

<b>MEETING NAME</b>	Agriculture and Rural Industries Strategic Reference Group
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	S Beckley (Manager Shire Planning), N Dukinfield (Team Leader Employment and Rural Industries), J Kibby (Assistant Strategic Planner), Mayor Matt Gould (Chair), Councillor Ally Dench (Deputy Chair), James Bell, Lloyd Jones, Marwan El-Chamy, Phillip Bartolo, Richard Stephens, Vincent Hewson (online), 3x externals from Riverina Agriconsultants and a minute taker.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	A Poore (Manager Project Delivery)
<b>DATE</b>	3 December 2025
<b>TIME</b>	4.08pm

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Declaration of Interests	Councillor Dench declared a conflict of interest during the discussion of Agritourism and Bees as she operates businesses within this field.
Confirmation of Minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 July 2025 were confirmed. Mover: James Bell Seconder: Phillip Bartolo

<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The actions from the previous meeting were discussed as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Actions 1, 2 and 6 are now complete.</li> <li>○ The Manager Shire Planning provided updates on the following:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A DCP Review Update will come to the group when required as part of the review.</li> <li>▪ The Roadside Verges and Vegetation Management item is scheduled for the February 26 SRG meeting.</li> <li>▪ The feasibility of changing the start time of the SRG is an item on the agenda for the current meeting and will be spoken to later in the meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Briefings/Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horticulture LEP Amendment             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mayor Gould provided an update on the Horticulture LEP Amendment</li> <li>○ S Beckley added further updates of ongoing negotiations with Water NSW, focusing on the inclusion of drinking water catchment land and the requirements for fully contained horticultural operations.</li> <li>○ There was discussion regarding whether the term ‘fully enclosed’ should be replaced with ‘fully contained’. It must be a closed loop system where water is recycled.</li> <li>○ It was recommended we highlight the Planning Proposal is ‘nature positive’ involving circulating systems and ‘management control’.</li> <li>○ The group discussed the buffer zones for Werriberri Creek with confirmation that there are no buffer zones for the creek.</li> <li>○ The group agreed with S Beckley that the LEP amendment should not include a monitoring obligation on Council.</li> <li>○ The SRG concluded that Council should try to find a workable compromise with Water NSW but take the best outcome we feel we can get and not risk the entire LEP amendment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting with Agriculture Commissioner</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Mayor provided an overview of his meeting with the Agriculture Commissioner to the group.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION 7: Circulate contact details of the Agriculture Commissioner to the group.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Economic ID – Wollondilly Agriculture Profile             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Mayor provided an update on the latest Economic ID data for Agriculture and advised the group that Agriculture is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest employer in the Shire.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Viability Study             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mayor introduced the Viability Study Item.</li> <li>○ The Team Leader Employment &amp; Rural Industries provided background information to introduce the topic and advised the study had been sent to the group but they are open to received more feedback throughout the presentation.</li> <li>○ External Presenters from Riverina Agriconsultants presented to the group on the Viability Study.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Local Land Services             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Richard Stephens presented an update of Local Land Services to the group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION 8: Share Local Land Services Update document with the group along with a copy of the presentation.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 9: Local Land Services to come to a SRG meeting to provide an update on the new Biodiversity Act</b></p>
Engagement News and Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Manager Shire Planning advised the group that the EOI for more members is currently being advertised on Council’s website.</li> </ul>
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Variation to Meeting Time             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The group discussed changing the commencement time of the SRG meetings during the warmer months of the year.</li> <li>○ A 5-7pm meeting schedule was agreed upon across all members of the group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The group noted that all other meetings will remain with the normal 4pm commencement time.</li></ul> <p><b><i>RECOMMENDATION 1: That the SRG meetings held in months from November to March commence at 5pm.</i></b></p>
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The group discussed the desire to have a Farmers Markets held in the Wollondilly Shire.</li><li>● The group discussed invasive weeds that are around and how we can build education around what they are.</li><li>● James Bell mentioned the preference of the group to receive pre reading prior to the meeting to ensure the meetings can be run efficiently and the group can ask questions better.</li></ul> <p><b><i>RECOMMENDATION 2: That Council explore opportunities to establish a farmers market within Wollondilly and consider the addition of it in the Delivery Program and Operation Plan.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>RECOMMENDATION 3: That Council consider building an educational campaign on invasive weeds such as Blackberries, Lantana and Pittosporum Undulatum.</i></b></p>

MEETING CLOSE: 6.29pm.

NEXT MEETING: 4 February 2026.

REFERENCE: CM 15598~2#23