

MEETING NAME	Agriculture and Rural Industries Strategic Reference Group
ATTENDEES	C Argent (Director Shire Connections), S Gardiner (Manager Shire Planning and Advocacy), A Poore (Manager Project Delivery), C Devenish (Senior Community Engagement Officer), NL Norris (Senior Strategic Planner), Mayor Matt Gould (Chair), Councillor Ally Dench (Deputy Chair), Councillor Suzy Brandstater, James Bell, Lloyd Jones, Marwan El-Chamy, Phillip Bartolo, Vincent Hewson and two Minute Takers.
APOLOGIES	Richard Stephens.
DATE	23 July 2025
TIME	4.03pm

ITEM	NOTES
Declaration of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil.
Introduction from Council Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Council staff who were present introduced themselves and their role.
Introduction from Community Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All community members introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their backgrounds as well as advised what they would like to achieve whilst on the Agriculture and Rural Industries Strategic Reference Group.
Overview of the SRG Terms of Reference (Including Code of Conduct)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Manager Shire Planning, Head of Advocacy provided a brief overview of the highlights of the Agriculture and Rural Industries Terms of Reference and discussed what the focus will be of the group. • The Mayor provided a verbal update on the meeting frequency of the group and advised the available communication channels the group will be able to utilise for discussion between meetings. • A member requested a meeting time adjustment from 4-6pm to 6-8pm particularly over the summer months.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager Shire Planning, Head of Advocacy outlined the Code of Conduct including respectful behaviours. <p><i>ACTION 1: Circulate a list of current members of the SRG amongst the group. (Manager Shire Planning, Head of Advocacy sent this on the night)</i></p> <p><i>ACTION 2: Share minutes of the previous term</i></p> <p><i>ACTION 3: Investigate the feasibility of changing the time of this SRG</i></p>
<p>The community engagement role of SRG's</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senior Community Engagement Officer presented to the group an overview of the community engagement role of SRGs and the process of consulting with the community. • Several items that the group will be consulted about were raised including specific items in the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
<p>Comprehensive DCP Overview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senior Strategic Planner provided a brief overview of the Comprehensive DCP Overview project and expressed the importance of this project, as the current DCP has not been reviewed in 10 years. • The Senior Strategic Planner advised that staff would like to come back and consult the group throughout the project timeline. <p><i>ACTION 4: Arrange a future agenda item to consult the group on a DCP review update.</i></p>
<p>Topic Suggestions for upcoming meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming resilience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate and other events ○ Bushfires. • Sustainability/biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In rural world ○ How it fits and incorporates into farming. • How we leave the land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fencing issues ○ Pasture country ○ Hilly country - back to tree country - weeds ○ Poorly managed with weeds ○ More productive land ○ People living in Wollondilly - rural resilience mindset - rather than agriculture and horticulture ○ Subdivisions like Abbotsford ○ Slip country ○ Not infringing on the rights of land owners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coming with ‘responsibilities’ ○ Local land services (ability to promote and assist – like the old days) ○ Land care groups. ● Rabbit control ● Agriculture Promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Wollondilly equivalent to Camden farmers markets ○ How can we better promote it. ● Information from council for rural workers cottages, and short-term accommodation ● What the shire produces ● Farming subsidies and rates ● Non-farming properties, not managed ● Discuss penalties for damage to stock from domestic dogs. ● Rural road drainage/verge maintenance <p><i>ACTION 5: Arrange a future agenda item for Manager Infrastructure Operations to consult the group on roadside verges and vegetation management</i></p>
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The chair and the Manager Shire Planning, Head of Advocacy provided an update to the SRG on the progress of the Horticulture LEP amendment. ● The SRG discussed filling the outstanding vacancies within the SRG via another expression of interest process. ● The Chair moved a recommendation, seconded by J. Bell that “<i>Council Commence another Expression of Interest for the 4 vacancies on the Agriculture and Rural Industries SRG.</i>” This was carried unanimously. ● The Chair thanked the group for their time and advised the next meeting will take place 15 October 2025. <p><i>ACTION 6: Delivery Plan and rural Lands Strategy to be shared with the group as well as the Draft Wollondilly Agricultural Viability Study.</i></p> <p><i>RECOMMENDATION 1: Commence another Expression of Interest for the 4 vacancies on the Agriculture and Rural Industries SRG.</i></p>

MEETING CLOSE: 6.03pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15 October 2025.

REFERENCE: CM 15598~2#13