
**LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 5:00 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
- CL01 p8 MI Supply & Drainage Channels Surrounding Lake Wyangan
- CL02 p10 Presentations for Potential Solutions from Consultants Aimed at Improving Lake Wyangan's Water Quality
- 6 p11 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Doug Curran (Chair), Councillor Tony O'Grady, Councillor Laurie Testoni, Mark Dal Bon (Councillor - Alternate), Scott Groat (Councillor - Alternate), Ema Munro (Community Representative), Frank Battistel (Community Representative), Jade Salvestro (Community Representative), John Tagliapietra (Community Representative), Kelvin Williams (Community Representative), Lisa Parker (Community Representative), Matthew Woodward (Community Representative), Reginald Brown (Community Representative), Saroja Nagaraj Gurazada (Community Representative), Scott Collis (Community Representative), Franco Pistillo (Member for Murray Representative)

General Manager, Scott Grant; Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo; Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, Environment and Public Health Coordinator, Vanessa Johns and Minute Secretary, Joanne Bollen

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

**LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 17 JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Doug Curran (Chair), Mark Dal Bon (Councillor - Alternate), Frank Battistel (Community Representative) (ZOOM), Jade Salvestro (Community Representative), John Tagliapietra (Community Representative), Kelvin Williams (Community Representative), Matthew Woodward (Community Representative), Reginald Brown (Community Representative), Brian Roberts (Member for Murray Representative) (ZOOM)

Quorum = 3

GUEST

Lindsay Golsby-Smith (Murrumbidgee Irrigation)

STAFF

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo, Environment & Public Health Coordinator, Vanessa Johns and Minute Secretary, Leanne Austin

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jade Salvestro and Kelvin Williams that apologies be received from Councillor Tony O'Grady, Councillor Laurie Testoni, Ema Munro, Saroja Nagaraj Gurazada, Lisa Parker (Community Representative) and Scott Collis (Community Representative).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jade Salvestro and Reg Brown that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 June 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 CROWN LAND TRUSTEESHIP & ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIMS SURROUNDING LAKE WYANGAN.

Mrs Johns provided an overview of the maps provided in the report identifying Crown Land and areas that currently have Aboriginal Land Claims.

Councillor Dal Bon entered the meeting the time being 5:06 pm.

Mr Stonestreet advised the proposed location for the Sediment and Nutrient Discharge Treatment into North Lake Wyangan project does not encroach on any Aboriginal Land Claims, however, Council would be required to undertake a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and obtain an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

Mr Rizzo advised the information presented was based on current data and staff will maintain an up to date record of information based on notifications received regarding any future Aboriginal Land Claims.

Councillor Curran advised that Council is not permitted to undertake any works on land with an Aboriginal Land Claim.

CL02 ITEMS/ACTIONS SUBMITTED FOR AGENDA BY COMMITTEE

Lindsay Golsby-Smith from Murrumbidgee Irrigation provided a response to the following questions raised:

1. Can Murrumbidgee Irrigation provide data on the inflows and outflows that they manage which impact the lake?

Ms Golsby-Smith advised that MI does not monitor drainage inflows. Due to privacy and confidentiality concerns, MI is unable to provide the Committee with data relating to MI customers. Ms Golsby-Smith advised the Committee that the process in place for providing customers with water from the Lake is that any water provided is metered, whatever the customer takes out, MI replaces on a monthly basis.

Councillor Dal Bon enquired how does Council know how many megs of Council water have been put into the Lake? Ms Golsby-Smith responded that this is also metered.

Mrs Johns advised that Council's surveyors monitor lake levels each week and data is sent to the Committee on a monthly basis.

2. Are there plans to address sediment and pollution/nutrient levels entering from the North West drain.

Ms Golsby-Smith advised that MI do not monitor sediment or nutrient levels. They are only required to monitor water quality leaving the system.

3. Can MI share historic water quality data for the South Lake including EC and pH levels? The Committee would like to assess the viability of dropping the EC through increased water turnover.

Ms Golsby-Smith advised MI is willing to share data however Council should request this formally by letter.

4. Are there any options that MI know of or could assist us with sourcing water to 'dilute' the lake and if we can achieve EC below 800us, would there then be opportunities to pump through the lake back into supply channel.

Ms Golsby-Smith advised there are a number of ways to source water including applications for cultural and environmental water however these do have strict criteria. MI would not accept water from the lake at its current water quality due to the high salinity levels. The water would have to be at around 150 – 200 EC. MI is willing to work with Council to investigate options.

Mr Stonestreet raised the question of access to supplementary flows for example in periods of high rainfall and flooding. Ms Golsby-Smith stated that MI can hold over water for customers and an application can be made to general security surplus however Council would need to own a supplementary entitlement. Council and MI are to discuss this further.

Mr Brown suggested that a larger pump would be required in future to avoid the risk of future flooding.

Councillor Curran advised Council needs to be mindful of the salt levels of any water being pumped out of the system as this will need to be shandied to reduce the salt level.

Paul Tagliapietra entered the meeting the time being 5:42 pm.

Mr Battistel asked if any water left over at the end of the season could be utilised by selling or transferring it to Council to put into the Lake? Ms Golsby-Smith advised Council could encourage users to offer their unused water entitlement to Council to replenish the Lake. MI could facilitate this transaction.

Mr Battistel enquired what happens to the unused water now? Ms Golsby-Smith advised she would take this on notice.

Mr Williams raised the issue of some properties having drainage licences/right to drain and variations in the size of drainage pipes. Ms Golsby-Smith advised that MI has drainage rules in place depending on numerous variables and that the area in question has been audited and all drains approved.

Ms Golsby-Smith advised the Committee that Council and MI may review the number of inflows into the Lake.

Matthew Woodward entered the meeting the time being 5:46 pm.

Councillor Curran thanked Ms Golsby-Smith for attending the meeting, extending an invitation to attend future meetings as any solutions to improve water quality would need to be in partnership with Council and MI.

Mr Tagliapietra and Mr Salvestro proposed an option for consideration using the South Lake as a wetlands and storage area where water diverted from the MI drain could be pumped into the South Lake, left to settle and then pumped back into the North Lake. This would require a larger pipe and pump system.

Mr Rizzo advised that consultants are currently preparing a revised Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Plan which will take into consideration future housing impacts and operating levels. It would be imperative to wait for the results of the Flood Study and Plan before

considering this option.

The Committee considered the following questions submitted by members of the Committee:

1. In line with the 2016 Lake Wyangan Catchment management plan the Committee recommends Council explore all options to deliver fresh water, equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ the volume of the lake, annually. The current endorsed plan recommends a $\frac{1}{4}$ fill in Spring and $\frac{1}{4}$ fill in Autumn. At minimum the volume delivered to the lake should replace evaporation losses and water pumped to Barren Box (other than flood mitigation release) maintaining at fill level of 106m. With other significant bird areas in close proximity to the lake successfully sourcing Environmental water, we recommend exploring access to Environmental water to keep the water quality high and maintain healthy stands of phragmites reeds around the water's edge which provide shelter for threatened species like the Australasian Bittern.

Mr Woodward advised that Lake Wyangan, being a man-made lake would most likely not meet the criteria for Environmental water. Councillor Curran advised that Council had previously applied for Environmental water however was unsuccessful.

2. Set target operating level for the lake of 106 (105.5-106m) that is based on maintaining recreational functionality and aquatic health, whilst managing capacity for holding significant rainfall events – see chart of water height v monthly rainfall data for Griffith Airport. Noting fish deaths occurred at low fill height in early 2020. Likely due to higher water temperature, depleted oxygen and low resilience due to salt concentration, algae and pH issues. Flooding occurred in 2022 after consecutive wetter than average months. Although it is not clear if there were other inflows into the lake which increased the October 22 flood height.

Mr Rizzo advised that the operating level would be considered as part of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Plan.

Mr Tagliapietra enquired about the supply inlet at the corner of Ziliotto Road and West Road. Ms Golsby-Smith advised this would be an old drainage channel that is no longer used to deliver water. The MI supply inlet is at Jones Road – 25 megs.

Mr Tagliapietra enquired how much water Council would put into the lake each year and if this could be increased. Councillor Curran advised it was a budget allocation issue and that income from water Council has traded goes directly into the General Fund.

CC01 DRAFT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - ENGINEERING DESIGN CONCEPT OF SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT DISCHARGE TREATMENT INTO NORTH LAKE WYANGAN

Mr Rizzo advised Council has prepared a scope for design of sediment and nutrient discharge treatment for North Lake Wyangan and would seek expressions of interest.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Matt Woodward and John Tagliapietra that the draft Expressions of Interest – Engineering Design Concept of Sediment and Nutrient Discharge Treatment into North Lake Wyangan document be approved and Council formally call for Expressions of Interest for the project.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The report was noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Water Quality Drainage Channel

Mr Williams raised the issue of the condition of the drainage channel at Lee Lane where there is little water running and the water has become stagnant. Councillor Curran advised this requires wetlands to filter.

Councillor Curran suggested that it is hoped that a filtering system will assist in rectifying this.

Councillor Dal Bon enquired if it was possible to create a wetland in this area? Councillor Curran advised it would be flushed out in a large rain event.

7.2 Costing for larger pump

Mr Salvestro enquired if Council would investigate the cost of a larger pump? Councillor Curran advised this could be done on the back of the Flood Study.

7.3 Thank You General Manager

Councillor Curran thanked Mr Stonestreet for his contribution to Council and particularly to the Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 18 September 2025 at 5:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:17 pm.

CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **MI Supply & Drainage Channels Surrounding Lake Wyangan**

FROM **Vanessa Johns, Environment & Public Health Coordinator**

TRIM REF **25/104320**

SUMMARY

To provide information identifying the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Supply and Drainage Network surrounding Lake Wyangan.

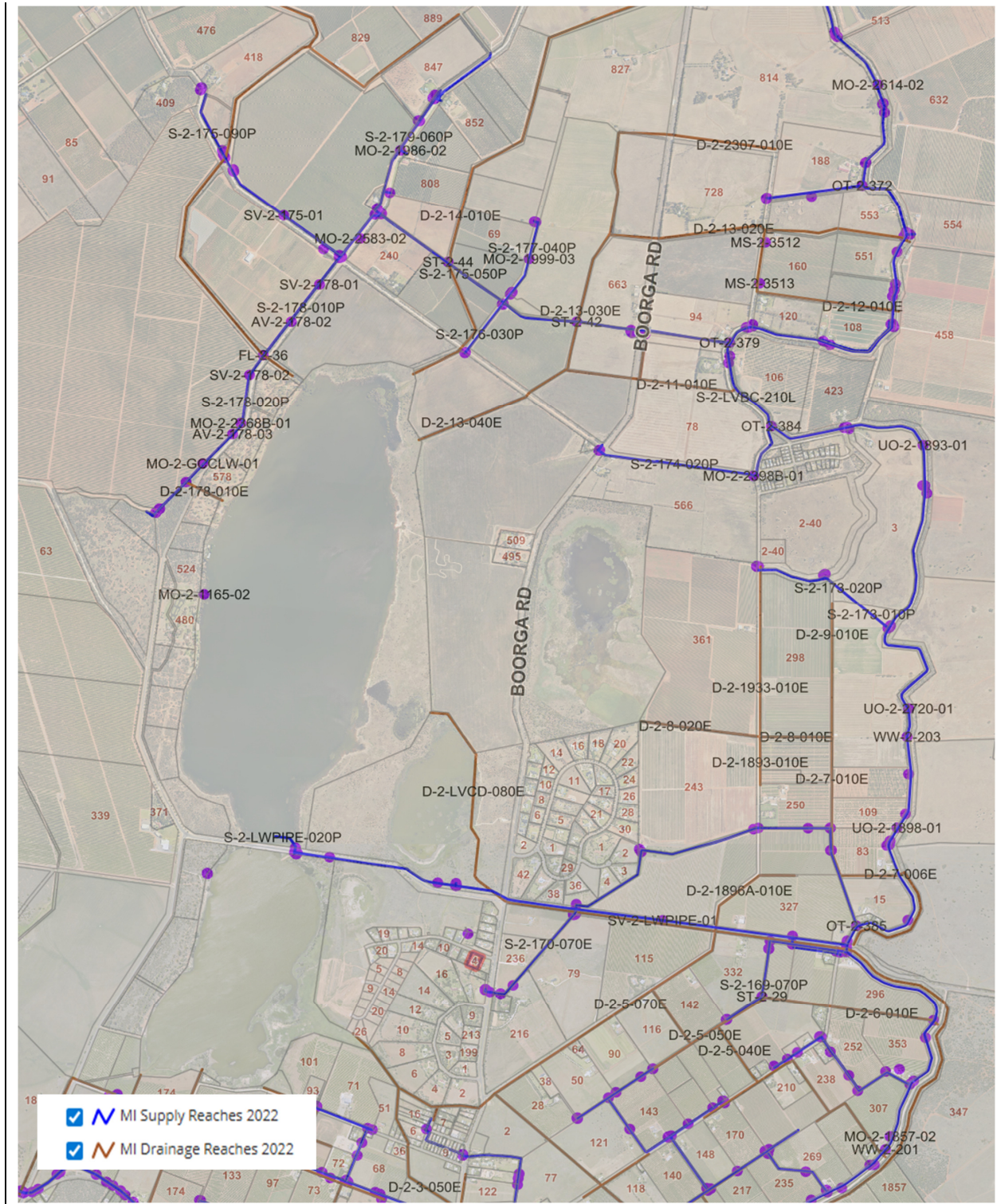
RECOMMENDATION


That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Map - MI Supply and Drainage Channel Network [↓](#)


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Drawn By: Vanessa Johns
Projection: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Date: 4/09/2025 11:45 AM

Lake Wyangan - MI Supply and Drainage Channels Surrounding Lake Wyangan

Map Scale: 1:30068 at A4

CLAUSE **CL02**

TITLE **Presentations for Potential Solutions from Consultants Aimed at Improving Lake Wyangan's Water Quality**

FROM **Joe Rizzo, Director Sustainable Development**

TRIM REF **25/107331**

SUMMARY

Griffith City Council has been contacted by numerous consultants and organisations that would like to present their products to the Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee agrees to receive presentations from interested consultants and organisations regarding potential solutions to improve the water quality of Lake Wyangan, and Council staff be authorised to schedule these presentations during upcoming Committee meetings.

REPORT

Griffith City Council has received multiple enquiries from consultants and organisations offering to present potential solutions aimed at improving the water quality of Lake Wyangan.

Should the Committee choose to proceed, Council staff will coordinate and schedule these presentations to take place during the upcoming Committee meeting dates.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 25/105348

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

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| (a) | Action Report - Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee - 18 Sep 2025 ↓ | 12 |
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Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee Action Report				
Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
17 July 2025	CL02 Items/Actions submitted for Agenda by Committee	Can MI share historic water quality data for the South Lake including EC and pH levels? The Committee would like to assess the viability of dropping the EC through increased water turnover. Ms Golsby-Smith advised MI is willing to share data however Council should request this formally by letter.	Director Sustainable Development	
17 July 2025	CL02 Items/Actions submitted for Agenda by Committee	Mr Stonestreet raised the question of access to supplementary flows for example in periods of high rainfall and flooding. Ms Golsby-Smith stated that MI can hold over water for customers and an application can be made to general security surplus however Council would need to own a supplementary entitlement. Council and MI are to discuss this further.	General Manager/ Director Sustainable Development	
17 July 2025	CL02 Items/Actions submitted for Agenda by Committee	Mr Battistel enquired what happens to the unused water now? Ms Golsby-Smith advised she would take this on notice.	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Representative	
17 July 2025	CC01 Draft Expressions of Interest – Engineering Design Concept of Sediment and Nutrient Discharge Treatment into North Lake Wyangan	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Matt Woodward and John Tagliapietra that the draft Expressions of Interest – Engineering Design Concept of Sediment and Nutrient Discharge Treatment into North Lake Wyangan document be approved and Council formerly call for Expressions of Interest for the project.	Director Sustainable Development	
17 July 2025	General Business 7.2 Costing for Larger Pump	Mr Salvestro enquired if Council would investigate the cost of a larger pump? Councillor Curran advised this could be done on the back of the Flood Study.	Director Sustainable Development	

19 June 2025	CL01 Presentation Optimal Stormwater	<p>RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Tagliapietra and Ema Munro that a Committee meeting be held in one month to consider a draft scope prepared by Council staff for the purpose of obtaining a quote for a sediment and nutrient discharge treatment at the North Lake.</p> <p>Mr Stonestreet requested the Committee also be provided with the likely cost of sediment removal once a system has been installed.</p> <p>Councillor Testoni requested that the Committee be informed who owns the land in the proposed location and whether or not it is subject to a Land Claim.</p>	Director Sustainable Development	
19 June 2025	CC01 Extension of Diatomix Trial South Lake	<p>RECOMMENDED on the motion of Frank Battistel and Ema Munro that Council approve the extension of the Diatomix Trial at Lake Wyangan (South Lake) through to October 2025, with the allocation of \$6,382.00 (ex GST).</p>	Director Sustainable Development	
24 April 2025	CL02 Diatomix Lake Wyangan South Trial Result to Date	It was agreed that the Certificate of Analysis from Sydney Water will be shared with the Committee on an ongoing basis. Additionally, research compiled in 2022 regarding the lake's salt levels will be distributed to all Committee members.	Director Sustainable Development	5/05/2025: Data to be sent to the Committee on a monthly basis.
24 April 2025	CL02 Diatomix Lake Wyangan South Trial Result to Date	It was noted that the Boat Club has not received payment from the sale of water conducted six years ago. This matter was taken on notice for further investigation.	Governance Officer & General Manager	<p>5/05/2025: Investigation ongoing.</p> <p>23/05/2025: Council resolved at its meeting held 24 September 2019</p>

				<p>CL03 LAKE WYANGAN BOAT CLUB AND SAILING CLUB CONTRIBUTION</p> <p>19/297</p> <p><i>RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Christine Stead that:</i></p> <p>(a) Council contribute \$40,000 (exc. GST) to Griffith Boat Club as a contribution towards the refurbishment of an existing toilet block.</p> <p>(b) Council contribute \$40,000 (exc. GST) to the Griffith Sailing Club as a contribution towards rebuilding a portion of a retaining wall at the water's edge.</p> <p>(c) In accordance with Council's Procurement Manual Policy – FS-PO-104, the Griffith Boat Club and Griffith Sailing Club provide Council 3 quotes for approval of works at each premises.</p> <p>(d) The Griffith Boat Club and the Griffith Sailing Club provide Council invoices up to the value of \$40,000 (excluding GST) for works carried out in accordance with the approved quotes.</p> <p>(e) That the assistance by Council as referred to in (a) to (d) above be subject to; whenever the water level is low in the Lake that the Griffith Boat Club provide members of the community free access to the boat ramp.</p> <p>(f) That the assistance by Council as referred to in (a) to (d) above be</p>
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				<p><i>subject to; whenever the water level is low in the Lake the public have access to the Sailing Club grounds without access to the Club's facilities.</i></p> <p>Council wrote letters to the Sailing Club and Boat Club 24 October 2019. The Sailing Club responded to Council and completed works and were reimbursed for expenses incurred. Council does not have record of any subsequent communication from the Boat Club.</p>
24 April 2025	CL03 Lake Wyangan Agenda Item for Salt and Algae Issued - Proposed by Committee Members	Committee members requested that a representative from Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) be invited to attend the next meeting of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee.	General Manager	<p>5/05/2025: The General Manager to contact Murrumbidgee Irrigation to invite a representative to the next meeting.</p> <p>12/06/2025: On 8 May 2025, an invitation was sent to the CEO of MI for a representative of MI to attend the meeting of the Committee scheduled for Thursday, 19 June 2025. A response has been received that the Manager Customer Services and Water Delivery – Lindsay Golsby-Smith is available to attend a meeting of the Committee. She is unavailable for the 19 June 2025 meeting but will be available the following meeting.</p>
24 April 2025	CL03 Lake Wyangan Agenda Item for Salt and Algae Issued - Proposed by Committee Members	It was raised that a 2017 recommendation suggested that one-quarter of the lake's capacity should be replenished annually. This matter was taken on notice for further investigation	Governance Officer & General Manager	5/05/2025: Investigation ongoing.
24 April 2025	General Business Data Transparency and Data Sharing	Data to be shared with Committee on a monthly basis.	Director Sustainable Development	5/05/2025: Data to be sent to the Committee on a monthly basis.

24 April 2025	General Business North Western Drainage Channel	Clarification was sought regarding the ownership of the drain connected to the lake.	Director Sustainable Development	5/05/2025: Director Sustainable Development to report to next Committee meeting regarding ownership.
24 April 2025	General Business Solar Pumps	The Committee requested that Council investigate the feasibility of using solar-powered water pumps with a capacity of 20 megalitres per day.	Director Sustainable Development	5/05/2025: Director Sustainable Development to obtain quotes.
19 March 2025	CL05 Lake Wyangan Data Analysis Report, January 2022 - Prepared by Dr. Philip Orr, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Tony O'Grady and John Tagliapietra that: (a) The Committee note the Lake Wyangan Data Analysis Report - Dr. Philip Orr - Griffith University and express appreciation to him for undertaking this project. (b) The Committee identify which recommendations included in the report it wishes to progress and Council explore opportunities for government grant funding to enable their implementation.		5/05/2025: (a) Noted. (b) For consideration of the Committee at a future date.
15 May 2024	CL01 Draft Plan of Management - Lake Wyangan	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Tom Mackerras and Frank Battistel that: (a) Council refer the Draft Plan of Management for Lake Wyangan, incorporating Jack Carson Wildlife Reserve (Crown Reserve 159017) and North Lake Wyangan (Crown Reserve 1002998) to the Minister administering the Crown Land Management Act 2016 for approval. (b) Upon approval of the Minister administering the Crown Land Management Act 2016 Council	Corporate Property Officer	3/6/2024: Draft Plan of Management sent to Minister for approval to be exhibited. 17/02/2025: Meeting held with Crown Land staff 11 Feb 2025. Schedule of outstanding POMs requested urgent attention of Ministers Office. 3/03/2025: Crown Lands Dept has reviewed the draft PoM – pending some minor amendments – the draft PoM can be placed on public exhibition – Staff working through the requested amendment/s.

		<p>amends the Draft Plan of Management Lake Wyangan if required, and place it on public exhibition as per Section 38 of the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>(c) Native Title advice has been approved.</p> <p>(d) A report be presented to Council to adopt the final Plan of Management for Lake Wyangan on completion of the exhibition period, to consider all submissions.</p>		
11 April 2024	6.1 Water Quality of Drainage into Lake Wyangan	<p>Mr Williams tabled a letter pertaining to the Water Quality of Drainage into Lake Wyangan with concerns about drainage licencing, and the size and quantity of outlets on properties. He has asked that Council contact Murrumbidgee Irrigation in regards to this issue. Councillor Curran advised that Council will follow up with Murrumbidgee Irrigation.</p>	GM/Director SD	<p>06/11/2024: Senior staff have discussed drainage challenges into Lake Wyangan but Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) haven't been specifically asked the question regarding licencing requirements that discharge water via infrastructure into Lake Wyangan.</p> <p>Council will now write to MI, enclosing a copy of Mr Williams letter, to seek a formal response to his enquiries.</p> <p>5/05/2025: The General Manager will send a copy of Mr Williams letter when inviting Murrumbidgee Irrigation to next Committee meeting.</p>
15 February 2024	7.1 Aerating the Lake Water	<p>RECOMMENDED on the motion of Frank Battistel and Franco Pistillo that Council:</p> <p>(a) Obtain costings to investigate the cost and benefits of installing water jets to aerate the lake water.</p> <p>(b) Obtain costings for capital works.</p>	Director SD	<p>15/05/2024: Mr Gibbs suggested that the Council and the Committee investigate an aeration device as part of a scope of works in a future master plan for Lake Wyangan, and potentially using the existing pump once works have been carried out to connect the pump to mains power.</p> <p>5/05/2025: Advice provided by Professor David Hamilton was that</p>

				aeration of a shallow lake would not address water quality issues.
16 November 2023	CL01 Lake Wyangan Project Officer Position	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Carmel LaRocca and Thomas Mackerras that: (a) The position of Lake Wyangan Project Officer be removed from Council's Organisation Structure. (b) A further report be prepared for the Committee by January 2026 in regard to the position of Lake Wyangan Project Officer.	GM	15/02/2024: Further report to the Committee in January 2026.