

Central Darling Shire Council

Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

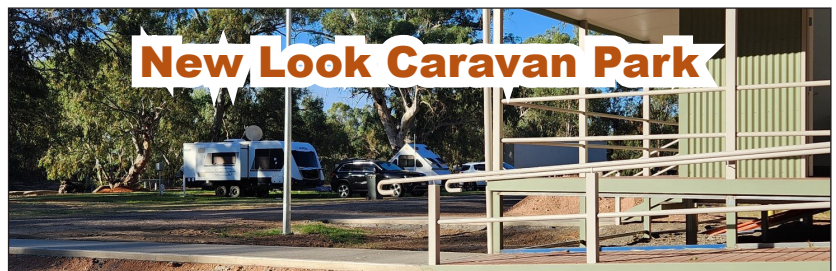
News that DPIE Water has changed the design of the Wilcannia Weir after extensive community consultation and agreement on the preferred design is very disappointing. The new weir will be a fixed crest steel pile and concrete construction. The original proposed height of the weir 66.71 AHD has now been reduced by one metre, to 65.71 AHD. This is a reduction of maximum volume from 5,654 MI to 2,577 MI (-3,077MI) storage of accessible water for Wilcannia residents. The existing old weir has a storage capacity 2,173MI of water. DPIE Water proposed redesign of the weir will only provide residents 404MI of additional water storage, compared to 3,077MI storage

which is what the Wilcannia community originally agreed to in 2022. The redesign will exclude gates and the bespoke concrete castellated ridge fishway and will be a manual vertical slot fishway, which the community believes is more dangerous and is unattractive. The reason DPIE Water has given for the recent redesign is complications in legislative water and fish passageway management requirements and operational and construction expenditure in delivering the project. DPIE Water is supporting Council with additional funding for the upgrade of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs water treatment plants, which was sourced from the federal government.

Furthermore, DPIE Water are considering constructing an additional bore to source additional town water supply and improve the potable water reticulation system in Wilcannia. Following extensive community input against the weir redesign proposal Council, at its March Meeting, resolved to request a meeting with the NSW Water Minister, the Hon Rose Jackson, and with the Local Member Roy Butler. The General Manager and I met the Minister and our local Member on 21 March at Parliament House and outlined the community and Council's rejection of the revised proposal. The Minister said her department would continue to work with the community to address concerns.

Over \$10-million for our Shire roads

Under the initial allocations of the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund Council has more than \$10-million to be spent over a three-year period on road repairs and emergency works. More detailed information is in the March Council meeting business paper on Council's website.



Wilcannia's Victory Caravan Park reopened in March after being closed to allow for major improvement works valued at close to \$500,000. These works

included a new amenities block. The Commonwealth Government's Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program is the primary funding source for the project.



Becoming Australian citizens

Congratulations to Liying Duan, White Cliffs, and Nathan Laming, Wilcannia, on becoming Australian Citizens at a ceremony held recently in White Cliffs. Also pictured is Council Administrator Bob Stewart, left, and General Manager, Greg Hill, right.

Booking Council venues

Across the Shire Council halls, pools, and grounds are available for hire. Council requires all relevant documentation to be lodged with the application form at least 14 days before the event/activity is intended to start. If an application is lodged without all documents the 14 days' notice period will start from the date on which all paperwork has been received by Council. This is to allow for the various approval processes to be completed in time for your event to go ahead. The necessary forms for the hire of Council facilities and/or to host an event are available at your nearest Council office or on the website.

Central Darling Shire Council

Pooncarie Road works update

The Pooncarie Road sealing project is expected to be finished by June this year.

As part of the recent works construction has been occurring on the bridge at Yampoola Crossing. In the latest update to Council 54 kilometres of the road project have now been sealed. The Pooncarie Road project will see 61 kilometres of road sealed between Menindee and Pooncarie. It is a \$39.6 million project with the Federal government having committed \$27.1 million and the State government \$12.5 million.



Work has been occurring on the bridge at Yampoola crossing.



Baaka Cultural Centre Works

Work is progressing on the Baaka Cultural Centre at Wilcannia. In recent weeks the majority of the work has been focussed around the Rammed Earth Walls.

The development of the \$9.5-million Baaka Cultural Centre is a regionally significant project.

When complete the centre will accommodate a range of activities (public exhibitions, performances, workshop, training and events) while also functioning as a visitor information centre, and meeting/gathering place for the community and a keeping place for artefacts.

Drought Resilience Planning underway

Central Darling Shire Council, Broken Hill City Council, and the Regional Development Australia Far West NSW Unincorporated Area are working together to produce a plan for drought resilience.

Funding for the project is under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program which is funded by the Australian Government and NSW Government under the Future Drought Fund. Our Councils are funded under round two of the program.

Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty said the expanded program acknowledges that each region in NSW is different and

needs a tailor-made approach to drought preparedness.

Work is already well underway with an Independent Consultant, Meridian Urban appointed to develop the plan.

The aim is to produce a plan with practical solutions that will support our communities prepare for and respond to drought.

Feedback from communities, stakeholders and First Nations people in the region is a priority and will be crucial to the success of the final working document.

As part of this process [a link to a survey for comment is on Council's website \(under Projects in the Shire\)](#) or a printed version is available at Council offices.



COMMUNITY EVENT
Come and see **WONKA**

Ivanhoe - Tuesday April 16
Wilcannia - Wednesday April 17
White Cliffs - Thursday April 18
Menindee - Friday April 19



FREE EVENT

April 2024 School Holidays - More details on Council's website