



AGENDA

Late Reports

General Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, 9 February 2026

Time: 5.45 pm

**Location: Cowra Council Chambers
116 Kendal Street, Cowra**

**Paul Devery
General Manager**

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6 LATE REPORTS

6.1 Councillor Queries

File Number: D26/135

Author: Paul Devery, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That council note the responses provided to questions raised after the agenda was published.

INTRODUCTION

This report includes as an attachment, details of queries raised and responses provided to councillors since the publication of the agenda.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Councillor Queries [↓](#)



Date of Query: 9 February 2026	Inquirer: Cr Erin Watt	Responder: Director, Corporate Services
Report title: 3.1 Policy Review – Public Interest Disclosures Policy		
Meeting: General Committee	Meeting date: 9 February 2026	Email/phone/in person: Received by email.

Question:Councillors

Can you please clarify whether councillors are covered by the Public Interest Disclosure Policy?

Reading section 3 I would presume councillors are covered but reading section 6.c I would presume councillors are not deemed public officials.

Can we please amend this policy to clearly articulate whether councillors are included as 'public officials' and if they are not, add to section 4 an articulation that this policy does not apply and what the appropriate methods of raising complaints would be.

Anonymous Reporting

I also have concerns about the terminology used on page 9 of the policy around anonymous reports.

Suggested text to replace sentence 3 and 4. "There will be some situations where you may not want to identify yourself when you make a report, please be assured that when you make a voluntary PID you will receive special protections under the PID Act. These protections will still be provided to you if you choose to make an anonymous complaint. Please see Section 7 for further information.

When deciding whether to make your complaint anonymously please consider that this may make it difficult for the matter (s) to be fully investigated if you are unable to be contacted for further information. "

Connection with other policies

Are we required to make changes to other policies such as our anti-discrimination policy, to reflect changes made here?

Mandatory and Witness PIDs

This policy only has minor coverage of the mandatory and witness PIDs. Are there other places, policies or legislation where the situations where public officials are legally obliged to make reports that can be referenced here?

Report not a voluntary PID

Should this section be referencing PID (covering all three) rather than just Voluntary PID?

Employee accused of wrongdoing

Can we please add a section which covers the process of investigation and rights of those accused of wrongdoing or is this covered in another policy? This was covered in the previous policy but seems to have been removed.

Small mistakes

Additionally there are some small mistakes in the report:

- Pg 5 first sentence under 6.a) should read "when a public official reports suspected or possible wrongdoing"
- Page 9 - one of the dot points under 6.g) is not formatted correctly.

Response:**1. Councillors and the definition of 'public official'**

Under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*, a public official includes a person who has the functions of a public official or who acts in a public official capacity and whose conduct or activities can be investigated by an integrity agency under another Act or law.

Accordingly, Councillors are considered to be public officials. We can clarify this by a simple amendment to 6(c).

2. Anonymous reporting

The suggested amendments can be added to the document without changing its meaning.

3. Connection with other policies

There will be a need to update some references in other policies due to the slight revision to the policy name. We have otherwise not identified any need for substantive changes.

4. Mandatory and Witness PIDs

Regarding other legislation that carries obligatory reporting requirements, the Office of the Ombudsman advised by telephone that it is a question they cannot answer, and that legal advice would be required.

We would note that the question has extensive reach and that legal advice would likely be costly. It is also noted that the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*, its Regulation and this policy are limited to providing a safe pathway for accusations of corrupt conduct to be advanced.

Regarding other council policies, we could include a note to the effect that policies under which reports may be relevant include: Code of Conduct, Complaints Management Procedure and the Managing Conflict of Interest for Council Related Development Policy.

5. Report not a voluntary PID

We would suggest that the suggested protections section (refer response to question 6, below) would be a suitable place to provide the relevant advice.

6. Employee accused of wrongdoing

There are a number of special protections that are provided under the PID Act. We can certainly include this information, including special note of mandatory and witness PIDs.

7. Small mistakes

Advice received with thanks. These errors will be corrected.



Date of Query: 8/2/2026	Inquirer: 1. Cr Speechley 2. Cr Wright 3. Cr Watt	Responder: Director – Infrastructure & Operations
Report title: 4.1 - Strategic Infrastructure Requirements for Cowra Land Development and Growth		
Meeting: General Committee	Meeting date: 9/2/2026	Email/phone/in person: Email

Question:

1. Cr Speechley

There are a few diagrams in the papers which I have difficulty in reading.

Are you able to provide clearer copies of the diagrams on Page 82 and Page 88 (North Facing?).

With regards to the drawing on page 86, I can't quite understand how to read this one. Can you please indicate where the 2 proposed box culverts would be located in relation to the below aerial snapshot from google maps?



2. Cr Wright

I to agree with Cheryl S & the photos.

Additionally are the estimate of costs re Pridham street, council costs or developer costs to be levied?

**3. Cr Watt**

Could you also please provide us with a visual of what the proposed roadside drainage element would be for item 6, and whether this is proposed solely for new development in this zone or to be retrofitted across the zone?

This proposal does not appear in the table of anticipated costs. Do we have a proposed budget for this? Could we also please be provided with a retrospective view of the budget spent on maintenance for this area currently?

Could you please provide some insight into what proportion it is anticipated will be recovered through developer contributions?

Response:

1. I have attached the diagrams at A3 size as requested by Cr Speechley.

The first diagram is from a 2015 report so the clarity is not great even in its original format.

2. The report states 'this level of strategic planning for growth is required to inform the 'Works Schedules' contained within the future Development Contribution Plans.

However, development contributions will not fund 100% of the cost of the works.

The estimate of costs will be funded by contributions and Council.

3. The intent of Part 6 of the report: '*Other Infrastructure Planning: West Cowra R5 zone DCP standards*' is a proposal to address the fact that Council does not impose a requirement for kerb and gutter on the road frontage of development in the R5 zone.

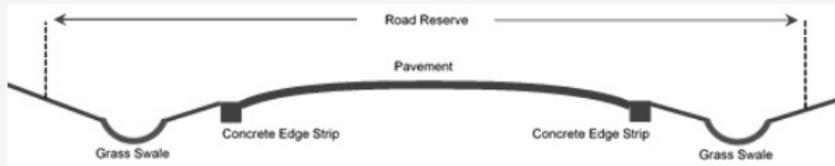
If there was such a requirement; the issues of vehicles travelling off the sealed road surface (causing potential edge break) and through the table drains to access property; causing potential ruts etc in the drains; would be addressed.

However, if a requirement for kerb and gutter is imposed then to avoid the issue discussed earlier in Lyall Street, a requirement for a piped stormwater drainage system would be generated : *The existing kerb and gutter in Lyall Street between Hartley Street and Waratah Street has been constructed without any stormwater drainage pipelines under the kerb to collect the gutter flow. As a result, gutter flows during storm events build up to a depth where stormwater crosses the road centreline and floods the roadway area.*

The proposal as discussed in the report; similar to Cessnock and subject to a formal roadside gutter policy and specification for adoption by Council; would be water sensitive design (following is from Cessnock website):

Water sensitive swales

Water sensitive swales are designed in conjunction with structural road edge strips, driveway crossings and stormwater infrastructure. These elements provide drainage and environmental benefits by screening gross pollutants and in turn reducing harm caused to the local rivers and creek.



And this design would negate the need for piped stormwater drainage systems in West Cowra R5 land to the airport or through West Cowra to Killara Road.

If adopted by Council; subject to a formal roadside gutter policy and specification; new development would construct the 'concrete edge strip' across the property frontage as a condition of development consent.

Retrofitting funded by Council would be required in area already developed.

The costs of roadside maintenance and drainage maintenance are not separated to a level where I can give you information specific to West Cowra.

The report provides general advice on the potential increase in roadside maintenance caused by increased development.

The review of the Developer Contribution Plan; which is to come forward from Larissa's team; will give Councillors more information on the attribution of costs between contributions and Council.

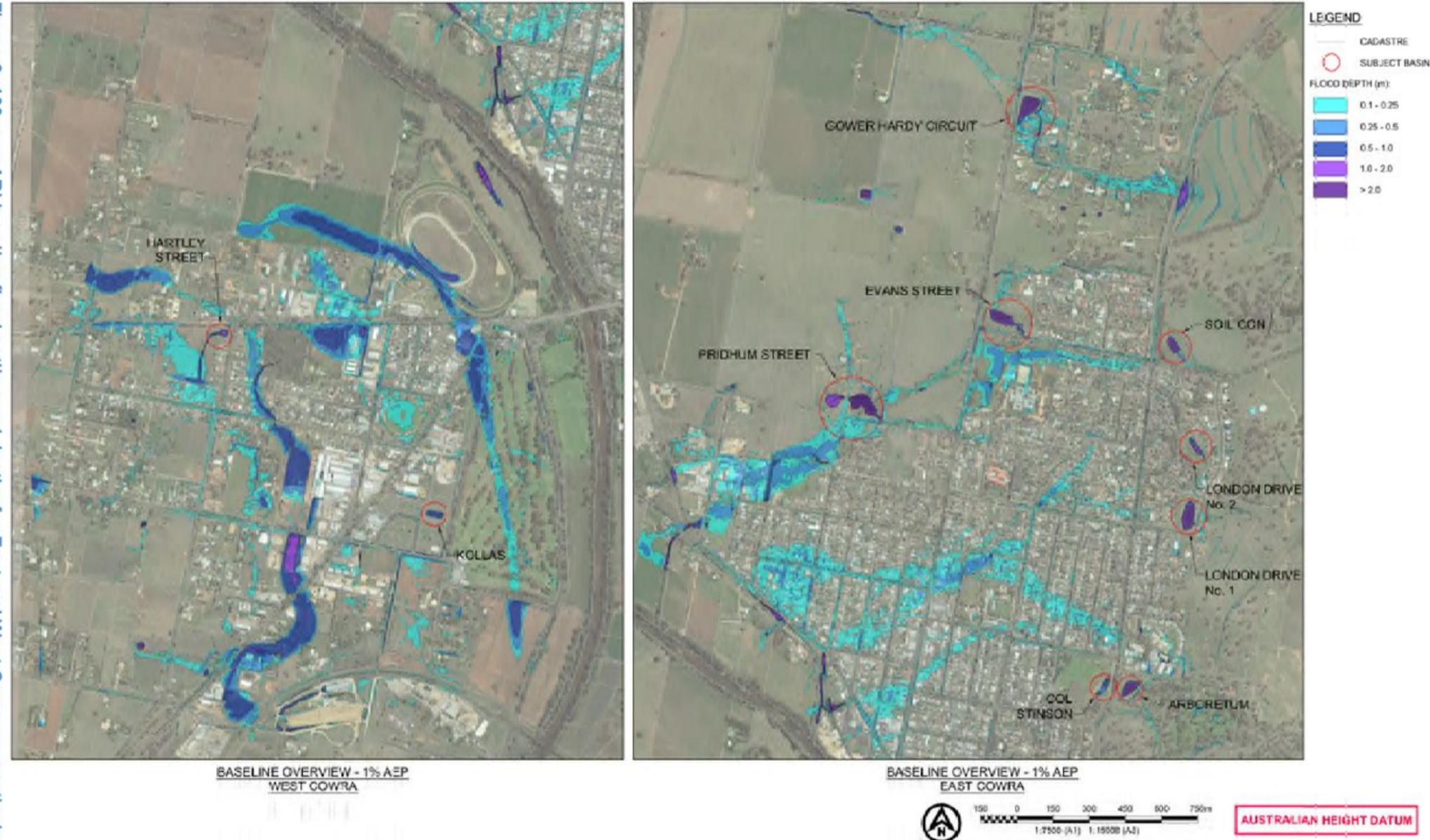


Figure 3: 100 year ARI baseline flood outline and depths for East and West Cowra respectively

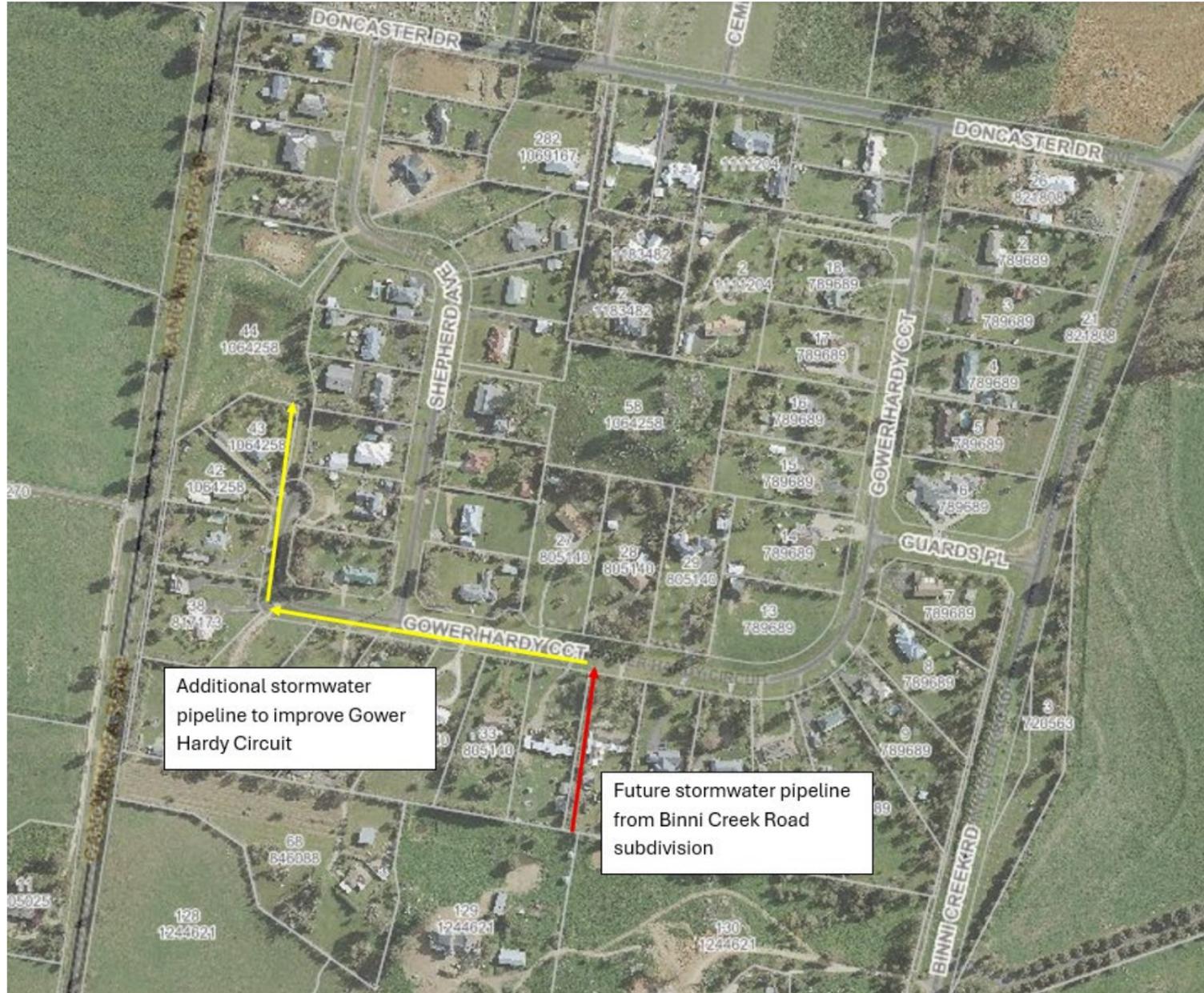
Cowra Detention Basins Review
Final

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PA1118
28 November 2015



2. Gower Hardy Circuit Concept Plan:





3. Upgraded box culverts location at the intersection of Pridham Street and Glen Logan Road





Date of Query: 8/2/2026	Inquirer: Cr Wright	Responder: Director – Infrastructure & Operations
Report title: 4.2 - Request from Adjoining Landowner to Close and Purchase Council Road Reserve under the Roads Act 1993		
Meeting: General Committee	Meeting date: 9/2/2026	Email/phone/in person: Email

Question:

1. Can I be informed of land owner as I know the area & I want to determine any conflict?
Is the applicant purchasing the reserve from Cowra Council or the department of Lands?

Response:

1. The applicants are [REDACTED]; and the upon road closure the land will vest in Council; they will be purchasing the land from Council.