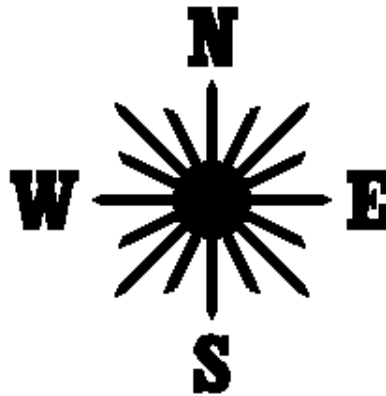


Mission Statement

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

CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

For the Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 15th December 2009

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 Customer Service Centre, Wilcannia on Tuesday 15th December 2009 commencing at 9:04am.

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SECTION 1. THE GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION

That leave of absence be granted.

1-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Linnett that leave of absence be granted.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENT:

Councillors:

- Ray Longfellow
- Graham Wellings
- Peter Sullivan
- Paul Brown
- Moya Reid
- Clive Linnett
- Eamon Sammon
- Ron Page

ALSO PRESENT:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Tim Hazell | General Manager |
| Leeanne Ryan | Manager Environmental Services |
| Kym Fuller | Manager of Community and Economic Development |
| Adelaide Elliott | Administration Officer Environmental Services |

APOLOGIES:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Reece Wilson | Manager Technical and Engineering Services |
| Mel Brown | Executive Manager |

SECTION 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted

2-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Linnett that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted

MOTION CARRIED

2.1 Business Arising out of Minutes

2.2 Notices of Motion/Rescission

The following notice of motion has been received:

That Council begin the process of establishing an Internal Audit Committee.
That Council begin the process of appointing an Internal Auditor.

That the Internal Audit Committee be operating and the Internal Auditor appointed by 31st March 2010.

Motion moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Reid.

Note from the General Manager:

Clause 240 of the Local Government (General) Regulations states at point (2):

“(2) The general manager must not include in the agenda for a meeting of the council any business of which due notice has been given if, in the opinion of the general manager, the business is (or the implementation of the business would be) unlawful. The general manager must report (without giving details of the item of business) any such exclusion to the next meeting of Council.”

There is some conjecture over the legality of the motion in that Section 335 of the Local Government Act, 1993 confers on the General Manager the function to appoint staff. This point is currently being investigated with the Department of Local Government to determine the legality or otherwise of the notice of motion. It may be appropriate to defer this matter until this clarification has been obtained.

Discussion was held regarding the establishment of an internal audit committee
Councillor Brown Moved and Councillor Reid Seconded an amendment that the Council begin the process of establishing an Internal Audit Committee. That CDSC begin the process of appointing an Internal Auditor.

That the Internal Audit Committee be operating and the Internal Auditor appointed by 30th April 2010.

The motion then became the resolution.

3-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Reid that the CDSC begin the process of establishing an

Internal Audit Committee. That CDSC begin the process of appointing an Internal Auditor.

That the Internal Audit Committee be operating and the Internal Auditor appointed by 30th April 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

It was noted that a further report is to be provided to the next meeting of Council.

SECTION 3. MAYORAL MINUTE OR REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

4-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Longfellow, Seconded that the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

On the 26th November, the Mayor and Manager Community and Economic Development attended a meeting with the City of Ryde Community Advisory Committee in Ryde. The meeting was well attended with a genuine interest still being displayed in the Central Darling Shire. Enthusiasm was shown for an arts and crafts exhibition in conjunction with the NAIDOC week celebration for 2010 in Ryde.

The Mayor attended the Executive Shires Association meeting in Sydney on the 3rd December. Discussion took place regarding a fish friendly Council brochure, cost shifting, regulation of underground petroleum and storage systems, TIS grants and entertainment licences.

On the 8th December, the Mayor attended the Ivanhoe Working Party meeting. The signing of a MOU between the working party and the Department of Human Services was conducted. It was noted that the Tidy Towns encourage participation in the tidy town's process and the key issues to address were the vandalism and litter control.

The Mayor attended a meeting in Menindee with Senator Mark Arbib, Senator John Williams, Clr Reid and Clr Page on the 14th December. The meeting was held to discuss the PACE project at the Menindee Central School.

The Mayor also attended another meeting in Wilcannia on the 14th with Senator Mark Arbib, Senator John Williams, the General Manager, the Manager Community and Economic Development and members of the Community.

The Mayor noted that he has made contact on behalf of the Councillors and staff with the new Mayor of the Broken Hill City Council, Councillor Wincen Cuy, the Mayor congratulated him on his recent election win.

SECTION 4. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the General Managers report be received and dealt with

5-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the General Managers report be received and dealt with

MOTION CARRIED

4.1 Administration

4.1.1 Telstra – Provision of Payphones

Correspondence has been received from Telstra Customer Sales and Service Payphones notifying Council that following the period of community consultation the payphones in Yartla Street, Menindee x 2 and in Warrali Street, Wilcannia are to be retained. These payphones will continue to be monitored for general usage rates. Payphones at the Copi Hollow caravan park, Oxley Crescent (Railwaytown) Ivanhoe and Landell Street in Menindee are to be removed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Administration Report be received and noted.

6-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Brown that the Administration Report be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

Item 4.2 was deferred until later in the meeting until after Jeff Shanks had given his presentation.

4.2 Annual Financial Reports – 2009-2010

4.3 Policy Guidelines

Further to a recent Councillor workshop on the review of Council's policies, it was agreed that a further report would be submitted for Council consideration. The workshop considered a Draft Policy Development Manual issued by the Local Government Managers Australia in November 2007 (copy attached). The workshop agreed that it was appropriate to have a consistent approach to the layout of each policy and the following was considered appropriate:

1. Background
2. Objective
3. Application/Scope
4. Definitions
5. Principles/Body
6. Relevant Legislation
7. Related and Associated Council Policy and Procedures

8. Responsible Officer/Policy Owner
9. Responsibilities
10. Approval
11. Monitoring
12. Review Date
13. Record Keeping, Confidentiality and Privacy
14. Breaches and Sanctions

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally adopt the outline for all Council policies and formally adopt the Policy Development Manual as distributed.

7-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Sullivan that Council formally adopt the outline for all Council policies and formally adopt the Policy Development Manual as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Financial Assistance – Menindee Central School

In accordance with a recent Council resolution, the proposal to financially assist the Menindee Central School to the extent of \$2,474 has been submitted for a period of public exhibition. At the close of this exhibition period no submissions were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council financially assist the Menindee Central School to the extent of \$2,424.

8-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Reid, Seconded Clr Sullivan that Council financially assist the Menindee Central School to the extent of \$2,424.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 Council Policy – Public Access to Council Meetings

Further to Council resolution 6-11-09 a reworked policy governing public access to Council meetings is attached for consideration. The proposed policy has been formulated in accordance with the guidelines suggested in the Policy Development Manual. It should be noted that the development of this policy is not, in any way, reducing access to Council by members of the public. The only purpose of this policy is to put in place a clear and transparent set of guidelines on how that access is to occur.

Practice Note number 16, Meeting Practice Note, issued by the Department of Local Government at page 21 states:

“There is no automatic right under the Act or the Regulation for the public to participate in a council meeting, either by written submission or oral presentation. This includes being able to ask questions or address council meetings, or to comment on matters during meetings.

However, providing some form of public participation in council meetings is good practice. If participation is permitted, councils should consider giving basic guidance to potential speakers on meeting processes and practices.”

It is therefore appropriate for the Central Darling Shire Council to develop a policy, or set of guidelines, if public participation at Council meetings is to continue.

Point 5, second dot point, replace the term Executive Manager with Management, third dot point to read:

Each address will be limited to five (5) minutes at the discretion of the Chair, with precedence given to public members who have registered.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally adopt the policy on Public Access to Council Meetings.

9-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Brown that Council formally adopt the policy on Public Access to Council Meetings.

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 5. MANAGER TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
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RECOMMENDATION

That the Manager Technical and Engineering Services report be received and dealt with.

10-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the Manager Technical and Engineering Services report be received and dealt with.

MOTION CARRIED

5.1 Activity Report 7th November to 8th December 2009

5.1.1 Administration
Staff Training

No Engineering staff training carried out this month

Workshops, Meetings and Conferences

Barwon Darling Town Water Supplies Drought Teleconference (Wednesday 25/11/09)

Lachlan River Town Water Supplies Drought Teleconference (Friday 28/11/09)

Both Teleconferences covered similar topics for discussion and responses were the same for CDSC and there was no significant change to the advise submitted to the October teleconference. The comments below remain valid

Blue Green Algae

1. Algal Monitoring Update by Chris Knights (Departmental Algal specialist)
2. Nothing to report at this stage as informed by recent testing
3. However, contingency plans should be implemented, ie, carbon stockpile, any plant/equipment issues addressed
4. Approaching high risk phase, relatively higher temperatures, low flows (or even cease)

River Report

1. Matt Parmeter advised on the current status of both River Systems
2. Salinity is reasonable however temperatures are rising
3. CDSC informed the meeting that Wilcannia and Ivanhoe, restrictions continue, treatment capacity OK, adequate carbon in stock
4. Departmental approval required in Wilcannia to transfer water from upper weir pool to lower weir pool, Richard Wheatley to be contacted in this regard
5. White Cliffs, Wakefield storage has upto 12 months supply with recent rainfall.

Water Carting

1. No requests to date, however are expected shortly
2. Minister has declared no town will be without water
3. Standpipes should be checked and funds available for more standpipes, Drought Management Plans to be updated and submitted to the Department.

Depot Office

Location	Task	Comments
<u>Manager of Technical and Engineering Services</u>		

Office/Shire	Supervision, Enquiries, Inspections, Invoices	Ongoing
Works Programme	2009/2010 Programme	35%
Water/Sewer Asset	Capture and implement	In Progress
Regional Roads REPAIR Program	Application for funding 2009/2010	Application Submitted, awaiting response.
Ivanhoe Bores	4 New Production Bores drilled and encased Agreement with land holder Easement survey and plan update Licence all new bores Pump and power proposal	Complete In Progress In Progress In Progress With Contractor
Wilcannia 2 nd Bore	Survey for the location of the new bores and flood height. Detailed Plans sent to Construction Contractor for final design. DWE invoiced for 50% of monies spent to date Pump and power proposal	Completed With Contractor Received Received
Plant Replacement	3 Landcruisers, DES, MES, MCED and GM's car.	In Progress
Bonley Bridge	Sub structure Deck Approaches Guard Rail installation	Complete Complete Complete Complete
Lake Woytchugga	Culvert replacement Fencing Guard rail installation	Complete Complete Outstanding
Trida Rail Crossing	Upgrade existing crossing	In Progress
<u>Project Engineer</u>		
Wilcannia Weir	Immediate works to minimise leakage New Weir proposal	Application completed In progress
Wilcannia Water and Sewer	Remote Communities Assistance Aboriginal Communities	In progress In progress
Drought Management Plan	Review and Update	In Progress
<u>Assets Roads Manager</u>		
State Roads RMCC	Works Proposals submitted this Month	6
	Works Orders received (total for the year)	6
RTA	Works Proposals and Works Orders. Routine Maintenance Register. Highway routine inspections.	Start RMCC October On Going On Going

<u>Overseer</u>		
Office/Shire	Staff supervision, Enquiries, Inspections.	Ongoing
Shire Roads	Inspections	Ongoing
RTA	Ivanhoe Pedestrian crossing	completed

5.1.2 **Community Amenity**

Public Conveniences

General maintenance all towns

5.1.3 **Water Supplies**

Wilcannia

Wilcannia Filtered and Raw Water

Filtered water for the town continues to be sourced from Bore No. 1 given the high turbidity and water treatment challenges.

Raw water for the town is from the weir pool.

Water levels at the Weir

7th December 2009, No flow over the top of the Wilcannia concrete weir. Water level 600mm below top of weir.

Pumps

Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant.

Satisfactory operation at the Water Treatment Plan.

White Cliffs

Satisfactory Operation

Water Levels, 7th December 2009.

Tank 1 = 5.2m

Tank 2 = 4.2m

Tank 3 = 8.75m (Wakefield) Supply for the Town

Two new 45,000 litre tanks are in place at Dam 1. Solar pump array system has been installed. Pump installed and pipe work to be completed

Ivanhoe

Satisfactory Operation, water supplied from the bore field's storage; Flow rate is steady at 4.5 l/sec

Water Levels, 7th December 2009.

Town storage 47 megalitres.

Morrison's lake storage 0 megalitres.

5.1.4 **Sewerage**

Satisfactory operations, general maintenance, Wilcannia.

Routine Maintenance and inspections on the pump stations and pump wells.

5.1.5 **Central Darling Shire Assets**

Wilcannia Filtered and Raw Water services.

Inspected and logged into the Asset data system.

5.1.6 **Transport & Communication** **General**

State Roads - RTA Routine Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC)

Road	Activity	Comments
SH 8	Barrier Highway = 167.32 km Routine maintenance (RMCC)	20% ongoing
	Bitumen Resealing & Heavy Patching	Completed
SH21	Cobb Highway = 219.38 km Routine maintenance (RMCC)	50% ongoing
	Maintenance Grade Gravel resheet	Complete
	Bitumen Resealing & Heavy Patching	Completed
	Columbus Street – pedestrian Island	

Regional Roads

Road	Activity	Comments
MR66 = 6.38 km Menindee To Broken Hill	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance	Ongoing
MR67 = 34.75 km Ivanhoe to Balranald	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance	Ongoing
MR 68A = 127.66 km Wilcannia To Tilpa	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance	Ongoing
MR 68B = 154.42 km Wilcannia To Menindee	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance, Maintenance Grading.	Ongoing Ongoing
MR68C = 69.80 km Menindee to Pooncarie	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance	Ongoing
MR 428 = 34.91 km White Cliffs - Kayrunnera	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance	Ongoing
MR80 = 3.99 km Mossgiel to Hillston	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance	Ongoing
MR 416 = 65.72 km Ivanhoe to Cobar Shire	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance Maintenance Grading.	Ongoing Ongoing
MR 433 = 199.87 km Ivanhoe to Menindee	Routine Inspection/ Maintenance Maintenance Grading.	Ongoing Ongoing
MR435 = 93.14 km Wilcannia to White Cliffs	Routine Maintenance/ patching	On Going

Local Roads

Roads	Activity	Comments
ALL = 1602.30 km	Maintenance Inspections	Ongoing Ongoing

5.1.7 Aerodromes

Menindee, Wilcannia, White Cliffs, Ivanhoe, Tilpa and Emmdale

Routine Inspections and maintenance.

Investigations into the suitability of Kangaroo proofing existing fence lines around the airstrips

Questions posed include:

| How long has Wilcannia been operation on the bore and why not on the river.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Monthly Activity Report be received and noted

11-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Brown that the Monthly Activity Report be received and noted

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 6. MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

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

12-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the Manager of Environmental Services Report be received and dealt with.

MOTION CARRIED

6.1 Information Items

6.1.1 Pool Attendants

Pool Attendants have been engaged as follows;

White Cliffs – Ms Enid Black

Ivanhoe – Mr Gary McDonald

Menindee – Mr Steve Newman

Wilcannia – Mr Charles Dulvarie

All pools in the Shire are open and operating as required.

6.1.2 Hall Funding

Hall works are progressing as required. Over the past month, work has commenced on the Darnick Hall to paint the exterior and undertake repairs. Work is complete on Wilcannia and Ivanhoe Halls. Work at White Cliffs and Tilpa Halls remains outstanding.

6.1.3 Netwaste Forum

On Friday 4th December 2009, Manager Environmental Services attended the Netwaste Forum in Cowra. Some topics on the agenda included composting of Council organics, home composting kits, release of the Small Landfill Management Guide, Waste to Art.

RECOMMENDATION

That Information Items report be received and noted

13-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Sullivan that Information Items report be received and noted

MOTION CARRIED

6.2 Comprehensive LEP Update

On Thursday 3rd December 2009, Manager Environmental Services attended a Government Agencies meeting for preparation of the Comprehensive LEP. The meeting was held in Dubbo and included representatives from Dept of Planning, Bourke and Brewarrina Shires and delegates from a number of government agencies. The scope of the meeting was to gauge the viewpoints of agencies regarding the development of the new LEP's.

The Comprehensive LEP for Central Darling is progressing well, and preliminary maps have been drafted for the future zoning for the townships of the Shire. Council's consultant, Mr Ian Sinclair has requested a workshop with Councillors to go through the draft plans to consider/make any necessary changes that maybe required. This workshop is planned for the Monday afternoon prior to the February 2010 Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That a Comprehensive LEP Workshop for Councillors be held on Monday 15th February 2010.

14-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Reid that a Comprehensive LEP Workshop for Councillors be held on Monday 15th February 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

6.3 LEP Amendment

For a number of years, Council has been pursuing the gazettal of an amendment to the 2004 LEP to enable subdivision in White Cliffs to provide secure tenure over dugout areas. It is pleasing to report that Council has received a draft plan from the Parliamentary Counsel that is suitable for public exhibition. This is indeed a step forward, and it has taken approximately 2 years to progress through to this stage. The next step in the process is to place the draft document on public exhibition, however prior to this Council needs to request a Section 65 Certificate from the Department of Planning under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Once the Section 65 Certificate has been issued, Council is required to:

- publicly exhibit the plan for a minimum period of 28 days under Section 66.
- Under Section 67 the general public and also relevant government agencies are able to review the draft document and forward written submissions regarding the plan to Council if required.
- Under Section 68 Council considers any submissions received, then submits a report with the final LEP Amendment to the Department of Planning. A final Parliamentary Counsel opinion will also be sought at this stage.
- Under Section 69, the Director General prepares a report to the Minister

- Lastly, under Section 70 the Minister considers making the plan and it is notified on the Legislative Website and gazetted.

Depending on the number of submissions received when placed on public exhibition, and whether any complex situations arise, it may be possible that the LEP amendment may reach gazettal stage in the next few months. A copy of the draft plan has been provided for Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Draft LEP Amendment as presented.

That Council requests a Section 65 Certificate from the Department of Planning under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to place the draft LEP Amendment on public exhibition.

That after the Section 65 Certificate is issued that Council places the draft LEP amendment on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

15-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Linnett that Council adopts the Draft LEP Amendment as presented. That Council requests a Section 65 Certificate from the Department of Planning under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to place the draft LEP Amendment on public exhibition.

That after the Section 65 Certificate is issued that Council places the draft LEP amendment on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

MOTION CARRIED

Item 6.4 was referred to the closed section of the meeting to discuss the individual tenders.

6.4 Federal Heritage Funding Projects – Wilcannia Post Office and Council Chambers – Tendering of Works

6.5 Lease – Part Old Shire Depot, Wilcannia

The lease agreement for the Old Shire Depot located on the corner Field and Bourke Streets, Wilcannia is once again due for renewal. The lease agreement between Mr John Schofield and Council has been ongoing for a number of years and is renewed every two years. Over time, Council has used a number of areas of the old depot yard, however Mr Schofield still uses a small part of this area. The lease is minimal, being \$1.00 per week, as Mr Schofield provides some security for the site through having a presence located on the site. It is recommended that the lease agreement for this area be renewed between Council and Mr Schofield.

RECOMMENDATION

That the lease agreement between Council and Mr John Schofield for use of part of the old Shire depot be renewed for a further two year period.

16-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Wellings that the lease agreement between Council and Mr John Schofield for use of part of the old Shire depot be renewed for a further two year period.

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 7. MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

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

17-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the Manager of Community and Economic Development's report be received and dealt with.

MOTION CARRIED

7.1 Schedule of Investments

Schedule of Investments - November 2009				
DATE	TIME PERIOD	INTEREST RATE	DUE DATE	TOTAL (\$)
Deposits at Call				
	Commonwealth	3.45%		\$455,780.00
	Westpac	3.30%		\$950,000.00
Australian Corporate Mortgage Backed Securities (Face Value)				
	Castlereagh Trust	90 points over 3mthBBSW	5.00%	21-Jun-13
				\$1,500,000.00
Total Investments as at 30th November 2009				
	11 am Call Account			\$1,405,780.00
	Commercial Bills and Notes			\$1,500,000.00
	Term Deposits			\$0.00
				\$2,905,780.00
<p>At Call refers to funds held at a financial institution that can be recalled within 24 hours.</p> <p>The Mortgage Backed Security is a longer term investment with a floating interest rate on the Notes. The rate is adjusted every 3 months. Council classifies this facility as 'available for sale' which requires measurement at fair value at the end of the year.</p> <p>Commercial Bills and Term Deposits are short term investments issued by a bank with a promise to pay a specified amount on settlement (being the face value plus interest).</p> <p>BBSW Bank Bill Swap Rate</p>				

The Collateralised Debt Obligation that Council holds with the Westpac Bank and Castlereagh Trust was valued at \$816,834.45 at the end of November 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Schedule of Investments report be received and adopted.

18-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Brown that the Schedule of Investments report be received and adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

7.2 Rates Report November 2009

That rates collection statement for the month of November is attached for information.

RECOMMENDATION

That the rates report be received and noted

19-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Sammon that the rates report be received and noted

MOTION CARRIED

7.3 National Audit of Municipal and Essential Services in Remote Indigenous Communities

Following is an advice received from FaHCSIA National Office in relation to an audit commissioned by FaHCSIA Consultants.

This letter has also been sent to Andrew Bowcher, Administrator of the Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

The date set down for the audit to take place in Wilcannia will be 17th December, 2009.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce Graham Just from AECOM Pty Ltd who has been engaged by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to undertake an audit of municipal and essential services in the township of Wilcannia and Walgett. The purpose and background to the audit is outlined below.

Background

The National Municipal and Essential Services Audit (the Audit) was agreed to by the Commonwealth, States and the Northern Territory Government under the Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership Agreement in November 2008. This was agreed through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and is an initiative under the Commonwealth Government's 'Closing the Gap' strategy.

The key objective of the Audit is to assess levels of outstanding need and clarify funding and service responsibility for the future delivery of municipal and essential services in remote Indigenous communities.

Audit in Remote Indigenous Communities

Municipal and essential services and a range of infrastructure types will be audited in 29 Indigenous communities across Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. These are the priority communities identified under COAG's Remote Service Delivery National Partnership. The Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership and Remote Service Delivery National Partnership are key to COAG's Indigenous Reform Agenda.

An additional selection of Indigenous communities from within each jurisdiction, ranging in population size and location, will also be audited.

Audit of Non Indigenous Communities

A number of non-Indigenous comparative communities are included in the scope of the audit for the purposes of establishing base level standards that will be used for comparative purposes to assess outstanding need in remote Indigenous communities. In NSW, the communities agreed with the NSW Government are Collarenebri and Nyngan.

These communities have been selected on the basis of population size and location to enable as close a comparison as possible with the audited Indigenous communities.

Audit Delivery Teams

The Commonwealth has engaged teams of consultants, Audit Delivery Teams, with engineering expertise to undertake an assessment of municipal and essential services in the communities within the audit scope. It is anticipated the audit will encompass the following services and infrastructure types:

- power
- water and sewerage
- road
- waste disposal
- landscaping and dust control
- animal management
- environment health activities
- management of infrastructure and municipal services
- staff accommodation
- sea and air infrastructure
- community centres and facilities
- telecommunications
- solid waste
- lighting

Field audit forms have been developed and are a core part of the field audit. They are made up of single worksheets with questions that will enable data collection and an assessment of the services and infrastructure types identified above.

Next steps

I would be grateful for your assistance to facilitate the audit in Wilcannia by providing Graham Just with the contact details of the appropriate people responsible for municipal and essential services delivery within Wilcannia and Walgett.

Please note that the audit is for information purposes only and this information will be used to inform the national audit of municipal and essential services in remote Indigenous communities. If you have any concerns please contact Ms Victoria Eccles on (02) 6121 4074.

RECOMMENDATION

That the National Audit of Municipal and Essential Services in Remote Indigenous Communities report be received and noted.

20-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the National Audit of Municipal and Essential Services in Remote Indigenous Communities report be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

7.4 Australia Day Nominations

Council is asked to consider the applications received from the community for the annual council Australia Day Awards. The awards available for each town are;

Young Citizen of the Year

Citizen of the Year

Event of the Year

(List of nominations is attached)

Council is awaiting confirmation of the Australia Day ambassador and the times and dates of the activities in each of the towns are still being finalized. It appears though as if the celebrity ambassador will only be able to attend one communities event, if this is the case then we will apply for an ambassador every year so that all of the communities can have a special event once every four years.

The recipients will be reported in the February 2009 council meeting.

Details on applications received will be circulated prior to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That council select a successful nominee for each category.

21-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Reid, Seconded Clr Wellings that council select a successful nominee for each category.

MOTION CARRIED

7.5 NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Funding Programs

Council has received notification from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation regarding funding programs. The sport and recreation facility program will be open soon. This program can be used for major sporting and recreational infrastructure, MCED has sent an expression of interest to the department so that the information can be forwarded as soon as possible. Also released are a number of smaller funding rounds of up to \$10k, the intent of this round is to;

1. Increase regular and on-going participation opportunities in sport, recreation or structured physical activity in a sustainable manner.
2. Facilitate long-term change that will benefit people facing barriers to participation in sport, recreation and structured physical activity.
3. Develop the skills of volunteers and capacity of community organisations that provide participation opportunities.

4. Build the capacity of a community organisation to enhance their provision of sport and recreation services.
5. Provide accreditation or training to enable sport, recreation and physical activity programs to be conducted in locations across NSW and for specific communities.

Community based not for profit organizations are encouraged to apply, online applications are available at www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants applications close 21st December at 4pm.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Funding Programs report be received and noted.

22-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Brown that the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Funding Programs report be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

7.6 West Darling Arts – Wilcannia Works exhibition

Following is a copy of the press release re the exhibition in Gynea;

An exhibition in Sydney showcasing artwork from the Paakantji community in Wilcannia in far west New South Wales has consolidated the remote town's reputation as a new creative hub for indigenous art.

Hosted by the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre in Sydney's south, the Wilcannia exhibition features lino-cut prints and worked wood – the preferred media of many Paakantji artists – as well as sculpture and drawings, from artists including Anthony Harris, Murry Butcher, Roslyn Johnson and Kevin Cattermole.

Centrepiece of the exhibition is a series of stunning Story Poles - vivid depictions of Paakantji culture and mythology on slender poles shaped from local wood, for which Wilcannia has become renowned. Locally crafted drums and digging sticks are also on display.

Convened by West Darling Arts Inc, responsible for arts and cultural development in the remote Darling River region of far west NSW, the exhibition will be officially opened this Friday, 4 December.

Executive Officer of West Darling Arts Inc, James Giddey, said Wilcannia had flown under the radar in Australia's indigenous arts landscape for many years, but that was changing as people became aware of the calibre of Paakantji artists.

"It's not widely known that NSW has a larger aboriginal population than any other state or territory in Australia, and much of it is concentrated along the Darling River area," Mr Giddey said.

"Each community depicts its own unique lore in art, but the Paakantji - People of the River - are considered among of the most artistically prolific and creative of indigenous communities in the state," he said.

"The exhibition is a window into traditional Paakantji life, and enhances Wilcannia's reputation as an emerging and influential centre for indigenous art."

With a population of 700, Wilcannia is one of four townships in the Central Darling Shire, which ranks as one of the most economically disadvantaged regions in the State according to ABS data. As the town has an unusually high number of artists and wood carvers per capita, the arts are considered an important potential source of employment and economic opportunities for local indigenous people.

Central Darling Shire Community and Economic Development Manager and Chair of West Darling Arts, Kym Fuller, said work was underway on several fronts to strengthen pathways for artists from Wilcannia, building on the strong existing base.

"Wilcannia's dynamic arts movement has not gone unnoticed in wider arts circles," Mr Fuller said.

"The NSW Government, through Arts NSW, recently singled out Wilcannia for special mention in a new report into the potential for developing an indigenous arts industry across the State," he said.

"Central Darling Shire itself is in discussion with a number of parties regarding establishing a business and arts centre in Wilcannia.

"That there is such a concerted effort underway to formalise the support infrastructure for artists in Wilcannia speaks volumes for the unique beauty and spirit with which Paakantji artists express their heritage," Mr Fuller said.

The Wilcannia Artists Exhibition at the Hazelhurst Gallery runs until Wednesday, 9 December 2009. All exhibited pieces are for sale with the exception of the Story Poles, which could be placed in the Wilcannia Reconciliation Park.

Works on display have been produced through the Wilcannia Arts Centre, established by West Darling Arts in 2004 to nurture emerging local indigenous talent.

Artists represented in the Wilcannia Artists Exhibition are: Anthony Harris, Roslyn Johnson, Morna Johnson, Murry Butcher, Gretta Clark, Kevin Cattermole, George Bugmy, Geoff DeMain, Daryl Andrews, Mari Johnson, Karin Donaldson and Suzanne Hall.

RECOMMENDATION

That the West Darling Arts – Wilcannia Works exhibition report be received an noted.

23-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the West Darling Arts – Wilcannia Works exhibition report be received an noted.

MOTION CARRIED

7.7 City of Ryde Presentation 26/11/09

The Mayor and the MCED attended the City of Ryde community advisory committee meeting on the 26th of November. It was the second such meeting and it was an opportunity to report back to the committee on the activities that have been undertaken to date. The meeting was well attended as there is still genuine interest in the partnership of the two councils, the outcome of the meeting was that the committee would investigate the Macquarie University proposal with the assistance of Dr. Lorraine Gibson, a renowned anthropologist with extensive experience in Wilcannia. There was a lot of interest in the planned Naidoc week art exhibition, pieces from the exhibition in Gymea were bought over for the evening and a number of the committee expressed an interest in going over to Gymea to see it. The Mayor of Ryde purchased two lino cuts there and then.

| Minutes to next council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City of Ryde Presentation 26/11/09 report be received and noted.

24-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the City of Ryde Presentation 26/11/09 report be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

7.8 CDEP Reconciliation and Crick Park's Proposal

At the October meeting of council a report was put forward regarding a proposal received from Summit Employment and Training on behalf of the CDEP participants of Wilcannia and Menindee. The proposal was placed on public exhibition for 28 days and received quite a bit of feedback. (all available for viewing)

The feedback about the Wilcannia plan were specifically the lack of a budget, the selection and location of the artworks, and the lack of space for caravans.

- The budget, this has been addressed by the fact that council has allocated \$10k pa for each town for materials for CDEP projects, a development application will need to be submitted before any work can start. Summit Employment has indicated that they will be looking for small grants to assist the development of the projects into the future. It is envisaged that the work plan and budget will cover the 3 year contract that Summit have with the federal government. There is also a sum of \$25,000 which has been made available from Country Energy.

- Selection and location of artworks, Summit Employment have spoken to TAFE and the design, style, size etc will be worked out on a collaborative basis with the TAFE participants and CDEP workers and will be complimentary to the local area, the works will also include interpretive signage so that visitors can gain a full understanding of the artworks and local area. One of the suggestions received by council was that the project be extended out into the wider community as a reconciliation trail culminating at the park.
- The initial plan was a concept only, as part of further community negotiation and the DA process the area will be surveyed so that all necessary considerations for vehicles dimensions can be taken into account, this will include the appropriate tourism signage.

The Menindee Crick park plan was received well by the community and it is intended that a similar community consultation / development application process will happen to finalise the concept.

General discussion took place about the proposal and that an amendment be made in the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

That council allocate the CDEP funding for the next 3 years to the agreed projects for both Wilcannia and Menindee and that staff work with Summit Employment to secure more funding from external sources.

25-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Reid, Seconded Clr Sullivan that council allocate the CDEP funding for the current financial year to the agreed projects for both Wilcannia and Menindee, and consider further funding in conjunction with future management plans and that staff work with Summit Employment to secure more funding from external sources.

MOTION CARRIED

7.9 Outback Regional Tourism Organisation AGM

On November 20 the MCED attended the ORTO AGM in Sydney, the main item on the agenda was the pending changes in funding arrangements from Tourism NSW. In January of 2011 Tourism NSW will stop funding regional tourism organisations (RTO's) for their operational needs, in ORTO's case approximately \$90,000 per annum. It will be up to the RTO to find the extra funds to manage their operations, in cases where the number of LGA's is high this will not be difficult, in the outback it's a little different. It was agreed unanimously that the outback LGA's would not be asked for more funding and that other sources would need to be found. It is planned that a workshop be held in the New Year to plan the way forward.

On a more pleasing note, the Darling River Run (DRR) marketing campaign won the Gold Award at the recent NSW Tourism awards for the best marketing campaign in the state. The statistics for the DRR are very interesting, it is extremely popular with regional NSW residents aged over 45, families are increasingly travelling and the average length of journey is going up. As an example the average length of stay in the Central Darling Shire is approximately 3 nights.

Further to the AGM, information has been received from ORTO that the NSW Government have granted \$10k to the Central Darling Shire via ORTO to participate in the upcoming NSW Tourism campaign. These funds must be used in line with the ORTO marketing plan as supplied to Tourism NSW. Specifically the funds will be used to subsidize local operators who participated in the NSW Outback Holiday guide so that the shire which has a significant stake in the Darling River Run can participate in this highly successful publication, and for attendance at the Sydney and Brisbane caravan and camping shows.

RECOMMENDATION

That the ORTO AGM report be received and noted.

26-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Wellings that the ORTO AGM report be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

7.10 StateCover Mutual Ltd, workers Compensation Policy

Contracts have been received from StateCover Mutual Ltd so that council can consolidate its insurances.

RECOMMENDATION

That council sign and affix the seal.

27-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Sullivan that council sign and affix the seal.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned for Morning Tea at 10.40am, resuming at 11.15am

28-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that standing orders be suspended

MOTION CARRIED

Standing orders suspended at 11.15am

Ms Sussan Ley, Member for Farrer addressed council regarding the Federal Opposition's continued support for the Drought, Climate Change, Rural Health and Roads.

29-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Sammon that standing orders be resumed

MOTION CARRIED

Standing orders resumed at 11.36am

SECTION 8. RECEPTION OF CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Correspondence for Council be received and noted.

30-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Brown that the Correspondence for Council be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

8.1 Media Releases

Date	Sender	Contents
8/12/2009	The Hon Sussan Ley MP	Appointment of Shadow Assistant Treasurer
8/12/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Condemns Labor: GST Revenue Giveaway Has Left NSW Poor
7/12/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Says Irrigators Left Frustrated and Confused
7/12/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Calls for Parliament to Acknowledge NSW Government's Failure to Negotiate Sufficient health Funding
7/12/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Serious Implications for Patients If 72 Per Cent of Nurses Cut
3/12/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Rees Puts the Wrecking Ball Through 1200 Jobs
2/12/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams: Dalwood Petition Presented to Parliament
1/12/2009	Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	Commitment to Sustainability Flourishes: Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards
1/12/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Pleased RFDS Wins Air Ambulance Contract
27/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Speaks on Importance of Tackling Domestic Violence
27/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams: Future Growth Flawed By Murray Regional Strategy
27/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Graffiti Action Long Overdue Says Williams
25/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Warns 'Don't Forget Drought Depressed Graziers'
25/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Congratulates Country Energy's Quick Response
23/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Welcomes NSW Woman of the Year Award Nominations
23/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams: Changes to Justice of the Peace Application Process
23/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Praises Shadow Minister for Raising Birthday Debate
23/11/2009	Local Government Assoc of NSW &	Parking Policies are for Community

23/11/2009	Shires Assoc of NSW Member For Murray-Darling	Benefit, Councils say Parliament Honour Achievements Of Keith Allison OAM
23/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	NSW Sport Grants Seminar in Broken Hill this Week
20/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Reminds Broken Hill Residents to Enrol Before Local Government Elections
20/11/2009	Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	Bigger not necessarily better, Councils say
20/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Welcomes Inquiries Into Rural Telecommunications
20/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Launches 'Bullying: Let's Stamp It Out' Booklet
18/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Attendance Demonstrates Need for Water to Remain Affordable
18/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams: If NSW Health Customers Happy - Why Change Level of Service?
17/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Welcomes Skin Cancer Awareness Week
16/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Says Last Call for 2010 Victims Of Violent Crime Grants
13/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Welcomes New Grants For Sport
12/11/2009	Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	Unequal standards for JRPP representatives
11/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams First Speaker in Dalwoos Assessment Centre Debate
10/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams And Humphries Take Dalwood Fight to Parliament
10/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Calls For Government to Support hearing Impaired
9/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams Welcomes Murray-Darling Noxious Weeds Control Funding
9/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Williams: Support for Lachlan River Communities 'Disgraceful'
6/11/2009	Member For Murray-Darling	Increasing Water Prices Won't Fast Track Infrastructure: Williams

8.2 Circular/Newsletters

Sender	Date	Contents
Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	4/12/2009	Local Government Weekly 48/09
Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	27/11/2009	Local Government Weekly 47/09
Local Government Assoc of NSW & Shires Assoc of NSW	20/11/2009	Local Government Weekly 46/09

**SECTION 9. THE RECEPTION OF REPORTS FROM
COMMITTEES**

RECOMMENDATION

That the reports from Committees be received and noted

31-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the reports from Committees be received and noted

MOTION CARRIED

9.1 Sunset Strip Progress Association Meeting

| This matter was withdrawn.

9.2 Menindee Lake Plantation Reserve 355 Committee Financial Report **Page 33**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Menindee Lake Plantation Reserve 355 Committee Financial Report.

32-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Reid, Seconded Clr Brown that Council receive and note the Menindee Lake Plantation Reserve 355 Committee Financial Report.

MOTION CARRIED

- 8 DEC 2009

**Financial & Activity Report of
LAKE MENINDEE PLANTATION RESERVE (SUNSET STRIP) 355 management
committee (Sunset Strip Progress Association) for 01/09/2009 to 30/11/2009**

Income:

Public toilet;
CDSC Maintenance fee.....\$100.00...(per quarter)...

Grants:CDSC...\$ 4412.53..

Donations: ...SSPA...\$ 615.20.....
...Individuals.....\$ 45.00....

Total Income:\$ 5172.74.....

Expenditure

Country Energy.....\$ 501.86.....
Country Water.....\$ 74.46....
State Water.....\$ 33.35...
Cleaning materials..\$ 29.72
Repair lawn mower.\$ 44.00
Hoses / sprinkler....\$ 8.96
Padlocks.....\$ 44.86....
Tiles hall toilets.....\$ 4412.53....

Total Expenditure: ...\$ 5172.74.....

Activity Report

Tiling hall toilets.
Lawn mowing at hall.
Maintenance golf course.

General maintenance, (hall cleaning, lawn mowing, weed control, emptying rubbish bins, etc.) of the reserve and its facilities was carried out by members of the SSPA by way of voluntary labor and SSPA owned plant and equipment resulting in 'inkind' donations of ...\$ 697.50.....

calculated as ..46.5...man hours @ ...\$15.00....per man hour. The cost of plant and equipment used has not been calculated.

It should be noted that the reserve and its facilities are used by the public at large and not exclusively by the ratepayers of Sunset Strip and SSPA members.

Total inkind contributions: \$ 697.50.....

SECTION 10. DELEGATES REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION

That the Delegates reports be received and noted.

33-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the Delegates reports be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

Clr Brown

Water for the Future – Murray Darling Basin – Information Session - Bourke December 2nd 2009

Clr Linnett and the undersigned attended this session at Bourke commencing at 2pm.

This was one of a series of meetings being held throughout the Basin area by the Federal Dept of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts as part of their implementation of the Federal Govt Water for the Future Projects.

An electronic copy of the actual presentation has been given to the GM and anyone interested could obtain it from him or myself. However the Water for the Future plan is based on the following :

- Four high level objectives
 - taking action on climate change
 - using water wisely
 - securing water supplies
 - healthy rivers and waterways

A wide range of information and detail on the programs is available from the department website. The link is shown below.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/australia/index.html>

The key to the session was the presence of the Senior Bureaucrats from the department with responsibility for, Water Purchases, Use of that water, Infrastructure Projects.

- 1. Infrastructure Upgrade and Water Purchase Programs - Richard McLoughlin**
- 2. Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder - Ian Robinson**

The actual contact for this region is David Tonkin on (02)62759425 or 1800 218478

The presentation revealed :

- Drops in water availability throughout the system (average Bourke Overflows reduced from 3 per year to less than 2 per year)

- Reduction in flood flows (Wilcannia flow every 4 yrs – was 2.2 years)
- Funding \$3.7bn to be spent in NSW over a period of 10 years
- The concept of “shepherding” environmental flows through unregulated sections of the Rivers.

It was also confirmed that a number of Councils and groups in the region had just received funding for the **Planning Component** of the Strengthening Basin Communities Program. This closed on 21st August and

“In this component of the program, local government bodies in the MDB were eligible to apply for funding to systematically assess the risks and implications associated with climate change, with a particular focus on water availability, and then review existing plans or develop new plans to take account of these risks and implications.

This funding can be used to prepare plans and business cases for adaptation initiatives which may be eligible for funding under the Water Saving Initiatives component of the Strengthening Basin Communities program. “

The delegates were unsure whether CDSC had applied for funding under this program.

It would appear that this may have been ideal for developing a plan to overhaul water pipes in Wilcannia and the weir renewal.

An additional funding round for infrastructure for water saving initiatives has closed with a second round expected 2010-1011.

There is a lot happening in the area of basin development and needs to be closely watched.

Information that came from questions and one on one discussions.

- A leaking weir would probably be eligible under some infrastructure funding
- Menindee Lakes Plan expected to be decided on by mid 2010
- A Water Sharing Plan should be developed under the NSW State Government auspices within next 12 months (That is the expectation)
- Planning is being based on the CSIRO report “Sustainable Rivers Audit”
- Issues Paper “Development of Sustainable Diversion Limits for the Murray- Darling Basin” – Submissions close 18 Dec 2009.

SECTION 11. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillors Questions with Notice be received and noted.

34-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Linnett that the Councillors Questions with Notice be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Brown

1. Which Industrial Award or Industrial Awards cover Council staff and what is the basis for the recent and/ or ongoing Industrial Dispute?
2. What was the total cost of MANEX vehicles during the 2008-2009 Financial year and where does this figure appear in the final accounts (to include all MANEX vehicles, fuel, maintenance, insurance, repairs, accessories, FBT)
This can be a lump sum not individual vehicles.
3. What agreement was initially reached with Rod Brown in relation to the preparation and completion date of the Knox and Downs Site Business Plan and when will the plan be completed?
4. Will the Mayor confirm to Councillors the advice given to Clr Brown by email on 2/11/09 that projected cost of demolition of Knox and Downs was between \$170,000 and \$250,000 ?
5. Did CDSC pay for the transport of Art works to Sydney earlier this month? If so was this a grant?
6. Tendering Advertisement for work on the Council Chambers asks that they be mailed, emailed or fax'd . How does this ensure confidentiality before closing date?
7. Why is there no Mayor's Christmas Party this year?

Response:

1. Local Government (State) Award and Social and Community Services Employees (State) Award. The current issue revolves around a grievance that has been filed and is considered a staff issue.
2. The cost of all plant is aggregated into a total plant expenditure figure for the year, with fringe benefit tax separately recorded. The total cost for the four vehicles for the financial year of 2008-2009 was \$126,716.08.
3. The agreement was for Mr Rod Brown to complete the business plan for the Knox and Downs site, incorporating the Wilcannia Model. Details are included with this Agenda.
4. No costs have been provided for the demolition of the Knox and Downs building. The cost to clean up the site, retaining the existing structure has been quoted with figures ranging from \$170,000 to \$250,000.
5. No.
6. All tenders received are placed in a locked tender box upon receipt.

7. Advice has been received from the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW regarding the responsible service of alcohol and the recommendation for Councils to reconsider occasions where alcohol is served. Cost saving was also taken into consideration in the cancellation of this event.

SECTION 12. URGENT BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION

That Urgent Business be received and noted.

35-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Linnett that Urgent Business be received and noted.

MOTION CARRIED

The Western Division conference was discussed. Council is to be represented by Councillors Longfellow, Linnett, Sullivan, Reid, Page, Wellings and possibly Councillor Sammon.

Clr Linnett left the room at 12.14pm and returned 12.17pm

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

Mr Neville Crisp addressed the Council regarding the following topic:

- Who has ownership of the Wilcannia Weir
- Town bore have been very expensive to establish, is it able to run the town solely in times of big drought.
- River heights are very confusing and not accurate.

Mr Bill Elliott addressed the Council regarding the following topic:

- Alcohol free streets in Wilcannia.
- Public liability insurance for sausage sizzles and community functions.
- Reconciliation Park submission.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23pm, resuming at 12:30pm

36-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Sullivan that Council formally close the meeting to the public to discuss matters in accordance with Section 10(2)(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business

MOTION CARRIED

All Staff remained in the meeting room

37-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Linnett that standing orders be suspended

MOTION CARRIED

Standing orders suspended at 12:31pm

Mr John Hundy from AD Kings Media Pty Ltd addressed Council regarding the company's proposal for the Wilcannia Caravan Park.

Mr Hundy left the meeting at 12:58pm

38-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that standing orders be resumed

MOTION CARRIED

Standing orders resumed at 12:59pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm, resuming at 1:51pm

39-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that Council meeting revert to normal status

MOTION CARRIED

40-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Sullivan that standing orders be suspended

MOTION CARRIED

Suspend standing orders 2:01pm

| Council addressed by Mr Jeff Shanks External Auditor, Morse Group

41-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Cllr Wellings, Seconded Cllr Linnett that standing orders be resumed

MOTION CARRIED

Standing orders resumed at 2:32pm

13.1 Annual Financial Reports – 2009-2010

In accordance with sections 418, 419 and 420 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council is required to give public notice of the Council meeting at which the Annual Financial Reports are to be tabled. It has been formally resolved that these reports would be presented to the December meeting of Council.

As Council would be aware the 2008-2009 Annual Financial Reports have been audited and submitted to the Department of Local Government within the appropriate legislative time frames. A copy of the 2008-2009 Annual Financial Reports have previously been provided together with a copy of the external Auditors report.

It may be useful to examine a number of the key components of the Annual Financial Reports for 2008-2009. In providing a detailed financial analysis of the Annual Financial Reports a number of key financial performance indicators can be used. These indicators include:-

- External Restrictions – relate to restrictions that have been placed on the funds by external bodies and typically relate to unexpended grant funds for specific works and RTA funding received in advance. Funds derived from Domestic Waste Management and Special Rates for Town Improvement works are required, by the Local Government Act, to be restricted and only used for the purposes for which they were raised.
- Internal Restrictions – these more typically relate to restrictions that have been placed on funds by either a Council resolution or accepted accounting practice. Examples would include funds set aside for Employee Leave Entitlements – an accepted practice, to funds set aside for the replacement of plant and vehicles – a Council practice.

A full list of both the external restrictions and internal restrictions is as follows:-

Central Darling Shire Council		
Schedule of Restricted Assets 2008/2009		
External Restrictions	\$	\$
Domestic Waste Management	89,253.00	
Halls	250,000.00	
Ivanhoe Multi Service	22,848.00	
Old Wilcannia Bridge Barrier	131,795.00	
RLCIP	59,765.00	
Post Office	163,837.00	
Town Improvement - Ivanhoe	105,443.00	
Town Improvement - Menindee	55,704.00	
Town Improvement - White Cliffs	13,135.00	
Town Improvement - Wilcannia	32,692.00	
Water Supply - Ivanhoe	44,395.00	
Water	48,370.00	
Water Supply - Wilcannia	26,974.63	
Water	48,370.00	
Women's Safehouse	26,974.63	
Wilcannia Sewerage	<u>108,780.00</u>	1,152,991.63
Internal Restrictions		
Pooncarie Bridge	517,000.00	<u>517,000.00</u>
TOTAL		1,669,991.63

Other financial performance indicators that are considered appropriate include:-

- The Unrestricted Current Ratio – this ratio measures of the Council's liquidity and demonstrate the Council's ability to meet debts as and when they become due. A ratios of 2.42:1 is considered reasonable and appropriate.
- The Debt Service Ratio – shows the amount of Council revenue used to service debt commitments. Industry trends would indicate that a ratio of less than 20 per cent would be considered appropriate. Council's ratio of 0.79 per cent is well within considered levels.
- The Rates Coverage Ratio – shows that percentage of total revenue derived from rates. Typical ranges are within the thirty percent to fifty percent, highlighting a dependence on rating revenue. Council's present Rates Coverage Ratio of 10.28% is therefore small by comparison and highlights the low rating base and Councils reliance on Government grants and contributions.
- The Rates Outstanding percentage – measures the amount of rates that are outstanding. Industry trends in the four to ten percent range would be considered appropriate. Council's percentage of 27.80% given the reduction in the provision for bad debts as a result of commitments to collect a significant portion of outstanding rates and charges in 2009-

2010. With the collection of these accounts the outstanding percentage reduces to 3.65% which is considered acceptable.

- A new ratio of building and infrastructure renewals to depreciation Council's ratio of 108.02% is within acceptable parameters.

Council is now required to formally adopt the Annual Financial Reports for the financial year 2008/2009.

It was noted that the Annual Financial reports were submitted to the Department within the extension of the timeframe provided to the end of November 2009. It was also noted that the revaluation of operational land & building assets did not occur in this financial year and therefore did not fully meet the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting (Guidelines).

The Auditor noted the difficulty in obtaining some paperwork to prepare the Annual Financial Statements due to a lack of resources. He also discussed the need to maintain good liquidity.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Annual Financial Reports for the financial year 2008-2009 be formally presented and adopted.

42-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that the Annual Financial Reports for the financial year 2008-2009 be formally presented and adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REID RECORDS AGAINST

SECTION 14. CONFIDENTIAL MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally close the meeting to the public to discuss matters in accordance with Section 10(2)(e) of the Local Government Act, 1993 in order to discuss information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law, Section 10(2)(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, Section 10(2)(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer and Section 10(2)(h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.

43-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Linnett, Seconded Clr Sullivan that Council formally close the meeting to the public to discuss matters in accordance with Section 10(2)(e) of the Local Government Act, 1993 in order to discuss information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law, Section 10(2)(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, Section 10(2)(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer and Section 10(2)(h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.

MOTION CARRIED

- 14.1 Collateralised Debt Obligation
- 14.2 Knox and Downs Business Plan
- 14.3 Mr John Hundy of AD Kings Media Pty Ltd to address council on caravan park proposal.
- 14.4 Menindee Country Women's Association
- 14.5 Transfer of Land between CDSC and the Wilcannia LALC
- 14.6 Tenders – Wilcannia Post Office Project
- 14.7 Tenders – Council Chambers Project

52-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan, Seconded Clr Linnett that Council meeting revert to normal status

MOTION CARRIED

44-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Brown, Seconded Clr Wellings that the General Manager be delegated the authority to engage the services of a Financial Advisor to further determine the issues relating to the Collateralised Debt Obligation presently owned by Council.

MOTION CARRIED

45-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Wellings, Seconded Clr Reid that the Business Plan for the Knox and Downs area, known as the Wilcannia Model be endorsed and that actions taken be endorsed.

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCILLOR BROWN RECORDS AGAINST

COUNCILLOR REID RECORDS AGAINST

*46-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan,
Seconded Clr Brown That the Wilcannia
Caravan Park proposal report be received and
noted*

MOTION CARRIED

*47-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Page, Seconded
Clr Reid that council approve the request to
waive any outstanding rates and remove a dead
tree.*

MOTION CARRIED

*48-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sullivan,
Seconded Clr Brown that the Transfer of Land
report be received and noted*

MOTION CARRIED

*49-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sammon,
Seconded Clr Wellings that the tenders for the
Federal Heritage Funding Projects – Wilcannia
Post Office and Council Chambers be considered.
That the recommended preferred tenders from the tender
summaries be selected as the successful tenders
for these two projects.*

MOTION CARRIED

*51-12-09 Resolved On the Motion Of Clr Sammon,
Seconded Clr Wellings that the tender from
Heritage Ston Restorations be accepted for the
Council Chambers Project utilizing local based
sub-contractors referred to in their tender.*

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 15. FIXING DATES AND VENUES FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council will be held on the 16th February 2010 in Wilcannia, commencing at 9.00am

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3.28pm
