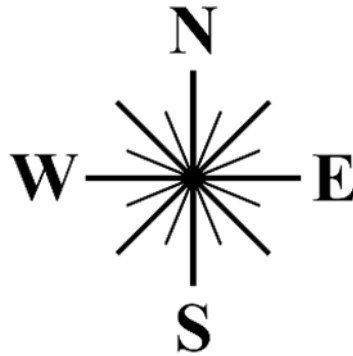


# **CENTRAL DARLING**



## **SHIRE COUNCIL**

### **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

#### **BUSINESS PAPER**

**19 APRIL 2023**

The Meeting will be held at 9am in the  
Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote the Central Darling Shire area by encouraging development through effective leadership, community involvement and facilitation of services.

**RECORDING AND WEBCAST OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council meetings are recorded and webcast on Council's website, your attendance and/or input may be recorded and publicly broadcast.

**PUBLIC RECORDING PROHIBITED WITHOUT COUNCIL AUTHORITY**

A person may only use a recording device, including audio and visual recording and any device capable of recording speech, to record a Council meeting by the resolution of the Council.

A person may be expelled from a Council meeting for having used a recording device without consent.

**PHOTOGRAPHY PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION**

Photography is not permitted at a Council meeting without the consent of the General Manager.

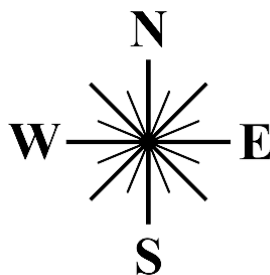
**PUBLIC FORUM - EXTRACT FROM THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE POLICY**

1. The Council may hold a public forum prior to each ordinary meeting of the Council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary Council meetings and meetings of Committees of the Council.
2. Public forums are to be chaired by the Mayor or their nominee.
3. To speak at a public forum, a person must first make an application to the Council in the approved form. Applications to speak at the public forum must be received by same day 8.50am before the date on which the public forum is to be held and must identify the item of business on the agenda of the Council meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item.
4. A person may apply to speak on no more than two (2) items of business on the agenda of the Council meeting.
5. Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at a public forum unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at the public forum.
6. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.
7. No more than three (3) speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the Council meeting.
8. If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to address the Council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address the Council, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will address the Council at the public forum.
9. If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the Mayor or the

- Mayor's nominated Chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the Council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.
10. Approved speakers at the public forum are to register with the Council any written, visual or audio material to be presented in support of their address to the Council at the public forum, and to identify any equipment needs no more than three (3) days before the public forum. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.
  11. The General Manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at the public forum.
  12. Each speaker will be allowed five (5) minutes to address the Council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the Chairperson.
  13. Speakers at public forums must not digress from the item on the agenda of the Council meeting they have applied to address the Council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the Chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the Chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.
  14. A Councillor (including the Chairperson) may, through the Chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a public forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.
  15. Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under Clause 4.14. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to three (3) minutes.
  16. Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the Council, Councillors or Council staff.
  17. The General Manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the Chairperson, address the Council for up to three (3) minutes in response to an address to the Council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.
  18. Where an address made at a public forum raises matters that require further consideration by Council staff, the General Manager may recommend that the Council defer consideration of the matter pending the preparation of a further report on the matters.
  19. When addressing the Council, speakers at public forums must comply with this code and all other relevant Council codes, policies and procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct, or making other potentially defamatory statements.
  20. If the Chairperson considers that a speaker at a public forum has engaged in conduct of the type referred to in Clause 4.19, the Chairperson may request the person to refrain from the inappropriate behaviour and to withdraw and unreservedly apologise for any inappropriate comments. Where the speaker fails to comply with the Chairperson's request, the Chairperson may immediately require the person to stop speaking.
  21. Clause 4.20 does not limit the ability of the Chairperson to deal with disorderly conduct by speakers at public forums in accordance with the provisions of Part 14 of this code.
  22. Where a speaker engages in conduct of the type referred to in Clause 4.19, the General Manager or their delegate may refuse further applications from that person to speak at public forums for such a period as the General Manager or their delegate considers appropriate.

23. Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of an address at a public forum, in the same way that they are required to do so at a Council or Committee meeting. The Council is to maintain a written record of all conflict-of-interest declarations made at public forums and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

**CENTRAL DARLING**



**SHIRE COUNCIL**

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday, 19 April 2023

9am

Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

**BUSINESS PAPER AGENDA**

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## 1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Council Meeting will be declared open by the Mayor/Administrator.

## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay respects to Elders past and present.*

## 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 3.1 APOLOGIES

### 3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

## 4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW Councillors and Council staff are required to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Disclosures of Interest – Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary be received and noted.

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 March 2023 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 5 April 2023 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

### Attachments:

1. [Ordinary Council Meeting - 22 March 2023](#)
2. [Extraordinary Council Meeting - 5 April 2023](#)

## 6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

## **7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)**

### **7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE -**

**FILE NUMBER: GD23/6014**

**REPORT AUTHOR: ADMINISTRATOR**

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**

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Once again, Central Darling Shire and the residents of Menindee have had to deal with a huge fish kill.

Given the scale of the event, Council sought to have put in place the State Emergency Management arrangements to ensure there was a multi-agency approach.

Fortunately, our approach was successful and an Emergency Operations Centre was set up in Menindee under the authority of the Regional Emergency Controller, Assistant Commissioner Brett Greentree.

Agencies represented were:

- Water NSW
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Essential Water
- NSW Health
- Local Land Services
- Murray Darling Basin Authority
- NSW Police
- Central Darling Shire
- Reconstruction NSW

Overall, given the scale of the event and the remoteness of the location to put in place contractors, the response has been well coordinated and managed.

Council's concern was that the water supply to Menindee was secure, met health guidelines and environmental impact was limited.

The news that the new NSW government will refer the event for an independent inquiry by the Chief Scientist is welcomed.

What did become clear is that advice on not using water from the river for potable domestic purposes needs to be put clearly to the community and that testing results for river water needs to be regularly undertaken and reported to address underlying community concerns.

In the local government cycle, staff have commenced preparing for the 2023/24 budget for consideration by Council.

As part of the process, a workshop between staff and myself has been held to consider major inputs and to provide direction on potential future works and services over the next 10 years.

The General Manager is taking a well-deserved break and I welcome our Acting General Manager, Mr Robert Hunt for the next 4 weeks.

Council's monthly newsletter to the community continues to be well received. Increased media through traditional outlets and on social media has been a strategy to increase communications on what is happening and planned for the Shire.



## **8 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **8.1 GRANTS REGISTER - MARCH 2023**

**FILE NUMBER: GD23/6054**

**REPORT AUTHOR: FINANCE MANAGER**

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary reconciliation of Council's current grant funding status as of 31st March 2023.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

#### **BACKGROUND:**

To deliver Council's commitment to transparency and improved financial management, Council has developed a Grants and Contributions Register, to provide information on grants applied for and received.

#### **REPORT:**

For the month of March 2023.

The following applications have been finalized and submitted:

- NSW Business Improvement Districts Pilot Program (Registration of Interest).

Notification has been received that the following applications have been successful:

- NSW Severe Weather & Floods 2022 - Category D - AGRN 1030 & 1034 (\$1 million) – subject to Program of Works Template being completed (once OLG makes it available).

The following grant applications are currently being drafted:

- Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program Application (NSW).
- 2023-24 Floodplain Management Program (NSW)

Reporting and acquittal update:

- Submit milestone reports for the Covid-19 Impacted Communities grant and LSP-041 (DSP) grant (plus follow-up action for each of those grants with the relevant departments)
- Sourcing documents and commence populating the report for the auditors
- Follow-up of outstanding information for a number of milestone reports including SCCF3-0448
- SCCF Rd 2 acquittal has progressed and should be finalised in April 2023.
- Continued to work on acquittal for LSP-040 (DSP Tranche 2).
- Continued to work on Community Events Program - 0137 Reporting and variation (Aboriginal Community Engagement Workshops) – variation has been approved to extend the delivery.
- Closing out the Menindee Diorama acquittal with localised input.
- Darling River Flood Plain Mapping (Preparing Australia Program) project - applied for an extension.

- MDBEDP R3 - Variation Confirmation for the Victory Caravan Park Amenity Block Upgrade Project to extend delivery dates to 30 June 2023.

**LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:**

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 2: A strong regional economy supported by developing industries, strong businesses and increased employment.	<u>Objectives</u> 2.1 Expansion of industries and growth in businesses. 2.2 Employment growth. 2.3 Improved infrastructure across the Shire.

**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

	Assessment
<b>Social</b>	Positive
<b>Environmental</b>	Positive
<b>Economic</b>	Positive
<b>Governance</b>	Positive

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

Ensures that any funding sourced is being deployed within the approved scope of services, works and facilities for which they were intended.

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Regulation 208 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides a requirement that: A member of the staff of a council who has control of any of the council’s accounting records must—

(a) produce those records for inspection and audit in proper order whenever directed or requested to do so by the council’s mayor, responsible accounting officer, general manager (if not the council’s responsible accounting officer) or auditor or by the Director-General or a person to whom the Director-General’s functions under section 430 of the Act have been delegated or subdelegated under section 745 of the Act, and

(b) render all practicable assistance to the mayor, responsible accounting officer, general manager, auditor, the Director-General, or such a delegate or subdelegate with respect to those records.

**Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:**

Periodic reporting enables Council to keep both funding providers and the community informed on the deployment of those funds as intended and as such significantly mitigate the risk of inappropriate usage of those funds.

**OPTIONS:**

NIL

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

No

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**

**Internal Exhibition:**

No

**External Exhibition:**

No

**Attachments:**

1. [Morris & Piper Monthly Report - March 2023](#)
2. [Grants Register March 2023](#)

**8.2 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - MARCH 2023****FILE NUMBER: GD23/6055****REPORT AUTHOR: FINANCE MANAGER****RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is to provide a summary of Council's financial performance against budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The report indicates a YTD Net Operating Result before Capital Items of \$37,000 surplus, which is better than expected for this time of year.

The report shows two material variances for the month of March 2023.

Being:

1. A favourable variance of \$30,000 for Interest and Investment Revenue.
2. A favourable variance of \$571,000 for Employee Costs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

**BACKGROUND:**

Council has been working towards improving its financial reporting systems to meet best practice financial reporting guidelines. In line with these objectives a monthly report is to be presented to Council on its financial performance against budget.

**REPORT:**

The monthly financial performance report provides Council with a summary of performance against budget as 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

<b>Central Darling Shire Council</b>						
<b>Income &amp; Expenses Budget Review Statement - Consolidated</b>						
<b>Income Statement March 2023</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>%</b>	
	<b>2022/23 as per QBR2</b>					
	<b>(\$000's)</b>	<b>(\$000's)</b>	<b>(\$000's)</b>	<b>(\$000's)</b>		
<b>Income</b>						
Rates and Annual Charges	2,483	2,483	2,476	(7)	(0%)	
User Charges and Fees	10,544	7,000	6,601	(399)	(6%)	
Interest and Investment Revenues	54	42	72	30	71%	1
Other Revenues	405	299	313	14	5%	
Grants & Contributions - Operating	10,428	9,361	9,361	-	0%	
Grants & Contributions - Capital	21,991	15,352	15,352	-	0%	
<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>45,905</b>	<b>34,537</b>	<b>34,175</b>	<b>(362)</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>						
Employee Costs	6,968	5,326	4,755	571	11%	2
Borrowing Costs	39	10	10	-	0%	
Materials & Contracts	10,112	8,600	8,710	(110)	(1%)	
Depreciation	4,324	3,243	3,243	-	0%	
Other Expenses	2,257	1,980	2,068	(88)	(4%)	
<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>19,159</b>	<b>18,786</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>2%</b>	
<b>Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>22,205</b>	<b>15,378</b>	<b>15,389</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Net Operating Result before Capital Items</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>42%</b>	

Rates and Annual Charges are recognised as income when the rate is struck, generally the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Grants and Contributions are recognised when received, unless previously invoiced.

Depreciation is not a cash expense.

The annual budget was reviewed as at 31<sup>st</sup> December and presented to Council at the February meeting. Approved amendments to the budget have been incorporated into the above Income Statement. The next budget review will be as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and will presented to Council at its May 2023 meeting.

**Variance Analysis:**

The report shows two material variances for the month of February 2023:

- A favourable variance of \$30,000 for Interest and Investment Revenue. This variance is due to increased interest rates and Council having a higher level of cash to invest than expected. Council also takes a very conservative approach to this budget line.
- A favourable variance of \$650,000 for Employee Costs. This variance is due to Council currently having a number of vacant positions and a number of staff being on extended leave. The wages expense for employees being on leave is adjusted against Council’s Provision for Leave Entitlements.

**LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN:**

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
<p>GOAL 4: A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services as per the standards set by Council and providing community development and succession planning.</p>	<p><u>Objectives</u></p> <p>4.1 Effective communication and consultation with Shire communities.</p> <p>4.2 Efficient and effective services.</p> <p>4.3 Skilled and informed Councillors and staff.</p> <p>4.4 Engaged leaders and volunteers in each community.</p>

**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

	Assessment
<b>Social</b>	Positive
<b>Environmental</b>	Positive
<b>Economic</b>	Positive
<b>Governance</b>	Positive

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

Monitoring of monthly against budget enables timely financial management.

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

N/A

**Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:**

Monthly financial reporting allows Council to keep informed of the progress of the budget to actual income and costs.

**OPTIONS:**

NIL

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

No

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**

**Internal Exhibition:**

No

**External Exhibition:**

No

**Attachments:**

NIL

**8.3 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - MARCH 2023**

**FILE NUMBER: GD23/6056**  
**REPORT AUTHOR: FINANCE MANAGER**  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is to provide a summary of Council’s cash and investments as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Council’s total cash assets as at 31<sup>st</sup> March is: \$9,989,390.48

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

**REPORT:**

In accordance with *Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005*, a monthly report setting out details of all money that Council has invested under *Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993* is required to be submitted to Council.

**Cash and Investment Accounts:**

Cash and Investment Accounts	Current Month	Last Month	Movement	Interest Rate	Current Month Interest	YTD Interest
Westpac 11am Investment Account	\$6,500,000.00	\$6,500,000.00	NIL	1.25%	\$6,567.80	\$37,860.92
Operating Account	\$3,442,403.18	\$5,708,496.07	(\$2,266,092.89)	N/A	NIL	NIL
Post Office Clearing Account	\$46,987.30	\$46,987.30	NIL	N/A	NIL	NIL
<b>Total Cash at bank as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>			<b>\$9,989,390.48</b>			

**Commentary:**

The net movement of cash for the month of March 2023 was a decrease of \$2,266,092.89.

Payments for wages and creditors for the month of March 2023 totalled \$5,922,724.08.

Receipts and transfers for the month of March 2023 totalled \$3,656,631.19 with major receipts being:

- RMS Ordered Works \$1,448,384
- RMS Routine Maintenance \$ 191,898

- DSP Funding \$ 50,094
- SCCF 2 \$ 305,617
- Business Case Travel Accommodation \$ 125,084
- Flood Damage \$ 1000,000

**Restrictions:**

<b>Restricted Cash and Investments</b>	
	<b>(\$000's)</b>
<b>Externally Restricted <sup>(1)</sup></b>	
Specific purpose unexpended grants	4,584
Water supplies	1,164
Sewerage services	1,398
Domestic waste management	631
<b>Total Externally Restricted</b>	<b>7,777</b>
<small>(1) Funds that must be spent for a specific purpose</small>	
<b>Internally Restricted <sup>(2)</sup></b>	
Employees Leave Entitlements	1,032
Plant and vehicle replacement	8
Waste management Reserve	124
<b>Total Internally Restricted</b>	<b>1,164</b>
<small>(2) Funds that Council has earmarked for a specific purpose</small>	
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>8,941</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>9,989</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b> (ie. available after the above Restrictions)	<b>1,048</b>

**Attachments:**

NIL



## 9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

### 9.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

**FILE NUMBER:** GD23/6053

**REPORT AUTHOR:** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** GENERAL MANAGER

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with regular updates on Community Engagement activities.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

#### REPORT:

This report covers the period from January 2023 to March 2023.

#### General Media Activities

Over the reporting period Media Releases issued/distributed by Council and Public Notices covered various issues across the shire including:

- Flooding
- Fish Deaths – Menindee
- Community tourism event – launch of Shire Heritage Trail tourism app
- Baaka Cultural Centre
- Urban and Rural Addressing Project
- Draft Tourism Action Plan
- Land Sales for Rates
- Mosquito Health Alerts
- Grant Funding
- Outstanding Community Service Awards

#### Media Coverage

Flooding in the Shire and Fish Deaths at Menindee were issues that resulted in State and, in some cases, National media coverage.

The General Manager and Administrator were involved in numerous media interviews about flooding, fish deaths and local matters. Council appeared in various regional media including ABC Radio Broken Hill, ABC Radio Wagga Wagga, Radio 2WEB, Spencer Gulf Television News, Wilcannia News, Hillston Spectator, Barrier Daily Truth, and Daily Liberal newspaper.

During the reporting period Council started a regular monthly interview with Studio2dryfm.

The Administrator spoke with 2WEB and other media after Council meetings to talk about various outcomes and Council decisions.

Council acknowledges and appreciates the support from the media when it comes to providing news for residents.

Because not everyone in the Shire has internet access it can be challenging letting people know about matters of importance. The **Electronic Sign** at Menindee is another avenue which is benefiting Council's ability to communicate with residents.

**Resident Newsletter**

During the reporting period the monthly Resident Newsletter was produced and sent to residents. The newsletter is also available online.

In a positive outcome Council staff received calls from residents which resulted from information provided in newsletters.

Because of the flood disaster four separate weekly Flood Recovery newsletters were also produced, in the reporting period.

The Flood Recovery and Resident Newsletters provide another way for Council to communicate with residents who may not have access to the internet.

Council also continues to remind people that where possible they should monitor Council's Facebook and website for the latest community information.

**Central Darling Shire Council**

**We're going ahead - Advancing our Shire**

**Congratulations to Community Service Award winners**



*Pictured above, at Ivanhoe, with the Council General Manager are the Bunyan family, pictured left, Special Recognition. Mark Huntly, Citizen of the Year, is pictured with his family. Pictured right at Menindee: Gary Rolton, Service to the Community, Joy Hopkins, Citizen of the Year, Margot Muscat, Special Recognition.*

*Pictured above with Council General Manager, Administrator and State Member at Wilcannia: Chris Elliott, Citizen of the Year, John Pineo, Service to the Community (absent), Wilcannia/Menindee Pharmacy team, Special Recognition, Frances Dutton, Young Citizen of the Year.*



Central Darling Shire Council has welcomed funding for projects under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Community Fund Round 5.

- Projects funded are:
- Menindee Sports Facility Upgrades - \$328,008.
- Improved Mobility Access for Menindee - \$178,000.
- Town Hall Refurbishments – Ivanhoe (pictured above) and Menindee - total \$115,500.
- Ivanhoe Public Art - \$210,000.

Central Darling Shire Council would like to welcome residents of Sunset Strip to an information session about the Sunset Strip Stormwater Mitigation Project. This project is being funded by NSW Government Local & Regional Risk Reduction Stream of the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF). Central Darling Shire Council's consultants will brief residents about the project and answer any questions.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 8.  
**Time:** 7pm  
**Venue:** Sunset Strip Community Hall

Council staff have been in the Menindee area updating the RFS and Emergency Services on Council's role in the flood recovery. Some roads are still underwater and closed. Up to 30 domestic pumps have floated away in flood water. Potentially two homes will need to be demolished. Council is making arrangements to increase the ability of the Menindee tip to cope with the additional demand from flood debris including furniture and other household goods. More information will be in the next Flood Recovery newsletter.

February 2023 Newsletter - Central Darling Shire Council - PO Box 165 Wilcannia NSW 2836. Phone: 08 8083 8900

*Pictured above is a sample resident newsletter.*

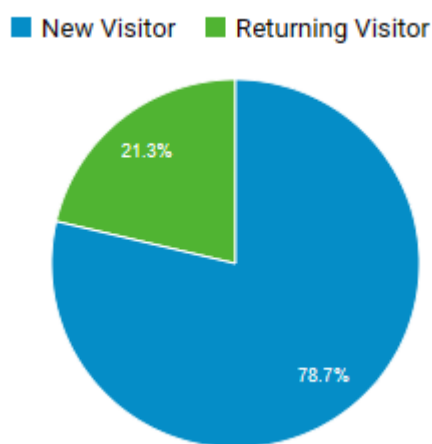
### Council Website

A special Flood Support page was set-up on Council’s website as a resource for residents to access information about flood recovery efforts, and assistance. This is also proving useful in providing government agency information in the one location.

There is also now a designated page on the website for Resident Newsletters.

Additionally, information is being uploaded in relation to Special Projects with a specific page to highlight this area on the website. There are a number of important projects within the Shire which are at various stages of completion. This page is a work in progress.

The Community Engagement Officer continues to direct people from Facebook to the website. This is to provide people with further information about news including road reports. If people become used to visiting the website, they can gain a greater knowledge about the types of information that Council has available. The website provides an opportunity to showcase all the work and information being provided by Council staff.












*(Pictured left) In the reporting period new users continue the trend in discovering Council’s website.*

### What People are looking at on the Council website

During the reporting period there were 28,481 page views.

- Amongst the top pages viewed were road conditions, flood support, Council jobs, rates and charges. People were also interested in Ivanhoe and Sunset Strip, Council pools and Council contact details.
- The overall average time spent on the website was 1 minute 15 seconds. However, 2 minutes 50 was the average for time spent viewing road reports. Two minutes 46 seconds was spent on average for the rates and charges pages and 2 minutes for Council meetings pages.
- There were 12,751 views of the website without using site search. Of these 7477 views were new users.
- 6,436 documents were downloaded from the website.
- 655 visits to the website came direct from Facebook and 13 from LinkedIn.

Page ?	Pageviews ? ↓
	<b>28,481</b> % of Total: 100.00% (28,481)
1. <a href="#">/Services/Road-conditions</a> 	<b>8,622</b> (30.27%)
2. <a href="#">/Home</a> 	<b>5,819</b> (20.43%)
3. <a href="#">/Council/Careers</a> 	<b>665</b> (2.33%)
4. <a href="#">/Council</a> 	<b>531</b> (1.86%)
5. <a href="#">/Council/Rates-and-charges</a> 	<b>444</b> (1.56%)
6. <a href="#">/Council/Meetings</a> 	<b>420</b> (1.47%)
7. <a href="#">/Site-Footer/Footer-Widgets/Contact-Us</a> 	<b>376</b> (1.32%)
8. <a href="#">/Tourism/Ivanhoe</a> 	<b>320</b> (1.12%)
9. <a href="#">/Jobs/Engineering-Opportunities</a> 	<b>311</b> (1.09%)
10. <a href="#">/Community/Flood-Support</a> 	<b>297</b> (1.04%)

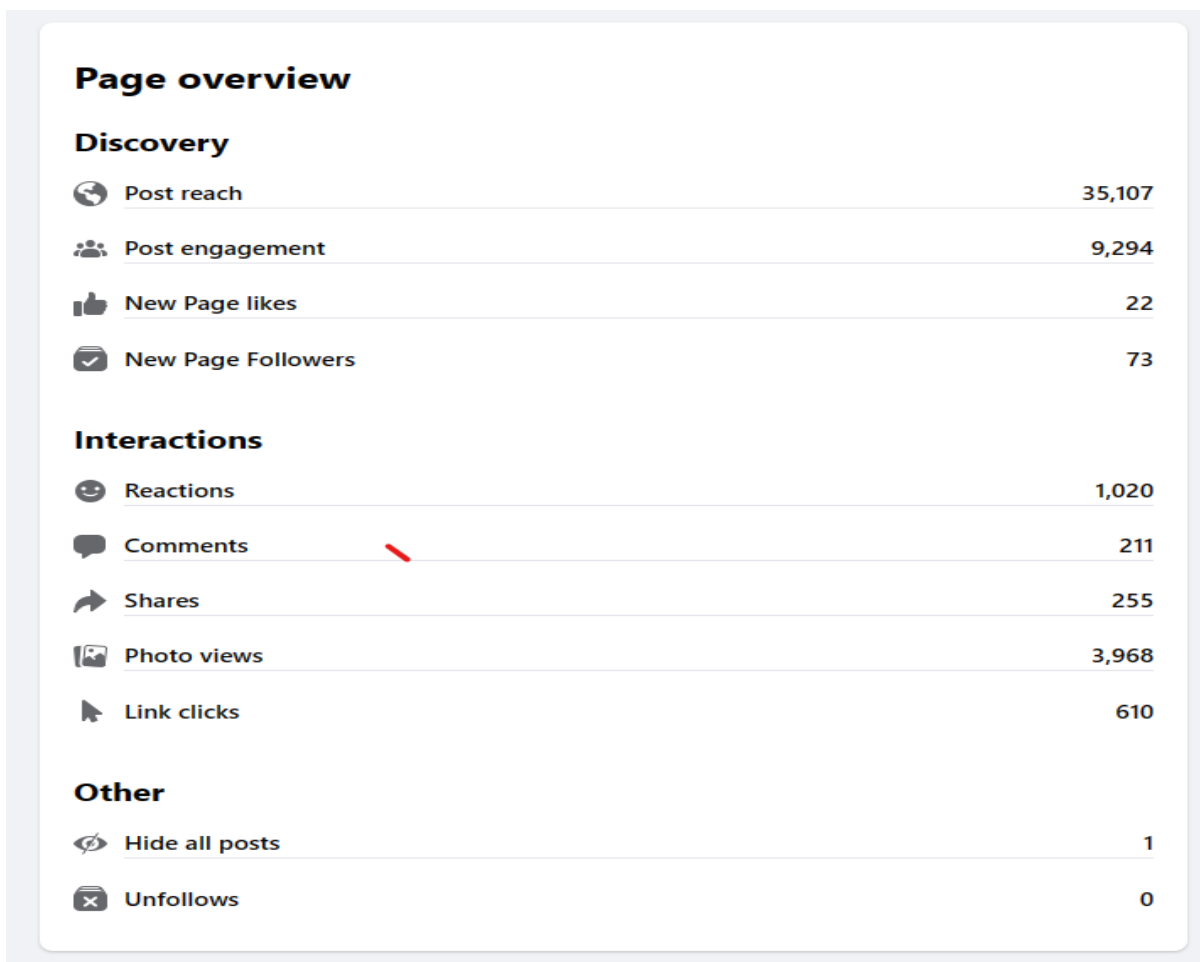
*Top page website views for the reporting period.*

**Council Facebook Page**

During the reporting period the most popular posts related to flooding, Community Service Award winners, fish deaths at Menindee and roads.

We pay particular attention to the engagement rate on Facebook because this tells us how much interest the post generated. The higher the engagement rate the more followers Facebook will show the post too.

The Community Engagement Officer needed to remind people that the Council Facebook page was a place where people could find information and Shire news in the spirit of Community Engagement. People were reminded Facebook was not a place for negativity and personal attacks. While comments are encouraged people were reminded that these must be respectful. Advice was given that any inappropriate comments would be deleted and if people continued to post inappropriate comments, they faced being suspended from the page. As a result, some comments were deleted during the reporting period. People were also reminded that they could raise concerns with Council, by phoning the office, or submitting an online form via the website.



Pictured above snapshot of Facebook activity for the month of March 2023.

**Some of the popular Facebook posts in the reporting period**

	Construction work has started on the Maari Ma Health and Wellbeing centre project at Wilcannia. Residents are advised that because of the work there will be disruptions in Bonney Street. Please obey all road... Mon, Jan 30	Post reach <b>1,180</b>	Engagement <b>99</b>
	Fish Deaths Menindee Second Community Meeting tomorrow, Friday, March 24, 2023, 12pm (AEST) Civic Hall Menindee. Cleanup Underway. See the news tab on Council's website for the latest media release... Thu, Mar 23	Post reach <b>2,068</b>	Engagement <b>595</b>
	Flooding at Ivanhoe. Ivanhoe district residents Clive, Fay and Peter Linnett have been capturing images of flooding near their homestead. These photos were taken between early January through to January ... Wed, Feb 1	Post reach <b>3,028</b>	Engagement <b>429</b>
	Fish Deaths - Menindee A second community meeting will be held on Friday, March 24, 2023, at 12pm (AEST). The public notice is available on Council's website. <a href="https://www.centraldarwin.nsw.gov.au/Public-...">https://www.centraldarwin.nsw.gov.au/Public-...</a> Wed, Mar 22	Post reach <b>7,081</b>	Engagement <b>906</b>
	Please see the latest road report. Also a reminder to check road conditions for surrounding Shires as this may affect your journey. The road condition map is available on the Council's website.... Tue, Mar 21	Post reach <b>3,289</b>	Engagement <b>343</b>



**Hay Road from Ivanhoe.** Council and Transport for NSW are working to restore the network. The ground is still wet and it may take several months to repair due to the conditions.  
Wed, Mar 1

Post reach 33,198 Engagement 7,280



**Council is pleased to announce that Wilcannia' s Victory Park Caravan Park will re-open to the public on Monday, February 13.** The park was closed in October last year because of high water levels from rain an...  
Thu, Feb 9

Post reach 3,714 Engagement 213



**Thank you to Joshua Mercer an Spencer Gulf News for covering the Wilcannia Markets and projects in Central Darling Shire.**  
Wed, Feb 1

Post reach 958 Engagement 90



**There's approximately 650 kilometers of road networks along the River Corridor in Central Darling Shire.** Given the extent of flood damage it could be some time before all roads are repaired and open to all...  
Thu, Feb 9

Post reach 4,578 Engagement 712

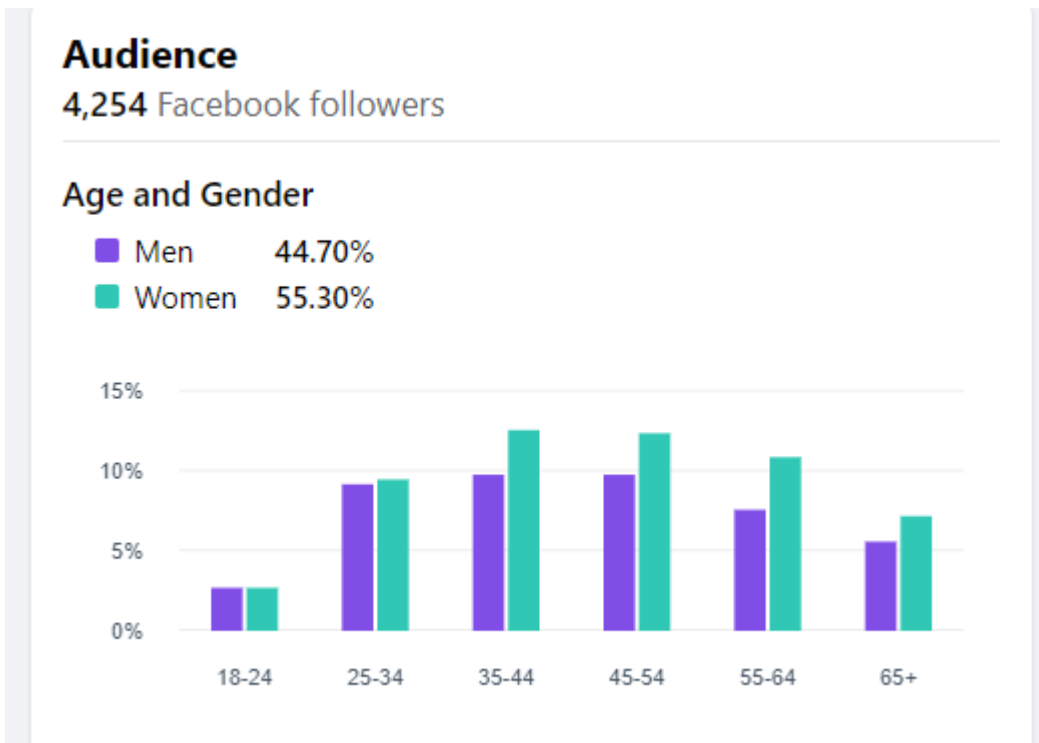


**Residents in the Shire have been receiving their first newsletter for 2023.** Below is page 1 of the newsletter. To view the entire newsletter and also previous editions visit Council's website....  
Mon, Feb 6

Post reach 1,171 Engagement 113

**Facebook - Followers**

- Number of Facebook followers is now 4,254 which is an increase from 3,918 at the last reporting period.



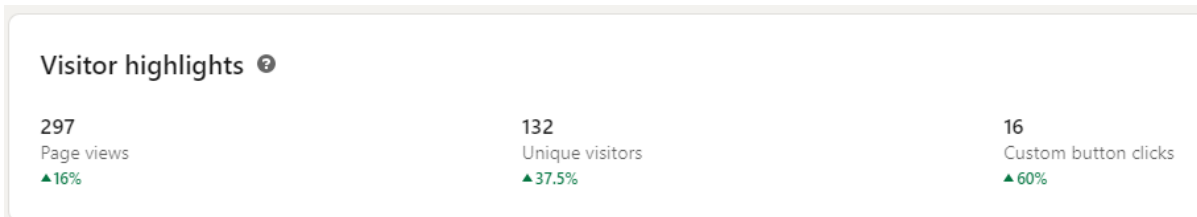
*Pictured above the current Facebook audience.*

### Council LinkedIn page

The Community Engagement Officer continues to build Council’s LinkedIn page.

As you can see below, progress is occurring in building the page.

In the reporting period 24 people started following the page.



LinkedIn offers exposure to corporate and government organisations. From a business perspective this has obvious benefits. The information sharing and networking opportunities are of benefit.

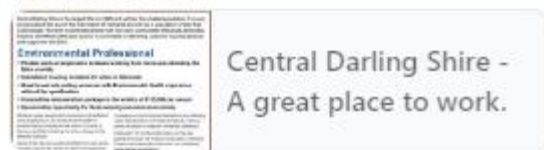
Council has difficulty recruiting for some vacant positions. Because LinkedIn is a jobs networking site this is another avenue to let people know about job vacancies. Note below, that one of the top posts, in the reporting period, related to a position vacant.

#### Most comments



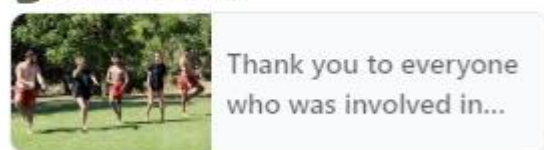
3 Reactions • 2 Comments

#### Most reposts



6 Reactions • 1 Comment

#### Most reactions



9 Reactions • 1 Comment

### Summary

Community Engagement continues to be a strong focus for Council.

Emailing of media releases and public notices to the Council media list is an important way to ensure everyone on the list receives information because social media does not show all posts to all followers.

Recently introduced strategies, such as the resident newsletter, are seeing positive results with regards to community engagement and communicating with residents.

Facebook continues to be an important resource for Community Engagement. However, it needs to be noted that the Facebook algorithm only shows posts to a small portion of followers, effort needs to continue in ensuring posts are as engaging as possible so that the algorithm will show posts to more and more followers.

The benefits of LinkedIn are yet to be fully realised.

The website is the go-to place for Shire information. This message needs to be continually promoted for residents and those outside the Shire.

It needs to be noted that not everyone in the Shire has access to the internet. Resources such as the electronic sign at Menindee are proving to be a valuable tool in getting messages out to as many people as possible when time is of the essence such as with flooding information and fish deaths updates.

Council continues to build relationships with media outlets and appreciates the support being received when it comes to Council news.

**Attachments:**

NIL



## 10 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

Nil

## 11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

### 11.1 ROADS AND AERODROMES

**FILE NUMBER:** GD23/5898  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on road and aerodrome maintenance and capital works expenditure within the Central Darling Local Government Area.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

#### REPORT:

##### State Roads

Council are engaged by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to maintain the State Highway network within the Shire boundaries. The two State Highways are the Barrier Highway and the Cobb Highway.

Council are engaged under contract conditions specified under the Routine Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC). The contract details routine works required to be completed throughout the year and capital works which are supplied to Council via a Works Order (WO).

2022/23 RMCC Routine Maintenance allocation is: \$1,027,885

2021/22 RMCC Works Orders issued last financial year which are all completed except Bushley IS include:

HW21 Kerpa St North IS Final seal	111.22.13	\$261,931.36
HW21 Mt Manara Sth IS Final Seal	111.22.14	\$253,742.42
HW21 Springdale IS Final Seal	111.22.15	\$366,500.54
HW21 Springdale South IS Final Seal	111.22.16	\$157,314.50
HW21 Bushley IS	111.22.17	\$1,502,639.25
HW21 Slamannon IS Borrow Pits and 2 groundwater tanks	111.22.18	\$58,416.00
HW21 Mt Manara crush and stockpile gravel	111.22.20	\$769,500.00
HW8 Alma Park Culvert Replacement	111.22.21	\$144,181.94
	Total WO	\$3,514,226.01

2022/23 RMCC Works Orders issued last financial year which are in progress include:

HW21 Mt Manara North IS Project	111.23.01	\$1,180,110.38
HW21 Mt Manara North IS Seal	111.23.02	\$308,421.02
HW8 Heavy Patching	111.23.03	\$306,934.99
HW21 Heavy Patching	111.23.04	\$506,053.58
HW21 Heavy Patching Slamannon	111.23.05	\$235,362.43
Mt Manara Gravel	111.23.06	\$548,576.00
Mt Manara Gravel additional 70k tone	111.23.07	1,455,575.00
	Total WO	\$4,541,033.40

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining budget</b>
RMCC Routine	\$1,027,885.00	61%	\$400,524
WO 2021/22	\$3,514,226.01	62%	\$1,352,539.47
WO 2022/23	\$4,541,033.40	25%	\$3,388,109.78

**Regional Roads**

Council maintains 790km of Regional Roads throughout the Shire.

2022/23 Regional Road Block Grant amount (including roads, traffic and supplementary components) is \$2,863,000

2021/22 Regional Roads Repair Program was successful with \$400,000 funding of the \$975,000 total cost. The remaining funds to be sourced from the Regional Roads Block Grant which is reflected in the table below. MR433 Ivanhoe-Menindee Rd, 3km reconstruction and seal completion was delayed due to rain events and will continue into the second quarter of 2022/23

2022/23 Regional Roads Repair Program was successful with \$400,000 funding of the \$800,000 total cost. The remaining funds to be sourced from the Regional Roads Block Grant which is reflected in the table below. MR68C Pooncarie Rd, reconstruct and seal 2.64km of failed pavement which is programmed for completion by June 2023

In February 2023 Council received the funding deed for the Regional and Local Roads Repair Program. The program was developed to assist Councils with urgent repairs to their local and regional road networks following significant flood/ storm events in 2022/23. Council maintains 2392km of these roads and a program will be developed by May to address the worst sections of our road network. Preconstruction activities have commenced and works on ground are anticipated to commence June 2023.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
<b>Regional Road Block Grant</b>	\$2,863,000 – \$575,000 – \$400,000 = \$1,888,000	95%	\$103,148
<b>Regional Roads Repair Program 2021/22</b>	\$975,000	100%	\$0
<b>Regional Roads Repair Program 2022/23</b>	\$800,000	0%	\$799,272
<b>Regional and Local Roads Repair Program</b>	\$4,361,246	0%	\$4,361,246

### Local Roads

Council maintains 1600km of Local Roads throughout the Shire.

2022/23 The Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) – Local Roads Component is \$1,815,759

2022/23 Roads to Recovery (R2R) allocation is \$1,001,818. Two capital improvement projects are proposed to be delivered this year.

Water NSW have engaged Council to undertake Upgrade works to Union Bend Rd, Wilcannia. High Darling River Levels has delayed this project due to inundation.

Fixing Local Roads (FLR) Program was successful for funding of \$1,860,000 with contribution amount of 10% to complete the realignment, construction and seal of the ring road around Smiths Hill, White Cliffs

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI Rd 3) included allocation of \$1,600,000 to complete the realignment, construction and seal of the ring road around Turleys Hill, White Cliffs

The Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Round (Program) has been developed to provide funding for local and regional roads across regional and rural NSW. Council applied to TfNSW for funding to address priority potholes on local roads and regional roads. The application for funding has been successful and the pothole repair work will be carried out by Council as the asset owner in accordance with the terms of the Program and the Deed received Mon 5 December 2022.

Council was successful with Fixing Local Roads Program, Round 4, for the amount of \$2,343,471.79 for Racecourse Road Menindee. The funding will allow the sealing of 3.9kms of road including, widen base formation to approximately 10.6m along the project length allowing for improved road draining benefits, sealing of 7m width on top of the broadened base formation, raising vertical alignment in key sections where required for overall road resilience and functionality and installation of culverts in 3 strategic locations to handle the worst flood prone areas of the road.

Project start dates here are yet to be confirmed due to local flooding and access issues.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
<b>Local Roads Component (FAG)</b>	\$1,815,759	31%	\$1,252,150
<b>Mandalay Rd Floodways (R2R)</b>	\$750,000	9%	\$685,855
<b>Wilc-Menindee East Rd Formation (R2R)</b>	\$251,818	0%	\$251,818
<b>Smith's Hill White Cliffs (FLR)</b>	\$1,860,000	61%	\$719,742
<b>Turley's Hill White Cliffs (LRCI Rd 3)</b>	\$1,600,000	29%	\$1,130,442
<b>Union Bend Rd, stage 1</b>	\$559,474	40%	\$335,499
<b>Fixing Local Roads – Pothole Repair Round</b>	\$821,414	19%	\$679,414
<b>Fixing Local Roads – Round 4</b>	\$2,343,471	0%	\$2,343,471

**Aerodromes**

Council maintains 6 aerodromes throughout the Shire; Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, White Cliffs, Tilpa and Emmdale.

Council's application under the Remote Aerodrome Upgrade Program (RAUP) Rd 9 was successful. Emmdale aerodrome bore supply and grading works will receive \$52,750 being 50% of the project costs will be funded by the Federal Govt. The remaining 50% will be funded by Council.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
<b>Aerodromes R&amp;M</b>	\$210,500	26%	\$155,146
<b>RAUP Rd 9</b>	\$105,500	49%	\$54,067

**Attachments:**

NIL

**11.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE**

**FILE NUMBER: GD23/5904**  
**REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR PLANNER**  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is to provide a summary of Council’s Environment Services statistics for the month of March 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

**BACKGROUND:**

<b><u>Statistics for March 2023</u></b>		
Development approvals / final certificates issued under Part 4, Part 5 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> . Number of Certificates issued under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .	Number of DAs Approved – New Dwellings	1
	Number of DAs Approved – Renovation	0
	Number of DA s approved – Commercial/ Industrial	2
	Number of DA s approved – Rural Industry/ Agriculture	0
	Number of DAs Approved – Other	0
	Total Value of DAs Approved	\$1,132,626.00
	Number of Construction Certificates / Crown Construction Certificates Issued	0
	Number of Complying Development Certificates issued	0
	Number of LGA S68 Approvals	1
	Number of Occupation Certificates Issued	0
	Number of Section 10.7 Planning Certificates issued (S68)	<b>57</b>
	Number of other approvals or certificates issued under the Local Government Act 1993 (S138, S123 etc)	0
Animal Control Activities -	Animals in and Arriving at Council's Facility	
	Seized	0
	Returned to Owner	4
	Transferred to - Council's Facility from Seizure Activities	9
	Animals in and arriving at council's facility	

	Surrendered	6
	Animals leaving council's facility	
	Released to organizations for rehoming	1
	Unable to rehome	5
	Total in council facility	15
	Nuisance dog	0
	Incident dog attack	0
Water Sampling	Microbiology Samples Collected	11
	Chemistry Samples Collected	
	Raw water pesticide sample	
	Non-Compliant Samples	

**LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN:**

<b>Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes</b>	<b>Delivery Outcomes</b>
GOAL 1: A healthy and cohesive community receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.	<u>Objectives</u> 1.2 Improved community services and facilities. 1.4 Improved opportunities for our communities. 1.5 Enhanced public order and safety.
GOAL 2: A strong regional economy supported by developing industries, strong businesses and increased employment.	<u>Objectives</u> 2.2 Employment growth. 2.3 Improved infrastructure across the Shire.
GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well maintained built environment.	<u>Objectives</u> 3.1 Collaborative approach to environmental management and protection. 3.3 Safe and reliable water supplies and road networks for Shire communities. 3.4 Improved infrastructure across the Shire.
GOAL 4: A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services as per the standards set by Council and providing community development and succession planning.	<u>Objectives</u> 4.1 Effective communication and consultation with Shire communities. 4.2 Efficient and effective services.

**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Social</b>	Positive
<b>Environmental</b>	Positive
<b>Economic</b>	Positive
<b>Governance</b>	Positive

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

Nil

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Nil

**Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:**

Nil

**Attachments:**

NIL



**11.3 UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT ZONES IMPLEMENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT****FILE NUMBER: GD23/5908****REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR PLANNER****RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Department of Planning and Environment commenced the amendments to the Standard Instrument LEP Order and Transport and Infrastructure SEPP amendment on 30 November 2022.

This amendment changes the type of employment zones within all Local Environmental Plans. The effect on the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012* is that the current Wilcannia B2 Local Centre and R1 General Residential zones will become a RU5 Village Zone. A further change is that current Wilcannia IN2 Light Industrial zone and IN1 General Industrial zones become an E4 General Industrial zone.

The proposed amendment to the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012* will be made through a Land use SEPP which amends 134 Local Environmental Plans, the commencement date of the amendment is **26 April 2023**. The new commencement date of the new RU5 Village zone and the new E4 General Industrial zone for Wilcannia, is **26 April 2023**.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report
2. Notes the commencement dates for the amendments by the Department of Planning and Environment to the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012* for **26 April 2023**.

**REPORT:**

These legislative amendments follow the May 2022 public exhibition of an Explanation of Intended Effect and detail how LEPs will be amended to include employment zones. The department in discussion with councils considered all exhibition submissions. Where required, submissions were addressed through amendments to the Amending Order or as part of the drafting of individual LEP amendments.

The Amending Order makes the following key changes:

- the commencement date of the business and industrial zones for the **26 April 2023**.
- These amendments to the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012* land use table and the zone mapping will commence on the **26 April 2023**.

**Attachments:**

NIL

**11.4 SERVICES**

**FILE NUMBER: GD23/5951**  
**REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the services expenditure on all associated assets within the Central Darling Local Government Area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

**REPORT:**

**Services Operational:**

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Parks & Gardens/ Sporting Facilities	\$196,000	73%	\$52,458
Ancillary Works	\$194,000	25%	\$111,388
Street Cleaning/Bins	\$193,000	111%	-\$20,865
Buildings	\$431,000	47%	\$226,855
Swimming Pools	\$423,500	64%	\$154,038
Domestic Waste	\$204,000	61%	\$78,660

**Services Infrastructure Capital Works**

Council has received funding to improve facilities throughout the Shire through the Building Stronger Country Communities Funds Round 3, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Round 2 and 3, Far West Joint Organisation Funding, DSP Local Drought Support, Crown Reserves Improvement Funding, Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program

The infrastructure projects included in each funding stream are detailed below

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
BSCCF Rd 3 – Wilcannia Skate Park	\$260,000	100%	\$0
BSCCF Rd 3 - Playgrounds	\$188,340	90%	\$19,681

BSCCF Rd 3 – Sunset Strip Playground	\$85,000	100%	\$0
LRCI Rd 2 – Wil Post Office Flooring	\$100,000	36%	\$63,509
LRCI Rd 3 – Ivanhoe Oval Upgrade	\$200,000	53%	\$93,384
LRCI Rd 3 – Tilpa Park Playground	\$203,636	11%	\$180,932
MDBEDP – Victory Park Amenities	\$489,665	62%	\$184,458
DSP Drought – Addressing Project	\$300,000	68%	\$94,822
DSP Drought – Building demolitions Wilcannia	\$300,000	95%	\$16,073
DSP Drought – Minor Playground Upgrades	\$100,000	43%	\$56,985
DSP Drought – Streetscape Iv/Wilc	\$160,000	71%	\$46,909
DSP Drought – Community Hall Upgrades	\$20,000	29%	\$14,208
CRIF – Tilpa Electrical Upgrade	\$93,342	47%	\$49,657
CRIF – Victory Park Electrical Upgrade	\$117,000	33%	\$77,826

**Attachments:**

NIL

**11.5 WATER AND SEWER**

**FILE NUMBER:** GD23/5956  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on water and sewer maintenance, capital works and expenditure on all assets within the Central Darling Local Government Area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

**REPORT:**

**Water & Sewerage Operations:**

- Wilcannia’s potable water supply is sourced from the Darling River Weir Pool
- White Cliffs town water supply is sourced from Wakefield Tank. Wakefield Tank storage supply is 7.2m, 8 months’ supply remaining.
- Ivanhoe town water supply is currently being sourced from Morrison’s Tank. Morrison’s Tank capacity, 350 megalitres. 18 months’ supply remaining
- The Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer Program contributes to Councils operational costs for services supplied to the Wilcannia Mallee and Waralli precincts.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Wilcannia Water	\$340,000	82%	\$60,657
Wilcannia Sewer	\$115,000	60%	\$45,633
White Cliffs Water	\$205,750	45%	\$113,663
Ivanhoe Water	\$326,500	58%	\$138,327
Tilpa Water	\$22,500	20%	\$17,965
Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer program	\$144,770	56%	\$63,562

**Water and Sewer Capital Works**

- Council awarded the contract for new Water Treatment Plants at Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs on 1 July 2021 to Membrane Systems Australia.
- Council received Section 60 approval on 10 August 2022 from designs completed by MSA.

MSA were procured by Enviro Pacific late 2022 and it was envisaged that the company would bring further resources and expertise to the contract and Council could progress the works.

Enviro Pacific / MSA recently advised Council that costs to construct all three Water Treatment Plants were now \$17M, an increase of over \$10M on contract award sum.

Council and its legal representatives are working with Enviro Pacific / MSA for a pathway forward, to ascertain costs incurred to date and reconcile offsite purchases and fabrication works.

The project has been placed on hold until contract matters are resolved.

Council staff will liaise with the funding bodies to update on project status, legal matters and possible ways forward to deliver the new WTP's to the communities

- The White Cliffs Reticulation design has been completed, Environmental inspections including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment have been completed and Aboriginal Heritage Impact permit (AHIP) was received June 2022. Tenders closed 27/9/2022. Public Works Advisory have been engaged to manage the design and tender process and Council were involved in the tender review process October 2022.

Council have submitted application for additional funding to complete the works in White Cliffs. Since time of funding awarded construction prices, materials, fuel etc have all increased resulting in higher than anticipated tendered prices.

Council received advice Mon 6 February 2023 advising that no additional funding is available at this time. Staff will meet with Public Works Advisory mid-February 2023 to discuss scope of works and further negotiations with the preferred civil works contractor for the town retic upgrade.

Additionally, Council staff met with the preferred contractor in Wilcannia on Tuesday 11 April 2023 to discuss ways to deliver a revised scope of works based on approved funding amounts at this time. Council will be updated with progress at the next meeting.

- Tilpa Village emergency water supply works via a 17km pipeline and bore are in progress. The projects stage 2 works are funded through Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2. The works have been delayed due to high Darling River flows and route inundation, completion is now forecast by June 2023 with essential Energy power connection required at the new bore site and storage options being considered at the village.

Further water quality testing is required and possible treatment options are being investigated.

- Smart meters and valve replacements are scheduled for 2022/23 in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia.
- Tilpa Village Solar Array and pump at the weir pool pump station will be upgraded
- Electrical switchboards at Ivanhoe, Morrisons Lake inlet and storage, will be replaced.

The table below reflects expenditure for Capital Projects.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
White Cliffs WTP and Retic	\$5,500,000	22%	\$4,208,442
Wilcannia WTP	\$3,500,000	43%	\$1,991,563
Ivanhoe WTP	\$2,500,000	40%	\$1,486,982
Smart Meters	\$50,000	0%	\$49,130
Valve Replacements	\$150,000	5%	\$59,773
Tilpa Village Pipeline	\$318,750	97%	\$31,813
Tilpa Solar Array/ Pump	\$25,000	100%	\$0
Ivanhoe Raw Water Switchboard Upgrades	\$75,000	0%	\$75,000

**Attachments:**

NIL

**11.6 POONCARIE RD REALIGNMENTS – COMPULSORY ACQUISITION****FILE NUMBER: GD23/5970****REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES****RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to acquire land at Karoola Homestead in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* (NSW) for the purpose of works for proposed realignments on the Pooncarie Road Initial Seal Project

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council delegate authority to its General Manager to negotiate with the landowners and other interest-holders of Lots 2 - 6 in the enclosed plan to acquire their interests in that land for the purpose of public road pursuant to Council's legislative authority under sections 177 and 178 of the *Roads Act 1993* (NSW).
2. That, if agreement cannot be reached with the landowners and/or other interest-holders of Lots 2 - 6 in the enclosed plan, Council approve the compulsory acquisition of those relevant interests in the enclosed plan pursuant to its legislative authority under sections 177 and 178 of the *Roads Act 1993* (NSW) and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* (NSW) and delegate authority to its General Manager to make an application to:
  - a. the Minister for Local Government to issue Proposed Acquisition Notice(s) under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* (NSW) for Council to compulsorily acquire Lots 2 - 6 in the enclosed plan; and
  - b. the Governor of NSW for the publication of an Acquisition Notice in the NSW Government Gazette under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* (NSW) for Council to compulsorily acquire Lots 2 - 6 in the enclosed plan.
3. That Council affix the Common Seal of Council to any documents required to be sealed as part of the process for Council to acquire Lots 2 - 6 in the enclosed plan.
4. That Council delegate authority to its General Manager to execute any documents required to be executed as part of the process for Council to compulsorily acquire Lots 2 - 6 in the enclosed plan that do not require the Common Seal of Council.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council, February 2021, Council considered a report concerning Pooncarie Rd realignments at Yampoola Crossing and Karoola Homestead. It was resolved to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Proceed with Private Treaty negotiations with affected landholders and associated parties.*
3. *Proceed with legal consultation, documentation and survey.*

Since that time surveyors and solicitors have been engaged to progress the matter. The proposed plan of acquisition has now been completed and the Crown have provided advice on how to acquire parcels of land associated with the realignment.

**REPORT:**

Council is reconstructing and sealing a particular portion of Pooncarie Road, south of Menindee (**Road**), as the first milestone for a jointly funded infrastructure upgrade project between all levels of Government to transition 61-kilometres of road from dirt to bitumen.

Part of this project requires two (2) sections of the Road to be realigned for road safety, including a section requiring realignment close to Karoola Homestead, located 63 km south of Menindee at Karoola Station, comprising of Lots 2 - 6 in the **enclosed** plan.

Property Owners, Wayne and Arletta Smith, have been lobbying Council since early 2000’s for the road to be realigned for safety reasons.

Previous and current General Managers and Director Engineering Services have supported the request and Council has previously resolved to proceed with negotiations with the Property Owners to acquire Lots 2 - 6 in the **enclosed** plan.

However, Lots 2, 5 and 6 in the **enclosed** plan constitute Crown Land subject to perpetual Western Land Lease 2043. This means that the Crown remains the underlying interest-holder in that land and, therefore, an affected party by any acquisition by Council of that land.

While the Property Owners are generally in favour of Council acquiring Lots 2 - 6 in the **enclosed** plan by agreement, the Crown is reluctant to allow this land to be acquired by Council by agreement, which means Council will likely proceed with acquiring the Crown’s interest in the land by compulsory process.

**LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN:**

<b>Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes</b>	<b>Delivery Outcomes</b>
GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well maintained built environment.	<u>Objectives</u> 3.4 Improved infrastructure across the Shire. 3.3 Safe and reliable water supplies and road networks for Shire communities.
GOAL 2: A strong regional economy supported by developing industries, strong businesses and increased employment.	<u>Objectives</u> 2.3 Improved infrastructure across the Shire.

**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Social</b>	Positive
<b>Environmental</b>	NA
<b>Economic</b>	NA
<b>Governance</b>	Positive



**Financial and Resource Implications:**

The project is 100% funded by the State and Federal Governments.

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

While the Property Owners are generally in favour of Council acquiring Lots 2 - 6 in the **enclosed** plan by agreement, the Crown is reluctant to allow this land to be acquired by Council by agreement, which means Council will likely proceed with acquiring the Crown's interest in the land by compulsory process.

**Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:**

Nil

**OPTIONS:**

Do not proceed with road realignments and seal the existing alignment

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

Yes

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:****Internal Exhibition:**

Nil

**External Exhibition:**

Nil

**Attachments:**

1. [Proposed Plan of Land to be Acquired](#)
2. [DP Administration Sheet](#)

## 12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nil

## 13 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

The *Local Government Act 1993* provides that Council may close to the public that part of the meeting that deals with matters of a confidential nature.

The grounds on which a meeting is closed to the public must be specified in the decision to close the meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council Meeting move into Confidential to consider the matters listed in the confidential section of the agenda in accordance with Section 10A 2 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the reasons specified.:

### 13.1 Purchase of Land By Council - Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates Auction

**FILE NUMBER:** GD23/5217

**REPORT AUTHOR:** ACTING RATES OFFICER

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** GENERAL MANAGER

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Item 13.1 is confidential under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2) - (d) as it relates to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

- (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
- (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
- (iii) reveal a trade secret.

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council moves out of Confidential and back into Open Chambers.

## 14 RESOLUTION TRACKER

Nil

## 15 MEETING CLOSE

The Ordinary Council Meeting will be declared closed by the Mayor/Administrator.

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 24 May 2023 in Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia at 9am.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 21 REID STREET, WILCANNIA  
ON WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2023**

**PRESENT:** Administrator, Bob Stewart

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Greg Hill (General Manager)  
Reece Wilson (Director Shire Services)  
Glenda Dunn (Senior Planning Officer)  
Kevin Smith (Finance Manager)  
Darryl Telfer (Acting Rates Officer)  
Uday Mamidala (Finance Officer Revenue)  
Evelyn Pollard (Human Resource Officer)  
Gail Russell (Minutes Secretary)  
Kara Mohr (Risk & WHS Officer)

## **1 OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared open at 9.01am

## **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

An acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land was delivered by the Administrator, Bob Stewart.

## **3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### **3.1 APOLOGIES**

Nil

### **3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

## **4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW Councillors and Council staff are required to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Disclosures of Interest – Pecuniary and Non–Pecuniary be received and noted.

No declarations were received.

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

## 5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 February 2023 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

## 6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

## 7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)

### 7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE -

Central Darlings Future

Council has been successful in attracting Grants to improve services and infrastructure across the Shire. We have actively pursued grants as part of our business model because if we only relied on rates and charges the level and quality of services that could be delivered would not be acceptable. This reliance on grant-to-grant funding as opposed to a reliable and predictable revenue source makes a long-term approach to financial planning for service delivery difficult and unsustainable in the long term.

Property rates and annual charges deliver very limited income and along with the annual Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant represent the Councils only source of discretionary funding, as nearly all other revenues are linked to specific areas of expenditure (grants). This means that Council must constantly ration and prioritize available resources towards works, services and organisational capacity which ultimately results in the delivery of a makeshift or substandard service outcome for the community.

Community expectations of service delivery standards far exceed the capacity of the organisation to meet under the current arrangements. This means that Council must also continually prioritize and improvements to its professional, technical and governance capacity in a bid to correct years of underperformance and neglect.

A focus over the past 3 years has been rebuilding the organisations system processes to ensure regulatory compliance. Whilst significant progress has been made, the organization is like a sandcastle, whereby at any time a redirection of resources could undermine or wash away any gains.

Moreover, CDS does not have sufficient funds to operate, maintain, renew, replace and upgrade its assets. To deliver services and meet regulatory requirements demanded on local government we must employ a skilled and experienced staff. Attracting and maintaining that staff base has proved challenging for a rural and remote community.

Critical decisions about the future governance and financing of the shire have been deferred and it is imperative that government come to terms with the reality of the long-term costs of delivering an adequate standard of service and democratic governance to the shire.

There will be no decision on a future governance model before the upcoming state election, as a critical component of the process that is community consultation has not occurred. With local government elections set for September 2024 early consultation must occur. The issues facing Central Darling are well known and documented, but what is lacking is the will to have an open discussion that puts the issues on the table and commitment to a long term sustainable solution.

The reality what is needed is a new governance model that can deliver sustainable services to the Far West Community, committed ongoing funding from treasury to underwrite the ongoing cost and a sense of urgency by government to resolve the issues.

Administration of Central Darling was never going to solve the fundamental issues facing Central Darling, and we must now hold the Government to account to bring forward a solution and engage with our community.

This will be a priority after the March State election.

## **8 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **8.1 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, WHITE CLIFFS BRANCH**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Approve financial assistance of \$1,000.00 to the Country Women's Association, White Cliffs Branch under Council's Community Grants Policy to assist with payment of the annual service charges for the 2022-23 period on its Johnston Street, White Cliffs property.

### **8.2 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - FEBRUARY 2023**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

### **8.3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

#### **8.4 GRANTS REGISTER – FEBRUARY 2023**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

### **9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS**

#### **9.1 CORPORATE CREDIT CARD POLICY REVIEW**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Approve the Draft Corporate Credit Card Policy Version 2.
3. Draft Corporate Credit Card policy to be place on public exhibition for a period 28 days with report back to council with intention of adoption.

#### **9.2 CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2027**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse to place the Central Darling Shire Council Workforce Management Plan on Public Exhibition for 28 days during April
3. Report to May Council meeting on comments received from the Public Exhibition with the intention of adopting the plan at the Council meeting.

#### **9.3 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

#### **9.4 WILCANNIA VISTOR ACCOMODATION BUSINESS CASE**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Acknowledge the engagement of Dunn & Hillam Architects and Balmoral Group in accordance to the Local Government Act 1993 - Section 55 (3) services being sought are of such as specialized and urgent in nature, noting limited time period
3. Endorse the General Manager to engage:
  - a. Dunn & Hillam Architects for Stage One Feasibility and Concept Design
  - b. Balmoral Group for Strategic Business Model and development
4. A report be presented to Council on completion of Wilcannia Visitor Accommodation Business Case.

## **9.5 MAY AND JUNE COUNCIL MEETNGS**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Note the Administrator will not be attending the schedule Council meetings on 24 May and 28 June 2023 in person, however, will be attending both meetings by audio-visual link due to exceptional circumstance.

## **10 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**

Nil

## **11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS**

### **11.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

### **11.2 SERVICES**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

### 11.3 WATER AND SEWER

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report
2. A further report to be provided to Council for the construction of White Cliff, Wilcannia and Ivanhoe Water Treatment Plants.

### 11.4 WASTE FACILITIES OPERATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN AND LONG TERM PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Place the Draft Waste Facilities Operational Strategic Plan and all Long-Term Plans of Management on Public Exhibition for no less than 28 days and report back to Council with a report detailing any comments received.
3. Council to consult with the EPA NSW following public exhibition and a report to Council.

## 12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nil

## 13 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

It was resolved that Council moved into Confidential to consider the matters listed in the confidential section of the agenda in accordance with Section 10A 2 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for the reasons specified. Confidential section was closed to the public and began at 9.35am.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council move into Confidential to consider the matters listed in the confidential section of the agenda in accordance with Section 10A 2 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the reasons specified.:

#### 13.1 Jetpatcher Machine - Award of Tender

Item 13.1 is confidential under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2) - (c) as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council moves out of Confidential and back into Open Chambers at 9.42am

The General Manager reviewed the resolutions of the confidential matters and reported the following for the listed reports:

**13.1 JETPATCHER MACHINE - AWARD OF TENDER**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Resolve to award tender VP347790, Jetpatcher Road Maintenance Machine, to Ausroad Manufacturing Pty Ltd for the sum of six hundred and eighty four thousand and four hundred and eighty eight dollars (\$684,488.00) GST exclusive
3. Allocate \$380,732 in the draft capital Budget 2023/24 for the remaining payment.

**14 NEW ITEM - PLANT HIRE RATES AND OVERHEADS REVIEW**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. A further report be bought forward to Council on the review of Plant Hire Rates, Plant Replacement Reserve and overheads of Council.

**14 RESOLUTION TRACKER**

Nil

**15 MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at **9.50am**.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Central Darling Shire Council held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023.

.....  
**ADMINISTRATOR**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 21 REID STREET, WILCANNIA  
ON WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023**

**PRESENT:** Administrator, Bob Stewart  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Greg Hill (General Manager)  
Kevin Smith (Finance Manager) - online  
Nerida Carr (Governance Officer) - online  
Janette Bussell (Minutes Secretary)

## **1 OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared open at 9am.

## **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

An acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land was delivered by the Administrator, Bob Stewart.

## **3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### **3.1 APOLOGIES**

Nil

### **3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

## **4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to the Mode Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW Councillors and Council staff are required to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

### **RESOLVED: ECM 01-04-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That the Disclosures of Interest – Pecuniary and Non–Pecuniary be received and noted.

**CARRIED**

No declarations were received.

## **5 GOVERNANCE REPORTS**

### **5.1 APPOINTMENT OF ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**

#### **RESOLVED: ECM 02-04-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Appoint Mr. Robert Hunt as Acting General Manager from Tuesday 11 April 2023 to Friday 12 May 2023, while the current general Manager takes annual leave.
3. That the Acting General Manager, Mr Robert Hunt be delegated all delegations held by the General Manager, Mr Greg Hill from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**CARRIED**

## **6 MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at **9.03**.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Central Darling Shire Council held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023.

.....  
**ADMINISTRATOR**