



MEDIA RELEASE

Mayor Zaffina welcomes the lifting of Council's Performance Improvement Orders

Balranald Shire Council has welcomed confirmation from the NSW Minister for Local Government, the Hon Ron Hoenig MP, that the Performance Improvement Orders applying to Balranald Shire Council will be closed.

The Minister has advised Council that, following Council's fourth and final compliance report submitted in September 2025 and subsequent update in January 2026, Council has successfully complied with the required actions under both the 2024 Performance Improvement Order and the outstanding actions from the earlier 2017 Order.

Mayor Louie Zaffina said the decision was an important milestone for Council, staff, and the community.

"This is a very significant step for Balranald Shire Council," Mayor Zaffina said.

"The lifting of the Performance Improvement Orders does not mean every challenge has disappeared. We are still a small rural council operating across a very large geographic area, with all the financial, workforce and infrastructure pressures that come with that. But it does show that Council has done the hard governance work required of it."

The Minister's correspondence acknowledged the leadership and commitment of Council, its Executive Team, and councillors throughout the process.

Council also acknowledges the role of its Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee, which has continued to provide independent oversight, challenge and practical advice during this period.

Chief Executive Officer Terry Dodds PSM said the result should be seen as a governance reset, not a victory lap.

"Performance Improvement Orders are serious. They are not something any council wants to be under," Mr Dodds said. "But the practical test is whether the organisation responds properly. In this case, Council has worked through the required actions, strengthened governance arrangements, improved reporting, and placed much sharper focus on long-term financial and institutional sustainability."

Council will also continue to advocate to the NSW Government for a more practical understanding of the structural pressures facing remote and infrastructure-intensive councils.

"Balranald's challenges are not unique," Mayor Zaffina said. "Many western NSW councils are facing the same underlying issue: large infrastructure networks, small populations, thin labour markets and growing compliance expectations. The lifting of the PIO is a positive milestone, but it also reinforces the need for sensible, evidence-based reform that reflects how councils operate on the ground."

Council thanks the Office of Local Government, the Minister, councillors, staff and the community for their work and patience throughout this process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Dodds', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Media Contact
Terry Dodds PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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