BOARD MEETING OUTCOMES HIGHLIGHTS

Reporting period June – August 2026

To support transparency and engagement with member councils, WSROC provides this public outcomes report summarising key actions and discussions from the WSROC Board meeting.

This document is not the official Board minutes and does not include confidential or administrative items.

INTRODUCTION

The WSROC Board met on Thursday, 27 August 2026 at Cumberland City Council to endorse WSROC's Strategic Plan and strategic direction, adopt its regional advocacy priorities ahead of the 2027 NSW State Election, and review progress across the organisation's advocacy and program portfolio.

KEY DECISIONS

WSROC Strategic Plan 2027–2030

The Board endorsed the WSROC Strategic Plan 2027–2030. The Plan will focus on several key regional priorities over the next four years, including:

- Improving the financial sustainability of local government.
- Ensuring housing growth is matched by investment in transport, community facilities and essential infrastructure.
- Advancing transport connectivity and affordability across Western Sydney.
- Supporting climate resilience, urban cooling and disaster preparedness.
- Accelerating the transition to a low-emissions future through regional energy initiatives.
- Strengthening waste and circular economy outcomes.

NSW State Election Advocacy Agenda

The Board endorsed WSROC's NSW State Election Advocacy Agenda as the foundation of the organisation's advocacy program leading into the 2027 NSW State Election. The priorities include:

- **Transport and Connectivity:** Seeking firm delivery commitments and timeframes for major rail projects, including the North South Metro and Leppington rail extension, together with improved bus services and further toll reform to reduce cost-of-living pressures on Western Sydney households.
- **Housing and Planning:** Advocating for housing growth to be accompanied by funded investment in schools, transport, open space, health facilities and other essential infrastructure, ensuring communities do not bear the cost of growth without corresponding services.

- **Waste and Circular Economy:** Seeking a fairer return of waste levy revenue to councils and communities, including greater investment in waste infrastructure, waste reduction initiatives, circular economy programs and illegal dumping prevention.
- **Heat and Climate Resilience:** Advocating for long-term government investment in urban heat reduction programs, implementation of the Heat Smart City Plan and statewide adoption of evidence-based approaches such as Cool Suburbs to protect communities from extreme heat.
- **Energy Transition and Net Zero:** Calling for stronger support for councils to deliver emissions reduction programs, electrification initiatives, electric vehicle infrastructure and coordinated regional approaches to achieving net zero outcomes.
- **Council Financial Sustainability:** Seeking reform of funding settings affecting local government, including rate-pegging and infrastructure contribution arrangements, to ensure growing councils have the resources needed to provide the infrastructure and services their communities rely upon.

Data Centres, AI and Cyber Security Policy

The Board endorsed a formal WSROC policy position to guide the organisation's engagement on the rapidly growing issues of data centres, artificial intelligence infrastructure and cyber security. The position recognises the significant economic opportunities associated with these industries while emphasising the importance of strategic planning and community outcomes.

The Board endorsed the following position statement:

> *"WSROC supports the responsible development of data centres and AI-enabling infrastructure in Western Sydney, provided that development is guided by coordinated regional planning, robust environmental and infrastructure safeguards, transparent governance arrangements, meaningful community engagement, and mechanisms that ensure host communities share fairly in the benefits as well as the impacts of growth."*

The Board also endorsed a continuing role for WSROC in facilitating collaboration, information sharing and capability development among councils and stakeholders, including the development of a regional Data Centres, Artificial Intelligence and Community Trust Leadership Roundtable.

ADVOCACY WINS AND UPDATES

— **Council financial sustainability:** WSROC continued advocacy for improved local government funding arrangements and welcomed several significant developments during the reporting period, including the NSW Government's announcement that ownership of the Rural Fire Service Red Fleet will transfer from councils to the RFS from July 2027.

— **Transport and toll reform:** WSROC welcomed further NSW Government toll reforms, including changes to M7 distance-based tolling arrangements. The outcome reflects long-standing regional advocacy for a fairer transport system for Western Sydney residents and businesses.

— **Housing and planning:** WSROC continued work to establish the Western Sydney Housing Taskforce in partnership with Western Sydney University, supporting coordinated regional advocacy on housing supply, affordability and infrastructure delivery.

— **Waste and resource recovery:** Following more than a decade of advocacy by councils and WSROC, funding was announced for a trial household asbestos collection service. WSROC's advocacy has contributed to the introduction of new restrictions on nitrous oxide products, addressing a growing issue affecting councils, waste services and local communities.

PROGRAMS SUPPORTING COUNCILS (HIGHLIGHTS)

- **Western Sydney Energy Forum:** WSROC hosted the Western Sydney Energy Forum, bringing together 14 councils, NSW Government agencies, energy providers and industry partners to discuss emerging energy and emissions reduction priorities for the region.
- **Heat resilience funding:** WSROC secured additional funding to support implementation of the Greater Sydney Heat Smart City Plan and submitted a $1.55 million Disaster Ready Fund application to expand regional heat resilience initiatives.
- **Disaster Resilience:** WSROC hosted the Western Sydney Disaster Resilience Forum, with eight councils participating in discussions on preparedness, recovery planning and shared regional challenges. Work is underway to establish an ongoing Disaster Resilience Network.
- **Electric vehicle transition:** WSROC coordinates a joint funding application involving councils to support electric vehicle charging infrastructure planning, mapping and community engagement across the region.
- **Regional litter prevention:** WSROC completed litter assessments at 26 sites across Western Sydney and continued delivery of regional litter prevention initiatives, including training and support for council officers.
- **Graduate Certificate in Business (Local Government):** The 2026 Graduate Certificate cohort continues with 14 participants from six councils, supporting the development of future local government leaders across Western Sydney.

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the coming months, WSROC will focus on implementing the new Strategic Plan 2027–2030, advancing its NSW Election Advocacy Agenda, strengthening regional collaboration through initiatives such as the proposed Western Sydney Mayoral Forum, and continuing to deliver practical advocacy and program outcomes for member councils.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the WSROC Board of Directors will be held on 26 November 2026 and hosted by Hawkesbury City Council.