Board Meeting Outcomes Highlights

26 February 2026

To support transparency and engagement with member councils, WSROC provides this public outcomes circular 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, 26 February 2026 at The Holroyd Centre, Merrylands (hosted by Cumberland City Council) to progress organisational transition, regional advocacy and programs that support councils and Western Sydney communities.

Key decisions

- **Interim CEO recruitment**: Recruitment is progressing in line with WSROC's Transitional Business Plan. The Executive Committee has been appointed as the Transitional Steering Committee, with monthly transition reporting with the interim CEO confirmed.
- **Transitional Business Plan – next steps:** The Board noted progress on the Plan to strengthen WSROC's long-term sustainability and endorsed priority actions for the next 12 weeks, including sharpening WSROC's value proposition with councils, diversifying revenue, securing efficiencies, and advancing Interim CEO recruitment.
- **Mayoral Forum:** The Board endorsed establishment of a Mayor-led regional advocacy forum and approved immediate implementation actions and delegations. Participation will be open to non-member councils. The forum aims to implement a united mayoral voice on Western Sydney's key priorities.
- **Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) – Policy Position:** The Board endorsed the revised WSROC policy position to guide advocacy, engagement and communications on the airport and related development. The position seeks to maximise regional benefits and ensure communities and the environment are protected from potential adverse impacts.
- **Joint Organisation (JO) framework refresh:** The Board confirmed WSROC's preference to remain a Regional Organisation of Council, authorised a response to the Minister/OLG by 31 March 2026, and to monitor JO reform outcomes at the milestone points set out by the Minister.

- **Finance:** The Board received and noted the Financial Report and endorsed the updated reporting format.
- **Operations:** The Board received and noted the Operational Report and requested exploration of further advocacy options for a coordinated Hawkesbury–Nepean Catchment Management approach as part of the strategic priorities review.

Strategic discussion

- **Partnership with LGNSW**: The Board received an update from LGNSW President Cr Darcy Byrne and CEO Mr David Reynolds and agreed to arrange a follow-up meeting to align advocacy priorities for Western Sydney.

Advocacy updates

- **The Sydney Plan**: WSROC convened two multi-council workshops (96 staff) and lodged a regional submission emphasising housing delivery aligned with infrastructure, resilience and the local government role in strategic planning.
- **Local government financial sustainability**: WSROC lodged a submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.
- **Microsoft licensing costs**: Continued sector-wide advocacy (with Minister Dib, LGNSW and Sydney ROCs) on Microsoft licensing parity for councils; discussions underway with the Department of Customer Service.
- **Transport affordability & access**: WSROC welcomed the permanent $60 toll cap and continues advocacy on Western Sydney transport priorities consistent with WSROC's transport policy position.

Programs supporting councils (highlights)

- **Extension Caring for Country Program**
  WSROC's Caring for Country grants program has been extended from August 2026 – February 2027 to allow an additional round of non-competitive grants for councils to deliver caring for country initiatives.
- **Extension of WSU/WSROC Graduate Certificate of Business** (Local Government)
  WSU/WSROC's Graduate Certificate of Business (Local Government) has been extended to 2026 with 50% subsidy in fees for councils.
- **Greater Sydney Heat Forum**
  WSROC delivered a Forum to showcase progress on the implementation of the Heat Smart City Plan, and support networking across organisations. The forum was attended

by approx. 100 professionals from across three levels of government, private sector, research and community sector.

- **Circular Procurement Training**
  Delivery of 2-day circular procurement training for council staff, and delivery of four implementation support workshops with free consultancy assistance for councils.

- **Adapt NSW conference**
  WSROC was invited as an expert panellist at the Adapt NSW Conference to discuss climate extremes and regional responses.

- **Resilient Australia Award**
  WSROC received a Highly Commended recognition in national Resilient Australia Awards for the Greater Sydney Heat Smart City Plan.

- **Introduction to Litter Prevention Training**
  WSROC delivered of training to council staff to enhance their knowledge of litter prevention principles and project design.

- **Western Sydney Energy Forum**
  WSROC hosted the Western Sydney Energy Forum to discuss key opportunities and barriers for emission reduction and community energy support activities. The session was attended by 12 councils, NSW Government, Endeavour Energy and research partners.

- **Tokyo Metropolitan Government Delegation**
  WSROC hosted a delegation from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to discuss the issue of extreme heat. The event was hosted in collaboration with the University of Sydney, Australian Red Cross, NSW Reconstruction Authority, Blacktown City Council, Resilient Sydney, Sweltering Cities.

Looking ahead

Over the next quarter WSROC will focus on: appointing the Interim CEO, standing up the Mayoral Forum, commencing strategic priorities review and progressing its work program aligned with its current strategic priorities.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the WSROC Board of Directors will be hosted by Blacktown City Council on Thursday, 28 May 2026.

Contact

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