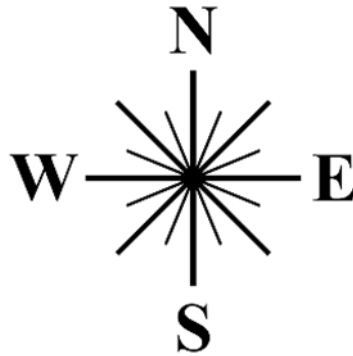


CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

26 MARCH 2025

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.

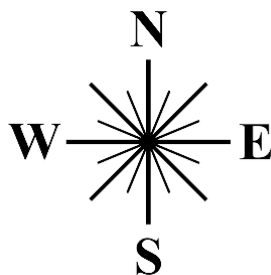
PUBLIC FORUM - EXTRACT FROM THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE POLICY

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, 26 March 2025

10:30 AM

Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

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

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 February 2025 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

Attachments:

1. [Ordinary Council Meeting - 26 February 2025](#)

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)

7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE -

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4636
REPORT AUTHOR: ADMINISTRATOR
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: ADMINISTRATOR

This month the GM and I will meet with The Hon Ron Hoenig MP Minister for Local Government and local member Roy Butler to discuss the implementation of the new Rural and Remote Council Model for Central Darling Council.

We will be seeking details on election timing and essential ongoing financial support for Council.

Also, this month I will represent Council at the Country Mayors Meeting which will be held in Sydney at Parliament House. Country Mayors is an excellent organisation that enables regional councils to bring forward issues impacting their areas. As they meet in Parliament House, good access is available to Ministers and Department heads.

One area the Association has been active in has been regional crime and have given evidence at the Parliamentary Inquiry into community Safety in Regional and Rural Communities.

Attachments:

NIL

8 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.1 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - FEBRUARY 2025

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4207
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 28th February 2025.

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	\$5,000,000.00	\$2,400,000.00	\$2,600,000.00	1.15%	\$3450.00	\$67,206.54
Operating Account	\$521,931.80	\$2,542,231.78	(\$2,020,299.98)	N/A	NIL	NIL
Post Office Clearing Account	\$783.80	\$0.00	\$783.80	N/A	NIL	NIL
Total Cash at bank as of 28th February 2025					\$5,522,715.60	

Commentary:

The net movement of cash for the month of February 2025 was an increase of \$580,483.82.

Payments for wages and creditors for the month of February 2025 totalled \$2,902,896.33 and receipts for the month totalled \$3,483,380.15.

Grant debtors outstanding at the end of February are calculated and summarised below:

Grant category	Fund	Amount
Roads	General	\$0.00

Flood damage emergency work	General	\$1,015,458
Flood damage restoration work	General	\$4,157,958
Water Treatment Plants	Water	\$866,577
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure	General	\$1,771,870
Power Outage	General	\$147,572
Other grants	General	\$242,373
Total		\$8,201,808

Please see the attachment on the Grants Register report for a more detailed breakup of the grants debtors and income.

Council's unrestricted funds for this period are less than projected, for the following reasons:

- Expenditure on major projects such as the water treatment plants for Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs continue, along with expenditure of Regional Emergency Road Repair Funding most of which was received in advance combined with expenditure on grants to be claimed after the completion of monthly or milestone reporting and expenditure on flood damage restoration which cannot be claimed until work has been completed, has impacted Council cash inflow.
- The grant debtors have increased as work is completed in line with the terms and conditions of the attached grants. Receipts from outstanding grant debtors has commence and is expected to continue as work is completed on projects and acquittals are submitted for the completed works.

Restrictions:

Restricted Cash and Investments	
	Feb-25
Externally Restricted ⁽¹⁾	(\$000's)
Specific purpose unexpended grants	6,898
Water supplies	-
Sewerage services	1,860
Domestic waste management	587
Total Externally Restricted	9,345
(1) Funds that must be spent for a specific purpose	
Internally Restricted ⁽²⁾	
Employees Leave Entitlements	935
Plant and vehicle replacement	8
Other Waste Management Reserve	125
Total Internally Restricted	1,068
(2) Funds that Council has earmarked for a specific purpose	
Total Restricted Funds	10,413
Total Cash & Investments	5,523
Unrestricted Funds (ie. available after the above Restrictions)	(4,890)
Outstanding Grants Debtors	8,202

Commentary:

The level of unrestricted funds required by Council is generally \$1,000,000. Currently Council's unrestricted funds are below this level mainly due to the receipt of grant funding in advance and expenditure on major items of capital and repair work, some of which will not be reimbursed until finalisation of the work and acquittal are submitted.

This situation is expected to improve as grant projects are completed.

Attachments:

1. [February 2025 Grant financial status](#)

8.2 WATER BILLING ISSUES - JUNE 2024.

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4545
REPORT AUTHOR: FINANCE OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

During the June 2024 billing cycle, Council identified some water meters on properties owned by Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council were not recording correctly. These meters were replaced by the end Aug 2024.

If Council does not bill the Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council for water usage during the time the meters did not record correctly, the cost to Council will be \$5,400.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note that Council will not bill the Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council for the water usage as recorded by faulty meters.

BACKGROUND:

While processing the water billing cycle in June 2024 for the period from March 2024 to May 2024, some water meters did not record any water usage while the properties were occupied.

An investigation of these meters showed that these meters were faulty or had failed. These water meters have been replaced with new smart meters at the end of Aug 2024.

REPORT:

The water meters incorrectly measured usage of water by an estimated \$5,400 for the period March 2024 to May 2024.

It is recommended that Council will not bill the effected property owners for this amount. This is due to the properties belonging to the Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council.

It should be noted that Council received the funding of \$73,749.00 for FY2023-24 under Aboriginal Water and Sewer Scheme.

Council has received a lot of negative feedback due to this issue.

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	NA
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Due to faulty meters, Council will not bill \$5,400 of fees for water usage.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

N/A

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

N/A

OPTIONS:

N/A

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

N/A

External Exhibition:

N/A

Attachments:

NIL

8.3 SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4547
REPORT AUTHOR: ACTING RATES OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the outcome of the sale of land for unpaid rates auction held 27 February 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Receive bi-monthly reports until such time that the contracts of sales have been completed, and the sale processes finalised.

BACKGROUND:

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 28 August 2024, Council resolved to sell 17 properties for unpaid rates and authorised the General Manager to carry out the relevant steps necessary to undertake the sale.

REPORT:

The auction was held on 27 February 2025 where 11 properties were offered and sold at auction.

In the period between the abovementioned Council resolution of 28 August 2024, until the auction was held, 6 properties were withdrawn for the reasons summarised below:

Reason	Number of properties withdraw
Paid in full	1
Payment arrangements entered	4
Withdrawn pending termination of Western Land Lease	1
Total	6

Of the eleven (11) properties offered for sale at auction, all were sold.

All contracts were signed, and deposits were paid on the day. Eight (8) of the properties, which sold for less than \$10,000 were subject to payment of a 100% deposit on the day with the remaining three (3) properties subject to 10% deposits, also paid on the day. Deposit monies are held by the appointed real estate agent pending release once settlements occur.

The contracts provide for settlement within 21 days i.e. by 20 March 2025, although it is possible some contracts may be delayed, by agreement, due to the relatively short settlement periods provided in the contracts.

Council purchased three (3) properties as covered under a separate report in the Business Paper for this meeting.

The auction results are summarised in the attachment to this report.

All sales (including of properties purchased by Council) will result in a shortfall which will require write-off, as purchasers are not liable for outstanding rates. In total, write-offs are estimated at \$154,000. Write-offs will be processed individually upon settlement of each contract.

Council’s doubtful debt provision calculations at 30 June 2024, for the properties which sold, totalled \$200,000. This reflects an overprovision (recovery) of \$52,000 which is to be addressed when Council’s overall doubtful debt provision is reviewed at 30 June 2025.

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 Improved cashflow and crystallisation of some doubtful debt exposure
Governance	NA

Financial and Resource Implications:

A decrease in Council’s doubtful debt provision may be required at 30 June 2025.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

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

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

Proceeding with the sales was necessary to reduce further negative impacts on Council’s cashflow and Doubtful Debt Exposure.

OPTIONS:

None identified.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

N/A.

External Exhibition:

The proposed sales were advertised in the NSW Government Gazette (as required under the Local Government Act 1993), through appropriate local media and on Council's website and social media page(s).

Where contact was possible, all affected owners, occupants and other known interested parties were directly notified in writing of Council's decision.

Various public notices were issued by Council in the lead up to the sale and a list of properties was available on Council's website (updated as and when properties were withdrawn).

Commercial marketing of the proposed sales occurred in the weeks leading to the auction.

Attachments:

1. [Sale Results - Central Darling Shire Council Sale of land for unpaid rates auction 27 February 2025](#)

8.4 GRANTS REGISTER - FEBRUARY 2025

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4707
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 28th February 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive 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 February 2025, 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 February 2025, including a work plan to June 2025, 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 February 2025 Monthly Report](#)
2. [Morris & Piper 3rd quarter grant status review](#)
3. [Morris & Piper Grant Opportunity Tracking](#)
4. [February 2025 Grant financial report](#)

9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

9.1 AMENDMENT TO VENUE HIRE AGREEMENT

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4328
REPORT AUTHOR: RISK & WHS OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the background and information Council currently facing with community members hiring council facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. It is recommended that an amendment be made to Central Darling Shire Councils Venue Hire Agreement and a condition be added stating that "Council will not take hiring bookings at Wilcannia Hall for private functions for birthdays and personal celebration events, if alcohol is involved.

The General Manger is authorised to reject any hire applications, of Council venues, based on its merits, if there's potential damage to be caused to the Council facility."

BACKGROUND:

Following the recent hire of the Wilcannia Hall for private birthday functions, the hall was returned damaged and dirty. On these occasions, the Bond for the hire (\$282.20) was not returned to the persons hiring the venue.

Repairs to damage and cleaning of the Wilcannia Hall following the hire of venue exceeded the bond hire, such damage:

- Floors not clean
- Broken Bottles
- Toilet Door damaged
- Broken Tables

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:

None

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

The internal management of the hall falls within existing governance arrangements.

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

Reduced damage to council facilities and assets.

OPTIONS:

Adopt the resolutions as recommended and implement the necessary actions.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

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

External Exhibition:

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

Attachments:

1. [CDSC - VENUE HIRE AGREEMENT](#)

9.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & TOURISM UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4338
REPORT AUTHOR: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Community Engagement and Tourism Activities in the Shire.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

- 1. Receive the report

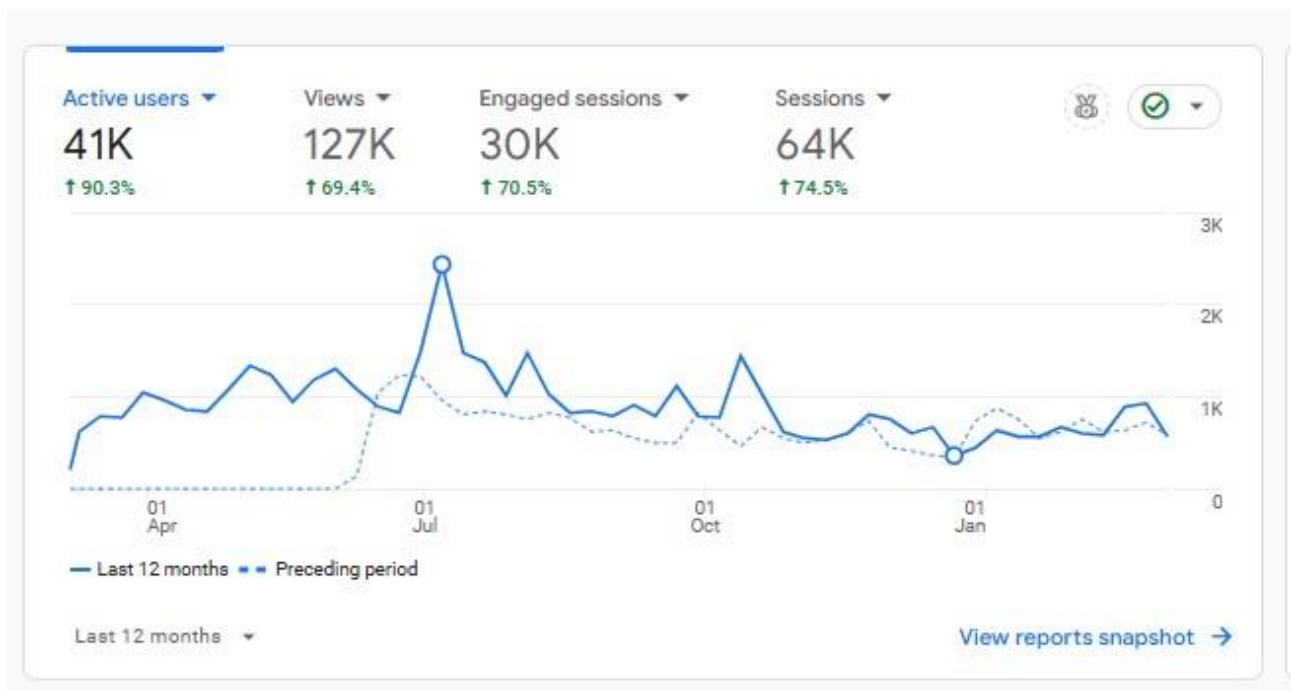
BACKGROUND:

Community Engagement and Tourism are important areas within the Council operations. The Council strives to keep the community informed about news, activities and events in the Shire. This is done through a variety of avenues including social media, the Council website, resident newsletter, media releases, public notices, printed material, and media interviews. The Community Engagement officer also acts as a point of contact with the Community and the Tourism sector.

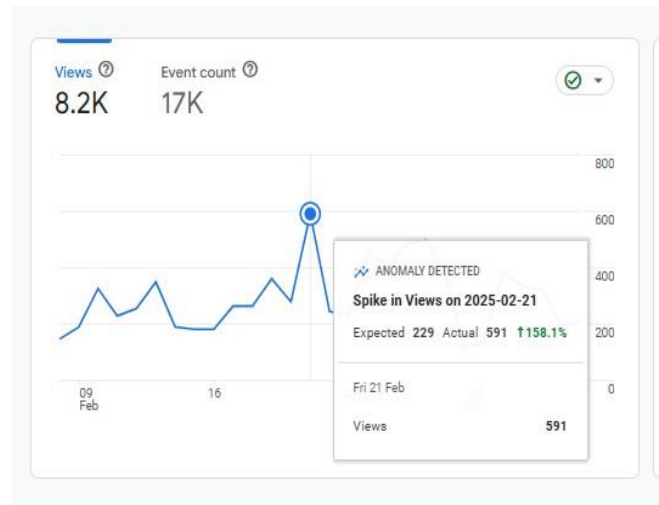
REPORT:

Central Darling Shire Council Website

Website analytics, pictured below, shows that the Council website is continuing to grow with more people visiting the website for information.



Of interest is a spike in website traffic on February 21. This can be directly attributed to a post on Council’s Facebook page about the sale of land for unpaid rates, which directed people to the website for further information. The community Engagement officer continues to remind people that the website has further information about various posts. This is resulting in increased website traffic.



Above: Website analytics shows a spike in traffic to the website. **Left:** the Facebook post directing people to the website for information about the sale of land for unpaid rates. This post had 7612 views and a reach of 4588.

Right: A snapshot of what people are looking at on the website.

For the first time Shire Road Reports were not the number one item viewed on the website.

The Properties for Sale in Central Darling Shire website page was the top searched page. People were searching for more information about the sale of land for unpaid rates and also the properties being sold as surplus land.

	Page path and screen class	Views
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Total	8,150 100% of total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 /Home	1,139
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 /Services/Properties-for-sale-in-Central-Darling-Shire	935
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 /Services/Road-conditions	771
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 /Tourism/Visit-Wilcannia/Victory-Caravan-Park-Book-online	689
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 /Search-Results	400
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 /oc-search-results	248
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 /Council/Careers-and-Jobs/Careers	206
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 /Tourism/Ivanhoe	181
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 /Council/Meetings	153
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 /Council	138

Councillor website portal

Council is working with its website provider Granicus/Open Cities to develop a Councillor Portal in preparation for elected and appointed councillors. This site will provide all the necessary information for councillors including Council meeting papers, information and reports. Each councillor will be given an individual log-in to access this restricted site. The site is currently in the design phase and at this stage is scheduled to go live at the end of April with further testing once this occurs.

Social Media

Facebook remains the standout in Council’s social media. The Council page continues to consistently grow in followers. There are now 6335 followers, which is an increase of 135 people in the last three months.










Above: An overview of Council’s Facebook page for February 2025.

Some of the top Facebook posts

We are seeing increased interest in posts relating to careers and Council meetings. Followers were also interested in the Central Darling Shire Outstanding Community Service Awards and also the Australia Day Ambassador to Menindee, Ultramarathoner Craig Goozee. People also wanted to know about the power outage inquiry, town road works and plenty more.

	<p>Central Darling Shire is a great place to live and work. Find out more about working with us on our website. https://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au/Council/Careers-and-... Tue, Jan 7</p>	Views	Reach	Interactions
		5,768	3,145	15
	<p>The December Council meeting will be held next week. All residents welcome to attend. Details on Council's website. https://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings Dec 11, 2024</p>	Views	Reach	Interactions
		782	381	2
	<p>Congratulations to the Central Darling Shire Outstanding Community Service Award recipients recognised on Australia Day at Ivanhoe. The awards are an opportunity to acknowledge... Tue, Jan 28</p>	Views	Reach	Interactions
		1,877	1,161	21

	<p>Congratulations to the Central Darling Shire Outstanding Community Service Award recipients recognised on Australia Day at Menindee. The awards are an opportunity to acknowledge...</p> <p>Mon, Jan 27</p>	Views 7,140	Reach 3,230	Interactions 24
	<p>This week we presented the remaining Outstanding Community Service Awards. Congratulations to the award recipients. • Rebecca Hatch - Citizen of the Year. • Owen Whyman – Service t...</p> <p>Fri, Feb 28</p>	Views 3,475	Reach 2,052	Interactions 16
	<p>Congratulations to the Central Darling Shire Outstanding Community Service Award recipients recognised on Australia Day at White Cliffs. The awards are an opportunity to acknowledge...</p> <p>Mon, Jan 27</p>	Views 6,641	Reach 3,054	Interactions 47
	<p>Please see information about Australia Day in Menindee.</p> <p>Wed, Jan 15</p>	Views 5,084	Reach 2,823	Interactions 29
	<p>Inquiry into the electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024.</p> <p>Wed, Jan 15</p>	Views 3,755	Reach 2,044	Interactions 14
	<p>A reminder that roadworks are due to start next Tuesday, 25 February, in Wilcannia on Adams and Wilson Streets. The unsealed streets will be reconstructed and sealed. The Roads to Recovery...</p> <p>Wed, Feb 19</p>	Views 6,077	Reach 4,417	Interactions 21
	<p>We love the trees in Reid street Wilcannia on the footpath near the TAFE. Planted in late 2022 this is one of many, and the first to start flowering. Council is pleased to support streetscape...</p> <p>Tue, Feb 4</p>	Views 19,951	Reach 16,857	Interactions 569

The Facebook Page – **Properties for Sale in Central Darling Shire** has 395 public members. This is an increase of 78 members, from the last Community Engagement and Tourism report to the Council’s December 2024 meeting where it was noted that there was 317 members for the page.

Tourism

As Council would be aware Central Darling Shire is a member of the **Darling River Run**. At the February meeting the member Councils agreed to aspects including the upgrade of Darling River signage, photography and video shoot, and website upgrade. The Darling River Run is extremely popular with outback tourists and among the major tourism drivers in Central Darling.

Council is represented on the **Far West NSW Tourism Networking Group** which meets bi-monthly. This group provides a wonderful opportunity to share industry information and knowledge about all things tourism in the Far West region.

Council may recall that in 2023 Central Darling Shire Council welcomed a \$45,455 Community Heritage Grant for the project known as **Stories behind the Stones**. The project aims to unravel stories from the region’s pioneer cemeteries and include these stories in the Central Darling Heritage Trail app. The project team is visiting Central Darling Shire at the end of March. At this stage it is expected that the project will be completed in April.

In summary Community Engagement and Tourism continues to be a busy area of work within Council. So far, the results being seen in 2025 indicate good feedback and engagement with Council’s information sources (website etc.), and we look forward to this continuing to grow.

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	1.5.3 Identify opportunities to establish periodic and ongoing community events
		1.5.4 Provide shire communities with administrative and other assistance in organising and managing community events
4 Local Economy	4.3 Tourism	4.3.5 Identify and pursue opportunities to use digital technologies to promote tourism across the shire

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

There are costs associated with Tourism as an example membership to the Darling River Run.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

NA

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

NA

OPTIONS:

NA

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

NA

External Exhibition:

NA

Attachments:

NIL

9.3 STRATEGIC RISK - CLIMATE CHANGE

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4688
REPORT AUTHOR: GOVERNANCE OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to inform Central Darling Shire Council (CDSC) of the assessment of Climate Change as a strategic risk facing the organisation, and to help with relevant policy decisions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

In July 2024, the Statewide Mutual Board invited NSW member Councils to apply for a funded initiative, nominating one Risk Management project. CDSC were successful in obtaining the services of a Senior Consultant Risk and Resilience to work with staff on understanding studies of the risk of Climate Change and the need to consider these.

Climate projections for the Far West region this century developed by a partnership of various NSW Government authorities and the Climate Change Research Centre are:

- Average temperatures increasing
- Number of hot days increasing
- Variable rainfall, with annual averages decreasing
- Number of severe fire weather days increasing.

A workshop facilitated by a Marsh consultant on behalf of Statewide Mutual was conducted in December 2024 with various senior CDSC staff, resulting in the identification and risk assessment of a total of 16 risks:

Impact Rankings by Scenario					
Scenario	Temperature	Hot Days	Rain	Fire Weather	Total
Extreme	0	0	0	0	0
High	4	0	1	0	5
Medium	1	4	3	2	10
Low	0	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	5	5	4	2	16

Of these, seven risks were identified as requiring future adaptation planning:

Ref ID	Risk Statement	Impact on Council's ability to:	Functional Area	Current Controls	Adequacy of Control	Rating
T1	An increase in average temperature may shift the seasonal demand for the use of recreational areas (e.g. longer open season for swimming pools and or evening use of sporting facilities) resulting in increased operational costs to Council.	C - Protect existing community structures and the lifestyle enjoyed by the local people	I - Infrastructure & Assets	Ad-hoc decision based on weather and financial situation at the time. Pool Operations Management Plan	Mostly (reduces impact)	MEDIUM
T2	An increase in average temperature may lead to adverse impact on management of vegetation in public areas/ reserves/ parks, resulting in greater use of water.	D - Sustain and enhance the physical and natural environment	I - Infrastructure & Assets	Asset Management Plan for Open Spaces.	Mostly (reduces impact)	HIGH
T3	An increase in average temperature could lead to greater/ faster degradation of Council assets and infrastructure resulting in greater maintenance along with renewal and reduced lifespan of assets.	C - Protect existing community structures and the lifestyle enjoyed by the local people	I - Infrastructure & Assets	Asset Management Plan for Open Spaces.	Mostly (reduces impact)	HIGH
T4	An increase in average temperature may cause changes in biodiversity and ecosystems resulting in medium to long term/ permanent impact on the local environment leading to decline in broader economy and mental health of community.	B - Protect and enhance the local economy	C - Corporate Services	Integrated decision based on coordination of the three tiers of government. Drought Resilience Plan	Mostly (reduces impact)	HIGH
T5	An increase in average temperature may cause changes in the quality and quantity of Council's water storage and distribution systems leading to lack of water quantity and quality.	C - Protect existing community structures and the lifestyle enjoyed by the local people	I - Infrastructure & Assets	Water Integrated Management Plan. Asset Management Plan for Water Infrastructure	Mostly (reduces impact)	HIGH
R2	An increase in rainfall intensity may cause significant environmental impacts from excessive runoff resulting in community isolation and damage to infrastructure	C - Protect existing community structures and the lifestyle enjoyed by the local people	I - Infrastructure & Assets	LEMP. Natural Disaster Declaration Flood Management Plan (In development) Insurance Cover	Mostly (reduces impact)	HIGH
R3	A decrease in rainfall could lead to reduced yield into water storages during certain periods of the year, resulting in decrease of quality and quantity of water supply.	D - Sustain and enhance the physical and natural environment	I - Infrastructure & Assets	Water Supply Management Plan, Draught management Plan (IWCM)	Mostly (reduces impact)	MEDIUM

The attached report was discussed and approved by the Management / Executive Group (ManEx) at their meeting on 26 February 2024.

Council is encouraged to review and consider these results.

Attachments:

1. [CDSC Climate Change Risk Assessment Report](#)

9.4 MAARI MA HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION- PURCHASE LAND AT MENINDEE

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4765
REPORT AUTHOR: GENERAL MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of the report is to advise Council formal enquiry from Maari ma Aboriginal Health Corporation to purchase Council-owned land, Lot 1 DP 1064220, in Darling Street to construct a health facility that focus on child health and general health care services. The recommendation in the report seeks approval for the General Manager seeks independent valuation for Lot 1 DP 1064220 and reports back with the land valuation for Council consideration in the sale of the land to Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Council seeks independent valuation for Lot 1 DP 1064220.
3. The General Manager reports back to Council on the Independent Valuer valuation (Lot 1 DP 1064220), with costs to make the existing housing suitable and complaint for tenants, for Council consideration to proceed with the sale of the land.

BACKGROUND:

Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Corporation has expressed interest in purchasing land at Menindee to build a health facility that focus on child health and general health care services. The General Manager has had discussion with the CEO from Maari Ma Health for land availability in Menindee.

Identified as preferred Council-owned land, Lot 1 DP 1064220 in Darling Street, which is adjacent to NSW Far West health facility. Lot 1 DP 1064220 is freehold, is classified as Council Operational Land and appraised in six parts because each dwelling site is assessed individually. Each part is valued at \$2,400 by the VG (unimproved land value only), making the total \$14,400. Initially, there were six dwellings on the allotment; however, one dwelling was damaged by fire and subsequently demolished in late 2023, leaving five remaining.

REPORT:

The zoning designation for Lot 1 DP 1064220 in Menindee is RU5 Village. The establishment of a health facility that focus on child health and general health care services on this site would be permissible, subject to the approval of a development application.

The five existing timber-framed, clad buildings likely contain asbestos. If asbestos exceeds 10m², a licensed remover is required for demolition. The council has not investigated the soil condition on this site and does not suspect any soil contamination.

Currently, four of the dwellings are leased for accommodation purposes, while one remains vacant due to being uninhabitable. The overall condition of the existing dwellings is poor condition, requiring extensive building maintenance and effluent disposal work to be done. Details to be provided in the following report to Council if considering the sale.

The lease agreements are based on the standard NSW Real Estate Contract with the existing tenants. Although the lease agreements expired in June 2024, they have transitioned to periodic leases. Should there be a need to terminate any of the lease agreements, the lessor is required to provide a 90-day notice to the tenants.

In compliance with the Council’s Acquisition and Disposal of Land Policy, an independent valuation must be obtained prior to considering the sale of the allotment.

In the recent land auction for unpaid rates held in late February, Council purchased allotment 49 Menindee Street, Lot 2 DP39788. The allotment is 2,000m2 in area, and would be suitable for two to three small demountable homes. This allotment could be made available to the state government public house authorities or non-government organisation for public housing, to ensure if any tenants are displaced from the Darling Street housing could be accommodated, or alternative solutions to be found.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
1 Community and Culture	1.2 Services and facilities for children and young people	1.2.4 Increase the provision of programs and services to address local drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse by children and young people
		1.2.3 Increase the provision of services for children and young people who encounter domestic violence and abuse
	1.3 Services and facilities for and aging population	1.3.3 Ensure the availability of a range of local services to address home support needs of older people
		1.3.2 Provide appropriate services and facilities to meet the mobility needs of older people

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

There will be a cost to Council to engage an Independent Valuer to value the land.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Acquisition and Disposal of land Policy -In response to a proposal which achieves specific policy goals of CDSC. This exclusion aims to allow Council an opportunity for delivery of a unique project.

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

Nil

OPTIONS:

Council could elect to sell the land, by not proceeding with the land valuation.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Not required

External Exhibition:

Not required

Attachments:

1. [Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation -Letter](#)
2. [Acquisition and disposal of land policy](#)

10 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORTS

10.1 PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES BY COUNCIL AT SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4514
REPORT AUTHOR: ACTING RATES OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides Council with an update regarding properties purchased at the auction sale of land for unpaid rates on 27 February 2025 and proposes to classify those properties as Operational Land.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. *Receive the report*
2. *Give public notice, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) s 34, providing not less than 28 days during which submissions may be made to Council, of a proposed resolution to classify the properties listed in Attachment 1 to this report, as operational land in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) s 26.*
3. *Receive a further report after submissions have closed, consider classifying the properties listed in Attachment 1 to this report, as operational land in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) s 31(2).*

BACKGROUND:

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 February 2025, Council resolved to

1. Receive the report.
2. Authorise the General Manager to bid, at the sale of land for unpaid rates auction on 27 February 2025, for properties listed in Attachment 1 to this report, up to the maximum amounts indicated in Attachment 1.
3. Authorise the General Manager to execute contracts and all other documentation necessary to complete the transfer of properties purchased by Council at the sale of land for unpaid rates auction on 27 February 2025.
4. Affix Council's Seal to any transfer documents where Council is the purchaser.
5. Receive a further report at its Ordinary Meeting scheduled for 26 March 2025 detailing any properties which are purchased at the sale of land for unpaid rates auction on 27 February 2025 to consider classifying those properties Operational in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) Section 34.*

REPORT:

Council purchased three (3) properties at the sale of land for unpaid rates auction on 27 March 2025 for a total purchase price of \$10,480. Each property was purchased for either the reserve price or slightly less than the reserve price set prior to the auction and well below the value of rates and charges outstanding against each.

All purchased properties are vacant parcels.

This report proposes to classify all purchased properties as operational land as this will enable Council to put the land to an operational use and/or dispose of the land if and as need or demand arises in the future.

To classify land acquired after 1 July 1993, either before its acquisition or within 3 months after it acquires land, Council may resolve that the land be classified as community land or operational land. However, before it resolves to classify land, Council must give public notice of its intent to do so, providing a period of no less than 28 days during which it may receive submissions of the proposal.

Should Council adopt the recommendations in this report, the public exhibition period is anticipated to run from 28 March 2025 until 28 April 2025 and a further report will be provided on the proposed classification at Council’s Ordinary meeting on 30 April 2025.

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 Several parcels purchased are suited to social housing purposes.
Environmental	Positive One property purchased is flood affected. In Council’s ownership and once demolished, this property will no longer present a risk to the environment or community.
Economic	Positive Removal of low demand properties from a recurring cycle of annual rates and increased doubtful debt.
Governance	Positive Appropriate use of Council resources to assist improved delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities.

Financial and Resource Implications:

Purchase costs, including conveyancing fees, is estimated at \$15,000, provision for which will be made from within existing Administration budget items in the March 2023 Quarterly Budget Review. As the properties were purchased for less than the value of rates outstanding, the cost of purchase, excluding purchase conveyancing fees, is fully offset by a corresponding reduction in Council’s doubtful debt exposure.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

The *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) Div 1 S 25 to 34* set out requirements to classify public land.

Specifically, *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) S 31* provides that, for land acquired after 1 July 1993, Council effectively has up to 3 months after it acquires land to classify it as operational otherwise it will be taken to have been classified as community land.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) S 34*

- (1) A council must give public notice of a proposed resolution to classify or reclassify public land.
- (2) The public notice must include the terms of the proposed resolution and a description of the public land concerned.
- (3) The public notice must specify a period of not less than 28 days during which submissions may be made to the council.

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

None identified.

OPTIONS:

Resolve to or allow, by default, land to be community land. This option is not recommended as community land cannot be sold.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

None undertaken

External Exhibition:

A public exhibition period of not less than 28 days is required.

Attachments:

1. [Properties purchased at sale of land for unpaid rates auction 27 February 2025](#)

11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4488
REPORT AUTHOR: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Environmental Services Performance for February 2025 for Central Darling Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

REPORT:

Statistics for February 2025		
Development approvals and final certificates issued under Part 4, Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Number of Certificates issued under the Local Government Act 1993.	Number of DAs Approved – New Dwellings	0
	Number of DAs Approved – Renovation	1
	Number of DAs Approved – Other	1
	Total Value of DAs Approved	Total: \$38,876.00
	Number of Construction Certificates / Crown Construction Certificates Issued	1
	Number of Complying Development Certificates issued	0
	Number of LGA S68 Approvals	0
	Number of Occupation Certificates Issued	0
	Number of completion Certificates issued (S68)	0
	Section 10.7 Planning Certificates	12
Food Safety	Food Premises Approvals-	2
	Food Safety Inspections	3
Animal Control Activities -	Impounded	9 Dogs
	Surrendered	0 Dogs
	In pound at end of month	0 Dogs
	Escaped	0 Dogs
	Rehomed	2 Dogs
	Returned to Owner	3 Dogs
	Euthanized	4 Dogs

	Registrations	0 Dogs
	Microchipped	0 Dogs
	Penalty Notices Issued	0
Water Sampling	Microbiology Samples Collected	12
	Chemistry Samples Collected	0
	Non-Compliant Samples	0
	Darling River Algae Samples	0
	Pool Samples	8
	Raw Water Toxic Water Test	2

Attachment: Nil

Attachments:

NIL

11.2 ROADS AND AERODROMES

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4676
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).

2024/25 RMCC Routine Maintenance allocation is: \$1,387,606.

2024/25 RMCC Works Orders value is \$2,097,413

- SH8 Heavy Patching \$487,191
- SH21 Heavy Patching \$868,450
- SH8 Resurface Prep \$553,364
- SH21 Resurface Prep V1 \$407,071

All WO from previous year (2023/24) have now been completed, value \$3,806,616

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining budget
Routine	\$1,387,606	50%	\$690,607
WO	\$2,316,077	100%	\$0

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

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 reached Practical Completion 20 August 2024. Staff have completed the final completion report for State and Federal Government agencies and the road was officially opened on Friday 28 February 2025.

The pavement and verge damage sustained as part of the earlier flood events have also been completed August 2024.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Regional Road Block Grant	\$2,919,000	73%	\$797,932
RERRF – Regional Roads	\$4,224,500	96%	\$160,166
Pooncarie Rd IS project	\$39,600,000	100%	\$0

Local Roads

Council maintains 1600km of Local Roads throughout the Shire.

2024/25 Operating budget is \$1,994,730 funded from the Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) – Local Roads Component.

2024/25 Roads to Recovery (R2R) allocation is \$1,001,818. Six capital improvement projects are programmed for completion by June 30, 2025. The two projects for White Cliffs initial seals, Johnston Street and the Blocks Rd, will be subject to rainfall and water availability to complete roadworks

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 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. Extension of Time has been granted by TfNSW – start construction 1/6/2025, project completion 20/12/2025.

Council attended the annual general meeting of the BNTC in Buronga, 30 November 2024, to present and update the members on the project details. Council have received a letter of support

from NTS Corp on behalf of the BNTC. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) is being drafted by NTS Corp which will be presented to Council for consideration upon receipt. Further survey work is being undertaken to ascertain alignment and proposed road easement width and area's. Land valuation of the area will occur March 2025.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Local Roads Component (FAG)	\$1,994,730	59%	\$827,244
Adam St IS (R2R)	\$60,000	33%	\$40,081
Wilson St IS (R2R)	\$160,000	19%	\$130,107
Johnston St IS (R2R)	\$150,000	0%	\$150,000
The Blocks IS (R2R)	\$420,000	0%	\$420,000
Lakeview Ave Drainage (R2R)	\$345,148	7%	\$319,560
Kingfisher Ave Drainage (R2R)	\$252,368	19%	\$205,128
Racecourse Rd (FLR Rd 4)	\$2,343,471	8%	\$2,148,499
RERRF – Local Roads	\$6,250,475	58%	\$2,602,590

Maintenance

Five grading crews are currently working on local and regional roads within the Shire. A brief summary of activities is detailed below for Council’s information.

Crew 1

- February/ March/ April SR33 Abbotsford Rd, Ivanhoe aerodrome, SR20 Baden Park Rd

Crew 2

- February/ March/ April Wilcannia aerodrome, SH8 Barrier Highway shoulder grading, MR68B Wilcannia-Menindee West Rd

Crew 3

- February/ March/ April Racecourse Rd, Loop Rd, MR433 Ivanhoe-Menindee Rd RCBC approaches, SR10 Menindee-Wilcannia East Rd RCBC approaches, MR68B Wilcannia-Menindee West Rd

Crew 4

- February. March/ April SH21 Cobb Highway Heavy patching, MR435 Opal Miners Way Heavy patching, Wilson & Adams st reconstruction Wilcannia

Crew 5

- February/ March/ April SR3 Tilpa-Tongo Rd, SR5 Wanaaring Rd

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 10 for the Wilcannia amenities and water supply was unsuccessful.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Aerodromes R&M	\$313,000	57%	\$136,139

Attachments:

NIL

11.3 DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN**FILE NUMBER: GD25/4686****REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES****RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information and documentation to enable Council to endorse the updated Drought Management Plan and implement control measures in times of drought.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Endorse the CDSC Drought Management Plan
2. Consult with key State Government agencies detailed in the *Communications Plan* section of the CDSC Drought Management Plan

BACKGROUND:

As part of Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy, a drought management plan is required so that actions for managing water supplies during droughts can be implemented effectively.

Council's Drought Management Plan has now been updated and is attached to the agenda for consideration.

REPORT:

As detailed in the Drought Management Plan, the primary objective of the Drought Management Plan is to ensure continued water supply during drought conditions in order to meet water users, public health and fire-fighting's needs.

This Plan aims to:

- Ensure a robust, timely, efficient, and affordable response to drought;
- Facilitate the application of restrictions at a local level for council-operated water supplies;
- Provide a clear water restriction regime for all water users; and
- Reduce the impact of water extraction on the available resource and other water users while minimising disruption to customers.

The operational objectives relate to preparing for drought as well as the actual implementation of restriction during a drought. The operational objectives are:

- Provide an action plan that will ensure operational standby;
- Ensure regular monitoring of water resource information, climatic conditions and seasonal forecasts;
- Ensure the introduction of water restrictions is well-considered and planned;
- Implement drought management actions at defined trigger points;
- Ensure clear communication to the public and visitors regarding water restrictions requirement and access to information;
- Ensure that operating and managerial staff have a clear understanding of this plan; and

- Continually review the effectiveness of the existing procedures, and developing alternative measures if improvement is needed.

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

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
6 Infrastructure and Services	6.2 Drinking water	6.2.1 Ensure that water treatment plants under council’s management are well-maintained and comply with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
		6.2.2 Ensure that all relevant state agencies are working effectively to facilitate the availability of clean drinking water for all towns within the shire
		6.2.3 Investigate alternative drinking water supplies, including bore water, for White Cliffs
		6.2.4 Identify and secure funding to upgrade and improve water treatment plants within the shire
		6.2.6 Maintain water-carting services to identified properties when required
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:

As detailed in the CDSC Drought Management Plan

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Legislative requirements relating to management of water supplies during drought include:

- NSW Local Government Act, 1993
- NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Reg. 137 regulates water supply restrictions
- NSW Water Management Act 2000
- NSW Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Regulation 2022

- NSW Work Health and Safety Act, 2011 and Regulation.

Other related guidelines and standards include:

- Water Supply and Sewerage Strategic Business Planning and Financial Planning Checklist (NSW Office of Water, 2014)
- Drought Management Guidelines (Water Directorate, 2003)
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (NHMRC/NRMMC, 2004)
- NSW Health Guidelines for Water Carters (NSW Health, 2005)
- Penalty Notices – Fixed Penalty Handbook for Local Councils (Infringements Processing Bureau, NSW Police Service).
- Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy

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

Nil

OPTIONS:

Do not endorse the CDSC Drought Management Plan

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Nil

External Exhibition:

Nil at this time. Limited communication with key stakeholders and businesses that will be affected when restrictions are implemented.

Once endorsed and key State Government agencies comments are received, a community awareness media campaign can be implemented to make the public aware of actions that will directly impact them.

Attachments:

1. [CDSC Drought Management Plan](#)

11.4 WATER AND SEWER UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4709
REPORT AUTHOR: OPERATIONS MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Water and Sewer Maintenance, Capital Works and expenditure on all assets with 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 town supply usage. They were all maintained in good working condition.
- White Cliffs town water supply is sources from the Wakefield Tank. Wakefield Tank storage supply is estimated 5 months’ supply remaining. There is no emergency supply for White Cliffs.
- Water restriction level 2 was announced for White Cliffs on 3 March 2025. Relief rainfall on 9 March provided addition water supply for Wakefield Tank. Water restriction was removed on 10 March.
- Ivanhoe town water supply is currently being sourced from Morrison’s Dam. Morrison’s Dam capacity is 300 megalitres. 8 months’ supply remaining. Ivanhoe has 5 bores equipped for town supply usage.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Wilcannia Water	\$464,500	55%	\$206,971
Wilcannia Sewer	\$305,000	18%	\$248,715
White Cliffs Water	\$124,000	107%	-\$9,057
Ivanhoe Water	\$347,500	48%	\$180,379
Tilpa Water	\$62,000	6%	\$58,506
Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer program	\$144,700	4%	\$138,862

Water and Sewer Capital Works:

- The White Cliffs WTP is at practical completion stage. The project moves to defects liability period of 12 months. All work required under the contract for White Cliffs New Water Treatment Plant has been completed in a satisfactory manner by SNG Engineering in February 2025, subject to the discovery of defects after final completion, and except for items specifically excluded in the letter of final acceptance. The water treatment plant is capable of producing potable water. Training for water operators is in progress with closely monitoring from the Engineering Department.

The White Cliffs Reticulation works commenced 22 May 2023. Approximately 98% of the town reticulation water mains have been completed with connections into individual properties are progressing well.

The Commonwealth Government has allocated an additional \$2,765,000 to complete the original scope of works outlined in the Restart NSW funding deed. The deed of variation had now been finalised.

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 was awarded to Liquitek Pty Ltd following Council resolution at the Ordinary Meeting of Council, May 2024. Final designs were approved, and construction was planned for this quarter.

Council received an amended executed funding deed for the Ivanhoe WTP to the value of \$5,850,000. The additional amount of \$3,350,000 was provided by the Commonwealth Government "Far West Water Treatment Plants" project funds.

- The Wilcannia New Water Treatment Plant tender has closed. Evaluation report and preferred supplier recommendation has been submitted to Council for approval.

Council received an amended executed funding deed for the Wilcannia WTP to the value of \$7,385,000. The additional amount of \$3,885,000 was provided by the Commonwealth Government "Far West Water Treatment Plants" project funds.

- Tilpa Village emergency water supply works including a 17km pipeline and bore were completed by June 2023. NSW Public Works has been engaged to study the current water supply system, design and provide proposal for an elevated reservoir for water storage.

The table below reflects expenditure to date for Capital Projects.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
White Cliffs WTP and Retic	\$8,265,000	96%	\$295,722
Wilcannia WTP	\$7,385,000	27%	\$5,377,184
Ivanhoe WTP	\$5,850,000	31%	\$4,029,053
Smart Meters	\$50,000	91%	\$4,720
Valve Replacement	\$150,000	122%	-\$33,172
AC Main Replacements	\$150,000	8%	\$138,600
Tilpa Reservoir	\$65,000	20%	\$51,973
Water Bubblers	\$30,000	54%	\$13,862

Attachments:

NIL

11.5 SERVICES UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4711
REPORT AUTHOR: OPERATIONS MANAGER
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:

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

Works Description	QBR Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Parks & Gardens/ Sporting Facilities	\$176,500	121%	-\$36,678
Ancillary Works	\$243,500	28%	\$176,217
Street Cleaning/Bins	\$315,000	62%	\$118,651
Buildings	\$301,700	53%	\$142,753
Swimming Pools	\$380,000	93%	\$26,845
Domestic Waste	\$323,500	76%	\$78,794

Attachments:

NIL

12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nil

13 RESOLUTION TRACKER

Nil

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 Supply and Delivery of Water Meters

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4680

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 Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant Tender

FILE NUMBER: GD25/4708

REPORT AUTHOR: OPERATIONS MANAGER

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

Item 14.2 is confidential under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2) - (c) and (d) 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 and 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, 30 April 2025 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, 26 FEBRUARY 2025**

PRESENT: Administrator, Bob Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager)
Reece Wilson (Director Shire Services)
Glenda Dunn (Senior Planning Officer)
Darryl Telfer (Acting Rates Officer)
Evelyn Pollard (Human Resource Officer)
Kara Mohr (Risk & WHS Officer)
Nerida Carr (Governance Officer)
Shirley Burraston (Management Accountant)
Thia Dang (Operations Manager)
Uday Manidala (Finance 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

No declarations were received.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 December 2024 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)

Motion/Resolved: The General Manager writes to the Member of Barwon (Roy Butler MP) seeking an update report on Wilcanania Wier Panel investigations and advise Council when will the investigations be completed.

8 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.1 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - DECEMBER 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. Receive and note the report.

8.2 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - JANUARY 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. Receive and note the report.

8.3 GRANTS REGISTER - DECEMBER 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

8.4 GRANTS REGISTER - JANUARY 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

8.5 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Note that the projected net operating surplus for the financial year 2024-25 is unchanged at \$15,000 and that there are no current amendments to the 2024-25 budget.
3. Note that the projected capital works budget expenditure for the financial year 2024-25 will be \$17.569 million.

9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

9.1 NEW POLICY - VERGE AND STREET TREE POLICY

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Approve the draft Verge and Street Tree Policy.
3. Place the Verge and Street Tree Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to allow for public review and submissions.

9.2 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

10 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORTS

10.1 COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATION- WHITE CLIFFS GYMKHANA CLUB

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Council approves the allocation of \$1,000 to White Cliffs Gymkhana and Rodeo Club from the Community Grants budget.

11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT JANUARY 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

11.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION APPROVAL - 34 JOHNS STREET IVANHOE**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Note the information within the delegated assessment planning report by the independent planning consultant for development application D17 – 2024 – PAN 489713 – 34 John Street Ivanhoe, for the installation of a manufactured dwelling, and carport with associated site and ancillary works.
3. Approve the development application D17 – 2024 – PAN 489713 – 34 John Street Ivanhoe, for the installation of a manufactured dwelling, and carport with associated site and ancillary works.
4. Declaration of Interest- Note Administrator voted on the matter for approval.

11.3 COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF SUBDIVISION CERTIFICATE NO. 09/2024 FOR LOT 3492 DP765784

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse the subdivision certificate No. 09/2024 issued under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1919*, for the proposed subdivision of Lot 3492 DP 765784 into two separate lots.
3. Stamp the subdivision certificate 09/2024 and plan for Lot 3492 DP 765784.

11.4 URBAN AND RURAL ADDRESSING PROJECT AND GAZETTAL OF ROAD NAMES**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Note the information provided.
3. Endorse the continuation of the gazettal of the remaining roads, streets and lanes.
4. Inform the Central Darling Shire Council residents and land owners of the new street addresses.
5. Inform relevant State and Commonwealth Departments and other relevant stakeholders of the new street addresses.

11.5 ROADS AND AERODROMES

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

11.6 WATER AND SEWER UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

11.7 SERVICES UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and Note the report.

12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nil

13 RESOLUTION TRACKER

Nil

14 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

It was resolved that Council moved into Confidential to consider the matters listed in the confidential section of the agenda in accordance with Section 10A 2 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for the reasons specified. Confidential section was closed to the public and began at 10.50am.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

14.1 Supporting Spontaneous Volunteers Program-appointment of consultant

Item 14.1 is confidential under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2) - (d) as it relates to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

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

14.2 Purchase of Land By Council - Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates Auction

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.

14.3 Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation- Inquiry Council owned land in Menindee

Item 14.3 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.

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

14.1 SUPPORTING SPONTANEOUS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM-APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Note funding to be received for the Supporting Spontaneous Volunteers Program and outlined in the Funding Deed Agreement which the project must be commenced by 31/1/2025 and be completed by 31/1/2026 and obtaining three written quotations would be problematic due to Council remoteness and consultants' local knowledge of the area.
3. Endorse the actions of the General Manager for the engagement of Morris Piper to undertake project management and delivery of Supporting Spontaneous Volunteers Program.

14.2 PURCHASE OF LAND BY COUNCIL - SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES AUCTION**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Receive the report.
2. Authorise the General Manager to bid, at the sale of land for unpaid rates auction on 27 February 2025, for properties listed in Attachment 1 to this report, up to the maximum amounts indicated in Attachment 1.
3. Authorise the General Manager to execute contracts and all other documentation necessary to complete the transfer of properties purchased by Council at the sale of land for unpaid rates auction on 27 February 2025.
4. Affix Council's Seal to any transfer documents where Council is the purchaser.
5. Receive a further report at its Ordinary Meeting scheduled for 26 March 2025 detailing any properties which are purchased at the sale of land for unpaid rates auction on 27 February 2025 to consider classifying those properties Operational in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) Section 34*.

14.3 MAARI MA HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPERATION- INQUIRY COUNCIL OWNED LAND IN MENINDEE

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. The General Manager writes to Maari Ma Aboriginal Health providing the information they have requested
3. As part of the General Manager correspondence to Mari Ma Aboriginal Health, if they wish to potentially purchase the allotment, they are to formally write and request Council acquires and independent land valuation.
4. The General Manager provides ongoing updates to Council.

15 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at **11.04am**.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Central Darling Shire Council held on Wednesday, 26 March 2025.

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ADMINISTRATOR