



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

September 27, 2023

Media Release

Proposal to reclassify Council owned community land to operational land

There has been a significant development in a long-standing land reclassification planning proposal of Council owned community land to operational land. An amendment to the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012* to reclassify 232 council-owned properties across the Council local government area from 'community' to 'operational' land is now on exhibition for public view and submissions.

It comes after Council received advice from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment that the amendment should proceed subject to meeting certain requirements. These conditions relate to: Public Exhibition; Consultation with Crown Lands and the Office of Local Government and a Public Hearing to be held at Wilcannia Council Chambers on November 21, 2023.

The *Central Darling Local Environment Plan* was made in 2012 with several Council owned sites incorrectly classified as community land, for an example: Council depot building etc. Additionally, Council acquired properties due to unpaid rates, which were classified as community land, as Council did not resolve to classify them within three months of their acquisition as operational land. Council has obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993* when land is classified as community land, including preparing plans of management and restrictions on the lease, sale or transfer of such land. All the sites proposed to be reclassified do not meet the *Local Government Act 1993* criteria for community land.

The 232 properties to be reclassified have been separated into six categories.

- Administrative use - properties with buildings that are used by Council, an agency or organisation. There are seven properties.
- Infrastructure - properties containing facilities such as a depot, stormwater drainage, water supply, solar and waste treatment plant. There are 29 properties.
- Community use - properties that are used by the public, such as community centre, cultural centre, caravan park, swimming pool. There are 12 properties.
- Properties that are being used for residential purposes. There are 20 properties.
- Roads and access - road reserves that are no longer needed. There are 10 properties.
- Vacant residential and rural land - There are 154 properties.

The department has determined that Council is not authorised to be the local plan-making authority for this proposal due to its limited resources to complete the process.

The amendment to the *Local Environmental Plan* is to be finalised on or before August 4, 2024.

The Public Exhibition period will finish at 4pm on October 26, 2023. The documents are being exhibited on the NSW Planning Portal and on the Council website under Public Notices and Exhibition Documents: <https://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au/Public-notice>.

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