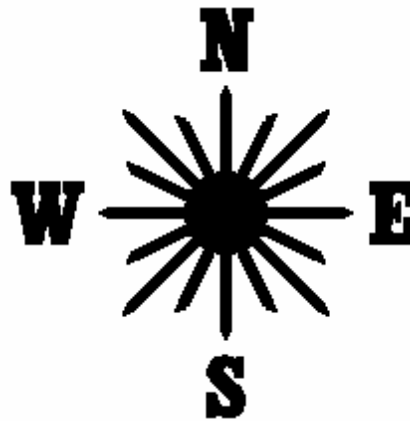


Mission Statement

To promote the Central Darling Shire area by encouraging development through effective leadership, community involvement and facilitation of services

CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes

For the Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 10th May 2005

at

Wilcannia

Council dedicated to serving its Communities.

Any public discussion of Council or Committee reports and recommendations is on the basis that such reports or recommendations do not have effect until adopted by a full meeting of Council.

The above-mentioned Meeting of Council was held in the Council Chambers, Wilcannia on Tuesday 10th May 2005 commencing at 9:12 am.

SECTION 1. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES AND THE GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4
SECTION 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.....	5
2.1 Business Arising out of Minutes.....	5
2.2 Notices of Motion/Rescission.....	5
SECTION 3. MAYORAL MINUTE OR REPORT.....	6
SECTION 4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT	7
4.1 Administration Matters.....	7
4.2 Information Items	7
4.2.1 Code Of Meeting Practice Pecuniary Interest.....	7
4.2.2 Wilcannia Safer Community Compact – NSW Attorney Generals Department.....	8
4.2.3 Shires Association of NSW 2005 Election of the Executive Council.....	8
4.2.4 Old Post Office – Wilcannia	8
4.3 NSW Road Classification Review	9
4.4 Australian Government Water Fund.....	9
4.5 Knox & Downs Building – Wilcannia.....	10
4.6 Children's (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 No 78 - Wilcannia	13
4.7 Payment of Professional Association Fees Policy	17
4.8 2005-2006 Draft Management Plan.....	18
SECTION 5. DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT	20
5.1 Schedule of Investments.....	20
5.2 Rates Collection Statement.....	21
SECTION 6. DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT.....	22
6.1 Activity Report April 2005.....	22
6.1.1 Administration	22
6.1.2 Plant.....	22
6.1.3 Water Supplies	22
6.1.4 Transport & Communication.....	23
6.1.5 Aerodromes.....	23
6.1.6 Next meeting.....	24
6.2 Information Items	24
6.2.1 Menindee Aerodrome.....	24
6.2.2 White Cliffs Road Opening.....	24
SECTION 7. MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT	26
7.1 Menindee Lakes Caravan Park	26
7.2 BASIX Certificates.....	27
7.3 Drinking Water Monitoring	28
7.4 NSW Food Regulation Partnership – Exposure Draft.....	29
SECTION 8. MANAGER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT.....	35
8.1 Grant Writing Workshops	35
8.2 Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet.....	35
8.3 Rural Transaction Centres	36
8.4 Financial Assistance Grants 2005.....	36
SECTION 9. RECEPTION OF CORRESPONDENCE.....	40
9.1 Media Releases.....	40
9.2 Circulars	40
9.3 Letters.....	41
9.4 Minutes.....	42
SECTION 10. THE RECEPTION OF REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES	43
10.1 Sunset Strip Progress Association Page 44.....	43
10.2 MANEX Minutes 14 th April Page 44-47	43
10.3 MANEX Minutes 20 th April Page 47-48	43
10.4 MANEX Minutes 27 th April Page 48-50	44
10.1 Sunset Strip Progress Association	45
10.2 MANEX Minutes – 14 th April 2005	45
10.3 MANEX Minutes – 20 th April 2005	48
10.4 MANEX Minutes – 27 th April 2005	49
SECTION 11. DELEGATES REPORTS.....	52
SECTION 12. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	53
SECTION 13. PUBLIC ACCESS - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC.....	54
SECTION 14. URGENT BUSINESS.....	55
SECTION 15. CONFIDENTIAL MEETING.....	56
SECTION 16. FIXING DATES AND VENUES FOR NEXT MEETING	57

**SECTION 1. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES AND THE
GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Peter Sullivan

Graham Wellings

Barbara MacMillan

Anthony Pease

Paul Brown

Mike Arandt

Moya Reid

Rick Doyle

Suzie Fisher

Clive Linnett

Ray Longfellow

Robert Vagg

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr Bill O'Brien

General Manager

Mr Tim Hazell

Director of Corporate Services

Mr Russell Bow

Director of Engineering Services

Mrs Leeanne Ryan

Manager of Environmental Services

Mrs Sharon Hutch

Manager of Community Development

Mrs Marilyn O'Brien

Senior Administration Officer

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies

SECTION 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the previous meeting be received

1-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Pease that the minutes of the previous meeting be received

MOTION CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted

2-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Linnett that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted

MOTION CARRIED

2.1 Business Arising out of Minutes

Cr Linnett reported, in answer to Cr Vagg's question last month on the Wentworth/Balranald Rural Counselling Service, that the Equity Based Debt is local sales debt that has been approved by Financial Institutions.

Cr Brown requested that the comments made on the Community Solutions Funding at the April meeting be minuted. Councillor Brown asked whether the variations to the Community Solutions Funding had been approved.

The General Manager replied that the Community Solutions Grant was a combined grant. Variations were necessary in order to complete the scope of work and projects funded under this program. The NSW Premiers Department were informed of these variations and no objection was received. All variations were considered to be in the spirit of the original application and were agreed to and adopted by Council and the Community Working Party. The total Community Solutions Funding is currently undergoing the final acquittal process where a final report and audited financial statements for the project will be presented.

2.2 Notices of Motion/Rescission

SECTION 3. MAYORAL MINUTE OR REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted

3-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Wellings that the Mayoral Report be received and noted

MOTION CARRIED

The Mayor reported on the "Opal Miner's Way" opening with the Minister for Roads The Hon Michael Costa MP, and Mr Peter Black MP OAM, Member for Murray-Darling. The Mayor said it was a great event, and the Engineering Department and the White Cliffs Community should be commended.

A presentation was made to Mr Geoff Sutton who had worked on the project from the start to the finish, not missing a single day!

The Mayor tabled a letter from the Mayor of Broken Hill City Council Cr Ron Page asking for support for the Darling River Action Group.

4-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Doyle that provided Council are invited to have a delegate to the Committee, Council donate \$500 to the Darling River Action Group

MOTION CARRIED

The Mayor also tabled a report given to him by Cr Moya Reid from the Menindee Barkandji Elders Group who would like to apply for funding to establish a Semi-Arid Farming and Irrigation Training College. The Elders Group are prepared to lease 30,000 acres of Appin Station in Menindee for this project. They are requesting a letter of support from Council.

5-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Wellings that Council write a letter of support for the Menindee Barkindji Elders Group to establish a Semi-Arid Farming and Irrigation Training College in Menindee

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the General Manager's report be received and dealt with

6-5-05 *Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Doyle, Seconded Clr Vagg that the General Manager's report be received and dealt with*

MOTION CARRIED

4.1 Administration Matters

Contract negotiations have been completed between the General Manager and the Director of Corporate Services.

In accordance with Council's resolutions 54-4-05 and 55-4-05, a further Three (3) year Performance Based Employment Contract attached to the Director of Corporate Services, Tim Hazell commenced on the 22nd April 2005.

I would congratulate the Director of Corporate Services on this appointment to a Senior Staff position and look forward to continuing an excellent working relationship.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the actions of the General Manager

7-5-05 *Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Doyle, Seconded Clr Arandt that Council endorse the actions of the General Manager*

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Information Items

4.2.1 Code Of Meeting Practice Pecuniary Interest

The Department of Local Government has become aware that a number of Councils, either within their adopted codes of meeting practice or by convention, purport to grant to Councillors the right to address Council or committee meetings on matters in which the Councillors have declared a pecuniary interest. Typically, this right is given to the Councillor in the capacity as a member of the public, prior to leaving the meeting.

Section 451 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that a Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of the meeting of the Council at any time during which a matter in relation to which the Councillor has a pecuniary interest is being considered by the Council.

The Department interprets this provision to prohibit a Councillor from remaining at a meeting or within sight of a meeting when the matter is being discussed, even if the Councillor purports to do so as a member of the public.

In the recent Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal decision of Councillor Kemper (PIT No 4/2001), the Tribunal found that the term "matter" is not limited to discussion and consideration that takes place in the context of a formulated motion or resolution.

Therefore, a Councillor who addresses a meeting on a "matter" in which the Councillor has declared a pecuniary interest may still be in breach of section 451 of the Act despite the fact that Council is not at the time considering a formal motion on the matter.

Councils should review their codes of meeting practice and if necessary remove any provisions of this kind.

4.2.2 Wilcannia Safer Community Compact – NSW Attorney Generals Department.

As Council has previously been advised, an application had been prepared and submitted to the NSW Attorney General's Department in November 2004 for consideration for Wilcannia to be considered under the Safer Community Compact program. The program attracts funding assistance in the order of \$50,000 to target juvenile crime. A range of programs were considered and approved by the Wilcannia Crime Prevention Committee and later adopted by Council and the Wilcannia Community Working Party for consideration under this program. Funding under this program is contingent on the adoption of the Plan by Council and approval of the NSW Attorney Generals Department.

Council has recently been advised that the program had been suspended as a result of internal movements within the Attorney General's Department but is now back on course. Latest advice suggests that all applications will be assessed in the very near future, possibly late April 2005.

4.2.3 Shires Association of NSW 2005 Election of the Executive Council.

Council has been informed by the State Electoral Office of the 2005 Election of the Executive Council of the Shires Association of NSW. The Electoral Commissioner for New South Wales will be the Returning Officer for the election. Nominations for all positions are hereby invited and nomination for President closes on the 24th May 2005 and the nominations for nine (9) Executive Councillors close on the 8th June 2005. Nomination forms are available from the General Manager.

4.2.4 Old Post Office – Wilcannia

Council has received advice that settlement for the purchase of the Old Wilcannia Post Office by Council was effected on the 20th April 2005. Documents of Title have been received. An amount of \$9,508.36 was deducted from the amount the vendor would have otherwise been entitled to. That amount represents the rate arrears.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information items be received and noted

8-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Reid, Seconded Clr Linnett that the information items be received and noted

MOTION CARRIED

4.3 NSW Road Classification Review

Council has received a copy of the NSW Road Classification Review **Interim** Report dated the March 2005. Included in the report is a recommendation that a portion of the Cobb Highway from Ivanhoe to Wilcannia be reclassified from a State Highway to a Regional Road.

Council has a clear and stated policy that the entire Cobb Highway remains a State Highway therefore it is most disappointing that this recommendation has been made with no consultation what so ever with Central Darling Shire Council.

Hay and Carrathool Shire Council's have both expressed serious concerns with any proposed reclassification and along with Central Darling jointly have requested an urgent meeting with the Review Panel to discuss issues and any impact surrounding this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the actions of the General Manager.

9-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Longfellow that Council endorse the actions of the General Manager with regard to the NSW Road Classification Review.

MOTION CARRIED

10-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Vagg, Seconded Clr Linnett that Council vigorously oppose the reclassification of the Cobb Highway and seek a meeting with the Minister for Roads at the forthcoming Local Government and Shires Association Annual Conference.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Australian Government Water Fund

Advice has been received relating to opportunities for Local Government under the Australian Government Water Fund. It is understood the Australian Government Water Fund will invest \$2 billion dollars over five years.

- **Water Smart Australia (\$1.6 billion)**
- **Raising National Water Standards (\$200 million)**
- **Community Water Grants (\$200 million)**

Community Water Grants up to \$50,000 will be available for practical projects to save water or improve the health of local

waterways. The first round of grants will be available from June 2005.

There is an opportunity for Council to consider an application to this programme based on the Darling River and strategies and actions to improve this important river system proposed by the Darling River Action Group.

It is recommended Council registers an interest in this programme and promotes the Community Water Grants to relevant community organisations. In addition, Council prepares a joint submission to the programme in conjunction with the Darling River Action Group.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse and promotes the Community Water Grants programme to relevant community organisations across the Shire.

That Council prepares a joint submission to the programme in conjunction with the Darling River Action Group.

11-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Fisher, Seconded Clr Reid that Council endorse and promotes the Community Water Grants programme to relevant community organisations across the Shire.

That Council prepares a joint submission to the programme in conjunction with the Darling River Action Group.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 Knox & Downs Building – Wilcannia

Background:

During the evening of Wednesday the 5th September 2002 the heritage listed Knox & Downs building located on the corner of Myers and Reid Street Wilcannia (the main corner of the town) was severely damaged by fire. At the time the building was locally owned and operated as a Foodtown Supermarket - General Store.

The NSW Police Service suspected arson may have been involved and as a result undertook an exhaustive investigation which it is understood, was completed mid 2004. The Police Service report was subsequently forwarded to the Department of Public Prosecutions for determination of possible criminal charges

Current:

Council has recently been advised of the determination handed down by the Director of Public Prosecutions that states, "based on available evidence it is of an insufficient quality to allow it to be said there is a reasonable prospect of obtaining a conviction were criminal proceedings to be commenced"

All information has now been referred onto the Broken Hill Coroner and the Police investigation has been suspended. Nevertheless the Police have indicated that should fresh information come to light in the future, this matter could easily be re-opened and the investigation resumed. It is most unlikely the Coroner will determine differently.

Council has received initial advice from Lawyers Thomson Playford acting on behalf of their client CGU Insurance advising that they have declined indemnity. This may soon become a civil matter between the owner (at the time) and the insurer, CGU, it would be expected that any determination through Civil Court action may take some considerable time possibly years.

Thomson Playford has also advised that ATSIC has also made a claim on the policy as it was entitled to as an interested party under the policy for its respective rights and interests and insurer CGU is in the process of negotiating with ATSIC to indemnify that party. This is seen as a further complication.

Actions:

- Council's insurers were notified
- The property forms part of a Bankrupt Estate with contact made and correspondence exchanged with the Trustee in Bankruptcy. Any claim for recovery of Council costs would be directed against the Bankrupt Estate through the Trustee.
- Legal advice obtained. McIntosh, McPhillary & Co – Andrew Boog & Associates
- On the 15th December 2003 an Order was placed on the property under the Local Government Act 1993 to clean the site and make it structurally sound and sent to all involved parties. To date no party has claimed responsibility.
- Heritage Advisor, Barbara Hickson engaged and a report prepared containing a series of recommendations was prepared. The report basically recommended a staged demolition of the building
- Structural Engineers, Barnstons engaged to provide a structural report and a recommended course of action in order to retain the façade of the building.
- Quotes obtained from contractors to clean up the site. A quote was received on the 24th May 2004 for \$214 000 to carry out the work contained in the first Order.
- Council erected scaffolding and hoardings around the building to allow residents safe access of the footpath and allow for pedestrian traffic.
- Council conducted periodic pumping of water from the cellar of the building.
- Notice of Intent issued to all parties under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.
- Demolition Order issued on the 11th November 2004.

Future:

It has become apparent that as a result of an extremely complex scenario there is little or no likely hood that Council will recover any costs associated with this property, including any costs incurred to render the site safe, something which Council may have no option but to undertake.

The property is deteriorating rapidly and requires urgent remedial work to be undertaken. It is extremely critical that the cellar area be kept dry as this may lead to unstable wall footings and continual movement within the soil profile. There is also a danger that the roadway could be seriously undermined. Orders have been placed on the property to the following parties:

- **Trustee in Bankruptcy**
- **ATSIC**
- **The Insurer, CGU**

Failure to comply with the requirements of an Order can result in the Council entering upon the land and the building to execute the Order at the parties expense as provided in Section 678 sub sections 1 to 10, of the Local Government Act 1993.

To date no party has complied or claimed responsibility and it remains most unlikely that any party will, certainly not in the short term.

Summary:

Due to many factors, the process to resolve this matter remains extremely complex and there remain a number of issues and areas of responsibility that require clarification. Specifically in regards to ownership and liability etc. and further legal advice and direction is being sought.

In the meantime, Council must protect its position both in relation to public liability and also as a custodian of public safety and amenity in relation to derelict buildings.

Council has received no response to the Demolition Order issued on the 11th November 2004 Motion 37-9-04 The Order provides that works required for a safe clean up of parts of the building include:

- 1. That the rear shed be retained as is**
- 2. The walls to the "Vault" room shall be repaired**
- 3. That all loose iron, timber and other rubbish be removed from the site.**
- 4. That all damaged and dangerous flooring be removed.**
- 5. That the stone walls be stabilised as necessary by buttressing and capping the tops with concrete.**
- 6. That the cellars be kept dry at all times to ensure that the soil profiles supporting the structure and adjacent road are not compromised.**

NOTE: Cellars will require periodic maintenance to keep them dry and safe.

As a result of due process, Council may now be required to undertake the task of demolition as per Schedule 1 of the Order No 01/2004 and pursue costs from the owner. In order for this work to be carried out, Council will be required to make some provision in the 2005 – 2006 Management Plan and Budget allocations.

Based on the premise that the Insurer has declined to indemnify the owner, which I understand to be the Bankrupt Estate accordingly and unless the owner or some other party is prepared to take action, (and the chances are this is not going to occur) Council must do so.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council undertake demolition of the property known as Knox and Downs located at 44 Reid Street Wilcannia in accordance with Schedule one (1) of the Demolition Order 01/2004

That Council pursue full cost recovery for all costs incurred and associated with the demolition.

That Council makes provision for possible future costs within the 2005 – 2006 Management Plan and Budget allocations associated with remedial work deemed necessary to Knox & Downs property.

12-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Linnett that Council undertake works to the property known as Knox and Downs located at 44 Reid Street Wilcannia in accordance with Schedule one (1) of the Demolition Order 01/2004

That Council pursue full cost recovery for all costs incurred and associated with the works.

That Council makes provision for possible future costs within the 2005 – 2006 Management Plan and Budget allocations associated with remedial work deemed necessary to Knox & Downs property.

MOTION CARRIED

CR VAGG RECORDS AGAINST

4.6 Children's (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 No 78 - Wilcannia

The subject and recent experiences of youth anti-social behaviour and children roaming the streets of Wilcannia at night, was raised at the April 2005 meeting of Council.

Youth lawlessness in Wilcannia is an issue that Council has consistently addressed with varying degrees of success. The preparation of a Wilcannia Crime Prevention Plan which contains

strategies and actions was considered a major initiative in managing this problem and programs contained within this Plan are currently being activated.

Council also resolved to support the implementation of the Children's (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 No 78 in May 2000 and this objective is contained in Council's 2003 – 2008 Strategic Plan:

Clause 1.07.03 *Support the implementation of the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 No. 78 at Wilcannia*

Priority: 1

Primary Agency: Central Darling Shire Council

Secondary Agency: NSW Police Service, Department of Community Services

Before this objective can be implemented there is a complex process that needs to be followed. There are also a number of responsibilities attached to the implementation of sections of this Act that Council should be aware of and this report will endeavour to highlight certain areas of responsibility and the possible resources that would be necessary.

The 2005 – 2006 Management Planning process is currently being undertaken and therefore it is timely that this objective and progress toward implementation of the Children (Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 No 78 be reviewed. To assist, the following information has been gathered from previous reports and has been updated as required.

Background

Youth lawlessness and anti social behaviour associated with varying numbers of young people continues to be of major concern across the community of Wilcannia. The ability of the NSW Police Service to demonstrate control; and address the many circumstances attached to much of this behaviour is severely restricted under current NSW State Government Legislation. Apart from being under staffed, (although not according to the Minister) it has become quite apparent Police have extremely limited powers in dealing with anti social behaviour in the current situation.

As a result of much of this negative behaviour Wilcannia is generally perceived or otherwise, as a troubled town and is presented in a poor light. This has had an obvious and major impact on tourism & economic and social development within the township.

In order to overcome or at minimum improve this situation, a great deal of work has been carried out and valuable contributions made by a number of local organisations and individuals who, over some considerable period introduced many positive initiatives within limited resources. For example, the recently introduced River Towns Project and the production of a Community Action Plan are recognised as a means of addressing the many issues associated with the current situation.

The Act

A simple interpretation of the Act would suggest it promotes local crime prevention and crime prevention plans. Further, it enables Police to escort certain children sixteen years and under, from public places to their parents' residence and other places.

Part 3 of the Act provides for the removal of young people from public places by Police. Such powers can only be exercised in a Local government area, or part of a Local Government area that has been declared as an Operational Area by the Attorney General.

In the implementation of the Act, the best interests of the child concerned are the primary factor. In dealing with offenders, the Court may enter undertakings with the child concerned and / or with the parents of that child by holding the parents of the child responsible for the actions of the child.

The geographical area covered by the Act must be declared by the Attorney General who must be satisfied that adequate crime prevention or youth support initiatives are available within the area. The Attorney General consults with the Minister for Community Services and the Minister for Police before declaring an operational area. Factors considered in this declaration are:

- *Consultation with the local community, the young people, and the Aboriginal community and the views expressed*
- *The extent and nature of crime in the area including safe and appropriate recreational areas for young people.*
- *The nature of crime prevention and youth support initiatives available*
- *The availability of safe and appropriate recreational amenities for young people in the area*
- *The practicality of applying the Act, including advice from the Commissioner of Police relating to their operational capacity*
- *The availability of safe accommodation for young people*
- *The inclusion of youth needs in Councils planning process.*

The Act applies to a child under the age of 16 years who is in a public place in an operational area if the person:

- *Who is in a public place in an operational area*
- *Who a Police Officer believes is not subject to the supervision or control of a responsible adult*

A person is in circumstances that place them at risk of:

- *Danger of being physically harmed or injured*
- *Danger of abuse (including assault, sexual assault, ill treatment, or exposure to psychologically harmful behaviour)*
- *Committing an offence*

The Act also provides for greater safety and power for the Police by enabling the Police to escort a child from a **public place**, may request their name and address, may escort a child to a **'safe place'** for supervision, may use reasonable force, and may remove concealed weapons.

Summary:

Council has adopted the Wilcannia Crime Prevention Plan which is the principal "trigger" required for the Attorney General to approve an operational area in the town to be declared. Council are then required to prepare an application to the Attorney General which includes supporting documentation that includes the following:

- Demonstrate to the Attorney General that Council has adequately informed and consulted with the local community, about becoming an operational area.
- Demonstrate affective liaison with Police, Department of Community Services, Wilcannia Community Working Party, Wilcannia Community and the NSW Attorney General
- Ensure promotion of the Act in the operational area
- Explain the extent and nature of Crime in the local area to include supporting documentation about any local crime prevention initiatives.
- Provide evidence that Council has actively engaged existing resources and initiated new strategies in a coordinated manner.
- Provide information and documentation about any local youth support and development initiatives in the area.
- Understand implementation of the Act would remain the responsibility of the NSW Police.

Should the Attorney General declare areas within the Wilcannia township operational areas this would require the ability of the Police Services to remove young people from these areas to safe accommodation, in other words a young persons "Safehouse" would need to be established which would require professional management and supervision in order to operate. Council are not required to establish a safe house or a register of approved persons to cater for the needs of young people who are not able to be taken home. The resources required to operate and manage such a facility would remain the responsibility of the Department of Community Services.

Orange City Council is the only Council (Local government area) that has evoked the Children (Protection and Parental responsibility) Act 1997. Council has previously resolved to request that the Attorney General declare a section of the Wilcannia Township to be an operational area under Part 3 of the Act, however for a variety of reasons no formal application has been prepared and submitted.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Children's (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 report be received and noted.

That Council invites a representative from both the NSW Attorney Generals Department and the Department of Community Services to address Council

13-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Doyle that the Children's (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 report be received and noted.

That Council invites a representative from both the NSW Attorney Generals Department and the Department of Community Services to address Council

MOTION CARRIED

4.7 Payment of Professional Association Fees Policy

Further to Council's commitment to the recruitment and retention of appropriately skilled and trained staff, it is considered prudent to introduce a Council policy for the payment of professional association fees for staff members. As Council would be aware, the relative isolation of the area makes the attendance at and participation in regional workshops a very difficult time and cost prohibitive experience. To attend one regional meeting in Dubbo would require extensive travel arrangements and associated costs. To this end and to ensure that all staff remain up to date in their respective fields it is considered appropriate to ensure that staff remain effective members of their relevant professional areas. The attached draft policy is therefore submitted for Council consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the policy on the payment of professional association fees to commence from the 1st July 2005.

14-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Reid, Seconded Clr Arandt that Council adopt the policy on the payment of professional association fees to commence from the 1st July 2005.

MOTION LOST

Central Darling Shire Council

Policy – Staff – Payment of Professional Fees

Aim: To assist Council in retaining the services of appropriately qualified staff and to assist those staff to remain up to date in their respective fields.

Pre-amble: The Central Darling Shire Council is located in Wilcannia in the far west of New South Wales. The Council has traditionally found it difficult to recruit and retain appropriately qualified professional staff members. Due to the isolation of the Council, it is difficult for staff members to remain up to date in their respective fields by attending and being involved with professional industry groups. For instance – to attend a one day workshop or meeting in Dubbo requires significant travel arrangements and associated costs.

It is appropriate for all staff to remain actively involved in their respective fields and to retain membership of appropriate industry groups. The formulation of a policy to assist with the payment of professional fees is seen as a further commitment by the Council in ensuring that staff maintain professional standards.

Policy – That Council pay the fees of all staff to retain appropriate membership to professional organisations that have a direct relevance to their current position. The payment of fees will be made on presentation of an appropriate tax invoice and on application from the staff member concerned. The application is to be forwarded to the General Manager for approval and then to the creditors section for actual payment.

Fees to be paid under this policy must be shown to be directly related to the employee's position within Council and demonstrate a clear advantage to the employee and to Council from continued membership. The amount of fees paid in any one year should be capped to a maximum of \$1,000 per employee.

Any fees paid under this policy do not incur any fringe benefit tax liability and the appropriate statements are to be obtained from the staff members concerned.

As a guide the following organisations would be considered appropriate:

- Local Government Managers Australia
- Australian Society of Accountants
- Australian and Local Government Engineers Association
- Development and Environmental Professionals Association

4.8 2005-2006 Draft Management Plan

Further to the recent Council workshop and subsequent Council meetings to determine the outline of the 2005-2006 Draft Management Plan significant work has been undertaken to put the document together. Areas of significance that should be drawn to Council's attention include:-

- 2005-2006 rates and special rates have been held at previous year's levels due to the current difficult economic conditions. While the Minister for Local Government made a determination for a 3.5% rate pegging increase, Council has not taken this up.
- Charges for water services, sewerage services and waste management have only been increased by nominal amounts to account for the full cost recovery in each separate area. No significant increases have been provided for.
- All fees and charges have been increased by the CPI factor of 3.0% where applicable. A number of the fees and charges are actually prescribed by other bodies or pieces of legislation, limiting any scope to increase charges.
- Additional staffing levels have been factored into the Draft Management Plan to account for pool supervisors at the four townships and to provide for a Rural Transaction Centre Co-ordinator in Menindee.
- Significant capital works have been included, relating to the Mount Manara deviation (\$900,000), Menindee to Pooncarie roadworks (\$1,000,000), regional road funding (\$1,000,000), local road funding (\$1,040,000) and state road funding (\$1,500,000).
- Funding for landing lights at the Menindee airstrip (\$50,000) has been provided from aerodrome restricted reserves.

- Funding for the commencement of the secure/renovation of the Old Wilcannia Post Office (\$50,000) has been provided with \$25,000 to be funded from the Wilcannia Special Rate Fund.
- Funding for the upgrade of the Menindee Homes (\$120,000) has been provided as has significant funding for the maintenance of Council held housing and property assets.

Overall the 2005-2006 Draft Management Plan represents a continuation of the direction provided by Council over the recent past. This Plan represents a financially responsible approach to providing the business of Council and continues the financial security of the organisation as a whole.

It is considered appropriate to have the document submitted for public exhibition as required by the Local Government Act, 1993. The Draft Management Plan is required to be submitted for public exhibition for a period of 28 days, with the opportunity for members of the public to make submissions on the Plan. These submissions are then required to be formally considered by Council.

It is proposed that copies of the Plan will be made available extensively throughout the Shire with public submissions invited by 4.00pm on the 10th June 2005.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council submit the 2005-2006 Draft Management Plan for public exhibition, closing at 4.00pm on the 10th June 2005.

15-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Vagg, Seconded Clr Pease that the Community Liaison Officer be removed from Council's Staff Structure contained in the Management Plan

MOTION CARRIED

16-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Longfellow that Council submit the 2005-2006 Draft Management Plan for public exhibition, closing at 4.00pm on the 10th June 2005.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am and resumed at 11:28 am

SECTION 5. DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Director of Corporate Services report be received and dealt with

17-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Vagg, Seconded Clr Arandt that the Director of Corporate Services report be received and dealt with

MOTION CARRIED

5.1 Schedule of Investments

The following schedule of investments is provided in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993, and associated Regulations.

Schedule of Investments - April 2005				
DATE	TIME PERIOD	INTEREST RATE	DUE DATE	TOTAL (\$)
11am Call Account				
Commonwealth		5.20%		\$519,971.02
Westpac		5.20%		\$900,000.00
Floating Rate Notes				
Wollemi Trust	85 points over 3mth BBSW	6.28%	8-Jul-05	\$1,500,000.00
-Managed by Westpac				
Commercial Bills				
Commonwealth	28-Apr-05	28	5.54%	26-May-05
				\$300,012.00
Term Deposits				
L.G.F.S.	11-Apr-05	91	5.80%	11-Jul-05
	(at a margin of 15points over BBSW)			\$500,000.00
Total Investments as at 30th April 2005				
11 am Call Account				\$1,419,971.02
Commercial Bills and Notes				\$1,800,012.00
Term Deposits				\$500,000.00
				\$3,719,983.02

RECOMMENDATION

That the Schedule of Investments report be received and adopted.

18-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Longfellow, Seconded Clr MacMillan that the Schedule of Investments report be received and adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

5.2

Rates Collection Statement

The rate collection statement for the month of April is provided for information.

ITEM	ARREARS		LEVIES				INTEREST	RECEIPTS	WRITE-OFFS	GOV'T SUB	OVER-PAYMENT	TOTAL
	ARREAR	INT ARREARS	RATES	WATER	DR SUPP	CR SUPP						
Wilcannia												
General	34,345.81	11,953.93	49,957.80	-	-	943.20	2,565.49	39,193.63	523.25	1,047.03	-	57,115.92
Special Rate	5,015.03	1,415.75	7,903.56	-	-	118.62	371.65	6,522.85	110.50	-	-	7,954.02
Water	88,009.47	23,681.76	145,120.00	-	500.00	996.89	6,444.24	117,680.86	1,176.34	1,443.75	-	142,457.63
Water-Filtered	9,749.49	8,660.24	-	-	-	-	662.29	1,665.58	266.37	-	-	17,140.07
Sewer	50,648.66	20,646.41	92,550.00	-	350.00	537.29	3,305.91	81,965.91	6.78	962.50	-	84,028.50
Garbage	27,835.18	8,447.43	50,245.00	-	160.00	229.49	1,877.95	43,152.25	395.90	1,256.47	-	43,531.45
Excess Water	75,815.68	10,457.46	23.00	110,846.80	1,103.20	1,415.70	3,604.18	115,334.58	159.47	-	-	84,940.57
Charge on Land	2,914.88	-	-	-	240.68	-	-	619.70	-	-	-	2,535.86
Overpayments Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-5,514.93	-5,514.93
Overpayments Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-23.20	-23.20
GROUP TOTAL	294,334.20	85,262.98	345,799.36	110,846.80	2,353.88	4,241.19	18,831.71	406,135.36	2,638.61	4,709.75	-5,538.13	434,165.89
Ivanhoe												
General	21,282.55	5,604.63	31,928.17	-	-	1,956.81	1,580.50	22,778.99	783.21	1,810.73	-	33,066.11
Special Rate	5,569.63	1,430.13	7,691.21	-	-	391.30	414.52	5,839.60	145.18	-	-	8,729.41
Water	34,729.44	7,106.71	40,100.00	-	-	2,860.23	2,485.81	31,099.48	847.61	1,706.25	-	47,908.39
Water-Filtered	5,190.58	3,529.40	-	-	-	859.91	361.12	200.11	625.19	-	-	7,395.89
Garbage	16,442.07	3,829.53	34,375.00	-	-	863.67	1,249.75	24,798.28	71.32	1,949.98	-	28,213.10
Excess Water	113,532.85	8,284.19	-	72,204.80	15.00	710.00	2,564.99	150,490.42	0.10	-	-	45,401.31
Charge on Land	394.00	-	-	-	608.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,002.74
Overpayments Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1,362.89	-1,362.89
Overpayments Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-21.42	-21.42
GROUP TOTAL	197,141.12	29,784.59	114,094.38	72,204.80	623.74	7,641.92	8,656.69	235,206.88	2,472.61	5,466.96	-1,384.31	170,332.64
White Cliffs												
General	8,215.78	2,855.54	25,205.48	-	-	314.22	560.57	21,257.69	1,705.05	1,414.18	-	12,146.23
Special Rate	718.78	182.64	2,828.55	-	-	11.45	50.42	2,489.21	101.89	-	-	1,177.84
Water	15,347.64	2,354.19	76,989.60	-	30.00	1,258.75	1,187.52	61,975.53	2,161.79	1,837.65	-	28,675.23
Water-Filtered	4,541.01	3,301.51	-	-	-	246.96	2,432.70	1,293.51	-	-	-	4,363.27
Excess Water	10,122.46	156.47	-	61,606.80	-	17,438.32	137.21	47,898.11	1.50	-	-	6,685.01
Overpayments Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-283.84	-283.84
Overpayments Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-6,862.25	-6,862.25
GROUP TOTAL	38,945.67	8,850.35	105,023.63	61,606.80	30.00	19,022.74	2,182.68	136,053.24	5,263.74	3,251.83	-7,146.09	45,901.49
Menindee (Eavirons)												
General	35,817.53	10,757.74	74,651.16	-	415.20	1,229.52	2,600.68	62,216.26	2.56	4,358.51	-	56,435.46
Special Rate	-	-	-	-	102.50	-	-	76.88	-	-	-	25.62
Garbage	5,384.87	926.19	17,175.00	-	80.00	327.48	431.23	12,369.71	0.75	1,091.29	-	10,208.06
Charge on Land	227.00	-	-	-	414.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	641.92
Overpayments Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-156.14	-156.14
GROUP TOTAL	41,429.40	11,683.93	91,826.16	-	1,012.62	1,557.00	3,031.91	74,662.85	3.31	5,449.80	-156.14	67,154.92
Menindee												
General	22,347.92	4,124.14	47,279.18	-	-	18.53	1,921.22	29,421.59	4.02	2,711.13	-	43,517.19
Special Rate	3,694.98	785.15	7,968.15	-	-	2.15	312.54	5,609.63	-	-	-	7,149.04
Garbage	21,095.68	2,772.70	71,600.00	-	700.00	375.72	2,183.87	38,916.10	-	4,520.76	-	54,539.67
Charge on Land	-	-	-	-	596.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	596.92
Overpayments Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-824.73	-824.73
GROUP TOTAL	47,138.58	7,681.99	126,847.33	-	1,296.92	396.40	4,417.63	73,947.32	4.02	7,231.89	-824.73	104,978.09
Rural												
General	28,390.35	2,087.47	302,676.69	-	-	108.35	2,226.55	242,607.75	21.94	163.69	-	92,479.33
Water	9.95	0.09	1,200.00	-	160.00	400.00	7.33	732.40	-	-	-	244.97
Excess Water	1,751.61	19.94	-	4,154.60	-	318.45	45.69	5,318.48	7.18	-	-	327.73
Charge on Land	500.62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.62
Overpayments Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-460.67	-460.67
GROUP TOTAL	30,652.53	2,107.50	303,876.69	4,154.60	160.00	826.80	2,279.57	248,658.63	29.12	163.69	-460.67	93,091.98
Sundry Villages												
General	885.10	374.72	1,142.33	-	-	-	35.70	1,000.88	1,407.83	-	-	29.14
GROUP TOTAL	885.10	374.72	1,142.33	-	-	-	35.70	1,000.88	1,407.83	-	-	29.14
Sunset Strip												
General	6,225.28	1,735.13	54,129.17	-	-	-	499.35	44,386.86	-	2,400.44	-	15,801.63
Garbage	251.10	9.16	3,450.00	-	-	-	25.29	2,634.15	-	146.88	-	954.52
Overpayments Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-757.30	-757.30
GROUP TOTAL	6,476.38	1,744.29	57,579.17	-	-	-	524.64	47,021.01	-	2,547.32	-757.30	15,998.85
REPORT TOTAL	657,002.98	147,490.35	1,146,189.05	248,813.00	5,477.16	33,686.05	39,960.53	1,222,686.17	11,819.24	28,821.24	-16,267.37	931,653.00
TOTAL ALL RATE GROUPS												
General	157,510.32	39,493.30	586,969.98	-	415.20	4,570.63	11,990.06	462,863.65	4,447.86	13,905.71	-	310,591.01
Special Rate	14,998.42	3,813.67	26,391.47	-	102.50	523.52	1,149.13	20,538.17	357.57	-	-	25,035.93
Water	138,096.50	33,142.75	263,409.60	-	690.00	5,515.87	10,124.90	211,488.27	4,185.74	4,987.65	-	219,286.22
Water-Filtered	19,481.08	15,491.15	-	-	-	859.91	1,270.37	4,298.39	2,185.07	-	-	28,899.23
Sewer	50,648.66	20,646.41	92,550.00	-	350.00	537.29	3,305.91	81,965.91	6.78	962.50	-	84,028.50
Garbage	71,008.90	15,985.01	176,845.00	-	940.00	1,796.36	5,768.09	121,870.49	467.97	8,965.38	-	137,446.80
Excess Water	201,222.60	18,918.06	23.00	248,813.00	1,118.20	19,882.47	6,352.07	319,041.59	168.25	-	-	137,354.62
Charge on Land	4,036.50	-	-	-	1,861.26	-	-	619.70	-	-	-	5,278.06
Overpayments Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-9,360.50	-9,360.50
Overpayments Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-6,906.87	-6,906.87
FUND SUMMARY TOTAL	657,002.98	147,490.35	1,146,189.05	248,813.00	5,477.16	33,686.05	39,960.53	1,222,686.17	11,819.24	28,821.24	-16,267.37	931,653.00

RECOMMENDATION

That the Rates Collections Report be received and adopted.

19-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Arandt, Seconded Clr Wellings that the Rates Collections Report be received and adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 6. DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Director of Engineering Services report be received and dealt with.

20-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Wellings that the Director of Engineering Services report be received and dealt with.

MOTION CARRIED

6.1 Activity Report April 2005

Staff meeting 2nd April 2005

6.1.1 Administration

Office Tasks Outstanding

Location	Task	Percent Complete
<u>Director of Engineering Services</u>		
Office / Shire	Enquiries, Supervision, RTA Invoices	
<u>Works Engineer</u>		
Office/Shire	Enquiries, Supervision	
Works Programme	Document 2004/2005 Programme, including heavy patching and reseals	100 %
SR 9	Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for Paroo crossing	20 %
<u>Contract Administration Engineer</u>		
State Roads SIC	Administer	
State Roads SIC	Works Proposals submitted	0
	Works Orders received	0
	Inspection Maintenance Program – Implementation	85%
<u>Administration Officer</u>		
Office	Engineering Enquires, filing, correspondence	

6.1.2 Plant

Wilcannia garbage truck to be replaced

6.1.3 Water Supplies

Wilcannia

Darling River ceased flow at weir

Production bore

Operational

Ivanhoe

Severe restrictions remain in place

Equipping bores for alternate supply in progress

6.1.4 Transport & Communication

General

Loose or Rough Surface signs placed throughout Shire as road conditions deteriorate

State Roads - RTA Single Invitation Maintenance Contract (SIMC).

Road	Activity	Comments
SH 8	Heavy patching Mitchell Rest Area 7km south	Approaches at Tallyawalka bridges and Darling River bridge completed Prepared for sealing
SH21	Preliminary survey and design, Mount Manara deviation	In progress

Regional Roads

Gravel crushing in progress for Regional and Local roads at White Cliffs

Road	Activity	Comments
MR 66 Broken Hill to MR68	<u>Rail crossing markings</u>	<u>.Repainted</u>
MR 68B Wilcannia to Menindee	<u>Patch grading</u> <u>Rail crossing markings</u>	<u>30kms Wilcannia end</u> <u>Repainted</u>
MR 435 Wilcannia to White Cliffs	<u>Shoulder grading</u>	<u>In progress, various locations</u>

Local Roads

Road	Activity	Comments
SR5 Wilc - Wanaaring	<u>Maintenance grade</u>	<u>25km Wilcannia end</u>

6.1.5 Aerodromes

Ivanhoe

PAL system replaced

Menindee

Separate report

White Cliffs

PAL system non operational and requires replacement, lighting on manual only

6.1.6 Next meeting

8.30am Tuesday 7th June 2005, meeting room, Engineering Office.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Monthly Activity Report be received and noted

21-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Brown that the Monthly Activity Report be received and noted

MOTION CARRIED

The Director of Engineering Services reported to Council that Mrs Holly Davies will be leaving Council's employ. Holly and husband Steve have bought a property near Narromine and Holly has accepted the position of Works Engineer with the Narromine Council.

22-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr MacMillan, Seconded Clr Linnett that Council write a "Thank You and Best Wishes" letter to Holly Davies upon her resignation from Council

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Vagg asked the Director of Engineering Services for an update of the request made in April regarding making water from the ground tanks available for garden watering.

The Director of Engineering Services said investigation had been done, but a suitable solution to use the water could not be found. However a small amount of water will be made available to water the oval.

6.2 Information Items

6.2.1 Menindee Aerodrome

The runway, taxiway, apron and access roads are operational. Fencing and markings remain to be done. Lighting and amenities are to be included in the 2005/06 management plan. Estimate of costs for electricity connection and lighting are being prepared. A solar powered lighting system is also being considered. This latter option could result in a savings of \$50,000. The full allocation of \$500,000.00 for the aerodrome re-construction has been expended with the access road costs being met from the Local Roads budget.

A full report on runway lighting options will be presented to Council when all estimated costs are to hand.

6.2.2 White Cliffs Road Opening

With very short notice from the office of the Minister for Roads this event took place on Thursday 28th April at the Information Bay on the outskirts of White Cliffs. Due to the two hour delay of the Minister's arrival, the program was changed so that the luncheon was held first followed by the official opening. Council's GM, Mr Bill O'Brien was the MC. The official opening began with an address from Council's Mayor, Mr Peter Sullivan followed by the Member for

Murray Darling, Mr Peter Black MP OAM, culminating with the plaque unveiling and ribbon cutting by the Honourable Michael Costa MLC, NSW Minister for Roads. The RTA Western Region Manager, Mr Lew Laing was also a member of the official party.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a presentation was made by the Mayor to Council's Overseer, Mr Geoff Sutton, in recognition of his devotion to the efforts in the construction of this road. Geoff has been a key person of responsibility during the entire project.

RECOMMENDATION
For Council's Information

SECTION 7. MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Manager of Environmental Services Report be received and dealt with

23-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Longfellow, Seconded Clr Vagg that the Manager of Environmental Services Report be received and dealt with

MOTION CARRIED

7.1 Menindee Lakes Caravan Park

Once again the Menindee Lakes Caravan Park approval to operate requires renewing. The current approval expires on the 20th May 2005. It is pleasing to note that steps are currently being taken by van-owners to work towards compliance matters that have been previously reported to Council. At present, Council has received the collected funds and a list of participating van-owners from the Trust to enable structural engineer, Mr Richard Noonan from Barnson's, Dubbo to undertake individual site inspections of rigid annexes and associated structures. Mr Noonan has indicated that he may be available first week of June to carry out the required inspections to determine structural soundness of the annexes, sheds and iron clad structures on the participating sites. Once the exact date is confirmed Council will inform the Trust; who will inform the participating van-owners to enable access to the sites and structures.

On this basis, it is noted that van-owners are attempting to work towards compliance therefore it is recommended that the approval to operate be renewed for a further six month period expiring on the 20th November 2005.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council renew the Menindee Lakes Caravan Park approval to operate for a further 6 month period; expiring on the 20th November 2005

The General Manager commended the Environmental Section for the work that has gone into the Caravan Park.

24-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Longfellow, Seconded Clr Vagg that Council renew the Menindee Lakes Caravan Park approval to operate for a further 6 month period; expiring on the 20th November 2005

MOTION CARRIED

7.2 BASIX Certificates

Council has been advised of the introduction of new requirements for the building of dwellings to be introduced on the 1st July, this year. The proposed amendments require the applicant to supply a BASIX certificate with any application to erect a new dwelling.

BASIX is a new State Government initiative which has been operating in Sydney for about 12 months and is now being phased in for the rest of the State. It is basically a number of requirements designed to reduce energy and water use and to promote better and more efficient building design within the residential and commercial sectors.

Whilst the principle has considerable merit and has been around for some time as a voluntary process, it has now been introduced as a mandatory requirement for any new dwelling, flat etc. It is estimated that compliance with the requirements of BASIX will add another 5% to the cost of constructing a new dwelling but will result in reduced energy costs over time.

Of greater concern to Council is the mandatory requirements that do not allow Council to approve an application for a new dwelling without a BASIX certificate. The lack of trained consultants within the region to supply this service will result in problems for Council. The Department of Planning & Natural Resources has made the certificates available from a web based software package and they maintain that it can be undertaken by anyone in one to two hours. In reality this is doubtful and experienced Council staff have had considerable difficulties in attempting to generate such a certificate.

As mentioned, it is doubtful that the average person will be able to comply with the requirements of BASIX from an administration perspective and this will lead to confusion and anger which will be directed at Council as the organization required to enforce these provisions. In addition Council will be seen as the organization enforcing the new energy and water reducing requirements which will cost the average house builder up to \$7,500.00 on an average house and land package. Many new home owners are struggling to come up with enough for a deposit and will not be happy about these additional up front costs despite the prospect of long term savings.

Another concern is the approach of BASIX in categorizing all non-urban dwellings as being connected to a reticulated town water supply. This is done on the assumption that these buildings may be connected to town supply at a later date. This may be true for rural residential areas on the edges of existing towns but certainly will not apply to rural dwellings. This may cause difficulties in obtaining BASIX certificates for rural dwellings.

Council has been invited to make a submission to the proposal by the 16th May, and staff are currently preparing a submission on behalf of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses the actions of the Manager Environmental Services.

25-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Pease, Seconded Clr Reid that Council endorses the actions of the Manager Environmental Services with regard to BASIX Certificates.

MOTION CARRIED

7.3 Drinking Water Monitoring

Council has received notification that NSW Health is unable to meet the full cost of services provided by NSW Health laboratories for water testing. As previously arranged all drinking water samples were tested free of charge, at no expense to Council under funding provided by NSW Health. From July 2005 water utilities will be asked to make a part contribution for services based on the number of samples allocated. The payment does not cover the whole cost of testing, but is a contribution towards total costs. Currently Council is allocated 104 microbiology samples and 6 chemistry samples in total for the towns of Ivanhoe, Wilcannia and White Cliffs. In future this sampling will cost in the vicinity of \$1600; it maybe necessary for Council to allow provisions in future budgets to meet this cost.

It is also noted in advice received from NSW Health that water utilities serving fewer than 2,000 potable water connections and charging a typical residential bill more than 20% above the median bill for NSW may apply to have allocated samples tested for free. Manager Environmental Services recommends that Council applies for this exemption. If Council is successful, the above costs of \$1600 will not be necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provides necessary funding to maintain microbiology and chemistry testing of supplied drinking water in the towns of Ivanhoe, Wilcannia and White Cliffs.

That Council pursue exemptions from the above costs to test drinking water through NSW Health.

26-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Longfellow that Council provides necessary funding to maintain microbiology and chemistry testing of supplied drinking water in the towns of Ivanhoe, Wilcannia and White Cliffs.

That Council pursue exemptions from the above costs to test drinking water through NSW Health.

MOTION CARRIED

7.4 NSW Food Regulation Partnership – Exposure Draft

Previously it was reported that the NSW State Government was looking at changing the way that food premises are regulated in NSW and as part of this, the changing role of Local Government in this area of expertise. A number of concerns were raised by this and other Councils both in submissions to the proposal and at seminars run throughout the State. As a result of those submissions and meetings, a number of changes have been made to the proposal which has now been released as an Exposure Draft. The draft is on exhibition and will be receiving submissions until the 15th June, 2005.

As part of this process, Councils have three options with regard to the levels of service delivery that they wish to undertake. Councils must decide the level that they wish to undertake and advise the NSW Food Authority after the 1st January, 2006. As this will be required to be listed in Council's Management Plan, it is probably advisable to look at this matter as soon as possible. The Draft Exposure document is 69 pages in length and accordingly has not been reproduced here. Copies will be made available to Councillors on request.

A summary of the Draft follows: -

Categories that Council can choose to participate in are: -

Category A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food premises approvals • Emergency response • Urgent food recalls
Category B	<p>Category A, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For retail and food service businesses (excepting those businesses for which a Food Safety Scheme applies): • Premises inspections (to determine compliance with Food Safety Standards 3.1.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 and basic Food Standards matters and including taking samples as appropriate) • Investigating complaints (including single cases of food borne illness) • Enforcement action (including serving notices, orders and taking court action)
Category C	<p>Category A & B, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other role negotiated directly between councils and the NSW Food Authority, for example (but not limited to): • Premises inspections for manufacturers

Category A would be the 'base/minimum' role for all Councils. It represents current statutory requirements and activities where Council involvement is critical to protecting consumers (ie responding to food emergencies and urgent food recalls).

Many Councils currently undertake food premises inspections and follow-up enforcement action in retail and food service businesses. A defined service band (Category B) is therefore proposed to enable Councils to easily opt into this role.

Some Councils are interested in and have the capacity and capability to perform food regulatory services in addition to those proposed for Category B. It is likely that different Councils will seek to undertake different activities.

Other relevant issues for Council are: -

Issue	Approach in Draft Model
Exemptions from base role	Exemptions would be permitted where there are exceptional circumstances (Recommendation 2).
Changing Council's Category	Councils would be required to nominate their 'Category' annually (Recommendation 5). Support from NSW Food Authority would be provided where unforeseen circumstances limit councils' capacity to fulfill agreed role (Recommendation 6).
Council's food regulatory workforce	No change to current arrangements for appointment of authorized officers. Councils would continue to be able to undertake food regulatory responsibilities using direct council employees, contractors or resource sharing with other councils (Recommendation 9).
Conflicts of interest	Councils would be required to declare, and make arrangements for the management of, possible conflicts of interest (Recommendation 10).
Unincorporated area	NSW Food Authority would negotiate contractual arrangements with councils interested in providing food regulatory services in the unincorporated area (Recommendation 11).

A list of the recommendations included in the exposure draft are listed below in the following table for Council's information.

	Draft Recommendation	Comments
1	A minimal mandatory role for all Councils should be adopted which includes responsibility for: food premises approvals; emergency response; and urgent food recalls.	There has not been a mandatory role for Council in the past, however traditionally Council's have undertaken this role.
2	Councils should be exempt from fulfilling the following aspects of the base role where they demonstrate exceptional circumstances: emergency responses initiated by the NSW Food Authority (NSWFA); and urgent food recalls. Exemptions would be at the discretion of the Director General.	Council could apply for exemption where suitable staff are not available, either in the short or long term.
3	Councils should choose what level of food regulatory work they will undertake from 1 of the 3 categories: Category A – Minimal base role only (see Recommendation 1), Category B – Category A plus for food service and retail businesses: premises inspections, investigating complaints and enforcement action, Category C – Categories A&B plus any other role negotiated directly between Council and the NSWFA	Council has traditionally undertaken a role which is part of Categories A and B.
4	The remit of Category B councils should be the food service and retail sectors (excepting those premises for which Food Safety Schemes establish mandatory food safety program requirements)	Councils will not be responsible for inspections on specific types of food businesses subject to Food Safety Schemes, eg butchers shops
5	Councils should be required to nominate their planned level of food regulatory work (ie Category A, B or C) in their Annual Management Plan and	This requires Council to consider and plan for the levels of participation it

	provide a copy of that plan to the NSWFA. Where a change to their level of involvement in food regulatory work is planned Councils should give at least 3 months notice to the NSWFA	wishes to be involved in.
6	Where unforeseen circumstances limit council's capacity to fulfil agreed roles, councils should: notify the NSWFA and seek agreement with the NSWFA on what level of support the Authority will provide.	This allows for unforeseen circumstances
7	Councils should have the opportunity to provide statutory audit of food safety programs. This should be subject to the same terms and conditions as other 3 rd party audit providers	This allows for Councils wishing to undertake an increased role in food auditing
8	Category B&C councils should be encouraged, but not required, to provide value-added services, such as food handler training.	Councils have traditionally supplied food handlers training but are not obliged to do this
9	The current arrangements for appointment of authorised officers by Councils (s114, Food Act 2003)	Existing staff will continue to be recognized.
10	Within 3 months of implementation of this model councils should be required to: disclose all possible conflicts of interest to the NSWFA, and nominate how, for each instance, those potential conflicts will be managed. For those conflicts that councils don't believe they can manage; councils should seek agreement with the NSWFA on what level of support the Authority will provide. Thereafter councils should, in a timely manner, keep the NSWFA updated about changes.	This is a system which allows independent inspections where there is or it could be perceived that a conflict of interest exists.
11	The NSWFA should explore establishing contractual arrangements with councils interested in providing food regulatory services in the unincorporated area.	Because of costs involved, the NSWFA is interested in having Councils adjoining the unincorporated area undertake inspections on their behalf.
12	The NSW Government should amend the Food Act 2003 to: mandate a base role in food regulation for Councils (Rec 1); provide for exemptions from the base role (Rec 2); define optional (Category B) roles for councils (Rec 3); define the remit of Category B councils (Rec 4); and provide for managing conflicts of interest (Rec 10)	Legislative changes only
13	The NSWFA should establish services agreements with councils willing and able to undertake roles in food regulation in addition to Category B.	A document to clarify the roles of all parties
14	The NSWFA should continue establishing formal communication and consultation arrangements with councils by: maintaining a dedicated Local Gov Liaison Coordinator within the NSWFA's organisation structure; convening regional forums/network groups; establishing a statewide liaison group for council EHOs and publishing a regular newsletter for Council EHOs	Outlines a system of ensuring Council staff are kept up to date with legislative changes
15	The NSWFA should provide a formal program of	Details of this are

	activities to support and assist council roles in food regulation. The support and assistance program should include; tools, professional development program, technical advice, prosecution support, special projects grants program; and promoting careers in food surveillance	unavailable
16	The NSWFA and Local Gov should develop and adopt a set of mandatory protocols, under the Food Act 2003, s111. Initially mandatory protocols for the following matters should be adopted: emergency response and urgent food recalls, complaint referral and feedback, investigating single case food borne illness complaints; and, submitting samples for analysis. Thereafter additional mandatory protocols may be adopted, following consultation with Local Government.	Once mandatory protocols are in place, Councils will be required to follow these protocols as if they were law.
17	The NSWFA and Local Government should explore implementation of an IT solution to facilitate the two-way communication required by mandatory protocols	Problems may exist with this approach given current IT limitations within the region
18	The NSWFA and Local Government should develop a set of advisory guidelines	Advisory guidelines would provide assistance to field officers and are in addition to mandatory protocols.
19	Councils should: provide data about their food regulatory activities to the NSWFA. The format and timetable for providing such data should be determined by the NSWFA, after consultation with councils, under the Food Act 2003, s113. The NSWFA should: prepare a summary report for councils about statewide food regulatory activities, based on data provided by councils, at the end of each reporting period	Reporting should be minimal and meaningful
20	A Local Government Consultative Committee should be established by statute as the formal means for consultation between the NSWFA and Local Government stakeholders. The Committee should be drawn from: elected representatives (Councillors), Council Management (General Managers) and Council environmental health professionals. The Committee would provide policy direction for the NSW Food Regulation Partnership model.	Process to increase Local Governments role in policy preparation.
21	The State Government should publish a schedule of recommended maximum inspection fees which: reflects full cost recovery for inspection services; and, can be used by Category B & C councils to guide their own decision making about inspection fee amounts.	Allows flexible fee structures for Councils involved in inspection of food premises ie full cost recovery or subsidised fees.
22	Enforcement agencies should be entitled to make an annual administration charge to recover the indirect costs of providing food regulatory services. The State Government should publish a schedule of recommended maximum annual administration charges which: reflects cost recovery; and, can be used by councils to guide their own decision making about inspection fee amounts.	Allows flexible fee structures for councils involved in inspection of food premises. ie full cost recovery or subsidised fees.

23	Non-payment of service and administration fees should be prescribed as an offence for which authorised officers can issue Penalty Infringement Notices	Allows councils to issue penalty notices rather than being required to take court action to recover fees
24	Enforcement agencies should be entitled to charge a prescribed fee where an improvement notice is issued	Allows councils to recover costs of issuing notices and follow up inspections where required.
25	Recurrent funding should be provided by NSW Treasury to finance support and assistance by the NSWFA for councils	Requiring Government commitment to funding the process on an ongoing basis.
26	Funding should be provided by NSW Treasury for the following transition initiatives: a stakeholder communication program, a purpose-built web-site for council EHO, and the IT solution identified at Rec 17	Requiring Government commitment to funding the process on an ongoing basis
27	The NSWFA should, within its current budget for food testing, establish arrangements by which councils can submit samples for analysis	Requiring Government commitment to funding a food sampling program. Council needs to be aware that costs for this function are greater in remote areas and the Government has recently abolished funding for water sampling
28	The NSWFA should define situations where councils could be recompensed from the Authority's emergency funds	Under the EP&A Act, Councils can apply for funding after the event to recompense for emergency works. This is proposed for the food regulatory functions of Council as well. Should council be called on to undertake emergency works outside its normal role, funding may be available to recompense council after the event.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council provide service to the level of Category A.

2. That Council incorporate this service level (Category A) into the 2005-2006 Management Plan.

27-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Pease, Seconded Clr Reid 1. That Council provide service to the level of Category A.

2. That Council incorporate this service level (Category A) into the 2005-2006 Management Plan.

MOTION CARRIED

***28-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Reid, Seconded
Clr Fisher that a "thank you and
congratulations" letter be sent to Ms Mary
Wilson for her untiring efforts with regard to the
Menindee Cemetery Headstone Marking project
and the Dedication Ceremony***

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 8. MANAGER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Manager of Community Development's report be received and dealt with

29-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Pease that the Manager of Community Development's report be received and dealt with

MOTION CARRIED

8.1 Grant Writing Workshops

In conjunction with the Outback Area Consultative Committee, Central Darling Shire Council will hold a series of grant writing workshops. Tentative dates and locations are:

- Ivanhoe Monday 16th May 2005 (evening)
- Menindee Tuesday 17th May 2005 (afternoon)
- White Cliffs Monday 23rd May 2005 (evening)
- Wilcannia Tuesday 24th May 2005 (afternoon)
- Broken Hill Wednesday 25th May (evening)

These workshops will show participants how to turn their ideas into completed projects while securing the best available funding. There will be 'brainstorming' sessions and a small business advisor will be in attendance. Each workshop will be advertised on local noticeboards.

RECOMMENDATION

For Council's information

8.2 Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet

The Manager of Community Development met with the S355 Committee for the Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet to review progress. To enable the fulfilment of the existing agreement the committee have resolved to employ a coordinator on a casual basis. The recruitment process is currently underway.

The Manager of Community Development will be available to advise the coordinator of their responsibilities under the funding agreement from the Department of Aging, Disability and Home Care.

It is anticipated that the Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet will be fully functioning by the end of the financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet report be received and noted.

30-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Longfellow, Seconded Clr Linnett that the Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet report be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

8.3 Rural Transaction Centres

Menindee – Prefabricated building to be on site around end of May 2005.

Wilcannia – Building works to commence the week of the 2nd of May 2005.

All Central Darling Shire Council departments are working together to meet the deadlines and finalise the establishment of the Rural Transaction Centres in both Menindee and Wilcannia in the earliest possible time.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Rural Transaction Centres report be received and noted.

31-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Reid, Seconded Clr Doyle that the Rural Transaction Centres report be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

8.4 Financial Assistance Grants 2005

In this round of Council's Financial Assistance Program Grants, Council received 28 applications seeking \$55,182 of funding from an available pool of \$18,000. A summary table follows.

The Director of Corporate Services and Cr Brown left the meeting at 12:00 noon as both declared an interest in groups requesting donations.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS 2005				
Applicant	Amount Requested	Purpose of Grant	Manager Economic Development comments	Recommended Grant Amount
Menindee Connections	\$1,600	\$180 to purchase web hosting and domain name for community website, \$220 for promotion and advertising of website, \$1200 (\$100 per month) website maintenance and increasing technical skills.	Already a significant membership - can provide ongoing community and social benefits	\$1,000
White Cliffs History Group	\$440	To purchase flagpole and fittings for Opal Pioneer Federation Park	Facility used for formal shire events	\$440

Tim Hazell-Variety Club	\$2,500	Sponsorship for 2006 NSW Newcastle Variety Bash	Benefit to the community in various capital equipment donated by Variety Club (buses and playground equipment)	\$1,000
White Cliffs Community Association	\$7,000	\$800 to install insect zappers and exterior light to amenities block at Opal Pioneer Reserve Caravan and Camping Park, \$1200 for a new entrance sign for Caravan Park, \$5000 for Stage 1 of conversion of current coach shelter area to a camp kitchen	Already receiving budget allocation for maintenance - This allocation for new sign.	\$1,200
N. J. Crisp	\$5,000	Wages to employ 2 workers from CDEP to install fencing and drip irrigation	Does not meet criteria - privately owned	\$0
Broken Hill Business Women of the Year Inc & Broken Hill Chamber of Commerce	\$2,000	Prize sponsorship of the Regional Man and Woman of the Year categories Award	Little community benefit	\$0
Ivanhoe Golf Club	\$500	Assist with payment of fixed charges	Provision of community sporting facility	\$500
St Therese's Community School	\$1,700	Supply & deliver 3 loads of white sand for playground equipment, supply and install rainwater tank for school community	Rainwater tank connection to existing buildings will allow for beautification of grounds	\$950
White Cliffs Opal Fields Tourist Association	\$2,500	Establishment of website	National and international promotion of White Cliffs	\$1,000
Reconciliation Australia (Wilcannia)	\$2,500	Accommodation and transport for guest speaker, catering for event, prizes and entertainment	Annual event with good support	\$1,000
White Cliffs Hall Committee	\$500	Paint and brushes for supper room and ceiling, repair to holes near toilets	Allocation from Hall Maintenance budget	\$0
Menindee Children's Centre	\$1,650	Pavers to create new outdoor play area	Ongoing benefit to community	\$1,000
Kilfera Field Day	\$1,500	Hire of marquee, trestle tables and chairs	Well known and supported community event	\$1,000
Wilcannia Arts	\$1,000	\$500 to purchase non consumable materials and supplies for use at Wilcannia Arts Studio, \$500 for security to building	Benefit to the community in providing studio space for all artists	\$1,000
West Darling Arts	\$600	Sponsorship of Waste 2 Art Competition - catering and prizes	Well received and supported community competition	\$600
Menindee Central School	\$5,000	Purchase of Ride-on lawnmower	Does not meet criteria - government agency supporting government owned facility	\$0

Broken Hill Sailing Club	\$3,000	Relocation to Lake Pamanaroo and promotion for new members	Little benefit to community residents	\$0
Wilcannia News Editorial Committee	\$160	Purchase portable data storage	Provides a good communication tool for Wilcannia residents	\$160
Wilcannia Sing Australia Choir	\$2,500	Catering and accommodation for choir members and Sirocco during community concert	Choir is utilised for formal community functions, well supported nationally	\$1,000
Menindee Community Technology Centre	\$600	Purchase A3 colour printer	Will be incorporated into Menindee RTC	\$0
Country Women's Association Menindee Branch	\$1,482	Supply and install security screens to CWA Hall	CWA provides important community support	\$1,000
Wilcannia Home Care	\$1,950	\$750 Home Care Xmas Party, \$1200 Assistance to support monthly Yarn Up Days	Ongoing community benefit	\$1,300
Wilcannia Safe House	\$2,500	Hire of band for Debutante Ball	New community event with large support across various agencies	\$1,000
White Cliffs Country Women's Association	\$2,000	Upgrade and maintenance to CWA rooms	CWA provides important community support	\$1,000
Ivanhoe Country Women's Association	\$2,000	Paint, brushes and rollers for maintenance to CWA rooms	CWA provides important community support	\$1,000
Ivanhoe Sale Yards	\$500	Bobcat Hire to clear Yards	Allocation from Asset Maintenance budget	\$0
White Cliffs Gymkhana and Rodeo Club	\$2,000	Improvement to grounds for OH&S issues and continuing maintenance	Well supported and recognised community event	\$1,000
Ivanhoe Revival Group	\$500	Continuation of street beautification	Allocation from Street Beautification budget	\$0
Number of applications received	Total \$ sought	Total program \$ available this round		Recommended program \$ to be allocated
28	\$55,182	\$18,000		\$18,150

RECOMMENDATION

That \$18,050 of Financial Assistance Grants be granted by Council in line with the Manager of Community Development's recommendations.

32-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr MacMillan, Seconded Clr Doyle 1. That \$18,150 of Financial Assistance Grants be endorsed by Council in line

with the Manager of Community Development's recommendations.

- 2. That Council incorporate the endorsed Financial Assistance Grants in the 2005-2006 draft Management Plan*

MOTION CARRIED

The Director of Corporate Services and Cr Brown returned to the meeting

SECTION 9. RECEPTION OF CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Correspondence for Council Information be received and noted

33-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Fisher, Seconded Clr Linnett that the Correspondence for Council Information be received and noted

MOTION CARRIED

9.1 Media Releases

Date	Sender	Contents
29/4/2005	John Cobb - The Hon MP - Federal Member for Parkes	Opening of Dunedoo Rural Transcation Centre improves local access to services
22/4/2005	John Anderson, (the Hon.), M.P.	Joint Media Release by John Anderson and John Cobb - More Banking services to be made available to rural and regional communities
19/4/2005	John Cobb - The Hon MP - Federal Member for Parkes	Time running out to nominate for Aged Care Awards
18/4/2005	John Cobb - The Hon MP - Federal Member for Parkes	Feedback sessions on CDEP Consultations
18/4/2005	John Anderson, (the Hon.), M.P.	North-South Rail Corridor Study
18/4/2004	Ron Page	"Darling River can not deliver"

9.2 Circulars

Sender	Date	Contents
Local Government (NSW Dept Of)	29/4/2005	Council claims for payment of Pensioner Concession Subsidies - June 2005 - 05/18
Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	29/4/2005	Local Government Weekly - 17/05
Local Government (NSW Dept Of)	26/4/2005	Code of Meeting Practice - Councillors invited to speak after declaring a pecuniary interest in a matter - 05/17
Local Government (NSW Dept Of)	22/4/2005	Information about rating for 2005/06 - Maximum interest rate on overdue rates and charges, fee for Section 603 Certificates and Boarding House Tariffs - 05/15
Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	22/4/2005	Local Government Weekly - 16/05
Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	15/4/2005	Local Government Weekly 15/05

9.3 Letters

Date	File No	Sender	Regarding
6/17/2005	022-04 -2/64P	Wilcannia Cemetery Steering Committee	Dedication and Official Opening of Memorial Wall at the Wilcannia Cemetery
6/7/2005	098-08 -1/7P	Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	Ecologically Sustainable Development requirements
5/31/2005	061-01 -1/70EP	Linnett, Clive & Fay	Outgoing from GM re Insurance of Airstrip at Kilfera Field Day
5/30/2005	021-03 -1/13P	Tilpa Community Committee Incorporated	Thanking Council for payment of ANZAC Day Wreath
5/23/2005	108-03 -1/14P	Western Division Group Of Shires Association Of NSW	cc of letter from the Minister for Local Government in reply to Motion 49/05 re Swimming Pool Attendant qualifications
5/18/2005	120-12 -1/19P	Peter Black Member for Murray Darling	Thanking GM for Correspondence re White Cliffs Water Charges
5/16/2005	022-02 -1/33P	Menindee Regional Tourist Association	Thanking Council and all concerned for the landscape work at the Menindee Cemetery and Cenotaph
5/16/2005	022-02 -1/32P	Peter Black Member for Murray Darling	Congratulating all concerned on the Dedication of Plaques at the Menindee Cemetery on 7th May 2005
5/11/2005	078-06 -1/1P	Country Energy	Invitation to GM to be part of the newly formed Broken Hill/Menindee Strategic Water Advisory Committee
4/10/2005	021-03 -1/11P	Florence Kinsela	Thanking Council and GM, and requesting chairs, tables and power connection for Reconciliation Day Celebrations

9.4 Minutes

Sender	Description
Tilpa Community Committee Inc	Minutes of General Meeting held 2 nd April 2005

***34-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett,
Seconded Clr Longfellow that Council suspend
standing orders to hear from Mr Guy Chick from
NSW Department of Primary Industries***

MOTION CARRIED

The General Manager introduced Mr Lloyd Kingham from the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Mr Kingham addressed Council on Noxious Weeds and how the department can assist Councils. There are preventative measures being taken, and there are different grants available to Councils on a dollar for dollar system. Council has a responsibility for its own land, and as an inspection authority for private lands. The word "noxious" means they have the ability to be controlled, once the controlling ability is lost, they become "obnoxious" like Patterson's Curse.

Mr Kingham left some literature with Councillors and thanked them for allowing him to address Council.

***35-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett,
Seconded Clr Longfellow that the Council
Meeting resume standing orders***

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 10. THE RECEPTION OF REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

10.1 Sunset Strip Progress Association

Page 44

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Minutes and endorse the actions of the Sunset Strip Progress Association Committee

There were a few concerns by Councillors regarding elections for this committee, the endorsement of these Minutes will be held over until after discussions with the Committee.

36-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Longfellow, Seconded Clr Brown that the endorsement of the Minutes of the Sunset Strip Progress Association be deferred pending further consultation with this Committee

MOTION CARRIED

10.2 MANEX Minutes 14th April

Page 44-47

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Minutes and endorse the actions of the MANEX Team

37-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Doyle that Council adopt the Minutes and endorse the actions of the MANEX Team

MOTION CARRIED

10.3 MANEX Minutes 20th April

Page 47-48

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Minutes and endorse the actions of the MANEX Team

38-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Longfellow, Seconded Clr Linnett that Council adopt the Minutes and endorse the actions of the MANEX Team

MOTION CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

***That Council adopt the Minutes and endorse the actions of the
MANEX Team***

***39-5-05 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded
Clr Linnett that Council adopt the Minutes and
endorse the actions of the MANEX Team***

MOTION CARRIED

10.1 Sunset Strip Progress Association

Minutes of the Meeting held at The Community Hall on Sunday 6th March 2005

Present: J Couch, M Reid, P Apinis, P & A Finch, B & L Fraser, H Teelow, N & B Landsford, J Thustain, W Heatly, G Quince, R & K Tonkin, K Reid, K Frost, J Brennan, A Woodall, R Leddra, A Minchum, N McGavish

Apologies: D Teelow. Apologies accepted B Fraser, moved L Fraser

Meeting commenced at 12.05pm EST, J Brennan presiding

Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 6th February 2005 accepted on the motion of Y Couch and seconded H Teelow.

Business Arising From Minutes. A special meeting has been called for today, due to the resignation of President, Secretary & Treasure.

Position of President, Secretary & Treasure is declared vacant.

J Brennan conducted the elections:

Nominations:	BILL FRASER	PRESIDENT
	HELEN TEELow	SECRETARY
	BRENDA LANGSFORD	TREASURE
	DEAN TEELow	VICE PRESIDENT
	LORRIANE FRASER	ASSISANT TREASURE

Lorraine Fraser to take on position as Assistant Treasure left empty by Brenda Langsford.
Dean Teelow to take on position as Vice President left empty by Bill Fraser.

Treasure's Report Auditor's Report presented to members of progress association by outgoing Treasure.

Date of next meeting 12.00 pm EST Sunday 3rd April 2005

Meeting closed 12.25pm

Chairperson

Date

10.2 MANEX Minutes – 14th April 2005

MANEX Meeting held on Thursday 14th April 2005

Present:

Mr Bill O'Brien	General Manager
Mr Tim Hazell	Director of Corporate Services
Mr Russell Bow	Director of Engineering Services
Mrs Leeanne Ryan	Manager of Environmental Services
Mrs Sharon Hutch	Manager Community Development

Meeting Commenced at 3:00 pm

Apologies There were no apologies

The General Manager thanked MANEX for their attendance, and suggested weekly meetings again need to commence.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes from the MANEX Meeting held on 24th November 2004 were adopted.

Draft Management Plan 2005-06 Discussion Paper Two

The Director of Corporate Services informed MANEX that the discussion paper shows changes to the Draft Management Plan Discussion Paper One that was workshopped on 15th March 2005.

The General Manager thanked the Director of Corporate Services for producing the document. Changes are listed below:

- 1.1.1 Minutes are available within 7 working days of each meeting.
- 1.2.1 Current reporting processes to Council reviewed
- 1.7.1 Continued liaison with adjoining Councils
- 2.6.1 Develop and implement a Drug Action Plan
- 4.4.1 Ensure that the Wilcannia Women's and Children's Safehouse is operational
 - Ensure annual budget is developed and submitted to Council
 - Ensure agreement is complied with
- 4.10 Provide support for all Community Working Parties in the Shire
- 6.5 Investigate and implement alternate water supplies to ensure that the Ivanhoe Community is provided with ongoing access to water
- 6.6.1 Investigate the feasibility of improvements such as an increase in size of the Wilcannia Weir.
- 8.4.2 Investigate portable ablution amenities for use in Wilcannia and Ivanhoe
- 8.4.3 Investigate portable canteen amenities for use within the Shire
- 9.7.3 Wilcannia Post Office – seek funding options for repairs and maintenance of the Wilcannia Post Office
- 10.4.2 Investigate the possibility of kerb and gutter upgrades at Menindee.
- 10.4.3 Investigate alternate ways of dealing with the collection and storage of stormwater.
- 10.5.2 Establish community seating where appropriate throughout the Shire.
- 11.1.2 Provide ongoing support to the Darling to Diamantina Project
- 11.2.2 Communicate the benefits of tourism to Shire residents and ratepayers/
- 11.3.1 Facilitate town beautification and improvement throughout the Shire
- 11.6.1 Prepare a business plan for the development, improvement and maintenance of caravan parts under Council control.

OH & S

Council's OH&S Committee is running smoothly

- Checklist
- Hepatitis injections will commence shortly
- A new Drug and Alcohol Policy will be submitted to the committee at the next meeting.
- Workplace Safety Inspections commence on 28th April.
- Nominations are about to be called to replace Ruth Close as an indoor staff rep on the committee.

Staff Consultative Committee

- Productive meeting with Union Officer Mr Terry Dray on Monday 11th.
- Mick Williams has resigned as Council's Union Rep after several years service – Letter of appreciation to be written to Mick.
- Encourage staff to become members of the Union.
- It is important Council has a good rapport with the Union.
- Staff appraisals now due.

Risk Management

- Menindee Pool, Ivanhoe Pool and White Cliffs Pool are all to be risk assessed in the near future.
- Risk Audit has been completed – more work to be done, not a great result.

Rural Transaction Centres

- The Manager of Community Development reported that the approval from the Minister for the variations has not been received. The Minister is asking a few questions which have been answered.
- Updated timetable will be given to DoTaRS whenever an update occurs.
- Congratulations to the Mandatory Inspections Officer for the new design of the Wilcannia centre.
- Council's maintenance officer has done all he can, builder to start work on Wilcannia Centre on Monday 25th April 2005.
- Menindee Centre is on target.
- Second round of funding will be received in May.
- The RTC needs to be a high priority for all departments.
- The Co-ordinator of the Wilcannia Centre is currently being recruited, applications close 27th April 2005
- The Environmental Section needs a detailed plan of all cabling required.

Other Business

Private Use Vehicle Policy

A policy needs to be developed for private use of Council vehicles.

Alarm Callouts

The Manager of Environment Services asked if there could be incentive for the Animal Control Officer/Ranger to attend after-hours call-outs, he is currently on top of the list of contacts.

The General Manager replied that as he already receives a call-out allowance for his Animal Control duties, he can be paid for after-hours attendance.

Homecare Lease

The Manager of Environment Services reported that the Department are requesting a letter from Council before the new lease is formalised.

Once the lease has been signed off by Council, a letter can be written including Council's resolution.

4WD Course

To be held 8-9th June 2005.

Two places will be booked, the Manager of Community Development, and possibly the new Environmental Health Officer that is currently being recruited. Applications close 22nd April 2005.

MANEX Meetings

To be held every Wednesday commencing at 3:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5:20 pm

10.3 MANEX Minutes – 20th April 2005

MANEX Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2005

Present:

Mr Bill O'Brien	General Manager
Mr Tim Hazell	Director of Corporate Services
Mr Russell Bow	Director of Engineering Services
Mrs Leeanne Ryan	Manager of Environmental Services
Mrs Sharon Hutch	Manager Community Development
Mrs Marilyn O'Brien	Senior Administration Officer

Meeting Commenced at 3:00 pm

Apologies There were no apologies

The General Manager thanked MANEX for their attendance, and suggested this meeting is primarily designed to discuss issues and decisions resulting from the April 2005 Council Meeting.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes from the MANEX Meeting held on 14th April 2005 were adopted.

Council Meeting held 19th April 2005.

- The General Manager reported to MANEX that the Confidential Report to Council was well received. The Director of Corporate Services' Employment Contract has been renewed for a further three years. The Contract document will now be prepared and will take affect from the date it is signed and the Council Seal has been attached.
- It has been observed that many Councilors' do not have enough input into the Management Plan; perhaps a different approach is required.
- Council has recommended the Manager of Community Development be invited to represent Central Darling Shire along with the General Manger on the Outback Area Consultative Committee. There may be a further opportunity for a Council member or community representative

to be invited to be part of this committee in the future as the current structure is being reviewed. The General Manager has been asked by the committee to provide a structure for consideration and to recommend certain appointments particularly from Central Darling and the Unincorporated Area.

- There has been no report or update from the Ivanhoe Telecentre Committee in regards to their activities. A report was considered necessary as Council are now assisting and providing technical support to the Ivanhoe Telecentre.
- Street Lighting Audit in Menindee may have not been completed, need to follow up with Country Energy, and request an Audit in Ivanhoe.

Other Business

Wilcannia Blue-Light Disco

The Wilcannia Community have requested the use of the Community Hall to hold a Blue-Light Disco. Suggest they put in an application for Financial Assistance in order to obtain use of the hall for no cost for future discos if this one is successful.

Community Transport Service

To date 3 expressions of interest have been received to provide the required service for the 2005/06 financial year.

Menindee Gun Club

The General Manager reported that the Menindee Gun Club have received a further account from Country Energy for \$12,000 being for excess water. It was understood the utility, Australian Inland, agreed not to pursue the amount in the community interest, the water was used to water street trees along the town entrance to Menindee some years ago. The account may have been regenerated as a result of the takeover by Country Energy. The General Manager will follow up with Mr Guy Chick, General Manager of Country Energy in Broken Hill.

Environmental Services Report

The Manager of Environment Services reported the funds have been received from the Menindee Lakes Caravan Park Trust for an Engineers inspection of sites and issue of compliance plates to the associated structures. The Manager of Environment Services has requested a list of those site holders who have paid for an inspection to be carried out and on receipt of this information arrangements will be made for the inspections to take place.

The Manager of Environment Services requested administrative assistance whilst her Administration Officer is on extended leave.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:20 pm

10.4 MANEX Minutes – 27th April 2005

MANEX Meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2005

Present:

Mr Bill O'Brien	General Manager
Mr Tim Hazell	Director of Corporate Services
Mr Russell Bow	Director of Engineering Services
Mrs Leeanne Ryan	Manager of Environmental Services

Meeting Commenced at 3:10 pm

Apologies There were no apologies

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes from the MANEX Meeting held on 20th April 2005 were adopted.

Business Arising from Minutes

The Blue Light Disco held at Wilcannia on Thursday 21st April 200M was a resounding success. The children were very well behaved, they had dancing competitions, and enjoyed the evening immensely. Also to note, there were no children on the street by midnight. The hall was left cleaner than when they arrived. Aaron Staker was the principal organizer, and he is to be congratulated. A letter of thanks will be written to Aaron.

Another Blue-light disco is planned for this Friday, 29th April, being organized by the young people who are organising the Debutantes Ball to be held on 24th September 2005. They need to raise funds for the Ball. Hopefully this one will be as successful as the previous one.

Council has been informally informed that Senior Project Officer, Anjali Boronowskis from NSW Premier's Department will be commencing duties at Wilcannia during May 2005 as Acting River Towns Facilitator. Anjali will work in Wilcannia every second week, she will assist/mentor the young people with the Deb Ball as well as other projects.

White Cliffs Road Opening.

Everything is in place for the Official Opening. The Engineering Department has done an outstanding job with only 10 days notice. Thanks especially go to Works Engineer, Holly Davies who has made most of the arrangements.

Old Shire Depot

This site could be cleaned up and used for storage. A new fence is required and security mesh. Mr John Schofield is leasing the property from Council and he has done a good job acting as caretaker for a reduced rental. The General Manager will get in touch with Mr Schofield to advise him that an inspection of the property will take place at 2:30pm on Friday 29th April.

Town Entrance Clean Up

To compliment the excellent work being carried out at the "Old Mobil Site" at Wilcannia by the CDEP, the General Manager suggested a working bee could be organised to clean up the area from the Bridge to the Mission, and the area behind the Warali Estate Mission houses.

Sunday 29th May 2005 is the suggested date, from 10am – 12pm, with a light lunch and refreshments provided later at a venue to be decided.

Shire Chambers Honour Board

The General Manager has received information on an "Honour Board", primarily to list Order of Australia recipients. Council's "Individual Australia Day Award" winners could also be listed on the board. Another board could be established to list past Mayors and Shire Presidents, possibly also General Managers.

Occupational Health & Safety

The Director of Corporate Services reported that the first OH&S inspection took place yesterday at the White Cliffs Work's Depot. The inspectors were Tim Hazell, Russell Bow, Mick Williams, with Rod Dillon and Tony Latham from the White Cliffs Depot.

These inspections will cross-over with the Risk Management Inspections.

An indoor staff member is needed to fill the vacancy on the committee left by Ruth Close's resignation. The Director of Engineering Services will send out nominations in the near future.

Other Business

Reclassification of Cobb Highway

Correspondence has been received from Mr Peter Black OAM, MP stating that the NSW Road Classification Review Panel are currently considering reclassifying the Cobb Highway from a State Highway to a Regional Road. This will not change the name of the road, but it could be an advantage to Council as funds would be available from the Regional Road funds, rather than competing with other State Highways in the Western Division such as the New England and Mitchell Highway, which will always get the priority as the traffic is far greater, as are the 'black spots'.

Staffing matters

As a result of personal and immediate pressures, correspondence has been received from the Mandatory Inspections Officer requesting flexibility of current working hours to perform Council duties. The Manager of Environment Services and the General Manager are both supportive of this request, which, it is understood to be a temporary situation, and will not affect the time spent in Wilcannia. This situation will reviewed in three months.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:20 pm

SECTION 11. DELEGATES REPORTS

SECTION 12. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Cr Longfellow

Asked if the Catchment Management Authority have been asked to address Council.

The General Manager will attend to the matter.

Cr Longfellow also asked if Ivanhoe can have a Town cleanup day, to collect large items that cannot be disposed of under the usual Garbage collection.

The General Manager suggested that was a good idea, and an item be put in the 2005-06 Management Plan to have one day per year for each town.

Cr Longfellow also asked for B Ward to arrange a Works Committee Meeting.

The Director of Engineering Services replied that it is up to the Ward Councillors, but now that he is aware one is required, he will arrange.

Cr Brown

Asked if the Westpac incident is covered by insurance.

The General Manager replied a full report will be prepared for a confidential meeting in June 2005.

Cr Doyle

Reported to Council that trains are still stopping over the road at the railway crossing. Is there anything that can be done?

The Director of Engineering Services will investigate.

Cr Reid

The Menindee/Sunset Strip Pensioners Association require a new wheely-bin.

The Manager of Environment Services will attend to the matter.

Cr MacMillan

Asked if Council would consider purchasing the Wilcannia Post Office businesses and locating it in the old Post Office building.

The General Manager replied that it appears that other parties are interested in purchasing the business, it is not recommended that Council purchase private businesses if others are interested. The Post Office building could be considered as a location once the business has been sold, but also the Rural Transaction Centre could be an option.

Cr MacMillan also asked if the Wilcannia Pre-School's Fire Extinguishers could be inspected and updated, also their hot water service needs to be inspected.

The Manager of Environment Services will add the Pre-School to Council's list for inspection next time Wormalds are in Wilcannia, and a plumber will be here next week, arrangements will be made for him to inspect the hot water service.

Cr MacMillan also reported that the Wilcannia Pre-School sand pit needs replacement sand.

The Manager of Environment Services will investigate.

**SECTION 13. PUBLIC ACCESS - QUESTIONS AND
COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

SECTION 14. URGENT BUSINESS

Any other matter which the mayor may allow to be brought forward

SECTION 15. CONFIDENTIAL MEETING

SECTION 16. FIXING DATES AND VENUES FOR NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1:32 pm.

The Mayor informed Councillors that an inspection of the Wilcannia Post Office building, Knox and Downs building and the old Mobil Site will be conducted after lunch.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday 28th June 2005 in the Wilcannia Council Chambers commencing at 9:00 am
