

# Central Darling Shire Council

## Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

As we prepare for Central Darling Shire to come out of Administration I encourage all residents over the age of 18 to make sure you are on the electoral role to vote. It is vital that everyone who can vote has the opportunity to have their say about their preferred councillor. The new council will have a vital role in shaping the future of the Shire. At the end of August I attended drop-in sessions, along

with staff from the Office of Local Government, for people to come and talk about the future of the Council.

In July the NSW Government announced plans to bring Central Darling out of Administration. The government plans to introduce a new council model. Central Darling will become a 'Rural and Remote Council' made up of three locally elected councillors from the community and three

councillors appointed by the NSW Government with relevant expertise to support the stable and effective operation of the Council. I invited staff from the Office of Local Government to come out and talk to people about the plans and answer questions, after receiving feedback from the community about the short notice of the Minister's visit to make the announcement.

*Regards Bob Stewart.*

## Urgent road repairs

The Menindee – Ivanhoe Road (MR433) is receiving road pavement improvement works.

The low lying areas that are problematic following rainfall events are being lifted and shaped to improve drainage and surface shape.

The Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund has been developed to provide funding for local and regional roads across NSW. This funding is to support councils to undertake urgent repairs to their road network, which have been significantly impacted by severe flooding,



storm damage and persistent wet weather events during 2022.

The State funding is administered through Transport for NSW to Council as the asset owners.

The program total amount is \$10,474,974 to be delivered by 31 October 2027.

## Regional and local roads repair program funding

Central Darling Shire Council's contract grading crews are working on unsealed local and regional roads to improve surfaces for road safety.

Formation works and flood-way gravel re-sheeting works are in progress on:

- Menindee – Ivanhoe Road.
- Menindee – Wilcannia East Road.
- Monolon Road.
- Wilcannia – Tilpa West Road.

## Improving mobility access in Menindee

Menindee Improved Mobility Access Works are nearing completion.

Valued at \$178,000 the works are funded under the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Round 5.

The works are expected to be completed by the end of September.

- Menindee Public Amenities, concrete ramp works completed, hand-railing.
- Menindee Post Office, concrete ramp works, paving and hand-railing (pictured).
- Menindee IGA Supermarket, concrete ramp works and paving.

Increased disability support and streetscape beautification are highlighted in the Community Strategic Plan.



# Central Darling Shire Council

## Properties to be sold because of unpaid rates

Council will sell 18 properties within the Shire for unpaid rates.

The *Local Government Act* provides that Council may sell any land (including vacant land) on which any rate or charge has remained unpaid for more than five years. The sale of land for unpaid rates is a last resort to recover outstanding rates. Council has previously conducted sale of land for unpaid rates auctions.

Further details will be provided to the community including information about the public auction.

## Council to free-up surplus land

Multiple parcels of Council owned land will be sold. It follows a review of all operational land which was undertaken to identify parcels surplus to Council's needs and for which there is demand.

There have been many enquiries, especially from government departments including the Aboriginal housing office, NSW police and teacher housing, seeking suitable land

to construct housing.

By making available for sale surplus vacant land, Council will be assisting alleviate a critical housing shortage and convert non income producing assets into valuable cashflow. It is proposed that the land will be marketed on Council's "Properties for sale in Central Darling Shire" Facebook page and direct negotiation with NSW Government organisations.

## Storm funding approved

A storm event in the Shire which caused \$1.3 million in damages, earlier this year, has been declared eligible for support under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The storm was originally deemed not eligible for Natural Disaster Declaration assistance. However, after Council lobbied for a review, the good news has been received.

The Natural Disaster Declaration for the Central Darling storm event on 5-6 February has been approved. The storm

impacted roads and community infrastructure.

Council to date, has spent \$861,113 on remedial works, exceeding the \$250,000 Natural Disaster Assessment threshold. The storm impacted the northern areas of the shire, including the town of White Cliffs. While most of the damage was to unsealed roads, White Cliffs Golf Course incurred significant damage.



Congratulations to local photographer Geoff Looney on the publication of his book about birds of the Menindee Lakes area. The book was launched at the Broken Hill bookshop.

## Council News / Updates / Information

### September Council meeting rescheduled

The September Council meeting has been moved to Monday 23 of September instead of Wednesday 25 September. The Administrator will attend by video conference due to a personal appointment which will limit his ability to travel to Wilcannia for the meeting. The Administrator potentially will also attend the October Council meeting by video conferencing, depending on his ability to travel.

### Careers at Council - Casual Customer Service Officer

Central Darling Shire Council is inviting Expressions of Interest from people interested in casual employment as a Customer Service Officer.

This opportunity is to cover staff absences in Menindee, Ivanhoe and Wilcannia.

The details are on Council's website under the Careers tab.

### Ivanhoe Post Office

With the Ivanhoe Post Office being advertised for sale depending on the outcome Council is looking at options to ensure that Ivanhoe has a postal service into the future. If Ivanhoe and the surrounding area is in threat of not having a Postal Service Council will be looking to take the necessary actions to secure the services, while not imposing a large financial burden to Council. For this to be achieved financial support from Australia Post and State/Federal governments will be required.