



# **BOGAN SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Minutes**

**27 October 2022**





### **Published Recording of Council Meeting**

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of  
Bogan Shire Council held on Thursday 27 October 2022**

**PRESENT:** Councillors GRJ Neill (in the Chair), VJ Boag, KJ Bright, WG Deacon, JL Douglas, AJ Elias, GN Jackson, DJ Menzies, R Milligan.

Also present were Mr Derek Francis (General Manager), Mrs Cathy Black (Director of Development & Environmental Services, Mr Ray Davy (Acting Director of Engineering Services), Mrs Debb Wood (Director of People and Community Services), Mrs Stephanie Waterhouse (Director of Finance and Corporate Services), and Mrs Melissa Salter (Executive Officer).

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

**REMEMBRANCES:** A minutes silence was observed for the late Brian Field and the late Judy Richards OAM.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:** Nil

**242/2022 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 September 2022, copies of which have been circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed. **(Elias/Deacon)**

**Business Arising:** Nil

The following discussions and resolutions arose from decisions made in the Closed and Confidential Section of the Meeting, 27 October 2022:

**238/2022 RESOLVED EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: RESOLVED** that Council move into a closed session of Council with the public excluded, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 10A d) (i) as involving commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. **(Douglas/Menzies)**

**239/2022 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Closed and Confidential Section of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 September 2022, copies of which have been circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed **(Elias/Bright)**

**240/2022 RESOLVED** that the Bogan Shire Medical Centre report be noted. **(Douglas/Boag)**

**241/2022 INCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: RESOLVED** that the meeting move into open Council. **(Jackson/Menzies)**



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**243/2022 RESOLVED** that an urgent matter raised by the Mayor, relating to the Nyngan Multipurpose Services (MPS) nursing shortage, be discussed in the Council Meeting.  
**(Boag/Douglas)**

**Nyngan Hospital Nursing Situation**

**244/2022 RESOLVED** that Council request the Alliance of Western Councils make representation to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional Health and Local State Member bringing the situation in this area to their attention and asking them for assurances to address the shortage of nurses at the Nyngan MPS which has caused the closure of five of the six inpatient beds. **(Menzies/Jackson)**



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REPORT TO ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

1 CHECKLIST

Item No.	Date	Minute No	Matter	Action Required	Officer	Status
1	23/09/2021	249/2021	<b>Increase of train speed through Nyngan</b>	Prior to the next state Election, Council raise the issue of the Hoskins Street Level Crossing & Train Speeds with Barwon candidates.	<b>GM</b>	Pending discussions closer to State Elections.  Mayor and GM held site visit with Scott Barrett MLC on 13/07/2022. <b>UPDATE:</b> Email sent to Regional NSW for attention of Dugald Saunders, Minister for Western NSW 13/10/2022.

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2	27/05/2022	122/2022	<b>Nyngan Emergency Bore</b>	Council seeks advice from the Minister for Water, as to a mechanism for periodic extraction of water for maintenance purposes, given that it is understood that Council is unable to extract water from the bore at this stage.	<b>GM</b>	Letter written to Minister for Water. Scott Barrett MLC requested on 11/08/22 and 13/09/2022 to follow up on letter to Minister for Water. Followed up 08/10/2022. <b>UPDATE:</b> Email sent to Regional NSW for attention of Dugald Saunders, Minister for Western NSW 13/10/2022.
3	28/11/2019	368/2019	<b>Repairs to Nyngan &amp; Cobar Emergency Water Storage</b>	The General Manager be authorised to procure sufficient quantities Geosynthetic Clay Liner & Geotextile material to complete the remediation works, according to specifications	<b>DES</b>	Remediation work postponed due to wet weather and soft floor. Floor continues to be wet and soft from rain.  Requires warm weather to dry out sub- base A contract variation has been issued to the Contractor



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				provided by NSW Public Works. The procurement be carried out by way of quotations.		for change of scope for repairs to inside batters.
4	17/12/2020	373/2020	<b>Lack of Vacation Care/Before and After School Care in Nyngan</b>	Council approach both primary schools in Nyngan. Council bring this matter to the attention of local State Member and Hon. Sam Faraway MLC.	<b>DPCS</b>	Meetings held with Principals of Nyngan Public and St Joseph's Schools. Letter sent to Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Rural Youth and Women.  Council has been informed that the tender process for the new Before and After School Care service is being dealt with by the Department of Education.
5	25/02/2021	012/2021	<b>Nyngan Railway Wool Dump</b>	A colour information sign be erected at the Nyngan Railway Wool Dump on stand adjacent to the dump. A cement path from the existing walkway to the sign be	<b>DES</b>	Pending commencement of grant- funded works.

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				constructed, with available funding.		
6	27/05/2021	126/2021	<b>Addressing Local Job Vacancies</b>	Council delays the launch of the marketing campaign until progress is made with establishing more housing accommodation in Nyngan.	<b>DPCS</b>	Planning for new residential subdivision has commenced.
7	28/10/2021	162/2021	<b>Section 355 Committee – Nyngan Museum</b>	General Manager to proceed with discussions to formalise a constitution and associated delegations for Nyngan Museum Committee as a Section 355 Management Committee of Council with a further report to Council.	<b>GM</b>	Initial meeting held with Museum Committee. Draft delegations prepared for further discussions with Museum Committee. Referred to Audit & Risk Committee.  <b>UPDATE:</b> Report from Internal Auditor to be considered by ARIC before making recommendations to Council. ARIC Meeting re-scheduled for 20/10/22.

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8	25/11/2021	331/2021	<b>Recycling Bins in Town Main Street</b>	Recycling bins be made available in town main street.	<b>DDES</b>	Eight recycling bins received – considered in Council’s best interest to delay installation until main street paving completed.
	24/03/2022	068/2022	<b>Recycling Bin Waste Stickers</b>	That Council, as part of the recycling education program that will be conducted through schools, supply students with a sticker and encourage to stick it to their household recycling bin.		<b>UPDATE:</b> Stickers have been forwarded to printer.



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9	27/05/2022	111/2022	<b>Nyngan's Big Bogan Festival</b>	Bogan Shire Council applies for funding from the Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events program grant to host Nyngan's Big Bogan Festival to be held between October and November 2022.	<b>DPCS</b>	<p><b>UPDATE:</b> Event Coordinator now appointed and working with Council Staff. All musical acts have been confirmed, promotion and advertising of the event has commenced.</p> <p>Direction sought from Council as to Bogan Shire Council selling Big Bogan Festival merchandise, including distribution of profit (e.g. funding cost of producing new official VIC visitor guide)</p> <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
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10	23/06/2022	126/2022	<b>New Water Treatment Plant Site</b>	A further report to Council be considered for location of the New Water Treatment Plant, including the location as presented to Council, as well as other options outside/adjacent to the levy bank.	<b>DES</b>	<b>UPDATE:</b> Public Works currently investigating suitability of substation site.
11	23/06/2022	141/2022	<b>Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Australia</b>	Council establishes an Imagination Library in partnership with United Way Australia.	<b>DPCS</b>	Initial meeting held with United Way to progress.  Imagination Library established – commencing November 2022. Council Library staff working in partnership with Community Nurse at Nyngan Hospital to provide sign- up information to new parents. Library staff to administer the program and enter registrations.

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12	23/06/22	148/2022	<b>Pangee Street Paving</b>	The Director of Engineering investigate options of disposing of the pavers, as alternatives of what was discussed at the meeting, including costings, and report back to Council.	<b>DES</b>	<p>Most appropriate method of disposal would appear to be removing old pavers to a non-Council-owned site to enable public access to the pavers free of charge. Further investigations continuing.</p> <p><b><u>UPDATE:</u></b> It is recommended that Council advertises before work commences for Expressions of Interest from interested parties to have the old pavers delivered to an appropriate site of theirs, where times can be arranged for the public to collect pavers. After a set period of time, the interested party can then make use of unwanted pavers as they see fit.</p>
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13	28/07/2022	171/2022	<p><b>Hoskins Street Subdivision</b></p>	<p>Council approves the draft subdivision layout, with following amendments: Inclusion of a laneway between lots 18-23 and lots 28-33. Accordingly reduce the number of affected blocks to retain an average size of around 1000m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Strong representation is made to the Minister for Western New South Wales in relation to Biodiversity Fund contributions.</p>	<p><b>DES</b></p>	<p>Amended plan sent back to consultants. Meetings between Alliance of Western Council and NSW Government held of 17/08/22 and 19/08/22 to discuss.</p> <p>Strong representation made to Minister for the Environment and Heritage James Griffin, via Alliance of Western Councils as well as Country Mayor's Association. Chair of Alliance of Western Councils, Cr Craig Davies has also raised the matter with the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, as well as the Labor Party, ahead of NSW elections.</p>
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14	25/08/2022	207/2022	<b>Removal of Athel Pines</b>	<p>Council removes all Athel Pines located adjacent to the airport.</p> <p>Council plants native species to replace the Athel Pines that will be removed, with funding to be allocated at the next budget review.</p>	<b>DDES</b>	<p><b><u>UPDATE:</u></b> Scheduled for removal November/December 2022. Planting of replacement species schedule for March 2023.</p>
15	25/08/2022	208/2022	<b>Kerbside Waste</b>	<p>Council determine that the bulky kerbside collection trial proceed and determine associated costs at the next budget review.</p>	<b>DDES</b>	<p><b><u>UPDATE:</u></b> Report to Council refers.</p>





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16	25/08/2022	209/2022	<b>Subdivision of Land Below the Minimum Lot Size</b>	The General Manager investigates the costs involved in a housekeeping amendment to the Bogan LEP 2011, and report back to a future Council Meeting	<b>DDES</b>	<b>UPDATE:</b> Report to Council refers. Consultant invited to attend workshop with Councillors and October Council Meeting.
17	21/09/2022	234/2022	<b>Roadside Slashing</b>	Council contact Transport for NSW and request that a work order be issued for roadside slashing to be carried out, between the Albert Priest Channel and Nevertire boundary,	<b>DES</b>	<b>UPDATE:</b> Roadside slashing of the Mitchell Highway has been completed by TfNSW from the Council's boundary at Mullengudgery to Nevertire.  <b>COMPLETED</b>



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**FROM THE CHECKLIST:**

**BIG BOGAN FESTIVAL**

**245/2022 RESOLVED** that Council convey thanks to all staff involved in the overall organisation of the Big Bogan Festival, in addition thanks to Demi Jeffery the Event Coordinator. **(Douglas/Menzies)**

**PANGEE STREET PAVING**

**246 /2022 RESOLVED** that Council seek expressions of interest from interested parties to have old pavers delivered to an appropriate site of theirs for the public to collect, for a set time, then review the matter. **(Milligan/Deacon)**

**247/2022 RESOLVED** that the report relating to the Monthly Checklist be received and those items marked as “Completed” be removed from the checklist.  
**(Boag/Milligan)**

**2 ALLOCATION OF DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING**

***Summary:***

*The purpose of this report is to inform Council about a \$1 million funding allocation under the NSW Government’s Natural Disaster Recovery grant provisions to provide support to Bogan Shire Council to undertake immediate recovery activities, address emerging needs and to help build community resilience.*

**248/2022 RESOLVED** that the Allocation of Disaster Recovery Funding Report be received and noted. **(Deacon/Menzies)**



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**REPORT TO ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – DIRECTOR PEOPLE AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**1 LIBRARY REPORT**

**Summary:**

*The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information both statistical and informative in regards to the Library's function.*

**249/2022 RESOLVED** that the Library report be received and noted.  
**(Jackson/Elias)**

**2 BOGAN BUSH MOBILE – TERM 3 REPORT**

**Summary:**

*The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the Term 3 activities of the Bogan Bush Mobile service.*

**250/2022 RESOLVED** that the Bogan Bush Mobile report be received and noted.  
**(Milligan/Jackson)**

**3 NYNGAN SHOW DAY**

**Summary:**

*The purpose of this report is to advise Council of community response to the declaration of a local event day / public holiday for Nyngan Show Day in 2023 and for Council to determine their request to the Minister for Industrial Relations accordingly.*

**251/2022 RESOLVED** that Council make application to the Department of Premier and Cabinet for a declared full day public holiday for the 2023 Nyngan Show Day.  
**(Milligan/Boag)**

The meeting adjourned for supper at 6.32pm and the meeting resumed at 7.00pm.



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**REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – DIRECTOR OF  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**1 INVESTMENTS SEPTEMBER 2022**

***Summary:***

*The report is to outline the performance of Council's Investment Portfolio for the month of September 2022.*

*The Investment Report for September 2022 is shown below.*

*At the 30th September 2022 Council had \$19.8 million invested. There has been an increase of \$330 thousand due to the first block grant instalment for 2022/2023 and outstanding flood claim monies and an additional Flood Emergency Grant funding received.*

**252/2022 RESOLVED** that the Investments Report be received and noted.  
**(Jackson/Boag)**

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## 2 SUMMARY OF RATE & ANNUAL CHARGES COLLECTION

**Summary:**

*This report is to provide a comparison of rate collections as at 30 September 2022, with the same period last year.*

*Total arrears have decreased from \$1,010,724 as at the 30th September 2021 to \$837,030 as at 30 September this year.*

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services reported at the meeting, that at the date of the meeting, current arrears had decreased to \$542,865

<b>Rate Collections</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
Arrears Prior to 30/06/2022	636,403	818,958
First Instalment arrears as at 30/09/2022	93,538	191,766
Second Instalment outstanding as at 30/09/2022	989,511	1,032,496
Third Instalment outstanding as at 30/09/2022	1,035,941	1,074,505
Fourth Instalment outstanding as at 30/09/2022	1,056,032	1,088,446
<b>Total Arrears</b>	<b>542,865</b>	<b>1,010,724</b>
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	<b>4,108,352</b>	<b>4,206,171</b>
<b>Monthly Transactions</b>		
Amount Levied & B/Fwd	<b>6,014,753</b>	<b>6,157,720</b>
Add: Adjustments	11,048	8,413
Less: Payments to end of May	-2,137,722	-1,883,040
Less: Rebates	-78,290	-76,922
Add: Postponed	0	0
<b>Gross Total Balance</b>	<b>4,108,352</b>	<b>4,206,171</b>
<b>Arrears of total amount levied %</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>

**253/2022 RESOLVED** that the Rates and Annual Charges collection report be received and noted. **(Jackson/Bright)**

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### 3 FIRST QUARTER 2022/2023 BUDGET REVIEW

**Summary:**

*Council remains in a sound financial position and is broadly on budget.  
Cash Balance is still strong although expected to decrease over the next nine months as income received in advance is expended.*

**254/2022 RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Note the report on Actual compared to Budget for the quarter ended 30 September 2022.
2. Adopt the adjustments to the 2022/2023 budget as shown in the Budget Review Statement at Appendix A to this report.

**(Douglas/Milligan)**

### 4 DELIVERY PROGRAM

**Summary:**

*This report is to provide information regarding progress with respect to the principal activities detailed in Council's adopted Delivery Program.*

*The General Manager is required under the provisions of Section 404(5) of the Local Government Act to provide Council with regular reports regarding progress with respect to the principal activities detailed in Council's Delivery Program.*

*Council previously resolved that these reports be provided in October and April.*

*Managers responsible for each of the activities listed under the Strategies and Outcomes have indicated the current status of the activity.*

**255/2022 RESOLVED** that the Delivery Program Report be received and noted.

**(Jackson/Deacon)**



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## 5 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Summary:**

*The purpose of this report is to table the 2021/2022 Financial Statements.*

*In accordance with Section 418 Council is required to hold a public meeting in order to present the Financial Reports.*

*Notification of the meeting was advertised on Councils website on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and in the Nyngan Weekly on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The presentation of the audited financial reports is to occur at this meeting.*

**256/2022 RESOLVED** that the Financial Reports and Auditor's Report for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 be presented to the public and be received and noted. **(Elias/Jackson)**



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**REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – DIRECTOR OF  
ENGINEERING SERVICES**

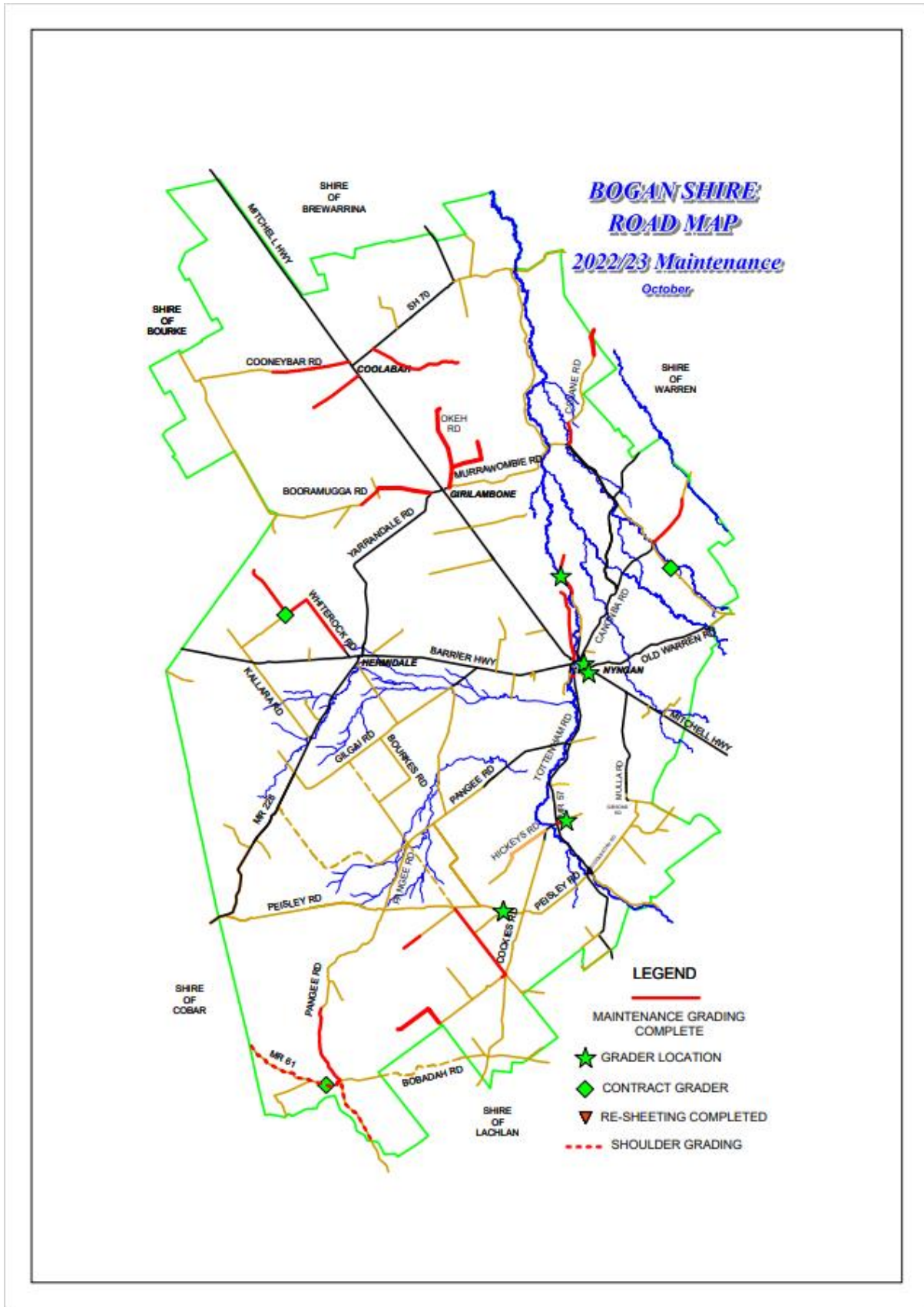
**1 DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT**

***Summary:*** *The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information that is both statistical and informative in regards to the activities of the Engineering Services Department.*

**257/2022 RESOLVED** that the Operational Report be received and noted.  
**(Jackson/Elias)**



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**2 PANGEE STREET PAVING**

***Summary:***

*The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to construct the Pangee Street footpath revitalisation works using cast-insitu concrete in lieu of concrete pavers.*

**258/2022 RESOLVED that:**

1. The new footpath paving in Pangee Street be constructed using cast in-situ concrete in lieu of concrete pavers, subject to further advice on relative costs
2. A further report be brought to Council in November with recommended finishes, scope and updated costs.

**(Deacon/Bright)**

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**REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – DIRECTOR OF  
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1 DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT**

**Summary:**

*The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information that is both statistical and informative in regards to the activities of the Development and Environmental Services Department.*

**259/2022 RESOLVED** that:

1. The Development and Environmental Services Departmental Activity Report be received and noted.
2. Council waive fees for the use of the temporary waste disposal skip bins located at the Showground for the disposal of household waste.  
**(Bright/Deacon)**

**2 BULKY KERBSIDE COLLECTION**

**Summary:**

*The purpose of this report is to inform Council of costs associated with a bulky kerbside waste collection.*

**260/2022 RESOLVED** that Council trial the bulky kerbside collection, as a once of collection and the take-up be gauged, and a further report to Council.  
**(Jackson/Douglas)**



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**3 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BOGAN LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN**

***Summary:***

*The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the process and related costs for an amendment to the Bogan LEP (Local Environmental Plan) 2011 in relation to rezoning land from RU1 Primary Production zone to R5 Large Lot Residential zone around the township of Nyngan.*

**261/2022 RESOLVED** that the General Manager investigates a process to identify suitable land, for large lot residential and undertakes community consultation, with a further report to Council.

**(Jackson/Menzies)**



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**PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**1 ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL P & F**

**262/2022 RESOLVED** that:

1. The correspondence from St Joseph's School P and F be received and noted.
2. Council donate the use of chairs, tables, garbage bins and cool room for use at the St Joseph's School Fete.
3. That Council donate a family season pass for Nyngan Swimming Pool, at a cost of \$215. **(Jackson/Deacon)**

**2 NYNGAN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB**

**263/2022 RESOLVED** that:

1. The correspondence from the Nyngan Amateur Swimming Club be received and noted.
2. Council donate \$500 to the Nyngan Amateur Swimming Club as sponsorship for their Annual Swimming Carnival.  
**(Jackson/Bright)**

**3 NYNGAN COMMUNITY HOMES INCORPORATED**

**264/2022 RESOLVED** that correspondence received from Nyngan Community Homes Incorporated be received and noted. **(Elias/Deacon)**

**4 THE HON. WENDY TUCKERMAN MP, MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**265/2022 RESOLVED** that correspondence received from The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, be received and noted.**(Jackson/Douglas)**

**5 CR DARRIEA TURLEY AM – LGNSW PRESIDENT**

**266/2022 RESOLVED** that correspondence from Cr Darriea Turley AM, LGNSW President be received and noted. **(Bright/Elias)**

**6 NYNGAN MUSEUM**

**267/2022 RESOLVED** that:

1. Correspondence from the Nyngan Museum be received and noted.
2. Council accept the invitation from the Nyngan Museum and attend the Nyngan Museum on Thursday 24 November at 4.00pm **(Boag/Deacon)**



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**7 RAY DONALD OAM**

**268/2022 RESOLVED** that:

1. The correspondence from Ray Donald OAM be received and noted, including the document titled “A history of the formation of Local Government NSW”.

**(Deacon/Elias)**

Note: copy of this document is attached to Minutes.

2. Council make enquiries to the Zig Zag Railway regarding the purchase of the steam engine from Zig Zag Railway. **(Boag/Douglas)**

**8 ELYCE BENNETT**

**269/2022 RESOLVED** that:

1. Correspondence from Elyce Bennett be received and noted.

2. Council agrees, in principal, to the idea of a town Christmas tree, with further discussion with the community members who have put the idea forward, with what can be done for this year.

**(Boag/Bright)**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

These minutes were confirmed by resolution at a meeting on ..... and were signed as a true record.

.....  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

.....  
**MAYOR**







## **A HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW**

The Municipal Association of NSW, the forerunner of the Local Government Association of NSW was formed in 1883. The Shires Association of NSW was formed in 1908. Despite being two separate organisations since then, both organisations have shared a Joint Secretariat, or Joint Committee since 1922. This Joint Committee has regularly met, employed staff to carry out actions on state local government issues headed by Chief Executive Officer, and had committees where representatives from both associations dealt with issues common to all Councils.

The Shire's Association of NSW, representing rural Councils and Local Government Association of NSW, representing large regional and city Councils, have a lengthy history of resolutions in regards to forming One Association to represent Local Government in NSW. Both Associations addressed this issue at their Annual Conferences in 2001, where a Shires Association (SA) resolution to merge was defeated, and the Local Government Association (LGA) resolution urged the SA to join the LGA.

Conferences of both Associations in 2002 and 2003 retained their previous resolutions and attitudes towards any merger. One of the main promoters of forming one association in the early stages was former Cowra Mayor Bruce Miller. Bruce, along with a number of other local government representatives, including former North Sydney Mayor Cr Genia McCaffery, could clearly see the advantages of major local government issues being represented by one organisation providing a single unified voice. Two local government associations, who at times had differing views, often provided the State Government with a reason for inaction.

Mr Bill Gillooly AM was the CEO of the Joint Committee from 2004 to 2014 and played a major role in the progress and eventual combining of both Associations. Bill, a lawyer with a background in senior public sector administration, had previous experience in the voluntary amalgamation of some Councils, which proved to be of considerable assistance in the amalgamation of the two associations.

Particular mention should also be made of the work of Mr Peter Punch. Peter, an expert in registered organisation law, helped guide the Associations through this long, and at times, exhausting process.

Association Conferences in 2004 both supported steps towards a merger. Peter Woods OAM, and John Wearne AM, both former Association Presidents, were commissioned to undertake a study into models for creating One Association in NSW.

Both Associations, at their respective Conferences in 2005, supported the formation of a working party to look at options for one Local Government Association (The Woods Wearne Report), and have an agreed proposal to be considered by all Councils. The SA particularly wanted the continuation of a Zone or Divisional structure and equality of representation on a future executive. Little progress

occurred by the Working Party because of the two Associations opposing views on the structure of a single Association, particularly the SA desire for the retention of a divisional structure.

Further considerations about forming One Association continued, particularly as to whether any cost savings would eventuate, this appeared unlikely. The advantages and disadvantages of forming One Association continued to motivate much discussion amongst Councillors.

The Woods Wearne Report strongly concluded favoring the advantages of forming One Association, with the dual situation that existed in NSW nationally unique in Local Government. This report, titled "Options For One Local Government Association in NSW", provided a constructive way forward for consideration by all Councils and helped alleviate many legitimate concerns about forming one association, particularly by smaller rural Councils. The Woods Wearne Report ensured the eventual foundation for One Association.

Annual Conferences of both Associations in 2008 and 2009 moved the issue forward by supporting the holding of a constitutional convention to consider draft models and a constitution.

Early in 2010 a small taskforce was established comprising of five members from each Association (excluding the Presidents) with an independent Chair (Libby Darlinson). This taskforce ultimately produced the One Association Taskforce Discussion Paper containing 40 recommendations. An historic One Association Convention was held in August 2010, chaired by Hon Richard Torbay MP, where 27 principles were agreed on to form the foundation of One Association. These principles gave equality of representation and office-bearers to the two associations. The 152 general purpose Councils, NSW Aboriginal Land Council and all NSW Country Councils would be eligible for Ordinary Membership. During 2011 these principles circulated between both Associations with agreement reached on some amendments. There would be two categories of membership, Ordinary and Associate. When the SA dropped their position on the retention of a Zones Structure, complete agreement now existed on the 27 principles. These principles largely remain the basis of the constitution that continues to guide the operations of LGNSW.

In October 2011, Fair Work Australia, after an assessment of the roles of the new Association, did not flag any concerns about the rules. These rules (draft version 6) were sent to all members for comment, titled the Draft Constitution for One Association.

The Joint Committee, at its meeting on 3 February 2012, recommended that the necessary steps commenced to have the Australian Electoral Commission conduct a secret ballot of all Councils to form a single Association. The ballot would need to be conducted by 1 August 2012, prior to the September 2012 Local Government elections.

The historic Amalgamation Day occurred on the 1st March 2013.

An interim board made up of the current office bearers of both Associations and jointly chaired by Clr Keith Rhoades AFSM, and Cr Ray Donald OAM, dealt with matters from LGNSW until the first combined conference. This was held on 1 and 2 October 2013 at the Sydney Town Hall and opened by the State Governor Hon Marie Bashir. Twenty four Directors were elected, with Clr Keith Rhoades AFSM elected the Inaugural President of LGNSW.

Thanks to Peter Coulton, Bill Gillooly, Bruce Millar, Keith Rhoades and Genia McCaffery for their assistance with this history.

**Ray Donald OAM**