



# CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

## MEDIA RELEASE

29 June 2023

### **Housing Unit Business Case report provided to the Council**

Across the Central Darling Shire area, there is an inadequate supply of diverse, well-built, and well-maintained social housing that is appropriate for local environmental conditions and reflects the needs of residents through all stages of life.

In 2021, overcrowded housing in the region exacerbated the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, drawing widespread media attention to the concerns and plight of the Wilcannia community.

In 2022, the Community Strategic Plan for Central Darling Shire identified housing as one of the local community's primary issues and challenges.

At the June Council meeting Council received a report acknowledging the Business Case for Establishing a Housing Unit, which was funded by the Department of Regional NSW.

The Housing Unit proposal is to operate as a distinct business unit within Council, with its own trading name and branding, but for all intents and purposes still part of Council's organisation. The Unit would not be a separate legal entity. Contractual arrangements for works by the Unit would be by way of maintenance contracts with social housing owners.

Council believes there is a business case to establish the Unit, but for the opportunity to be progressed, other stakeholders (RAHLA, NSW government, Aboriginal housing owners and manager/s) will need to give a firm commitment.

Council is not in a financial position to progress further with the Business Unit until there is a commitment from government or government agencies to advance the project. However, Council will continue to advocate for this project to be funded because it recognises there is a need across the Shire.

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