



AGENDA

Late Reports

Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 18 August 2026

Date: Tuesday, 18 August 2026

Time: 4PM

Location: Council Chambers, Market Street Balranald

**Terry Dodds PSM
Chief Executive Officer**

Order Of Business

6 **Mayoral/Councillor Report 3**

 6.1 MAYORAL REPORT - AUGUST 2026 3

6 MAYORAL/COUNCILLOR REPORT**6.1 MAYORAL REPORT - AUGUST 2026****File Number: D26.126992****Reporting Officer: Louie Zaffina, Mayor****Responsible Officer: Terry Dodds PSM, Chief Executive Officer****OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

REPORT

Following the announcement by NSW Minister for Climate Change and Energy, The Hon. Penny Sharpe, regarding a \$60 million funding package associated with the Southwest Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), discussions were initiated between the seven local government areas (LGAs) within the South West REZ footprint.

Of the total funding announced, \$44 million was identified for direct allocation amongst the seven participating LGAs. Minister Sharpe requested that the councils work collaboratively to determine an equitable distribution of these funds based on the anticipated impacts experienced by each local government area as renewable energy projects progress.

MEETINGS HELD

Representatives from the seven LGAs have participated in three meetings to discuss the allocation methodology and reach a consensus on the distribution of the available funding.

These meetings provided an opportunity to:

- Consider the projected impacts of renewable energy developments across the region.
- Review the expected infrastructure and community pressures associated with project construction.
- Discuss equitable allocation principles based on the level of impact experienced by each council area.
- Develop a regional agreement regarding the distribution of the available funding.

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

As a result of the collaborative discussions held across the three meetings, the following funding allocation has been proposed:

LGA	Proposed Allocation
Balranald Shire Council	\$4.0 million
Wentworth Shire Council	\$3.0 million
Murray Shire Council	\$3.0 million
Carrathool Shire Council	\$1.0 million
Remaining Three LGAs	\$9.66 million each

The allocation reflects the varying levels of anticipated impact associated with renewable energy developments and supporting infrastructure across the South West REZ Region.

BALRANALD SHIRE CONSIDERATIONS

While Balranald Shire is not expected to experience the same level of direct renewable energy infrastructure development as some of the other participating LGAs, the Shire is anticipated to be significantly affected by the heavy haulage transport task associated with the construction phase of renewable energy projects.

Particular concern exists regarding the movement of oversized and heavy vehicles through Balranald township, especially along the main street corridor, which forms a key transport route for project-related freight and equipment.

Potential impacts include:

- Increased wear and tear on local road infrastructure.
- Traffic management challenges within the township.
- Impacts on local businesses and residents.
- Increased maintenance and asset management requirements.
- Community safety considerations arising from high volumes of heavy vehicle movements.

The proposed allocation of \$4 million to Balranald Shire reflects the need to assist Council in managing these impacts and maintaining infrastructure affected by renewable energy project construction activities.

CONCLUSION

The seven South West REZ LGAs have worked collaboratively through a series of meetings to develop a consensus-based funding allocation model for the \$44 million identified by Minister Penny Sharpe. The agreed distribution aims to recognise the differing levels of impact expected across the region while ensuring that all affected councils receive support to address infrastructure, community and operational pressures associated with the delivery of renewable energy projects.

Balranald Shire's allocation acknowledges the significant transport and heavy haulage impacts expected to occur through the municipality, particularly within the township of Balranald, during the construction phase of major renewable energy developments within the South west Renewable Energy Zone.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil