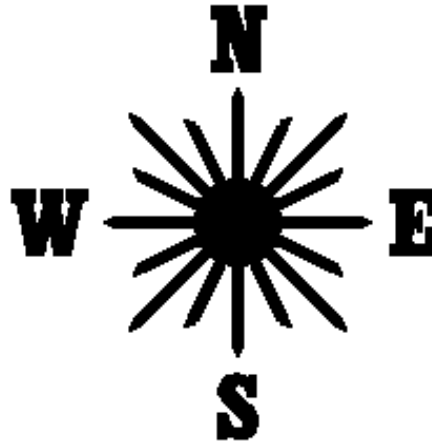


# **CENTRAL DARLING**



## **SHIRE COUNCIL**

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**BUSINESS PAPER**

**24 MARCH 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**

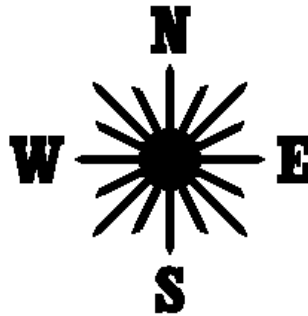
1. The Council may hold a public forum prior to each ordinary meeting of the Council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary Council meetings and meetings of Committees 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 March 2021  
9.00am  
Council Chambers  
21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

### BUSINESS PAPER AGENDA

1. OPENING OF MEETING	6
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	6
3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	6
4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST	7
5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	7
6. MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE	
6.1 MARCH 2021 ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT	8
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS	
7.1 GRANTS REGISTER RECONCILIATION	11
7.2 SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES AUCTION RESULTS	12
7.3 CASH AND INVESTMENTS – NOVEMBER 2020	15
7.4 SMART WATER METERS, METER READING AND BILLING UPDATE	15

8.	GOVERNANCE REPORTS	
8.1	CALL FOR MOTIONS FOR WESTERN DIVISION COUNCILS AND MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCES	18
8.2	CHANGE OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR APRIL AND MAY	24
8.3	DIGITAL (WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA) POLICY	26
9.	BUSINESS SERVICES REPORTS	
9.1	PROVISION OF HOME CARE SERVICES INCLUDING MEAL ON WHEELS IN IVANHOE	28
10.	SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS	
10.1	WATER AND SEWER UPDATE	31
10.2	SERVICES UPDATE	33
10.3	ROADS AND AERODROMES REPORT	34
10.4	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN	37
10.5	DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED THROUGH THE NSW PLANNING PORTAL	39
10.6	PUBLIC HEARING FOR PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY LAND AT LOTS 2, 3 AND 4 DP 1201089, AND LOT 111 DP 1201028 BONNEY STREET WILCANNIA	42
11.	MEETING CLOSE	44

## **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 – 24 February 2021**

**Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 February 2021 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of the 24 February 2021 Council Meeting

### **5.2 BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil

## **6. MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE**

### **6.1 ADMINISTRATORS REPORT MARCH 2021.**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** ADMINISTRATOR  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** ADMINISTRATOR

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#### **REPORT**

2021 is shaping up to be a busy year with several major projects underway within the Shire which will deliver significant new infrastructure.

Council continues discussions with WaterNSW to progress construction of the Wilcannia Weir and we are putting in place appropriate Property Management Plans to cover the construction footprint.

The Pooncarrie/ Menindee Road construction has begun, and 3 construction crews are currently on site. This project will be delivered over 3 years. I inspected the project in the company of the General Manager and met with a local landholder on realignment issues.

In February, the General Manager and myself travelled to Sydney and met with the Minister for Local Government the Hon Shelly Hancock and the member for Western NSW the Hon Adam Marshall.

Issues discussed included the ongoing administration of Central Darling, the impacts of new infrastructure investment and the resultant depreciation impacts on Council and residents given our low-rate base and capacity for residents to fund it through increased rates and charges. We argued that Central Government have a community obligation to fund the capital investment and depreciation and that Council could operate the system on a contractual basis particularly for water and sewer.

Also discussed was the need for better coordination of delivery of services to the Far west between government agencies and NGOs. The critical issue of Aboriginal Housing and the need for new dwellings to address the issue of overcrowding was raised with both Ministers.

The opportunity was also taken to meet with Local Member Roy Butler to brief him on local issues.

The General Manager and I participated in an electronic conference with Minister Pavey on 2 March 2021 to discuss the status of the Menindee Water Savings Project and the need for additional housing stock in Wilcannia and Menindee.

The Minister requested that Council send a report on the need and clarify demand as there appeared to be an issue with the waiting list. The General manager is following up.

The Minister confirmed that she was withdrawing from the Menindee project due to community concerns.

On the 24 February, Anissa Levy CEO Water Infrastructure NSW wrote to Mr Terry Smith Chair Menindee Stakeholder Advisory Group advising that:



“the DPIE Water team will temporarily suspend discussions with the SAG on the Menindee project, and focus its discussions on the wider concerns of the group, in particular connectivity and the critical human and environmental needs that may depend on this.

**1. Consideration of the s.324 provision of the *Water Management Act 2000***

DPIE Water understands that several SAG members have concerns about how section 324 of the Water Management Act 2000 is currently being administered and whether it is contributing to healthy river outcomes. DPIE Water commits to undertaking further work to determine the circumstances and triggers under which temporary water restrictions may be applied to meet critical human and environmental needs along the river systems. DPIE Water will consult with key stakeholders, which will contribute to the development of the final decisions on the triggers and circumstances. This consultation will commence in July 2021.

Timing:

By 1 July 2021 – develop and publish draft new triggers for critical environmental needs to be considered when imposing temporary restrictions.

By 1 July 2022 – develop and publish new triggers for critical human needs to be considered when imposing temporary restrictions.

**2. Review targets in North West Unregulated Flow Management Plan (NWUFMP)**

DPIE Water is currently reviewing existing targets in the North West Unregulated Flow Management Plan and carrying out technical studies and other work to ensure that any decisions to update them, including the consideration of additional targets, are made based on the best available science and information.

In addition, an operational management plan is also being developed for the NWUFMP to guide its implementation. DPIE Water is committed to ongoing consultation and engagement with the SAG and the broader local community on the review of the plan’s targets and its operation.

Timing:

By 1 September 2021 – review the existing targets and develop a draft implementation program.

By 1 January 2022 – consult on these targets and their implementation.

From 1 July 2022 – implement targets.

**3. Addressing connectivity via Regional Water Strategies**

DPIE recognises that many of the community’s concerns regarding water in the Menindee area is linked to issues of connectivity of the northern river systems. These concerns have also been raised in other NSW valleys.

The department is investing in new climate modelling which is helping define potential future risks around droughts and low flow scenarios and will carry out a comprehensive program of work to better define connectivity from the northern tributaries and down through Menindee and the Lower Darling.

These studies will inform the draft Western Regional Water Strategy which is due to be released towards the end of this year and will include:

- A proposed definition of connectivity.

- Hydrological modelling to assess the extent to which the actions already undertaken to improve connectivity have been effective.
- Additional connectivity options for discussion such as proposed flow targets for the Menindee Lakes and/or at the confluence with the Murray River.
- Initial results of modelling incorporating new climate data.

DPIE Water is committed to engagement with the SAG and other stakeholders over the next few months to enable members to provide feedback on the connectivity elements of the draft strategy. Further details of how this will be achieved will be discussed with the SAG in the coming weeks and when an appropriate forum is established.

Please note the final Western RWS will be released in 2022, and any changes required to improve connectivity will be incorporated in the water sharing plans by 2023.

Timing:

Ongoing consultation process throughout 2021 and beyond By December 2021:

Draft regional water strategies for all NSW inland areas By December 2022:

Final regional water strategies for all NSW inland areas

From 2023:

RWS implementation including water sharing plan amendments.

### **Meeting with DPIE Water Executive**

The DPIE Water Executive are committed to meeting with the Menindee SAG in person so that we can continue to discuss the concerns of those they represent and work together to identify constructive ways of working together to resolve these. Attendees will include Jim Bentley - CEO NSW Water Sector, Anissa Levy - CEO Water Infrastructure NSW, Amanda Jones – Chief Strategy Officer, Vanessa O’Keefe – Executive Director Policy & Planning and Allan Raine – Director Water Planning Implementation.

Dates are currently being investigated and my office will be in touch shortly to coordinate the meeting.

Many thanks again for your time and I look forward to continuing our discussions and working together to realise outcomes for the environment and communities of Menindee.”

Council supports the stance of the stakeholder group to resolve outstanding issues and welcomes the Ministers stance and announcement.

A major project currently underway is the revision of The Community Strategic Plan and a round of community consultation meetings have been undertaken across the shire.

As part of the project a meeting will be held in Dubbo on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April with all relevant government agencies. In attendance will be Council’s consultant, General Manager, and myself.

It is hoped that this workshop will be a valuable opportunity for all participating agencies to present and exchange information about service planning and delivery within Central Darling Shire.

In addition, the information presented and shared by participating agencies, the subsequent discussion on the day, will contribute significantly to the redevelopment of the Shire’s Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and other plans under development. This plan will guide

and support all agencies – federal, state and non-government – in their service planning and delivery to local communities.

## **7. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **7.1 COUNCIL 2020-2021 CURRENT GRANTS REGISTER**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** ACTING DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is to provide a summary of Council's current grants and contributions reconciliation 2020-2021 as of 16 March 2021.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council will:**

- 1. Receive and adopt the report**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Council's commitment to transparency and greater financial management have at the request of the Administrator, developed a Grants and Contributions Register for public access 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.

#### **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.

**7.2 SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES AUCTION RESULTS**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** ACTING RATES OFFICER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** GENERAL MANAGER

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**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 will:**

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 be unable 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.

The firm appointed to manage the sale, Outstanding Collections, continue to liaise with purchasers and/or their legal representatives in effort finalise all matters. In fact, Outstanding Collections are acting "pro bono" for several purchasers to achieve completion of contracts on 13 different properties. Whilst these matters have progressed slowly, all are now expected to be finalised by 16 April 2021.

Council purchases have not been prioritised with efforts focused on completing other matters. Completion of Council purchases is expected to be finalised by 9 April 2021.

The table below sets out the status and risk of non-completion as at 16 March 2021.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Risk</b>
Complete	13	Nil
Council purchases – finalisation expected by 9/4/2021	13	Nil
Council purchase not proceeding – Western Land Lease being surrendered	1	Nil

Awaiting Agent to remit deposits	1	Nil
Awaiting Order on Agent to release deposit monies	14	Very Low
Transfer to be registered	3	Low
Awaiting Order on Agent & Transfer to be registered	14	Low
Purchaser's solicitor's fees outstanding	10	High
Pro Bono matters – completion expected 16/4/2021	13	Low
Purchaser yet to provide Transfer for Council to sign	1	High
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	

At this time there are 10 matters assessed as high risk of not being completed. The total purchase prices/deposits paid on these properties is \$8,265 with rates debts outstanding of approximately \$186,000. Consideration will shortly be given to providing a 14 day “notice to complete” for each of these matters to bring each matter to conclusion. Once the notice to complete lapses, deposit monies will be forfeited to Council (and applied to the unpaid rates). These properties would then need to be included in a future sale for unpaid rates.

In addition to forfeiture of deposit monies other legal remedies become available to Council once a notice to complete lapses. These options will be considered should that situation arise.

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

### **Next steps**

As reported earlier, the requirement for physical document exchange and the like has impeded progress on most matters. Completion of all but three contracts is anticipated within the next month.

### **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:**

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Social</b>	Nil	Nil
<b>Environmental</b>	Nil	Nil
<b>Economic</b>	Improved cashflow	Nil

	Crystallisation of Bad Debt exposure	
<b>Governance</b>	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

**7.3 CASH AND INVESTMENTS – FEBRUARY 2021**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** MANAGER FINANCE  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is to provide a summary of Council's cash and investments as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council will:**

- 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%	\$30.30	\$1,751.90
Operating Account	\$2,152,618.31	\$2,609,842.57	(\$457,224.26)	0.01%	NIL	\$115.84
Post Office Clearing Account	\$668,898.13	\$666,314.03	\$2,584.10			
<b>Total Cash at Bank as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>					<b>\$6,771,516.44</b>	

### Commentary:

For the period ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Council held a cash balance of \$3.616 million. Council's cash balance for the month ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 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	
<b>Total Restrictions as at 30 June 2021</b>		<b>\$5,955,000</b>



## Loan Accounts

Loan Account	Current Month	Last Month	Movement	Interest Rate	Current Month Interest	YTD Interest
Garbage Trucks	\$202,397.60	\$215,611.79	(\$13,214.19)	3.66%	\$438.11	\$4,110.32
<b>Total Loan Liability as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>						<b>\$202,397.60</b>

## Attachments

Nil

## 7.4 SMART WATER METERS, METER READING AND BILLING UPDATE

**REPORT AUTHOR:** ACTING RATES OFFICER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** ACTING DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES &  
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report aims to provide Council with an update on the smart water meter rollout, water meter readings, water consumption billings and collections of outstanding water charges.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council resolve to:**

- 1. Receive and note the report.**
- 2. Receive quarterly reports on water meter reading, billing and collections commencing in April 2021.**
- 3. Receive a report regarding completion of smart metering of filtered water services in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 28 April 2021.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Smart metering of filtered water supplies in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia was substantially completed in March 2020 with further smart metering installed in October 2020. Funding of these works was provided through the NSW Government's Safe and Secure Water Program.

Smart metering of the White Cliffs filtered water supply is proposed as part of the reticulation network upgrade works.

Raw water supplies are metered in Ivanhoe but are unmetered in Wilcannia. Currently there are no plans to install smart meters on raw water supplies in either Ivanhoe or Wilcannia. White Cliffs does not have a raw water supply.

Council received a report on smart metering, water meter reading and billing activities at its Ordinary meeting on 24 February 2021. That report identified that approximately 70-80 filtered water services in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia do not yet have smart meters installed.

At that meeting Council resolved to:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. That monthly reports be provided on the smart water meters.
3. That a report be brought back on the cost of purchasing the additional smart meters and;
4. A report be provided on outstanding charges, and the balance.

#### **REPORT:**

##### 1. Meter Reading and Billing

Water meters throughout the Shire were read in the last week of February 2021 with Water Consumption accounts issued on 15 March 2021. Included with those accounts was information promoting the MiWater Public platform which provides customers with access to real time water usage information. At the time of writing this report only a small number of customers had registered for Mi Water Public. This result is understandable given that promotion of this service commenced 15 March 2021. Staff will monitor registrations over the coming weeks and adjust promotional activities if required to improve uptake.

The next meter readings are scheduled to occur in the last full week of May 2021 with accounts planned to issue 15 June 2021. This will see a resumption of a true quarterly billing program.

##### 2. Completion of Smart Metering – Ivanhoe and Wilcannia

A quote to finalise smart metering of filtered water supplies in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia has been requested but has not yet been provided. This information is expected in time to be available for inclusion in the Business Paper for the Ordinary meeting on 28 April 2021 and budget preparations for the 2021-22.

##### 3. Outstanding Water Charges

Water service “access” charges are levied annually with ordinary rates and annual charges for waste and sewerage services. Likewise, the outstanding balances of annual water “access” charges are embedded with the balances of other annually levied rates and charges.

As such this report only deals with the collection of water consumption charges which have been affected by previous delays in the metering, meter reading and water consumption billing spaces.

To recap, water consumption accounts issued in November 2020 covered a period of approximately 15 months (July/August 2019 to November 2020) and as such the accounts issued were generally for larger amounts than previous accounts. To ease the impact of these larger billers, customers were provided with a two month pay by date in lieu of the usual one month to pay and invited to discuss extended payment terms based on individual circumstances.

The position of water consumption charges levied and collected as of 30 June 2020, 28 February 2021 and 15 March 2021 are set out in the table below.

The relevance of these dates are:

30 June 2020 sets a base line against which the positions at future dates can reasonably be compared.

28 February 2021 includes water consumption charges raised in November 2021 and due for payment late January 2021.

15 March 2021 includes water consumption charges issued as at that date and due for payment by 15 April 2021.

	30 June 2020	28 February 2021	15 March 2021
<b>Overdue</b>	\$402,670.05	\$494,174.57	\$493,193.13
<b>Not Yet Due</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$145,423.80
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	\$402,670.05	\$494,174.57	\$638,616.93
<b>Levied Year to Date (YTD)</b>	\$154,535.30	\$449,356.30	\$623,150.60
<b>Current Year Levied Overdue</b>	\$45,199.68	\$163,375.85	\$162,907.54
<b>Percentage Overdue/Levied YTD</b>	<b>29.25%</b>	<b>36.36%</b>	<b>26.14%</b>

The increase of 7.11 percentage points from 30 June 2020 to 28 February 2021 in the *Percentage Overdue/Levied YTD* values in the above table reflect that collections of water consumption charges has been adversely impacted by the delay in issuing, and individual gross bill increases, of the November 2020 accounts.

Additional focus on overdue accounts will be necessary in the coming months and years, in conjunction with improved efforts to recover overdue annual rates and charges.

Recent impacts in this space include;

- Legislative changes introduced in March 2020, in response to Covid-19, restricted debt recovery activity until 30 September 2020.
- Focus on the sale of land for unpaid rates process since August 2019 (auctions conducted late October 2020), the progress of which has been reported to Council at each of its Ordinary meetings since February 2020.

Appropriate, ongoing resourcing of all rates functions, including debt management, will be key to ensuring future water consumption accounts are issued in accordance with the quarterly billing program now in place and improving collections of both water consumption charges and annual rates and charges. This matter was addressed through a report to Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 24 February 2021 where the inclusion of a permanent rates resource within Council's Organisational Structure was endorsed by Council.

## **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
<b>Social</b>	Improved customer engagement	
<b>Environmental</b>	Improve water efficiency	
<b>Economic</b>	Improved cashflow stability through regularity in billing	Implementation Costs
<b>Governance</b>		

## Financial and Resource Implications:

The engagement of a permanent rates officer, as addressed through the recently revised Organisational Structure will be critical to achieving regular water meter readings, water consumption billing and improving collections.

Completion of smart metering of filtered water supplies will alleviate many of the issues which contributed to previous delays in meter reading and water consumption billing.

## 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:

Nil

## OPTIONS:

None identified.

## COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**

### **Internal Exhibition**

Relevant internal stakeholders have been engaged with and will continue to influence future outcomes in this space.

### **External Exhibition**

Not required.

## **8. GOVERNANCE REPORTS**

### **8.1 CALL FOR MOTIONS TO WESTERN DIVISION COUNCILS AND MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** GENERAL MANAGER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** GENERAL MANAGER

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to endorse several motions that will be submitted to the Western Division Councils and the Murray Darling Association conferences to be held in April and May.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

##### **That Council will:**

- 1. Receive the report and endorse the following motions:**
- 2. That the Murray Darling Association calls on the NSW Government to support the listing of the environmental and culturally significant Menindee Lakes system as a Ramsar site.**
- 3. That the NSW and Federal Governments recognises that the Menindee Lakes System, located on the lower Darling River, has significant environmental and cultural significance, and that steps be taken to ensure the system is operated to preserve these values by delivering adequate water flows.**
- 4. That the Murray Darling Association supports the demands of the Lower Darling River communities for a fair go, to ensure a healthy connected river to the junction of the Murray River, particularly in first flow events by prioritising these flows over irrigation extraction.**

- 5. A new approach is required for the funding of Capital Water Infrastructure (treatment plants and storage) for Far Western rural and remote Councils, with an alternative model that the State Government meet the full cost of all new capital works and ownership of the asset. State Government would contract out to the local authority operational aspects, thus removing the burden of depreciation on the local authority (Western Division Council conference only).**

## **BACKGROUND:**

In April and May of this year, the Administrator and the General Manager will be attending:

**Western Division Councils Conference**- hosted by Broken Hill City Council from 19 to 21 April. Mayors, Councillors and General Managers from across the far west will discuss the Four Pillars of Sustainability. Several ministers and shadow ministers are confirmed to attend representing Western NSW, Health, Industry and Trade, Natural Resources, Crown Lands, Family and Community Services. The Western Division Councils of NSW Conference is the perfect opportunity to discuss Central Darling Shire concerns across the Sustainability Pillars in the far west. Motions for the conference have not been called, however this is anticipated in coming weeks.

**Murray Darling Association Conference** -hosted by the Wentworth Shire Council, the Murray Darling Association's 77th National Conference & AGM is an event attracting leaders and decision makers from across the Murray-Darling Basin. Representatives from more than 100 councils across the Murray Darling Basin will meet at the junction of the Murray and the Darling rivers 16-19 May to discuss the importance of connectivity to the future health and prosperity of all Murray-Darling Basin communities. Themed Connectivity: Connecting Councils and Catchments, with conference presenters including experts from industry, government, and community organisations, who are all playing a critical role in shaping the future of Australia. Motions should be supported by a resolution of Council and at a region meeting before being put to the Board for final approval before the AGM - acceptance of motions closes 12 April 2021.

## **REPORT:**

Central Darling Shire encompasses an area of over 53,000 square kilometres, about the size of Tasmania, making it the largest Local Government Area (LGA) in New South Wales.

Conversely, population figures for the Shire are the lowest with 1,837 residents dispersed throughout and surrounding the towns of Ivanhoe, Menindee, Wilcannia and White Cliffs, and its localities of Darnick, Mossgiel, Sunset Strip and Tilpa.

The Council has the lowest rate base in NSW. The Shire is characterised by a small aging and declining population. About thirty-eight percent of the population consists of Aboriginal people who live mainly in Ivanhoe, Menindee, and Wilcannia.

The principal economic activities within the Shire include pastoral, horticultural, agricultural, mining and tourism. Rural grazing properties represent the largest land use within the Shire, accounting for 97% of the entire area.

The Central Darling Shire is bounded by the Shires of Bourke, Cobar, Carrathool, Balranald, Wentworth, and the Unincorporated Area.

### **A Lower Darling Community**

Central Darling Shire has the largest river length in NSW being located on the lower Darling River, and its community has a long and historic connection to the river.

The River System has long held important spiritual and cultural values to the Aboriginal populations along the river, and this needs to be recognized in all management decisions.

During the early European settlement of the region, the river provided an important transport route, with Wilcannia being the third largest inland port for transport of the regions agricultural production.

Due to the latest drought and the resultant period of no flow in the river, the community has experienced first-hand the following impacts:

- towns with severe water restrictions, having to source bottled water for drinking
- devastating fish kills at Menindee
- drying of the region's wetlands
- the loss of cultural connection by our First Nations peoples to the river

The community sees the management of the river on a "whole of catchment basis" to ensure connectivity and to deliver to downstream communities a healthy, reliable, and resilient water resource. No subsection of the catchment can be considered in isolation.

#### **Menindee Lakes - Water allocation**

Since changes to NSW water rules in the Northern Basin in 2012, the Menindee Lakes and the Lower Darling River have faced critical water shortages for more than 50% of the time. During this period, there has been 3 extended cease-to-flow events in the Lower Darling River. There were 3 fish kill events in the Menindee weir pool (a scale which has never been recorded in either European history, or indigenous culture) and the Darling Anabranch has only flowed once.

The formation of the Menindee Lakes Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) Project Stakeholder Advisory Group began in mid-2019 and was orchestrated mostly by the former NSW Land and Water Commissioner, with help from MDBA community engagement officers and staff from DPIE (water).

Central Darling Shire Council is a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). The group consists of 25 peers, selected representatives from community groups that represent Indigenous nations, irrigators, pastoralists, stock and domestic water users and local government. There are representatives from the Menindee Lakes, the Great Darling Anabranch and along the Darling River from Wilcannia to Wentworth, being an estimated 1100 kilometres of river.

From the very first meeting of the group, and every subsequent meeting, the single main issue that has been raised is: ***giving priority to fresh water through-out the Darling River system, from the Queensland border to Wentworth.***

The critical human needs for towns, cultural and stock & domestic water needs of riparian landowners, must be provided for before access to irrigation is allowed in the Barwon-Darling and Northern Tributaries.

Critical flow triggers in the Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling, and storage volumes in the Menindee Lakes, need to be determined to ensure the protection of the health of the river is made a priority before access to water for irrigation is allowed during dry and or low flow years. The purpose of flow triggers and targets is to provide for turning over water in weir pools, providing for fish passage and providing for the dispersal of blue-green algae in the lower Darling River system.

Similarly, a volume target for Lake Wetherell and Lake Parmamroo in the Menindee Lakes Scheme, should be set to provide for up to two years water security for the Lower Darling to prevent the potential for future fish kills. Such a volume would be consistent with the original intent of the management of the Menindee Lakes, to provide two years drought reserve for far-west NSW.

#### **The Group seeks to:**

1. Draw water past Burke, Louth, Tilpa, Wilcannia, Menindee & Pooncarie to ensure a healthy connected river.
2. Provide for cultural outcomes conducive with a healthy river system.
3. Provide critical human needs of towns, and stock & domestic water needs of riparian landowners.
4. Align with recent government reviews.
5. Provide water quality, fish passage and connectivity.

Council has long recognized the importance of the Menindee lakes ecosystem and is sponsoring a proposal to have the Lakes listed as a Ramsar site. Support has been obtained from the Western Division of Councils, The Far West Joint Organisation of Councils, Regional Development Australia Far West NSW, Murray Darling Association and Local Government Association NSW.

The loss of water in the Menindee Lakes has had a devastating impact on the community socially, economically, and environmentally and this has been well documented in previous reports.

The most recent being:

#### **Water security for inland Far Western Towns**

Local Councils along the river system are local water utilities dependant on a connected healthy flowing river to extract water for human consumption for urban settlements and have a strong interest in management decisions in the operation of the river.

The Councils of Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke, and Central Darling met in Sydney in late 2019, following the Local Government Conference and considered the issue of Water Security. The meeting agreed that the drought conditions and water shortages being experienced along the system, should not be repeated and actions should be taken as far as possible to mitigate any chance of recurrence.

It was noted that the current situation is causing significant financial, emotional, and social stress to all those living along the Darling /Barwon River system.

Representatives agreed that:

- The solutions will require a bipartisan and cooperative approach at all levels of government and pledged to work alongside the other tiers of government.
- There is an urgent need to finalise the Western Weirs Strategy and Plan and clearly articulate the plan to all communities along the river system.
- There is a need to utilise the weir strategy including the existing storages to ensure that each community reliant on the system as their primary water source, has access to a minimum two year's supply of water held in storages quarantined accordingly for that purpose.
- New weirs that are constructed and designed must allow for the periodic flushing of storages as the opportunity rises
- Provision is made for the construction and equipping of groundwater bores to all urban supplies, that can supplement the increased urban weirs storage and further enhance town water security during dry or low flow periods.
- Recognition be given to the importance of the social, and recreational benefits to be derived from a permanent water supply including the cultural benefits derived by the Aboriginal community.

#### **Water supply Infrastructure in Central Darling Shire**

Central Darling Council is a local water supply authority supplying the Towns of White Cliffs, Wilcannia, and Ivanhoe.

Wilcannia draws its supply directly from the Darling River from a weir. A new weir was proposed some 30 years ago, and it was finally funded by the State and Federal Governments (\$30m) for construction to commence late in 2021. Funding for the construction of the weir was always beyond the capacity of the local community and assistance was only achieved when it appeared Wilcannia would run out of water in 2019, when funding was announced by the former Water Minister, Niall Blair.

An issue to emerge during funding was that Government believed asset ownership of the weir rested with Council. This took considerable negotiation to resolve that it belonged to the state. This should never have been an issue as the weir has always been maintained by the state. Clear asset ownership must be established by an audit. This should be addressed by the Western Weirs Strategy.

Planning and funding for critical human infrastructure such as water supply must be undertaken as a priority and be conducted in a timely manner, not at the point of impending disaster.



Council believes a new approach is required for the funding of urban capital water infrastructure (treatment plants and storage) for Far Western rural and remote Councils with a small rate base such as Central Darling. These communities find it difficult to fund the required capital cost/contribution, let alone meet the annual depreciation costs. Council has received State Government funding of \$12m to upgrade the Water Treatment Plants at White Cliffs, Wilcannia, and Ivanhoe as well as the water reticulation system at White Cliffs. However, once construction has been completed, legislative accounting practices require Council to recover the estimated depreciation cost of \$417k/year (over 30 years) from these communities. Rate Payers in Central Darling Shire are paying rates, fees, and charges well above those in urban and semi-rural councils, whereby further increases in services fees and charges will result in residents relocating away from the Shire or defaulting on their payments. This will result in a circular motion of decline in our economy throughout the shire. An alternative model is that the state government should meet the full cost of all new capital works which would mean they would own the asset and could contract operational aspects out to the local authority, thus removing the burden of depreciation on the local authority. Central government has a clear community service obligation to deliver a potable water supply to far western communities where they do not have the capacity to pay.

### **Climate Change/State Water Agreements**

There is general community acceptance that climate change is impacting our weather and that we all must adapt to meet the emerging challenges.

Council supports adaptive water management but is concerned that there is not an integrated catchment management approach across state borders or for a River System such as the Darling. A Fair Go for all along the river must be achieved to ensure first flush events triggered by rainfall in the upper catchments, can flow along the river course to ensure connectivity before capture for irrigation.

### **Conclusion**

It is appreciated that balancing the needs of the various stakeholders along the river to develop workable solutions is incredibly difficult, and the issues raised can contribute to the development of the policy framework for Water Management Plans and sustainability of Water Infrastructure. Therefore, the following motions are to be submitted to both the Western Division of Councils and the Murray Darling Associations Conferences:

- 1. That the Murray Darling Association calls on the NSW Government to support the listing of the environmental and culturally significant Menindee Lakes system as a Ramsar site.**
- 2. That the NSW and Federal Governments recognises that the Menindee Lakes System, located on the lower Darling River, has significant environmental and cultural significance, and that steps be taken to ensure the system is operated to preserve these values by delivering adequate water flows.**
- 3. That the Murray Darling Association supports the demands of the Lower Darling River communities for a fair go, to ensure a healthy connected river to the junction of the Murray River, particularly in first flow events by prioritising these flows over irrigation extraction.**
- 4. A new approach is required for the funding of Capital Water Infrastructure (treatment plants and storage) for Far Western rural and remote Councils, with an alternative model that the State Government meet the full cost of all new**

capital works and ownership of the asset. State Government would contract out to the local authority operational aspects, thus removing the burden of depreciation on the local authority (Western Division Council conference only).

**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**

Objective 3.1 Collaborative approach to environmental management and protection

Objective 3.3 Safe and reliable water supplies and road networks for Shire communities

**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Social</b>	Yes, if motions come to fruition	Nil
<b>Environmental</b>	Yes, if motions come to fruition	Nil
<b>Economic</b>	Yes, if motions come to fruition	Nil
<b>Governance</b>	Yes, if motions come to fruition	

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

Nil

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Nil

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

Nil

**OPTIONS:**

Nil

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

No

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**

**Internal Exhibition**

Nil

**External Exhibition**

Nil

Attachments

Nil

**8.2 CHANGE OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES AND TIMES FOR APRIL AND MAY.**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** GENERAL MANAGER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** GENERAL MANAGER

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the proposed changes of dates and commencement times for April and May Ordinary Council meetings. This is due to the scheduling of the Western Division Councils and Murray Darling Associations conferences the week prior to the scheduled Ordinary Council meetings in April and May.

**RECOMMENDATION:****That Council will:**

- 1. Receive the report and endorse the following:**
- 2. April's Ordinary Council meeting to be rescheduled to Thursday 22 April 2021, commencing at 11am.**
- 3. May's Ordinary Council meeting to be rescheduled to Thursday 20 May 2021, commencing at 11am.**

**BACKGROUND:**

In April and May of this year, there are two conferences to be held regionally that will require the Administrator and the General Manager to attend:

**Western Division Councils Conference-** is hosted by Broken Hill City Council from 19 to 21 April. Mayors, Councillors and General Managers from across the far west attend to discuss the Four Pillars of Sustainability. Several ministers and shadow ministers are confirmed to attend representing Western NSW, Health, Industry and Trade, Natural Resources, Crown Lands, Family and Community Services. The Western Division Councils of NSW Conference is the perfect opportunity to discuss Central Darling Shire concerns across the Sustainability Pillars in the far west.

**Murray Darling Association Conference** -hosted by the Wentworth Shire Council, the Murray Darling Association's 77th National Conference & AGM is an event attracting leaders and decision makers from across the Murray-Darling Basin. Representatives from more than 100 councils across the Murray Darling Basin will meet at the junction of the Murray and the

Darling rivers 16-19 May to discuss the importance of connectivity to the future health and prosperity of all Murray-Darling Basin communities. Themed *Connectivity: Connecting Councils and Catchments*, with conference presenters including experts from industry, government and community organisations, who are all playing a critical role in shaping the future of Australia.

**REPORT:**

Council meeting for April is scheduled for Wednesday 26, and May’s Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 28. Since the Administrator will be attending both conferences, which are held a week prior to both April and May Council meetings, it is practical that both Council meetings are brought forward into the week prior to the original scheduled meetings. Also, changing the start times for both Council meetings from 9am to 11am, will allow travel time and preparation for the Administrator to chair the meetings. By bringing both Council meetings forward, with adjusted start times, will either save Council the costs of flying the Administrator to Broken Hill on two separate occasions, or having the Administrator staying for a two-week period, this costing Council considerably in accommodation.

Therefore, it is recommended to Council to reschedule April and May Council meetings to the following dates and times:

- April Ordinary Council meeting, Thursday 22 commencing at 11am
- May Ordinary Council meeting, Thursday 20 commencing at 11am

**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:**

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Social</b>	Representation social issues of the Shire at both conferences	Nil
<b>Environmental</b>	Representation Environmental issues of the Shire at both conferences	Nil
<b>Economic</b>	Representation Economic issues of the Shire at both conferences	Nil
<b>Governance</b>	Representation Governance issues of the Shire at both conferences	Nil

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

It is estimated the cost of \$5000 for the Administrator and the General Manager to attend both conferences.

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Nil

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

Nil

**OPTIONS:**

Nil

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

No

**8.3 DIGITAL (WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA) POLICY**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** GENERAL MANAGER

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Central Darling Shire Council, as with all other Councils in Australia, is becoming more reliant on online and social media to communicate and engage with its community. The preparation of an up to date and relevant Policy is required. The attached Policy encompasses all forms of digital communication and has been developed to support Council moving into the future.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council will:**

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Put the draft Policy on public exhibition inviting comment for 28 days, after which, taking into account any comments, it will be adopted as a Policy of Council.**

**BACKGROUND:**

With the appointment of the Community Engagement Officer, there has been an evaluation of the policy support provided for online and social media engagement. While the Community Engagement Policy provides for broad engagement, it does not specify actions, reactions and consequences for the use and misuse of digital communications.

The Community Engagement Officer examined a number of Councils in the region and throughout the state to ascertain the best form this digital specific policy should take.

All Councils had some form of policy, the common thread being the need for Council's representatives, including elected representatives, employed staff, volunteers, contractors and consultants, to have a formal framework within which to work.

While there is a broad mention of social media use in the 2018 Model Code of Conduct (which has been adopted by Council) a more definitive explanation in Policy form is required.

**REPORT:**

The draft Policy as attached outlines the background of the rise of digital communications, particularly in rural areas with the reduction of mainstream media outlets. Communication with the residents of Central Darling Shire has been particularly difficult, with limited mainstream services and the broad geography and demography needed to be covered.

While the Community Engagement Officer currently holds primary responsibility for the management of digital communications, including the website and Facebook, a small number of other staff members have authorisation to access these services. In the opinion of the Community Engagement Officer, they have done an outstanding job with limited resources.

The Policy has been designed to ensure stronger protections for all staff and associated entities, ensuring not only continuation but growth of these services.

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

**Community Strategic Plan Outcome**

4.1 Effective communication and consultation with Shire communities

**Delivery Outcome**

4.1.1 Effective communication and consultation with Shire communities

**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Social</b>	Increased engagement between Council and the community	Nil
<b>Environmental</b>	Reduction in paper based information	Nil
<b>Economic</b>	Increased use of digital resources could encourage tourism	Further expenditure may be required to keep digital infrastructure up to date
<b>Governance</b>	Council meets its responsibility by providing a sound framework for the use of digital technology in the public domain	Nil

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

Nil

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Nil

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

Ensures all users are aware of their roles and responsibilities as council representatives in the public domain.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Do not adopt the draft policy.

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

No

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**

**Internal Exhibition**

Staff consultation during exhibition period

**External Exhibition**

Community consultation invited through the Documents On Exhibition pages of the website.

Attachments

1. DRAFT Digital (Web and Social Media) Policy

## **9. BUSINESS SERVICES REPORTS**

### **9.1 PROVISION OF HOME CARE SERVICES INCLUDING MEAL ON WHEELS IN IVANHOE**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** ACTING DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** ACTING DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on the home care services for the aged provided by Central Darling Shire Council (CDSC) through the Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet (MSO) and the diminishing demand for the service.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council will:**

1. Receive and note the report;
2. Cease to provide home care services in Ivanhoe at this time with the provision that the decision be monitored should the situation change;
3. Return any unexpended grant funds to the appropriate funding body/ies.

## BACKGROUND:

Funded home care services including Meals on Wheels (MOW), home care, home maintenance and social inclusion activities for seniors have been provided in Ivanhoe for a number of years.

## REPORT:

The operation and Coordination of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) services in Ivanhoe has been a challenging ordeal for the past few years for the MSO Administration Officer and the council, due to the limited service delivery capabilities of the township of Ivanhoe, which has suffered a noticeable decline in recent years. CHSP service delivery has been in jeopardy since the closure of the Warrikiri Correctional Facility. The contract with CDSC to provide CHSP services appears to have been made with the idea that the correctional facility was going to be the provider for the meals and home maintenance.

Since the Closure of the Warrikiri Correctional Facility, the Ivanhoe MSO has been has struggled to find replacement service providers that fall within the terms outlined in the contract and attempts to use local providers has failed with no business showing interest in preparing meals or being the contracted home maintenance provider.

Currently there are three providers of aged care in the Ivanhoe area:

1. *Commonwealth Home Support Program provided by Ivanhoe Multi Serviceoutlet.*
2. *Home Care Packages Provided by Uniting Care.*
3. *Live Better which Provides Transport Services in and out of Ivanhoe.*

There are issues that are caused by having numerous Aged Care Programs in the area.

The small population size means each Aged Care Provider is clamouring for clients and some may indirectly poach off the other, hindering the long term viability, of their service. Some services that are provided by one organisation are also provided by other organisations in one form or another:

- **Uniting Care** provides domestic assistance that provides at home assistance with cleaning and helps their clients with shopping and other personal tasks (like banking or medication). Uniting has also provided their clients with some social support services including Transport around town and basic home maintenance services.

- **LiveBetter** Transport provides social support in the form of transport services for shopping assistance within Ivanhoe, as well as regularly scheduled out of town shopping trips. They have also provided transport to social events to the Balranald Men's Shed and other events in the region. Also, to access this service you do not require to be referred to My Aged Care and this service is also available to anyone regardless of age which makes it a far more viable and utilised service in general for the Ivanhoe residents.

- The Ivanhoe MSO only has one exclusive service in the form of meals. This service is being provided elsewhere in NSW by other organisations including Live Better and Uniting but due to the contractual limitations of the services provided by these organisations in the Ivanhoe area they cannot provide meals but are fully capable of doing so because of their statewide



market penetration and economies of scale service provision, if the MSO CHSP service should cease.

Additionally, the number of clients receiving aged care services in Ivanhoe is declining. Ivanhoe has had a declining population for many years due to many factors – lack of employment opportunities, stagnated economic growth, limited social places or events, lack of housing availability, remoteness/isolation and restricted access during wet weather.

Other services are also experiencing difficulties in service provision; LiveBetter Transport has lost clients in recent months, and Uniting Care has been unable to provide steady services for many of their clients due to contracted services provider shortages and some clients referred for Home Care Plans are put on waitlists.

The Ivanhoe MSO has lost most of their clients due to them opting out of receiving services from the MSO, either because they require a higher level of care or they are moving away to access a higher care level that is not available in Ivanhoe.

It should also be noted that the COVID outbreak has had a negative impact on all aged care around Australia, and the outbreak has impacted Ivanhoe as well, particularly in terms of social interaction.

Currently Ivanhoe MOW is only providing for one client.

At this point it is no longer feasible for council to deliver these services because we are not able to meet the minimum services requirements expected by both CHSP and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

Should future development in Ivanhoe mean an increase in demand for these services, then council should reconsider making application to once again provide them.

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

### **Community Strategic Plan Outcome**

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

### **Delivery Outcome**

1.2.1 Health, improved aged care and disability services in collaboration with service providers

## **SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Social</b>	Nil	Some
<b>Environmental</b>	Nil	Nil
<b>Economic</b>	Nil	Nil
<b>Governance</b>	Nil	Nil

## **Financial and Resource Implications:**

Council will need to return the unexpended, received funding.

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Local Government Act 1993

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

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission could result in damage to Council's reputation.

**OPTIONS:**

We could continue to provide one person with MOW at a cost of approximately \$60 per week to Council beyond the funded allowance.

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

No

## 10. SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

### 10.1 WATER AND SEWER UPDATE

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER
<b>RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:</b>	DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council will:**

- 1. Receive and note the report.**

**REPORT:**

**Water & Sewerage Operations:**

- Wilcannia's potable water supply transitioned to Darling River supply on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 September 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.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Wilcannia Water	\$433,500	61%	\$170,243
Wilcannia Sewer	\$103,627	45%	\$127,238
White Cliffs Water	\$165,500	59%	\$67,304
Ivanhoe Water	\$351,000	77%	\$80,460
Aboriginal Communities R&M	\$126,355	22%	\$98,676

### **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 16 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 May 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.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
White Cliffs WTP and Retic	\$5,500,000	8%	\$5,072,296
Wilcannia WTP	\$3,500,000	7%	\$3,267,526
Ivanhoe WTP	\$2,500,000	7%	\$2,322,965

## 10.2 SERVICES UPDATE

**REPORT AUTHOR:** DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

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### 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:

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Parks & Gardens/ Sporting Facilities	\$181,350	58%	\$75,842
Ancillary Works	\$250,500	18%	\$198,953
Street Cleaning/Bins	\$121,000	105%	-\$6,142
Buildings	\$674,800	40%	\$270,932
Swimming Pools	\$481,200	46%	\$257,553

Domestic Waste	\$189,000	61%	\$74,072
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### **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.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 1	\$893,640.00	100%	\$0
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 2	\$1,395,084	90%	\$145,847
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 3	\$760,340	6%	\$713,337

## **10.3 ROADS AND AERODROMES REPORT**

### **ROADS AND AERODROMES REPORT**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** ROADS AND ASSETS ENGINEER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

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

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

2020/21 RMCC Routine Maintenance preliminary allocation is: \$1,048,240

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 \$242,205
2. HW8 111.21.02 Resurfacing Improvements \$133,970
3. HW21 111.21.03 Mt Manara Gravel \$849,409
4. HW8 111.21.04 Seg 2185 Rehabilitation \$199,994
5. HW21 111.21.05 Seg 2420 Rehabilitation \$329,901
6. HW21 111.21.06 Rosewood IS Project \$2,321,923

Total: \$4,077,402

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining budget</b>
RMCC Routine	\$1,048,240	46%	\$562,678
WO 2019/20	\$2,909,790	100%	\$0
WO 2020/21	\$4,077,402	44%	\$2,266,217

## 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.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Regional Road Block Grant	\$2,408,000	81%	\$456,867
Regional Roads Repair Program	\$800,000	49%	\$404,233

## 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.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
<b>Local Roads Component (FAG)</b>	\$1,651,944	79%	\$351,996
<b>Menindee Street (R2R)</b>	\$240,000	92%	\$18,257

<b>Little Menindee Creek Road (R2R)</b>	\$450,000	31%	\$309,622
<b>Pumpkin Point Road (R2R)</b>	\$300,000	46%	\$162,321
<b>Irrigation Road (R2R)</b>	\$515,727	19%	\$417,878

### **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.

<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>% Expended</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
<b>Aerodromes</b>	\$124,000	80%	\$25,345

## **10.4 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** SENIOR PLANNER/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** SHIRE SERVICES/GENERAL MANAGER

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

To approve the Central Darling Shire Council Community Participation Plan to go on exhibition.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council will:**

- 1. Receive the report**



2. **Approve the Community Participation Plan to go on public exhibition for a period of 28 days**
3. **After the exhibition period, taking into account any comments, receive a further report to formally adopt the document and place it on the NSW Planning Portal and Council's website**

**BACKGROUND:**

Part of Council's responsibility as a Principal Planning Authority is to prepare a Community Participation Plan which is to be registered with the new NSW Planning Portal.

**REPORT:**

*Division 2.6 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* requires all councils in NSW to have a Community Participation Plan. This plan is specific to planning issues and is separate to other community engagement plans, policies and strategies while following the principles of community engagement. Under the Act, it is a requirement to exhibit the Plan for 28 days, after which it is returned to Council for adoption and, within a further 28 days, registered through the NSW Planning Portal. The attached Plan takes into account requirements under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and will form the basis for all community engagement activities required under the Act.

**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.

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**

3.1 Collaborative approach to environmental management and protection

4.1 Effective communication and consultation with Shire communities

**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Social</b>		
<b>Environmental</b>		
<b>Economic</b>		
<b>Governance</b>	Compliance with legislation	

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

A requirement to advertise in newspapers may have an impact on the FY20/21 budget

**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Complies with *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

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

Fulfils compliance obligations under *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

**OPTIONS:**

NIL

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

NO

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**

**Internal Exhibition**

None required

**External Exhibition**

External exhibition through Council's website, newspaper advertising and social media

Attachments

1. CDSC Community Participation Plan

**10.5 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED THROUGH THE NSW PLANNING PORTAL 2021**

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

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

To provide Council with information on the number of development applications approved through the NSW Planning Portal for the first two months of 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council will:**

1. **Note the Information in regard to number of development applications approved by delegated authority and submitted and processed through the NSW Planning Portal in the first two months of 2021.**

**BACKGROUND:**

Central Darling Shire Council connected to the NSW Planning Portal mid December 2020.

The first development application for works within the Central Darling Shire Council local government area was submitted through the NSW Planning Portal on late December 2020.

To date there has been six (6) development applications lodged through the NSW Planning Portal.

Five development application have been approved by delegated authority, with a delegated report for internal determination and a determination letter submitted through the NSW Planning Portal.

One of the six development applications submitted through the NSW Planning Portal was withdrawn and will be resubmitted to council with an amended scope of works.

Each development application was notified / exhibited upon the Central Darling Shire Council website for a minimum 14 days, for comment.

## **LIST OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS**

DA/01/21 – PAN-64818- 23-25 Hood Street Wilcannia – Owner/Council – Three transportable villas. – approved.

DA02/21 – PAN-56147 – Menindee Lakes Caravan Park – Owner/- – Alterations and additions to the Menindee Lakes Caravan Park – approved.

DA03/21 – PAN- 65234 – 14-16 Reid Street Wilcannia – Owner/ - - – Installation of one single storey transportable villa – approved.

DA04/21 – PAN – 66920 – 30-40 James Street Wilcannia – Owner/ Council – Additions and Alterations to Engineering Depot Wilcannia – approved.

DA05/21 – PAN66933 – 32 Columbus Street Ivanhoe – Owner/Council – New multi services building – withdrawn.

DA06/21 – PAN-66951 – 3 Johnston Street White Cliffs – Owner/Council – Addition of a unisex disabled amenity to the White Cliffs Community hall – approved.

## **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
<b>Social</b>	Yes	N/A
<b>Environmental</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Economic</b>	Yes	N/A
<b>Governance</b>	Yes	N/A

## Financial and Resource Implications:

The development applications promote new development within the Central Darling Shire Council area and facilitate employment and economic growth and provide services to the local community.

## Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

All development applications are required to be submitted through the NSW Planning Portal. Council is fulfilling its statutory requirements process development applications through the NSW Planning Portal as required under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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

Not providing improved an improved development application process.

## OPTIONS:

N/A

## COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

### Internal Exhibition

No

### External Exhibition

Online at Central Darling Shire Council website

## **10.6 PUBLIC HEARING FOR 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

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

To provide Council with information on the statutory requirement under the *Local Government Act 1993* to hold a public hearing for the Plan of Management for a new category and new use for land at Lots 2, 3 and 4 DP 1201089, and Lot 111 DP 1201028, Bonney Street Wilcannia. The public hearing will be held at 7:30pm 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council will:**

- 1. Note the Information in regard to the statutory requirement under the Local Government Act 1993 requiring a public hearing to be held where a new Plan of Management introduces a new category for community land. The Plan of Management is for the new category or ‘General Community Use and for the new use of “Community health facility” for the land at Lots 2, 3 and 4 DP 1201089, and Lot 111 DP 1201028, Bonney Street.**
- 2. Note that a public hearing for the new Plan of Management introducing a new category for community land is be held at the council chambers at 21 Reid Street Wilcannia on 28 April 2021 at 7:30pm.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Council is required to hold a public hearing where a new category for community land is introduced in a Plans of Management for the use of council owned "Community Land". Central Darling Shire Council currently has no plans of management for the council owned community land, therefore there is no category is assigned to the community land.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* all council owned and council managed crown reserve "community land" is required to have a plan of management that allocates a category for the land (an area of cultural significance, general community use, a sportsground, a natural area or a park) and a use for the land.

The Crown reserves community land have categories assigned by the Minister; however, council community land categories are created within a Plan of Management and for the use and management of the land.

As the community land within Central Darling Shire Council Local Government Area have no plans of management, therefore no assigned category, all plans of management are required to be subject to a public hearing into the new category and use for the land.

### **REPORT:**

This report is for information regarding the statutory requirement to hold a public hearing for the new category and land use for land at Lots 2, 3 and 4 DP 1201089, and Lot 111 DP 1201028, Bonney Street Wilcannia.

**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:**

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Social</b>	Yes	N/A
<b>Environmental</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Economic</b>	Yes	N/A
<b>Governance</b>	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:**

The public hearing is required to endorse the Plan of Management for the new category of

land – “general community use” and the change of 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  
Advertising in Wilcannia News and Barrier Daily Truth

## **11. MEETING CLOSE**

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

The next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 22 April 2021 in Wilcannia at 11.00am.