Shire of

cue

Queen of the Murchison

Confirmed Minutes

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

27 August 2025

SHIRE OF CUE
Special Meeting of Council
MINUTES

Held in the Council Chambers, 73 Austin Street Cue on
Wednesday, 27 August 2025 commencing at 6:30 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The meeting was opened at 07:06 PM

The Presiding Member welcomed those present and read the following disclaimer:

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Cue for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during this Meeting.

It is strongly advised that persons do not act on what is heard at this Meeting and should only rely on written confirmation of council's decision, which will be provided within fourteen (14) days of this Meeting.

PRESENT:
Shire President Les Price
Deputy Shire President Elizabeth Houghton
Councillor Ron Hogben
Councillor Ian Dennis
Councillor Julie Humphreys
Councillor Ross Pigdon

STAFF:
Chief Executive Officer Richard Towell
Deputy Chief Executive Officer Lisa Keen
Executive Assistant Janelle Duncan
Senior Admin Officer Stephanie Wandek
Accountant Ahmed Khan

GALLERY:

2 APOLOGIES AND APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Item 10.2 - Impartiality Interest Declarations

- Mr Richard Towell is the Treasurer for the Cue Community Resource Centre Committee.
- Cr Les Price is a board member of the Cue Community Resource Centre Committee.

Item 10.2 - Direct Financial Interest Declaration

- Cr Julie Humphreys is the Manager of the Cue Community Resource Centre.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

6 APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

8 PETITIONS

Nil

9 ANNOUNCEMENTS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

REPORTS

10 REPORTS

10.1 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2025 - 2026

APPLICANT: Shire of Cue

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

AUTHOR: Lisa Keen - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 21 August 2025

Matters for Consideration:

That Council adopt the attached Annual Budget for the 2025 - 2026 financial year.

Background:

Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires Council to adopt a budget in the form and manner prescribed prior to 31 August each year. Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* stipulates the structure and content of the budget.

The draft 2025 - 2026 Annual Budget has been compiled based on the principles contained in the Shire of Cue Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan.

Comments:

The Department of Local Government recommends the Annual Budget should be adopted in various components which is why this item has three parts and is set out differently to our standard agenda items.

The budget has been prepared with estimated rates revenue of $2,924,000 and total operating revenue of $8,327,410.

A capital works program totalling $16,615,600 for investment in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment is planned.

Expenditure on road infrastructure is budgeted at $2,950,600. Road projects include Roads to Recovery, Regional Road Group as well as works on Cue-Beringarra Road, grid widening and an allowance for flood damage works.

The budget for Land and Buildings is $10,245,000 which includes funding for construction of GROH housing, additional staff housing, a recreation centre and restoration works on our historical buildings. These include the Austin Street shops, Bells Emporium, renovations to the Masonic Lodge, and the Great Fingal Mine Office project.

A budget of $1,470,000 has been allocated to Other Infrastructure projects. These include completing works at the tip, playground equipment, streetscape works and upgrades to the aerodrome apron and taxiway.

An estimated surplus of $9,349,961 is anticipated to be brought forward from 30 June 2025. This amount is unaudited and may change with the finalising of the end of year accounts. Any changes will be addressed as part of the 2025/26 budget review.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995, Section 6.2 – Local Governments to prepare annual budget.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Part 3.

Policy Implications:

Shire of Cue Policy Manual

Financial Implications:

The 2025 - 2026 Budget provides Council with the opportunity to continue to provide the current level of services to the community as well as carry out significant projects that will provide benefits into the future.

Strategic Implications:

Shire of Cue Strategic Community Plan 2023 - 2038

Consultation:

Richard Towell - Chief Executive Officer

Officers Recommendation: **Voting Requirement:** Absolute Majority

Part A – Adoption of 2025 - 2026 Annual Budget

***Following the Budget Workshop held prior to this meeting, the figures below have been updated to reflect the annual budget.**

That pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, Council adopts the attached 2025 - 2026 Annual Budget, which includes the following:

- Statement of Comprehensive income showing a net result for the year of $1,512,333
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Financial Activity showing $2,924,000 to be raised from rates to cover the budgeted deficiency
- Notes to and forming part of the Budget and significant accounting policies
- Acquisition of assets as detailed in Note 4, totalling $16,615,600
- New borrowings of $1,300,000
- Transfer to and from Reserve accounts, as detailed in Note 7, totalling ($119,586)

Part B – Imposition of General and Minimum Rates, Instalment Payment Arrangements, Charges and Interest

Pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the rates and charges, specified hereunder and in the attached budget document, be imposed on all rateable properties within the district of the Shire of Cue for the 2025-2026 financial period.

- GRV Residential 11.2900 cents in the dollar
- GRV Commercial 11.2900 cents in the dollar
- GRV Vacant Land 11.2900 cents in the dollar
- UV Mining 24.2390 cents in the dollar
- UV Pastoral 8.8910 cents in the dollar
- GRV M&T Workforce 16.9350 cents in the dollar
- GRV Residential Minimum Rate $515
- GRV Commercial Minimum Rate $515
- GRV Vacant Land Minimum Rate $515
- UV Mining Minimum Rate $515
- UV Pastoral Minimum Rate $515
- GRV M&T Workforce Minimum Rate $515

For properties that fit the definition of GRV Commercial under the Objects and Reasons for differential rates, a discount of 20% of the current rates levied will be offered to ratepayers whose payment of the full amount owing including arrears and service charges is received by the single payment due date.

Pursuant to section 6.46 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council offers an incentive for the payment of the 2025 - 2026 rates and charges by the single payment due date by the way of lottery draw for the cash prizes of:

i. First Prize $600.00
ii. Second Prize $300.00
iii. Third Prize $100.00

The terms and conditions that apply to the rates incentive prize are:

- To be eligible for the draw, all outstanding rates and charges must be received on or before the single payment due date .
- All ratepayers are eligible.

The drawing of the winners for the above prizes will take place during the Council meeting held on 18 November 2025.

Pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council adopts a charge of $15 for the instalment option.

Pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, Council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the ratepayer has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.

Pursuant to *section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, Council nominates the following due dates for payment in full and by instalments:

- Full payment and 1st instalment due 17 October 2025 (single payment date)
- 2nd instalment due 19 December 2025
- 3rd instalment due 20 February 2026
- 4th instalment due 24 April 2026

Pursuant to section 6.51(1) and subject to section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council adopts an interest rate of 11% to be imposed on all outstanding rates and services charges and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after 17 October 2025 or in the case of instalment options, on all outstanding rate amounts after the due date for payment of the instalment.

Part C – Material Variance Reporting for 2025 - 2026

In accordance with Regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and AASB 1031 *Materiality*, the level to be used in Statements of Financial Activity in 2025 - 2026 for reporting material variances shall be 10% or $25,000, whichever is the greater.

Council Decision: 12082025	**Voting Requirement: Absolute Majority**
MOVED: Cr Ross Pigdon	**SECONDED: Cr Julie Humphreys**

Part A – Adoption of 2025 - 2026 Annual Budget

***Following the Budget Workshop held prior to this meeting, the figures below have been updated to reflect the annual budget.**

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- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Financial Activity showing $2,924,000 to be raised from rates to cover the budgeted deficiency
- Notes to and forming part of the Budget and significant accounting policies
- Acquisition of assets as detailed in Note 4, totalling $16,615,600
- New borrowings of $1,300,000
- Transfer to and from Reserve accounts, as detailed in Note 7, totalling ($119,586)

CARRIED: 6/0
AGAINST: None

Council Decision: 13082025	**Voting Requirement: Absolute Majority**
MOVED: Cr Elizabeth Houghton	**SECONDED: Cr Julie Humphreys**

Part B – Imposition of General and Minimum Rates, Instalment Payment Arrangements, Charges and Interest

Pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the rates and charges, specified hereunder and in the attached budget document, be imposed on all rateable properties within the district of the Shire of Cue for the 2025-2026 financial period.

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CARRIED: 6/0
AGAINST: None

***Council Decision:* 14082025** **Voting Requirement: Absolute Majority**

MOVED: Cr Ian Dennis **SECONDED: Cr Julie Humphreys**

Part C – Material Variance Reporting for 2025 - 2026

In accordance with Regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and AASB 1031 *Materiality*, the level to be used in Statements of Financial Activity in 2025 - 2026 for reporting material variances shall be 10% or $25,000, whichever is the greater.

CARRIED: 6/0
AGAINST: None

10.2 CUE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE FUNDING REVIEW

APPLICANT:	Shire of Cue
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	The author is the Treasurer for the Cue Community Resource Centre Committee. Cr Les Price is a board member of the Cue Community Resource Centre Committee. Cr Julie Humphreys is the Manager of the Cue Community Resource Centre.
AUTHOR:	Richard Towell - Shire of Cue
DATE:	22 August 2025

Matters for Consideration:

To review the annual allocation to the Cue Community Resource Centre for funding improvements, operations and staffing of the Cue Heritage Discovery Centre and Tourist Information Centre.

Background:

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 August 2025, it was suggested that a review be undertaken regarding the Shire's ongoing funding contribution of $50,000 per annum to the Cue Community Resource Centre (CRC).

Historically, tourist information services were delivered by the Golden Art Shop under a contractual agreement. The most recent available contract (2011–2013) recorded an annual cost of $22,000 for that service.

The CRC has since assumed responsibility for providing tourist information services and is now also involved in managing and staffing the Cue Heritage Discovery Centre. The expanded responsibilities have placed additional demands on CRC resources, necessitating increased staffing, longer operating hours during peak tourist seasons, and broader support for display maintenance, promotion, and ongoing improvements.

The Shire has provided four payments of $50,000 plus GST to the CRC for the 2022 - 2025 financial years.

Comments:

The Cue CRC plays a vital role in the delivery of visitor services and the preservation and promotion of Cue's heritage. The addition of the Cue Heritage Discovery Centre adds value to the Shire's tourism offering, and continued financial support would ensure:

- Adequate staffing during peak tourist periods
- Expanded operating hours
- Regular maintenance and enhancement of displays
- Broader promotional activities
- A more seamless visitor experience

The CRC has expressed a desire to continue receiving the full $50,000 contribution and to use the funding not only for staffing but also for general operations related to both the Tourist Information Centre and the Heritage Discovery Centre.

The CRC spent over $50,000 building a gazebo furnished with tables and chair for holding Community events and for visitors to utilise as a sitting area.

The CRC currently employees one full-time staff member (Manager) and casual staff for approximately the hours equivalent to a full-time staff member.

Statutory Environment:

Nil

Policy Implications:

D.16 PROVISION OF SPONSORSHIP AND DONATIONS
Policy Statement
Calculation of Value of Requested Donation or Sponsorship

This Policy deals with requests for donation or sponsorship from external bodies. Requests may be for a cash donation or sponsorship; in kind (provision of goods and services or waiving of fees) donation or a combination of cash and in kind.
In assessing requests for in kind donation or sponsorship, or a combination of in kind and cash sponsorship, then the value of the in kind request will be calculated. The full cost of the request (including calculated value of any in kind component) will be considered.

Donations

Donations by the Council reflect its commitment to improve the wellbeing of the community of the Shire of Cue. Because of the philanthropic nature of donations, the Council does not seek a direct cost – benefit return from the donation, and does not require a business case to be put. However, the Council does give preference *to donations which will assist organisations which benefit the community of the Shire of Cue, or improve the services provided to visitors to the Shire of Cue.*

- *Where the funds are not fully expended on the approved donation the surplus money is to be returned to the Shire*

All donations are to be acquitted in the financial year that it was granted unless prior approval is granted.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a donation, the applicant must be an Association incorporated in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act 1987 which includes organisations with religious and / or charitable objectives; and / or community based not for profit groups providing a direct service to the stakeholders and visitors of the Shire of Cue which demonstrably contribute to the wellbeing of residents and visitors, and serve to promote the development of the community.

Service Areas

The range of service areas considered for donations may include:

a) Senior citizen's / community centre;
b) Community information and support services;
c) Youth services;
d) Children's services;
e) Emergency relief services;
f) Recreation services / sports clubs;
g) Community services;
h) Health services;
i) Education services;

Organisations are expected to acknowledge the contribution made by the Shire of Cue.

Where a donation is approved for a specific purpose – such as purchase of equipment the organisation is required to provide evidence of expenditure.

Assessment Process

- *Applications are to be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer detailing as a minimum:*
  - *Reason for request;*
  - *Amount requested (whether monetary, in kind or a combination of both); and*
  - *If donation is to be used towards the purchase of equipment, who will ultimately be the owner of the equipment and be responsible for its upkeep / maintenance.*

Any sponsorship or donation approved by the Chief Executive Officer will be funded from the G/L Account 04143 – CEO Discretionary Expenses.

Any request for sponsorship or donation which the Chief Executive Officer believes is outside his / her delegation, is in excess of the aforementioned budgetary item and / or requires the consideration of Council will be referred to Council.

Where a request for sponsorship or donations is referred to Council, the Council may decline the application or, subject to sufficient funds being available in the Council's budget, approve the application.

Financial Implications:

The Shire allocates a budget amount for the Cue Community Resource Centre of $50,000 annually.

Strategic Implications:

The proposed action addresses the following objectives contained in the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2023-2038.

Economic Objective
Outcome 1.1 Maximise local economic opportunities to benefit the whole community

1.2.2 Showcase our heritage and mining attractions
1.2.3 Develop new tourism attractions to enhance and encourage visitors to stay longer

Outcome 1.2 Develop strategies to increase number of tourists visiting the Shire

Outcome 2.2 Strengthen our communities' position for the future

2.2.1 Effective community and stakeholder engagement
2.2.2 Maintain a strong customer focus
2.2.3 Provide support to community and education groups

Social Objective
Outcome 3.2 Encourage community participation and services

3.2.4 Support provision of emergency services, support and encourage community volunteers

Consultation:

Julie Humphreys, Manager Cue CRC
Catherine Willett, Chairperson Cue CRC
Les Price, Shire President

Officers Recommendation: **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

That Council:

Continue to provide an annual allocation of $50,000 to the Cue Community Resource Centre for the purpose of

- employing additional staff resources, funding improvements to enhance the heritage area and operations of the Cue Heritage Discovery Centre and Tourist Information Centre

Council Decision: 15082025	**Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority
MOVED: Cr Elizabeth Houghton	**SECONDED: Cr Ian Dennis**

That Council:

Continue to provide an annual allocation of $50,000 to the Cue Community Resource Centre for the purpose of

- employing additional staff resources, funding improvements to enhance the heritage area and operations of the Cue Heritage Discovery Centre and Tourist Information Centre.

CARRIED: 5/0
AGAINST: None

07:15pm Cr Julie Humphreys left the chamber due to declaring a financial interest
07:19pm Cr Julie Humphreys re-entered the chamber

11 MOTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

12 MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Nil

13 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

Nil

CLOSED COUNCIL

Nil

14 MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Nil

CLOSURE

15 CLOSURE

The Presiding Member thanked those present for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 07:21 PM.

To be confirmed at Ordinary Meeting on the 16 September 2025.

Signed: ....

Presiding Member at the Meeting at which time the Minutes were confirmed.