

Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

I would like to thank the Local Emergency Management Committee members, community organisations and local residents for assisting our communities during the power outage. The wide-spread support is so important at times like this as people struggle without power. The Local Emergency Management Committee is continuing to meet and monitor the situation. Various agencies are working to ensure that all the necessary issues and implications

are being resolved including impacts on communications and health. It would appear that the reliability of power cannot be assured until the major power infrastructure is restored. We welcome the NSW Natural Disaster Declaration and support. We also acknowledge and thank the Premier Chris Minns and Minister Penny Sharpe for visiting the Shire.

In November the General

Manager and I will attend the annual Local Government and Shires Association Conference in Tamworth. This is local government's peak representative body in NSW. The conference is important for local government as it sets policy and strategic direction. It is also the opportunity to catch up with other council mayors and general managers to build alliances.

Regards
Bob Stewart.

Updating progress on Water Treatment Plants

The **White Cliffs Water Treatment Plant** is 85 per cent complete. SNG Engineering started works in March and it is expected to be finished in November 2024.

The **White Cliffs Reticulation works** are progressing well. Approximately 90 per cent of the town reticulation upgrade length has been completed.

The **Ivanhoe Water Treatment Plant** Tender was awarded to Liquitek Pty Ltd after the May Council meeting. Initial design reviews are in progress.

The **Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant** has not been

awarded. Further process designs are being reviewed by the Department of Health to ensure the new plant will be capable of treating possible contaminated raw water supply from the proposed new weir pool.

It is anticipated to call tenders for the Wilcannia plant prior to December 2024.

The water treatment plants would not be possible without funding from the Commonwealth government, Restart NSW and the Safe and Secure Water program.



The White Cliffs Water Treatment Plant is expected to be completed in November. Work started in March this year. The Reticulation works at White Cliffs are also progressing well and almost finished.

Flood planning for the future - have your say

Central Darling Shire Council has engaged consultants to undertake the Central Darling Shire Flood Risk Management Study and Plan which will focus on the townships of Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Tilpa and Sunset Strip.

An important step in the preparation of this study and plan is the gathering of information on historic flood behaviour and an appraisal of what flood related issues are important to the community. A questionnaire is available for residents and businesses to assist the consultant in gathering this important information. The questionnaire is also available from Council offices and Council's website.



People have until Friday 29 November 2024 to provide information to the Central Darling Shire Flood Risk Management Study and Plan.

Wilcannia weir review panel announced

The NSW Minister for Water, Rose Jackson has appointed the Independent Review Panel for the Wilcannia Weir Replacement Project. It follows the Minister's visit to Wilcannia in June. Panel members were chosen following recommendations received from the community. The panel will look into the environmental impacts, safety and operational concerns that led the Department changing the design for a new weir following the public exhibition of the project's Environmental



Impact Statement. The review will consider the rationale for changing the weir's height and other community concerns.

The Review Panel members are:

- Geoff Wise – Chairman of the Western Lands Advisory Council. Geoff is the Panel Chair.

- James McTavish - former NSW Cross-Border Commissioner and Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator.
 - Professor Stuart Khan – member of the NSW Independent Water Advisory Panel.
 - A Murray Darling Basin Authority representative, as an observer.
- As part of the process, the panel will consider the views of the community. The panel will advise community of sessions to be held in Wilcannia when dates are available. The review is expected to take several months.

Water health focus

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is continuing its extensive data collection on the water quality and ecological health of the Darling-Baaka River and the Great Darling Anabranch on behalf of the Environment Protection Authority. This data is crucial for understanding the impacts of environmental



changes in the region, and developing strategies to protect the river. Keep an eye out for interim results for the broader monitoring program later this year. Water quality results are available on the NSW EPA website.



The Baaka Cultural Centre. Photo courtesy David Kaunitz (architect).

Baaka Centre nearing completion

Building of the Baaka Cultural Centre is expected to be finished before the end of this year, though the transfer of land title to the community will occur in early 2025, when the official opening will be

announced. The Annual General Meeting will be held from 10am on Saturday 9th November in the Wilcannia Community Hall. There will also be an open question and answer forum from 12.30pm

Central Darling Shire Council



Information about Council Elections

Work is continuing on preparations for the Local Government Elections for Central Darling Shire. Council has been meeting with the Office of Local Government as part of the process. For intending candidates there will be various

information sessions about the roles and responsibilities of being a councillor. A series of induction sessions will also be held for councillors once they are elected. On the Council website there is a range of information about the **Future**

for Central Darling and Becoming a Councillor. This information is available on the home page under the news section. information includes:

- *Media Releases*
- *Frequently asked Questions*
- *Shire Ward Boundaries*
- *Becoming a Councillor.*