

Supplementary Items Ordinary Meeting Agenda

17 February 2026

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **Meeting of Maitland City Council** will be held in the **Council Chambers, Town Hall, High Street, Maitland**, commencing at **5.30pm**.

Jeff Smith
General Manager

Please note:

Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office to undertake their duties in the best interests of the people of the City and Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993, or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement. Councillors are also reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

In accordance with the NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, you are advised that all discussion held during the Open Council meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, Staff member or a member of the public.

This Supplementary Agenda includes two attachments with additional information for items already listed in the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda of 17 February 2026. The two attachments are:

- **Item 10.2 – Former Maitland Hospital Site Submission**
- **Item 15.1 – Walka Water Works Chimney Status Update**

Councillor Memo for Council Meeting 17 February 2026

Item 10.2 - Former Maitland Hospital Site Submission

Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 2

Councillor Memo

Date: Tuesday, 17 February 2026

File No: 35/4

Subject: Amendment to Officers Recommendation - Item 10.2 Former Maitland Hospital Site Submission

Message:

Councillors, following recent internal communications regarding the proposed submission to the NSW Government regarding the former Maitland Hospital Site, an opportunity to expand the public open space network has been identified, and it is recommended that Council seek to have the ownership of the land transferred from Health Administration Corporation to Council.

The light shaded area on the accompanying image, is Crown Land managed by Council and the dark shaded area identifies 4.7 hectares of land known as Lot 3 DP1156239, Lots 1, 2 and 3 DP375615, and Lot 1380 DP1124488. The inclusion of an additional point to the Officers Recommendation has been reviewed and approved by the relevant subject matter experts. The new Officers Recommendation for Item 10.2 Former Maitland Hospital Site Submission is as follows:

THAT

1. The attached submission letter is endorsed as Council's formal response to the NSW Government engagement which closes on Sunday 1 March 2026.
2. Council officers are endorsed to continue discussions with relevant NSW government agencies regarding the future use of the former Maitland Hospital site, consistent with adopted strategies and policies of Council.
3. Council recognises the opportunity to expand the public open space network on 5 NSW state government owned land parcels (being lot 3 DP1156239, lots 1, 2 and 3 DP375615, and lot 1380 DP1124488) which are located to the east of the subject site and adjoining Council managed Crown Land known Johnson Reserve and requests the relevant NSW Minister undertake required process to transfer these lots to Maitland City Council.

Kelsie Wilson
Team Leader OGM

COUNCILLOR MEMO FOR COUNCIL MEETING 17 FEBRUARY 2026 (Cont.)



Image of lot 3 DP1156239, lots 1, 2 and 3 DP375615, and lot 1380 DP1124488

Councillor Memo for Council Meeting 17 February 2026

Item 15.1 - Walka Water Works Chimney Status Update

Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

Attachment No: 2

Number of Pages: 3

Councillor Memo

Date: Monday, 16 February 2026

File No: 35/4

Subject: Error identified in Item 15.1 of the Ordinary Meeting Agenda 17 February 2026

Message:

Councillors, in respect of Item 15.1 Walka Water Works Chimney – Status Update, an error has been identified in the Ordinary Council Meeting business paper for 17 February 2026.

It has been identified that page one (1) of attachment three (3) is absent from the business paper. This attachment is recognised as Response from Member for Maitland, The Honourable Ms Jenny Aitchison MP in the business paper.

The complete attachment can be found attached to this letter.

We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding. Should you have any questions or require clarification on the corrected information please feel free to contact the Office of the General Manager at executive@maitland.nsw.gov.au.

Kelsie Wilson
Team Leader OGM

**Jenny Aitchison MP**

Member for Maitland

6 February 2026

Jeff Smith
 General Manager
 Office of the General Manager
 Maitland City Council
 263 High Street
 MAITLAND NSW 2320

Via email: gm@maitland.nsw.gov.au

Dear Jeff,

Re: Restoration of the Walka Water Works pumphouse chimney

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the pumphouse chimney funding and I apologise for the delay in responding. I appreciate the concerns of Maitland City Council and the broader community about the conditions at Walka Water Works including the ground contamination issues and the structural integrity of the buildings, particularly the pumphouse chimney.

I understand from briefings with yourself and with Minister for Crown Lands and his office, that both parties under the Crown Land Management agreement are working together to remediate the site.

There has been particular success in addressing the ground remediation and I understand that there are positive developments in stabilising and otherwise addressing the structural components of the site.

I understand that Maitland City Council has a proposed plan of management for the site on public display. It is a good opportunity for the members of the community to have their say before a final plan is approved by Council. I will promote the Have Your Say on my social media channels to try and encourage a broad range of community members to participate in the consultation.

Again, I continue to strongly encourage Maitland City Council to make applications as any grants open up for various State and Federal funding opportunities. Grant opportunities include the NSW Crown Reserves Improvement Fund, Heritage Grants Program and Community Building Partnerships. While none of these grants may be in their entirety enough to complete all of the works required on this site, they can be utilised to complete specific projects which over time to contribute to the conservation and remediation of the site.

Grant funds are hard won, and while I note Council has previously received funding for the site, I understand that it had to be returned due to not being able to complete the project as applied for. While Council's wish to transfer these funds to another project were passed on to the relevant Minister, the NSW Government has implemented a modernised, transparent approach to grant administration, governed by the **Grants Administration Guide (2024)**. This framework mandates that grant programs be designed with robust, fair, and transparent processes to ensure

Electorate office: 2/12 Elgin Street Maitland **Post:** PO Box 920, Maitland NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4933 1617 **Email:** maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au

OFFICIAL



OFFICIAL

accountability, often featuring open, competitive, and merit-based assessments and additional correspondence is unable once applications have been considered. This guide ensures that grant outcomes are the result of objective assessment separate to political influence.

I continue to support Council in every way to achieve funding from the State Government, and I am pleased that there is more consultation going into the current plan of management to achieve long term outcomes that the community supports, which preserve the heritage and special character of Walka Water Works.

As noted in your correspondence, I understand that Maitland Council last year applied for a \$5 million grant application to the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program (REDCIP). I wrote a letter of support which was submitted with this application in February 2025.

Unfortunately, Maitland City Council's application was unsuccessful in the latest round. Feedback on individual applications was offered to all applicants, and I trust that Maitland City Council has taken this opportunity to assist in improving future applications to this fund.

As future rounds of this specific grant program arise, I strongly encourage Maitland City Council to submit an application based on feedback from previous applications. I will ask my office to ensure that Council is made aware of upcoming grant applications as we become aware of them (as we have done previously).

Again, aside from normal grant funding processes, I am pleased that Maitland City Council is working closely with NSW Crown Lands to address urgent remediation works on the site.

I continue to advocate strongly to my cabinet colleagues regarding the importance of Walka Water Works to our community as a heritage and recreation site for our local community and I look forward to providing support and information to Maitland Council to ensure all funding opportunities are pursued.

I would welcome a briefing from Maitland City Council on their plan of management once it is approved by Council.

My office is finalising arrangements with the Minister for Crown Lands and his office to meet with the General Manager of Maitland City Council on the management and future of a number of important Crown Land sites in Maitland.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP
Member for Maitland
Minister for Regional Transport and Road

OFFICIAL