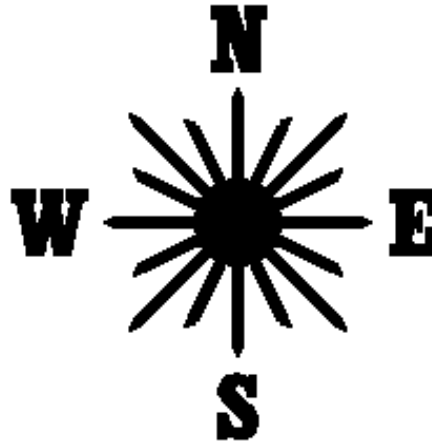


CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

24 FEBRUARY 2021

The Meeting will be held at 9.00am 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

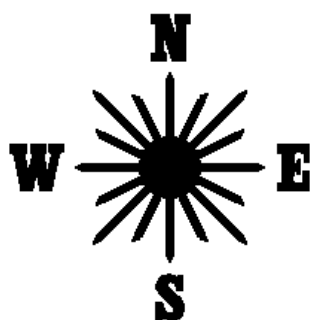
1. The Council may hold a public forum prior to each ordinary meeting of the Council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary Council meetings and meetings of Committees 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, 24 February 2021

9.00am

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

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.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 ORDINARY MEETING – 15 December 2020

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 December 2020 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of the 15 December 2020 Council Meeting

5.2 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

6.1 GRANTS REGISTER RECONCILIATION

REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: ACTING DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide a summary of Council's current grants and contributions reconciliation 2020-2021 as of 15 February 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and adopt the report

BACKGROUND:

Because of Council's commitment to transparency and responsible financial management, Council have at the request of the Administrator, developed a Grants and Contributions register for public access and which is to be presented during ordinary Council Meetings.

REPORT:

Council's current Grants Register is not in line with current best practice due to the limitations of Council's general ledger and job cost systems. Council is currently in the process of improving those systems in line with best practice reporting. This process is expected to be completed by July 2021.

In February 2021 Council has been approved Summer Fund of \$10,000 for The Festival of Place – Summer Fund from NSW Planning, Industry & Environment. The project being delivered is activate local public spaces by running free, safe activations and events, creating more opportunities for people to connect which is Summer on Boulevard Event at Sunset Strip. This project is to be completed by 18 April 2021.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL: 4 A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services.

Delivery Outcome

OBJECTIVE: 4.2 Efficient and effective services

Financial and Resource Implications:

Monitoring of the Current Grants and Contributions Reconciliation 2019/2020 enables timely financial management and improved cash flow processes.

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:

Monthly reporting allows Council to keep informed of the process of the grants register to actual income and costs.

OPTIONS:

There are no alternative options.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Nil

Attachments

1. Council Current Grants and Contribution Reconciliation.

6.2 SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES AUCTION RESULTS

REPORT AUTHOR: ACTING RATES OFFICER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates and Charges sales which occurred in the week commencing 26 October 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report.**
- 2. Note that monthly reports will be provided to Council until such time that the contracts of sales have been completed and the sale processes finalised.**

BACKGROUND:

Section 713 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the LGA) provides that Council may sell land by public auction where rates and charges remain unpaid for a period of five (5) years or longer.

At its Ordinary Meeting on 25 March 2020, Council resolved to sell 111 properties at public auctions, but to defer advertising and scheduling of such auctions until such time that it is considered appropriate to proceed in light of the Covid-19 situation, which was beginning to evolve at that time.

That resolution also provided Council's authority for the General Manager to execute all relevant documentation to affect such sales.

At its Ordinary Meeting on 24 June 2020, Council endorsed that sale of land auctions be conducted in the week commencing 26 October 2020.

Council received and noted a progress report on the matter at each of its Ordinary Meetings since June 2020. As reported to Council's Ordinary Meeting on 22 November 2020, the auctions resulted in the sale of 91 properties under 83 contracts of sale.

REPORT:

The contracts of sale provide for completion within 42 days of the auction dates, which period expires in the week of 7 December 2020 to 11 December 2020. Contracts provide for a 14 day "Notice to Complete" period should either party not be able to settle within the initial 42 days period. That option would usually only be exercised if no agreement to settle later could not be reached beforehand.

The timely completion of the contracts and finalisation of the sales process (settlement) has been impeded by the need for manual settlements involving exchange of physical documents rather than online settlements as are performed with standard sales.

Staff continue to liaise with the firm appointed to manage the sale, Outstanding Collections, in effort to bring finalisation to all matters.

The table below sets out the status and risk of non-completion as at 15 February 2021.

Status	Count	Risk
Complete	7	Nil
Completion pending registration of transfer of title - includes 13 CDSC purchases where stamp duty assessment is also pending	16	Very Low
Council purchase not proceeding – Western Land Lease being surrendered	1	Nil
Awaiting Agent to remit deposits	4	Nil
Awaiting Order on Agent to release deposit monies	10	Very Low
Awaiting Settlement	30	Low
Purchaser’s solicitor’s fees outstanding	13	High
Purchaser yet to provide Transfer for Council to sign	2	High
Total	83	

At this time there appear to be 15 matters at high risk of not being completed in the next few weeks – being those flagged as *Purchaser’s solicitor’s fees outstanding* (13) and *Purchaser yet to provide Transfer for Council to sign* (2). The total purchase prices/deposits paid on these 15 properties is approximately \$6,100 whilst the total rates debt outstanding is approximately \$235,000.

Outstanding Collections are working closely with the purchasers of 12 of these properties, to complete the necessary transfer documentation and facilitate finalisation. Efforts are also continuing as far as possible to contact the other 3 purchasers.

If these efforts are unable to bring about completion of any contract in a reasonable period, consideration will be given to serving a 14 day “notice to complete” following which contracts may be rescinded and the deposit money forfeited to Council (applied to the unpaid rates).

Property ownership would however remain unchanged and significant rate debt would remain – in all these cases the rate debt far exceeds the sale price and its highly likely a further sale for unpaid rates would be necessary.

In addition to forfeiture of deposit monies, should a notice to complete lapse, other legal remedies become available to Council. These will be considered if that situation arises.

All other matters are expected to be finalised within the next month.

Next steps

Council staff and Outstanding Collections will continue to work towards achieving completion of contracts over the coming weeks and early in the new year.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

No direct linkages

Delivery Outcome

No direct linkages

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Nil	Nil
Environmental	Nil	Nil
Economic	Improved cashflow Crystallisation of Bad Debt exposure	Nil
Governance	Nil	Nil

Financial and Resource Implications:

Once sale proceeds are received any residual debts are written off in accordance with Section 719 of the LGA in order that the purchasers acquire the properties free of any rate debt outstanding up to the date of settlement.

Council's existing Doubtful Debt Provision for Rates, Annual Charges and Interest of \$1,230,000, is considered sufficient to cover the estimated shortfalls set out above. A review of the adequacy the remaining Doubtful Debt Provision will be addressed through the March 2020-21 Quarterly Budget Review process.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Local Government Act 1993
Councils Debt Recovery Policy
Council's Economic Hardship Policy

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Failure of purchasers to complete purchasers may expose Council to further costs of selling for unpaid rates at a future date. A clearer understanding of such risk will not be possible unless and until Notices to Complete are issued and lapse.

OPTIONS:

None.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**Internal Exhibition**

Regular liaison between relevant staff and Outstanding Collections (Council's agent)/solicitors has occurred and will continue to occur through to finalisation of all sales

External Exhibition

None applicable

6.3 CASH AND INVESTMENTS – JANUARY 2021

REPORT AUTHOR: MANAGER FINANCE

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: ACTING DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide a summary of Council's cash and investments as at 31st January 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Receive and note 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 & Investment Accounts	Current Month	Last Month	Movement	Interest Rate	Current Month Interest	YTD Interest
Westpac 11am Investment Account	\$3,950,000.00	\$3,950,000.00	Nil	0.10%	\$126.61	\$1,721.60
Operating Account	\$2,609,842.57	\$1,971,339.13	\$638,503.44	0.01%	NIL	\$115.84
Post Office Clearing Account	\$666,314.03	\$612,384.31	\$53,929.72			
Total Cash at Bank as at 31st January 2021					\$7,226,156.60	

Commentary:

For the period ended 31st January 2020 Council held a cash balance of \$3.124 million. Council's cash balance for the month ended 31st January 2021 is significantly higher than this amount due primarily to:

- Federal Assistance Grant received in advance \$3,086,967
- Payment for RMS works \$1,081,635
- Receipt of Drought Funding \$400,000
- Receipt of grant funding for the Pooncarie road Project \$4,000,000

Restrictions

Restriction Type	Restriction Amount
Internal	Nil
External	\$5,955,000
Total Restrictions as at 30 June 2021	
	\$5,955,000

Loan Accounts

Loan Account	Current Month	Last Month	Movement	Interest Rate	Current Month Interest	YTD Interest
Garbage Trucks	\$215,611.79	\$228,762.73	(\$13,150.94)	3.66%	\$485.31	\$3,672.21
Total Loan Liability as at 31st January 2021						\$215,611.79

Attachments

Nil

6.4 SMART WATER METERS, METER READING AND BILLING UPDATE

REPORT AUTHOR: ACTING RATES OFFICER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report aims to provide Council with an understanding of the recent history and current status of the smart water meter rollout, water meter readings and water consumption billings. This report also explains future planned activity in this space.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report.**

BACKGROUND:

Council previously applied for funding under the NSW Government's Safe and Secure Water Program to replace the filtered and raw water reticulation systems, within Ivanhoe and Wilcannia, with single filtered water reticulation systems. In conjunction, it was proposed that existing filtered water meters be replaced with smart meters.

Funding for the reticulation system replacement was not forthcoming, however funding sufficient to cover the estimated costs of replacing existing filtered water meters in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia was approved under the Drought Communities Programme.

Consequently, non-smart meters remain on the raw water supply in Ivanhoe whilst raw water supplies remain unmetered in Wilcannia.

Taggle were engaged to implement smart meters and the relevant hardware and software (Aqualus) to support smart meters.

Smart meters and Aqualus offer a number of benefits to customers and to Council, aimed at improving water use efficiency, including residents be able to monitor their usage online, receive usage reports and get alerts if there are leaks. More reliably scheduled meter reading and regular more accurate billing should also be possible as physical meter reading is not required and manual data management is reduced.

Aqualus has both private (Council) and Public access functionality.

REPORT:

Implementation of smart metering of standard domestic size (20mm) water services commenced in March 2020 on what appears to have been a significant underestimate of the number of meters to be replaced. Approximately 310 smart meters installed in this initial program.

The Aqualus Council platform was implemented shortly before this initial replacement program. Replacement information was captured by smart devices and automatically uploaded into Aqualus. This information was then manually loaded into Council's Property and Rating System.

In November 2020, larger meter sizes were replaced with smart meters and a further 50 x 20mm meters were also replaced utilising residual meter stock from March 2020.

The current water installations by town, service type and meter type, is set out in the table below.

Meter Type/Scheme	Ivanhoe - Filtered	Ivanhoe - Raw	Wilcannia - Filtered	White Cliffs - Filtered	Totals
Smart Meters	115	2 #	243	0	360
Non Smart Meters	30	146	43	181	400
Totals	145	148	286	181	760

2 x Smart Meters on raw water supply in Ivanhoe occurred unintentionally during the March 2020 replacement program – refer comments later in this report.

Field operators/staff will use handheld devices to update smart meter details in Aqualus upon water meter installation. Training in the installation and activation of smart water meters and the in use of the Aqualus platform occurred early February 2021.

Implementation Issues

The initial replacement program in March 2020, highlighted that both the meter replacement data in Aqualus, and legacy metering data, on Council’s property and rating system, were unreliable.

To address these data reliability issues, a field audit of all meters and properties within the Ivanhoe and Wilcannia townships was undertaken in September 2020 with the gathered information cross checked against the Aqualus platform data and Council’s property and rating system.

Future Steps and Requirements

The table above reflects a shortfall of 73 smart meters on the filtered supplies in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia. As mentioned previously, this appears to be the result of an underestimate of the numbers of filtered water meters in service.

There is currently no funding remaining within the 2020-21 budget to complete the replacement of non-smart meters, however staff are exploring a potential external funding source to enable this work to be completed within the 2020-21 period. Alternatively, a suitable budget provision will be required in the 2021-22 period to enable this work to be performed in that period.

A limited pilot of the Aqualus Public platform commenced mid-January 2021 with a limited group of “public” users including Council and staff. This pilot will provide an opportunity to identify issues and questions that public users may encounter/raise when a full public rollout occurs – effectively this will occur mid-March 2021 when next water consumption accounts are scheduled to be issued.

Information regarding smart meters and the self-serve functions will be provided and the service promoted. This is expected to be an effective channel to promote the full benefits of smart meters and achieve customer “buy in”.

Public/Social Housing providers will be directly engaged at this time.

Smart Metering of Raw Water Supply (Ivanhoe and Wilcannia)

The raw water supply in Ivanhoe is metered whilst that in Wilcannia is unmetered.

Ideally, all water consumption would be through smart meters to improve cost reflective pricing, eliminate the need for manual reading and reduce manual data handling through the

billing process. This would further improve customer billing accuracy and frequency, water efficiency and stabilising Council's revenue stream.

This could be achieved through replacement of existing dual (filtered and raw) reticulation networks with single filtered reticulation networks - or through metering of existing raw water supplies. However, metering of the raw water in Wilcannia is not considered feasible as the turbidity and chemical makeup of the supply would seriously diminish the asset life, accuracy, and cost effectiveness of meters. The costs of installing meters on existing unmetered services would likely to be prohibitive.

Previous applications for government grant funding for replacement of existing dual reticulation networks with single filtered reticulation networks was unsuccessful.

Additionally, the new water treatment plant funding is only approved for the capacities for dual supplies. Further water treatment plant upgrades would be required to support single reticulation networks.

Nonetheless, long term asset management strategies for mains replacements should take these requirements into account.

Two Smart Meters were unintentionally installed on the on raw water supply during the March 2020 replacement program. This however presents an opportunity to monitor the effectiveness of smart metering of raw water in Ivanhoe for possible broader rollout dependent upon cost-benefit and the likelihood/timing of single reticulation network solutions.

White Cliffs

White Cliffs has a filtered water supply only i.e. no raw water supply.

Smart metering in White Cliffs is proposed in conjunction with the new water treatment plant, reticulation network and reservoir augmentation works. The new design will include service lines, meter assemblies and smart meters. We will specify the same smart meter models as those installed in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia, so all are like for like.

Design is planned to be completed by the end of February 2021 with installation by December 2021. Funding of \$3.85M through the NSW Government's Water Security for Regions program and the Safe and Secure Water Program \$3.85M has also been approved for new reticulation, rising main and reservoir works at White Cliffs.

A timetable of future smart metering activity is included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Water Meter Reading and Billing

Background

Historically, Council has issued water consumption accounts on a quarterly cycle. It appears this has been the intended approach since at least the early 2000's.

The actuality though is that true quarterly billing has rarely been achieved consistently. A review of billing cycles over the last 3 years disclose:

Average Meter Reading Period	154 to 158 days (depending on town)
------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Average Billing Issue period	184 days
------------------------------	----------

In the period January 2019 to November 2020 however, weaker outcomes were achieved:

Average Meter Reading Period	196 to 202 days (depending on town)
------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Average Billing Issue period	266 to 268 days (depending on town)
------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Issues and causes

The weaker outcomes over the last 2 years can be attributed to a range of issues including:

- Lack of skilled administration staff
- Smart metering implementation delays including replacement and legacy property data integrity issues
- Absence of a formal reading and billing program
- To a lesser degree, the impact of COVID-19

Solution

To arrest the recent results, a review was conducted in September 2020 and a plan implemented to:

- Address data integrity issues through a complete in field audit review of meters in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia.
- Update the Property and Rating system to reflect the findings of the audit.
- Issue bills as quickly as possible with extended due dates (2 months v/s usual one month).
- Engage with the community regarding the delays, recognising extended billing periods would likely result in larger bills and explain options available for extended payment plans.
- Establish a program for future quarterly meter reading and billing so that water bills are issued and due evenly between quarterly rate instalment issue and due dates.

The program is included as Attachment 2 to this report.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL 1: A healthy and cohesive community, receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.

Goal 3 A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well maintained built environment.

Delivery Outcome

- 1.2 Improved community services and facilities
- 3.1 Collaborative approach to environmental management and protection
- 3.3 Safe and reliable water supplies and road networks for Shire communities

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Improved customer engagement	
Environmental	Improve water efficiency	
Economic	Improved cashflow stability through regularity in billing	Implementation Costs
Governance		

Financial and Resource Implications:

Support of the Aqualus platform will involve some additional staff time which is expected to be managed from within existing and planned resources.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Nil

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Nil

OPTIONS:

None identified

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition

A pilot of the Aqualus Public platform commenced mid-January 2021 involving relevant staff.

External Exhibition

No formal external exhibition is required. Community awareness will be achieved through planned promotion of the benefits of smart water meters and the Aqualus Public platform

Attachments

1. Smart Metering Timetable
2. Water Meter Reading and Billing Program

6.5 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

REPORT AUTHOR: MANAGER FINANCE

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: ACTING DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide a summary of Council's financial performance against budget as at 31 December 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

- 1. Receive the Quarter 2 Budget Review as at 31 December 2020;**
- 2. Adopt the variations to Council's 2020/21 Annual Budget.**
- 3. Note that the projected operating surplus for the financial year 2020/21 is \$547,000.**
- 4. Note that projected capital works budgeted expenditure for 2020/21 is \$14,596,000.**

BACKGROUND:

Regulation 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides a requirement that:

(1) Not later than 2 months after the end of each quarter (except the June quarter), the responsible accounting officer of a council must prepare and submit to the council a budget review statement that shows, by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the statement of the council's revenue policy included in the operational plan for the relevant year, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year.

(2) A budget review statement must include or be accompanied by:

(a) a report as to whether or not the responsible accounting officer believes that the statement indicates that the financial position of the council is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure, and

(b) if that position is unsatisfactory, recommendations for remedial action.

In accordance with s.211 (Authorisation of expenditure) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005:

(1) A council, or a person purporting to act on behalf of a council, must not incur a liability for the expenditure of money unless the council at the annual meeting held in accordance with subclause (2) or at a later ordinary meeting:

(a) has approved the expenditure, and

(b) has voted the money necessary to meet the expenditure.

The QBRS appears as Attachment 1 and has been produced in accordance with the guidelines and standards issued by the Office of Local Government.

The December Quarterly Budget review shows Quarterly Budget Review shows a decrease in the projected 2020/21 operating surplus (before capital items) of \$44,000 to an overall projected operating surplus as at 30 June 2021 of \$547,000. Budgeted capital expenditure will

decrease by \$5,000,000 and capital revenue will decrease by \$5,000,000. Projected capital expenditure will decrease from \$19,596,000 to \$14,596,000.

REPORT:

Operational Budget Result:

The December Quarterly Budget review shows Quarterly Budget Review shows a decrease in the projected 2020/21 operating surplus (before capital items) of \$44,000 to an overall projected operating surplus as at 30 June 2021 of \$547,000.

This result reflects the following movements:

1. Council will receive funding of \$1,800,000 for repair works to various roads throughout the municipality, due to storm damage. This funding is being managed through RMS and is additional to Council's Annual Budget.

Council was also contracted by Cobar Shire Council to undertake similar works to roads for storm damage. These works amounted to additional income of \$823,000.

2. Council will be addressing current staffing deficiencies in the areas of governance and rates during this financial year, with a view that these positions will become permanent in the future. The expected cost of these new positions for the current financial year will be \$17,600 and is additional to Council's Annual Budget. These positions are the subject of a Council Report tabled at the February 2021 Council Meeting.
3. Additional \$90,000 in contracting costs due to the extended leave taken by the Director of Business Services.
4. Additional \$2,530,000 in contracting costs due to the storm damage repair works as per Item 1. Above.

Capital Budget Result:

Budgeted capital expenditure will decrease by \$5,000,000 and capital revenue will decrease by \$5,000,000. Projected capital expenditure will decrease from \$19,596,000 to \$14,596,000.

This result reflects the following movements:

1. The plant and reticulation replacement program for the White Cliffs Water Treatment Plant project has now been postponed due to delays in the approval process from DPIE Water. This reasons for this delay form part of the Capital Works Progress report tabled at the February 2021 Council meeting.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL: 4 A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services

Delivery Outcome

OBJECTIVE: 4.2 Efficient and effective services

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

Financial and Resource Implications:

Monitoring of the Quarterly Budget Review enables timely financial management.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Clause 203 (1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 requires Council's Responsible Accounting Officer to prepare and submit a quarterly budget review statement to the governing body of Council.

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Quarterly 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:

Nil

Attachments

1. CDSC Quarter 2 Quarterly Business Review

6.6 PRESENTATION OF THE 2019/20 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REPORT AUTHOR: FINANCE MANAGER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council is required to advertise a summary of Audited Annual Financial Statements for the year and formally present them to the public in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. Any person may make a submission with respect to the financial reports within seven days of being presented.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. **Receive the report,**
2. **Adopt the 2019/20 Annual Financial Statements and Audit Reports.**
3. **Present the reports to the public, in accordance with Section 418 and 419 of the Local Government Act.**

BACKGROUND:

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 October 2020 Council resolved the following:

That in accordance with Section 413 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council resolve:

1. That its 2019/20 Annual Financial Statements:
 - a. Are in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended and the Regulations made there under);
 - b. Are in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and Professional Procurements;
 - c. Are in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting;
 - d. Present fairly the Council's 2019/20 operating result and financial position;
 - e. Are in accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
 - f. That Council is not aware of any matter that would render this report false or misleading in any way.

REPORT:

Section 419 of the *Local Government Act 1993* prescribes a Council must present its Audited Financial Reports, together with the Auditor's reports, at a meeting of the Council.

The Financial Statements 2019/20 have been audited by Council's auditor. However, Section 418 of the *Local Government Act 1993* prescribes that the Council must give separate notice that it proposes to adopt the Financial Statements, giving the public the opportunity to make comment.

The recommendation is in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Items to highlight for the period are:

Surplus

Council is reporting a Net Operating Surplus of \$6.093M

Income

Total income reported for the year was \$29.791M. The major components being grants for operating purposes of \$11.549M, and user fees and charges of \$12.544M.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was \$23.693M. The major components being, materials and contracts of \$12.867M, depreciation and amortisation of \$4.092M and employee benefits of \$4.778M.

Assets

Council completed a capital works program of \$5.954M

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL: 4 A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services

Delivery Outcome

OBJECTIVE: 4.2 Efficient and effective services

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

Financial and Resource Implications:

There is a cost incurred to have the financial statements externally audited.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

The process for undertaking the completion and validation of financial statements is robust and is a key component to managing financial and business risk.

OPTIONS:

Nil

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Public Notice of the financial statements was advertised locally, to give our community an opportunity to provide a submission to the financial statements. No submissions were received.

Attachments

1. 2019/20 Annual Financial Statements

7. GOVERNANCE REPORTS

7.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

REPORT AUTHOR: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide an update on the activities that have been taken over the past three month period to ensure our community is engaged and informed.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report**

REPORT:

The Community Engagement Officer commenced work with Central Darling Shire Council on 3 November 2020. The position was created to ensure a higher level of engagement with the community, particularly in the provision of Council information going to the community.

This report covers the period from 3 November 2020 to 3 February 2021.

MEDIA RELEASES:

In the reporting period, 21 media releases were written and distributed by Council, with a further three releases from external parties distributed by Council. The external releases related to COVID updates and were from Far West Local Health District.

The releases resulted in two requests for interviews on those specific issues – planning proposals and the swimming pools.

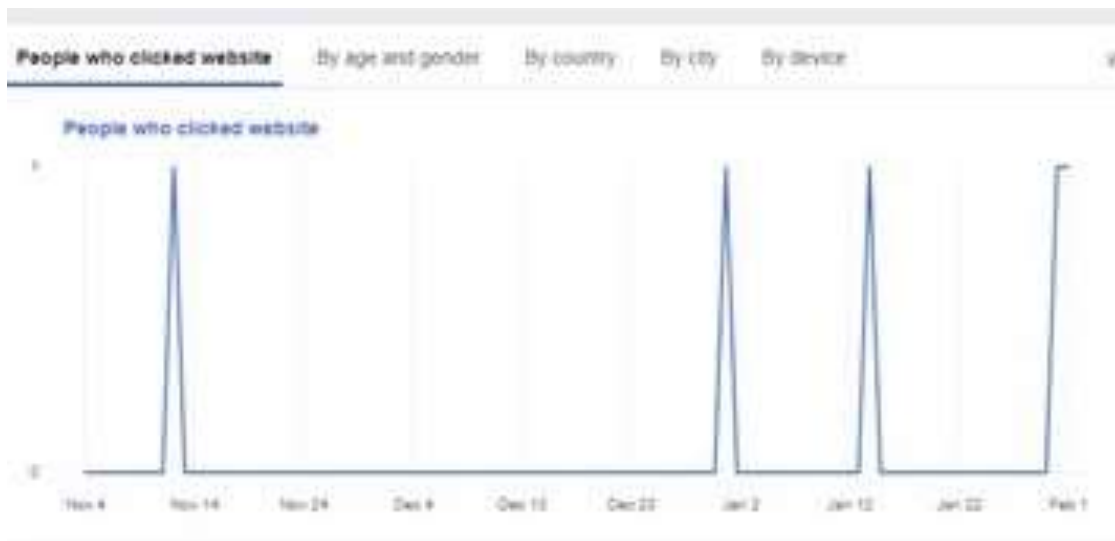
All media releases were sent to media outlets in the region, as well as community groups and all staff. They were then posted on Facebook. As yet, the website has no facility to post media releases. This is a project being undertaken by the Community Engagement Officer and is addressed in a separate report to Council.

FACEBOOK:

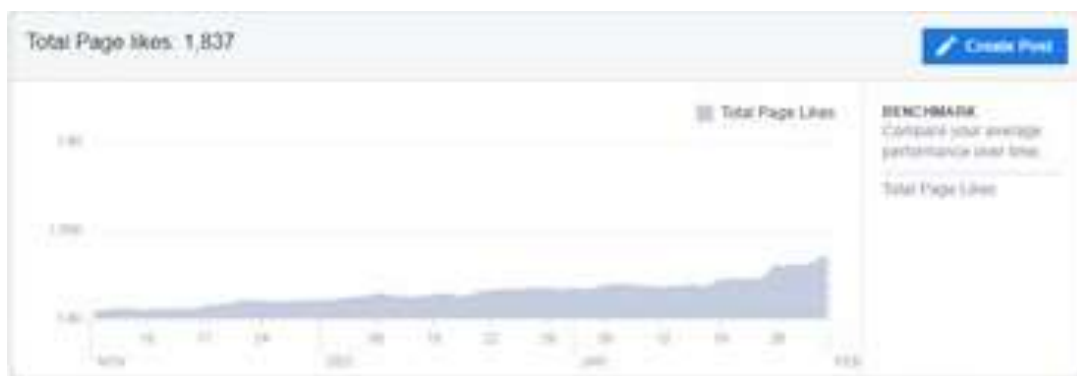
Council's Facebook page currently has just short of 1900 followers. While there appears to be little interaction on the site from a user perspective, administration statistics show that there is a great deal of interest in the site. Followers may not be commenting, but they are clicking on the posts and reading them. The below graphs indicate our engagement.



The graph – which has been taken from December 2020 to January 2021 shows that there was a spike in reach prior to Christmas, where Christmas closing hours were pinned to the top of the page, and during the beginning of January, when a COVID case travelled through the area and a testing clinic was set up in Wilcannia.



There is very little engagement between Facebook and the website. The spikes for “clickthrough” have been identified as primarily positions vacant advertised. This shows that people will click through to the website for further information when prompted.



Over the past three months, the growth in Facebook followers has climbed but is reflective of a growth pattern prior to the appointment of the Community Engagement Officer. Looking at the pattern, the Facebook page has been gaining around three new likes per week. This may grow with better interaction between Facebook and the website.



Over the three month period, the majority of views on our Facebook page have come directly from the Facebook platform. There is a limited number of users who find the page via search engines, and there is a likelihood that this is the source of our follower growth.

OTHER ACTIVITY:

1. Community Service Awards: Design nomination forms, posters, media releases and certificates for winners.
2. Australia Day: Assist community groups with promotion of activities, including designing posters and promoting on Facebook
3. Website: Update the website regularly. Conduct a full review of the efficacy of the website including a staff survey. This item will be dealt with in a separate report.
4. Governance: Ensure all governance matters relating to community engagement and media and communications are up to date.
5. Assist staff with engagement and communications advice.
6. Community Strategic Plan: Work with the consultant to ensure communications are relevant and accessible
7. Newsletter: A regular newsletter managed through MailChimp has commenced, with the first edition released in January. The newsletter will be scheduled for the beginning of each month and will include information from the previous Council meeting as well as pertinent information for the community. To comply with anti-spam regulations, subscribers are encouraged and links are on the website and will be emailed to relevant community groups to gain subscribers. It is envisaged that this newsletter will be migrated to a new website to integrate all communication.

Attachments

2. NIL

7.2 ENGAGEMENT OF STAFF AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

REPORT AUTHOR: GENERAL MANAGER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the background of staffing requirements and information on the current issues faced to ensure Council meets its statutory and legislative requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Receive the report and endorse the following:**
 - a. The engagement of a Governance Officer through Far South West Joint Organisation for 1 day/week, for a 12 month period.**
 - b. The employment of a Rates Officer for 3 days/week, for a 2-year contract.**
 - c. The 2020/21 Budget be adjusted to reflect the engagement of a Governance Officer and the employment of a Rates Officer.**
 - d. A further report to be forthcoming in April's Business Paper on the restructure of the organisational structure and how this will affect future financial budgets.**

BACKGROUND:

Over the past 12 months, there has been a significant turnover with staff leaving Council or wanting to work part time. The replacement of administration staff has been difficult to fill, especially in Wilcannia, where positions have been filled with a mixture of casual, short term contract and permanent positions. All positions in the administration area have been filled at this time.

When engaging new administration staff, it has been identified there is a need for a diverse set of skills of new employees to perform various tasks, as means of succession planning. Certain positions like Human Resources, Rates and Governance require staff to have the skills and experience which cannot be learnt on the job in a short period of time. The terms of employment with casual and short-term contracts, gives Council the agility to realign internal services and rebuild the organisational capacity, where local people can be employed and trained in these roles. To entice new staff with the skills and experience to work for Council, it has been necessary to offer the ability for new staff to work remotely from Council. Currently, Council employs 8 staff who work remotely that live in New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia, all are senior staff with qualifications and experience in their line of work.

There remains a shortfall in qualified and experience staff to do several roles within Council which requires additional resources in resolving the following issues:

- Currently Council is not meeting its responsibility for legislative requirements in statutory reporting and keeping of registers.
- There is a need to review Council Fees and Charges against the actual expenditure in the past years, which has not been done to this level for some time.
- Develop policies and procedures for the management of Water, Sewage and Waste collection services.

- A detail review of Council's rating structure and analysis of any amendments on the ability to pay by the community.
- Approximately another 30 properties have been identified with outstanding rates and charges that exceed \$5,000 which has accumulated over 5 years.

Therefore, to fill these roles, Council will need to consider the employment of a part time Governance Officer and additional Rates Officer.

REPORT:

Governance Officer: - a recent discussion with the Executive Officer of the FSWJO (Far South West Joint Organisation), they are employing a Governance Officer full time for a period of 12 months. The position has the capacity to assist other Councils in the Joint Organisations in their governance needs. Central Darling Shire and Balranald Councils has expressed interest in obtaining the services of the Governance Officer for one day a week, at a cost of \$300/day. The arrangement would be contractual arrangement between Council and the Joint Organisation (JO), with the JO being the employer and contracted to Council. All three organisations have the same statutory reporting requirements and the need to keep registers. If engaged, this position would be located off site and mostly likely located in the Albury area.

Rates Officer: - Council has a part time Rates Officer, engaged by an employment agency. While the Rates Officer would like to continue to be engaged by Council, he has asked his hours to be reduce to 3 days/week. The Rates Officer has identified the lack of compliance in policies and procedures in Water, Sewage and Waste and that Fees and Charges need to be reviewed, as well as another auction of land for unpaid rates. The officer has expressed, he would be willing to do project work for Council to resolve these issues over the next 12 months; if another Rates Officer were employed 3 days/week to do rates, fees and charges enquiries, prepare and distribute quarterly billing and update the residential property/rates database. If engaged, this position would work remotely, to attract the necessary skills and be removed from local intrusion. The engagement of a Rates Officer would be for a 2-year period, so that a succession plan can be implemented over the next 12 months for transitioning, for when the Project Rates Officer leaves. The cost to engage additional Rates Officer for a 12-month period, 3 days/week is \$60,000 (including overheads).

The 2020/21 half year Budget Review has indicated that expenditure for wages is within budget. The cost to engage the Governance Officer and additional Rates Officer for the remainder of the 2020/21 Financial Year is:

- Governance Officer- 12 weeks at a cost \$3,600
- Rates Officer- 12 weeks, 3days/week at a cost \$14,000

Therefore, to proceed to engage the additional staff as mentioned above, a budget adjustment of \$17,600 is required in this Half Yearly Budget Review.

Following 5 months of sick leave, the Director for Business Services has finished employment with Council, with a temporary Acting Director being employed to cover this period. With the commencement of several large capital works projects, there is the need for a Senior Project Manager position to have oversight of these large capital projects. This is an appropriate time to review the Organisational Structure of Council's Leadership Team and potentially flattening out the hierarchy and shifting workloads. It is envisaged that implementing the new organisational structure will not require additional employees, but more so, use the existing numbers of employees with the organisational budget. At this stage there is no formal structure to present to Council. In coming months, a structure will be developed, identifying roles and responsibilities of each department created. A cost comparison with the new and old organisation structure will be done to compare to the previous financial year. However, this would include the new positions of Governance and Rates Officers, if adopted by Council. It is envisaged, there will be an increase in staff wages, as some positions will be elevated in their

pay rate, which may include a motor vehicle. The new organisational structure and cost will be worked on in coming months during the development of the 2021/22 Financial Budget.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

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.

Delivery Outcome

Objective 4.2 Efficient and effective services and informed Councillors and staff

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Nil	Nil
Environmental	Nil	Nil
Economic	Potential recovery of costs of expenses in operational and service delivery	Potentially, some increase in operational and service delivery cost may be identified which will need to pass onto consumers.
Governance	Council meets its legislative and statutory requirements	Additional staff is required which comes at a cost to Council

Financial and Resource Implications:

If adopted, the engagement of Governance and Rates Officer implications are:

2020/21 Financial Year

- Governance Officer-\$3,600
- Rates Officer-\$14,000
- Total -\$17,600

2021/22 Financial Year

- Governance Officer-\$15,600
- Rates Officer-\$60,000
- Total -\$75,000

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Discussion with Council’s External Auditor, several governance issues found in the recent annual audit will be raised in Council’s 2019/20 Management Letter. To resolve these matters, it will be necessary to engage additional staff. If Council does not engage the additional staff mentioned in the report, these matters will continue to be unresolved.

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

If Council does not engage the additional staff, the issues mentioned above will not be resolved.

OPTIONS:

Nil

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition

If adopted, the position of Rates Officer will be advertised internally.

External Exhibition

If adopted, the position of Rates Officer will be advertised externally.

Attachments

Nil

7.3 Future management of the Ivanhoe Hall

REPORT AUTHOR: CONSULTANT (Allan Tonkin)

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Over the past twelve (12) months council has conducted a review of its existing Section 355 Committee framework to ensure that each committee is compliant with the Policy, Procedure, Operations Manual and Terms of Reference adopted by council on the 24th June 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

- 1. Receive the report.**
- 2. Acknowledge the request dated 29 November 2020 from the Ivanhoe Hall committee members for Central darling Shire to resume management of the Ivanhoe Hall.**
- 3. Create an internally restricted reserve, the Ivanhoe Hall Reserve to manage the final funds transferred from the previous Sec 355 committee for hall operation purposes.**
- 4. Set up an Ivanhoe Hall management procedure to ensure the hall is available as a facility to serve the Ivanhoe and Central Darling Shire community members.**

BACKGROUND:

A report was presented to the council meeting held on the 22nd April 2020 adopting a revised Section 355 Committee Framework. After the meeting council contacted each of the eleven (11) Section 355 committees and met with them to explain the new framework. As a consequence of those meetings a number of committees choose to either disband and return their responsibilities to council or enter a period of suspension due to lack of community interest and or committee members. Council has nominated Staff Representatives who will work with

the committees that continue to serve their communities to ensure the committees are compliant with the adopted framework.

REPORT:

Council have received correspondence (attached) dated 29th November 2020 from the current committee of the Ivanhoe Hall Section 355 committee requesting and noting the following matters;

1. Recommending that Central Darling Shire resume management of the Ivanhoe Hall.
2. Note that chairs and a refrigerator belonging to the hall have been taken for use elsewhere in the shire.
3. Requesting that the Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet become the hall management provider as part of the shire's broader community service obligations.

Each of the requests have been addressed by the resolutions that have been recommended for adoption in this report.

The Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet officer has already begun the process of collecting keys and making arrangements to manage the hall.

The outgoing committee have requested that the remaining funds held in the Ivanhoe Hall bank account of approximately \$5000 be transferred to an internally restricted reserve to fund future hall operations.

Council wishes to take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable work of the past Ivanhoe Hall Committee members and will also formally recognise their countless hours of service to the Ivanhoe community by ensuring that the hall was available for community events.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

Goal 1. A healthy and cohesive community receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.

Delivery Outcome

Goal 1. A healthy and cohesive community receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Continue to provide an important community facility.	
Environmental	Manage the facility in an environmentally responsible manner	
Economic	Managed within councils' budget	
Governance	Meets the existing legislative requirements.	

Financial and Resource Implications:

The new Ivanhoe Hall reserve and council's annual asset management plans will provide funds for the operation of the hall

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

The internal management of the hall falls within existing governance arrangements

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

The hall will be operated under councils existing risk management framework.

OPTIONS:

Adopt the resolutions as recommended and implement the necessary actions.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition

Ensure relevant staff are aware of the resolutions and that appropriate action is taken to implement them.

External Exhibition

Ensure appropriate community awareness is provided to inform the community of the proposed changes.

Attachments

1. Request from the Ivanhoe Hall committee dated 29th November 2020.

7.4 PHOTO COMPETITION – MY SHIRE IN MY EYES

REPORT AUTHOR: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to seek Council's approval for a photo competition and the allocation of funds for nominal prizemoney. The purpose of the competition is to gain a broad cross section of photos for Council use which are representative of the Shire.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report and

- a. Approve the use of a photo competition to be known as *My Shire In My Eyes* with entries accepted from Monday 15 March 2021 to 5pm Friday 19 April 2021.

- b. **Allocate no more than \$400 prize money to be distributed between first, second and third in both an adult and junior section, as suggested in the report, with discretion to allocate further prizes within the prizemoney amount.**
- c. **The selection panel for prizes consists of the Community Engagement Officer, the General Manager (or his delegate) and in independent person to be determined.**
- d. **Photographs must be taken by the entrant but can be of any subject and taken at any time in the past 12 months.**
- e. **All entries – whether or not, they receive prizes – become the property of Central Darling Shire Council but will be watermarked with the name and town of the entrant acknowledging their contribution.**

BACKGROUND:

A lack of quality photographs which are representative of the Shire was highlighted during the appointment and subsequent employment of the Community Engagement Officer. By going out to the community, Council will have a library of photographs which reflect the community's view and vision for the Shire, as opposed to an outsourced professional.

REPORT:

During the first three months of the Community Engagement Officer's employment, it was highlighted that there was a limited library of quality photographs for documents, social media and the website. While costings haven't been sought, the Community Engagement Officer's historical knowledge indicates that engaging a professional photographer to take what is known as stock photos is cost prohibitive for Council. In addition, this course of action also limits the style and variety of landscapes and views.

The *My Shire In My Eyes* photo competition will give all residents the opportunity to show their part of the Shire as they see it, contributing to the library of photos which will ultimately be used in tourism promotion, on the website, in organisational and statutory documents, social media and other media where relevant illustration is required.

The competition will run for a period of four (4) weeks, commencing Monday, 15 March 2021 and closing on Friday, 19 April 2021. This timeframe includes Easter which will give residents and school aged children time to plan and take their photographs. It will also be a timeframe where entries from visitors to the region could be received.

Suggested prizemoney is:

Adult – 1st \$100 2nd \$75 3rd \$50

Youth (16 years and under) – 1st \$50 2nd and 3rd \$25

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

A healthy and cohesive community receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.

Delivery Outcome

Enhanced community spirit, cultural and arts awareness and pride.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Engages the community	Nil
Environmental	N/A	N/A
Economic	Nil	Unallocated funds from the 20/21 budget
Governance	N/A	N/A

Financial and Resource Implications:

Prizemoney has not been budgeted in the 2020/2021 Budget and will need to be sourced from a budget line

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Nil

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Nil

OPTIONS:

Council does not run a photo competition to build its photo library

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**Internal Exhibition**

None required

External Exhibition

The competition will be promoted through Council's media channels, including through media release, Facebook, newsletters and posters to be designed and distributed to the towns.

Attachments

1. My Shire in My Eyes entry form and guidelines

8. BUSINESS SERVICES REPORTS

8.1 CEMETERY RECORDS MANAGEMENT

REPORT AUTHOR: CEMETERIES OFFICER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: ACTING DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A new long-term solution has been identified and implemented to address the inadequacies of Council's previous Cemetery Records Management system.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

There have been vast and extensive problems with Council's previous cemetery records programs which have impacted the efficiencies of managing the cemeteries records and been extremely difficult and frustrating for staff involved.

The two previous cemetery record keeping programs were not fit for purpose and were no longer appropriate for Council needs. The first program was a Microsoft Office Access database which Council purchased and used for some 20 years. In its time, it would have been a good program, however the developed database has been superseded and was no longer appropriate for Council's needs. The second program, "Share Point" was only ever intended as a temporary solution.

The Share Point program was retro fitted for Council needs and did not offer a comprehensive solution for factual recording for cemeteries information. Neither of these programs provided effective and consist monitoring and retrieval of cemetery records and information for staff for any of Councils five cemeteries.

After much research, a much more appropriate solution to Council requirements was found. This program is specially designed for Cemeteries and all their Records and Data.

The Opusxenta Byondpro Community edition program is a state of the art, purpose-built program for Cemeteries throughout Australia. This program allows Council to maintain and keep more accurate and up to date records for all burials throughout the Shire. This is imperative as it is profoundly important for our Indigenous population to have access to and knowledge of deceased persons in our Shire. Burials are of a major cultural significance to our communities and it is Council's responsibility that these records are always accurate and up to date.

The cost for the Opusxenta Byondpro Community edition, software implementation and delivery were as follows; a one-off fee of \$5,000 for all data migration from Council's two previous records systems into the new Opusxenta Byondpro Community edition program, and additional ongoing technical support fee of \$60 a month. This will allow staff to obtain assistance and help at any time when they may require it.

Implementation has involved online training, tech support and teleconferencing to understand and take delivery of the program. The transition period from the previous programs to the new system has taken approximately six weeks over the Christmas/New Year shut down.

Two staff members have had extensive training on the functionality of the program and have commenced implementation of the program. The new program can be accessed by Council staff via a portal system.

Upon completion of final checks of all data entered, there will be a link on Council's website to the new program, which will take the public to a searching function of the new Cemetery Records System.

Due to private and confidentiality reasons, the public will only be able to obtain basic burial information i.e., location and plot number. This is a major development and will reduce the amount of time that council staff spend on cemetery enquiries and genealogy research, because the public will be able to access the information themselves.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL: 4 A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services.

Delivery Outcome

OBJECTIVE: 4.2 Efficient and effective services

Financial and Resource Implications:

Timesaving and accuracy of data will ultimately save money in staff time.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Once operational on the website, promotion of this new feature will be advertised.

Attachments

Nil

9. SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

9.1 WATER AND SEWER UPDATE

REPORT AUTHOR: PROJECTS ENGINEER

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:

1. Receive and note the report.

REPORT:

Water & Sewerage Operations:

- Wilcannia's potable water supply transitioned to Darling River supply on Friday 16th October 2020 following positive jar testing and successful full Water Treatment Plant trial. Wilcannia's water supply will remain on river supply. The Wilcannia Weir continues to flow and Water Restrictions were lifted 1 February 2021
- White Cliffs town water supply is sourced from Wakefield Tank. Wakefield Tank storage supply without further rain is expected to last through to May 2021.

White Cliffs water supply experienced significant operational issues during January resulting in interruption to the non-potable water supply to residents of Smiths Hill.

High water demand and undetected leaks made maintaining adequate reservoir level a major challenge. Additionally, 2 mechanical break downs frustrated efforts to restore reservoir capacity.

In addition to commitment of additional staff resources, Council undertook water carting to augment WTP water production.

Notwithstanding the considerable inconvenience to Smiths Hill residents non-potable water supply was maintained to White Cliffs residents generally.

- Ivanhoe town water supply is currently being sourced from Morrison's Tank. Morrison's Tank current capacity is 400 megalitres following recent (early October 2020) Willandra Creek flow and capture and pumping to Morrison's Tank which is at capacity.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Wilcannia Water	\$433,500	43%	\$248,000
Wilcannia Sewer	\$230,865	45%	\$127,865
White Cliffs Water	\$165,500	49%	\$83,864

Ivanhoe Water	\$351,000	50%	\$175,850
Aboriginal Communities R&M	\$126,355	19%	\$102,814

Water and Sewer Capital Works

- Council advertised tenders on Thursday 4 February 2021 for 3 new Water Treatment Plants via the open tender process on VendorPanel. The closing date was originally Fri 19 March 2021. An extension of time was granted to all tenderers with an updated closing date Fri 09 April 2021 Council's consultants, City Water Technology, will be involved for any necessary tenderer design queries.

A Pre-tender meeting was held Thursday 11 February 2021. A positive response was received with representatives from 34 companies attending. The presentation and meeting minutes are attached for Council's perusal.

- The White Cliffs Reticulation design is 90% completed, further survey and smart metering information is required to be included in design and tender documentation. Expected date for calling tenders for civil works here is April 2021. Public Works Advisory have been engaged to manage the design and tender process.
- The Wilcannia Gravity Sewer Scoping Study has been completed. Further discussions are in progress for possible funding opportunities to deliver the project. Council will be updated with any developments here.

The table below reflects expenditure to date for Capital Projects.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
White Cliffs WTP and Retic	\$5,500,000	6%	\$5,156,475
Wilcannia WTP	\$3,500,000	6%	\$3,299,033
Ivanhoe WTP	\$2,500,000	5%	\$2,369,707

Attachment

1. Water Treatment Plant Pre-Tender Meeting Minutes
2. Water Treatment plant Pre-Tender Presentation

9.2 SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT AUTHOR: DEPUTY 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:

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Parks & Gardens/ Sporting Facilities	\$181,350	47%	\$95,946
Ancillary Works	\$250,500	18%	\$204,657
Street Cleaning/Bins	\$121,000	92%	\$9,929
Buildings	\$674,800	68%	\$215,287
Swimming Pools	\$481,200	38%	\$299,180
Domestic Waste	\$189,000	56%	\$83,886

Services Capital Works

Council has received funding to improve facilities throughout the Shire through the Building Stronger Country Communities Projects for Round 1, 2 and 3. The table below reflects expenditure and progress to date.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 1	\$893,640.00	100%	\$0
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 2	\$1,395,084	88%	\$162,281
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 3	\$760,340	6%	\$713,832

9.3 ROADS AND AERODROMES REPORT

REPORT AUTHOR: ROADS AND ASSETS ENGINEER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

- 1. Receive and note the report**

REPORT:

State Roads

Council is 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 is 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).

2020/21 RMCC Routine Maintenance preliminary allocation is: **\$878,000**

2019/20 RMCC Works Orders which have been issued, in progress and carry over to this financial year include:

1. HW21 111.20.23 Bushley pit 3 extension, \$19,665 (now complete)
2. HW21 111.20.24 Source gravel to Glen Albyn, \$412,502 (now complete)
3. HW21 111.20.25 Glen Albyn Side Track, \$266,163 (now complete)
4. HW21 111.20.26 Source gravel to Rosewood from Bushley 3, \$105,600 (now complete)
5. HW21 111.20.28 Glen Albyn Sth IS, \$1,947,460 (now complete)

Total: \$2,751,390

2020/21 RMCC Works Orders which have been issued and in progress this financial year include

1. HW8 111.21.01 SH8 Heavy patching \$242,204.97
 2. HW8 111.21.02 Resurfacing Improvements \$38,420.82
 3. HW21 111.21.03 Mt Manara Gravel \$849,409.13
 4. HW8 111.21.04 Seg 2185 Rehabilitation \$199,993.98
 5. HW21 111.21.05 Seg 2420 Rehabilitation \$329,901.49
 6. HW21 111.21.06 Rosewood IS Project \$2,321,922.50
- Total: \$3,981,853**

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining budget
RMCC Routine	\$1,048,240	44%	\$582,590
WO 2019/20	\$2,909,790	100%	\$0
WO 2020/21	\$3,981,853	38%	\$2,483,301

Regional Roads

Council maintains 790km of Regional Roads throughout the Shire.

202/21 Regional Road Block Grant amount (including traffic and supplementary components) has not been confirmed. The figures below reflect the 2019/20 allocation. Payments to Council's will be made in July and January with any reconciliations required being done in January following State (RMS) budget adoption.

202/21 Regional Roads Repair Program was successful with \$400,000 being 50% of the project costs. The remaining 50% is being sourced from the Regional Roads Block Grant which is reflected in the table below. Refer to determination report included in this agenda.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Regional Road Block Grant	\$2,408,000	71%	\$695,883
Regional Roads Repair Program	\$800,000	47%	\$427,932

Local Roads

Council maintains 1600km of Local Roads throughout the Shire.

202/21 The Financial Assistance Grant – Local Roads Component, has now been confirmed as \$1,651,944.

2020/21 Roads to Recovery (R2R) allocation is \$1,502,727. Four capital improvement projects will be delivered this year.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Local Roads Component (FAG)	\$1,651,944	79%	\$344,661
Menindee Street (R2R)	\$240,000	92%	\$19,257
Little Menindee Creek Road (R2R)	\$450,000	18%	\$366,914
Pumpkin Point Road (R2R)	\$300,000	27%	\$218,194
Irrigation Road (R2R)	\$515,727	11%	\$456,444

Aerodromes

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

The Royal Flying Doctor Services (RFDS) initiated the registration process in 2018 to enable 3 of Council's aerodromes to be registered in accordance with the CASA regulations. Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs received modest infrastructure improvements to enable the process to be completed. Pursuant to the agreement between Council and the RFDS, the licensing costs will be borne by the RFDS for a 3-year period.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Aerodromes	\$124,000	75%	\$30,825

Attachments

1. Works Program February 2021

9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS REPORT

REPORT AUTHOR: ADMINISTRATION OFFICER – ENVIRONMENTAL

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide a summary of Council's Environment Services statistics for the month of December 2020 and January 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

REPORT:

<u>Statistics for December 2020 and January 2021</u>		
Development	Number of DAs Approved – New Dwellings	0
	Number of DAs Approved – Renovation	0
	Number of DAs Approved – Other	0
	Total Value of DAs Approved	\$0
	Number of Construction Certificates Issued	0
	Number of LGA S68 Approvals	1
Food Safety	Food Premises Inspected	4
Animal Control Activities	Impounded	19 Dogs 0 Cats
	Rehomed	17 Dog 0 Cats
	Returned to Owner	2 Dog 0 Cats
	Euthanized	1 Dogs 0 Cats
	Registrations	2 Dog
	Microchipped	2
	Penalty Notices Issued	0
Water Sampling	Microbiology Samples Collected	22 (including 4 Pool Tests)
	Chemistry Samples Collected	0
	Non-Compliant Samples	0
	Darling River Algae Samples	2

Attachments: Nil

9.5 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR 44 REID STREET WILCANNIA – LOT 1, S13 DP759091

REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR PLANNER/EHO

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To provide Council with information on the proposed Plan of Management for Lot 1, S13 DP759091 – 44 Reid Street Wilcannia for use as the Baaka Cultural Centre.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council :

- 1. Receive the report and note the information;**
- 2. Endorse the preparation of a Plan of Management for the land at Lot 1, S13 DP759091 – 44 Reid Street Wilcannia for use as the Baaka Cultural Centre.**

BACKGROUND:

Central Darling Shire Council is required to prepare Plans of Management (*under the Local Government Act 1993*) for all “Community Land” within the Central Darling Shire Council area. The “community land” is both Council owned land and Council managed State owned Crown Reserve lots.

This Plan of Management is to change the use of the Community land at Lot 1, S13 DP759091 – 44 Reid Street Wilcannia for use as the Baaka Cultural Centre. The Plan of Management will enable the site to be developed under a lease, for the Baaka Cultural Centre Wilcannia Aboriginal Corporation and for a development application to be lodged to Central Darling Shire Council. The assessment of the development application for the Baaka Cultural Centre will be undertaken, by agreement, by another New South Wales Council.

The lease between Central Darling Shire Council will be initially for a period of 12 months. The lease has been prepared between Central Darling Shire Council (owners of the land) and the Baaka Cultural Centre Wilcannia Aboriginal Corporation.

The Plan of Management is for Lot 1, S13 DP759091 – 44 Reid Street Wilcannia for use as the Baaka Cultural Centre is the second of the Plans of Management for council owned “community land” (non crown land), that are required to be prepared under the *Local Government Act 1993* for all “community land”.

The long term goal of Central Darling Shire Council is to reclassify a large amount of council owned “community land” to become “operational land”. This removes the requirement for council to prepare plans of management for the reclassified land, this will result in cost savings to Central Darling Shire Council.

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The Plan of Management once prepared will be required to be on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days for public comment and review.

In response to the Covid-19 situation, which has made it difficult for the exhibition in hard copy at Council offices, the Plan of Management to use the land Lot 1, S13 DP759091 – 44 Reid Street Wilcannia for use as the Baaka Cultural Centre. The Plan of Management will be exhibited online on the Central Darling Shire Council website. This is in accordance with advice from Department of Planning Industry and Environment.

Following the exhibition process, any submissions on the Plan of Management must be reviewed and taken into consideration by council before finalising the Plan of Management. The Plan of Management will then be submitted to Council for adoption. The development application may then be made for the Baaka Cultural Centre.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL 1: A healthy and cohesive community, receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.

GOAL 2: A strong regional economy supported by developing industries, strong businesses, and increased employment.

GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well-maintained built environment.

Delivery Outcome

OBJECTIVE: 1.1 Closer cooperation and cohesion between community groups

OBJECTIVE: 1.2 Improved community services and facilities

OBJECTIVE: 1.3 Enhanced community spirit, cultural and arts awareness and pride.

OBJECTIVE: 1.4 Improved opportunities for our communities.

OBJECTIVE: 2.1 Expansion of industries and growth in businesses

OBJECTIVE: 2.2 Employment growth

OBJECTIVE: 3.2 Improved town entrances and streetscapes

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Yes	N/A
Environmental	N/A	N/A
Economic	Yes	N/A
Governance	N/A	N/A

Financial and Resource Implications:

The Plan of Management enables the land to be leased to the **Darling Baaka Arts Organisation which will provide income to Central Darling Shire Council and provides a new aboriginal culture and arts facility for Wilcannia.**

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Advertisement of the Plan of Management to the use of the land for a cultural centre and the lease for the use of the land is required under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

No new cultural centre for Wilcannia and for the local community.

OPTIONS:

1. Council approves the Plan of Management to be prepared for the use of the land Lot 1, S13 DP759091 – 44 Reid Street Wilcannia for use as the Baaka Cultural Centre

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition

No

External Exhibition

Online at Central Darling Shire Council website.

Attachments

NIL

9.6 PLANNING PROPOSAL FOR THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY LAND AT LOTS 2, 3 AND 4 DP 1201089, AND LOT 111 DP 1201028 BONNEY STREET WILCANNIA

REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR PLANNER/ EHO
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To provide Council with information on the proposed exhibition of the Plan of Management for land at Lots 2, 3 and 4 DP 1201089, and Lot 111 DP 1201028, Bonney Street Wilcannia. The exhibition is for 28 days and will be exhibited on the Central Darling Shire Council website for public comment.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

3. Receive the report and note the information and to endorse the exhibition of the Plan of Management for the change of use of the land at Lots 2, 3 and 4 DP 1201089, and Lot 111 DP 1201028, Bonney Street Wilcannia from water supply to a community health facility.
4. Resolve to hold a public hearing on the planning proposal for the reclassification of the community land to become operational land at Lots 2, 3 and 4 DP 1201089, and Lot 111 DP 1201028, Bonney Street Wilcannia. The public hearing will be held at council chambers at 21 Reid Street Wilcannia on 28 April 2021 at 6:30pm.

BACKGROUND:

Council is required to publicly advertise Plans of Management for "Community Land" inviting comment, under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Upon the completion of the advertising period, Council is to consider any submissions received. Following the exhibition process the Plan of Management will be finalised and may be adopted by Council.

REPORT:

This report is for information and to seek Councils endorsement to advertise / publicly exhibit the Plan of Management Report for public comment.

In response to the Covid-19 situation, which has made it difficult for the exhibition in hard copy at Council offices, the Plan of Management for the change of use of the land at Lots 2, 3 and 4 DP 1201089, and Lot 111 DP 1201028, Bonney Street Wilcannia. will be placed on Exhibition online on Central Darling Shire Council Website "Documents on Public Exhibition" page for comment.

Plan of Management to change the use of the land.

Central Darling Shire Council is required to prepare Plans of Management (*under the Local Government Act 1993*) for all "Community Land" within the Central Darling Shire Council area. The "community land" is both Council owned land and Council managed State owned Crown Reserve lots.

This Plan of Management is to change the use of the Community land from "Water Supply" to "Community Health Facility" which will enable the site to be developed under a lease, for the Maari Ma Community Health Facility, and for a development application to be lodged to Central Darling Shire Council. The assessment of the development application for the Maari Ma Community Health Facility will be undertaken, by agreement, by another New South Wales Council.

The lease between Central Darling Shire Council will be initially for a period of 12 months. The lease has been prepared between Central Darling Shire Council (owners of the land) and the **Maari Ma Health- Aboriginal Corporation.**

The Plan of Management is for the lots on Bonney Street Wilcannia (for the Maari Ma community health facility) is the first of the Plans of Management for council owned "community land" (non crown land), that are required to be prepared under the *Local Government Act 1993* for all "community land".

The long term goal of Central Darling Shire Council is to reclassify a large amount of council owned "community land" to become "operational land". This removes the requirement for

council to prepare plans of management for the reclassified land, this will result in cost savings to Central Darling Shire Council.

Comment

The Bonney Street site was selected by the **Maari Ma Health- Aboriginal Corporation** due to the proximity to the Wilcannia hospital and the fact that it was not a Crown Reserve lot (Ross Street site is a Crown Land Reserve and is community land), but community land owned by Central Darling Council.

A planning proposal to reclassify the land from “Community land to Operational land is currently with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for assessment by the Minister for Planning.

The site was selected due to the ability of Maari Ma to purchase the land (after reclassification of the land from community land to operational land) and that the Native Title Land Claim had been extinguished on the Water supply - community land lots. It is noted that the finance of the Maari Ma community health facility requires land ownership.

Maari Ma Health- Aboriginal Corporation – Health, Development & Wellbeing In Far Western NSW – Our Children & Youth

Central Darling Shire is ranked as the second, and Broken Hill as the seventh, most disadvantaged local government area (LGA) in NSW out of 128 LGAs. Social statistics on average show the Maari Ma region to be socio economically disadvantaged, with fewer residents completing their secondary education and more people in the social welfare system, compared with the rest of NSW.

Maari Ma has followed a few indicators over time to monitor progress against “Closing The Gap” targets for Aboriginal children in the Maari Ma region and NSW as a whole. (Since 2008, Australian governments have worked together to deliver better health, education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to eliminate the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The first “Closing the Gap” framework outlined targets to reduce inequality in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s life expectancy, children’s mortality, education and employment.) The desired outcome is for the ‘Gap status’ to be equal to or less than one, to show that the result for the Aboriginal population in the Maari Ma region is the same as, or better than, the NSW population as a whole.

If the figure in the ‘Gap status’ column is equal to or less than 1, it indicates that the Aboriginal population in the Maari Ma region is doing the same or better, respectively, than the NSW population as a whole. Conversely, if the figure in the ‘Gap status’ column is greater than 1, this indicates that the figure in the Maari Ma region Aboriginal population is worse than the NSW population as a whole and improvement is required.

The new Maari Ma community health facility will be providing healthcare and social services to the local community to assist in the goal of “closing the gap” to provide better outcomes for the local Aboriginal and wider community in Wilcannia.

The main functions of the proposed clinic will be

- Antenatal checks/consultations (performed by GP/obstetrician, midwife and Aboriginal health practitioner)

- Child health checks/consultations (performed by paediatrician, GP, child and family nurse, Aboriginal health practitioner)
- Adult health checks/consultations (performed by GP, nurse, Aboriginal health practitioner)
- Specialist appointments
- Allied health appointments (including speech and occupational therapies, and dietician)
- Wound care
- Pathology collection
- Counselling

Far West Local Health District Plan – Connection to Maari Ma

The Wilcannia Health Service opened as a MPS in 2002 and provides primary and community healthcare services, aged care services as well as 24 hour emergency care. There are currently three Commonwealth-funded high care places and five community packages available in Wilcannia. The service also allows for short term low risk admissions with the approval of the RFDS.

Maari Ma manages the primary health care services including General Practice clinics run by Maari Ma and Royal Flying Doctor Service doctors for chronic disease and acute care. Visiting services include child and adult dental; and a wide range of visiting specialist clinics held quarterly – cardiology, renal, endocrinology, smoking cessation, GP obstetrician, ophthalmology and optometry.

The proposed Maari Ma Community Health Facility Clinic in Wilcannia will expand the healthcare and social services currently provided to the Wilcannia local community (both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal residents).

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL 1: A healthy and cohesive community, receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.

GOAL 2: A strong regional economy supported by developing industries, strong businesses and increased employment

GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well-maintained built environment.

Delivery Outcome

OBJECTIVE: 1.1 Closer cooperation and cohesion between community groups

OBJECTIVE: 1.2 Improved community services and facilities

OBJECTIVE: 1.3 Enhanced community spirit, cultural and arts awareness and pride.

OBJECTIVE: 1.4 Improved opportunities for our communities.

OBJECTIVE: 2.1 Expansion of industries and growth in businesses

OBJECTIVE: 2.2 Employment growth

OBJECTIVE: 3.4 Improved infrastructure across the Shire

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Yes	N/A
Environmental	N/A	N/A
Economic	Yes	N/A
Governance	N/A	N/A

Financial and Resource Implications:

The Plan of Management enables the land to be leased to the **Maari Ma Health- Aboriginal Corporation which will provide income to Central Darling Shire Council and provides a new health facility for Wilcannia.**

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Advertisement of the Plan of Management for the change to the use of the land from water supply to a community health facility and the lease for the use of the land is required under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Not providing improved health services for the community.

OPTIONS:

N/A

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition

No

External Exhibition

Online at Central Darling Shire Council website

Attachments

1. Plan of Management Report
2. Lease.

9.7 DESAILLY STREET, WILCANNIA

REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to purchase Crown Road - Desailly Street, Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council :

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Apply to purchase Crown Road, Desailly Street, Wilcannia**
- 3. Upon transfer of ownership, close Desailly street at the intersection of Barrier Highway.**

BACKGROUND:

NSW Police have raised concerns about road safety at the intersection of the Barrier Highway and Desailly Street. The area is frequented by children on motorbikes crossing the highway in this area. There has been numerous near misses and one serious motor vehicle accident involving local children on motorbikes.

Council staff followed up on the legal status of Desailly Street and found that it has never been declared a Public Road and remains a Crown Road. As such, Council has no authority to close the road.

REPORT:

Council has three options:

1. Council can apply to have the subject Crown road transfer to their authority and upon transfer apply to close the road. On closure, the lands will be vested to Council as operational land due to the fact that the road is formed – survey required to create first title, time and resource consuming.
2. As Council are the adjoining land holders (1/812602 -Council Depot) to the subject road, we can apply to purchase the Crown road. Amendments to the Roads Act, the road will be closed upon transfer to Council. Council could then fence the area into their adjoining lands, thus reducing the safety concerns.
3. Acquisition of the Crown Road for proposed expansion of the depot – time and resource consuming.

The Director Shire Council has discussed the matter with Crown Lands, Senior Property Manager, and was advised that the best option would be option 2. The application can be given priority status due to the road safety concerns.

At the Local Traffic Committee Meeting held 19 November 2020, a motion was raised and resolved to “Apply to purchase the Crown Road, Desailly Street, Wilcannia, and upon successful transfer proceed with the road closure”

The recommendation above is consistent with this resolution.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL 1.5: Public Order and Safety

Delivery Outcome

1.5 Liaise with NSW Police through attendance and participation on the Community Safety Precinct Committee

Develop strategies with government agencies to address crime prevention issues

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Reduce risk to motorists and the community	The “backtrack” from the north side of town to the south side will be closed upon transfer. This may create alternate routes or vandalism
Environmental	Nil	Nil
Economic	Nil – minor costs incurred only	Nil – can be sourced from local roads operational budget
Governance	Pursuant to the Roads Act 1993	Nil

Financial and Resource Implications:

Minor budget expense only. Initial administration costs and subsequent fencing/gate costs if transfer completed.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Pursuant to the Roads Act 1993

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Public Safety is being addressed.

OPTIONS:

Do nothing and continue with current arrangements.

Proceed with Option 1. or 3. As detailed above.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition

Local Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

External Exhibition

Nil at this time.

Attachments

NIL

9.8 POONCARIE RD REALIGNMENTS

REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to commence works for proposed realignments on the Pooncarie Road Initial Seal Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

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

BACKGROUND:

There are two proposed road realignment sections on the Pooncarie Road for road safety. For the purpose of this report, they are known as Yampoola Crossing and Karoola Homestead.

Yampoola Crossing

Located 30km south of Menindee, on properties "Bono" and "Tolarno". This section of road has poor horizontal alignment and substandard culvert sizing. It is proposed to realign this section of road, supply and install new reinforced concrete box culverts (RCBC) and new guardrail. The works will improve road safety.

Initial consultation with property owners resulted in verbal agreement from both property owners. They would like to see the proposed realignment proceed and are in favour of the upgrade works proposed here.

Unreported near misses have been witnessed here by the local landowners and this section of road was closed for 6 months in a medium local flooding event, 2012, when the old pipe culverts were washed away. Whilst these old pipes were replaced with new RCBC at that time, hydraulic modelling completed as part of recent design has identified larger capacity culverts or bridge is required here.

Karoola Homestead

Located 63km south of Menindee on Karoola Station. This section of road passes very close to the Karoola Homestead.

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

Previous and current General Managers and Director Engineering Services have supported the request but have indicated that unless capital funding was received for the Pooncarie Rd it would not be possible to complete these works within normal operational budget parameters.

REPORT:

Construction

Both realignment sections can be constructed safely with the existing road utilised as a sidetrack whilst works are completed. Traffic Control, including traffic lights, would be required to construct on current alignment due to lack of useable space for sidetracks.

Pending final design receipt, further works at Karoola may be required for earth containment and drainage close to property fencelines and access roads.

The proposed realignment at Karoola has been surveyed to identify cadastral boundaries and options for realignment. Option 1 on the attached concept sketch is the preferred option, it negates the need to install additional culverts and/or bridge to cross Bakers Swamp which would be required with options 2 and 3.

Both sections were assessed initially by Environmental consultant and Menindee Local Aboriginal Lands Council monitors, artifacts were found at both locations and the Karoola area is classed as high potential (see attached Biosis report extract and map) Further Environmental works are required including Cultural heritage test excavations and salvage operations.

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

Community Strategic Plan Outcome

GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well-maintained built environment.

Delivery Outcome

3. 4 Improved Infrastructure Across the Shire

3.4.1 Safe and Reliable Road Network of Roads Throughout the Shire

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Positive	Negative
Social	Reacting positively towards reasonable requests from ratepayers	Nil
Environmental	Nil – works to be done in accordance with Environmental legislative requirements	Nil – works to be done in accordance with Environmental legislative requirements
Economic	Project 100% funded	Additional costs for construction may be incurred from realignment construction and environmental costs
Governance	Nil	Nil

Financial and Resource Implications:

The financial impacts to the Pooncarie Rd Initial Seal Project will be submitted to Council in a further report. The final design is required to estimate construction costs accurately which was not received at the time of report. Additionally, legal costs for land acquisition have not been supplied but will be forthcoming in due course.

Additional Environmental costs will be incurred.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

If Council were to proceed with the proposed road realignments, there are two ways of doing so:

1. By Private Treaty - the agreement for the sale of a property at a price negotiated directly between the vendor and purchaser or their agents.
2. By Compulsory Acquisition - statutory process for empowered authorities to acquire any interest in land for a public purpose.

All affected property owners are in favour of the proposed realignments hence the preference to proceed with option 1.

The land affected is located on Western Lands lease and, as such, would be subject to Crown Lands approval.

Risk Management – Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Nil at this time.

OPTIONS:

Do not proceed with road realignments and seal the existing alignment.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition

Nil at this time

External Exhibition

Face to Face meetings with Landowners and records of past and current correspondence.

Attachments

1. Karoola Realignment correspondence (6 letters)
2. Biosis Extra Pages (extract and map)
3. Karoola Realignment Options

10. 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 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* 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.**

10.1 WEBSITE REDESIGN

Recommendation:

That Council move out of Confidential and back into open Chambers.

12. MEETING CLOSE

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

The next meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 in Wilcannia at 9.00am.