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**PRESENT** Clr K Beatty (in the Chair), Clrs P Batten, J Jones, M Nash, K O’Ryan, A Pull, A Rawson, J Weaver, A Pearson.

Also present were the General Manager, Deputy General Manager - Cabonne Infrastructure, Department Leader – Development Services, IT Coordinator, Corporate Performance Officer and Governance Officer.

**ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION**

**ITEM - 1 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**MOTION** (Nash/Pearson)

THAT it be noted there were nil applications for leave of absence.

26/03/01 Carried

**ITEM - 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Proceedings in Brief

Clr Batten declared an interest (identified as a perceived conflict of interest, significant non-pecuniary) in item 21 as he is the President of Molong Advancement Group.

Clr Batten declared an interest (identified as a perceived conflict of interest, significant non-pecuniary) in confidential item 4 as his spouse operates a business in the area.

**MOTION** (Weaver/Jones)

THAT the declarations of interest be noted.

26/03/02 Carried

**ITEM - 3 DECLARATIONS OF POLITICAL DONATIONS**

**MOTION** (Rawson/Jones)

THAT it be noted there were nil declarations for political donations.

26/03/03 Carried

At this stage being 2.09pm, the Mayor invited Orange360 General Manager, Ned Sweetapple, to present to Council on Orange 360 services.

At this stage being 2.20pm, Clr O’Ryan entered the Chamber.

**ITEM - 4 MAYORAL MINUTE - APPOINTMENTS**

## Proceedings in Brief

### Clr Beatty

24/02/2026 – Business Paper review with Deputy Mayor, General Manager and Deputy General Manager. Ordinary Council meeting, Molong.

25/02/2026 – Orange 360 board meeting, Orange.

26/02/2026 – Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) meeting, Grenfell. Site Inspection Solar Farm, Eugowra. Tavel back to Molong.

28/02/2026 – The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Zone 6 Final, Eugowra.

03/03/2026 – Official Opening of St Joseph's Catholic School Eugowra Reconstruction and Yarning Circle. Meeting with Eugowra Chaff Produce and General Manager, Eugowra.

05/03/2026 – Regional Health Policy Lab, Charles Sturt University (CSU) Bloomfield Campus, Orange. Meeting with Local Government NSW (LGNSW) recruitment for Joint Organisation (JO) Executive Officer, Online.

10/03/2026 – Meeting with Jim Swift regarding Farmland Rates, Molong Office. Committee meetings and Mayoral Information Session, Molong.

11/03/2026 – Interview with Neil Gill Radio Program. Conducted JO Executive Officer interviews at Orange City Council, Orange. Meeting with Minister Aitchinson JO inquiry regarding Great Western Highway, Online.

19/03/2026 – Meeting with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Minister Aitchinson, Great Western Highway update, Online.

### Clr Jones

24/02/2026 – Business Paper review with Mayor, General Manager and Deputy General Manager and Ordinary Council meeting, Molong.

25/02/2026 – Interview with Neil Gill Radio Program.

26/02/2026 – Interview with Prime7 Central West.

28/02/2026 – The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Zone 6 Final, Eugowra.

01/03/2026 – Induction of Senior Pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Jackson at Molong District Baptist Church.

07/03/2026 – Commissioning Service of Rev. Robbie Nichols at Saint John's Anglican Church, Molong.

10/03/2026 – Community, Economy and Culture Committee meeting, Mayoral Information Session, Molong and Eugowra Promotion and Progress Association meeting.

12/03/2026 – Molong Advancement Group meeting.

14/03/2026 – Cumnock Agriculture Show, Cumnock.

21/03/2026 – Molong Sheepdog Workers Presentation, Molong.

23/03/2026 – Cudal Central meeting, Cudal.

24/03/2026 - Acknowledged the passing of former Councillor, Heather Woodhouse, and extend sympathies to her family.

### Clr Pearson

24/02/2026 – Ordinary Council meeting, Molong

10/03/2026 – Community Economy and Culture Committee meeting and Mayoral Information Session, Molong.

12/03/2026 – Molong Advancement Group

21/03/2026 – Molong Sheepdog Workers Presentation, Molong.

Clr Rawson

24/02/2026 – Ordinary Council meeting, Molong.

26/02/2026 – CNSWJO Board meeting, Grenfell Central Tablelands Water (CTW)

02/03/2026 – Mullion Creek Progress Association meeting, Mullion Creek

03/03/2026 – Chaired Ophir CLM Board meeting, Orange.

10/03/2026 – Council committees and Mayoral Information Session, Molong.

18/03/2026 – CTW Strategic Workshop

Clr Nash

10/03/2026 – Committee meetings and Mayoral Information Session, Molong.

27/02/2026 – Disability meeting, Manildra.

28/02/2026 – The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Zone 6 Final, Eugowra.

11/03/2026 – Manildra and District Improvement Association (MADIA) AGM meeting, Manildra.

18/03/2026 – CTW Meeting, Blayney.

24/03/2026 – Ordinary Council meeting, Molong.

Clr Batten

03/03/2026 – Yeoval Progress Association meeting

11/03/2026 – Canobolas Zone Bushfire Liaison Committee meeting, Blayney

18/03/2026 – Association of Mining and Related Councils meeting, Council Office via Online.

**MOTION** (Beatty/-)

THAT the information contained in the Mayoral Minute be noted.

26/03/04 Carried

The Mayor brought forward Item 10 in the order of business following a presentation by Ned Sweetapple, CEO of Orange360.

**ITEM - 10 ORANGE 360 FUNDING AGREEMENT PROPOSAL 2026-2030**

**MOTION** (Pearson/Batten)

THAT:

1. Council authorises the General Manager to sign the one-year agreement with TDO Ltd trading as Orange360 commencing 1 July 2026,
2. An option be included in the agreement of a three (3) year extension of the agreement,
3. The value of the agreement \$105,100 + GST with CPI increase annually is supported, and
4. Council authorise the General Manger to negotiate details of the Key Performance Indicators for Orange360 as part of the agreement.

26/03/05 Carried

### **ITEM - 5 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

#### **MOTION** (Weaver/Nash)

THAT it be noted there were nil items called to be debated in Committee of the Whole.

26/03/06 Carried

### **ITEM - 6 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

#### **MOTION** (Jones/Rawson)

THAT the minutes of the following meetings be adopted:

1. Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 February 2026.
2. Community, Economy & Culture Committee meeting held on 10 March 2026, and
3. Infrastructure (Transport) Committee meeting held on 10 March 2026.

26/03/07 Carried

### **ITEM - 7 ORGANISATION RESTRUCTURE**

#### **Proceedings in Brief**

The Mayor advised Councillors that the implementation date of 16 March 2026, as detailed in the report, has been moved to April 2026.

#### **MOTION** (Batten/Weaver)

THAT council's organisational structure be endorsed.

26/03/08 Carried

At this stage being 2.50pm, the Department Leader – Development Services entered the Chamber.

**ITEM - 8 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA (RDA) CENTRAL  
WESTERN - TEN4TEN LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE**

**MOTION** (O’Ryan/Weaver)

THAT council approve sponsorship of the 2026 Ten4Ten Leadership Dialogue to the value of \$1,500 (plus GST) to be funded from the Community Facilitation Fund.

26/03/09 Carried

**ITEM - 9 ANZAC DAY 2026**

Proceedings in Brief

<b>Service</b>	<b>Councillor attending</b>
Borenore (CWA Hall) TBC	Clr Rawson
Canowindra Dawn (Memorial Park)	Clr Weaver
Canowindra (Soldiers Memorial Hospital)	Clr O’Ryan
Canowindra (March Junction Hotel to Memorial Park)	Clr Pull
Cudal (Cudal & District War Memorial Gates)	Clr Pearson
Cumnock Dawn (RSL Hall)	Clr Jones
Eugowra Dawn (Memorial Park Cenotaph)	Clr Nash
Eugowra (March to Cenotaph at Memorial Park)	Clr O’Ryan
Manildra (March Bowling Club to Soldier’s Memorial Hall)	Clr Nash
Molong Dawn (Cenotaph Village Green)	Nil
Molong (March RSL to Cenotaph Village Green)	Clr Jones
Obley Dawn (War Memorial)	Clr Batten
Toogong Dawn (St Alban’s Church)	Clr Rawson
Yeoval Dawn (March Royal Hotel to War Memorial Hall)	Clr Pearson
Yeoval (March Yeoval Central School to War Memorial Hall)	Clr Batten

**MOTION** (Pull/Pearson)

THAT council nominate and authorise Councillors to represent council at the 2026 ANZAC Day Services throughout Cabonne.

26/03/10 Carried

At this stage being 2.52pm, the General Manager left the Chamber.

At this stage being 2.54pm, the General Manager returned to the Chamber.

**ITEM - 11 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2025/26**

**MOTION** (O’Ryan/Rawson)

THAT council approves opening the 2025-26 Cabonne Community Assistance Program - Round 2.

26/03/11 Carried

**ITEM - 12 2026 DESTINATION AND VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE**

**MOTION** (Pull/O’Ryan)

THAT Clrs Nash and O’Ryan be authorised to attend the 2026 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference.

26/03/12 Carried

**ITEM - 13 CABONNE FAMILY DAY CARE FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Proceedings in Brief

A request was made by Clr Jones for an overview of the Cabonne Family Day Care Financial Review to be provided at the Mayoral Information Session in May 2026.

**MOTION** (Weaver/Pearson)

THAT council:

1. Note that a financial review of the Cabonne Family Day Care service will be undertaken, and
2. Requests an outcomes report be submitted to the May 2026 council meeting for consideration.

26/03/13 Carried

At this stage being 3.02pm, Clr Pearson left the Chamber.

At this stage being 3.03pm, Clr Pearson returned to the Chamber.

**ITEM - 14 CONFIRMATION OF THE CABONNE LOCAL TRAFFIC FORUM MINUTES**

Proceedings in Brief

A request was made by Clr Jones to formally place on the record that the speed limit review on Packham Drive was not instigated by Council, rather it is a decision that has been made by the State Government.

A request was made by the Mayor to formally place on the record that the rejection of a Crossing Supervisor for the Molong Central School Crossing on Wellington Street, Molong, has been raised directly with Transport for

NSW (TfNSW), and believes the next steps would be to raise the matter with the Minister.

**MOTION** (Pearson/Nash)

THAT council accept the minutes from the Local Traffic Forum held on 05 March 2026 and;

1. Note the Committees endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the Local Traffic Forum,
2. Note the general business of the meeting,
3. Note that TfNSW will provide an update at the next Local Traffic Forum meeting regarding:
  - a. The pedestrian crossing located at Molong Central School
  - b. Clarity regarding the school zone located surrounding St Josephs Catholic School, Molong and Molong Central School.
4. Note that council staff will provide a copy of the Molong PAMP to TfNSW,
5. Note that council staff will investigate:
  - a. The relocation of various signage at the intersection of Belubula Way and Rodd Street, Canowindra.
  - b. Additional line marking options for the intersection
  - c. Suitability of a round-a-bout at this location, and
6. Note that council staff erect additional signage on the unsealed section of Yellowbox Road in relation to B-Doubles.

26/03/14 Carried

At this stage being 3.15pm, Clr Batten left the Chamber.

**ITEM - 15 FUNDING FOR THE CANOWINDRA CHS REFURBISHMENT**

**MOTION** (O'Ryan/Weaver)

THAT council:

1. Transfer \$226,000 from the Canowindra Town Improvement Fund to the Canowindra CHS Refurbishment project budget.
2. Transfer \$132,946 of remnant insurance funds to the Canowindra CHS Refurbishment project budget.

26/03/15 Carried

**ITEM - 16 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**

## Proceedings in Brief

The following questions were raised by Councillors for the next meeting:

- Clr Nash raised concern with the closure of regional banks within the Central West and requested that the issue be raised with the Central West Joint Organisation (CNSWJO).
- Clr Pearson raised concern regarding mobile black spots and acknowledged that Council has committed to addressing this issue in the Community Strategic Plan. A request was made for an update on Council's efforts to lobby the Federal Government and further address this issue.
- Clr Weaver raised concern regarding discussions about closing Hospital Lane to the public at Canowindra Hospital. Clr Weaver noted that doctors, health staff and ambulance officers rely on this road for direct access to the hospital, and any additional travel time could be detrimental during an emergency callouts. She suggested that upgrading the road to maintain access should be considered, as Hospital Lane has historically functioned as a through road.

The General Manager advised that a report will be brought back to Council once a response has been received from the NSW Health Department.

- Clr Pull asked how ratepayers will be kept updated on the impact of rising fuel costs, particularly in relation to Council's plant operations and the effect this will no doubt have on road maintenance.

### **MOTION** (Nash/Rawson)

THAT:

1. Council write to CNSWJO to investigate the impact of bank closures and advocate for better regional banking services.
2. An update be provided to Council on the efforts made by council to lobby the Federal Government on mobile black spots.
3. A report be provided to Council noting the outcome of the response from the NSW Department of Health on the closure of Hospital Lane, Canowindra.
4. A report be provided to Council outlining council's response to the impact of rising fuel costs and the effects this will have on maintenance and operations.

26/03/16 Carried

At this stage being 3.38pm, Clr Batten returned to the Chamber.

### **ITEM - 17 BUSINESS PAPER ITEMS FOR NOTING**

#### **MOTION** (Pull/O'Ryan)

THAT:

1. Councillors call any items they wish to further consider.
2. The balance of the items be noted.

26/03/17 Carried

**ITEM - 18 MATTERS OF URGENCY**

**MOTION** (Weaver/Nash)

THAT it be noted there were nil matters of urgency.

26/03/18 Carried

**ITEM - 19 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SECTION OF THE MEETING**

**MOTION** (Pearson/Pull)

THAT council hereby resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to discuss matters called earlier in the meeting.

26/03/19 Carried

**ITEM - 20 NOTICE OF MOTION - GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY  
(MITCHELLS CAUSEWAY)**

Proceedings in Brief

Clr Jones addressed Council on the closure of the Great Western Highway.

**MOTION** (Jones/Weaver)

THAT council:

1. Notes the ongoing and indefinite closure of the Great Western Highway at Mitchells Causeway, a critical transport corridor connecting the Central West with Sydney, carrying approximately 11,000 vehicles per day including around 1,800 heavy vehicles transporting freight, agricultural produce, and goods.
2. Recognises the importance of the Great Western Highway to the Central West economy, and notes that prolonged and uncertain disruptions are already impacting agriculture, businesses, and supply chains.
3. Notes the diversion of significant traffic and freight onto alternative routes not designed for sustained heavy vehicle use, raising safety, efficiency, and reliability concerns across the road network.
4. Writes to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King MP; the Minister for Roads, Jenny Aitchinson MP; the Member for Calare, Andrew Gee MP and the Member for Orange, Phil Donato MP calling on the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to prioritise funding to urgently fix or replace Mitchells Causeway and progress further planning and

delivery of upgrades to the Great Western Highway corridor to ensure a safer, more reliable, and efficient connection between the Central West and Sydney.

5. Writes to the Central West Joint Organisation seeking support for an updated coordinated regional advocacy effort to the Australian and NSW Governments on the strategic importance of the Great Western Highway and the need for sustained investment.

**AMENDMENT** (Jones/Weaver)

THAT council:

1. Notes the ongoing and indefinite closure of the Great Western Highway at Mitchells Causeway, a critical transport corridor connecting the Central West with Sydney, carrying approximately 11,000 vehicles per day including around 1,800 heavy vehicles transporting freight, agricultural produce, and goods.
2. Recognises the importance of the Great Western Highway to the Central West economy and the Sydney Metropolitan Area, and notes that prolonged and uncertain disruptions are already impacting agriculture, businesses, and supply chains.
3. Notes the diversion of significant traffic and freight onto alternative routes not designed for sustained heavy vehicle use, raising safety, efficiency, and reliability concerns across the road network.
4. Writes to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King MP; the Minister for Roads, Jenny Aitchinson MP; the Member for Calare, Andrew Gee MP and the Member for Orange, Phil Donato MP calling on the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to prioritise funding to urgently fix or replace Mitchells Causeway and progress further planning and delivery of upgrades to the Great Western Highway corridor to ensure a safer, more reliable, and efficient connection between the Central West and Sydney.
5. Writes to the Central West Joint Organisation seeking support for an updated coordinated regional advocacy effort to the Australian and NSW Governments on the strategic importance of the Great Western Highway and the need for sustained investment.
6. The Commonwealth of NSW Government declare the local government areas of Central NSW Joint Organisation a disaster region due to the combined closure of the Great Western Highway and global fuel and supply chain pressures.

The amendment was put and carried becoming the motion.

**MOTION** (Jones/Weaver)

THAT council:

1. Notes the ongoing and indefinite closure of the Great Western Highway at Mitchells Causeway, a critical transport corridor connecting the Central West with Sydney, carrying approximately 11,000 vehicles per day including around 1,800 heavy vehicles transporting freight, agricultural produce, and goods.
2. Recognises the importance of the Great Western Highway to the Central West economy and the Sydney Metropolitan Area, and notes that prolonged and uncertain disruptions are already impacting agriculture, businesses, and supply chains.
3. Notes the diversion of significant traffic and freight onto alternative routes not designed for sustained heavy vehicle use, raising safety, efficiency, and reliability concerns across the road network.
4. Writes to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King MP; the Minister for Roads, Jenny Aitchinson MP; the Member for Calare, Andrew Gee MP and the Member for Orange, Phil Donato MP calling on the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to prioritise funding to urgently fix or replace Mitchells Causeway and progress further planning and delivery of upgrades to the Great Western Highway corridor to ensure a safer, more reliable, and efficient connection between the Central West and Sydney.
5. Writes to the Central West Joint Organisation seeking support for an updated coordinated regional advocacy effort to the Australian and NSW Governments on the strategic importance of the Great Western Highway and the need for sustained investment.
7. The Commonwealth of NSW Government declare the local government areas of Central NSW Joint Organisation a disaster region due to the combined closure of the Great Western Highway and global fuel and supply chain pressures.

26/03/20 Carried

At this time being 3.47pm, Clr Nash left the Chamber.

At this time being 3.48pm, Clr Nash returned to the Chamber.

At this time being 3.59pm, Clr Batten left the Chamber.

### **ITEM - 21 EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

#### **MOTION** (Weaver/O'Ryan)

THAT council authorise funding from the 2025/2026 Event Sponsorship budgets for the following:

1. \$20,000 to Canowindra Challenge Inc for delivery of the 2026 Canowindra International Balloon Challenge,

2. \$5,000 to Molong Advancement Group to support delivery of the Molong Easter Village Markets, and
3. \$3,000 to Eugowra Olden Eagles for delivery of the Masters of the Mandagery tournament, and
4. \$3,000 to Eugowra Community Children's Centre to support delivery of the Far West Ride for Country Kids community event.

26/03/21 Carried

At this time being 3.59pm, Clr Batten returned to the Chamber.

### **ITEM - 22 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS**

#### **MOTION** (Rawson/Jones)

THAT council authorise the following donations from the 2025/2026 S356 Donations budget:

1. \$450 to Koori Kids for NAIDOC Week School Initiatives,
2. Two Cabonne All Pools Family 10-Visit Passes to Roshana Aged Care for the Moyne annual fete valued at \$288,
3. \$200 to Eve Owen for Youth Parliament program costs, and
4. One Cabonne All Village Pools Family Season pass to Yeoval PA&H Society valued at \$200.

26/03/22 Carried

At this time being 4.02pm, the Chair announced that the Council would now be resolving into a Closed Committee of the Whole.

### **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

#### **ITEM - 1 CARRYING OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION INTO CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

#### **RECOMMENDATION** (Nash/Rawson)

THAT the committee now hereby resolve into Closed Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing matters of a confidential nature relating to personnel or industrial matters, personal finances and matters which the publicity of which the Committee considers would be prejudicial to the Council or the individual concerned and that the press and the public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the conditions of Council's Confidentiality Policy AND FURTHER that as reports to the Closed Committee of the Whole are likely to be confidential and their release prejudicial to the public interest and the provisions of Council's confidentiality policy, that copies of these reports not be made available to the press and public.

1. Carried

**ITEM - 2 CLASS ACTION AGAINST CADIA HOLDINGS PTY LTD**

**RECOMMENDATION** (Batten/Pearson)

THAT council:

1. Note the class action against Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd has been filed in the Supreme Court of New South Wales.
2. Note that it owns land (road reserves and open spaces) in the identified area and may at a future meeting need to resolve whether it wishes to participate in the proceedings or opt out once the court publishes the opt out notice.
3. Note further reports will be brought back to Council on the matter.

2. Carried

**ITEM - 3 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION** (Nash/Batten)

THAT council adopt the minutes from the meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 17 February 2026.

3. Carried

At this time being 4.09pm, Clr Batten left the Chamber.

**ITEM - 4 REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF WATER CONSUMPTION CHARGES**

**RECOMMENDATION** (Nash/Pearson)

THAT:

1. Council write off 50% of water consumption costs being \$1,716.37 for the period 1 August – 31 October 2025,
2. Council write off 50% of sewer consumption costs of \$437.61 for account 3967000005 for the period 1 August – 31 October 2025, and
3. Council waive interest accrued on these charges during investigations.

4. Carried

At this time being 4.12pm, Clr Batten returned to the Chamber.

**ITEM - 5 LANDSCAPING TENDER - CAP24-005 RESTORATION OF MEMORIAL PARK, EUGOWRA**

**RECOMMENDATION** (Jones/Weaver)

THAT council:

1. Reject all submissions on Tender 1941552 Restoration of Memorial Park, Eugowra in accordance with s. 178(1)(b) of the New South Wales Local Government Regulation (2021) as the conforming tenders exceed the project budget.
2. Invite fresh tenders under s. 167 of the New South Wales Local Government Regulation for the Restoration of Memorial Park, Eugowra.

5. Carried

**ITEM - 6 CONTRACT 1945376 CONSTRUCTION OF OFFNER ROAD  
CULVERT**

**RECOMMENDATION** (Nash/Pearson)

THAT council:

1. Reject all tenders for Contract 1945376 Construction of Offner Road culvert in accordance with section 178 (1b) of the Local Government Regulation (2021)
2. Council delegate authority to the General Manager to enter into negotiations with the preferred tenders, being Keech Constructions Pty Ltd, Finn Valley Pty Ltd and Civil Constructions Pty Ltd, in accordance with section 178 (3e), as it is believed that negotiations will yield a construction price that will reflect the available project budget.

6. Carried

**ITEM - 7 LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT PROCEEDINGS  
2026/00024766 - GROWMOLONG INC**

**RECOMMENDATION** (Jones/Pearson)

THAT council note the information provided

7. Carried

**REPORT & RESOLUTIONS OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MOTION** (Pearson/Weaver)

THAT the Report and Recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on Tuesday 24 March, 2026 be adopted.

26/03/23 Carried

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.37pm.

CHAIRMAN.

Chairman of the Ordinary Meeting of Cabonne Council held on the 28 April, 2026 at which meeting the listed minutes were confirmed and the signature hereon was subscribed.