



LATE AGENDA

Council Meeting

Tuesday 21 April 2026

AGENDA

PAGE

Executive Director's Report (Items for Information)

ED20/26	Responses to Questions on the Business Paper - 21 April 2026 and Taken on Notice - 17 March 2026	2
---------	--	---

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr
GENERAL MANAGER

**ED20/26. Responses to Questions on the Business Paper - 21
April 2026 and Taken on Notice - 17 March 2026**
Author: Governance Officer

FILE: 26/00126

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide responses to questions submitted by Councillors in relation to items contained within the Business Paper for the 21 April 2026 Council Meeting and responses to questions during the Council meeting on 17 March 2026, that were taken on notice.

FOR INFORMATION

Under the provisions of the POL/1014 - Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors are entitled to submit questions regarding agenda items prior to a Council meeting. This process ensures that Councillors have the necessary information to make informed decisions during the meeting.

In line clause 9.16, there a Councillor or Council employee to whom a question is put is unable to respond to the question at the meeting at which it is put, they may take it on notice and report the response to the next meeting of the Council.

Attachments

AT-1 [↓](#) Collated Questions - Council Meeting - 21 April 2026

RESPONSES TO COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS REGARDING BUSINESS PAPER 21 APRIL 2026



Councillor	Report Ref	Question/s raised	Response/s provided
Mayor Moore	DCCS25/26	Under the policy waste hardship appears to be proposed to be subsidised by other waste users Is this correct? If so is it correct a pensioner could have to pay more for waste due others being subsidised?	<p>There is no change in the charges to other ratepayers.</p> <p>The waiver of the fee only applies to the additional service (an additional bin collected fortnightly) or for a weekly pickup. These are additional services that attract a separate charge.</p> <p>The impact would be a decrease in the revenue for these particular charges.</p> <p>There will be a small subsidy from the Domestic Waste Management overall charge to cover the cost of the hardship waiver.</p>
Mayor Moore	DI&P11/26	Is there a time the funds are to be spent?	The project must be delivered within three years of Council acceptance of Funding. The deed was executed on the 2 July 2024 and therefore must be delivered by 2 July 2027.
Mayor Moore	DI&P11/26	I wish to see more details of the Aboriginal assessment that has caused the projected funding increase request from staff.	The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) was required as part of project due diligence and includes processes to be carried forward into the contract delivery for activities including surveys, consultation, test excavations and apply/comply with an Aboriginal Heritage Impact permit (AHIP), all of which contribute towards additional time and costs. The ACHA field survey methodology can be provided.

Mayor Moore	DI&P10/26	Brunners bridge item- Council agenda does not provide full information on the funding of bridge- please provide to all Councillors the agenda item from the meeting 12th March RAC meeting on Brunners bridge item which show the project cost and funds remaining.	The table data from the Roads Advisory Council March 2026 report is provided below, noting a further \$12,636 has since been spent taking the current remaining balance to \$754,950. Total Project Fund \$ 7,200,000 Expenditure to date \$ 6,432,414 Unspent \$ 767,586 RAC March Report:
Mayor Moore	DI&P10/26	Brunners bridge item- What are the current funds remaining to date?	The current remaining balance is \$754,950 inclusive of uncommitted contingency funds.
Mayor Moore	DI&P10/26	Brunners bridge item- What costs are known to still come in for the project?	The project is complete and we are now in the Defects Liability Period. Other than minor project management costs associated with final closeout, no further costs are anticipated.
Mayor Moore	GM22/26	Electric Vehicle charging - who will be determining locations given the Local Traffic Committee has charged to a forum with no real input from Councillors (other than Chair)?	In general, the locations of EV charging bays are initially nominated by a potential EV charging company. The locations would be determined by a number of factors including demand, physical layout, electrical capacity, and existing infrastructure. The proposal would then be assessed by the Council officer (e.g. Traffic Engineer) with delegated authority under the <i>Authorisation and Delegation – Prescribed</i>

			<p><i>Traffic Control Devices and Regulation of Traffic (Clause D) to assess technical suitability and seek determination via a report to Council if authority has not been delegated.</i></p>
<p>Cr S Yeomans</p>	<p>GM17/26</p>	<p>Regarding pool cover, what elements of the alternate cover design make it have a shorter lifespan, & what is the expected remaining life of the 25m pool itself</p>	<p>An alternate design for the pool enclosure has not been determined yet and would be subject to Request for Tender (RFT) submissions Council may (or may not) receive from the market.</p> <p>The current DA approved design incorporates materials and construction to withstand the high corrosivity of the indoor pool environment including laminated timber structural elements and insulated sandwich panel cladding.</p> <p>An alternate design may be more basic and incorporate light weight galvanised steel and membrane claddings with lower resistance to such a corrosive environment, therefore reducing lifespan from say 30-40 years to something less. However, this would not be known until the RFT process has been completed and what submissions have been received.</p> <p>The 25m pool has different asset types of different remaining useful life, with the following summary of main items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool structure (shell) ~ 33years (original 1983) • Tiles ~ 7 years (original 1983) • Electrical ~ 10 years (replaced 2007) • HVAC ~ 15 years (replaced 2014) • Filtration ~ 18 years (replaced 2024) • Water Heating ~ 5 years (replaced 2016)

Cr S Yeomans	GM17/26	re indoor pool, how many people use it, what revenue is raised from users of indoor pool	<p>The information is held by the operators (under contract) of the Swim and Gym facility, who advise that revenue isn't broken down as a lot of members have full access memberships (pools and gym).</p> <p>They further advise that the breakdown of the Winter period usage of the 25m pool per day as below -</p> <p>58 squad users 187 learn to swim 30 aqua participants 40-80 recreational swimmers</p>
Cr S Yeomans	DI&P9/26	Request to Waive Section 138 Fees - 2026 Milbrodale Mountain Classic. what is a Section 138 application fee for. what service does council provide	<p>The application fee covers staff costs associated with assessing the application, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing the application including assessment of Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS). This may include time for staff in customer services, Records, Asset Engineer and Support Officer. • Depending on the complexity a site visit or further review and determination may be required by the Asset Engineer and Coordinator Assets. • Issuing Consent and registering Signed Consent completed by the Support Officer. • Final Inspection undertaken by the Asset Engineer.
Cr S Yeomans	GM16/26	Why did the Cities Power Partnership dissolve	The Cities Power Partnership falls under the remit of the Climate Council. In 2024, the

			<p>Climate Council resolved to wind down the services provided under the CPP, where there was no longer a requirement to track pledges from individual local governments, or undertake regular monitoring and reporting of member activities.</p> <p>The rationale for this was an increased focus in supporting the delivery of a greener, cleaner grid network and specifically supporting the uptake of rooftop solar across Australia.</p>
Cr S Yeomans	DCCS27/26	re Arts & culture committee. What would motivate the use of the phrase a single source of truth to describe the singleton hunter valley website, such a loaded authoritarian term.	<p>The term “single source of truth” was used in a digital and economic development context to describe the website as a central, reliable place where information about Singleton is brought together, rather than being spread across multiple platforms.</p> <p>It was not intended to suggest authority over information or to exclude other perspectives. Noting the feedback, the wording can be reviewed in future reports to ensure it is clear and not open to unintended interpretation.</p>
Cr S Yeomans	DI&P11/26	Re Combo Lane Pedestrian & Cycling Bridge & Quietway, How many people use the current bridges to walk or cycle into the cbd.	The application for funding did not require the provision of existing or predicted usage. Council has no pedestrian counts for the existing bridges across the Hunter River.
Cr S Yeomans	MM2/26 MM3/26	regarding both of the mayoral minutes how will the motions aims interplay or be affected by the recommendations from the Select Committee on Rural	<p>MM2/26 would require council staff to undertake a Housing Forum during 2026/2027 and report back to Council within the same period.</p> <p>MM3/26 would require council staff to commence an LEP amendment and report back</p>

		<p>Housing and Second Dwellings Reform if implemented & what costs are associated with the motions</p>	<p>to Council within three months on the timeframe and actions required to make the amendments.</p> <p>The report required under MM3/26 would include actions related to the outcomes of the Housing Forum (if required).</p> <p>The Select Committee on Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform has reported to Parliament. The next step is for the NSW Government to provide a response to the six (6) recommendations raised. This response is due by 30 June 2026. In the event the NSW Government's response includes changes to planning legislation in relation to housing, this can be incorporated into the staff response to both Mayoral Minutes.</p> <p>An Operational Plan action and associated budget of \$20,000 for the Housing Forum have been factored into the 2026/2027 draft IP&R documents currently on exhibition.</p> <p>Any costs related to the LEP amendment that are outside those accounted for in the adopted 2026/2027 budget will be included in the report back to Council.</p>
<p>Cr S George</p>	<p>NM6/26 – Page 21</p>	<p>The explanation given for the suggested cost and scope of works is confusing. Basic project/grant management should include the information requested. At any time the project manager should be</p>	<p>All projects financials, including original budgets, variations, budget changes and acquittals are recorded and managed by incumbent council staff for each individual project.</p>

		<p>cognisant of the project and all aspects of its delivery including financial oversight. If this oversight is not being carried out then how are costs managed and budgets met? This raises concerning questions over the financial management for projects of all value under Council management.</p>	<p>However, compilation and reporting of overall status and change management into a consolidated process for projects under \$250k is not currently resourced.</p> <p>Different grant programs, funding streams and internal revenue sources must be reported and managed in accordance with their own specific terms and requirements, and there is often no consistency between them. Hence, the information is tracked and recorded in different ways and to variable standards and hold points, making the task of compiling, vetting and reporting data a highly manual task which is not currently resourced. The estimate of an additional full time equivalent (FTE) staff member is based on 35hrs per week less indirect time, say 30hrs pw, assuming between 50 and 100 separate projects between value of \$100k - \$250k at any given time allows (30hr x 60min / say 75 projects) = 24min per week per project to prepare the reporting.</p>
<p>Cr S George</p>	<p>Draft Construction Workers Policy</p> <p>3.1 – Page 28</p>	<p><i>This Policy applies to Construction Workers Accommodation proposed and installed in neighbouring Local Government Areas, where these facilities are likely to have an impact on the delivery of services by Singleton Council.</i></p> <p>How can it be applicable to another LGA?</p>	<p>The Policy has included application for CWA in other LGAs, where the facilities are likely to impact on delivery of services by Singleton Council, this could include waste, sport, water (including standpipe) and sewer, depending on location and capacity to provide services.</p>

Cr S George	Draft Construction Workers Policy 5 Infill sites – Page 32	Is there a reason the old gas works site has not been considered? Could a map be included in the policy?	The Policy is not intended to provide an exclusive list of potential sites and does not preclude consideration or other sites within the LGA, provided the site meets the requirements set out in the Policy. Inclusion of Lot 1 DP 81369 and a map can be undertaken during the exhibition period, which would result in activation of recommendation 3 in the report before Council.
Cr S George	Draft Construction Workers Policy Use of short term rental accommodation – page 34	1 st para 4 th line off not of 2 nd para 2 nd line short not shirt	Amendment has been made.
Cr S George	Draft Construction Workers Policy Review Date	Page 29 states 2029, Page 36 12 states within 12 months	Amendment has been made.
Cr S George	Electric Vehicle Charging	Para 2 last line The Local Traffic Committee has been superseded it is now the Local Transport Forum with different roles and responsibilities.	Noted.
Cr S George	Electric Vehicle Charging Various places	The correct name is the Local Transport Forum not Local Traffic Committee	Noted.

Cr S George	Related documents	There are no document numbers	Amendment has been made.
Cr S George	Review/Monitoring	P44 Responsible Officer Manager Community Growth and Evolution P52 policy will be monitored by the Manager Development and Environmental Services to ensure compliance – this person is not listed as having any responsibility for policy	Amendment has been made.
Cr S George	GM 20/26 – page 90	The information on the maps states REW22 not REW 21 the subject of the VPA application	Noted. The proponent will be requested to amend the title block of the maps.

RESPONSES TO COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE 17 MARCH 2026

Councillor	Report Ref	Question/s raised	Response/s provided
Mayor Moore	GM9/26 – 17 March 2026	Provide information on a Tiny Home regulation that was amended in November 2025	This response is provided in item GM9/26 – 21 April 2026.
	GM8/26 – 17 March 2026	What is the cost breakdown for the three processes being undertaken.	This response is provided in item GM18/26 – 21 April 2026.
Cr Jenkins	CC5/26 – 17 March 2026	Did Council pay for the prickly pear weed control measures at the location of the Pioneer Rd Mountain Bike Tracks undertaken by Upper Hunter	In response to a community request, Council engaged the Upper Hunter Weeds Authority (UHWA) to undertake weed control works to manage an infestation of prickly pear at Pioneer MTB Park. Each year council pays a constituent

		Weeds Authority?	council contribution to the County Council. This contributes to the UPWA functions including priority weed management. In 2025/2026 the amount invoiced by UPWA was \$127,981.
--	--	------------------	--