

MEETING NAME	Place, Landscape and Environment Strategic Reference Group
ATTENDEES	D Grimson (Manager Parks and Recreation), P Draper (Manager Infrastructure Operations), Councillor Paul Rogers (Chair), Councillor Suzy Brandstater (Deputy Chair), Keith Edwards, Rowan Gregson, Joanna Lawrence, James Bell, William D'Arcy and one Minute Taker.
APOLOGIES	James Johnson, James Hull, Mitch Peronis, Mel Johnstone and Christina Thurn.
DATE	27 May 2026.
TIME	4:00pm.

ITEM	NOTES
Declarations of Interest	Joanna Lawrence declared a Pecuniary Conflict on Interest in relation to a General Business item. The reason being that she is an investor in the ReSmart organisation, which was the subject of discussion. Joanna Lawrence left the room during discussion of the item.
Confirmation of Minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2026 were confirmed. Mover: Cr Paul Rogers. Seconder: James Bell.

ITEM	NOTES
Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed as follows: - James Bell commended Council staff for their proactivity in sharing information from the previous meeting. - Manager Parks and Recreation shared that one outstanding Action item (8) remains with Mel Johnson.
Update on Community Hall Projects	- Manager Parks and Recreation provided an update on the work to date and next steps for the upgrades of The Oaks Community Hall, Thirlmere Community Hall and Oakdale Community Hall. - Thirlmere and Oakdale Community Halls were closed for an extended period of time. Community engagement and consultation were undertaken in two phases to seek feedback from the wider community on the anticipated uses of the venues, preferences and types of upgrades desired. - The Oaks Community Hall upgrades include remediation works to the building exterior and modernisation of the existing facility and amenities within a limited budget. Works will ensure the facility meets current building and accessibility standards. - Thirlmere Community Hall has been identified as a site of local heritage significance following amendments to the Wollondilly Local Environmental Plan. The proposed approach seeks to retain and salvage as much of the existing building structure as possible to reflect its heritage value, as well as enhancing and extending the operational space to improve functionality. A DA has been lodged with a tender for construction anticipated in June, subject to DA approval. - Oakdale Community Hall upgrades will focus on retaining the existing footprint, with an extension to the current facility and upgraded amenities, including the provision of an external accessible toilet to also service the nearby tennis/multi-court facility. A DA is not required, and a contractor has been appointed with works expected to be completed by late 2026 or early 2027. - William D'Arcy raised that a group known as Stop Coal Seam Gas Sydney Water Catchment has leftover funds, raised mainly within Oakdale, which may be able to be directed back into the community

	through upgrades to the Oakdale Community Hall. Manager Parks and Recreation advised that the funding could potentially support arts-related improvements such as a stage subject to normal review. • James Bell raised the importance of long-term sustainability and solar considerations for community facilities. • Keith Edwards enquired about feedback on the Oaks Community Hall, with Manager Parks and Recreation advising that consultation is ongoing. It was noted that redevelopment of the halls arose from WestInvest funding and the identification of underutilised assets, with Cr Rogers confirming that funding has been allocated across various projects. <i>ACTION 12: William D'Arcy to suggest to Stop Coal Seam Gas Sydney Water Catchment group of the possibility of contributing leftover funds towards upgrades to the Oakdale Community Hall subject to grant review.</i>
Engagement News and Updates	• Manager Parks and Recreation provided an update on the current engagements including the Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2026/27, Proposed Rezoning – Alkoomie Place, South Wilton, Planning Proposal – Stringybark Drive, Bingara Gorge and Council Asset Naming Policy. • Cr Rogers encouraged the group to view items on exhibition and highlighted the Your Say page, noting that community members can register to receive updates and submit feedback on various projects across Wollondilly. • Cr Rogers advised that the Draft Weeds (Biosecurity) Strategy 2026–2030 was endorsed at the 26 May 2026 Council Meeting to be placed on public exhibition. He also noted that Council has resolved to engage directly with the relevant SRGs, highlighting this as an opportunity to seek their feedback on the draft strategy during the exhibition period, and encouraged members to share it more broadly within the community to help maximise feedback. • Manager Parks and Recreation shared that the Draft Night-time Economy Strategy was endorsed at the 26 May 2026 Council Meeting to be placed on public exhibition. Explained that the strategy aims to create a more vibrant, diverse, accessible and well-connected night-time economy across Wollondilly. The strategy has been shaped by

	feedback from the community, local businesses and stakeholders through various engagement activities throughout 2024 and 2025. A six-week consultation period will be undertaken, with the Strategic Planning team to hold a workshop at the next meeting. - Members expressed concerns regarding parking and street lighting during popular events. It was noted that the new parking facility at Walton Street and the Wollondilly Civic Centre is expected to help alleviate traffic concerns in Picton once complete. Manager Parks and Recreation advised that these matters would likely be further considered during the public exhibition process and noted that the strategy takes a broader Shire-wide focus. - Concerns were raised regarding the availability of accommodation to support increased night-time activity. Manager Parks and Recreation noted that Golf NSW has acquired Bingara and intends to establish it as their headquarters, which is expected to support visitation and reflect the area's ongoing growth. Members also discussed current short-stay accommodation, with it noted there are a number of farm stays and over 30 options across the Shire. Camden Valley Inn was referenced as a positive example of maintaining heritage while evolving into a popular day to night destination. - Keith Edwards enquired about the design of the Wollondilly Community Centre in relation to heat and energy efficiency. Cr Brandstater noted that the building's external design incorporates cooling elements, and Manager Parks and Recreation advised that energy efficiency measures, including glazing and facade treatments have been considered as part of the design.
General Business	Manager Parks and Recreation introduced items submitted by Joanna Lawrence for discussion: - Lights on Argyle Street - Fairy lights have been rectified. - Stonequarry Bush Care Group - The importance of advertising dates and times to maximise volunteer participation was noted. Members highlighted that the Robin Davies Wollondilly Community Nursery is a key sustainability resource supporting land care and is a strong example for surrounding councils, offering a

wide range of free opportunities for families to engage with nature.

- ReSmart Partnership for Recycling
 - Manager Parks and Recreation confirmed that Council does not currently have a formal relationship, and recently finalised the transition to a dedicated kerbside collection booking system.
 - It was noted that a Notice of Motion was resolved in February 2026 to investigate the feasibility of trialling Return and Earn wire baskets on public bins.
 - Cr Brandstater advised of the upcoming Waste to Art competition by Southern Tablelands Arts, commencing on 16 July. A Repair Café will also be held on 18 July, with volunteers still being sought.

During discussion, Joanna Lawrence declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest in this topic, and left the meeting at 5:00pm.

- Cr Rogers noted that the ReSmart website includes an option to become a council partner and suggested it may be worth exploring potential community benefits.

Joanna Lawrence returned to the meeting at 5:03pm.

- Group members commended Council on the refurbishment of Redbank Reserve. Manager Parks and Recreation advised the works were delivered through WestInvest, noting the group was pleased with the preservation and overall outcome. It was also noted that while pedestrian traffic remains a challenge, Council is committed to addressing intersection works.
- Use of Location Agents for Film/TV
 - Joanna Lawrence encouraged Council to proactively pursue business development opportunities to promote Wollondilly, given the LGA's range of heritage and period style locations.
 - Manager Parks and Recreation informed the group that Council does not have an account with a location agent, though enquiries are received for public space use. Private use cannot always be monitored. He also advised that Picton Botanical Gardens was recently featured on Sydney Weekender.

- Creating Additional SRGs
 - Joanna Lawrence raised the idea of dividing SRGs into more area-focused groups.
 - Crs Rogers and Brandstater advised the group that SRGs were consolidated from 13 to 6 due to staff resourcing, costs, quorum considerations, Councillor availability and time. They suggested that members can discuss ideas amongst themselves and bring them to future meetings for discussion.
 - Members reaffirmed the purpose of the SRG as an advisory body which provides diverse perspectives and opportunities for information sharing and broader community engagement.
- Thirlmere Lakes and National Parks Closure
 - This has been resolved.
- Pressure Cleaning Tahmoor CBD
 - Joanna Lawrence enquired about the possibility of pressure cleaning in the Tahmoor CBD to improve daytime presentation.
- Council-run Garage/Boot Sale Initiative
 - Joanna Lawrence raised the idea of a Council-run garage or boot sale as a way to reduce waste and encourage community connection. It was suggested these could be held periodically in central locations across the Shire to promote sustainability, local participation and trust through Council involvement.
- Members acknowledged the recent Menangle Store fire incident.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Council consider a partnership with ReSmart.

ACTION 13: Manager Parks and Recreation to consider feasibility of organising pressure cleaning in Tahmoor CBD, to assist in beautifying the area.

ACTION 14: Manager Parks and Recreation to refer the idea of a Council-run quarterly garage or boot sale for consideration as part of the Events Strategy Review.

MEETING CLOSE: 6:01pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 19 August 2026

REFERENCE: CM 15598~6#61