
**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 12 NOVEMBER 2025
QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE REPORT**

The following Questions with Notice have been received from Cr Howe: -

1. SECTION 7.11 CONTRIBUTIONS

What account do these levies get assigned to?

Response from Director Community and Economic Development

Developer contributions are held as a restricted asset and are accounted for in the Financial Statements.

2. DOLLY PARTON FESTIVAL

What Money has been donated back to the Community for the next Council Meeting in December?

Response from Director Community and Economic Development

See report to Council.

3. NARROMINE AERODROME

Have unlicensed commercial activities been conducted at any stage from Narromine Airfield since 2018?

What was the length (if any) of time that unlicensed activities were conducted from Narromine Airfield?

Were unlicensed commercial activities conducted from Trangie airfield prior to council selling the community asset?

Has DNOC (Dinitro-ortho-cresol) been used by any commercial or non-commercial entities on or from Council administered airfields since 2020?

Response from General Manager

Council is not aware of any unlicensed aerial applicators operating from Council's facilities, nor is it aware of any use of DNOC on or from the facilities.

4. COUNCIL MEETING RECORDINGS

Is non-recording of open Council meetings compliant with all NSW legislation?

Is non-recording of open Council meetings compliant with all of Narromine Shire Council policies and procedures?

Will unsupported comments made during unrecorded session of the previous Council meeting be repeated for full accountability of official records?

Will Council provide the full justifications for not recording open Council meetings to the public?

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4. COUNCIL MEETING RECORDINGS (Cont'd)

Response from Director Governance

Council's Code of Meeting Practice provides that Council Meetings are to be audio recorded. Unfortunately, during the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 October 2025, there was a large-scale unscheduled power outage with no estimated time period to restore power. The Chair therefore put the question to the meeting as to whether the Council meeting should proceed, and it was resolved Crs Bohm/Davies that the meeting continue, noting the meeting would not be audio recorded.

The minutes of Council Meetings are the official record of the meeting and are confirmed by the Governing Body of Council at a subsequent meeting. Minutes are required to be retained as State Archives.

The decision of the Chairperson as to the result of a vote is final unless the decision is immediately challenged and not fewer than 2 councillors rise and call for a division. The names of those who vote for the motion and those who vote against it are recorded in the Council's minutes for the meeting. There were 10 divisions of the vote called for in the meeting.

Council's Code of Meeting Practice provides that proceedings of a meeting of Council are not invalidated because of an irregularity with Council's Code.

5. MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

In the period from 2020 to present, what travel, accommodation and other costs have been claimed by Council officials related to meetings involving the Murray Darling Association?

Response from Director Finance and Corporate Strategy

It is estimated that the costs incurred from 1 July 2020 to date are \$7,028.

Would Council publicly table all correspondence received from the Murray Darling Association from 2020 to present?

Would Council publicly table all correspondence sent by Council and its officials to the Murray Darling Association in the period 2020 to present?

Response from General Manager

Access to Council information and resources must be considered in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. Consideration is to be given as to whether or not the information is necessary for Councillors to perform their official functions. Correspondence between Council and other entities is not necessarily open access information. Council would also need to seek the concurrence of the Murray Darling Association to table all correspondence. I would not consider the public tabling of correspondence to be necessary in this instance.

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6. GOAN WATERHOLE

On what date did Council officials become aware of the Water Pollution event at the Goan Waterhole in Trangie?

When did Council report the incident to the NSW EPA?

Has Council issued an advisory to the public via a media release to all of the media routinely provided with media releases?

Response from Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Council was contacted by a Trangie resident on 22 October who advised that there were some floating fish in the Goan Waterhole due to a build-up of duck weed and asked if he could set up a temporary recirculation and aeration system for the day. Council agreed to this. The resident advised he had contacted NSW Fisheries.

Council has not reported the incident to any other authorities or regulators. Council has not published any media about this.

7. REAL ESTATE PURCHASES

Given that Council voted not to be fully informed on asset purchases by the provision of a business case before purchase decisions are made, will Council provide a clear description of how purchase decisions are being to allow for probity overview by elected representatives?

Response from General Manager

Council did not resolve to not be fully informed on asset purchases by the provision of a business case before purchase decisions are made. Section 377 of the Local Government Act provides that Council cannot delegate the compulsory acquisition, purchase, sale, exchange or surrender of any land or other property (but not including the sale of items of plant or equipment). This must be a decision of the governing body of Council. Reports are presented to Council providing information to make considered and well-informed decisions. If reports do not provide sufficient detail, Councillors can ask for advice and/or seek further information from the General Manager prior to making a decision.

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The following Questions with Notice have been received from Cr Smith: -

8. DOLLY PARTON FESTIVAL

Can Narromine Shire Council provide an itemised account of all expenses associated with the Dolly Parton Festival?

Response from Director Community and Economic Development

Please see report to Council.

9. NARROMINE WATER SUPPLY

What measures are being undertaken to safeguard Narromine's water supply from contamination (bearing in mind that the water table is approximately 20 feet below ground at the Narromine Waste Facility and that Tomingley and Trangie's landfill is being transported to the Narromine Waste Facility thereby increasing the risk of contamination)?

What back up plans are in place for a worst-case scenario if Narromine's water supply was contaminated?

How many bores are currently in operation?

Response from Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Narromine's main water supply bores are approximately 60 metres deep and are purpose-built to prevent interflow between groundwater layers. This construction significantly reduces the potential for contamination from shallower aquifers.

Groundwater contamination has been identified as a high-risk factor for Narromine and is documented within Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy. This risk forms part of the justification for Safe and Secure Water Program funding. Potential sources of groundwater contamination include agricultural pesticides and sprays, faecal matter from animals and birds, unmanaged or failing septic systems, chemical use (including fire-retardant foams), and illegal dumping activities.

To manage and monitor these risks, Council conducts regular water quality testing to ensure compliance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG). Additional controls are in place, including septic management policies and development assessment (DA) reviews for relevant activities.

The Narromine Waste Facility operates under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL), which mandates the management and monitoring of leachate containment. Council undertakes quarterly groundwater sampling at the site, with results provided to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). To date, no anomalies or contamination concerns have been detected.

9. NARROMINE WATER SUPPLY (Cont'd)

Transfer of domestic waste from Tomingley and Trangie to the Narromine facility is not expected to increase contamination risk, as this material consists solely of household waste. Commercial and regulated wastes, including asbestos, have already been transported to Narromine for many years under existing controls and monitoring requirements.

In the event that regular water quality testing identifies a parameter that exceeds the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), Council will immediately notify NSW Health. In consultation with NSW Health professionals, Council will determine the most appropriate response based on the type and severity of contamination.

A range of contingency measures are available, including:

- Ceasing supply and draining the system, followed by refilling once the contamination has been addressed and water quality is restored.
- Superchlorination, where chlorine levels are temporarily increased to neutralise microbial contaminants such as viruses or bacteria.
- Issuing a Boil Water Alert, advising residents to boil tap water before consumption until the supply is confirmed safe.

These procedures form part of Council's established Drinking Water Management System (DWMS) and are reviewed annually.

Council has 3 deep bores which supply the water treatment plant and one shallow bore that is blended with treated water.