



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

AGENDA

3 MARCH 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, 3 March 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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	Finance - Chaired by Cr Steven Peterson	
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	Recreation & Culture - Chaired by Cr Tammy Greenhalgh	
	Services - Chaired by Cr Marea Ruddy	
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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.

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 17 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 17 February 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 17 February 2026



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE
ON 17 FEBRUARY 2026
COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr D Mallard, 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), Manager Corporate Governance, Chief Financial Officer, Manager Communications & Engagement, Governance Officer (Allan)

1.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED - 26/057

Cr G Power/Cr K Duffy

That the apologies be accepted from Cr M McDonell and that Council grant a leave of absence from the Council Meeting of Orange City Council on 17 February 2026. It is noted that Cr F Kinghorne was previously granted leave for the Council Meeting of 17 February 2026.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

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.

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

Cr Mallard declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 4.1 Notice of Motion - Identification of Suitable Locations for Solar Farm Establishment in the Orange LGA as he is an investor and member of a co-op that holds shares in a solar farm project in the area.

1.5 OPENING PRAYER

Reverend Andy Martin of the Holy Trinity Church led the Council in Prayer.

RESOLVED - 26/058

Cr G Power/Cr J Stedman

That the following Late Item be permitted to be considered at the Council Meeting of 17 February 2025:

- Item 5.7 Minutes of the Local Transport Forum Meeting 12 February 2026

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

RESOLVED - 26/059

Cr G Power/Cr J Stedman

That the following Late Item be permitted to be considered at the Council Meeting of 17 February 2025:

- Item 6.3 Contract Report

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman, Cr J Whitton

Against: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

THERE WAS NO OPEN FORUM.

2 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED - 26/060

Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr G Power

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 record of the proceedings of the Council meeting held on 3 February 2026 noting the correction to page 1 – to 6.37pm and on page 3, item 4.2 the mover/seconded update to be Cr Duffy/Cr Judge.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

4 NOTICES OF MOTION/NOTICES OF RESCISSION**4.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - IDENTIFICATION OF SUITABLE LOCATIONS FOR SOLAR FARM ESTABLISHMENT IN THE ORANGE LGA**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/54

Cr Mallard declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in this Item as he is an investor and member of a co-op that holds shares in a solar farm project in the area.

RESOLVED - 26/061**Cr T Mileto/Cr J Stedman**

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

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman, Cr J Whitton

Against: Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

4.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - BLUE GREEN ALGAE CONTROL

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/78

RESOLVED - 26/062**Cr S Peterson/Cr J Stedman**

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.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

Cr Mallard noted that Lake Canobolas upgrades discussed a fountain to oxygenate the water and asked why this was not included as part of the upgrade that took place.

The Director Development Services advised this was due high purchase, operation and maintenance costs. It would also be difficult to balance the adverse impacts of its use in regard to wind and weather and alternative options to stir water will be looked at.

Cr Duffy asked if staff could learn from other Council's about managing cases of blue green algae.

The Director Development Services advised that staff are reviewing all options available through advancements in technology and reviewing other inland waters. He noted that blue green algae effects all confined water inland and is not an issue specific to Orange.

Cr Greenhalgh asked if the previously proposed fountain would have been similar to the one installed by Forbes Shire Council and if they have reported a reduction in blue green algae occurrence as a result.

The Director Development Services advised that Lake Canobolas and Lake Forbes are set up differently. Forbes had limited information available regarding blue green algae at the time.

4.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - REQUEST FOR COUNCIL IN KIND SUPPORT FOR SUN SAFETY EXPO - JULY 2026

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/86

RESOLVED - 26/063**Cr S Peterson/Cr T Mileto**

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.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

4.4 NOTICE OF MOTION - REVIEW OF SMALL DONATIONS PROGRAM

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/164

RESOLVED - 26/064**Cr M Ruddy/Cr J Stedman**

- 1 That Council amend the Small Donations Program to operate on four application rounds per financial year, with each round allocating a quarter of the annual budgeted amount, effective from the 2026/2027 financial year.
- 2 That Council request staff to undertake a review of the Small Donations Program under Strategic Policy ST32 – Donations & Grants, to implement the four-round structure resolved by Council and to strengthen governance, consistency, and value-for-money outcomes and request that the review address:
 - a. Assessment processes and reporting arrangements for the four 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
 - d. That any applications for cash funding outside of Chief Executive Officer delegation up to the \$2,500 category limit require the applicant to address Council directly on the benefits to the community prior to determination of application.

For: Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr D Mallard, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman, Cr J Whitton

Against: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

Cr Mileto asked if applications submitted under special circumstances could still be brought to Council outside of one of the four application rounds.

The Director Corporate & Commercial Services advised that it depends how the policy is written noting that the current policy for this category of donation does not allow this, and permitting this would potentially end up falling back to monthly applications.

4.5 NOTICE OF MOTION - COMMUNITY-LED DELIVERY OF PUMP TRACK PROJECT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/165

RESOLVED - 26/065**Cr M Ruddy/Cr G Power**

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.

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

Against: Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr G Judge

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

Cr Peterson asked if this would be eligible for a deductible gift recipient status to help contributions to this project.

The Chief Financial Officer advised that Council would not qualify for deductible gift recipient status.

Cr Peterson asked if the project would qualify as tax deductible if it was to be run by a local entity outside of Council.

The Chief Executive Officer advised there was a previous project where an entity was set up independently by a community group for fundraising, however it is a very complicated process and that it may be better for an organisation that already has this status to support the project.

Cr Whitton asked for cost of the BMX track at Anzac Park.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the final design and earthworks were around \$170,000 not including the start gate.

5 GENERAL REPORTS**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS 3 FEBRUARY 2026**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/166

RESOLVED - 26/066**Cr G Power/Cr D Mallard**

- 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.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

Cr Greenhalgh requested an update on the status of the recalled defibrillators.

The Acting Director Community, Recreation & Cultural Services advised that when the defibrillators were taken out of commission, the problem was handed over to a business located in the UK as this is a worldwide problem. Advice is that replacements will be received early 2026, with no response to the question of a refund. The Heart Foundation is monitoring the situation and has advised that other Councils have been told the same information.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**Cr K Duffy**

Cr Duffy requested that Councillors be provided a report on the costs of the Rainbow Festival, including what Council is paying for and what costs are being provided in-kind.

5.2 NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS - POST CONFERENCE REPORT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2439

RESOLVED - 26/067**Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

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

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

5.3 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE - POST CONFERENCE REPORT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2713

RESOLVED - 26/068**Cr G Power/Cr T Greenhalgh**

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

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

5.4 PROPOSED MOTIONS FOR NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - JUNE 2026

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/161

RESOLVED - 26/069**Cr D Mallard/Cr T Greenhalgh**

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

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

5.5 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/207

RESOLVED - 26/070**Cr S Peterson/Cr G Power**

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.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

Cr Mallard noted that the Investment Reports are a different format than usual and asked if the change was at our request.

The Chief Financial Officer advised that the company providing the report has updated their formatting and that information Councillors require can be provided if requested.

5.6 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/148

RESOLVED - 26/071**Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr S Peterson**

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

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

5.7 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING 12 FEBRUARY 2026

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/215

MOTION**Cr D Mallard/Cr T Mileto**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Local Transport Forum at its meeting held on 12 February 2026.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 from the minutes of the Local Transport Forum meeting of 12 February 2026.
 - 3.1 – *Buckland Drive – Extension of No Standing Zone*
That Council extend the existing No Parking Zone as shown in Figure A of this report.
 - 3.2 – *Intersections – Summer Street East/Park Street and Park Street/Icely Road*
That Council install “No Stopping” signs on the intersections of Summer Street East and Park Street along with Park Street and Icely Road as per Figure A and B of this report.
 - 3.3 – *Hamer Street Speed Hump*
That Council replace the Give Way sign with a Stop sign, paint a stop line on the northern end of Hamer Street and ask the owner of the residence on northwest corner to lower their front corner fence to 1.2m.
 - 3.4 – *Cox Avenue – Speeding*
That Council install Traffic Classifiers on Cox Avenue and report the speed data outcome to the NSW Police
 - 3.5 – *Canobolas School – No Parking Zone*
That Council install a school-timed (8am - 9:30 am and 2:30pm – 4pm) “No Parking” Zone in front of Canobolas School as per Figure A of this report with “Kiss and drop” signs.
 - 3.6 – *Event – Rainbow Festival Street Walk – 7 March 2026*
That Council endorse the Conditional Approval for the Rainbow Walk on 7 March 2026 commencing at 3.00pm
 - 3.7 – *Event – AusCycling – Tour of Orange – 16 and 17 May 2026*
That Council approve the AusCycling Orange Tour Cycling Race to be held on 16 and 17 May 2026 subject to the attached Conditional Approval.
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Local Transport Forum from its meeting held on 12 February 2026 be adopted.

AMENDMENT**Cr K Duffy/Cr G Judge**

- 1 That Council approves recommendation 3.6 from the minutes of the Local Transport Forum meeting of 12 February 2026:

3.6 – Event – Rainbow Festival Street Walk – 7 March 2026

That Council endorse the Conditional Approval for the Rainbow Walk on 7 March 2026 commencing at 3.00pm.

- 2 That Council DEFERS consideration to the 3 March 2026 Council Meeting of:

1. That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Local Transport Forum at its meeting held on 12 February 2026.

2. That Council determine recommendations 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7 from the minutes of the Local Transport Forum meeting of 12 February 2026.

3.1 – Buckland Drive – Extension of No Standing Zone

That Council extend the existing No Parking Zone as shown in Figure A of this report.

3.2 – Intersections – Summer Street East/Park Street and Park Street/Icely Road

That Council install “No Stopping” signs on the intersections of Summer Street East and Park Street along with Park Street and Icely Road as per Figure A and B of this report.

3.3 – Hamer Street Speed Hump

That Council replace the Give Way sign with a Stop sign, paint a stop line on the northern end of Hamer Street and ask the owner of the residence on northwest corner to lower their front corner fence to 1.2m.

3.4 – Cox Avenue – Speeding

That Council install Traffic Classifiers on Cox Avenue and report the speed data outcome to the NSW Police

3.5 – Canobolas School – No Parking Zone

That Council install a school-timed (8am - 9:30 am and 2:30pm – 4pm) “No Parking” Zone in front of Canobolas School as per Figure A of this report with “Kiss and drop” signs.

3.7 – Event – AusCycling – Tour of Orange – 16 and 17 May 2026

That Council approve the AusCycling Orange Tour Cycling Race to be held on 16 and 17 May 2026 subject to the attached Conditional Approval.

3. That the remainder of the minutes of the Local Transport Forum from its meeting held on 12 February 2026 be adopted.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

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

THE MOTION ON BEING PUT TO WAS CARRIED

RESOLVED - 26/072**Cr D Mallard/Cr T Mileto**

- 1 That Council approves recommendation 3.6 from the minutes of the Local Transport Forum meeting of 12 February 2026:
 - 3.6 – *Event – Rainbow Festival Street Walk – 7 March 2026*
That Council endorse the Conditional Approval for the Rainbow Walk on 7 March 2026 commencing at 3.00pm
- 2 That Council DEFERS consideration to the 3 March 2026 Council Meeting of:
 1. That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Local Transport Forum at its meeting held on 12 February 2026.
 2. That Council determine recommendations 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7 from the minutes of the Local Transport Forum meeting of 12 February 2026.
 - 3.1 – *Buckland Drive – Extension of No Standing Zone*
That Council extend the existing No Parking Zone as shown in Figure A of this report.
 - 3.2 – *Intersections – Summer Street East/Park Street and Park Street/Icely Road*
That Council install “No Stopping” signs on the intersections of Summer Street East and Park Street along with Park Street and Icely Road as per Figure A and B of this report.
 - 3.3 – *Hamer Street Speed Hump*
That Council replace the Give Way sign with a Stop sign, paint a stop line on the northern end of Hamer Street and ask the owner of the residence on northwest corner to lower their front corner fence to 1.2m.
 - 3.4 – *Cox Avenue – Speeding*
That Council install Traffic Classifiers on Cox Avenue and report the speed data outcome to the NSW Police
 - 3.5 – *Canobolas School – No Parking Zone*
That Council install a school-timed (8am - 9:30 am and 2:30pm – 4pm) “No Parking” Zone in front of Canobolas School as per Figure A of this report with “Kiss and drop” signs.
 - 3.7 – *Event – AusCycling – Tour of Orange – 16 and 17 May 2026*
That Council approve the AusCycling Orange Tour Cycling Race to be held on 16 and 17 May 2026 subject to the attached Conditional Approval.
3. That the remainder of the minutes of the Local Transport Forum from its meeting held on 12 February 2026 be adopted.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

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 - 26/073**Cr T Greenhalgh/Cr G Power**

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.

6.3 Contract Report

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 (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council adjourned for the conduct of the Closed Meeting at 8:03PM.

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council resumed at 8:37PM.

7 RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED MEETING

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

6.1 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE 10 DECEMBER 2025

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2770

RESOLVED - 26/074**Cr K Duffy/Cr J Stedman**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee at its meeting held 10 December 2025.
- 2 That the minutes of the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee from its meeting held on 10 December 2025 be adopted.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

6.2 TENDER - F4511 - SHIRALEE SEWER PUMP STATION 1 AND 2 UPGRADES

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/72

RESOLVED - 26/075**Cr D Mallard/Cr K Duffy**

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to enter into a standard contract with Ironbuilt Infrastructure Pty Ltd for the Shiralee Sewer Pump Station 1 and 2 Upgrades (F4511) for the amount of \$ 2,573,213.00 (excl. GST) subject to a satisfactory financial check.
- 2 That the use of the common seal of Council be authorised for use on the associated contractual documents.
- 3 That Council budget an additional 20% of the tendered amount as contingent costs.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

6.3 CONTRACT REPORT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/258

RESOLVED - 26/076**Cr D Mallard/Cr K Duffy**

That Council DEFERS the Contract Report to the 3 March 2026 Council Meeting.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:40PM.

This is Page Number 12 and the Final Page of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orange City Council held on 17 February 2026.

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEES

Planning & Development - Chaired by Cr Melanie McDonell

Environmental Sustainability - Chaired by Cr David Mallard

Finance - Chaired by Cr Steven Peterson

Infrastructure - Chaired by Cr Jeff Whitton

Recreation & Culture - Chaired by Cr Tammy Greenhalgh

Services - Chaired by Cr Marea Ruddy

Regional & Economic Development - Chaired by Cr Tony Mileto (Mayor)

COUNCIL MEETING RESUMES**4 NOTICES OF MOTION/NOTICES OF RESCISSION**

Nil

5 GENERAL REPORTS

5.1 Leave of Absence

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/223

AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report seeks Council’s approval for the request for a Leave of Absence for Councillor Marea Ruddy for 17 March 2026 including the Council Meeting of this day.

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 Council grant a Leave of Absence to Cr M Ruddy for the Council Meeting of 17 March 2026.

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	Granting a Leave of Absence for one meeting will not impact Council’s service or project delivery.
Financial	No financial implications arise from approving the Leave of Absence.
Reputation/Political	The recommendation reflects standard governance practice and presents no reputational or political risk.
Environment	There are no environmental risks associated with granting a Leave of Absence.
Compliance	The recommendation complies with the Local Government Act requirements for managing Councillor attendance and introduces no compliance risk.
People & WHS	There are no workforce or safety risks related to this administrative action.
Information Technology/ Cyber Security	The action does not involve systems or data and presents no IT or cyber security risk.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

An application for a Leave of Absence was submitted to the Chief Executive Officer on 11 February 2026 from Cr Ruddy requesting leave for the purpose of attending to personal family affairs. Cr Ruddy will be unavailable to attend the Council Meeting of 17 March 2026. It is recommended that Council resolve to approve the Leave of Absence.

5.2 Proposed Location for Homeless or Rough Sleeping

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/214

AUTHOR: Melissa Stanford, Acting Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Given the rising recurring need to relocate individuals from the CBD and the ongoing impact on local businesses, Council recognises the need for a more structured and compassionate solution to assist homeless and rough sleepers within our Community.

Council may wish to consider the recommendations in the report separately.

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

There will be a financial impact of staff time and Council equipment.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk of non-compliance with legislative, regulatory or policy obligations if any potential designated homeless or rough sleeping area is not managed appropriately or the person(s) does not cooperate with obligations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

- 1 Recognise the drafted CBD zone and endorse the establishment of designated areas at the Orange Showground for the use of individuals who are homeless or rough sleeping
- 2 Install signage prohibiting camping in public areas identified in the report
- 3 Support the development of a formal operating procedure governing the management of the designated area, including:
 - Site maintenance and cleaning standards
 - Waste management processes
 - Safety and accessibility requirements
 - Behavioural expectations and responsibilities of Council and site users
 - Processes for communication and coordination with Showground user groups
- 4 Identify a budget allocation to support waste disposal, cleaning, transport of belongings when necessary and ongoing site management for consideration by Council.

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	There is a risk that operational or service challenges will delay effective implementation and ongoing management of a designated rough-sleeping area.
Financial	The initiative may result in unplanned costs to Council in immediate and long term outcomes.
Reputation/Political	Community and stakeholder perceptions may impact Council’s reputation and lead to Community enquiries.

5.2 Proposed Location for Homeless or Rough Sleeping

Environment	Environmental impacts needs to be considered in increased usage of proposed area, requiring appropriate management and mitigation strategies.
Compliance	There is a risk of non-compliance with legislative, regulatory or policy obligations if the area is not managed appropriately.
People & WHS	Safety risks may emerge for Community members, staff or vulnerable persons if appropriate WHS controls are not in place.
Information Technology/ Cyber Security	Proposal has no separate or specific Cyber risk aside from usual level of information associated with service delivery being exposed to cyber or privacy risks without secure systems and controls.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Council is aware of a cohort of individuals currently rough sleeping within the Central Business District (CBD), with staff routinely monitoring their welfare and the broader community impacts of their presence.

Over recent months, there is a rough sleeper who has been moved on by Council Staff several times from specific locations when safety, accessibility or public health concerns have arisen - particularly where belongings have obstructed pedestrian movement, created unsanitary conditions or otherwise impacted public safety.

Council staff have assisted by moving this person's belongings to a new, more suitable location, taking rubbish to the resource recovery centre and cleaning the previous location.

Council and Police Officers do not have power to move rough sleepers on from public owned land unless there is signage forbidding the use of that land for such activities.

In some instances, individuals have been asked to relocate when their possessions have blocked or impeded emergency exits of buildings, creating unacceptable safety hazards for both occupants and emergency responders.

While these interventions have been necessary to manage risks, staff acknowledge that the majority of rough sleepers are not causing significant issues and that concern arises primarily from the actions or behaviours of only a few individuals. This distinction is important in maintaining a fair and respectful approach to vulnerable community members.

Council recognises the need for a more structured and compassionate solution. Establishing a designated area at the showground seeks to provide a safer, more functional and accessible location for rough sleepers while minimising impact within the CBD and avoiding the cycle of continual movement. This approach aims to balance the wellbeing of vulnerable individuals with the safety and operational needs of the broader community and businesses.

It is acknowledged that the proposed arrangement is not without limitations. The showground is a multi-use facility and a contingency plan will be required when major events or bookings temporarily occupy or restrict access to the area proposed for rough sleeping. Clear communication and predefined alternative arrangements will be essential to ensure continuity of support during such periods.

To ensure the designated area remains safe, habitable and appropriately managed, a procedure will need to be developed. This document would guide expectations around site maintenance, waste management, safety standards, behavioural expectations and responsibilities of both

5.2 Proposed Location for Homeless or Rough Sleeping

Council and users. It would also help safeguard the experience and safety of other showground user groups, ensuring that the facility remains accessible and functional for all stakeholders.

Under the proposed model, when rough sleepers are identified within the CBD (see image 1 below, noting boundaries would include the entirety of public spaces in this zone), they would be offered relocation to the designated area at the showground.

Should Council wish to have an enforceable approach signage prohibiting camping would need to be erected in public areas within this zone.

Without that signage in place relocation cannot be enforced, however providing a clearly identified, safer alternative is expected to encourage relocation and reduce the frequency of relocations within high-impact CBD areas.

This approach reflects Council's intention to respond with both practicality and compassion, supporting vulnerable residents while maintaining community safety and amenity.

If a rough sleeper is identified at a private residential or business location, Council would advise that the owner or tenant is responsible for contacting the Police for advice and support.

Council road maintenance crews have typically been diverted from their usual roles to undertake relocation and clean-up of rough sleeper sites in the CBD. For an individual this has involved:

- Loading and moving significant amounts of putrescible waste and other rubbish to Council's waste facility (up to three small tipper loads)
- Removal of personal effects to the agreed relocation site
- Sweeping and sanitising hard paved areas as required.

The cost for this work can be up to \$700 depending on the amount of waste. To date the cost of this work has been absorbed into the Road Maintenance and Street Sweeping budgets. Currently there is no budget allocation for this type of program of works.

The proposed location at the Orange Showground is near the rodeo and camp draft arenas where water, electricity and an amenity building are available.

The rodeo and camp draft arenas host a minimum of four events annually. During these events the rough sleepers will be required to move either elsewhere in the showground or an alternative location outside of the showground. When a move is required the rough sleeper's campsites will need to be cleaned and sanitised by Council, with putrescible waste and rubbish transported to the Resource Recovery Centre.

The rough sleeper's sites, as currently experienced at the Orange Showground and within the CBD, expand with the number of possessions that they collect. These possessions must not encroach into areas mown as there is a Work Health and Safety Risk to Council staff, as well as the rough sleeper occupants, of mowing over debris.

A preferred location is a hard stand area that can be easily cleaned and sanitised. No suitable space at the showground currently has these benefits.

5.2 Proposed Location for Homeless or Rough Sleeping

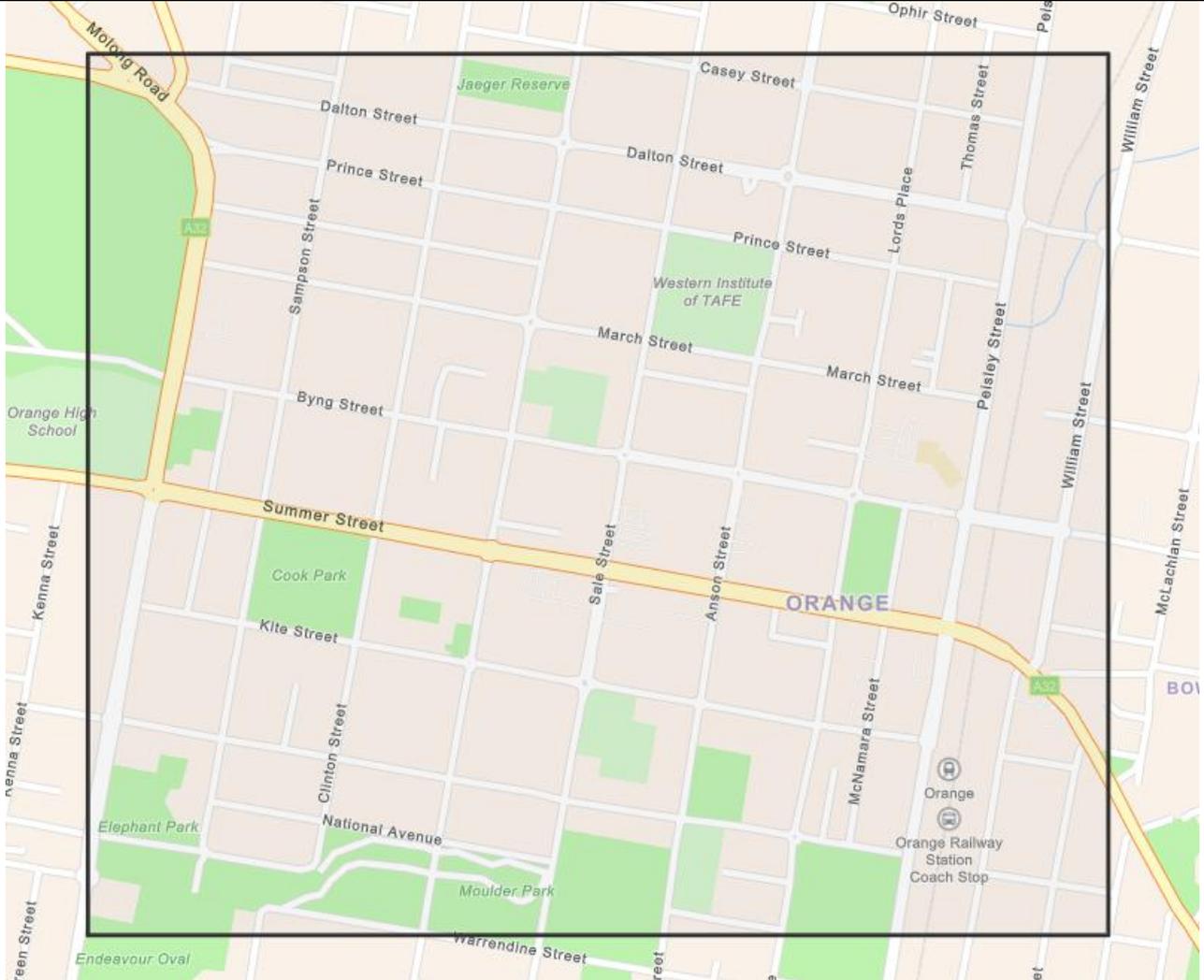


Image 1 - Proposed CBD zone

5.3 Development Outside the Boundaries of the Developer Servicing Plans

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/246

AUTHOR: Jason Theakstone, Acting Director Technical Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a mechanism to enable development outside the boundaries of Council’s existing Developer Servicing Plans (S64).

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “7.3 Plan for growth and development that balances liveability with valuing the local environment”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications to Council and Developers are described within the body of this report.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

The NSW Governments 2016 Developer Charges Guidelines for Water Supply, Sewerage and Stormwater provide latitude to charge contributions outside of the geographical boundaries as recommended by this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council apply the existing water and sewer charges to the areas identified as short and medium term within the Orange Local Housing Strategy (2022).

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	This recommendation provides an innovative approach to stimulate development within the LGA.
Financial	This recommendation provides nil negative risks and positive outcomes to Developers and Council.
Reputation/Political	This recommendation strengthens relationships with developers within the city.
Environment	Nil with this recommendation.
Compliance	Nil with this recommendation.
People & WHS	Nil with this recommendation.
Information Technology/ Cyber Security	Nil with this recommendation.

5.3 Development Outside the boundaries of the Developer Servicing Plans

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Council resolved to adopt the Orange Local Housing Strategy (OLHS) at the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 7 June 2022. Figure 8-12 of the OLHS identifies areas within the Orange LGA earmarked for short-, medium-, and long-term residential development. Figure 8-12 is reproduced below.

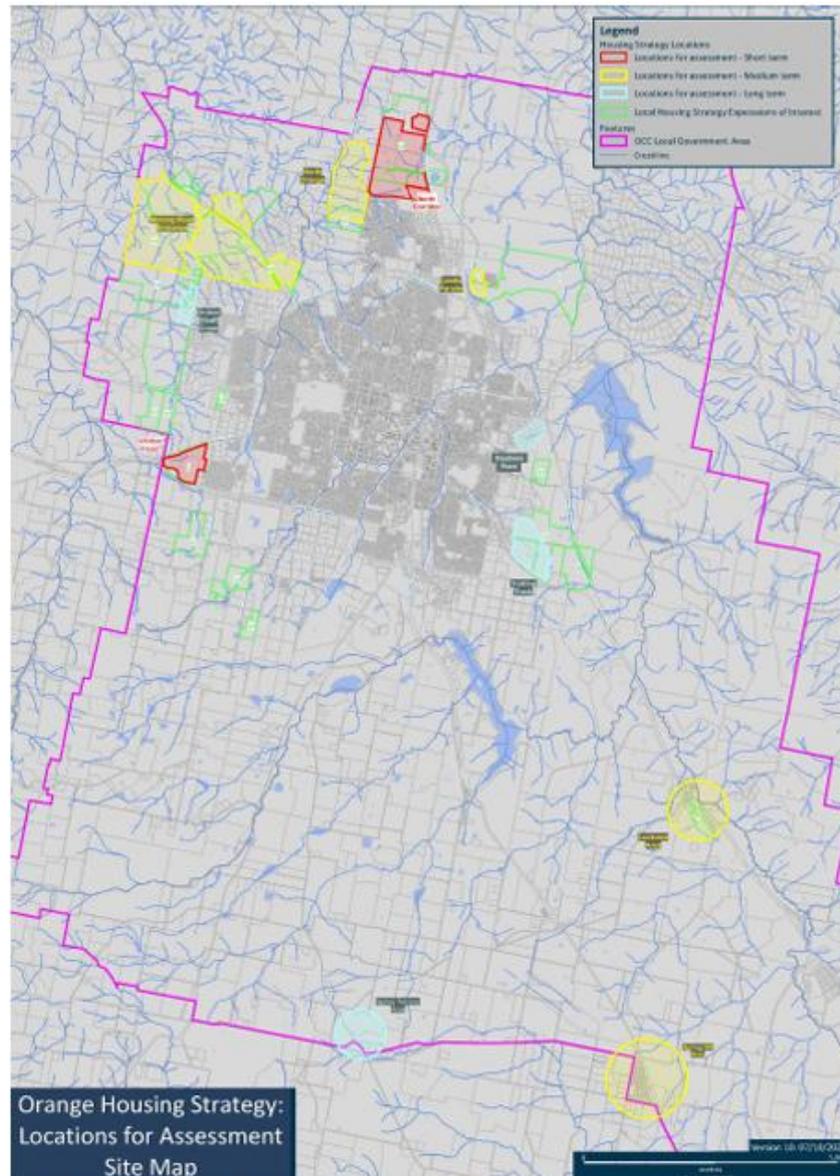


Figure 8-12 Areas identified for residential land

Section 306 (2) – (3) of the Water Management Act stipulates that local water utilities must prepare Development Servicing Plans (DSPs) in order to levy water and sewer developer charges. These charges serve three related functions:

- 1 They provide a source of funding for infrastructure required for new urban development;
- 2 They provide signals regarding the cost of urban development and thus encourage less costly forms and areas of development; and
- 3 Are an integral part of the fair pricing of water related services.

5.3 Development Outside the boundaries of the Developer Servicing Plans

The Orange Local Housing Strategy has identified new areas for residential development which are outside the current Water and Sewer Developer Servicing Plans (DSP). A key action from the Orange Local Housing Strategy was to review existing servicing and prepare new development servicing plans to ensure future infrastructure is costed and charged to support greenfield development. The updated Water and Sewer DSPs have been received in draft form and are currently under audit. These are expected to be released for public consultation in the coming months.

The NSW Government's 2016 Developer Charges Guidelines for Water Supply, Sewerage and Stormwater provide flexibility to levy contributions outside existing DSP boundaries by either:

- 1 Developing a new DSP specific to the development; or
- 2 Applying the adopted developer charges to the new development.

Council has undertaken a detailed analysis of the water and sewer infrastructure required to service the short/medium term areas within the OLHS, which showed that it is appropriate for the current water and sewer development charges to be levied for these areas.

In accordance with the current fees and charges, the current water and sewer developer charges per allotment are \$9,739.75 (water) and \$5,751.55 (sewer).

When the new Water and Sewer DSPs are adopted, the new developer charges may not differ substantially from the current developer charges, however there is potential for change to existing charges.

Financial institutions typically require developers to demonstrate that the land they intend to develop is serviceable and presents minimal risk before lending funds. The recommendation of this report assists developers in providing that level of certainty.

5.4 Progress Report on Valencia Drive, Coogal Wetlands and Distributor Loop Lighting Project

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/280

AUTHOR: Kate Shepherd, Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on investigations undertaken by Council staff into the feasibility of installing pathway lighting along with route commencing at Valencia Drive, continuing under the Distributor, around Coogal Wetlands and completing the Distributor footpath loop.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “1.1 Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil, this report is for information purposes only.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil, this report is for information purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council acknowledge the information provided in this report and determine if the project is to be pursued.

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	There is a risk that project timelines or outcomes may be impacted by competing priorities, resource availability, budget or changes to scope.
Financial	There is a risk of unbudgeted costs or future funding pressures should the project progress beyond preliminary investigation or require external funding.
Reputation/Political	There is a reputational risk if community expectations are not met regarding the timing, location or extent of lighting improvements.
Environment	There is a risk of potential environmental impacts, including light spill or increased energy use, if lighting is not appropriately managed and any potential installation effects.
Compliance	There is a risk of non-compliance with relevant standards, approvals or regulatory requirements if lighting is installed or modified without appropriate assessment.
People & WHS	There is a risk to the safety of staff, contractors or the public during investigation or installation of works if appropriate WHS controls are not in place.
Information Technology/ Cyber Security	If smart or networked lighting infrastructure is introduced, there is a risk to system integrity or data security without appropriate cyber security controls.

5.4 Progress Report on Valencia Drive, Coogal Wetlands and Distributor Loop Lighting Project

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Council staff were asked to investigate the potential installation of lighting along the identified pathway from Valencia Drive, under the Distributor, around Coogal Wetlands and continuing round the Distributor footpath loop – see image 1 below. The route is well used by pedestrians and recreational users and forms an important active transport and leisure corridor within the area.

The proposed project would improve safety and visibility along the pathway loop while encouraging healthy active lifestyles by enabling use of the paths during dawn and dusk periods and increase accessibility for a broader range of users throughout the year.



To investigate, Council Staff posted a request for quotation to inform an indicative price for the proposed lighting work when sourcing external grant funding. The project was divided as a three-stage project, allowing for flexibility in delivery and alignment with potential funding opportunities.

The quotations received indicate the overall costs are subject to a range of variables, including but not limited to:

- the type of lighting selected
- pole height and spacing
- installation method
- power supply options/requirements

5.4 Progress Report on Valencia Drive, Coogal Wetlands and Distributor Loop Lighting Project

Based on estimates received, the indicative price range for the full project will vary depending on final design specifications and staging.

Council would conduct necessary consultation prior to progressing the project. This would include engagement with local residents within the project area, pathway users and the broader community as well as relevant authorities and stakeholders (particularly in relation to safety, environmental considerations and land management). Consultation outcomes would be considered to inform final design decisions and help ensure that community concerns, particularly around amenity and safety are appropriately addressed.

Should Council wish to progress the project, the next steps would include Community and stakeholder consultation, refinement of design and project staging, identification and pursuit of suitable grant funding opportunities and further cost refinement with outcomes reported to Council.

5.5 Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/284

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 17 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:

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

CCL 17 FEBRUARY 2026

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Cr K Duffy

Cr Duffy requested that Councillors be provided a report on the costs of the Rainbow Festival, including what Council is paying for and what costs are being provided in-kind.

A report on the costs of the Rainbow Festival has been emailed to the Councillors during the week prior to this meeting and can be discussed verbally at the meeting if required.

5.6 Strategic Policy Reviews - Exhibition

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/353

AUTHOR: Janessa Constantine, Manager Corporate Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management which has been drafted. At the Council Meeting of 16 December 2025, Council deferred the policy to the Companion Animal Community Committee for review. The review is included in the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee of today's Council Meeting recommending exhibition with some amendments. These updates have been included in the exhibition copy.

It is recommended that the Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

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

Council's Strategic Policies are reviewed and amended to ensure ongoing compliance with legislation and industry best practice.

Policies of Council are of two types – Strategic Policies are determined by Council, and relate to Councillors, required by Legislation or Regulation and/or have an impact on the Orange community. The Local Government Act 1993 requires the public exhibition of Policies (if new or include significant changes) and adoption by Council. Operational Policies are determined and implemented by the Chief Executive Officer and relate to staff and the operations of the organisation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to place Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

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	Public feedback may delay implementation or require changes to planned services.
Financial	Exhibition may lead to cost implications if significant revisions or additional consultation are required.
Reputation/Political	Public disagreement or backlash could affect Council's reputation or political standing.
Environment	Community input may highlight overlooked environmental impacts or concerns.
Compliance	Failure to exhibit policies appropriately may breach statutory consultation requirements.
People & WHS	Feedback may raise workforce-related risks or highlight gaps in safety-related provisions.
Information Technology/ Cyber Security	Online exhibition platforms may be vulnerable to data breaches or cyber threats.

5.6 Strategic Policy Reviews - Exhibition

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

It is recommended the policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days to allow for Council and public review and submissions.

Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management

Reference	Update
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Policy – reviewed by the CACC as noted in the ESPC report of today's meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 FOR EXHIBITION - Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management, D25/141260 [↓](#)



Strategic Policy - ST59

Feral & Infant Animal Management

FOR EXHIBITION

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STRATEGIC POLICY – ST59

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To outline Council’s approach to the management of Feral and Infant companion animals.

2 APPLICABILITY

- 2.1 This policy applies to feral and infant companion animals that come into the care of Council’s Pound by seizure or surrender under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (The Act).
- 2.2 This policy applies to all Council Staff involved in the care, management and decision-making related to companion animals, including seizure and surrender.

3 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To establish a mechanism by which to manage feral companion animals that pose a high risk to staff and the community; and infant animals that cannot survive without constant and intensive care.
- 3.2 To assist in the management of the capacity of Orange City Pound to house stray and seized animals.
- 3.3 To reduce the financial impact of feral and infant companion animals.

4 LEGISLATION

4.1 This policy is in accordance with the requirements of the Companion Animals Act 1998.

5 RESPONSIBILITIES

Title	Responsibilities
Manager Compliance, Senior Ranger, Pound Supervisor	Make determinations regarding the feral or infant status of companion animals in Council’s care and take, or authorise the taking of, action to manage those animals in accordance with this policy and legislation.

6 DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Feral Companion Animal	A dog or cat that is unidentified, is confirmed or suspected to have been living in undomesticated circumstances and demonstrates dangerous behaviour that would make handling the animal a risk to staff and rehoming it a risk to the community.
Infant Companion Animal	A dog or cat that is very young and is unable to feed or fend for itself and has come into Council’s care without its mother, requiring intensive care.
Unidentified	Meaning the animal has not been microchipped per the requirements of the Act and is not wearing an identification tag/collar featuring the contact details of its owner.

7 DETERMINATION

- 7.1 Council’s Pound Supervisor, Senior Ranger or Manager Compliance may determine an animal to be **feral** if:
- Council staff are unable to locate a microchip or identification tag/collar on the animal, and
 - Council staff suspect, or can confirm, the animal has been living in undomesticated circumstances, and
 - The animal displays dangerous behaviour that would pose a risk to the safety of the staff responsible for its care and handling or to the community should it be rehomed.
- 7.2 Council’s Pound Supervisor, Senior Ranger or manager Compliance may determine an animal to be an **infant** if:
- The animal appears to Council staff to be very young, and
 - Through observation, the animal demonstrates an inability to feed or fend



STRATEGIC POLICY – ST59

for itself.

8 MANAGEMENT OF FERAL AND INFANT ANIMALS

- 8.1 Per Section 64(2) of the Act, companion animals determined to be feral or infant in accordance with this policy may be humanely euthanised by a veterinarian prior to the end of the holding periods prescribed by Section 64 of the Act.
- 8.2 Infant animals may only be euthanised under Section 8.1 of this policy following investigation of alternatives to euthanasia as outlined in Section 9.3 of this policy.

9 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO EUTHANASIA

- 9.1 Per section 64(5) of the Act, Council must consider whether alternatives to euthanasia exist prior to taking such action under this policy.
- 9.2 Feral companion animals are unsuitable for alternative care arrangements because:
- The behaviour of feral animals poses a safety risk to the staff caring for them, whether they are Council staff or belonging to a rescue or rehoming organisation.
 - Their behaviour makes them unsafe to rehome in the community.
 - Euthanising feral companion animals helps to reduce feral population in the

region – decreasing the likelihood of such animals ending up in Council’s care in the future and helping to protect native wildlife.

- 9.3 Infant animals require round-the-clock care that Council staff cannot provide, but may be provided by reputable rescue or welfare organisations, should they be released into their care:

- Council staff shall contact these organisations as soon as possible once an animal is determined to be an infant under this policy with the intention of releasing the animal into their care.
- Should these organisations be uncontactable, unable or unwilling to care for the infant animal, action may be taken under Section 8 of this policy.

10 RECORDKEEPING

- 10.1 All determinations made in accordance with the policy, including the reasons supporting those determinations, shall be recorded in Councils electronic Records Management System.

11 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- OPO23 - Operational Policy - Records & Information Management
- Companion Animal Act 1998

All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council, at any time.

ST59 - Strategic Policy - Feral & Infant Animal Management

New policy with the updates following review by the CACC:

- Section 3: Add objectives regarding financial and facility capacity
- Section 6: Fix the “cate” typo and change “wild behaviour” to “dangerous behaviour” in the Feral Companion Animal definition
- Section 9.3: Correct the cross-reference from Section 9 to Section 8
- Section 10.1: Change the full stop after “policy” to a comma for continuity.

Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_26	Last Revision: February 2026
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

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 Contract Report - Orange Regional Conservatorium and Planetarium

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 (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

6.2 Proposed Easement - Council Owned Land - 296-298 Summer Street - Lot 96 DP 1190941

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.

6.3 Nomination of Councillor Attendance - LGNSW Rural and Regional Summit

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.

6.4 Nomination of Councillor Attendance - LGNSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference 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 (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property.

6.5 Submission Redaction Report 3 March 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.

6.1 Contract Report - Orange Regional Conservatorium and Planetarium

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/279

AUTHOR: Scott Maunder, Chief Executive Officer

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 (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

6.2 Proposed Easement - Council Owned Land - 296-298 Summer Street - Lot 96 DP 1190941

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/257

AUTHOR: Shirley Hyde, Legal & Property Lead

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.

6.3 Nomination of Councillor Attendance - LGNSW Rural and Regional Summit

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/232

AUTHOR: Georgina Wheeler, Executive Support Officer

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.

6.4 Nomination of Councillor Attendance - LGNSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference 2026

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/231

AUTHOR: Georgina Wheeler, Executive Support Officer

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.

6.5 Submission Redaction Report 3 March 2026

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/338

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 (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

7 RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED MEETING