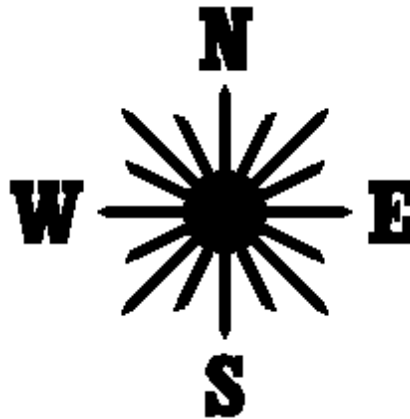


Mission Statement

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

CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda

For the Ordinary Meeting

9:00am Tuesday 17th April 2012

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 will be held in the Council Chambers, Wilcannia on Tuesday 17th April 2012 commencing at 9:00am.

Morning Tea is scheduled to be served at 10:30am and lunch at 12:30pm. Refreshments will be served in the Council Chambers.

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the apologies be received and noted and leave of absence be granted.

SECTION 2. PUBLIC ACCESS – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Council's policy in regards to public access to Council Meetings states:

- Public access to meetings of the Central Darling Shire Council are to be listed on the agenda following the Mayoral Minute.
- Each member of the public who wishes to address Council is to register with Management prior to the commencement of the meeting, listing their name and the general topic or topics they wish to raise. Those who register will have precedence.
- Each address will be limited to five (5) minutes at the discretion of the Chair.
- All matters raised by members of the public will be recorded and actioned within one month of the meeting.

SECTION 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 21st February 2012, copies of which were circulated to all Councillors, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**3.2 STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS – MARCH 2012**

Status of Council Resolutions - March 2012					
Minute #	Required action from Resolution	Responsible Officer	Secondary Support	Due Date	Action Taken
	Inform Councillors and Staff of the changes and Council's new policy	GM	EM	18/11/2011	
14-9-11	Review of Internal Audit Committee	GM		18/10/2011	Report to December Council meeting.
	Oversee the flood restoration works behind the Wilcannia Post Office	MES			Correspondence sent 27/9/2011, No action from CDEP.
	Oversee the repainting of the tables and chairs in Wilcannia	MES			Correspondence sent 27/9/2011, No action from CDEP.
	Present designs for the Wilcannia Community Hall mural to Council	MES		18/10/2011	Correspondence sent 27/9/2011, No action from CDEP
	Present designs and locations of graffiti boards to Council	MES			Correspondence sent 27/9/2011, no action from CDEP.

17-9-11	Seek external support for Murray Darling Foundation fund	GM			Not commenced.
19-9-11	A proposal for the development of PCYC Clubs for Menindee and Ivanhoe be developed	GM		18/10/2011	Not commenced.
21-9-11	Web Accessible Disclosure Log and Register of Contracts be developed	GM	IT		Not commenced.
22-9-11	Request to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Far Western NSW for financial and professional assistance with the implementation of the project plan	GM	EM		Letters sent 11 October 2011.
	IPRL Project Plan form part of the GM's performance agreement	Council	GM		
25-9-11	Seek information from Office of Water on affects of the draft water sharing plan for the Lachlan Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources on Council's operations in Ivanhoe	MTES	Proj Eng	18/10/2011	Letter completed and submitted to Office of Water.
42-11-11	Arrange for quote for removal of asbestos from Knox & Downs site	GM	MES	2/12/2011	Refer to minute 26-02-12.
4-12-11	Playground proposal in Mallee	GM	MES		In progress
12-12-11	Council workshop the issue of Council's future structure and invite the Minister for LG to a meeting.	GM			

17-12-11	Contact the Murray Darling Basin Authority about organising public consultation for the shire in early 2012.	GM			Letter sent.
28-12-11	Orgainse renewal of temporary licence for Holdaways	MES			Completed
30-12-11	Contact the NSW Office of Water for further information on the shepherding water for the Environment	MES			In progress, letter sent.
49-12-11	Progress the matter of the future ownership of the White Cliffs solar power station and a report be provided to Council	GM			GM has contacted Essential Energy regarding the matter and the process to gift the land to Council will commence shortly.
51-12-11	Report into the review of council housing costs and cost recovery as well as future housing costs.	GM/MES		Jan-12	Report currently being drafted - expected completion April 2012.
8-1-12	General Manager to negotiate venue hire fees with Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes for Menindee RTC	GM			Letter sent.
14-01-12	Survey to be completed on lots 15 & 16 in DP 2809. Council to seek clarification to disposal of land and the possibility of waiving rates.	GM	RATES		Survey to be completed in February.
16-1-12	Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries regarding the Ivanhoe Aerodrome	MTES			In Progress

10-2-12	That the March Meeting of Council to be moved from Tilpa to Wilcannia due to flooding.	GM			COMPLETED
19-02-12	White Cliffs Water Supply - Glen Hope Agreement, too seek urgent legal advice regarding the original agreement	MTES			In progress - letter has been sent to Austen Brown Boog. Reply received, Council to supply additional requested information
26-02-12	The General Manager, as a matter of urgency, make contact with hazardous material consultant and arrange an assessment of the level and presence of asbestos on the Knox and Downs site and location of the asbestos.	GM			Assessment completed, awaiting report from consultant.
31-02-12	Council request that the expression of interest (Garbage Collection Service) be resubmitted to the March meeting of Council with the existing report and a comprehensive cost analysis.	MTES			Report currently being drafted - expected completion April 2012.
7-3-12	That the April meeting of Council be transferred from Menindee to Wilcannia and the June meeting of Council from Wilcannia to Menindee	GM			
9-3-12	That a priority Road Listing report be presented to the April meeting of Council	MTES			As per regional Roads Report March 2012.
15-3-12	That Council allocate up to \$150K of 2011/12 Regional Road Blockfunding for surveying and design of Yampoola crossing on the	MTES			BARNSON have been contracted to prepare initial report, Site meeting 29-3-12

	Menindee - Pooncarie Rd				
16-3-12	That Council allocate the remaining \$914,345 of the 2011/12 Regional Road Block funding to the Ivanhoe - Balranald Rd	MTES			In progress
17-3-12	The Council enter into a temporary licence with the White Cliffs Gymkhana Club for the Annual Gymkhana and Rodeo	MES			COMPLETED
22-3-12	That Council receive the report and defer all debate on 2012/2013 rating revenue until the draft 2012/2013 budget is brought before Council.	FM	GM		
28-3-12	That Council give in principle support to the Wilcannia Central School's proposal of restricting retail sales to children during school hours in an attempt to increase school attendance rates.	GM			
29-3-12	That Council investigate responsibility for nature strip maintenance with a view to developing a policy.	MTES			Draft policy in progress
31-3-12	That Council purchase a new Kiota tractor from western farm machinery and that council defer disposal of plant 1017 for a min of six months	MTES			Order placed as per Council resolution, Delivery expected late April

SECTION 4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY

RECOMMENDATION

That the Disclosures of Interest – Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary be received and noted.

SECTION 5. MAYORAL MINUTES OR REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

SECTION 6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Nil

SECTION 7. NOTICE OF RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

SECTION 8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

8.1 INFORMATION ITEMS

ATTACHMENTS

8.1.1 PROMOTING BETTER PRACTICE REVIEW ACTION PLAN UPDATE ATTACHMENT 1

As reported to Council at the March 2012 meeting, most of the key action items in the Promoting Better Practice Review action plan remain on track, but some are having to be rescheduled due to the extremely high workload being experienced across the organisation.

Changes to the status of action items is now being highlighted in black to make it easier for elected members and the public to track the progress made since the previous month. The action plan has been reviewed since the last meeting, with a number of action items now expected to be completed beyond the June 2012 timeframe.

A number of recommendations will take some time to implement and are likely to be ongoing action items. The implementation of an asset maintenance program (recommendation 32) for example, is a significant task that will require the allocation of a large number of resources to implement.

Similarly, the review of Council's development assessment processes (recommendations 25 and 26) and the review of the status of Council-owned land (recommendation 37) will involve much staff time and need a longer lead time to allow staff to undertake these tasks at the same time as performing their normal work.

In the next month it is expected that the review of Council's records management system will be undertaken. It is also expected that Council will receive the report on the review of tendering and procurement processes. Both of these reviews are important areas of Council's operations that underpin the key internal activities.

Development of plans required under the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework was the key activity that was undertaken under the PBP action plan. Work undertaken under the IPR framework is contained in the next report.

8.1.2 INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING PROGRESS REPORT ATTACHMENT 2

As has been the case every month since October, this report updates Council on the implementation of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) process, including the development of Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

Activity during the last month focused on developing a draft CSP based on the feedback and input provided by the community at forums held in December 2011. The first draft CSP will be provided to Council for the purposes of conducting a workshop on Wednesday 18th April so that Councillors can review and provide feedback on the draft plan.

Work has also continued on the development of asset management plans, with a draft Buildings & Land Improvements AMP having been prepared. That draft AMP is currently being reviewed by

management and will be finalised in coming weeks. The draft Transport (Roads, footpaths, kerb & gutter, car parks, aerodromes) Asset Management Plan is being reviewed and is nearing completion. AMPs for Stormwater Drainage; Water & Sewer and Plant & Equipment still remain to be developed.

Jacqui Hansen, who is assisting Council in developing the plans, will return to Council for her second visit on 19th April and will meet with key staff involved in developing the AMPs.

Collins Anderson has continued work on the Workforce Management Plan and has developed a survey that will be used to seek staff feedback in relation to key workforce issues. Brad Smith from Collins Anderson will visit Council on 19th and 20th April to continue that work and meet with management and staff.

Collins Anderson has also been engaged to complete Council's 2012/13 Operational Plan. Work on the Operational Plan will commence on 19th & 20th April with Brad Smith. Consultation with staff in relation to the Operational Plan commenced on 20 March 2012.

8.1.3 INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

ATTACHMENT 3

The State and Regional Development Committee is conducting an inquiry into inter-regional public transport. Submissions into the inquiry are invited up until 18 May 2012.

The Committee is inquiring into how inter-regional public transport can better serve the needs of regional NSW. Issues for consideration include:

- How Countrylink services can be improved.
- How network linkages between Countrylink train and coach services can be improved.
- The potential for Countrylink services to carry light freight.
- How Countrylink can be better utilised to increase tourism in NSW.
- How the amount of inter-regional travel undertaken by public transport can be increased.
- The extent to which regional public transport networks are integrated and how they can be better integrated.
- The role local councils can play in improving inter-regional public transportation networks.
- The type of buses and trains that will be required for the provision of regional passenger services in the future.

Council should consider making a submission to the inquiry due to the need for public transport across the Council area. Transport is a key issue for communities in the Central Darling Shire area. All towns in the Shire are all geographically isolated from major regional centres and services such as medical specialists, courts, education, retail outlets, and sporting, recreational and entertainment options.

Councillors wishing to have input and provide feedback on this issue should provide their comments to the General Manager by 11 May.

8.1.4 ACELG REPORT – ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF RURAL-REMOTE AND INDIGENOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTACHMENT 4

The Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government has released a report “Role and Expectations of Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government”. The report was prepared as a component of the Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government Program of the ACELG.

The objective of the Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government Program is to identify and address specific governance and capacity building issues facing rural, remote and Indigenous councils.

A strategy report released under the program in March 2011 noted that the current demands and expectations placed on rural-remote and indigenous local government are unsustainable. Based on that, it was stated that there must be a better fit between the funding and resources available and the expectations placed on such councils, if they are to deliver an acceptable range and standards of services in the long term.

Whilst the Central Darling Shire Council was not one of the Councils subject to the study behind the report (as noted on page 14 of the report, CDSC is considered to be rural-remote, but was not included in the research), the report is still of relevance to the Central Darling Shire Council.

In the strategy, it was noted that rural-remote councils are commonly expected to provide a greater range of services than urban and regional councils and has also assumed the provider of last resort role in relation to ensure the sustainability of small communities. Another key point noted in the strategy relates to the history of councils accepting additional responsibilities on the basis of substantial grant funding, only to see that funding withdrawn or reduced at a later point in time.

Both of these situations apply to the Central Darling Shire. Council has provided or auspiced transport services, the Wilcannia Safehouse, television signal retransmission and the Westpac Bank agency in Wilcannia.

The focus of the ACELG report was what constitutes a sustainable model of rural-remote and indigenous local government and what is needed to achieve this. In preparing the report, a series of scoping studies were undertaken in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. From these studies, a series of common themes were developed:

- Expectations and role
- Remoteness
- Compliance costs
- Governance challenges
- Strategic issues

- Workforce development
- Councillor and staff development
- Council support services
- Structure and relationships
- Organisation capacity
- Appropriate systems

In relation to expectations and roles, it was noted that it was often necessary for remote councils to fill the gap when services are withdrawn or not adequately provided by mainstream providers. It was also stated that government agencies need to re-evaluate their attitude towards smaller remote-rural council and recognise their importance in delivering local services as the provider of last resort.

It was stated that there was a need for these councils to be recognised as key builders of local communities rather than grant dependent/non-viable organisations.

Another key aspect of the report is in relation to service delivery to indigenous communities (section 4.2, page 31), which discusses the remote service delivery sites across Queensland, WA and the NT and the lack of engagement by local governments in those jurisdictions in the development of the Local Implementation Plans (LIPS) that underpin the “closing the gap” initiative.

The Co-ordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services has noted that Local Government is participating to varying degrees in Remote Service Delivery planning and delivery of commitments – ranging from full participation in the Board of Management in the Northern Territory, to participation in LIP planning processes in most communities, as well as being service delivery agents meeting LIP commitments to communities. The Co-ordinator General also expects the engagement with local government to continue and be increasingly evident in future development of the LIPs.

Interestingly, it is noted in Section 5 of the report “The Issues to Address and Possible Actions” that the diversity in roles, functions and capacity across the councils included in the study means that a one size fits all approach to capacity building will not be appropriate.

This is consistent with discussions currently taking place in local government in NSW following the Destination 2036 conference in August 2011, when it comes to possible future governance models for the sector.

In this section of the report, the importance of sound community, corporate or strategic plans linked to long term financial plans is also highlighted as a way in which councils could engage with their communities when discussing service priorities and the financial implications of them.

The report is useful to the Central Darling Shire as many of the key strategic issues raised in it are applicable to the circumstances facing Council. The report will be of assistance to Council when considering its longer-term future and possible governance structures that could be implemented.

8.1.5 REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE RFS ATTACHMENT 5

The Local Government and Shires Association of NSW have developed a discussion paper in response to the ongoing concerns expressed by councils in relation to their engagement with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

The discussion paper outlines the past and present engagement of local government by the RFS and proposes options for the future.

The LGSA are requesting all councils engaged with the RFS to:

Comment on their current engagements with the RFS.

Identify issues/problems commonly arising.

Highlight any current arrangements that are considered effective.

Comment on the range of options in the discussion paper and present alternative options.

The discussion paper includes a history of the RFS in NSW, provides a current snapshot of the NSW RFS, the engagement of local government, comparison with other emergency organisations and arrangements in other states.

In the introductory statements in the discussion paper, the LGSA states that there are often conflicting views about the operational structure of the RFS and that many councils are dissatisfied with the current situation. It is also stated that the existing arrangements are proving to be problematic, complex and inequitable.

The LGSA states that it is clear that local government needs to develop a more cohesive and comprehensive policy position if progress is to be made in the areas of concern.

A total of 14 issues are canvassed in the discussion paper across the topics of facilities; equipment; bushfire management committee; operational support; financial arrangements; planning controls and development applications in bushfire prone areas; RFS district SLAs; local liaison committees; and council bushfire responsibilities as land managers.

The paper provides 5 different options for future arrangements between the RFS and local government. Those options are:

- Option 1 Retract local government's operational involvement with the RFS.
- Option 1A Merge the two fire services (RFS and Fire & Rescue NSW).
- Option 2 Retain current arrangements with process improvements.
- Option 3 Local government recovers bushfire responsibilities.
- Option 4 Maintain the status quo.

Due to the importance of this issue to the Central Darling Shire Council, it is suggested that Council should provide a response to the discussion paper. Responses are due by 26 April.

8.1.6 ONE ASSOCIATION

ATTACHMENT 6

The Shires Association of NSW has written to Council to provide an update on the issue of One Association. At its recent meeting, the Executive of the Shires Association agreed to follow the process known as the “host organisation” method to achieve the creation of the new Association.

According to the Shires Association, they see this as being the best and easiest way to establish the single Association, once a successful “yes” vote has paved the way for this to occur. This process will mean that the Shires Association will merge with the Local Government Association, a new name will be adopted (Local Government NSW) and a new constitution will come into force. Both current associations will then cease to exist, with the new entity being the single peak representative body for the sector from the yet to be determined amalgamation date.

The Executives of both Associations would prefer that the formal process for the creation of the new Association be completed before the local government elections scheduled for 8 September. A formal application will need to be made to Fair Work Australia for the creation of the new Association, which will involve a hearing before FWA prior to approval being granted.

If approval is granted, a secret ballot of Councils will be conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission to determine the matter. The ballot is expected to be completed by early August 2012.

The actual date of amalgamation will be determined by FWA in consultation with the Associations, however it is unlikely to be before March 2013, due to the number of administrative and other changes that will need to take place. Until the date of amalgamation is reached, both Associations will continue to operate in their own right.

8.1.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW PANEL

ATTACHMENT 7

The Minister for Local Government, Don Page, announced the establishment of a new Local Government Reform Panel to investigate structural arrangements in local government in NSW. The panel will develop options to improve the strength and effectiveness of local government.

The formation of the panel follows the discussion of possible future options for local government at the Destination 2036 conference in Dubbo in August 2011. It is the first initiative to come out of the Destination 2036 Action Plan, which is nearing completion.

The Panel will investigate and identify options for governance models, structural arrangements and voluntary boundary changes for local government in NSW. It will take into consideration councils’ ability to support the needs of their communities, ability to efficiently deliver services and infrastructure, ability to provide local representation and decision-making, the financial sustainability of each council area and barriers that inhibit ,or incentives that could encourage voluntary boundary changes.

The 3 member panel is to be chaired by Professor Graham Sansom, the head of the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government. The other panel members are Glenn Inglis, former General Manager of Tamworth Shire Council and Jude Munro, former CEO of Brisbane City Council.

The panel is expected to report to the Minister within 12 – 14 months from the start of the review. The panel is to consult widely with the broader community and key stakeholders, take into account work completed under Destination 2036, as well as the broader interests of the State, as outlined in the State Plan.

8.1.8 SHIRES ASSOCIATION UPDATE

ATTACHMENT 8

The President of the Shires Association, Cr. Ray Donald, has written to the General Manager to provide an update on a number of key issues that are currently taking place in the local government sector.

Topics of interest covered in the letter include One Association, the annual Conference in June, the Local Government Review Panel, the Murray Darling Basin Authority’s draft Basin Plan and the local government elections in September.

In relation to the Conference in June, the President has advised that registration papers and a draft program are being sent to all Councils. The President has also mentioned the secret ballot that will be needed to determine the future of One Association, and the need for the Conference to uphold the high standards set at previous conferences in light of the new peak body that is expected will represent local government in NSW.

There will be four Executive motions to be presented to the Conference: the revised Code of Conduct, the RFS discussion paper, rate pegging and operation of the Emergency Services Agencies in light of the recent flooding across the State.

8.1.3 GENERAL MANAGER ACTIVITY/MEETING SCHEDULE

This schedule is provided for information purposes to keep Councillors informed of the meetings and activities that undertaken each month by the General Manager.

Date	Meeting participants/location	Subject
13 th March 2012	GM & Jacquie Hansen	Asset Management
	GM ,Nola Whyman & Annette Jarvis	Wings Drop In Centre future planning
14 TH March 2012	GM	Sewer & Water Project – pre tendering
	GM & Tony Lawson	Tendering Review

Date	Meeting participants/location	Subject
15 th March 2012	GM ,Morse & Co & Lee Dyball	External audit
	GM ,Wilcannia Community Working Party	
	B/D Community Advisory Group	Teleconference
19 th March 2012	MANEX	
21 st March 2012	GM,Mayor Clr. Reid & Clr. Looney	Ministerial Visit - Minister for Sport & Recreation.
22 nd March 2012	GM, MTES,MES, Mayor, Clr Sullivan, Ray Roberts (Beemax) & Dominic Manganaro (Beemax CEO)	Beemax and Council discussion on Beemax mine project.
26 th March 2012	GM, Lower Murray Darling CMA, Buronga	Rangeland Communities workshop
28 th -30 th March 2012	GM	LG Super Conference
2 nd April 2012	GM, Sisters of Mercy Maureen Healy & Trisha Vagg	
4 th April 2012	GM, Jack Beetson	
10 th April 2012	GM, MES	Murray Darling Basin Plan Stakeholder Meetings in Menindee & Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATION

That the Information Items report be received and noted.

8.1 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTACHMENT 9

Summary

The Australian Local Government Association is holding its National General Assembly in Canberra from 17-20 June 2012. To allow the Mayor and General Manager to attend, Council will need to re-schedule its June meeting. A joint motion has been drafted by the City of Ryde in relation to skills shortages in rural areas, for which endorsement is sought.

Commentary

The ALGA's National General Assembly is to take place in Canberra from 17-20 June 2012. The NGA is the single occasion in the year in which Mayors, Councillors and CEOs/General Managers from across Australia are able to gather to discuss matters of mutual interest.

The theme for the 2012 NGA is National Voice, Local Choice – Infrastructure, Planning and Services, which is aimed at stimulating ideas about improving the way in which local government serves its communities and the way in which it works with other levels of government.

The NGA is usually well-attended by delegates from across Australia and provides an excellent opportunity for delegates to hear from Federal politicians on topics of key importance to the sector. The Mayor has indicated his desire to attend the NGA, and it is appropriate that the General Manager also attend. To enable this to happen, the June meeting of Council will need to be rescheduled from 19 June to another date.

It is recommended that the meeting be moved to Friday 29 June, which will also allow as much time as possible for the finalisation of key documents for Council under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

As advised at the February 2012 Council meeting, motions for the NGA must be submitted to the ALGA electronically on 27 April 2012. Following a meeting between the General Manager and the management team from the City of Ryde on 29 March, the City of Ryde drafted a joint motion on the topic of skills shortages in regional Australia.

The motion proposes that the Federal Government changes the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) to reward graduates who choose to work in rural council areas that suffer from skills shortages. The reward would be the writing off of HECS debts based on length of service in rural council areas.

This motion was developed following discussion with the City of Ryde on the matter of skills shortages in the Central Darling Shire area, not just for Council itself, but for other organisations and service providers.

This motion is presented to Council for endorsement at this meeting.

(a) Policy Implications

Attendance of Councillors at this event must be approved by Council in accordance with the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors policy.

(b) Financial Implications

Approximate cost for attendance at the NGA by the Mayor and General Manager is \$3,500.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1** *That Council approve the attendance of the Mayor and the General Manager at the 2012 National General Assembly in Canberra from 17-20 June 2012 and that the Mayor's expenses for attendance at the meeting be reimbursed in accordance with the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors policy.*
- 2** *That the June 2012 Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 19 June be deferred until Friday 29 June 2012.*
- 3** *That Council approve the submission of a joint motion to the 2012 National General Assembly from the Central Darling Shire and the City of Ryde on the topic of "Plugging the Skills Shortage in Rural Councils".*

8.2 SATELLITE SUBSIDY SCHEME–DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION

ATTACHMENT 10

Summary

Digital television will be switched on in rural and remote areas of Australia in July 2013. The Satellite Subsidy Scheme is to be made available to householders in areas that would previously have been serviced by a self-help retransmission tower. Council must formally opt in to the SSS for Menindee, Sunset Strip and White Cliffs if it does not intend to upgrade its self-help re-transmission towers to receive digital television signals.

Commentary

In May 2010, the Federal Government announced the \$99.1m Satellite Subsidy Scheme (SSS) which will assist eligible households that rely on analogue only TV self-help re-transmission towers, which are not going to be converted to digital.

There are 680 self-help sites in Australia, of which approximately 500 are not being upgraded and will cease operation. This will affect approximately 69,000 households in over 6000 communities, including low population towns in regional and remote areas.

In order to receive a digital signal into the future, these households will need to convert to the new Viewer Access Satellite Television Service (VAST). The government has funded the SSS to ensure that the cost for households to install the vast is minimised. In most instances, the household contribution will be \$220. This cost will be waived for concession or pension card holders.

Eligible buildings are residential premises, which must be located at a distinct address and lawfully occupied as a place of residence. This includes semi-detached houses or townhouses, flats, units apartments and townhouses, whether under a single title or not.

In addition, caravans, mobile homes and cabin-like structures at residential parks will also be eligible if they meet residency eligibility requirements.

Ineligible dwellings include places of business, commercial accommodation, mobile premises, secondary residential premises that are not a primary address (e.g. granny flats, staff quarters), mining camps, barracks, corrective and detention facilities, hospitals and education facilities and incomplete or condemned dwellings.

Applicants to the scheme must be aged 18 or over, be an Australian citizen or permanent resident and the tenant, owner or landlord where satellite TV equipment is to be installed.

In some instances, broadcasters are upgrading some towers, however the towers at Menindee, Sunset Strip and White Cliffs will not be upgraded by the broadcasters. It is therefore at Council's discretion to upgrade these towers.

The cost of upgrading each of the re-transmission towers is estimated at \$180,000 per tower, a cost that Council is unable to afford. In addition to that, the annual licence fees for each of the towers is approximately \$25,000, meaning that Council would be required to spend a minimum of \$1.025m in the next 12 months to upgrade and licence all its towers.

Given that this option is not feasible for Council, it must advise the Digital Switchover Taskforce that it will opt in to the SSS by 25 May 2012 to ensure that assistance under the scheme can be provided to the communities in Menindee, Sunset Strip and White Cliffs.

The process to have eligible householders in Ivanhoe apply for the SSS began in January 2012, when the Digital Switchover Taskforce wrote to the householders eligible to participate in scheme, advising them of the need to complete their application.

It is not known how many of the known 86 eligible households in the Ivanhoe area responded to that initial contact, so Council has recently advertised locally that it will be able to assist householders with their applications. Applications from eligible householders for the Ivanhoe area were due to close on 17 April, however that deadline has now been extended to 30 April.

There may be a number of sites up to 15 kilometres outside the Ivanhoe township that are currently receiving signals from the Ivanhoe re-transmission tower. In this situation, the householders may be eligible to participate in the SSS if they can prove that they currently receive a signal from this tower.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

- 1 Formally resolve not to upgrade its self-help television re-transmission towers to receive digital television signals.***

- 2** ***Advise the Digital Switchover Taskforce that it will opt in to the Satellite Subsidy Scheme***

SECTION 9. MANAGER TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT

9.1 INFORMATION ITEMS

ATTACHMENT 13

9.1.1 FLOOD UPDATE

Please find attached Central Darling Situation Report No. 13 Attachment 13

As detailed in the report and further information for Council, see below:

Tilpa – peaked at 12.9m around 17-3-12 with major flooding

Friday 30th March the All Clear was issued.

Tilpa remains isolated due to the surrounding road closures and subsequent levels of the Darling and Paroo River.

Wilcannia – reach 10.9m early April with major flooding

All river roads are currently closed. The Waralli Reserve and St Theresa’s School levees repair works have been completed. All river properties will be affected.

Menindee – reach 9.5m around mid-April with major flooding

All river roads are currently closed. Council is assisting the SES where needed and monitoring road infrastructure. All river properties will be affected.

Local residents that will be affected include 19 properties, based on 2010 flood event. Council is assisting the SES where needed. Any evacuations that are required are dealt with by the NSW Police and are recorded on the register. Council will assist if required.

9.1.2 IVANHOE WATER SUPPLY

The Manager Technical and Engineering Services and the Overseer visited Lake Morrison Storage Dam on Wednesday 4/4/12. Access to the dam was only possible from that morning and is anticipated to be inaccessible again in 6 days; a further flow down the Willandra Creek is expected to prevent access through Lignum Park. Access through Abbotsford is not possible due to Waverly Creek flows and will not be possible for some time. This poses immediate risk in regards to any issues that arise with Bore supply and/or Dam supply.

The Ivanhoe town ganger will be meeting with “Tooralee” manager Tuesday 10-4-12 to discuss the water main valve location that could see Lake Morrisons storage emptied and refilled with the anticipated Willandra Creek flows.

It should be noted that the Willandra Creek raw water will be tested prior to use to confirm the acceptable levels of arsenic that the previous chemical analysis report did not provide.

Lake Morrisons Storage contains 450meg which takes approximately 4 weeks to fill. Investigation required into the pump site access issues before emptying the reservoir will commence.

9.1.3 IVANHOE SPORTING GROUND

Initial mowing of the oval has been completed. Chemical has been purchased and delivered to Ivanhoe for application 14 days after mowing. The chemical, recommended by DPI agronomist, targets Kaki burr and is applicable to sporting grounds where people may be in contact with it after application. The pool grounds will also receive chemical applications.

The water supply is yet to be connected to the new water storage tanks adjacent to the amenities. This will be a priority after Easter

RECOMMENDATION

That the Information Items report be received and noted.

9.2 ROADS REPORT

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of the 2011/2012 Roads section of the Engineering Department for the previous month.

Council currently has Three grading crews operating with priorities being on the completion of emergency works to enable closed roads to be opened, flood damage works, reconstruction works and RTA Ordered Works

Commentary

State Roads:

- RMCC \$148,110 included on emergency sealing works on the Cobb Highway South of Ivanhoe
- 2011/2012 RMCC works total spending for routine works on State Highways \$540,000. The additional works carried out will be reimbursed to Council and this total yearly budget increased.
- Eight works order received for the year to the value of \$1,149,897. Four of these have now been completed.
- Heavy Patching and resealing works have commenced on the Barrier Highway and Cobb Highway

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
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RMCC	\$540,000	\$0	100%
Flood Damage 2010	\$298,000	\$0	100%
Flood Damage 2011	\$176,571	\$58,922	67%

Regional Roads:

- 2010/2011 Pooncarie Rd Bridge replacement and approach roads Reconstruction commenced.
- 2011/2012 Balranald Rd Reconstruction programmed for April 2012.
- All Regional Road 2010 Flood Damage works completed
- Regional Road 2011 Flood Damage works have commenced. Works now completed on all Regional Roads except MR428 Kayrunnera Road which is in progress.
- Heavy Patching and Resealing works on Regional roads have been completed. White Lining works to be done in conjunction with Highway works.

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
MR428 Kayrunnera Rd (2010/11)	\$1,100,000	\$4,335	97%
Talyawalka Bridge	\$1,800,000	\$339,280	81%
MR67 Balranald Rd (2011/12)	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	0%
Regional Road Block (including Supplementary and Traffic)	\$2,323,000	\$1,123,668	52%
Flood Damage 2010	\$643,000	\$0	100%
Flood Damage 2011	\$1,365,419	\$132,756	97%

Local Roads:

- 2010 Flood Restoration works completed except SR5.
- 2011 Flood restoration works are in progress. Roads completed include SR10 Wilcannia to Menindee east Side Rd, SR7 Dry lake Rd, SR3 Tilpa-Tongo Rd, SR37 Menindee Racecourse
- FAG total was \$1,391,646 and \$280,000 has been allocated to Town Improvement Funds

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
Local Roads Component (FAG)	\$1,391,646	\$631,827	55%
Flood Damage 2010	\$2,833,281	\$145,266	95%
Flood Damage 2011	\$786,778	\$314,283	60%

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(b) Financial Implications

various as displayed in the above table.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil to report at this stage.

Town Improvement Funds:

- \$70k per town to be funded from Untied Local Road (FAG) Funds
- All towns contributed \$12,500 of allocated budget for Town Entrance Signs
- Menindee playground and Beach volleyball court complete. Clarification needed on softfall that was sourced and beach volleyball court net to be installed
- Wilcannia playground to be in conjunction with RSD. Hood St seal extension earthworks to commence this year, sealing dates to be confirmed
- White Cliffs causeway to be designed, costed and programmed. Playground works to be confirmed once costing's obtained.

- Ivanhoe Oval Irrigation Works complete. Ivanhoe paving works complete. Clarification required on Playground location and scope of works

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
Wilcannia	\$70,000	\$57,500	28%
White Cliffs	\$70,000	\$57,500	28%
Menindee	\$70,000	\$42,321	40%
Ivanhoe	\$70,000	\$29,265	58%

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(b) Financial Implications

Various as displayed in the above table.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Roads Report be received and noted.

9.3 SERVICES REPORT

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of the Services provided by the Engineering Department for the previous month.

Commentary

Town Maintenance:

- General routine inspections and maintenance
- The table below references Parks and Gardens which include mowing, buildings and toilets. The Ancillary Works include Kerb and Gutter, Footpaths, Trees, Signs and Street lighting.
- Parks and Gardens budget has been expended due to increased maintenance works needed. Additional works carried out include Wilcannia Oval Lighting column repairs and Ivanhoe Sporting Ground works.

- Amendment to Original Budget figure for Parks and Gardens has been increased to \$94,000 due to budget confirmation from Finance Manager.

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
Parks & Gardens	\$94,000	-\$19,237	100%
Ancillary Works	\$102,000	-\$6,351	100%
Street Cleaning/ Bins	\$113,500	\$27,470	75%
Aerodromes	\$53,000	\$11,355	89%
Public Conveniences	\$37,250	\$6,627	82%

Water & Sewerage Maintenance:

- Wilcannia town water supply is currently being sourced from the Darling River Weir Pool.
- White Cliffs town water supply is sourced from ground tanks current levels detailed below:
Tank 1 = 4.5 m, Tank 2 = 4.5m, Tank 3 (Wakefield) 7.0m
- Ivanhoe town water supply is currently being sourced from the underground bore fields. Morrison’s Lake storage is currently 400 megalitres, town storage dam 40 megalitres.
- Ivanhoe Filtration Plant is undergoing necessary repairs and maintenance prior to the utilisation of the storage water from Morrison’s Lake. \$70,799 spent to date on the plant. The NSW Office of Water will be in Ivanhoe on February 29th to assist in initial treatment of Morrisons Lake Storage Water. Due to weather the NSW Office of Water could not attend on the 29-2-12 and will advise Council of the next available date.
- Amendment to Original Budget figures below have been made due to budget confirmation from Finance Manager.

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
Wilcannia Water	\$308,250	\$95,799	70%
Wilcannia Sewer	\$93,500	\$30,544	68%

White Cliffs Water	\$108,500	\$39,302	65%
Ivanhoe Water	\$145,500	\$29,916	80%

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Services Report be received and noted.

9.4 PROJECTS REPORT

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of projects being undertaken by the Engineering Department.

Commentary

Project	Comments	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
Remote Communities Water & Sewer Project	Tenders in progress. DPW pre tender meeting 14-3-12	\$2.7 Mil	\$2.7 Mil	0%
Wilcannia Weir	Steering Committee meetings suspended. Funding required for further REF report. S355 Committee in progress	N/A	N/A	N/A

Aboriginal Communities Water	Ongoing. Payment received for last 6 months. Interim arrangements have been extended for a further 12 months.	\$184k/annum	\$46,207	75%
Talyawalka Bridge	Structure 95% complete. Joint Grouting outstanding Road Works in progress	\$1,800,000	\$337,402	81%
Integrated Water Management Plan	GPS equipment purchased. Dept Public Works Engagement in progress	\$167,000	\$8,354	95%
Warrali Mission Footpath Upgrade	Key Stakeholder Meeting held 8-3-12 Lighting proposal and costing's in progress.	\$121,000	\$121,000	0%

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(b) Financial Implications

Various as displayed in the above table.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(d) Community Consultation

As required

RECOMMENDATION

That the Projects Report be received and noted.

9.5 WHITE CLIFFS WATER SUPPLY UPDATE REPORT

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council with respect to the White Cliffs Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the operational issues currently being experienced at this plant.

Commentary

Following is summarised time-line concerning the White Cliffs WTP from 24th March 2012 to present.

Wednesday 21-3-12

Engineering staff were advised by White Cliffs staff that the Treatment Plant was inoperative. The issue at this stage was unclear but related generally to the automatic operation of sludge pump in tank A.

Arrangements were made for a local contractor to accompany engineering staff to White Cliffs to investigate and determine the source of the problem and correct if possible. The conclusion determined from this visit was that the problem was electrical and an electrical contractor would be required. From plant operator knowledge it was estimated that the current tank levels would provide the town with 7 to 10 days of water supply.

Thursday 22-3-12

Engineering staff engaged local electrical contractor to attend site and correct the problem if possible. The electrician assisted by staff determined probable issue being the need to replace 2 electrical switches which were ordered to be collected and installed the next day.

Friday 23-3-12

The replacement switches were collected from Broken Hill and installed however the replacement switches which proved to be unsuccessful. Engineering staff were immediately advised of this outcome.

Saturday 24-3-12

Numerous discussions were held between Engineering and White Cliffs staff about the issues at hand including recognition that White Cliffs water supply would be used by early next week. Follow up phone calls with electricians to establish possible availability was had on this day but to no avail. The potential need for water carting was discussed.

Sunday 25-3-12

Discussions continued regarding the possibility of carting water to White Cliffs from Wilcannia. Resources were committed to “making” the necessary additional water at Wilcannia to fill a semi water tanker and transport to White Cliffs to ensure adequate water supply.

Monday 26-3-12

Engineering escorted the semi water tanker to White Cliffs and arranged subsequent truck visits to ensure the town has adequate water.

Council were advised an experienced electrical contractor would be in White Cliffs later that day and may be able to assist. The electrical contractor was engaged and Engineering was advised at 4:45pm that afternoon that the plant was operational.

Council's General Manager and NSW Office of Water were advised of this outcome and matters generally.

Tuesday 27-3-12

Further issues continued to be experienced at the WTP notwithstanding the fact that it was operating. The backwash procedure was not operating normally. The electrical contractor was engaged to assess and correct to enable short-medium term operation with existing control panel settings.

Additionally an experienced control panel contractor was engaged to provide a comprehensive assessment of the existing infrastructure and provide recommendations for the long term management of the plant with possible remote monitoring and operation facility. This assessment was undertaken on Thursday 29th March 2012. Their report had not been received to date.

Thursday 29-3-12

The electrical contractor revisited the WTP Thursday afternoon and corrected the remaining faults and the plant has subsequently run without issue.

(a)Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(b)Financial Implications

The cost associated with the emergency repairs undertaken by the electrical contractor to get the WTP operational in the short term is funded from existing budget provisions.

The cost associated with the longer term solution of replacing the control panel and associated works are subject of a funding assistance request to the NSW Office of Water. A draft funding request has been forwarded to NSW Office of Water for their initial review. Some comment is expected to be forthcoming and these comments will be considered and incorporated into Councils funding request prior to formal submission to the minister.

(c)Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(d)Community Consultation

Council has endeavored to keep the White Cliffs community informed of the ongoing issues with the White Cliffs WTP and implications for water supply. Notices were distributed alerting the community to the relative shortage of water supply.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the White Cliffs Water Supply Update Report.

SECTION 10. MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

10.1 INFORMATION ITEMS

ATTACHMENT 15

10.1.1 RSPCA HEALTHY DOG CLINIC

Similar to last year, the RSPCA is running a healthy dog and desexing clinic at Wilcannia. The clinic will be held in Wilcannia on the 1st and 2nd May 2012, and in Menindee on the 3rd May 2012. The clinics will offer free desexing, worming, micro-chipping, flea/tick control and health checks. As in previous years, Council will contribute free microchips and provide assistance from Council staff with onsite activities.

10.1.2 DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE LEP

Council's Draft Comprehensive LEP is continuing to progress through the Department of Planning. To date, Council has received the S65 certificate to allow the draft LEP to be placed on public exhibition. It is proposed that the draft LEP and Landuse Strategy report will be placed on public exhibition on the 14th April 2012. This will allow two months public exhibition period and sufficient time for Council and the Dept of Planning to consider all submissions received. It will also be necessary for the final plan to be adopted by Council later in the year prior to gazettal.

10.1.3 SWIMMING POOLS

All Council owned and operated swimming pools closed for the season on the 31st March 2012. Costing for operations of all pools will be provided to Council in the Draft 2012/2013 Budget for consideration.

10.1.4 WASTE TO ART – COMMUNITY ART COMPETITION

Each year Council participates in the Annual Netwaste Waste to Art – Community Art Competition. The competition is run by the Menindee Rural Transaction Centre. Flyers advertising the competition were placed around the Shire inviting participation of local community members. Entries closed on Friday 30th March 2012. Local art pieces submitted for the competition will be on exhibition at Menindee from Wednesday 4th April 2012 until Wednesday 25th April 2012. The exhibition will kick off with an official opening and presentation held in Menindee on Wednesday 4th April 2012 at 3pm. Winning entries will be forwarded to Forbes Shire Council in early May for entry into the Regional Competition and Exhibition on 19th May 2012. Further information is available through the Menindee RTC.

10.1.5 RANGER/ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Council's Ranger/Animal Control Officer, Mr Daniel Dowdy resigned on 2nd March 2012 due to family commitments. The position has been advertised and the recruitment process will be undertaken as soon as possible.

10.1.6 WLALC CLEAN UP FUNDING

Last year Council and the Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council applied for funding through the Department of Environment & Climate Change to undertake clean-up work of illegally dumped rubbish on Aboriginal Land. The application was successful for funding valued at \$50,000. To date, the project has kicked off, with the involvement of the local schools and various other stakeholders.

Sessions on illegal dumping have been held at the schools, along with a school excursion to inspect illegally dumped piles of waste around Wilcannia. On grounds work to clean up wastes will begin shortly with input from local contractors, Summitt Employment and CDEP, and Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation. The Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council is also seeking to trial a couple of skip bins in the Mallee area for a short period to see if illegal dumping decreases across the area if skip bins are available for use.

10.1.7 FUNDING – WHITE CLIFFS RACECOURSE

ATTACHMENT 15

Last year, an application for funding was lodged with the Department of Primary Industries under the Public Reserve Management Fund for development of a new amenities structure at the White Cliffs Racecourse. The funding application was for \$5,000. It is pleasing to report that the application has been successful. The funds will be utilized to purchase materials for the structure. Labour to erect the structure will be provided by the White Cliffs Rodeo & Gymkhana Committee. The timeframe for expenditure of the funding is prior to June 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Information Items report be received and noted.

10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPT STATISTICS FOR MARCH 2012

Summary

This report provides a statistical summary of legislative activities undertaken by Environmental Services within March 2012.

Commentary

The statistics will be provided to Council on a monthly basis. The below table demonstrates achievements and results for March 2012.

<u>Statistics for March 2012</u>	
Number DA'S Approved for Mar 2012	1 – broken down into the following categories; Commercial = 1 Residential =0
Total Value of DA's approved for Mar 2012	\$1,000
Food Premises Inspected in Mar 2012	3 inspections
Animal Control Activities for Mar 2012	Nil – no Ranger/Animal Control Officer
Water Sampling for Mar 2012	Microbiology Samples Collected = 6 Chemistry Samples Collected = 2 Disinfection By Products = 2 Non-compliant Samples = 0

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Services Department Statistics for March 2012 report be received and noted.

10.3 FORMER WILCANNIA CONVENT

Summary

This report provides Council with information on the Former Wilcannia Convent and an update on heritage funding received for this site.

Commentary

Last year, an application for funding was lodged under the NSW Heritage Grants 2011-13 through the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage for the former Wilcannia Convent. The application was successful and funding to the value of \$50,000 was allocated for stabilisation and clean up works. To date, no works have commenced on site and it is necessary for half of the funds to be expended by May 2012.

Recently it has been brought to Council's attention that due to undisclosed reasons, the owner is unable to complete the works as per the funding agreement. This means that if the funding is not expended as per the funding agreement then the funding may be withdrawn from the project. The NSW Heritage Office (in an attempt to provide the funding for the building) approached Council and requested that Council auspice the funds and project manage the required works on their behalf. Due to the heritage significance of the building, and the urgent need for the site to be cleaned up and secured, it is within the best interest of the community that Council assist with this project where possible. The building is a heritage item listed on Council's LEP and also on the National Estate Register, it is falling into disrepair and needs urgent conservation works if it is to be retained as part of Wilcannia's early history. The fact that the NSW Heritage Office is keen to secure the funding for the town and the building is commendable.

Council plays an important role in preserving the heritage of the local area. This is achieved through running a Local Heritage Strategy to provide a Local Heritage Fund and a Heritage Adviser Program.

Council has successfully secured heritage funding and undertaken works on Council owned heritage buildings and items in the Shire for the past 4 years.

The works to the former Convent would be undertaken by contractors under the guidance of Council's Heritage Adviser in consultation with Manager Environmental Services. The works required include clean-up of the yard and internal areas, board up windows to lower level, lock up of the site, bracing of end wall, roof repairs and general securing and bracing of the building.

Due to the tight timeframes associated with the expenditure of funds and the necessity for the funding to stay with this building, it has been indicated to the NSW Heritage Office by the Manager Environmental Services that Council will assist with this matter.

(a) Policy Implications.

Council already has an involvement in heritage matters across the Shire. It is noted that heritage conservation and management should be noted in both the short and long term future of the Shire and be incorporated in Council's Strategic Management Plan.

(b) Financial Implications

All funds spent on the project will be reimbursed to Council in similar fashion as other heritage projects undertaken by Council.

(c) Legal Implications

Without works being undertaken, the building will most likely fall into further disrepair, this may lead to the issuing of orders and other legal ramifications.

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the actions Manager Environmental Services

10.4 KNOX & DOWNS, WILCANNIA

ATTACHMENT 16

Summary

This report provides Council with an update on the asbestos inspection required for Knox and Downs, Wilcannia.

Commentary

At the March 2012 Ordinary meeting of Council it was resolved through Urgent Business that Council investigate the presence of asbestos in the Knox and Downs site. On Thursday 29th March 2012, Regional EnviroScience visited the Shire to undertake works within Wilcannia. Whilst in town the opportunity was taken to secure their services to inspect the fire damaged Knox and Downs site located on the Crn Myer & Reid Street, Wilcannia for the presence of asbestos. The preliminary inspection revealed that there is asbestos on the site, in the form of sheet material. It is noted this material has been burnt and is considered as friable. No further information is available at this stage,

it is expected the full report will be provided to Council in the coming weeks. The cost for the inspection is \$2,567.95 – a breakdown of the costs is provided in the accompanying attachment.

It is also noted from the March 2012 Ordinary Meeting of Council that Mr Bill Elliott from the Wilcannia Tourism Association Inc. addressed Council during Public Access regarding Knox and Downs. Mr Elliott has also provided written correspondence in relation to the site – his letter is attached to this report.

As stated in Mr Elliott’s letter it is worthy to note that the site was destroyed by fire almost ten years ago, during September 2002. It still remains an eyesore to this day, and does attract criticism from tourists and passers-by. Whilst it remains in its current state it continues to expose Council’s risk to liability. It is noted from previous reports to Council that no heritage funding for the site is likely to be forthcoming due to the state of the structure.

To further progress this matter, a report will be presented to Council at the May 2012 Ordinary Meeting. As Council does not have the funds to develop or clean-up the site, it is necessary for further options for future management to be explored. Some of these options will be provided in the report to Council next month. It is recommended that Council does not make any decisions about the future of the site until the asbestos report from Regional EnviroScience is available on the full findings of their inspection.

(a) Policy Implications.

Nil at this stage.

(b) Financial Implications

As noted above costs for the asbestos inspection are \$2,567.95

(c) Legal Implications

Nil at this stage.

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Knox & Downs, Wilcannia report be received and noted.

10.5 DRAFT MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN

Summary

This report outlines the process undertaken to date in relation to the preparation of Council’s submission to the Murray Darling Basin Authority regarding the draft Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Commentary

As resolved in the General Managers report from the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 20th December 2011, Council indicated a submission regarding the draft plan was to be prepared with community feedback being included in the submission. Manager Environmental Services

commenced work on the draft Plan in mid-March, with a number of community consultation steps being undertaken, these included;

- Surveys emailed out to residents and local community members in Tilpa and surrounding district. As local roads are cut due to floodwaters, the ability to undertake face to face consultation has been unachievable. To ensure Tilpa residents receive the opportunity to have their say on the plan, surveys were prepared and emailed around to as many residents as possible. Residents had two weeks to provide their comments to Council. A follow up reminder was also sent out to Tilpa residents with an extended timeframe to respond by the 13th April 2012.

- Flyers were placed around Ivanhoe seek interesting from locals to see if there was any demand to hold a face to face session with local community members. No interest was forthcoming. However in an attempt to gain some feedback from the area, surveys were also sent to the Ivanhoe MSO for distribution to residents in the local area. The timeframe for lodgement of the surveys with Council is 13th April 2012.

- A face to face consultation session is arranged to be held at the Menindee Community Hall on Wednesday 11th April from 10am to 12noon. This session is open for all persons to attend. At the time of writing the report the session had not yet been held.

- A face to face consultation session is also arranged for Wilcannia to be held at the Wilcannia RTC on Wednesday 11th April at 3pm to 5pm. This session is also open to all persons to attend. This session had not yet been held either at the time of writing this report.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(b) Financial Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(d) Community Consultations

To be undertaken as outlined in the above report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the draft Murray Darling Basin Plan report be received and noted.

10.6 WHITE CLIFFS SOLAR STATION

ATTACHMENT 17

Summary

This report provides an update on information pertaining to the White Cliffs Solar Station.

Commentary

At the December 2012 Ordinary meeting of Council it was resolved that Council progress the matter of the future ownership of the White Cliffs Solar power station and a report be provided to Council. Some correspondence has occurred between Essential Energy and Council's General Manager, however no firm decision has been made regarding the site at this stage. Interim discussions with Essential Energy indicate *"that pending approval from their Board of Directors, it is envisaged an arrangement maybe struck whereby the property is assigned to Council in recognition of the sites significance to the local community including council utility, community leisure and local tourism. It is also considered that under a Licence Agreement of nominal value, Essential Energy would retain a small area of the site and two containers which are currently utilised by their staff when in the area, the retained site would be separately fenced and gated by Essential Energy; it would seem there are to be no shared amenities. It would also be necessary for recognition of Essential Energy's assignment of the site to Council and the community via a suitable sign erected in a visible location (entrance)"*.

As noted above Essential Energy is seeking to retain a small area of the land, however the remainder of the land may be transferred to Council. If this is the case, then Council would possess the land that contains the White Cliffs Depot and Filtration Plant and the Solar Power Station. It would seem this land is made up of a number of different land parcels and part of the White Cliffs Golf Course is also included in this land area. At this stage, Essential Energy are considering the concept, but no firm decision has been made.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(b) Financial Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the White Cliffs Solar Station report be received and noted.

Summary

This report introduces Council to the Draft Menindee Common Plan of Management.

Commentary

Over the past month Council officers have been working closely with the Department of Primary

Industries to develop a draft Plan of Management for the Menindee Common. The intent of the draft plan is to ensure that the Menindee Common is utilised and managed in a manner that will result in the optimum benefit to the community. This information has been gained through a land assessment that was carried out by the Department of Primary Industries to identify future use, management and development of the Menindee Common. The plan consists of a number of sections such as;

Plan Overview – gives an outline of the plan as well as the vision, purpose and aim, objectives, management principles

Introduction – Location and common details, past and present uses, adjoining land uses, administrative framework, consultation and exhibition requirements, plan implementation

Land Inventory – heritage, natural resource, scientific and educational issues, socio-economic issues.

Permitted Land Uses – determining appropriate land uses, list of all permitted land uses, rules and regulations, limits of acceptable change, authorised users, compliance, penalties and complaints.

Maintenance, Funding, Fees and Charges – gives an outline of these areas

Accountability and Risk Management – gives an outline of risks to the public, trustee and volunteers.

The plan outlines allowed uses, and breaks the common into zones and their acceptable uses. The zones are based on vegetation types and sensitivity of the environment. One key item worth mentioning and for consideration by Council (noted by the DPI) is the area(s) where grazing can be undertaken. At present fencing does not completely enclose the Common and stock water is currently limited to the Darling River, however there are several ways in which fencing and alternative watering points may be undertaken (and funds applied for). Therefore it could be stated that fencing and stock watering should not determine where grazing can and cannot occur as these issues can be quite easily overcome with funding.

Once Council is satisfied with the content of the plan, a public exhibition phase is required. This is done by Council as Trust Manager of the Menindee Common and must comply with Clause 34 (Notification and public comment on draft plans of management) of the Crown Lands Regulation 2006. Clause 34 states;

(1) This clause applies to a plan of management under Division 6 of Part 5 of the Act that is required (before its adoption by the Minister) to be placed on public display.

(2) The Minister is required to cause notice of a plan of management to be published in:

(a) the Gazette, and

(b) a newspaper circulating in the locality in which the land concerned is situated or in a newspaper circulating generally in the State.

(3) Any such notice must:

(a) invite representations from the public concerning the plan, and

(b) specify the place and time at which the plan may be inspected by the public, and

(c) specify the period (being not less than 28 days) within which any representations may be made and the person to whom they are to be sent.

The plan will require advertising in the Broken Hill newspaper. It would also be suitable for flyers to be placed around the Menindee township and in the Menindee School News. Advertising could also be placed on the Council website, with an electronic copy also available on the Council website. Hard copies will be available for viewing at the Council's Chambers, local Council office (Menindee RTC), local CMA office, and local Crown Lands (DPI) Office.

After the 28 days exhibition period, all submissions are considered by the Trust and DPI, changes made where warranted, with the final plan being submitted to the Minister for Primary Industries for final approval.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(b) Financial Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(d) Community Consultations

As per above.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Draft Menindee Common Management Plan report be received and noted;

That Council as the Trust Manager of the Menindee Common advertise the Draft Menindee Common Management Plan for a period of 28 days;

That Council as the Trust Manager of the Menindee Common consider any submissions that are received on the Draft Menindee Common Management Plan in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries and make any changes as necessary;

That the final plan be submitted to the Minister for Primary Industries for final approval after the public exhibition period and consideration of any submissions received.

Summary

This report provides information on the Local Government Heritage Strategy Program from the NSW Heritage Office.

Commentary

Council has participated in the Heritage Strategy program through the NSW Heritage Office for the last 4 years. Over this time, the Heritage Strategy program - comprising of the Local Heritage Fund

and Heritage Advisers project, has been utilised consistently by local community members across the Shire for numerous heritage related projects. At the end of each year, Council is required to submit information and data on how the strategy performed each year at the local level. As a result of the collection of this data and information, the NSW Heritage Office prepares an overview of how Council's performed across NSW.

This year, the 2010-11 Summary Heritage Strategy Annual Report presents an evaluation on the implementation of the local government three year 2008-11 Heritage Strategies. The data was provided by 82 councils around NSW that received funding for a Heritage Advisor through 2009-2011 financial year.

The attached document demonstrates key findings and trends as noted below;

- The number of established heritage committees has slightly decreased from previous years – however more committees are now constituted under s377 of the Local Government Act. The workload of committees has increased providing advice on more decisions.
- 42% of councils now have a local services and suppliers directory, a substantial increase in the last 12 months.
- 65% of Councils now have an adopted heritage policy. Of these, 67% were prepared and adopted since 2006, since the instigation of this annual reporting template.
- 87% of councils have completed community based heritage studies and 48% have reviewed these studies since 2006. Reviews have been undertaken to update their heritage schedules for their standard instrument Local Environmental Plans (SI LEPs) to meet the Department of Planning's requirements and timeframes.
- The benefit of free, available and accessible pre-DA advice for heritage continues to be a success for local councils and has resulted in good outcomes for the community and heritage property owners.
- Requests for heritage advisor input is likely to increase following gazettal of LEP and the inclusion of new heritage items.
- Councils are focusing their efforts on preparing heritage Development Control Plans (DCPs) – 51% have a heritage DCP and 53% of these were prepared since 2006.
- 28% of councils have an urban design DCP and 69% of these have been prepared since 2006 - an impressive uptake.
- 92.5% of councils have now adopted a flexible approach to heritage planning and building and an increasing number of councils are waiving or reducing DA fees.
- The number of local heritage funds operated were slightly down from last year, although the overall number of projects and total project value increased marginally. Local heritage funding continue to provide a major incentive to heritage owners and managers for undertaking heritage projects for local heritage items. Some councils indicated that more recent urban design initiatives have replaced and incorporated their heritage main street program. Other councils will work with

property owners to achieve similar outcomes through other means. Some councils have indicated that its time to review and re-establish their main street program.

- 86% of councils provide heritage information through their website and other publications. 34% of councils have provided this information since 2006.
- Council take up of heritage tourism strategies is slow.
- There is an underwhelming amount of heritage training being provided at a local council level.
- 48% of the councils have heritage asset management plans and 58% have actions plans in place, leaving almost half of councils still to take these steps. Councils have prepared conservation management plans to guide better heritage property management.
- Some councils have included sustainability in their heritage DCP. Council staff advise the use of sustainable and energy efficient products.
- The use of solar panels on heritage buildings has been given attention to achieve more acceptable solutions.
- Councils have identified a need for guidance and leadership on heritage and sustainability from state government.

The report provides a good overview of heritage management at the local level, and the performance and trends of local government across NSW.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(b) Financial Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2010-11 Heritage Strategy Annual Report be received and noted.

Summary

This report advises that the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage has produced a document titled Rail Infrastructure Noise Guideline – Draft for Consultation.

Commentary

The draft guideline updates the current approach to assessing rail noise. The guideline aims to ensure that the potential noise and vibration impacts from rail infrastructure developments for both new and redeveloped lines are assessed in a consistent way and minimised as far as possible. The draft document has been prepared in consultation with a working group comprising the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Railcorp, the Transport Construction Authority, Transport for NSW and the Australian Rail Track Corporation. It is expected the draft document will be finalised shortly. Once finalised the guidelines will apply to rail infrastructure developments and will need to be considered as part of any development assessment undertaken relating to this type of development.

The attached guideline provides information on the key changes to the Rail Infrastructure Noise Guideline. Comments on the draft guideline were accepted up until 30 March 2012. No issues were noted with the draft guideline therefore a submission on the draft document has not been provided by Council.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(b) Financial Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Rail Infrastructure Noise Guideline – Draft for Consultation report be received and noted.

10.10 DRAFT EMPLOYEE HOUSING POLICY AND COSTINGS

Summary

This report provides Council with an update on the pending Draft Employee Housing Policy, and also details Council Housing costs from 2007 to 2012.

Commentary

Over the past months discussion has occurred regarding the need for an Employee Housing Policy to be produced. To date Council officers have been working on this policy and it is almost complete.

Delays in completing the policy are due to the complexity of the issues surrounding Council housing. Some items being considered in the policy include – allocation of council housing, quality and grade of housing, tenancy agreements, utility costs, and rental value of properties. It is expected that a draft policy will be presented for Council’s consideration at the May 2012 Ordinary meeting.

It was also resolved at the December 2011 Ordinary Meeting of Council a report be provided on Council housing costs and cost recovery as well as future housing needs. The following table outlines the income and expenditure on Council housing from 2007 to 2012.

COUNCIL HOUSING NET COSTS 2007/2008 to 2011/2012			
YEAR	REVENUE	EXPENDITURE	NET COST
	\$	\$	\$
2007/2008	26,835	137,561	110,726
2008/2009	36,785	161,687	124,902
2009/2010	43,220	94,896	51,676
2010/2011	35,565	101,189	65,624
2011/2012 (EST)	<u>27,558</u>	<u>128,608</u>	<u>101,050</u>
	<u>169,963</u>	<u>623,941</u>	<u>453,978</u>

At this stage, Council has a severe shortage of staff housing. This matter needs to be addressed in the short term and will be noted in the Draft Employee Housing Policy. It is envisaged a concept plan for new housing development may be considered in the future.

(a) Policy Implications.

Council officers are in the process of preparing a draft Employee Housing Policy. The current policy will require rescinding when the new policy is formulated and adopted.

(b) Financial Implications

Historical Council housing costs have been provided in the above table. These costs include all costs associated with housing, including rates, excess water, utility costs for contract staff, insurance, and maintenance costs. It is noted Council has nine houses and six flats, this would indicate that in the vicinity of \$9,000 to \$10,000 has been expended each year for total costs on each property.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Draft Employee Housing Policy and Costing report be received and noted.

10.11 WILCANNIA WHARF PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT

ATTACHMENT 21

Summary

This report details a proposal Council has received regarding the redevelopment of the former Wilcannia Wharf.

Commentary

Correspondence has been received from the Wilcannia Tourist Association Inc. seeking Council's support for the redevelopment of the former Wilcannia Wharf. The wharf was originally erected in 1870 - it was a leading port in the early days when Wilcannia was an important inland port. The wharf was constructed of timber using local river red gum and was a simple structure. Upon inspection of the area, it is noted that some of the remnant structure is still remain, denoting the original structure that it once was. The site is located on the western bank of the Darling River directly behind the Council owned park now known as Uncle Ray Hunter Park. Some work has commenced on the project and attached for Council's interest are the proposed concept plans for the structure, along with a Conservation Management Plan prepared by Council's Heritage Adviser Liz Vines. The original letter from the Wilcannia Tourist Association Inc. is also attached.

At this stage, the Tourist Association is seeking *"in principle support from the council to rebuild the structure to its original state, including installation of a guide rail to comply with current safety regulations"*. As the structure is located on Council owned land, it is necessary for Council to agree to the use of the land for the proposal in the first instance.

The structure will require development consent, and also concurrence from the NSW Office of Water; it is likely that NSW Fisheries may also wish to comment on the proposal. These matters may be dealt with through the development application process.

It is noted with interest, that Bourke Shire Council has rebuilt their wharf at Bourke based on early photographs as noted in the Conservation Management Plan. Advice in regard to risk and insurance matters may be available from Council officers at Bourke.

The Wilcannia Tourist Association Inc. will be seeking funding opportunities to rebuild the Wilcannia Wharf if they are successful in gaining support and development approval for the proposed structure.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(b) Financial Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Wilcannia Wharf Proposed Redevelopment report be received and noted; and further,

That Council provides in principle support for the rebuild of the Wilcannia Wharf structure to its original state in its original location on the west side bank of the Darling River behind Uncle Ray Hunter Park.

SECTION 11. FINANCE MANAGER’S REPORT

11.1 INVESTMENTS

Schedule of Investments – March 2012

DATE	TIME PERIOD	INTEREST RATE	DUE DATE	TOTAL (\$)
Deposits at Call				
Westpac		4.55%		\$1,505,000
Australian Corporate Mortgage Backed Securities (Face Value)				
<i>Castlereagh Trust 90 Points over 3mth</i>				
<i>BBSW</i>		6.05%	21-Jun-13	\$1,500,000.00
Capital Value - 31 st March, 2012				\$ 1,059,840
Total Investments as at 31st March, 2012				
11 am Call Account				\$ 1,505,000
Mortgage Backed Security				<u>\$ 1,115,640</u>
				<u>\$ 2,620,640</u>

At Call refers to funds held at a financial institution that can be recalled within 24 hours.

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 Period.

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).

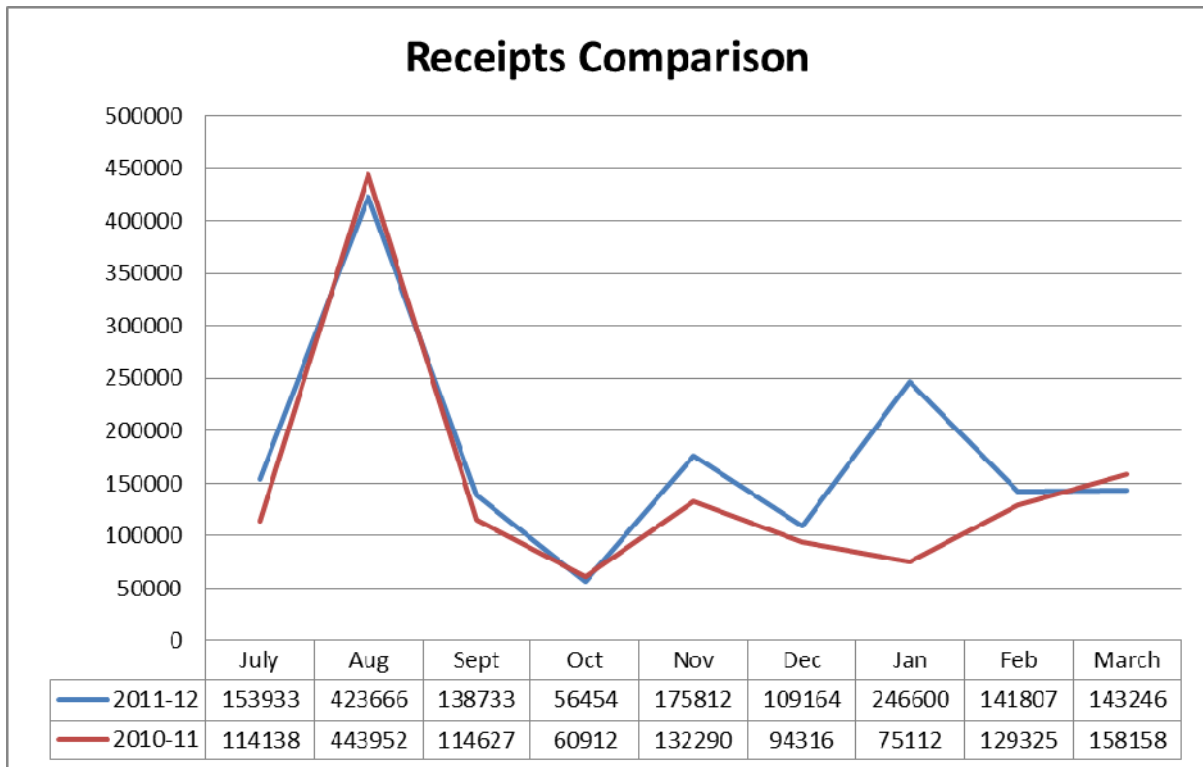
RECOMMENDATION

That the Schedule of Investments Report for March 2012 be received and adopted

11.2 RATES COLLECTIONS STATEMENT

The rates collection statement for the month for March 2012 is presented for Council's information.

Fund	Current Levies	Current Interest	Arrears Incl Interest	TOTAL	Receipts	Adjustments W/offs & Credits	Pensioner Subsidy	Rates in Credit	BALANCE	
General	\$ 656,829	\$ 15,602	\$ 276,324	\$ 948,755	\$ 549,450	\$ 5,794	\$ 15,829		\$ 377,682	
Special	\$ 29,410	\$ 1,392	\$ 25,865	\$ 56,667	\$ 26,225	\$ 1,728			\$ 28,714	
Water	\$ 284,556	\$ 12,626	\$ 234,622	\$ 531,803	\$ 280,966	\$ 6,183	\$ 5,381		\$ 239,273	
Sewer	\$ 98,753	\$ 4,474	\$ 91,191	\$ 194,418	\$ 125,519	\$ 3,545	\$ 788		\$ 64,567	
Garbage	\$ 320,578	\$ 14,753	\$ 261,431	\$ 596,762	\$ 293,814	\$ 4,978	\$ 13,771		\$ 284,199	
Excess Water	\$ 380,707	\$ 12,849	\$ 251,096	\$ 644,652	\$ 310,843	\$ 98,013			\$ 235,796	
Charge on Land	\$ 644		\$ 31,750	\$ 32,393	\$ 3,257	\$ 432			\$ 28,704	
Rates in Credit								-\$ 50,544	-\$ 50,544	
TOTALS	\$1,771,476	\$ 61,696	\$ 1,172,278	\$3,005,451	\$ 1,590,074	\$ 120,674	\$ 35,769	-\$ 50,544	\$ 1,208,390	
Summary									Previous Balance	\$ 1,355,153
Receipts in March were down over the same month last year - \$143,246 vs \$158,158. In spite of this the total rates and charges collected in the 9 months to March were greater than the entire previous 12 months - \$1,590,074 to \$1,550,191. Interest raised in the month was \$6,480 and there was one extraordinary credit of \$3,000 due to a faulty water meter reading. The overall position improved by \$146,763.									This Period	
									Interest Raised	\$ 6,480
									Water Levies Raised	\$ -
									Supplementary Levy	\$ -
									Receipts	\$ 143,246
									W/Offs & Adjustments	\$ 3,103
									Pensioner Rebate	\$ -
									Rates in Credit	\$ 6,894
									Current Balance	\$ 1,208,390
									Net Movement	-\$ 146,763
Aged Balances	Current	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years & Over	Interest	Rates in Credit		
1/03/2012	\$608,254	\$153,903	\$121,765	\$81,877	\$60,458	\$141,407	\$231,138	-\$43,649	\$1,355,153	
1/04/2012	\$485,834	\$149,240	\$118,865	\$79,086	\$58,796	\$137,415	\$229,698	-\$50,544	\$1,208,390	
Net movement	-\$122,420	-\$4,663	-\$2,900	-\$2,791	-\$1,662	-\$3,992	-\$1,440	-\$6,895	-\$146,763	
Debt Analysis	1 Council has 1 significant claim being dealt with								\$ 123,129	
	2 133 Assessments are in the hands of Council's Debt Collection Agency								\$ 348,451	
	3 90 Assessments are being dealt with in-house								\$ 288,368	
	4 68 Levy notices were returned as undeliverable and are being investigated								\$ 92,066	
	5 Council has 8 known deceased estates (2 @ \$46,423 & 1 @ \$16,050 with no funds)								\$ 62,473	
	6 64 Assessments have a Charge Against Land, representing the cost of prior recovery action								\$ 28,911	
Debt Analysis Follow-up - Reference numbers relate to Debt Analysis Table above										
	1 This claim is in the hands of an administrator								\$ 123,129	
	2 31 Arrangements are in place as a result of the original letters, payments made so far total								\$ 26,159	
	2 25 letters were returned and may have to be considered unrecoverable. Other avenues are being investigated.								\$ 84,783	
	2 23 Assessments are constrained by the cost of previous recovery action. Other avenues are being investigated.								\$ 172,520	
	3 60 assessments have made payments to the value of								\$ 60,758	
	3 6 payment arrangements have been made to the value of								\$ 65,502	
	4 5 undelivered assessments have been tracked and payments made								\$ 5,536	
	4 12 assessments are owned by de-registered Pty Limited companies and are unrecoverable								\$ 21,041	
	4 18 assessments are unrecoverable due to a legal technicality								\$ 18,543	



RECOMMENDATION

That the Rates Collection Report for March 2012 be received and adopted.

11.3 2ND QUARTER BUDGET REVIEW

Summary

A second quarter budget review as at 31 December 2011 has been undertaken and is presented to Council for adoption.

Commentary

The second quarter budget review, as at 31 December 2011, was prepared in the first 2 months of 2012 and was to be presented to Council for adoption at its March 2012 meeting. Whilst Councillors received the financial statements prepared as a result of the review, a formal report to Council had not been written at that time. This report formalises the process that was expected to be completed at the March meeting.

As a result of conducting the second quarter budget review, there are a number of budget variations that should be highlighted to Council and the community.

The second quarter review has resulted in the original surplus of \$168, 000 now expected to be a loss of \$183,000. This takes into account all revenue sources and all operational expenditure, including capital grant revenues of \$3.2m.

The \$351,000 change from surplus to deficit is primarily due to increased costs associated with Integrated Planning and Reporting (\$85k), Promoting Better Practice (\$15k), ancillary works (\$25k), Agency costs (\$40k), Menindee Aged Homes (\$10k) and sports grounds & swimming pools (\$45k).

Capital expenditure up to 31 December 2011 totalled \$1.4m, with most of this related to the construction of the Talyawalka bridge. The total capital expenditure budget for the 2011/12 financial year was originally budgeted at \$4.7m.

A further review of the capital expenditure for 2011/12 will be undertaken during the 3rd quarter review, where it is expected that the expenditure for the Wilcannia water and sewer project will be further revised downwards due to the late start of that project.

Council's cash position is still in need of further strengthening, as available cash at the end of December 2011 was \$1.3m below levels needed to cover all restricted funds. Whilst cash on hand does not necessarily need to be at the same level of all restricted funds, Council must better manage its cash flows to ensure that it is able to cover a greater proportion of restricted funds.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil.

(b) Financial Implications

As described in the above report and included in the financial statements.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the 2011/12 second quarter budget review as presented.

SECTION 12. CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Correspondence for Council be received and noted.

12.1 MEDIA RELEASES

Date	Sender	Contents
14/03/2012	Local Government & Shires Association	Let democracy reign, Community should decide about councillors as MPs.
14/03/2012	Member for Hunter	Natural disaster declarations extended to another four Local Government areas.
14/03/2012	Member for Murrumbidgee	Submissions called for inter-regional public transport inquiry.
14/03/2012	Local Government & Shires Association	Local Government Tourism and Mining working together.
15/03/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	Assistance available for natural disaster declared areas.
16/03/2012	Member for Murrumbidgee	Piccoli pleads regions case to Prime Minister.
19/03/2012	Local Government & Shires Association	Councils call for inclusion of drought in Natural Disaster policy.
20/03/2013	Local Government & Shires Association	Councils ready to talk about their long term financial viability.
20/03/2012	Member for North Coast	Panel to Set direction for Councils of Future.
20/03/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	Murray-Darling residents to benefit from new investment in Health Infrastructure .

20/03/2012	Member for Murrumbidgee	Report damages and losses- Piccoli
20/03/2012	Member for Murrumbidgee	Submissions to inquiry into Special Economic Zones closes this Friday.
20/03/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	Newell Highway clear zone work moves due to flooding.
23/03/2012	Local Government & Shires Association	Local Government Review Panel welcomed by southern NSW Councils.
23/03/2012	Local Government & Shires Association	O'Farrell Government off to an encouraging start with First Year.
27/03/2012	Local Government & Shires Association	Shire councils concerned about mining impacts.
28/03/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	Williams to open inaugural farm innovation technology expo.
29/03/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	MP Williams Announces \$2.1 Million grants for Murray-Darling Businesses.
03/04/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	Enviro champions encouraged to nominate for green globe awards.
04/04/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	Williams urges motorists to travel safe over this Easter Holiday.

12.2 CIRCULARS/NEWSLETTERS

Sender	Date	Contents
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	12/03/2012	Analysis of Dog Attacks 2010/11
Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW	16/03/2012	Local Government Weekly 11/12

NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	16/03/2012	Local Government General Amendment (election Procedures) Regulation 2012
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	16/03/2012	Reporting requirements of Councils For 2011-12
NSW Government	21/03/2012	Destination 2036-Independent Local Government review panel.
Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW	23/03/2012	Local Government Weekly 12/12
NSW Government	27/03/2012	Time is running out to nominate for your 2012 NSW Women of the Year
Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW	30/03/2012	Local Government Weekly 13/12

SECTION 13. THE RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDATION

That the O H & S Committee Meeting Minutes dated 15th December 2011 be received and noted.



OH&S COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

HELD: RTC Meeting Room, Wilcannia
Thursday 15th December 2011
11:45am

PRESENT:

Tim Drew	Management Rep
Reece Wilson	Management Rep
Tony Latham	Employee member (outdoor)
Kevin Pumphrey	Employee member (outdoor)

APOLOGIES: Margot Muscat Employee member (office)
Graeme Peake Risk Officer

OBSERVERS: Nil

DISTRIBUTION: OH&S Committee Members
MANEX
Notice Boards – All Offices

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>2. Minutes from last meeting</p> <p>Previous minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record</p> <p>Moved Kevin Pumphrey, Seconded Tony Latham</p> <p>3. Report on action items (from last meeting)</p> <p>Induction Training</p> <p>MTES to arrange induction training in particular for Outdoor staff by the end of July.</p> <p>Toolbox talks to be arranged by MTES for Outdoor staff on a monthly basis. MTES to run the first talk then each Ganger will become responsible</p>	<p>MTES</p>	<p>To commence in new year</p> <p>To commence in new year</p>
<p>4. New Business</p> <p>OH&S Policy</p> <p>It needs to be ensured that Council’s OH&S Policies are up to date and in compliance with legislative requirements. It is proposed the review and update the OH&S Policy in accordance with all relevant legislation and WorkCover requirements. Return to Work Training to be investigated.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>Joy Walker, new temporary HR and OH&S officer to review</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

<p>Vehicles</p> <p>Excessive vehicle damage was reported to the vehicle of one of the Road Gangers. Sonic ‘shoo roo’ options to be further investigated. New vehicles will be here in 4-6 weeks and will be investigated then.</p> <p>Other issues</p> <p>Installation of 2 whirlybirds at the Menindee Depot required.</p> <p>MSDS online has been purchased but yet to be used, this requires follow up.</p> <p>Number of days off with sick leave and clarify the need for medical certificates</p>	<p>MTES</p> <p>B.I/ Storeman</p> <p>RO/Storeman</p> <p>Pay Clerk</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>Need to be ordered</p> <p>To commence training Monday 31st Oct</p> <p>By next meeting</p>
<p>OH&S Legislation changes were noted and the need for further training to be investigated.</p> <p>2 Casuals started at White Cliffs, Investigate doing the White Card Online</p> <p>Working Conditions at Menindee waste Depot – Investigations whether compliance with Work Cover has been met</p>	<p>RO</p> <p>MTES/ Ganger</p> <p>MES</p>	<p>RO & GM attended training. Further training for all staff required</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>

<p>5. Review of Incident & Accident Reports</p> <p>The MTES presented the Committee with the recent Incident/Accident reports for 2011. The Committee reviewed the incidents and confirmed that the incidents were dealt with correctly and responsive action was taken.</p> <p>Incident/Accident Report dealt with at this meeting:</p> <p>17-11</p> <p>18-11</p> <p>19-11</p> <p>20-11</p> <p>21-11</p> <p>6. Workplace Safety Inspections</p> <p>6.1 Results</p> <p>6.2 Feedback to workgroup</p> <p>Smoking around buildings needs to be addressed re distance, designated areas and suitable butt bins.</p>	<p>MTES</p> <p>Various committee members</p> <p>MTES</p>	<p>Report to next meeting</p> <p>Nil reports received</p> <p>Investigate the purchase of bins</p>

<p>Staff medicals following injury.</p> <p>8. Next Meeting</p> <p>12:00am Thursday 16th February 2012</p> <p>9. Close of Meeting</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:30pm</p>	<p>RO</p>	<p>To be investigated with Council's insurers to undertake onsite medical inspections</p>
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SECTION 14. DELEGATES' REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION

That the Delegates' reports be received and noted.

SECTION 15. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillors' Questions with Notice be received and noted.

15.1 CR LOONEY

1. The vertical alignment of the road MR68C was undertaken and funded by the RTA.

The Western Research Institute Ltd prepared an Economic Impact Assessment of sealing the Menindee-Pooncarie Road MR68C in August 2000, Shire had another Economic Impact of sealing the Menindee-Pooncarie Road prepared by Western Research institute printed April 2006. How Much money did it cost for these assessments.

The cost of these assessments is not known that this stage and review of Councils Financial System will be undertaken to see if these costs can be identified.

SECTION 16. URGENT BUSINESS

SECTION 17. CONFIDENTIAL MEETING

CLOSED COUNCIL

Confidential Reports

(Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act 1993)

Where it is proposed to close part of the Meeting, the Chairperson will allow members of the public to make representation to or at the meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether or not that part of the meeting should be closed to the public. The Chairperson will check with the General Manager whether any written public submissions or representations have been received as to whether or not that part of the meeting should be closed to the public.

The grounds on which part of the Council meeting may be closed to public are listed in Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 and are as follows:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals other than Councillors,
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret.
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,
- (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property,
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.
- (h) during the receipt of information or discussion of information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.

Section 10A(3) of the Act provides that if a meeting is closed during discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in section 10A(3) of the Act), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter or information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting (other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is matter referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act).

Section 10B(1) of the Act provides that a meeting is not to remain closed to the public during the receipt of information or the discussion of matter referred to in section 10A(2):

- (a) except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and

(b) if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret – unless the Council or committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest section 10B(4) of the Act states it is irrelevant that:

- (a) a person may interpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may:
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the Council or committee concerned, or to Councillors or to employees of the Council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the Council or committee.

Resolutions passed in Closed Council

It is a requirement of Clause 253 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 that any resolution passed in Closed Council, or Committee be made public as soon as practicable after the meeting has ended. At the end of Closed Council or Committee meeting, the Chairperson will provide a summary of those resolutions passed in Closed Council or Committee.

Reports to be Considered in Closed Council

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally close the meeting to the public to discuss matters in accordance with Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

17.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

ATTACHMENT 11

Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A (2) (c) & (d) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, and/or is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Summary

Council advertised for Expressions of Interest for independent members of Council's Audit Committee. By the closing date of 23 March 2012, 3 applications were received for up to 2 independent member positions.

Council must now make a decision regarding the successful applicants.

17.2 MINE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

ATTACHMENT 12

Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A (2) (c) & (d) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, and/or is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Summary

As Council is aware, Bemax Resources Limited is proposing to develop a mine south-west of Ivanhoe in the Balranald Shire Council area. Bemax is proposing to transport the mineral sands mined at the site to Ivanhoe by road to the rail siding at Ivanhoe, where the sands will be stockpiled and then loaded on to freight trains to be transported to Broken Hill.

17.3 HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS

Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A (2) (a) being information that discloses personnel matters concerning particular individuals other than Councillors.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with an update on a range of human resource related matters that have taken place in the organisation in the last few months. This written report will be brief and further information will be provided verbally in the meeting.

17.4 DOMESTIC GARBAGE COLLECTION OPTIONS

ATTACHMENT 14

Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A (2) (c) & (d) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, and/or is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to resolve the domestic garbage collection arrangements at Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Menindee by further consideration of the benefits and costs of the following options,
Council Collection – lease/purchase new trucks
Contract Services

SECTION 18. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council will be held on the 15th May 2012 in Darnick commencing at 9:30am.
