.11%
AU3CB0319879	Nova Sco.	A-	Senior	21/03/2030	4.14	5.23%	5.41%



## Economic Commentary

### International Market

Financial markets were positive in January on the back of strong corporate earnings, ongoing investment and demand in the AI sector, as well as market optimism on expectation that the US Fed will continue cutting official interest rates later this year.

Across equity markets, the US S&P 500 Index gained +1.37%, whilst the NASDAQ added +0.95%. The UK's FTSE index climbed above 10,000 points for the first time, passing a significant stock market milestone, on the first trading day of the calendar year. Europe's main indices were mixed, with gains in UK's FTSE (+2.80%) and Germany's DAX (0.28%), whilst France's CAC (-0.15%) marginally fell.

The US FOMC kept rates unchanged at 3.50%-3.75% as expected, although the decision was not unanimous, with two members opting for a 25bp cut.

US headline CPI for December rose +0.3% m/m and +2.7% y/y as expected, but core came in at +0.24% m/m and +2.6% y/y, which was lower than expectations. Overall payrolls in the US showed a gain of +50k in December, with +76k of downward revision for the prior two months. The unemployment rate for December was revised down to 4.4% from 4.5% (November was also revised down from 4.6% to 4.5%).

The Bank of Canada (BoC) left their policy rate on hold at 2.25% as widely expected. Canada's unemployment rate jumped to 6.8% from 6.5%, so reversing half of the October-November fall from 7.1%. Headline CPI for December came in at +2.4% y/y, up from +2.2% y/y in November. The average of the two core measures fell to +2.7% y/y and +2.8% y/y respectively.

In the UK, November monthly GDP surprised to the upside with a +0.3% m/m rise against a +0.1% consensus and after a -0.1% contraction in October.

New Zealand's Q4 CPI climbed +3.1% y/y, accelerating from +3.0% y/y in the third quarter, raising chances of official rates moving higher in 2026.

Yields on 40-year Japanese bonds surged above 4.2% during the month, crossing above 4% for the first time since their introduction in 2007, pushing up borrowing costs and bond yields around the world.

The MSCI World ex-Aus Index rose +2.19% for the month of January:

Index	1m	3m	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr
S&P 500 Index	+1.37%	+1.44%	+14.87%	+19.40%	+13.31%	+13.59%
MSCI World ex-AUS	+2.19%	+3.39%	+20.15%	+20.09%	+13.49%	+13.77%
S&P ASX 200 Accum. Index	+1.78%	+0.36%	+7.37%	+9.81%	+10.21%	+10.12%

Source: S&P, MSCI



### Domestic Market

RBA Deputy Governor Hauser revealed the Bank's assessment had not changed since the December meeting. He reiterated that for now, the primary measure of underlying inflation will remain the quarterly trimmed mean, which came in slightly higher than expected.

The unemployment rate fell 0.2% to 4.1% in December, its lowest level in 6 months, beating expectations for no change. Employment rebounded, up +65k in December with the participation rate also climbing 0.1% to 66.7%.

The RBA's preferred measure of annual inflation (trimmed mean) came in at +3.3% y/y in December, up from +3.2% y/y in November. Headline annual inflation rose was +3.8% y/y in December, up from +3.4% y/y in November. This increases the chance the RBA may move on lifting official interest rates earlier than previously anticipated.

Household spending continued to rise strongly in November, increasing by +1.0% m/m (+6.3% y/y), following an upwardly revised October gain of +1.4% m/m.

Dwelling prices across the combined capitals rose +8.2% over 2025. In December, prices rose +0.5% m/m, even as Sydney and Melbourne slowed.

The Australian dollar surged around +4.65%, finishing the month at US70.04 cents (from US66.93 cents the previous month).

### Credit Market

The global credit indices marginally tightened during the month. They are back near the levels observed in July 2025. The stability indicates a period of relative calm in credit markets, with spreads maintaining levels below historical averages.

Index	January 2026	December 2025
CDX North American 5yr CDS	49bp	56bp
iTraxx Europe 5yr CDS	52bp	51bp
iTraxx Australia 5yr CDS	65bp	63bp

Source: Markit



## Fixed Interest Review

### Benchmark Index Returns

Index	January 2026	December 2025
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (0+YR)	+0.30%	+0.31%
Bloomberg AusBond Composite Bond Index (0+YR)	+0.21%	-0.63%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit FRN Index (0+YR)	+0.46%	+0.37%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit Index (0+YR)	+0.32%	-0.25%
Bloomberg AusBond Treasury Index (0+YR)	+0.04%	-0.76%
Bloomberg AusBond Inflation Gov't Index (0+YR)	+0.32%	-1.38%

Source: Bloomberg

### Other Key Rates

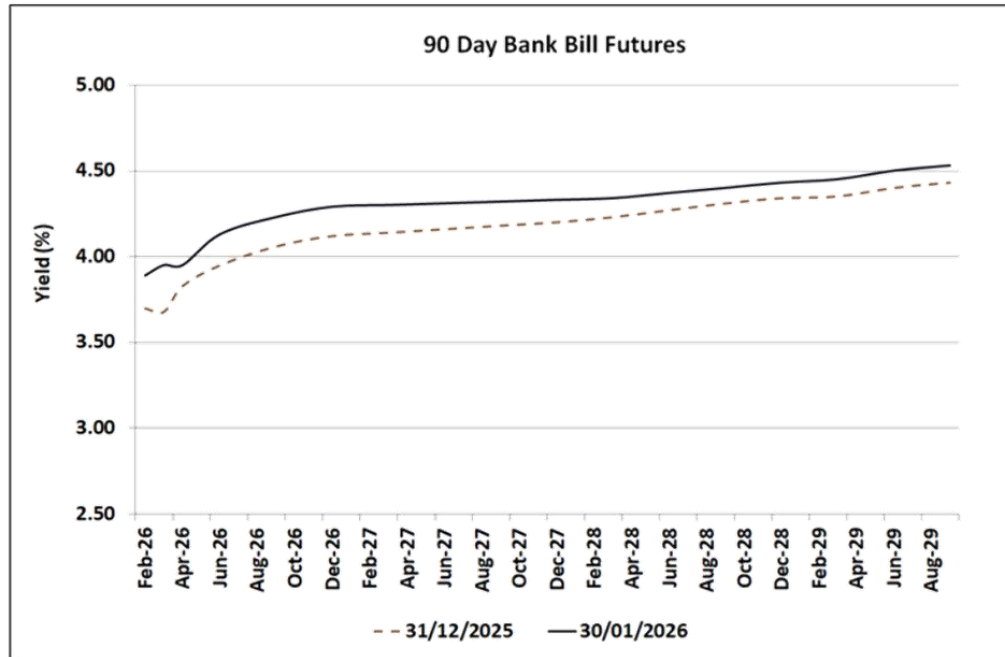
Index	January 2026	December 2025
RBA Official Cash Rate	3.60%	3.60%
90 Day (3 month) BBSW Rate	3.84%	3.74%
3yr Australian Government Bonds	4.25%	4.15%
10yr Australian Government Bonds	4.78%	4.74%
US Fed Funds Rate	3.50%-3.75%	3.50%-3.75%
2yr US Treasury Bonds	3.52%	3.47%
10yr US Treasury Bonds	4.26%	4.18%

Source: RBA, ASX, US Department of Treasury



### 90 Day Bill Futures

Bill futures rose across the board this month on expectation that the RBA will have to lift rates earlier than previously anticipated, potentially as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> February:



Source: ASX



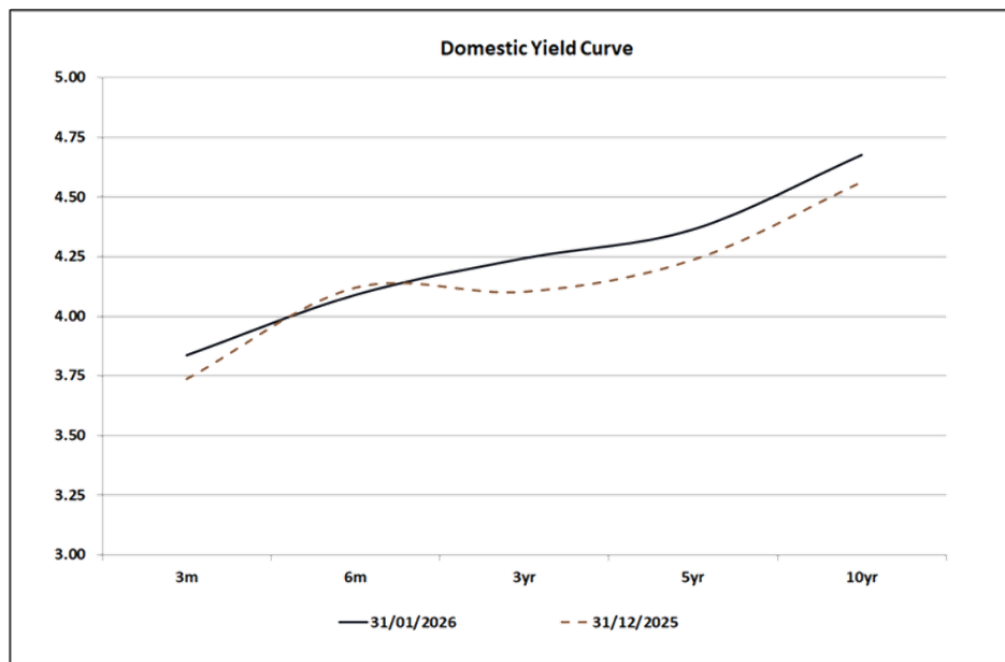


## Fixed Interest Outlook

After keeping rates unchanged in January, the US FOMC statement noted the economy was expanding at a “solid pace”, the unemployment rate had shown “some signs of stabilising” but inflation remained “somewhat elevated”. Overall, their forward guidance was unchanged from which they retain an easing bias (up to three rate cuts in 2026).

Domestically, the RBA has indicated they are on a tightening bias due to persistently high inflation prints, particularly in housing and services, coupled with a tight labour market. The latest employment figures as well as the spike in inflation adds pressure on the RBA to potentially move quicker than previously anticipated.

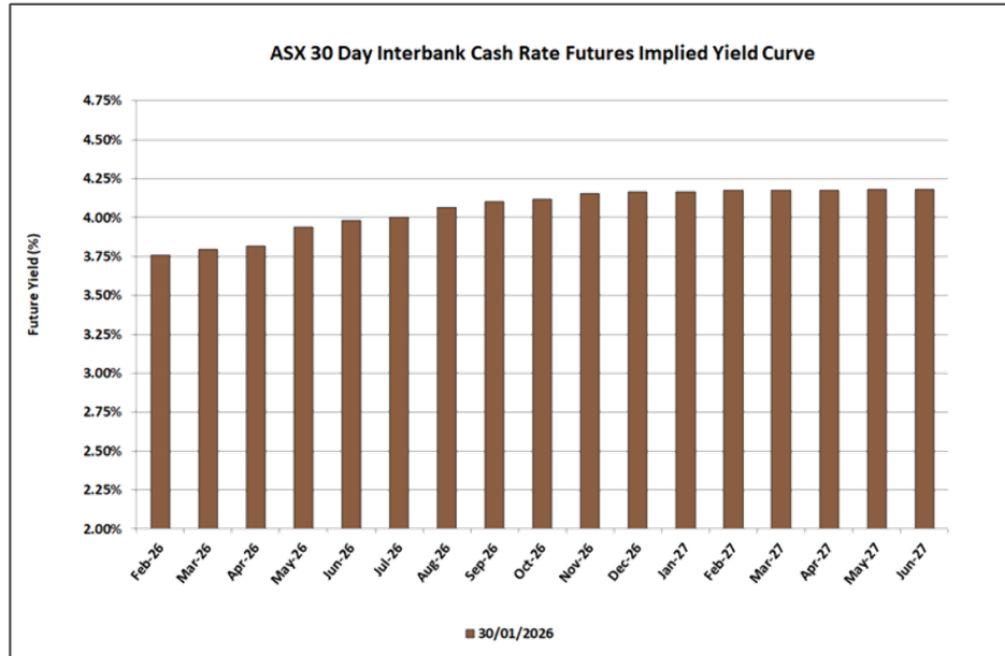
Yields rose up to 25bp at the longer-end of the curve this month:



Source: ASX, RBA



Financial markets are now fully pricing in two rate hikes by Q3 2026, with the first move potentially as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> February:



Source: ASX

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## 5.6 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/148

AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides responses below to Questions Taken on Notice at Council and Policy Committee meetings held 16 December 2025 and 3 February 2026.

### LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “15.1 Provide representative, responsible and accountable community governance”.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

### POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the information contained in the report on responses to Questions Taken on Notice be acknowledged.**

### FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council’s key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Delayed or incomplete responses may impact community confidence in Council’s service or project delivery.
<b>Financial</b>	Misinterpreted or inaccurate responses could lead to financial commitments or liabilities.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Public or political reaction may arise from perceived evasiveness or inadequate transparency in responses.
<b>Environment</b>	Responses that overlook environmental implications may lead to reputational or regulatory risks.
<b>Compliance</b>	Failure to address statutory or policy-related questions accurately may result in non-compliance.
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Responses involving staff actions or incidents may expose Council to WHS scrutiny or legal risk.
<b>Information Security      Technology/ Cyber</b>	Disclosure of sensitive or unverified information may pose data security or privacy risks.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### CCL 16 DECEMBER 2025

#### **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE      Cr M McDonell**

Cr McDonell asked for a report on costs associated with providing accommodation for staff in relation to Council Meetings for the last two Council terms.

*This information was provided in a report table at the Council meeting 3 February 2026.*

## 5.6 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

### QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr M McDonell**

Cr McDonell asked for information to be provided as to how, and if, the Affordable Housing Strategy budget has been expended.

*There is no specific Affordable Housing Strategy budget. Like with many of the major strategic planning documents we have, they are produced in house. Sometimes we utilise contractors for specific parts (like HillPDA for conducting the statistical housing needs review), but then we pull this together with our inhouse Strategic Planning staff to ensure the end result best suits our City. We have a general/modest strategic planning budget and use this sparingly and based on priorities.*

### QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE - **Cr M McDonell**

Cr McDonell asked when the NDR fencing will be completed and the end date of the current agistment period.

*Council emailed the agistee on the 3 February 2026 regarding their request to renew agistment. The agistee was advised that the fence protecting the trees has not been established which was requested by Council in July 2025. Until the fencing is completed, Council is not in a position to renew the agreement. The agistee has been given 14 days to respond.*

### QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr M Ruddy**

Cr Ruddy asked for an updated report on lighting on Valencia Drive to be reported back to Council. A report is being prepared for the meeting of 3 March on cost and options.

## **FPC 3 FEBRUARY 2026**

### QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE **Cr M Ruddy**

Cr Ruddy requested a report at the next Finance Policy Committee Meeting on the last 2 years of donations that have been given community fundraising groups.

*The below information excludes donations made directly to charitable organisations and includes only those made to local groups raising funds for another entity such as Lions, Rotary, or charity event committees.*

### **2025 Donations**

Date	Organisation	Amount	Purpose / Beneficiary
<b>2 September 2025</b>	Phillip Shaw Wines	<b>\$2,500</b>	Contribution to costs of running <i>The Breast Long Lunch</i> supporting the McGrath Foundation's Breast Care Nurses.
<b>1 April 2025</b>	Orange North Rotary Club	<b>\$2,300</b>	Hire costs for the function centre to educate local children on science and education.
<b>4 March 2025</b>	The Blind Pig	<b>\$500</b>	Contribution to materials for a 10-metre mural by local Wiradjuri artist Trevor Peckham, displayed at the showgrounds (community cultural project).
<b>4 February 2025</b>	Lions Club of Orange	<b>\$2,500</b>	Assistance to purchase microdebrider handpieces enabling complex sinus surgeries for babies and children locally (reducing need to travel to Sydney).

**5.6 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice**
**2024 Donations**

Date	Organisation	Amount	Purpose / Beneficiary
<b>5 March 2024</b>	Lions Club of Orange	<b>\$2,500</b>	Contribution to purchase a diathermal kit enabling complex ENT surgery for premature babies locally, reducing risk and family travel.
<b>5 March 2024</b>	Fairbank Charity Ball Committee	<b>\$2,500</b>	Supporting a charity ball raising funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Central West).

Total Financial Contribution:

**2025 Donations - subtotal: \$7,800**

**2024 Donations - subtotal: \$5,000**

**REDPC 3 FEBRUARY 2026**
**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE                      Cr S Peterson**

Cr Peterson requested a report on the spending and remaining balances of the budgets for the Lucknow, Spring Hill and Clifton Grove Community Committees.

*This will be produced as part of the budget process and presented to Council at that time.*

**SPC 3 FEBRUARY 2026**
**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE                      Cr T Mileto**

Cr Mileto asked for investigation into diverting access ramp funds as the program is being underutilised to undertake works to improve accessibility for the Cook Park Guildry.

*Manager Building Services has previously supplied design options for the Cook Park Guildry ramp to relevant staff and is waiting on feedback regarding the suitability of the proposals.*

*Cr Peterson has recently visited many businesses with Ramp Subsidy information flyers to encourage applications which may reduce the available funds. Staff will provide more details about the Guildry Ramp proposals at a future meeting.*

## **6 CLOSED MEETING - SEE CLOSED AGENDA**

The Chief Executive Officer will advise the Council if any written submissions have been received relating to any item advertised for consideration by a closed meeting of Orange City Council.

The Mayor will extend an invitation to any member of the public present at the meeting to make a representation to Council as to whether the meeting should be closed for a particular item. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a Confidential Session of the Council meeting closed to the press and public.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adjourn into a Closed Meeting and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Meeting, and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Meeting be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution. This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:

#### **6.1 Minutes of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee 10 December 2025**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property.

#### **6.2 Tender - F4511 - Shiralee Sewer Pump Station 1 and 2 Upgrades**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**6.1 Minutes of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee 10 December 2025**

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/2770

AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

**REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property.





**6.2 Tender - F4511 - Shiralee Sewer Pump Station 1 and 2 Upgrades**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/72

AUTHOR: Yaso Ganeshapillai, Project Manager - Water and Sewer

**REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**7 RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED MEETING**