



Council Meeting

Addendum Agenda

Wednesday 16 July 2025

Commencing at 7:00 pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer



7 OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

7.1.1 NOTICE OF MOTION

Author's Title:	Councillor Graeme Milne	
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File No: GR/17/11

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic

Services supporting our communities to thrive

Objective:

Active advocacy and participation in service networks

PURPOSE

Notice of Motion for action of Council to write to relevant Ministers and Departments to seek genuine engagement between Council, the Government and the Buloke Shire Community in relation to the visit of Minister D'Ambrosio, Minister for the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and her legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Express strong disappointment in the lack of transparency shown by the State Minister for Energy and Resources to the Buloke Shire Council on her visit to the region on Wednesday 11 June 2025, when the Minister did not advise the Council of significant legislation on land access that she introduced into Parliament on Thursday 19 June, just eight days after the visit.
2. Request that the Minister, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), VicGrid, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), and Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) engage with Buloke Shire Council in a genuine, open and constructive manner to understand our community's concerns about energy projects in the Shire.
3. Write to the Minister detailing Council's disappointment in the way Councillors and ratepayers have been treated and seeking genuine engagement in the future.
4. Invite the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and Northern Victorian Parliamentarians to meet with Buloke Shire Council to hear our serious concerns about energy projects in the Shire.

DISCUSSION

On 11 June 2025, the Minister for Energy and Resources visited representatives of four shires in Northwest Victoria, including Buloke. The visit was announced at short notice, and Councillors rearranged their schedules to attend the meeting. At the meeting, the Minister provided no material updates on energy projects in the region.

Eight days after the visit, on 19 June 2025, the Minister introduced into Parliament the *National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage 2 Reform) Bill 2025*. The Bill establishes a “new power for authorised officers to enter land to facilitate works by an electricity corporation, including a power to service infringement notices.”

There is very strong opposition in the Buloke Shire community to the State using its powers to compulsorily access and occupy land for the VNI West project. The Bill to strengthen powers to enter land and serve infringement notices is aimed directly at our land owners on the VNI West route. The Minister would be keenly aware of this but did not inform us of this significant, imminent change that she introduced so soon after her visit.

Our Shire faces a range of challenges, including the continuing impacts and recovery efforts from floods in 2022 and 2023-24, and now the deepening drought. Our residents are confronted with the prospect of a vastly increased Emergency Services Levy. On top of these challenges, the renewable energy projects proposed for our Shire are causing significant stress and division in our community.

We want the Victorian Government and energy companies to recognise these compounding stressors on our community, and we expect that they engage genuinely and respectfully with our community on aspects of the energy transition.

Energy projects must not negatively impact their neighbours, and they must not prevent the legitimate aspirations of neighbours to develop their land as they wish.

- Attachments:**
1. Attachment 7.1.1.1 - Notice of Motion - Cr Milne - 16 July 2025

Buloke Shire Council

Notice of Motion

I, Cr Graeme Milne hereby give notice that at the meeting of the Buloke Shire Council to be held on Wednesday, 16 July 2025 I will move:

That Council:

- a) Express strong disappointment in the lack of transparency shown by the State Minister for Energy and Resources to the Buloke Shire Council on her visit to the region on Wednesday 11 June 2025, when the Minister did not advise the Council of significant legislation on land access that she introduced into Parliament on Thursday 19 June, just eight days after the visit.
- b) Request that the Minister, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), VicGrid, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), and Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) engage with Buloke Shire Council in a genuine, open and constructive manner to understand our community's concerns about energy projects in the Shire.
- c) Write to the Minister detailing Council's disappointment in the way Councillors and ratepayers have been treated and seeking genuine engagement in the future.
- d) Invite the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and Northern Victorian Parliamentarians to meet with Buloke Shire Council to hear our serious concerns about energy projects in the Shire.

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