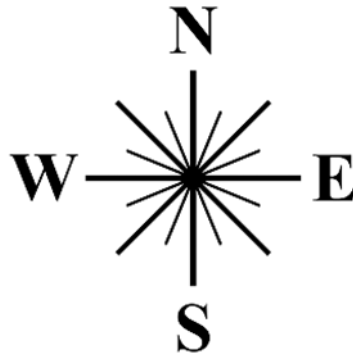


CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

22 MAY 2024

The Meeting will be held at 10:30 AM 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.

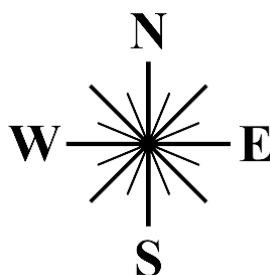
PUBLIC FORUM - EXTRACT FROM THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE POLICY

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, 22 May 2024

10:30 AM

Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

BUSINESS PAPER AGENDA

1	OPENING OF MEETING	7
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	7
3	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	7
	3.1 APOLOGIES	7
	3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	7
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST.....	7
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	7
	5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES.....	7
6	NOTICE OF MOTION	7
7	MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)	7
8	FINANCIAL REPORTS	8
	8.1 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - APRIL 2024	8
	8.2 GRANTS REGISTER - APRIL 2024.....	11
	TO DELIVER COUNCIL’S COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY AND IMPROVED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, COUNCIL HAS DEVELOPED A GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS REGISTER, TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON GRANTS APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED.....	11
	8.3 2024-25 INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS.....	13
	8.4 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW AS AT 31 MARCH 2024.....	19
9	GOVERNANCE REPORTS	23
	9.1 ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNEMENT TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES- INVITATION TO MAKE SUBMISSION.....	23

9.2	UPDATE AND ALTERATIONS TO NSW SEVERE WEATHER AND FLOOD PROJECTS.....	28
9.3	COMMONWEALTH 'CLEAN WATER, HEALTHY COMMUNITY AND RIVER PROJECT' \$10M FUNDING.....	30
9.4	NEW POLICY - CONTROL OF ACCESS TO RESTRICTED LOCATIONS	31
9.5	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	33
9.6	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND TOURISM UPDATE	36
9.7	MANAGING EXCESS LEAVE PROGRESS REPORT	42
10	CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORTS.....	44
10.1	COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATION.....	44
10.2	GENERAL SERVICE REQUEST AND COMPLAINTS OVERVIEW 2024	46
11	SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS.....	49
11.1	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE - LEGAL ADVICE ON WHITE CLIFFS DUGOUT	49
11.2	ROADS AND AERODROMES	52
11.3	SERVICES.....	56
11.4	WATER AND SEWER.....	57
11.5	REGISTERED SURVEYS OF WEST WILCANNIA ROAD AND THE SOUTH WESTERN SECTION OF WILCANNIA.....	60
11.6	FLOOD DAMAGE UPDATE	63
11.7	SHIRE SERVICES REPORT FOR APRIL 2024	66
11.8	EXHIBITION OF THE DRAFT CENTRAL DARLING DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2024	68
11.9	FIXING LOCAL ROADS ROUND 4 - RACECOURSE ROAD.....	71
12	MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS	75
13	RESOLUTION TRACKER	76
13.1	RESOLUTION TRACKER - APRIL 2024.....	76
14	CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS	77
14.1	IVANHOE WATER TREATMENT PLANT TENDER.....	77
14.2	SALE OF LAND-36-38 HOOD STREET AND 25 MCINTYRE STREET WILCANNIA	77
15	MEETING CLOSE	78

1 OPENING OF MEETING

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

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 April 2024 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

Attachments:

1. [Ordinary Council Meeting - 17 April 2024](#)

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)

Nil

8 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.1 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - APRIL 2024

FILE NUMBER: GD24/5939
REPORT AUTHOR: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide a summary of Council’s cash and investments as at 30th April 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. receive and note the report.

REPORT:

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

Cash and Investment Accounts:

Cash and Investment Accounts	Current Month	Last Month	Movement	Interest Rate	Current Month Interest	YTD Interest
Westpac 11am Investment Account	\$4,390,000.00	\$5,790,000.00	(\$1,400,000.00)	1.35%	\$6,215.17	\$48,829.65
Operating Account	\$3,342,488.49	\$1,862,387.20	\$1,516,101.29	N/A	NIL	NIL
Post Office Clearing Account	\$46,987.30	\$46,987.30	NIL	N/A	NIL	NIL
Total Cash at bank as of 30th April 2024					\$7,779,475.79	

Commentary:

The net movement of cash for the month of April 2024 was an increase of \$116,101.29.

Payments for wages and creditors for the month of April 2024 totalled \$ 3,569,118.94.

Receipts for the month of April 2024 totalled \$3,685,220.23 with major receipts being:

- Transport for NSW \$2,919,569.40

- Restart \$455,645.30

Receipts expected in May 2024 are:

- Roads to Recovery \$2,003,637.00
- Financial Assistance Grant \$138,142.00
- Stronger Country Communities Fund \$457,381.00

Restrictions:

Restricted Cash and Investments	
	Apr-24
Externally Restricted ⁽¹⁾	(\$000's)
Specific purpose unexpended grants	11,106
Water supplies	-
Sewerage services	145
Domestic waste management	464
Total Externally Restricted	11,715
<small>(1) Funds that must be spent for a specific purpose</small>	
Internally Restricted ⁽²⁾	
Employees Leave Entitlements	935
Plant and vehicle replacement	8
Other Waste Management Reserve	116
Total Internally Restricted	1,059
<small>(2) Funds that Council has earmarked for a specific purpose</small>	
Total Restricted Funds	12,774
Total Cash & Investments	7,779
Unrestricted Funds (ie. available after the above Restrictions)	(4,995)
Outstanding Grants Debtors	7,080

Commentary:

The level of unrestricted funds required by Council is generally \$1,000,000. Currently Council's unrestricted funds are below this level. This has occurred due to timing differences between when funds are received and when they are spent, for example, some grants require Council to spend the money first and then apply for reimbursements, other grants are milestone driven and are dependent on Council completing certain tasks, meaning that some money is received in advance and other money is received after the completion of the work. The over-restriction of funds is offset by outstanding grant debtors.

Attachments:

NIL

8.2 GRANTS REGISTER - APRIL 2024

FILE NUMBER: GD24/5950
REPORT AUTHOR: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary Council’s current year grant funding applications status as of 30th April 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report and note the report.

BACKGROUND:

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

REPORT:

For the month of April 2024, scheduled acquittals were completed in line with the reporting requirements of the funding deeds and any approved variations to those deeds.

Morris & Piper continue to assist with grant submissions, approvals and acquittals. Their monthly report for April 2024, including a work plan up to June 2024, is attached to this report.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

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

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Regulation 208 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides a requirement that:

A member of the staff of a council who has control of any of the council's accounting records must—

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

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

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

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

OPTIONS:

Nil.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

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

Not Required

External Exhibition:

Not Required

Attachments:

1. [Morris & Piper April 2024 Monthly Report](#) 

8.3 2024-25 INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6371
REPORT AUTHOR: FINANCE MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2009 the Local Government Act 1993 was amended to introduce Integrated Planning and Reporting, which places an obligation on all NSW Councils to develop a suite of long-term planning documents based on comprehensive community engagement.

This report presents the Draft Operational Plan (2024-2025) Incorporating, Draft Fees and Charges (2024-2025) and Draft Operational Budget (2023-2024), Draft Delivery Program (2022-2026), Draft Long-Term Financial Plan (2025-2034) to the community for review and feedback ahead of adoption.

The documents must be adopted before 1 July 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse the:
 - (a) Draft Operational Plan 2024-25, and
 - (b) Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-34be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days
3. Note the 2024-25 Operating Budget indicates an Operating Deficit (after Capital Grants) of \$475,000.

BACKGROUND:

The Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation requires all NSW Councils to have:

- A ten-year Community Strategic Plan.
- A four-year Delivery Program.
- An annual Operational Plan.
- A Resourcing Strategy including an Asset Management Plan, a Long Term Financial Plan, and a Workforce Management Plan.

In line with the Legislation, Council needs to provide an annual Operational Plan, Delivery Program, Fees and Charges and Operational Budget that can be shared in Draft form with the community for feedback ahead of adoption by 1 July 2024.

Where amendments are made to the Long Term Financial Plan and Delivery Program, these must be shared and revised using the same process.

REPORT:**DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024-2025**

The Draft Operational Plan 2024-2025 supports the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and specifies the actions of Council's key functional and operational areas that will be conducted in the coming year, funded through the 2023-2024 budget.

The Draft Operational Plan has been developed by Council staff in conjunction with the Administrator. As a result, it is anticipated that throughout 2024-2025, Council will be required to assess the need for changes to budget allocations and priorities.

The attached Operational Plan and budget documents consist of the following components.

1. Operational Plan 2024-25 –
 - This document covers the six key focus areas of Council's normal strategic planning framework
 - It describes the annual operational responsibilities of Council and where possible the relevant expenditure amounts from the annual budget
 - The programs and activities described in the plan cover Council's "business as usual" and include traditional expenditure in the areas of road maintenance, water and sewerage supply, general infrastructure, and service delivery.
2. Statement of Revenue –
 - Ordinary rates have been increased by the approved IPART rate peg of 4.5%
 - An increase of 4.5% has been applied to water, sewerage, and waste collection
 - No increase has been applied to general fees and charges other than statutory fees and charges if required.
3. Income and Expense Statement –
 - The income component was calculated using the assumptions above
 - Where relevant, new grants have been recognized
 - The expenditure items were based on previous years expenditure and where applicable zero-based budget principles.
4. Capital Works Program 2024/25 –
 - Major capital works include:
 - Roads, Reseals and Gravel Resheets: \$8.685M
 - Water Plants and Reticulation System: \$5.395M
 - Outdoor Infrastructure: \$1.624M
5. Fees and Charges 2024-25–
 - As mentioned in point 2 above no increases to General Fees and Charges have been applied, except for statutory fees and charges if required.

Changes to the Budget and Operational Plan, along with progress updates of Council's work across the year will be reported to the community through quarterly reviews to Council, the publication of a half yearly update on the Delivery Program and in Council's Annual Report.

The Operating Budget indicates that Central Darling Shire Council will have an Operating Deficit (after Capital Grants) of \$475,000.

The total 2024-2025 budgeted operating expenditure will be \$24.372 Million, Capital Expenditure will be \$18.099 Million, with total revenue expected to be \$36.006 Million.

The Draft Operational Plan for 2023-2024 continues the keys focus areas of Council's updated Community Strategic Plan which has ensued from the extensive review conducted in 2021-22. The review focused on validating the previous specific needs already noted plus capturing any new items identified by the community as part of the review consultation process. Any new Programs and Activities identified were included in the draft Operational Plan to be further assessed and refined throughout 2023-2024. These programs include Housing, Water Security, Employment, Telecommunications and Electricity Infrastructure.

Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2025-2034

The Central Darling Shire Council's Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034 has been developed using a 10 year Financial Model to ensure Council's future financial sustainability. The financial model is a dynamic tool which analyses financial trends over a ten year future period based on a range of assumptions and produces a means by which Council can assess its financial requirements balanced with its strategic objectives.

The Plan has been developed on the following broad assumptions:

- Rates are forecast to increase in line with rate capping predictions by IPART being 4.5%.
- Annual charges for water, sewer and waste services to increase by the rate cap each year.
- No long-term debt
- All revenue sources other than rates and annual charges to rise by inflation, except if better information is available.
- Net staff levels will remain constant in line with current service provision
- No reduction in the level of services provided
- Assets that provide an income stream or allow Council to reduce operating costs may be leased
- As it is expected that the shire's population will remain static for the life of the plan, no population growth factors have been factored into the plan.
- It is acknowledged that some assumptions used within the plan may become less relevant over a 10 year period

The key outcomes from the Long-Term Financial Plan include the following:

- Council's liquidity improves over the life of the plan
- Capital Works Program has been increased for the life of the plan

- Funding is being allocated for the renewal of assets must ensure sustainability in the longer term
- Council’s service levels have been maintained at the current level and will be reviewed during the term of the Plan
- Funding of Council’s liabilities for employee leave entitlements and landfill rehabilitation.
- Council’s overall financial position strengthens throughout the Plan.
- It is proposed that 1% of the surplus on RMS works goes to a Plant Replacement Reserve

The Plan highlights the ongoing sustainability of the Council into the future, and this is further enhanced by asset management programs and strategies that are being implemented. Council will continue to develop these programs over the next ten years and this will provide confidence for the expenditure levels required in the future.

The continued allocation of funding towards the renewal of assets and the consistent level of funds applied to upgrade and maintenance of assets will result in a positive investment for the community in the future.

Overall, the Long Term Financial Plan provides Council with a sustainable financial outlook for the next ten years. Its continued commitment to provide efficient services and to fund the renewal and upgrade of its assets will result in a positive long term viability for the community.

The plan will be a living document and will be updated each year.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.1 Design and implement governance systems within the shire that are culturally responsive and ensure communities have effective local democratic structures and representation
		2.1.2 Undertake ongoing engagement with shire Communities to ensure their input in the design of local governance structures and services
		2.1.3 Manage governance of the Central Darling region in co-operation with other existing governance systems including those provided by Local Area Land Councils and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and Community Working Parties
		2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities
		2.1.5 Maintain an adequate stock of local housing for appropriate council staff

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

The adoption of these Plans will incur associated expenses and resource implications for their successful implementation. These commitments are outlined in the budget provided.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Council is required to adopt a full suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting documents before 01 July 2024.

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

There is a risk that the Draft Plans provided with this report may not be understood by the community and therefore, a detailed communications and engagement approach will be applied, as outlined below.

OPTIONS:

1. Council endorses the Plans as presented and places them on public exhibition.
2. Council may opt to amend the Plans and place them on public exhibition.
3. Council may opt not to endorse any of the Plans presented at this time, being aware that councils are mandated to have the plans adopted by 1 July 2024.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

N/A

External Exhibition:

The Operational Plan reflects the upcoming year's actions in order for Council to deliver on its commitments in the Delivery Program 2022-2026.

Formal public exhibition of the Draft Operational Plan 2024-2025 incorporating the Draft Operational Budget 2024-2025, Draft Fees and Charges 2024-25 will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

Public exhibition will include the documents being available electronically on Council's website and advertisements in local newspapers and electronic media. Viewing of hardcopies at customer service counters may also take place.

Community feedback from the public exhibition period will be considered by Council before the final document is adopted at the June 2024 Ordinary Council meeting.

Attachments:

1. [Draft Operational Plan 2024-25](#) 
2. [Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-34](#) 

8.4 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6376
REPORT AUTHOR: FINANCE MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide a summary of Council's financial performance against budget as at 31st March 2024. This report also recommends amendments to Council's budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Adopt the variations to Council's 2023/24 Annual Budget
 1. Note that the projected operating surplus for the financial year 2023/24 is \$2.154 million.
 2. Note projected capital works budgeted expenditure for the financial year 2023/24 will be \$24.311 million.

BACKGROUND:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) has approved the expenditure, and

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

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

REPORT:**Operational Budget Result:**

The March 2024 Quarterly Budget review shows a decrease in the projected 2023/24 operating surplus (before capital items) of \$193,000 to an overall projected operating surplus as at 30 June 2024 of \$2.154 million.

This result reflects the following movements:

Income**1. Grants & Contributions – Operating**

Additional grant income to the budget of \$2.923 million for storm and flood emergency works. These funds are claimed back from the funding body after works are completed.

Total adjustment to the budget for Grants & Contributions – Operating \$2.923 million increase.

Expenditure**2. Materials and Contracts**

Additional funds to be allocated to Parks & Gardens to address over-expenditure:
\$112,000

Reduction in expenditure, Ancillary Works - (\$106,000)

Additional expenditure for Street Cleaning/Bins - \$40,000

Additional expenditure for Swimming pools - \$48,600

Additional expenditure for Domestic Waste - \$97,500 (Funded from Waste Reserve, however effect of the additional expenditure needs to be shown through the Income & Expense Statement)

Additional expenditure for storm and flood emergency repair works, as per note 1 above.

Total adjustment to the budget for Materials and Contracts - \$3.116 million increase

Capital Budget Result:

The March 2024 Quarterly Budget Review shows a decrease in projected capital expenditure of \$475,000 to an overall the Capital Works Budget for 2023/24 of \$24.311 million.

This result reflects the following movements:

Council allocated \$1M for plant replacement in the 2023-24 budget. The items budgeted for included:

- Jetpatcher \$385,000 (remaining payment)
- Loader – Menindee \$500,000
- Bore Boss \$115,000 (Roadworks)

It is proposed to reduce the capital plant replacement budget this year to \$535,000

and purchase the following items:

- Jetpatcher \$385,000 (remaining payment)
- Large Car Trailer \$12,500
- Survey Drone \$13,000
- Bobcat Mulcher attachment \$68,000
- Underborer and Compressor \$26,500
- Water Tank Trailer Units \$18,000
- Septic Tank Pump Out Skid \$12,000

Adjustment to the Capital Works Budget for Plant & Equipment: \$\$475,000 Decrease

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.1 Design and implement governance systems within the shire that are culturally responsive and ensure communities have effective local democratic structures and representation
		2.1.2 Undertake ongoing engagement with shire Communities to ensure their input in the design of local governance structures and services
		2.1.3 Manage governance of the Central Darling region in co-operation with other existing governance systems including those provided by Local Area Land Councils and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and Community Working Parties
		2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities
		2.1.5 Maintain an adequate stock of local housing for appropriate council staff

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive

Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Monitoring of the Quarterly Budget Review enables timely financial management.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

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

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

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

OPTIONS:

Nil

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:











Internal Exhibition:

N/A

External Exhibition:

N/A

Attachments:

1. 1. RAO Statement 
2. 2. Income & Expense Budget Review Statement 
3. 2.1 Income & Expense by Activity 
4. 2.2 Operating Budget Variations 
5. 3. Capital Budget Review Statement 
6. 3.1 Capital Budget Variation Detail 
7. 4. Cash & Investments 
8. 4.1 Cash & Investments Variation 
9. 5. KPI's 
10. 6. Other Expenses 

9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

9.1 ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNEMENT TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES- INVITATION TO MAKE SUBMISSION

FILE NUMBER: GD24/4593
REPORT AUTHOR: GENERAL MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development is currently conducting an inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services. Council made a submission to the inquiry. The closing date for submissions was Friday 26 April 2024.

Central Darling Shire Council (CDSC) is the largest in NSW, covering an area of 53,511 square kilometres, yet it has the smallest (and slowly declining) population of less than 2,000. The shire is economically disadvantaged, due to small and low household income, the geographical area challenges needed to be covered by the Council and the duplication of assets, required to service numerous smaller communities.

In the financial year 2023/24, CDSC total income for 2023/24 for continuing operations was \$45.7M. Council only received \$2.4 million from rates and annual charges, with most of its income from grants. Council 2022/23 Audit Statements, assets valuation for infrastructure, property, plant and equipment valued at \$223.7M.

Central Darling Shire Council is not in a financial position, based on the current model of revenue collected from users to operate and maintain services. Historically, any capital improvements to infrastructure assets have been funded by other tiers of governments, due to Councils' inability to raise revenue. Example is Council water charges would be the highest priced currently in New South Wales; prices are at saturation point where it has become unaffordable by residents.

Council is seeking an alternative model for Council water assets. To dispose of all Council owned water assets to the State Government to rid the financial burden. However, continue to operate and maintain these water assets on behalf of the State Government on a contractual arrangement.

Council will continue to source funding for the upgrade and renewal of its infrastructure from State and Federal governments. However, financial support is needed for Central Darling Shire Council for operational expenses, to ensure ongoing operational and maintenance of these assets are maintained to the service levels expected by its communities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report
2. [Type Recommendation here](#)

REPORT:

The Central Darling Shire encompasses the communities of Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Tilpa, White Cliffs, Darnick, Sunset Strip, Copi Hollow and Mossgiel. The Shire is bounded by the Shires of Bourke, Cobar, Carrathool, Balranald, Wentworth and the Unincorporated Far West area surrounding Broken Hill. The principal economic activities in the Shire are agriculture, pastoral

grazing, opal mining and remote area tourism. Large pastoral properties are the dominant land use with rural grazing properties representing the largest land use within the Shire, accounting for 97% of the entire area.

Central Darling Shire population would be considered as low social economic. Household Median weekly income for the shire is \$988 (2021 Census), in comparison to NSW \$1,829 and Australia \$1,746.

Council has many assets classes duplicated across the entire shire, which is expensive to maintain and operate. Council income from rates and charges is limited due to a small population across a large area. In comparison to neighbouring Councils, which have little duplication of assets, only comprising of one major centre and have a larger population to support the operations and maintenance of their assets.

Central Darling's sparse and declining population is significantly impacting on its rate base. The Shire's small rates base results in significant financial constraints, not only limit the range of services and infrastructure that Council is able to provide to its communities, but also the level of expertise that it can acquire from an organisational capability perspective. Both of those weaknesses result in the Shire being operationally and financially unsustainable, always needing to ration its available resources to deliver a minimum service outcome for the community, rather than a wholistic 'best in class' outcome. CDSC is heavily reliant on grant-to grant and project-to-project funding, as opposed to putting in place sustainable systems that coalesces with a long-term approach to financial planning.

The Shire's major infrastructure assets include transport (roads and bridges), water supply facilities, buildings and airstrips, and these have regional importance. The overall asset value is high compared to the size of the local population, thereby imposing a higher cost burden per rate payer than would otherwise be the case. The Shire is unable to maintain the required levels of service, depreciation costs, repairs and maintenance across its asset base from its rate revenue and from Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) from the Commonwealth.

Central Darling Shire and the adjoining Unincorporated Area (along with much of the Far West) are facing growing challenges associated with a fragile environment, rangeland management, climate change and increased risk of natural disasters including droughts, bushfires and floods. The recent severe drought, floods and Covid 19 pandemic, demonstrated the serious economic, social and environmental issues that are likely to emerge, including loss of employment, health impacts, shortages of drinking water, fish kills and increased risk of bushfires.

Central Darling Shire Council staffing numbers as budgeted for 2023/24 is 71 FTE's. The current occupied FTE is at 53, with vacancies at 12. The difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified and experienced staff to CDSC is proven more difficult, due to the remoteness of the area, and the lack of services provided to support people, which are not accustomed working in remote rural environments. Council limited own financial resources, remuneration of staff is paid at minimum award rates, with very little incentives paid to attract and retain staff. Council offers senior, professional, and technical staff subsidised housing and unit accommodation: seven houses and 10 units owned by Council, purely for staff accommodation.

Council level of staffing is the bare minimum to achieve legislative functions required of Council. The low level of staff numbers and lack of Council financial ability, inhibits growth and community support

to promote industry, employment, and essential services, expected by the community. Council desperately needs additional funding to engage the following support staff:

- Tourism Officer
- Disaster Response and Support Officer
- Economic Officer
- Indigenous Community Liaison Officer
- Technical Officer (Airstrips)

Whilst neighbouring Councils are struggling with growth and attraction of professional resources to their areas and regions, CDSC struggles to maintain the essentials in providing services and infrastructure, never alone the ability to promote economic growth for the shire.

Roads, Bridges, and footpaths -CDSC Road network length is 2400km, comprises of regional, shire and local roads, has estimated replacement value of \$108,798,241. Council roads consist of 500km sealed and 1,900km of unsealed. Unsealed roads represent 95% of the road network, and is not all weather access, with less than 10mm of rain. Not all the major towns within the shire are connected by a sealed road, Wilcannia to Menindee to Ivanhoe is an example. This restricts the movement of Council staff, resources, and plant/equipment to provide services and maintenance activities. 10% of Sealed road network has substandard width and 5% of Sealed road network has substandard pavement. The road network has 23 bridges and major culverts, valued at \$19,510,000. There are 444 minor culverts, estimated replacement value \$4,871,877. Footpaths -12km, estimated replacement value \$1,861,049, Kerb and Channel- 17kms estimated replacement value \$3,466,926.

Central Darling Shire Council is contracted to Transport for NSW for its road maintenance and renewal programs for roads within the shire. The average income received by the Council from TfNSW Order Works is valued at \$3-4M/year. This excludes any major capital roadworks on TfNSW network. The council is paid on-cost as part of the contractual arrangement, 14% administration fee and stores and 50% for staff wages. The on cost appears to be a standardized figure across all NSW LGA's contracts. TfNSW does not consider Central Darling Shire Council costs in having to do business in a rural remote location.

Council Federal Assistance Grants (Fags) in 2023/24 was \$4.55M, \$3.35M General and \$1.1M Roads. The Council Regional Block grant was \$2.8M. The Council in this financial year, did receive \$8.2M for TfNSW order works for maintenance and capital works.

Aerodromes- CDSC owns and operates 6 airstrips at White Cliffs, Wilcannia, Tilpa, Menindee, Ivanhoe and Emmdale. Five of the airstrips are sealed and one unsealed, estimated replacement of \$13,750,516. Three of the sealed airstrips are CASA licenced. The main purposes of the airstrips are for medical retrieval used by the RFDS, (Royal Flying Doctor Service), with some use by local pastoralist and infrequent recreation flights. Council doesn't charge landing fees, as this only imposes cost on local aviators (businesses) and discourage any potential tourism. No landing fees or income is sourced from RFDS, as they are considered emergency services and provides a vital health service to our communities.

Buildings, Landfills & Swimming Pools - Council owns various types of buildings and structures across the entire shire. These vary from public halls and amenities, caravan parks, sporting and recreational grounds, emergency services housing for SES and RFS assets, operational structures like administration offices and work depots. Across the four major centres in the shire, there are duplications of a majority of assts classes in each of these towns to provide the necessary services to these communities. The above category of assets has a replacement value of \$40M, which vary from being fare to poor condition. Over the next 20 years, it is forecasted Council will need to spend on average \$2.2M/year on maintenance and operational functions, this excludes the cost of renewals of any of these assets.

Water and Sewer- Central Darling Shire Council provides a water service to the towns of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs. The town of Menindee has a water service; however, it is provided by another authority; Essential Water.

The town of Wilcannia sources its water from the Darling River. The raw untreated water is filtered and treated at Council's water treatment plant, prior to reticulation to the community. Bore water is utilised during drought and when the river runs dry.

The town of Ivanhoe sources its water supply from the Willandra Creek, 30km south of town, when available it is pumped into a storage dam. Bore water is utilised during drought and when the creek runs dry.

White Cliffs sources water from overland storage dams, from which water is pumped into the town. Each household has a piped water supply, however, the water is classified as non-potable because of limited treatment infrastructure and class of reticulation pipes. The old poly pipes providing reticulation system, are classified as not suitable for potable water.

The village of Tilpa has a supply of raw water by main to households from the Darling River or bore when the river is dry.

Council major Water Assets are:

- 3 Water Treatment plants.
- 7 intake pumping stations.
- 35 km's potable water mains
- 72 km's raw water mains
- 8 Bores
- 6 Dams

Wilcannia Sewage Assets are:

- 14.2km's Reticulations system
- 40 manholes
- 260 Household pumps
- 2 Treatment plants (pump stations)
- Evaporation pond

Note: Council does not provide a sewage disposal to any other towns or villages in the shire.

2022/23 Water infrastructure assets have an estimated total replacement value of \$43,426,000 and Sewage network \$6,786,000. Council total asset value is \$301,259,000.

Council own source operating revenue ratio 2022/23 was 23%, well under 60% Benchmark set by the Audit Office.

2022/23 income from Rates and annual charges \$2,439,000.

Water supply charges \$673,000 & Sewage Charges \$278,000.

2022/23 Depreciation and amortisation for water assets:

- \$591,000 -Water supply network
- \$138,000 -Sewage Network

Council does not allocate enough budget to sustain these services at the proposed standard or to provide all new services being sought. Works and services that cannot be provided under present funding levels are:

- Renew all assets at the optimal time or before they reach end of life.
- Renew rising and trunk mains that are nearing end of useful life without grant funding.

Council has received \$11.5m for the upgrade of 3 Water Treatment Plants, White Cliffs, Ivanhoe, and Wilcannia. Work has commenced on White Cliffs WTP and new reticulation system. Council is seeking additional \$10m to complete Ivanhoe and Wilcannia WTP's.

Summary of Water and Sewer:

Council 2022/23 audited Statement of Performance Measures -Rates and Annual Charges outstanding percentage was 12.12%, above the benchmark of 10%. This reflects a low social economic community, and any increase of fees and charges are now at saturation point.

The increase in fees and charges to recover cost for water services would only increase Council's Rates and Annual Charges outstanding percentage, as consumers wouldn't be able to pay. This is a realistic possibility of going backwards in debt collection and less revenue received by Council.

Council ability to renew and upgrade water assets is solely dependent on grant funding from State and Federal governments, as Council does not have the financial capacity with its own revenue.

Water infrastructure assets represents 15% of all assets owned and maintain by Council. This has a considerable impact to raise revenue and the depreciation which is needed to be found by Council.

Council would like to dispose all water assets to the State Government to rid the financial burden. However, continue to operate and maintain these water assets on behalf of the State Government on a contractual arrangement. This solution would be like the partnership which Council has with Transport NSW in maintaining their road network in the shire.

Attachments:

1. [Submission-Ability of local government to fund infrastructure and services](#) 

9.2 UPDATE AND ALTERATIONS TO NSW SEVERE WEATHER AND FLOOD PROJECTS.

FILE NUMBER: GD24/4963
REPORT AUTHOR: GENERAL MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To provide Council information received from Office of Local Government (OLG) on projects which has been approved for the NSW Severe Weather and Flood funding (\$1m). Several projects still requiring further information to be submitted to OLG to determine if they meet the funding criteria.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

REPORT:

Office Local Government have reviewed Central Darling Councils’ Program of Works for the Local Government Recovery Grant – NSW Severe Weather and Floods – August -September 2022 – AGRN 1030/1034.

The below projects have been reviewed and determined consistent with the provisions of the program guidelines:

Project Number	Project Name	Grant Allocation Amount
1	Construction of Public Toilets at Menindee Airstrip	\$93,250.00
2	Ivanhoe Community Golf Course Revitalisation	\$151,662.00
5	Victory Park Amenity Block Replacement	\$320,000.00
6	White Cliffs Caravan Park Septic Upgrade	\$250,940.00

Projects 1,2, 5 and 6 have in principle support and can commence while work is finalising the matters below around projects 3 & 4.

The below projects remain under review:

Project Number	Project Detail	Grant Allocation Amount
3	White Cliffs Community Hub Activation - Council have advised this project may be withdrawn. Project not assessed at this stage.	\$99,000.00
4	The Sunset Strip Playground Upgrade - Project has been reviewed by the Principal Program Officer and further information will be requested from Council regarding the project.	\$85,148.00

Further information is being asked by Office Local Government for their determination if White Cliffs Community Hub Activation and the Sunset play upgrade meets the funding criteria. This additional evidence is required before the variation can be progressed any further.

Originally, the Community Hub was to be located at the SES Brigade shed, as they had planned to relocate and coexist with Rural Fire Service facility. However due to SES funding restraints, this could not happen and now elected to remain at their current facility and refurbish the site.

Enquiries has been made if Council could acquire the unused National Parks Building in White Cliff to Roy Butler MP, to pursue on behalf of Council. A direct request also has been made to NSW National Parks Regional Manager. No response has been received from Roy Butler MP; however, NSW National Parks Regional Manager has indicated the building is to be gifted to Barkindji Native Title Group.

The General Manager has now been in discussion with several community groups in White Cliffs for the best location of a Community Hub. Country Women's Association (CWA) to utilise their existing building as part of a Community Hub, with the funding to be used to construct a shed for larger activities and projects. The White Cliffs Sporting Club has approached Council, as there are several community activities held at the complex regularly. The funding could be used to install public toilet which could be accessed 24/7, and minor upgrade to the soundshell for variety of community activities.

Council is now waiting on Office of Local Government to find out if either project meets the funding criteria before a decision is made on the preferred location.

Attachments:

NIL

**9.3 COMMONWEALTH 'CLEAN WATER, HEALTHY COMMUNITY AND RIVER PROJECT'
\$10M FUNDING**

FILE NUMBER: GD24/5755
REPORT AUTHOR: GENERAL MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To advise Council, additional \$10 million has been made available to upgrade water treatment plants at White Cliffs, Ivanhoe and Wilcannia, and the installation of new potable water reticulation system at White Cliffs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Receive further reports on the progress on planning, milestones and delivery of the three Water Treatment Plants and the potable water reticulation system.

REPORT:

Council has been advised by Department of Climate, Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – NSW, the Commonwealth Government's 'Clean Water, Healthy Community and Rivers Program' has allocated \$10 million to the Council. This funding is additional funding to the \$11.5 million Council received some time ago, for the redevelopment of Water Treatment Plants for White Cliffs, Ivanhoe and Wilcannia, as well the installation of a new reticulation system for White Cliffs.

Council has commenced construction works on White Cliffs water treatment plant which is 50% completed. White Cliffs new potable water reticulation system is 70% completed, with a small section of water main to be laid and connections to properties to be installed. Ivanhoe water treatment plant, preliminary works has commenced with electrical power upgrade to the site.

At this stage it is unclear how Council will be able to access the funding and when it will be made available. Further information will be provided to Council once more is known.

Attachments:

1. [Commonwealth Clean water, Healthy Community and River Projects \\$10 Funding](#) 

9.4 NEW POLICY - CONTROL OF ACCESS TO RESTRICTED LOCATIONS

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6204
REPORT AUTHOR: RISK & WHS OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Control of Access to Restricted Locations Policy (Version One).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Approve the draft Control of Access to Restricted Locations Policy
3. Place the Control of Access to Restricted Locations Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to allow for public review and submissions.

BACKGROUND:

A Control of Access to Restricted Locations Policy has not been included in Council’s Policy Register. This report, and the attached Policy, seeks to remedy this.

REPORT:

The Draft Policy seeks to formalise processes and procedures within Council to ensure consistency of how Staff, Contactors, Councillors and visitors can gain access to Council properties, whilst keeping Council assets and confidential information secure.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	NA
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Failure to implement a Control of Restricted Access Policy may mean financial losses, due to theft.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Nil

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

Failure to implement a formal Control of Access to Restricted Locations Policy, CDSC may be exposed to greater risk of theft of Council assets.

OPTIONS:

That Council approves the draft policy as presented; or, makes recommendations for any changes needed before approval.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

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

To the Management/Executive (ManEx) Group.

External Exhibition:

On CDSC's website.

Attachments:

1. [Control of Access to Restricted Locations Policy V1_2024](#) 

9.5 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6357
REPORT AUTHOR: HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the current human resource activities to ensure the organisation meets its statutory and legislative requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report
2. Endorse the 1.28 FTE increase for the Customer Service Officer and the ICT Support Officer positions.

REPORT:

Recruitment Activities

Below is a summary of recruitment activities undertaken during the period 1 February 2024 to 30 April 2024:

Position	Status / Progress
Project Engineer	Internal and external recruitment - No successful candidates. Progressing a candidate who registered an Expression of Interest to work with Council.
Truck Drivers (Wilcannia) x 2	Internal and external recruitment - Successful candidate commenced
Truck Driver (Ivanhoe)	Internal and external recruitment - Successful candidate commenced
Procurement Officer	Internal and external recruitment – Position renamed Finance and Records Management Officer. Successful candidates commenced.
Biosecurity Officer (Weeds)	Internal and external recruitment - Successful candidate commenced
Works Supervisor	Internal and external recruitment - Successful candidate commences 27 May 2024
Rates Officer	Internal and external recruitment - Successful candidate commenced
Customer Service Officers – Menindee, Wilcannia, Post Office (4 positions)	Internal and external recruitment - Successful candidates commenced
Storeperson	Internal and external recruitment – Recruitment underway
ICT Support Officer	Internal and external recruitment – Recruitment underway
Customer Service Officer - Ivanhoe	Internal and external recruitment – Recruitment underway

Attracting candidates for vacancies remains a challenge for Council.

Organisational Structure

Below is a summary of the FTE numbers as at 30 April 2024

Department	FTE as at 30/6/22	FTE as at 30/6/23	FTE as at 31/1/24	2023/2024		
				Occupied FTE as at 30/4/2024	Vacant FTE as at 30/4/24****	Proposed Variation to FTE
Governance	5.23	5.20	5.20	4.63	0.57	0
Customer Service	*** 13.40	*** 15.00	11.43	10.00	1.71	+1.28
Finance			6.57	7.57	0.00	0
Shire Services	* 44.60	* 48.68	* 47.10	** 37.99	** 4.00	0
Total	* 63.23	* 68.88	* 70.30	** 60.19	** 6.28	+1.28

* includes 3.53 FTE for casuals and 1.58 FTE for swimming pool attendants

** excludes 3.53 FTE for casuals and 1.58 FTE for swimming pool attendants

*** FTE reflects former Business Services structure

**** Subject to proposed variation being approved by Council.

The proposed variation of an increase of 1.28 FTE in Customer Service is the result of:

- increasing an existing Customer Service Officer, Wilcannia by 0.57 FTE
- moving 0.29 FTE from an existing Customer Service Officer, Ivanhoe to create the new ICT Support Officer position
- creating a ICT Support Officer, Wilcannia position using 0.29 from the Customer Service Officer, Ivanhoe position and the remainder being an additional 0.71 FTE.

With recruitment underway, the proposed changes have been captured in the Vacant FTE column in the table above.

There has been internal FTE movement with 1.0 FTE being transferred from Customer Service to Finance.

School-Based Traineeship

Council currently has two students undertaking a School Based Traineeship, as follows:

- Menindee – 1 student undertaking Certificate II in Parks and Gardens
- Ivanhoe – 1 student undertaking Certificate II in Parks and Gardens

Work continues to explore opportunities with the Wilcannia Central School.

Human Resource Fundamentals Program

A Human Resource Fundamentals Program commenced in August 2023 with the aim of providing all people leaders, including emerging leaders with the tools and knowledge to be successful in their role. All sessions are facilitated in-house by our Human Resource Officer.

Topics covered to date include:

- Recruitment and Selection
- Induction / Onboarding Employees
- Addressing Performance and/or Conduct
- Probation Period Process

- Annual Staff Assessments
- Workplace Grievances and/or Incidents

Attachments:

NIL

9.6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND TOURISM UPDATE**FILE NUMBER: GD24/6359****REPORT AUTHOR: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER****RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

This report covers the period from January to April 2024.

CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE GENERAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Over the reporting period emailed information, resident newsletters, staff newsletters, Facebook and LinkedIn posts, website updates, media releases and public notices were issued/distributed.

Various Shire news items were covered across these platforms including:

- Shire project updates including various road projects.
- Progress on the Baaka Cultural Centre.
- Community Services Awards and Citizenship ceremony at White Cliffs.
- Council news and updates.
- Council preparations for the potential to leave administration at the September election.
- Wilcannia Weir – including community and council concern over the redesign.
- Community Movie Nights.
- Opening of Maari Ma's new Health and Wellbeing Centre.
- The rural addressing project.
- Far West Regional Drought Resilience Plan.
- WaterNSW updates for Menindee including red algal alerts.
- ANZAC DAY across the Shire.

CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE MEDIA COVERAGE

During the reporting period the Administrator spoke with media after Council meetings.

As issues arose the General Manager spoke with media including ABC Broken Hill, 2WEB and 2DryFM.

In April 2DryFm launched a Menindee radio station and this will be a major asset for the community.

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

Wilcannia News, The Western Herald at Bourke and ABC radio have been among media covering the Wilcannia Weir situation. Council has officially rejected the weir redesign.

The Hillstone Spectator has also been proactive in covering Ivanhoe stories.

In April the Broken Hill based Barrier Truth newspaper closed after 130 years. This is unfortunate and disappointing. News services are limited in our Shire and the Barrier Truth has provided many important stories over the years for our residents and an avenue for advertisements when required.

Because not everyone in the Shire has internet access it can be challenging letting people know about matters of importance. The Electronic Sign at Menindee is regularly updated by staff at Menindee.

CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

During the reporting period the monthly printed Resident Newsletter was produced for residents. Pictured, above, is a sample resident newsletter, produced during the reporting period.

Central Darling Shire Council

Pooncarie Road works update

The Pooncarie Road sealing project is expected to be finished by June this year. As part of the recent works construction has been occurring on the bridge at Yampoola Crossing. In the latest update to Council 54 kilometres of the road project have now been sealed. The Pooncarie Road project will see 61 kilometres of road sealed between Menindee and Pooncarie. It is a \$39.6 million project with the Federal government having committed \$27.1 million and the State government \$12.5 million.



Work has been occurring on the bridge at Yampoola crossing.



Baaka Cultural Centre Works

Work is progressing on the Baaka Cultural Centre at Wilcannia. In recent weeks the majority of the work has been focussed around the Rammed Earth Walls. The development of the \$9.5-million Baaka Cultural Centre is a regionally significant project. When complete the centre will accommodate a range of activities (public exhibitions, performances, workshop, training and events) while also functioning as a visitor information centre, and meeting/ gathering place for the community and a keeping place for artefacts.

Drought Resilience Planning underway

Central Darling Shire Council, Broken Hill City Council, and the Regional Development Australia Far West NSW Unincorporated Area are working together to produce a plan for drought resilience. Funding for the project is under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program which is funded by the Australian Government and NSW Government under the Future Drought Fund. Our Councils are funded under round two of the program. Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty said the expanded program acknowledges that each region in NSW is different and

needs a tailor-made approach to drought preparedness. Work is already well underway with an Independent Consultant, Meridian Urban appointed to develop the plan. The aim is to produce a plan with practical solutions that will support our communities prepare for and respond to drought. Feedback from communities, stakeholders and First Nations people in the region is a priority and will be crucial to the success of the final working document. As part of this process a link to a survey for comment is on Council's website (under Projects in the Shire) or a printed version is available at Council offices.



COMMUNITY EVENT
Come and see WCNKA

Ivanhoe - Tuesday April 16
Wilcannia - Wednesday April 17
White Cliffs - Thursday April 18
Menindee - Friday April 19

**FREE
EVENT**

April 2024 School Holidays - More details on Council's website

March 2024 Newsletter - Central Darling Shire Council - PO Box 165 Wilcannia NSW 2836. Phone: 08 8083 8900

CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL WEBSITE

Most people are still coming to the website via a desktop computer, followed by mobile phone and a very small percentage of people are using a tablet to access the website.

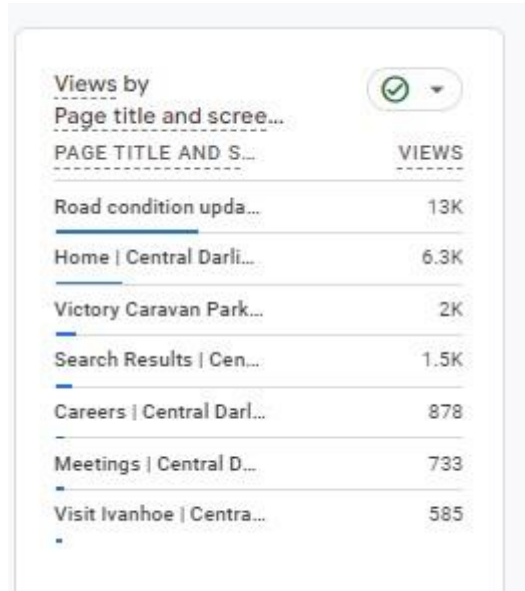
The website showcases all the various categories of information available. We continue to see a greater number of people coming to the website to access information.

During the reporting period road reports remained the most viewed page by a considerable figure.

The ‘Visiting Our Towns’ section, which is relatively new is proving popular.

Compared with the last report in December 2023 page views for tourism have increased significantly.

- In the December report to Council the tourism page received 1,196 page views for the period. For the current reporting period the tourism page views were 3,070. This includes 2000 specifically for Wilcannia’s Victory Caravan Park and particular interest in Ivanhoe and Sunset Strip.



What People are looking at on the website

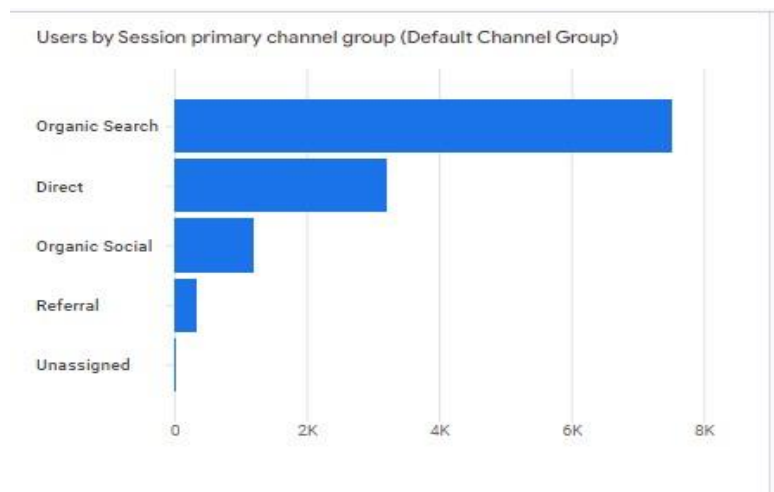
The careers page continues to be a main performer in website views. News, urban and rural addressing and projects in the shire were also also highly viewed pages during the reporting period.

Website developments

The website is continually being updated and monitored. Among the latest updates Calendars have been added to the Council meetings and Events/Tourism pages to make information even more accessible.

How people are finding the website

Pictured left, we continue to see that people are directly searching for the Shire in their web browser. Work is ongoing to increase the number of people coming to the website via social media and as a result we are seeing an increase in this area of website traffic.



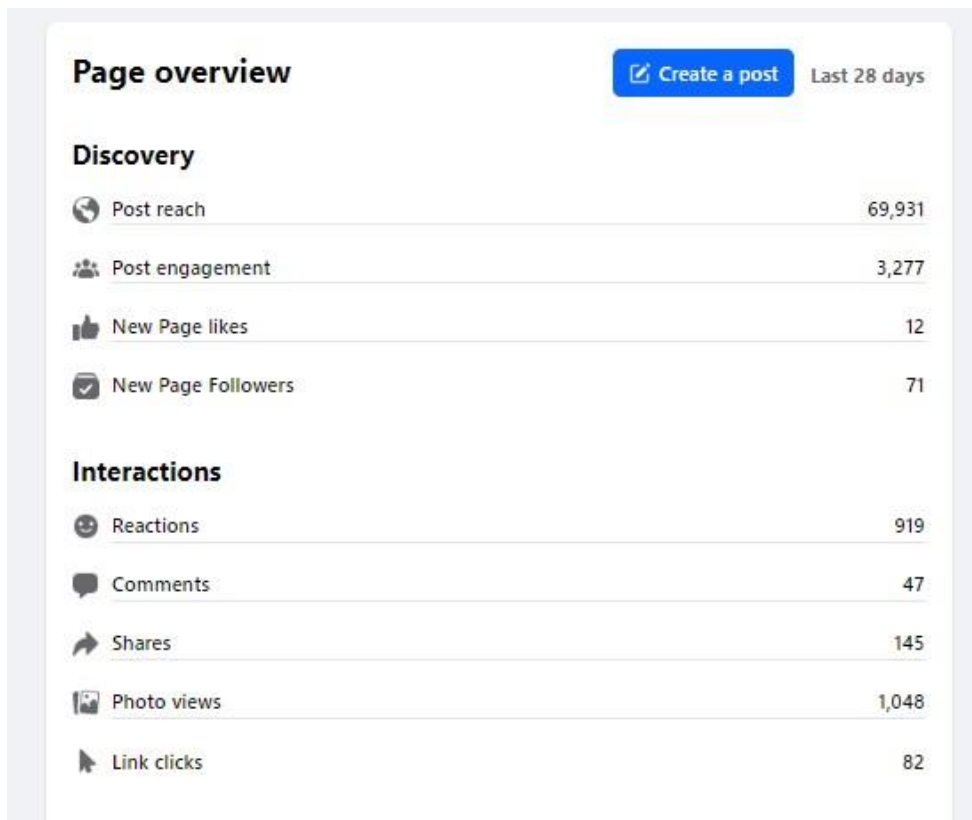
CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE

The Council Facebook Page is an outstanding community page. It is an important tool in Council’s ability to communicate with residents across the remote Shire and visitors to the region.

Council Facebook now has 5,488 followers.

- The page followers have been steadily increasing.

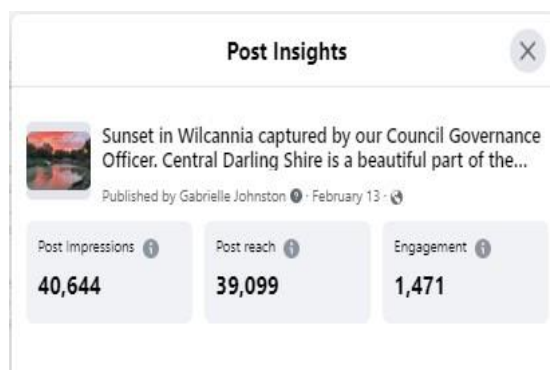
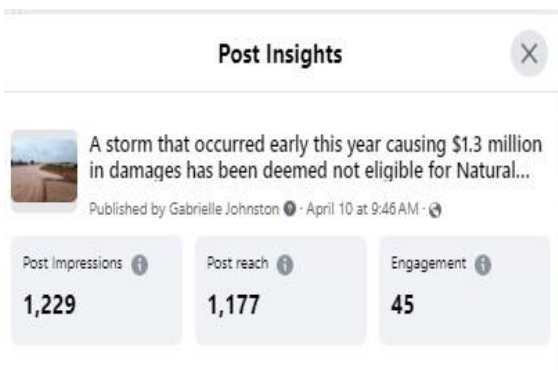
- In the last 12 months approximately 1,234 new page followers have joined Central Darling Shire Facebook.
- In the December Community Engagement report to Council there were 4,796 Facebook followers, up from 4,254 and 3,918 in the previous two reports.



Pictured, above, Facebook diagram 1 monthly statistics.

In the diagram above the post reach is extremely good for social media. Comments, link clicks and shares are tracking well, and the Community Engagement Officer is working to increase these metrics because that will help continue page growth.

As a general rule Facebook does not show all posts to all followers. The Community Engagement Officer pays particular attention to the engagement rate on Facebook because this tells Council how much interest a post is generating. The more people engage with the post the more the algorithm will show the post to more people, and this leads to a greater post reach.





In the reporting period as usual Council Road reports outperformed any other post by a substantial amount on the Council Facebook page. However, there were a large number of extremely popular posts including; careers, Outstanding Community Services Awards winners, community movie nights, ANZAC DAY, Victory Caravan Park, road works, Wilcannia Weir, and a landscape photo captured by Council’s Governance Officer.

CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL LINKEDIN PAGE

The Community Engagement Officer continues to build Council’s LinkedIn page. The page has grown to 287 followers. This is an increase of 56 followers since the last report to Council. Most followers are from Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, and Melbourne. Followers also include people from Wilcannia and Broken Hill although these are in smaller numbers. About a quarter of followers are in the business development sector, followed by operations (15 per cent), customer success and support (10 per cent) and engineering (8 per cent). LinkedIn offers exposure to corporate and government organisations. From a business perspective this has obvious benefits including information sharing and networking opportunities.



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL TOURISM

Darling River Run

Central Darling Shire Council is a member of the Darling River Run. The Darling River Run route provides an opportunity for people to see regional Darling River towns, and these include the towns of Tilpa, Wilcannia and Menindee.

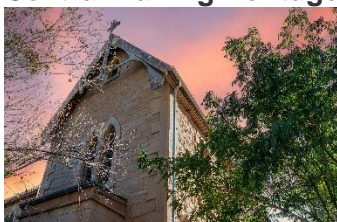


to 18

In approximately the last six weeks Council has received and responded requests for more information about Central Darling Shire, which has come directly from the Darling River Run website.

The type of information people are seeking includes maps, roads, accommodation and things to see and do in Central Darling Shire. The inquiries are coming from across Australia including Tasmania, Queensland, and South Australia.

Central Darling Heritage Trail App



The Central Darling Heritage Trail App is continuing to achieve great results. In April Central Darling Shire Council has welcomed news that the Central Darling Heritage Trail App was shortlisted in two categories for the 2024 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards. The app was shortlisted in the Education & Interpretation and Events, Exhibitions & Tours categories with the winners announced on May 17, after the print deadline for this Council report.

Far West NSW Visitor Services Networking Meeting

Council's Community Engagement/Tourism Officer is attending bi-monthly meetings involving regional tourism representatives from areas. This is an initiative being led by the Broken Hill Visitor Services Coordinator. It is proving to be a very valuable opportunity for regional tourism and related industry people to share ideas and work together to benefit regional district tourism.

New Central Darling Shire Tourism Flyer

Council has produced a tourism flyer promoting Central Darling Shire. In coming weeks/months the flyer will be made available to local businesses. Broken Hill Tourism has invited Council to supply 2000 of these tourism flyers for inclusion into bags which will be distributed to visitors to this year's Mundi Mundi Bash. Council is very appreciative of this offer.

Australian Tourism Data Warehouse platform (ATDW)

Council Community Engagement/Tourism Officer is currently uploading destination information onto the ATDW and will also be providing information to local tourism businesses about this platform being available for use. Once information is uploaded it means this will appear on several travel websites. The ATDW is a government owned platform with a 20-plus year history of supporting the Australian Tourism Industry. The ATDW publishes visitor content from 37,200 contributors across 260-plus multi-channel distributor websites attracting over 55 million visitors a year. Uploading content is a free service.

Attachments:

NIL

9.7 MANAGING EXCESS LEAVE PROGRESS REPORT

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6362
REPORT AUTHOR: HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide an update on the progress in managing excess leave entitlements identified through an Internal Audit.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

REPORT:

An internal audit undertaken identified there were several staff with excess leave entitlements which has a significant financial risk to Council.

To address and minimise the risk, Council has put in place the following actions:

- Developed and implemented a Leave Management Procedure which includes a clause around managing unacceptable leave balances.
- Leave Management Plans for staff who have excess leave balances were requested in May 2023.

In reducing excess leave, it is critical that Council manages the reduction in a manner that supports continuity of work without placing any additional stress on both the financial position of the organisation and the staff in taking on excessive workloads.

Below is a comparison of excess leave for 2023 against 2024:

	No of staff	Annual Leave Hours	No of Staff	Long Service Leave Hours
2023	7	4,782.25	8	7,677.17
2024	9	3,966.91	7	7,394.92

The table above shows that the annual leave hours have reduced by 815.34 hours (17%), and long service leave hours have reduced by 282.25 hours (4%), in the past 12 months.

It is important to keep in mind that while staff are making every effort is made to reduce their excess leave entitlements, they will continue to accrue hours during periods of paid absence.

The value of the excess leave accrued as at 12 April 2024 is as follows:

Annual Leave \$194,159.27
 Long Service Leave \$363,576.45

Council will continue to work with staff to address the gradual reduction in leave liability over the next 12 months.

A further progress report will be provided to the Council in October 2024.

Attachments:

NIL

10 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORTS

10.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATION

FILE NUMBER: GD24/5707
REPORT AUTHOR: CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is seeking Council endorsement for financial assistance of \$1000 to the Ivanhoe Central School as per Community Grants Policy and \$1000 to the Outback Theatre for Young People - Muurpa Naariku Circus, Wilcannia.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Provide \$1000 Community Grant to the Ivanhoe Central School which will be used to engage presenters and provide meals for NAIDOC Day.
3. Provide \$1000 Community Grant to the Outback Theatre for Young People which goes towards cost of the Wilcannia Runs Away with the Circus project.

BACKGROUND:

Council has received two Community Grant applications, one from Ivanhoe Central School seeking \$2000 financial assistance and one from the Outback Theatre for Young People - Muurpa Naariku Circus Wilcannia, who are seeking \$1000 financial assistance.

REPORT:

Ivanhoe Central School is organising 2 days of NAIDOC activities, which will include the opening of the schools Bush Kitchen and a sleep over campout with a movie night.

Funding of \$2000 will go towards these activities and will also cover the cost of meals for students and guest on day 2 of NAIDOC celebrations.

35 young people from the Muurpa Naariku Circus community group of Wilcannia will be travelling Adelaide to attend a Cirque du Soleil performance, participate in a CirKidz workshop, experience an aerial course at West Beach, and visit the Adelaide Zoo.

This experience will have a positive impact on the current young people involved in the Wilcannia Circus program. \$1000 funding will go towards the transport element.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
1 Community and Culture	1.5 Community events	1.5.1 Source grants and provide financial and other assistance for community events across the shire

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
--	-------------------

Social	Positive
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Budgeted 2023-2024 Financial Year \$1000 – Expenditure \$7689.80

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Nil

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

Nil

OPTIONS:

Council can elect not to provide financial assistance or provide a lesser amount.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

No

External Exhibition:

No

Attachments:

1. [Ivanhoe Central School Community Grant Application](#) 
2. [Outback Theatre for Young People Community Grant Application](#) 
3. [CDC Broken Hill Bus - Transport Quote](#) 

10.2 GENERAL SERVICE REQUEST AND COMPLAINTS OVERVIEW 2024

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6170
REPORT AUTHOR: CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on Customer Service requests and complaints.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

BACKGROUND:

Council acts on services request pertaining to its responsibilities, such as road maintenance, tree clearance and town upkeep. Service requests related to public safety are given immediate attention. All service requests are investigated within a period of fifteen (15) working days. The course of action is determined based on the priority of the request, Council’s work schedule and available resources.

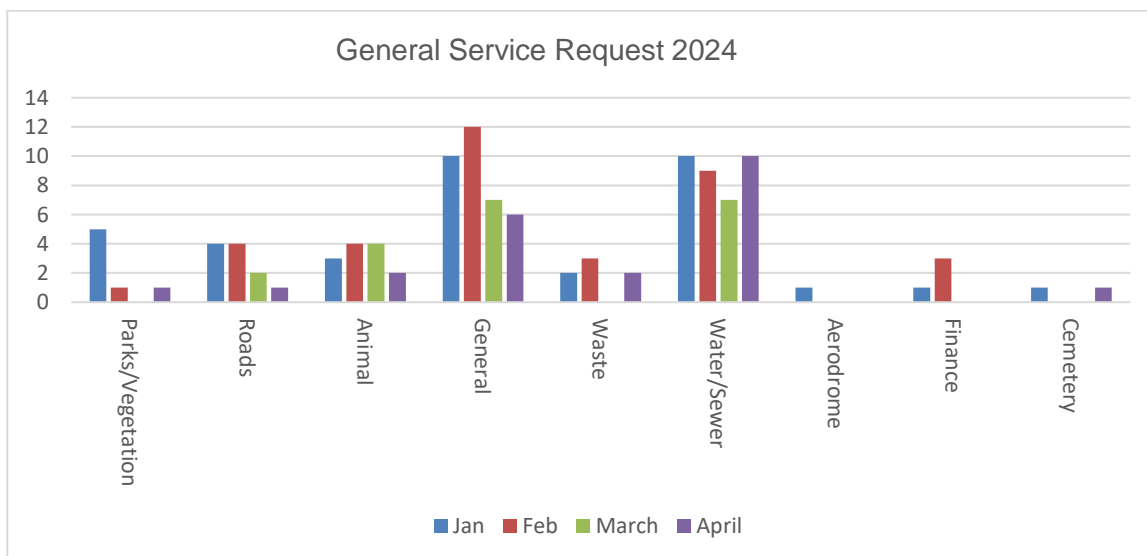
When council receives a complaint, it indicates dissatisfaction with a decision, level or quality of our service, or the behaviour of an employee or representative. These complaints can be investigated and addressed. Central Darling Shire Council recognizes the individual’s right to file a complaint if they believe that our service provision or actions have been inadequate.

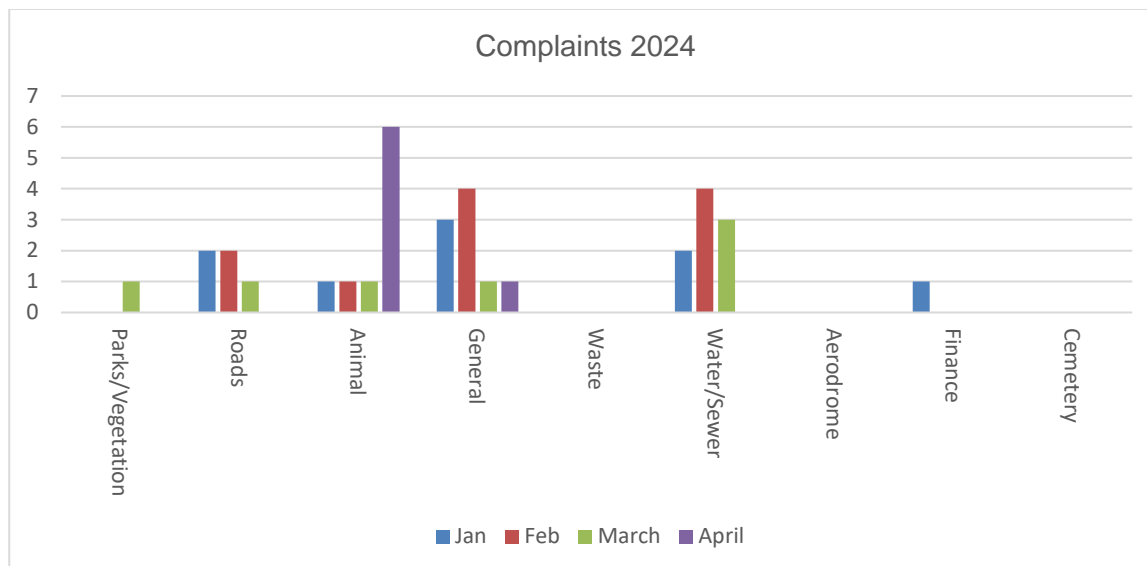
Complaints made in person, by phone, letter or email can expect to receive a response within ten (10) working days.

REPORT:

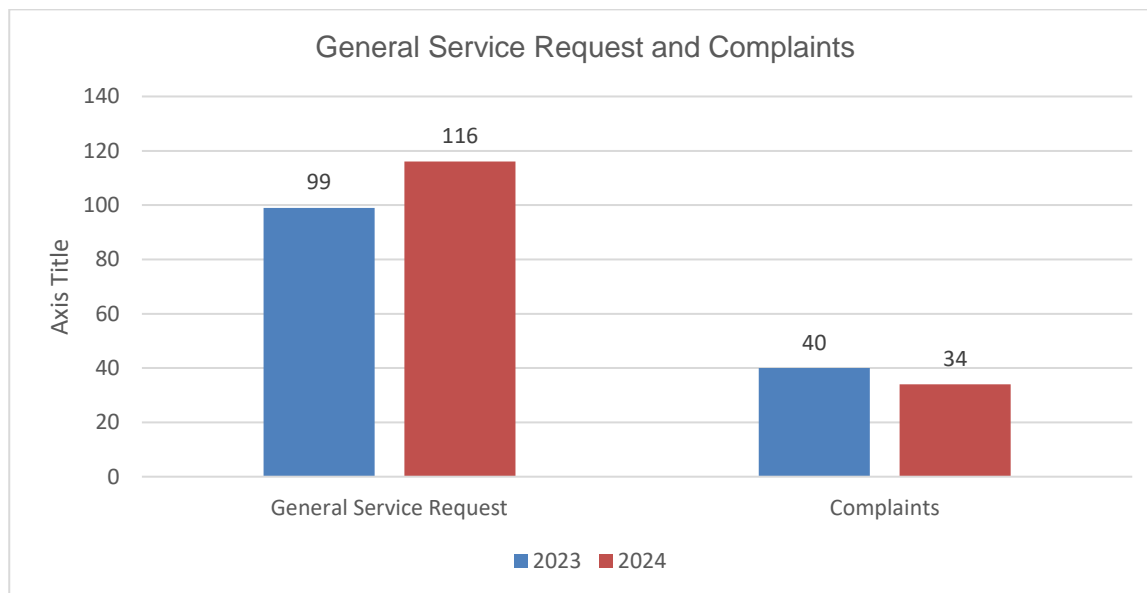
As of 30 April 2024, the following report presents an overview of the quantity of General Service Requests and Complaints received throughout 2024.

The Customer Service team have processed 116 General Service Requests and 34 Complaints during the year. This equates to an average of 7.07 General Service Requests and 2.12 Complaints per week.





In contrast to the data from 2023 Central Darling Shire Council has experienced a slight increase in the number of General Service Request, however the volume of Complaints received remains consistent with the figures from 2023.



In-line with Central Darling Shire Council’s Customer Service Charter, on average 2024 Customer Service Requests have been addressed within 1.41 working day and Complaints have been addressed within 0.41 working day.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Nil

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Nil

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

Nil

OPTIONS:

N/A

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

N/A

External Exhibition:

N/A

Attachments:

NIL

11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE - LEGAL ADVICE ON WHITE CLIFFS DUGOUT

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6312

REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR PLANNER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To provide Council with information regarding the legal opinion sought by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure from Maddocks Lawyers, and provided to Central Darling Shire Council on the potential liability to Council in regard to the dugouts at White Cliffs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and consider the Maddocks Lawyers legal advice regarding the potential liability to Council on the current status of the dugouts at White Cliffs, and the future liability for Council.
2. Note the recommendation from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure that Council seek its own legal interpretation and legal guidance on the opinion provided by Maddocks Lawyers, and Council source quotations to undertake this work.
3. The General Manager to organise a meeting with the Minister for Planning to discuss the White Cliffs dugouts implications for Council and potentially to remove the White Cliffs dugouts from the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012*.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure provided legal advice from Maddocks Lawyers Sydney to Council on 23 April 2024.

Council on 23 April 2024 sent an email to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure requesting that a legal representative from Maddocks Lawyers provide an explanation to Council on the legal opinion, at full cost to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. This was necessary due to the complexity of the advice provided by Maddocks Lawyers.

Subsequently, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has refused to underwrite the cost of providing a lawyer from Maddocks Lawyers to assist Council to interpret the legal advice, citing budget constraints and the dissolution of the Planning Delivery Unit (PDU) within the Department.

REPORT:

Council is concerned if a liability exists for itself, as a consequence of the existence of the dugouts at White Cliffs, which were created under a mining licence and a Crown Land licence.

Additionally, Council would be unable to assess any future development applications to the White Cliffs dugouts as Council does not have the specialist professional staff required to evaluate development to a dugout (excavated hole).

The dugouts do not have any planning or construction approval under New South Wales Planning legislation. Furthermore, the dugouts do not comply with the National Construction Code of Australia requirements for structural integrity, light and ventilation, and more particularly, fire safety measures where the dugout is a commercial premises (motel or B&B type accommodation).

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has recommended that Council obtain its own independent legal advice in respect to the Maddocks legal advice, particularly in relation to the

contents of the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012*, the draft Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024, and what information is provided in the Central Darling Shire Council Website.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has also recommended that Council undertake an audit of any interaction with the licensees, owners or occupiers of the dugouts at White Cliffs. This is due in part to a recommendation made within the legal advice provided by Maddocks Lawyers.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.1 Design and implement governance systems within the shire that are culturally responsive and ensure communities have effective local democratic structures and representation
		2.1.2 Undertake ongoing engagement with shire Communities to ensure their input in the design of local governance structures and services
		2.1.3 Manage governance of the Central Darling region in co-operation with other existing governance systems including those provided by Local Area Land Councils and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and Community Working Parties
		2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Negative
Environmental	Negative
Economic	Negative
Governance	Negative

Financial and Resource Implications:

Potential cost to Council to obtain its own legal advice in regard to Councils liability, and other legal issues.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Possible legal and liability issues in regard to the White Cliffs dugouts. Possible legal and statutory implications due to the clause within the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012*.

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

Concern on possible public and Council liability in regard to the White Cliffs dugouts.

OPTIONS:

To not act on this issue may have an impact on Council future actions and liability, in regard to the occupation and use of the White Cliff dugouts.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

No

External Exhibition:

No

Attachments:

1. [Maddocks Lawyers legal advice on White Cliffs dugouts](#) 

11.2 ROADS AND AERODROMES

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6313
REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

State Roads

Council is engaged by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to maintain the State Highway network within the Shire boundaries. The two State Highways are the Barrier Highway and the Cobb Highway.

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

2023/24 RMCC Routine Maintenance allocation is: \$1,200,506.

2023/24 RMCC Works Orders value is \$2,804,465

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining budget
Routine	\$1,200,506	71%	\$302,697
WO	\$2,804,465	96%	\$1,059,264

Regional Roads

Council maintains 790km of Regional Roads throughout the Shire.

2023/24 Regional Road Block Grant amount (including roads, traffic and supplementary components) is \$2,919,000

2022/23 Regional Roads Repair Program was successful with \$400,000 funding of the \$800,000 total cost. MR68C Pooncarie Rd, reconstruct and seal 2.64km of failed pavement which is now completed.

The Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) allocation for Regional Roads is \$4,224,500. The works include improvements to unsealed formation, gravel resheeting works and culvert works. Works will be delivered over 3 years.

The Pooncarie Rd Initial Seal Project is programmed for completion by June 2024. 59.5km have now been sealed of the 61km. The new bridge structure at Yampoola Creek has now been completed and approach works are in progress. The pavement and verge damage sustained as part of the earlier flood events have been approved by TfNSW and are in progress.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Regional Road Block Grant	\$2,919,000	100%	\$0
Regional Roads Repair Program 2022/23	\$800,000	100%	\$0
RERRF – Regional Roads	\$4,224,500	36%	\$2,696,304
Pooncarie Rd IS project	\$39,600,000	93%	\$2,675,077

Local Roads

Council maintains 1600km of Local Roads throughout the Shire.

2023/24 Operating budget is \$1,994,730 funded from the Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) – Local Roads Component.

2022/23 Roads to Recovery (R2R) allocation is \$1,001,818. Two capital improvement projects were carried over to this financial year due to flooding and construction delays. This work is programmed for completion by June 2024.

2023/24 Roads to Recovery (R2R) allocation is \$1,001,818. Three capital improvement projects are programmed for completion by December 2024.

The Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) allocation for Regional Roads is \$6,250,475. The works include improvements to unsealed formation, gravel resheeting works and culvert works. Works will be delivered over 3 years.

Fixing Local Roads (FLR Rd 3) Program was successful for funding of \$1,860,000 with contribution amount of 10% to complete the realignment, construction, and seal of the ring road around Smiths Hill, White Cliffs. Works are now completed.

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

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

Fixing Local Roads (FLR Rd 4) Program was successful for funding of \$2,343,471 with contribution amount of 10% to complete the realignment, construction, and seal of the Racecourse Road Menindee. Initial survey and Environmental works have been completed. Native Title Claim and legal road issues are in discussions with Crown Lands and the Barkindji Native Title Corporation. Further information is provided in this agenda for Council’s consideration.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Local Roads Component (FAG)	\$1,994,730	0%	\$0
Mandalay Rd Floodways (R2R)	\$750,000	82%	\$137,912
Wilc-Menindee East Rd Formation (R2R)	\$251,818	100%	\$0
Ivanhoe-Menindee Rd RCBC (R2R)	\$400,000	9%	\$362,510
Wilc-Menindee East Rd RCBC (R2R)	\$201,818	9%	\$184173
Teryawynia-Ashmont Rd RCBC (R2R)	\$400,000	9%	\$362,379
Smith’s Hill White Cliffs (FLR Rd 3)	\$1,860,000	100%	\$0
Turley’s Hill White Cliffs (LRCI Rd 3)	\$1,600,000	100%	\$0

Racecourse Rd (FLR Rd 4)	\$2,343,471	5%	\$2,237,706
Fixing Local Roads – Pothole Repair Round	\$821,414	100%	\$0
RERRF – Local Roads	\$6,250,475	29%	\$4,425,820

Aerodromes

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

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

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Aerodromes R&M	\$246,000	51%	\$120,074

Attachments:

NIL

11.3 SERVICES

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6320
REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

Services Operational:

The table below reflects budgets and expenditure to date for each operational area.

Works Description	QBR Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Parks & Gardens/ Sporting Facilities	\$250,000	94%	\$15,923
Ancillary Works	\$160,000	36%	\$101,822
Street Cleaning/Bins	\$280,000	98%	\$6,370
Buildings	\$312,550	97%	\$9,249
Swimming Pools	\$380,000	104%	-\$14,496
Domestic Waste	\$300,000	100%	\$1,385

Note:

That amended budget figures have been included from QBR review

Services Capital:

There are a variety of capital services infrastructure improvements programmed this year which are detailed in the Grants Register section of this Agenda.

Attachments:

NIL

11.4 WATER AND SEWER

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6347
REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

Water & Sewerage Operations:

- Wilcannia’s potable water supply is sourced from the Darling River Weir Pool. Estimated supply once weir stops flowing is 6 months. There are three emergency bores equipped for use for town supply, one of which was in poor condition due to iron and manganese corrosion of bore casing and headworks. Repairs have now been completed
- White Cliffs town water supply is sourced from Wakefield Tank, storage supply is estimated 10 months’ supply remaining. There is no emergency supply for White Cliffs, water carting is necessary in the event of nil rainfall and depleted catchments.
- Ivanhoe town water supply is currently being sourced from Morrison’s Tank. Morrison’s Tank capacity, 150 megalitres. 6 months’ supply remaining. Ivanhoe has 5 emergency bores equipped for use for town supply.
- The Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer Program contributes to Councils operational costs for services supplied to the Wilcannia Mallee and Waralli precincts.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Wilcannia Water	\$479,500	104%	-\$19,734
Wilcannia Sewer	\$230,000	69%	\$72,269
White Cliffs Water	\$181,200	72%	\$49,888
Ivanhoe Water	\$335,700	72%	\$94,640
Tilpa Water	\$23,000	233%	-\$30,666
Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer program	\$144,770	40%	\$86,895

Water and Sewer Capital Works

- Sewer Pump Well Upgrade Works have been completed in Wilcannia. The new diesel generator pump units are designed to automatically start if existing pump infrastructure fails, reducing the risk of an overflow event.

The works were completed by Pensar, a company engaged by DPE Water Group as part of the new Wilcannia Weir Project

- The White Cliffs WTP project is in progress. Initial civil works have been completed by Council including site clearing and shaping, lagoon excavations, tank pads, building slabs and associated plumbing works.

SNG Engineering have commenced works March 2024 and completion is forecast for November 2024.

- The White Cliffs Reticulation works commenced 22 May 2023 and have been in progress to December 2023. Approximately 60% of the town reticulation upgrade length have been completed.

Council is liaising with both Federal and State funding agencies to source additional funding to enable Council to complete the White Cliffs original funding deed scope of works and the new Water Treatment Plants at Ivanhoe and Wilcannia.

White Cliffs WTP, Reticulation, Rising Main and Reservoir Augmentation works are currently funded by Restart NSW. Ivanhoe and Wilcannia WTP's are funded by the Safe and Secure Water Program.

- The Ivanhoe Water Treatment Plant Tender is subject to determination report in this agenda.
- Tilpa Village emergency water supply works including a 17km pipeline and bore were completed by June 2023. Further water quality testing is required and possible water treatment and storage options are being investigated
- Smart meters were scheduled for 2023/24 in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia. Delays with Taggle and contractors installed have been encountered to date.
- Asbestos Cement (AC) mains replacement works have been completed in Wilcannia
- Electrical switchboards at Ivanhoe, Morrisons Lake inlet and storage, have been replaced and be upgraded.

The table below reflects expenditure for Capital Projects.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
White Cliffs WTP and Retic	\$5,500,000	83%	\$943,287
Wilcannia WTP	\$3,500,000	48%	\$1,834,615
Ivanhoe WTP	\$2,500,000	48%	\$1,289,595

Smart Meters	\$50,000	0%	\$50,000
AC Main Replacements	\$150,000	100%	\$0
Tilpa Reservoir	\$50,000	0%	\$50,000
Ivanhoe Raw Water Switchboard Upgrades	\$75,000	100%	\$0

Attachments:

NIL

11.5 REGISTERED SURVEYS OF WEST WILCANNIA ROAD AND THE SOUTH WESTERN SECTION OF WILCANNIA**FILE NUMBER: GD24/6367****REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR PLANNER****RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To provide Council with information regarding the proposed registered survey work for the West Wilcannia Road and the south western section of Wilcannia.

The registered survey work is required for the West Wilcannia Road as it is not located within the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012* identified road reserve. The current road alignment of the West Wilcannia Road dissects various properties owned by Crown lands and private land owners.

The registered survey work for the south western section of Wilcannia is required to provide land owners with legal access via formed streets or lanes, and for the provision of water services and other utilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the requirement to survey the current location of the West Wilcannia Road and to facilitate negotiations with the land owners in regard to the acquisition of the affected land for the legal road corridor.
2. Note the requirement to provide land owners and future land owners of lots in the south western section of Wilcannia with legal formed street access to their properties and to enable the provision of services and infrastructure.

BACKGROUND:**History**

The misalignment of the West Wilcannia Road has been known to Council for many years. As part of the Legal Roads Network (LRN) project, the Office of Crown Lands NSW, is offering to include the gazettal of the West Wilcannia Road which will include the acquisition of the land where the road reserve is currently located. This work to the West Wilcannia Road would be part of the Legal Roads Network project that Crown Lands is currently progressing as part of the Wilcannia Weir project, to legalise and gazette, the Union Bend Road.

As part of this project, Crown lands has requested that Council provide the registered survey drawings for the current West Wilcannia Road alignment and the boundaries of the lots that are impacted.

The south western section of Wilcannia has no legal formed streets or lanes. As properties in this section of Wilcannia have been recently purchased it is contingent on Council to provide legal street access to these properties. To facilitate the formation of the streets, council requires accurate survey drawings of the street and lot layout.

REPORT:

Council has sought quotations from three registered land surveyors for the survey work. Currently only two registered land surveyors have responded.

The estimated surveying work costs for the two projects is approximately \$100,000.00, based on quotations received for the proposed work.

This survey work has not been budgeted for within the 2023 2024 council budget.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
1 Community and Culture	1.1 Housing	1.1.3 Identify and secure necessary funding to improve and add to existing housing stock with the construction of sustainable, environmentally appropriate and culturally responsive houses in Wilcannia and Menindee
		1.1.4 Identify and pursue opportunities such as 'rent-to-buy' programs and favourable loan structures to facilitate greater home ownership in local Aboriginal communities
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.2 Undertake ongoing engagement with shire Communities to ensure their input in the design of local governance structures and services
		2.1.3 Manage governance of the Central Darling region in co-operation with other existing governance systems including those provided by Local Area Land Councils and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and Community Working Parties
		2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities
		2.1.5 Maintain an adequate stock of local housing for appropriate council staff
		5.1.1 Ensure the Local Environment Plan is developed to reflect local housing needs
5 Rural and Urban Land Use	5.1 Land availability for housing	5.1.2 Identify land areas in Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe for new housing development
		5.1.3 Identify land areas in Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe for further development of social and community housing
		6.3.1 Ensure ongoing rural and regional equity of access
6 Infrastructure and Services	6.3 Local and regional roads	6.3.3 Maintain an annual schedule of road works according to the Asset Management Plan
		6.3.4 Ensure ongoing funding to provide road maintenance and upgrade services across the shire

	6.5 Local services	6.5.1 Ensure the planning and provision of services to Central Darling Shire communities reflects current and future community needs
--	--------------------	--

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

The proposed survey work has not been budgeted for in the 2023 2024 council budget. However, due to the offer from Crown lands to do the legal and acquisition work for the West Wilcannia Road, and the recent sale of land in south west Wilcannia, both projects are a high priority.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

The urban and rural addressing project and the subsequent legalisation of the Central Darling Shire Council roads, streets and lanes has highlighted the legal and statutory implications of the current location of the West Wilcannia Road and the issue of the lack of legal formed streets and lanes in the south western section of Wilcannia.

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

There is an urgent requirement to have legal access to properties in south western Wilcannia. The current alignment of the West Wilcannia road runs through Crown land reserves and private properties, this may be an issue if an accident occurs.

OPTIONS:

N/ A

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

N/A

External Exhibition:

N/A

Attachments:

NIL

11.6 FLOOD DAMAGE UPDATE**FILE NUMBER: GD24/6369****REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES****RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on flood damage works within the Central Darling Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

REPORT:**REPORT:**

Storm and flood events from November 2021 to September 2022 resulted in damaged infrastructure across the Shire. This report addresses road infrastructure only, whilst additional damage and costs were incurred at Menindee during flood events, those details are not included here.

Event AGRN 987 – Severe Weather and Flooding 9 November 2021 onwards:

Emergency works completed on 4 local roads only up to 23 November 2021. Continued wet weather prevented further emergency works. Expenditure \$17,358 was approved and payment received.

Event AGRN 1001 – Southern NSW storms and floods from 5 January 2022 onwards:

Emergency Works completed on 14 local and regional roads up to May 2022.

Claim 1, expenditure of \$1,711,185 was approved and payment received.

All emergency works completed by September 2023.

Final Claim of \$803,431 was approved and payment received

Event AGRN 1034 – NSW Flooding from 14 September 2022 onwards:

Emergency Works completed on 28 local and regional roads up to June 2023.

Extension of time to complete emergency works was granted due to ongoing wet weather delays.

All emergency works completed by 30 June 2023, expenditure \$2,692,369 was approved and payment received

Essential Public Asset - Restoration Works (EPA-RW) are works that require more significant restoration works to bring the asset back to its original state. In this regard, 4 packages totalling \$4,825,584 has now been approved. Correspondence is attached for Councils information

Damage Control Project Management (DCPM) have been engaged to assist Council with claims and reporting. The table below summarises information above

Event	Phase / Package	\$ Value	Status
987 - NSW Severe Weather and Flooding: 9 November 2021 onwards	Emergency Works	\$17,358	- Approved, payment received.
1001 - Southern NSW storms and floods from 5 January 2022 onwards	Emergency Works – Progress Claim	\$1,711,185	- Approved, payment received.
	Emergency Works – Final Claim	\$ 803,431	- Approved, payment received.
1034 - NSW Flooding from 14 September 2022 onwards	Emergency Works	\$ 2,692,369	- Approved, payment received
	EPA-RW – Package 1, Pooncarie Road	\$1,306,472	- Approved, works in progress
	EPA-RW – Package 2, Unsealed	\$1,349,387	- Approved, works in planning stage
	EPA-RW – Package 3, Sealed	\$2,056,591	- Approved, works in progress
	EPA-RW – Package 4, Trees & Structures	\$113,134	- Approved, works in planning stage

Further to a report tabled at the April 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council, “*Declined Request for Natural Disaster*”, no correspondence has been received regarding Council’s request to rescind the decision. Expenditure incurred to date from the February rain events emergency repairs is \$861,113

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
6 Infrastructure and Services	6.3 Local and regional roads	6.3.1 Ensure ongoing rural and regional equity of access
		6.3.4 Ensure ongoing funding to provide road maintenance and upgrade services across the shire

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Council's co-contribution amount of \$6,525 has been deducted from each claim amount. The remaining actual expenditure is reimbursed upon completion of works and payment claims.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Nil

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

Works are undertaken in accordance with Council's Integrated Management System framework documentation

OPTIONS:

N/A

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

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

Nil

External Exhibition:

Nil

Attachments:

1. [AGRN 1034 - NSW Floods - EPA Funding Letter](#) 

11.7 SHIRE SERVICES REPORT FOR APRIL 2024

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6381
REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR PLANNER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Environmental Shire services for April 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and Note the report.

REPORT:

Services:

Environmental Shire Services Statistics for April 2024		
Development approvals / final certificates issued under Part 4 and 5 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> . Number of certificates issued under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	Number of DA approved – New dwellings	0
	Number of DA approved – Renovation	0
	Number of DA approved – Commercial / Industrial/ other	1
	Total Value of DA approved	\$90,000.00
	Number of Construction Certificates issued.	0
	Number of LGA S68 Certificates issued.	0
	Number of Occupation Certificates issued.	0
	Number of Completion Certificates issued. (S68)	0
	Number of S10.7 Planning Certificate issued.	6
	Number of other certificates issued	2
Food safety	Food premises inspected	
Animal Control activities	Impounded	14 Dogs
	Surrendered	4 Dogs 0 Cats
	Rehomed	10 dogs

	Returned to owner	4 dogs
	Euthanised	0
	Registrations	0
	Microchip	1
	Penalty notice issued	0
Water sampling	Microbiology samples collected	11
	Chemistry samples collected	0
	Non compliant samples	0
	Darling River algae	0

Attachments:

NIL

11.8 EXHIBITION OF THE DRAFT CENTRAL DARLING DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2024

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6385
REPORT AUTHOR: SENIOR PLANNER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Provide Council with information on the proposed exhibition for community comment of the Draft *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024* for a minimum of 28 days.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse the exhibition of the draft *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024* for a minimum of 28 days.
3. Prepare a submission summary report outlining a community comments.
4. Finalise the *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024* taking into account any submissions received.
5. Council to adopt the final *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024*.

BACKGROUND:

The draft *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024* has been prepared over the last 3 years.

The draft *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024*, has been sent for comment to internal council officers and sent to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for comment.

The draft *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024* has incorporated the new flood mapping for the Central Darling Shire Council area.

PROCESS:

The draft *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024* has been prepared by council officers with the assistance of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The objective of the draft *Central Darling Development Control Plan 2024* is to provide guidance to the community for future development and to protect the natural and built environment of the Central Darling Shire Council area.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
5 Rural and Urban Land Use	5.1 Land availability for housing	5.1.1 Ensure the Local Environment Plan is developed to reflect local housing needs
		5.1.2 Identify land areas in Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe for new housing development
		5.1.3 Identify land areas in Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe for further

		development of social and community housing
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.1 Design and implement governance systems within the shire that are culturally responsive and ensure communities have effective local democratic structures and representation
		2.1.2 Undertake ongoing engagement with shire Communities to ensure their input in the design of local governance structures and services
		2.1.3 Manage governance of the Central Darling region in co-operation with other existing governance systems including those provided by Local Area Land Councils and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and Community Working Parties
		2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities
		2.1.5 Maintain an adequate stock of local housing for appropriate council staff

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	
Governance	

Financial and Resource Implications:

[Insert implications](#)

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

[Insert implications](#)

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

[Insert management](#)

OPTIONS:

[Insert options](#)

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

[Insert exhibition](#)

External Exhibition:

[Insert exhibition](#)

Attachments:

1. [Draft Central Darling -Development-Control-Plan-2024 15 5](#) 
2. [FFL_Map_Menindee DCP 2024](#) 
3. [FFL_Map_Tilpa DCP 2024](#) 
4. [FFL_Map_Wilcannia DCP2024](#) 

11.9 FIXING LOCAL ROADS ROUND 4 - RACECOURSE ROAD

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6434
REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information relating to the Fixing Local Roads (FLR) Round 4 project, Racecourse Road Menindee

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Withdraw the approved FLR project with Transport for NSW**
- 3. Submit change request with Transport for NSW for the reconstruction and seal of 3.5km of the Wilcannia-Menindee East Road.**
- 4. Continue with the land acquisition process of Racecourse Road, Menindee to enable Council to be in a legally compliant position as the Roads Authority to carry out works on that road with a view to applying for further grant funding in the future.**

BACKGROUND:

Council’s application for the reconstruction and seal of the Racecourse Road, Menindee was successful under the Fixing Local Roads Round 4 program. The funding deed was provided to Council in February 2023.

The approved funding amount is \$2,343,471.79 with 20% payment being received to date for milestone 1, agreement and initial planning.

REPORT:

The Racecourse Road preconstruction works suffered initial survey and design delays due to the flood inundation adjacent to the racecourse. Additionally, legal matters concerning Crown Lands and Native Title resulted in further complications. An extension of time for project delivery was granted and a variation deed was approved with the following timing of works details.

Milestone 1 – Executed Agreement & Initial Planning	Milestone 2 – Commence Construction	Milestone 3 – Open to Traffic	Milestone 4 – Project Completion
No Change	01/07/2024	20/12/2024	31/01/2025

The existing and proposed realignment of Racecourse Rd is intended to be of a permanent nature and to establish the existing road as a legal road. Council can undertake the acquisition of Crown land.

The process is by way of Compulsory Acquisition (CA) of Crown land under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991. As recently experienced with the acquisition of land on the Pooncarie Rd, Karoola Realignment, the process is expected to take more than 12 months.

The project is on land within the NCD2015/001 - Barkandji Traditional Owners #8 (Part A) Schedule Four Description of the Non-Exclusive Areas being the Barkandji Native Title Determination.

Native Title is addressed in the acquisition process as outlined in the "Guideline – compulsory acquisition of Crown land", however Crown Lands suggested that Council discuss and obtain the concurrence to the proposal from the Barkandji Native Title Group as well as Menindee LALC (ACL 6016).

Council staff attended the Barkandji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (**Barkandji Corporation**) directors meeting in Menindee on 11 October 2023 in which staff discussed a number of ongoing and proposed projects within the Central Darling Shire Council area, including the Racecourse Rd.

No objections were raised during the meeting, Council were to provide further information once available.

Further Environmental, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments, survey and design works were completed over the next few months.

Council received correspondence from the NTSCORP Limited, Deputy Principal Solicitor, on 12 March 2024 requesting an update with each project discussed at the meeting including:

- A brief summary of the status of each individual project.
- Any tenure material for the parcels of land affected by a project or any schematics, diagrams and maps which indicate the footprint of the project against Lot and DPs
- Copies of NSW Government Gazettes for any acquisitions, changes in reserved purpose/use of any affected Reserve or dedication.
- A copy of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report produced by OzArk Environment and Heritage for Racecourse Road.

Council responded via email to the contacts listed in the letter on 7 May 2024 with a Racecourse Rd project update and the requested documents. A meeting was requested in that email to *"welcome discussion on any pathway forward to be able to start construction in the new Financial year and be able to deliver the project by the funding deadline, March 2025"*

No response had been received at the time of writing the report.

Time and legal matters may be problematic for Council, and its contractors, to deliver the project within the specified funding deed timelines.

The resolution above seeks to withdraw the project and submit new proposal for similar scope of works on the Wilcannia-Menindee East Rd.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
6 Infrastructure and Services	6.3 Local and regional roads	6.3.1 Ensure ongoing rural and regional equity of access

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Negative
Environmental	NA
Economic	Negative
Governance	NA

Financial and Resource Implications:

20% payment of the funding amount has been received under milestone 1, being \$468,694.36. Council may need to return this money, or a portion of it.

Councils expenditure to date on the project is \$105,764.80

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

As detailed in the report.

No formal legal advice has been sought at the time of report writing.

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

Possible reputational risk may result in adverse reaction from the Menindee Community based on community expectation that the project is proceeding.

OPTIONS:

Contact Council’s preferred solicitors to obtain legal opinion to see if there are any legal avenues to proceed without compulsory acquisition.

Continue to liaise with NTSCORP to obtain consent to be able to deliver the project on time.

Submit change request with Transport for NSW for the reconstruction and seal of 3.5km of the Wilcannia-Menindee East Road.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Nil

External Exhibition:

Previous Media Releases on the project and funding.

Attachments:

1. [Guideline-Compulsory Acquisition Crown Lands](#) 
2. [Racecourse Rd Map](#) 

12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nil

13 RESOLUTION TRACKER

13.1 RESOLUTION TRACKER - APRIL 2024

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6433
REPORT AUTHOR: EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Resolution Tracker from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17/04/2024 be received and noted and any amendments be noted.

Attachments:

1. [Resolution Tracker April 2024](#) 

14 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

14.1 Ivanhoe Water Treatment Plant Tender

FILE NUMBER: GD24/6356

REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

Item 14.1 is confidential under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2) - (c) as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

14.2 Sale of Land-36-38 Hood Street and 25 McIntyre Street Wilcannia

FILE NUMBER: GD24/5858

REPORT AUTHOR: GENERAL MANAGER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

Item 14.2 is confidential under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2) - (d) as it relates to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

15 MEETING CLOSE

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

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 26 June 2024 in Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia at 10:30 AM.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 21 REID STREET, WILCANNIA
ON WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2024**

PRESENT: Administrator, Bob Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager)
Reece Wilson (Director Shire Services)
Glenda Dunn (Senior Planning Officer)
Kevin Smith (Finance Manager)
Uday Mamidala (Finance Officer)
Gabrielle Johnston (Community Engagement Officer)
John Carleton (Operations Manager)
Natalie Batson (Executive Assistant)
Nerida Carr (Governance Officer)

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was declared open at 10:30am

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

Nil

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

RESOLVED: OCM 01-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

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

CARRIED

No declarations were received.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED: OCM 02-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 March 2024 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)

7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

RESOLVED: OCM 03-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

As per tabled report

CARRIED

8 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.1 PROPOSED LEASE FOR A NBN ANTENNAE BETWEEN THE NBN CO. LIMITED AND CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL, LOCATED AT 38 JAMES STREET WILCANNIA

RESOLVED: OCM 04-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Agree in principle, to the draft Lease Agreement, for the location of the 40m monopole NBN antennae within Councils works depot, 38 James Street (Lot 2 DP 812602), for a maximum of 25 years.
3. Upon receiving Council legal advice and receipt of a complying Ident Survey Plan, delegate authority to the General Manager to sign documents relating to the execution of the lease agreement.

CARRIED

8.2 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - MARCH 2024

RESOLVED: OCM 05-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council

1. receive and note the report.

CARRIED

8.3 GRANTS REGISTER - MARCH 2024

RESOLVED: OCM 06-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report and note the report.

CARRIED

9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

9.1 DECLINED REQUEST FOR NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATION

RESOLVED: OCM 07-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

CARRIED

9.2 UPDATE ON THE WILCANNIA WEIR PROJECT

RESOLVED: OCM 08-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Council to continue to advocate by lobbying NSW DPIE, the community rejection of the redesign of the Wilcannia Weir project.

CARRIED

9.3 CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

RESOLVED: OCM 09-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Council will adopt the Draft Central Darling Shire Council Social Media policy to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.
3. Following public exhibition, a report to Council with comments from public exhibition and potential adoption of the Social Media Policy.

CARRIED

9.4 CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY PROCEDURE - COUNCIL OFFICIALS

RESOLVED: OCM 10-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Adopt the Central Darling Shire Council draft Media and Social Media Policy Procedure for Council officials.

CARRIED

10 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORTS

Nil

11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 HERITAGE ADVISORS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023 TO MARCH 2024

RESOLVED: OCM 11-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report and note the contents of the report.

CARRIED

11.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT MARCH 2024

RESOLVED: OCM 12-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and Note the report.

CARRIED

11.3 UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ROAD NAMING PROJECT INCLUDING

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED DURING THE MARCH 2024 EXHIBITION PERIOD FOR CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL AREA**RESOLVED: OCM 13-04-2024**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Note the 23 submissions received from the community for the March 2024 exhibition of draft road, street and lane names, in the Submission Summary Report.
3. Note the requirements for the correct procedure on road naming from the Geographical Names Board.
 - (a) Prepare a submission summary report on comments from the community on the proposed road names.
 - (b) Council to prepare a list of draft road names taking into account the community comments and the Geographical Names Board comments.
 - (c) Resubmit the draft names to the Geographical Names Board for approval.
 - (d) Re exhibit the draft names for community comment.
 - (e) Submit final road, street and lane names for gazettal by the Geographical Names Board

CARRIED**11.4 ROADS AND AERODROMES****RESOLVED: OCM 14-04-2024**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

CARRIED**11.5 SERVICES****RESOLVED: OCM 15-04-2024**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

CARRIED**11.6 WATER AND SEWER****RESOLVED: OCM 16-04-2024**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

CARRIED

11.7 PLANT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

RESOLVED: OCM 17-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. **Receive the report.**
2. **Consider adjusting the capital plant replacement budget 2023-24 as part of the Quarterly Budget Review process.**
3. **Consider the allocation of \$575,000 for capital plant replacement as part of the 2024-25 budget process.**
4. **Dispose of the existing Agrison Loaders in Menindee, Wilcannia and Ivanhoe in accordance with Council's Disposal of surplus assets policy.**

CARRIED

11.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REQUEST FOR TENDER EL0224 FOR SUPPLY OF RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

RESOLVED: OCM 18-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Provide the General Manager delegated authority to on behalf of Council negotiate and finalise participation in the Local Government Procurement Request for Tender EL0224 for Supply of Renewable Electricity within the Central Darling Local Government Area.

CARRIED

11.9 WEEDS BIOSECURITY

RESOLVED: OCM 19-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse the employment of a Biosecurity Officer
3. Share the position with Broken Hill City Council in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding
4. Delegate authority to the General Manager to sign any documents relating to the Memorandum of Understanding

5. Further report to be presented to Council regarding funding arrangements.

CARRIED

12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nil

13 RESOLUTION TRACKER

13.1 RESOLUTION TRACKER - MARCH 2024

RESOLVED: OCM 20-04-2024

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

1. That the Resolution Tracker from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20/03/2024 be received and noted and any amendments be noted.

CARRIED

14 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

15 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at **11:12am**.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Central Darling Shire Council held on Wednesday, 22 May 2024.

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ADMINISTRATOR