



BUSINESS PAPER

Finance and Governance
Committee Meeting

Council Chambers
23 July 2025

5.30pm

BROKEN HILL

CITY COUNCIL

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST
HERITAGE LISTED CITY

MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

Mayor Kennedy, Councillor Algate (Chairperson), Councillor Boland, Councillor Byrne, Councillor Chandler and Councillor Turley

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, that the Finance and Governance Standing Committee Meeting of the Broken Hill City Council will be held in the Council Chambers on **Wednesday, 23 July 2025** commencing at **5:30pm** to consider the following business:

AGENDA	
1	Opening the Meeting
2	Apologies
3	Leave of Absence Applications
4	Prayer
5	Acknowledgement of Country
6	Acknowledgement of Broken Hill's Mining History
7	Minutes for Confirmation
8	Disclosure of Interest
9	Reports
10	Confidential Matters
11	Conclusion of the Meeting

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

All Councillors undertook an Oath or Affirmation at the beginning of their term of office and declared to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Broken Hill Local Government Area and the City of Broken Hill; and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

This Committee Meeting is being livestreamed via YouTube and recorded and published online via Council's website. To those present in the meeting today, by attending in this public meeting you are consenting to your image, voice and comments being recorded and published.

The Chairperson and/or General Manager have the authority to pause the livestream if comments or debate are considered defamatory or otherwise inappropriate for publishing. Participants are advised that they may be subject to legal action if they engage in unlawful behaviour or commentary.

JAY NANKIVELL
GENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee of the City of Broken Hill held
Wednesday, 21 May 2025.

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 (5:30 PM)**

PRESENT:

Councillor T. Kennedy (Mayor), Councillor B. Algate (Chairperson),
Councillors M. Boland, A. Byrne and A. Chandler.

Councillor E. Gillett.

General Manager, Director Finance and Commercial and Executive Officer.

Media (nil), Members of the Public (nil)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor D. Turley

Motion

Moved Councillor Ashley Byrne, Seconded Mayor Tom Kennedy

That the apology submitted on behalf of Councillor Turley be accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE
APPLICATIONS:**

Nil.

PRAYER

Mayor Kennedy delivered the Prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Byrne delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BROKEN HILL'S MINING HISTORY

Councillor Boland delivered the Acknowledgement of Broken Hill's Mining History.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Recommendation

Moved Councillor Alan Chandler, Seconded Councillor Ashley Byrne

That the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held Wednesday
April 23, 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

REPORTS

1. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 80/25 - DATED MAY 02, 2025 -
QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31
MARCH 2025 D25/19537

Recommendation**Moved Councillor Michael Boland, Seconded Councillor Alan Chandler**

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 80/25 dated May 2, 2025, be received.
2. That the 3rd Quarterly Budget Review Statement and recommendations be adopted.
3. That Council note the projected 2024/25 operating surplus (before capital) of \$19,000.
4. That Council note the 2024/25 projected net capital budget expenditure of \$37,189,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The General Manager took a question on notice from the Mayor requesting that Councillors receive an explanation as to why Council was unsuccessful in being able to find a suitable candidate/consultant to carry out the Indigenous Community Oral History project which resulted in the project being cancelled and the government grant being returned.

2. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 82/25 - DATED MAY 08, 2025 -
INVESTMENT REPORT FOR APRIL 2025 D25/20458

Recommendation**Moved Councillor Michael Boland, Seconded Councillor Ashley Byrne**

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 82/25 dated May 8, 2025, be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 81/25 - DATED MAY 09, 2025 -
NOMINATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE
TO S355 COMMITTEE D25/20738

Recommendation**Moved Councillor Ashley Byrne, Seconded Councillor Michael Boland**

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 81/25 dated May 9, 2025, be received.
2. That Council review and consider the nomination of Kevin Stacey for appointment as community representative on the Picton Sportsground Community Committee.
3. That the community representative nominee be advised of Council's determination.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The General Manager took a question on notice from the Mayor requesting that an Infrastructure and Environment budget be created for signs to be placed on unmarked graves at the Broken Hill Cemetery, and that the Tidy Towns Working Group makes recommendations to the Director Infrastructure and Environment regarding the wording and placement of these signs. Also, that the two ladies who regularly carryout work at the Cemetery to identify unmarked graves be invited to join the Tidy Towns Working Group to assist with this project.

CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was declared closed at 5:45pm.

The foregoing minutes were read and confirmed at the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 23 July 2025.

Chairperson

REPORTS

1. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 132/25 - DATED JUNE 24, 2025 - COUNCIL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND CHRISTMAS SHUT DOWN PERIOD (D25/27849) 8
2. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 133/25 - DATED JUNE 05, 2025 - DRAFT SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AND DRAFT MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION (D25/25012) 11
3. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 134/25 - DATED JULY 11, 2025 - INVESTMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2025 (D25/31122) 45
4. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 135/25 - DATED JUNE 17, 2025 - MINUTES OF THE BROKEN HILL EDUCATION WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD 11 JUNE 2025 AND 9 JULY 2025 (D25/26772) 60

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

June 24, 2025

ITEM 1BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 132/25

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND CHRISTMAS SHUT
DOWN PERIOD D25/27849

Recommendation

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 132/25 dated June 24, 2025, be received.
2. That Council's Ordinary Monthly Meeting for December be held 17 December 2025.
3. That the December Standing Committee Meetings be held as follows
 - a. Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting to be held Monday December 8, 2025, at 5:30pm
 - b. Corporate and Community Development Committee Meeting to be held Tuesday December 9, 2025, at 5:30pm
 - c. Finance and Governance Committee Meeting to be held Wednesday December 10, 2025, at 5:30pm
4. That Standing Committee Meetings not be held in January 2026.
5. That the Council shutdown period for the Administrative Centre and the Warnock Street Works Depot be from 5pm Tuesday December 23, 2025, and reopening Monday, January 12, 2026.
6. That Council advertise the shutdown period for the Administrative Centre and the Warnock Street Works Depot and that this advertisement also includes the operating hours for all other Council facilities during this period.

Executive Summary:

Council's Ordinary Monthly Meeting for December 2025 is scheduled to fall on New Year's Eve 31 December 2025 which is during Council's proposed Christmas Shutdown period (commencing 5:00pm Tuesday December 23, 2025, to Friday January 8, 2026, with Council reopening on Monday, January 12, 2026). This is in alignment with the shutdown period of other NSW State departments.

This report is presented to Council to determine suitable alternative dates for the December Standing Committee Meetings and the December Ordinary Council Meeting to ensure there is enough time for actions to be undertaken prior to Council's Christmas Shutdown period; and for Council to endorse the Christmas shutdown period for Council's Administrative Centre and the Warnock Street Works Depot, along with the cancellation of Standing Committee Meetings in January 2026.

Report:

It is proposed that the Ordinary Council Meeting for December 2025 be held on Wednesday December 17 2025, two weeks earlier than scheduled (Wednesday, December 31, 2025) to allow for the Council Meeting to be held prior to the proposed Christmas shutdown period.

Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice, Clause 3.1 states:

"Ordinary meetings of the Council will be held on the following occasions:

Ordinary Council Meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of every month of the year with the exception of the December Council Meeting which will be set by Council Resolution each year. The meeting will commence at 6:30p.m. and be held in the Council Chambers."

Clause 3.1 reflects the *Local Government Act 1993, Section 365*.

If the Council meeting is rescheduled to Wednesday December 17, 2025, Committee meetings will also be required to be moved forward two weeks to be held on the below dates:

Infrastructure and Environment Committee – Monday December 8, 2025

Corporate and Community Development Committee – Tuesday December 9, 2025

Finance and Governance Committee - Wednesday December 10, 2025

It is also being recommended that Standing Committee Meetings not be held in January due to Council reopening after the Christmas Shutdown on Monday January 12, 2026, and that traditionally, staff take annual leave during the Christmas period and due to this there is inadequate time to allow for reports and business papers to be prepared.

It is therefore proposed that Council's Ordinary Monthly Meeting for December 2025 be held on Wednesday December 17, 2025 with Standing Committees held on 8-10 December 2025; and that no Standing Committee Meetings be held in January 2026.

Strategic Direction:

Key Direction:	4	Our Leadership
Objective:	4.1	Openness and transparency in decision making
Strategy:	4.1.5	Support the organisation to operate within its legal framework

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 1993 (Section 365)

Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice Policy

Financial Implications:

Management have implemented strategies for staff with high leave balances to begin taking leave to reduce the liability to Council. Council's total leave liability would become a cash flow issue for Council if it had to pay these liabilities all out at once due to terminations or redundancy but the likelihood of this is very unlikely and subsequently the risk is low.

Bulk leave taken during the year always poses a problem with the low resources Council has available and the expected service delivery. A shutdown period over the Christmas and New Year holiday period is an effective way of reducing Council's leave liability due to the

natural reduction in service requirements, alongside other strategies such as smaller leave blocks more often during the year, and leave payout provisions within the award.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report

LEISA BARTLETT
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JAY NANKIVELL
GENERAL MANAGER

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

June 5, 2025

ITEM 2BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 133/25

SUBJECT: DRAFT SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AND DRAFT MEDIA RELATIONS
POLICY FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION D25/25012

Recommendation

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 133/25 dated June 5, 2025, be received.
2. That Council notes the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Free Speech in Local Government NSW Guidelines issued June 2025.
3. That draft Social Media Policy and draft Media Relations Policy be placed on public exhibition for submissions to be received for a period of 28 days.
4. That Council receives a further report at the conclusion of the public exhibition period, detailing submissions received and any recommended changes arising, with a view to adopting the draft Social Media Policy and draft Media Relations Policy.

Executive Summary:

Council's Social Media Policy and Media Relations Policy provide guidelines for Councillors, Council Officers, volunteers, consultants and contractors when engaging with media and social media, in both an official and personal capacity.

Council's Social Media Policy has received minor changes to update software titles, staff position titles and staff record keeping procedures.

Council's Media Relations Policy has received no significant alterations, with changes only being made to update staff position titles.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure issued their Free Speech in Local Government NSW Guidelines in June 2025, and these Guidelines have been taken into consideration during the review of the two Media Policies.

Report:

NSW Councils are required to review and adopt their Code of Conduct Policies (based on the Office of Local Government's (OLG) Model Code of Conduct 2020 (Model Code)) within 12 months after each Ordinary Election.

The Model Code of Conduct is prescribed under section 440 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation).

Under Section 440 of the Act, each Council in NSW is required to adopt a Code of Conduct based on the Model Code as prescribed under the Regulation. Councils may enhance or strengthen the standards prescribed under the Model Code in their adopted Codes of Conduct to make them more onerous. Councils may also supplement the provisions contained in the Model Code with additional provisions in their adopted Codes of Conduct.

However, Councils cannot weaken the standards prescribed in the Model Code in their adopted Codes of Conduct. Provisions contained in a Council's adopted Code of Conduct that are less onerous than those prescribed under the Model Code will be invalid and the equivalent provisions of the Model Code will override them through the operation of section 440 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Sections of the Model Code of Conduct relate to media relations and the use of social media.

Council's Social Media and Media Relations policies provide guidelines for Councillors, Council officers, volunteers, consultants, and contractors when engaging with the media and social media, in both an official and personal capacity.

Council's Social Media Policy has received minor changes to update software titles, staff position titles, and staff record keeping procedures.

Council's Media Relations Policy has received no significant alterations, with changes only being made to update staff position titles.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure issued their Free Speech in Local Government NSW Guidelines in June 2025, and these Guidelines have been taken into consideration during the review of the two Media Policies.

This report is presented to Council for endorsement of the draft Policies for public exhibition.

Community Engagement:

The draft Policies will be placed on public exhibition for submissions to be received for a period of 28 days.

Strategic Direction:

Key Direction:	4	Our Leadership
Objective:	4.1	Openness and transparency in decision making
Strategy:	4.1.2	Undertake communication and authentic, open and reciprocal engagement with the community to increase confidence in decision-making
Strategy:	4.1.5	Support the organisation to operate its legal framework

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 1993, Section 440
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

Financial Implications:

Nil

Attachments

1. Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Free Speech in Local Government NSW Guidelines
[↓](#)
2. Draft Social Media Policy
[↓](#)
3. Draft Media Relations Policy
[↓](#)

DARRIN MANUEL
MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

JAY NANKIVELL

GENERAL MANAGER

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

dphi.nsw.gov.au



Free speech in local government in NSW

A guideline

June 2025





Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

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Free speech in local government in NSW

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More information

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Introduction

The recent review of the councillor conduct framework and concerns that some councils may have implemented their codes of conduct in a way that unduly constrains councillors' ability to engage freely with the community has highlighted the need to provide practical guidance to councils on what free speech means in the context of NSW local government.

In a broad sense political communication relates to any form of campaigning around a discussion or decision. In the case of elected officials there is an implied public trust that political communication to support debate will be fair. Unfortunately, where the debate is not fair and includes victimisation or vilification, that public trust is quickly lost.

This guideline (Guideline) provides guidance on the following:

- the implied freedom of political communication under the Australian Constitution (the Constitution) and how free speech is regulated in Australia,
- why the ability to engage freely with the community is central to a councillor's role as an elected representative prescribed under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act),
- the relevant provisions of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (Model Code of Conduct) that recognise the importance of public comment by councillors and how they should be applied by councils to ensure they do not unduly inhibit free speech,
- the protections available to councillors in relation to civil liability for defamation,
- the meeting rules constraining what can be said at council and committee meetings, how they can be applied and the relationship between these and the enforcement mechanisms available under councils' codes of conduct,
- how council media and social media policies should be applied so as not to unduly constrain councillors' ability to engage with the community via the media and online.

This Guideline has been issued under section 23A of the Act. Councils and council officials must take it into consideration when exercising their functions. This Guideline is also to be considered by conduct reviewers when dealing with code of conduct matters that have been referred to them.

How is free speech regulated in Australia?

The High Court of Australia has found that the Constitution contains an implied freedom of political communication which imposes limits on the laws that Australian Parliaments can make.

The implied freedom of political communication as established by the High Court, is a constitutional principle that ensures Australians can make informed choices as electors. It's not a personal right, but rather a restriction on governments' ability to interfere with the free communication of political

information. This freedom is derived from the Constitution's provisions for representative government, which require that members of Parliament be "directly chosen by the people".

It is important to note that the freedom of communication under the Constitution is not absolute. It can be limited by laws that are "reasonably appropriate and adapted to serve a legitimate end which is compatible with the maintenance of representative and responsible government"¹.

¹ *Lange v Australian Broadcasting Corporation* [1997] HCA 25, (1997) 189 CLR 520

Why is free speech important in NSW local government?

Local government in NSW is a democratic institution. A democratic system of local government allows local communities to shape decisions impacting on their future, (such as the delivery of infrastructure and services and the exercise of place-making functions), by electing community representatives to serve as members of the local council's governing body.

Councillors' ability to freely engage with their communities and to participate in public debate on issues impacting on the council and the community via the media and social media is key to their being able to exercise their functions as democratically elected representatives effectively.

Why is making public comment an important part of a councillor's role as an elected representative?

Key provisions in the Act reflect the important role councillors have as elected representatives and impact on the way in which they engage and communicate with their communities when undertaking that role.

Under section 223 of the Act, the council's governing body is responsible for providing civic leadership, regularly consulting with community groups and

stakeholders, and keeping them informed of the council's decisions and activities.

Mayors of councils have a separate and special role as the leader of the council. Among other things, the role of a mayor prescribed under section 226 of the Act includes:

- being the leader of the council and a leader in the local community,
- advancing community cohesion and promoting civic awareness,
- being the principal member and spokesperson of the governing body of the council, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities, and
- promoting partnerships between the council and key stakeholders.

Individual councillors also have an important role under section 232 of the Act in facilitating communication between the local community and the governing body.

Section 232 of the Act also places a responsibility on individual councillors to uphold and represent accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body. As noted in the Office of Local Government's (OLG) Councillor Handbook²², the requirement to uphold the policies and decisions of the council should be read in the context of the implied freedom of political communication under the Constitution. In practical terms, councillors remain free to speak about the policies and decisions of the council, but they must accept these decisions are lawfully made if passed by a majority and must not misrepresent them.

How does the Model Code of Conduct apply to public comment by councillors?

The ethical and behavioural standards all council officials are required to comply with when exercising their functions are prescribed under the Model Code of Conduct. These standards meet the expectations of free and fair debate.

There are key provisions of the Model Code of Conduct that can guide councillors when making public comment and to assist in understanding what comment is not appropriate.

Part 3 of the Model Code of Conduct prescribes "general conduct"

²² <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Councillor-Handbook-2024.pdf>

obligations councillors must comply with. Among other things, these provide that councillors must not conduct themselves in a way that:

- is likely to bring the council or other council officials into disrepute,
- is improper or unethical,
- causes, comprises or involves intimidation or verbal abuse,
- constitutes harassment or bullying behaviour (as defined by the code) or is unlawfully discriminatory.

Clause 7.6(h) of the Model Code of Conduct further provides that while councillors can critique and comment on the advice provided by staff, they must not make personal attacks on council staff in public forums including social media. Councillors also need to be aware of the duty they owe council staff and members of the community under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to take reasonable care that their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons.

Part 8 of the Model Code of Conduct prescribes councillors' obligations in

relation to the use and disclosure of council information. Among other things, councillors have obligations to:

- protect confidential and personal information,
- only release confidential or personal information if authorised to do so,
- not use confidential or personal information to cause harm to the council or anyone else, and
- not disclose confidential information discussed during a closed session of a council or committee meeting or any other confidential forum.

The provisions of Part 9 of the Model Code of Conduct are designed to ensure that complaints alleging breaches of the code of conduct are dealt with appropriately, fairly and confidentially and to prevent councils' codes of conduct from being weaponised. The relevant provisions prohibit making allegations about, or disclosing information about, suspected breaches of a council's code of conduct in public forums and disclosing information about code of conduct complaints that have been made.

What comment falls within the regulatory scope of a council's code of conduct?

A council's code of conduct only regulates conduct that is connected with a councillor's official role or the exercise of their official functions. It does not apply to conduct that occurs in a private capacity or that is not linked to a councillor's official role.

Any comment made by councillors in a private capacity does not fall within the regulatory scope of a council's code of conduct. However, a councillor cannot

simply avoid disciplinary action for a breach of the code of conduct by prefacing their comments with a disclaimer that what they are about to say is being said in a private capacity. If what a councillor says is clearly connected to their role as a councillor, then it falls within the regulatory scope of the code of conduct, even if it is made on a private social media platform or they do not identify themselves as a councillor when saying it.

How should councils apply their code of conduct to public comment by councillors?

The Model Code of Conduct was deliberately designed to align with the implied freedom of political communication. It should not be applied by councils in a way that impedes councillors' ability to engage with the community or to participate in robust

public debate on issues impacting on the council or the local community.

Councillors should refrain from engaging in personal attacks on their fellow councillors, council staff and others when commenting publicly.

However, it is entirely acceptable and appropriate for councillors to disagree with their council, other council officials and members of the community when making public comment.

Without the ability to disagree with others, councillors would not be able to participate in public debate or to engage in public advocacy on local issues, impeding their ability to exercise their functions as elected officials under the Act.

Disappointingly, in recent years, it is apparent councils' codes of conduct are increasingly being weaponised to discourage or punish councillors for making legitimate public comment.

A healthy democratic system of local government requires robust public debate on local issues. This leads to good decision making and ensures councils are accountable to their communities and responsive to its needs. Well-functioning councils should not fear healthy public debate. They should be able to explain and justify their decisions or, where they are not

able to do so, revisit their decisions to address legitimate community concern.

It is inevitable that councils, councillors, council staff and members of the community will disagree with, dispute or may even be offended by comments made by councillors when engaging with the community. Unless the comment involves a clear breach of the provisions of the code of conduct referred to above (e.g. because it is personally disparaging, abusive or intimidating), the code of conduct is not the appropriate mechanism for addressing that comment.

In a healthy, functioning democracy, the appropriate way to respond to public comment that others disagree with is to engage with that comment by publicly rebutting, challenging, or disputing it as part of legitimate public debate on the issue, not by making a code of conduct complaint about it.

Equally, councillors who initiate public debate by making provocative public statements cannot reasonably complain when others who dispute their comments publicly challenge them.

Can the expression of a councillor's views give rise to a conflict of interest?

Before being elected to council, many councillors will have been active community members and may have advocated on or campaigned on local issues or have been actively involved in community organisations that did so. This may be one of the reasons why they chose to stand for election to the local council.

The Model Code of Conduct expressly recognises this and has been designed to ensure that it does not operate in a way that prevents councillors from participating in decisions on matters simply because they have expressed a view on them or campaigned on them.

Clause 5.2 of the Model Code of Conduct provides that a councillor will have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter where a reasonable and informed person would perceive they could be influenced by a “private interest” when carrying out their official functions in relation to that matter.

Clause 5.3 further provides that the personal or political views of a council

official do not constitute a “private interest” for the purposes of clause 5.2.

What this means is that aside from any other interest in a matter, a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will not exist solely because a councillor has expressed a view on a particular issue or has publicly advocated or campaigned on it. Similarly, such a conflict of interest does not exist merely because a councillor is or was affiliated with a community organisation that has campaigned or advocated on a particular issue, unless the organisation - or any of its members the councillor has a close personal relationship with - has a separate material interest that would be affected by the council's decision.

However, councillors do need to be mindful that comments they make on matters before the council that could be seen to indicate they have formed an inflexible view on a matter, have the potential to make the council's decision on that matter susceptible to legal

challenge on grounds of bias because of prejudgement.

The leading legal authority on this is the NSW Court of Appeal case of *McGovern v Ku-ring-gai Council* (2008) (McGovern).³

Bias by pre-judgment will arise where the perception is that the position of the decision-maker is said to be “incapable of change”. This form of apprehended bias was central to the facts in *McGovern*, which considered the effect that the strongly expressed views of

two councillors had on the final decision reached by the governing body of the council.

What this means in practice is that councillors are entitled to express a view on matters before the council but not in such a way that would suggest in the mind of a fair-minded observer that they have pre-determined the matter and could not be persuaded to alter their position by the debate on that matter.

What protections do councillors have in relation to defamation?

As with other members of the community, councils and councillors can be sued in defamation for comments made in public forums such as council and committee meetings, in the media and on social media.

Unlike members of Parliament, councillors do not enjoy absolute privilege in relation to what they say at council and committee meetings. Absolute privilege provides complete protection for statements made during

parliamentary proceedings meaning that defamation proceedings cannot be brought with respect to such statements.

By contrast, councillors can be sued in defamation in relation to their statements at meetings. They are partially protected from defamation by the defence of ‘qualified privilege’, but only to enable them to speak freely and publicly in undertaking their duties at meetings. To be protected, any

³ *McGovern v Ku-ring-gai Council* (2008) 42 NSWLR 504

comment or statement a councillor makes at a meeting must be relevant to the council business, made in good faith and without malice.

As with statements made at meetings, councillors can also be sued in defamation for other public statements they make, including on social media. In the case of social media, councillors also need to be mindful that they may be considered a 'publisher' of any content uploaded onto a social media platform they administer and can be sued in defamation for that content. This includes content that is uploaded by a third party on the social media platform and/or that appears on their social media platform because the councillor has 'liked', 'shared', or 'retweeted' the content.

Section 731 of the Act provides councillors with a level of protection from civil liability action, including in relation to defamation, for undertaking council-related and council-endorsed activities as a councillor. Protection from civil liability is only provided where a councillor's actions are undertaken in

good faith and for purposes related to council activities.

This protection against civil liability is given effect under council's councillor expenses and facilities policies adopted under section 252 of the Act which allow councils to meet councillors' legal costs in defending proceedings in certain circumstances.

Consistent with section 731 of the Act, the OLG's 'Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW'⁴ state that councils' councillor expenses and facilities policies should only allow reasonable legal expenses to be reimbursed to a councillor for defending an action in defamation, provided the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the councillor. It is not permissible for councils to meet the cost of defamation proceedings initiated by councillors or for seeking advice in respect of possible defamation, or in seeking a non-litigious remedy for possible defamation.

⁴ <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines-for-the-payment-of-expenses->

[and-the-provision-of-facilities-for-Mayors-and-Councillors-in-NSW-2009.pdf](#)

How is public comment regulated in council and committee meetings?

The meeting rules prescribed under councils' codes of meeting practice place some constraints on what can be said at council and committee meetings.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation) and the Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW identify certain types of behaviour at meetings as constituting an 'act of disorder'. A councillor commits an act of disorder at a council or committee meeting if they

- contravene the Act, the Regulation or the council's code of meeting practice, or
- assault or threaten to assault another councillor or person present at the meeting, or
- move or attempt to move a motion or an amendment that has an unlawful purpose or that deals with a matter that is outside the jurisdiction of the council or the committee, or address or attempt to address the council or the committee on such a motion, amendment or matter, or
- insult, make unfavourable personal remarks about, or impute improper motives to any other council official, or allege a

breach of the council's code of conduct, or

- say or do anything that is inconsistent with maintaining order at the meeting or is likely to bring the council or the committee into disrepute.

Where a councillor commits an act of disorder at a meeting, the chairperson may require the councillor to apologise without reservation for the act of disorder, withdraw an offending motion or amendment that constitutes the act of disorder or retract and apologise without reservation for a statement that constitutes the act of disorder. Where the councillor fails to comply, they may be expelled from the meeting.

The chairperson can require a councillor to address an act of disorder committed at an earlier meeting where the councillor failed to comply with the chairperson's direction at that meeting and can be expelled from meetings until such time that they comply.

Under reforms being considered by the Government, in the future, councillors may be also required to forego their monthly fee in any month in which they

have been expelled from a meeting for disorder.

Acts of disorder can also potentially constitute a breach of the code of conduct. While there are provisions in the Model Code of Conduct that relate specifically to behaviour at meetings, it is preferred that bad behaviour at meetings, is dealt with at the meeting at which it occurs by the chairperson under the disorder provisions, and that acts of disorder are not subsequently relitigated under the council's code of conduct unless the conduct is particularly egregious.

There are several reasons for this. The disorder provisions are a simpler, more efficient and cost-effective way of dealing with bad behaviour at meetings. It allows bad behaviour to be dealt with at the time it occurs and in the presence

of the public thereby ensuring the offending councillor is made publicly accountable for their behaviour.

Relitigating incidents that were addressed as disorder at the meeting it occurred through the code of conduct process, is not only a waste of council time and resources, but it also tends to suggest a misuse of the code of conduct process.

There are of course exceptions to this. Many of the decisions made by the OLG and the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal to take disciplinary action against councillors for serious misconduct have concerned conduct occurring at meetings and there will be occasions where the conduct in question is so egregious that stronger action than is available under the disorder provisions may be warranted.

What administrative arrangements apply to public comment by councillors?

Many councils have adopted media and social media policies that put in place administrative arrangements for engagement with the media and

managing councils' and councillors' online presence.

While its appropriate for councils to put in place appropriate administrative

controls for engagement with the media and social media use to manage legal and other risk and ensure the council is complying with its statutory obligations, these should not operate in a way that constrains councillors' ability to freely engage with the community via the media or online.

Council media and social media policies should not require councillors to seek the permission of staff before commenting in the media or online. However, councillors are encouraged to

The key principles that should inform councillors' engagement with the media or online are as follows:

- As a member of the governing body and as a representative of the community, councillors are free to express their personal views.
- However, when doing so, councillors must not purport to speak for the council unless authorised to do so and must make it clear that they are expressing their personal views as an individual councillor and that they are not speaking for the

check their understanding of the facts of a matter with staff before commenting on an issue in the media or online to ensure they have correct and current information.

To ensure that council media and social media policies are fit for purpose and do not unduly constrain councillors' ability to freely engage with the community, OLG has issued a best practice Model Media Policy and Model Social Media Policy which are available on its website⁵.

council (unless authorised to do so).

- Councillors must uphold and accurately represent the policies and decisions of the council (see section 232(1)(f) of the Act).
- Councillors must not disclose council information unless authorised to do so.
- In the interests of promoting a positive, safe and harmonious organisational culture, councillors should endeavour to resolve personal differences privately and must not prosecute them publicly through the media or online.

⁵ <https://olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/governance/best-practice-governance-policies-consultations/>

Appendix 1: Key takeaways



Legal foundation

- The Australian Constitution implies a freedom of political communication, essential for informed democratic participation.
- This is not a personal right, but a limit on government power to restrict political discourse.
- Restrictions are only valid if they are appropriate and serve a legitimate democratic end.



Importance in local government

- Local democracy empowers communities to influence decisions about their future by electing representatives to local council.
- Public comment, including through media and social media, is central to fulfilling a councillor's role under the *Local Government Act 1993*.



Public comment and the Model Code of Conduct

- The Model Code of Conduct is aligned with the implied freedom of political communication.
- While councillors must comply with the code of conduct when commenting publicly, councils should not apply their

code of conduct in a way that impedes councillors' ability to engage with the community or to participate in robust public debate.

- Councillors should refrain from engaging in personal attacks on others when commenting publicly. However, it is acceptable and appropriate for them to disagree with their council, other council officials and members of the community when making public comment.
- The Model Code of Conduct only applies to behaviour related to a councillor's official role, not their private actions.



Conflict of interest

- Expressing a view or being affiliated with an advocacy group does not automatically create a conflict of interest.
- A conflict only arises if there is a material interest involved or a close personal relationship with someone who has one.
- Councillors must avoid prejudging matters, which could lead to legal challenges for bias.



Defamation and legal protections

- Councillors can be sued for defamation, including for social media posts.

- Qualified privilege applies to comments made in good faith when exercising council duties.

- Legal costs may be covered by council only if the councillor acts in good faith and wins the case.



Council and committee meetings

- The prescribed meeting rules prohibit acts of disorder at meetings.

- Councillors may be expelled for failure to comply with rulings by the chair in relation to acts of disorder.

- Preferably, acts of disorder should be addressed at the meeting, not through the code of conduct process—unless egregious.



Media and social media policies

- Council media and social media policies should not operate in a way that constrains councillors' ability to freely engage with the community via the media or online.

- Councillors should be free to express personal views but must:

- Not claim to speak for the council unless authorised.

- Accurately represent council decisions.

- Avoid disclosing confidential information.

- Councils should not require councillors to seek staff approval before commenting publicly.

DRAFT SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

QUALITY CONTROL			
EDRMS REFERENCES	D17/9747		
RESPONSIBLE POSITION	Manager Communications and Marketing		
APPROVED BY	Council Resolution		
REVIEW DATE	July 2028	REVISION NUMBER	3
EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTION	MINUTE NUMBER	
28 February 2018	Public Exhibition	45745	
26 April 2018	Adoption	45800	
30 March 2022	Public Exhibition	46790	
25 May 2022	Adoption	46857	

1. INTRODUCTION

Australians are among the most active users of social media globally, and local government is increasingly expected to operate with greater transparency, responsiveness, and community engagement. For Council, social media presents a powerful opportunity to inform, connect, and collaborate with the community in real time.

This policy recognises the important role that social media plays in modern governance and outlines how Council will use these platforms to:

- ▶ Increase accessibility to services, information, and decision-making
- ▶ Strengthen engagement with residents, stakeholders, and partners
- ▶ Foster transparency, trust, and timely communication
- ▶ Support emergency and crisis communication efforts
- ▶ Reach targeted audiences with relevant content
- ▶ Gather community insights and feedback to inform planning and service delivery

Through responsible, inclusive, and strategic use of social media, Council aims to create stronger relationships and more responsive local government.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

To provide a policy position in respect to the expectations of Council's representatives when engaging in social media, in both an official and personal capacity.

3. POLICY SCOPE

This Policy applies to Councillors, Council officers, volunteers, consultants and contractors.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The following are the guiding principles and standards that Council must adhere to for the implementation of this policy.

4.1 Authorised user protocols

Authorised users using social media must:

- Only disclose publicly available information, or information intended to be made publicly available at the time of disclosure.
- Publish copyright or trademark material only with permission from the copyright/trademark holder.
- Ensure that information posted on accounts they oversee is not illegal, libellous, discriminatory, defamatory, abusive or obscene.
- Maintain compliance with the Model Code of Conduct, and all other relevant Council policies when publishing content.
- Ensure parental consent has been obtained before posting an image of a minor, except where the minor's identity cannot be determined by a viewer.
- Use the content flowchart (attached) to determine if the content should be posted.
- Respond to genuine enquires within the timeframe outlined in the Customer Service Strategy where possible.
- Only engage in public conversation where relevant and appropriate.
- Not release CCTV footage on Council's social media without authorisation from the General Manager.
- Not communicate on behalf of the Mayor or Councillors without authorisation from the General Manager.

4.2 Content Monitoring

The Manager Communications and Marketing and the Digital and Marketing Officer will monitor content posted on official social media channels to ensure adherence to the social media policy and associated documents.

4.3 Content Moderation

Authorised Users will moderate user content. Any content that the Authorised User believes breaches this policy or associated documents is to be reported to the Digital and Marketing Officer or the Manager Communications and Marketing. Offending content will be documented before being removed.

4.4 Personal Accounts

Council representatives must not use personal accounts in a manner that is likely to breach Council's Code of Conduct.

4.5 Live Streaming

Council may utilise live streaming at Council meetings and events. During meetings, a disclaimer will be published in the business papers informing attendees they are consenting to their image, voice and comments being recorded and published.

The Mayor and/or General Manager have the authority to pause or terminate the stream if comments or debate are considered defamatory or otherwise inappropriate for publishing.

Attendees will also be advised that they may be subject to legal action if they engage in unlawful behavior or commentary.

Signage will be posted at events to inform the public when live streaming is in process. A print friendly version of appropriate signage can be found at the end of this document.

4.6 Non-compliance

Non-compliance with the Social Media Policy by employees will be managed in line with Council's Disciplinary Policy.

Non-compliance by all other Council Representatives will be managed through the relevant Code of Conduct disciplinary systems.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

The following Council officers are responsible for the implementation and the adherence to this policy.

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The following Council officers are responsible for the implementation and the adherence to this policy:

- General Manager
- Manager Communications and Marketing
- Digital and Marketing Officer
- Authorised Users

5.2 Communication

This Policy will be communicated to staff in accordance with Council's Policy, Procedure and Process Framework.

Following approval by the General Manager, the Policy will be made available on Council's intranet.

5.3 Associated Documents

The following documentation is to be read in conjunction with this policy.

- BHCC Model Code of Conduct
- BHCC Communication and Engagement Strategy
- BHCC Disciplinary Policy
- BHCC Email, Internet and Computer Systems Usage Policy
- BHCC Media Relations Policy
- BHCC Social Media Guidelines
- BHCC Customer Service Strategy
- BHCC Social Media Lighthouse Protocol
- BHCC Social Networking and Online Media Policy
- BHCC Records Management Policy
- BHCC Information and Communications Technology Policy

6. REVIEW

Review of this policy will incorporate relevant legislation, documentation released from relevant state agencies and best practice guidelines.

The standard review period will be within each term of Council following the Local Government Elections, or as required to ensure that it meets legislation requirements and the needs of the community and Council. The responsible Council officer will be notified of the review requirements three (3) months prior to the expiry of this policy.

The Manager Communications and Marketing is responsible for the review of this policy.

7. LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

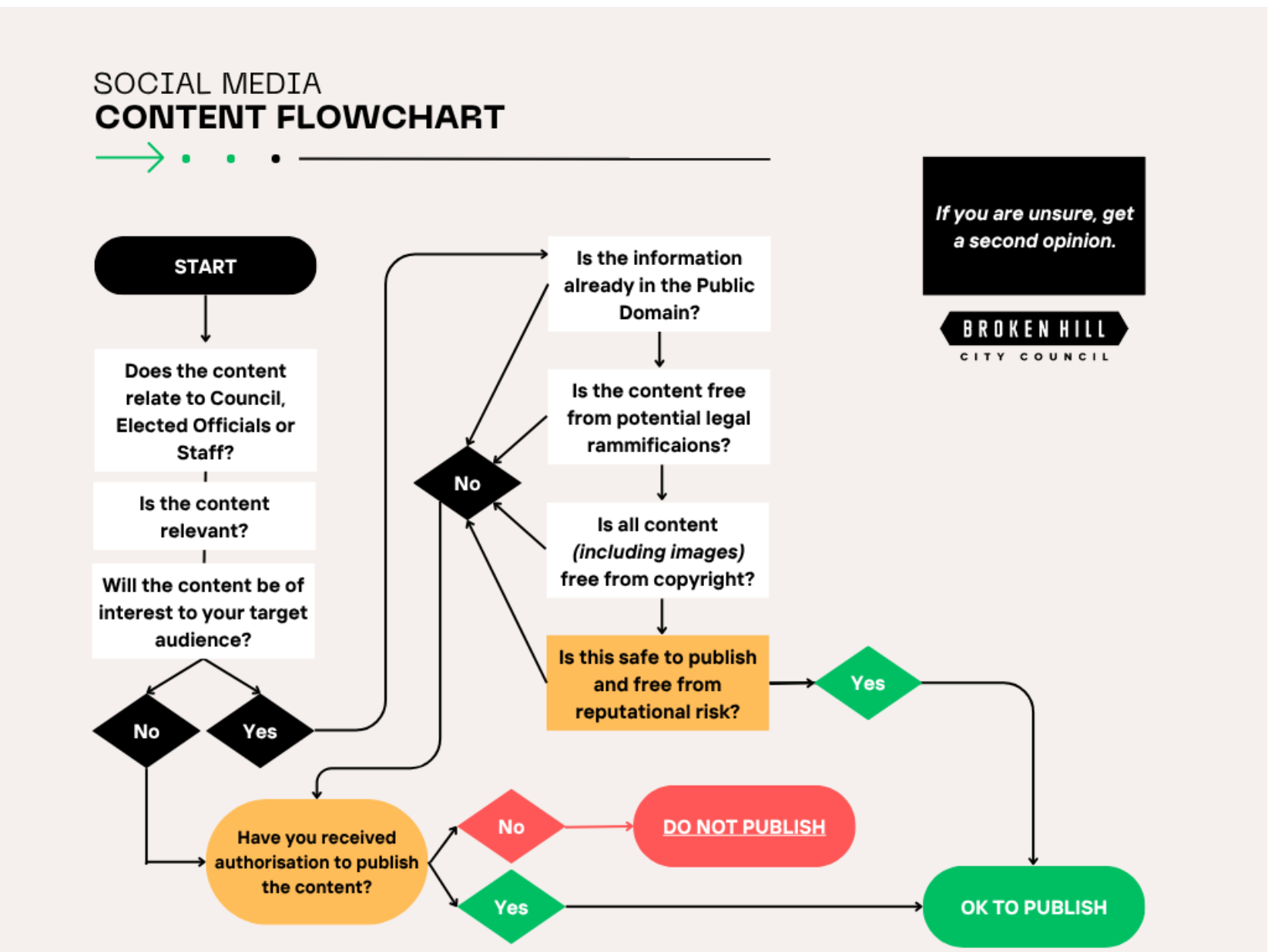
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1977
- Archives Act 1983
- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- Copyright Act 1968
- Copyright Amendment Act 2006
- Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Act 2017
- Defamation Act 2005
- Free Speech in Local Government in NSW Guideline.
- Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
- Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Act 2015
- Local Government Act 2020
- Privacy Act 1988
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
- State Records Act 1998
- Trademarks Act 1995

Council employees shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with proper execution and management of Council's Social Media Policy.

Council's Code of Conduct provides guidance for recognising and disclosing any conflicts of interest.

8. DEFINITIONS

Authorised User	is a staff member authorised by the General Manager, Manager Communications and Marketing or the Digital and Marketing Officer to manage, maintain, publish to and operate a Council social media channel
BHCC	is the acronym for Broken Hill City Council
CCTV	is Closed Circuit Television
Content	is any information, opinion, text, video, audio, image, link, or document published to social media
Council Representative	is any employee, elected member, volunteer, consultant or contractor
Minor	is a person under the age of 18 years
Moderate	is the process of assessing content (normally user generated) against predetermined standards and removing content which does not meet those standards
Platform	is a specific Social Media network, website, application or service (for example Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
Post/Publish/Comment	are all terms meaning to make information, opinion or content available for others to view on a social media platform
Public Domain	means available to the public
Social Media	is the term for websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking
User	is any content consumer or creator other than the account owner, operator, publisher or author





Filming in progress.

**This event may be filmed,
photographed, recorded
and broadcast live for
Media and Social Media
Purposes.**

General Manager

DRAFT MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY

QUALITY CONTROL			
TRIM REFERENCES			
RESPONSIBLE POSITION	General Manager		
APPROVED BY			
REVIEW DATE	June 2025	REVISION NUMBER	5
EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTION	MINUTE NUMBER	
29/11/2000	Adoption	38961	
26/11/2003	Adoption	40205	
28/11/2012	Adoption	43236	
29/03/2017	Public Exhibition	45503	
31/05/2017	Adoption	45544	
30/03/2022	Public Exhibition	46790	
25/05/2022	Adoption	46857	

1. INTRODUCTION

This Policy provides a framework for Councillors and staff to use to promote coverage of Council affairs that is consistent, fair, accurate and reliable.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The Media Relations Policy has the following objectives:

- To ensure consistency by Councillors and staff in dealing with the media.
- To promote open exchange of information between Council and the media.
- To limit the publication of inaccurate information which could cause conflict or embarrassment for employees and Councillors.
- To limit the possibility of miscommunication and reputation risk.
- To promote positive media relationships.
- To clearly indicate Council's authorised spokespersons.
- To ensure appropriate authorisation and responsibility for information provided.

3. POLICY SCOPE

This Policy applies to Councillors, Council officers, volunteers, consultants, and contractors.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The following guidelines should be observed at all times when interacting with media:

4.1 Staff and Media

- All media enquiries should be directed to the Manager Communications and Marketing.
- Council staff must not speak to the media about matters related to Council unless authorised by the General Manager or Manager Communications and Marketing to do so.
- Council employees may not provide any comment or information to the media with the intention of contesting or undermining Council policy or casting Council, Councillors or Council staff in a negative light.
- Council employees may speak to the media or write Letters to the Editor as private individuals providing they do not comment on Council business or policy, and do not identify themselves as Council employees.
- From time to time it may be necessary for a Letter to the Editor or similar public statement to be written as an official Council communication to inform the community about a particular matter. Such statements must be issued through the Manager Communications and Marketing, subject to the approval of the Mayor and/or General Manager.
- In the event of an industrial dispute (or an incident likely to lead to an industrial dispute), statements on behalf of Council employees should be issued via the relevant union.
- When appropriate, a member of Council staff may be nominated by the General Manager to act as the sole spokesperson on a specific issue, event or initiative within their operational portfolio, to ensure consistency of message.
- Council staff should treat all media outlets equally and avoid giving one outlet preferential treatment. Media releases should be distributed to all media outlets at the same time.
- Council staff should never provide information "off the record" during media interviews. Anything said to a media representative can be used in a news story.
- Contractors, volunteers or service providers employed by Council must refer all media enquiries relating to Council to the Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator.

4.2 Councillors and Media

- Councillors have been elected to represent the community and are free to speak to the media as individuals.
- Councillors may speak on behalf of the Council only when delegated by the Mayor. In such an instance they must completely support Council's position on the issue at hand.

- Councillors may speak with media on behalf of Committees on which they are Chair or Acting Chair on matters that directly relate to their Committee.
- Councillors are welcome to contact the Manager Communications and Marketing or General Manager before speaking to media to ensure they can provide the most up to date information from Council on the matter at hand.

4.3 Media Releases

- Staff are encouraged prepare draft media releases, but they must be forwarded to the Manager Communications and Marketing for editing, formatting and distribution to ensure consistency in communication with media.
- Media releases should never be issued without the Manager Communications and Marketing's knowledge, and the prior approval of the General Manager, the Mayor, or a delegated authority.
- A media release should never be issued quoting a Councillor or member of staff without that person's permission.
- Staff with specialist knowledge may be quoted in media releases with the permission of the relevant delegated authority.
- Media releases must be approved by the General Manager or the delegated authority before posting on the Council website or social media.

4.4 Media Alerts

Any Councillor or staff member who is aware of a Council matter that may be of interest to the media should immediately contact the General Manager's Office.

4.5 Complaints about the Media

Staff complaints about incorrect or unfair media content regarding Council matters should be forwarded to the Manager Communications and Marketing. Official complaints about media, or requests for a correction can only be made with the authorisation of the General Manager.

4.6 Emergency Communication

Council recognises that ill-considered and uninformed comments can cause dire consequences and have legal implications in the event of an emergency, disaster, crisis or other sensitive issue.

In the event of an emergency in the Council area involving serious injury to and/or death of residents, the Mayor/Councillors or Council employees, or involving significant damage to Council assets or private property, or involving significant law enforcement activity on Council property, the following procedures will apply:

- The General Manager's Office must be notified immediately of details of the incident or activity.
- Details of the incident or activity must not be discussed with any media representatives unless approved in advance by the General Manager.
- Requests by the media to film, photograph or interview Council employees or Council assets involved in the emergency situation must be referred to the General Manager's Office.

4.7 Crisis Management

In communications planning, a crisis is regarded as an emergency due to an actual or imminent occurrence (such as fire, flood, storm, earthquake, explosion, terrorist act, accident, epidemic or war like action) which creates an emergency that requires a significant and coordinated response.

A crisis is defined as a situation that:

(a) endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons or animals in the Local Government Area and;

(b) destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, any property in the Local Government Area.

If the District Emergency Management Committee enacts the District DISPLAN, requests must be referred to the General Manager's Office. The General Manager will be guided by the advice of the District and Local Emergency Operations Controllers.

4.8 Non-compliance with this Policy

Failure to comply with this policy may be dealt with in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. Roles and Responsibilities

The following Council officers are responsible for the implementation and the adherence to this policy:

Authorised Officer	Roles and Responsibilities
Mayor	Council's official spokesperson on all strategic and policy matters. Authorised signatory for Letters to the Editor on policy issues.
Deputy Mayor	To act as the Mayor's delegated spokesperson if the Mayor is unavailable.
General Manager	Council's official spokesperson on all policy, operations, strategic, and administrative issues. Authorised signatory for Letters to the Editor on these issues.
Councillors	Provide the media with comment, identifying that it is provided as their own personal opinion, and not the official position of Council.
Department Managers	May make statements on behalf of Council as a designated spokesperson if authorised by the General Manager.
Manager Communications and marketing	Responsible for coordinating responses, and providing information and press releases to the media.
General Staff	No media role unless authorised by the General Manager or Manager Communications and Marketing to act as a designated spokesperson.

- The Mayor and the General Manager are Council's official spokespersons on all matters.
- The General Manager or Manager Communications and Marketing may nominate other staff to act as spokespersons for the Council.
- The Mayor may delegate another Councillor to speak on a particular matter.
- The Manager Communications and Marketing is responsible for co-ordinating media liaison and issuing press releases, and is delegated to respond to media enquiries on behalf of Council.
- No staff member, other than those authorised by the General Manager, are to handle an enquiry from the media without prior approval.
- Information given to the media of a controversial, legal, or ethical nature requires the approval of the General Manager and/or the Mayor.
- All staff, Councillors, volunteers and contractors must abide by Council's Code Of Conduct when speaking with the media.

5.2. Communication

This Policy will be communicated to the community and staff in accordance with Council's Policy, Procedure and Process Framework and Council's Business Paper process. Following adoption by Council the Policy will be made available on Council's website, and also directly supplied to local media outlets.

6. REVIEW

Review of this policy will incorporate relevant legislation, documentation released from relevant state agencies and best practice guidelines.

The standard review period will be within each term of Council following the Local Government Elections, or as required to ensure that it meets legislation requirements and the needs of the community and Council. The responsible Council officer will be notified of the review requirements three (3) months prior to the expiry of this policy.

The Communication and Community Engagement Coordinator is responsible for the review of this policy.

7. LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
- 2015 Model Code of Conduct for Councils in NSW
- Free Speech Guidelines 2025

Council employees shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with proper execution and management of Council's Media Relations Policy. Council's Code of Conduct provides guidance for recognising and disclosing any conflicts of interest.

8. DEFINITIONS

"DISPLAN" – The Broken Hill City Council Local Disaster Plan

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

July 11, 2025

ITEM 3**BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 134/25****SUBJECT:** **INVESTMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2025****D25/31122****Recommendation**

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 134/25 dated July 11, 2025, be received.

Executive Summary:

The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Part 9, Division 5, Clause 212), effective from 1 September 2021, requires the Responsible Accounting Officer of a Council to provide a written report setting out details of all monies that have been invested under Section 625 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as per the Minister's Amended Investment Order gazetted 11 March 2011. The Responsible Accounting Officer must also include in the report, a certificate as to whether the investment has been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and the Council's Investment Policy.

As at 30 June 2025, Council's Investment Portfolio had a current market valuation of \$21,566,839 or principal value (face value) of \$21,515,428 and was compliant with policy and legislative requirements as per the below table.

Report:

Council's investments as at 30 June 2025 are detailed in Attachment 1.

Portfolio Summary		
Portfolio Performance vs. RBA Cash Rate	✓	Compliant with policy
Investment Policy Compliance		
Legislative Requirements	✓	Compliant with policy
Portfolio Credit Rating Limit	✓	Compliant with policy
Institutional Exposure Limits	✓	Compliant with policy
Term to Maturity Limits	✓	Compliant with policy

Market Review**Global issues:**

- Globally, oil and financial markets were on edge last month following the US attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities, but concern eased after Iran's retaliation to the strikes was seen as symbolic and aimed at de-escalation.
- A subsequent ceasefire between Israel and Iran, albeit tenuous, has helped oil prices to fall below levels seen before their "12 day" war started, and shares have rebounded.
- In the US, latest economic data was weak with retail sales, industrial production and housing starts all falling last month. Housing starts are soft with a home builders' conditions index pointing to weakness ahead. A major manufacturing conditions survey

and consumer confidence index also weakened with ongoing concern regarding tariff related price pressures.

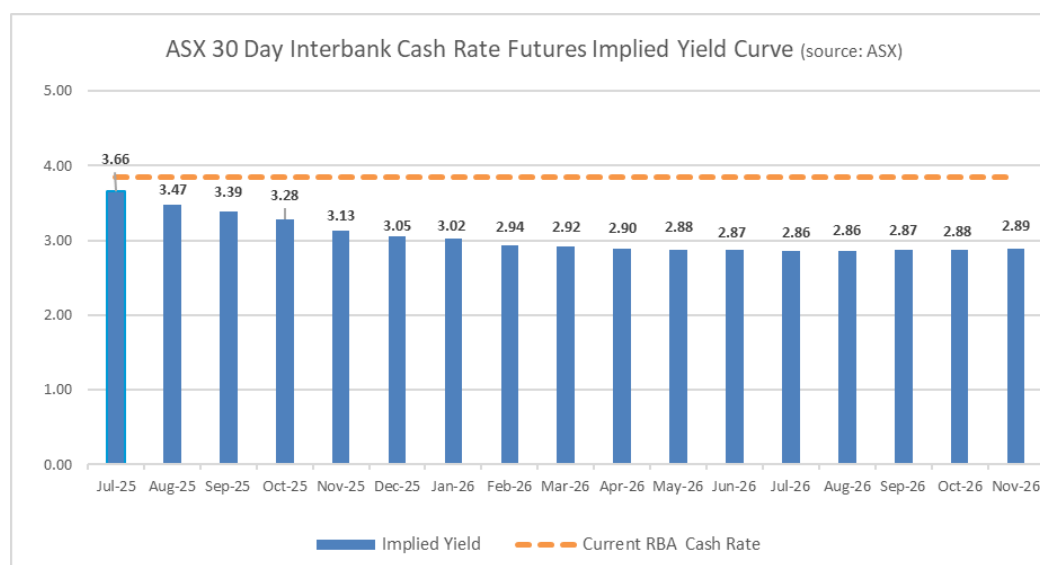
- In China, latest economic activity data was mixed with stronger retail sales and lower unemployment but softer industrial production and investment. Property sales were also weaker, and the pace of falling home prices accelerated again. Further government stimulus is expected.
- Global shares ended the month mostly higher as Israeli/Iranian hostilities settled down and optimism grew for trade deals and interest rate cuts. US shares gained 5% with China (+3.4%) and Japan (+2%) following behind. European markets slipped backward by -1.4%. Australian shares recorded a monthly gain of 1.4%, led by the Energy sector (+9%), to end the 2024/25 FY up over 13%.

Domestic issues

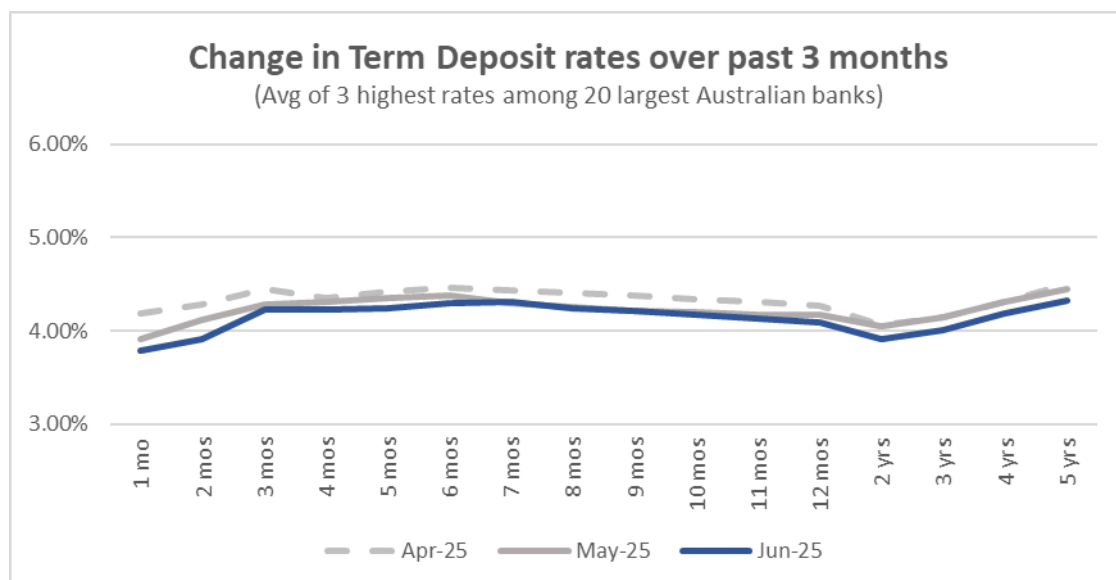
- March quarter GDP data was lower than expected, up only 0.2% for the first 3 months of 2025, which was half of the consensus forecasts of +0.4%, and only 1.3% for the year. The poor result was largely driven by ongoing impacts of high interest rates on the economy. Tariff related constraints have yet to be reflected in the data.
- Latest monthly Australian inflation data eased further than expected, with headline CPI at 2.1%, down from 2.4% last month, and trimmed mean falling to 2.4% from 2.8%, the lowest rate since November 2021.
- Approximately 50% of the individual CPI items recorded inflation below 2% indicating a broad based nature of the fall in Australian inflation and data shows that domestic inflation is in line with or below that in other comparable countries.
- Jobs data remained strong. Employment fell by 2500 but full-time jobs grew by 38,700 and hours worked rose. Unemployment remained unchanged at 4.1%.
- Despite the latest employment data, various leading jobs growth indicators are pointing to slower jobs growth ahead. With inflation cooling, the weak GDP data results, and downside risks related to the impact of US tariffs, many economists are expecting another 3-4 rate cuts of 25bps before the end of the cycle.

Interest rates

- The official cash rate ended the 2024/25 FY at 3.85%pa. There was no RBA Monetary Policy meeting in June.
- The market is currently pricing in 75 basis points worth of interest rate cuts by the end of 2025 and another 25 basis point cut by mid-2026:



- Term deposit rates across the 1 month to 5 year range fell during the month with the biggest drop in the 1-5 month areas given expectations of another rate cut by the RBA coming soon. Rates in the 1 to 5 year range also slipped lower as the market readjusts its long term outlook for global interest rates:



Investment Portfolio Commentary

Council's investment portfolio returned 6.81%pa (0.54% actual) for the month on a marked-to-market basis versus the bank bill index benchmark's 3.94%pa (0.32% actual) return. Over the past 12 months, the investment portfolio has returned 5.17% versus the bank bill index benchmark's 4.39%.

The NSW TCorp Medium Term Growth Fund recorded another strong result during the month with a gain of 1.23% (actual). The return was reflective of the gains in the domestic and international share markets as fears of an escalating Iranian crises lessened, oil prices dropped, and optimism grew for trade deals and interest rate cuts.

During June, Council had a \$1m NAB term deposit mature which had an original maturity of 3 months and had been yielding 4.75%pa. No new investments were made during the month.

Council has a well-diversified portfolio invested predominantly among a range of term deposits from highly rated Australian banks. Council also has exposure to a wide range of asset classes, including senior ranked fixed and floating rate notes, listed property and international and domestic shares via the NSW TCorp Medium Term Growth Fund. It is expected that Council's portfolio will achieve above benchmark returns over the medium/long term with prudent investment selection.

Council's Portfolio by Source of Funds – June 2025

As at 30 June 2025, Council's Investment Portfolio had a current market valuation of \$21,566,839 or principal value (face value) of \$21,515,428 and was compliant with policy and legislative requirements as per the table above.

	Source of Funds	Principal Amount
GENERAL Fund	Operating Capital & Internal Restrictions	\$6,605,972
	Royalties Reserve	\$603,169
	Domestic Waste Management Reserve	\$5,014,772
	Grants	\$9,291,515
	TOTAL PORTFOLIO	\$21,515,428

Certificate by Responsible Accounting Officer

All investments have been placed in accordance with Council's Investment Policy, Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended), the Revised Ministerial Investment Order gazetted 11 February 2011, Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005*- and Third-Party Investment requirements of the then Department Local Government Circular 06-70. Council continues to obtain independent financial advice on its investment portfolio in accordance with the then Department of Local Government Circular of 16 September 2008.

Community Engagement:

Nil

Strategic Direction:

Key Direction 4: Our Leadership
 Objective 4.1: Openness and Transparency in Decision Making
 Action 4.1.5 Support the organisation to operate within its legal framework

Relevant Legislation:

This report is provided for Council's consideration in compliance with the requirements of *Part 9, Division 5, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

Financial Implications:

The recommendation has no financial impact.

Attachments

1. [June 2025 Investment Report](#)

SIMON BROWN
DIRECTOR FINANCE AND COMMERCIAL

JAY NANKIVELL
GENERAL MANAGER

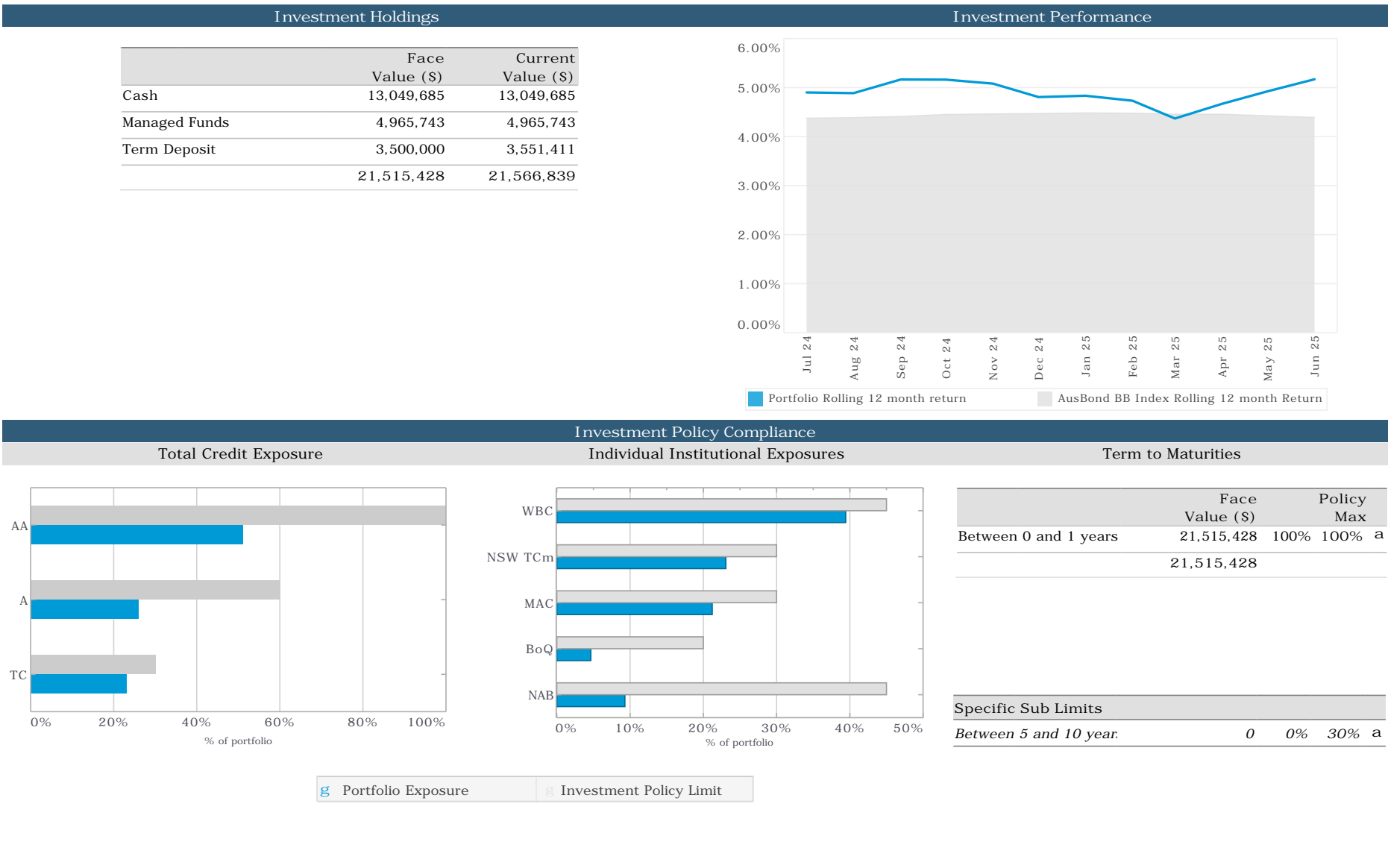


Investment Summary Report
June 2025



BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

Executive Summary - June 2025



BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL
Investment Holdings Report - June 2025

Cash Accounts

Face Value (\$)	Current Rate (%)	Institution	Credit Rating	Current Value (\$)	Deal No.	Reference
2,241,615.03	0.0000%	Westpac Group	AA-	2,241,615.03	473409	Cheque
4,564,814.72	3.9950%	Macquarie Bank	A+	4,564,814.72	540354	Accelerator
6,243,255.72	4.6000%	Westpac Group	AA-	6,243,255.72	535442	90d Notice
13,049,685.47	3.5982%			13,049,685.47		

Managed Funds

Face Value (\$)	Monthly Return (%)	Institution	Credit Rating	Funds Name	Current Value (\$)	Deal No.	Reference
4,965,742.58	1.2262%	NSW T-Corp (MT)	TCm	Medium Term Growth Fund	4,965,742.58	536441	
4,965,742.58	1.2262%				4,965,742.58		

Term Deposits

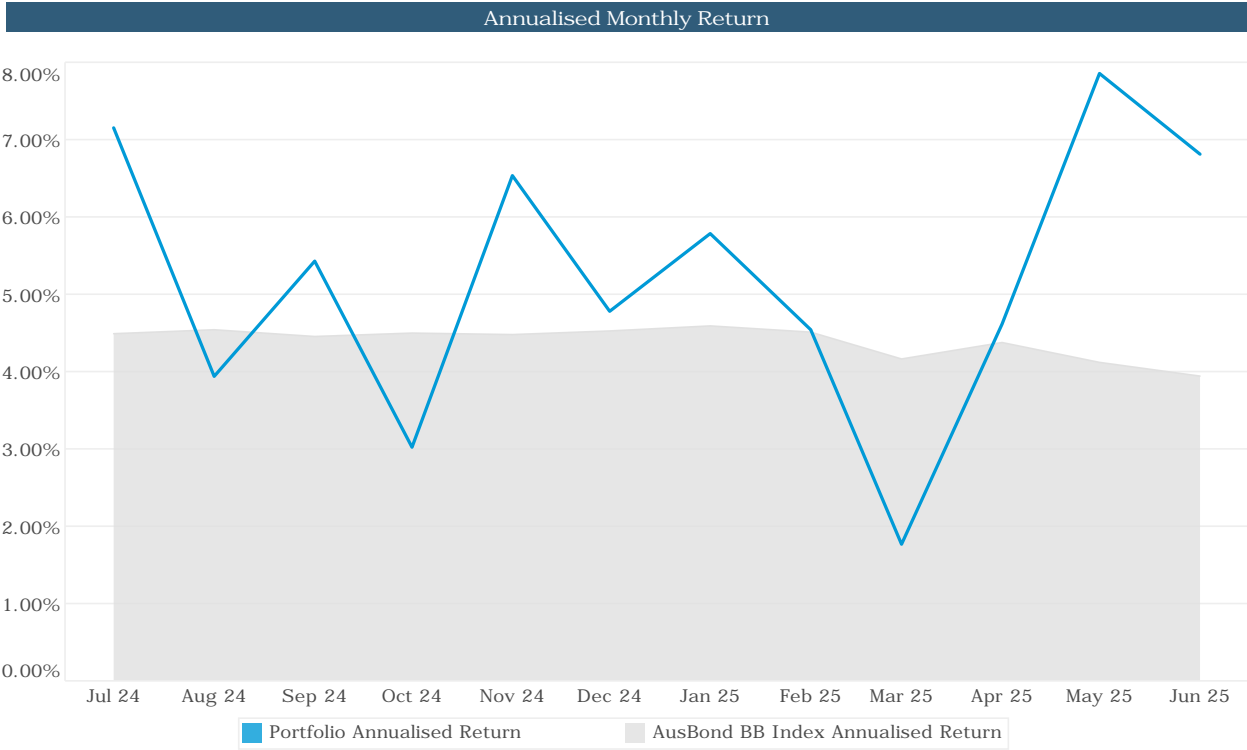
Maturity Date	Face Value (\$)	Current Rate (%)	Institution	Credit Rating	Purchase Price (\$)	Purchase Date	Current Value (\$)	Deal No.	Accrued Interest (\$)	Next Interest Date	Reference
10-Sep-25	1,000,000.00	4.7500%	Bank of Queensland	A-	1,000,000.00	5-Mar-25	1,015,356.16	545848	15,356.16	At Maturity	
23-Sep-25	1,000,000.00	4.7500%	National Australia Bank	AA-	1,000,000.00	11-Mar-25	1,014,575.34	545898	14,575.34	At Maturity	
7-Oct-25	1,000,000.00	4.7500%	National Australia Bank	AA-	1,000,000.00	11-Mar-25	1,014,575.34	545899	14,575.34	At Maturity	
21-Oct-25	500,000.00	4.8000%	Suncorp Bank	AA-	500,000.00	18-Mar-25	506,904.11	545933	6,904.11	At Maturity	
	3,500,000.00	4.7571%			3,500,000.00		3,551,410.95		51,410.95		

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL
Accrued Interest Report - June 2025



Investment	Deal No.	Comments	Face Value (\$)	Settlement Date	Maturity Date	Interest Received (\$)	Days	Interest Accrued (\$)	Yield (% pa)
<u>Cash</u>									
Macquarie Bank	540354					12,212.46	0	12,212.46	4.00%
Westpac Group	473409					0.00	0	0.00	0.00%
Westpac Group	535442					15,377.22	0	15,377.22	4.60%
						27,589.68		27,589.68	3.35%
<u>Managed Funds</u>									
NSW T-Corp Medium Term Growth Fund	536441				4-Jun-26	0.00	0	60,151.51	15.98%
						0.00		60,151.51	15.98%
<u>Term Deposits</u>									
National Australia Bank	545824		1,000,000.00	25-Feb-25	2-Jun-25	12,623.29	1	130.14	4.75%
Bank of Queensland	545848		1,000,000.00	5-Mar-25	10-Sep-25	0.00	30	3,904.11	4.75%
National Australia Bank	545898		1,000,000.00	11-Mar-25	23-Sep-25	0.00	30	3,904.11	4.75%
National Australia Bank	545899		1,000,000.00	11-Mar-25	7-Oct-25	0.00	30	3,904.11	4.75%
Suncorp Bank	545933		500,000.00	18-Mar-25	21-Oct-25	0.00	30	1,972.60	4.80%
						12,623.29		13,815.07	4.76%
<u>Grand Totals</u>						<u>40,212.97</u>		<u>101,556.26</u>	<u>6.81%</u>

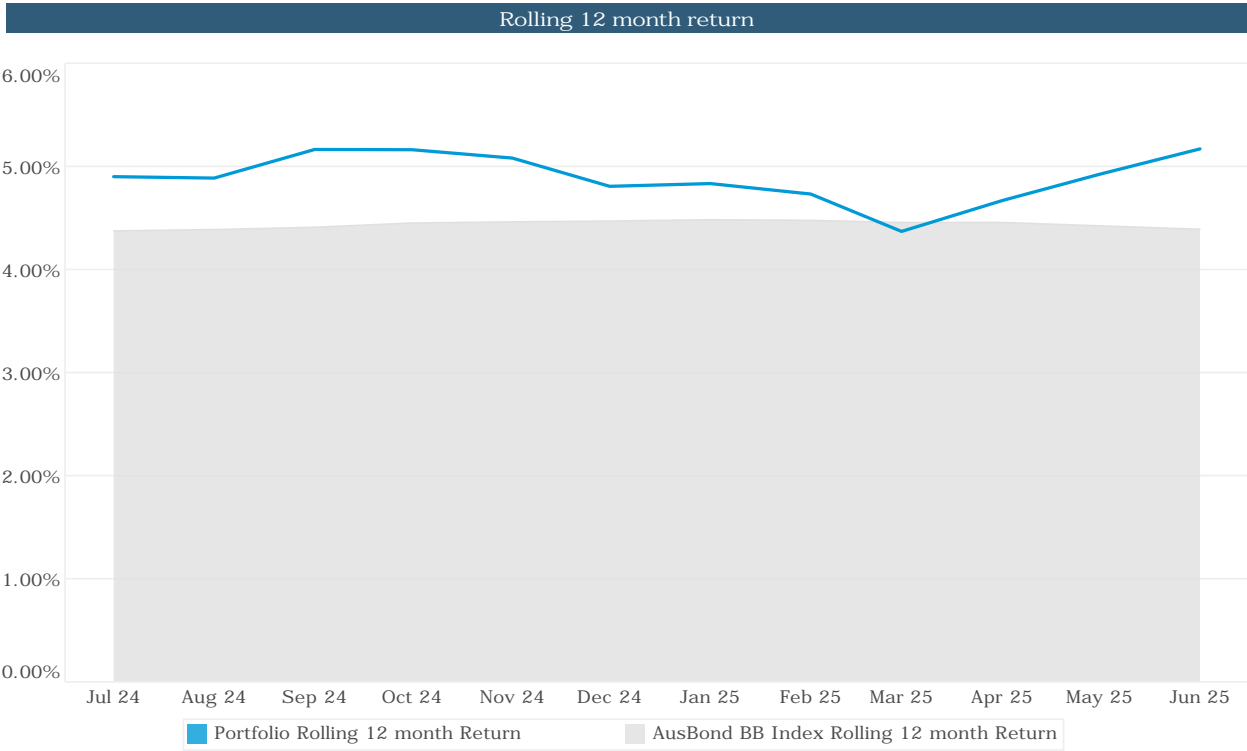
BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL
Investment Performance Report - June 2025



Historical Performance Summary (% pa)			
	Portfolio	Annualised BB Index	Outperformance
Jun 2025	6.81%	3.94%	2.87%
Last 3 months	6.43%	4.14%	2.29%
Last 6 months	5.22%	4.28%	0.94%
Financial Year to Date	5.17%	4.39%	0.78%
Last 12 months	5.17%	4.39%	0.78%

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

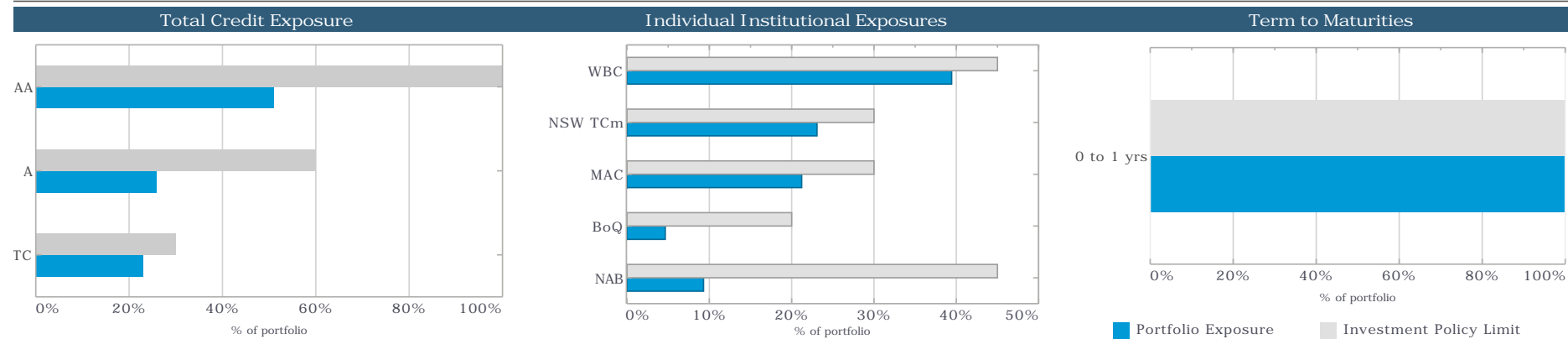
Investment Performance Report - June 2025



Historical Performance Summary (% actual)			
	Portfolio	Annualised BB Index	Outperformance
Jun 2025	0.54%	0.32%	0.22%
Last 3 months	1.57%	1.02%	0.55%
Last 6 months	2.55%	2.10%	0.45%
Financial Year to Date	5.17%	4.39%	0.78%
Last 12 months	5.17%	4.39%	0.78%

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

Investment Policy Compliance Report - June 2025



Credit Rating Group	Face Value (\$)	Policy Max
AA	10,984,871	51% 100% a
A	5,564,815	26% 60% a
TC	4,965,743	23% 30% a
	21,515,428	

Institution	% of portfolio	Investment Policy Limit
Westpac Group (AA-)	39%	45% a
NSW T-Corp (TCm)	23%	30% a
Macquarie Bank (A+)	21%	30% a
Bank of Queensland (A-)	5%	20% a
National Australia Bank (AA-)	9%	45% a
Suncorp Bank (AA-)	2%	45% a

	Face Value (\$)	Policy Max
Between 0 and 1 years	21,515,428	100% 100% a
	21,515,428	

Specific Sub Limits				
A-	1,000,000	5%	40%	a

Specific Sub Limits				
Between 5 and 10 years	0	0%	30%	a

Credit Rating	Current Longest Maturity (years)	Policy Max
AA+, AA, AA-	0.31	5.00 a
A+, A, A-	0.20	3.00 a

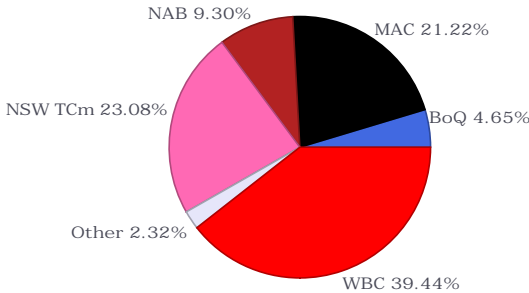
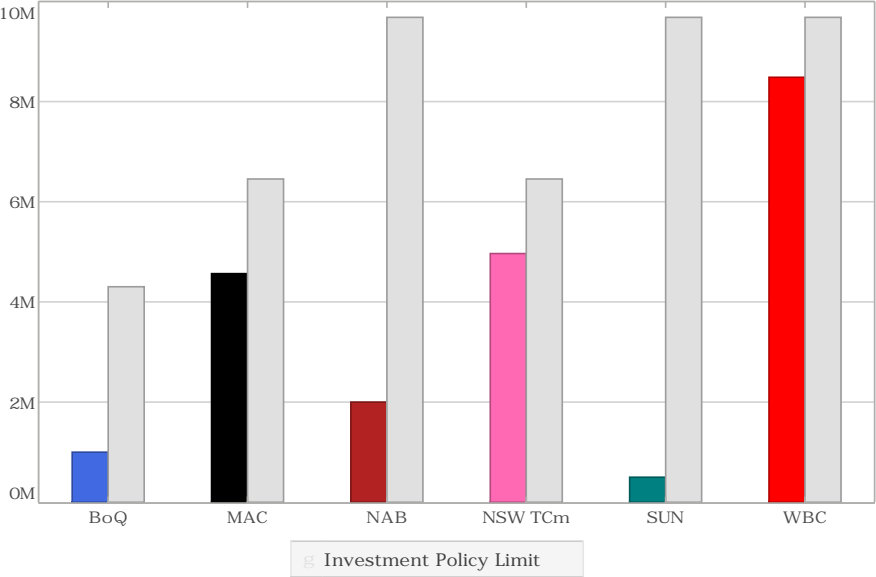
a = compliant
r = non-compliant

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL
Individual Institutional Exposures Report - June 2025



Individual Institutional Exposures Individual Institutional Exposure Charts

	Current Exposures		Policy Limit		Capacity
Bank of Queensland (A-)	1,000,000	5%	4,303,086	20%	3,303,086
Macquarie Bank (A+)	4,564,815	21%	6,454,628	30%	1,889,813
National Australia Bank (AA-)	2,000,000	9%	9,681,943	45%	7,681,943
NSW T-Corp (TCm)	4,965,743	23%	6,454,628	30%	1,488,885
Suncorp Bank (AA-)	500,000	2%	9,681,943	45%	9,181,943
Westpac Group (AA-)	8,484,871	39%	9,681,943	45%	1,197,072
	21,515,428				



BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

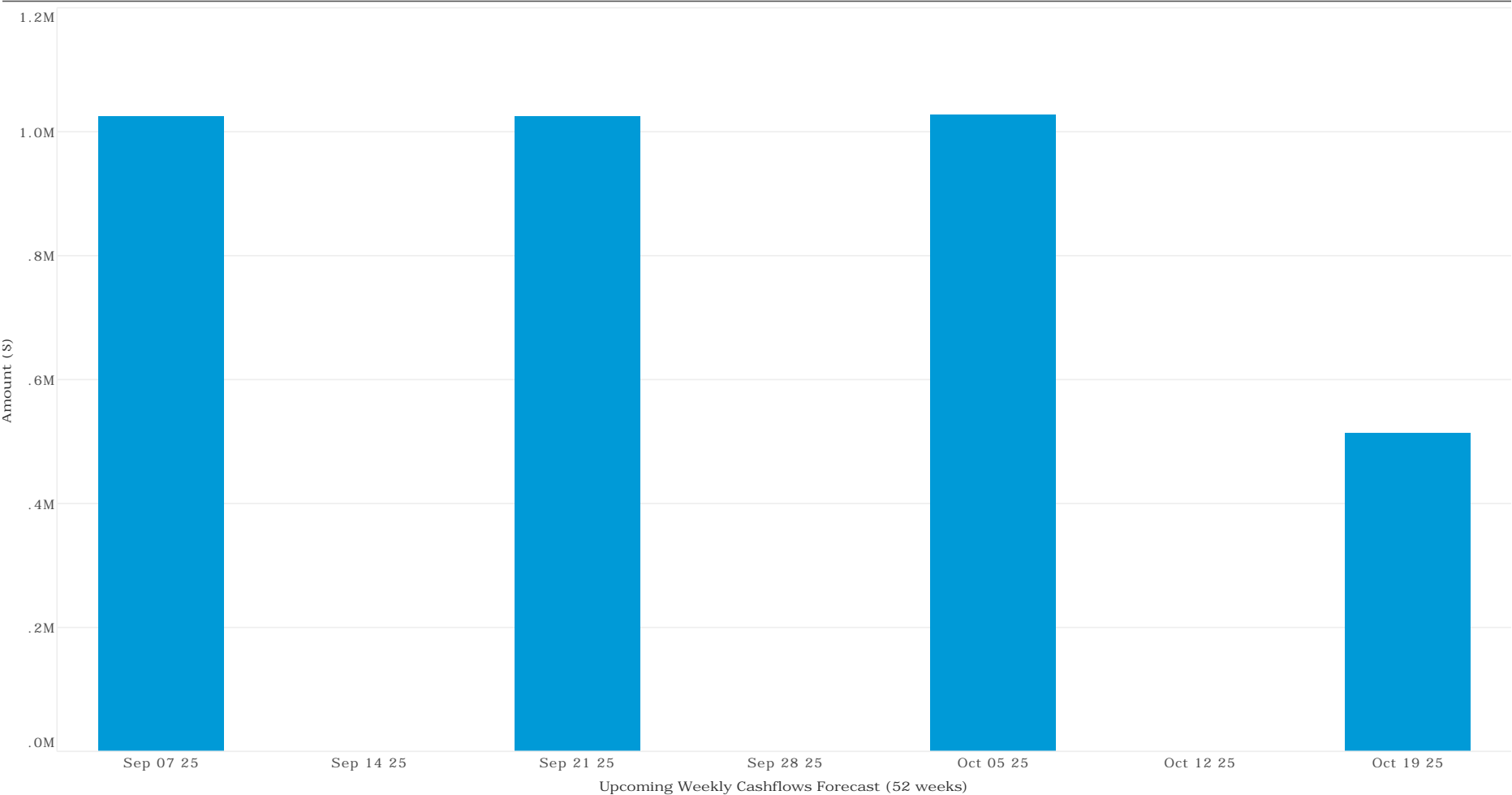
Cashflows Report - June 2025



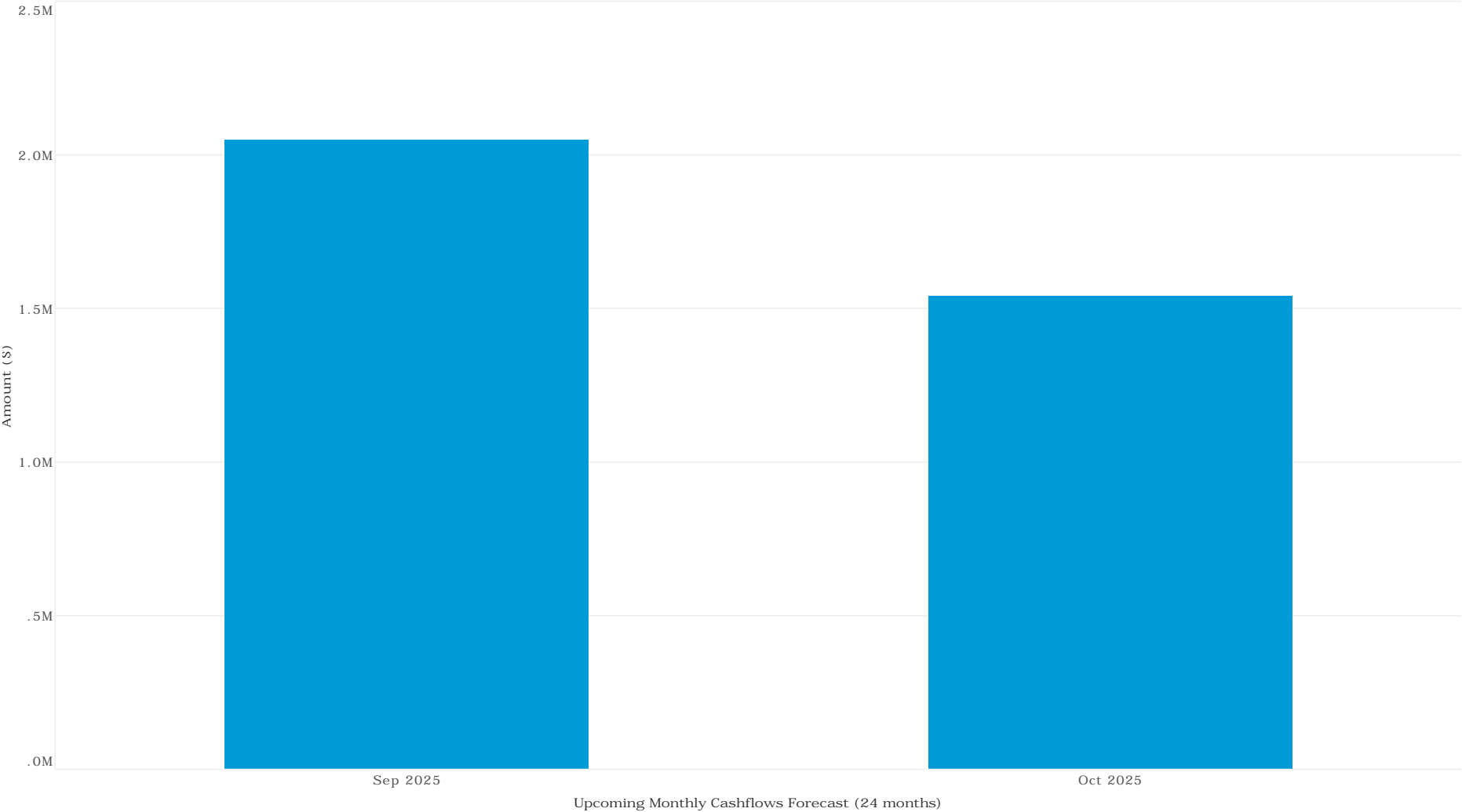
Actual Cashflows for June 2025					
Date	Deal No.	Cashflow Counterparty	Asset Type	Cashflow Description	Amount
2-Jun-25	545824	National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	Maturity: Face Value	1,000,000.00
		National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	Maturity: Interest Received/Paid	12,623.29
Deal Total					1,012,623.29
Day Total					1,012,623.29
Total for Month					1,012,623.29

Forecast Cashflows for July 2025					
Date	Deal No.	Cashflow Counterparty	Asset Type	Cashflow Description	Amount

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL
Cashflows Report - June 2025



BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL
Cashflows Report - June 2025



FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

June 17, 2025

ITEM 4**BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 135/25**

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE BROKEN HILL EDUCATION WORKING GROUP
MEETING HELD 11 JUNE 2025 AND 9 JULY 2025 D25/26772

Recommendation

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 135/25 dated June 17, 2025, be received.
2. That minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group meetings held 11 June 2025 and 9 July 2025 be received and noted.

Executive Summary:

Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group meetings held 11 June 2025 and 9 July 2025 are presented to Council for information.

Report:

At the March 2024 Council Meeting, Council adopted the draft Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Broken Hill Education Working Group.

The purpose of the Working Group is to discuss matters pertaining to the Willyama High School's temporary closure due to the school being re-built as a consequence of a severe mould outbreak; the interim temporary school arrangements for Willyama students; and the impact on the well-being and education of High School students as well as the well-being and employment of Teachers in Broken Hill.

The Terms of Reference of the Working Group were further amended at the 30 April 2025 Council Meeting (Minute No. 47836) to include consideration of general education and training matters, in order that the Working Group will remain relevant after the Willyama High School rebuild is complete.

As per the Terms of Reference of the Working Group, the minutes of the Working Group meetings held 11 June 2025 and 9 July have been presented to the General Manager for approval and action and are now provided to Council for information.

Community Engagement:

The Terms of Reference of the Working Group allows for a maximum of eight (8) community representatives.

Strategic Direction:

Key Direction:	4	Our Leadership
Objective:	4.3	We unite to succeed in Australia's first city on the National Heritage List
Strategy:	4.3.2	Develop working parties for key issues and projects impacting Council and the City

Relevant Legislation:

Nil.

Members of the Working Group will abide by Council's Code of Conduct Policy and the Working Group's Terms of Reference.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Attachments

1. [↓](#) Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group Meeting held 11 June 2025
2. [↓](#) Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group Meeting held 9 July 2025

LEISA BARTLETT
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JAY NANKIVELL
GENERAL MANAGER

Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group Meeting held 11 June 2025

Meeting commenced at 4:00pm.

WELCOME

PRESENT: Mayor Tom Kennedy; Deputy Mayor Jim Hickey (Chairperson);
Councillor Alan Chandler; Jay Nankivell, General Manager BHCC;
Leisa Bartlett, Executive Officer BHCC; Lacey Butcher, Executive Assistant BHCC,
Carolynne Merchant, Far West Education Department.
Rachel Hammond, Electorate Officer to the Member for Barwon;
Margaret Burrowes, Community Representative;
Marion Browne, Community Representative;
Kirby Allen, Community Representative,
Naomi McCoy, Community Representative and
Anne Campbell, Community Representative.

APOLOGIES: Peter MacBeth, Far West Education Development Officer
Karen Nash, Senior Electorate Officer to the Member for Barwon
Joanne Nicholls, Community Representative;

Motion	
Moved Deputy Mayor Hickey)	That the apologies submitted be accepted.
Seconded Councillor Chandler)	
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The General Manager delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Motion	
Moved Margaret Burrowes)
Seconded Nathan Fell)
That the minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group meeting held 14 May 2025 be confirmed.	
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. Correspondence dated 26 May 2025, from The Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and Early Learning, The Hon Prue Car MP, regarding the progress of consultation on the rebuild of the Willyama High School and enclosing a copy of her correspondence to the Willyama P&C Committee.

Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group Meeting held 11 June 2025

The committee discussed the correspondence and agreed that the response was positive and moving in the right direction.

The Chairperson advised that the Deputy Premier and Schools Infrastructure NSW have commented that the community feedback in relation to the Willyama High School rebuild was the most feedback that they have ever received for a school rebuild. Although things may have seemed negative in the beginning feedback from the community has been heard and the aim is to ensure that Broken Hill receives the best version of a new school that can be built. It should also be noted that some of the concerns raised need to be addressed operationally rather than through the Department of School Infrastructure.

The Mayor also advised the working group that the Deputy Premier is currently taking some personal leave from her Ministerial role due to a recent medical diagnosis.

<p>Motion</p> <p>Moved Margaret Burrowes)</p> <p>Seconded Joanne Nicholls)</p>	<p>That correspondence dated 26 May 2025, from The Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and Early Learning, The Hon Prue Car MP, regarding the progress of consultation on the rebuild of the Willyama High School and enclosing a copy of her correspondence to the Willyama P&C Committee, be received.</p> <p>That Council and the working group send their best wishes to the Deputy Premier.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>
---	--

2. Advice from Council's General Manager, Mr Jay Nankivell regarding the reason why Council was not invited to the Willyama High School Project Reference Group Meeting.

The General Manager spoke to his report advising that he had spoken to Matthew Schaeffer from Education Infrastructure who advised that Council cannot be on the PRG as such and that it can only be the School Community.

He has agreed however to update the Council with the same information and presentation after any future PRG's so that Council is across the information as well as being able to contribute.

A meeting was held with Matthew, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager the following week after the last BHEWG meeting. Outcomes of the meeting included:

- *that further consultation will occur with the Willyama Principal and School Community through the entire design and build process.*
- *that alternate locations for the Hospitality unit (which was currently located next to the Hall), are currently being investigated although there is conflicting interest with the building -as the OASIS classrooms are required to be closer to the carpark. As this appears to be more of an operational issue, discussions will be held with the School Principal to determine the best outcome.*

Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group Meeting held 11 June 2025

The Mayor commented that he hopes the Department of School Infrastructure explain why certain classroom are positioned where they are in the design, in order that the Principal and the P&C Committee understand that the school is being designed this way for a purpose.

Council will now need to wait for the next PRG meeting to ensure an update is given to Council.

Ms McCoy, Vice-President of the Willyama P&C Committee, advised that a P&C meeting was held last night with School Infrastructure NSW and there was now a clearer understanding of the build process; that it is reassuring that community feedback has been taken onboard; and that the P&C Committee are keen to see the plans at the next community consultation walk-in session being held next Wednesday (18/6/2025) at the Broken Hill High School hall.

Ms Carolynne Merchant confirmed that the next community consultation will be held as a walk-in session for interested members of the community to view the plans for the new school.

General Business

Overall, the group agreed that communication was clearer and more positive than the previous month and that feedback was being considered with the common goal to provide the best outcome possible for Broken Hill.

Discussions were held around the plans not being available as yet and the group were hoping that the plans will be made available for the walk-in consultation session being held next Wednesday and will contain more details such as measurements.

The Mayor advised that School Infrastructure NSW are currently investigating options to move the canteen away from the School Hall, and that they have taken on-board community feedback by including a third storey giving the school a much larger floor space.

Rachel Hammond advised the group that the Hon Courtney Houssos MP, will be the Minister acting in the Hon Prue Car's absence and ensured the group that Roy Butler has a good working relationship with Minister Houssos.

The meeting ended with the group congratulating and thanking Council for all the effort that had been put in to achieve the positive progress of the school rebuild.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday 9 July 2025 at 4:00pm.

Meeting closed at 4:24pm

.....
Mayor Tom Kennedy, Chairperson

Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group Meeting held 9 July 2025

Meeting commenced at 4:02pm.

WELCOME

PRESENT: Mayor Tom Kennedy; Councillor Alan Chandler;
Lacey Butcher, Executive Assistant BHCC,
Carolynne Merchant, Far West Education Department.
Kirby Allen, Community Representative, Nathan Fell, Community Representative,
and Joanne Nicholls, Community Representative

APOLOGIES: Deputy Mayor Jim Hickey (Chairperson); Jay Nankivell, General Manager BHCC;
Shadow Minister, The Hon Sarah Mitchell,
Peter MacBeth, Far West Education Development Officer,
Karen Nash, Senior Electorate Officer to the Member for Barwon
Jason Bradley, Broken Hill High School,
Margaret Burrowes, Community Representative;
Marion Browne, Community Representative;
Naomi McCoy, Community Representative and
Anne Campbell, Community Representative.

Motion		
Moved Councillor A Chandler)	That the apologies submitted be accepted.
Seconded Joanne Nicholls)	
		CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

INDUCTION SESSION

Due to apologies of the community members the induction session was not held.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Motion		
Moved Nathan Fell)	That the minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group meeting held 11 June 2025 be confirmed.
Seconded Councillor A Chandler)	
		CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group Meeting held 9 July 2025

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. Media release – Minns Labor Government invest \$100 million to expand gifted education program in public high schools.

The committee discussed the Media Release and Carolynne Merchant (Department of Education Far West), advised that the program was part of a state wide focus on school infrastructure and programs showing the Minn's Government's commitment to education. The Mayor agreed saying that the announcement of the Gifted Education Program was a positive announcement and will give the community confidence that Broken Hill High School has not been forgotten and will also be a great school in the future.

Motion	
Moved Joanne Nicholls)	That the Media Release dated 25 June 2025 - Minns Labor Government invest \$100 million to expand gifted education program in public high schools., be received and noted.
Seconded Nathan Fell)	
	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Correspondence received from Courtney Houssos MLC, Acting Minister for Education and Early Learning – Update on the Rebuilding of Willyama High School and other Education Investments The Minns Labor Government are making in Broken Hill

The Mayor advised that he had recently met with the School Infrastructure Team and it appears that everyone is happy with the way things were progressing.

Kirby Allen, (Willyama High School P&C) agreed, and advised that the School Infrastructure meetings were happening more regularly, and the school design was becoming more personalised to the school needs.

Motion	
Moved Councillor A Chandler)	3. That correspondence received from Courtney Houssos MLC, Acting Minister for Education and Early Learning giving an update on the rebuilding of Willyama High School and other education investments the Minns Labor Government are making in Broken Hill be received and noted.
Seconded Joanne Nicholls)	
	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of the Broken Hill Education Working Group Meeting held 9 July 2025

General Business

Carolynne Merchant, (Department of Education Far West) advised that she will continue to work with Willyama High School, Willyama High School P&C, Peter MacBeth and School Infrastructure to ensure that communication remains open and not mismatched.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday 13 August 2025 at 4:00pm.

Meeting closed at 4:14pm

.....
Mayor Tom Kennedy, Chairperson



www.brokenhill.nsw.gov.au